

Summary of the workshop Perspective in the Region

On December 8, LIFTcities organised a session called “Perspective in the Region”, looking for partnerships on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) in combination with 8 (Decent work and Economic growth) and 4 (Equality Education).

The group of approximately twenty participants consisted of representatives from the NGO sector, public sector and private sector, and two UN youth representatives.

LIFTcities started presenting her pilot project about social-economic integration of Syrian refugees in refugee-dense neighbourhoods in Istanbul, where education, jobs and social cohesion are needed. Goal of this running pilot is to let Syrian refugee children successfully access Turkish Education, and to engage Syrian parents via school to their neighbourhood to enhance social cohesion.

Afterwards, United Work/Holland Group was invited to share the initiative from Holland Group with SPARK and Dutch business association to create employment opportunities for Syrian refugees.

Participants asked questions and coalitions for further development were explored.

LIFTcities, appointed as lead organisation for ‘Perspective in the region’ - Turkey (SDGs 16, 8, 4), will initially continue the explorations with the organisations that expressed serious interest. Differently from Turkey, for the other ‘major recipient countries in the region’ (Jordan and Lebanon) a possible coalition of organisations did not emerge during the session.

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