

A letter of the German Association of Systemic Therapy, Counseling and Family Therapy (DGSF) to their Greek colleagues

The German Association of Systemic Therapy, Counseling and Family Therapy (DGSF) expresses its concerns about the double strain that the Greek population and the refugees in Greece currently have to suffer from, as a result of EU-politics vis-à-vis Greece in recent years and in the latest months.

EU fiscal politics have imposed on Greece, as on several other countries in Europe, an austerity that resulted in a dramatic impoverishment of large parts of the Greek population. This impoverishment includes many of our Greek colleagues who work in the fields of social work, education, medicine and psychotherapy.

Following the impoverishment of the Greek society and people, the unilateral closing of borders of many European countries for refugees in early 2016 starts to convert Greece into a huge refugee camp, that is little supported by other European countries. A second strain is thus imposed on Greece.

Despite their own problems, many of our Greek colleagues in the fields of social work and medicine do a very good job in supporting refugees all over Greece, despite very poor financial conditions to do this work. DGSF acknowledges their Greek colleagues valuable contributions, the energy, dedication and professionalism by which they work for refugees in Greece in a critical moment when those reach Europe for the first time. Many German colleagues themselves are active in refugee aid work in Germany, albeit under clearly better conditions than their Greek colleagues, and they are aware of the value of this work and of the dedication it demands from refugee aid workers.

The German Association of Systemic Therapy, Counseling and Family Therapy (DGSF) expresses its hopes that that there will come a return of European solidarity with the Greek people, that borders will reopen, that more safe and legal pathways into Europe will be created for refugees, and that the impoverishment of people in Greece will be stopped and hopefully reverted.