

## #12.WATER PROJECT

### PROEM-AID

Since 2016, Greece

[www.proemaid.org](http://www.proemaid.org)

*All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.*

#### Topic relevance

**GETTING OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIFIC FOR REFUGEES / YOUTH ORIENTED / SWIMMING**

**Factor of success** CREATING OWNERSHIP

**Type** INITIATIVE/PROJECT

**Language** English, Spanish

#### Target population

Young refugees who arrived to Greece on a boat and have a traumatic connection with the sea.

#### Further information / Contact

[www.proemaid.org](http://www.proemaid.org)

[www.facebook.com/Proemaid/](https://www.facebook.com/Proemaid/)

Twitter@proemaid

Contact, [info@proemaid.org](mailto:info@proemaid.org)

#### Synthesis of the good example

The water project is focused on overcoming the fear of water among children who have never seen or been in contact with the sea before. The project is organised by Proem-Aid, a Spanish non-profit organisation operating in Greece. Their main goal is to create positive connotations of the sea for refugees, especially among young refugees. The project is ran by volunteers who first provide swimming lessons for children living in refugee camps.

#### Context and approach

For young refugees who arrived to a new country by boat, the sea is usually associated with a traumatic memory. This was discovered by the Proem-Aid organisation whose members came across with the children's drawings - they were dark and full of corpses. For young refugees, the sea is associated with a very hostile and difficult environment: overcrowded boats, no ability to swim, constant cold and wetness, and all the people who did not make it to the other side. This project focuses on breaking the negative connotations and helping them to overcome the fear of the sea. By teaching them how to swim, organising games near or on the water, the participants are taken out of their daily routine in camps.

#### Highlights and outcomes

This good example shows you how a traumatic experience could be overtaken or soothed by playing games while learning new useful skills for the future.

#### Information about project/organisation's holder

Proem-Aid is a Spanish non-profit organisation that was founded as a response to the humanitarian catastrophe in the Mediterranean sea where migrants risk their lives to reach Europe. The organisation is ran by volunteers who have helped out in various refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece.

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