

COMMUNITY QUESTION I

- **The urban environment, as opposed to the natural one, is a construct that supposedly facilitates the lives of the people who inhabit it. For example, a big city offers diverse opportunities for pursuing a career and, depending on its size, it can host great numbers of people. Cities also offer people various kinds of entertainment, especially in terms of theatre and cinema. However, would you say that you feel there is something missing from such an urban environment? If yes, what is that?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ The communication between people. Maybe, it has become more difficult and indirect and sometimes it is not even real.
- ✓ Maybe more free events in theatres, public places or even in the street, so that everyone can join in during the difficult times we are going through. Street performances also add a vivid colour to the city.
- ✓ Having lived in a big city for almost four years, I would say that it is difficult to realize if something is missing from this urban space, exactly because it appears to have everything. What I feel it's missing from my daily urban life is order. Life in such big cities is crowded, busy and chaotic. To me, this is what makes it a less appealing and fascinating place to live in.
- ✓ Lack of security, lack of interpersonal relationships, fear of different, multicultural societies => fear of the unknown, prejudice, racism.
- ✓ People, in urban cities, tend to lose their touch with nature. This results in anxiety and depression. Our city needs more parks, enabling people to relax from everyday problems that are created due to the economic recession.
- ✓ A sense of community. What's missing is real communication between the various groups found in the city. Even though this is exciting, there is often no contact with one another.
- ✓ Maybe more cafes with performances of live music (jazz, blues etc.), or music concerts, but I don't know if they're already there, since I'm an Erasmus student. I also would like a big park or a shopping area just for pedestrians, without traffic.
- ✓ Maybe it would be cool if there were more concerts of alternative music, or pubs and bars with live music, but not necessarily with traditional Greek music.

- ✓ More public libraries, more places suitable for reading your book and enjoying your tea, more volunteering programmes, desks spread throughout the city.
- ✓ An urban environment surely facilitates career opportunities, but the pace of living that is created in such an environment tends usually to create stress and anxiety. More recreational activities, such as sports centres, or music and theatre groups, would be meaningful in order to get citizens involved in the cultural life of the city and to promote a way to alleviate stress.
- ✓ It's not the events that are missing. It's the information that is missing. People have to know when and where an event is going to take place. Either from the Internet or from posters.

COMMUNITY QUESTION II

- **Cities are the manifestation of the ideas of the people who live in them. If this were really the case, then citizens should take an active role at least in their neighborhoods. How would that be materialized? Please provide suggestions.**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ People could really make a difference in the cities if they want to. By developing, us and our children, an environmental consciousness we can adapt a different way of thinking. Also experts could find easy eco- friendly ways to reduce pollution and garbage production while, at the same time, improve our lives in our urban environment. This implies sponsorship from the government or the public services but it could be easily accomplished if private companies co- operated too.
- ✓ To begin with, it would be nice if our city was clearer than it is. To achieve this, total authorities should organize teams which will collect rubbish from streets, from bins and from places which the public has access to, such as playgrounds, schools and universities.
- ✓ Citizens' active participation in their neighborhood is a necessity these days, especially in big cities where alienation prevails. What citizens can do?
 - Take responsibilities as regards people who are in need (food, clothing, etc)
 - Take responsibility of keeping the environment clean by recycling rubbish
 - Organize festivals in order to offer entertainment and joy.
- ✓ It is true that cities represent to a great extent the quality of the people also live in them. I personally think that citizens who would like to be active should participate in the decisions of their neighborhood, get informed about local activities, and organize multicultural events, such as concerts, bazaars, charity gatherings, educational seminars and so on.
- ✓ Citizens should actively participate in the different political gatherings related to their towns. They should be able to express their opinions for various matters and also suggest solutions on many urban problems. Citizens are the center of their cities, in other words they are the cities, because without them cities would not be possible to be organized. So, citizens should take a more active role in order to have a more balanced way of life.

COMMUNITY QUESTION III

- **To what extent the city you live in shapes and determines your life choices? What makes you feel 'at home'? What would you change in your city or neighborhood so as to make it more 'home' friendly?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ Being an undergraduate student, I was obliged to leave behind my home town. At first, I was overwhelmed with uncertainty, afraid that I would not be able to sustain my former lifestyle. However, I realized that such a change of environment was not an equivalent of confinement rather than a direction to new opportunities. Growing up in a small town, I did not have the ability to access activities that would broaden my horizons, or even entertain me. In Thessaloniki, I found a place.
- ✓ Thessaloniki in my opinion is an amazing city. If you had asked me if I would choose to live here a few years ago, the answer would be 'no' because I used to believe that big cities are just noisy and tiring. I was wrong. Thessaloniki makes me feel at home and what I love about it is the sea, all the different people I get to meet every day and the old beautiful buildings. Unfortunately, the sea is so dirty that you can't come really close because it smells badly and I wish I could do something for that. Thessaloniki is a really beautiful city but no one seems to respect that. If I could change something that would be cleaning all the streets and make it more safe at night.
- ✓ Thessaloniki has always been my dream city and I definitely don't regret being here. I feel free to walk in the streets at night and I have everything I want at anytime. I also love the fact that Thessaloniki has its own history, which everyone can see during a single walk downtown. Furthermore, people are friendly and polite (most of the time). Unfortunately, I can't tell that I feel 'at home' here because I still don't have strong relationships with people here. Last but not least, the only thing that I would change in my city is the cleaning services.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is the place that I have chosen to live my dream, to study what I really want. I really like the place, the people; but things are different in our days with the crisis and the financial problems that the country is facing. Everything has changed; you can see people living in the streets, collecting food and other things from the rubbish trying to survive. There are many homeless people and the criminal rate has increased a lot. That makes me feel worried and most of the times not safe, especially at night. If I had the chance I would change that; I would build hospitals and shelters for people who really need them. However, Thessaloniki is a place that I really love. It makes me feel at home because of the people; they are friendly and kind and because of the place that in my opinion is really beautiful. It also reminds me of my country.

- ✓ I think that almost everybody would agree that Thessaloniki is one of the most beautiful cities in Greece. It combines history with modern culture. Citizens and tourists are given the opportunity to visit the historical sights, museums, but at the same time they can enjoy themselves by having a drink at the local cafes or restaurants. But what makes Thessaloniki also beautiful is that there are also many cultural events that people can attend. For us youngsters, I think it is a great experience to live in this city as it determines our life choices, such as our education.
- ✓ Twelve years ago this city was my home. I lived the first years of my life here and I think I was very happy. I had to leave though but I always wanted to be in Thessaloniki again. So now thanks to my university studies I am back. Many things have changed and I am no longer a child. As a young adult I believe that Thessaloniki is an abandoned pile of buildings that looks like trash from far away. But if you look closer you'll find out that it's one of a kind. There might be crimes taking place and the city might be a little dirty but never judge by just the appearance! I think this is the city of my childhood and it will always remind me of happy moments. I will always love Thessaloniki as my home and will never leave it.
- ✓ The city I live, Thessaloniki, satisfies my desires to a big extent because there are many things to do. There are many shops, places to hang out, theaters, exhibitions, concerts and other cultural events. I like living in Thessaloniki and it makes me feel like I am at home because local people are friendly too. However, I would change quite a few things. The rubbish on the road bothers me, so I would like more cleaning. It would be perfect to establish buildings for poor and homeless people considering that they sleep on the streets, even at night. When I come back home late at night I am a little afraid because there are several dangerous people, such as drunkards, junkies and drug dealers and thieves. I would the police to work better because we all want to live in a safe city.
- ✓ I've always thought of Thessaloniki as a great city and now that I actually have the chance to live in it I feel really happy. Coming from a small town I consider Thessaloniki as a city which provides me with many opportunities to educate and entertain myself. The city has important historical sights and one can attend many interesting projects regarding a wide variety of subjects. But a big city remains a big city and so it's very difficult to feel 'at home.' People are distant because that's what a big city has turned them into. So it's quite difficult to feel 'at home' in such a big city.
- ✓ Personally speaking, the city in which a person lives possesses a determinate role in the formation of his/her character and life choices. More precisely, I live in Thessaloniki during this period of my life and I could say that I do not feel incorporated into this new "society" yet. Undoubtedly, there is a high risk of being involved in precarious situations, as inhabitants of this city are totally foreign to me. As for the ways to help my city turn into a friendlier place, I would like to see more plants such as colorful flowers. Additionally, I suggest we are more interested in recycling so that the city stops being filthy.

- ✓ Thessaloniki, the city I live in, has determined my life choices. Growing up here I had the chance to feel as if living both in a big city center but also in small city miles away from the city center. I was never afraid of going out at night as the crime rate was low. Unfortunately, the past few years things have changed and various social, political and economical facts have resulted in various phenomena which made anyone living here more cautious, if not frightened. When I think of home I dream of a city which has the characteristics of a big town in a small city. There, people are friendly but you still get a glimpse of how living in a big city is. Changes, though, need to be done in Thessaloniki so as to recover to its past form. Social care needs to be given to these in need of it and measures are to be taken in order to restore the city's safety.
- ✓ It makes sense that the city which we inhabit actually determines our choices. In such a big city we don't really feel free. I can't go home alone after midnight; for example, they keep saying "it is not safe for a girl." Even though criminality increases as the city gets bigger and even though there is no safety, a big city offers you too many options. If you love ballet, you can go and see ballet. If you love painting, there are lots of exhibitions taking place throughout the year. In this way, the city covers all of your interests, even if they are weird or specialized. It's like there are two aspects of the same coin. As far as "feeling at home" is concerned, I think that people make you feel that way. If neighbors are kind to you, you will feel more comfortable. I would say that people have to get closer so as to boost the home "friendly" feeling through events or volunteer works to help each other; so the feeling that "you are not alone; you are not lost in the city" will be developed.
- ✓ I personally believe that Thessaloniki is full of opportunities and generally there are many things to do. For example you can learn foreign languages, watch movies, attend theaters or exhibitions. This city really makes you feel 'at home' because you always have something to do and as a result you never get bored. However, there is room for improvement. For instance, we can plant some trees or flowers in order to make our city more 'green' and as a result friendlier.
- ✓ I am not from Thessaloniki. I came here for my studies, but I can say that I feel like it is my home. The sea, the streets, and the cafes give me the sense that I am in my town. Moreover, there are some problems like rubbish. Also, I don't feel secure to walk after midnight. I also have a big problem when there are no buses because I can't get to the university.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is a big city, offering many opportunities for someone, but somehow confines us as well. For instance, in order for someone to go to the university, to the city center or anywhere else, she/he has to go by bus, buying constantly tickets, whereas in my hometown I used to go everywhere on foot. Subsequently, it is sort of annoying. However, there are moments when I feel 'at home,' especially when I am with my friends and hang out to the harbor, where I can relax by observing the sea. There is one thing, though, that I would like to change. I hope that the streets will be cleaned from all the rubbish and dirt by the citizens.

- ✓ Thessaloniki, being my hometown, is the place where I feel safer, meaning that there is no chance to get lost. In comparison to other cities, Thessaloniki is quite small; still, there is always something new to discover. Of course, like every other city, it is considered dangerous up to a degree. The phenomenon has become worse the last five years. Homeless people are seen wandering around at night and this is a sad sight. Thessaloniki could be one of the most magnificent cities but the abandoned environment, the traffic jam and the very few opportunities of finding a job end up making Thessaloniki not the ideal city that it could be.
- ✓ The physical landscape that surrounds us clearly influences the way we live. A nice, clear and peaceful atmosphere, with friendly people, would surely be important so as to have a suitable daily routine. As far as Thessaloniki is concerned, the size of this city influences my way of life since I was used to live in a smaller city. The distances are long, people do not know each other and as a result newcomers in this city may find this ambience hostile in the beginning. However, Thessaloniki also includes physical beauty combined with civilization because of its long history. Personally, I enjoy walking in the small streets and sightsee on my own. This is what makes me feel at home. Apart from having a large population, some parts of this city still maintain the tradition. In some neighborhoods, people know each other and communicate. Still, I would like to be able to help homeless people who are now getting more and more because of the economical crisis. I would like to find a shelter for them and protect them not only from physical dangers, such as the weather conditions, but also from the indiscreetness of other people.
- ✓ The city where a person lives is a major factor which affects her/his life. To begin with, in a big city someone can have more opportunities of occupation, rather than in a smaller one. This is a basic reason why I chose to study in Thessaloniki. For the time being, I study in the university and I would say I am quite satisfied by the lessons and the tutors. However, I am very disappointed with the hygiene on campus. The conditions under which lessons are taught are totally unacceptable. There huge amounts of garbage everywhere. The smell is horrible and our health is at great risk. It would certainly feel more 'like home' if the conditions were better. I am not asking for miracles here; I just expect my basic rights as a human being to be respected.

COMMUNITY QUESTION IV

- **Imagine some creative interventions that you would perform on the city landscape to make it more appealing and/or eco-friendly.**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ First of all, I think our city needs to be cleared from all the garbage that's lying around. I don't think it is such an appealing sight, so a lot of work has to be done in this domain. Furthermore, I would really like it if there were more spots in the city, such as parks, where young people can express their creativity in any way they like.
- ✓ Usage of university's garbage as a means of creating art through exhibitions and public events. More recycling projects. Playgrounds, parks in the campus open to the public. Taking part in various projects is important and I am very disappointed that people only do voluntary work when they are constantly reminded of this! What is needed is self awareness and personal responsibility.
- ✓ There are many beautiful buildings and open spaces in the campus that are full with garbage right now. Therefore a nice idea would be to clean AUTH by group work (if of course the students could rise about the political implications that are at hand).
- ✓ An idea in order to make the city landscape more appealing and eco-friendly is to create more parks. Instead of building a mall we can take advantage of this place and plant trees, flowers and give to the people of the city an opportunity to escape from routine and take a walk. In this way we help the environment too.
- ✓ I think that the first thing that should be done is planting more trees. People need to see "green" around them (so as to feel closer to nature) instead of the depressing grey prevailing in the city. In addition, I would like to see flowers decorating blocks of flats, squares and public buildings.
- ✓ Something that doesn't make the city appealing is rubbish on the streets. So I would place many small recycling bins around the city, because a clean city is also appealing.
- ✓ The bus stops should not be as close to each other as they are now. This way maybe the traffic problem will be relieved a little bit. For example the stops at Aristotelous and Mitropolitou Gennadiou are too close to one another. Not necessary. People can walk. We should learn to walk because nowadays we have forgotten it and we're just sitting all day long.
- ✓ Evacuate spaces to transform them into parks. Organize exhibition in the city centre, concerning the landscape transformation and so activate people to minimize pollution. Construct more bicycle paths as well as leave much space

for recycling bins. Urge paint the walls of old block of flats in order to give the city a brighter outlook.

- ✓ Many kiosks could be created all around the city that would be able to give tourists proper information about the city and guide them through all the important places. Also, we as students of the university should form small groups and clean the city or even plant flowers in places where there is no beauty at all.
- ✓ It would be a great idea to create groups of people that would organize cleaning actions in different areas of the city.
- ✓ Create more parks especially in the center of the city. In the area of Thessaloniki bay near Macedonia Palace which right now is being reconstructed, it would be appealing the planting of more trees. I would pull down all the useless buildings which are mostly located in the center of the city, west side, and I would replace them with gardens and parks. It would also be eco-friendly the construction of an educational eco park where citizens can be informed about the potential improvements in the city's landscape.
- ✓ Change the city lights and create better / more romantic atmosphere in the narrow streets. Plant trees and flowers in historic places, near monuments. Create outdoor meeting places, where students will gather and talk, play the guitar, sing songs and take part in activities. Construct statues from eco-friendly materials (wood, recycled paper) and put them in crowded places, where people are continuously walking by. Redecorate the city's oldest and most recognizable buildings with modern paintings and constructions. Start organizing bug street walks with lots of activities.

COMMUNITY QUESTION V

- **If you could transform any areas in Thessaloniki into green zones-park zones, where would those be and why? Do you think it is important that more parks should be created in Thessaloniki? If yes, for what reason(s)?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ I would like to transform the central part of the city. Because I feel that it is really crowded. Yes, Thessaloniki definitely needs more parks because I think that children don't have a place to play.
- ✓ I would transform the area of the White Tower & especially the one towards the port. It is not bad as it is but I would rather it was greener and less café-bar oriented. The way it is now people can take walks along the port but it would be even better if it was friendlier to jog or do other activities. More parks have to be created in order to encourage people of all ages to exit their flats in Thessaloniki & get fresh air as well as exercise more often than they do now.
- ✓ First of all, I believe that the city centre of Thessaloniki (from X.A.N.Θ. to Δικαστήρια area) should be turned into green zones-park-zones. Tsimiski street should become a street only for bicycles, buses and pedestrians. Traffic circulation through Egnatia street and Leoforos Nokis street. In my opinion I believe that more parks should be created in order to slow down the pollution that degrades the atmosphere in Thessaloniki.
- ✓ Γενικά, στο ανατολικό τμήμα της Θεσσαλονίκης μπορεί να συναντήσει κανείς, είτε στους χώρους των πολυκατοικιών, είτε έξω από αυτούς, αρκετές «πράσινες γωνίες». Το ίδιο, όμως, πιστεύω πως δεν ισχύει για το δυτικό κομμάτι της πόλης. Οι ιδιωτικοί κήποι και τα δημόσια πάρκα είναι ελάχιστα. Γι' αυτό το λόγο πιστεύω πως θα ήταν καλύτερο να δημιουργηθούν χώροι πρασίνου κυρίως στη Δυτική Θεσσαλονίκη (Εύοσμος, Κορδελιό και αλλού), γιατί εκεί υπάρχει μεγαλύτερη έλλειψη, καταρχάς, και έπειτα, γιατί το πράσινο χρωματίζει και ομορφαίνει κάθε σύγχρονη γκρίζα πόλη.
- ✓ I believe that there should be more parks in Thessaloniki, because it would be nice to have places that make our city more beautiful, with trees and flowers that make our lives more colorful. We could all then take walks and children could play safely in a natural environment, rather than stay in the apartments. Our campus should be one of the places to take care of, since we spend a lot of our time there. A nice part by the sea would be a good idea for walks, or any other place that needs more color and positive energy!!!
- ✓ I would transform areas in the centre, like Aristotelous or Kamara / Rotonta. They are highly popular areas, while there is the space for green zones, which is now full of cement. Also the idea of monuments being inside the green zone blends history with the city landscape. Thessaloniki is a rather ugly city in this respect. It is full of cement, and since the architecture of most modern buildings is pretty bad; having more parks would give the citizens the chance

to breathe, while it would make the city more colorful, natural, beautiful and humane.

- ✓ Θεωρώ πως η περιοχή του κέντρου της πόλης θα έπρεπε να μετατραπεί σε πράσινη ζώνη καθώς επίσης και η παραλία, ώστε να είναι προσιτή και ευχάριστη τόσο για τους κατοίκους, όσο και για τους τουρίστες. Επίσης σε κάθε περιοχή όπως Τούμπα, Χαριλάου, Άνω Πόλη, και άλλες θα έπρεπε να υπάρχει παρόμοια ζώνη, ώστε να βελτιώνεται και το βιοτικό επίπεδο των κατοίκων τους με βόλτες στα πάρκα, και εθελοντισμό. Θα έπρεπε να δημιουργηθούν περισσότερα πάρκα και να οργανωθούν με βάση το κοινό τους. Δηλαδή πάρκα για ζώα, για παιδιά και κάποια θεματικά. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο διευκολύνεται η ζωή των ανθρώπων, έρχονται πιο κοντά σε απλά πράγματα και στη φύση, καθώς και άνθρωποι μικρότερων ηλικιών θα απολαύσουν το παιχνίδι σε εξωτερικό χώρο.
- ✓ Several areas in Thessaloniki should be transformed, in my opinion. I would like to see the area of “Kamara” transformed into green zones-park zones, since I think the area has been urbanized to the extent that it has started to lose the beauty. Too many citizens, too many cars, all these make the area dull. A green area, however, would offer beauty to the vicinity and freshness as well as health. Of course I think it is important that more parks should be created. Beauty, joy, freshness, health, better life are amongst the things that nature offers. Being close to nature enhances our humanity.
- ✓ Δεν θα ήθελα να μετατρέψω μόνο μια συγκεκριμένη περιοχή σε πάρκο. Πιστεύω ότι θα έπρεπε σε ολόκληρη την πόλη να υπάρχουν πάρκα μικρής έκτασης, αρκεί να είναι μικρή η απόσταση που τα χωρίζει. Ναι η Θεσσαλονίκη χρειάζεται περισσότερα πάρκα/χώροι πρασίνου στην πόλη είναι πολύ μεγάλα και πολύ μακριά από κάποιες περιοχές (π.χ. η απόσταση της Τούμπας από την Ν. Παραλία) ώστε πολλοί κάτοικοι να μην έχουν πρόσβαση σε τέτοια μέρη και να είναι συνεχώς μέσα σε ένα αστικό περιβάλλον. Αυτό που χρειάζεται η πόλη είναι πολλά μικρά πάρκα για να εξαφανίζεται αυτή η αίσθηση του τσιμέντου.
- ✓ Είναι: Αισθητικοί λόγοι (πάρκα- χώροι ανάπαυσης, περισσότερο πράσινο – καθαρή ατμόσφαιρα). Άνω Πόλη, στα κάστρα. Δυτική Θεσσαλονίκη (?) Πιο σημαντική θεωρώ την ανάπλαση/διατήρηση των ήδη υπαρχόντων χώρων πρασίνου που παραμελούνται.
- ✓ Ο καθρέπτης της πόλης είναι το κέντρο της, οπότε θεωρώ ότι θα ήταν καλύτερα να γίνουν αλλαγές σε περιοχές του κέντρου. Ειδικότερα, στην περιοχή του Βαρδάρη μια τέτοια αλλαγή θα ήταν πολύ ωφέλιμη, γιατί πιστεύω πως είναι μια μοναχική περιοχή και ειδικότερα με τα έργα του μετρό η κατάσταση έχει χειροτερέψει. Θεωρώ πως στην Θεσσαλονίκη υπάρχουν περιθώρια να δημιουργηθούν κι άλλα πάρκα. Θα ήταν πολύ ωραία να δημιουργούνταν μεγάλα πάρκα με χώρους όπου θα μπορούσαν να κάθονται πολλοί συμπολίτες μας και να περνούν το χρόνο τους εκεί. Άλλωστε, στην εποχή μας όπου οι ρυθμοί ζωής έχουν γίνει πολύ κουραστικοί, τέτοιου είδους διέξοδοι είναι πολύ χρήσιμοι.

- ✓ Κυρίως στο κέντρο, όπου περισσότεροι άνθρωποι μπορούν να φτάσουν αλλά και γιατί θα δώσει μια πνοή πρασίνου στην πόλη. Είναι σημαντικό γιατί η πόλη τείνει να κατακλύζεται από κτίρια και οικοδομές. Είναι σημαντικό τόσο για τα παιδιά όσο και για ενήλικες.
- ✓ It is important that more parks are created in Thessaloniki because it would immensely improve the city's aesthetics as well as its inhabitants' mood and psychology. Green areas are always welcome in any city especially a large one. Health reasons are also of great importance. With all the pollution existing in cities it would be really nice to have at least some areas to relax and enjoy nature.
- ✓ I would transform some areas in West Thessaloniki & specifically from the area of the Train Station & Further, because these areas are the ugliest, filthiest & oldest areas in West Thessaloniki. Yes, of course. Thessaloniki is full of cement & parks would make her more appealing to her inhabitants & tourists as well.
- ✓ As a student in Thessaloniki I mainly spend my time around the city centre or the campus area. I suppose that the city has many beautiful parks, but they are abandoned almost left to "die". So, I believe that unless something is done with the already existing parks, no more parks should be constructed. People of Thessaloniki improve the image of your parks and then make your city more beautiful by adding more.
- ✓ Για πάρκα δεν ξέρω, αλλά περισσότερα παγκάκια χρειαζόμαστε σίγουρα. Σε διάφορα σημεία της πόλης. Ίσως και κανένα κιόσκι όταν βρέχει καθώς θες να πας μια βόλτα και δεν έχεις λεφτά για καφετέρια.
- ✓ Είναι πολύ σημαντικό να δημιουργηθούν περισσότερα πάρκα στη Θεσσαλονίκη για λόγους υγείας, αισθητικής, και το πιο σημαντικό, για περιβαλλοντικούς λόγους. Πέρα από το χάος της μεγαλούπολης, ας υπάρχουν χώροι όπως τα πάρκα, που κανείς μπορεί να πάει για να νιώσει όμορφα και να αναπνεύσει καθαρό αέρα. Στη πλατεία Αγίας Σοφίας αλλά και η πλατεία Ελευθερίας (Βενιζέλου) λόγω μεγάλης έκτασης θα μπορούσαν να γίνουν πράσινες ζώνες.
- ✓ Η Θεσσαλονίκη έχει έναν επαρκή αριθμό πάρκων κρίνοντας απ' το γεγονός ότι είναι μια μεγαλούπολη και σε αντίθεση με την Αθήνα. Βέβαια, είναι σημαντικό να δημιουργηθούν και άλλα πάρκα καθώς η έκτασή της είναι μεγάλη. Επίσης, τα πάρκα θα επιτρέψουν σε όλους να έρθουν σε επαφή με τη φύση μέσα από δραστηριότητες, όπως το ποδήλατο και άλλα.
- ✓ Η παραλία η οποία είναι υπό κατασκευή εδώ και 1 χρόνο θα μπορούσε να μετατραπεί σε πάρκο όπου θα μπορούσαν να υπάρχουν πολλά παγκάκια αλλά και χώροι διάφορων αθλητικών και μη δραστηριοτήτων όπως ακριβώς υπάρχει και στη νέα παραλία κοντά στην περιοχή Μαρτίου. Φυσικά και θα έπρεπε να υπάρχουν περισσότερα πάρκα ειδικά σε μια περιοχή όπως η Θεσσαλονίκη όπου το κλίμα είναι αρκετά μολυσμένο.

- ✓ Yes, more parks can be constructed and trees planted in the city centre, if wider pavements existed.
- ✓ More central areas should be turned into green/park zones, so as for the citizens to have a better quality of life. Parks are a source of oxygen, so there should be created more of them in Thessaloniki, instead of huge blocks of flats.
- ✓ Θα έλεγα το τμήμα της Αριστοτέλους από την Εγνατία και πάνω γιατί είναι ένα πολύ κεντρικό σημείο της πόλης και η έκταση είναι αρκετά μεγάλη ώστε να δημιουργηθεί ένας χώρος με πράσινο. Πιστεύω ότι θα έπρεπε να δημιουργηθούν παραπάνω πάρκα στην πόλη γιατί οι ανοιχτοί χώροι που μπορεί να καθίσει ή να απασχοληθούν τα μικρά παιδιά είναι κακοδιατηρημένοι και το πράσινο της πόλης δεν επαρκεί σε σχέση με το βαθμό της μόλυνσης της ατμόσφαιρας.
- ✓ In Olympiados and Kassandrou because they were once beautiful but now are depressing. Yes because of hygiene improvement for our health and our senses that have now blocked nature out.
- ✓ It would be nice to create them down-town. Thessaloniki is so grey it would be perfect to have some parks in Toumba, Charilaou, Triandria etc. We need something beautiful in the grayness of our city. It is very important, as it would be an escape, a source of power and inspiration.
- ✓ They would be downtown since the atmosphere is suffocating. I think that the centre part of our town needs a big park. Thank God we have the sea to breath!
- ✓ The International Fair Trade of Thessaloniki. It is a vast area and in the center of the city so many people will have access to it.
- ✓ Θα ήταν στο κέντρο της Θεσσαλονίκης, ένα κομμάτι ίσως κοντά στην Καμάρα από όπου όλοι περνάνε καθημερινά και θα υπήρχε η δυνατότητα να δημιουργηθούν κέντρα αναψυχής όπου ίσως όλοι θα μπορούσαν να επισκεφτούν, όπως και στην παραλία που είναι κατεστραμμένη. Καθώς έχει μεγάλο φυσικό πλούτο και αποτελεί παραθαλάσσια πόλη πρέπει να ευνοήσει την ανάπτυξη των green parks.
- ✓ Θα επέλεγα την Ροτόντα γιατί είναι ένα σημείο συνάντησης πολλών φοιτητών και θεωρώ ότι είναι ανεκμετάλλευτο. Σίγουρα ναι! Μόνο και η όψη και η εξωτερική εμφάνιση βοηθάει στην καλύτερη διάθεση.
- ✓ I would choose the former military base of Pavlou Mela (Stavroupoli) and Strempenioti (Efkarpia) for which nothing is being done at the moment. They are really big and their transformation into green spaces would be a real oasis for people who live around the neighborhood.

- ✓ Θα επέλεγα τον χώρο του πανεπιστημίου και όλα τα σχολεία, γιατί θεωρώ ότι είναι πολύ σημαντικός παράγοντας που επηρεάζει την ψυχολογία όλων. Ναι, γιατί θα γίνει πιο όμορφη η πόλη και ίσως «αναγκαστούμε» να σεβαστούμε το φυσικό περιβάλλον.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS VI

- Αναφέρεται 2 πλευρές (μια θετική και μια αρνητική) από την ζωή στην πόλη. Προτείνετε 1 λύση για την αρνητική πλευρά.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ What I really love about Thessaloniki is all those big and small squares, those patches of green that you can see anywhere. You don't expect them, you don't know even that they exist and it's a piece of hope and optimism that creates an antithesis with all these grey buildings. The thing that I dislike is all these rubbish in the same small squares. Rubbish is everywhere, no one respects the pieces of nature in a big city, and the thing that drives me mad is that one can see rubbish exactly next to the rubbish bin. I feel that none lets the environment breathe...
- ✓ Μου αρέσει: Η θάλασσα. Δεν μου αρέσει: Που είναι όλα βρώμικα (σκουπίδια) και βανδαλισμένα (graffiti). Λύση: Περισσότεροι εργαζόμενοι στον τομέα της καθαριότητας. Ποινές για παραβάτες που να ισχύουν! "Creative Outlets" για τους επίδοξους που εκτονώνονται χωρίς έλεγχο/όρια. Περιποίηση πρασίνου για περισσότερη έμπνευση-κίνητρο να σεβαστούν τον χώρο.
- ✓ Κάτι το αξιοθαύμαστο σε αυτή την πόλη είναι το πόσα πολλά μπορεί να σου δώσει από άποψη πολιτισμική (εκδηλώσεις, events, θέατρο) και κοινωνική (διασκέδαση κλπ.) αλλά και ότι η πρόσβαση σε αυτά τα σημεία είναι πολύ εύκολη. Συνδυάζει λοιπόν πολλές δραστηριότητες και μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να συμμετάσχουμε σε αυτές πολύ εύκολα. Από την άλλη όμως της λείπει το συλλογικό πνεύμα και η διάθεση για να επιτευχθεί αυτή η προσπάθεια ακόμη ευκολότερα. Solution: group work, εθελοντισμός.
- ✓ Η Θεσσαλονίκη έχει πανέμορφα μέρη όπως ο Λευκός Πύργος και η Νέα Παραλία. Τα μαγαζιά και η νυχτερινή ζωή είναι ιδανική κυρίως για φοιτητές. Το μειονέκτημα είναι η πληθώρα αυτοκινήτων και καυσαερίων όπως επίσης και η ρύπανση του Θερμαϊκού. Καλό θα ήταν σαν λύση να αλλάξουν κάποιοι δρόμοι σε μεγάλους πεζόδρομους και να υπάρχουν κάποια πρόστιμα για τη ρύπανση.
- ✓ Θετικό: Υπάρχουν οι προϋποθέσεις για πολλές δραστηριότητες, εκδηλώσεις, ενημερωτικά προγράμματα, εκθέσεις που στοχεύουν στην εκπαίδευση, μόρφωση και ενεργή ζωή. Και φυσικά, είναι μια πόλη που τείνει προς την πολύ-πολιτισμικότητα, αν και αφορά κάποια πλευρά της. Αρνητικό: Υπάρχει κοινωνικός διαχωρισμός. Λύση: Οργάνωση σεμιναρίων και εκδηλώσεων με θέμα τη διαφορετικότητα.
- ✓ Θετικό της πόλης: Πόλη που περπατείται, δεν χάνεται κανείς, εύκολο να την εξερευνήσεις, έχει διαφορετικές όψεις που σε κάνει να έχεις την αίσθηση, κάθε φορά, ότι είσαι κάπου διαφορετικά. Αρνητικό της πόλης: όχι πολύ πράσινο. Λύση προβλήματος: Διοργάνωση σεμιναρίων για ενημέρωση, συμμετοχή σχολείων ούτως ώστε οι μαθητές να φυτεύουν συχνότερα, «Πράσινη Θεσσαλονίκη».

- ✓ Θετικό: Δωρεάν συμμετοχή και παρακολούθηση αρκετών εκδηλώσεων.
Αρνητικό: Ελλείψεις σε επίπεδο χώρων καλλιτεχνικής έκφρασης (δωρεάν ή έστω με μειωμένη οικονομική συνδρομή) και παράλληλα έλλειψη ποικιλίας σε επίπεδο ασχολιών με καλλιτεχνικούς τομείς (π.χ. κουκλοθέατρο, θεατρικές σχολές κτλ.). Λύση: Άσκηση πίεσης σε κάποιους φορείς που θα μπορούσαν να προσφέρουν αυτές τις δραστηριότητες και τους χώρους. Νέες προτάσεις από τους πολίτες προς το δήμο και άλλους φορείς.

- ✓ I feel that the most positive aspect of Thessaloniki is its multiculturalism and hospitality. It is a place where many civilizations meet and everybody feels at home. What is more, I like the fact that there are many options for outgoing and many forms of entertainment which cover all styles. What I don't like about Thessaloniki is that both the people and the authorities don't respect this place. The main problem has been the garbage not only in streets but also in the Thermaikos sea. I believe, thus, that that it is necessary for authorities to take action to clean the city and enhance people's awareness of their responsibility towards the city they live in.

COMMUNITY QUESTION VII

- **Could you mention the most important reason/problem of Thessaloniki that would prevent a visitor from coming to the city? Could you suggest a solution?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ Traffic maybe, the “impossibility” of finding a parking lot, especially in the city centre. Solution: use of public transportation but with cheaper tickets.
- ✓ At present, the most important problem of the city is lack of cleanliness and hygiene. This is, for now, can be considered as the most important reason that would prevent a visitor from coming to the city. The solution would be cleaning up the city.
- ✓ Traffic – Remove the cars from the pavements and pedestrian areas. Stop motorbikes riding on the pavements.
- ✓ Garbage in streets, burglars in streets.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is a historical city that unfortunately faces problems with transport (occasionally) and litter. The city could change dramatically if this was fixed and tourism could be boosted.

COMMUNITY QUESTION VIII

- **It's often said that knowing one's past, it's easier to understand and appreciate one's present. In what ways can young people raise awareness of Thessaloniki's past history? What kind of actions could be organized? Please provide your own suggestions.**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ I absolutely agree with the statement! Most young people living in Thessaloniki are not fully aware of the city's multicultural past, so it would be a good idea to organize more events about its history. City walks and screenings would be quite effective.
- ✓ Cultural clubs discussing different historical events.
- ✓ The city needs to reclaim its Ottoman Past!
- ✓ Various processions can be arranged to let the youth know the history of Thessaloniki.
- ✓ Visit all the monuments of the city (there are a lot!) as well as the museums. I also love looking at photos of how the city used to be some decades ago, so there might be a photo gallery or an exhibition of such photos or drawings so that more people could see the changes throughout the ages.
- ✓ It is not a matter of young people. It mainly has to do with official policy. Who has any memory of 90.000 Jews of Thessaloniki? The institution that we all take part in, the Aristotle Uni, is built on the Jewish Cemetery.
- ✓ Organize walks & visits throughout the city, make people aware of the rich history (ruins, churches, ...) + role play (imagine you're living during the roman/byzantine period).

COMMUNITY QUESTION IX

- **Take a minute and step into the shoes of a black immigrant carrying all those bags filled with different selling objects (watches, CDs, DVDs, even walking shoes). How does Thessaloniki seem from his perspective? Do you think he makes a difference in this city? How? And in what way?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ Οι μετανάστες σίγουρα αποτελούν καθημερινό φαινόμενο στην πόλη μας. Κατά τη γνώμη μου έχουν γίνει πια ένα κομμάτι, ή αλλιώς έχουν ενσωματωθεί στην εικόνα της Θεσσαλονίκης. Στα μάτια τους η Θεσσαλονίκη είναι ο τόπος επιβίωσής τους, όσο σκληρή κι αν είναι αυτή. Σίγουρα δεν έχουν δεύτερη επιλογή, αλλά και το παρεμπόριο πρέπει κάποια στιγμή να σταματήσει. (enough is enough). Ένα άλλο πρόσωπο της πόλης προβάλλεται άθελά τους κι άθελά μας. Από την άλλη μεριά, η ρατσιστική συμπεριφορά απέναντί τους μόνο δείγμα πολιτισμού δεν είναι. Η Θεσσαλονίκη δεν είναι ανεβασμένη στα μάτια τους, όχι από άποψη φυσικής ομορφιάς, αλλά από άποψη συμπεριφοράς.
- ✓ Salonica is a port-city. Like port-cities, people always come and go. I will too eventually. Just about when I make enough for the fare out of selling those trinkets. I am an entrepreneur in my own right and Navarinou is my mall. I meet with my countrymen to chat, remember home and maybe exchange business ideas. I smile since it seems a good marketing strategy. Thank God, people here smile back, even if they do not buy. Will Salonica miss me when I'm gone? Perhaps. She saw the survivor in me I'm sure. And the merchant. Port-cities always treasure merchants.
- ✓ Η Θεσσαλονίκη για αυτόν είναι μια ενδιαφέρουσα πόλη από άποψη ότι αποτελεί ένα κράμα Ανατολής και Δύσης. Παρότι ανήκει στην Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα και την Ευρωζώνη, ο μαύρος μετανάστης διαπιστώνει ότι η πόλη έχει κοινά με την πατρίδα του. Κίνηση στους δρόμους, άτσαλες συμπεριφορές, μη τήρηση νόμων, επικρατεί η νοοτροπία «Κάνω ότι γουστάρω». Αναρωτιέται ο άνθρωπος αυτός γιατί οι Έλληνες είναι τόσο τεμπέληδες και κάθονται στις καφετέριες ολημερίς, παραπονιούνται για τα πάντα, όμως δεν διατίθενται να αλλάξουν τίποτα. Ο μετανάστης δεν τρέφει σεβασμό για αυτήν την πόλη γιατί ακριβώς προσπαθεί να μοιάσει στις δυτικές κοινωνίες χωρίς να αποβάλλει τα «ανατολίτικα» κλισέ. Κάπως έτσι και αυτός επιβιώνει σε αυτό το χάος περιμένοντας την ευκαιρία να πάει σε μια καλύτερη χώρα. Η Θεσσαλονίκη για αυτό δεν είναι παρά μια σύντομη στάση. Προσωπικά θα ήθελα να μάθω που βρίσκεται το εμπόρευμα που πουλάει και τις διασυνδέσεις που έχει. Θέλω να σταματήσει το παράνομο εμπόριο και ο μετανάστης να γίνει Έλληνας πολίτης, να αγαπήσει την Ελλάδα και να προσφέρει στην κοινωνία ως ισότιμο μέλος της.
- ✓ I think that from an immigrant's point of view Thessaloniki represented the city where he could find better conditions of living, which I assume was the reason why he left his country. But he actually finds himself selling objects in the street as his only way to make a living so he must be disappointed and

discouraged, especially because almost nobody buys his stuff, and he is despised and found annoying by most people. I don't think he makes a real difference in this city, you can see him in the street but he doesn't have a real social status.

- ✓ Σίγουρα μια πόλη σαν τη Θεσσαλονίκη, του φαίνεται μια πόλη με κάποια οικονομική άνεση και παρά τους καιρούς που διανύουμε με μεγαλύτερη οικονομική άνεση από τη δική του χώρα. Είναι λογικό και κάνει διαφορά στην πόλη, αφού ο αριθμός τους τα τελευταία χρόνια έχει αυξηθεί αρκετά, για το λόγο ότι ίσως από εκεί που ήρθαν δεν υπήρχε προοπτική για δουλειά, ή οποιοσδήποτε τρόπος να βγάλουν κάποια χρήματα.
- ✓ Trying to imagine myself in a black immigrant's shoes brought a sense of sorrow and melancholy. It is not that I didn't know their plight and what hardships they go through, but I never really tried to 100% sympathize with them. My guess is that to them Thessaloniki seems like a wide never-ending road, which they must walk on by practically begging strangers to buy what they sell. Would the city be different without them? That I can't answer, for sure. What I know is that they have become an integral part of this city, and that slight, unconscious expectation may have influenced our mentality, even our city's cultural façade, in the long run.
- ✓ In my opinion most of the black immigrants come from places that have been poverty and unemployment stricken. So probably they come in Greece and in Thessaloniki for a better living. It's really hard though because they cannot find any other job except for selling products in the street. Maybe, they get used to that kind of living really quickly but it has become really difficult and dangerous for them the last three years due to the economic crisis in Greece as well as due to the Police "chasing" of the "black market." Their products are cheaper, so many people buy them and frankly they're quite good in quality. I believe it could be better for them and for the consumers to give a receipt so as to avoid the illegal trade. Overall, particularly I don't bother so much and actually I have bought many objects from black immigrants. They have to survive. It's better this way than selling drugs or been involved in illegal activities in order to gain their "living".
- ✓ I think that in most cases Thessaloniki seems to him unfortunately a chaotic place and not a shelter as many people treat him with disrespect. I also believe that he makes the difference in this city, along with the other immigrants, but unfortunately a few people notice him.
- ✓ Κατά τη δική μου άποψη, η Θεσσαλονίκη δε θα του φαίνεται τόσο όμορφη πόλη όπως σε εμάς, γιατί είναι άνθρωπος χωρίς λεφτά, που ανεξάρτητα με τις καιρικές συνθήκες, την ψυχολογία του αναγκάζεται να βγει και να πουλήσει πράγματα. Φυσικά και κάνει τη διαφορά σ' αυτή την πόλη. Εκτός από το γεγονός ότι είναι μαύρος, με την οικογένειά του μακριά θα έχει και τον φόβο της σκληρής αντιμετώπισης από την κοινωνία. Δε θα έπρεπε η κοινωνία να

τους αντιμετωπίζει ρατσιστικά, θα έπρεπε να έχει μια μεγάλη αγκαλιά γι' αυτούς τους ανθρώπους που είναι βασανισμένοι και πολλές φορές διωγμένοι από τις πατρίδες τους, γιατί αν πήγαιναν όλα καλά στη ζωή τους δε θα ήταν αυτή τη στιγμή μετανάστες.

- ✓ Σίγουρα το γεγονός ότι αναγκάζονται να βρίσκονται σ' αυτήν τη θέση, πιστεύω ότι είναι πολύ δυσάρεστο και δεν αρέσει ούτε σ' αυτούς. Ήρθαν εδώ για ένα καλύτερο μέλλον, αλλά δεν νομίζω να ζουν αυτό που είχαν φανταστεί. Πιστεύω πως η Θεσσαλονίκη γι' αυτούς, τους δίνει σίγουρα καλύτερες οικονομικές δυνατότητες, αλλά σε καμία περίπτωση δεν είναι η Γη της Επαγγελίας. Η διαφορά που κάνουν σ' αυτήν την πόλη είναι κατά κύριο λόγο εθνική, διότι προέρχονται από διαφορετικές κουλτούρες και άλλο τρόπο ζωής, καθώς και οικονομική, διότι δημιουργούν περισσότερα κοινωνικά στρώματα. Με λίγα λόγια, δεν πιστεύω ότι ζουν το όνειρο της ζωής τους αλλά, ίσως, να έχουν κάποια περισσότερα προνόμια απ' ότι αν έμεναν στη χώρα τους.
- ✓ Οι Αφρικανοί μετανάστες στην Ελλάδα δεν αντιμετωπίζονται ακριβώς με ρατσισμό αλλά με μια είδους αδιαφορία, σε σημείο που δεν υπάρχει κανένα κοινό σημείο στην καθημερινότητά τους με τη δικιά μας. Κι αυτό, όχι γιατί δεν μας πλησιάζουν αυτοί αλλά επειδή δεν τους πλησιάζουμε εμείς. Έχοντας γνωρίσει τέτοια άτομα, έχω βγάλει το συμπέρασμα ότι παρόλο που μας συμπαθούνε ως λαό και έχουν τις καλύτερες προθέσεις να μας γνωρίσουνε, δεν τους δίνουμε εμείς καμία ευκαιρία να γίνουν μέλη της κοινωνίας μας.
- ✓ Εγώ θα ήθελα να πω πως με προβληματίζει πολύ το γεγονός ότι οι άνθρωποι αυτοί θεωρούνται από μεγάλο μέρος του πληθυσμού μας υπεύθυνοι για ότι κακό μας συμβαίνει (εγκλήματα, οικονομική κρίση, κ.α.). Είναι ανησυχητικό να συμβαίνει κάτι τέτοιο και να ρίχνουμε ευθύνες σε ανθρώπους που άφησαν τη χώρα τους για ένα καλύτερο μέλλον και όχι για να αντιμετωπίσουν το ρατσισμό και την περιθωριοποίηση από μέρος μας. Εμένα προσωπικά δεν με ενοχλεί καθόλου η συνύπαρξη μαζί τους γιατί δέχομαι τη διαφορετικότητα. Όμως συμβαίνει το ίδιο με τους υπόλοιπους ανθρώπους; Εύχομαι να μπορούσαμε μια μέρα να καταλάβουμε όλοι πως είμαστε πρώτα άνθρωποι και μετά Έλληνες, αλβανοί, πακιστανοί. Και οφείλουμε να δρούμε και να συμπεριφερόμαστε ως τέτοιοι.
- ✓ To his perspective Thessaloniki is merely another station that might offer some potentials of work. Probably he wonders from city to city, therefore he views Thessaloniki as a large center where he can sell his products easily due to large population and consequently to a big number of possible buyers. I do not believe he can easily view Thessaloniki from a cultural perspective or know the city centre. Perhaps he thinks of it even as being inhospitable if he has been a victim of racial discrimination. Due to the fact that Thessaloniki could be considered nowadays a multi-cultural city he is not making a difference between the rest of the immigrants that made this city their home in their struggle to find a job and earn a living.

COMMUNITY QUESTION X

- **How can we make a difference in our urban space? Provide suggestions and solutions.**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ I think that more events can be organized with emphasis on music, dance and food. Also, some old houses which are not used can be turned into areas for kids, activities and events.
- ✓ By making our urban space more eco-friendly. For example there should be particular roads in the center that cars are not allowed to enter and somebody could access only on foot or by bicycle.
- ✓ Create small gardens in the rooftops of our buildings.
- ✓ We should keep it clear and well-organized by contributing to voluntary extra curricular activities.
- ✓ In the urban space of Thessaloniki there is traffic jam. The situation could be improved, if everyone used bikes or the bus. Furthermore, each one should be responsible enough to throw their rubbish in bins.
- ✓ It is in our hands to make the city beautiful by the power of street art. Enormous graffiti like the one opposite to our university, near the Rotonda or the one near Ladadika give a whole new modern perspective to the roads. Smaller works of art, like colorful faces and sketches on walls and on the little metallic boxes of OTE can also change the city's image.
- ✓ Create places where people can relax. Plant trees all over the city. Respect individually the law by not spoiling the city. Be friendly and hospitable toward others.
- ✓ It is obvious that our city is beautiful. It's also obvious that it's dirty. We could organize volunteer groups which will help clean both the streets and the monuments as well as try and inform the citizens about the importance of a clean city.
- ✓ Making a difference is always a case of good will and organization but most of the time people lack these things. There are many things we could do to improve our urban space, such as keeping everything clean, organizing environment-friendly groups which will plant trees, help animals etc. or using public transport to prevent traffic congestion and keep the environment healthy.
- ✓ Our urban space of Thessaloniki is generally quite good except for the unfinished metro stations. I don't think that we can do much about it. They just make the center look ugly.

- ✓ People must be more friendly and has to communicate with other people. In our space we have to make decision and both must be accepted. The government has to be more specific and take care of the all the humans and no just for themselves.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is the second biggest city in Greece, after Athens. So, this means that lots of people live here. The most important thing we should do is to make our city happier, more beautiful and idyllic for humans because it continues to grow and nobody wants it to become impersonal like Athens. A solution to this problem, is to stop fearing our next door neighbors and just be friends with them.
- ✓ It would be a great idea to organize some big events in public places where anyone can participate. These events can be related to culture or even to casual problems. These meetings can bring us closer.
- ✓ We can organize bazaars, especially during Christmas period and group work e.g. for planting trees.
- ✓ We must not throw garbage in the streets and we must care about the environment and not destroy it.
- ✓ It is know that the majority of problems in our city are caused by us, the citizens. So we are the ones who can solve them.
- ✓ In order to make a difference in our city we should respect each other's rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to have access to education, as well as provide economic support to those who live in poverty. Furthermore, it would be good to do things for free, more often.

COMMUNITY QUESTION XI

- **Do you think that Thessaloniki has intercultural stories to narrate? If yes, provide an example. Do you think that intercultural communication can be achieved in a big city?**

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- ✓ Yes, because in Thessaloniki there are many different races and immigrants from all over the world. For example, my school participated in a European Program and 70 students came for a week in our school from 19 countries. They stayed in our homes and it was a great experience. And yes, big cities are the best places to achieve intercultural communication.
- ✓ Due to history Thessaloniki has a big number of intercultural stories to narrate. In the city, nowadays live many people coming from other cities in Greece or from other countries. I think that in Thessaloniki intercultural communication can be achieved because it isn't such a big city.
- ✓ Yes, some buildings in this city used to belong to wealthy Jews and now that houses or old shops stand alone and not very well preserved, but these buildings have a great history to narrate from the period of the 1940s, when their owners were forced to abandon them. No, I don't think intercultural communication can be achieved in a big city, because people are not open minded.
- ✓ Thessaloniki hosts many cultures such as Albanian, Bulgarian etc. A fair example of intercultural communication is London that has many people from all over the world. So, yes I believe that cultural communication can be achieved.
- ✓ As the second biggest city in Greece, Thessaloniki surely has plenty of intercultural stories to narrate. Lots of people from different origins and culture reside in Thessaloniki and give the city a cosmopolitan characteristic. Refugees from Asia, Istanbul, Africa and other cities of the world have come here for a better future. There can exist an intercultural communication when people are open-minded and respectful to foreign cultures and generally to the human species.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is one of the most historical cities in Balkans, and as we go back in time we will find even more things concerning history, like Alexander the Great in ancient times, and the Balkan Wars in the most recent times. However, because of its geographical position, Thessaloniki has a lot of connection with other Balkan countries, with regard to its customs and culture, like music and arts. If we think in that perspective, I think we will find all our answers, music and the arts is one of them.
- ✓ Of course Thessaloniki has intercultural stories to narrate. One should take into consideration the Greeks that came from Asia Minor in 1922 and later as well as the Pontiacs.

- ✓ Thessaloniki has definitely intercultural stories to narrate, not only because nowadays many people from other countries have come here to live (China, Pakistan etc) but even the Greek people who live in the city come from different cultural backgrounds. Although in a big city like Thessaloniki intercultural communication is very difficult to be achieved, because people are not open to new experiences and different cultures. They are afraid of anything different.
- ✓ I think Thessaloniki is a place that is the home to people from many different origins, whether they are people from different Greek cities or people from all over the world. Walking on the street you can meet many people from other cultures. Of course that creates a problem of racism in many cases and what we must do is try to embrace diversity and appreciate it. That can only be achieved through communication.
- ✓ Thessaloniki has always been an intercultural meeting point due to its port. Additionally, some of Thessaloniki's greatest monuments such as the White Tower or Kamara reveal the interference between Greek and Turkish culture. Actually, an intercultural communication in a big city, like Thessaloniki could be achieved by a cooperation of the two governments.
- ✓ Thessaloniki nowadays is definitely an intercultural city, because there are many immigrants. However, racism against specific nationalities continues to exist and we should try to embrace those people and accept them in our society.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is an intercultural place indeed and this is obvious in the International Film Festival which many people from all over the world attend. But sometimes intercultural communication cannot be achieved in big cities due to the fact that people are not very close to each other.
- ✓ Thessaloniki is definitely intercultural since first of all there are many immigrants there are many different cultures, different worldviews and of course different languages. For years, the Jewish community has been offering cultural elements to the city. A big city can definitely have intercultural communication especially if people are accepting.
- ✓ Yes, there are these kind of stories in Thessaloniki. It can be achieved through the university community.
- ✓ Of course it does. In 1922 there were million of refugees that came here and they all had a story to tell. They brought together many aspects of their culture and despite their differences regarding language, culture, habits, they all lived together in harmony for many many years. So if they managed to do it then, why can't we make it happen now?
- ✓ In my opinion, Thessaloniki has many intercultural stories to tell, since it has a harbor and used to have a large Jewish and Muslim minority. In a big city like Thessaloniki, it may be more difficult to achieve communication but I think

getting to know each culture's story through exhibitions, music, food festivals would really help.

- ✓ Thessaloniki was considered for centuries to be a centre of the Balkan area and a home for many people from Bulgaria, FYROM, Turkey and Greece. There are still plenty of Balkan minorities that live here.