

When MWE talks to Chrissi

Chrissi Wilken is a journalist based in Athenes working for a Greek financial newspaper and a German media with a strong interest on issues of racism and integration. Her ex-change partner, Salinia Stroux, from Germany, is a photo-journalist. Salinia came to work in Athenes while Chrissi joined her in Germany.

The editorial choice? To give voice:

Chrissi joined the MARS Media Work Exchange because of her interest in the issue and to see what happens in another country on an issue of key interest to her. Chrissi and Salinia produced interviews of refugees and experts in Greece and Germany, connecting the interviews to the issue of racism. Connecting the stories to one another proved rather difficult and the pair dealt with this problem by threading the stories on the concept of ***giving voice*** to the interviewees, the refugees, the experts, *"to let them speak in our text, not to focus on our opinion, and you can see in our product that it is their stories"*.

More importantly it is at the level of technical exchange and of working together on their media product that Chrissi has much appreciated the concept of the **European Media Work Exchange**. Covering a rather wide subject, there was much data and content to deal with and the partnership considerably helped in the production of **the media output**. In Germany the issue of racism is more talked about than in Greece, yet speaking with experts Chrissi also saw similarities between the two countries and it was the way migrants dealt with racism in Germany and in Greece which also proved enriching.

A little bit of advice...

Chrissi's recommendations to would-be and future MWE participants, is to really remain open minded and yet to prepare very well in advance around the media output that will be put together, to really clarify the angle and the concept in advance of the exchange and of doing the work with the partner. Taking that advice into account, the experience seems to be pure joy!