Naomi

Ecumenical Workshop for Refugees, Thessaloniki/Greece

# Fair Jobs and Life in Peace for All

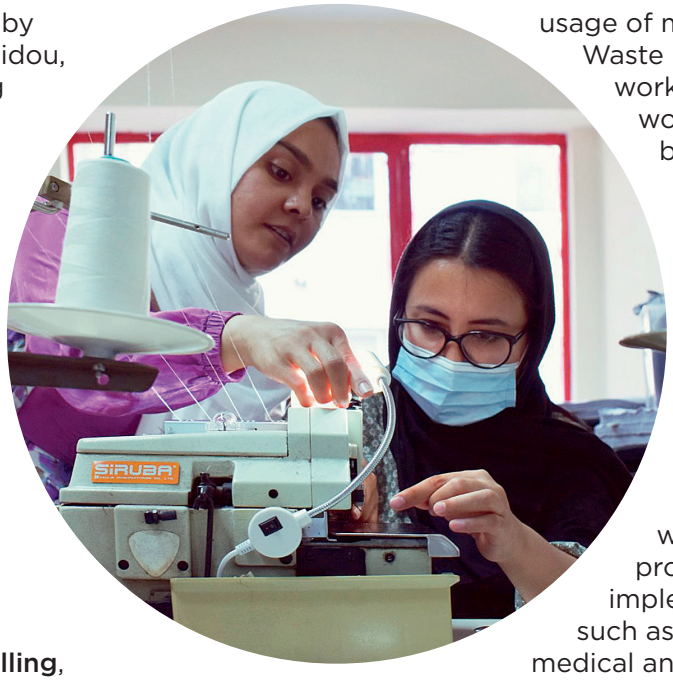
**NAOMI is a Greek non-profit society and non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 2016 and based in Thessaloniki.**

The organisation supports asylum seekers and refugees in Greece to integrate into the local Greek society and economy and become self-sufficient. Alongside its slogan, „Fair Jobs and Peace for All," NAOMI implements its programmes in a holistic manner, covering the integration stages by improving employability, empowering people to develop skills, find employment and providing social services and emergency aid. NAOMI is active in wider solidarity networks and cooperates with volunteers from different countries. The mission is carried out in three departments:

## 1. The Social Department

The Social Department, led by Angeliki-Gabriella Sampsonidou, supports people by offering education, skills training in the field of textile as well as social services.

**The Textile Academy** runs sewing courses for all levels (beginners, advanced and specialists), training professionals as sewers, seamstresses and tailors to be able to work in the textile industry and crafts, aiming to support their overall self-sufficiency.




At the same time, there is **provision for career counselling**, Greek language courses with emphasis on technical sewing terms, environmentally friendly usage of materials as well as Zero Waste philosophy. It also runs workshops to support vulnerable women to create an income and become self-sufficient by producing small items (**Women´s Social Workshop**).

**The Social Service**, led by social worker Alexis Triantafyllidis, offers customized social support, mediation in particularly vulnerable cases, in cooperation and liaison with the other NAOMI programmes. Moreover, it implements emergency assistance such as temporary accommodation, medical and legal aid, and financial support for living expenses. Most of the beneficiaries are single women and single mothers.

## 2. The Textile Department

NAOMI supports people's access to work under fair conditions in a safe and friendly space, employs a diverse team of 4–6 women and men as professional sewers and seamstresses, who are refugees / asylum seekers and migrants.

The team creates a high quality and environment-ally friendly **collection of accessories, purses, bags, T-shirts, and hoodies.** It follows the principles of sustainable production and the circular economy (reduction, reuse, recycling). T-shirts and hoodies can be ordered for groups and organisations with their own label.



The products can be bought – in person – at the NAOMI shop at the head office or online at www.shop.naomi.gr.

Friends of NAOMI distribute products at Greek and German bazaars, festivals, and events. And orders from external customers such as companies and organisations are executed.

## 3. CASA BASE

CASA BASE is a **safe space for girls and women** next to the Diavata refugee camp, 15 km from Thessaloniki and since 2023 a crucial part of NAOMI. A team of 6-10 volunteers guided by Maria Eleftheriadou runs activities for more than 300 people:

**Emergency aid** (dry food, fresh vege-tables, diapers, baby equipment, hygiene items, clothes, medicine)

**Health protection** (first aid, prevention sessions, midwife's and doctors' consultation, sexual education, referrals to hospitals and private doctors)




**Education and socialising** (languages, art, music, yoga, sewing and jewellery, sports, cooking and baking together, and other events)

Girls and women coming from the desolate and depressing environment of the camp are offered a beautiful and protected space. The staff welcomes everyone to the large garden and courtyard and to the building, where there are places to recreate and play, places for lessons and activities and the kitchen area. Furthermore, there is a large warehouse and boutique for distribution.

**"NAOMI's mission is based on human rights. We will support refugees as long as their rights to shelter, food, medical care and education are violated. I've met great people among refugees and activists,"**

says Dorothee Vakalis, President of NAOMI's Board, calling for support and cooperation.

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