



Institute for Rights
Equality & Diversity

ANNUAL
REPORT
2009





ANNUAL REPORT 2009

FOREWORD



In the second year of operation -RED expanded considerably its research activities. Research topics ranged from migration and asylum to Roma housing and hate speech in political discourse.

This occurs in times of extremely acute economic crisis with negative effects on social rights and social protection and on migrants and minorities through scape-goating, negative stereotyping, verbal and physical racist violence.

In this situation, the response to rapidly developing events and trends of racist violence and discourse - often at the very core of the public and political arena - is crucial and should arrive promptly in order to confront efficiently dominant perceptions of racism and intolerance. Often, and especially under these economic and political circumstances the wide public is misled to believe - and fear - myths of extreme right wing inspiration, about migrants and social minorities. The so-called 'ghetto' of Athens centre is one of these self-come-true prophecies based on weakening of social protection and poverty, as the preamble of segregated societies.

i-RED's intervention in public sphere, especially in summer 2009, aimed to counter this new wave of intolerance emerging in Greek society, largely to attribute to the socio-political and economic-financial emergency and the almost consequential intensification of right-wing political and violent groups. Additionally, public focus of i-RED was to support the law initiative of the Hellenic League for Human Rights and of the government later in autumn for granting citizenship to migrants and their children introducing jus soli in the new Greek citizenship law. The adoption of the latter is a milestone for the Greek society while it marks the beginning of new challenges for fundamental rights and citizenship.

In the same time, i-RED made efforts in promoting on an EU level, research and policies on fundamental rights' respect, protection and enjoyment, especially through the election of its Director for the second term to the Fundamental Rights Platform Advisory Panel and the coordination of the ongoing building of the RED Network.

This Annual Report is published in times of heavy economic crisis in Greece and of efforts for economic recovery in Europe in the European year against poverty and social exclusion. In both cases it is crucial to address and heal the negative social effects of the crisis and lay down the conditions for future productive and inclusive societies. i-RED is committed to work towards this direction through reliable and insightful research and intervention in the democratic public sphere.

Miltos Pavlou

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miltos Pavlou', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

i-RED Director

Athens, Greece March 2010



i-RED

Institute for Rights Equality & Diversity

MISSION STATEMENT

i-RED aims at providing sound basis of reliable information and scientific work through research, policy and trends' analysis. At the same time aims at promoting equal treatment, civic participation, full citizenship and respect of human rights, through intervention and participation in the public sphere, and dissemination of research findings and proposals.

i-RED is the response to the need for a research institute that will join forces of interdisciplinary scholars and will have a political impact through its scientific work in favour of migrants and minorities effective or potential racism & discrimination victims and of the protection and effective enjoyment of human rights in Greece and Europe.

ESTABLISHMENT OF I-RED

The Institute for Rights Equality and Diversity was founded on July 2008 in Athens, Greece. The Greek title of i-RED is

ΙΔΙΕΤΕΡΟ - Ινστιτούτο για τα Δικαιώματα, την Ισότητα και την Ετερότητα

OBJECTIVES

The Institute for Rights Equality and Diversity aims at:

research and political intervention through interdisciplinary, socioeconomic and legal analysis, public dissemination of research findings and policy recommendations regarding migrants and minorities and the phenomena of migration, racism, discrimination towards equality and participation in Greece and Europe.

I-RED includes among its scopes the study and promotion of equal treatment and defence of discrimination victims on all grounds of diversity and social identity.

Στόχοι

Το i-RED / Ιδιετερο - Ινστιτούτο για τα Δικαιώματα την Ισότητα και την Ετερότητα στοχεύει στην έρευνα και στην πολιτική παρέμβαση μέσα από διεπιστημονική, κοινωνικο-οικονομική και νομική έρευνα και ανάλυση, στη δημόσια διάδοση των ερευνητικών ευρημάτων και των προτάσεων διαμόρφωσης πολιτικής για τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και για τα φαινόμενα της μετανάστευσης, του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων.

- Το i-RED αναλαμβάνει κοινωνικές και επιστημονικές δράσεις και πρωτοβουλίες για τα θεμελιώδη ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα και την ετερότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων, στην Ελλάδα και στην Ευρώπη. Ειδικότερα αντικείμενα είναι η μελέτη και η προώθηση της αρχής της ίσης μεταχείρισης και η αρωγή και υπεράσπιση θυμάτων ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων μέσα από την έρευνα και τη συλλογή δεδομένων, καθώς και τη δημόσια και την πολιτική παρέμβαση, η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η καταπολέμηση του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων για κάθε λόγο/βάση διάκρισης, η μελέτη και η προώθηση της κοινωνικής ένταξης και ισότιμης συμμετοχής μεταναστών και μειονοτήτων, η συλλογή και καταγραφή στοιχείων σχετικά με το ρατσισμό και τις διακρίσεις και η προώθηση της επίσημης καταγραφής και αποτελεσματικής καταπολέμησης των φαινομένων αυτών από δημόσιες αρχές,

Unaccompanied minors



RAXEN research

Participation in research

- In 2009 i-RED implemented research with the HLHR-KEMO in the implementation of the RAXEN project. Hellenic League for Human Rights is the leader of the HLHR-KEMO RAXEN National Focal Point, contracted by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency of Vienna.
- i-RED experts participated in RAXEN deliverables and in other research projects.
- Preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport across the EU
- Housing Conditions of Roma and Travellers in the European Union
- Human rights issues and debates during the 2009 EU parliament election campaign”

Unaccompanied minors

In cooperation with Terre D’Asile – France i-RED is implementing in 2009 and 2010:



Study on
Improving the reception and care of unaccompanied children
within the European Union by harmonising member States’
legislation

This comparative study investigates:

- Definition of an unaccompanied child
- Number of unaccompanied children in the territory
- *Age, nationality, migration patterns, detailed statistics*
- Deportation of unaccompanied children at the border, to which countries, guarantees
- Detention and conditions of detention
- Access to asylum procedure and statistics of granting asylum
- Legal representation for unaccompanied children & shortcomings
- Methods for age assessment and identification
- Implementation of the Dublin II Regulation
- Identification of unaccompanied children victims of trafficking
- Protection system for minors recognized victims of trafficking
- Access to social welfare and healthcare
- Access to education and professional training
- Administrative status and integration
- Voluntary repatriation, guarantees and procedures
- Forced expulsion of unaccompanied minors

i-RED is implementing in 2009 and 2010 two Leonardo Da Vinci projects:

Pathways to Work



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Research has shown immigrants face specific barriers in the labour market, including: prejudice and xenophobia, discrimination by employers, difficulties obtaining recognition of qualifications and prior learning, cultural differences in working practices and communication skills, and lack of awareness of national support structures relating to employment and training.

These barriers place migrants at a significant disadvantage in comparison with local workers, meaning that they can end up in jobs below their skills level; are more vulnerable to job instability and experience many difficulties in terms of mobility in the labour market.

The Pathways to Work project focuses on young immigrants' needs and aims to enable them to compete with other job seekers on a "level playing field" by equipping them with practical tools in terms of job search and transition skills. It involves undertaking a detailed training needs analysis and customising existing training materials to suit the needs of young immigrants, aged between 18 & 30.

By increasing this group of young people's skills and adaptability and enabling them to obtain jobs which recognise and utilise those skills, they will be better placed to fulfil their potential in the labour market, enjoy greater personal growth and social integration. This will help improve their employment options and, more importantly, help overcome socio-economic disadvantage.

www.pathwaystowork.eu

Improving Diversity Training



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Improving Diversity training for SMEs

Research indicates that Employers are saying "We'd work with immigrant groups if we knew whom to call. We would like to establish an ongoing relationship that we can feed and foster." In other words, they are happy to employ immigrants, but don't know how to find a good supply...or how to train them /integrate them.

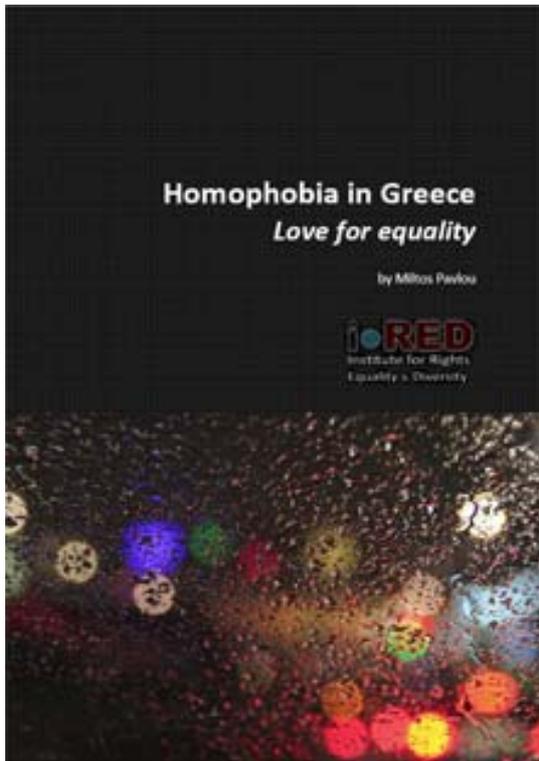
In recognition of this, the IDTS partnership has set itself a clear and simple aim: to identify, document and disseminate best practice on diversity training in the workplace. Specifically our partnership will seek to uncover and examine diversity training aimed at SMEs, to help employers tackle issues that will make them better placed to hire and train immigrants as useful part of their workforce.

As well as leading to a documentary analysis of lessons learned and strong dissemination, the project will build transnational relationships with a view to future collaborative projects, such as Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation or SME mobility projects.



Homophobia

Homophobia in Greece



2009, *Homophobia in Greece: Love for equality,*

by Miltos Pavlou (i-RED)

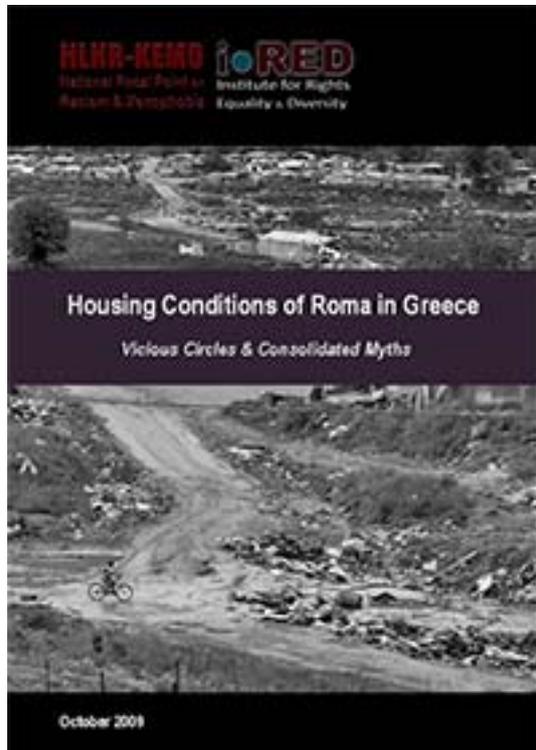
published in March 2009

'The greater gap of all seems to be the one regarding information and awareness of the wider public, as well as informed policies and availability of data on the situation of homophobia and discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. As the LGBT organisations well put it: professionals' (medics, public and police officers, teachers, and others.) training and people's education at all levels is the major challenge. 'Ignorance is the enemy.'

Roma Housing



Roma Housing in Greece



Housing Conditions of Roma in Greece. Vicious Circles & Consolidated Myths

by Miltos Pavlou (ed.), authors: M.Pavlou,
K.Lykovardi, D.Hormovitis, I.Prokopi

HLHR-KEMO/i-RED
Executive summary in Greek and English

'The lack of basic access of most unregulated encampments to public utilities seems to function at the same time as the result and justification of their socio-spatial segregation. In this way, the consequences of their marginalisation (public hygiene conditions) become the reasons – and legitimising arguments – for their perennial segregation and exclusion in a persistent vicious circle of stereotypes, state inertia and local hostility. The Roma minority's lack of cultural capital and limited resources for dealing with complex situations in housing and dealing with the authorities leads them in some cases to an inability to benefit even from a generous loan programme. In this way, the myth of Roma responsibility for their own situation is consolidated.

Many evictions are linked to major sport or cultural events. In such cases Roma must be made invisible or removed at any cost, a recurrent pattern in Greece encountered also in other cases of segregated or marginalised social groups. It is an occurrence which symbolises the 'trespassing' of Roma from the margins to the main body of the majority social life.'



Racism in Sport

Racism and sport



The most characteristic aspects of the situation with respect to racism and discrimination are the low level of awareness, the minimisation and downplaying or pure ignorance of the problem. Racism is often debated in the public sphere, especially in printed media. Paradoxically however, media publications mainly refer to racism in football in other European countries. Greece is **considered to be immune** to such phenomena and certainly not suffering from them like other countries.

'Greece über alles', Racism in Sport in Greece

by Miltos Pavlou (ed.), authors: Miltos Pavlou, Dimitris Parsanoglou

HLHR-KEMO/i-RED





Racist Discourse

Racism and political discourse



Cartoon mock up of Acropolis - Dark figures are packed inside a cage with the form of Acropolis. Hands protrude out of the crowded cage. One of them is drug-injected. CityPress 25.05.2009 - accompanies the editorial: Kirtsos G., Τελεώνει ο χρόνος για την Αθήνα, CityPress, (25.05.2009), <http://www.citypress.gr/index.html?action=article&article=66871>

In Greece the issues of racism, xenophobia, related acts of intolerance and other relevant human rights issues had never been in the focus of the debates during election campaigns. Despite the volume of migration inflows in Greece, the issue has never even been raised by the political leaders during the debates of the past national elections. The only exception was the 2007 leaders' debate, when only the far-right political party leader introduced the issue of migration with xenophobic terms.

Political Discourse and the emergence of Racism at the 2009 EU parliament election in Greece

by Miltos Pavlou

HLHR-KEMO/i-RED

This changed with the 2009 EU election. In a spectacular shift of public discussion, the issue of irregular migration gained major attention by national and local media during the election campaign. Nonetheless, the public debate did not focus on human rights issues of migrants and refugees. Instead, it developed around negative stance towards migrants and intolerance of their presence in Greece.

The main actors contributing to this shift were the media representatives and the far-right political party of LA.O.S. In some cases media publications in major quality newspapers or freesheets were blatantly intolerant and xenophobic using traditional wording of racist inspiration.

Media

The i-RED Director made numerous intervention in press and media (radio – TV) in view of the discussion about the historical centre of Athens and the ghettoisation of migrants and about the enlargement of the Greek citizenry through the amendment of the citizenship law and the introduction of jus soli, which will allow many ‘second’ generation migrant children to become Greek citizens.

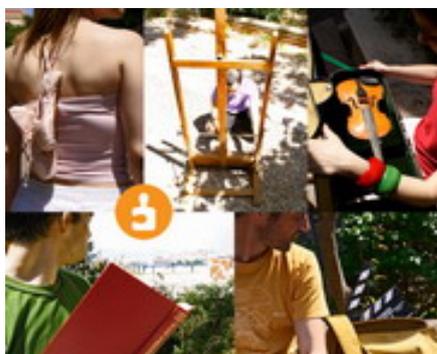


i-RED & HLHR-KEMO Director on TV NET about migration

On 16 of June 2009, in the midst of racist public discourse about irregular migrants in Greece, i-RED and HLHR-KEMO RAXEN NFP Director, Miltos Pavlou participated in a discussion on migration on the 2nd State channel (NET) evening show PRESS.

- *One of the main goals of i-RED and its commitments for the future is to develop an autonomous presence and news production regarding racism, discrimination and equal participation issues in the public sphere.*

Culture events – the PUZZLE festival



Puzzle Festival - with the support of KEMO and i-RED

19-21 June, a new festival of arts appeared on the cultural map of Athens. More than 50 artists from 17 countries of the world, all of them migrants living in Athens, are introduced to the public.

Citizenship



For an inclusive citizenship

It's worth to imagine a new Greek society!

Miltos Pavlou & Anna Triantafyllidou

COMMON PUBLIC STATEMENT about the new Law on Citizenship and Voting Rights for Migrants

October 2009



More than 2000 citizens, University teachers, workers, unemployed, students, journalists signed the statement for an inclusive citizenship and the challenge of imagining a new Greek society:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/greekcit/petition.html>

Fundamental Rights Platform

i-RED is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform

The i-RED Director, Miltos Pavlou was elected as a member of the Advisory Panel by the 2nd **Fundamental Rights Platform Meeting.**



The i-RED Director, Miltos Pavlou participated in the 1st Fundamental Rights Platform Advisory Panel meeting. The Panel examined and assisted the FRA Director in finalising the Panel's terms of reference, as well as the next call for participation of civil society organisations in the Platform.

The Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) is a network for cooperation and information exchange, set to act as the main channel for FRA's cooperation with civil society and to ensure a close cooperation between the Agency and relevant stakeholders. The specific tasks of the Platform are:

- to make suggestions on the Annual Work Programme
- to give feedback and suggest follow-up on the Annual Report
- to communicate outcomes and recommendations of conferences, seminars and meetings relevant to the work of the Agency.



RED Network



Since its foundation i-RED has been at the lead of the building of a European Network that will be in the position to provide unique and much needed research data and awareness intervention as a 'watchdog' on racism and discrimination in EU countries.

The RED Network is an effort to build an independent research network composed of 21 Research and Civil Society Organisations in 20 Member States. It aims at critically recording and fighting stereotypes, which are the causes of racist and discriminatory attitudes, speech, actions and violent incidents. It perceives itself as a 'watchdog' and a reliable source of information.

The general aim of the RED network - and as a consequence its major contribution - is to address the gaps in the current socio-political state of research regarding the support of timely and effective policy responses to the issues of racism, discrimination and integration of socially marginalized minorities.

It will achieve its aims by:

- Recording phenomena like racism, anti-semitism, Islamophobia and related intolerance and tensions fuelled by these phenomena in a reliable timely, dynamic and comparative way. The RED network aims at taking over a scientific 'watchdog' role by signaling emergencies related to the development of novel social phenomena through its holistic, well documented and cross-cutting approach, in each Member State and in the European society as a whole.
- Providing fast, real-time, straight-forward information on the situation and developments regarding discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin and religion as well as multiple discrimination involving all these kinds of discrimination and of the related policies and legislation in EU Member States through an early-warning system, built as an on line EU comparative tool accessible to both experts and the general public. The RED network aims at filling the gap due to a lack in continuous monitoring systems and alert mechanisms on racist and discriminatory developments in selected EU countries and (cross-border) regions through real time data collection, national networking, public intervention and focused research.
- Promoting understanding of how racism and discrimination grows and develops by recording, analyzing and interpreting racist and discriminatory stereotypes, rhetoric, as well as the pervasiveness and transformation of these phenomena.
- Fighting and breaking therefore the vicious circle of fear, misunderstandings and unrespectful attitudes, actions and speech present in the EU public spheres through showing their negative consequences for social cohesion and inclusion and promoting a better cross-community understanding, which helps to counter these negative developments in co-operation with expert (media) and the general public.

- Recording and assessing the responses of the EU Member States to these developments and the impact of the measures taken on policy development concerning the promotion of equal opportunities, diversity and non-discrimination.
- The early warning/alert system of the RED network will benefit greatly the early, informed and therefore effective design of policies, while the causes for policy change are made visible and directly perceivable to the wide public guaranteeing a multiple impact in the national and EU public democratic sphere.
- Making visible the information available in the Member States based on the research and practical work done by the RED Network partners. The RED network therefore, aims at providing a sound basis for adapting policy perceptions, design and management aiming at the fight of social phenomena of racism, discrimination and disintegration, while reliably recording the current situation and trends in the EU Member States by providing policy makers as well as other interested stakeholders with national and EU-wide reliable, in depth and actual research.
- Promoting social cohesion and inclusion in democratic and diverse European societies through dissemination, public events and authoritative public intervention based on actual and reliable data.

The information provided by an interdisciplinary social science research network – including socio-legal and socio-economic research aspects will promote a holistic and unitary view still allowing for differentiations on the phenomena of racism, discrimination as well as the challenges of social inclusion faced by migrants and minorities in the Member States and on the consequences for the European Union.

The area of fundamental rights and of the protection of migrants and minorities will also benefit greatly from the formation of an independent pool of academic research and experiences of practical work on the phenomena of racism, anti-semitism, Islamophobia and related intolerance, gained in each EU Member State and closely linked to civil society.

RED Network public statement

In 2009 the RED Network made its first joint Public Statement against the persecution of Dimitris Parsanoglou a migration researcher and i-RED expert.

[RED - Rights Equality & Diversity European Network](#) & RAXEN NFPs - **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

Police racist violence against Migrants, Minorities & Human Rights defenders and researchers In Greece

PICUM

i-RED is affiliated member of PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants), a network supporting undocumented migrants in Europe.

PICUM aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe, and at promoting regularisation of undocumented migrants and respect for human rights and humane treatment during the process of involuntary return of undocumented migrants

MIPEX III

i-RED is the Greek national partner of the Migrant Integration Policy Index project coordinated and implemented by Migration Policy Group and the British Council.

MIPEX III has been launched in Brussels in early 2010.

The Statute - Scope

Το Καταστατικό (απόσπασμα):

Άρθρο 3: ΣΚΟΠΟΣ

Σκοπός της εταιρείας είναι η ανάληψη κοινωνικών και επιστημονικών δράσεων και πρωτοβουλιών για τα θεμελιώδη ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα και την ετερότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων, στην Ελλάδα και στην Ευρώπη, ιδίως:

α) η μελέτη και η προώθηση της αρχής της ίσης μεταχείρισης και η αρωγή και υπεράσπιση θυμάτων ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων μέσα από την έρευνα και τη συλλογή δεδομένων, καθώς και τη δημόσια και την πολιτική παρέμβαση,

β) η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η καταπολέμηση του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων στη βάση φυλής ή εθνικής καταγωγής, φύλου, ηλικίας, αναπηρίας, σεξουαλικού προσανατολισμού ή άλλης μορφής ετερότητας,

γ) η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η προώθηση της κοινωνικής ένταξης και συμμετοχής μεταναστών και μειονοτήτων,

δ) η ακαδημαϊκή, κοινωνική και νομική έρευνα, η συγγραφή μελετών και η συμβουλευτική σχετικά με τα ανθρώπινα, θεμελιώδη, ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες, και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων,

ε) η συλλογή και καταγραφή στοιχείων σχετικά με το ρατσισμό και τις διακρίσεις και η προώθηση της επίσημης καταγραφής και αποτελεσματικής καταπολέμησης των φαινομένων αυτών από δημόσιες αρχές,

ζ) η ανάληψη ερευνητικών προγραμμάτων και λοιπών έργων συναφών με τους σκοπούς της εταιρείας,

η) η οργάνωση και συνδιοργάνωση ημερίδων, συνεδρίων, συνεντεύξεων τύπου, καθώς και κάθε συναφής εκδήλωση,

θ) η σύναψη συνεργασιών και συμπράξεων που εξυπηρετούν τους σκοπούς της εταιρείας,

ι) η προώθηση του εθελοντισμού και η οργάνωση εθελοντικών ομάδων για την επίδιωξη των σκοπών της εταιρείας.

κ) η υλοποίηση δράσεων και πρωτοβουλιών για την ανάπτυξη της προσωπικότητας, τη διαμεσολάβηση, την αποκατάσταση συγκρούσεων, σχέσεων και τραυμάτων και την ειρηνική συμβίωση.

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Cover – back page: Contrast and Focus in the centre of Athens I & II – February 2010

Photos © millos pavlou *PHOTOGRAPHY*

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