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#### NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	The role of youth policy and youth work with regards to migration - fostering intercultural awareness and supporting the integration of migrants - <i>Good practice and lessons assembled from Member States by the Luxembourg Presidency - November 2015</i>

By way of preparation for the debate in the field of Youth on 23 November at the Council, the Presidency has collected good practices and lessons from Member States, and compiled the attached compendium. Member States are consequently invited to focus on the identification of synergies and opportunities for European cooperation during the debate.

**Synopsis**

A number of projects in the present compendium aim to pair locals and migrants/refugees in every day challenges, allowing all citizens to learn and benefit from each other, while fostering mutual trust and social cohesion. Language partnerships, inclusive intercultural vacations, urban connections, cultural exchanges, art projects, cohabitation, and many more projects create bonds between people from different origins and cultures, fostering the peaceful and healthy coexistence in one society. The elaboration of a joint codex defining principles of fair co-existence can further strengthen social cohesion and peace.

Local communities in Europe can be provided with opportunities to see the world in the perspective of refugees and other migrants, either through simulations or travels to safer regions of origin. Increasing the knowledge of everyone on the situation of migrants or refugees and making individual stories known to the wider public are measures of utmost importance. On the other hand, immigrants should be provided with ample opportunity to experience the local culture of European societies, so that they can familiarise themselves with local cultural heritage and values.

A core principle which many programmes have come to apply is the involvement of the target groups in conceptualization and realization. By giving future participants the chance to provide both the resources and the solutions to promote their own empowerment and quality of life, programmes foster the responsibility of everyone involved and welcome individuals as a potential for creativity, innovation and transformation. In this way, talents and ideas can be supported and effective solutions are created. In many cases, young people from marginalized social groups can indeed provide unique, relevant and interesting experiences and perspectives to the lives of better integrated, sometimes privileged youth.

By becoming the co-authors of their own integration projects, migrants can be involved in positive visions for their own future. Strong counter-narratives to violent radicalism can be created in this process. Furthermore, migrants can be involved in joint decision-making processes at an early stage, creating a feeling of joint responsibility between all citizens and allowing mediation to take place as soon as a difficulty arises. Art projects can help to overcome cultural barriers and foster a deeper understanding of cultural affinities and practices. In this way, projects can turn the feelings of exclusion or injustice into positive engagement, giving young people a positive sense of their future.

*The Presidency would like to make further progress in identifying possible solutions and best practices in the youth sector on the issue of how to address the challenges raised by increased migration. In this context, Ministers are invited to reflect on the following questions:*

*1. Taking into account good practices in the present compendium, what is the role of youth work at national, regional and local levels regarding the integration of young people with migrant backgrounds and what are the main challenges for youth work in this regard?*

*2. With reference to the EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018 and the priority for youth policy to respond to the opportunities and challenges raised by migration, which initiatives should be taken at EU level? How can youth policy engage in fruitful cross-sectorial cooperation on this topic, especially with the education, culture and sports sectors?*

## **AUSTRIA (AT)**

### **Austrian Youth Information Centres (AYIC)**

- Establishment of a **buddy system** in Graz whereby Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) and local young people are paired and spend leisure time together, to support each other in every day challenges and where the local young people help the URM to learn German.
- **Meeting point for young refugees and young people** from Vorarlberg, offering activities to get to know each other (board games, language cafés...)
- Tirol: information sharing on possibilities to **support refugees as young persons**, inter alia: <https://www.mei-infoeck.at/leben/migration-und-integration/hilf-mit/>

### **Austrian National Youth Council**

- **Fremdsein: Dialogtraining:** Training for multipliers dealing with refugees and migration. It consists of a simulation game in which the participants take on different roles in the migration process - politicians, social worker or refugees etc. - and play out a typical asylum seeking process. Other parts of the training are discussions with

experts, e.g. UNHCR workers, doctors, teachers, non-profit workers etc.

<https://www.bjv.at/gleichberechtigung/vielfalt/>

- **Connect** is an initiative that focuses on offering education and leisure activities for young refugees and refugee families. Each week it organizes an extensive program on several locations, e.g. soccer games, German classes or crafting close to reception centres such as Traiskirchen. Connect is organized by Kinderfreunde Österreich.

<http://www.kinderfreunde.at/News/Aktuelle-News/connect>

- **Muslim Youth Austria** organizes a variety of activities to help refugees coming to Austria. Since many of the young Muslims are bilingual, they are especially active in offering translation services at different spots where help is required.

<http://www.mjoe.at/events/article/muslimische-jugend-oesterreich-imdauereinsatz-fuer-fluechtlinge>

## Open Youth Work

- Dornbirn (OJAD): „**Vorarlberger Erlebnisse ermöglichen**”: This project was created by youngsters, who are members of the “participation-group” of a Youth Centre in Dornbirn. It aims at creating memories and experiences together: youngsters and young refugees, who just arrived in Dornbirn experience typical things, like taking a boat trip to the lake together, cooking traditional “Kaasknöpfle” or playing games. See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi\\_OBCGPPI8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi_OBCGPPI8)
- Youth Centre Amazone (Vorarlberg): “**Sexualpädagogik**” (sexual education): this youth and especially girls’ centre *Amazone* offers special trainings in sexual education for unaccompanied minors. <http://www.amazone.or.at/klippklar/>
- Youth Centre “Come-in”: “**Fahrradprojekt**” (bicycle project): “Come in” in Vienna is realizing a project that deals with repairing bicycles. 8 refugees can create their own bicycles and enhance their mobility and skills due to this project.

- Jugendtreff Mikado: “**Deutschunterricht**” (German classes): The Youth Centre Mikado in Tyrol organizes German classes for refugees. Youngsters teach youngsters the German language - a peer method that fostering exchange and new friendships
- Youth Point St. Ruprecht: “**Biographiearbeit**”: The Youth Centre St. Ruprecht supports young refugees by offering German classes, working on the biographies together and applying creative methods like forum theatre. Different topics can be targeted, like cultural differences and similarities, experience of daily racism etc.  
[www.promente-kijufat.at](http://www.promente-kijufat.at)

## Regional Authorities

- **Peersproject „Intercultural Competence“** (Upper Austrian Youth Department) : a peer training on “Intercultural Competence” to pupils aged 13 to 16. During this training the participants deal with the following topics: reducing prejudices; identity; cultural diversity; encouraging integration; learning respectful behaviour; talk about conflicts and difficulties while living together; civil courage; standing up against inhuman attitudes; the situation of refugees; asylum seekers and labour migrants; dialogue between religions; Islam; globalization; organizing projects,...
- **I’m “DIFFERENTEQUAL”** (Upper Austrian Youth Department): A CODEX for a fair co-existence of different cultures and nations has been developed, based on common rules, respect, tolerance and commitment for a common future with fair opportunities. Young people are invited to sign this CODEX and receive a wristlet as a symbolic sign which they should visibly wear.
- **"Youth's Encounter of European Literature"** (Lower Austrian Youth Department): invited young people from Europe - via an Erasmus+ project - to write a book together on matters of politics, humanity and peace in Europe. The outcome was a book named "Me and Politics". In autumn 2015 those young people meet again in Krems to discuss best practices for European immigration politics and refugee affairs, in order to enlarge the topic of their book. The young people argued a lot and discussed the topic subsequently with national and European level politicians and debated about refugees

and young people with migrant backgrounds and their integration on national and local grounds.

- **Salzburg:** the linking-up of preventive services and the identification of lacking measures for the **better integration and violence prevention** amongst young people with migrant backgrounds in Pongau: in Autumn 2014, a group of around 25 young men with migrant background were arrested in Pongau by the police after a series of criminal offences and the use of violence. In the summer prior to this event, there had been an incident of pitch storming by right-wing radicals and violence-prone youth, predominantly with migrant backgrounds, at a friendly football match with an Israeli team in Bischofshofen. **Implemented measures:** ethics lessons for all students who do not visit confessional religious studies lessons; establishment of services by the school social work; extension of open youth work (more staff); increased integration of young people with migrant backgrounds in established youth work associations and improved sports offers.

## Erasmus + Projects

- **Europe and its borders: Youth Exchange on refugee migration.** Memfarado and EYFA organised a youth exchange "Europe and its borders", which took place in Vienna between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. The basic aim was to offer an opportunity to overall 30 young people from Berlin and Vienna to exchange views on the topic of refugee migration in a European context. Creating a platform, for 12 days the youth exchange incorporated various methods and contents in order to display the complexity of the refugee phenomenon. The 12-day confrontation with the issue of refugee migration successfully motivated participants for longer-term engagement in civil society initiatives.
- **AsylEasy - videoguide goes Italy:** This KA2 project is a follow-up of two projects that were funded within *Youth in Action*: a National Youth Initiative ("Asyldschungel Österreich" 2013/2014) and an International Training Course involving Partner Countries ("Videoguide goes Europe" - 2014). The main aim is awareness-raising and information dissemination on the subject of the asylum system and refugee rights and

offering counter-information to hate/racist campaigning as well as empowering them to know (their) human rights and uphold them.

## **BELGIUM (BE)**

### Practice from three Communities:

**The Bel’J project encourages young people of one Belgian community to develop a volunteering programme of two weeks to three month of length in another Community. This should allow familiarising oneself with the new community and engaging in intercultural dialogue. The language learning dimension plays a fundamental role in these group exchanges.**

<http://www.bel-j.be>

### Best practices from the French Community

**Cross-sectorial project: Culture, Youth and Education on books for young people as drivers of reflexion on intercultural dialogue**

A selection of 100 books for youth has been made in consultation with libraries with the aim to nourish intercultural dialogue. Furthermore, an Information and Methodological Experimentation Day has been organised by the Ministry in cooperation with associations (in continuing education and youth) in order to value the contribution of these literary works and to create bridges with methods of non-formal learning developed in associations.

<http://www.centresculturelsbruxellois.be/Aborder-l-interculturalite-avec> (in French)

**Project initiated by the Minister through the “interfédérale des Centres de Jeunes” : « Youth Centres questioning radicalisation » in order to engage in a joint reflexion and exchange of practices between youth workers**

Administrators of youth centres and other youth workers came together on one day in a decentralised way in order to explore the questions asked by the phenomenon of radicalisation. On the one hand, theoretical input on the intercultural field was presented; on the other hand, workshops were animated by youth workers presenting specific subjects and their on corresponding methodological responses.

On a second day, a series of experiences is highlighted through action theatre, inviting youth workers to jointly explore the responses they have been able to develop.

<http://old.icj-bagic.be/site/mot17.html>

**A number of projects evolve into a cultural performance in public space. HipOrgue for example aims to combine two different, even opposed types of artistic expression: hip-hop and organ. Young people developed a type of dancing on organ music.**

<http://connexionsurbaines.be/hip-orgue/>

**The Infor-Jeunes Laeken centre, in the framework of the project « Ecole éphémère » for young refugees, developed a video project: « Information and sensitizing through the realisation of a documentary on Syrian youngsters who are not at school anymore ».**

The aim is to sensitise young people on the situation of refugees. Cooperation with another association enabled to inform families on the access of their children to school (« classes passerelles »). <http://inforjeunes.eu/lecole-ephemere-une-experience-marquante-et-un-tremplin/>

**The association PhiloCité approaches philosophy with young people, in very diverse settings. « Because taking the time to reflect jointly on a subject of the day or the main themes of the history of philosophy means emancipating oneself. »**

This method allows everybody to express themselves and to elaborate a subject in a structured way in order to jointly identify manners to discover diversity of thought under different perspectives.

<http://www.philocite.eu/>

**The youth wing of the Croix-rouge association develops the tools and actions to sensitise and reflect on global citizenship**

<http://www.croix-rouge.be/activites/outils-et-animations-pedagogiques/citoyennete-mondiale>

#### Best practices from the Flemish Community

#### **Project call “positive development of identity of young people”**

In the framework of the action plan preventing radicalization, the ministers responsible for Integration and Youth launched a project call “positive development of identity of young people” in



August 2015. The call aims to support projects contributing to the prevention of violent radicalization by fostering the positive development of identity of young people, strengthening the position of young people in society, raising their active citizenship. Projects should aim to change feelings of exclusion or injustice in positive engagement, give young people a positive sense for their future. The call was directed towards projects focusing on leisure time, non-formal and informal learning running for one or two years. More than 70 projects were presented and assessed. At the moment of making this compendium, the responsible ministers are in the final stage of decision taking.

### **Youth organization Tumult**

Tumult is a youth organization structurally granted on Flemish level. The organization has the goal of ensuring that all children and young people in Flanders and Brussels discover and contribute to an active culture of peace and non-violence. Tumult is learning them from a strong commitment to deal with conflict. The keywords in this organization are inclusion and intercultural dialogue. They organize activities and training programs and make products and exhibitions to learn children, young people and youth workers to cope with conflict and violence, to be critical, open-minded and to support intercultural awareness.

One of the many good examples are the inclusive (with children living in poverty, refugee children, middle class children ...) intercultural vacations the organize. They also give all children the opportunity, and especially young refugees, to participate in training programs to become youth workers. A multicultural group is guaranteed also as the chances to learn and understand other cultures and to find similarities. The expertise acquired is shared with other organizations.

### **Best practices from the German-speaking Community:**

The strategic plan on youth of the government of the German-speaking Community stipulates among others several actions for the period 2016 to 2020 with regard to the promotion of diversity and civic education. Currently the grass root level and dedicated institutions, in cooperation with the ministry of the German-speaking community and under the leadership of the minister for youth, are planning/developing several projects with the aim of reaching out to young people with a migrant background through multipliers. Moreover a round table on integration and an online platform are planned. The minister of social affairs is working on an integration career.

Under the leadership of the Autonome Hochschule der DG (AHS) a network on civic education is planned. Members of the youth work and youth information sectors are involved. The aims of the network will be to foster civic education in the German-speaking Community and to make it popular, creating a platform which allows synergies, the alignment of offers, the development of projects and the optimisation of communication. As a first step, an information brochure with regards to the “complex” Belgian political and institutional system will be reissued.

[www.dglive.be/jugend](http://www.dglive.be/jugend)

## **REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA (BG)**

Intercultural dialogue is one of the key milestones at European level, along with fostering democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Young people are crucial actors in that process as the main stakeholders of societies, disposing of greater freedom from the prejudice, discrimination and segregation than the generations of previous decades. In this respect, Bulgaria’s national youth policies aim to raise awareness on these matters, notably through the provision of intercultural education and training activities through funding youth CSOs, and the development of youth policy strategies that take into account the multicultural realities of young people in Bulgaria today.

The Youth Policies Directorate at the Ministry of Youth and Sports aims to encourage and enable young people to participate in building peaceful societies based on diversity, human rights and inclusion, in a spirit of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding. Diversity provides the key for developing common values, assuring its economic success and enriching its cultural landscape. Taking this into an account, youth from marginalized social groups can provide unique, relevant and interesting values, experiences and perspectives to the education of mainstream and privileged students. Sharing those requires intercultural, interfaith and intergenerational dialogue to create mutual understanding and acceptance.

Cultural diversity is an essential condition of human society. It is caused and fostered by many factors, such as cross-border migration, the claim of national and other minorities to a distinct cultural identity, the cultural effects of globalization and the growing interdependence between all world regions, and the advances of information and communication media. More and more individuals are living in a situation of ‘multiculturalism’ and have to face the influences of different cultures in their daily life. Many of us, if not all, have to manage our own multiple cultural affiliations. Cultural diversity is a fact and a right to be protected. However, it is also an economic,

social and political bonus, which needs to be developed and adequately managed. Protection, promotion and maintenance of cultural diversity are factors of human development and a manifestation of human liberty, and they are an essential requirement for sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Bulgaria state policy on youth is human rights based, aiming to promote full youth participation, prevention of any form of discrimination, social inclusion and equal opportunities for all. The recognition and promotion of youth work is one of the priorities of the work of the Youth Policies Directorate of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Though the National Programme of Youth, there are several youth CSOs which were funded to work in that direction.

Since the state youth policy is a cross-sectorial, there are various institutions working on the field of youth development and promotion of youth rights.

There are various fields with examples of the implementation of youth work in relation to inter-cultural diversity and dialogue as well as working with young people from migrant backgrounds. The successful projects and programs showed us that there are several approaches to this issue and its worth to be multiplied and further developed, such as:

- Mediation is one of the approaches that are highly promoted through the youth policies and there are several organizations working on the field of integration of young people from minorities or migrant background.
- Another methodology that is part of the youth work is peer to peer approach. One of the national institutions - National Centre of Public Health and Analyses is implementing a project that is based on intercultural promotion of youth with different backgrounds. All trainings and initiatives are based on the peer-to-peer approach that has evidence based examples on the impact of youth.
- The Youth Centres that are supported through the National Programme of Youth (2011-2015) offer youth services such as consultation of young people with different backgrounds, provide trainings based on “no hate speech“ approach using non-formal education techniques and aiming to prove safe space for youth.

## Lessons learned

There should be more comprehensive and coherent policies towards promotion of inter-cultural dialogue as an instrument for implementation of youth work and working with young people from different background with focus on those who are with migrant history or from minority groups. This could be achieved through establishing effective partnerships between the state institutions and the non-governmental sector. Additionally there are strong recommendations on providing human rights education in schools, using non-formal education methods. Consultation between young people and decision makers can provide the impetus for constructive outcomes on burning issues such as migration.

There is a common understanding that the Migration is a unique way of learning and studying each other's cultures, and should serve to forge stronger bonds to a more homogenous world.

## CYPRUS (CY)

Cyprus has already implemented several programmes covering the smooth integration of immigrants or young people with a migrant background, due to the migration flows Cyprus has been witnessing several years ago.

**The institution of educational priority zones:** in certain areas where there is an increased presence of people with a migrant background, additional schools have been set up, offering programmes and activities inside and outside of school, in order to help the smooth integration of people with a migrant background.

The Republic of Cyprus, during the period of its Presidency in the second half of 2012, decided to make **social integration of people with migrant background** one of its key priorities. It is important to mention that this topic was the most important at the Youth Working Party of the Cypriot Presidency, presenting a Council Resolution with the following title: "The participation and social inclusion of all young people and especially young people with migrant background".

Several places and infrastructures specifically focus on **healthy occupation and activities of young people** whilst encouraging the involvement and inclusion of young people with migrant background: the Multi-Centres, Toy-Libraries and Information Centres of the Youth Board of Cyprus as well as the programm "Youth Initiatives" give economic assistance to various activities of young people, including young people with migrant background.

Centres of support to young people, including young people with a migrant background, are also in operation within local communities.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ)**

In Czech Republic, a large variety of projects aiming to support migrants are carried out by NGOs with the support of the government. Many volunteers are involved in the activities aiming to tackle challenges raised by increased migration to Europe. The projects focus not only on direct aid to the refugees, but also on the integration of migrants who have been living in the Czech Republic for some time.

Integration of foreigners at the local level is the main goal of the project called „Integration on the Ground“, created by the Association for Integration and Migration and carried out in 2014 and 2015. Organizations from the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Cyprus and the Czech Republic take part in five integration projects across Europe facilitating exchange of knowledge, information and good practice. Foreigners themselves, but also organisations dealing with foreigners at national, regional and local levels, were invited to search for effective and successful ways to increase participation of migrants in public life. The methodology of the European Network Against Racism "Working on integration at local level" has been used to prepare national activities in all the countries involved in the project. The handbook containing information relevant for the active citizenship of migrants is envisaged as an output of the project. The handbook will be available online in three languages. Services provided by intercultural workers (including interpretation, support and social counselling) in English, Russian, Vietnamese and Spanish for migrants and public authorities are available free of charge by Association for Integration and Migration in the cooperation with Association for Intercultural Activities until the end of March 2016.

Rector of Masaryk University in Brno approved a new scholarship programme for covering expenditures, such as tuition fees or travel costs for students and employees who help refugees at borders acting as volunteers. The rector stressed the importance of direct experience allowing volunteers to develop skills of critical thinking. Czech Rectors Conference entrusted the rector of Masaryk University in Brno the role of coordinator for offers of assistance provided by the Czech universities.

In September 2015 in Hamburg, an exchange of pupils from Czech and German secondary schools was organized. The main objectives of the exchange were making new friendships and fostering

understanding of each other's lifestyle. In light of the current situation of migration into Europe, participation in the festival of welcoming refugees was included in the programme. The majority of participants were also helping to sort out the material support for refugees. Czech children really appreciated direct experience with refugees, previously known only through media.

## **GERMANY (DE)**

### **Support Programme “Investment for the Future”: Development of youth engagement in sports (ZI:EL)**

The programme runs from 2013 to 2015 with a yearly budget of € 3.5 million and has been prolonged until 2018 with a yearly budget of € 1.5 million. The aim is to foster involvement of youth in sport, especially young people with limited access to sport offers. Specific target groups are young refugees but also young people with a non-refugee migrant background, as well as young people with special needs from a weak socio-economic background. Integration is an explicit aim of the project.

<http://www.dsj.de/handlungsfelder/junges-engagement/ziel>

### **ESF exemplary programme: „JUGEND STÄRKEN im Quartier“**

The Federal Ministry for Youth and the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Building give financial support to the exemplary programme „JUGEND STÄRKEN im Quartier“ in 180 selected communities since the beginning of 2015. Counselling and accompaniment are offered by communes in places of potential social disruption for young people that are hard to reach and who need specific support in the transition from school to professional life. Refugees can be part of this group. A large variety of projects is implemented, starting from the local street-work approach (as for example „Auf Achse in Ennepetal“), continuing with non-bureaucratic centres of counsel (such as „First Step“ in Ulm) up until specific offers of highly intensive individual support (including „Wake up! - Dein Weg in die Zukunft“ in Halle/Saale) and creative group projects also benefitting to the surroundings of young participants.

## **Youth Migration Services**

The Federal Ministry for Youth supports 440 youth migration services, “Jugendmigrationsdienste (JMD)”, all over the country. These services counsel and accompany young people with a migrant background between 12 and 27 years of age who have been granted a residence permit or have a good chance to be granted one. School, professional, social and linguistic integration is supported, with a specific focus on the transition from school to work. Services cooperate with different other contact points that are relevant for integration matters, including parents, schools, and other entities providing support.

In the framework of the exemplary project “jmd2start - Counselling for young migrants”, 24 of the youth migration services supported by the Federal Ministry for Youth also offer their services to young refugees between 12 and 27 years of age who have been granted asylum or are still in the asylum seeking process. Specific offers on training and job market, health, accommodation or education are developed and tested. Young refugees are provided with support with regards to access to language courses and job seeking.

## **„STRENGTHENING YOUTH: 1000 Chances“**

In the realm of this project entitled “JUGEND STÄRKEN: 1000 Chancen“, supported by the Federal Ministry for Youth since the end of 2011 until the end of 2017, the “Wirtschaftsjunioren” in Germany support young people with difficult starting situations in the transition to training and work. Through practical offers that are easy to access, such as “Book an Entrepreneur”, “Next Step“, “Coach4Life“ or “One Day trainee“, young entrepreneurs and leaders allow other young people first access to the local job market. In this process, they cooperate closely with other offers and networks helping youth. In particular refugees and other people with a migrant background shall benefit from this project.

## **Local project in Berlin: Young - Refugee - Self-determined**

The National Youth Network “Landesjugendring” Berlin supports offers of youth networks in Berlin, youth training institutions and self-organisations of migrants including refugees, through the cooperation with the Children Foundation of Kreuzberg. 29 projects have been financed, taking place between June and December 2015, with means of the Foundation Democratic Youth (“Stiftung Demokratische Jugend”). The aim of these measures is to offer young refugees opportunities for leisure occupations and representation of interests. Young refugees shall be

included in the offer of youth work and the work of youth networks. <http://www.jung-gefluechtet-selbstbestimmt.de/>

## **DENMARK (DK)**

### **The Marienborg Summit: Working together for Integration."**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Danish Prime Minister Mr Lars Løkke Rasmussen hosted a civic society summit on the topic of how to integrate newly arrived immigrants, including young immigrants, into the Danish society. The purpose of the summit - named after his residence Marienborg - was to get new inspiration and exchange ideas. The participants agreed on pursuing the work within the following four tracks: labour market, education and training systems, voluntary organisations and the local communities. Within the education field a dialogue meeting on how to assess young immigrants' skills and competencies and how to raise them is being planned.

### **"Ambassadors for Dialogue"**

The Ambassadors for Dialogue (AFD) program aims to foster a dialogical culture among youth and enhance mutual understanding between youth in Egypt, Jordan and Denmark across geographical, ideological, religious and other divides. These efforts contribute to reform and democratization processes in MENA (Jordan and Egypt).

Funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Danish-Arab Partnership Program, the project springs from cooperation between DUF - the Danish Youth Council, East & West Centre for Human Resources Development in Jordan and the Egyptian Youth Federation.

28 young volunteers from Denmark, Egypt and Jordan are trained every second year in the international part of the program in order to implement interactive and participatory dialogue workshops for youth in Jordan, Egypt and Denmark. Gathering once in each country throughout a two-year cycle, they implement intercultural workshops in teams of four (one Jordanian, one Egyptian and two Danes, one of them with Arabic/Muslim background).

### **Practically, a dialogue activity/workshop typically focuses on**

- Dialogue as a tool: aiming to give participants an understanding of what dialogue is and experience with various dialogical tools and exercises, or



- Dialogue about a subject: aiming to engage the participants in dialogue with each other about something of relevance to them in order enhance mutual understanding between them.

In 2012 the ambassadors for dialogue published the Dialogue Handbook in Danish, English and Arabic. The book outlines and gathers our dialogical understanding, approach, experiences, methods and exercises as used and developed within the framework of the Ambassadors for Dialogue project. The book is online and can be downloaded for free on [www.duf.dk/dialog](http://www.duf.dk/dialog).

### **"Well received in Denmark" - "Den gode modtagelse"**

A new digital tool has been developed for municipalities and other actors working with transferring refugees from national asylum centres to local municipalities. The aim of the tool is to integrate immigrants in a smooth way into the Danish society. It provides simple and standardized procedures and gives answers to a number of questions with relation to the transformation process.

The tool has been developed through as cross-sectorial cooperation between The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration, The Danish Red Cross and Local Government Denmark.  
<http://dengodemodtagelse.dk/>

## **ESTONIA (EE)**

**The Estonian Youth Field Development Plan 2014-2020 contains principles for dealing with the integration of migrants:**

- The target group consisting of youth is not homogeneous. When developing and implementing any measures and activities, the actual conditions and needs of specific groups of young people must be taken into account, including particularities arising from gender, nationality, culture, state of health, place of residence, socio-economic situation, etc.
- Youth work supports health including values and attitudes promoting healthy lifestyles of young people through a variety of measures. This aims requires continuous

development of competencies and tools of people working in the field of youth and relies on a knowledge-based approach through specific target groups, training courses, tools and actions.

- Youth affairs also contribute to the integration of society, including promotion of equality and prevention of discrimination as well as care for the surrounding environment.
- When developing and implementing measures of youth policy and youth work, it is important to assist youth in obtaining self-confidence and the ability to cope with challenges in crucial spheres of life, including studies, labour market, and family relations. The difficulties of youth must be identified at an early stage and assistance must be provided if necessary, in order to find suitable professional support.
- Youth affairs form a part of the functioning cooperation between different areas related to the life of youth. If necessary, systemic cooperation must be initiated and implemented effectively.

### **Feedback from the fields of interior, culture and education in terms of general integration activities for all migrants coming to Estonia for family, work or study reasons**

In addition to organising matters of temporary stay or permanent settlement in the country, an effective migration policy also needs to foster the involvement of newly arrived migrants in local life. The aim of the Ministry of Interior in the field of integration is to form a system of support services for new immigrants that is comprehensive, flexible and timely. To this end, in autumn 2015, a new programme for welcoming new immigrants will be launched. It will allow acquiring knowledge of the Estonian state and society, of everyday life, as well as give primary proficiency in the Estonian language.

The results of the latest Estonian society integration monitoring show that compared to the older generation, young people of other ethnicities are better integrated in the legal and political spheres of society, according to both structural indicators (most of them have Estonian citizenship) and attitudinal indicators (they believe in their ability to influence matters in society and they have greater trust in the state).

The aim is to ensure all residents of Estonia have equal access to youth field services education within a unified education system. We also create possibilities for ethnic minorities to preserve their language and culture. Whether you are a child, parent or teacher - everyone can participate in the integration activities in the fields of youth, education and culture. These measures result in a more tolerant and multicultural Estonia.

### **Language learning in school and kindergarten**

The state supports language learning programmes for foreign-language children, involving both the compilation of teaching and information materials as well as teaching additional knowledge and skills to pedagogues. The children participating in the Language Immersion Programme become equally proficient in Estonian and their native languages and make progress on all subjects according to their age and abilities.

It is important for us to ensure that children with a different native language have the opportunity to take part in the culture of their native land, while also experiencing Estonian culture. In this respect, the state supports citizen's awareness activities and projects and holds a Citizen's Day Quiz.

These activities are aimed at both children and teachers because, in addition to parents, the latter play a significant role in preparing children for life. The state supports teachers, speech therapists and school heads in both Estonian and Russian-speaking kindergartens and schools, in order to prepare them for work in multilingual and multicultural learning and living environments.

### **Sunday schools**

The state also supports the opportunities of ethnic minorities living in Estonia to preserve, learn and promote their native language and culture outside classrooms. That is why Estonia holds Sunday schools for ethnic minorities and organises educational trips to their respective homelands.

### **Working with youth issues**

Youth is a specific target group of proposed measures: the aim is to give young people living in Estonia equal opportunities in studying and forming positive attitudes towards each other thanks to their experiences of working together. That is why we for example support extracurricular Estonia language classes in language camps and families. The state also supports common activities on democracy, participation and civil society, allowing young people to practice their Estonian

language skills. It is important to develop intercultural dialogue in co-operation with young people and to prepare youth workers for working in multicultural environments.

Educational activities are mostly aimed at young people living in Estonia, but they also include young people of Estonian origin living elsewhere. The state finances camps for children of Estonian origin who are living elsewhere for honing their Estonian skills and learning about Estonian culture.

### **What is it all for?**

We hope that with our help, school graduates will be competent in society regardless of the language of the school they graduated from and have sufficient knowledge of the Estonian language to continue their education or compete in the labour market. We believe that young people involved with cooperation activities are tolerant, aware of their opportunities, and actively participate in youth work and social life.

Young people and adults of ethnic minorities, who have participated in the linguistic and cultural activities, value their identity by cherishing both their ties to Estonian society as well as their parents' homeland, introducing their national culture to Estonian residents. In this way, awareness of multiculturalism in Estonia can be raised and Estonia can become the second homeland of representatives of minority communities.

## **GREECE (EL)**

### **Legal Aid for Young People Programme** (since 1997, ongoing)

EUROFOUND/ECORYS has chosen the **Legal Aid for Young People Programme** as one of the three Best Practices in Greece for 2013 in the framework of the study “Review and Analysis of Policies and initiatives for the Social Inclusion of Young People”: A programme implemented at national level, addressing young people up to 35 years old from vulnerable social groups who need legal support but cannot afford it both for appearance in court or for extrajudicial acts. The cases are undertaken by young lawyers up to 35 years old. Implementing partners are the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (General Secretariat for LLL and Youth) in cooperation with Bar Associations nationwide. The aims encompass combating social exclusion and supporting the possibility for a dispute settlement procedure or legal action taking through courts. It also

encourages and supports young lawyers to deal with cases regarding young people from vulnerable social groups.

### **“COLOURS - INTERCULTURAL AIMS AND ART-THERAPY” (2004-2007)**

A 3 years GRUNDTVIG European Project with the collaboration of professional art therapists and migrants in mixed teams with local community people by using painting.

Country partner of the project IT, ES, GR, CZ. Years: 3. Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, General Secretariat for Adult Education–Institute for Continuing Adult Education, GR

- to promote cultural integration by the use of Art-Therapy
- to develop ways of expression of the immigrants' culture
- to involve the local citizens through Art-Therapy in order to create integration between the different cultures
- to facilitate the intercultural communication through the specific profile of a "learning facilitator"

### **Prevention and Awareness-raising Interventions in Schools – Programme (since 2007, ongoing)**

With a focus on prevention, as well as handling bullying incidents in the school environment, “The Smile of the Child” with its specialized team of psychologists visits schools across Greece and organizes experiential actions of prevention and awareness-raising. Target groups encompass students (elementary and middle school education), teachers, and parents, and the programme supports the development of intercultural awareness among young people

### **Education of migrants in Greek language, history and culture (ULYSSES project) (since 2008, ongoing)**

The Project "Education of migrants in Greek language, history and culture - ULYSSES is addressed to EU citizens and third-country nationals irrespective of origin, from the age of 16 years or older who are legally residing in Greece. The General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, supports the acquisition of linguistic, social and intercultural skills required for the integration of migrants and their families.

### **“Passages” (Simulation Game) (September 2012 - May 2013)**

“Passages” is a pedagogical tool addressed to pupils and young people from 12 years of age or older. Pupils from schools in Athens and other schools at national level participated together with Greek Scouts. This tool was developed by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (former General Secretariat for Youth) in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees mission in Greece. It allows participants to experience a non-familiar reality to them through the simulation of a real situation.

## **SPAIN (ES)**

### **Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2020 (Galicia)**

This Strategy comprises a new and strengthened integrated framework of interventions aiming to respond effectively to situations of personal or family vulnerability, poverty and social inclusion, in a coordinated way. Furthermore, the strategy features specific support measures fostering social and professional inclusion as well as specific actions to fight social discrimination, unemployment, and absence from work. Finally, it also presents actions fostering integration, training and participation of immigrant families.

### **NGO “Mestura” (Mix): “Fostering social inclusion of immigrants and returning emigrants.” (Galicia)**

- Socio-professional information and orientation service: an office open to the public informs on existing actions and programmes of orientation and planning.
- Training and empowerment for migrants and groups in risk of social exclusion:
  - Pre-professional training: through courses on active job search (training on professional capacities, social and cultural competences as well as linguistic skills in order to facilitate dialogue and foster mutual understanding with the local society.
  - Professional training: teaching information, management and development in order to improve access to the job market.

- Awareness raising programme: campaigns sensitising on intercultural aspects, through workshops in school environments and through extracurricular activities; creation of meet-up spaces fostering personal contact
- Service of intercultural mediation

**“Individualised paths of professional inclusion” Project (“Lucena Acoge” Association, Andalucía),** financed by the Ministry for Employment and Social Security as well as the European Social Fund.

This project fosters professional inclusion of people with migrant background, through individualised paths starting with the welcoming of the person and leading to job provision, while passing through a variety of orientation, training and accompanying steps.

On the other hand, migrants have the opportunity to attend a variety of trainings such as Spanish and English classes, job seeking techniques, and computer courses, fostering their greater involvement on many levels, including home assistance or secretary employment. Both the people concerned and their social environments are involved in these activities, building on partnerships with companies in order to support opportunities for employment.

### **A Red Cross Programme for migrants:**

Help for social integration: This programme develops activities fostering social integration of migrants, including language classes, activities for cultural education, training in social skills, professional training, leisure activities, psychological support, and search for accommodation.

Voluntary return: support to people who did not reach their objective to integrate in Europe and who wish to return to their country of origin.

Psychological support: gives special attention to immigrants with psychological problems which may impede on their aptitude of adaptation and integration in society.

Sensitisation: promotes better collective conscience on equal rights and opportunities and the fight against discrimination among citizens.

Family Reuniting: facilitates the reunification of first degree relatives of refugees, displaced persons and other migrants in Spain (covering travel costs and providing support in public attention).

## **FINLAND (FI)**

### **Kölvi activity (by Setlementti)**

Kölvi activity supports migrants who have moved to Finland as teenagers. It supports integration of refugee boys (12-25 years old) at early stage to prevent social exclusion. The activity has three main objectives: 1) encountering and supporting life, 2) developing standards for the activity and observing the needs of the target group; and 3) raising awareness and doing advocacy to promote structural change. The activity is about comprehensive social youth work, which offers preventive services. The aim of the activity is to empower and encourage boys to advance their integration. The activity has succeeded in reaching out and helping the target group with many different ways. (Information only in Finnish)

### **Against racism! (by Red Cross)**

Against racism! is a program (2013 – 2017) coordinated by the Finnish Red Cross with the support of Finland's Slot Machine Association. This program unites 16 organizations to campaign for an anti-racist Finland. The program will, more broadly than ever before, combine different parties to form a counterforce to hate speech and to diversify discussions of immigration, refugees and cultural differences. The program offers guidance and counselling services for those who have encountered racism. The program supports young peoples' growth by offering them new and diverse viewpoints and activities. [Read more](#)

### **ANA magazine**

Ana is a publication addressed to young Islamic community in Finland, and produced by young Muslims themselves. As the publication is in Finnish, it provides an opportunity for Finnish speaking young people to become acquainted with the life, attitudes and aspirations of young Muslims in Finland. The articles cover topics from fashion, sports and cooking to questions of identity and sharing experiences of being a young Muslim in Finland. It both serves the purpose of maintaining and developing one's cultural identity as well as integration of young immigrants into the Finnish society e.g. by showing how the principles of Islam can be adapted to the Finnish realities. The magazine is available in digital and printed form and supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

<https://www.facebook.com/anamagazine/timeline>



Youth Workers as Agents of Change - an international 4-day training course against violent radicalization, Finland, September 2016, organized by the Centre for International Mobility CIMO in cooperation with the National Agencies of Denmark, France, Hungary and Slovenia

The current situation of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from war and persecution and seeking asylum in Europe have shaken our societies. Everywhere in Europe racism, islamophobia and all forms of intolerance are increasingly openly expressed, even though a fight against those have been fundamental aspect in every youth programme for the last decades. The training course will offer methods and skills for youth workers to be agents for change in their society. The training will use the lessons learnt from development co-operation work with youth in post-conflict societies and peace education, but most of all it has its fundamentals in the traditions and methods of youth work. The concrete outcome of the training will be a framework for a one day workshop module "be the change you want to see in the world". [http://www.cimo.fi/services/services\\_by\\_sector/youth](http://www.cimo.fi/services/services_by_sector/youth)

## **Avartti**

Avartti, the International Award Programme for Young People, has contributed to the integration of young immigrants in Finland since 2001. The Programme allows young people to create activities which support studying, promote work skills and increase their inclusion in the Finnish society.

Avartti is based on educationalist Kurt Hahn's (1886–1974) pedagogy. [www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)

Avartti will be used as an operational method in a "*Young asylum seekers in folk high schools*" program. The target group is 16 - 17 years old asylum seekers who have arrived in Finland without their parents and who live and study in folk high schools. The aim of the programme is to support young asylum seeker's individual development in a way that she/he can engage in the Finnish economic, political and social life and, at the same time, maintain her/his own language and culture. Through the program young people will be motivated to study and offered target-oriented activities for free time.

## **Project funding by the Ministry of Education and Culture**

With regard to the Europe-wide challenge that the increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees pose to the society, the Ministry of Education and Culture launched a call end October 2015 for larger national projects for the period 2015-2017 with the aim to activate young asylum-seekers through organised leisure time activities. The call answers to the increasing need to contribute to the efforts to settle in particular the young asylum-seekers in their new environment.

The projects are to promote good ethnic relations and dialogue without hate speech between different population groups. They are to be implemented in co-operation with the regional and local youth and education services, the emergency and/or asylum centres and if need be with the local police.

<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/?lang=en>

## **FRANCE (FR)**

In France, NGO action operates as a complement to the public policy action towards refugees in the context of the current crisis. It encompasses direct working with refugees to facilitate their integration while also involving local people and raising their awareness on the issue.

### **1000 civic service missions to support refugees**

<http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-interministerielles/article/service-civique-programme-d>

The civic service scheme, supported by the civic service agency, offers young people between 16 and 25 (no diploma is required) the chance to carry out a general interest mission for a period of 6 up to 12 months.

The minister of urban policies, youth and sports announced on September 18th 2015 the objective of creating at least 1000 civic service missions supporting refugees. These missions are about e.g. supporting refugees in job searches, helping them discover their new environment or relate to adult literacy.

### **The CoExist NGO: addressing prejudices at school**

<http://www.coexist.fr/>

The CoExist NGO aims at deconstructing stereotypes relating to different kinds of prejudices. This work is done in schools with the support of volunteers and aimed at young people with non-formal learning methods and using the critical thinking of the beneficiaries of these workshops. A representative of that NGO gave a presentation at the European Education, Training and Youth Forum 2015 (Brussels, October, 19th-20th).

Such initiatives precisely allow changing attitudes to issues such as the refugees' crisis by working on the prejudices and the intolerance they could entail.

### **The French-German cooperation through the French-German Youth Office (OFAJ)**

<http://www.ofaj.org/>

France and Germany have decided to use OFAJ's expertise regarding the refugee issue. A first meeting has been planned and the OFAJ might also be mobilised given its expertise in conflict management and mediation.

Besides, the "Diversity and Participation" youth workers network (réseau "Diversité et Participation") can also be put in the limelight: it is organised by the OFAJ and the Berlin French centre and its objective is to promote diversity and youth participation in society.

## **CROATIA (HR)**

### **Okus doma - Taste of Home**

This is an initiative organized by the *Centre for Peace Studies*, in which refugees have a possibility to present their specific cooking skills and gastronomy knowledge. It aims to foster their economic emancipation which is an important part of their social inclusion and integration. Through culinary and cultural exchange they also learn new skills, make friends and can become familiar with part of the national culture. This initiative is based on providing support, solidarity and on knowledge exchange. It gathers people of different origin who organize cooking workshops and public show-kitchen activities. Public interest and the quality of the work presented resulted in the social cooking cooperative specialized in catering with a plan to open a restaurant. Through this project the book "Taste of home - recipes and refugees' stories" has been published. The whole project also aims at raising awareness of refugees' needs and fighting prejudice, thanks to the social hospitality of the culinary and cultural exchange. Through this initiative different activities are organized throughout the Croatia in partnership with different organizations. Recently, one of the regional youth information centers *Info Zona* and youth organization *MoST* hosted the initiative on the occasion of the World Food Day with the aim to recall the importance of food in the world, but also to convey an affirmative message of tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

<http://www.okus-doma.hr/en>

<https://www.facebook.com/okusdoma>

<http://infozona.hr/news/okus-doma-kuha-se-u-splitu/8486>

### **Civil society organisations for integration of refugees in the Croatian society**

Coordination for integration was established in 2011 and brings together civil society organizations that have the capacity to provide various social services to asylum seekers and foreigners under subsidiary protection. The aim is to establish a Coordination of the network of providers of social services for asylum seekers, persons who have been granted asylum, and people under subsidiary protection. Coordination currently includes 13 organizations, including youth organizations and organizations for youth. The variety of organizations that provide a wide range of services (from providing humanitarian assistance to psychological and legal counselling, improving social skills and volunteering) enables approaching the integration issue from various aspects. It is important to encourage young people to participate in various activities and projects in the framework of such coordination.

### **Croatian Red Cross - Red Cross Youth Clubs**

Croatian Red Cross provides youth work with the aim to develop a sense of humanity, tolerance, compassion, solidarity and understanding among young people. One of the tasks is to involve as many young people in the various activities and programs of the Red Cross in order to enable better quality leisure time, acquiring new knowledge and skills, building social networks and relationships. Young volunteers from the Youth Clubs of the Red Cross, in cooperation with high schools, have organized creative workshops focused on promotion of understanding, tolerance and mutual acceptance. Participants are encouraged to learn about and understand diversity and to better understand the problems of discrimination facing members of different marginalized groups. Workshops as well encourage better integration of migrants into society.

<http://crveni-kriz-sisak.com/radionica-mladih-volontera-i-migranata/>

[http://www2.hck.hr/?path=hr/static/page/Sto\\_radimo.Mladez.klubovi](http://www2.hck.hr/?path=hr/static/page/Sto_radimo.Mladez.klubovi)

## **IRELAND (IE)**

### **Refugee Access Programme (RAP) run by the Separated Children's Service (City of Dublin Education and Training Board)**

This is a transition programme for newly-arrived Separated Children Seeking Asylum and other young people from refugee backgrounds who after a number of months aim to transfer into a second-level school.

As a transition programme, RAP aims to equip the young people with the skills and tools necessary to access and engage with the mainstream Irish curriculum and to integrate into Irish society. The Refugee Access Programme offers on-going enrolment so that newly-arrived Separated Children Seeking Asylum and other young refugees can join the programme at any time during the year.

The Refugee Access Programme is an intensive transition education programme which focuses on three core subjects -English as a Second Language, Maths and Life Skills. Due to policy changes in relation to care provision for this target group, the service has reviewed its education programme and the Refugee Access Programme is now open to all newly-arrived Separated Children Seeking Asylum of school-going age regardless of education background or English language ability.

The programme is also open to young people from refugee backgrounds that have been unable to secure a second-level school place. <http://www.separatedchildrenservice.ie/services/refugee-access-programme-rap>

### **Outreach Pack provided by Irish Girl Guides to their Leaders**

The Irish Girl Guides (IGG) ran a pilot outreach project which demonstrated the necessity for IGG to develop materials and resources which would demonstrate the positive benefits of integration of girls and women from minority ethnic communities into IGG units. The Pack was designed with the aim of equipping their Leaders with the information, skills, and tools necessary to reach out into the wider community.

This Outreach Pack was created and developed in order to:

- Give advice on the integration of immigrant and minority ethnic women and children into IGG;
- Enable leaders to adapt their educational programmes to the needs of these new members; and

- Provide practical activities to raise awareness about issues such as diversity and interculturalism for use in IGG units.

The pack is divided into three sections which reflect the above goals. Section one gives an introduction to IGG's Outreach Programme. It includes considerations unit leaders should make when integrating girls and women from minority ethnic communities into their local units.

Definitions on prejudice, racism, stereotyping and discrimination are provided. This section also provides Leaders with helpful points for more effective cross cultural communication. Aspects of Guiding that may unintentionally exclude potential members are also pointed out.

Section Two provides many examples of awareness raising activities that can be carried out by leaders with the girls in their local units. These activities are an exciting and fun way of exploring different cultures around the world, our own identity and how people from different backgrounds interact. By taking part in the activities, girls will start to appreciate the similarities and differences between their way of life and the way of life of other cultures.

Section Three includes useful background information for Leaders regarding various nationalities living in Ireland and the major religions practised in Ireland. For each of these religions, practical information is provided regarding diet, dress and religious observances so that leaders with a member(s) from a minority ethnic community will know what adaptations, if any, they may have to make to their weekly programme or when going on an outing or to a residential event.

[www.irishgirlguides.ie](http://www.irishgirlguides.ie)

### **‘The International club’ run by Young People At Risk Organisation (YPAR)**

YPAR is a voluntary organisation that works to coordinate interagency collaboration and cooperation (both statutory and voluntary services) in Dublin North Inner City (NIC) to enable projects and agencies provide better supports and services to children and young people at risk living in the area.

The international club arose from the work of the YPAR sub group as an outlet for young people living in the area which has the Electoral Divisions with the highest proportion of foreign nationals in all of Ireland. Youth workers from SWAN and Tusla, the Child & Family Agency, support the young volunteers in the international club to hold their own youth club on a Saturday morning. The club is often a first stop for foreign national young people they start in the club and after a number

of months are integrated into the targeted or mainstream youth clubs in the area. The make-up and nationalities in the club members change constantly as young people are integrated into existing services. At any one time it has approximately 7-8 different nationalities attending and approximately 30 young people attending each Saturday morning. [www.ypar.ie](http://www.ypar.ie)

## **ITALY (IT)**

### **Migrants' Integration Portal**

Migrants' Integration Portal is a website established with the purpose of fostering foreign nationals' integration in the Italian society. The Portal has been on-line since 17th January 2012, and was developed through a project co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals, under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and with the involvement of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

The network of subjects involved in the implementation of the Portal was subsequently extended, both through the collaboration of other institutional subjects, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Regions and Municipalities mostly involved in integration-related and immigration policies, and through the involvement of international organisations (UNHCR) as well as third-sector operators promoting and implementing integration policies, including social institutions (patronati), with over 4,200 immigration desks, whose services are mapped in the Portal.

The Portal is divided into areas: Language, Work, Housing, Minors and second generations, Health. Intercultural mediation is added as a cross-section service. In each single area, the Portal allows users to find useful information on the services provided to foreign nationals in each single territory.

Link to the Portal: <http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/en/Pages/home.aspx>

### **The Cultural Area of the Migrants Integration Portal**

The Cultural Area of the Migrants Integration Portal is composed of five sections: Literature, Cinema, Theatre, Music, Visual Art and Cultural Heritage. Within the sections, it is possible to find a map concerning the consolidated and active experiences in Italy in the respective fields (from publishing houses to cinema festivals, to multi-ethnic orchestras to databases). Moreover, the area

provides sections devoted to national and international legal frameworks (rules on culture and cultural diversity), as well as reviews and bodies involved in the Recollection of Italian Emigration.

The Cultural Area of the Migrants Integration Portal is the very first virtual place created which talks about cultural and artistic productions of foreign citizens with migrant backgrounds. The aim of this new area is to explain how our society is changing also through artistic productions, owing to new protagonists and topics that highlight how Italy is becoming an increasingly richer and more interesting Country.

### **Direct Line with Second Generations**

In 2014, on the Migrants Integration Portal, the "Direct Line with Second Generations" was launched involving more than 30 second generation youth associations throughout the whole national territory. The associations had the opportunity to share their experiences and submit their requests. This initiative led to the idea of writing a Manifesto collecting their proposals. The Manifesto is divided into four sections devoted to work, school, culture and sport, active participation and citizenship. It contains proposals and practical solutions for each section, adaptable to the various territorial realities and the addressees' specific needs.

Within the dissemination plan prepared by the associations, the Manifesto has been presented to various institutions and international as well as national organizations that work in the field of migration, integration and youth policies.

### **Promoting Integration Policies through Sport**

In 2014 an Agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) was finalized, with the aim to develop actions capable of favouring the social integration of migrants first and then second generations, and fighting discrimination and intolerance. Among the main actions there are the following: the "Manifesto on the topics of immigration, sports and measures to contrast discrimination and intolerance"; an information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at promoting the spreading, the in-depth analysis and compliance with the universal principles of integration contained in the Manifesto; a series of territorial events.

In 2015, the Agreement was renewed, with the aim to continue along the path undertaken, promoting the inter-institutional cooperation both with the school and the sport environment. Also,



the 2015 edition of “Sport and Integration” aiming at promoting best practices has launched a call throughout the territory for positive experiences in favour of the inclusion and integration of young people first and then second generations, coming from a migratory context.

### **Malaika Project**

In 2014 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies promoted Malaika Project for the “development and diffusion of innovative models aimed at supporting the autonomy of young women from a migrant background”. Financed through the European Integration Fund and the European Social Fund, the project was realized in order to promote, throughout the national territory, the development, diffusion and exchange of innovative models and intervention tools for supporting the autonomy of young migrant women, in particular of unaccompanied minors in their transition to adulthood (16-17 years old) and young women up to 24 years of age at risk of social exclusion.

The aim of the project is to enable young recipients to reach a good level of autonomy and integration in the Italian society. To this end, the EIF financed a set of personalized services intended to increase the level of autonomy of beneficiaries in the society (juridical-administrative assistance, psychological support, home searching, and intercultural mediation), whereas the ESF covered activities aimed at facilitating the access to the labour market (job orientation and trainings).

### **Excellence of Migrant Entrepreneurship**

Many immigrant entrepreneurs participated to MoneyGram Award’s various editions. The experiences of these entrepreneurs represent good examples of integration. The 2015 MoneyGram Award ceremony took place on June 25th in Rome. The prestigious title of Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year was awarded to Abderrahim Naji, a businessman of Moroccan origin. His company, CS Stampi, is active in the molding of plastic and mold construction. After working in the company for 10 years, Naji acquired it from the previous Italian owner and managed to bring it to success.

The winners of the Category Awards are:

- Damian Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka) moved with his family to Italy in 1988, where he now lives in Genoa. His business career began in 2005 with the creation of the brand Soho Restaurant & Fish Work. (“Occupation Category”)

- Joanna Grunt (Poland) moved to Italy in 2005, where she now lives in Rome. There she opened Pati Jò , the first bra fitting boutique in Italy, specialized in bespoke lingerie.
- Evelyne Sarah Afaawua (Ghana) moved to Italy when she was just 1 year old. Today she lives in Muggiò, in the province of Monza and Brianza. In 2014 she created Nappytalia, the first blog in Italian entirely dedicated to the natural Afro hair care.
- Lenka Kosikova (Czech Republic) moved to Italy in 1994. Today she lives in Rome. In 2008 she founded Kvetna 1794, a company dedicated to Bohemian crystalware.
- Sihem Zrelli (Tunisia) arrived in Italy in 1995. In 2013 she put to good use the skills acquired through years of volunteering starting Villa Sihem, a retirement home.
- Marco Wu born in Italy to Chinese parents. His first business was a restaurant featuring Chinese and Italian cuisine, in Piazza Vittorio, at the heart of multiethnic Rome. Today he is the owner of a wine shop and also deals with the distribution of products to Chinese restaurants all over Italy; furthermore he is working to develop the export channel of Italian products in China.

## **LUXEMBOURG (LU)**

### **Information Citoyenneté Emploi - Tremplin (ICE-T)**

Organisation : Youth Information Centre

Funding : European Social Fund

Description : The project addresses young people with a migrant background living in Luxembourg-city and aims to facilitate the transition and the integration into the labour market by youth information activities in the communities of the target groups in collaboration with their local associations. These activities include information and orientation on the rights of young people with a migrant background, the trainings and job opportunities available, intercultural exchanges with young Luxembourg people and a system of mentoring with the help of retired volunteers having expertise in different professional sectors.

### **Cohabit'AGE - Logement intergénérationnel du Luxembourg**

Organisation: Logement intergénérationnel du Luxembourg

Funding: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Description: The mission of Cohabit'AGE consists of intergenerational and intercultural cohabitation between young people with a migrant background and elderly persons. This model of cohabitation consists of sharing the dwellings of elderly people living alone with young people looking for a decent housing at a reasonable price in exchange of services provided by the young person. It aims to prevent the isolation of elderly people and to foster the social inclusion of young people with a migrant background.

### **Open youth centres meet refugee centres**

In the context of the current migration wave towards European countries, many actors within the open youth work sector became aware of the situation and the needs of the newly arrived populations and begin to further invest in the development of networks with refugee aid associations and refugee centres. They look for new ways of intercultural dialogue between young Luxembourg people and young migrants. Within their respective scope of competence, several youth centres in Luxembourg will launch information campaigns and information sessions for migrants about the services they provide in order to ease the access of young people with a migrant background to youth work services and to integrate the migrant population into their intercultural awareness raising activities on migration issues.

## **LATVIA (LV)**

The main association in Latvia that is involved in work with young refugees with migrant background and newly arrived refugees and immigrants is called "Patvērums "Drošā māja"" (in English – “Shelter “Safe House”). This organisation is carrying out activities to facilitate integration and inclusion of these people in society, especially with the help of non-formal learning and volunteering.

The main activities are:

- In order to foster a more open and inclusive society, activities are planned for the broader Latvian society: association “Patvērums “Drošā māja” organizes trainings for

different target groups (young people, social workers, social pedagogues etc.) and non-formal learning activities taking place in schools and youth centres.

- Web portal [www.beglis.lv](http://www.beglis.lv) has been developed and it serves as a platform for explaining to broader public the immigration situation and reasons for migration, possibilities for people to be involved in voluntary activities thus helping, for example, newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- Latvian language courses for refugees and immigrants with non-formal learning methods (excursions organised by volunteers, sports activities and other activities in order to get more familiar with Latvian culture and language)
- Volunteers will be involved to help refugees and immigrants with daily practicalities (taking care of children while parents are in language courses, trainings ect.)

Rugaju municipality's youth centre, which is very close to the main refugee campus, will provide premises in order to organise Latvian language trainings, spaces for free time activities and joint activities for local young people and newly arrived migrants.

At the moment, the main challenges the association "Patvērums "Drošā māja"" and local municipalities are facing are a lack of Arabic and Eritreans language specialists as well as a need to further strengthen intercultural dialogue and understanding in the society at large.

## **MALTA (MT)**

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh (Malta's Youth Agency) carries out an initiative called No Hate Speech Campaign, which aims to engage young people in promoting equality, dignity, human rights and diversity; seeking to raise awareness and come up with solutions to tackle hate speech. This project empowers young people and youth organisations to acquire knowledge, participate and take action in this context. To this end, youth were engaged by means of events to celebrate different cultures through art and cuisine, with information and advice being provided about life in diverse communities. A training course was also organised for both young people and practitioners in the youth field, focusing on developing knowledge and ways of promoting non-discrimination, as well as recognising and acting against discrimination, with a special focus on online forms of expression.

Furthermore, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, together with SOS Malta (an NGO), participates in a project called Youth Upbeat, which is designed to ensure that young people raise awareness on migrant community lives, using performing arts as a bridging medium. Cultural Ambassadors from migrant communities are engaged to provide their personal experiences by means of performing arts and interactive workshops.

Between 2011 and 2013, a project under the European Integration Fund on Community Integration through non-formal education was undertaken. It utilised non-formal education opportunities focusing on the use of information technologies as a tool for the integration of third country nationals. In particular the integration of young immigrants in specific regions is fostered, by creating bonds with Maltese residents. Furthermore, the Ministry responsible for integration issued a document in June 2015 entitled [Towards a National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020](#), co-financed by the Integration Fund.

A forum on integration issues has also been set up in order to ensure that migrant groups in Malta, including young migrants, are adequately represented, with the aim of setting up structures within different Ministries to foster integration by means of dialogue among Government entities and migrant communities.

## **NETHERLANDS (NL)**

### **Giving Back Students Community**

The Giving Back Students Community is a student corps that aims to offer talented and motivated young students with a migrant background a good start in their professional life, and an opportunity to become role models. Students with a migrant background do not always feel at home in a regular student corps, or are not allowed by their parents to join a student corps, thus missing out on an opportunity to build a professional network. Members are encouraged to be the best version of themselves, both for them and for society. Key words are: respect, hope, responsibility, enthusiasm and giving back.

During the program, students are offered a mentor from one of the sponsoring organisations. Mentors not only share their knowledge and experience, but also their network. The program also offers a student activity programme with social, cultural and educational workshops, such as

"Discover your Talent". On top of that, students are offered interesting and relevant side-jobs and internships at the sponsoring companies (PWC, Allen and Overy, Akzo Nobel).

### **Young Leaderz Program National Youth Council**

Young people with all kinds of backgrounds are trained and coached to make a difference in their (vulnerable) neighbourhoods. The programme teaches young people to be active role models in their neighbourhood, who know what is going on, what is needed and what they as well as other young people can do to fulfil these needs. The program also provides local governments with a direct connection to a group of young people that would otherwise be hard to reach for participation in the policy making process

The effects measured are:

- positive effect on personal development of participants
- positive effect on neighbourhood
- positive effect on youth work

### **Challenges**

In the Netherlands, there are some examples of projects that did not succeed completely in their goal of binding and bridging between young people with a migrant background being involved in activities of social disruption and mainstream society. These projects usually start from migrant self-organizations. Volunteers with migrant background are able to reach out to young people, but they often lack the youth work skills to (re)connect these youngsters, professional youth workers on the other hand are not always able to reach out and connect.

## **POLAND (PL)**

### **Examples of system solutions**

- One year compulsory pre-school preparation, part-time compulsory education and full-time compulsory education for all foreigners or persons without Polish citizenship

- The right to additional Polish language classes, remedial classes and support provided for students with special educational needs
- At the request of diplomatic or consular authorities of their country of origin or adequate cultural and educational associations, a headmaster sets the days and hours during which the classes dedicated for the language and culture of the country of origin are conducted in schools for students from another culture headmaster.
- Teaching assistant for the child of a foreigner: a person familiar with the language and culture of the country of origin of foreign students, employed as a support for a teacher and facilitating the integration of foreign students within the school community. He is also responsible for mediation in everyday relations between teacher, student and parents.

### **Examples of good practice**

- **Peer mentoring methods carried out in schools** and addressed to foreign students. The pilot programme implemented in schools in Bialystok consisted of several stages: training for Polish students on how to support their peers, students or refugees; training for teachers/tutors; evaluation; development of publications on the results of the implementation of the peer mentoring method in relation to foreign children.
- **Library Backyard ATD Fourth World** - conducted in the Warsaw center for refugees. The idea of the Library Backyard is based on weekly meetings around the books of different topics and languages as well as art classes and sports. Among the large group of volunteers from ATD who are involved in the project and regularly come to the center for refugees, the vast majority are young people. Some of them are immigrants themselves, who have experienced the difficulties of the integration process and can be very supportive for the young people with a migrant background, including newly arrived immigrants and young refugees.
- An informal international network of youth organizations East-West-East which integrates young people from the European Union and the Eastern Partnership. The network has been operating since 2006 and organizes at least one youth exchange per year while supporting less experienced organizations and informal groups. Every year, more than 200 young people have a chance to study through the internships and study

visits or even work in the other country. It is a great opportunity for social and cultural integration.

- **Children for integration** is the title of intercultural workshops organised by a non-formal youth group cooperating with the Association for Legal Intervention, as a Youth Initiative from January to June 2011. The project addressed Polish and Chechen children from the Moszna village, where a refugee camp was located and neighbouring town of Brwinow. In the framework of the project, volunteers led artistic workshops (film, music, art, theatre, cooking, dance, photography) in which more than 60 children took part. The group of children were ethnically mixed - so that Polish and Chechen children could integrate better. The final event of the project was the “Intercultural Day” open for everyone.
- The aim of the project was to promote tolerance and integration. The implementation of the project gave Chechen children not only the experience of being accepted in the foreign country but moreover the constructive educational experience as well as increased self-esteem and self-confidence. Parents of the Chechen children were also engaged in the project. They supported volunteers by giving their input during the cultural workshops. This initiative has had significant impact on local community and has resulted in the integration of refugees.
- The **Asylum Warsaw** project was organised by the Foundation Strefa Wolnościowa, as a youth initiative from May to September 2012. The project was based on an intercultural theatre workshop for the local community in Warsaw and run in the Cultural Center Zacisze, involving 25 participants: people interested in creative work, no matter what nationality or artistic experience. The project involved Polish participants, migrants and refugees, and was concluded with the huge artistic event in the city space of Targówek in August 2012.

Aiming to create a space of real and creative encounter between different people and cultures, the project promoted intercultural dialogue and built an interdisciplinary methodology for the creative theatre workshops. The whole project was documented on the documentary film on how art and theatre in particular can become a tool of intercultural dialogue. The film was presented during the results dissemination meetings. At the end of the project, the group prepared an intercultural theatre education offer for schools and cultural centres, based on the experiences learned during the project.



## PORTUGAL (PT)

The Choices Programme is an initiative of the Portuguese Government. Its main objective is to promote equal opportunities and social inclusion for children and young people from vulnerable communities. The programme operates on the principle that the bottom-up approach is the best method to identify the needs of this target group and that the young people have the resources to find the best solutions to the challenges that they face.

### Background

Choices Programme was created in January 2001 as the first experimental crime prevention programme in Portugal. After this first phase, in 2004 the Programme was renewed for three more years, becoming a social inclusion programme, where local institutions gathered in local consortiums were invited to submit project proposals targeting children and young people at risk, especially those living in the most vulnerable communities in Portugal.

After the conclusion of the second generation, the Choices Programme was subsequently renovated for a third (2007-2009) and fourth generation (2010-2012). Currently in its 5th intervention phase, which will run until December 31, 2015, the Programme is currently financing 110 social inclusion projects in vulnerable communities throughout the country, plus 31 experimental projects in employability and employment areas.

The Choices Programme was created in 2001 by the Portuguese Government as part of its priority for Social Inclusion, which targets children and young people in the most vulnerable communities. The programme is also supported by the High Commission for Migrations (ACM).

The main impetus for the programme was the wave of immigration that Portugal experienced in the nineties, with new citizens coming mostly from Brazil, Cape Verde and Eastern Europe. This wave exposed the fact that Portugal was ill equipped, in terms of policies and infrastructure, to deal with the needs of so many immigrants. Social problems accumulated and the lack of employment opportunities and the segregated living conditions produced acute social exclusion and drove many young immigrant men into crime.

Initially, the Choices Programme took a top-down approach but, in 2004, it became evident that this approach did not inspire the trust of local communities. Thus, the focus of the programme changed, as evidenced-based experience revealed that it was necessary to include the target group in the definition and implementation of local actions. The core principle on which the programme is now based is that the target group provides both the resources and the solutions to promote their own empowerment and to improve their own quality of life. Young people should be considered as

‘social capital’ and they should define their own needs, be part of the process of implementing related activities and also take part in the evaluation of these activities. *“The programme looks at these individuals as a potential for creativity, innovation and transformation, supporting talents, ideas, micro-projects, the arts, knowledge and devices hidden on the margins of youth participation”*. (Institutionalising empowerment practices - the Choices Programme).

The programme’s priorities are school inclusion, unemployment amongst early school leavers, non-formal education, digital exclusion and youth delinquency.

Choices collaborated with the University of Lisbon to define and to develop a risk index, with indicators, to identify the most disadvantaged areas in Portugal. Those municipalities that are included in high risk areas are then invited to apply for funding from the programme.

## **Aims and Targets**

Choices Programme aims to promote the social inclusion of children and young people, between the ages of 6 to 24 years old, coming from the most vulnerable socio-economic contexts, including immigrants descendants and individuals who belong to Roma communities, which are in one or more of the following situations: with school failure; truancy; early school leavers; NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training); with deviant behaviours; subject to guardianship measures; or subject to the promotion and protection measures, looking towards equal opportunities and social cohesion.

Through this Programme, a first “barrier” of prevention has been established in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in Portugal, in order to achieve five main results: a) increase school success, b) promote vocational training and employability, c) develop civic engagement, d) promote digital inclusion and e) foster the empowerment of the participants.

## **Choices in Action - Partnerships**

The Choices Programme is an Intermediary Body for the ESF and it coordinates calls for projects and provides support for the implementation of the selected projects. The projects are initiated locally and their local partnerships include municipalities, schools and local associations, together with representatives of the private and the public sectors. In keeping with the philosophy of the programme, young people are also involved in approving those projects that will be selected for implementation. The activities supported reflect the programme’s priorities but also extend to civic

and community participation, entrepreneurship and empowerment. Some example of projects developed by young people include: creating a garden; growing vegetables; renovating and painting public facilities; building a playground; and constructing safe parks or paths for cycling. More information about Choices can be found in the Empowerment Handbook.

<http://empowermentandinclusion.businesscatalyst.com/>.

The programme uses **community facilitators or engagers** to mobilise young people and communities around locally defined projects. These facilitators are selected and then trained in management skills so that they can organise local associations and run projects. These facilitators are also regarded as being role models and mentors for other young people in their communities.

A total of 110 **Local Youth Councils** are held every six months to review the work programme in their areas. The membership of these councils must be gender balanced and reflect the ethnic diversity of the local area. In addition, the Choices Programme has a **National Youth Council**. The members of this council are elected by their peers, and its main role is to coordinate the 30 local representatives from the Local Youth Council.

The Choices Programme also **co-funds projects developed by young people**. The programme gives 50% of the funding required by these projects and the other 50% has to be raised by the young people themselves. This strategy aims to encourage young people to be innovative in securing resources and thus, help them to develop and to acquire a range of social and entrepreneurial skills. In addition, support is given to young people to help them to become active members of their local communities and to promote their **participation in community and civic life**.

### **Other Activities supported by the Choices Programme**

One of the actions of the programme **helps young ex-offenders to reintegrate** back into society and thus, to prevent the risk of them re-offending. Support is also provided to **prevent early school leaving**. In this strand of the programme, special attention is being paid to the situation of young girls who become pregnant, while they are still at school. The programme helps these young mothers to make practical arrangements so that they can continue to study. The girls are also given advice on contraception.

A needs analysis of the local labour market informed the strategy of Choices in relation to **the employment of young people**. Partnerships are formed with public employment services and local businesses in order to identify skills gaps, in which training or work placements could be offered. Choices, also launches specific calls for job creation projects.

All of these activities are funded from a budget of € 8 million per year, of which 2/3 come from the ESF, under the priority ‘Human Capital’ and the remaining 1/3 comes from the National Government.

Through the promotion of self-esteem, skills development and by fostering success and a positive identity (individual level - resiliency), one expects to stimulate a growing sense of interaction and belonging within the community (bonding - community). On the mid and long term the main aim is to further explore the bridging perspective, allowing larger scales in terms of social capital, tolerance and, ultimately, social cohesion (“world” level - bridging).

## Results

The programme has been running for over 12 years and is increasingly being recognised for the contribution that it makes to the social inclusion of young people. The external evaluator of the programme, who came from the University of Lisbon, cited the following approaches that underpin the impact and success of ‘Choices’:

- The ability of the programme to adapt to the changing needs of the society around it;
- The empowerment and mobilisation of civil society organisations is based on equality and co-responsibility;
- Building effective partnerships, which is the cornerstone of successful community development.

Also, other external evaluations have revealed that the roles of the community facilitators and the young people associated with the programme are crucial elements in the success of Choices. The empowering methodology has meant that there is now a pool of young people who have the necessary skills and the confidence to lead projects. More than 25 youth associations have been created. In addition, this evaluation revealed that young people’s overall perception of their situation and their neighbourhoods tended to be positive, as were their views on their participation in the Choices programme and on the societal values that they had learned to appreciate such as tolerance and the respect for differences between cultures.

Finally, in 2010, a Choices’ project on Digital Inclusion was selected by the European Commission, as an example of good practice and included in the [Handbook for Integration](#).

The Choices Programme has received numerous distinctions and awards, starting from 2002, when it was selected by the Council of Europe as Good Practice in Combating Daily Violence, up until 2014, when it received the International Award “Juvenile Justice Without Borders” by The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO).

## **ROMANIA (RO)**

Several partnerships between national authorities, civil society organisations and the private sector were consolidated in Romania during the last years. A wide range of these initiatives focus on a better integration of migrants and refugees: legal and administrative assistance, as well as cultural, youth and educational projects meant to facilitate a better reciprocal understanding and dynamic dialogue. EU funds and programmes played an essential role in supporting many of the high-impact projects.

A small selection is provided below:

### **The Bucharest Biennial for Emerging Art (16-19 October 2015, Bucharest)**

<http://www.emergingarts.eu/index.php/home-one-page/performance-artists/>

Young emerging artists coming from Europe and the Middle East were invited to exhibit at this contemporary art biennial, aimed to define not only a vibrant artistic experience, but also to represent a political and social gathering. Some of the projects developed by these young artists drew attention to the problems faced by refugees on their way to Europe and to the societal aspects they are supposed to cope with, once arrived here. The key objective of the Biennial was to facilitate new dialectic ways of thinking, by means of a constructive dialogue between the artists and the audience, the migrants in Romania and the Romanian natives. The project was developed by local authorities, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and cultural institutes in Bucharest.

### **A Research and Documentation Centre for immigrants’ integration**

<http://www.e-migratie.ro/>

The Research and Documentation Centre for immigrants’ integration represents a focal point for the exchange of information and best practices on migrants’ integration in Romania. It coordinates research in this field and facilitates partnerships between organizations and experts. The Centre has

already collected good practice examples on teaching the Romanian language, health care and integration through education. It also holds a public library, where one can consult books and periodical publications (journals, magazines) on immigration related subjects.

### **We keep the hope alive...**

<http://www.arca.org.ro/#>

The mission of ARCA, the **Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants**, is to support the fulfilment of personal aims and capacities of refugees and migrants and to foster their integration in Romanian society. Two of their primary activities relate to youth training and youth work, with special emphasis on personal development activities, whereas other fields of action include: Romanian language courses and lectures on the Romanian culture; social services: medical aid, legal advice and support in the relation with the authorities, material support for vulnerable cases, community development, and employment counselling.

### **Migrant in Intercultural Romania**

<http://www.migrant.ro/>

The main goal of the project is to enhance the migrants' consultation in order to facilitate their civic participation. Numerous activities have been undertaken since the launching of the project in 2009: setting up a network of intercultural mediators, training for journalists in order to develop their intercultural sensitivity, developing an online platform for communication, information and consultation, organising several seminars (with the participations of representatives of migrants, local NGOs and local authorities) in Bucharest and several other Romanian cities. National level thematic working groups (on administrative-legal, education-culture-youth and social-health-labour issues) were also organised in order to identify and promote legislative amendments, as well as possible modifications of the administrative procedures meant to improve integration. The publication of the quarterly magazine Migrant in Romania is another significant outcome of the project.

## SWEDEN (SE)

### Fast track - faster establishment of new arrivals

The government wants to shorten the time from the newcomers' arrival to work. Newcomers will therefore as soon as possible get out in a workplace that is relevant to the individual's education, experience and interest. Sectors where there are labour shortages will support with talent management. The Government has, together with the social partners, the Employment Service and other relevant authorities held talks on measures within the framework of the establishment of the mission to create so-called *fast track* into employment for newcomers who have training or experience required in Sweden.

#### Fast track constituents

- Swedish Education will begin already at the asylum accommodation
- Early assessment of newcomers' experience, skills and motivation
- Validation and assessment of training and professional skills for sectoral demands
- Occupational and educational guidance
- Suitable individuals are offered fast track in the appropriate fields of industry
- Support for employers to find suitable participants
- Swedish Education relevant to the professional field
- Additional training as required
- Training in language / complementary courses combined with internship or work
- Language support, tutors and mentors in the workplace

### Establishment course at Folk high school (6 months)

The training is conducted on the basis of popular education approaches and methods and includes study of the Swedish language. The training also includes preparatory work and guidance efforts. The studies shall be appropriate to the individual circumstances and needs. Internships may be part of the course as a complement but may not be the main employment of the participant. Language skills in Swedish will not be an obstacle for a person to be able to participate.

The folk high schools chart the participants' language level and then adjust the arrangement. To increase participants work opportunities it starts from participants' experiences and to identify their target. The participants continues to work to improve their' self-confidence, validate their

knowledge and experiences, motivate, reality anchor, broaden perspectives and guidance. Concrete examples of guidance efforts are working with human rights and democratic values, equality, about how society is organized, the culture of Sweden and everyday practices.

In 2014, 1089 persons participated in the establishment course at Folk high schools, where 51 percent of participants were women. The training programs have been conducted in 66 Folk high schools which have received government grants relating to the establishment courses.

Establishment Course on folk high school is a labour preparatory action. However, it should be noted that the intervention's primary target group are less educated and often have the need for validation and ability to study further. One option might be to study at the General course at Folk high schools. This increases the possibility to establish themselves in the labour market and the risk of unemployment later in life decreases.

## **SLOVENIA (SI)**

### **Slovenian Scouts organisation (Zveza tabornikov Slovenije): project ‘Scout is ready to help’**

Mission of the Scouts organisation Slovenia is to create a better world which presents an ongoing challenge. They developed a project to promote active participation of young people and encourage peaceful dialogue between the scouts, their families and the society. The aim of the project is to promote social cohesion and diversity among different members of society by concrete actions such as manufacturing different and useful products. In cooperation with the Red Cross Slovenia, scouts will collect warm winter clothes and blankets to help refugees to overcome lower temperatures while travelling. In addition, scouts will organise workshops to manufacture products such as baby gloves, hats, scarves, socks and blankets. They will use web-site and social media to attract as many young people and teach them the basic skills for manufacturing different products as well as to promote the diversity and tolerance in the society.

### **Youth center of Dravinja valley (Mladinski center Dravinjske doline) and the project Young ambassadors of intercultural dialogue**

The project **Young Ambassadors of Intercultural Dialogue** was firstly implemented in period between 2009 and 2012 and was financed by the European Social Fund. The main purpose of the project is to set strong foundations for multicultural societies to become intercultural societies



which means that amongst different cultural, ethnical and other groups who are living together, relationships of open interaction, exchange and versatile recognition, respect of values and lifestyles are (re)established. The most important content pillar of the project is the selection of young ambassadors of intercultural dialogue through educational modules “Hours of intercultural dialogue” on the theme Roma, Islam, LGBT community and migrants. In addition, the project also provides circumstances for quality non-formal education for youth workers through hands-on training. The educational modules include learning about other cultures, methods for promotion of intercultural dialogue and stimulation of coexistence of different cultures and through all mentioned help improve social, cultural and civil competences and strengthen active citizenship of youth and other pedagogical workers.

### **Youth center, EPEKA Association (Združenje EPEKA) and the Roma restaurant**

The youth centre EPEKA Association from Maribor is implementing different projects and programmes to integrate young people with fewer opportunities. Youth exchange Fortress Europe is one of their projects which was implemented within the EU Youth in Action programme and included refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, many youth workers participated in a number of international educational projects, mainly within the framework of Youth in Action and Erasmus+ programme and gained competences which enabled them to work with young people with fewer opportunities, in particular Roma people and immigrants. These competences are now used in their daily work with young people with fewer opportunities. Within this mission, the youth centre has established the first Roma restaurant in Europe which integrates Roma people of Catholic and Muslim religion and sufficiently combines youth work, social work and entrepreneurship practices. The restaurant follows the principles of social enterprise.

### **Young Dragons (Javni zavod Mladi zmaji) and the development of local youth centres**

Young Dragons is a public organization helping Ljubljana’s young people play an active role in society. It was established as part of the City of Ljubljana’s Youth Office and has recently started setting up youth centres around the city which provide a safe and open place that operates independently with tight connections to the local community. Youth centre has developed many projects and programmes to integrate young people of different origins that live in suburbs of Ljubljana, mainly coming from the ex-Yugoslavia republics. To ensure smooth integration of young people in the society, they closely work with schools, social services, other civil society organisations as well as Asylum Home in Ljubljana.

### **The institute Social academy (Socialna akademija) and the project Social week 2015**

The institute for education, research and culture *Social Academy* organised a Social week to show how important is to encourage social responsibility and active citizenship of individuals, to strengthen civil society and to contribute to the reflection on the challenges that Slovenia, EU and the world faces today. One of the important focuses of Social Week 2015 was the refugee's crises and the integration of immigrants. By organising a number of workshops, round tables, discussions sessions and interviews, the youth work organisation Social Academy wanted to strengthen social and civic competences of individuals, encourage individuals to take responsibility for their lives and for the future society, strengthen civil society in responding to citizens' needs and representation of their interests and contribute to the expansion, pluralism and effectiveness of civil dialogue in Slovenia. A few years ago, the Social academy implemented a programme named “*e-nclusion*”: the integration of young people through social networks and carried out a campaign Enjoy your rights.

### **Amnesty international Slovenia and Roll the dice – could you make it as a refugee?**

Amnesty International Slovenia has developed many projects to raise public awareness and break stereotypes in society about young people, in particular different groups of young people with fewer opportunities. Among other things, board game “Roll the dice - could you make it as a refugee?” has been developed as a training material to organise workshops for young people on issues of refugees and migrants. The game provides an opportunity to look at migration from a different perspective so that each participant asks him/herself ‘What would I do if I was in this kind of situation?’ or realise ‘This might have been me...’. It is a human-size board game and was installed in Ljubljana’s streets and is also part of the SOS Europe campaign run by Amnesty International.

### **Slovene Philanthropy (Slovenska filantropija) and the project Let’s skills exchange skills.**

Slovene Philanthropy, Association for promotion of voluntary work, is a **humanitarian organization** whose programs aimed to **increase the quality of life in the community and advocacy for the socially weak**. Through youth exchanges, they contribute to the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. In the project *Let’s exchange skills*, young immigrants from Slovenia, Spain and Germany were involved in 10-days youth exchange. The aim of the project was to rise awareness of young people's skills and learn how they can be improved and used. International youth exchange will promote informal learning, intergenerational cooperation and the acquisition of social skills. Through a variety of activities, workshops, games, role games and cuisine, young people will learn about other cultures, share their skills and learn new. The

project has been awarded during the 2014 European youth week as good practice in the field of social inclusion.

## **SLOVAKIA (SK)**

### **SELF-GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION POLICIES**

„BUK“ is a project focused on capacity building of local self-government integration policies in managing the integration of third country nationals, especially young people. The project responds to the current situation in many cities in Slovakia regarding live, work and training of many foreigners and migrants. The project is prepared and managed by Association of towns and villages of Slovakia.

The aims include sensitising local self-government environments, preparing conditions for stimulating the integration process of third country nationals at the local level/municipal level, and eliminating persistent stereotypes. Activities include information campaigns, public debates as well as educational activities related to creation of local policies and action plans in order to ease the integration of migrants in the local environment.

The project is tested in five pilot towns and villages, defining its action plan according to local integration strategies, and managed under self-government with respect to general regulations. The project is a good example of direct activities carried at grassroots level and facilitating the understanding between different generations of the local and immigrant populations.

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Many projects supported by the Erasmus+ programme and the previous Youth in Action Programme deal with intercultural dialogue, democracy, inclusion, human rights, post-conflict rehabilitation, or minorities for instance. The following projects are presented as examples:

### **"Conflict resolution through Dialogue" - Youth in Action**

Objective: The purpose of this project was to enable the participating youth workers active in the field of conflict resolution to exchange information and ideas on the realities of their countries, and reflect on how to bring reconciliation through peaceful dialogue.

Mean: A week long training course. Through team building activities such as role playing and simulation exercises the participants expressed their views freely and were involved in a mutual understanding process.

Participants: 31 young people from 10 countries which have faced the challenge of divided communities (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Israel, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the UK).

### **"Helping refugees at home" - Youth in Action**

Objective: creating links between the refugees from Chechnya residing in a secluded refugee center in Czerwony Bor, Poland and the local community. To create positive attitude among the local population to the neighboring refugees

Means include the realization of free time activities for the children and young people living in the center, such as workshops, dance and cookery classes, film showing and sport tournaments. Joint workshops with local people and local organizations were held as well.

Participants: 4 EVS volunteers from 4 countries (France, Italy, Latvia and Spain)

More information on these two examples can be found in our Youth in Action Brochure "Focus on young citizens of Europe: European good practice projects" <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/youth-in-action-programme-pbNC0213010/>

### **"Gender, Citizenship and Migration: A Journey in Transition" - Erasmus+ (2014-2017 project)**

Objectives: Partners from 5 countries (Ireland, Italy, Poland, Germany, and Turkey) are working together, focusing on the issue of citizenship, migration and memory. Adult education facilitators, teachers and trainers, higher education researchers and lecturers, youth workers, migrants and women's groups are cooperating in order to create a synergy of innovative and complementary pedagogical approaches and methodologies. Transversal competencies, creative thinking and ICT

skills of participants are developed through intercultural dialogue. Expected outputs including the creation of a series of educational tools such as a website, videos, a research study, and a photographic exhibition will be disseminated via a seminar.

More information on this ongoing project can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details-page/?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/494e5e4d-5ce9-40c3-a179-e2a5322a87ab>

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