

The background is a watercolor-style illustration with various colors including purple, green, red, orange, and blue. There are several blue stars scattered across the upper right portion of the image, and one yellow star. A thin blue horizontal line is visible near the top. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is positioned in the center, containing the title text.

HANDBOOK OF BEST PRACTICES FOR INTEGRATION

EUNET Integration Network



INHOUDSOPGAVE

PREFACE	04
Chapter 1 : INTRODUCTION	07
Chapter 2 : BEST PRACTICES	11
1. Bank of Time	14
2. Multicultural Meeting Centre The Bridge	17
3. Buna Bet Coffee Corner	21
4. Dialogue of religious Leaders	24
5. Employment and Social Inclusion Report	27
6. gEMiDe	31
7. Lisbon Inclusion and Integration Games for Deficients	35
8. International Gardens	38
9. Invisible Success	41
10. Migrants for Agenda 21	44
11. Ilkoll Indaqs	48
12. UNG2400	50
Chapter 3 : PILOT PROJECTS	53
Chapter 4 : BENEFITS OF NETWORKING	65
Annex 1 : PROJECT PARTNERS	73
Annex 2 : THE PROJECT EUNET IN: STEP BY STEP	81
Annex 3 : USEFUL LINKS PER COUNTRY AND ON EU	91
COLOPHON	94



Preface

EUNET INTEGRATION NETWORK

Dear Reader

The EUNET Integration Network (EUNET IN) is a network of education centres and organisations in The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Portugal and Malta complemented by national migrant self-organisations in all five countries.

The project we started in September 2006 dealt with the establishment of the national and transnational networks. We focused on the exchange of information and best practices and added training for the migrant self-organisations to take part in European activities.

The project partners wanted to give a substantial contribution to the integration of third-country nationals in the European Union (EU) member states. Therefore the project was designed to achieve the following results:

- The project should contribute - in a structural way - to the cooperation of networks in EU, like the European Network for Education and Training (EUNET) (and its international member organisations) with networks and organisations of migrants and refugees on the issues of integration of third-country nationals.
- The project will contribute to the awareness raising and capacity building of the networks and will set up an international team of multipliers.
- The networks will function as a vehicle for the distribution of successful, innovative approaches, methods and materials, in conferences, seminars, through websites and in a handbook on the integration of third-country nationals.
- The project will contribute to the development of midterm and long-term strategies for European networks, like EUNET, and other networks on international and national level.

Throughout the project we were very conscious that the content was shaped by the migrants themselves. We did not want to impose our ideas on their work and we tried to include the demands of migrants as much as possible into the project. Therefore the results reflect the view of migrants from many places of origin who are living in the five EU member states involved in the project.

By enabling migrant self-organisations to work on a European level, the project fits well into the new trend of the European migration policies. Until 2004 the EU focused on control of migration flows while nowadays it takes stronger responsibility also for integration.

But of course the coordination of European integration policies is a difficult task as the history and the current situation in the EU member states differ. The variety of best practices chosen in this project will give a brief impression. We hope that the results of the exchange on best practices are of benefit for the European Commission to develop effective and suiting programmes for integration.

The handbook itself offers an insight into the chosen best practices. They have been suggested and selected by the participating migrant self-organisations. In total they give an overview of the different approaches and up-to-date tendencies in integration. We added the pilot projects which the network used to either push existing and innovative ideas into reality, to increase cooperation nationally and internationally or which have been developed as a result of inspiration gained by the international exchange.

All projects are described, to make the best use out of them. It is up to you, to copy best practices, receive inspiration for own projects or join the existing network.

Although English was the working language in this project, all partners and partner organisations communicate in different languages and come from different cultural backgrounds. This may reflect in the original formulation and description of best practices and pilot projects.

We hope that this handbook will be helpful and inspiring for your work.

A stylized map of Europe is shown in a lighter blue shade against a darker blue background. The map is centered on the continent. In the top right corner of the page, there is a decorative arrangement of stars: a yellow star at the top right, followed by a blue star, then a yellow star, and several blue stars arranged in a semi-circular pattern.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This handbook contains the description of the best practices for integration from the partner organisations in the five European countries participating in the EUNET INTEGRATION NETWORK PROJECT (EUNET IN): The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Portugal and Malta.

The project EUNET IN was co-financed by the European Community under the 2005 INTI Programme - Preparatory Actions for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals.

The INTI Preparatory Actions promote the integration in the EU member states of third-country nationals through specific projects (language courses, information on distinctive, cultural, political and social characteristics of the country in question, including citizenship and European fundamental issues), such as:

- Promote dialogue with civil society
- Develop integration models
- Seek out and evaluate best practices in the integration field
- Set up networks at European level

In the context of these Preparatory Actions, the EUNET Integration Network project focused on support of networks and exchange of information and best practices. The Handbook of Best Practices for integration is one of the products of the EUNET IN project.

For all the project partners this project was a great challenge to invest in and to gain experience and knowledge and to strengthen existing networks and create many new ones.

European Network for Education and Training - EUNET e.V.

For the European Network for Education and Training - EUNET e.V. the project was of great importance because in the year 2006 the European Network for Education and Training (EUNET) made the decision to make the European topic on how to integrate third-country nationals into the European society one of its main focuses for the coming years.

As a network of different and independent institutions, dealing with European issues, all the members have a strong link to their local and regional communities and authorities in common. As you can read and feel in this book, integration is mostly grass root work on community level. Therefore it is only natural that the members could play an important role in the process by bringing together their European experience with the local perspective.

All members share the conviction that more efforts have to be made to build a better Europe for its citizens. Therefore EUNET wants to encourage migrants to take a look at the European level to help them understand that they do not only integrate into a local neighbourhood but that they automatically become part of Europe, with all its chances and diversity.

On the other hand, only too often migrants are not recognized as part of society. This book wants to encourage the EUNET members and other education centres to work closer together with migrants and their organisations, for the benefit of a more active European citizenship.

EUNET is very happy that we managed a classical bottom up process within this eighteen months project. The EUNET partners worked as a bridge between migrant organisations and other EUNET members. We managed to set up a new network where those, who are normally working on educational matters and those who are helping third-country nationals to integrate in their community, are brought together. The idea to create the EUNET Integration Network was more successful than we expected. EUNET will make sure that there will be further steps in our network to secure what we achieved so far and that additional efforts will be taken to establish integration of third-country nationals into the European Union as one of our network pillars.

With the Handbook of Best Practices for Integration, EUNET wants to achieve a

better understanding between the citizens of Europe and the newcomers from all over the world, and to motivate those who want to integrate into local and regional communities.

All organisations and persons involved tried hard to make the project a success. We hope you can see and feel the spirit we developed along the project duration and that the selected best practices will enrich your work.



The following organisations cooperated in the EUNET IN project:

- Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK), The Netherlands
- Sonnenberg Kreis, Germany
- IUC-Europe, Denmark
- IPUEL, Portugal
- SOS Malta, Malta
- European Network for Education and Training - EUNET e.V.

For information on partner organisations see Annex 1



Chapter 2

BEST PRACTICES

Development and description of criteria for Best Practices

Integration is a process of change, for the individual as well as for the society as a whole. It is a process of mutual adaptation, giving space and taking space. This is the definition used by the Dutch Council for Refugees in its publication "You need two hands to clap".

In national and international meetings the topic of integration was widely discussed. All parties brought in their own experiences, descriptions and information. In the end, we all agreed on the following criteria for selecting, defining and describing the best practices for the handbook.

A: Criteria of Mutuality - relevant in relation to integration

Mutuality in the goals of the project as well as in the way the project is organised.

- A project is demand orientated, it is developed in dialogue with people who are involved. There is an interactive practice.
- The effect of the project also shows the aspect of mutuality: there is benefit for the third-country national as well as for awareness raising within the society. It makes room for shared citizenship, opens the mind of the people. In other words there is recognition by the third-country national as well as by the community.
- It leads to empowerment (with responsibility) and emancipation of organisations and individuals (in Europe). It creates equal opportunities for all different groups and is an economic push for being self-sufficient.

B: Technical aspects - relevant in relation to implementation

Integration practices are almost always embedded in a regional or local context. They want to give answers to specific questions encountered in every day reality. So they always have a strong local/regional sometimes national component. To be selected as an example of a successful integration practice on a European level a project should therefore also meet certain technical standards:

- **Transferability:** the methods used, the practice described should not just be suitable for a specific group or region, but also be applicable to other situations, for other groups, in other regions.
- **Measurability:** the results must be measurable and have a clear relation to the goals of the project.
- **Efficiency:** there should be balance between costs and time involved in relation to the goals the project wants to achieve.
- **Sustainability:** it is not a one time show, the project should have a follow-up, create long lasting effect.

C: Extra bonus criteria/recommendations

Looking at integration as a mutual process, it always starts with the "small things", just talking to your neighbours, doing things together, have an open and positive attitude and make it visible in daily life. In this context the following bonus criteria were formulated.

- **Simplicity:** a project should be easy to organise and implement.
- **Sincerity:** no window dressing projects.
- **Creating role models:** show success, emphasize possibilities instead of restrictions, attention for positive attitudes and approaches.
- **Voluntary work:** voluntary work leads to empowerment and participation and has a positive effect on the community level.
- **Tailor-made:** accessibility of the project is of major importance, so the project should take into account the level of experience/education of the participants.

Description of the Best Practices

All the Best Practices should include the following relevant information:

- Name or title of the Best Practice
- Thematic area
- Target group
- Main objectives
- Main activities
- Methodologies
- Results
- Costs
- Partners
- Contact
- Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

Conditions for selecting Best Practices

The selected projects will share their knowledge and experience on a European level. Since another goal of the project is strengthening international cooperation and making a contribution to EUNET missions and programmes, transferability and the sharing of knowledge links with the EUNET training institutes is also an important element.

The Best Practices

1. Bank of Time	14
2. Multicultural Meeting Centre The Bridge	17
3. Buna Bet Coffee Corner	21
4. Dialogue of religious Leaders	24
5. Employment and Social Inclusion Report	27
6. gEMiDe	31
7. Lisbon Inclusion and Integration Games for Deficients	35
8. International Gardens	38
9. Invisible Success	41
10. Migrants for Agenda 21	44
11. Ilkoll Indaqs	48
12. UNG2400	50

1. Bank of Time

Name of the project

BANCO DO TEMPO

Bank of Time

Description of the project environment

Bank of Time was created by the Immigrant association of UNIDOS DE CABO VERDE, that is based in a new urban area in a suburb of great Lisbon at Amadora county. The population is very poor and is mainly from African origin of former Portuguese speaking colonies, like Cap Vert, Guinea, St Tome, Angola, Mozambique, East Timor, mixed with immigrants from Eastern European/Asian countries.

Unidos de Cabo Verde is well located and has a tradition of social work among those communities, mainly because of the use of a nursery facility, and primary education for children.



The project

The main idea was to overcome the lack of financial capacity of the residents in the area, to stimulate cooperation among them and to give a sense of responsibility for those who were in need but had no money to afford the costs of the goods or services desired.

This philosophy helps to dignify the ones in need, because they do not receive free

favours or charity, they really pay what they receive in the way they can afford. On the other hand this process stimulates their social integration, the opportunity of jobs and the interaction with members of the national communities, avoiding the stigma of ghetto situations.

Thematic areas

Civil participation, voluntary work, social work, work in associations, education, intercultural, women, youth, seniors, accountability of work interchange

Target group

Migrants, most of African origin, naturalised Portuguese, resident Portuguese population

Main objectives

The main focus of Bank of Time is to bring interested migrants through interchange of voluntary activities into a social evaluation of work, in its equivalent in hour's time, in an open situation with other people living in Portugal, Lisbon's poor surroundings

- Integration, mutual acceptance between Portuguese and migrants
- Participation in civil society, with an economic value
- Support initiatives for self-esteem
- Stimulation and dignifying of individual capacities

Main activities

- Work with all age migrants
- Give response to various daily needs
- Offer childcare, and all kind of other services
- Work with all segments of society
- Offer consultancy and legal information
- Fill in forms, office work, translation
- Call on new volunteers and integrate them

Methodologies

The Bank of Time opens abstract virtual accounts of people (the clients) with assets and needs. So if someone is in a need of a lawyer, or a doctor, or a professor for their children, they can require those services from another client who is able to offer those services. The consumed time (in hours) is then registered as a credit of the person who gives and as a debt to the one who receives the services. Each of those persons is entitled either to pay the debt in hours, or to receive a service for the same hours of time.

All hours in the bank are equal, no matter the quality, or level of the services.

So, poor women receiving legal advice for two hours can pay the same two hours work to someone as a cleaner, cooker or as babysitter.

Characteristics of the methodology:

- Cooperative and interchange approach
- Volunteers are both immigrants and Portuguese residents
- Immediate communication of results
- Inclusion of all members of a family

Results

The project supports the civic participation of migrants, and the promotion of their skills and abilities, leads to empowerment and development of management skills and strengthens their dignity and self confidence.

- It contributes to upgrading the value of lower professions and work
- It promotes the openness and cooperation of exchange and participation, avoiding the stigma of the ghetto situations
- The focus on civic responsibility and incentives for better education and training opportunities, create future perspectives for social dignity and participation of migrants.
- This association received an award for its project on medical prevention on HIV, children abuse and birth control among the population in the area.

Partners

Migrant organisations and the Red Cross

Contact

IPUEL Portugal

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

- Opens new perspectives and helps people to learn about themselves and their abilities
- Developed out of a need to offer market opportunities for young, socially excluded people, who can't see any perspective
- Strongly linked to the local environment but still transferable to other migrant groups and other places
- Creates contacts and rewarding interchange cooperation and communication between migrants and Portuguese
- Lasting effect on the individual participants; positive approach because it underlines the useful skills of the poor and socially excluded community
- Can easily be linked to projects that focus on enhancing the economic situation of migrants and creating networks for social security.
- Also entrepreneurship training, debt management, job training can be part of these projects

2. Multicultural Meeting Centre (Living Room) The Bridge

Name of the project

"De Brug" (The Bridge)

'A safe place, where people can be who they are'

Thematic areas

Meeting centre in a multicultural neighbourhood for everyone who needs contact, a place to feel at home.

Characteristics: respect for visitors, warm welcome, active participation in the neighbourhood, cultural and social activities, debates.



Target group

People from the neighbourhood: long-term and new residents: all ages and from different cultural backgrounds. On an average base over 600 different people visit The Bridge annually. The number of visits is 10.000 to 11.000.

Main objectives

Foundation The Bridge started its activities in 1983. The original concept was to offer a meeting place for the growing group of elderly people in the neighbourhood. In the first period mainly 'long-term residents' of the neighbourhood visited the centre.

Because of immigration of new groups (from the former colony Dutch Indies, immigrants from Morocco, Turkey, Surinam, Dutch Antilles) the centre changed the policy and became a centre with a mission: "To contribute to an emancipated, multicultural society, for, nearby and run by the residents of the neighbourhood".

It offers a meeting place for visitors, creates an atmosphere where visitors get a personal, respectful welcome; it offers several activities where people (from different cultural backgrounds) can meet and exchange with respect for their own roots.

It contributes to an atmosphere of respectful living together in the multicultural and rapidly changing neighbourhood Geuzenveld-Slotermeer in the city of Amsterdam. The murder of Theo van Gogh in November 2004 caused a lot of unrest in the neighbourhood. The Bridge played an important role in the public debate and bringing together people to restore the situation and rebuild trust.

Main activities

- An open house for every visitor
- Three times per week cooking/dining for and with guests (mostly regular guests)
- Offering creative and educational programmes: computer courses for the elderly and jobseekers: "Double click" (officially recognized and partly financed by the local Government)
- Healthcare courses
- Language courses for Turkish and Moroccan residents
- Research and publication of "The Memories of West" (the Western neighbourhood in the city of Amsterdam) a compilation of memories and pictures 2004-2007
- Debates with local government, political parties and other organisations on integration, information about (consequences of) policies and new laws
- The dance-evenings and the festive annual fair
- Celebration of the IFTAR and other religious days and events
- Offering accommodation for other groups

Methodologies

The concept of The Bridge is to offer a warm and welcome open house with a respectful attitude to everyone and appreciation and respect for cultural diversity. Management, courses, programmes and activities are all run by volunteers.



The careful and respectful way in which the organisation's board treats her volunteers, and the personal involvement of every board member, contributes to this as well.

The concept of working only with volunteers keeps the costs low and also guarantees an independent position.

The Bridge also offers traineeships for students of vocational and university institutes.

Results

The Bridge operates successfully as a local multicultural living-room for residents living in a rapidly changing neighbourhood and society, contributing to understanding and models of respectful integration and living together.

It contributes to inclusion of elderly people; inclusion of isolated groups; it offers

many creative programmes and events; training programmes for skills improvement; internship possibilities for trainees.

H.R.H. Princess Maxima visited The Bridge after it won the 'Apple of Orange', a prize awarded by the Orange Foundation for organisations active in building a constructive and more coherent society.

In 2008 The Bridge will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

In the context of the EUNET IN project The Bridge - together with Kontakt der Kontinenten - wants to achieve a broader acknowledgement and appreciation for its specific approach, position and activities.

Plans are to exchange and cooperate with other local "meeting houses" in Amsterdam as well as on (inter) national level and to develop long-term networks.



Costs

The premises are a gift from a religious congregation. The Bridge receives financial support from the District Council of Geuzenveld-Slotermeer (about 75%). The religious congregation, foundations and other donors also contribute to the costs and activities. The Bridge also receives income from other organisations which rent accommodation in The Bridge for their own activities.

Partners

The Bridge is an independent foundation with a board, daily managers and part-timers. All work on a voluntary basis.

There are cooperation projects with the local government, other organisations, and foundations.

Foundation The Bridge is a member of both the Amsterdam Platform for Patients & Consumers and of the Foundation Platform for the Handicapped. Together with other organisations, it makes a fist when new laws concerning care for the handicapped and the disabled are applied. This is presently the case in The Netherlands, where a new Social Support Law is being implemented.

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

- The project brings together people from different backgrounds and cultures
- The project is embedded in a rapidly changing neighbourhood
- The project offers many opportunities for meeting, activities, training and education
- The project is run by volunteers
- The project can easily be copied in the project partner countries as well as elsewhere
- The centre contributes to the debate on integration on municipal level

3. Buna Bet Coffee Corner

Thematic area

Integration of Ethiopians in The Netherlands, business development, job training and employment, international development cooperation, awareness raising about Ethiopia

Target group

Young Ethiopian migrants in The Netherlands (education and employment), coffee farmers in Ethiopia (fair trade system); former prostitutes in Ethiopia now working in the coffee plantations and factories. Dutch public.



Main objectives

Ethiopian coffee for a change

In 2005 the Ethiopian Foundation DIR opened the Buna Bet Coffee Corner in Amsterdam. Ethiopia is the basis for coffee and the largest exporter of Arabica coffee beans. Drinking coffee is a way of life. The trendy coffee corner Buna Bet is more than a friendly place to drink coffee in Amsterdam's neighbourhood De Pijp. The project also focuses on farmers in Ethiopia who receive fair prices for their coffee (fair trade). Women in Ethiopia are helped to escape prostitution by offering them skilled jobs in coffee processing. And for young Ethiopians in The Netherlands the coffee corner creates jobs and provides on the job training. The Dutch public is confronted with positive information about Ethiopia and successful initiatives of Ethiopians in The Netherlands and when you drink Buna Bet coffee you become part of a social enterprise with deep cultural roots.

Buna Bet seeks to expand the activities; in 2007 a coffeeshop was opened in Addis Abeba.

Main activities

The main activities of Buna Bet (as one of the activities of Foundation DIR) are:

- running a successful corporate business
- organising on the job training programmes for young Ethiopian students
- initiating projects, distributing information
- participating in (inter)national networks

Methodologies

The Buna Bet methodology combines fair trade principles with creating jobs in The Netherlands and in Ethiopia for people with bad positions on the labour market: from exclusion to inclusion.

Buna Bet cooperates with several national and international organisations in the field of development cooperation - and stimulates linking programmes with other local initiatives and exchange of students.

Results

The Buna Bet Coffee Corner project creates opportunities for (young) Ethiopian trainees and employees to work in the coffee corner Buna Bet; it provides job opportunities and better living conditions for Ethiopian coffee farmers and workers (former prostitutes) in Ethiopia.

It improves the image of Ethiopia (and Ethiopians) in The Netherlands. And it demonstrates successful models of social corporate business.

Buna Bet is extending its activities, projects and products and its networks for development cooperation. Foundation DIR has opened a branche office in Addis Abeba in Ethiopia.



Costs

Buna Bet is an income generating project.

The project receives support from several organisations for its development cooperation initiatives (Oxfam Novib); for job training programmes ("Stichting Doen", Sponsor Lottery www.doen.nl), insurance companies; design and printing firms for website and brochures.

Partners

Buna Bet is established by the Ethiopian Foundation DIR, which aims to improve the position of Ethiopians in The Netherlands and in Ethiopia.

Foundation DIR receives financial support from the Dutch national government for its development initiatives, for exchange programmes for Dutch students.

Kontakt der Kontinenten supports the training programmes for networks and capacity building programmes.

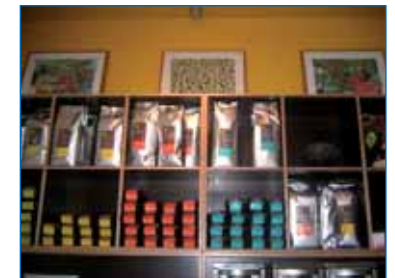
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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

The Buna Bet Coffee Corner is a project that stimulates entrepreneurship, creates jobs in The Netherlands and Ethiopia. It contributes to a more positive image about third-country nationals and the (products from) countries of origin. In contributes to the inclusion of excluded people and groups in society.

It contributes to the revival of the debate on local twinning programmes in development cooperation.



4. Dialogue of Religious Leaders

Thematic area

Religious leaders from different religious and cultural backgrounds meet and exchange experiences on integration processes in The Netherlands.

Discussions on best practices.

Target group

All religious leaders who participated in the integration courses.

Main objectives

From 2002 a new Act on Integration for newcomers was put into action in The Netherlands. The Ministry of Justice delegated to Kontakt der Kontinenten to execute an introductory and practical programme for religious leaders.

From 2004 - on the request of and in cooperation with the participants -, special thematic conferences were organised for all religious leaders who participated in the introductory programmes.



The main aims were to support religious leaders in their integration process in the Netherlands, to stimulate interaction with relevant organisations, public bodies and exchange with and learn from other religious leaders. Enable religious leaders to inform and counsel their communities in adequate ways. In that process they contribute to the development of an interactive and effective multicultural society.

Main activities

- To give an opportunity to exchange on best practices, learn from each other and initiate cooperation.
- To meet and exchange with special guests on "hot" topics.
- To organise (in cooperation with Kontakt der Kontinenten) thematic conferences such as: "Meeting of traditions", "Freedom of religion and freedom of expression", "The role of religion in integration processes", and other relevant subjects, like domestic violence, raising children, education systems, healthcare.

Methodologies

- Organising thematic meetings with the input of experts.
- Linking the meetings and exchanges of religious leaders with the integration programmes.
- Documenting the results of the thematic meetings in publications.
- Using the results and recommendations of the meetings as input for the national and local debates about integration.

Results

- Better-informed, prepared and integrated religious leaders; contributes to better command of the Dutch language. Better equipped religious leaders to support their own communities and support them to actively participate in integration activities.
- Stimulating the Dutch debate on the role of religious leaders in integration processes (talking with instead of about).
- Documentation and publication.
- Development of international networks.



Costs

Subsidies from national government

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

The role of religion in integration processes is a rather new phenomena in research and projects but a hot topic in the Dutch debate. Especially in countries with third-country nationals with strong religious backgrounds the role of religious leaders is an important one. Involving religious leaders in integration processes is important for the participation of all groups in national and local debates on integration.

5. Employment Challenges and Social Inclusion Report

Thematic area

Employment and opportunities for third-country nationals in Malta

Target group

Third-country nationals and other socially excluded groups

Main objectives

To aid the development of existing national strategies for social protection and social inclusion of third-country nationals (and others) in Malta

Main activities

This research report documents the carrying out of focus group research to reflect the drive of European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Malta to continue aiding the development of existing national strategies for social protection and social inclusion in Malta. Drawing inspiration from the strengths and recommendations found in previous EAPN Malta projects - such as EAPN Malta recommendations for the NAP 2006-2008, EAPN Malta response to the draft National Action Plan 2006-2008, and EAPN Malta assessment of the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2004-2006 plus Light Update Report 2005 - this report records the interest of EAPN Malta to give a voice to subaltern social sectors. Although poverty and social inclusion/exclusion are related to various aspects of life - ranging from employment to education, culture and leisure, housing to social welfare - limited time and human resources compelled EAPN Malta to limit its focus to employment. EAPN Malta reflects the Government of Malta's belief that employment is imperative in the achievement of economic independence and the promotion of social integration. This is especially true in times of post industrialism and consumerism where a 'normal life' is one which is preoccupied with the making of choices among the wide variety of publicly displayed opportunities for pleasurable sensations and lively experiences.



EAPN Malta believes that access to employment is one of the key means to eradicate poverty and social exclusion. Work does not provide income only but helps people to build social networks, to integrate, to have dignity and access to other goods and services to have a good quality of life. We also believe that employment is not the only solution to getting people out of poverty and social exclusion.



NGOs working with people facing difficulties and the people themselves who are facing challenges to be included in society and to come out of poverty, know very well that accessing the labour market is not easy

and is sometimes impossible. Therefore this requires us, (policy makers, NGOs, unions and employers) to come together with the very people who are facing such challenges and difficulties to find realistic solutions and recommend policies that move towards the eradication of social exclusion and poverty.

Methodologies

EAPN Malta organised a number of focus groups with the people that its member organisations work with on a daily basis. The key aim of this exercise is not an academic one. It is a means to listen and to give a voice to persons facing difficulty especially to access and survive the labour market. The EAPN Malta Coordination Committee agreed that it should not 'contaminate the report' with its ideas but to present and highlight the challenges and recommendations as expressed by the participants. We are aware that some of the recommendations made, for example for specific services, already exist. However, such recommendations may mean that we may have a lack of communication and information regarding some services. Therefore we appeal that the information presented in the report is used simply as a means to provoke a discussion rather than to debate who is right or wrong.

Results

Each focus group which was conducted ultimately produced a number of recommendations regarding policy and services which need to be adopted and implemented by Government and related agencies in view of assisting socially excluded insofar as employment issues are concerned. The following are some commonalities between the recommendations which emanated from the different focus groups:

- a) The need for sensitization of employers and co-workers in regard to the problems and issues which socially excluded persons experience in general and possibly at the place of work;
- b) The need for customer-friendly and specialised training to be provided to government officials and persons dealing directly with socially excluded persons on issues of employment;
- c) The urgent need for extended and more accessible childcare facilities and/or childcare schemes which cater specifically for socially excluded persons in various parts of the country;
- d) The provision of specialised and targeted training (skills, adaptability, empowerment) for the different groups of socially excluded persons;
- e) The establishment of more structures which are aimed specifically at assisting groups of socially excluded persons in finding employment and in dealing with employment issues;
- f) The introduction and implementation of more positive discrimination measures (policy, schemes and incentives for the employment of socially excluded persons);
- g) Policy which seeks to ensure a substantial degree of complementarity between the social benefit system and employment opportunities for socially excluded persons (i.e. replacing the system as it is at present, where many socially excluded persons find that it pays more to simply remain on relief than to work and earn too little to get by);
- h) The need to address the issue of underpaid third-country nationals - an issue which is affecting third-country nationals themselves as well as Maltese persons in terms of entering employment;
- i) Policy aimed at the increased provision of flexicurity measures;
- j) The need to address discrimination and stereotypical attitudes, particularly during interviews and at the place of work;
- k) The importance of establishing volunteering structures which allow persons who are registered as unemployed (and receiving unemployment benefits) to gain hands-on skills which can also be recognised through a certification system;
- l) Improved transport facilities for socially excluded persons (disabled, etc.) seeking to go to work and/or attend training courses;
- m) Increased involvement and consultation of socially excluded persons themselves (or representatives) in policy and decision-making processes.

The report will have a strong influence on the Government's National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Exclusion and the National Reform Programme. The experiences and recommendations of third-country nationals should therefore be reflected in future government policies regarding employment and social inclusion. The involvement of third-country nationals in Government policy is a form of integration in itself and it should result in better employment and social conditions for third-country nationals which will in turn improve their integration.

Costs

Lm280 / Euro 652

Funded by EAPN Malta through EAPN Europe

Partners

EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) Malta through SOS Malta (Solidarity and Overseas Service Malta)

Contact

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

The presence of large groups of third-country nationals in the Maltese society is a rather new phenomenon. Discussion about integration and policy on integration is therefore of recent date. SOS Malta has contributed very much to initiatives to improve the situation of third-country nationals and plays an important role in awareness raising in Maltese society. Their projects are very basic and have a quick and strong impact.

6. gEMiDe

Name of the project

gEMiDe: social involvement of migrants and naturalised Germans (*gesellschaftliches Engagement von Migrantinnen, Migranten und eingebürgerten Deutschen*)

Thematic areas

Civil participation, voluntary work, education (social work, work in associations, culture, environmental protection)

Target group

Migrants, naturalised Germans, Germans, women, youth



Main objectives

The idea to found gEMiDe is based on the women's initiative "Smiling Face" which took place in 1999 with support of the department for intercultural affairs of the city of Hannover. In the following years the manager of the project Mrs Hülya Feise built up gEMiDe systematically through voluntary work. Today Hülya and her husband Eric Feise both are involved in gEMiDe.

gEMiDe supports integration processes in different areas of society by means of voluntary work, e.g. experienced mothers advise young mothers on upbringing, young girls assist single parents in housekeeping, boys give computer courses to older migrants. The core of gEMiDe's approach is to bring migrants and Germans into a communication situation with each other. Through voluntary work they gain experience, which improves their opportunities at the labour market, and through communication volunteers improve their language abilities. Finally the personal contacts between migrants and Germans question prejudices and makes people see each other from a different angle.

gEMiDe aims to involve especially young people and women, who often find themselves in special circumstances. gEMiDe takes into account the individual situation of these target groups and offers programs and consultancy to open new perspectives.

The experience of gEMiDe shows that voluntary work helps people to find out more about themselves and their abilities. The work strengthens self-esteem and self-confidence, which encourages migrants to get involved in social processes. gEMiDe gives political impulses, which announce a future perspective for civic participation of migrants.

Main activities

- Give humanitarian support (work with elderly migrants, visit people in need, offer childcare)
- Alphabetisation, language and education programs
- Work with youth and schools
- Call on new volunteers and integrate them, educate multipliers
- Radio work (techniques, presentation, interview)
- Environment protection (e.g. advice on climate protection for Turkish speaking migrants)
- Offer consultancy and information (fill in forms, office work, translation)
- Cooperation project with educational institutions and local organisations.

Methodologies

- The projects leaders respect very much the personal and cultural background of their participants. Communication takes place at an eye level and gEMiDe focuses on personal strengths and skills of the volunteers. Young people e.g. who dropped out of school find out new interests by working voluntarily. gEMiDe opens new perspectives for their personal and professional lives.
- Volunteers are seen as colleagues and not as clients. Migrants themselves can become multipliers and educate other migrants. Members of gEMiDe for example trained migrants from other regions during a Sonnenberg course "Integration guides - migrants help migrants".
- gEMiDe does not only address individuals but maintains contact with entire families and includes them into activities.
- Cooperation and exchange with local organisations and educational institutions enrich the activities and open doors to new target groups. One example is the German-Turkish youth meeting, which was organised in cooperation with the International House Sonnenberg.

Results

Some of the migrant volunteers for the first time become aware of the fact, that e.g. a German household does not look much different from their own. They enjoy the fact not to be seen as a "foreigner" at the first sight, but more as a human being who is doing something meaningful.



"Since I'm living here in Germany, I always was seen as a Turkish person. I always get questions about the situation in my home country. But since I'm working as a voluntary teacher there are coming other questions from the people; now my person and the content of my work constitutes the focus: what do you think about the work with illiterates? Or: Why did you become a fairy tale narrator?" (Naciye K., female volunteer of gEMiDe)

Further results are:

- Stimulation of individual abilities
- Mutual acceptance between Germans and migrants: supports integration
- Support of initiatives for self-help
- Participation of migrants in civil society

Costs

The project was build up from January 2000 until June 2001 by Mrs. Hülya Feise voluntarily. gEMiDe worked with fee money from 01.07.2001 - 31.12.2001. Since 01.01.2002 a part-time job for the manager is provided by the city of Hannover. Project supporter is the BTEU e.V. (Bund Türkisch Europäischer Unternehmer/ Turkish-European Employers' Association)

Partners

BTEU e.V. (Bund Türkisch Europäischer Unternehmer/Turkish-European Employers' Association), Volkshochschule Hannover, University Hannover, Association for education Hannover, Office for culture Linden-Süd, Association for intercultural work VIA e.V., Villa Anna, ARGE "JobCenter of the region Hannover", Consumer advice centre Lower Saxony, Albert-Schweitzer-School.

Networks: BBE (Federal networks for civil engagement), Volunteers in Hannover (Network Participation of citizens), Intercultural working group on participation and involvement.

Contact

gEMiDe

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www.gemide.net, www.bteu.de (link gEMiDe)

Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

gEMiDe creates contacts and communication between migrant and Germans.

The project has a lasting effect on the individuals participating as volunteers and creates role models for civil participation. gEMiDe is strongly linked to the local environment but still transferable to other migrant groups and other places.

Other migrant organisations e.g. UETD (Union of European Turkish Democrats), which take part in the EUNET Integration Network also try to support projects based on voluntary work.



7. Lisbon Inclusion and Integration games for Deficients (Disabled) JII2007

Description

On 24th June 2007 the second edition of the Games of Integration and Inclusion of the city of Lisbon were organised in the Stadium 1st of May. This event was promoted by the IPUEL Instituto Pro Uniao Europeia COMMISSION JII2007, supported by the Lisbon Misericordia, as well as by the Santarem Misericordia, FPDD (Portuguese Federation on Sports for Deficient people) ANDDEM (National association for mental deficiency), ACCL (Lisbon Community association) and the association for the integration of non-European immigrants.

This second edition gathered 1000 athletes representing several associations related to deficiency with athletes related to table tennis, Boccia and Basket. In the interval of the games a group of dancers from the Escola de Reabilitação do Alcoitão, showed dance therapy for motor deficient. Paintings were displayed outside the game field by the Obra Social do Pousal. In the pitch there were football games by children.

The games were attended by political personalities, such as: António Costa, municipal candidate to Lisbon, the Socialist, Idália Moniz, Adjunct Secretary of State on rehabilitation, and Dra. Maria de Jesus Barroso, the games President.

**Thematic areas**

Voluntary work, social mobilization and civil participation, sports engagement of citizens all ages and backgrounds including the immigrant communities, support of the INTI network of associations

Target group

Disable deficient and handicapped persons of Great Lisbon, immigrants and Portuguese nationals

Main objectives

- To develop sport activities for deficient people allowing them to participate and to integrate with athletes without deficiencies;

- To reinforce the social recognition of the deficient as citizens, with all rights in the Portuguese society;
- To show new sport types for deficient;
- To promote the social integration of immigrants within the EUNET IN PROJECT;
- Aiming to organise a sport week on deficient sports in Lisbon;



- To attract new groups related to solidarity and charity for deficient;
- Aiming to study the number of deficient in Lisbon (types, problems and desires);
- Aiming to organise think tanks on this topic throughout the year;
- Aiming to generalise this event to all Portuguese cities, organising a deficient week;

- Aiming that schools and other institutions participate in this event;
- Aiming to call the attention of Universities for such reality and to organise university degrees on this subject.

Main activities

- Swimming (various types of deficiencies);
- First contact with swimming pool water by profound deficient;
- Futsal/indoors football;
- Football 7;
- Athletics's - velocity proofs (motor deficient and blind);
- Gymnastic (all);
- Painting (manual deficient and mind / intellectual deficient);
- Chess (deficient: blind, motor and mind /intellectual deficient);
- Polyhedral games;
- Boccia (manual deficient and mind / intellectual deficient);
- Slalom (motor deficient);
- Basketball (on feet and on wheelchair);
- Table tennis (deficient: motor, deaf on wheelchair);
- Goal Ball (blind people).

Methodologies

The main idea was to constitute a commission formed by IPUEL members that established some protocols with non-profit associations connected with sports

activities and deficient. Boy scouts organised themselves to establish the security services, and the Red Cross provided two ambulances just in case of need.

Participants organisations included schools, state departments and institutes, private non-profit associations for the disabled, gypsies organisations from Algarve, social care associations, medical institutions, hospital services, sports clubs and associations, youth organisations, army deficient, etc.

Results

Large coverage by the press, attended by several members of Government and the Municipality of Lisbon, large group of family participation, colourful initiative with visible integration and social inclusion effects, both for immigrants and national Portuguese suffering from discrimination.



Costs

All voluntary work was not paid, main contributors were the Municipality of Lisbon, Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Lisbon, local counties of the Great Lisbon, private companies.

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

Stimulation of new volunteers offers personal stimulation, gratification and social recognition.

8. International Gardens

Name of the project

International Gardens

Thematic areas

Communication, environment and nature, professional gardening, alimentation, culture, local policies.

Target group

All people from the neighbourhood (migrants, refugees, Germans, old and young).

Main objectives

The idea for the project “International Gardens” was born in 1995 by female refugees from Bosnia. When the women talked about what they missed most in Germany, they mentioned gardens, which they had in their home countries.

Only one year later when the city Göttingen provided a piece of land, the first International Garden was founded. Today more than 40 International Garden projects are spread all over Germany and even in some other European countries. In the International Garden projects a variety of ethnic-cultural backgrounds and diverse social standards, habitats and age groups come together. Many of the individuals who are active in the gardens have had to leave everything behind - not just their property but

also relationships and a sense of identity. The spirit and purpose of these projects is to cautiously re-establish such connections and give people the opportunity to gain new ground and, similar to a plant, “strike new roots”.

A very important principle of the International Gardens is to create bridges to the mainstream of the society. The participants of the International Gardens do not want to build an enclave but to open themselves to the local people and local authorities.

Main activities

- Practical work in the garden
- Participation in the activities of the local community

- Environmental education
- Biological cultivation of vegetables, fruits
- Multicultural events
- Documentation and public relations
- Organisation and support of projects. E.g. educational projects or art-projects which take place in the International Gardens, projects in cooperation with schools, in which young can do practical work and learn more about gardening, cooperation projects with local communities.

Methodologies

- The International Gardens follow a holistic approach. The project addresses families and takes into consideration the needs of different generations, cultures and expectations. Even though in Germany there is a well functioning welfare system and accepted refugees are secure, there are still many refugee families who are confronted with a shortage of money to keep up with many requirements of the society. The gardens offer activities and events where families can go.
- Participants in the project are not only receivers of information. They are involved in the whole work process (e.g. giving ideas, drawing up the policy, developing the learning styles that are adapted to the participating families, practical work in the garden, organising multicultural events).
- Strong cooperation with local authorities is a fundamental element of the International Gardens’ concept.
- The exchange with educational institutions also turned out to be very fruitful for all participants. Groups taking part in courses on integration at the International House Sonnenberg visit the International Gardens in order to learn how multicultural living together might work and Sonnenberg supports the network of International Gardens in Lower Saxony with training opportunities and offers educational activities in the International Gardens.

Results

- Families discover their own resources and build up their self-esteem and confidence. This influences the attitude of people in the society around the project and strengthens recognition of refugees and migrants.
- A very essential aspect of the International Garden projects is that migrants get the chance to autonomously develop. In some cases the International Gardens improve the professional situation of migrants and refugees,



because they offer working places. Through contacts with German people, who they meet in the gardens, migrants learn the German language.

- Above all this the practical aspect of gardening can be seen as social bonding, which combines various levels of collective and individual existence.
- Last but not least the number of International Gardens is continuously increasing and the development of a European Network is in process.

Costs

In many cases, in Germany, the City (department for planning and environment) or the church (local parishioners) offers pieces of land for free or low leasing costs. Additionally, housing associations can be an option.

There will be some necessary investments and initial costs when you start the project. But a considerable amount of this money can be reduced or saved by buying second-hand equipment or by getting sponsoring from building/gardening markets. Running costs such as: rent, water and perhaps electricity supply; insurance; public relation (newsletter, phone, post etc.). Foundations and local or federal contests also help to cover costs.

Contact

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info@internationale-gaerten.de

www.internationale-gaerten.de

www.stiftung-interkultur.de (very concrete explanation on how to set up an International Garden Project)



Motivation for selecting this Best Practice
Migrants have an active role. They create their environment, their neighbourhood and their “new” home in cooperation with locals and local authorities.

The project is based on basic needs and is down to earth. The gardens are very well linked with each other and can be set up everywhere.

9. Invisible Success

Name of the project

Den usynlige succes (The Invisible Success)

Thematic area

A virtual meeting place where women of Danish and foreign backgrounds can meet on the internet and obtain competences/resources through reading successful stories about immigrant women.

“You have to understand people’s roots instead of cutting them”, Rasa Grinberg

“I want to be recognised for my qualifications not my ethnicity”, Azam Javadi

Target group

Danish women/women of other ethnic backgrounds

Main objectives

The project/website is produced by KVINFO (The Danish Centre for Information about Women and Gender Research) and offers a unique possibility to meet thirty successful women with ethnic backgrounds other than Danish, who narrate about their lives in Denmark. Politicians, doctors, musicians, entrepreneurs, artists - you are invited into their homes to have an insight in their often complex lives in Denmark. Media narratives, which focus on the positive aspects of life, not the negative ones that often hit the media. We rarely hear about women with ethnic backgrounds who have good lives in Denmark. Their lives are invisible and not often researched and described in public. This doesn’t support good integration - on the contrary. This project has as its main purpose to expose women with ethnic backgrounds as successful role models, who break conventional patterns. Thus the project gives a more detailed and varied picture of how women with minority backgrounds live their lives in Denmark.

Main activities

The website is built up around five entries: the front page and four topic pages. The front page with the portraits of the women links to the narratives. By clicking



on a portrait you will be able to read about this woman's narrative, and be able to print the story. The topic pages are concerned with family, housing/leisure time, education/work and culture and are also linked to the narratives.

The project is directed towards the educational sector: elementary school, high school and language courses. The site contains fact pages, links and ideas for interdisciplinary teaching and projects. E.g. the fact pages refer to political and historical circumstances: Hungarian refugees after 1956, refugees from Iraq etc. The site has a bank of ideas for work and teaching. The site is developed along the way and invites people to participate and develop the educational part of the site.



Methodologies

The site can be used in ordinary teacher driven education offering historical background about the home countries of the women and the reasons why they have settled in Denmark. On an individual basis students can work with the portraits/narratives of individual women according to their choice and place them in a historical context. Interdisciplinary approaches may use the same methods but also link the narratives to find similarities/differences.

Results

The project deals with integration and intercultural communication both in a context where women with minority backgrounds can get inspiration and support, but also in a broader context related to the Danish society. It describes successful integration, which is still relatively rare, and at least not very well researched, and offers knowledge and information about minority women and their cultures/history, which are still not well known in our country.

Costs

The project is financed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, The Danish Ministry of Education and Queen Margrethe's and Prince Henrik's Foundation.

Contact

KVINFO

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

- The project connects people from different minority cultures and generates inspiration and support
- The project provides insight and information about different cultures to Danish students and people in general, who are not familiar with these cultures
- The website offers a unique opportunity for everybody with access to a computer to work with the site individually or in a learning/teaching environment to gain
- The project can easily be copied in the project partner countries as well as elsewhere
- The project offers research results which have not been published before

10. Migrants for Agenda 21

Name of the project

Association “Migrants for Agenda 21”

Thematic areas

The work is based on the objectives of the programme Agenda 21. The full text of Agenda 21 was revealed at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), held in Rio de Janeiro on June 14th where 179 governments voted to adopt the programme.

Agenda 21 is a programme for sustainable development in the 21st century and deals with:

- Social and economic dimensions (including combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, population and demographic dynamics, promoting health, promoting sustainable settlement patterns and integrating environment and development into decision-making)
- Conservation and management of resources for development (including atmospheric protection, combating deforestation, protecting fragile environments, conservation of biological diversity and control of pollution)
- Strengthening the role of major groups (including the roles of children and youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, business and workers)
- Means of implementation (including science, technology transfer, education, international institutions and mechanisms and financial mechanisms)

The association Migrants for Agenda 21 focuses on the following areas:

- Political involvement of migrants
- Health promotion
- Environment protection
- Responsible consumer behaviour

Target group

The association is located in Hannover and addresses people from different countries of the world with different cultural backgrounds who live in the city.

Main objectives

The foundation of Migrants for Agenda 21 is a result of the pilot project “migrants and environmental protection” which was organised by the Agenda 21 office and the association “workshop for environment and development” in Hannover in 1997. Unemployed migrants were educated as environmental consultants. They informed, raised migrants’ awareness of environmental protection and passed over their own experience and knowledge. When the project ended some of the migrants involved wanted to continue their work and Migrants for Agenda 21 was founded with the help of Silvia Hesse, the commissioner for integration and manager of the local Agenda 21 office of Hannover.

The general objectives of the Migrants for Agenda 21 are to link environmental protection, social issues and economic problems with each other and to involve migrants into local politics. The participants want to reveal that it is important that everyone includes environment protection, responsible consumer behaviour, climate protection and healthy alimentation into all day life. Migrants for Agenda 21 encourage people to take responsibility for urban and global developments.

Beside these topics related to the programme of Agenda 21 the association aims to help migrants to identify themselves with the place they are living now. A long-term objective is to spread the ideas and the concept of Migrants for Agenda 21 all over Germany and abroad.



Main activities

- Migrants go to households and inform people about the goals of Agenda 21. They give professional advice, offer consultancy and awareness training for migrants.
- The association also presents options of action to social groups and individuals. Especially women, children and youth are encouraged to take part in democratic decision processes.

- Migrants for Agenda 21 organises education seminars for multipliers: "Climate protection and ecological awareness" and workshops take place (Migrants take part - a workshops stimulates action) to motivate migrants.
- Projects, events and lectures on concrete topics according to the needs of migrants are organised
- Excursions with migrants to places in the region improve the identification with the new home.

Methodologies

- The intensive cooperation between the local office Agenda 21 and the association Migrants for Agenda 21 is crucial for the success of the work. On the one hand Migrants for Agenda 21 helps to detect interests and special needs of migrants when local authorities plan to organise dialogues, educational programs or projects. On the other hand Silvia Hesse helps Migrants for Agenda 21 to develop contents and gives support in structural questions. Moreover contacts to other local institutions can easily be made with the support of the local office Agenda 21.
- The association supports bilingualism and considers individual potentials of migrants as an added value for society.
- Migrants for Agenda 21 focuses and reacts on special needs of migrants e.g. How is it possible to save money through environmental protection and responsible consumer behaviour? What kind health risks do mildew infested walls cause?
- Special training courses are organised to educate multipliers. Members of Agenda 21 trained other migrants at the training course in the International House Sonnenberg "integration guides - migrants help migrants".

Results

The association awakens interest in the topics of the Agenda 21 and raises awareness of environmental protection among migrants. Through education and workshops more and more qualified multipliers take part actively.

The strong working relationship between migrants and the local office Agenda 21 has intensified the exchange between migrants and local authorities.

Migrants became political actors.

Costs

The local office Agenda 21 helps to provide financial resources and staff.

Contact

Agenda 21 - Office in Hannover

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www.agenda21.de/08_partner_01_migranten.html

Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

The project does not focus on migration itself but encourages migrants to take over responsibility, to be part of society and to influence policies. The organisation Migrants for Agenda 21 links basic needs of migrants to issues of the entire society.

11. Ilkoll Indaq

Thematic area

Awareness raising in the community.

Target group

School children, policy makers, teachers and community leaders



Main objectives

To create and enhance the dialogue between these various above-mentioned target groups and refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Main activities

This is an activity which was initiated over four years ago. Last year this activity was funded through funds made available by the Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity under the EU funding for the Year for Equal Opportunities for all, together with a donation from VOICES.

Methodologies

This year the activities included the visits to over thirty secondary and primary schools as well as youth centres and other community leaders. The activities that were carried out varied according to the age groups. We used a DVD we produced in Maltese to teach about racism and xenophobia and about the EU Race Directive. One of the most effective and important activities is the meeting with refugees and asylum seekers who give testimonies of their plight. We also organise panel discussions on refugee law in collaboration with UNHCR. Other activities we organise include the drum circle whereby students are introduced by a Congolese music teacher to play the djembe -African drums. In some schools hair-braiding is included together with the tasting of ethnic foods. This year's programme also included a walk through theatre which was presented twenty times to twenty different classes from different secondary schools in Malta and Gozo. The theatre re-enacted the story of the flight of the refugees from their own country till their arrival in Malta. The actors were four Congolese together with a Maltese actor/narrator. This programme also comprised another one-act play by a Serb refugee who in a one act play describes her difficulties as she leaves and settles down in her new country

Portugal. This was a play for adults and policy makers in particular held once at St James Cavalier and once at the University.

Results

This programme is approved by the Education Division, which in September 2006 and in 2007 endorsed it officially in a circular sent to all schools in Malta urging them to organise this activity in their schools.

Young people are very receptive to the information which is very different from that provided by the media. The most effective part of this programme is definitely the personal encounter and the interaction with the refugees and the asylum seekers. The views of the young people are often changed with this new information which is also passed on to parents and friends at home. The awareness raising is very important for the dignity and rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the face of present xenophobia and racism. The visits have improved the understanding, interaction and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Malta.

Costs

In 2007: Lm 41,732.50 of which Lm 13,732.50 was a donation from VOICES.

Partners

JRS (Jesus Refugee Service) Malta (with help from Moviment Graffiti and UNHCR)

Contact

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Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

This project is a typical project for the Maltese situation, comparable projects were already launched in the other countries. The programme of school visits with third-country nationals however is a successful approach to introduce the topic of integration - "growing up with diversity". The programme links school, sport activities and church. It involves youth and families and it contributes to a change of attitude.

12. UNG2400



Name of the project

UNG2400 - a role model project for youngsters.

- “UNG” means youngster in Danish
- “2400” signifies the area code, where the project is located in Copenhagen

Thematic area

- Youth and identity problems
- Bridge-building between ethnic minorities and majority
- Civil participation

Target group

Youngsters between 15-22 years of both Danish and ethnic minority descent.

Main objectives

A big problem in the area “2400” of Copenhagen is that youngsters of especially minority background drop out of school at the age of 13-14 years. Therefore Beboerprojekt Bispebjerg developed the project UNG2400 to “lift” the area and to motivate these youngsters to manage their lives and complete their schooling. UNG2400 is a role model initiative. UNG2400’s main objective is to train youngsters as role models who have to inspire other youngsters in the neighbourhood through youth counselling and personal storytelling. Different topics such as discrimination, experienced prejudices and bullying are debated. The purpose is to inspire young people through identification. The formal project period was for two years from 01-01-2006 until 31-12-2007 but because of the projects success it is now being anchored into a youth organisation for good.

Main activities

There are four main activities as the basis for UNG2400 :

- To recruit potential role models
- To train the youngsters to become role models
- To contact schools etc. to begin the personal storytelling and promoting the youth counselling
- To open the youth counselling

Methodologies

Interactive decision-making, role play, workshops, seminars, learning-by-doing activities.

Results

Ten educated role models who

- help and inspire other youngsters by giving speeches
- advise youngsters through a youth counselling
- gain presentation and counselling skills

Costs

UNG2400 was financed by the Ministry of Integration and the Ministry of Social Affairs with approximately EUR 114.667. The youngsters enter the education of becoming role models freely. The voluntary work consists of giving their personal stories/speeches in schools etc. and counselling youngsters.

Partners

UNG2400 has partners on different levels:

- Local schools and youth clubs (and specifically youth clubs for girls) in Copenhagen 2400
- Municipality of Copenhagen
- Ministry of Integration

Contact

Ms Sylvia Baptista
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 www.myspace.com/ung2400



Motivation for selecting this Best Practice

UNG2400 is easy to transfer to other countries who experience similar problems with youngsters dropping out of school and youngsters who have “given up”. Role models stimulate youngsters to handle identity and youth problems and thus to manage their lives.



Chapter 3

PILOT PROJECTS

Description of pilot projects and criteria

In the EUNET IN project we made a distinction between best practices and pilot projects.

Pilot projects are projects that are either in an initiative phase; are experimental of nature or are unique in their activities.

From all project countries one or more pilot projects are described below.

Information about the pilot projects can be obtained from the project partners (see www.eunet-integration.eu)

List of pilot projects

The Netherlands

1. Integration of Latin American youth in The Netherlands
2. The Bridge
3. Inter-religious dialogue with young people

Germany

4. Local Network Hannover
5. International Caravan on tour

Denmark

6. Businesswomen with a minority background

Portugal

7. EMA, European Migrants Academy
8. Portugal Immigration Observatory

Malta

9. Learning, Care and Communication

THE NETHERLANDS

1. Integration of Latin American youth in The Netherlands

Main objectives

Know what support the young Latin American population has in The Netherlands. Clarify if it is pertinent and/or necessary to build up a network/organisation specialized to work with them in order to diminish their vulnerabilities.

Specific objectives

- Explore which are the main risks/vulnerabilities from the perspective of practitioners and young people
- Explore which possibilities are the best option to support the integration of Latin young people:
 - Art, music, theater
 - Sport activities
 - Other

Research activities

- Internet survey about organisations working with young people in The Netherlands
- Interviews with organisation representatives/practitioners
- Interviews with young people

Contact

trainingenadvies@kontaktderkontinenten.nl



THE NETHERLANDS

2. The Bridge

Dissemination, empowerment method multicultural meeting centre The Bridge

Goal

To describe and transfer the methods of empowerment, developed by The Bridge

Activities

- Exchange of experiences with other neighbourhood centres (national and international)
- Developing workshop and training programmes for staff
- Documenting methods and results

The Bridge initiates this project in cooperation with and support of Kontakt der Kontinenten.

Contact

trainingenadvies@kontaktderkontinenten.nl



THE NETHERLANDS

3. Interreligious dialogue with young people

Goal

- Meeting of young people and exchange on religious beliefs
- Direct contact and dialogue
- Reducing stereotyping and discrimination

Activities

- Three weekends meeting and training
- Three excursions (national and international)
- Follow-up: conference about experiences

Contact

trainingenadvies@kontaktderkontinenten.nl

GERMANY

4. Local Network Hannover

The project is based on the need of several migrant organisations located in Hannover to combine skills and resources and to gain experience by cooperating with each other in projects.

The idea to establish a local network arose at the first national meeting at the International House Sonnenberg in February 2007, where a great number of participants came from Hannover. They found out that the exchange with other organisations gives inspiring impulses and that a local network offers new possibilities for manifold projects.

Since then several organisations meet frequently to discuss and work on topics such as protection of environment and climate, youth work, public relations or comparison of migration in East and West Germany.



At the project meeting on 28 November 2007, Mr Cemalettin Özer (MOZAIK gGmbH) gave an input about how to maintain networks.

A strong link has been established with Ms Silvia Hesse, the commissioner for integration of Hannover. As one of the joined projects, a cultural event at the city hall was organised to decrease constraints and to offer an opportunity to meet officials in an informal atmosphere.

Contact

Mr Ben Mansour, benmansourhaf@yahoo.fr

GERMANY

5. International Caravan on Tour

The aim of this project is to support mobility of young unemployed people from Russia. Moreover the project proves the possibilities for cooperation between several migrant organisations and educational institutions.

Young people from Russia living in Augsburg rebuilt an old caravan and use it as a

food-stall. They prepare traditional Russian food and sell it from the caravan. This basic idea goes back to the organisation “German Youth from Russia” (Deutsche Jugend aus Russland e.V.). Within the project the caravan travelled from Augsburg to a concert, which was part of the program “Youth for diversity, tolerance and democracy” in Clausthal-Zellerfeld. The young people left their well-known home to work in a different place and meet new people. During the concert five youngsters sold food and drinks and they undertook the catering of organisers and helpers. After the event the youngsters visited Hannover where they met other migrants who participate in the EUNET Integration Network. The project can be repeated in other places and in cooperation with different migrant organisations and educational institutions. Even an international routing is possible.



Contact

www.djr-augsburg.de

DENMARK

6. Businesswomen with a minority background

Survey of migrant women entrepreneurs from non-western countries
Project background: the invisible women

Main objectives

The present survey tries to deal with the following questions:

- To become self-supportive/independent: can this be seen as a way towards the integration of immigrant women?
- Will these entrepreneurial women have problems with family acceptance?
- Of what nature is the contact between immigrant women and the financing system?



- Do immigrant women use public consultancy and entrepreneurial offers?
- Are there any institutional barriers that will prevent the women from starting up their own business?

The insights are divided into 5 themes:

- Varying motivation
- Financial conditions
- Positive independence
- Different needs in terms of knowledge
- Institutional barriers

The four principles and seven recommendations

Principles:

- Think in terms of coordination
- Think in terms of “learning by doing”
- Think in terms of differentiated target groups
- Build up trust

Recommendations:

- Micro-financing
- Try with incubation-houses and combination of ownership
- Escalation measures
- To support mentor arrangements
- The establishment of support teams
- The development of skills
- Coaching and network-creation offers

Contact

Ms Kirsten Stribley, ks@iuc-europe.dk

7. European Migrants Academy EMA

Objectives

- Empowerment and lobbying for migrants
- Upgrading of qualifications
- Promoting European identity and integration
- Creation of a pool of trainers
- Integration and interchange of migrants experiences
- Just on time FAQ and E-books, DVDs etc.

Characteristics

- Its virtual, open university styled
- Net based and hosted www.moodle.org
- E-learning system
- Brain gain oriented
- Results as a spin off from EUNET IN project
- Managed by the five EUNET IN coordinators
- With network support and empowerment

On line main courses

- Foreign languages (technical English)
- European history, culture and identity
- European economy and entrepreneurship
- European and national political issues
- Citizenship and social challenges

Short term courses

- Social animators and mediators trainers
- Social jobs (babysitting and seniors care)
- Domestic economy and micro credit
- Labour risk and first aid help
- Entrepreneurship and SME management
- Citizen rights and civic duties activism



Contact

www.ipuel.org, www.ipuel.blogspot.com

PORTUGAL

8. Portugal Immigration Observatory

IPUEL Network and Red Cross partnership

Main targets

- Empowerment
- Social responsibility
- Social advocacy
- Pro active solidarity

Main issues

- Acquisition of data, and knowledge on immigration
- Promotion of immigrants integration
- Promotion of immigrants socially and economically excluded
- Implementation of good practices



Main activities

- Immigrants information pool data
- Advocacy
- Web forum interactive
- Permanent agenda
- Annual conference

On Friday, February 8, the Immigration Observatory ONGI was constituted at the headquarters of Red Cross, in the presence of three delegations of the Red Cross and eight immigrant associations.

Contact

www.jii2007.blogspot.com
www.ipuel.org
www.ipuel.blogspot.com



MALTA

9. Learning, Care and Communication

Target group

Third-country nationals resident at detention centres

Main objectives

To facilitate the integration of third-country nationals in the EU

Main activities

Learning English language and European information lessons (jobs, culture etc) given by a well integrated third-country nationals and a SOS Malta representative who taught English and translated for fellow third-country nationals. These lessons were complemented with the compiling, editing and publishing of a newspaper that included English language learning and information on Malta, Africa and Europe. Established Maltese newspapers were also distributed to aid the learning and integration of the third-country nationals.



Care: the third-country nationals taught and helped individuals who wanted to discuss personal and emotional issues.

Communication: the presence of the third-country nationals and of SOS Malta were a source of communication for detainees in the Detention Centre. The newspapers whilst being a source of information gave the opportunity to third-country nationals to write their own articles.

Main outcomes

Learning activities helped to improve quality of life in the detention centres. Third-country nationals improved their English reading, writing, conversation and comprehension skills. They also learnt something about European life and culture. The contact with EU nationals and with integrated third-country nationals is good for the detainees as it is a source of care, communication and understanding. The Maltese and EU nationals may also learn from the detainees through the newspaper.



Expected impact

The improved living environment in the detention centres will help the emotional wellbeing of detainees providing many benefits. Language and European information will help third-country nationals with integration in the EU for daily living, jobs and resettlement opportunities.

Communication between third-country nationals and EU nationals should facilitate the social, cultural and legal integration of third-country nationals in the EU.



Contact

info@sosmalta.org

www.sosmalta.org





Chapter 4

BENEFITS OF NETWORKING

Benefits of the project for The Netherlands

In The Netherlands several networks on local and national level are involved in improving the position and perspectives of migrants and refugees. They are as well ethnic based or cooperate in multi ethnic organisations.

Some organisations have only started, others are institutionalised and have become very professional in projects and capacity building programmes.

Although Kontakt der Kontinenten cooperates with several self-organisations for many years, involvement in the EUNET IN project has been important for:

- Strengthening relations between training institutions and self-organisations and other organisations active in the field of integration
- Extension of networks with migrant and refugee organisations
- Contributing to capacity building
- Research activities and development of methodologies

Concretely, the cooperation with “The Bridge” has resulted in new initiatives to disseminate methods that are focussed on increasing participation and integration on local level. With other partners in the project (Portugal and Germany) there will be an exchange on methodologies of multi cultural community centres working on social cohesion.

Kontakt der Kontinenten will also participate in the research project that will make an overview of possibilities for micro-financing and will contribute to the research in the situation of Latin American Youth in The Netherlands and problems they may encounter (now and in the future) in integration processes.

The cooperation with the many different partners and partner organisations has strengthened the international relations and has given inspiration and motivation for new initiatives and activities.

Benefits of networking - Germany

In Germany there were already some local networks and on national and provincial level networks of migrant self-organisations exist. Nevertheless most migrant organisations are small and limited to their local environment and ethnic group. This fragmentation makes networking difficult as the diversity of interest leads to clashes between different members. As a consequence many of the small organisations are not involved in the networks.

Our project managed to set up a local network of migrant self-organisations in Hannover, which leads to a better cooperation. The migrant organisations exchange ideas, plan joined activities and used the advantage to invite trainers.

The cooperation between the International House Sonnenberg and the migrant self-organisations led to some joined activities. With the Project gEMiDe we are going to organise an international youth meeting with German youths, Turkish youths from Germany and youths from Turkey. The active members of Migrants for Agenda 21 presented their project in a training programme for integration guides. Through the network authentic speakers for conferences on migration and integration can be acquired. The network also inspired the International House Sonnenberg for a lot of programmes.

Last but not least the international cooperation has been a benefit for all partner organisations. Nearly no migrant self-organisations in Germany do have international contacts. The project made them cross borders, widened their perspectives and gave them new inspiration and new courage for their work. Many small ideas of improvement have been taken out of the project but also big plans for future activities evolved. Some of them were discussed with partners during the conferences. It has been a great opportunity to make contacts for future cooperation.

Impact of the project on IUC-Europe - Denmark

There has in the last few years been a great focus on integration in the Danish society, where the topic has been widely discussed not only on the political level and in the media, but also among Danes themselves. This area was a new one for us, but we wanted to participate in the project, as we find it is one of the most important topics in the new century to find a successful way of transforming into a truly multicultural society. We hoped to contribute with our opinion on the matter and to learn both from the partners in the other countries and from our national partners.

The project not only gave us an opportunity to establish links to Danish organisations working with migrants, but also created the possibility for them to establish links among themselves by providing a forum for creating a network, where they could exchange ideas and best practices. These ideas could then be shared with international counterparts during the international seminars, which provided an opportunity to develop new ideas and gave access to an international network. This international network will be a help both as sparring partners for developing new projects as well as functioning as international contacts for finding local partners for these projects.

The project provided both us and our national partners with tools and expertise, which can help both us and them, when we develop new programmes and initiatives in the future. And the lessons learned from this project can be incorporated in many of our future programmes as we hope to work further in this area both on a national and an international level.

Benefits of participating in the project - Portugal

The benefits from IPUEL on participating in the INTI project were mostly

- A gain on visibility in Portugal of the immigrant issue, with a new angle
- Empowerment and identification of the institutional work developed by immigrant associations
- National visibility of the inclusion and integration issues also through sports by means of the Disable Games
- Effective constitution of a operational network (see www.ongi.cvp.blogspot.com) with Red Cross
- Effective experience and communication development of a news letter of IPUEL (see www.ipuel.blogspot.com)
- Training of a team of IPUEL for international European cooperation and project management
- Development of regional seminars with immigrants (three seminars)
- Advocacy and lobbying at high level. National seminar with a Secretary of State just before the introduction of a new bill on immigration. Attendance of four Members of Parliament from the Republic of Cape Vert. The presence of a Member of Government at The Disable Games 2007.

Benefits of networking - Malta

Networking on the INTI project gave us the opportunity to give each partner information about our activities and our organisation. Working with different cultural backgrounds influenced our way of working and communicating which left a very positive impact on SOS Malta. We built new relationships, learnt how to observe deadlines and reach new goals. Working together provided us with a wider audience, more political strength, and more knowledge and experience. Networking has made contacts which we shall maintain and use.

TSN Malta - First migrant organisation in Malta

TSN Malta is the first migrant-based organisation to be founded in Malta on the initiative of SOS Malta through their participation on the INTI project. The scope of the NGO, now known as the Third-Country Nationals Support Network (TSN Malta) is that of representing the interests of third-country nationals who are living in Malta, at local, EU and international levels.



TSN Malta therefore seeks to represent the interests of any person having a non-EU nationality and living in Malta.

The organisation aims at providing support, service and empowerment to third-country nationals enabling them to live as dignified persons within Maltese society, with due regard to their obligations and fundamental rights.

Its main thrust is that of building bridges between third-country nationals living in Malta and Maltese and EU citizens. It aims to build these bridges by promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding as well as the integration and participation of third-country nationals in Malta.

TSN Malta aspires to be a point of reference for third country nationals in general, providing them with counselling and assistance in regard to integration issues.

The statute of TSN Malta was duly signed and notarised in November 2007. TSN Malta has also launched its own website: www.tsnmalta.org.

SOS Malta, through its Malta Resource Centre, is providing the requisite administrative backing and office facilities for TSN Malta to function and can be contacted at tsn@mrc.org.mt

Networking and beyond - EUNET

The EUNET Integration Network has various impacts on the actual and future development of the European Network for Education and Training. At the start it was a decision by only a few of our members to enter unfamiliar territory. For most of us the topic of integration of third-country nationals was something we hadn't worked on before. With the help from our more experienced members, and of course with all the support of our national partners, we managed to get into it. Presenting our efforts on two general assemblies of EUNET we raised more and more interest among our members. While gaining more knowledge and experience we prepared our network to establish a sub network on integration within the EUNET framework.

With this project EUNET got access to part of the society which sometimes tends to stay among itself. This opens for EUNET a wide range of future opportunities to develop follow-up projects. In addition to that, two organisations involved in the project already decided to join EUNET to show their European commitment and to be a link between educational and migrant organisations. It widens the kind of members we have, and brings in new ideas and solutions. It also widens the possibilities for EUNET to cooperate with other international networks active in the field of integration.

Last but not least it was the first long time project EUNET was involved in. All partners learned a lot about the difficulties of European projects, their unique challenges and language struggles. But in the end we can look back proudly on the results of 18 months work. From the perspective of the European Network for Education and Training this project was an added value for all partners involved. Experience has been exchanged, networks were built and strengthened and we brought together people from nearly all over the world - and that is what networking on a European level is all about.





ANNEX 1

PROJECT PARTNERS

The Netherlands - Kontakt der Kontinenten



Kontakt der Kontinenten is a residential training and conference centre, located in the centre of The Netherlands in Soesterberg. KdK was founded in 1961 by catholic missionaries and has developed into a professional and independent non-profit organisation.

KdK Training & Advice focuses on international cooperation, capacity building, intercultural communication, teamwork and management, philosophy & religion and reflection. Elements of international cooperation include: strengthening capacity for Dutch organisations and (international) partner organisations in development cooperation; youth participation and strengthening of civil society; organising and leading international debates and conferences on multi-ethnic issues and on the development, extension and cooperation relations within Europe. Subjects of intercultural communication and management include: development of diversity policy, integration strategies, support for and cooperation with migrant and refugee organisations.

Link to website
www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl

Germany - Internationales Haus Sonnenberg

Sonnenberg-Kreis e.V.



The Sonnenberg-Kreis e. V. is an independent and non-profit making organisation of international out-of-school education in Europe. All over the year, its conference centre runs several youth and adult conferences mostly with participants from many countries. The conferences focus on ensuring human rights, peace, solidarity and promoting social responsibility. Since 1949 participants of different national, ethnic-cultural and social origins and of different ideological background discuss cultural and social issues, the economy and the environment, work and leisure, present-day political as well as historical questions.

Sonnenberg is not only a conference centre but also an association of members from all over the world. 1.700 members belong to the Sonnenberg-Kreis e.V. in Germany. Affiliated associations in 25 countries form the International Sonnenberg Association.

Link to website

www.sonnenberg-international.de

Denmark - IUC-EUROPE



IUC-Europe International Education Centre is a European network organisation, partly funded by the Danish Ministry of Education, with its main office in Svendborg and a local office in Copenhagen. IUC works with Danish and international long-term projects in the fields of teaching/learning, (political) education, citizenship and integration, employment and study trips.

IUC is Denmark's only Europe House and a founding member of EUNET. Also, IUC is a member of a number of international networks, including The Model European Parliament Baltic Sea Region organisation, where we act as administrative coordinator for eight countries. All our projects/activities are described on our website.

A core activity is our work with young people, originating in Youth 2002, one of Europe's biggest youth projects with 1000 European participants from 33 countries, who came to Denmark to write a youth constitution. A number of projects: Youth 2003, The Vision 5 Team, Europe4You, Youth 2005, Brandbjerg Waves of Democracy for example have continued this line of work focusing on educating young Europeans to become youth ambassadors.

We take our starting-point in the common Nordic values: equality, trust, low power distance, flexibility, sustainability and a non-authoritative approach to teaching/learning but in close cooperation, dialogue and development with partners, colleagues and organisations all over Europe and in the US. We implement our projects/activities nationally as well as internationally with a strong focus on cross-border cooperation.

Link to website

www.iuc-europe.dk

Portugal - IPUEL



Institut Pro European Union in Lisbon

Ipuel was founded in 2005 by 20 persons with long-term experience in private business and public services, with the aim to promote European projects in Portugal and to promote the image and characteristics of Portugal among other European countries. The members work on a voluntary basis.

Several experts and speakers contribute to seminars and conferences in schools and Universities and share and exchange their experiences with similar organisations.

Ipuel cooperates with:

- CERNE Casa da Europa da Madeira (house of Europe at Madeira)
- Portuguese Red Cross
- AEDAR- association of former MP's
- Unidos de Cabo Verde (Immigrant association, mainly from Cape Vert))
- AGUIPA (Immigrants association, mainly Guinea and St Tomé)
- CASA DA GUINE (idem, from Guinea)
- AMMA (association of the mothers and women from Angola)
- JII2007 Commission
(Commission for the disable games www.jii2007.blogspot.com)

All the resources for IPUEL come from contributions and donations for projects (Gulbenkian Fondation, Bank Millennium, small family and private companies, etc).

Participation in the EUNET IN project focussed the attention on immigrant integration issues, resulting in an initiative for a Portugese Observatory on Immigration, together with the Red Cross and immigrant organisations.

Partners of IPUEL

- CERNE Casa da Europa da Madeira
- Comissão para os Jogos da Inclusão 2007
- Vitória Clube de Lisboa (Jogos defecientes 2006)

Links to websites

www.ipuel.org
www.ipuel.blogspot.com
www.jii2007.blogspot.com

Malta - SOS Malta



SOS Malta is a Non-Governmental Organisation set up in 1991. The organisation aims at aiding people experiencing times of crisis, empowering them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country to ensure a better quality of life. SOS Malta focuses on sustainable livelihood, reproductive health, rainwater harvesting, promotion of the UN Millennium Development Goals and development education. While providing hands-on voluntary services in all of these fields, it also encourages advocacy on behalf of social causes as well as promotes models of good practice.

SOS Malta is also active in Malta, providing capacity building to NGOs and groups working for social change, development and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

[Link to website](#)

www.sosmalta.org

EU - EUNET e.V.



The “European Network for Education and Training e.V.”, abbreviated EUNET, is a Network for European institutions of education. The Network brings together non-governmental organisations that inform or educate young persons and adults about Europe or nurture European thinking in other ways. EUNET aims to intensify exchanges of experience, enhance the quality on offer, develop and distribute methodological and educational materials as well as simulations, and make the activities of the EUNET members evident to a broader public. EUNET is a platform both for the further education of paid and volunteer staff of institutions that focus on European policy and for representing the interests of education and information institutions versus regional, national and European bodies and sponsors.

EUNET unifies, coordinates and promotes the diverse efforts of its members to cultivate European integration and, in particular, their efforts to involve citizens in this process and convey greater understanding of events.

To implement its goals EUNET has constituted the Committee for Content and Methodology and the Council for Development and Cooperation.

The main concern in the next years will be to promote dialogue with civil society. The various identities, values, human rights, and democracy in Europe, its neighbours, and its role in the world will be the general topics for the coming years. EUNET exists through the activities of its members. That is why the range of education and information on offer is comprehensive, topical, and innovative – essential prerequisites for effective and useful interaction between citizens and Europe.

EUNET sees itself as an active partner of European institutions for explaining European policy and its effects on civil society with the necessary objectivity and critical detachment without losing sight of the target of a common Europe.

[Links to websites](#)

www.european-net.org

www.eUNET-integration.eu



Annex 2

THE PROJECT EUNET IN: STEP BY STEP

Start of the project

In 2005 The Call for Integration of Third-Country Nationals was launched by the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice Freedom and Security, Directorate B: Immigration, Asylum and Borders, under the INTI programme: Integration of Third-Country Nationals.

In the spring of 2005 representatives of the European Network For Education and Training (EUNET) discussed the options of the EC call for proposals on The Integration for third-country nationals in the INTI Preparatory Actions. A first (concept) project proposal was formulated and this draft was sent to other (potential) EUNET partners.

In July 2005 the project proposal EUNET Integration Network EUNET IN was submitted.

On the 29th of March 2006 we were informed that the application for a grant had been retained for co-financing. After adjustments and corrections in the budget plan, the project documents were approved and signed on the 14th of August 2006.

The project EUNET IN started on the 4th of September 2006 and ended on the 4th of March 2008.

From September 2006 till mid June 2007

A first round of national and international meetings, seminars and workshops was organised to gather and exchange information about:

- concepts of integration, national integration policies and interesting practices of integration
- problems encountered, personal involvement with integration activities
- innovative ideas for successful activities and projects, what makes them successful and how can they be financed
- EU integration policy

From May 2007 - March 2008

In the second part of the project the focus was on:

- defining relevant criteria for the final selection of best practices
- selecting the best practices for the handbook
- developing proposals for pilot projects
- training for project development and planning; EU funding opportunities
- formulating plans for follow-up activities and strengthening the national and international networks



It is interesting to recall that at all the national meetings participants discussed at length the ins and outs, whys and wherefores of integration - seen from different perspectives and experiences.

A necessary step in the course of exchange on and selection of successful activities and projects to make together a Handbook of Best Practices for integration.



Overview of seminars and meetings

September 2006 - February 2008

1. Project partners meeting, Lisbon, Portugal 14 - 17 September 2006

To discuss:

1. The goals of the INTI programme
2. The outline of the project EUNET IN
3. Project planning, time schedule, tasks and responsibilities
4. The importance of the project for the EUNET Network



In this sense it is important to acknowledge how history and politics shape the future. The present situation of Portugal and The Netherlands is partly mirroring the colonial past; in Germany the "former emigrants" to Central and Eastern Europe play their active role in returning and migration, Malta saw many migrants coming, settling and leaving and is now very strongly experiencing its location near to Northern Africa.

All countries however - including Denmark - are now facing the arrival of migrants and refugees from all over the world and are looking for ways to develop strategies for integration and citizenship for their "rapidly changing diverse societies".



We had a short meeting in the North - South Centre of the Council of Europe in Lisbon and exchanged views on programmes and activities.

Mr Miguel Silva (Director of the Global Education Programme):

The Centre strongly suggested to look for systematic approaches, to work with organisations in the field and to see the project results as political: a tool for recommendations. There is a big need for all levels to link, politicise their strategies. The Council of Europe is aware of that, so the message is: "Bring stakeholders together!"

2. First international partners seminar/EUNET Assembly Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg, The Netherlands 24 - 26 November 2006

The first international conference, mainly for the members of EUNET, was held in November 2006 in Soesterberg, The Netherlands.



Main goals of the conference were:

- To introduce the EUNET IN project to the other EUNET members
- To inform about some examples of best practices of integration on local level in The Netherlands
- To exchange on successful integration and necessary conditions in workshops
- To motivate EUNET and its partners to use the (future) Handbook of Best Practices for integration
- To contribute to development and innovation of new best practices and strategies and to invest in adequate training programmes

The exchanges and brainstorm sessions were very interesting and the inputs of and sharing with participating third-country nationals were very useful.

3. Second international partners seminar in Dragoer, Denmark May 30 - June 4 2007

In this seminar all project partners participated with (at least) five representatives from their national/local networks.

Three keynote speakers contributed to the programme:

- Mr Niels Bertil Rasmussen, Communication officer for the European Commission, spoke about the need for adequate policy and strategies.
- Mr Willem Smid, Head of KdK Training & Advice and co-author of the book: "You need two hands to clap", good practices in integra-

tion, from the network of the Dutch Council for Refugees. May 2005. He spoke about the development of criteria for the selection of best practices.

- Ms Unni Beate Sekkesaeter, Manager of Nettverkskreditt BA (NCN) Microinvest, presented: "Small loans - big opportunities: business establishment and microfinancing for immigrants in Norway." Concepts and examples.

The partner organisations presented their national activities, reported on the impact of the project (for example: recognition, new partnerships) and on problems encountered. All groups presented their project (proposals) and their ideas for best practices.



It was very interesting to hear all the different national situations (stages of involvement and experiences with "integration issues"), policies, developments, worries, obstacles, achievements, plans, self-organisations of migrants, and so on. For all participants it was extremely interesting to be informed and to hear first hand experiences - but it was even more interesting and motivating to have this direct exchange by representatives of all different groups in the context of "European integration processes" and in the context of this EUNET IN project.

The general excitement and feelings about these meetings were expressed by several participants, as follows:

"In fact these meetings and exchanges demonstrate how discussions and exchanges about (developments on) integration should take place on national/international levels. It also shows how much the exchange and information on (national) best practices contribute to (and motivate participants to) look for relevant solutions!"

4. Workshop on training and trainers

The programme included a workshop about the function and the roles of trainers in the context of EUNET IN project: promoting best practices – based on experiences and acting as change agents and consultants.

The words "trainer/training" however had very different connotations for participants! Some suggestions and conclusions:

- Different countries have different training needs
- Focus on intercultural cooperation
- Immigrants are more than clients
- Role models: from pilot project to role model; how to promote better understanding through training
- Representatives of migrants in politics on national level; how to integrate migrants into the political debate
- Lobbying for improvement of the position of third-country nationals in EU context

5. EUNET General Assembly in Salzburg 5 - 7 October 2007

The project partners participated in the EUNET Assembly in Salzburg and presented the midterm results and spin-off effects of the project:



- Establishment and strengthening of transnational networks
- Identification and documentation of best practices (in concept) (2 - 3 per country)
- Pilot projects proposed and started (1 - 3 per country)
- Leaders and members of national networks participated in workshops and trainings (overall number of approx 100 participants)
- Preparations for the Handbook with pilot projects, best practices and creative methods
- Trainers were upgraded in facilitation and capacity building, knowledge about EU procedures and policies (part of an ongoing process)



All project partners experienced the cooperation as enriching, stimulating for developments, starting new networks and learning about other motivating and

innovating initiatives.

The project coordinators from Malta and Portugal also pointed out the impact on their organisations of the INTI programme and participating in European international networks; the recognition and publicity they have obtained on national level with their initiatives and their partnerships, and the new options for long-term partnerships with other relevant national organisations.

6. International Seminar in Sliema, Malta. October 31 - November 4 2007

On request of the partner organisation SOS Malta, the international seminar was organised in Malta for the following reasons:

- To confront the participants from the other European countries with the present situation, challenges and problems Malta faces with the influx of refugees
- To inform Maltese organisations, national and local authorities, press and third-country nationals about initiatives, projects and opinions on integration in other European countries
- Stimulate the debate on the issues of integration

The seminar started with introductions and presentations of the best practices and projects of all the project partners/countries.

The purpose was to come to a final evaluation and a selection of the best practices for the handbook (based on the formulated and agreed upon selection criteria), define training strategies and brainstorm about follow-up programmes and projects and the establishment and continuation of international networks.



Keynote speakers and presentations

- Marika Podda Connor presented a research study on the impact of forced migration as perceived by asylum seekers and refugees in Malta
- Achmed and Marcelle Bugri, Tesfa Beraki and Tim Peco presented their personal experiences with integration and acceptance in the Maltese community

- Philippa Arrigo, Project Manager SOS Malta, spoke about EU funding opportunities for immigrant related projects and integration purposes: period 2007 - 2013
- Andreas Joppich, projectleader Internationales Haus Sonnenberg, Germany, organised a workshop on project planning
- Debate about the situation in Malta and integration policies in other EU countries; with Maltese representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Mr Leslie Agius and Mr Ives De Barro; from the Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity: Mr Alexander Tortell; from UNHCR: Mr Neil Falzon; from IOM: Ms Maria Pisani; from Rinascita Christiana: Ms Nicolette Zammit Lupi; and from Amnesty International: Mr Jean Paul Gauci

7. Final international seminar in St Andreasberg, Germany 24 - 27 January 2008

Goals:

- The presentation of the concept handbook to participants and presentation of the best practices in an "open marketplace"
- Workshops on methods, strategies, and training programme how to use the handbook; workshop on networking: roles and communication.
- Establishing international networks.
- Development of follow-up pilot projects for: entrepreneurs and micro loans; exchange and implementation of best practices for community houses; competition between migrant youths (drop outs); web-based exchange of supply donations for retention centres and migrants and media.

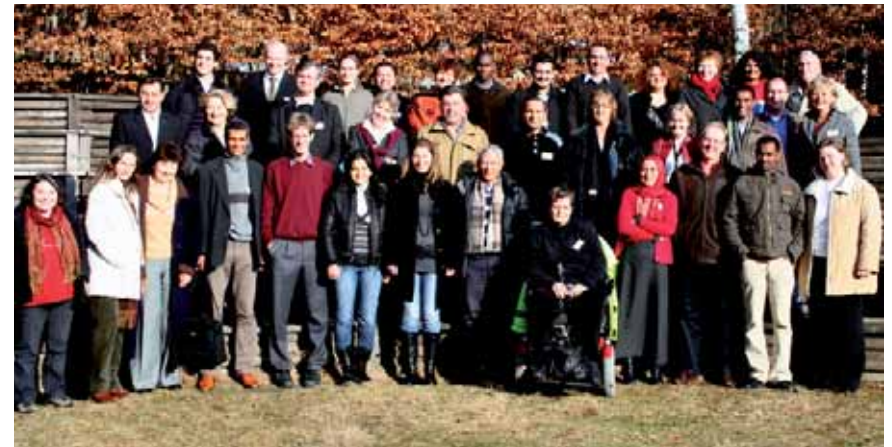


In a debate with politicians, representatives of migrant organisations and NGOs, several topics were discussed, like: political participation of third-country nationals and legal possibilities; integration policies in the project countries: successes and failures; EU policy and cooperation between countries in EU (principles of "shared responsibility")

This seminar was the last meeting with all international partners.

In a final evaluation round, participants answered on the following questions:

1. What have you gained from this project?
2. What did you like best?
3. What were the difficulties encountered?
4. What were other interesting aspects?
5. How will you transfer your knowledge and experiences on integration?



Some conclusions:

1. Important to meet face to face; learning about new approaches and methodologies, problems of people in the other countries; finding practical solutions; concrete examples - not abstract; getting opportunities to meet so many diverse people (from North, East, South, West; young - old; long-term residents - migrants/refugees; male - female)
2. Good ideas; networking; gives hope to the people; practical workshops, meeting people
3. Work pressure; difficult to follow-up after seminars; want to see people in the field; lack of knowledge
4. Meeting people in different locations; working on advocacy; involve more migrant organisations in European projects; we have to continue meeting and exchanging
5. Continue with pilot projects; knowledge and practice from the Best Practices; implement experiences also in daily, private lives; it is a long term process.



Annex 3

USEFUL LINKS PER COUNTRY AND ON EU

The Netherlands

- Nicis Institute: for national/international knowledge of urban policy: www.nicis.nl
- www.cbs.nl/en
- Refugee Organisations in The Netherlands: www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl
- The Dutch Council for Refugees: www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl
- The Institute for Multicultural Development FORUM: www.forum.nl
- Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment: www.vrom.nl
- VNG International: International Co-operation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities: www.vng-international.nl
- Declaration of The Hague on the local and regional dimension of active citizenship and integration. On the occasion of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007, November 2007: www.vngequal.eu/folder/Declaration_of_The_Hague.pdf
- Netherlands Ministry of Justice: www.justitie.nl

Germany

- www.zuwanderung.de
- www.bpb.de/themen/8T2L6Z,0,0,Migration.html
- www.migration-boell.de
- www.jmd-portal.de

Denmark

- PALNET - The Palestinian Network/Danish Refugee Council: www.palnet.dk
- The Iraqi Network in Denmark/Danish Refugee Council: www.irakisknetwork.dk

- The Somali Network in Denmark/Danish Refugee Council: somalinetwerk@drc.dk
- Vision: www.vision-lighed.dk
- Fey-Kurd: www.kurder.dk
- KVINFO's mentor network: www.kvinfo.dk
- The hotline for ethnic women/The Women's Council in Denmark: www.kvinderaadgivningen.dk
- Marriage without borders: www.aegteskabudengraenser.dk
- ASF - Danish People's Aid: www.asf.dk
- Evas Ark: www.evasark.dk
- Tavga Namu, IUC-Europe's integration consultant: tnamo@ruc.dk

Portugal

- www.sef.pt/portal/V10/EN/asp/page.aspx
- www.numena.org.pt/ficheiros/RAXEN%20Annual%20Report%202005.pdf
- www.questia.com/googleScholar.qst;jsessionid=HyGHbgVMYYq2h2rpN6nknxTpXTIVm4m1M241sKpqvHn3Qx3y1vhT!-107938323?docId=5000804039
- Report on immigration in Portugal (2004): www.hrea.org/lists/wcar/markup/msg00247.html
- Country profile on immigration (2002):
www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=77
- Power point on the portuguese immigrant situation:
www.prosalis.pt/noticias/Out2007/TELEMACO_OUT_2007.pdf

Malta

- Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity: www.mfss.gov.mt
- OIWAS, Organisation for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum Seekers: www.welfare.gov.mt
- Migrants' Rights Network: www.migrantsrights.org.uk

EU

- www.migpolgroup.com
- www.migrationeducation.org
- www.integrationindex.eu
- www.transitmigration.org/migmap/index.html

- www.iom.int
- www.migrationeducation.org/17.0.html
- The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) shares knowledge and experience on tackling urban issues. Fifteen EU Member States, EUROCITIES, the URBACT Programme and the European Commission participate in this European initiative: www.eukn.org
- 11 common principles: www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/integration/fsj_immigration_integration_en.htm
- The ERLAIM (European Regional and Local Authorities for the Integration of Migrants) project aims at improving the quality of the action of regional and local stakeholders when participating in the design and implementation of policies concerning the integration of third country nationals: www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Erlai/Presentation/Erlaim.htm
- The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict: www.gppac.net
- A project of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict: www.peoplebuildingpeace.org





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