

NETWORKING REFUGEES

Collection of best practices

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INTRODUCTION

The project aims to explore the role of non-formal adult education in the new refugee situation. The partners are sharing different ways to work with refugees in order to help them to integrate into the society from the time they arrive until they get the decision about their status.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective is the exchange of experiences and examples of best practice between the partners. The production of the final report and the brochure about innovative ways supporting immigrants and refugees is the second main objective. We will disseminate these products to local and national stakeholders, and publish the documents on the projects website.

DESCRIPTION

The overwhelming refugee problem is highly topical in Europe and challenges all the stakeholders in society to contribute. Many institutions have had to find new ways of working, and also find new partners and networks in their work with refugees. This project wants to explore new roles of the non-formal education in promoting participation of the refugees in society.

TARGET GROUP

The target group of the project are: refugees, teachers, planners, health workers, representatives of NGOs and public authorities.

PARTICIPANT – STATISTIC DATA

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES

AUSTRIA

MAGDAS HOTEL INTRODUCTION

Magdas Hotel is an international meeting place. The lounge is a large cosy living room for all. A cultural melting pot. A very special hotel experience. Magdas Hotel is Austria's first hotel to be run as a social business.

Operated by twenty former refugees and ten hotel professionals, Magdas Hotel is a place for encounters which go far beyond the classic boundaries of normal hotel business. Magdas Hotel was designed by artists and architects.

Finding work in Austria is difficult for people with migrant backgrounds. No or little knowledge of the German language, the resentment of many employers, and the fact that only a positive asylum decision (which often can take months or even years) can lead to a regular working place. We are convinced that these people who have moved from abroad are able to strengthen the hotel business. They have the many skills, talents, languages and cultural backgrounds which are required by the hotel business. Our experiences have been positive since opening the hotel a few months ago.

OBJECTIVES

By spending one, two or more nights at Magdas Hotel, you can help to support a unique idea - Austria's first social business hotel. Our goal is to tackle social issues by thinking as entrepreneurs.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

Magdas Hotel is part of the Caritas Social Business Group which was founded by the Archdiocese of Vienna in April 2012. The goal - to tackle social issues, wherever reasonable and possible, with entrepreneurial approaches. Social business criteria are based on the basic idea of Nobel Prize winner Muhammed Yunus. All profits are reinvested, and the hotel receives no subsidies that are not available for other private companies. The Magdas Hotel is self-sufficient whilst not losing sight of its real corporate objective - the solution for a social challenge.

TARGET GROUP

Refugees who are socially-minded on the one hand and oriented tourists on the other with typical tourism experience.

PARTICIPANTS

Twenty former refugees. Magdas Hotel has developed an individual training program for every participant. The monthly ticket for the Vienna public transport is covered.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Jobs for people who rarely find access to the Austrian labour market.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

From this concrete initiative, other social businesses may also develop. Tourism, with its coffee houses, restaurants, hotels, etc. is one of the most important employers in Austria.

VOLUNTEERS TEACHING GERMAN LANGUAGE (AND MORE)

INTRODUCTION

Maria Novak and her colleague were two of the many volunteers who helped to care for the large number of refugees who came to Austria in 2015. Maria Novak and her colleague began helping wherever it was needed. They helped in language teaching and in the provision of decent living in Austria.

OBJECTIVES

Teaching German is Mrs. Novak's main activity, but she does more. She accompanies her students to official presentations, supports them in handling Austrian bureaucracy, and helps them in daily life, etc.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

The learning group was founded by Mrs. Novak in summer 2015. The participants come from Afghanistan. They are between 17 and 24 years old. All of them spent some time in Iran before coming to Austria. The group meets twice a week - Mondays and Wednesdays - from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Novak emphasizes the warm welcome for the refugees that she has experienced whenever contacting local or national authorities on behalf of refugees.

She and her colleagues find most encouragement whenever one of their participants succeeds in their endeavours. One young woman is preparing for her Austrian school leaving examination (Matura), another one has begun working in an office, 6 of them have been accepted by the Jugend college, a one-year-school for refugee minors. The school was

opened by the City of Vienna in September 2015.

TARGET GROUP

Refugees

PARTICIPANTS

4-15 Refugees who meet regularly twice a week in premises made available by Volkshilfe, a big Austrian NGO and health service company.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Getting to know Austria, learning German, finding support from Austrian citizens

LONG TERM BENEFITS

The contribution to better integration of immigrants and refugees into Austrian society

CHARLOTTE WALLNER TEACHES GERMAN

INTRODUCTION

Besides courses in the field of sports, economy and political lectures, language courses are the main activity of Wiener Volkshochschulen. One of their education centres for adults is the VHS Landstraße in the third district of Vienna (approx. 90,000 inhabitants). VHS Landstraße provides courses in twenty different languages, mostly in English (21 planned courses in winter semester 2017/18), followed by German (14-16) and Italian (14). Charlotte Wallner has been teaching German at VHS Landstraße since 1999. This paper takes a look at her methods and best practices which she applies during her German courses.

OBJECTIVES

Teaching German to refugees as efficiently as possible. Goal: giving refugees a better chance of integration.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

Charlotte Wallner is one of the main German teachers at the VHS Landstraße. After intensive summer courses (level A1), she is now continuing with A2, B2, and C1 classes. During the winter semester, every courses take place twice a week. Each session contains two units = 100 minutes with a break of 10 minutes. The summer courses contain three units = 150

minutes per session with breaks of up to 20 minutes. Charlotte teaches groups of between 6 and 15 participants. Everybody who is interested is entitled to enrol. VHS Landstraße does not provide special courses for refugees. Refugees take part in courses with other people who have already been in Austria for a longer period of time. Some participants even work for international companies in Vienna.

Ms Wallner's approach is decisive: She makes no distinction between refugees and other students. They are Amin, Marcus, Aysha, the person sitting in front of her, and not the refugee, stranger, Iraqi, Muslim, etc. Origins, migrants or religious backgrounds are of no importance. The only differences that count in Ms Wallner's classroom are individual character, level of education, and learning tempo.

These factors can also cause conflicts within groups. Ms Wallner's task is to create a space in which students can grow together and become groups in which the individuals support each other in reaching their joint goal: learning German.

Pair and group exercises are Ms Wallner's methods of reaching group goals. She strives to find similarities and put them above differences. Ms Wallner uses group diversity, and, at the same time the balancing of characters concerning levels of education and learning tempos.

Letters like "ö" und "ü", endless words (e.g. "Arbeitsmarktservice" or Kraftfahrzeugannahmestelle"), the three articles "der"/"die"/"das" and other grammatical specialities like the 3rd and 4th cases are the hurdles which unite all German language students.

Integration takes place between different individuals in Ms Wallner's groups. But, not the integration into the "illusion of a cultural homogeneous German-spoken, 'Austrian' society". Different cultural backgrounds stand side by side, Prejudices vanish, and the true getting to know each other becomes possible.

TARGET GROUP

Everybody who wants to learn German.

PARTICIPANTS

6 to 15 persons, some of them refugees, particularly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK

New social contacts with people of different professional and national background, first steps into the language of the Austrian society, a daily routine and a feeling of belonging and being accepted as a person on equal terms.

Better job chances, better experiences with Austrians and a feeling of success and self-confidence.

Text: Mag. Mario Lackner, 27/7/2017

TRAUDE MOOSHAMMER'S LUNCH CLUB

INTRODUCTION

Whilst Traude Mooshammer was attending an English course at the VHS in Hietzing, Vienna she got to know some refugees. They were attending a German course. And, Traude Mooshammer had an idea. If food was the best way of getting to know a country and its people, then, why not start a lunch club? A lunch club with a difference. And so, after discussing her idea with her husband, Traudi's lunch club was born.

OBJECTIVES

Traudi Mooshammer's objectives were manifold. The main one being the preparation and sharing of typical Viennese lunches, and, of course, the fun of shared social occasions. Traudi's "sub-aims" were the following.

- The teaching of applied vocabulary - kitchen utensils, kitchen equipment, foods, spices, etc.
- The planning of meals as group activities – what to cook, etc.
- Shopping as group activities – where to find the best prices, bargains, the best vegetables, meats, etc. And, of course, getting to know Vienna.
- The preparation and cooking of meals. Also group work.
- The introduction of Austrian table traditions and language – toasts, thanks, manners, etc.
- The clearing up – in many Austrian homes it is normal for the men to assist.

ACTIVITIES

Each lunch involves three steps.

The first, always on Thursdays, is the planning session. Here, and always accompanied by language training, menus are decided and shopping lists are prepared.

The second step is the shopping day. These shopping expeditions, always on Fridays, are great ways of getting to know Vienna. Shopping includes visits to supermarkets, markets, and small shops such as baker's. These shopping expeditions not only provide language usage

opportunities, but valuable contact possibilities as well. These shopping days are a great way of getting to know actual Viennese life and the Viennese.

The third and most important step is the actual lunch. And, this step always begins about 10 in the morning. Everyone gathers at Traudi's and then starts the hard work and fun. Everyone joins in. The lunch is cooked and the table is laid. And, the meal is always delicious. It's everyone's work. And, the washing-up and clearing away? This is always done by the men. And, to conclude is always a coffee and cake, and fun that sometimes goes on until late.

TARGET GROUP

Everyone who's a refugee.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

A great experience and a very good meal.

LONG TERM EFFECTS

Good friends, a valuable knowledge of Viennese life, useful everyday vocabulary, and a great understanding of Austrian food.

FINANCE

Traudi finances all of the lunches herself. She says it isn't too expensive, and, in any case, she can afford it.

PARTICIPANTS

As Traudi uses her own home for her lunch club, the number of participants per lunch is restricted to 6 (sometimes 8).

CONCLUSION

Traudi's idea has now spread. There are now about seven other lunch clubs in Vienna. Lunch clubs are something that everyone can do. Some of these clubs are held on a weekly basis, some monthly, and others happen when they happen. All in all, and thanks to the generosity and hospitality of the Viennese, these lunch clubs have become very successful. A plus for all those involved.

A good meal goes straight to the heart - food connects in a very big way!

Nigel A. JAMES 27 – 07 - 2017

PROMOTING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OF IMMIGRANTS - "CARITAS BULGARIA"

INTRODUCTION

"Caritas Bulgaria" is a NGO, carrying out social activities in support of vulnerable groups of society. Caritas believes that the principle of solidarity should be a major approach to resolving the refugee crisis so as to guarantee fundamental rights and preserve the human dignity of people seeking shelter in order to save their lives.

OBJECTIVES

To assist asylum seekers and refugees in educational integration. This to be done by means of discussions at expert level in order to produce proposals for Ministry of Education and Science approval.

To contribute to overcoming difficulties in the integration of children seeking protection and refugees at school;

To contribute to the development of specialized pedagogical skills among teachers working with children.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

Working to enable immigrants with permanent residence in involvement in political life at local and regional level (situation analysis, identification of good practices, recommendations);

Lobbying to involve immigrants in decision-making through participation in municipal and governmental advisory bodies, and work with municipalities and immigrant organizations;

Assistance in enhancing public engagement of immigrants in different associations;

Enhancing the awareness of stakeholders and the public on the subject by disseminating prepared statements and policy statements.

TARGET GROUP

Migrants and asylum seekers. No age limits.

PARTICIPANTS

To date, 1577 Migrants and asylum seekers.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Social contacts, knowing Bulgarian language, receiving status.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Better job chances. Success and self-confidence

PROJECT “IMMIGRANTS: THERE IS BREAD FOR EVERYONE UNDER THE SUN”

INTRODUCTION

An Integrated Grant Scheme for the implementation of activities aimed at implementing in practice the "Common Basic Principles of Integration Policy for Immigrants in the EU" by Intelday Solutions and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, European Integration Fund

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the campaign is to increase the media interest in immigrants' problems and to start the overcoming of existing prejudices and fears in the Bulgarian society.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

1. Integration of immigrants - definition and main pillars of the integration process
2. Terminology - immigrant, emigrant, third country national, EU citizen
3. Politics for integration of immigrants at the level of the European Union
4. Politics for integration of immigrants in the Republic Bulgaria
5. Perspectives in the Integration Policy of Immigrants at European Union Level

Bulgarian State Railways became a campaign partner and handed-out more than 10 000 free pamphlets with interesting facts and recipes for 4 types of national bread. Further, data about immigrant communities in the country are being distributed at the railway ticket offices. A concert featuring Turkish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian folk dances, and traditional breads was organized in front of the Central Station in Sofia. Media interviews not only take the anonymity out of stories concerning people from different immigrant communities, but also help to explain social problems.

TARGET GROUP

Migrants and refugees

PARTICIPANTS

Free access for everyone

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Information for immigrants in Bulgaria reaches more than 10 000 people. The number of publications on the topic increases. The campaign website has been visited by more than 7200 readers.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Social continuity, cohesive society, improving living standards

JOB OPPORTUNITIES BY ORIENT BULGARIA FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

Orient Bulgaria aids refugees and other vulnerable groups in Europe with humanitarian relief via medical services and educational/professional prospects.

OBJECTIVES

To provide emergency aid without discrimination for those in vulnerable positions on European and elsewhere as well.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

Human Relief and Integration:

- emergency medical response
- qualified medical aid
- material donations
- educational opportunities
- professional qualification

TARGET GROUP

Migrants and refugees

PARTICIPANTS

All kinds of professionals, volunteers, migrant and refugees, etc.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Over 400 migrants and refugees are already working with their native language and English in call centres in Bulgaria. Providing medical care and medicines

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Job opportunities, Social integration

COMBINED SERVICES AT HELSINKI SKILL CENTRE (STADINOSAAMISKESKUS)

INTRODUCTION

As noticed in many countries, the integration pathways of immigrants tend to be too long and complex. To learn a new language and culture, attain a degree and to finally become employed in a new society tend to take years of efforts and cost too much. In addition, not every immigrant is capable of studying intensively, not to mention working. Diverse and smooth pathways are needed in order to respond to the needs of different individuals.

After the compulsory studies of the integration plan, many immigrants still need more education and support to find their place in the society. In Finland, it has been challenging for immigrants to get a hold of vocational training or any other education because of the wide diversity of trainings provided and the high requirements of language skills for studying. Employers also often require fluent Finnish although the work could be done with minor language skills. There has been a lack of study counselling and work guidance for immigrants and, on the contrary, many overlapping services (e.g. testing one's language skills several times) have only confused things. The existing services and activities have neither succeeded in helping immigrants with employment, nor have they lead to the right educational services.

Employment, vocational training and language learning are now combined in a new pilot project of the city of Helsinki. The Helsinki Skill Centre (HSC) was founded in the summer of 2016 to enhance the guidance of immigrants, to facilitate and combine the co-operation between different authorities, and to clarify and hasten the way to employment markets and education. The Intertwining of vocational training and language training is one of the most important tasks of the centre. After the big wave of refugee arrivals in Helsinki in 2015, the city government wanted to ensure that good integration was possible and directed special allowances for these efforts.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Helsinki Skill Centre are to

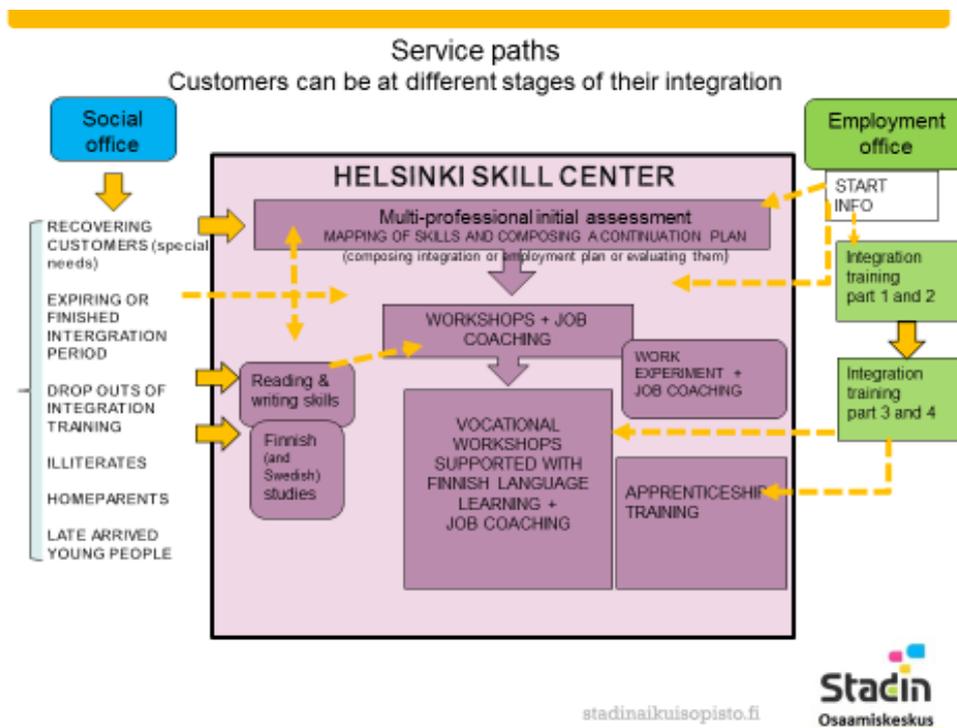
- facilitate and hasten the education and employment of adult immigrants in Helsinki
- build a multi-professional model of co-operation
- provide and try out services that combine employment issues, education, learning support and supportive services for those with special needs
- enhance and intertwine existing services
- acknowledge individual differences and challenges
- provide everyone with a chance to become a member of the society by learning the basics of civic behaviour
- hasten possibilities of attaining degrees
- offer job coaching and language support to improve immigrants' chances of finding work.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

The skills and needs of the customer, as well as the needs of employment market, are the

starting point of the services. The aim (and challenge) was to develop a model of service guidance that combined the work of different counselling parties, i.e. the employment offices, social offices, educational institutes, the city's stakeholders, immigration services etc. Most of the services of the HSC were already in existence and had been organized by the Finnish government. The main idea was to shift from the providing of parallel services to the providing of complimentary services where each party could benefit from the other's work.

Most of the customers that now come to the HSC have been directed here by an employment office or social office. The first activity for customers is the *mapping of their skills and needs*. This means a *multi-professional assessment* done by experts. It can include the information that has already been found out by the workers of social services or employment offices. Then, a *realistic continuation plan* is made. This can be the guided learning of reading and writing skills, or just the learning or revising of Finnish. Some people may be ready for the immediate start at a vocational workshop. The centre also offers support for learning abilities before entering vocational training or starting a job. The centre combines learning languages and vocational studies in a functional way. It offers job coaching as preparation for the working life. And, the centre has access to a wide network of co-operative enterprises.



Service menu at the moment includes:

- multi-professional assessment and mapping of professional skills
- vocational workshops (construction, care, machine and metal, car, hotel and restaurant, customer service, security, hair and beauty, logistics)
- degrees/working supported with Finnish studies/teacher's support
- courses that improve learning and studying abilities
- apprenticeship training supported with Finnish
- rehabilitation periods for those needing special support
- job coaching

- co-operation with local companies and entrepreneurs
- workshops for the illiterate
- language training

CO-OPERATION WITH THE FINNISH ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

The already existing Finnish language courses of the Finnish Adult Education Centre (FAEC) have been directly incorporated into the activities of the HSC. Several other FAEC subjects have also been compounded with the teaching of Finnish. Rehabilitation periods have become a part of versatile learning.

The co-operational courses, Finnish and learning abilities and Finnish as civil skills, are meant for individuals who have had some challenges whilst taking the general integration path. They may need special support in their learning, or just a slower learning pace. They may have mental or physical problems or barriers that cause challenges. They do not usually aim for a degree or working life. They need special support and encouragement to be able to be active in their lives.

Among basic Finnish skills, people learn how to socialize, move around the city and take part in learning by doing courses. Cookery, arts, crafts and drama classes as well as singing and exercising have been integrated into these courses so as to learn Finnish by doing and become part of something meaningful. There is always a Finnish teacher, a subject teacher and a social worker present at these classes. This way, the rehabilitation activities, learning Finnish, and learning to learn become intertwined.

TARGET GROUP

The services of the HSC are aimed at immigrants who are over the age of 17 and live in Helsinki with a residence permit. The service was first aimed at those receiving international protection, but has now been extended to other target groups as well.

Students entering the vocational workshops must have previous experience or a strong interest in the field. Recommended language level for vocational workshops is A2.1

Most of the customers have been directed to HSC by an employment office or social office. Some have found their way through cooperating partners, i.e. education institutes, or by themselves (through the grapevine). The majority of the customers (64%) have finished their integration period.

Immigrants who need rehabilitation or special support belong to the FAEC courses target group. They have mostly been directed to the courses by the social services or by the HSC. There has not been any courses or activities these people could have been placed in before, this is thus a new experiment.

PARTICIPANTS

The project is coordinated by the Education division of the City of Helsinki. The other partners are:

- the Administrative office of the city

- the Health and social division of the city
- the Finnish and Swedish liberal adult education centres of the city
- The Helsinki Upper Secondary School for Adults
- the Helsinki Vocational College
- the Employment Office of southern Finland
- the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of southern Finland.

At the moment, the staff of the HSC consists of 23 persons. They include teachers, coaches of working life, coordinators with enterprises, social workers and social work specialists, employment specialists, and a project manager.

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

In general, the short-term effects are considered to be the following:

- The skills of educated and/or talented immigrants are being utilized in a better and quicker way to the benefit of society.
- Recognition of skills and job coaching prepares immigrants to bring out their best qualities as foreigners in the society.
- Local companies are involved more intensely in hiring and training immigrants.
- Because of better guidance, applying several times to similar studies at different institutions diminishes.
- Queuing for study places declines.
- Individual guidance helps targeting the right education/work.
- Individual guidance makes it possible to recognize special needs in a better way so they can be dealt with more efficiently .
- Better spread of information s between different service providers.
- Once done, the mapping of skills is enough. Overlapping work diminishes.
- One location for all the services makes it easier for everyone to find.

Short-term effects in respect to the co-operation between the FAEC and HSC:

- learning language by doing is made possible
- artistic skills become noticed and strengthened
- different learners are taken into account
- immigrants get to know the FAEC and its services
- the services reach the target groups better and easier
- finding a hobby or joining courses becomes easier for the immigrants
- co-operation between different parties within the city strengthens the role and mission of the FAEC
- guiding our own immigrant students to employment and education services is easier

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

The most important long-term benefit of the whole service is that the paths to education and employment market have become quicker. Immigrants are being directed to suitable education or

straight into jobs quicker than before. Since language learning is intertwined and optimized during vocational studies, they also get employed faster because they can cope with Finnish in their work. This diminishes unemployment among immigrants, which again enhances integration in all respects. Psychological problems and social exclusion decrease because of meaningful activities, participation and inclusion. With the HSC's help and support, the local employers have also become more acquainted with the hiring and training of immigrant employees.

KoPRO PROJECT - COOPERATIVE PRODUCTION SCHOOL

Kooperative Produktionsschule — KoPro



Besser deutsch sprechen und verstehen! Berufe entdecken! Perspektiven für junge Flüchtlinge!

Who:

WerkstattSchule is an accredited substitute for state schools

Various target groups, e.g. school drop-outs, young adults with no job-perspective and (recently) refugees under 27 years

The pedagogical approach is to educate students with a combination of working and schooling

Aim:

Language and school education is easier if it is combined with practical work and learners' perception of their own value and power.

Benefits:

Participants learn German, make practical experiences in various job fields (gardening, construction, logistics, cooking, ..)

Participants can build up their self-esteem in a supportive environment

Support is given as long as it is needed (lower pressure on what happens when measure ends)

References: <http://www.werkstattschule.de/projekte/kooperative-produktionsschule-kopro/>

Constructing the kitchen together...



CAMEO MAGAZINE

The screenshot displays the website for Cameo Magazine. At the top, there are several browser tabs open, including "Breakfast Buffet | B...", "glutenfrei in sofa -", "Sofia gluten free - S...", "Sun Moon, Sofia - F...", "Die 10 besten Resta...", "bul. 'Knyaz Aleksan...", "ul. 'Bacho Kiro' 2,1...", "Cameo Kollektiv | E...", and "auf augenhöhe - LE...". The address bar shows "www.cameo-kollektiv.de/english/".

The main content area features a large image of the magazine cover on the left. The cover has a red and green design with the title "CAMEO" and some text in German. To the right of the cover, the heading "The Cameo Magazine" is followed by a paragraph of text:

The goal of the Cameo Magazine is to encourage an exchange of ideas in the so called "refugee-question". We understand this magazine project as a platform that can be shaped by all interested creative people. The contents and means of expression can be chosen individually. With the creation of this open space, we want to inspire a vivid discussion – as this issue concerns everyone in our society. But most of all, we want to contribute in the building of bridges. We aim to let the contents of the magazine develop in a creative cooperation. In this endeavor we want to accompany the arrival of the refugees in our society over the next years.

Below this text, there is a horizontal line, followed by the heading "ISSUE 3: ARRIVING AT HANNOVER". Underneath, there are two columns of text:

For the next edition of the Cameo Magazine we are looking for people from Hannover with and without refugee backgrounds who want to create a professional publication, together with us, on the topic arriving in Hannover.

This way we want to offer a platform for various ideas that result in the interaction between people of all backgrounds, all genders and all ages.

The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system tray displaying the time "11:57" and date "01.08.2017".

WHO:

Cameo Collective is an initiative founded by two photography-students from Hanover

Initiative grew into a group of 15 volunteers (Germans, Iranians, Eritreans, Syrians, ..)

AIM:

Initiative started with photo documentary about a refugees shelter

the initiative then began to publish a magazine, Cameo Magazine, current issue is No. 3

The magazine offers intercultural exchange, deals with topics like migration, how it feels to be a refugee, and refugees' experiences in Germany

BENEFITS:

Germans learn about refugees perspective

Refugees are given a voice and a platform

Initiates contacts between locals and refugees

Editorial staff is a mix of locals and refugees who interact equally

References: [HTTP://WWW.CAMEO-KOLLEKTIV.DE/](http://www.cameo-kollektiv.de/)



www.unter-einem-dach.org

Constructing the kitchen together...

WHO:

Founded by Iyabo Kaczmarek and Alexandra Feruga

Now working in teams with voluntary supporters and cooperation partners

AIM:

Making practical competences visible

Using occupational skills for integration

BENEFITS:

Combination of practical work and learning German language

Introductory labour market perspectives for refugees. [FACEBOOK.COM/ZUSAMMENUNTEREINEMDACH](https://www.facebook.com/ZusammenUnterEinemDach)

Language classes and other activities for refugees in Budapest

presenter: Magdolna, Palkó - Budapest Cultural Centre

Networking refugees 2016-1-AT01-KA204-016670



Erasmus+

Best practice from Budapest

The Budapest Cultural Centre studied the activities of organizations dealing with refugees that are involved with education.

Out of these we highlighted the **Kalunba** Associations's non formal learning programs.

Kalunba Social Services Association

Activities since 2014

- housing assistance
- employment
- schooling programs
- language lessons
- community building opportunities

Good practise I. sewing course for refugees

- Individual career-building plans
- Creative and quality handicrafts (sewing in groups of 3-5 people)
- Promotion of the refugees' works (via Facebook, networks, companies)
- Participants: refugees from Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Afghanistan

Sewing course: the works



Sewing course: the works



Objectives

- Assisting the first steps of integration
- Better opportunities for refugees to enter the labour market

Good practise II. - language camps for children

- Weeklong english camps for 6 to 12 years old children
- On the last day parents and whole families are welcome as well
- 40 children in the camp from Ethiopia, Somalis, Kenya, Afghanistan



Language camps

Other activities during the camp:

preparing food, learning songs, practising making handicrafts



Short term effects

- Learning English and Hungarian
- Improving their knowledge of the country and the way they are judged
- Networking, establishing new friendships
- Bringing ethnic layers together
- Building community

Long term benefits from best practisies

- ▶ Contribution to a better integration of immigrants and refugees into the Hungarian and the European society.
- ▶ Realizing real and positive changes in refugees' lives
- ▶ Individual development in terms of cultural and economic skills
- ▶ Knowledge transfer among refugees and between groups

NETHERLANDS

ZWOLLE

The diaconal platform Zwolle (DPZ) is the Dutch partner in this EU project. DPZ works with a lot of partners, not only in the city of Zwolle, but in the Netherlands as a whole. We will first describe the DPZ, then some examples from our partners.

THE DIACONAAAL PLATFORM ZWOLLE (DPZ)

INTRODUCTION

The Diaconaal Platform Zwolle (DPZ) is a network of almost all churches in the city. The people who are concerned in the DPZ are mostly volunteers.

OBJECTIVES

The main purpose is to support poor people in the city, to improve the situation of these people and to bring people together – the poor and the needy and those willing to help.

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

The churches in the DPZ organize language lessons, cultural activities, meeting groups, and provide equipment on several fronts for volunteers. The network also works on a broad scale providing activities around education and integration of refugees. Especially, tasks that official organizations are not prepared to do, or don't have enough resources to do. The DPZ fills the gaps in the education and integration of refugees as good as it possibly can, and is constantly developing new methods for these tasks.

TARGET GROUP

The DPZ works for refugees who have or don't yet have official status to stay in the country. For all refugee activities, the DPZ has created a "Refugee Profile Group"

PARTICIPANTS

Almost all churches in the city of Zwolle participate in the DPZ. The DPZ works together with a lot of institutions in the city, for instance Vluchtelingenwerk (official organization for supporting refugees with official status), the local government, Present (an organization that coordinates activities for refugees), Taalpunt (an information site for language learning from Stichting Lezen & Schrijven and local libraries), formal education organizations, peace-platforms, and experts in intercultural communication.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

With all partners together, there is a lot of expertise, a great knowledge of the city and organizations in it, experience in language-education, communicating, psychological support, practical expertise, organizational expertise.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Refugees and migrants have personal contacts with the inhabitants of the city, they have a sustainable network of contacts. The effect is that they practice the Dutch language in real, are supported by finding education, work and places with social activities. Our experience is that a broad network with many informal contacts helps to find a place in the society. Official organizations alone cannot achieve these goals.

THE PROJECT LANGUAGE & PIE.

INTRODUCTION

The project Language & pie started by 4 volunteers 2015. They wanted to talk with the new immigrants who had just arrived in the city of Zwolle. They offered the immigrants the possibility of learning a language and eating home-made self-baked pie's.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

1. to help immigrants to learn the Dutch language
2. to support immigrants in meeting other people in specific settings
3. to have fun with another during coffee-breaks and lunches

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

Every Monday between 10.00 – 13.00, new immigrants in the neighbourhood come to the meeting for language education. They come with their home-baked pie's and cookies. Volunteers help them with language. Together, they prepare lunch with an international flavour at the location.

TARGET GROUP

The new immigrants in the neighbourhood.

PARTICIPANTS

The volunteers who are prepared to help new immigrants with learning the language. There are approximately 40 participants and 7 volunteers.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

The spending of every Monday learning the language and eating together guarantees a happy atmosphere. New immigrants like to come and meet people who want to help them. They feel confident in this situation.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Knowledge of the Dutch language. As an extra, every immigrant is obliged to attend language-course at a school twice a week. In the long term, these extra lessons help them to get the diploma. And, there for, become more integrated.

THE BUDDYPROJECT ATHOMEZWOLLE

INTRODUCTION

The policy of the municipality of Zwolle is to help new status A immigrants to participate in the community. This 'integration' is needed for a good life in the neighbourhoods of the city. If immigrants understand the language, have work and are taught to act like local people, the integration is successful. The Diaconaal Platform Zwolle started a project on Church behaviour and traditions in 2016.

OBJECTIVES

This project is called At Home in Zwolle. The objectives of this project are:

to get to know new immigrants as a people with stories

to help immigrants with necessary paperwork

to coordinate the flow of information in favour of the immigrants and initiate immigrant programmes

to help neighbourhood integration

DESCRIPTION (ACTIVITIES)

The project started with 7 volunteers from the churches. This volunteers got the address of a new immigrants. On the first visit, the volunteer introduces him or herself and listens to the needs of the person of persons. A second appointment is made for the near future. On the second visit, the volunteer asks about the situation and answers every question.

TARGET GROUP

The target group are the new immigrants with status A.

PARTICIPANTS

At the moment, there are 4 participants. There are 10 addresses to be visited.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

The short term effects are:

- the immigrants have support to start a new life in a new world
- the immigrants' stories are listened to and acknowledged
- the immigrants regain control of their lives

LONG TERM BENEFITS

families will become more acquainted with the Dutch society

TAKECARE (STAY WITH DUTCH FAMILY)

INTRODUCTION

The Netherlands was confronted with large groups of refugees a few years ago. Here, they were temporarily housed in AZC's (asylum centres) while waiting for residence permits. Those who obtained a 'status' were allowed to live and work in the Netherlands. And, they often had to wait for months in AZCs for a house of their own. These centres were spread throughout the country, but at the same time isolated from Dutch society. Refugees during that period, had little contact with the Dutch language, culture, and customs.

OBJECTIVES

The temporary stay in a Dutch household helps the process of integration, mutual understanding and fear of the unknown are reduced and eliminated when people come into contact with each other active participation in society supports the learning of the Dutch language contacts or friendships often arise.

DESCRIPTION

Take care b+b makes it possible for refugees with residence permits to temporarily stay with Dutch host families while waiting for their own home. Take care b+b arranges solid matches

between refugees and host families resulting in residence arrangements with Dutch families for up to three months.

Host families and guests each complete the registration form.

We arrange an appointment with our experienced matchmakers for an interview.

We match the guest and host family with each other on the basis of their profiles and an extensive matching process.

We arrange a meeting at the home of the host family accompanied by a matchmaker.

When both parties agree, there will be a 'test' weekend to determine the viability of the match

After the 'test' weekend, both parties have a period of five days to think about it.

If both the family and guests are positive, the refugee applies for a guest arrangement at the COA.

The family and guest(s) are assigned to each other for (up to) three months. If the guest gets permanent housing before the end of this period, the arrangement can be terminated.

The matchmakers of Take care b+b keep in touch with both family and guest(s) during the arrangements.

PARTICIPANTS

Refugees waiting in an Asylum centre for a house of their own

Dutch families who offer a home

Take care Matchmakers who care for the match

EFFECTS

Temporary stay with a host family helps to get to know the Dutch society, language and culture and makes it easier to build a new life.

Host families tell us that they understand more about the situation of the refugees and the culture of their countries. The establishments of long lasting contacts

ORGANISING REUNION IN WEEK OF PEACE

INTRODUCTION

There were between 400 and 600 refugee men living in a camp in Zwolle in 2015 and 2016. The Lutheran church in Zwolle had the idea of picking up the refugees and taking them to church. This was done twice a week. A program was set up consisting of language lessons,

talking and listening, coffee or tea, playing, making music, and the lighting of candles in the church for families and friends left in Syria, etc.

OBJECTIVES

To give the men the opportunity of being in another environment with people who listen and care and give attention. To learn the language and learn about the Dutch culture. This helps integration. Contact between people creates mutual understanding and reduces fear of the unknown. Friendships often arise.

DESCRIPTION

The program in the Lutheran church not only gives refugees the chance of telling their stories, but also the chance of receiving care, learning the language, and having fun with music and speaking Dutch with Dutch people. Many lasting friendships have been made in the Lutheran Church.

Later on, we heard that the refugees wanted to come back to Zwolle and visit the Church where they got so much hospitality. So, we organised a reunion in the Peace week to provide the opportunity of seeing people again and talking about memories, etc. Some of them are musicians and wanted to give a concert for the “status” holders and the many volunteers. This was very touching.

PARTICIPANTS

Refugees, who live in the Netherlands and had participated in the program a few years ago.

Volunteers, teachers, and other people who help the refugees

EFFECTS

Nice and useful afternoons with our friends from Syria

TAALMAATJES/ LANGUAGE FRIENDS

INTRODUCTION

It is important to practice the Dutch language as well as attending official language courses. For this reason, structured groups of Taalmaatjes (language friends) have been established. Stichting Lezen en Schrijven (national organisation that improves reading and writing) organizes courses to support these language friends.

OBJECTIVES

Many volunteers support migrants with language help. The volunteers have taught themselves to do this in a good way.

DESCRIPTION

a. Volunteers are recruited in churches and other social organisations. Stichting Lezen en Schrijven and the local library are also very active. Volunteers have individual contact with migrants and their family. This is mostly once a week. They exercise the language and are active together. For instance - going shopping, walking through the city, biking, and visiting events.

b. For improving the quality of the work of the volunteers, the Stichting Lezen en Schrijven and the library organise courses. The Stichting has developed special methods centred around everyday themes for exercising language together. There are meetings to maintain the quality of volunteer work several times a year. Only trained Volunteers are permitted to use specially developed material.

TARGET GROUP

Migrants who want to improve their language and want to exercise more. Volunteers who want to help the migrants.

PARTICIPANTS

We guess there are several hundred migrants who participate - and about the same number of volunteers.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Migrants feel supported and are happy with the contact. Volunteers feel supported by the course and can present problems to professionals.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Stichting Lezen en Schrijven works together with scientific investigators who found that improving language improves health and the participation of people.

SPORTING TOGETHER

INTRODUCTION

Sporting is healthy and is a way to make friends. Many Dutch people are active in organized sport.

OBJECTIVES

Migrants integrate with Dutch people by sporting, they have fun in sporting and learn it by doing.

DESCRIPTION

The rowing club of Zwolle started a free course for refugees. Volunteers of the rowing club were very enthusiastic, and found a group of migrants via contacts (for instance the DPZ).

TARGET GROUP

Refugees of all ages who have been living in the city for a maximum of two years

PARTICIPANTS

About twelve refugees/migrants started the course. Most of them liked rowing very much. Not all of them finished the course because of several reasons.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Participants not only became acquainted with organized sport, an important part of Dutch culture, but practised the Dutch language as well. Two of the participants passed the rowing exam and are now enthusiastic members of the rowing club.

LONG TERM BENEFITS

Sport is well known among the migrants. They know that sport is not only football. The rowing club tries to encourage other sport clubs to do the same.





Photos: Karim Casablanca

THE WOW-PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

The WOW-hostel in Amsterdam and the Dutch Regional Education Center (ROC) offers a combination of vocational education and training for refugees with a status. The project educates people to work in the hospitality business. As in most cities, Amsterdam has a large variety of restaurants and hotels and the WOW-projects helps it's students to find jobs in this field.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to educate people who want to work in hospitality and help them to find a job. The participants each obtain an official diploma while they are working as cook, host or facility manager in a payed job. This way, they learn a profession, integrate, build a professional network and make a living at the same time.

DESCRIPTION

The program begins with six months of 'entrance-education' during which students work at the

WOW-hostel for a couple of hours a day in housekeeping, as a cook or host in the restaurant, in the facility services or at the front desk to acquire skills in all the different disciplines. In addition, the participants attend Dutch language classes. After the 'entrance-education', the students continue their education with a two year specialised course in one of the three disciplines; cooking, hosting or facility services. During these specialised courses, they work at a hospitality business of their choice for at least 24 hours a week. For this, they receive a salary. ROC helps the students to find a workplace. In addition to the practical experience they gain at work, the students continue doing courses for one day a week at school. If they complete the program successfully, the students obtain an official diploma for cooking, hosting or facility management.

PARTICIPANTS

Currently, three groups of 7 students are enrolled in the program. Prerequisites for the students to be accepted are sufficient proficiency in the Dutch language (level A2), a successful entrance-test, and their eligibility must be approved by the municipality.

EFFECTS

By completing the WOW-project, students learn a profession in hospitality, obtain an official diploma and find a payed job. In addition, they improve their language skills, build a professional network and, whilst training, are able to provide for themselves.

TRAINING MANUAL ON SOCIAL INTEGRATION REFUGEE CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS FOR DEVELOPING SOCIAL WORKERS' COMPETENCES

INTRODUCTION

I would like to present the Grundtvig 2011-2013 project **TRAINING MANUAL ON SOCIAL INTEGRATION REFUGEE CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS FOR DEVELOPING SOCIAL WORKERS' COMPETENCES**, which was selected for the best practice example

This partnership consisted of 8 partners from Italy, Romania, Turkey, Lithuania, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Poland. Each partner had their local silent partners for reaching the maximum local impact. This partnership was designed also to disseminate the project's results in terms of the establishment of innovative and qualitative training methods in a European level. It is thought that, in this way, public authorities could also benefit by the use of the project's results.

OBJECTIVES

- Improving knowledge of members and staff of partner organisations and other NGOs on the subject of social integration and rights of refugee children.
- Raising awareness on social integration of refugee children and the right to access education of refugee children.
- Sharing experiences and knowledge on social integration of refugees.
- Exchanging about strategies and methods of human rights learning.
- Contributing to understand and respect for human rights and democracy.
- Encouraging tolerance and respect for refugees other people and cultures.
- Sharing experiences and human rights education.
- Exchanging about strategies and ways of learning.
- Sharing knowledge on different kinds of activities to refugees.
- Influencing views of society's about vulnerable groups on positive direction.
- Creating opportunities for international exchanges, mobility and cooperation of staff, educators, and learners from vulnerable groups, without any discrimination.
- Promoting the informal and the non formal learning methods during the partnership.
- Comparing different pedagogical methods used in the training on human rights training.

DESCRIPTION

The short name of this project was Access and aimed to produce a manual for the social integration of refugee children and unaccompanied minors, particularly on the subject of the right to access education. Awareness raising activities on the theme, gaining knowledge, experiences and exchanging good practices among organizations were the bases of the partnership. All of the partners prepared study cases: a story of a refugee child and how one could support them. The manual contained the list of case studies, which are present and are the core of the manual, all have the same format and following structure:

- DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE
- WHAT IS THE MAIN CHALLENGE?
- WHAT IT WAS DONE AND HOW IT WAS SOLVED?
- HOW DID IT END?
- LESSONS LEARNED
- SOCIAL WORKER'S COMPETENCIES

TARGET GROUP

The target group consisted of staff and members of partner organizations and local NGOs who work with refugee's and especially with young people and children. The partner organizations is going to run some training activities for their staff by using this manual after the project

PARTICIPANT STATISTICAL DATA

About 1000 participant for the whole project

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

The project was one of inspirations for the next Grundtvig project with the acronym LUTA (Learn, understand, trust, act) focus on learning about experiences of disadvantaged people who are forced to emigrate and request asylum in Europe, involving former refugees as consultants and translators/ We conducted interviews with people from Iran/Afghanistan, Belarus, Mali, Togo, Syria, Somalia, Chechnia. Some of the interviewees told about the special circumstances that made them flee their country and prevent them returning there, some couldn't talk about the traumatising experiences. Their experiences in the host countries were dominated by reception camps, police interviews and

waiting for conclusions of the pending asylum procedures, and the constant fear of being extradited. Some of the interviewees were through the procedures and told about the complex and burdensome way to get respected members of the host society. Even people who have been recognised as refugees and have stayed in the countries for several years integrated into a normal course of life tell

about again and again emerging difficulties and discrimination. The project intended to raise solidarity among EU member states in hosting refugees, an objective which is increasingly relevant all over Europe.

In each country we met concerned asylum seekers and refugees who participated in the project and provided the possibility to compare their different experiences in the partner countries. On the other hand, refugees themselves and former refugees profited from the involvement into the project. Among many other important results of the partnership, empathy and understanding grew considerably.

This partnership consisted on Austria, Malta, Italy/Sicilia. Check Republic, Sweden, Germany and Poland.

Angelika Brechelmacher from Austria coordinated this project and is still in contact and supporting a boy from Somalia. LUTA was also chosen as a best practice example.

The produced Manual have not lost its timelines and it can be used by the social workers and other people supporting refuges

Requirements and conditions

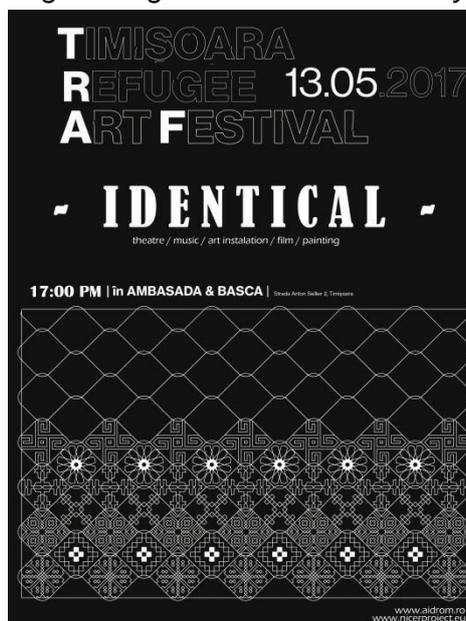
Any special requirements and conditions

TIMISOARA REFUGEE ART FESTIVAL

Nicer Project Timisoara, Romania

ABSTRACT:

Every year, wars, poverty and climate changes force millions of people to leave their home land in search for a safer place for themselves and their families. Fear of the new and misinformation are most of the times reasons for which they are received with hatred and violence. But these will not stop the refugee flow, will not stop wars and climate change and will not solve the problem of poverty. Moreover, fear and hatred only make refugee integration in the community more difficult



and continue to generate more fear and hatred.



In this context, with the Timisoara Refugee Art Festival, we aim at going beyond the differences which separate us and showing the humanity lying in all of us. We think that both refugees and non-refugees love the same way, fear the same way and dream the same way. They both need security, understanding, hope and an environment where they can pursue and fulfil their dreams. If we can see beyond the differences, we'll discover that deep down we are all human beings. Moreover, cultural differences can be a priceless asset that can bring new learning if we are open to it. Evolution is based on diversity not uniformity.

“The aim of the Timisoara Refugee Art Festival is not to elicit pity towards the refugees and their situation. On the contrary, we wish to create an environment in which they can express themselves with dignity.” Flavius-IloniLogaNICER Manager AIDRom

The project was held on 13th of May in Timisoara city, AmbasadaCafee, between 17:00 and 21.00.



PARTICIPANTS, TARGET GROUP AND ACTIVITIES

Timisoara Refugee Art Festival, the final performance under the NICER Project, was the presentation of the artistic output of 4 months of art ateliers that brought together 32 young people (16 young refugees from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan and 16 young non-refuges from Romania, Moldavia, Germany and Palestine) with the ages of between 13 and 29 from Timisoara. The ateliers took place weekly from February – April 2017 as well in a 5 days winter art camp (10 ateliers) with the following staff:

Theatre, Film and Art Installation Atelier: Victor Dragos, art director

Music Ateliers: Horvath Octavian, music teacher

Language Atelier: Hussein Gamal, intercultural mediator

Painting Atelier: Reghina Damian, volunteer painter.

Administrative and Logistics: Flavius IlioniLoga, AIDRom local coordinator

150 people participated in the final performance, under the name of Timisoara Refugee Art Festival that consisted of the following:

1. Art Installation
2. Short Film Presentation made by the young people
3. Painting Exhibition
4. Forum Theatre
5. Music Performance
6. Food Festival

1. Art Installation

The young people created a 30 meters tunnel of fences with barb-wire to recreate the journey of the refugees to Europe. Also a tent was put into the tunnel of fences, so people can see the poor conditions of the migrants that leave of a period of time in tents. A boat on a puddle was also to be travelled upon, wearing life vests. Young refugees and young non-refugees were the guides of the people entering the tunnel in order to reach the auditorium. Before the journey began, all the participants were give printed passports with their name to symbolize the need of identity in order to travel in different countries.

2. "Who am I?" -Short Film made by young refugees and non-refugees

Young refugees and non-refugees wrote, directed, filmed and edited a short documentary film that was screened before the theatre performance. The movie depicted their inner conflicts as teenagers, during their process of interacting with the others while trying to find their own place in the world. The 10 minutes long video documentary is a poetic meditation on identity, featuring very personal monologues, illustrated by candid imaginary scenes. The movie created the atmosphere for the theatre play that followed the video.

3. Painting Exhibition

Young refugees and non-refugees participated in extra art ateliers of painting directed by Reghina Damian, a Russian migrant in Timisoara. She is a painter herself. For 3 months, the young people met and painted 3 paintings. The largest one being 2 meters high and 1,5 meter long, and is surround by 2 smaller paintings of 1 meter high and 0,5 meters long. The concept of the paintings was family, ordinary people in society who are being assaulted or abused by people in authority. Some people react to the abuses, others don't care. The refugee crises in Europe has the same particularity. The paintings were exhibited at the back of the stage of the forum theatre which is part of the play through its story.

4. Forum Theatre “ *Identical vs. Identity*”

The show explored the opposition between IDENTICAL and IDENTITY. The difference between being considered identical to someone else and identical to himself, being an object, part of a group on which stereotypes and discrimination can be projected or a subject, individual, person with a unique identity.

The show consists of an art installation, a short film, a forum theatre play and live music. The facility through which public access is made to the auditorium reproduces the journey of a refugee to Europe. The auditorium was in an old and unused communist factory in Timisoara, that recreated the accommodation places that many refugee find shelter on their travel. Lights and sound system was used to create the artistic performance. The play was moderated by Victor Dragos, the art director of Timisoara NICER Project.

Two scenes were presented during the Forum Theatre performance as follows:

The first scene describes the abuse of a girl wearing a hijab on the bus by two Romanian girls and their Arab friends. They accuse the girl of ridiculing the image of Muslims in Europe by wearing the hijab. A bus traveller tries to defend the girl, but is unsuccessful.

Public interventions have provided different strategies for the settling of conflict. From the manifestation of solidarity by a spectator who put a hijab on his head. A Gandhi type attitude. Reversal of roles and aggression of the aggressor, and a speech about national and international legal protection against discrimination.

The second scene was an experimental one in which there was a conflict about gender stereotypes and the representation of women and men in art. The woman is weak, humble, vulnerable and strong and predisposed to physical violence. Using some interventions from the public, female and male roles were reversed to highlight the prejudices we all have.

At the end, it was discovered there was a lot of solidarity and desire for involvement and action among the spectators. As one of them even concluded, "Where there are many, the power is

growing!"

5. Music Performance

The music performance consisted of 6 songs originally written and performed by young refugees and non-refugees.

- Bliss
- Only if I ...
- Vacitescatat de bine (I read you soo good)
- Oriental Waves (for guitar and darbuka)
- A Place Called Home
- Stronger

2 young refugees played the electric guitar and percussion, and 2 young non-refugees played the piano and bass guitar. The audience loved the different style of playing as well as the stories of the songs.

6. Food Festival

After the performance, 6 refugee ladies living in Timisoara, originally from Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Palestine and Iraq, cooked traditional Arabic and African food that was enough to serve more than 150 people. This was a culinary journey of discovery. Waiting were differences in tastes and similarities in cooking. The refugee ladies and the AIDRom staff served the food. The costs for cooking the food (around 300 Euros) were covered by AIDRom Timisoara. Many people from the audience were amazed by the food and asked for more events with Arabic and African food.

Partners:

In organizing Timisoara Refugee Art Festival, AIDRom Timisoara had multiple national and local partners for organizing the event, such as:

1. UNHCR Romania
2. Western University of Timisoara
3. Ambasada Timisoara (a social enterprise)
4. Solidart Timisoara
5. Basca – Art Community Centre Timisoara
6. School of [Circus](#) Timisoara
7. County Police Timis
8. The Emergency Inspectorate Timis

Media Coverage:

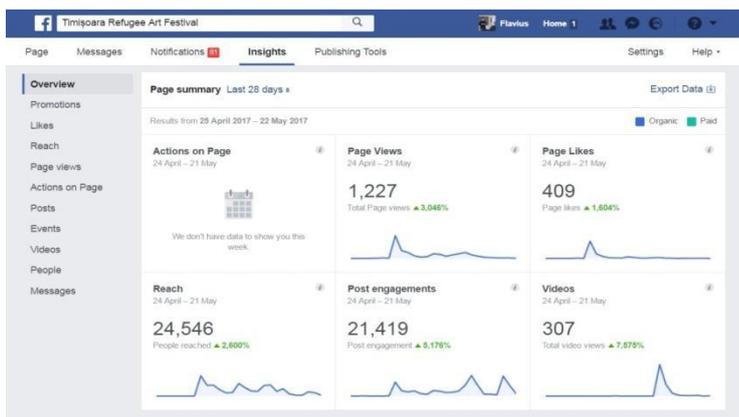
The event was also given multiple local and national media coverage. Being described, before and

after the event, as the first art festival with and about refugees in Romania:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm3Y19-nuc8&t=74s>
2. http://stiri.tvr.ro/embed.php?video_id=144009
3. <http://stirileprotv.ro/stiri/actualitate/festival-inedit-in-romania-pentru-refugiati-spectatorii-au-fost-nevoiti-sa-vina-cu-barca-sa-ajunga-la-eveniment.html>
4. <http://www.rfi.ro/emisiunile-rfi-ro-95237-tinerii-refugiati-metode-inovative-de-integrare>
5. <https://cristianchinabirta.ro/2017/05/20/auzit-despre-timisoara-refugee-festival/>
6. <https://www.banatulazi.ro/primul-festival-de-arta-cu-si-despre-refugiati-din-timisoara/>
7. http://adevarul.ro/news/societate/tot-banatu-i-fruncea-festival-arta-dedicat-refugiatilor-romania--8_590988195ab6550cb8c1116c/index.html
8. <http://www.tion.ro/primul-festival-cu-si-despre-refugiati-la-timisoara-tineri-din-irak-siria-si-afghanistan-la-ateliere-de-pictura-muzica-si-film/1831205>
9. <http://www.lepetitjournal.com/bucarest/communaute/coup-de-coeur-roumanie/279315-refugies-syriens-a-la-rencontre-de-ali-rappeur-en-l-herbe-dans-le-cadre-de-timisoara-refugee-art-festival>
10. <https://timpolis.ro/festival-de-arta-cu-si-despre-refugiati-la-timisoara/>

Social Media Impact:

On 29th January a Facebook page was created for social media dissemination of Nicer Project in Romania: <https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/>. Active posting started on 25 April, 3 weeks before the final performance. The page registered 409 likes, 1227 page views and reached more than 24.000 Facebook users. The Facebook page was also used to register the participants in the Final event. More than 200 people registered, but due to too little room, only 150 people were able to participate.



SHORT AND LONG TERM EFFECT

Thanks to this project, a real connection was created between the local community and the young refugees. Now, there is a better understanding of their situations and the fact that they are different, but equal. And, should be treated in the same way as other inhabitants of Timisoara.

In the short term, the participants and civil society involved in creating this project were pleased with their work, and at the same time, had some fun learning from each other and spending time

together in artistic ways.

In the long term, the people involved developed specific skills which they will use in their professional and personal life: intercultural dialogue, tolerance, acceptance, cooperation, social and interpersonal skills, artistic and creativity. For sure, each one of those involved learned a lot from this experience. They are all willing to repeat the experience at any point, as was expressed by their satisfaction after the festival, and from feedback received.

In Timisoara, even after several months, people are still talking about the festival. They are still coming together and organizing evenings in order to keep the spirit and connections alive which were created with their work. This festival was the first one ever organized in Romania and its success is hard to explain in words. Maybe, because its impact was felt at full power – effecting and touching all those involved on a very deep and sensitive level.

