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ENGAGE Project Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Project Development of inclusivE iNteGratiOn pAthS 4 miGrant women / ENGAGE aims to increase TCN women's capability for entering the labour market and social life of the host society. TCN women, which are representing the 45% of refugees in the EU, have lower activity and employment rates, a higher risk of poverty and are more likely to be in lower skilled occupations. Most of them face particular integration challenges associated with lower education and labour market outcomes compared to refugee men. A main reason is that they are coming from countries with high gender inequality and low employment rates for women. Therefore, an effective integration process of these women in the new social environment, can contribute to their social and economic inclusion. Learn more about the project on <https://amif-engage.eu/>

WP 2 UP-SKILLING WORKSHOPS AND SOCIAL AND LABOUR INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

Although the integration of migrants became an important issue in the EU especially after the 2015-2016 "Crisis of the EU border regime" migrants still face challenges during social and especially labour market integration in practically every EU member state. According to various reports migrant women, which are representing the 45% of refugees in EU, have lower activity and employment rates, a higher risk of poverty and are more likely to be in lower skilled occupations. Most of them face particular



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integration challenges associated with lower education and labour market outcomes compared to refugee men. There is a variety of reasons for this situation but effective integration process of migrant women in the new social environment should contribute to their social and economic inclusion.

To address the situation and involve both sides, namely Labour Market Stakeholders (LMS) and women-Third country nationals (women TCN), project partners of the ENGAGE project created content and materials for two sets of workshops/trainings with five modules each.

Trainings for LMSs are called “Capacity Building Material for Labour Market Stakeholders” and the introductory first module is focused on the characteristics of migrant women in the partner countries (Understanding the triple disadvantage’ of TCN women, their vulnerability to different forms of gender-based violence, health, educational level, discrimination-stereotypes).





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As mentioned before workshops/trainings serves a dual aim:

1. to support TCN women's first steps in the host community's labour market through acquisition of employability skills

2. to increase LMS' awareness on TCN women's specific needs and gender issues.

Trainings for women TCN go under the name “Welcome Educational Pack for migrant women” and the first module addresses the settlement into the new community – getting to know the characteristics of the host country: the history and culture of the host country, the values and norms, access to public services (education, health service, work).

Introduction to the first module “Settlement into the new community” for women LMS implies that attending TCN women acquire additional knowledge, skills and attitudes to support their integration and successful life in the host society. It is composed of both “hard knowledge” (presented in the traditional pedagogical sense of streaming knowledge from the lecturer to the listener); and of “soft knowledge” (which is based on reflexive dialogical encounter between the lecturer and the attendees, and is composed of skills, competences and attitudes that ease the integration of TCN women).

Module is also an introduction to the whole training course “WELCOME UPSKILLING WORKSHOP for migrant women”. Women TCN that will be attending the training course might have very different experiences and degrees of “immersion” into the host society – also depending on the length of their stay, nature of their migration towards EU (regular or irregular), nature of their status (precarious, illegal or stably legal). This should be taken into account by the trainers. Training course is designed inclusively (also for women in extremely precarious and marginal situations) and dialogically – which means the women that have residency and



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a longer history in the host country, should also work as “ad hoc trainers” for more newly arrived women in harder situations.

Main Aim and Objectives of this module are to know and understand the economic, social and political system of the host country, to know the basic laws guiding their existence (status), housing, labour, their rights and obligations. To become accustomed to the culture of the host society and more specifically the workplace culture. To compare their previous cultural, educational and work experiences to what “awaits” them in the host society. To critically evaluate the host society in terms of integration measures, but also to voice their experiences with discrimination and racism, to formulate their expectations, etc. To share knowledge with the fellow attendees. To get to know about all opportunities – like legal assistance, language classes, educational assistants, support in housing search, etc. – in their local environment.

“Capacity Building Material for Labour Market Stakeholders” and especially the introductory first module are focused on the characteristics of migrant women in the partner countries. The module explores the characteristics of migrant women, especially outlining their skills, competences, cultural backgrounds, migratory experiences and language knowledge. All of which might be of interest and use for their future employers. Migrant women, especially women with the experience of forced migration, are frequently unemployed, impoverished and uneducated, bound to their households and their families. This is partially due to their underrepresentation and misrepresentation in public life. European countries have shown some effort providing individualised and



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focused plans of integration of women into the host societies. This module's main aim is to equip labour market stakeholders with necessary knowledge considering the social position, background and characteristics of migrant women. Module is a part of a wider educational package, a part of an initial phase of project Engage – with a goal of providing job shadowing (and further employment) opportunities for migrant women.

General learning objectives for LMS are knowledge acquisition about migrant women, raising awareness of social exclusion and marginalisation of TCN women from the labour market, overcoming prejudices about migrant women overcoming (social, psychological) barriers that prevent LMS from employing TCN women, increasing the capacity of employers to see beyond the basic labels of migrant women (low education, cultural otherness and increase the capacity of employers to apply innovative solutions in their daily work for supporting the integration of TCN women

More details about the other modules available soon.



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PROJECT PARTNER`S MEETING IN MAGLIANO NEAR LECCE, ITALY

Between 9 and 10 of June 2022 project partners meet at the Centro di Formazione ed Alta Specializzazione (CEFAS) in Magliano near Lecce, Italy. Some of the partners joined the meeting online.



We mainly discussed the work on individual work-packages, especially WP 2 – Upskilling Workshops for TCN women and Labour Market Stakeholders and WP 3 - Job Shadowing Schemes development. As most of the learning materials and tools for the modules were finished Up-skilling workshops for women TCN`s and LMS`s can start but partners have to make sure that the organisation of the workshops fits the needs of the target groups since they are essential for WP 3.



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Also WP 4 – Women`s circle Development was discussed in length and some new approaches were presented. As every partner has to do ten Art-shops, eight Structured dialogues and five Volunteering activities with migrant and local women (with permanent status or citizenship) there was a lively exchange of ideas, methodologies and practices. We are also very curious how the documentary movies are going to present all these events...

During the two days we also roamed around the CEFAS building which is a very interesting place with several classrooms which can accommodate all the necessary equipment for migrant women to learn basic skills like language, IT skills, food preparation (for restaurants) and sewing on machines and upgrade them.



WOMEN`S CIRCLE ART SHOP in LJUBLJANA

The First Art workshop in Ljubljana took place in Skuhna, a popular social/migrant restaurant in Ljubljana. (<https://www.skuhna.si/>).

It was all about hospitality, preparation of ingredients, cooking, serving and eating of the food but also about customs, storytelling, games, tradition clothing which accompany a festive meal in Iraq.

Participants could learn a lot about the culture of hospitality in Iraq even if it is put in a new context... Trubarjeva street in Ljubljana, Slovenia.





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