Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe (WIR project)

The project «Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe (WIR) » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Measure: Networks

Project number 588538

Nine events have been carried out within this project:

**Event 1: Kick-off meeting at the Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy)**

**Participation:** The event involved 25 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 2 participants from SERN (Italy), 1 participant from each following partners: Landkreis Kassel (Germany), Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), City of Daugavpils (Latvia), University of Alicante (Spain), City of Ravenna (Italy), South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), VSG Linz (Austria) and 14 from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Monticelli Terme), (Italy), from 07/11/2017 to 09/11/2017.

**Short description:** Representatives of the organisations involved in the WIR project discussed about the implementation of the project activities, about financial aspects and the coordination among the partners and between the project coordinator and the partnership, about the communication and dissemination strategy. An important aspect for the management of the project has been the decision to create a web site (www.wirproject.eu) in which it was possible to upload all the materials produced during the project phases.

**Event 2: Opening Conference in Vänersborg (Sweden)**

**Participation:** The event involved 70 citizens, including 45 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 3 participants Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 3 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 3 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 2 participants from the University of Alicante.
(Spain), 3 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 3 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 3 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 4 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Vanersborg (Sweden), from 17/04/2018 to 20/04/2018

**Short description:** The aim of the event was focused on acquiring new knowledge about the European approach towards the refugees’ issue (EU Agenda for Migration) and on the state of arts about the welcome and integration systems in the partnering countries. The event was conducted with different methodologies: session in plenary with presentations from experts and from partners, workgroups, workshops with groups of refugees and asylum seekers and study visits.

**Event 3: Focus Group on the role of civil society in the welcome and integration process in Linz (Austria)**

**Participation:** The event involved 39 citizens, including 5 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 2 participants Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 2 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 2 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 2 participants from the University of Alicante (Spain), 2 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 2 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 19 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Linz (Austria), from 06/09/2018 to 09/09/2018

**Short description:** The focus of the project event was the interaction between civil society and the refugees’ issue and the role that associations, volunteering and NGOs had in the welcome process during 2016 migration wave and the following ones. Participants had the opportunity to compare their local practices with European partners to analyse challenges and to discuss about possible actions to facilitate the integration. During the event, participants took part in the Zusammen Helfen Conference, where the project WIR was presented, and interact with Austrian experts, decision makers and refugees’ on local and transnational projects, initiatives and experiences.

**Event 4: Focus Group on getting ready for the job market in Kassel (Germany)**

**Participation:** The event involved 32 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 13 participants Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 2 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 2 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 2 participants from the University of Alicante (Spain), 2 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 2 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 2 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy).
**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Kassel (Germany), from 23/10/2018 to 26/10/2018

**Short description:** The focus of the project event was the access to the job market for refugees and asylum seekers.

Particular attention was paid to the presentation and discussion of the different paths dedicated to new comers to getting ready for the job market and of tools, initiates and projects to help them. Participants had the opportunity to take part the “Refugees’ day”, a project carried out by the Kreis Kassel together with various local private company to introduce young refugees in the job market let them try for one day a profession.

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**Event 5: The role of education and schooling in the welcome and integration process in Alicante (Spain)**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 5 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 2 participants Landkreis Kasson (Germany), 3 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 3 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 8 participants from the University of Alicante (Spain), 2 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 2 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 2 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Alicante (Spain), from 20/11/2018 to 23/11/2018

**Short description:** The focus of the project event was on the creation of education paths and schooling for new comers and refugees.

Participants had the opportunity to compare European tools and programmes to help refugees to learn the language of the hosting countries, that is the first and most important instrument to improve the steps for inclusion.

Activities followed various methodologies: plenary sessions, transnational work groups, meetings with NGOs who work with the integration and study visits.

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**Event 6: Focus Group on refugee unaccompanied minors in Seinajöki (Finland)**

**Participation:** The event involved 31 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 2 participants Landkreis Kasson (Germany), 3 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 3 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 1 participant from the University of Alicante (Spain), 2 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 14 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 3 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Seinajöki (Finland), from 11/12/2018 to 14/12/2018

**Short description:** The focus of the project event was on projects for unaccompanied minors.
Participants compared the legislations dealing with the welcome and the assistance of new comer minors and the projects implemented to help their integration in the hosting society.

Activities followed various methodologies: plenary sessions, participation in activities together with minors, meetings with NGOs who take care of refugee children and study visits.

**Event 7: Coordination-mid evaluation in Daugavpils (Latvia)**

**Participation:** The event involved 33 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 1 participant Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 1 participant from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 24 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 1 participant from the University of Alicante (Spain), 1 participant from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 1 participant from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Daugavpils (Latvia), from 26/03/2019 to 28/12/2019

**Short description:** The event gave the opportunity to sum up the discussions and impacts of the 4 focus groups held in the period September-December 2018 and to evaluate if the project development was in line with the project schedule and with the expectations of the partners. Moreover, participants (members of the coordination group) decided the format and the contents of the project final communication tools: a booklet with challenges posed by the migration waves from 2015 and the possible recommendations based on the best practices presented by the project partners.

**Event 8: Seminar on communication and stereotypes in Dietzenbach (Germany)**

**Participation:** The event involved 37 citizens, including 1 participant from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 1 participant from SERN (Italy), 2 participants Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 3 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 2 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 2 participants from the University of Alicante (Spain), 2 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 24 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 2 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 2 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Dietzenbach (Germany), from 21/05/2019 to 24/05/2019

**Short description:** The main aim of the event was to analyze and compare the phenomenon of communication, information and dissemination of news related to the migration/refugees’ issue.

Thanks to the partners’ presentations, participants had the opportunity to understand the modalities for miscommunication and stereotyping and the discussion helped in finding possible strategies and actions to build counter narratives to foster multicultural understanding.
Event 9: Final Event in Ravenna (Italy)

Participation: The event involved 47 citizens, including 6 participants from the city of Vanersborg (Sweden), 3 participants from SERN (Italy), 1 participant Landkreis Kassel (Germany), 2 participants from Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), 2 participants from City of Daugavpils (Latvia), 2 participants from the University of Alicante (Spain), 17 participants from the City of Ravenna (Italy), 4 participants from South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (Finland), 3 participants from VSG Linz (Austria) and 3 participants from Unione Pedemontana Parmense (Italy).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ravenna (Italy), from 24/09/2019 to 27/09/2019

Short description: The main aim of the event was double: to see the impact of the WIR project on project targets (political representatives, civil servants, volunteering associations, citizens) and to see possible project follow-up. Indeed, 3 themes can represent an important starting point for future projects: 1. New tools and methodologies for the access to job market for new comers; 2 Strategies to fight miscommunication and fake news about the migration issue; 3. Participation of migrants in the social community through formal and non formal activities.

The project involved directly 344 citizens with a total of 45% of invited participants in the project events.

Project-Links:
https://www.wirproject.eu/
https://www.sern.eu/project/wir-welcome-and-integration-for-refugees-europe/