

REFU'IN

The word 'REFU'IN' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Behind the letters, there is a trail of small, grey footprints that appear to be moving from left to right, suggesting a path or journey.

An Innovative Tool for
the Inclusion of Refugees



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REFU'IN TOOLKIT GUIDE

Good Practices for the reception
and inclusion of asylum seekers
and refugees

Introduction

According to the data revealed ^{1,2}, at the end of 2021 about 89.3 million people in the world were forced to leave their homes and move to other places. The reasons justifying this need are part of a wide range, but among which can be noted problems related to human rights violations, widespread conflicts, persecution, violence and public instability and disorder.

Of the total figure, 4.6 million people have sought asylum in other countries, 632 185 of which in Member States of the European Union.

It is easy to imagine that the arrival in a new country of those who have been forced to leave behind part of their history can be very complex and challenging. Sometimes the insufficiency of procedures or the unpredictability of certain events may compromise an effective response to the different needs of these people.

For all this, CRESCER, together with other 4 European organizations, aimed to study which approaches are best able to address the current problematic and together they proposed the Refu'In project, which began in September 2019, funded by Erasmus +.

The aim is to achieve uniform and appropriate responses to the needs of thousands of people when they arrive in host countries in the EU. For this reason, CRESCER (Portugal), Arci Catania (Italy), Bulgarian Council on Refugees and Migrants (Bulgaria), Östersunds Kommun (Sweden) and Programma Integra (Italy) together have created a toolkit to support professionals and organizations in general to adopt practices considered to be more correct, adapted, respectful and effective in responding to the different requests presented and needs shown.

With this, it is hoped that the practices here designated will be applied and that, therefore, we may all and in an aligned way guarantee the best respect for those who come to us.

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

² <https://ecre.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Asylum-in-2021-1.pdf>

About the Toolkit

This Toolkit is an ultimate product of Refu'In project, which proposes to contribute for the identification, dissemination, and transferability of good practices on the intervention and inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in their host countries.

Through this compilation of good practices, we seek to demonstrate which approaches and methodologies can be implemented across Europe by professionals working with asylum seekers and/or refugees in order to improve their interventions with these populations.

This material contains good practices that are practical examples of work with migrants in the countries of the project partners: Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Bulgaria. The selection of these practices was based on categories and criteria defined through Refu'In's research process.

The Toolkit has been designed as an accessible product that can be used by professionals in their daily work. This compilation is subdivided into four specific tools:

- A handbook – printable and an extended online version
 - A technical sheet for the identification and implementation of good practices
 - 6 cards with the categories and criteria checklist to guide the practices' classification
 - 24 cards with summarized information about the selected good practices
- In the online version additional tools were included to learn more about the refugee reception context.

To access the extended online version of this HandBook:



Good Practices

Definition | Process of Collection and Selection | Selected Good Practices

Good Practices can be defined as proof-based quality practices that provide positive and significant results and that ideally are replicable to other territories and/or organizations. In the context of this project, we consider good practices not only projects or initiatives, but also relevant and personalized materials for asylum seekers and refugees, including methodologies that may be applied in the context of other organizations.

The Refu'In team collected several practices presented by different organizations during the National Forums promoted by each partner. As a result of these meetings, the information of the practices was systematized in a standardized template.

The practices were assessed and selected according to the criteria defined by the team project under six categories: housing, employment, education, provision of information and prevention of discrimination, free time and health.

Refu'In Criteria Checklist

The criteria checklist proposed by Refu'In aims to classify practices and consists in simplified and categorized indicators that evaluate projects/programs/initiatives in the field of inclusion and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. The final criteria were defined after an extent content analysis of the focus groups developed by all partners, with the participation of refugees, asylum seekers, and professionals working in the field. The criteria checklist is an available tool for every professional /organization who may want to assess and/or replicate a specific project/program/initiative that is already being implemented by other organization.



The description of the categories and criteria can be found in the cards inside the box.

Selected Good Practices

For the final product of the Refu'In project, a total of 24 good practices were considered.

The initiatives are briefly described on the cards and their extensive version can be found on the project's website.

Employment

-  PermaCulture: semi di integrazione
-  REC – Professional skills' development for recognition and validation of informal and non-formal competences learning of migrants and refugees & labour market inclusion

 Emprego Primeiro – Porta Aberta | Agência de Empregabilidade

 Yalla trappan

 Go4DiGreen

Health

 TINA, tidiga interventioner för nyanlända

 Sa.mi.fo. Center

Housing

 Sottosopra – Collaborative living

 LAR

 Together for integration

Discrimination

 Kompetensverkstaden

 Asylum Policy Lab – NOVA Refugee Clinic

 ComParte

 Blue Dots

Education

 Sipriomi Accademy

 Projeto Academia CV. PT

 Support for Future

 Begripligt hela vägen

Networking

 Civicozero social cooperative

 Meeru Aproxima

 Mentorship programme

 Gnistan

 NAD

 Skellefteå, kultur och fritidskontoret

Glossary

Adaptation: "Process of modifying some or all of one's beliefs and / or attitudes so as to suit new conditions of life." (1)

Asylum: "A form of protection given by a State on its territory, based on the principle of non-refoulement and internationally or nationally recognized refugee rights and which is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in their country of citizenship and / or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion." (1)

Asylum-Seeker: "An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which the claim is submitted. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum-seeker." (2)

Citizenship: "The particular legal bond between an individual and their State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation." (1)

Refugee: "Persons recognized as refugees, by a State or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on the basis of objective criteria related to the circumstances in their country of origin, which justify a presumption that they meet the criteria of the applicable refugee definition". (2)

Migrant: "An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons." (2)

Integration: "The two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community. It entails a set of joint responsibilities for migrants and communities and incorporates other related notions such as social inclusion and social cohesion." (2)

Social exclusion: "In the EU context, a situation whereby a person is prevented (or excluded) from contributing to and benefiting from economic and social progress." (1)

Social inclusion: "The process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society." (2)

Discrimination: "Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms." (2)

Displacement: "The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters." (2)

Host community: "A national or local community in which displaced persons temporarily reside". (2)

Resettlement: "The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought asylum to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized citizens. For this reason, resettlement is a durable solution as well as a tool for the protection of refugees. It is also a practical example of international burden- and responsibility-sharing." (2)

Right of Asylum: "The right of the State, in virtue of its territorial sovereignty and in the exercise of its discretion, to allow a non-national to enter and reside, and to resist the exercise of jurisdiction by any State over that individual." (1)

Non-EU National: “Any person not having the nationality of an EU Member State.” ⁽¹⁾

Third-Country National: “Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of TFEU and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).” ⁽¹⁾

Stateless person: “Person who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law.” ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary_en

⁽²⁾ <https://www.unhcr.org/449267670.pdf>

#GoodPractice: REC – Professional skills development for recognition and validation of competences & labour market inclusion



Country: Italy

Institution: Folias Social Cooperative

Brief Description:

– What?

Is a European Erasmus + Project that aims to create synergies between the actors involved in various capacities in the RECOGNITION OF NON – FORMAL AND INFORMAL SKILLS of adult migrant in order to support their labor integration in connection with the national qualifications framework (NQF).

– Why?

- To enhance and create transnational standardized professional competence of participating practitioners and stakeholders of VET in line with EU standards.
- To share and improve tools and practice that can make non-formal and informal skills of migrants and refugees visible and comparable and support their fast integration into labor market and further VET opportunities, also work-based;
- To mainstream the tools/standards/requirements of REC into local/regional systems and practice by reaching VET providers and stakeholders, including those responsible for qualifications and employers.

– How?

Through participatory methodologies, all staff members contributed by bringing their know-how, both in terms of their knowledge of the system of validation and transparency of competencies and their experience in working with international protection holders and asylum seekers.

Target Group:

Asylum Seekers



#GoodPractice: Emprego Primeiro –
Porta Aberta | Agência de Empregabilidade



Country: Portugal

Institution: A Bairros.

Brief Description:

– **What?**

Support employability for people in situations of vulnerability

– **Why?**

To promote the employability of vulnerable people, based on the joint action of several entities with diversified and proven experience

– **How?**

The integrated intervention model, which focuses on the person, their abilities, vocation, talents and specificities is the starting point for generating income from work. This model counts with a case manager, an employability technician and with follow-up continued by a peer.

Target Group: People who use licit and illicit psychoactive substances, people experiencing homelessness, sex workers, asylum seekers, refugees.



#GoodPractice: PermaCulture: semi di integrazione (migranti e welfare generativo)



Country: Italy

Institution: Il Nodo consortium

Brief Description:

– What?

PermaCulture is a professionalizing laboratory that brings together refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied foreign minors and unemployed young Italian graduates. The workshop is divided into two parts: 1) a theoretical part, during which technical experts provide information on payroll, safety devices, contracts, self-entrepreneurship, communication and understanding the work field; 2) a practical part that takes place in an old and abandoned garden that has been transformed and recovered by the beneficiaries through the permaculture technique.

– Why?

The general objective is to teach the tools of a useful profession, and to bring the beneficiaries closer to sustainable planning of the territory, but also to sustainable land planning techniques.

– How?

PermaCulture is a new experience. It was born from the need to remodel the classical training offered by the region of Sicily to refugees and asylum seekers, and to transform and to develop a new training programme, more accessible to asylum seekers and refugees.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers, international protection holders



#GoodPractice: Yalla trappan



Country: Sweden

Institution: Yalla Trappan

Brief Description:

— **What?**

Yalla Trappan is an integration social enterprise and women's cooperative. It is run by a non-profit association in south of Sweden.

— **Why?**

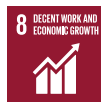
The aim of Yalla is to create jobs and increase financial independence for immigrant women who are far from the labour market. Yalla trappan has observed the need of increased self-esteem and economical independence among foreign-born women with little or no work experience.

— **How?**

The initiative operates within three fields of the labor market: Café and catering, sewing studio and cleaning.

Target Group:

Foreign born women.



#GoodPractice: Asylum Policy Lab –
NOVA Refugee Clinic (NOVA FCSH)



Country: Portugal

Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Brief Description:

– **What?**

Is a Public Policy University Laboratory of NOVA FSCH that develops activities in the field of asylum and migration policy, under the umbrella of NOVA Refugee Clinic. Its activities include studies and consultancy on asylum policies at international, European and Portuguese level.

– **Why?**

To identify gaps and disparities in policies involving and/or related to asylum and international protection, mapping entities and initiatives, but also identifying best practices and recommending policy and legislative changes for a better and more consistent reception of asylum seekers and refugees.

– **How?**

Advocacy: Alongside civil society organizations. Studies: to foster projects, proposals and recommendations for public policy and legislative changes on asylum and international protection. Consultancy: in-depth and academic analyzes on issues related to asylum policies at national, European and international levels.

Target Group:

Public and Civil Society
Organizations Working with
refugees



#GoodPractice: Blue Dots



Country: Bulgaria

Institution: UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs

Brief Description:

— What?

What? Jointly established by UNICEF and UNHCR together with local authorities and NGO partners, 'Blue Dots' are safe spaces along border in neighboring countries that provide children and families fleeing Ukraine with critical information and services. Blue Dot hubs provide refugees with vital information and practical support to help them continue their journey.

— Why?

Women and children represent 90% of Ukrainian refugees. By the end of March 2022, more than half of all children in Ukraine had left their homes, with a quarter of them leaving the country together.

— How?

They identify and register children travelling alone and connect them to protection services; they also provide referral services for women, including for gender-based violence. For children, Blue Dot hubs provide a safe and welcoming place to rest, play and just be a child.

Target Group:

Refugees



#GoodPractice: ComParte



Country: Portugal

Institution: ComParte – Fundação Maria Rosa

Brief Description:

– What?

Promotes contexts in which refugees and asylum seekers can participate in decision-making processes that affect them, and contributes to the design of services, measures and public policies.

– Why?

Participation in decision-making contributes to a more effective integration system, their experience as beneficiaries of the system is valued, a sense of belonging is strengthened, and reciprocity with the society that welcomed them is made possible.

– How?

The main activities are:

- 1) Participatory Diagnosis: consultation sessions with refugees/asylum seekers to understand their experiences as users of the integration system in Portugal and to collect recommendations in this regard.
- 2) Meetings: between refugees/asylum seekers, decision-makers and professionals, mediated by ComParte, where refugees share their experiences and recommendations directly with decision-makers and professionals.
- 3) Moments of collaboration and co-construction: workshops, mediated by ComParte, in which refugees, decision-makers and professionals work together to co-design solutions for the integration system.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers, refugees, policy makers and professionals



#GoodPractice: Kompetensverkstaden



Country: Sweden

Institution: Projekt IKO

Brief Description:

— **What?**

The initiative aims to develop skills for professionals working in the field of integration in intercultural meetings. The project has resulted in a platform – a webpage with information and a guide for training in intercultural differences. An educational portal, open to use for free to help professionals in their interaction with refugees.

— **Why?**

It was clear that many professionals working with asylum seekers and refugees during the 2014–2015 “refugee crisis”, didn’t have sufficient competence or experience with cultural differences. There was a great need to train professionals in this area.

— **How?**

Through capacity building training and dialogue. The training material with different training modules is available on the website.

Target Group:

Professionals with different backgrounds working in the field of migration.



#GoodPractice: TINA, tidiga interventioner för nyanlända



Country: Sweden

Institution: Karolinska institute

Brief Description:

— What?

TINA is a project that aims to help migrant children and youth to get in contact with health care to the same extent as Swedish born children. Professionals working with mental health get adequate training in order to find new methods that can facilitate the target group to get the right support.

— Why?

Research has shown that foreign-born people in need of help for mental illness, seek help to a significantly lesser extent than the rest of the population.

— How?

TINA investigates how healthcare can be inclusive and easily accessible for people with migrant backgrounds. Including health communicators in the project will increase migrants willingness to seek for mental health care.

Target Group:

Refugees



#GoodPractice: Sa.mi.fo. Center



Country: Italy

Institution: ASL Roma 1 – Healthcare system

Brief Description:

– What?

The Samifo Center – Health center for asylum seekers and refugees was born in 2006 in partnership between Centro astalli Association (Jesuit refugees services) and a public hospital (Azienda ospedaliera Roma A). The Center's aims are:

- Promoting and facilitate the fruition to public health care;
- Informing patients about their rights and about the related information sources;
- Educating healthcare professionals about migration medicine topics;
- Ensuring cultural-linguistic mediation to overcome the barrier of language and intercultural communication.

– Why?

The Samifo Center was created to ensure that all vulnerable migrants are able to access care with the assistance of a cultural mediator and medical staff with an in-depth knowledge of the issue of asylum and migration flows in Europe.

– How?

The approach is focused on: 1. the creation of inter-disciplinary pathways of care and individual support appropriate at physical, social and psychic pain of forced migrants; 2. the integration between basic medical assistance and specialized assistance.

The Center's staff adopt, in all the interventions, a multidimensional, inter-disciplinary and intercultural approach.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers, international protection holders



#GoodPractice: Go4DiGreen



Country: Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, France, Belgium

Institution: Blickpunkt Identität

Brief Description:

— **What?**

The Go4DiGREEN digital job training program aims to improve the situation of refugees enhancing their digital and entrepreneurial skills. This project develops accessible training materials addressing the real needs of refugees, taking into account core EU principles, and contributing to the European Green Deal. Go4DiGREEN is based on two basic pillars: basic economic integration and empowerment of refugees.

— **Why?**

This project is an innovative and rapid response to the emergent change on the operational context that resulted from the pandemic and climate change. Go4DiGreen represents an economically sustainable strategy with resources that fit the digital age and the promotion of refugee entrepreneurship as a stronger and resilient response to recent humanitarian issues.

— **How?**

The core component of the project is the use of people-centered approach, focusing on accessibility and capacity building.

Target Group:

Refugees



#GoodPractice: Siproimi Accademy



Country: Italy

Institution: : Il Nodo consortium

Brief Description:

— **What?**

SIPROIMI Academy is an experimental interactive distance teaching method devised by the Consortium “Il Nodo” in the municipalities of Catania and Acireale, Sicily, to address the lack of in-person experiential teaching due to the Covid19 emergency. The overall goal is to create a ‘continuity’ of learning with the help of experienced professionals who transmit practical information via webcam.

— **Why?**

SIPROIMI Academy was necessary to find a solution that is not a passive tutorial, but something that takes into account the concentration tolerance and the language skills of each individual. It was created to respond to the specific need emerged during the beginning of Pandemic, to avoid the interruption of the experiential workshops of The Node Consortium, inside shelter centers.

— **How?**

It took the form of interactive tutorials, where experienced technicians broadcast practical information via webcam to small classes of 10 to 15 people. The lessons transmitted cover specific areas of the work, such as catering, maintenance, and agriculture.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers, international protection holders



#GoodPractice: Projeto Academia C.V. PT



Country: Portugal

Institution: Fundação Cidade de Lisboa

Brief Description:

— What?

The project was born in 2016 and the main goal is to contribute to the socioeducational development and for the integration of migrant students in the city of Lisbon.

— Why?

Provide support to migrant children and young people in educational contexts for language learning and the development of personal, social and academic skills, thus promoting their integration. The project intervenes in several School Groups in the city of Lisbon, and through a network of volunteer tutors, it accompanies migrant children and young people as well as refugees on a weekly basis.

— How?

This project is based on individualized tutorship, having two main approaches of action: the promotion of educational success and citizenship education

Target Group:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers



#GoodPractice: Begripligt hela vägen



Country: Sweden

Institution: The municipality of Strömsund

Brief Description:

– **What?**

The project aims to facilitate the migration process, making it more understandable for children and to help them feel at home in their new context without losing touch with their origin. The project has resulted in two method books. The books are indicated for the children, youth, and parents.

– **Why?**

To put more focus on children and youth in their process of integration since these groups are usually the most affected by the migration process.

– **How?**

Through dialogue with children, parents and professionals such as social workers and school staff. The whole initiative puts focus on children from day one.

Target Group:

Refugees from Sweden



#GoodPractice: Support for future



Country: Bulgaria

Institution: Caritas Sofia

Brief Description:

– What?

The main goal of the project is to ensure the right to childhood, a dignified and safe life, guaranteeing basic human rights for the most vulnerable group of refugees – the unaccompanied refugee children. The project envisages the provision of social and psychological support, assistance in accessing services, activities for child development and non-formal education, career guidance and personal development, active participation and cultural orientation, recreational activities, sports and excursions, workshops for building and applying skills and other support services

– Why?

The project addresses the need of refugee unaccompanied children with focus on the development of their capacity for integration.

– How?

The project is based on the “Case Management” approach as a way of communication, organization, and coordination between the responsible experts within the project. The case manager has the responsibility to coordinate and support each person’s journey, being the “intermediary” between the protection seekers, with a focus on unaccompanied children, and the other project experts who support their access to health, social, psychological services, non-formal education activities.

Target Group:

Refugee children, unaccompanied minors



#GoodPractice: LAR



Country: Portugal

Institution: Associação de Apoio à Inclusão de Imigrantes e Refugiados

Brief Description:

— **What?**

It is a second-line response when integrating people who have completed their 18 or 24 months foster care programmes. LAR seeks to select families of refugees and/or migrants who like agriculture and the rural environment, integrating them into villages at risk of depopulation.

— **Why?**

It provides the hosted families with a home and supports all family members in their professional, educational and sociocultural integration. The project provides a house that becomes their home and work in a regenerative agricultural project.

— **How?**

By providing a phased reception, primarily focused on sociocultural integration in the local environment and close to the community. Associated with this, LAR is creating an agricultural project that provides one member of each family with an immediate job placement. It is an environmental regeneration project that includes a part of the production of vegetables and other differentiated products.

Target Group:

Refugees



#GoodPractice: Sottosopra – Collaborative living



Country: Italy

Institution: Trame di quartiere, community cooperative

Brief Description:

– What?

The project, which will be carried out in the historic San Berillo district of Catania, provides for the creation of social housing in co-housing where people from wandering experiences will be hosted. Their housing autonomy path will be favored by the activation of the beneficiaries engaged in redevelopment and integration activities with the reference context. It is a project that aims to combat housing and relational poverty by proposing an innovative model of living aimed at making people aware and active in the creation of their own living environment.

– Why?

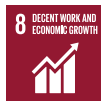
The project was created to respond to the housing problem, with particular attention to people seeking asylum.

– How?

People can find hospitality at Palazzo De Gaetani: they will be accompanied on social and economic reintegration paths aimed at achieving housing autonomy. The project also involves the construction of a social cafeteria, located on the ground floor of the historic building, and will represent an aggregative space capable of combining commercial and social elements with the aim of strengthening proximity services at the local level. The cafeteria will promote the creation of a network of neighborhood services, such as a social concierge and cultural activities that favor relationships and exchange.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers and refugees



#GoodPractice: Together for integration



Country: Bulgaria

Institution: Bulgarian Red Cross

Brief Description:

— What?

The project provide complex integration support which includes also housing, enable the effective use of the potential of the refugees to accelerate the socio-economic development of the country. A complex of measures is envisaged, using the capacity of local authorities to implement successful integration, as well as building a partnership between municipalities and representatives of the non-governmental sector.

— Why?

The long-term goal of integration programs is to guarantee that refugees who have been relocated have access to the same quantity and quality of services as citizens while also helping them feel a part of their new society. Effective integration policies have the power to improve people's lives. They can create previously unheard-of prospects for development by enhancing the environment on an economic, social, and cultural level.

— How?

The activities include support for housing, facilitating access to the labor market, social and health services, language training, various forms of administrative consultations, raising the awareness of refugees about their rights and obligations, socio-cultural orientation and familiarization with culture, lifestyle and the traditions of the host country. The project activities envisage sports/social-cultural events with the participation of refugees and representatives of host society, encouraging cultural exchange

Target Group:

Refugees and Migrants



#GoodPractice: Civicozero social cooperative



Country: Italy

Institution: Civicozero social cooperative

Brief Description:

— What?

The project provides different services, such as: social mediation, support, reception and referral services, and legal counselling. The methodological approach adopted by Civicozero always puts the minor at the center of the intervention, as an active person, able to participate in an informed manner in the decision process.

— Why?

To create a meeting place where foreign unaccompanied minors, young refugees and asylum seekers can learn the language, find psychological support, cultural mediation and many recreational activities such as rap workshops, percussion workshops or theater workshops, among others.

— How?

The Civicozero project was created by a group of Save the Children workers who are experts in working with minors, especially foreign minors.

Target Group: Young adults and foreign unaccompanied minors (asylum seekers, international protection holders)



#GoodPractice: Gnistan



Country: Sweden

Institution: The Rockin Pots

Brief Description:

— **What?**

Gnistan is an integration fund where people and associations can apply for money for ideas that promote integration. The fund supports ideas about getting people with different background to meet.

— **Why?**

It aims to fund different initiatives that promote integration and social cohesion in society. The goal is to prevent mental illness among refugees, xenophobia, and segregation.

— **How?**

The fund is supported by private donations from various sponsors, music artists, companies etc. Both private individuals and associations can apply and get money within few days.

Target Group:

Refugees and asylum seekers



#GoodPractice: Meeru Aproxima



Country: Portugal

Institution: Associação para o Desenvolvimento MEERU | Abrir Caminho

Brief Description:

— **What?**

Aims to create a model for structuring informal support networks that fight social isolation and facilitate the inclusion of migrant and refugee families hosted in local communities, through the mobilization of volunteers to energize their informal support network, based on the creation of genuine bonds of affection and belonging, promoting community transformation and allowing full and autonomous reception and inclusion.

— **Why?**

To promote the sense of belonging and community engagement among migrant and refugee families living in Portugal.

— **How?**

Through this program they find, train and mentor volunteers who become, along with the families, builders of genuine bonds of affection, belonging and trust. The implementation of the APROXIMA Communities takes place through 3 axes: Proximity Teams; Events in the Community; Awareness.

Target Group:

Asylum seekers, refugee and local people



#GoodPractice: Mentorship programme



Country: Bulgaria

Institution: Caritas Sofia

Brief Description:

– What?

The Mentorship Programme implemented by the “St. Anna” integration centre for refugees and immigrants at Caritas Sofia” helps to encourage the communication of people who have received international protection with the local citizens which supports their integration into Bulgarian society. The Programme exists since 2016 as a corroborated operating practice helping the people who have obtained international protection and who live in Sofia.

– Why?

When the refugees came in an entirely new and unknown environment, far from their home, the refugees need somebody to help them get along with the circumstances – a friend and a partner with whom they may share the problems they worry about, to practice their Bulgarian language and to spend time in the company of a local person.

– How?

The volunteers who undertake the role of mentors are motivated people lead by the desire to do good. The people willing to lay the foundations of their new life in Bulgaria, on the other side, are motivated to know more about the culture, life routine and manners of the country in which they wish to build their new home.

Target Group:

Refugees and Migrants



#GoodPractice: NAD



Country: Sweden

Institution: Länsstyrelsen, Region of Skåne and Studieförbundet bilda

Brief Description:

— **What?**

Is a partnership between the Swedish Employment agency, municipalities from the region of Skåne and different NGOs, with the aim to find suitable and long lasting freetime activities for the target group, newly arrived refugees. NAD guides the target group to find social contacts through freetime activities. The aim is to improve their physical and mental health. Most of the activities are coordinated through partnerships with other organizations

— **Why?**

The target group doesn't participate in different activities at the same extent as the rest of the population. It is in this context that different partners found it necessary to collaborate in order to facilitate the inclusion of the target group in society.

— **How?**

NAD connects the target group with different associations and make sure that the participants as well as the organization have the right support and fulfill their engagement. A bank of activities is produced in the framework of the project.

Target Group:

Refugees



#GoodPractice: Skellefteå, kultur och fritidskontoret



Country: Sweden

Institution: The municipality of Skellefteå

Brief Description:

— What?

The municipality of Skellefteå organizes freetime activities for newly settled refugees in Skellefteå. The activities are led by former migrants with cultural and language skills adaptable to all ages and genders. The activities are based on requests from the target group and on the availability of the request. One of the key factors is to empower bridge builders and let them become leaders of the activities.

— Why?

Skellefteå is a small town in the northern part of Sweden where people often get lonely and outside of the context, if they don't have a network – a reality for many of the newly arrived refugees. Networking is often created through different activities and associations in Skellefteå.

— How?

The municipality equips leaders with knowledge and training in leadership and the other skills they need to coach a group of people in a certain activity. The leaders are bridgebuilders with cultural and language skills.

Target Group:

Refugees



REFUIN.ORG