

SUPPORTIVE SPACES FOR MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS

4.1. Project aim and content:

Our project aims to contribute to migrants' inclusion in Nordic societies through facilitating their quick entry into the labour market.

The specific goals are:

- Provide face-to-face interaction between migrants and entrepreneurial experts to meet new learner needs.
- Strengthen migrants' democratic participation by creating accessible and non-bureaucratic activities.
- Change the narrative of migrants to be one of active and productive citizens.
- Promote space for cultivating active and sustainable citizenship for migrant entrepreneurs by empowering them and strengthening their network. Aim motivation: We see polarities between Nordic local communities and migrants but from experience we know they often stem from misconceptions. There hasn't been sufficient space for newcomers to build an understanding of their new context so we want to foster cultural learning and contribute to migrants' inclusion into Nordic societies. By providing entrepreneurial skills and a platform for interaction, we aim to create a safe space for migrants. Background The project emanates from our previous project Vet4Migre (Vocational Education for Migrants Entrepreneurs), which was implemented across Denmark, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Bulgaria. This showed that the zeal to create businesses as a way of sustaining oneself in a new community is high among migrants, but there remain several hurdles to their success. Another important outcome was a free 'Online Course for Migrant Entrepreneurs on a European level', which will form a great component of our new project. The participant feedback was a request of more direct interaction rather than digital communication. As Crossing Borders has a successful collaboration with entrepreneurs and other partners in regard to migration, we have the opportunity to accommodate their wish. Crossing Borders has the knowledge, expertise, and experience. Our experience showed the need for more interactive, adult learning in entrepreneurship. Our network consists of entrepreneurial experts who have also experienced migration challenges.

Therefore, we can:

- Promote active citizenship within the Nordic region
- Create a space for intercultural dialogue
- Facilitate interaction between participants and partners and provide entrepreneurial skills

Nordic/Baltic added value:

Nordic countries have experienced record migration, and we need to find lasting and sustainable solutions for locals and migrants to live together. Effective integration of newcomers is highly important and can bring multiple benefits.

Our project will add value through:

- Benefitting Nordic countries economically as migrants will receive the help they need to start their own businesses and become a productive force in the labour markets.

- The process of inclusion, learning and networking will empower migrants to launch into entrepreneurship. Nordic countries provide a great ground for entrepreneurship and newcomers can thereby contribute to the welfare systems.
- New ideas in relation to strengthening inclusion and integration initiatives by in-group members will be facilitated.
- Nordic cultures and traditions will be combined with other cultures and traditions to gain a better understanding of differences and similarities.
- The transnational element secures open boundaries and collaboration within the Nordic countries. NPAD-2020/10128 Page 4 (11) Submitted - 03-Feb-2020 Activities Our project, 'Facilitating Supportive Spaces for Migrant Entrepreneurs', will involve different, interactive activities of non-formal learning for at least 25 participants in each country. These activities are created to support our goal; to empower EU-migrants with entrepreneurial interests and strengthen their democratic participation through promoting active and sustainable entrepreneurship.

Our main activities are:

- A 3-day kick-off meeting and training in entrepreneurship and migrant inclusion facilitated by Crossing Borders. Here, the Vet4Migre online course will be used to gain knowledge and the previous experiences from this project will be reflected upon. The attendants will be two coordinators from each participating country, which the partner organizations themselves will choose. This creates a model framework for facilitating migrant entrepreneurs to develop their ideas, develop new skills on their entrepreneur journey, expand and get into supportive networks within their new local communities. It will be documented in a tool-book of experiences and best practices across the project.
- Facilitate at least 25 participants in each country to enroll in Vet4Migre's online entrepreneurship course and afterwards participate in our 'Facilitating Supportive Spaces for Migrant Entrepreneurs' project. The outcome is to secure that at least 25 migrant entrepreneurs in each country have gained entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.
- 6 'Entrepreneurship Networking Dinners', one every second month, in each participating country, where well-established migrants, which are all entrepreneurs, will be invited to tell their story and share their experiences in regard to being entrepreneurs in their new host country. Mentors, mentees, business people and students will also be invited to discuss and share good experiences. In this informal forum the participants have an opportunity to ask questions about entrepreneurship and become inspired. The events are aimed at providing a platform for migrants with interests in entrepreneurship to come together and interact on a social basis, which we hope will increase chances of both cultural understanding and learning. Each partner organization will be in charge of coordinating and facilitating these events in their local community. The project participants have increased their networks as well as connected to supportive mentors and experienced entrepreneurs that can help them along their future journey. Local community entrepreneurs have gained more knowledge and understanding about the existence, aspirations, and needs of migrant entrepreneurs, and are hopefully more open to support them along their journey. Crossing Borders will reach out to Copenhagen-based migrant entrepreneurs such as Kaffee Bueno, Impact Roasters, Bike & Bloom and Celine Faty among some.
- 10 monthly mentor days in each country where two experts in entrepreneurship will provide guidance within topics like entrepreneurship and EU-related discourses. Each partner organization

will be in charge of coordinating and facilitating the mentor days in their local community. The outcome from the mentor sessions will be increased knowledge about how to overcome the challenges that migrant entrepreneurs face in their local community and participants will also gain a personal bond to their mentor that could be beneficial for the future. Here, Crossing Borders will reach out to Celine Faty, Bike & Bloom, and Refugee Entrepreneurs Denmark among some.

- An online platform will be created where participants from all countries are able to get in touch and create an even bigger network to discuss and share experiences. This will also be beneficial in the future as it will be a platform for participants, coordinators and mentors to stay in contact.
- Quarterly Skype reflection meetings among coordinators to follow up and share experiences between countries. This will ensure communication about possible problems and how to overcome these.
- A final reflection-evaluation and sharing of best practices meeting arranged by Crossing Borders but hosted by Mobilizing Expertise in Sweden. A final report will be compiled and the facilitators will participate in finalizing the tool-book. There will a discussion about future possibilities for the project's continuation.

Results

Our project, 'Facilitating Supportive Spaces for Migrant Entrepreneurs' will:

- Result in a model framework for empowering migrant entrepreneurs and help them establish a supportive network that will also be valuable to them in the future.
- The project will secure that at least 25 migrant entrepreneurs in each country have gained entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.
- The dinners will result in participants having a stronger network, both of social and business value, and there will be a greater cultural understanding. NPAD-2020/10128 Page 9 (11) Submitted - 03-Feb-2020
- The mentor sessions will result in increased knowledge and experience-sharing about the challenges that migrant entrepreneurs face and how to handle these.
- The social platform made will result in an accessible, supportive network where experiences can be shared and help can be found, also in the future.
- The project process will be documented in a tool-book that will contain the experiences and best practices, which will be of help in the future.
- The partner organizations will benefit from the skills of the coordinators and participants who will help foster inclusion in the future.
- The project will also foster stronger collaboration between the partnering countries in the future. • On a sectoral level, the project will result in a more effective inclusion process for migrant entrepreneurs as they will be provided with tools, skills and networks that empower them both to launch into entrepreneurship but also to be active, sustainable citizens.

Dissemination

We will make sure our audience learns about the project by realising a plan for dissemination activities that will be used by all partner organizations to realise a wider and better exploitation of

the project products. We will contact educational organizations, local authorities, relevant institutions or NGOs to have an exchange of ideas and to make them aware about the objectives and activities of the project to raise interest. All the partners have a background in supporting migrants and we will use these networks to promote the project training programme and its results through a strong community of organizations all working with the target group. The exploitation aim is to convince and encourage the use of the results and apply the innovative methodology to develop further activities.

The target group for our project 'Facilitating Supportive Spaces for Migrant Entrepreneurs' are migrant entrepreneurs who are young adults. Dissemination of the project and to raise awareness and interest about the objectives and the activities of the project include among others:

- Each partner organization promotes the project on their websites and social media platforms, networks and stakeholder audience
- Members organizational networks (NGOs, institutions, schools and other partners) • Humanitarian organizations or associations
- Youth voluntary associations
- Facebook will be used intensively (update work progress, activities and sharing materials online)
- Use of other tools of communication (mailing lists, whatsapp, messenger etc.)
- A mailing list of end users/potentially interest people for regular dissemination activities will be made
- A press and web campaign will be made
- Publishing the materials on web-platforms
- Submission of the final report to Nordplus and its later submission in Nordplus' project database Furthermore, the final report and all the relevant materials obtained from the project will be disseminated via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and in our websites, both for dissemination purposes but also for providing inspiration for future ideas. All publications will be compliant with GDPR. Evaluation The project and its results will be evaluated through both quantitative and qualitative indicators. There will be an on-going evaluation of the process to ensure that everything is going well and whether there is a need to adjust for instance materials or activities.

We have certain quantitative indicators:

- Number of people expressing interest in signing up to the training
- Number of people engaged in the training
- Number of people who have expressed interest in the project results
- Number of people downloading the outcomes
- Number of visits to the website collecting all materials produced during the partnership
- Number of 'Likes' on our Facebook page and persons involved in the Facebook page
- Number of articles published on newspapers and number of readers

- Number of good practices searched and quality of the best ones

We have certain qualitative indicators:

- Availability of the outcomes to a large audience through the internet
- Inclusion of the outcomes in the dissemination platform NPAD-2020/10128 Page 10 (11)
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- Feedback from participants involved, coordinators etc.

Continuously monitoring, evaluating and adjusting our project will allow us to achieve the project's goals. And finally, we have also set in plan an evaluation meeting at the end of the project where we will reflect upon the entire project and collate all the knowledge and experiences gained across the implementation period.