4th N E W S L E T T E R – 2/2023

EMPOWER

The EMPOWER project aims at supporting the conscious development of basic competences and key skills of migrant women in terms of entrepreneurship.

Project is financed by the European Commission.

AGREEMENT NUMBER

2021-1-DE02-KA220-ADU-000033659

START DATE

01-11-2021

DURATION

26 MONTHS

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

What has the EMPOWER team been up to from November 2022 – February 2022?

Let's recap what EMPOWER project is about.
You are welcome to refresh your memory with a short video: https://youtu.be/1N_ewcwq4DE.

One of the main results of the EMPOWER project will be a toolkit of methods, learning materials and training activities for encouraging entrepreneurship among immigrant women. As we are developing this toolkit in a multicultural setting in cooperation with migrant women from different cultural contexts we have to be interculturally sensitive, mindful of ways of communication, think about risk assessment policies, accessibility and many other aspects.

Among useful tools for professionals working at grassroot level with migrant, asylum seeking and refugee women is also the Worldpplace's Meaningful engagement and integration of migrant women toolkit available here.

Main activities

From November 2022 to January 2023 partners have been **testing the portfolio of tools** for self-assessment and assessment of entrepreneurial skills **with almost 50 immigrant women and men from different** countries (e.g. Ukraine, Syria, Kosovo and other Balkan countries, countries from Africa). The tools are **practical activities** that encouraged participants to reflect upon their entrepreneurial knowledge, skills and experiences. With the help of the trainers they gained basic **knowledge about entrepreneurial competences** in the framework of the EntreComp model. They were also able to think about their **wishes, goals** and discuss potential **entrepreneurial ideas** for future endeavours. In general, participants were grateful for the opportunity to cooperate at the testing sessions, they emphasized that they haven't gained only new knowledge and perspective, but have also thought about themselves in a different way, met new like-minded people and appreciated the interactive and practical nature of the activities. Trainers were also satisfied with the implementation of the testing sessions and gained valuable insight into possible improvements of the tools.

Partners have also implemented **focus groups** with experts from different organisations who work with immigrants. These experts have provided a valuable feedback about the usability, relevance and quality of the tools and shared their ideas and recommendations for working with immigrant women.

"All participants were interested to learn how to start their own business. In general, these two testing days are a great opportunity for participants to gain knowledge, understand their competencies, understand what they can improve and increase their motivation regardless of their circumstances". (Trainer from Sweden)

"The tool is appreciated because it is simple and creative. In addition, it is a tool that motivates you to achieve your goals." (Participant from Italy)

"Perfect tool for the first session as an icebreaker activity and as a starting point for using the toolkit in the next steps." (Trainer from Germany)

"This tool is useful and interesting. Individuals can relate/identify with the life situation. It is suitable also for those with a lower level of education. It is great that it offers the opportunity for team work which encourages also communication and coordination between team members; they can develop, build upon and share their ideas. The activity offers also opportunities for upgrading for groups whose members have more knowledge about economy or business." (Participant of the focus group in Slovenia)

*T*e feedback from participants and trainers at the testing sessions and participants of focus groups will serve as the basis for the **next steps in the project:** preparation of the final version of the tools and translation to local languages and the development of the training for strengthening entrepreneurial competences of immigrant women.

OUR TEAM

COORDINATOR:

Thomas Blum
blum@regiovision-sn.de

PARTNERS:

Matteo Paradisi
mparadisi@ilmiofuturo.it

Ali Rashidi
ali.rashidi@folkuniversitetet.se

Karina Loyko
karina.loyko@trim-tab.se

Mateja Štirn
mateja.stirn@isainstitut.si

Tine Nagy
tine@step-institute.org

Ms Vittoria Pompò
info@coordinamentodonne.it

Susanne Kapellusch
skapellusch@ schwerin.de