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# EMBRACIN

The official newsletter of the EMBRACIN project

## PILOT ACTIONS IN CYPRUS

The piloting in Cyprus coordinated by the Municipality of Engomi, began in September 2021 with the participation of 7 beneficiaries. The members are involved in Greek language lessons twice per week and they also went on local visits in Larnaka and Lefkara while learning about the local culture and history.

During the activities some problems that were notified concerned the availability of Greek language lessons offered, the delays and the Ministry bureaucracy. Overall, the feedback received from beneficiaries concerning the EMBRACIN program was positive since they find it useful and they feel they can benefit from it. Especially from the socio-psychological support and language lessons, since they will be able to express freely themselves, learn more about the host country and overcome the language barriers.

A concern that they expressed is how the same program can be implemented in larger groups, since they notice that smaller groups have better results. Beneficiaries emphasized on discrimination/xenophobia and the need for guidance and support for housing and finding a job.

## PILOT ACTIONS IN ITALY

In Italy the pilot actions coordinated by the Municipality of Padova and Alterevo began on the 14th of December, 2021, as a form of cohabitation with the participation of 8 beneficiaries and the help of 7 hosting families. The training began with the participatory training schedule that includes a sociological module, a psychological module, a legal module and a module devoted to local services. So far, the mediation work was constant and the offered support ensured that daily issues didn't become critical. In the period indicated, the steering committee composed of the Municipality of Padua-Social Services (Alessandra Meneghini), Cooperativa Orizzonti (Laura Abeni, Valentina Baliello, Luca Bertolino and Valentina Zambon) and Refugees Welcome (Mackda Ghebremariam Tesfau'), met every two weeks, for a total of six meetings of 2h30 each to discuss the procedure of the project and a future workshop for the beneficiaries.



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## This issue:

Learn about the pilot actions in each participating country

The partners of the project with the help of organisations, families and experts offer opportunities to help third-country nationals integrate in their local community

## PILOT ACTIONS IN GREECE

The MDAT pilot actions in Thessaloniki began in January 2021 with 7 beneficiaries. Some of the activities implemented so far are Greek language lessons (bi-weekly) which will help them to effectively communicate with the local community and focus group meeting which was important for the MDAT team to gain feedback from the pilots. Some problems faced so far concern those who work fulltime, since it is difficult for them to participate in their scheduled Greek classes and monthly group psychosocial meetings. Additionally, beneficiaries expressed their concern on the commitment problem which has been identified since not everyone joins the EMBRACIN team for the joint activities or they arrive late. The beneficiaries' feedback showed that they were satisfied with the EMBRACIN services and would like to participate in more social activities as well as volunteer engagement. Finally, the social inclusion worker will also begin looking for volunteers to help with the pilot actions. The next step is to identify a vocational seminar for some beneficiaries to pursue i.e. barrister, bartending, tattoo design to receive a professional certificate.



## PILOT ACTIONS IN SPAIN

FAMSI as the coordinator began the pilot actions in July 2021 with 12 beneficiaries. They participated in practical training where they met new people and gained work experience and a workshop on labour market recruitment, employment regulations, social security and migration. These experiences were very useful for the beneficiaries since they learned how the labour market is governed and how it works at a legislative level. In order to access training activities, enrolment and job searches, all beneficiaries needed some documentation, which was the only difficulty faced during the pilots. The feedback received from beneficiaries was positive and they felt grateful for the opportunities they were offered. For the future, the next activities will be mainly socio-educational, self-care, home care and a lot of emotional education.



## PILOT ACTIONS IN SLOVENIA

The pilot actions in Slovenia coordinated by the Municipality of Hoče Slivnica started in June 2021 with 9 beneficiaries. The activities implemented included a stand at the local market Pohorska tržnica where beneficiaries could represent traditional food to locals and an excursion at the cinema to watch a Slovene film during the Ljubljana International Film Festival 2021. These activities helped them improve their self-esteem; interact with locals and raise awareness in the community; connecting locals & beneficiaries. They also improved their Slovene culture and language skills and were seen in the local community. The feedback from beneficiaries was positive since they were pleased to learn the Slovene language, they felt happy that locals liked their food, they learned something new about Slovenia and overall enjoyed the activities. Other activities that were organised during February included 2 presentations. Beneficiaries presented themselves and their origin country in Slovene. This event offered opportunities to taste traditional food, socialize and learn about each other (locals & beneficiaries).

## PILOT ACTIONS IN SWEDEN

In Sweden, the pilot actions coordinated by the Municipality of Sala started in January 2021 with 7 beneficiaries. The activities included computer literacy and job searching practices. Each activity aimed to empower the participants and ensure they feel more included in the society. During all sessions, participants also practiced their verbal skills by using the Sweden language. One of the difficulties has been to keep a few of the participants motivated on and off. This is partly due to the pandemic and the uncertainty that all people face during this period. The feedback received from participants was positive while they expressed that now they understand better the society and they seem excited about what they learned so far. They also managed to build a sense of trust with each other which makes it easier for them to discuss sensitive topics like equality among genders. The next steps of the pilot is to visit workplaces and implement more social activities, which has been impossible to do during the pandemic.

## EMBRACIN NEWS

Find the publication from a local Italian newspaper which describes the EMBRACIN project and the idea behind the project.



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