

comunità
montagna

IN DEPTH MAGAZINE
edited by Uncem,
National Union
of Municipalities
and mountain bodies

march

2022



MOUNTAIN, ENVIRONMENT, TERRITORIES, INTEGRATED ECOLOGY, ENERGIES

SPECIAL NUMBER



EMPLOYMENT

The tools
needed
for job
placement

INTEGRATION

To mediate in
nine pilot actions

CULTURE

How to create
a method of
success for
the reception

Arrival regions

How to combine demographic changes
with social innovation policies



Nine pilot actions, four research papers and the documentary film “Heimat”: the European project Arrival regions includes a set of initiatives that we summarize in this page



EUROPEAN PROGRAMME

Central Europe

PROGRAMME PRIORITY

Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

PROGRAMME PRIORITY
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions

PROJECT ACRONYM

Arrival Regions

PROJECT TITLE

Exploring social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals

PROJECT INDEX NUMBER

CE1277

NAME OF THE LEAD PARTNER
ORGANISATION/ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

Leibniz Institut für Länderkunde

NAME OF THE LEAD PARTNER
ORGANISATION/ENGLISH

English Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

PROJECT DURATION
36 MONTH

Start date: 01.04.2019
End Date: 31.03.2022

OUTPUT OF THE PROJECT RESEARCH PAPERS



PAPER ON MIGRATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Leibniz Institut for Regional Geography (IfL)
www.ifl-leipzig.de

PAPER ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

University of Szczecin
www.wzieu.pl | <http://wzp.pl>

PAPER ON INTEGRATION PRECONDITIONS

University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
<http://ff.zcu.cz>

PAPER ON LOCAL INTEGRATION POLICIES

Uncem Delegazione Piemontese
<https://uncem.piemonte.it>

MOVIE DOCUMENTARY “HEIMAT”

Uncem Delegazione Piemontese
<https://uncem.piemonte.it>



SPECIAL NUMBER
ARRIVAL REGIONS



SUMMARY

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montagna

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ARRIVAL REGIONS

6 project and
policy recommendations

THE PARTNERS

10 a 13 partnership

GAL ESCARTONS AND VALDESIAN VALLEYS

12 mediating to help

CITY OF OSIJEK, CROATIA

14 life together

MOUNTAIN UNION OF CEVA

16 humanitarian corridors

DISTRICT OF TACHOV, CZECH REPUBLIC

18 integration activities

HEADQUARTERS

20 combating discrimination

MUNICIPALITY OF POSTOJNA

24 organizing support

WESTERN POMERANIA, POLAND

28 multicultural education

DISTRICT OF BURGENLAND

30 empowerment

LODZKIE REGION, POLAND

36 legal support

TODAY'S MIGRATORY FLOWS

38 regions of arrival

BARRIERS AND PREREQUISITES

40 the study

FROM THIRD COUNTRIES TO RURAL AREAS

42 the strategy

43 NEWS

Gen Rosso. The music that unites

pilot action

papar search



Photo on the front cover
by Costantino Sergi

di **Roberto Colombero**
Uncem Piemonte President



EDITORIAL



Unione
Nazionale
Comuni Comunità
Enti
Montani
Delegazione Piemontese

A MATTER OF PEACE



MONTAGNA
AMBIENTE
TERRITORI
ECOLOGIA INTEGRATA
ENERGIE



NUMERO SPECIALE
ARRIVAL REGIONS

I am writing these lines in the days of the dramatic war in Ukraine.

And in the hours when refugees in Kiev and Mariupol are being targeted by bombings. We seemed far from the nightmare of the war in Europe. Instead, because of the worst will of power, we find ourselves a few hundred kilometers from the Italian border with destruction, death, lonely children, refugees.

A project such as Arrival Regions, which Uncem strongly wanted in order to understand and know what we have to do to "be," cannot be indifferent to the war in Ukraine. What is happening there is also ours, even of those who live in Balme or Acceglio, Roburent or Sordevolo. As ours are the challenges of the humanitarian crises that this war has opened.

The same as other, too many wars in Africa and Asia. The third world war in pieces. Overwhelmed peoples fleeing and seeking refuge.

Other than "economic migrants." We were, one hundred, two hundred years ago, "economic migrants" to all of Europe and the Americas, to give a better future to our families. And even the great flight from the mountains, from the 1950s to the 1980s, was motivated by the desire to find a better status elsewhere. Let's read this story. Let us learn.

Those who flee seek a different future.

It's always like that. And we should be able

to forget the reason why those people leave their homelands. From Ukraine today people flee to escape the war that as the Pope said is the first cause of evil.

Those who flee seek for welcoming. They can find it with us. Whether black, yellow, white. Whether they come from the Sahel or from Ukraine. Our countries, which experienced abandonment last century, today know how to welcome. They are small communities that have been able to give themselves models and rules, different from urban areas and neighborhoods, to generate inclusion and integration. We need it. We know that in thirty years Italy will have 40% less population.

Today our territories are "empty." And so, when we look at Italy in half a century, it will not be absurd to ask ourselves: how have we done then, in that 2020, 2021... not to find important, serious, true and lasting solutions to the demographic decline and to the and the progressive aging of the population? Our territories are places of arrival and return, while millions and millions of people are already moving around the world and across the Mediterranean, a stormy sea between mountains. In our countries people learn trades, we stay together and find a community. It must be done.

We want to do it, to "be again."

Our children will thank us.

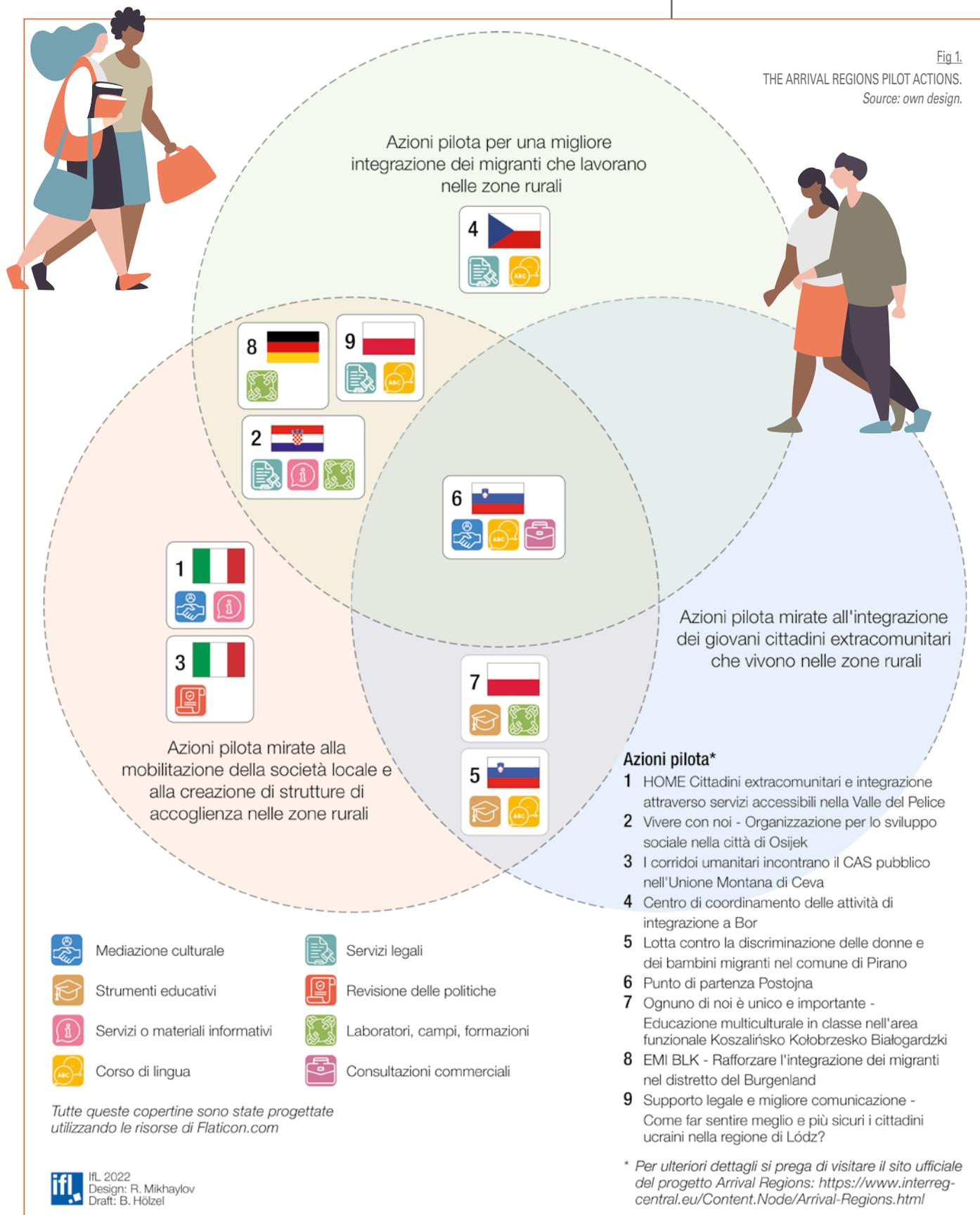
migrant integration

Over the last decades, many rural regions of Central Europe have experienced negative effects of demographic change among which are aging, out-migration and economic decline. However, the 2010s have become a turning point for many areas of Central Europe (including rural regions) bringing international migrants to places that have never been popular destinations for foreigners. For rural areas affected by the negative consequences of demographic change, international migration offers an opportunity to meet the economy's demand for skilled workers and to maintain public services threatened by closure as a result of low profitability (e.g. schools or public transport). Due to the high concentration of people, large cities traditionally have better preconditions for successful integration of international migrants. In rural areas, on the other hand, intercultural coexistence is often difficult. This means that in order to turn the recent wave of migration of non-EU nationals to rural regions of Central Europe into a success story, these regions need to search for some innovative custom-made approaches. Partners from Italy, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia and the Czech Republic have developed the INTERREG project "ARRIVAL REGIONS - Exploring social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals" to meet this challenge. The project was based on the ideas of collaboration and co-creation: ARRIVAL REGIONS unites representatives of local administrations, scientific organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders and gives local stakeholders and representatives of local migrant communities the opportunity to improve arrival

infrastructure of their region. The project team identified success factors for the social and economic integration of international migrants in rural areas, tested practical approaches and developed a strategy in the form of a toolbox for local administrations. This was accompanied by mutual learning through visiting best practices in other European countries, trainings for different target groups and communication measures. The overall objective of the project was to enhance the capacities of decision-makers in rural areas of Central Europe to successfully integrate young non-EU nationals into social life and local labour markets in order to stabilise their demographic and economic situation of the region. A second project goal was to change the often-negative perspective on the in-migration of non-EU nationals to one where migration and migrants are perceived as an enrichment for the region: as potential neighbours, colleagues and friends rather than as a threat. To achieve this goal, the project partners have developed a transnational strategy for the social and economic integration of international migrants. The aim was to show ways in which migration to rural areas can become an opportunity to solve the challenges of demographic development (e.g., shortage of skilled workers, securing services of general interest). In addition, the project team has identified integration potentials and obstacles and explored possibilities of creating or strengthening local "welcoming cultures". Another project activity was extensive training and coaching of local actors. These included the implementation of new approaches to social innovation as well as the strengthening of intercultural skills to

improve cooperation with international migrants. The main objective of the workshops and coaching sessions was to intensify networking between the public sector, local businesses, the education system and civil society and local administrations. In addition, the project has completed an extensive number of communication activities that highlighted migrants' potentials for the development of rural areas and sought to combat existing stigmas (especially towards civil war refugees). However, the most important component of the project were nine pilot initiatives which are in detail described in this volume of *Comunità Montagna*. All pilot actions were testing various approaches aiming to support the integration of migrant youth, economically active migrants or the creation of local welcoming cultures (see Fig.1). ARRIVAL REGIONS has used socially innovative approaches towards popular ways of integration support such as cultural mediation activities, educational tools, information services, language courses, legal consultations, consultations on self-employment and thematic activation events. In total, more than 900 non-EU-nationals have participated in actions organised by the project. (figure 1 about here) Based on the results and experiences, the project partners have developed applied tools that can help stakeholders in other rural regions to support the social and economic integration of migrants on the one hand and create local welcoming cultures on the other. The tools and policy recommendations to turn rural regions in Central Europe into arrival regions are described [insert info where to find the chapter on tools and policy recommendations (on page 8 and 9)].

ARRIVAL REGIONS TURNING MIGRATION TO RURAL AREAS INTO A SUCCESS STORY



* Per ulteriori dettagli si prega di visitare il sito ufficiale del progetto Arrival Regions: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Arrival-Regions.html>

A TOOLBOX FOR THE INTEGRATION OF NON-EU CITIZENS THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION

The Tool-box for the integration of non-EU nationals through social innovation summarises the lessons learnt from the nine pilot initiatives and makes the results of the ARRIVAL REGIONS project available to other rural regions in a similar socio-economic and demographic situation in and beyond Central Europe. Tool-Box is based on our approach to integration, namely that integration is a two-way process with no definite end. To this end, the tools are not only focused on the integration of non-EU nationals, but also on the resident society becoming more open and welcoming towards migrants and migration in general. As a result, both migrants and locals end up integrating with each other which leads to creating a sustainable, diverse and resilient society ready to

Stronger hosting cultures, with appropriate training and actors involved on the ground

face the upcoming challenges. The arrival of migrants to rural regions can be seen as a great challenge, but it can also trigger positive social and economic changes, transform civic culture and local institutions, and promote social cohesion, if handled accordingly. With the help of socially innovative approaches tailor-made for each specific region, it can help to create an environment that promotes solidarity, diversity and openness. The aim of this toolbox is to help other local and regional public authorities to use social innovation for better integration of non-EU nationals.

Here is a brief overview of the most important aspects of each tool. It is important to note that some tools overlap, because they can be applied in different areas.

1 The first tool that we designed focuses on what many consider to be the first step in the integration process, namely **improving migrants' language competencies** that is integral in raising migrant's quality of life. Key features of this tool have been accessibility and widespread promotion of the services offered across migrant communities. Language courses should be tailor-made in order to address the specific needs of the target group.

2 In order to empower migrants and offer them support in case their rights are violated, **legal counselling services** can help them via first contact points and if necessary through the help of specialised lawyers. It is important to ensure the accessibility of such services, in terms of opening hours and the languages the services are provided in. Consultations should be anonymous, independent and free of charge.

3 **Contact points** should be established in order to help migrants navigate existing bureaucratic services and empower them to act independently. The offices of the contact point should be easily accessible and the services offered should be well promoted across migrant communities. For this reason, it is necessary to provide the services in several languages. If possible, the contact point should adapt an integrated approach and be open to all marginalised groups.

4 As integration occurs at the local level, communities must also be prepared to welcome and support migrants. It is therefore necessary to **plan and organise the arrival of migrants**. Before migrants arrive existing support structures, arrival infrastructures and material support should be analysed. With the help of local opinion leaders and volunteers, positive attitudes towards migrants across the local community can be promoted by setting a good example.

5 In order to develop welcoming and inclusive societies **multiculturalism should be introduced** into school curricula. This process not only promotes more openness, but also equally encourages intergenerational learning.

Stronger local welcoming cultures with adequate training and local stakeholders involved

Teachers should be equipped with all the necessary skills in order to teach children about multiculturalism and establish inter-generational extra-curricular activities involving children's parents. This can be supported with the help of learning materials.

6 Being able to independently **navigate bureaucracy** is essential in supporting migrant's agency and increasing their civil participation. This can be done by providing additional training and language courses to already existing service providers who are frequently in contact with migrants. In order to disseminate information more effectively, produce informative materials in different languages.



7 In order to maintain a sustainable long-term integration process, the **involvement of the resident population** is necessary. In order to bring both sides together, joint activities should be organised that profit from the curiosity of locals, such as festivals, volunteering programmes and workshops. This not only helps to demystify stereotypes about migrants, but also get to know the needs of the target group.

8 **Supporting migrants' personal growth and development** is an essential element of integration. Activities should be organised that foster the process of learning new skills and becoming active members of their communities. Leadership and ambassador programmes can help to improve migrant agency and foster self-confidence and independence. In this process, particular attention should be given to vulnerable groups, such as migrant women. Psychosocial anonymous support needs to be provided to migrants in order to help them deal with past trauma.

9 **Local stakeholders and networks** are the key players providing support to migrants; nevertheless, they often lack sustained material, institutional, and sometimes financial and ideational support. It is therefore necessary to **cherish their work and empower them**. This can be done by offering workshops, language courses, and training for local stakeholders in order to encourage networking and mutual learning. Producing information materials (e.g., flyers, websites, newsletters) helps to sustain the work and money invested and to secure the results achieved. ▲

Policy recommendations

Vademecum for renewing the society and create new infrastructures that are capable to welcome and integrate migrants

In order to support integration of non-EU nationals as well as to create local welcoming culture, rural regions need to think outside the box and search for social innovation approaches that can work in rural areas. The following policy recommendations represent nine important steps that local and regional (but also national) authorities should take in order to successfully introduce, run and sustain social innovative approaches that supports integration of migrants.

1. Rural regions should support and facilitate the process of networking between local stakeholders.
2. Rural regions should encourage mutual learning and cross-regional cooperation in the sphere of international migration and integration activities.
3. Rural regions should support the development of arrival infrastructures in form of an integrated approach that takes the specific conditions in rural regions into consideration.
4. Rural regions should support "soft arrival infrastructures" e.g. platforms for an informal exchange between different social groups.
5. Rural regions should foster representation and engagement of migrant groups in local councils, administrations, initiatives, etc.

6. Rural regions should involve the civil society into integration activities in order to address local narratives and create a common vision of the region as an arrival space.
7. Rural regions should introduce the concept of multiculturalism in local narratives.
8. Rural regions should foster mutual learning, exchanges of experience as well as cooperation and networking on a national and international level.
9. Rural regions should include international migration into the long-term development plans and strategies for regional development. Local governments might not have direct influence on immigration legislation, but they play an important role in fostering a welcoming and open environment by developing a local integration strategy, setting legislative and planning frameworks and providing funding to support capacity building activities in receiving communities. By taking into consideration the tools and policy recommendations, local governments can prevent the social and economic marginalisation of the newly-arrived migrants. Thus, they can make important steps towards building a socially cohesive and harmonious society based on mutual understanding and respect between locals and migrants. ▲

COLLABORATE
WITH EUROPE

a 13-way partnership



1 The Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography is a publically-funded research institute located in Leipzig, Germany. It is one of the world's leading research organizations specializing in Regional Geographies of Europe.



www.ifl-leipzig.de

2 GAL Escartons and Valli Valdesi is a Local Action Group owned by public corporations and private shareholders. Its mission is local development: participation in projects of territory valorisation, economical and touristic development and innovation, land resilience, sustainable mobility to reach his mission.



<https://evv.it>

3 The city of Osijek is the capital of the region of Osijek and of Baranja, university seat. With its 128,095 inhabitants, Osijek is the fourth largest city in Croatia. It is the historical, cultural and economic capital of the Slavonia region. It is located on the south bank of the Drava.



www.osijek.hr

4 Information Legal Centre (ILC) is a civil society organization registered on 12 June 2002. Since its foundation, ILC has been working on promotion and protection of human rights, democratization of Croatian society, education and empowerment of vulnerable individuals and civil society.



<http://ipc.com.hr>

5 Mountain Union of Mongia Cevetta Langa Cebana e Valle Bormida has been created by 18 local mountain municipalities to support local development. The municipalities of the territory are facing in the last years an increase of non-EU arrivals and are realizing some experimental experiences of safe and legal pathways of migration.



www.unionemontanaceva.it

6 UNCEM, the National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Authorities, has been representing the Italian mountainous territory for 50 years. In Piedmont, it gathers 22 mountain communities, 553 mountains Municipalities and other authorities operating in the Regional Mountain areas.



www.uncem.piemonte.it

7 The University of West Bohemia in Pilsen was founded in 1991 and consists of nine faculties and is one of the most successful universities in the Czech Republic. Within the Pilsen region, it is an important partner of the regional public authority and local municipalities for different questions of regional economic development.



<http://ff.zcu.cz>

8 Coastal Social Center Koper operates as a non-profit organization. From the very beginning, it has been advising young people and families through counselling, education and information, connecting and strengthening the non-governmental sector in the region, and supporting social entrepreneurship.



<https://sredisce-rotunda.si>

9 Municipality of Postojna is a Local government with years of experience in project management and coordination. The work on individual projects is carried out by project team whose members depend on the content of each individual project (project manager, legal matter manager, financial manager).



<https://www.postojna.si>

OBČINA
POSTOJNA

10+11 The Westpomeranian Region with the capital city in Szczecin, in the very heart of Europe, in north-eastern Poland, where the cultures of East and West intermingle. A region with investment and tourist potential, combining the beauty of nature with cultural richness and a wide range of active relaxation opportunities.



www.wzieu.pl

<http://wzp.pl>

12 The Burgenland District is part of the central German economic area of Halle-Leipzig-Dessau and is an important business location in the south of Saxony-Anhalt. The region can draw on a traditionally good economic structure with a broad mix of sectors ranging from industry to small and medium-sized businesses and crafts.



www.burgenlandkreis.de

13 The Lodzkie Region is in the central part of Poland. Lodz is a large academic centre in Poland. The Lodzkie Region boasts a long tradition of clothing and textile production. Other major industry sectors include medical, construction, and food sectors, and agriculture. Also outsourcing sectors and IT are developing dynamically.



www.lodzkie.pl

region
lodzkie

pilot action

CULTURE OF
WELCOME

mediate to help



GAL ESCARTONS AND VALLI VALDESI HOME | EXTRA-EU CITIZENS AND INTEGRATION THROUGH ACCESSIBLE SERVICES



The CASA (HOME) pilot action is developed on the territory of 9 Pellice Valley municipalities with some activities in Pinerolo and Turin, as service cities for the pilot action territory. The help desk operators of 30 offices are involved in order to improve the services addressed to non-EU citizens, with the aim to improve our rural area welcoming spirit. The project offers free tutoring and cultural mediation to support the operators in interacting with migrants, to facilitate access to the offices and, consequently, integration.

The assumption is that operators are familiar with their work but may have difficulties from a cultural-interaction perspective. If necessary, cultural mediators are involved for additional linguistic and cultural support to the operators. In total, we supported operators for 405 hours and non-EU citizens for 225 hours. In addition, there were 175 hours of cultural mediation. There was an increasing demand for tutoring hours in the early stages of the action, with a subsequent decrease as cultural mediation hours increased.

This is a positive fact because it proves an increased independence of the operators after the initial support phase. However, the hours of cultural mediation, on the other hand, represent a useful tool for the offices that can hardly be replaced by increased skills of the operators. At the same time, an analysis of the housing services for foreign citizens was carried out, showing a lack of guarantee funds for access to housing on the territory. As there was no possibility of setting up a guarantee fund during the project's duration, useful information was collected to inform non-EU

citizens about access to housing. In addition, a document was prepared presenting the various existing possibilities for setting up a housing fund (revolving fund, financing between private individuals, Peer to Peer Lending, Mutual Aid Society). The Mutual Aid Society seemed to be the best option outside direct public intervention. This document will be shared with organizations that could take in account this kind of action. The project also worked on the creation of supporting materials such as infographics and video materials. The pilot action was successful in

Language assistance and support in communication are guarantee for access to housing

covering a wide range of offices and helpdesk operators who were able to find support and increased expertise in their dealings with non-EU citizens. A good number of foreigners also benefited from the pilot action and were able to test its effectiveness and gave good feedback. Both the direct tutoring and the materials provided by the project contributed to an increase in awareness and involvement in the issues addressed by the operators. We believe that this new awareness, although in a short period of time, can improve and speed up the economic and social integration of non-EU citizens in the region, allowing them to become active actors in society and contributing to the development of the rural area. ▲



DOING COMMUNITY **life together**

Local communities in Croatia are not adequately prepared for the integration and inclusion of non-EU citizens. The citizens are not well informed about non-EU nationals, which causes a lot of prejudices and stereotypes towards them. Economic migrants, mostly from Pakistan and Nepal, reside in Osijek-Baranja County. They are accommodated at the suburbs of the town and employed by construction

Beyond the difficulties, we need a stronger community, with regular exchanges and coordinated social services

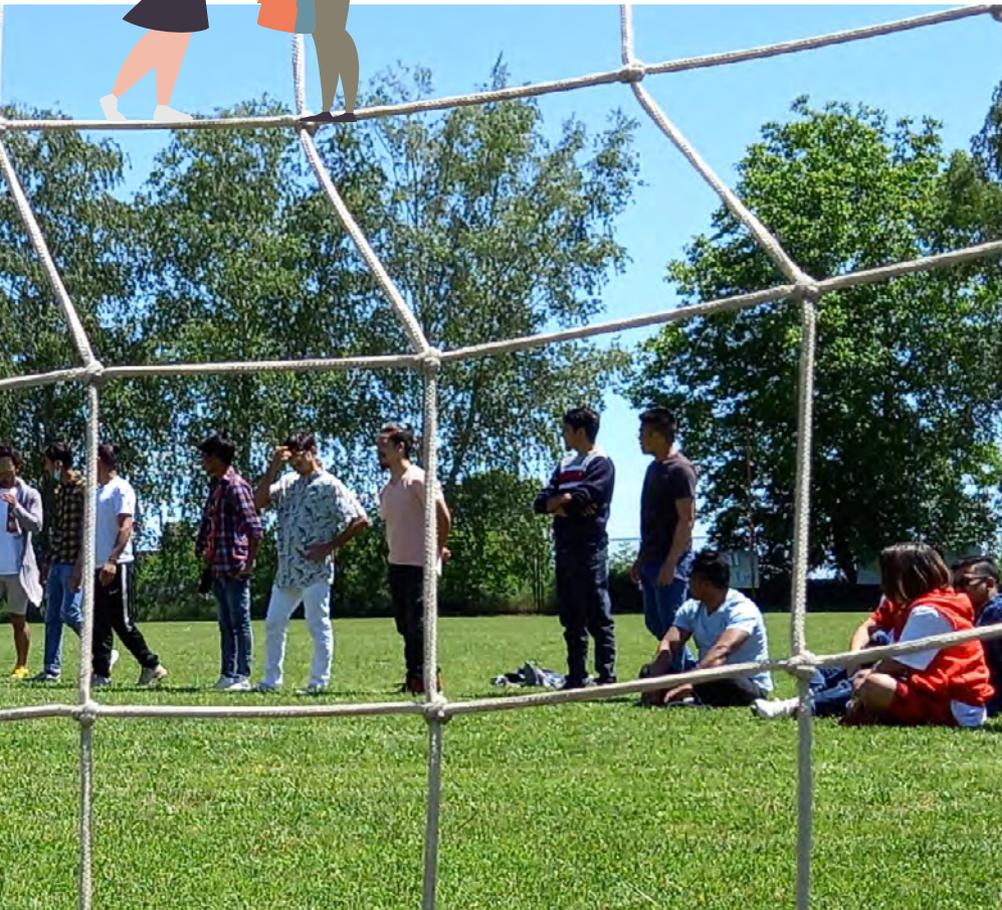
and recycling company. However, there was no comprehensive and ongoing support for non-EU nationals and there was no place in the community where foreigners could get information or orientation support in order to make their adaptation to the new life easier. Further, service providers did not have the opportunity to work with migrants so they were faced with the insufficient knowledge and skills that enable a better understanding of the needs of non-EU citizens and the goals of integration. There was a strong need for pooling of existing community-based professional resources, regular exchange and good coordination of social service providers in order to provide efficient and quality social services that support local integration processes.

The empowering of the role of the local community for local integration processes was achieved by opening the Centre for inclusion and integration. It is a place for





CITY OF OSIJEK & INFORMATION LEGAL CENTRE OSIJEK, CROATIA



delivering information to non-EU citizens about important services (health, employment, status) but also about local community and its culture and people. The Centre offers hospitality to non-EU citizens, migrants, refugees and local people where they meet, cook, play, etc. The key achievements include 50 non-EU nationals who were involved in diverse intercultural activities: 5 migrants participated in the Croatian language course, 6 migrants and 4 representatives of youth from Osijek met regularly over 4 months, 15 migrants and 11 representatives of local community stakeholders visited local football club; Festival of Nepal culture was organised for 20 migrants and 25 representatives of local community. Social support for non-EU nationals included the info-meeting with 11 non-EU nationals; the development of the info-tool about the key services; the language courses; intercultural workshops and events that were organized for 45 non-EU nationals; free legal aid and counselling was provided to 10 non-EU nationals; new NGO that provides support to migrants from Nepal was established. Our pilot action mobilizes a huge potential of citizens in local community development through involvement of citizens in volunteering activities. Additionally, through different activities and workshops for local and non-EU citizens, the pilot action will reduce prejudice and stereotypes and, in the long term, it will initiate the change of general public's attitudes towards non-EU citizens. It is the way to build an accessible, open and tolerant environment that respects all people and supports social inclusion and integration. 🏔️



humanitarian corridors



MOUNTAIN UNION OF THE VALLEYS MONGIA AND CEVETTA
LANGA CEBANA ALTA VALLE BORMIDA
HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS MEET PUBLIC CAS



Ceva Mountain Union covers a wide area in the south of Piemonte Region and it has composed by 18 mountain public authorities to support local development and inter-municipal action, to promote and support the interest and the activities of the involved institutions. These municipalities are facing, in the last years, an increase of non-EU arrivals, mainly from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Nigeria, in line with the trend of the whole region. The pilot action idea is addressed to create a direct link between Humanitarian Corridors and our public Special Assistance Centre (CAS). This process

Integration is supported thanks to the direct connection between humanitarian corridors and the CAS

will let foreigners to have a stronger connection with the labour market: the involved "arrivals" have a direct legal access in the Italian territory, they can easily proceed with asylum application according to the Humanitarian Corridors reference. With this idea it will be possible to welcome refugees whose background is (partially) knowns, that are arrived in a legal way and that will have most chance to get residence permit. The pilot action will open the doors to a wide range of non-EU nationals, according to the Memorandum with the religious body that manage Humanitarian Corridors. In our case, Ceva Mountain Union has signed an agreement with Evangelic Churches Federation in Italy. According workshop "Designing Policies for advancing the 2030 Agenda both at home and abroad" (March 2021, Ministry of Ecological Transition), our pilot action is focusing on the

following points: "Migrants, including internal migration, represent key actors to be further included in the 2030 Agenda implementation process at national level"; "Shifting the perception of migration in Italy"; "Investing in pathways for regular labor migration"; "Strengthening links with development co-operation". With the realization of the humanitarian corridor, Ceva Mountain Union will reach an additional objective: the definition of a multi-stakeholders governance about migration policies able to connect the safeguard of human rights with the promotion of the so called Equitable and Sustainable wellness, by the sharing of good practices experienced with other municipalities in Italy. Our future desire is to implement the current process revising the Italian legal systems for regulating migration policies, promoting work visas and widespread reception in the context of empowerment paths for non-EU citizens, also using other humanitarian corridors. The final goal will be to raise the awareness of the EU Parliament, for triggering a broader discussion on the "European humanitarian corridors". That with the scope of defining new EU multidisciplinary program that could combine local welfare with migration safe and legal paths, within a complex perspective based on the link between international cooperation and social policies. A link that could be considered as an elective instrument for implementing Sustainable Development Goal 17 on Global Partnership for Development. 📌



The pilot territory is the West Bohemian town of Bor in the Tachov District. Four of the five largest industrial enterprises (all of them the automotive industry) in the area are located in the surroundings of the town of Bor. A significant portion

Migrants and work: institutions must promote integration

of employees in these factories are foreign workers. The rapid development of industrial zones is causing a

massive influx of foreign workers, but insufficient infrastructure and lack of integrational activities is turning it into a burden for municipalities.

The purpose of the establishment of the Centre is to promote and motivate integration (of both foreigners and the receiving society) and to mediate activities leading to the integration of non-EU nationals. While municipalities lack the capacity and tools for the support of integration, employers do not feel social responsibility for the negative side-effects of their economic growth and are not motivated to

support their employees in such an area. Non-EU nationals have limited opportunities to gain information regarding life outside the factory and why/how to become an integral part of the local society. However, the successful integration of non-EU nationals brings many significant opportunities, as they can become a new impetus in the formerly depopulated area and foster the development of public and social life. They also offer the opportunity to fulfil the economic potential of the area and contribute to its economic,



social and cultural development. The first step to dealing with such an issue was to mediate communication between all parts and to promote the long-term positive effect of successful integration for each of them. This step was followed by the mediation of activities that can lead to successful integration. The range of such activities was wide, and ranges from individual assistance, advisory in legal and social issues, language and integration courses, to the organisation of leisure activities leading to the discovery of the local culture and convergence

with the receiving society. The Center also organized the first **Tolerance can be learned with collective art** local event promoting tolerance – The My Beautiful Country art exhibition. During this temporary collective art exhibition, foreigners living and working in the town of Bor were offered the opportunity to present the places they lived in before arriving in Bor and how they see the town and environment where they

are now settled – it was up to them whether they decided to present pictures of their old home or new home. This event gave them the opportunity to interact and connect with the local community and present themselves, their backgrounds, and their stories. At the same time, the host society received a mediated opportunity to discover who their new neighbours are – not just a cheap workforce, but people with roots, personal stories, and ties to their homelands and now also to the town of Bor. 🏠

TEACH
WELCOMING

pilot action

fighting the discrimination



LITTORAL SOCIAL CENTER, KOPER COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIGRANT CHILDREN AND WOMEN



The main idea of spreading awareness on migration and human rights in schools, exploring educational practices in this area and develop recommendations for the promotion of human rights and prevention of discrimination against migrant children and their families, was accomplished with external help of 11 local institutions participating in local stakeholder alliances who took their roles seriously and implemented our activities into their everyday practice. The major target group for pilot action were migrant

For economic migrants from the east, educational aid and empowerment of mothers

mothers and their children who are mainly economic migrants from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, mostly from Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia and some from Russian-speaking countries, as well as more than 5 institutions adopting new and/or improved strategies and action plans with more than 15 Elementary school and kindergarten teachers. Furthermore, project maintained to empower migrant women through providing them possibilities of Slovenian and Italian language lessons, which gave support to their individual needs and consequently, needs of their children in schools. Educational events took place during the pandemic like on-line workshops for migrant children and other children, together within groups and separately, including on-line presentation of art works made by migrant children, PowerPoint



THROUGH ART AND INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION, MESSAGES OVERCOME LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

presentations for the class and interactive communication with schoolmates, etc. Organized meetings with migrant's parents with family life topics and providing

In addition to the children, even parents find a community to fit and to participate

language courses for them, and providing the exposure towards local culture. The legal and cultural consultancy services was provided by Centre for the legal protection of human rights, including mentorship towards stakeholder's representatives who included their communities into pilot action (children, parents, teachers, outsiders). From other stakeholder Centre for Entrepreneurship Promotion Piran the counselling services for the migrant children's parents. More than 15 women involved/active influence on migrant Women participation in local events. Then was organized and provided mentoring practices for the needs of the target group and for the stakeholders (phones, email correspondences, meetings on-line). There were some difficulties in the area of interpersonal contacts, which we though are urgent for our activities but at the end it was necessary to adapt and find new ways of connecting and networking – internet was crucial in these times of pandemic so we basically concluded all the set activities online. During the workshops with local stakeholders, were found out that no proper communication was established between them. The problem was solved by providing



CENTRO SOCIALE DEL LITORALE, CAPODISTRIA COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIGRANT CHILDREN AND WOMEN



mentoring practices for the needs of the target group and for the stakeholders. Then the connection between local children and the migrant children was strengthened in early education, which logically provides possibilities for stronger personal development and social integration of those individuals also for the future. More than 25 pupils are satisfied with successfully completed inclusions of young non-EU migrants in the pilot and more than 35 satisfied parents involved. Our pilot action was discovered as best practice in the area for not only prevention of the discrimination of migrants, but also engaging stakeholders to establish health environment where cultures between locals and migrants combine and connect throughout the education. The communication for the future practices is already going on with the stakeholders and some of them are planning to use part of these activities with migrants as the part

Difficulties in communication and connection are overcome with education

of their future practices in schools and kindergarten. Local community supports the pilot action and is ready to communicate further on the topic of similar activities in the future. The connection between local children and the migrant children was strengthened in early education, which logically provides possibilities for stronger personal development and social integration of those individuals also for the future. We managed to discover that best results came from play. ▲



organizing the support





LPilot action Starting point Postojna was implemented to address the lack of governmental or non-governmental office/organisation that would comprehensively address and cover the needs of newly immigrated migrants and other migrants to Primorsko-Notranjska region. In the last decades this region and Postojna became more multicultural (migrants from Asian and African countries - mostly unaccompanied minors, repatriated Slovenians from Venezuela, international football players, working migrants from Balkan region), so this need at local level has become even stronger and more relevant.

Not only migration, but also repatriation: in all cases a system of first contact is fundamental to inaugurate a good integration

The main focus of Postojna's pilot action was establishment of main support office for immigrants in Municipality of Postojna, called Starting Point Postojna. The office primarily served as the first contact for immigrants with the local environment and provided comprehensive assistance during their process of integration. A team of 5 people assisted immigrants both at the office headquarters and in the field. The group was in constant contact with local stakeholders that have further contacts with immigrants, so they could identify the needs of immigrants, and together with them tried to find optimal solutions.



TOGETHER WITH WORKSHOPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE, CUSTOM SOLUTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL



Apart from offering legal and social advice to immigrants, the office organised courses of Slovenian language and offered individual school support to migrants. Starting point Postojna offered space for intercultural activities and meetings and organised various workshops, thematic evenings, excursions, sport

and cultural events. For migrants with business ideas, Starting point Postojna offered full support at creation of business plan free of charge. Pilot action supported immigrant at administrative matters, at learning Slovenian language and at school work. Pilot action activities

connected immigrants with local society, social network of both was expanded and more employment opportunities aroused for migrants. Some ambitious migrants were supported by creation of their business plan free of charge. The pilot action is transferrable in national and in international context.



Guidelines for the implementation of similar project elsewhere are presented:

- trained staff with experiences in migration, multicultural communication and working with vulnerable groups. Preferred skills: creative thinking, well-functioning in unpredicted situations,
- flexibility, efficiency
- well established network with stakeholders in local area
- involvement of a teacher of national language
- preferred involvement of cultural mediators, business orientation consultant, volunteers and youth workers
- office space with necessary equipment
- space for socialising and implementation of activities
- a vehicle for transportation is advantage.
- giving opportunity to migrants for co-creation of workshops and compensation for their work. ▲

FROM SCHOOL
TOWARDS
THE WORLD

pilot action

multicultural education





WESTPOMERANIAN REGION, POLAND EACH OF US IS UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT Multicultural Education in the Classroom



INTEGRACJA

Scenariusze zajęć
z edukacji międzykulturowej

dla uczniów klas 7-8
szkoły podstawowej



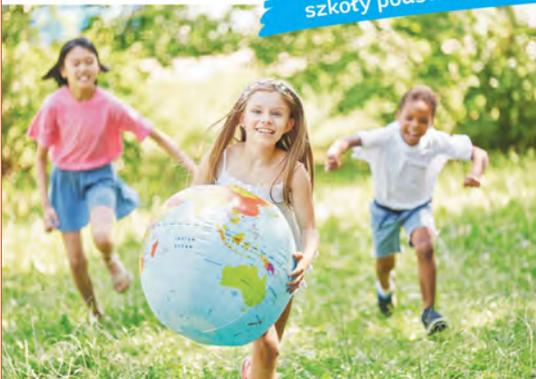
Pomorze Zachodnie Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Arrival Regions



INTEGRACJA

Scenariusze zajęć
z edukacji międzykulturowej

dla uczniów klas 4-6
szkoły podstawowej



Pomorze Zachodnie Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Arrival Regions

West Pomeranian wanted to encourage inhabitants of the region to talk about refugees or, more broadly, about migration. It is a subject that deeply touches Polish values and often requires deeper reflection. Thanks to the implementation of the pilot action, West Pomeranian was able to start the process of shaping new attitudes among children and adolescents, as well as show teachers that young people also want to be heard. Young residents of Westpomeranian Region could gain social competences including resilience, the ability to cope with uncertainty and complexity and how to show empathy to people of other cultures.

The following activities have been implemented as part of the pilot action:

AMBASSADOR OF MULTICULTURALISM

The aim of the competition was selecting the most interesting projects related to the subject of multiculturalism at school, at home or in a housing estate, developing intercultural sensitivity and competencies, counteracting cultural discrimination, and introducing schoolchildren and teenagers to knowledge about various minority groups (national, ethnic) living in West Pomerania and introducing Polish culture to children who came to Poland from countries outside the EU. West Pomerania received 34 projects including drawings, videos, presentations and an album whose main theme was multiculturalism. The elected Ambassadors were aged between 7 and 15.

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

The aim of this workshop was to create a space where students understand the concept of

multiculturalism and migration and to shape their attitude of openness for other cultures. The classes were also designed to respond to the challenges posed by contemporary students who are witnessing the transformation of their place of study and residence into a multicultural community. 399 students and 34 teachers participated in 20 workshops held in West Pomerania.

Along with culture, age as well: beyond of self-expression, the understanding of the other, beyond any difference

LESSON SCENARIOS

A set of 12 scenarios of classes in the area of multiculturalism, integration, and development of intercultural competencies for classes in primary school and in secondary schools was prepared.

The pilot action was a practical implementation and test of multicultural teaching tools. Since we live in a diverse world and multiple heritages and cultures are reflected in the school environment, we need to make sure that teachers have adequate multicultural teaching tools. Only in this case, all students, regardless their place of origin, will feel seen, appreciated, and celebrated.

The prepared tools can be implemented in any other region or in a smaller administrative unit or even in a single school that wants to increase the awareness about other cultures. The tools will help schools build intercultural capability and strengthen inclusion. 

During the last decades, small towns and villages in Germany, but especially in the East of the country, suffer from demographic changes.

This is attributable to the aging of population but also to the emigration of young local people to urban areas, despite of the high level of investments in social and technical infra-structure in these regions during the last 30 years, which is still insufficient and does not fulfill the expectation of local population.

In this context, the Burgenland District is not an exception. This area

From rural areas to urban areas it is necessary to overcome the economic misalignment

is part of the central German economic area of Halle-Leipzig-Dessau and is an important business location in the south of Saxony-Anhalt. The region can draw on a traditionally good economic structure with a broad mix of sectors ranging from industry to small and medium-sized businesses and crafts. However, since the reunion in the early 1990's, the levels of social and economic development in both East and West Germany remain very uneven. In September 2019, the Burgenland District counted 179.239 inhabitants, which shows a significant decrease in the population compared to the 231.315 inhabitants in 1995.

Since 2014, rural areas in Germany have been receiving a big number of refugees and asylum seekers due to the "Königsteiner Schlüssel" ruling, that regulates the even distribution of refugees in every federal state.





ON THE ONE HAND THE ADAPTATION OF MIGRANTS, ON THE OTHER HAND THE CREATION OF APPROPRIATE REGIONAL WORKING CONDITIONS AND INTEGRATION MEASURES

This enables solving the ongoing depopulation crisis in rural regions, if the latter are able to successfully integrate upcoming immigrants.

In Burgenland District live at the present time 10.074 migrants: 6.326 EU nationals and 3.748 non-EU nationals, the latter from the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa in their majority. As soon as they receive the permanent residence permit, they use to move out of the rural municipalities to urban areas. This fact is caused, among other things, by the absence of a welcoming culture, which hinders their social integration.

The effort must concentrate on promotion of opportunities for peripheral territories

Concerning the companies in Burgenland District, these have a need for new personnel in the short, medium or long term. The language barrier and the lack of knowledge of social norms are a central hurdle to an adequate integration into the company. In this context, companies that already have experience in employing foreign skilled workers and migrants would like to see better offers in this regard. Successful labor and social integration of migrants does not represent a one-sided adaptation effort on the part of the immigrants, but requires the creation of appropriate regional working conditions and the implementation of appropriate measures to promote integration. All groups of people involved in the project should be helped in this respect. Due to the migration changes the last decade, the German government has approved a lot of projects and



BURGENLAND DISTRICT EMI BLK – EMPOWERING MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION



programs in order to help asylum seekers and refugees to learn the German language or find a job or an apprenticeship. However, although all these projects have proved to be very successful in matters of labor integration, it seems that the social integration of newcomers is a forgotten part. Many migrants who are already labor integrated through work and/or apprenticeship are not integrated into society. As a consequence, the integration progress is not fulfilled and therefore unsuccessful. Without knowing how the host country works, which rules they have to follow, which are their rights and duties, which values are important and which customs prevail in this new society, they cannot feel as a part of them. For migrants from Burgenland District it is very difficult to find local friends and have relations with local people. This could be the main reason why young migrants don't want to stay in rural areas and prefer to move into larger cities. The idea for this pilot action was to organize weekend camps with both young migrant and German adults, in which following activities take place:

- Teambuilding
- Sport activities while discovering the landscape of the region
- Outdoor and indoor relevant activities for the Burgenland District, such as boot trips, cheese or grape juice production, etc.
- Division of the participants in mixed groups and competitions against each other, award of points considering different aspects, such as punctuality, teamwork, creativity, responsibility, etc.
- Organization and preparation in teams of the meals for the whole group.

IN ADDITION TO THE WORK, THE DIFFICULTIES ARE IN MAKING FRIENDS AND FEELING PART OF A NEW GROUP



After the first camp, the best participants were chosen in order to coach them separately and with professionals in team leadership, event organization, etc. This way they had a motivation to lead the future teams of the upcoming camps and also to have an interesting certificate in their CVs.

The target group of this pilot action are not only young migrant adults but also young German adults. Both should interact and learn from each other,

at the level of equality, rights and duties during the camps. Expected is a group of 20-25 participants per camp.

Know the place and the culture of arrival is useful to create interpersonal bonds

In addition, participants must already be working or attending an

apprenticeship. Because there is already several projects that work with children and teenagers, the age of the participants for this pilot action should vary between 18 and 25, in order to give young adults an opportunity to learn how German society works. However, if someone who is already above 25 but still around 30, shows high interest in the camp activities, she/he will be welcomed to join the project. The Pilot Action has managed to

BURGENLAND DISTRICT
EMI BLK – EMPOWERING MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION



project, as migrants live neither the “helped role” as participants nor the “power role” as leaders, but the same role than the German participants as equals. We would like to add that there are not a lot of opportunities for them to get to know young locals in BLK despite their work places, and through EMI BLK they could find new friends from other regions of BLK, while getting to know BLK better, not only through the camps but also through

If even the natives get involved, the balances improve

these new friendships. The BLK is the most interested party in keeping its working migrants in the region. Without a successful social integration, migrants won't feel welcome and will finally move to larger cities in order to find a community they can fit in.

The fact that the concept of the pilot action was inspired by the Swedish project “Ny På Landet” already proves its transferability. For example, participants of the Annual Integration Conference in the district of Kulmbach were surprised that such a “small” pilot action could attract migrant participants and thought about adapting this pilot action to their regions in order to facilitate the social integration for working migrants. It is necessary to highlight the involvement of members of the host society in the camps and workshops as one of the main features of this pilot action. ▲

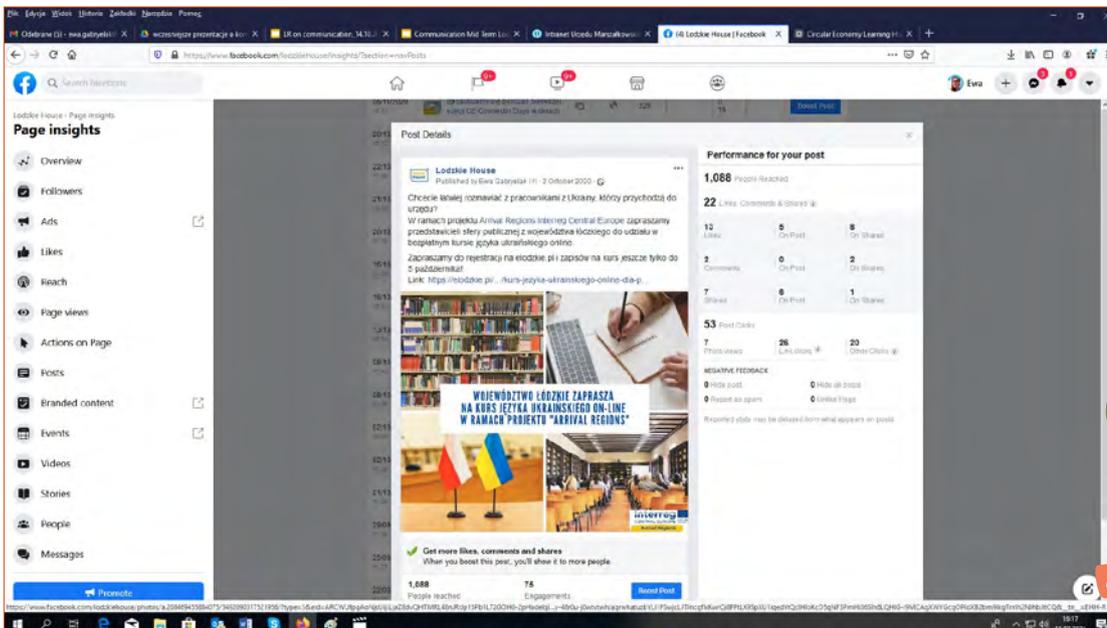
support the social integration of non-EU migrants. Through the camps idea all participants had a safe place to talk about all themes proposed. They also found a support they didn't think they'd have, as they are already integrated into the labor market and therefore outside all integration projects. In addition, the fact that the target group was not only integrated by migrants but also by German provided a very important

framework to both parts in order to improve their intercultural skills, crucial for promoting tolerance among locals. The fact that they received the opportunity to become team leader was also crucial, as they finally and maybe for the first time since their arrival in Germany could actively do and plan and not only take part as participants of an initiative or project. To have German in the same positions is a great value to the

ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO WELCOME

pilot action

legal support



LODZKIE REGION, POLOND LEGAL SUPPORT AND BETTER COMMUNICATION HOW TO MAKE UKRAINIAN CITIZENS FEEL BETTER AND SAFER



The first part of the pilot action consisted of the Ukrainian language course for public servants aimed at improving their communication with migrants. Public servants had the possibility to attend the online courses from their workplace. 36 participants, representing 7 different poviats (Łask, Pabianice, Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Rawa Mazowiecka, Paj czno, Sieradz and city of Lodz), from 12 public institutions in our region graduated from the course. The ending ceremony with awarding certificates to participants of the language course “Ukrainian for Beginners” took place on 06.07.2021 in Lodz. Enhancing the language competencies of public servants undeniably led to significant improvement in the quality of public services regarding non-EU nationals. Even basic knowledge of language which was gained by the participants helps to remove the mental barrier

and also increases the capability to understand basic documents without the need of a translator. All of these make the work of public servants much easier and more effective.

The support to those who must help goes hand in hand with the legal protection of the needy ones

The second part of the pilot action was legal consultations for non-EU migrants in 4 different places of the Lodzkie Region (Zgierz, Kutno, Radomsko and Lodz). Information about this initiative was provided in Polish, Ukrainian or Russian, depending which language the migrant wanted to speak. Accepting applications from participants was done in the simplest possible way. A phone number was available for migrants, who could apply from 7 a.m.

till 10 p.m. Overall 264 migrants were provided with legal consultations. The most common topics for the consultations were the legalization of residence, company law, family law and the drafting or verification of documents and applications. The bilingual lawyer with a background in migration and the way of collecting of applications for the legal consultations in very friendly way for migrants made the activity very popular and needed in the region. The actions carried out by the Lodzkie Region are easily transferable to other regions (e.g. focus on the public sector). At the same time, the pilot action is not transferable as a whole due to specific national contexts (e.g. more diverse national compositions of migrants in contrary to a homogeneous group of Ukrainian migrants in Poland). ▲



The transition from 20th and 21st centuries is marked by a strong resurgence of large-scale and long-range migratory flows, which have been proposed on the geopolitical scene with size, rapidity and pervasiveness never recorded in mankind history. The dimensions of the phenomenon find their origin first of all in the “explosive” demography that marked the last century, a time in which a general increase in income (while remaining so unbalanced in its distribution) has generated significant effects on the health conditions and mortality of the population that broke the “Malthusian” constraints to growth. The *intensity* of the processes, on the other hand, is a clear manifestation of the new conditions that the evolution of technologies has brought both in the transmission of information and in the mobility of people itself. The underlying causes of these processes, which demography and technology have made possible on such a large scale and so quickly, can be linked to two main orders of factors, one economic and the other institutional. The first and main factor is represented by the range of inequalities in income distribution on a global scale generated by the capitalist development risen in the eighteenth century in Europe. The second (but no less decisive) factor is represented by the overcoming (dramatic in its manifestation and, to a large extent, even more dramatic in its consequences) of the structure of powers and political and institutional balances produced as a result of the vertical fall of the system of planned economy that had supported the geopolitical bloc led by the Soviet Union. Europe has found itself at the center of this global process of resumption

of long-range migration that has hit it heavily by taking it on two fronts.

A first front, somehow *internal*, concerns the flows coming from Eastern Europe (states of Central and Eastern Europe, former continental Soviet republics and the Caucasus) and from the Balkan Peninsula (also in relation to the long conflict that followed the parallel disintegration of the Yugoslav Republic) involving mainly female population employed in care work, low-skilled workers in the agricultural and agricultural and construction sectors.

A second front, *Mediterranean*, has instead manifested itself above all with Africa, partly following post-colonial relations of countries such as France and – on a smaller scale – Italy, pouring the climate and economic crisis of sub-Saharan agriculture into flows that through the North African states have poured onto the northern shore of the Mediterranean.

This is the context in which *Arrival Regions* was launched, aiming to foster the integration of citizens from non-European countries into rural areas.

Arrival Regions supports and promotes the development of social innovation practices that make the integration process in rural areas a success story, enhancing the skills of local actors and supporting the social inclusion of non-European citizens.

Within the framework of the *Arrival Regions* Project, the research conducted by Uncem Piemonte addressed the integration policies of these citizens in the rural and mountain contexts of Italy, with a particular focus on the Italian North West (Western Alpine Arc and Northern Apennines).

The research accompanied a *desk* action of critical evaluation of the primary sources and the available bibliography with a field research that involved a panel of Mayors of small mountain municipalities in three regions of the North-West: Piedmont, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna. In a panorama of strongly characterized structural conditions, such as the one we tried to reconstruct with the quantitative tools of geo-statistical analysis, the approach developed by UNCEM research has also tried to

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
Arrival Regions

Arrivi e ritorni
Reti e opportunità per i territori di domani

Dossier a cura di UNCEM PIEMONTE
Unione nazionale Comuni Comunità Enti montani

ARRIVALS AND RETURNS

Download the dossier UNCEM

Uncem Piemonte has realized, thanks to the project Arrival Regions, the dossier “Arrivals and returns. Networks and opportunities for the territories of tomorrow” that frames the work of study and analysis carried out over the past two years to know the dynamics of reception and integration of mountain territories of Piedmont. Commitments that are different from those of urban areas and that have specific peculiarities. To be deepened in social, economic, institutional.

HOW TO WELCOME NON-EUROPEAN CITIZENS IN RURAL AND MOUNTAIN REGIONS: ONGOING PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSES



grasp the qualitative characteristics of the presence of non-European citizens in the Italian mountains, bringing them to light through a path of in-depth interviews addressed to a *panel* of mayors of small mountain municipalities in the Northwest. From this approach, based on the consolidated experience of work in the field of migration in mountain areas gained by Maria Molinari, who led this path, we can identify some elements that outline the picture of immigration in minor contexts and that seem useful to effectively characterize the reference framework in which the research has been placed.

Some elements that characterize immigration and that can bring about positive changes in small Italian municipalities are:

- ✓ the crucial role of immigration in containing depopulation, although gradually there is a downward trend in the birth rate even among foreign families with a longer presence in Italy;
- ✓ the consequent and immediate impact on the territories in terms of maintaining public services (*primarily* the school);
- ✓ the recovery and use of disused or vacant dwellings;
- ✓ employment in job vacant sectors and the management of entire economic sectors (typical productions, personal care, forestry, livestock breeding, construction, agriculture), thus increasing the presence on the territories and decreasing environmental risks (fires, hydrogeological instability resulting from the lack of care of the territory and the landscape);
- ✓ the possibility of contact and knowledge of new worlds and cultures, projecting small and

medium-sized municipalities into an international dimension.

The territories in turn offer the new inhabitants characteristics (different from those present in larger urban centers) which, at least and on some aspects, make them interesting and attractive:

- ✓ the presence of affordable housing;
- ✓ the possibility of direct encounter with the inhabitants, made of a mostly informal socialization given by a daily and intergenerational attendance, characteristic of small municipalities; this aspect also includes the closeness and direct involvement of local authorities in the relationship with migrants and the strategic presence of key people, important for strengthening community relations; the opportunity to establish innovative relationships, weave networks of cohesion and social inclusion;
- ✓ the presence of a value, linked to the natural and cultural heritage given by the relationship with the environment, which has proved to be an important attractor of new presences, both Italian and foreign, especially during the pandemic; here there is a high potential for building a good quality of life, thanks to landscape and environmental endowments and micro agriculture; the presence of distinctive qualities converted into competitive advantages. The existence of numerous empty spaces potentially to be purchased, maintained and cared for, thus transforming the territories into areas suitable for development.

The picture that the interviews outline, certainly incomplete and only briefly summarized here, highlights how, many of the difficulties that jeopardize



the possibilities of establishing new *inhabitants* in mountain villages, stem from a national legislation that many mayors interviewed consider inadequate to manage a flow, today structural even in the municipalities of the internal areas. This inadequacy emerges clearly, in particular in medium-small contexts, where mayors are often the direct protagonists in solving problems, and often suffer the consequences personally. Small mountain municipalities can be a place of social innovation and take on a pioneering role in this direction. Some experiments, which however concerned only reception projects, already exist.

They concern those municipalities that have not passively suffered the so-called “emergency” events, but instead found a way to look at the event as an opportunity to leverage, for the benefit of their territories and people. We need to take one step further. Recognize the ten-year presences that live in the countries as available resources and think about the passing of the baton as a gain, not a loss. For all parties involved. ▲

BARRIERS AND PREREQUISITES *the study*

edited by the **University of East Bohemia in Pilsen**



The study presents possible deliberations on social integration in the rural environment of EU states. It focuses on the issue of barriers and prerequisites that limit or allow for the successful integration of third-country nationals in European target countries and primarily in their rural areas.

The social integration of migrants is a complex and multi-layered process, in which a number of factors work together. The study presents the concept of social integration as an interpretational / analytical tool. It differentiates between the group level and individual level of integration as varying dimensions of the process.

The analysis deals primarily with the individual level. It uses Hartmut Esser's method of four dimensions of social integration: "placement"; "culturation"; "interaction"; and "identification".

The process of integration takes place in these dimensions on micro (interactions between individuals), mezzo (ties between an individual and institutions) and macro levels (refers more to the state and international level). It is necessary to create conditions for successful integration and identify and remove its barriers. Therefore, the study deals with topics such as language, available social and health care, infrastructure, the culture and values of migrants, the absence of social ties, and the growth of social inequalities in the country of origin as a consequence of migration.

Naturally, migration for the source and target countries has both positive and negative impacts. The strong economic growth of developed European countries implies an abundance of jobs, and migrants are thus an asset for European countries as part of the workforce. The study states that



The individual together and beyond the group: what helps integration and the sense of "home"? From language social and health care, to infrastructure and the creation of interpersonal ties. Everything that supports personal and economic growth



CULTURAL CONTAMINATION IS WHAT ELIMINATES DISTRUST: THE NEW CULTURE OF WELCOME CREATES A SUPRANATIONAL COMMUNITY

an interlinked transnational space is being created, in which very complex transactions are taking place. These transactions not only encompass the economic dimension, but also primarily the social dimension. The exchange of values and ideas helps to remove mistrust among individual groups in mutual interaction, namely if these values and ideas are beneficial to multiple actors. The cohabitation of migrants and the local population is nothing more than the result of the mutual attitude of immigrants and the majority towards one another. The study also differentiates between the term integration and the term adaptation, which refers only to the ability of an immigrant to survive in the context of the host state, however, does not entail fully-fledged inclusion into the various structures of the target country's social environment. In addition to adaptation, there are moments in which partial integration of migrants into the majority society takes place. This integration lies in integration into the job market. All other practices take place outside the host society and outside the platform of the state. In extreme cases, absolute social exclusion takes place. In some cases, integration of an immigrant into society does not take place at all, as the environment into which he/she is adapting does not require greater knowledge or involvement on the part of the migrant into the structures of the target country. However, the study states that cultural bridges and the linguistic closeness of the immigration and emigration country is not the defining motive of migration and integration in the present globalized world. From the analysis on systematic,

mezzo and individual levels, the study observes a number of barriers and prerequisites for the successful integration of foreign nationals and suggests the following recommendations. Firstly, finance resources for social prevention services should be increased and capacities of social workers in towns and municipalities heightened as there is often lack of the personnel capacity and strategy for the integration policy and process. The study suggests designing an employee to communicate with foreign nationals. Furthermore, the work of monitoring the situation, prevention and field work should be targeted in locations where foreign nationals are present, for instance at boarding houses where foreign nationals live. In addition, this work could be connected to the distribution of materials created by local governments. These materials should contain basic overview of possibilities of communication between foreign nationals and the local government, for example links to social and assistance services. Secondly, the administrative burden should be removed. Third-world nationals often use mediating services in the area of employment, but also in housing and services. Mediation makes it possible to overcome the barriers relatively effectively – not, however, in favor of integration, but in favor of the migrant's adaptation to the environment and the favor of the mediators' business. The awareness among foreign nationals of their obligations and rights should be heightened, for example with fliers in various languages at public offices or doctor' offices. As agencies play a crucial role in employing foreign nationals, which creates problems, such

as debt, housing loss, or low wages, for these individuals, there should be an emphasis on direct employment. Mediators and employments agencies should be curbed and employers should take responsibility for their employees, and to the protect foreign nationals' rights the entities that employ them should be thoroughly inspected. With the help of specialists, towns should recommend measures in the field of housing predicaments and crack down on the marketeering of illegal boarding houses. Thirdly, the possibility of doctors willing to care for foreign nationals should be expand. Negotiation with health insurance providers and regional councils in the field of healthcare should take place. There is often lack of institutional infrastructure for foreign nationals, and namely for labor migrants in unqualified positions. Lastly, a discussion on the issue of foreign nationals should be open with emphasis on integration activities. The social exclusion of foreign nationals and other groups should end through multicultural cooperation. The marginalized should be integrated into everyday activities of villages and towns, for instance spring cleaning, leisure activities, volunteer fire department events, athletic events, school events etc. In conclusion, there is a great number of factors not mentioned in the study due to the extent and nature of the study. These factors namely include the field of human trafficking, asylum seeker integration, discrimination and racism. However, the authors of the study believe that the study will help push the boundaries of thought on integration in a better and mainly practical direction. ▲



The action of the European Union and the differences in the protocols of the individual States: between the paths managed and the freedoms of the member territories, the difficulty is also in the timing of processing the application of these strategies that make individual integration complex

The number of people willing to settle and take up employment on the territory of the European Union has dramatically increased in recent years, which placed the EU's migration policy in the focus of public interest.

This document, "A Transnational Strategy for Social Innovation in the Integration of Non-EU Nationals", concentrates on topics related to the integration of non-EU in rural Central Europe. The authors deal primarily with non-EU nationals that are defined as legitimate EU residents without EU's citizenship.

The results of the current inflow of non-EU nationals will depend on how these newcomers are welcomed and to what extent they integrate with local communities.

The subject of integration of non-EU nationals lies primarily in the hands of individual EU Member States. However, for the last 20 years EU has promoted the knowledge exchange, mutual learning and collaboration and in addition to that has also provided funds and contributed frameworks for development of migration management and anti-discrimination policies^[1].

The subjects of migration and integration are closely interrelated. The existing EU's directives on migration define a set of minimal requirements for entry and residence, as well as prescribe equal treatment rights. EU Member States enjoy a degree of freedom

in their implementation of these directives, which creates noticeable discrepancies in national migration law throughout the EU. Because of these differences, non-EU nationals, including asylum seekers and refugees, relocate between the countries, which defers the beginning of their integration with local communities. Another factor that hinders the integration is the time-intensity of the application processing.

This document, "A Transnational Strategy for Social Innovation in the Integration of Non-EU Nationals", has been written for the Arrival

Regions Project carried out as part of the "European Territorial Cooperation Program – Interreg VB Central Europe 2014-2020" co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. The task of the Arrival Regions Project, defined as "Collaboration for Innovation and Enhancement of Competitiveness – Improvement of Entrepreneurial Skills and Competences for the Fostering of Economic and Social Innovations in Central European Regions"^[2] is financed by the "Interreg Central Europe Program". The Project was launched in April 2019 and will be finalized in March 2022. ▲



[1] European Court of Auditors, „Integration of non-EU migrants. Analytical document”, June 2018, p. 3.

[2] <https://www.ewt.gov.pl/strony/o-programach/przeczytaj-o-programach/programy-europejskiej-wspolpracy-terytorialnej/europa-srodkowa/>

gen rosso the music that create links



"The present world situation calls us to the awareness that humanity is really one big family. In the family there is welcome. A welcome that push us to dedicate ourselves to those who are more fragile and in need. It is what the people of Lampedusa live, island symbol of migration". These are the words pronounced Saturday, March 5 by the members of Gen Rosso, an international musical group international musical group, in Lampedusa, opening the concert for peace.

A few days after the outbreak of war in Ukraine the international band born in 1966 in Loppiano (Florence) relaunches a strong commitment and in first person, with a direct action for a "music that generates unity", lived in the first person. Since a lot of time, in addition to its artistic activity, Gen Rosso has paid particular attention to young people and their training through special projects of "Art&Education" where the protagonists are the young people themselves. One of these projects concerns the young guests of the educational center "Sol Naciente" in Colombia which, in collaboration with Mosaico-Gen Rosso Local Project of Spain, the artists are

accompanying them along a path that will lead them to stage the historical musical Streetlight, together with some components of the band.

A commitment of fifty years and more that continues to grow. Also with the "Hombre Mundo" project, which involves thousands of boys and girls all over the world and its purpose is to form themselves to universal fraternity by discovering and sharing the riches of each people, accepting diversity, committing themselves the great challenges of the planet and developing a sense of active citizenship from a very young age.

This project is also the result of an intuition of the founder of the Focolare Movement, Chiara Lubich (who inspired the birth of the international music group), who said that "every man is a child of the whole world - explains the Artistic Director of Gen Rosso's artistic director Emanuele Chirico - we are all children of a world that ideally embraces us all as one big family, so being a 'world man' also means, in some way, coming out of our comfort zones and accept everything else, even different and far away from us, that there is."

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