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Commission



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SHARED EXPERIENCES: HOW THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRAC- TICES CAN ASSIST WITH THE INTEGRATION OF THIRD- COUNTRY NATIONALS

Project name:
UMN – UnionMigrantNet and cities

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy,
Slovenia

Project coordinator:

European Trade Union Confederation –
ETUC

Budget:

€ 1 491 603

Type of funding:

Asylum, Migration and Integration
Fund (AMIF)

Start date:

December 2019

End date:

May 2022

A little about the project

Building on the already existing European network of trade unions that provide services to third-country nationals (TCNs), this project is designed to further the exchange and transfer of knowledge that has been gained over the years between trade unions, local authorities, employers' organisations, chambers of commerce and civil society organisations that have been heavily involved in the integration of migrants and TCNs into European society. Thanks to the experience of working with migrant communities in countries such as Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Slovenia, this project is better placed to provide support and enhance the partnerships that already exist with local authorities who work with the migrant community.

A problem shared: Working together to find solutions

Integration in society and at work are considered to be closely interlinked. However, integration is a two-way street and is achieved through dialogue, exchanges of ideas and mutual learning. This project was built upon the best practices from the previous implemented projects. The ETUC-led project 'Labour market integration of migrants: A multi-stakeholder approach', was the first major step in this direction. The ETUC represents 90 organisations in 38 countries and 44 million workers of whom about 7 % are migrants, so having the knowledge and experience from this project is of huge benefit.



Migration and
Home Affairs

Immigrants and refugees can offer a lot to society. To enable them to achieve their full potential and contribute to their communities, local and regional authorities must be involved in the integration process from the beginning.

Integration into society and in the workforce is important for everyone: it allows us to enjoy the benefits of a free and open society, and helps us to fulfil our desires and creativity, bringing us closer together. This project works thanks to close-knit cooperation, for the betterment of European society as a whole. Now, more than ever before, we need to work together for that brighter future. From state and local authority levels to everyday citizens, helping immigrants and refugees to feel part of society, feel welcome and part of the European family, is a goal to strive for - to make them feel wanted, welcome and safe.

To achieve its goals, this project requires a multi-stakeholder approach. As such, events will be held across five different countries at the local level. These events will focus on training, dissemination and awareness-raising, and will include a mix of local authorities, trade unions and civil society organisations with varied levels of experience. This will be an opportunity for them to share their knowledge and best practices on how to implement integration measures successfully.

SUCCESS THROUGH COOPERATION:

The project will:

- help facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between trade unions and local authorities;
- raise awareness of the skills that migrants and refugees can bring to the workforce;
- help promote the benefits of integrating migrant workers in the different cities that are part of the project, and indeed throughout the EU, through the use of social media.

Looking beyond the project

Over the lifetime of the project, there will be several exchanges between local authorities and participating countries. These mutual learning programmes are opportunities to discover how to provide assistance and training to migrant communities, as well as to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices on integration. The update of the UnionMigrantNet portal is also a big step forward as it will improve online access and enhance the networking capabilities of contact points and local authorities.

More importantly, the updated UnionMigrantNet (UMN) portal will provide information and advice to TCNs about their rights when it comes to employment, the workplace and working conditions, to name but a few. It will also improve the online access to UMN structures and enhance the digital networking of contact points and local authorities. This will allow TCNs to access the information they need when they want. All these are steps in the right direction and we must continue to work together so that the benefits of this project can be felt throughout the community.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: HOME/AMIF-2018-AG-INTE-863738

Title: UMN – UnionMigrantNet and cities together for integration

Contact: etuc@etuc.org

Social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

Website: <https://www.unionmigrantnet.eu/>

Other projects: [Labour INT Project](#)