Output fact sheet

**Pilot actions (including investment, if applicable)**

**Version 3**

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| Project index number and acronym | CE1277 Arrival Regions |
| Output number and title | O.T2.1 - Pilot actions testing social innovation in the integration of non-EU nationals |
| Investment number and title (if applicable) | n/a |
| Responsible partner (PP name and number) | University of West Bohemia – PP7 |
| Project website | interreg-central.eu/arrival regions |
| Delivery date | 22.7.2021 |

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| Summary description of the pilot action (including investment, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature, demonstration character and transnational added value |
| The pilot action addresses the issue of work-migration in the Pilsen Region. The rapid development of industrial zones has caused a massive influx of foreign workers, but due to insufficient infrastructure and lack of activities leading to integration, the migrants’ potential has not been fulfilled. Challenges are found on several levels, for example:  • Employers do not actively support the integration of their employees.  • Foreigners have a low awareness of opportunities leading to integration.  • Foreigners tend to live separately from the receiving society.  However, the successful integration of non-EU nationals provides many significant opportunities, as these individuals can become a new impetus in formerly depopulated areas and initiate the development of public and social life. To face the challenges above, motivate integration and mediate activities leading to the integration of non-EU nationals, the Center for the Coordination of Integration Activities was established as a platform that can carry out the following key activities:   1. Establishing communication between the municipality and employers and gradually including other key stakeholders. 2. Approaching non-EU nationals and raising their awareness of opportunities regarding integration. 3. Providing qualified consultancy services to non-EU nationals concerning legal and social problems. 4. Providing services leading to successful integration: orientation courses, Czech language courses, etc.   The innovativeness and experimental character of the pilot action stems from the fact that the intended activities are usually available exclusively in cities, while this pilot action has provided a complex set of activities in the rural area. Another aspect of the action’s innovativeness lies in its general pro-active approach in targeting groups through employers and including a wide spectrum of stakeholders, some of whom are active at the moment only on the level of the region’s capital city of Pilsen.  A key element of the pilot action’s success was intensive cooperation with stakeholders, namely with the municipality - town of Bor, the biggest local employer of foreign nationals, local high school, Municipal Cultural Center, Bor health center, Police of the Czech and regional NGOs.  The target group consisted of non-EU nationals employed in the industrial zones in the proximity of the town of Bor who were mostly from Ukraine, Serbia and Moldova. Overall, about 30 migrants joined the courses, half of them participated regularly. Consultancy services were used by 35 migrants. The secondary target group consisted of local high school students with a foreign native language. Several students of Vietnamese origin received individual language courses that supported their inclusion into the educational system and community. |

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| NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level) |
| CZ032, Plzeň Region |

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| Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable) |
| Throughout the lifetime of the pilot action, it was successfully proven that the involvement of one full-time coordinator with a pro-active attitude and proper orientation in the field of labor migration can heighten foreigners’ and stakeholders’ awareness of integration and initiate participation in the integration process. Beneficiaries of the pilot action were:   1. Non-EU nationals who made use of the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the Czech language, which in turn boosted their integration. Consultancy services also significantly helped to prevent segregation, support personal and professional growth and find solutions in challenging life situations. Examples of issues in which consultations helped include applications for citizenship, change of job without losing one’s residence permit, establishment of one’s own business, marriage paperwork and many others. 2. Stakeholders had the opportunity to benefit from mediated communication channels and receive access to information regarding foreigners and also made use of the foreigners’ integration. |

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| Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders |
| Stakeholders clearly expressed a desire to keep the Coordination Center’s project running in the future and sustain its services with reference to its benefits. However, the future of the piloted activity depends on securing the financial resources necessary for the operation of such a center, i.e. if the Pilsen region or another strong actor agrees to financially support the activity.  The piloted activity is easily transferable both nationally and internationally and can be organized in any rural region affected by work migration. The crucial element of success is a proactive coordinator with proper orientation in the local environment, advanced soft skills allowing him or her to engage local stakeholders, and the determination to improve the status quo. |

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| If applicable, contribution to/ compliance with:   * relevant regulatory requirements * sustainable development – environmental effects. In case of risk of negative effects, mitigation measures introduced * horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination |
| Inclusiveness, equal opportunities and non-discrimination are key values of the pilot action, which were promoted throughout the project’s lifetime. Work migrants, similarly to refugees and asylum holders, can be considered a vulnerable group in many aspects. They have limited access per se to legal protection and can easily become the object of discrimination and exploitation in the workplace, in the access to basic rights (e.g. education and healthcare) or even within their own community. Language courses and the topics that were discussed during them supported an increase in migrants’ independence, their orientation in society, and awareness of their rights and duties. Legal consultation provided migrants professional support in difficult situations, which may have arisen as a result of discrimination, and aimed to empower migrants against discrimination by increasing awareness of their rights.  None of the activities carried out as a part of the pilot action have any environmental effects. Personal meetings demanding the transport of participants were replaced by on-line meetings or email communication and the printing of materials was reduced to a minimum. |

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| References to relevant deliverables (e.g. pilot action report, studies), investment factsheet and web-links  If applicable, additional documentation, pictures or images to be provided as annex |
| Output is based on the following deliverables:   * D.T2.1.4 Stakeholder alliance * D.T2.2.2 Pilot action concept * D.T2.5.2 Pilot final report.   The deliverables can be accessed at <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/p2--HOME---Non-EU-Nationals-and-Integration-through-Access3.html> |