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) | PP9-MUNICIPALITY OF POSTOJNA |
| Project website | interreg-central.eu/arrivalregions |
| Delivery date | 06.08.2021 |

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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 main focus in Postojna’s pilot action was the establishment of a main support office for immigrants in the Municipality of Postojna, called Starting Point Postojna. The office primarily served as the first contact for immigrants with the local environment. Starting Point Postojna represented a FOCAL point of contact for all immigrants in order to provide comprehensive assistance during the process of integration into the local environment. The Work office of Starting Point Postojna had a team of people who assisted immigrants both at the office headquarters and in the field. The group was in constant contact with local stakeholders who have further contacts with immigrants, so they could constantly identify the needs of immigrants, and together with them try to find optimal solutions, thus contributing to the most positive experience of immigrants with the local environment. We also faced some challenges/difficulties: Difficulties accessing specific ethnic groups (especially migrants from Albania and Kosovo, due to the tightly-knit ethnic network), difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic (due to the limitations we could not implement some activities in-person, in that way we could not reach wider local population but rather worked with the small number of participants). We strongly believe that the pilot action supported economic and social integration of non-EU nationals in Notranjsko-primorska region. During the pilot actions, Starting point Postojna team managed to establish an active communication with a wide range of stakeholders in the region. Through the pilot action we reached all together 185 non-EU migrants (Asia: 95, Africa: 22, Balkan: 55 and S. America: 6) and 70 local residents, who were actively involved in participating in pilot action activities. |

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| NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level) |
| *NUTS 3 – Notranjsko – primorska 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) |
| Starting Point Postojna represents the link between the different institutions and the results are: circulation of information as well as quick and efficient delivery of help and solution for the non-EU help seekers that come to mentioned institutions or to Starting Point Postojna office. The benefits of running the office were seen for all target groups: migrants, stakeholder, local people, schools, Center for social work, local government and the national administrative unit in Postojna. All the mentioned target groups have now a common point to either get information and services or to give information and service to each other. The Municipality of Postojna recognised the value of such an office, therefore the municipality decided to provide funding from own resources to continue the activities in 2022. SGLŠ Postojna will remain the responsible institution. |

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| Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders |
| The pilot action is transferable to other locations in both the national and international context.  Main emphasises should be put on:   * Small number of persons but with experiences in working with migrants, creative thinking, think tanks, efficiency in unpredicted situations and under pressure, flexibility * reliable network of stakeholders in the addressed area * persons that work in pilot action should know this network; personal connection to employees and stakeholders is advantage * involvement of cultural mediators is preferrable * national language teacher should be involved * business orientation consultant should be involved * small working space is needed (small office with computer, printer, basic office equipment) * rooms to carry out the activities is necessary * a vehicle is of advantage * safe space for multicultural gatherings (expertise of employees of PA) * engaging youth workers and EVS volunteers * giving opportunity to migrants to co-create workshops and therefore gain experiences for entering job market * business orientation consultant   For the implementation of this approach in another region, it needs to be taken into acount that the social and political framework, including the local government and community, requires some adjustments. Suitable human resources (profesionals with experties and experience), good cooperation between stakeholders, government institutions, local government and migrants, availabitity of spaces and materials and a personalized approach (especially in small local communities) are seen as key success factors. |

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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-descrimination |
| Since 2016 the city serves as a residence for **unaccompanied minor refugees** from different Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Banghladesh) and north African countries (Algeria, Marocco, Egypt). Some of the minors became adult, and currently they continue with higher education, have a job and therefore they continue their life in Postojna. They were all closely involved in Arrival Regions project activities.  Since the 1980ties the region is also accepting **immigrants from ex-Yugoslavian area** (especially from Kosovo and Bosnia-Hercegovina) and from Albania. New waves of migration from those countries are based mostly for economic reasons and to unite the families that are already living in Postojna. In 2020 Postojna welcomed also **repatriated Slovenians** that migrated from empoverished Venezuela and **young professional footballers** that spend 3-6 month preparation period in smaller clubs round Europe. Local NGO are regularly accepting young volunteers through **European Voluntary Service** and usually there are about 5 European volunteers living in Postojna at the same time. Within our pilot action and workshops we also connected with people with mental disabbilities, with eldery people and with people with physical dissabilities. |

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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 |
| The 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-Access5.html>  C:\Users\majapis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\IMG_20210720_170349.jpg |







