

D.T2.5.2

## PILOT FINAL REPORT

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Burgenland District

19.07.2021

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Pilot action: EMI BLK

Project Partner: PP12 – Burgenland District

Contact Person: Sonia Moreno



## 1. Short description of the activities implemented in 2021 .

Although two more camps should have been organized during 2021, and after delaying the date for the events, these activities couldn't be implemented due to COVID restrictions. Therefore, we organized different online activities trying to keep the original focus and its goal.

The first activity to be organized after the first camp in October 2020 was the Team Leaders Training. In this training, run by the same coach from the workshop during the first camp, Verena Ott, the participants of the first camp who applied for becoming a team leader took part in the six appointments that conformed the training. We divided it within six weeks and one appointment per week. During this training, future team leaders could learn about event organization, planning and leadership. All participants were very active and committed to the goals of this measure. After they completed the online training, team leaders organized their own small project, which was presented also in an online format with all other participants of the pilot action.

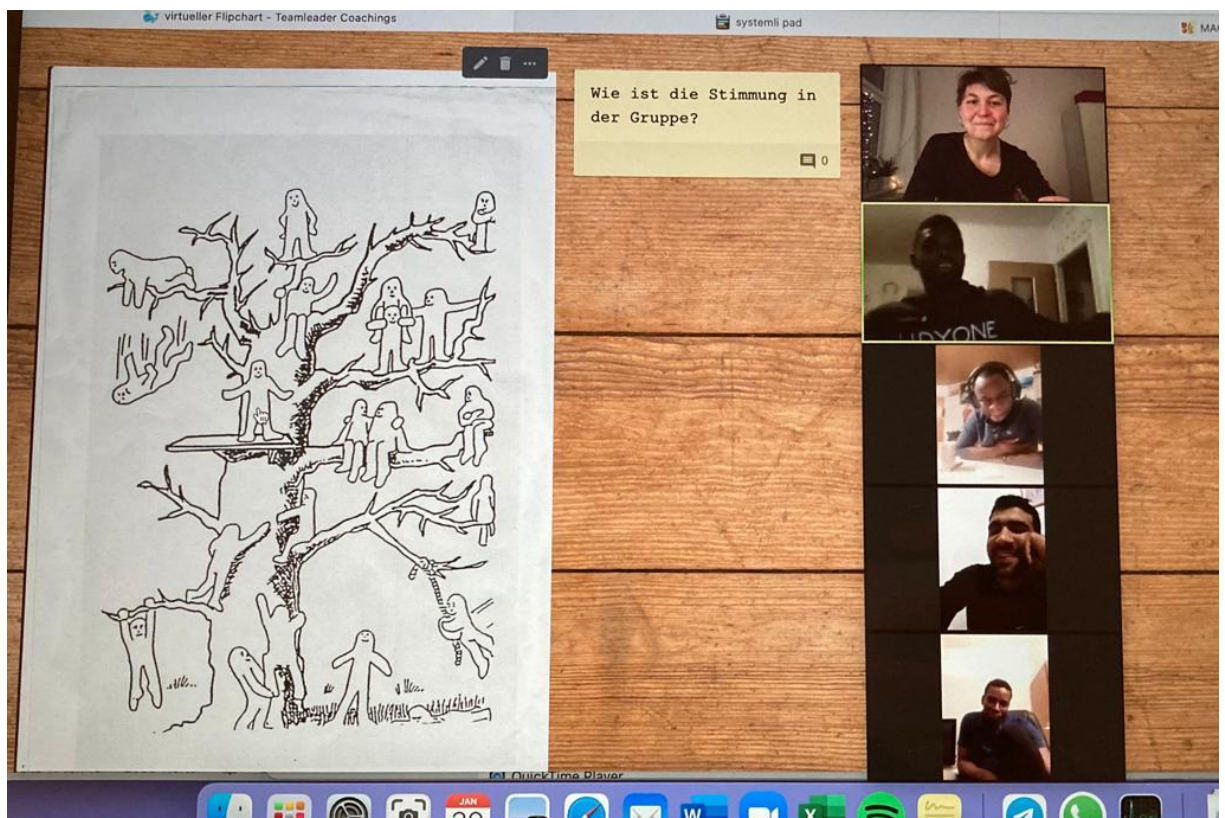


Foto: Team Leader Training. Pic by Verena Ott

While planning the second and third camps and after having to cancel them because of the restrictions described above, we decided to at least run the two workshops that Verena Ott would have implemented during the camps. The first one was about "Sexism and Racism", the second one about "Empowerment and allies against discrimination in daily life". The online workshops were open for everybody and although some of the camp participants were missing, new participants took part in

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it. The feedback of these workshops was very positive. Participants highly appreciated the opportunity they had to openly talk about sometimes controverse themes.

As described in the concept about the events to promote tolerance, all three events were originally planned to be developed with the participants during all three camps. During the first one, we started the social media campaign with the hashtag #ichbinvielesmehralsnur (in English: “#iammuchmorethanjust”). In this activity, we took a picture of the camp participants with a motto that makes them feel discriminated. For example, “#iammuchmorethanjust a head scarf. With this campaign we want to break down stereotypes in a provocative way. Social media channels such as Instagram are an important way to reach people of all regions and to confront them with this matter. In this regard, team leaders were asked to take an active role spreading this campaign.

The second one was “The Privilege Gallery”, where each participant should write down not situations of discrimination but privileges that she/he has and somebody else might not. This activity was also planned for the second camp in the framework of the Pilot Action, in order to make participants aware about the privileges they have. Unfortunately, we only could talk about these privileges during one of the online workshops, but the activity needs to be developed deeper. For this reason, we plan to organize it during an “informal meeting” with all participants of the first camp that could be possible after summer.

The third activity is “Exhibition”. We asked interested participants of the pilot action to think about a place in Burgenland District responding this question: “What does home mean for you in Burgenland District?”. The exhibition won’t show differences between artists but their common ground as part of the Burgenland District. During the last week of June 2021 and combining it with the visit of one of our Italian partners in order to interview participants for the final movie of the project, we run this activity taking the described pictures. As written in the concept, we will exhibit the pictures in different places of BLK.



Foto: Exhibition. Pic Sonia Moreno

As described above, during 2021 and if the current pandemic allows it, we will try to organize a new event, maybe a one—day-event, in order to get all participants of the pilot action together again.

## **2. Difficulties encountered during the pilot action implementation (including those connected to the COVID-19 pandemic).**

The main difficulties we had to face were related to the pandemic, as the pilot action was about social integration and living together. Regarding the first camp, these following points would be the main difficulties encountered:

- Limitation of the number of participants of the first camp to 21 persons
- Strict hygiene measures
- Distance, masks and hygiene for all activities
- Permanent uncertainty as to whether the camp would be feasible
- Stakeholder engagement difficult as many did not have capacity to actively support through Corona
- Difficulty in finding a common possible date with workers and trainees
- Difficulties in recruiting German male participants

We would like to add that we unfortunately didn't have the chance to improve the two last points, as further camps weren't possible.

As we already described above, the rest of the activities were implemented in an online format. Here we faced a loss of interest in participating in the online activities among some of the participants of the first camp as well as some technical challenges among others.

It also was very difficult to offer media coverage. Most of newspapers was focused in the pandemic and didn't want to publish news about integration projects, as, in their point of view, population wouldn't have interest in reading about it.

### **3. Assessment of :**

#### **a. Success of the pilot action (Has the selected social innovation managed to support economic and social integration of non-EU nationals in your region?).**

It's true that this Pilot Action is not completely new but based in the Swedish project "Ny Pa Landet". However, the fact that there are only few projects in Germany that focus on the social integration of already labour-integrated migrants, and also the adaptation to the necessities of BLK make of EMI BLK a very innovative pilot action.

For this reason, our Pilot Action has managed to support both the economic and also 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 out of all integration projects.

In addition, the fact that the target group was not only migrants but also 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 receive the opportunity to become a team leader training was also crucial, as they finally and maybe for the first time since their arrival in Germany could 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 project, as migrants live whether the "helped role" as participants not 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, getting to know the BLK better, not only through the camps but also through these new friendships.

Regarding the offline activities, not only the online workshops but also the mini own project from the team leaders brought participants through discussions and music together.

#### **b. Involvement of local stakeholders in the pilot action.**

While planning and writing the concept of the Pilot Action, a lot of stakeholders showed interest in actively participating. Unfortunately, and due to the pandemic, the ones that should implement different activities couldn't afford it because of other changes and necessities in their own facilities. However, the stakeholders who wanted to help us with the acquisition of participants and know-how were active available.

#### **c. Involvement of various target groups in the pilot action.**

This Pilot Action was created for the non-EU migrants as target group. However, we cannot understand social integration if the camps are organized for only migrants, as the whole integration aspect wouldn't be even present. For this reason the main goal of this pilot action was to bring both migrants and German together.

**d. Transferability of the pilot action to other regional and national contexts.**

As we already described before, this pilot action wasn't completely new but based in another project from Sweden. This fact shows alone the transferability of this project and capacity of adaptation to different countries, regions, backgrounds and necessities.

Nevertheless, and after presenting it in different conferences and contexts, such as the Annual Integration Conference in the district of Kulmbach (Germany), participants were surprised that such a still "small" pilot action could bring migrant participants so much. For this reason, some of the participants thought on adapting the pilot action to their regions in order to facilitate the social integration for those who are already working.

In addition, our polish project partners also proposed the idea of implementing this pilot action in the University of Szczecin (Poland).

**4. Future development of the pilot action in your region.**

The project partner PP12 (Burgenland District) already proposed the possibility and also necessity of continuing the Pilot Action as a independent project beyond Arrival Regions, not only because of its success but also because of the impossibility to run it as planned because of the pandemic. In this case, the trained team leaders could also implement their new-gained knowledge in project management and actively support the new project.

We musn't forget that EMI BLK is very time and energy demanding, e.g. bigger funding and also stronger support from both personnel and stakeholders are needed. Unfortunately, some of the stakeholders who showed their interest in make a new project from EMI BLK are not that active right now. That's why we are trying now to find another ressources.

- a. Progress regarding the pilot action's quantitative indicators (in reference to D.T2.2.3 – Evaluation Methodology). If you have managed to reach the original goal, please specify the main factors of your success in the Comments section. If the original goal was not reached, please specify the factors which led to the underperformance in the Comments section as well.**

Indicator	Original Goal	Current Result	Comments
Number of camps organized within the pilot action	3	1	Further camps weren't possible due to the COVID-pandemic.
Number of participants of camps	min. 15 participants per camp	17	Participants welcome the possibility of such a camp. Some other migrants stayed on the wait list, as it wasn't possible to bring more than 17 participants due to the pandemic.
Number of stakeholders involved in the organization of camps	5	3	Due to the pandemic, most of the stakeholders couldn't manage to get more actively involved, as they had to deal with the current situation in their own institutions first.
Number of participants who completed leadership training	5	6	The possibility to work both migrants and German together at the same level and organize upcoming camps and activities was a crucial fact for participants to sign up for the training. In fact, 8 participants started the training, but 2 had to leave it due to some incompatibilities with their jobs.

- b. Progress regarding the pilot action's qualitative indicators (in reference to D.T2.2.3 – Evaluation Methodology). If you have managed to reach the original goal, please specify the main factors of your success in the Comments section. If the original goal was not reached, please specify the factors which led to the underperformance in the Comments section as well.**

Indicator	Original Goal	Current Result	Comments
Acquisition of the new knowledge about the Burgenlandkreis	The majority of participants have managed to improve	69% (first camp)	Regarding the fact that 1/3 of the participants were German from BLK itself, the absolutely majority of the

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	their knowledge about the Burgenlandkreis		migrants managed to improve their knowledge about BLK, as none of them had visited the city where the first camp was organized before. Since all other activities had to be planned online, there was for participants no other chance to know the BLK better than the first camp.
Acquisition of new knowledge on intercultural communication and social skills	The majority of participants have managed to improve their intercultural communication competences and other social skills	84%	The most valued points by participants were such as team work, possibility of say their opinion to a topic, listen to others, acceptance of other opinions, becoming more open-minded, getting to know new people and new cultures and having the feeling the own opinion is important to others.
Establishment of stable social contacts among participants	The majority of migrant participants have managed to enlarge their social circles by the end of the pilot action	50%	After the first camp new friendships were made among participants. Also the team leaders kept in touch with each other. However, this point couldn't be improved by the project partner due to the fact that no more camps were possible. Even if new participants joined the online activities, the lack of personal and physical meetings didn't enable new friendships.
Level of stakeholders' involvement	Majority of involved stakeholders are actively taking part in the implementation of the pilot action and show the interest to continue it after the end of the pilot period	30%	As we said before, the pandemic prevented the majority of stakeholders to get more actively involved. Besides, some of the stakeholders were about to plan some activities during the second and the third camp, due to the fact that the camps would take place in cities where stakeholders are settled.



**e. Communication activities in progress**

No.	Newspapers/Journals – Radio - TV	Date	Newspapers/Journals, Radio, TV
1	Online news site of Burgenland District	13.11.2020	<a href="https://www.burgenlandkreis.de/de/aktuelles/integration-im-laendlichen-raum-20052894.html">https://www.burgenlandkreis.de/de/aktuelles/integration-im-laendlichen-raum-20052894.html</a>
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