

# PILOT ACTION



## REFUGE ONLINE MARKET

*Supporting each other! Creating common spaces of work!*



LABOR MARKET  
INTEGRATION

### AIM

The aim of the pilot was to scrutinize on needs and skills of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants regarding an aspired inclusion in the labour market in Slovenia. Based on the skills and experiences the participants have from both, their country of origin and new country of residence, a common project should be co-created and pursued.

### APPROACH OF THE PILOT

- In-depth personal interviews with refugees and migrants; attentive listening on skills and education;
- Co-creation of a common project idea based on the elaborated professions, work experiences and skills, enabling refugees, migrants and asylum seekers to support and learn from each other;
- Actively supporting the idea of the participants on establishing a digital sells-platform that would assist them economically;
- Enhancing the networking process among refugees, migrants and local initiatives by using co-shared spaces and tools;

### ACHIEVEMENTS / OUTCOMES

Exploration of skills: 25 in-depth interviews with refugees, migrants and asylum seekers (20 male & 5 female) on needs, skills and experiences concerning employment and societal inclusion;

Execution of an co-creation approach, i.e. designing specific activities together with refugees and migrants:

- All together 20 meetings, including two on-site group sessions;
- Inclusion of diverse trainers in the trainer team;

Commencing the development of an online market platform for craft and hand made items made by refugees:

- 5 meetings to organize the working team on the *Refuge Online Market*;
- 2 meetings to establish a seller's pool out;
- 3 sessions to photo-shoot the sells-items for online marketing;



**SiforREF**

European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



### THE PROJECT

**Social Innovation for Refugees** (SiforREF) examines and tests solutions with the aim to support societal and labour market integration of refugees after their arrival in five Central European cities. The team consists of researchers, representatives of local government and actors from civil society.

### THE PILOT ACTION

The Pilots are concrete actions for the inclusion of refugees into society and labour market. Seven pilots were conducted from April 2021 until September 2021. Each of them addresses a specific challenge, target group, goal and working approach in respect to refugee inclusion.

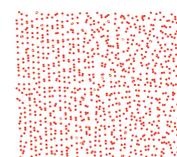
### PARTICIPANTING REGIONS

Berlin, Germany (2)  
Bologna, Italy (1)  
Ljubljana, Slovenia (1)  
Parma, Italy (1)  
Vienna, Austria (2)

### AIM

The findings from each Pilot contribute to develop social innovative and inclusive practices and policies that are mainstream and institutionalised.

### PILOT RESPONSIBILITY BY:



**GMAJNA**

## KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE PILOT

- Carefully listening to the experiences of participants and connecting them among each other, plus to local initiatives is empowering the target group
- Concrete ideas of the target group on labour market inclusion are present, so more pilots would bring more chances to support and realise them;
- Pro-active approach are needed, addressing not only the needs of participants but also anticipating the organizational processes and co-designing the steps that would lead to the realisation of ideas;
- Refugees and migrants living longer time in Ljubljana are skilled and experienced to help; newcomer, and their networks are rich and supportive;
- Co-creation is an enduring process, sometimes taking a whole life period;
- More engagement from civil society is needed;

## FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- Strong networking
- Availability of co-sharing spaces
- Longer time period for pilots as defined in the SiforREF projects
- Being connected frequently via web tools and en-vivo, supporting the network by a pro-active approach and sharing the responsibilities in the decision making proces.



## STUMBLING BLOCKS

- COVID-19 closure of society that deprived the personal communication
- one of the most negative and stumbling situation for Ljubljana is the lack of spaces as means of production.
- A poor housing policy, recent eviction of alternative places (2018, 2021), sky-rocking rents of places appallingly effect the quality of integration of new residents with international or subsidiary protection status of our city, and provoke obstacles to various local initiatives to prosper.

## FUTURE POTENTIAL

- As a long-term process, the co-creation approach on refugee inclusion needs extended timeperiods to be implemented and realised. Therefore the Ljubljana pilot will be continued after the SiforREF project's lifetime.
- The Online Refuge Market is a concrete project outcome and will as well run and co-run further by refugees and migrants, more people will join to co-create or merely participate in the market platform as sellers. However to sustain the platform, the establishment of a social company is one of the must steps of this proces.



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