

Small Towns European Debates Network – STEDNet

Small towns wann be forever young – how to keep young people in small towns, include immigrants and become desirable place to live (special emphasis on inclusion of immigrants in small communities).

Ploeuc-L'Hermitage, 14 March 2022



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

projects that were starting points for local debates

Background

- ⇒ Migration makes an important contribution to the development of societies and local communities.
- ⇒ Supportive environment is crucial for the full integration of migrants into society.
- ⇒ The role of learning and education!
- **CIK Trebnje** is a public organization, established by the Trebnje municipality to promote and develop adult education and local area;
- programmes are aimed at different (vulnerable) target groups: elderly, rural residents, members of the Roma community, immigrants, special needs persons, the unemployed, young, persons serving a prison sentence, etc);
- EU projects, including one focusing on the integration of immigrants in different areas of local community life





REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
URAD VLADE RS ZA OSKRBO
IN INTEGRACIJO MIGRANTOV



INITIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS (ZIP)

- duration: 2016 till now
- programme combines Slovenian language learning with a programme of familiarization with Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Programme also integrates life and work issues that strengthen the integration of immigrants into Slovenian society: personal identity, housing, living, family and home, labor market and workplace, health and social security, education, public life in Slovenia, Slovenian history, culture and constitutional order
- Programme is delivered in 60, 120 and 180 hours
- 100 participants / year.

The programme is funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia and the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Care and Integration of Migrants.



MENTORING FOR THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (MINT)

- duration: January 2019 – February 2021

The aim of the project:

- to promote the integration of third-country migrant children and young people in the receiving countries, focusing on their inclusion in education and active participation in social, cultural and political life, as well as to counter stereotypes and promote acceptance by raising awareness of children's rights.
- Migrant children and young people are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion.
- To empower migrant children and young people, as well as European youth, and include them in new integration activities
- Focus on educational, social, cultural and linguistic activities and on breaking stereotypes.

MINT





Mentoring for the integration of migrant children from third countries (MINT)

- Results:
 - 120 children have been supported in their integration by trained local mentors
 - 1000 children have gain the skills and knowledge to integrate into social relationships
 - 240 children and young people have been empowered through awareness raising and advocacy
- Project has designed an innovative and **replicable peer-to-peer mentoring programme** based on good practices and tested models. The mentoring programme includes **training** local youth volunteers and pairing them with newly arrived migrant and refugee children.
- Partners: Slovenia, Czech Republic, Poland and Romania

Project has been co-financed by European Union through the Asylum, Migration and integration Fund (AMIF) and the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.



Migrations and human rights enhanced through technology in education (MigratED)

Duration: February 2018 – April 2021

The goals of the project:

- To strengthen social and civic competences
- To raise awareness for more inclusive schools
- To combat hate speech
- To introduce technologies into the GCE (Global Citizenship Education) good practices

Activities

PHASE 1: Training of teachers and educators

PHASE 2: Fostering students and youngsters' intercultural competences and critical thinking skills

PHASE 3: Awareness raising campaign for more inclusive schools through global citizenship education and multimedia tools

 migratED

MEDIA EDUCATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Migrations and human rights enhanced through technology in education (MigratED)

RESULTS

- Need analysis Reports
- Methodological Guidelines for Teachers and Educators
- Factsheets and Policy Briefs

Partners: Italyi, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus and Slovenia
Financed by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.





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Local debates - Conclusions

- Migration issues are not sufficiently integrated into the **school curriculum**; addressing these topics more adequately would ensure that immigrants feel more comfortable in our society and integrate better into society
- the importance of integrating immigrant children into **education**, thus overcoming language barriers and promotion multiculturalism and tolerance at school
- a well-received immigrant becomes a good fellow citizen who improves the quality of life in the country
- the importance of **global learning**, which opens eyes and minds, as well as hearts, to the realities of a globalized and interdependent world
- Global learning is an important tool for strengthening young people's global competences and for developing tolerant global citizens





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Local debates - Conclusions

- **peer mentoring** support from volunteers is a good tool to help immigrant children integrate into society
- successful integration of immigrant children into education and society can only be achieved with the **cooperation** of all actors
- it is important to ensure that teachers and volunteers are properly **supported**
- **tailored integration programmes** are needed, especially for immigrant children who are not had the opportunity or have been excluded from the education system for a long time
- learning the **Slovenian language** is important, as it is key to integration into society
- for immigrant children **school** is the most important place for integration
- in addition to the institutional support provided by state, it is very important to engage **civil society**





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Local debates - Conclusions

- a **safe and supportive environment** is key to the successful integration of immigrants
- at local level, support is provided by institutions – in particular people's universities – which provide counselling services, a wide range of formal and non-formal education and learning, assessment of prior learning, and much more
- **the presence of prejudices, stereotypes and intolerance in society cannot be ignored, but we are all co-shapers of public opinion, because migration is our history and our present.**





Thank you!

