



## Supporting Integration of Migrant Learners, Asylum Seekers and Refugees

### Editorial

The project SIMILAR aims at fostering integration of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers through a multi-dimensional approach which includes multicultural approach and empowering measures in the areas of integration and social welfare. This newsletter represents selected highlights of the work done during the last 6 months of the project, through a sample of the latest project outputs and related news stories from the project partners.

As the first year of the project comes to its end, project partners have continued to work in order to produce the project outputs. As a result of this work, the Cross-Country Analysis report has been finalised and published on the [project website](#), along with a brief version of the report, which has been translated in all partner languages. At the moment partners are working on the collection / adaptation of best practices for the development of the "Empowerment of migrants" Toolkit, as well as on the development of the Handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting work with migrants", which aims to develop and implement effective methods focusing on a multicultural approach for those working closely with migrants, in order to promote multi-culturalism and support their integration into society.

### SIMILAR Cross-Country Needs Analysis report

The SIMILAR project partnership developed a comprehensive Cross-Country Needs Analysis report after conducting a detailed Needs Analysis report in each partner country, based on the results collected from a Desk Research, focus groups and/or in-depth interviews with migrants, including third country nationals, refugees and asylum-seekers and experts from local authorities / bodies responsible for different phases of the integration and those persons working closely with migrants.

Based on the results of the Cross-Country report, some of the most important recommendations that have arisen are the following:

- National Immigration Plans: there is a need for the development and implementation of a concrete measure within the context of a National Plan (for all countries) for effective migrant integration and inclusion in the local society with the participation of migrants and supporting NGOs.
- Initiatives that call both the host community members and the migrants' target group to work together towards migration integration seem to be more productive and much more successful regarding the process and the results.

- A more transparent and rights-based labour migration system still needs to be developed to ensure access to labour market, combat discrimination in workplace and eliminate incidents of discriminatory practices and exploitative conditions.
- Uninhibited access of all migrant children to education and promotion of a genuine intercultural and anti-racial education. More opportunities should be given to adult migrants for life-long education, training courses, language courses etc.
- Training for Professionals and Local authorities: understanding of the importance of social integration and mainstreaming in all national policies, with a particular emphasis to the local level and all professionals whose work is relevant to immigrants and asylum seekers.
- Orientation courses and language courses should be offered to all migrants.

For more information about the Cross-Country report and other project related activities you can visit the official project website <http://www.similarproject.eu/>.

## SIMILAR project presented at the 10th annual Innovative Learning Environments (ILE 2017) Conference, in Cyprus



The SIMILAR project was presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Innovative Learning Environments Conference (ILE 2017), which was held on Thursday October 12, 2017 and Friday October 13, 2017 at the University of Nicosia, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The theme of this year's international conference was "Adult

Education Policy and Practice: Gamification, Entrepreneurship Education, and Education Policies". SIMILAR was presented during a parallel session at the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference, which was focused on Adult Education Policies and Strategies. The Conference attended 250 participants in total, from the Ministry of Education of Cyprus, the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus, NGOs, academics, teachers from primary and secondary education, researchers, stakeholders etc.

The focus of the SIMILAR presentation was on the Adult Education Training aspect of the project, and more specifically on the fact that SIMILAR project aims to strengthen the awareness of those persons who work closely with migrants in the field of social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, empowerment and equality which are the starting points for a proper and successful migrants integration within the society. Also, the participants had the opportunity to learn



more about the Handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting

work with migrants”, which is being developed by the partners and will provide the persons working closely with migrants the vital knowledge which they need to convey information to migrants which is helpful in the integration process.

## **SIMILAR project presented at a “Language Literacy for Migrants” workshop, in Slovenia**

The Erasmus+ project SIMILAR started in November 2016. The first year was research oriented and during interviews and analysis LUV managed to get several strategic partners interested. First result of the project is the development of the transnational report on needs of migrants and people working with them, which is published on the [project website](#) and partly available in Slovenian. The developed document was used as a starting point for the preparation of a Handbook, which is being prepared by the project consortium.

The project and its aims were presented during a workshop for Language literacy for Migrants in Slovenia, which took place in October 2017. Another training will follow in November, since from the responses and feedback collected from the potential users there is definitely a need for it.