



## 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.

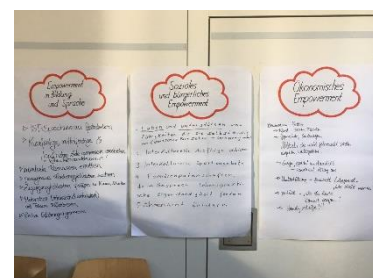
During the second year of the project, the consortium developed the first drafts of the Handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting work with migrants" and the Toolkit "Empowerment of migrants – collection of good practices". These two outputs were presented and tested by all partners, in Poland, Cyprus, Germany, Slovenia and Hungary, during two different kind of events: an Event for Teachers, Trainers, Educational Staff and an Event for Volunteers, Police, Municipal Police, City Guards. The feedback collected from the participants will be used for the improvement and finalization of the two tools of the project. More information about those events and their results can be found in the following newsitems.

### Presenting SIMILAR materials during the multiplier events in Germany



The developed handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting work with migrants" and the toolbox collection of the best practices have been tested among teachers, trainers, volunteers working with migrant learners as well as among those responsible for the design and implementation of the educational and integration measures for migrants.

The testing of the materials was conducted during two events organized in Germany, in April 2018 for a total of 21 participants. The trainers, volunteers and representatives of educational organisations had a chance to experience the developed and adapted teaching materials for a successful integration and empowerment of migrants. Except practical exercises the participants had an opportunity for self-reflection e.g. how intercultural competent am I? How do I perceive others, especially those from other social surroundings? The events were also a





great chance to discuss about the best strategies for the social, economic, educational empowerment of migrants.

## Testing SIMILAR outputs in Cyprus



CARDET organized two National Multiplier events in May 2018, inviting professionals who are engaged in teaching migrants or work with migrant learners, and policy makers who are in favor of migrants integration in Cyprus. More specifically, during these two events 30 participants, such as teachers, academics, trainers, educational staff, volunteers, stakeholders from the field of migration and integration and representatives of local authorities had

the opportunity to learn more about the progress of the SIMILAR project and test two of the main project outputs: the Handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting work with migrants" and the Toolkit "Empowerment of migrants – collection of good practices".

Generally participants were very satisfied with the events and more specifically with the materials provided to them. During the two events we had the opportunity to receive useful feedback and recommendations for the improvement of the material. All of the participants expressed their excitement in receiving the finalised material and mentioned that they will definitely use both the Handbook and the Toolkit during their future professional activities.



## Fruitful testing of the SIMILAR Handbook at the University of Lodz



The first testing event of the handbook "Awareness raising and empathy training measures for promoting work with migrants" and the toolbox collection has been conducted at the University of Lodz with 20 students, future social care workers. The participants revised the selected parts of the handbook and offered some very insightful comments. The next testing will be conducted with future teachers of Polish as a second



language by the end of May 2018.