

MIVA – MIGRANTS’ INTEGRATION THROUGH VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER I. – AUGUST 2019

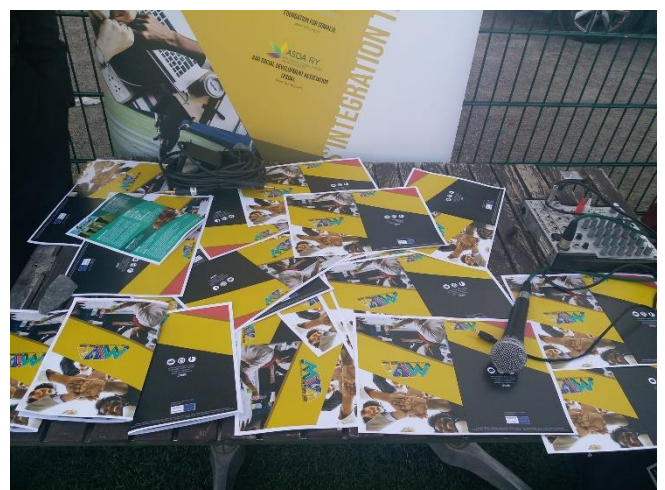
The MIVA project has been born with the aim to contribute to the level of integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European hosting societies. The project provides increased opportunities for the target groups to participate in multicultural social, educational, cultural and sport activities. These activities are organised to create links and direct contacts among the individuals, increasing intercultural understanding, and promoting an active participation in the civic sector including the engagement in volunteering activities.

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MIVA PROJECT:

Greece, Cyprus, France, Finland, Italy and Poland

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MIVA PROJECT:

- 1) promote the development and implementation of innovative actions to increase third country nationals’ engagement in the volunteering sector, in social activities and cultural life of the local community;
- 2) foster knowledge and experience sharing as well as implementing capacity building programmes on successful action to increase Third Country Nationals’ integration;
- 3) support the empowerment of immigrants for more participation in general community life;
- 4) build partnerships and cooperation among all actors involved in promoting integration at community level.



SNAPSHOT ON THE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE 1ST PHASE OF THE PROJECT:

Greece, Municipality of Piraeus & Organization Earth

Besides the co-organisation of an Info-day about the MIVA project, which has been held in the Municipal Gallery of Piraeus, the Greek partners have been organising a cooking workshop to share the recipe of a Mediterranean pasta with fresh organic vegetables and herbs as well as a cross-cultural football match during the month of July, supporting the intercultural encounters among local and Third Country Nationals. Even some journalists of the Greek National TV were joining the games and enjoying the match from inside.



Cyprus, Enoros Consulting Ltd

Enoros held an Info-day in the Central Office of Cyprus Red Cross Society on 28th June in Nicosia. Participants with wide range of personal and professional background (representatives of asylum offices, social welfare, NGOs, public institutions and Universities) were present and got to know more about the upcoming activities of the MIVA project.

On 14th June, the World Refugee Day - Street Festival has been held in Nicosia, where Enoros was present, raising awareness on objectives and activities offered by the MIVA project.

Enoros has been also introducing the INDIGO App to Third Country Nationals as well as volunteers and NGO members during the month of July, promoting the innovative and easy use of the tool and its practical benefits.





France, INDIGO Cooperative


INDIGO is the lead partner who has been developing and launching the INDIGO World web platform and mobile application (both Android and iOS) which is a tool with great potential to promote the social integration of vulnerable groups. The platform offers space for individuals as well as NGOs to receive and offer support, such as services or objects but also to promote volunteering opportunities. The INDIGO Cooperative has also developed a training material that is supporting the introduction of the tool to NGO members and volunteers, trainers, educators and social workers as well as the Third Country Nationals. So far 49 000 (!) users have been registered on the App and the numbers are expected to further grow during the upcoming project period.

Besides the development and promotion of the App, the Cooperative has been also implementing various cross-cultural activities, such as an Intercultural Festival in Paris on 6 July, in cooperation with Association Aurore, that has been engaging more than 900 individuals. The football match, the cooking courses and walking tours organised during the course of June and July has been also engaging various youngsters and adults both locals and Third Country Nationals.

Finland, Aar Social Development Association (ASDA) Ry

In May 2019 ASDA has been organising an Info-day presenting the MIVA project to the target group of the activities, as well as holding its first cookery workshop where famous East-African dishes, such as the Sambusas (fried and stuffed triangular pastry), Mandazi (donut) and Jabati





(flatbread) with meat, rice and vegetables has been prepared and shared among local participants and Third Country Nationals. On the second workshop the participants have been introduced to the preparation of red kimchi, which is a Korean, fermented cabbage prepared with flavours and spices.

ASDA has been taking part in the Helsinki Summer Sports Festival on 24th July, where the participants of the event has been introduced to the upcoming activities to be held within the MIVA project.

Italy, Promozione Internazionale Sicilia-Mondo (PRISM)

PRISM has been realizing the first Info day of the project on 7 May in the famous Farm Cultural Park (Favara, Sicily), where the project has been presented in cooperation with the representative

of the Foundation of Communities of Agrigento & Trapani who has been a major partner in the organisation of 'The roots and wings' Intercultural Festival as well, that was held on 19-20th June in Agrigento. The festival has been offering a particular program, including the screening of the documentary 'Alganesh – Hope on the Horizon' in the presence of Dr. Alganesh Fessaha, the Eritrean-Italian multiple award-winning human rights activist, the founder of the NGO Gandhi, who is one of the most dedicated fighter against human-trafficking. The festival has been also given place to artistic, culinary and sport activities and a commemoration has been held to remember the deaths of thousands of migrants who were trying were trying to reach a safe place in Europe through the Mediterranean.

PRISM has been also starting its introductory workshops for the promotion of the INDIGO application, which in Italy is still yet to become



well-known, but great interest has been expressed about it by the target groups.

Poland, Foundation for Somalia (FDS)

FDS held its first Info-day on 13th June, presenting the concept and activity program of the 3-year MIVA-project in its complexity.

It has been present together with members of other ethnic minority groups in Warsaw between 10-16th June, celebrating the Diversity Festival, and on 19th July it has been organising the Neighbour's day, which is traditionally held by FDS, supporting intercultural dialogue and understanding among neighbours of the foundation.

On the cooking workshop, organised by FDS the Mongolian Buuza has been prepared and enjoyed by Polish people and members of the migrant and ethnic communities.

On 6th July the first football matches have been also held in cooperation with the well-known Etnoliga, whose expert Krzysztof Jarymowicz has been highlighting the positive attitudes that sport



can contribute to, such as commitment, teamwork and fair play.



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