

Good Practices

“A New Approach in Cultural Learning for Promoting the Social Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (NEST)”

Grant Agreement No: 612187-EPP-1-2019-1-EL-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this collection is to review cultural learning practices in Europe and to identify good practices at regional, national and European level. The collection of good practices included in this report assesses the term, content and the criteria of a good practice on refugees welcoming and integration. The report offers a variety of interesting and innovative initiatives and projects in all partner countries of the NEST project (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Germany), which can provide new ideas on how to address the issues regarding the cultural integration and the inclusion of refugees and migrants in the EU, as well as which methods are proven to be effective as concerns this field. At the end of the report two more European good practices in the field are shortly assessed.

Although the NEST project is informed and will draw in its workings knowledge from the identification of good practices in relation to cultural learning their impact on migrants and refugees, the primary aim of the project is not to disseminate previous good practices but to develop and test a new model of cultural learning, which will consist itself a good practice in the field.

Embarking from the position that cultural learning is inherently challenging and a contested concept, NEST seeks to offer a cultural learning approach with the following innovative elements to be tested:

- Widening the **concept of culture** to include current popular culture, sub-cultures within countries, as well as a history of the main cultural artefacts. The **NEST** project will explore, define and design new educational material that will aim to offer to the migrants a more comprehensive knowledge on each host country culture.



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- A **pedagogical** approach that encourages reflection, critical thinking and feedback. The **NEST** project will follow a person-centred, participatory pedagogical approach which it is deemed more suitable for sharing cultural knowledge. This approach is characterised by a non-formal learning environment where participants are prompted to actively participate and share their opinions and reflect on the ideas and concepts that are introduced to.
- **Combination of course and mentoring.** The **NEST** project will support cultural learning through combining two learning pathways: a designed course and face to face mentoring sessions. Both elements seek to improve the knowledge and understanding of migrants on the culture of the host societies but their combination has the potential of increased interaction, reflection and will develop other soft skills of participants and trainers and mentors alike.

Measurable impact. The **NEST** project will conduct a rigorous evaluation to provide meaningful and systematic information on the **outcomes** of its proposed innovation. Key objective of the project is to assess the effectiveness and impact of its model to the selected n so as to inform the policy world on the lessons learnt and measured results and support the adaptation and wider implementation of its deliverables. The Evaluation approach is presented in more detail in the Impact section 3.4.2 below together with the indicators to be used.

Good practices identified in this report will be also used to reinvigorate policy dialogue and mutual learning among relevant stakeholders during the roundtables with relevant stakeholders that will be organized in each partner country.

In this report, the project defines good practices as being approaches, experiences, projects or initiatives that work adequately and effectively as concerns the sociocultural inclusion and integration of the refugees and migrants.



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General Information

Grant Agreement No: 612187-EPP-1-2019-1-EL-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN		Acronym: NEST		
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0.3.	April 2020	Draft	Synthesis of all partners contributions	Evelyn Katsifou
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1. Identification of good practices

A good practice is not only a practice that is good, but a practice that has been proven to work well and produce good results, and is therefore recommended as a model for inspiring further implementation of each component in helping migrant women overcome culture barriers. It is a successful experience, which has been tested and validated, in the broad sense, which has been repeated and deserves to be shared so that a greater number of people can adopt it for achieving the aim of the project.

1.1. Good practice criteria

What can be considered as good practice for the NEST project? It is a project, a method, or an initiative which it is effective and successful in facilitating overcoming cultural barriers and allow people with different cultural background to be included in a host society dominated by other norms, culture and rules, easily and smoothly.

In general, a “good practice” has proven its strategic relevance as the most effective way in achieving the objective; it has been successfully adopted and has had a positive impact on individuals and/or communities when it comes to facilitating integration through culture and cultural activities.

Other criteria as these have been introduced by the European Commission are:

- transferability;
- a clear definition of the context;
- sustainability;
- intersectorality;
- participation of stakeholders;



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2. Good practices in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Germany

In this chapter selected good practices from the involved in the project countries are identified and they are presented in a common way for easy understanding and comparison.

2.1. Greece

Title of good practice	Citizens of the world
Country	Greece
Year	2013-ongoing
Website	http://www.politestoukosmou.gr/
Description	The goal of the project was the production of radio broadcasts with topics directly relevant to third-country nationals. Through the implementation of the program, an attempt was made to familiarize immigrants with radio and broad production techniques in the mass media. Via its platform, Citizens of the World has achieved to offer valid and complete information of the citizens of third countries on issues that concern them. Informing and sensitizing the indigenous population for cases of social exclusion faced by a large number of third country citizens in our country. Familiarization of third country citizens with issues of radio and wider production techniques in the Mass Media, in order for them to acquire their own broadcasts / productions. Information through programs on issues related to health, work, education, housing, public administration, legal and administrative information, counselling and psychological support, issues of diversity and racism, Greek history, system of government, etc. Exchange of information and experiences between citizens of third countries and Greeks, through their active participation in the implementation of radio programs.
Impact	Training of 24 third country citizens and 20 Greeks on radio issues, so that they can then implement radio shows and be able to develop and promote Multicultural Media. A series of radio shows entitled "Citizens of the World"



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	presented on the radio station "Sto Kokkino" 105.5FM from the beginning of March 2015 inform listeners about issues related to, among other things, the aforementioned fields of information. Citizens of a Third Country, or someone who is interested in active citizenship, can listen to the radio station "Sto Kokkino" 105.5FM every afternoon to listen to the show "Citizens of the World" to ask questions and comment and get live answers to issues related to your daily life. Active citizenship, sense of belonging and community, connection to one's roots and the right to speak about problems and issues of migrants in Greece are promoted.
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Title of good practice	Art Crossroads
Country	Greece
Year	2015
Website	http://www.crossroadofarts.gr
Description	The main goal of the Crossroads of Art program is the integration of third-country nationals as well as their harmonious coexistence with Greek society through art. Third-country nationals and Greek artists participate in theatrical and musical events and use their multimedia and programs to combat xenophobia and negative stereotypes. Furthermore, the project seeks to develop joint actions between third country nationals and Greek artists in the field of theatre, music and multimedia. Enhance artist collaborations by creating new shapes, highlighting the multiculturalism of art. Communicate and exchange thoughts and experiences between Greek and third-country nationals on issues of artistic expression and art as global languages. To portray in Greek society the talents of Greek and immigrant artists who participate in the events that take place in Athens and Thessaloniki.
Impact	Via a series of artistic Joint actions between citizens of third countries and Greek artists in the field of theatre, music and multimedia as well as via artists Collaborations (to strengthen the collaborations of artists by creating



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	new shapes highlighting the multiculturalism of art) an exchange of thoughts and experiences occurred between Greeks and citizens of third countries on issues of artistic expression and art as a world language. More than 200 artists participated in more than 14 joint actions in various fields and hundreds of people enjoyed the shows at the outdoor events. This produced public dialogue, awareness raising for the participants and the audience, as well as a sense of belonging and creative expression of immigrant artists which otherwise would not be able to express themselves.
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Title of good practice “Stepping Stone” Educational Integration Programme	
Country	Greece
Year	2017-ongoing
	http://metadrasi.org/en/campaigns/stepping-stone/
Description	<p>“Stepping Stone” is an innovative programme, initiated by METAdrasi in May 2017, aiming at facilitating the integration of refugees and migrants through educational activities and paid internships. METAdrasi supports the beneficiaries’ efforts by evaluating them, strengthening their skills, and preparing them to find employment, through practical placement experience.</p> <p>The project offers: Intensive Greek language courses, counselling and support with legal issues related to employment, a curriculum to strengthen social skills, support workshops with a mentoring approach to professional ethics and CV preparation, technical vocational training (for example, sewing and cooking seminars), and computer courses.</p>
Impact	In the first 7 months of the Stepping Stone project, 75 beneficiaries have participated, of whom more than 19 people have already started their practical placement and two of them were granted degree scholarships.



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Title of good practice	
The “Sunday School for Migrants” (Κυριακάτικο Σχολείο Μεταναστών)	
Country	Greece
Year	2007 onwards
	https://www.ksm.gr/
Description	The Sunday School for Migrants is an initiative organised by Greeks and migrants which provides Greek language courses for migrants, targeting migrant integration. Every Sunday, and on a voluntary basis, Greek language (and other) courses are offered in the premises of an elementary school. Language is valuable for everyday life and the claim of rights by immigrants. In addition to the courses, there is a legal support group for refugees and immigrants. Since its establishment, our school has been an active part of the movement for the rights of immigrants and refugees, against racism and xenophobia and is active in the Movement "EXPEL RACISM" in Athens.
Impact	For 13 years the Sunday School for Migrants offers courses in the above mentioned fields to approximately 400 students each year which come from many countries of the world. The offered courses (in Greek, English, German etc.) are crucial for the development and quality of life of the migrants which later have better skills to claim their rights and a decent life in host countries. In addition, several legal cases of migrants have been resolved with the help of the legal advice and legal support group of the school. Many immigrants and Greek volunteers of the school have also participated in recent years in demonstrations demanding the rights of immigrants, anti-racist and anti-war mobilizations.

Title of good practice	
Synergies between the Municipality of Athens (ACCMR), NGOs and private companies for the 1st Job Fair	
Country	Greece
Year	2019



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Website	https://www.accmr.gr/en/news/771-1st-job-fair-connecting-refugees-and-migrants-with-the-labor-market-in-athens.html
Description	<p>The objective of the Job Fair is to create an open space for networking and communication between the private sector and prospective employees, appropriately prepared for the Greek labour market, thereby facilitating equal access to it.</p> <p>The Job Fair is an initiative of the Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment Committee of the Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues (ACCMR) and is co-organized by ActionAid-Epikentro, ARSIS-Association for the Social Support of Youth, Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity, Greek Council for Refugees, International Rescue Committee (IRC Hellas), the Job Center of the City of Athens, the Migrant Integration Center of the City of Athens, Metadrasi-Action for Migration & Development, and Solidarity Now.</p> <p>The 1st Job Fair for candidates with refugee or migrant background was organized by the Livelihoods Committee on November 2019, in Athens. The event took place with the participation of companies and organizations from various sectors of the Greek economy, wishing to meet candidates of different professional backgrounds and explore job and collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>This kind of practice provides a unique opportunity to promote employability, to increase migrants'/ refugees' integration into the host society and to enhance collaboration between different parties.</p>
Impact	<p>20 companies and 200 candidates participated at the Job Fair. Through the Job Fair the creation of an open space for interconnection and communication between companies and potential employees was achieved, thus enhancing their equal access to the labour market. Participants had the opportunity to talk to the companies and organizations present, to apply for job vacancies and to reap multiple benefits that will help them in their quest to find a job in Greece. Through individualized meetings and training seminars provided by the job counselling service, the</p>



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	200 participants got trained in job search methods, in the further development of their personal skills as well as in the preparation of interviews and their liaison with companies and organizations.
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Title of good practice	ESTIA
Country	Greece
Year	2017
Website	http://estia.unhcr.gr/el/
Description	<p>UNHCR works with the Greek Government, local authorities and NGOs to provide urban accommodation and cash assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece through ESTIA, the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation programme, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.</p> <p>Urban accommodation provides a normal daily life for refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, facilitates their access to services, including education, and the eventual integration for those who will remain in the country. The host population also benefits from embracing diversity through peaceful coexistence as well as the renting of their apartments.</p> <p>Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers refugees and asylum-seekers who can choose how to cover their basic daily needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community through the purchase of services and goods.</p> <p>Integrated Accommodation scheme for Asylum Seekers and Refugees - The triplet scheme</p> <p>Asylum-seeker and refugee families hosted in apartments rented by the City of Athens (Athens Development Agency - ADDMA) within the framework of</p>



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	the UNHCR ECHO-funded programme are supported by a triplet – a social worker, an apartment manager and an interpreter. The triplets ensure a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of the families who spend from three to six months in the accommodation. They also constitute a point of reference for the neighbours to facilitate contacts with refugee families and reassure their potential concerns.
Impact	The project provided a temporary accommodation for relocation candidates and vulnerable asylum seekers through the rental of apartments in Athens, Thessaloniki, Samos, Chios, Kos, Leros and Rhodes. More specifically, Arsis created 1561 places in total, (478 in Athens, 280 in Thessaloniki and 803 in the islands i.e. Samos, Chios, Kos, Leros and Rhodes). Through daily support mechanisms, beneficiaries were able to adjust to the new cultural and social environment, while ensuring decent living conditions and personalized management of needs. These actions also aimed to avoid social isolation, marginalization and combat discrimination and racism.

Title of good practice	“YOU CREATE” by Foundation Terre des Hommes Greece and Alta Mane
Website	http://www.altamane.org/en/2019/07/16/you-create-project-in-ioannina-epirus-greece/
Country	Greece
Year	2019-2020
Description	The project “Empowering Youth Refugees and Asylum-Seekers through Arts in Ioannina, Epirus”, is developed at the Community Center Mikri Polis in Ioannina (Epirus, Greece) and it aims to strengthen and



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	<p>consolidate the existing education and social integration programmes through the new methodology YOU CREATE, so as to offer arts-based psychosocial support to children and youths on the move located at the Center, as well as to young Greek citizens at risk of social exclusion.</p> <p>Specifically, this project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the social integration of vulnerable children and youths (migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and local Greek citizens at risk of social exclusion); Strengthen their resilience and improve their psychosocial well-being; • Build bridges between communities through creative art projects applying the YOU CREATE methodology, • Develop the Capacity Building of the Staff of Terre des hommes Hellas for implementing and disseminating the new methodology in other centers, schools and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Ioannina.
<p>Impact</p>	<p>The 2 training sessions (4 days each) were organized intended to 11 Adult Allies (8 professionals in child protection and 3 Staff) and 20 Youth Leaders (7 youths from the local community and 13 young migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers). The trainings, further strengthened the local Capacity Building on the implementation and dissemination of the new methodology “You Create”, as well as offered support and training to young people in order for them to develop youth-led creative art projects. In addition, 88 young people developed 13 artistic activities in the run-up to 5 youth-led art projects developed by youths and presented before the local community during an Open Day held at Ioannina.</p>



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Title of good practice	
Migrant Integration Council	
Country	Greece
Year	2011 onwards
Website	https://www.ekke.gr/projects/sem/
Description	<p>Since 2011, Athens established a Migrant Integration Council. This consultative mechanism, involving the municipality and six migrant communities, is an interface to inform the municipal council about migrants' needs and to formulate recommendations and proposals that specifically affect this group. Also, in the generalised context of limited public service availability, migrant associations provide public services directly (e.g. child care, language classes, etc.). For instance, migrant doctors provide specialised health services for migrant workers and refugees. Further, a network of migrant women (Melissa) was the first to mobilise to address the needs of female refugees and organise activities for their empowerment and education.</p> <p>Further, migrant associations such as Generation 2.0, composed of second generation migrants, advocate for increased visibility and to play a more active role in the city's public life.</p>
Impact	<p>The Migrant Integration Council successfully offers its services across all 325 Greek Municipalities concerning the dissemination of information in municipalities with a high concentration of third country nationals and the promotion of initiatives and actions implemented by the local authorities of the country. Actions in cooperation with the municipalities promoting the smooth social integration of immigrants and, in general, in solving the problems they face throughout the country, in particular through the organization of advisory services by the municipal services, as well as and the organization of events in collaboration with the municipality. Hence every municipal action taken for the integration of the refugees was in cooperation and according to the advice of the Council.</p>



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In addition, the Council has coordinated and organized the creation of special schools at local level (e.f. Ioannina) for their full integration.

Title of good practice	Orange House by Zaatar
Country	Greece
Year	2016 onwards
Website	https://zaatarngo.org/projects/
Description	<p>Zaatar is a registered non-profit organization in Greece, set up to help refugees in Athens, with a focus on single women, mothers with children, and LGBTs. In other words, their mission is to provide a safe space for refugees to rest, learn, feel empowered and grow.</p> <p>They accomplish this by, among other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing services for refugees, with a particular focus on women (and their children), unaccompanied minors, refugees who identify as LGBT, and prisoners. • Educational programming in fundamental subjects such as languages and computer skills • Activities to enhance health and wellbeing (for example yoga, health and first aid workshops, crafts, dancing). • Providing vocational training opportunities to help adult refugees gain work and to foster their integration within Greek and westernized societies more generally. • Offering shelter to up to 20 women and children in the Orange House, and, where possible, finding housing within homes and apartments for vulnerable refugees without adequate shelter. <p>The Orange House is a building in the heart of central Athens that provides a variety of services to refugees and migrants. The largest services of the Orange House are their daily courses of Greek and English language classes</p>



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	and the free daily meals. They also offer vocational training (fishing, tailoring, cooking, and more), CV training, legal psychological support in Greek, English and French, as well as extracurricular activities such as Yoga, Dance, Guitar, Piano, DJ Club, and Book Club.
Impact	Since its establishment, the Orange house has been offering 14 classes per day in 2 different classrooms, 150 hot lunches served every week, 1.500 class attendees every month on average. This is a great support to the refugees and migrants. In addition, numerous migrants and refugees received useful legal advice and representation. Finally, about 20 women and children are hosted in the Orange House, and, where possible, the organization helps them find housing within homes and apartments for vulnerable refugees without adequate shelter.

Title of good practice	
Mobile School by ARSIS	
Country	Greece
Year	2016 onwards
Website	https://www.arsis.gr/mobile-school/
Description	<p>Mobile School was created by the Belgian organization "Mobile School" to respond to the needs of children who live and work on the street and do not have access to a school environment. It is an alternative proposal for the education of children and young people, which, without replacing the formal education system, sensitizes children and young people to educational issues and, creatively, brings them closer to the idea and practice of learning. In addition, education coupled with the emphasis on psycho-emotional development helps children to develop traits such as respect, confidence and solidarity. The primary objective of the Mobile School is to develop children's self-esteem.</p> <p>Mobile School is an innovative educational tool consisting of a growing mobile platform equipped with educational toys. It can take up to six meters</p>



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	<p>and the whole process of intervention takes place around this area. Its walls consist of a blackboard that can be used with chalk.</p> <p>The educational tools used at Mobile School include language and math exercises, creative work, health, religion and cultural education. Children learn to write, to read, to measure in order to enhance their self-esteem and confidence and to develop their talents and skills. The educational tools address children of all learning levels, since they cover a wide range of educational material. The trainers (in combination with the needs of the children), adjust the training tables according to the needs and abilities of the children and choose the degree of difficulty of the exercises each time the action is taking place. The Mobile School also visits primary and secondary schools, holding information and awareness workshops for students on topics such as children's rights, racism, child labour, violence. Finally, the Mobile School participates in social and cultural events and organizes information workshops in public places, with the aim of raising awareness of the general public on issues related to child protection.</p>
Impact	<p>The educational material includes about 350 panels. The topics are: Basic Education, Therapeutically Education, Health Education, VET, Children's Rights, Business skills etc. In Greece there are 5 active teams which have approached dozens of children which live and work on the street and do not have access to a school environment and taught them basic education skills. Mobile school teaches children (mostly the ones which live in Roma camps) in 3 hours' lessons to read, write, do math, discuss their rights, and the rules of personal hygiene. There are simple techniques and difficulty levels depending on the groups of children so that the teaching experience would be as effective as possible. Even though the working status quo and everyday life of these children has not change dramatically, still, these children have started building a strong relationship with education which will give them in the future the opportunity to further develop themselves as well as they have learned other crucial skills for a healthy life and better quality of life compared to previous generations, such as hygiene rules.</p>

2.2. Italy

Title of good practice	
Country	Italy
Year	2018-2021 (duration of the project CultureLabs)
Website	https://culture-labs.eu/
Description	<p>Fondazione Sistema Toscana, in collaboration with Sistema Museale d'Ateneo di Pisa, the University Museum System of Pisa, carry out a pilot project involving second generation migrants producing alternative narratives to Pisa's museum collections by connecting them to the migrants' own heritage. The aim is to develop interest in museums for community members who are usually disenfranchised from the mainstream cultural sector, and to set the ground for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.</p> <p>As it is written in the website of the project:</p> <p><i>Fondazione Sistema Toscana and the University Museum System of Pisa will involve a few second-generation of immigrants through tailored cultural paths and specific collections, to explore the heritage in a renewed cultural context.</i></p> <p><i>Each Museum, depending on the typology and characteristics of its collections, will be engaged for providing people the opportunity to share ideas and build relationships.</i></p> <p><i>For example, The Museum of calculation instruments will involve immigrants of the various countries, offering its fascinating world collection of the computation and calculation tools to participants.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand, the Gipsoteca of Ancient Art (with the</i></p>



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Department of Civiltà e forme del sapere of Pisa University) will involve young immigrants in educational tours, making its masterpieces representing myths available to participants.

In this way young students get familiarised with cultural tradition of various countries. Students will be asked to focus common points and similarities among various cultural traditions with the aim of creating the premise for social and cultural inclusion.

Title of good practice	Homefull project
Country	Italy
Year	2015
Website	http://www.programmaintegra.it/wp/programma-integra/progetti/homefull/
Description	The Homefull project aims to build an innovative model of 'generational meeting' between elderly and young foreigners, aimed at combining the needs of the elderly in conditions of loneliness and those of young migrants who arrived in Italy without a family network and in charge of services municipal social networks, the final objective will be the experimentation of co-housing paths. The aim is to activate an experimental co-housing model between young migrants and self-sufficient elderly people, through which exchange of knowledge will benefit both groups.
Impact	As a result, 100 elderly people were involved as well as 71 young migrants and refugees, several of which were actually shared the same house and created strong bonds and friendships. This project gave a good example to the local communities to omit cultural barriers and to show hospitality to refugees and migrants in need.



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Title of good practice	PRISMA (Piano Regionale Integrato per una Sicilia Multiculturale ed Accogliente)
Country	Italy
Year	2014-ongoing
Website	https://partecipazione.regione.emilia-romagna.it/news/normali/news-2020/progetto-prisma-piano-regionale-integrato-per-una-sicilia-multiculturale-ed-accogliente
Description	This project addresses a regional plan of action for the integration of third country nationals and it is promoted by the Family and Social Affairs Department of the Sicilian Region. The project aims to an empowerment strategy and mutual engagement starting from the education system, developing paths of social inclusion, cultural mediation, intercultural laboratories, and extra-curricular activities (sports, music, culture) to be carried out in the main cities of Sicily: Palermo, Catania, Messina and Trapani for the newly arrived migrants in Sicily. The project will set up a peer education system for counselling, as well as capacity building training for teachers and educators, and networking between schools and the territory. The core of the project activities aims to promote the access to inclusive education for third country nationals and their active participation in the society, starting from their need assessment to their skills development and empowerment through tailored case management and intercultural workshops A special attention is dedicated to the learning of Italian language.
Impact	The project is still ongoing...so far a lot of results has been achieved by activating the local territories to implement actions that assist the integration of migrants and refugees.



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2.3. Portugal

Title of good practice	Renovar a Mouraria (Renewing Mouraria Association)
Country	Portugal
Year	2008
Website	https://thelisboetas.com/2016/08/16/renovar-a-mouraria-an-association-of-friends-fighting-for-a-better-community/
Description	<p>The “Casa Comunitária da Mouraria” is the result of an important urban revitalization Project – Renovar a Mouraria – aiming at the social inclusion of vulnerable populations, the improvement of social cohesion, the renovation of buildings and the integration of migrant and refugee populations. The Casa acts as a mediator between the community and the municipality. It also offers Portuguese language courses for foreigners and literacy courses for those who live in the neighbourhood. It is unclear whether there are any refugees in the Community. The work of bringing together the foreign and local communities is important, due to situations in which racist and xenophobic arguments arise in the form of threats. The Casa is directly supported by the Municipal Government. This innovative idea also envisages creating closer relationships between neighbourhoods and the municipality. With this, the then Mayor, Antonio Costa, made the bold decision of moving the City Hall to the Largo do Intendente, a famous red-light district located in the neighbourhood of the Mouraria (Council of Europe, 2011).</p>
Impact	<p>Over the years, the association has helped many migrants/refugees with document filling, IRS, translations, legal referral, etc. They have offered study support for students from 1st to 12th grade, as well as literacy and Portuguese courses for immigrants with certification.</p> <p>In addition locals and migrants take part in various fun activities together, such as yoga classes, ballet for children, Latin dance and guitar, tapestry workshops and illustration for families, enhancing in such way the integration of the latter in the Mouraria community.</p>

Title of good practice	Next Door Family 2019
Country	Portugal
Year	2012-onwords
Website	https://www.acm.gov.pt/-/familia-do-lado
Description	<p>In Lisbon, the study identified the adaptation of a previously established good practice. The project known as “Next Door Family”, translated into “Familia ao Lado”, was first implemented in the Czech Republic by the NGO Slovo, and later recognized as a good practice in Europe, co-financed by the European Fund for Integration of third-country nationals (EIF). In 2012, more than eight European countries, including Portugal, implemented the programme, which consists in families hosting other families from a different cultural background for a meal. Families can sign up and are then grouped in pairs. A volunteer assistant serves as a bridge between the families, helping deal with cultural tensions and language barriers that might arise during the event. In 2012, Portugal accomplished the greatest number of events, bringing together close on 130 families. The meetings constitute an extremely valuable experience for all of the participants, according to information obtained from the participants by the organizers; and the project has very low costs for implementation. In 2013, eleven countries participated and the event took place on November 24th at 13:00h10.</p>
Impact	<p>In the previous editions at pan-european level more than 600 meetings were held, where they were present: - 1842 Families - 984 immigrant families and 858 autochthonous families and overall 5507 Participants and 825 volunteers. In Portugal the project was implemented in 82 municipalities, from north to south of the country and autonomous regions. The result was the awareness raising of the participants and the appreciation of each other’s culture, as well as the creation of bonds of friendship and solidarity. The members of the immigrant families which participated in this project were included faster and more effectively in the host countries compared to the immigrants which did not participate in the project.</p>

Title of good practice	Programa Escolhas11
Country	Portugal
Year	2001 onwards
Website	http://www.programaescolhas.pt/apresentacao
Description	Solidariedade Imigrante is involved with ACIDI in implementing the Programa Escolhas11 in the neighbourhoods of Lisbon. This programme, created in 2001, is aimed at the social inclusion of children and adolescents in vulnerable socio-economic contexts ¹² . Within its Feminist section, the NGO has also engaged with a University in order to produce a series of skills workshops and a brochure dealing with the issue of domestic labour in the context of female migrants.
Impact	In the first phase of implementation, which took place between January 2001 and December 2003, Escolhas was a Program for the Prevention of Crime and Insertion of young people from the most problematic neighbourhoods in the Districts of Lisbon, Porto and Setúbal, implemented 50 projects, and covered 6,712 recipients. Indeed, as a result crime prevention gave rise to the promotion of the social inclusion of children and young people from more vulnerable socioeconomic contexts, particularly children and young people of migrant and Roma descent, aiming at equality, non-discrimination and strengthening social cohesion. In the second phase (2004-2006) of recipients covered amounts to 43,200 distributed in 54 municipalities. This number continued to rise in the 3rd Generation of the Escolhas Program, which between 2007 and 2009, reached 81,695 children and young people, coming from the most vulnerable socio-economic contexts, aged between 6 and 24 years of age, through 120 projects. Except from the control of crime, another result was the reinforcement of educational skills, employability and professional training, training focused on products and, further, greater support for young people's initiatives and better participation in the communal life.



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Title of good practice	
Country	Portugal
Year	2004 onwards
Website	https://www.facebook.com/refugiacto/ https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/project-result-content/6d5fdb95-53a0-4fe4-9107-19487dbb39c1/Access-Culture-migrants-refugees_low.pdf
Description	‘RefugiActo: the voice and echo of refugees through theatre’, emerged in 2004 within the context of Portuguese language classes run by the Portuguese Council for Refugees and its PARTIS programme – Artistic Practices for Social Inclusion. This is an amateur theatre group where they share emotions, knowledge and experiences and involving people from all over the world.
Impact	In classes refugees shared many adventures and experiences. The idea to turn them into theatre came up in the middle of 2004 with a view to present them in the end of-the-year event. For the refugees, being in a group and making theatre out of everyday stories or dramatic situations, where everyone participated, was a way of creating a support network and ties with the locals, of making themselves heard, learning the language, getting to know the “Other”. Except from socialisation with the Portuguese people, refugees were able to raise awareness for the refugee cause and become an active, interventionist and transformative voice. In the process, RefugiActo created a play of a longer duration and greater artistic quality, named Fragmentos.

Title of good practice	
Country	Portugal
Year	2009 ongoing
Website	https://www.festivaltodos.com/en/
Description	TODOS promotes Lisbon as intercultural city through contemporary arts, inviting its audiences to meet and explore cultures from all around the world within the Portuguese capital city. It is a festival celebrating



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	multiculturalism. TODOS Festival – Paths of Cultures has worked to develop intercultural exchanges in Lisbon through recourse to the arts, valuing contemporary and community based approaches. Various shows and socio-cultural events aim to encourage integration of and interaction between people from all over the world who are living and working in the Portuguese capital. The festival is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the city and its hidden secrets, and to get to know the community that lives within it. In the 2020 festival artists from several countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bangladesh, France, Angola, Italy, Morocco, Bulgaria, Mongolia, etc ...) surprised the inhabitants in their daily activities by intervening in public squares, gardens, churches, hospitals, palaces, galleries, gyms and warehouses located in the 2 selected areas.
Impact	The organisers have helped citizens to reflect on neighbours origins and the value of interculturalism in everyday life via these series of festivals. Indeed, the participants' curiosity has been stimulated about the neighbourhood's past and create expectations for a future based on knowledge and mutual understanding. The Festival has contributed to the elimination of territorial ghettos associated with immigration, opening the entire city to all people who are interested to live and work there. Awareness raising and a growing sympathy from the locals towards the other cultures living in Portuguese society was also another result of these actions. The majority of the attenders of the festival go each year in order to be informed about the current issues with regards to refugee issues and to come closer to other cultures.

Title of good practice	Festival ImigrArte
Country	Portugal
Year	2007
Website	https://www.facebook.com/festivalimigrarte/
Description	Festival ImigrArte, a series of various initiatives, international gastronomy, debates, conferences and workshops, seeks to highlight the



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	<p>social and the cultural potential of immigrants by promoting dialogues between the various foreign communities as well as between Portuguese citizens and foreign citizens. This festival emerged in an act of citizenship and resistance and its main objective is to highlight the cultural potential of immigrants, in the most varied ways, where people feel full-body citizens, recognized in their dignity, where complicity is always present in its more global struggle for a more dignified life. Promoting a dialogue between Portuguese citizens and immigrants, establishing bridges of relationship between the various foreign communities, promoting the initiative of the descendants of immigrants and promoting the art and culture produced by immigrants and their descendants are the other general objectives of this festival. Through these practices, ImigrArte is a vehicle for social transformation, fighting all forms of discrimination and promoting human rights. This event has grown from edition to edition and currently involves the participation of about two hundred and a half of artists from 23 countries divided in different areas such as music, dance, theatre, cinema, plastic arts, photography, literature and crafts. The program also includes the participation of around thirty immigrant and Portuguese associations with newsstands, the realization of several initiatives and gatherings, sharing experiences around the gastronomy of the world, in the organization of debates, conferences and workshops.</p>
Impact	<p>In all, 42 shows and other initiatives were presented over the two days of the event, with the festival being visited by around 3000 thousand people. Its last two editions consolidated and confirmed the position of the ImigrArte Festival as an important reference in the cultural and social map in the metropolitan area of Lisbon, being news, the subject of reports and a topic addressed in programs of various television channels, radio, newspapers and agendas cultural online. Its message is original and unique at national level and the impression one gets when visiting the event deeply marks the visitor for its humanistic, universal characteristics and the intensity of its shows. In this way, the associative movement of immigrants, civil society and others, contributes to the</p>



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building of an awareness that respects the differences between peoples' cultures, interacting with them and getting to know each other better.

2.4. Germany

Title of good practice	FLOW project
Country	Germany
Year	2015 onwards
Website	http://www.projekt-flow.de/start/
Description	<p>One case to be mentioned at this stage is the project called “For refugees! Orientation and welcoming culture” (Für Flüchtlinge! Orientierung und Willkommenskultur). Excerpt: “Willkommenskultur (German for: Welcoming culture) is a German concept which designates firstly a positive attitude of politicians, businesses, educational institutions, sports clubs, civilians and institutions towards foreigners, including and often especially towards migrants. Secondly, the term expresses the wish that all foreigners and migrant people encountered by these institutions may be accepted and particularly not be exposed to discrimination. Thirdly, the word welcoming culture means all the measures promoted by a positive attitude towards foreigners and migrants in others. The FLOW project consists of five modules directed at five overlapping target groups: Mentoring Programme for tandem partnerships between Germans and refugees for the support in daily live issues such as language learning, housing, looking for internships, amongst others (directed at mentors and refugees from 16-25 years of age). Network for psychotherapy and trauma treatment in order to improve the psychological-social provision of refugees and to gain exchange and training though a professional network (directed at therapists and refugees from 16-25 years of age).</p>

	<p>Leisure time, sports and cultural activities such as joint projects in music, theatre or writing and sports challenges with clubs and partners, field trips and visits to handcraft and technical companies (directed to refugees from 16-25 years of age). Orientation courses for first orientation and transmission of information including law, rights, job orientation, violence prevention and migration specific topics in easy language (directed at and refugees from 16-25 years of age). Trainings and welcoming culture including intercultural trainings and capacity buildings, cultural events and the strengthening of volunteer work (directed at professionals and the broader local public) (www.project-flow.de, 2020).</p> <p>The modular mix and the areas tackled seem of relevance for the NEST project as they cover a fairly wide range of needs of (in this case younger) refugees and also needs for professionalising / capacitating those working with the refugees. Furthermore, the part of including therapists as a target group for improving their intercultural and also professional skills (such as dealing with trauma that German target groups will not have experienced) seems to be one to be worth taken up when conceptualizing the NEST Blend and Learn approach.</p>
Impact	<p>During its lifetime the FLOW project has provided orientation and support to numerous refugees in Hanseatic city of Lübeck, has built bridges between refugees and citizens and has enhanced their integration in the host society.</p>

Title of good practice	Guided house tour-story telling and Syrian diner
Country	Germany
Year	2015 onwards
Website	https://refugio.berlin/veranstaltungen/fuehrungen-workshops
Description	<p>In Refugio Berlin, new and old Berliners live and work together on a five floors building. On the first two floors, the public life takes place, here, in addition to the Refugio Café, the event locations such as the festival and conference hall, conference floor and catering kitchen are located. The private living and retreat areas of the residents are found on the</p>



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	<p>three upper floors. Everything is crowned by a roof garden with a view of Neukölln. The studio floor and the dance studio form the buffer on the second floor.</p> <p>Tours on how people in the refugio house live, work and shape community together. The offer includes a fee and is directed at the interested public.</p>
Impact	Has the supported socio-cultural integration of refugees through a 5 floor refugio house in Berlin Kreuzkölln, where Berliners and refugees live and work together.

Title of good practice	Language Café
Country	Germany
Year	2015 onwards
Website	https://refugio.berlin/veranstaltungen/regelmaessiges-angebot
Description	<p>The Refugio house is always looking for German teachers for tandems and the Language Café. The Language Café was established to help non-native speakers practice their English or German. The sessions are open to anyone who would like to meet new people and practice in a nice and relaxed atmosphere. The goal is also to support non-native speakers with their language exams, which are often a requirement for enrolling in education. Hero volunteers joined the Language Café and helped participants improve their language skills. The language café gives an opportunity to apply their skills learned in language school in a friendly environment. The aid also gives an opportunity for newcomers, who are not supported by the government in learning German.</p>
Impact	<p>Dozens of people learned German and were able to be included in the society. Language after all is the most significant skill for the inclusion of a refugee in a foreign society. Most of the newcomers need about 20 months to obtain a language level to get the opportunity to work in Germany. The successes of the residents are remarkable, some of them are about to start their C1.</p>



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Title of good practice	Open Music school
Country	Germany
Year	2016
Website	https://gsbtb.org/projects/open-music-school/
Description	<p>The GSBTB Open Music School is a completely free musical knowledge-sharing community that focusses on the inclusion of new migrants, marginalised people and those seeking a positive social network. Volunteer lead musical knowledge sharing community, a place where people meet friends, build networks and discover their own creativity. The Open Music School offers spaces that are open to anyone, in which participants can develop real relationships that break isolation, cross cultures, encourage self-expression and inspire community engagement. We see the person for who they are: an individual with endless potential if given equal opportunities. Every week we offer a variety of completely free classes, workshops and social groups (guitar, piano, bass, drums, singing, electronic music production, etc.) run by active and passionate musicians. These groups focus on providing supportive and creative environments for people of any gender, nationality, ethnicity or migrational status to learn together.</p>
Impact	<p>The participants enjoy the personal and social benefits of learning and playing music with others. Migrants are able to take small and creative steps towards their social inclusion and empowerment, marginalised people as well. Numerous success stories of people who learned and enhanced their music skills through the Open Music School are shared. Participants which reach a good level of music skills can participate in live concerts organized by the Open Music School.</p>

Title of good practice	Open Kitchen
Country	Germany
Year	2013
Website	https://gsbtb.org/projects/open-kitchen/



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Description	Cooks with refugee/migrant backgrounds to lead the kitchen together with a team of volunteers and other food enthusiasts and cooking and food used as a platform to break down barriers and get to know people and their culture. More specifically, The Open Kitchen is a group centered around cooking that gives newcomers, refugees and locals the opportunity to interact and break down social and cultural barriers over food and through our cooking meetings. Regardless of how long they have been living in Berlin, everyone is welcome to join. The Open Kitchen takes people out of their isolation and gives to each participant a chance to get to know new people through relaxed but purposeful activity. The idea is simple: newcomers meet up with other Berliners to cook, eat, share and hang out. Our volunteer group, which is composed of professional and amateur cooks, as well as those with no particular cooking experience, meets regularly to experience tasty recipes from all over the world.
Impact	Cooks with migrant and refugee background interact with locals and people from other cultures and exchange ideas in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. They have cooked together and enjoyed traditional dishes from Sudan, America, Syria, India and many other places all over the world. Since the summer of 2017, the Open Kitchen has been organising regular meet-ups and other events at Refugio enjoying the shared community life and the beautiful rooftop of the building.

Title of good practice	Open Language
Country	Germany
Year	2013
Website	https://gsbtb.org/projects/open-language-cafe/
Description	GSBTB offers free language learning for German and English. As an addition or alternative to more traditional language classes, our meet-ups provide the chance for newcomers to practice their language skills in a social setting. Some partner off with regular tandem partners, while others make friends by chatting in groups targeted to their language



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	level. Native speaker volunteers are on hand to provide guidance and more targeted learning for those who desire it. This forum gives to the participants the opportunity to practice language skills in a social setting. Includes a language café, German and English and inviting experts to share knowledge about finding jobs, housing or interesting activities in Berlin.
Impact	Dozens of people learned English or German and were able to be included in the society. People who devote time on a regular base to develop their language skills are soon able to apply for jobs, or even apply for a programme at the university and communicate in these languages for their everyday needs in the host country but also in English-speaking countries.

Title of good practice	Open City
Country	Germany
Year	2013
Website	https://gsbtb.org/projects/open-city/
Description	The GSBTB Open City-project empowers people to make the most out of their voice, energy and interests, not as some kind of “last step” in the integration process but as the guiding light in an often challenging process. By equipping potential stakeholders, sustainable integration is promoted – and more importantly, so is societal equality and therefore true democracy. Within this project concrete grassroots tools are created for more political advocacy and participation for both migrants and refugees. Both symbolically as well as realistically, being an active part of society entails having the means to engage oneself politically and socially, as well as have a platform where one’s opinions can be heard. This is especially important for migrant populations who often feel disempowered in a system where they seemingly have no control. Through GSBTB Open City these groups and individuals connect with each other with the right people, hosting politically-themed events to imbue them with knowledge regarding pressing issues (as well as those

	that directly affect them) and providing them with an outlet to make their voice heard, in our projects, in the refugee shelters where they live or in the broader neighborhood or society. We work both on the “frontline”, online and well as “behind the scenes”, in the offices of political representatives, fancy conferences but most of time on the ground; in the neighborhoods and the refugee shelters. Making newcomers active contributors to their cities, creating strong open networks of participation; connecting to the right people, hosting events, provide outlet to make voice heard.
Impact	The open city project has successfully launched a series of campaigns such as social media campaigns around the 2017 German election and 2016 local elections with a specific focus on migrant policy and scope. Socio-political events and team ups have also been organized as well as media campaigns to improve the living circumstances at the refugee camp Tempelhof. Other actions taken is media collaboration with migration matters with goal of spreading evidence based research on migration as well as numerous storytelling of migrant people (testimonies).

Title of good practice	Open Art Shelter
Country	Germany
Year	2015 ongoing
Website	-
Description	Open Art Shelter is a safe, creative space for the free expression of emotions, intercultural dialogue and trauma healing run by GSBTB (Give Something Back to Berlin). Art, craft, music, theatre, dance, storytelling and literature are used to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers and foster peace. The idea calls upon the old tradition of arts and crafts circles that is found in nearly every culture across the globe, in which people used to spend evenings telling stories, making music and doing handcraft. The project offers a comfortable and non-shaming form of being together and doing something creative where everyone brings



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	value, rather than a stigmatising charity that creates barriers between “us” and “them”. The project and community is developed by a multicultural team of locals, migrants and refugees, from teenagers to senior citizens.
Impact	Over time, hundreds of people went through the Open Shelter spaces and community. Migrants and refugees received supporting healing processes of in order to get through their traumas. These people were enabled to recreate a healthy mind-set which has as a result the betterment of their quality of life, as well as the readiness to take steps towards their inclusion the host society. Special focus was also given to the hundreds of people supporting these actions on a voluntary basis which are dedicating their skills, love, energy and time to offer others with much-needed attention, acceptance, and creative inspiration, as a result there is a developing and growing culture-sensitive community which spreads across Berlin.

Title of good practice	Offers of education, hosting and meeting
Country	Germany
Year	2013
Website	https://www.berliner-stadtmission.de/haus-leo
Description	Haus Leo is a collective accommodation facility for refugee families from all over the world. Unlike many other refugee hostels, Haus Leo offers people, primarily families, 2-room apartments, which enable them to lead an independent and private life. Haus Leo is intended to convey security, welcome, hospitality and charity to people who seek asylum in Germany. The goal is to respect asylum seekers in their dignity and to enable them to find their way around here and dare to do new things. In Haus Leo, pleasant living atmosphere is considered crucial. A stable environment and the coexistence of different people (senior citizens, students, volunteers) promote integration. Provision of advice and support the residents in their first steps in everyday life is also offered. Among the services offered is the communication with



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	authorities, other public institutions (schools, day-care centres, doctors ...) and in finding accommodation. German courses, cooking, free time activities are also offered by the Christian housing initiative for refugees.
Impact	Currently Haus Leo is offering more than 200 rooms and houses for its purpose. Haus Leo also offers four short-term care places in Bestensee.

Title of good practice	Experimental room for creation
Country	Germany
Year	2014 onwards
Website	https://www.cucula.org/en/enzomari/
Description	<p>The CUCULA e.V. association was founded in July 2014 as a frame for the design manufacture and educational programme. In winter 2014, the team began a crowdfunding campaign on start next. The CUCULA – Refugees Company for Crafts and Design was a manufactory, platform for intercultural exchange, and experimental vocational preparation programme – a model project that supported refugees in building their own professional future. In the CUCULA workshop, up to eight young refugees (in constant rotation) learnt the basic skills in design and craftsmanship. With the help of the integrated education programme CUCULA Education – in which courses, practical modules, as well as individual legal advice and everyday support were offered – the trainees prepared themselves for their apprenticeship, course of study, or profession in the form of permanent employment, an internship or simply as a participant in the educational programme. The aim of this programme was to provide a structure, to allow access to social networks, to promote self-efficacy and the ability to act, develop, plan and to implement one's own professional future prospects. Different formats education, performances, workshops, production manufacturers or campaigns; one example using Enzo Mari's designs to build furniture to create new perspectives for young refugees and their different backgrounds. The work includes a</p>

	refugees company for crafts and designs. (https://www.cucula.org/en/enzomari/)
Impact	Through the support of prominent ambassadors as well as numerous volunteers and a keen interest from the press, more than 120,000 Euros were collected. The crowdfunding campaign not only showed that the model worked, but also that there was widespread support for changing the refugee policy at the time. The project developed over the following year into a real operation with practical learning workshops which produced multiple manufactured design objects. More than 20 trainees were trained.



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2.5. Other European good practices

Besides the above projects that we consider to be good practices on the field below you may find a short description of some more. Furthermore here is a handbook of good practices for migrant integration:

https://www.migrationnetwork.org/resources/2017/3rd_Mediterranean_Migration_Booklet_2017.pdf

Other European Good practices in the field worth mentioning are:

Title of good practice	El Thyssen sale a la calle (The Thyssen goes out to the street)
Country	Spain
Year	2011
Website	https://www.educathyssen.org/programas-publicos?_ga=2.255157768.1026466683.1522072128-505979776.1521800493
Description	<p>The initiative 'The Thyssen goes out to the street' aims to promote culture and art among the migrant population of Madrid through free talks given at the Centres for Participation and Integration of Migrants (CEPI) of the Community of Madrid. The talks are open for all the population.</p> <p>The talks are complemented with guided tours and other activities of the educational area of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.</p> <p>The objective of the project is to favour a close up to the art of the migrant collective, traditionally distant from museum spaces. The program was a novel integration exercise to promote the rooting through knowledge and the enhancement of cultural heritage.</p> <p>Within the initiative "The Thyssen goes out to the street", free talks are programmed in the Centres of Participation and Migrant Integration. The sessions intended to foster participants' reflection on the culture and their participation through the temporary exhibitions scheduled at the museum.</p>

	Afterwards, participants can attend a guided visit of the exhibition, designed for the occasion, by a museum educator or participate into other museum activities such as encounters or debates.
Impact	Exhibitions, such as the 'Heroinas' exhibition, were presented in 16 Immigrant Participation Centers (CEPI) of the Community of Madrid. Locals and immigrant via workshops and public dialogue were able to promote intercultural dialogue and exchange views based on the themes of the exhibitions which have a humane aspect and human rights orientation (such as the womens' rights). Via these exhibitions, the connection of the immigrants and local people of Mandrid, breaks down the stereotypes and highlights the common human need for progress and freedom. The small steps as concern the social inclusion of the immigrants further facilitates their socio-labor integration and generate cultural exchange.

Title of good practice	"Take Me To"
Country	Great Britain
Year	2010 – 2012
Website	http://www.encounters-arts.org.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Take-Me-to-Slideshow-small.pdf
Description	This project involved a series of personal tours of Peterborough, in the hope that participating would give people living in the city an opportunity to share their experiences of everyday life, and to take a glimpse into the lives of others who live alongside them. The project tried to provide a safe space where people felt free to talk and be creative, since it was about exploring physical and emotional spaces. The project encouraged participants to be independent and to go to unusual places and connect with other cultures. The participants used the creative process to connect at an emotional level, but also to see different spaces in Peterborough.



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Impact	<p>The participants committed themselves at the end of the project to continue trying new things and to meet with others to undertake different cultural activities. The project allowed people to work as a collective without losing the value of their personal contribution. The project also allowed the participants to know the lives of other people who live with them and who share experiences of daily life. It is a good starting point to join to other cultural activities</p>
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3. Review on cultural practices in EU: Strong Vs weak points

After analysing the above good practices, we identified the strong and weak points. In more details:

Strong points:

- EC is financing of projects that are promoting the cultural activities of the EU as well as the migrant population
- It seems that the culture in the meaning of arts and music is a very strong point for integration of people with different background
- The learning of the language spoken in the host society by migrants and refugees is the first and the most essential step for their integration
- A lot of projects knowing that the involvement of the stakeholders is crucial for the efficient and sustainability of the project' results have achieved their active involvement.
- The EU cultural Agenda for Culture includes culture for wellbeing, which is strongly connected to integration, as well as culture for international relations. The agenda is supported by the following Action programmes and secondary legislation:
 - Creative Europe which is the programme that finances the most cultural projects in Europe.
 - European Capitals of Culture (ECoCs): The European Capitals of Culture is one of the EU's most successful and best-known cultural initiatives. Two cities — in two different EU countries — are given ECoC status each year. For 2020 the ECoCs are Rijeka in Slovenia and Galway in Ireland. Cities in candidate EU countries can be cultural capitals as well ie. Novi Sad in Serbia for 2021.
 - European Heritage Label: sites are selected for their high symbolic value, the role they have played in the history and culture of Europe and the European Union, and their relation to democratic principles and human rights. So far 29 sites have been designated.



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- European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018: The Year sought to highlight the role of Europe's cultural heritage in fostering a shared sense of history and identity
- Unlawful removal of cultural objects: With Directive 2014/60/EU, a recast of Directive 93/7/EEC, the EU aims to protect national treasures and reconcile their protection with the principle of free movement of goods.
- Prizes: The EU's cultural policy supports the awarding of prizes in the fields of cultural heritage, architecture, literature and music.
- Furthermore many EU Countries offer free language courses to the migrants/refugees as part of their country's plan for the integration of the migrants and refugees

Weak points:

- A lot of countries do not offer free language courses for the migrants/refugees as a part of their state's plan for integration and they rather rely on EU projects and foreign NGOs to do so (ie. Greece)
- The integration procedures and activities most of the time are not connected to each other and they don't have continuity.
- The cultural activities that take place, besides the language courses, are not designed for newly arrived people that cannot speak the host country's language, thus is hard to follow
- Those who are excluded from the labour market or exploited at the bottom end of it are often also those whose identity and culture are not considered as legitimate or even feared in Europe (Martinello, 2006)
- There is a gap between the institutional visions of European multiculturalism and de facto multiculturalism, identity construction and cultural construction processes that can often be observed mainly in urban Europe (Martinello, 2006)
- Most of the time the culture is seen as the cultural activities and for this reason the majority of the project involves cultural activities like theatre, music, arts ect. There are that deal with the familiarization of the foreigner (migrants refugees) in the culture of the host society (hobbies, way of thinking, gestures, culture, poetry, daily life etc). As it has



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already mentioned above a lot of projects are concentrated on how a foreign can learn the language of the host society. Of course this is very important and it will be the first step in the integration process. However, taking into consideration that we refer to people with very different mentality, beliefs, religion etc., this is not enough for ensuring their smooth inclusion. Things that connect people in daily life should be explained to the migrants/refugees in order to have a better understanding of the norms and unwritten rules that this specific society operates. If this gap will not be filled in, migrants and refugees will just adopt themselves in something that they do not understand why they have to be in line with and whatever remains unclear in the human beings' relations cause difficulties in the communication.



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