

EU-project „Marienthal*- Encouraging solidarity and strengthening capacity to act!“

Aim:

- encouraging social cohesion and solidarity with our main focus on migrants
- empowering self-organisations of migrants in their capacity to act!

Target group(s):

- Self-organisations of migrants (as main target group)
- Furthermore: the media, politicians, administrative offices of governmental departments, institutions and NGOs

Contents and structure:

In regards to content the project will address the issues of

- Knowledge and information transfer concerning the various aspects of social exclusion with the aims of **awareness raising** among all parties involved including the general public and **gaining new insights** which will facilitate the work and efforts of all actors in this field.
- Training workshops are offered to staff and members of self-organisations of migrants in order to strengthen their capacity to act, operate and achieve increased social inclusion and participation.

The project is carried out in 5 project phases:

1. Transferring information and imparting knowledge and skills:

Information sessions and training workshops for the target group “self-organisations of migrants“:

- **Information sessions** on different aspects of poverty and social exclusion
 - General information
 - Information on existing institutions and organisations which help to facilitate social integration (with a focus on the target groups: women, youth and children).

* The **Marienthal study**, conducted in the 1930s is regarded as a pioneer and classic example of empirical social research. A project team under the direction of **Paul Felix Lazarsfeld** for the first time in the history of social sciences conducted a triangulation (linking of qualitative and quantitative methods and data) on the situation of the unemployed population in Marienthal (a community near Vienna). The project team documented, studied and analysed the effects of unemployment (a crucial factor concerning their social exclusion).

Objective:

To prepare the participating migrants concerning content and topics for the second project phase “Discussion on social exclusion and social participation“.

- In this project phase other social participants (the media, politicians, administrative offices of governmental departments, institutions and NGOs) receive information about the project, its aim and its objectives. They are invited to actively participate. In this way the topics are introduced to them, preparing them for the next project phase in which they will be involved directly and actively.
- **Training workshops for staff and members of self-organisations of migrants**

Objective:

Imparting knowledge and skills which will **sustainably strengthen** migrants regarding their presentation skills and the capacity to be convincing in internal discussions as well as in public communication (eg with politicians, political departments, institutions, NGOs or the general public).

Training curriculum:

- Communication with public offices, correspondence and project work
 - Efficiently managing the organisation of appointments and meetings
 - Writing business letters and presenting concerns professionally
 - Placing applications (eg for project applications; vital tips on how to go about it concerning the requirements for design and format, the financial budget plan, possible cofinancing etc.)
- Preparation and research regarding contents for topical discussions
 - How do I prepare for a discussion?
- Discussion and presentation techniques- rhetoric
 - Basic rules, tips and tricks on how to constructively and accurately involve oneself in any discussion.
 - „The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning, and a good ending; and have the two as close together as possible“.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
How to get there is explained and practised in the training workshop.

The self-organisations of migrants participating in the project are selected according to the following criteria:

1. Social status of members (to what extent are they socially excluded)
2. Consideration of gender awareness (specific needs and circumstances of women and men)
3. Consideration of ethnic and religious affiliation (fair balance between number and country of origin)

2. First discussion round and exchange between participating organisations of migrants and representatives from politics, public offices, institutions, NGOs and include the media

Objectives:

- Discuss effective strategies to fight social exclusion of migrants and to encourage migrants' social participation.

- Suggestions for the establishment, strengthening and sustaining of **structures and networks which sustainably pursue** the goal of increased migrants' participation in society.

3. Exchange with international project partners

The project activities of the first and second project phase which will be carried out simultaneously in different countries will be discussed and reflected upon in meetings with our project partners.

Objectives:

- Comparison of the project's implementation and progress in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands, to gain further insights concerning the encouragement and facilitation of social cohesion and solidarity as well as of ways to strengthen migrants' capacity to act.
- In addition this project phase serves the purpose of encouraging and initiating future cooperation of the project partners involved.

The minutes will be taken at the partner meetings to document the results.

4. Second discussion round and exchange between participating organisations of migrants and representatives from politics, public offices, institutions and NGOs again including the media

Objectives:

- Continuation of the first discussion round with the following goals:
 - o **Working out recommendations** and suggestions for increased social participation of migrants.
 - o **Reflecting on suggestions** for improved general conditions and frameworks which may facilitate the passing of respective favourable legislation.
 - o Making a positive contribution for the benefit of **improved work of the participants** in this field.

Sustainability is a key factor in the implementation of the project and will play a major role in the discussion rounds, the trainings and the working out of recommendations for the future work of migrants' self-organisations respectively.

5. Overall documentation, evaluation and conclusion of the project

The results of all measures and activities implemented in the frame of this project as well as of all discussion rounds and partner meetings will be documented and reported on.

The project is evaluated through impact and process evaluation. A questionnaire (form) is being developed and will be filled out by all people involved and participating in the project. The same group of people will additionally be interviewed in qualitative interviews to assess the project more closely. The results of the survey (questionnaires) and the interviews as well as the project's documentation will serve as a basis for the evaluation conducted by an external evaluator.

The overall documentation of the project including its summary version will be concluded after the evaluation phase and will be communicated to the respective offices of partners and grantors concerned. It will also be made available on the main applicant website.