



European
Commission



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BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE EUROPE

Project name:
The Welcome Programme

Purpose:

Refugees and asylum seekers integrating into Europe by enhancing their digital skills

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

5 countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain

6 cities: Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Foligno and Rome

Project coordinator:

All Digital

Estimated budget:

€ 570 645

EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Start date:

October 2017

End date:

June 2019

Overview

Europe is struggling to keep up with the digital revolution. The evidence? A [recent European Commission survey](#), which revealed that 43% of the adult population in Europe had limited digital skills, and 37% had no digital skills at all.

Meanwhile, young refugees and asylum seekers are experiencing a crisis of their own in Europe, finding it very difficult to integrate socially and in the workplace.

The Welcome Programme was set up to address both of these issues. The 2-year project has developed an innovative way to better include third-country nationals in educational and social activities, cultural life and volunteering, by offering digital skills and language training.

A varied programme

Project partners, who include digital training organisations and social non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in six European countries, first researched other successful IT and integration programmes across the continent, in order to develop their own bespoke curriculum.

The result comes in four modules: the first is on basic coding using a software called Scratch, while the second focuses on digital storytelling, which involves the youngsters creating a video based on their own personal experiences.

The third module, entitled Digital Journalism, sees the students recording video interviews among themselves and the local community, enhancing social integration. The final phase is more focused on developing soft skills through conflict resolution and team-building exercises.

The young participants are then expected to work as volunteers, each teaching other groups of migrants and European nationals such skills as how to use a computer or create and edit a video.



Migration and
Home Affairs

Trainees become mentors

The project, which will finish in June 2019, has already had a number of successful outcomes.

So far, 52 participants have successfully completed the four modules during the first pilot programme. The second pilot is on-going and some 120 students will have enhanced their digital skills over the two phases.

It is also anticipated that the trained volunteers will teach 40 creative IT workshops, reaching 400 people from groups of third-country nationals and Europeans.

In addition, the digital stories are available on YouTube, helping to motivate other young people to volunteer. These films will also be disseminated to some 500 key actors in the education, social and cultural sectors.

As well as the young people enhancing their skills, the involved organisations also stand to benefit by expanding their contacts and their expertise in the field.

Fear of persecution

Recruiting participants from organisations (such as the Red Cross and reception centres) at times proved difficult. This was due to complex administrative procedures and other mandatory training obligations, which saw some students drop out half-way through.

In addition, some youngsters pulled out of interviewing members of the public for their videos, due to a fear of persecution based on past experiences.

The project may soon finish but the methodology lives on and will be presented to other organisations interested in running similar programmes.

FAMAGA FROM THE IVORY COAST

Famaga participated in the educational activities organised by the Fondazione Mondo Digitale, one of the Italian project partners, in Rome. He will soon teach other foreign citizens what he has learned. Learning, in his words, is the most precious resource. "It's important for me to help others with my new knowledge," he says.

SUCCESSFUL SECOND PHASE PILOT CONCLUDES IN BELGIUM

Twelve enthusiastic young immigrants have successfully finished the second pilot of the Digital Welcome programme in Brussels, Belgium. On 30 January 2019, they received their certificate after 60 hours of training and teaching their knowledge to other immigrants.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: AMIF-2016-AG-INTE 776128

Title: The Welcome Programme

Contact: info@all-digital.org

Social media accounts: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QwcaojJv6Rrhq7Gm_7q0lg/videos

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