

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- > Looking back to 2nd Transnational Meeting
- > Multi-stakeholder approaches
- > Interactive Multi-Actor Inclusion toolkit
- > "A Misura di bambino" project
- > First Regional Inter-Agency meeting in Saxony-Anhalt
- > 3rd Transnational Meeting



Looking back to 2nd ERASMI Transnational Virtual Meeting

The Second Transnational Meeting of the ERASMI project took place on 23 June 2020. Due to COVID-19 the partners from Germany, Turkey, Italy, Ireland and Denmark did not meet as planned in Tuzla in Turkey but online in a Zoom conference. In spite of the format limitations our project activities can only be described as having been very productive.

The Harz University team shared some initial results of a Europe-wide online survey which is to identify rather exciting and innovative approaches as well as success factors to network collaboration in the field of migrant and refugee inclusion/ integration. The survey has provided the basis for a good-practice compendium of successful and innovative migrant and refugee inclusion networks. Furthermore, the success factors identified and challenges met, such as

- a good internal communication and cooperation;
- a common mission, vision and values;
- a heterogeneous composition and participatory character of the network;

will form the basis for an online learning tool on network cooperation, which was also outlined on the transnational meeting. This online tool should help actors to form effective networks in the field of migrant and refugee inclusion. It will also be tested when establishing regional networks in the respective partner countries within the ERASMI project.

During the virtual meeting all partners discussed about evaluation, task specification on the Intellectual Output 2, task Inter-Agency Networks and Action Plans in four partner countries (IO3) and Dissemination activities.

Although the coronavirus poses significant project challenges, the quality criteria we have been looking for are being met so far.

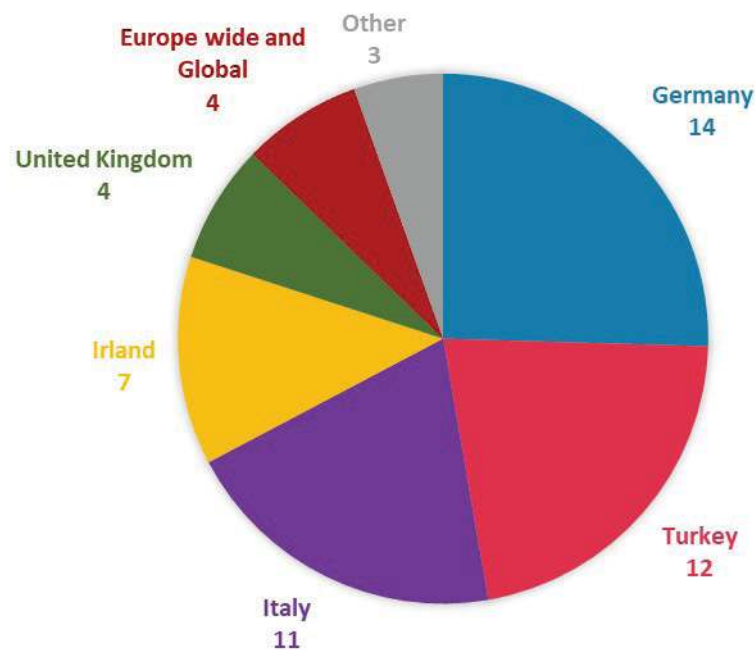


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Many interesting multi-stakeholder approaches identified

The ERASMI project successfully finished its survey to identify innovative and interesting approaches to network collaboration in the field of migrant and refugee inclusion/integration. It was conducted by Harz University of Applied Sciences from February to August 2020 mainly in the five partner countries of the project consortium. Although COVID-19 and its consequences caused some minor delays, 55 networks from different European countries completed the survey.



Surveyed practices per country

The submitted questionnaires have now been analysed and particularly interesting and innovative approaches were selected as good practices. The practices selected and the results of the survey covering different aspects of network management will be published in a compendium early next year. The results already form the basis for developing an interactive toolkit with practical resources to implement and maintain successful multi-stakeholder migrant integration concepts which will be worked out by the vision works GmbH in the further course of the project.



ERASMI Interactive Multi-Actor Inclusion Toolkit (Intellectual Output 2)

The second main output of the project (IO2) aims at developing an Interactive Multi-Actor Inclusion Toolkit which provides tailor-made skills and practical resources needed to develop, implement and maintain successful multi-stakeholder migrant integration concepts according to the specific needs.

Based on the findings of the best practice compendium of IO1 the following six categories were identified:

- Internal and External Communication
- Moderation / Facilitation
- Coordination / Leadership
- Project Management
- Team Development
- Network Foundation and Development

Currently we work on the selection of the tools which will include both innovative and established approaches in order to create an interactive program of learning actions and guidance. The toolkit will be finalized until April 2021 so we can provide more information in the next newsletter.



“A Misura di bambino” A sample of good practice

In the context of ERASMI project IO1 innovative and successful approaches to network collaboration in the field of migrant and refugee inclusion/ integration have been identified.

As a contribution from Italy, “A Misura di bambino”, a Professional Foster Care Paths for Unaccompanied children project, has been chosen as a successful approach showing the synergy between Social Services, Third Sector actors and the citizenships.

We would like to share the following link <https://youtu.be/PXbcBOFayw4> with the video clip presenting the unaccompanied minors talking about their Italian experiences, that Frontiera Lavoro, partner of the network, has created in occasion of Erasmus days.





First Regional ERASMI Inter-Agency meeting in Saxony-Anhalt

On July 8, 2020

Actors in the field of integration of refugees and migrants discuss about current challenges in network-based cooperation

For three years now, they have been a reliable forum for actors in the field of integration of refugees and migrants in Saxony-Anhalt: The transfer workshops of the project “Integrated refugee management in a transnational perspective” (IntegriF I + II) at the Department of Public Management of the Harz University of Applied Sciences, facilitated by Prof. Dr. Birgit Apfelbaum, Robin Radom and Stefan Apitz. In the context of the follow-up project ERASMI, regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among heterogeneous actors in the field will be even intensified and consolidated. This kind of regional networks will not only be established in Saxony-Anhalt, but also in regions in Turkey, Ireland, and Italy where ERASMI partners are located.

The participants met in a two-hour video conference on July 8, 2020 and discussed current challenges of network-based cooperation in the context of Covid-19. For many of the more than 20 participating actors from public administration, universities, free welfare work, migrant organisations, private companies and projects in the field of action, virtual communication has been an indispensable part of their everyday work for months anyway, as consultations with refugees and migrants and the exchange with colleagues from the field could often only be carried out using digital tools.



IO3: ERASMI INTER-AGENCY NETWORKS AND ACTION PLANS

Output description and tasks

Led by Tuzla Kaymakamligi

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union





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Christopher Bänecke from the Diakonisches Werk in the church district of Halberstadt reported on the challenges in migration counselling in the context of the pandemic. Besides the difficulty of maintaining the counselling services for refugees and migrants without personal contact, especially the networking, which is essential for many practitioners, came to a standstill at the beginning of the containment and had to be re-established by developing “new” communication structures. After the contribution, the participants discussed in three small groups about professional challenges they had to face, especially at the beginning of the corona restrictions, and possible solutions for their successful coping. There was agreement that, even under the current difficult conditions, cooperative approaches, both within the framework of institutionalised networks and in case-related cooperation, contribute significantly to the success of problem-oriented knowledge and experience exchange. The development and expansion of digital skills is also an opportunity for further professionalisation in the field of action.

Within the framework of the ERASMI project, regional actors in the field of migration and refugees will continue to be offered a regular forum in upcoming regional network meetings.



Looking forward to 3rd Transnational Virtual Meeting

The Third Transnational Meeting of the ERASMI project will take place on December 9th, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the partners from Germany, Turkey, Italy, Ireland and Denmark will not meet as planned in Leitrim in Ireland but online in a Zoom conference, led by Momentum, Ireland. Nevertheless, the meeting is expected to bring the same benefits to the project and the partnership.

After reviewing the finalised International best practice compendium (IO1), the partners will have the opportunity to discuss the progress of the Interactive Multi-Actor Inclusion Toolkit (IO2) and the Inter-agency Networks and Action Plans (IO3).

They will also largely focus on the feedback of the target groups and how the project is perceived by them. By doing so, partners will ensure that the target groups are always in the main focus of this project and that they benefit from it.

Another exciting aspect of the partners meeting in December, will be preparation for the launch of the Knowledge Exchange Platform and Open Education Resources (IO4). In addition to providing the materials, methodologies, tools, processes and learning resources, this platform will allow for international collaboration and peer to peer learning. It will enable collaboration between all kinds of actors and institutions involved in the inclusion of migrants and refugees allowing for knowledge exchange with multiple stakeholders.

Finally, the meeting will be an excellent platform for partners to discuss the quality evaluation to identify achievements, and where weaknesses are identified to adjust and improve aspects of the project as it progresses.

We expect the Third Transnational Meeting to be a valuable opportunity to reflect and plan further steps, for the realisation of the extremely relevant and impactful ERASMI project.

ERASMI is important because we need to ensure communities are strengthened by migration and not undermined by marginalization or radicalization. We believe this can be achieved best through empowering those who already understand this importance and by building strong networks.





ERASMI

Empowering Regional Actors & Stakeholders
for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion

Website

Follow the link and join our project website with additional information on project goals, news, activities and resources for you to access:

www.erasmi.info

Social media

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