

## The “ARIVE- Accepted, Resettled, Integrated, Valued and Employed” Inception



A Holistic Approach to Integration

A recent OECD paper ‘Making Integration Work’ (2016) states that “the earlier humanitarian migrants (refugees, people with subsidiary protection status and resettled refugees) enter the labour market, the better their integration prospects in the long run”. International Monetary Fund confirms in its report from 2015 that “Investing one euro in welcoming refugees can yield nearly two euros in economic benefits with-

in 5 years”.

However, this group is particularly vulnerable and require targeted support at the beginning. They generally arrive with weak, if any attachment or link to the host country and have gained qualifications and work experience in very different labour market conditions. On EU average, it takes between five and six years to integrate more than 50 % of humanitarian migrants into the workplace and as much as 15 years to reach a 70 % employment rate converging towards the outcomes for labour migrants (European Parliament). Long periods of inactivity also

lead to demotivation and deskilling; deskilling in turns means that they could only accept low-skilled jobs, remaining trapped in a low socioeconomic cycle. This impacts on their willingness and resilience to effectively commit to their integration. Moreover, low-skilled refugees are even more negatively affected than other migrants and they are left to find their own way in societies with high labour market threshold (European Council).

The corrective action of ARIVE will strive to tackle all major causes that prevent refugees’ integration to boost levels of integration in communities.

ARIVE will strive to tackle, namely:

- ◆ Lack of recognition of knowledge, competence and skills, including previous studies;
- ◆ Deskilling and social isolation;
- ◆ Lack of working experience in the host country and peer networks at a suitable professional/vocational level;
- ◆ -Language and understanding of the civic and social landscape.

### ARIVE’s objectives

The general objective of the project is to develop quality learning opportunities in order to encourage low-qualified and low-skilled humanitarian migrants to assess and upskill their competences in order to enter the labour market at early stages. This integration shall be facilitated taking into consideration the individual needs/capacities and labour market demand.

The project will:

- facilitate the recogni-

tion of formal, non-formal and informal knowledge, competences and skills of refugees/subsidiary protection holders/asylum seekers through the design and implementation of a toolkit for integration skills assessment to enable signposting to suitable peer support groups;

- transfer new qualifying skills to refugees/subsidiary protection holders/asylum seekers through tailored courses that meet their specific

learning needs and characteristics, in particular the language and digital skills;

- provide refugees/subsidiary protection holders/asylum seekers with hands-on experience through the creation and implementation of work-based laboratories facilitated by refugee support groups.

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The ARIVE partnership consists of 5 partners from 4 European Countries (Sweden, Greece, United Kingdom and Italy). All the partners of the consortium has vast experience with integration of immigrants and refugees, as well as managing European projects. The methodologies and tools that are going to be developed during those three years are perfectly in accordance with the mix of the partner organisations competences

ARIVE kick off meeting, 27th and 28th of November. 2017



The kick off meeting of the project was held in Uppsala, Sweden, on 27-28 December. During the two-day meeting, all five organizations representing four countries (Sweden, England, Greece and Italy) discussed issues related to improving access to education and employment for migrants and refugees. The meeting discussed practices and systems adopted by various European countries and exchanged ideas and proposals to accurately design the

next stages of the project regarding the development and implementation of the following IOs:

- ◆ IO1 - Report "Who is integrated in Europe? Social and labour market integration of the low-qualified humanitarian migrants in Europe"
- ◆ IO2 - Refugees Integration Assessment Toolkit: "INTEGRASS" is a toolkit to assess formal, non-formal and informal knowledge, competence and skills as well as the education level of the humanitarian migrants.
- ◆ IO3 - Migrant Service Provider Curriculum Handbook
- ◆ IO4 - Toolkit for the Validation and Quality Assurance of the Curriculum
- ◆ IO5 - Guidelines for policy-makers and practitioners working with integration of low-qualified humanitarian migrants

Furthermore a workshop was held in order for the partnership to co decide which is the best way to proceed with the development for IO1. The meeting was concluded with the discussion upon administrative, financial and dissemination issues.

The next meeting of the partnership will take place in Larissa, Greece on the 8th and 19th of June!!!

