

Project Update

The piloting of the INTE-GRASS tool was due to take place in Spring 2020, however, like much else, the impact of Covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown restrictions on all project partners, this was delayed. Partners from the four countries involved in the project (Greece, Italy, Sweden, and the UK) had to find new and innovative ways to be able to complete piloting activities within the constrictions of the relevant local restrictions.

ACH, in the UK, utilised the tool to assess barriers faced by refugee participants, outside of those captured by traditional assessments, to make sure they were accessing the appropriate training provision(s) for the maximum benefit to their integration. Two major impacts of Covid-19 are;

1. Digital skills – the pandemic has led to an even greater emphasis on the importance of digital skills for a wider range of employment. Many refugees, including those with a good level of host country language, are under skilled

in this area. A greater focus on digital skills within all training is essential to make sure refugees are not further disadvantaged in terms of the labour market.

2. Mental health – a worsening of general mental health has been reported amongst the general population in the face of the pandemic. The situation is worse for individuals from refugee backgrounds who were disproportionately likely to be suffering from poor mental prior to the pandemic. Bespoke provision to support mental wellbeing is necessary to ensure this situation does not worsen.

Feedback from staff piloting the materials has been predominantly positive. Partners reported the materials

were easy to use and captured information not being identified by their pre-existing assessment materials. One partner described the focus on competencies as *an excellent way of supporting sustained and independent integration in migrant communities*. Another partner appreciated the focus on informal and non-formal learning - *being able to validate prior learning and experience avoid repetition and gives credit to the participant for what they have done in the past*. Refugee participants also appreciated the opportunity for a broader and more holistic conversation reflecting the full range of their experience(s), both in their countries of origin and host countries.



A Holistic Approach to Integration

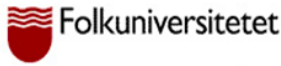
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Project Coordinator



Folkuniversitetet Uppsala
Address: Bergsbrunnagatan 1, 753 23
Uppsala, Sweden
Phone Number: +46 18 68 00 36
E-mail:
yevgeniya.averhed@folkuniversitetet.se
Web Site: www.folkuniversitetet.se

The ARIVE partnership consists of 5 partners from 4 European Countries (Sweden, Greece, United Kingdom and Italy). All the partners of the consortium have significant experience with the integration of migrants and refugees, as well as managing European projects. The methodologies and tools to be developed during the project lifetime complement the knowledge, skills and experience across the partnership.

ARIVE Objectives

Project Partners



ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ
εκπαιδευτική συμβουλευτική

DIMITRA EDUCATION & CONSULTING
Address: Palaiologou 19, GR41223,
Larissa, Greece
Phone Number: (+30) 2410 554024
E-mail: euprojects@dimitra.gr
Web Site: www.dimitra.gr



RINOVA LIMITED
Address: 4EA, 2nd Floor Moorfoot
House, Meridian Gate, 221 Marsh Wall,
London, E14 9FJ, UK
Phone Number: +44(0)2031706308
E-mail: l.pescod@rinova.co.uk
Web Site: www.rinova.co.uk



ERIFO
Address: Via Adriano Fiori 32/b, Rome,
Italy
Phone Number: +39.3292156021
E-mail: erifo@erifo.it
Web Site: www.erifo.it



ACH
Address: 2nd Floor Eden House, Eastgate
Road, Bristol, BS5 6XY, UK
Phone Number: +44 (0)1179545843
E-mail: tom.dixon@ach.org.uk
Web Site: www.ach.org.uk

The general objective of the project is to encourage refugees and other vulnerable migrants to assess and upskill their competences in order to enter the labour market at an earlier stage in their integration process. This can be achieved through a focus on informal and non-formal competencies as opposed to purely the learning of the host country language.

The project, in line with the recommendations of the international community (UNCHR 2017, OECD 2016) will:

- facilitate the recognition of the formal, non-formal and informal knowledge, competences and skills of refugees

and other vulnerable migrants, to facilitate early entry into the labour market.

- transfer new qualifying

toolkit supports efficient and accurate identification of these learning needs.

- provide refugees and other vulnerable migrants



skills to refugees and other vulnerable migrants through tailored courses that meet their specific learning needs and characteristics, in particular in the areas of language and digital skills. The INTEGRASS

with hands-on experience through the creation and implementation of work-based laboratories facilitated by refugee support groups.

