

Reentry

Newsletter Issue 1



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newsletter

Welcome

What is ReEntry?

ReEntry is an innovative new project which aims to support refugees and migrants living across Europe into self-employment by developing an online catalogue where VET staff and career advisors can learn of best practices and innovative solutions to encouraging migrant entrepreneurship.

Why ReEntry? Why Now?

The recent war in Syria and political instability and terror across the Middle East and North Africa region in recent years has over one million refugees to Europe, and the influx is predicted to continue in the years to come. As well as political issues which concern the distribution of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across EU Member States, there are also urgent socio-economic issues to consider. These include the integration of migrants into European society, and providing opportunities for employment for migrants.

Supporting refugees and migrants into entrepreneurship brings many benefits; firstly being self-employed means that the migrant has created their own job, with the potential to employ other staff in the future. As well as helping migrants to support their families, having an economic role in a host country benefits the migrants sense of self-worth, dignity and promotes positive mental health. Secondly, the types of businesses typically opened by migrants tend to be niche or innovative in the European market. This has two benefits in that it adds to the diversity of products and services on offer in Europe, and it also provides access to products and services which creates a sense of familiarity in the host country for other migrants. In this way, migrant entrepreneurs tend to find solutions which are effective at addressing the needs of this specific target group than large, donor-driven programmes.

Rationale behind the Project

Supporting Migrants into Entrepreneurship in Europe

The project team believes that supporting migrant entrepreneurs in Europe is an effective means of improving their social and economic integration; providing them with equal opportunities to become economically self-sufficient in their host countries and therefore to create a more secure life for themselves and their families. Migrant entrepreneurs can also provide services and products to migrant communities across Europe which originate in their home countries; adding to the diversity of the European market, and providing a sense of familiarity to migrants who are far from home.

Through the use of an online catalogue of best practices collected from across Europe, ReEntry will upskill and improve information provision to guidance and VET professionals who work directly with migrants and refugees as career advisors and coaches.

Overall, these actions will help to address the current information gap for migrants who would like to start their own business in their host country.

The ReEntry project commenced in September 2016 and will operate until February 2018. ReEntry is funded by the Irish National Agency, Léargas through the Erasmus+ Programme

What will ReEntry achieve?

The Project begins...

The first ReEntry partner meeting took place in Kells, Ireland on Thursday, 8th December, 2016. At this meeting, partners introduced the current situation for migrants in their countries, and discussed the issues facing the project's target group – VET and career guidance professionals.

Since the meeting, the project team have been undertaking research activities to establish the situation on the ground for migrants in their regions, and have also started promoting the project; getting the message out through local focus groups and dissemination activities. Meath Partnership, as the project coordinator, has also been working to develop the project website, which will soon be online at: www.reentryproject.eu.

What's next?

The project team is working to complete the State of the Art in their country. This short research report will be produced in English and published on the project website in March 2017. Following on from this, each partner will collect 2 best practices between February and April 2017 to be discussed at partner meeting in Slovenia in June. Additional resources will be identified at this meeting, and these will form the basis of the Online Catalogue which will also be published on the project website



