

## Training course

# ‘Rebuilding lives through Employment’

**Athens (19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of February 2018)**

**Project Number: 2017-2-EL02-KA105-003322**

## Participants’ experiences leaflet



**39 people working/ willing to work in the youth field from 13 different countries were gathered in Athens for 7 days to discuss about young immigrants/refugees' unemployment, integration and inclusion in the Labour market. Except for the knowledge and skills they gained on the topic, they had the opportunity to improve their soft skills, to meet new people and to raise their cultural awareness. After these days some of them are sharing with us their learning experiences.**

*"First of all I want to thank you that you gave me a chance to be part of this amazing Training Course.*

*I was so impressed to meet immigrants/refugees and to hear their real and sad stories during the project. And I learned that I have to be more thankful for the life which I have, for the peace in my country even if it is poor.*

*During the activities and group works I saw how united makes the power and only if we are united we can make big impact, we can have the power to help more people."*

*Dilber*

*Bulgaria*



*“During the training course I learned a lot of helpful methods of non-formal education; this will help me in my future work with youth and also in my personal life. It was useful also to see and observe how the project was built (organized) and I have to admit that for me this seminar (training course) is a good example of how everything from technical and not only side could be well done”*

***Jevgenij***

***Lithuania***

*“Rebuilding lives through employment” training course improved my skills in working with the immigrants.*

*I learnt about other European countries refugee and immigration problems, the European Migration Policies, tools to work for social inclusion and how to empower the refugees / immigrants through social entrepreneurship.”*

***Ioana***

***Romania***



**Erasmus+**  
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*“First of all i’d like to emphasize the importance of this topic, which is of a concern to all of us because it’s a problem of humanity after all. Directly or not we are involved and directly or not we all can help. Non- formal education is one of the ways. During this training we had the opportunity to meet people from different countries and share different opinions and views on refugees, migration and employment. Besides that, we had the opportunity to acquire different skills, (digital, and management skills) and learn more about social enterprises, different initiatives and activities that raise awareness and help fight discrimination. Also, we saw many ways and ideas on how to help them and help them settle well because, after all, we are all humans and we all should be equal”*

***Mihaela***  
***Italy***

*“Before coming here I didn’t know exactly what to expect but this week was amazing. I experienced a lot and all the information I got helped me to develop my personal skills and knowledge. Very important for me was that we were making intercultural groups which required communication and cooperation. Now, I understand better the current situation of refugees and immigrants and got to know tools to compact discrimination and help them to integrate in society. For me it was a very crucial lesson which cannot be taught at school.*

***Justyna***  
***Poland***

*“For me the experience of the TC “Rebuilding lives through employment” was really eye opening. I thought I know a lot about the topics of unemployment and immigrant policies, but the week that I’ve spent with people from 13 different countries who have completely different point of view and understanding of this situation showed me that I still have so much to learn.”*

***Katarina***  
***Croatia***

*“Before the project I knew a lot about immigrants/refugees, but I didn’t know the situation about their unemployment.*

*For me the most important part to understand this situation was the theater session. I do think that it isn’t enough to see a performer but it is very useful if you can interrupt and change the situation. I also liked visiting the Council of Refugees in Athens which helps refugees with accommodation, money, food, school, job etc. It was good to get to know what they are doing, how do they help refugees, and what are the risks and problems they can meet while working with refugees. I also liked that we got a chance to hear about other countries and their situations”*

**Anastasia**  
**Estonia**

*“It was a very great experience for me to spend a week here in the training. I always enjoy being in an international environment and making new friends. Plus, here we had the chance to create value for ourselves, for the refugees/immigrants and for the whole world.*

*It was great that we learned new tools we can use not only in this field but also in other fields of our lives.*

*The most powerful part was when we met the communities from outside. Get to know the real story from people who are personally involved and are suffering from the situation.*

*The second part that I really liked is that we had lots of opportunities to work in team. It is super powerful when people from different countries, different cultural background get together to create something.”*

**Barna**  
**Hungary**

*“Before this project I was not confident enough to speak in English with people that I have just met. Also I was too shy for working in a team. But with this project I became more confident when I am speaking in front of people and communicating with them. During the project I have met a lot of people from other counties so I improved my English level. During the project we have to work in teams. So I have learned to work in a team”*

**Burcu**  
**Turkey**

*“I have been working with immigrants the last years mainly in the educational field. For me it was really helpful and inspiring to get to know how I can support them for their employability as it is an issue arising in any initiative addressed to them. After this week, I really feel better prepared to work effectively with them and support them with different ways”*

*Lamprini*

*Greece*

*“I had the opportunity to know with direct testimony many of the problems and expectations of immigrants and refugees. It was very good to have the support and collaboration of all the participants in this activity through their commitment to the activities carried out.”*

*Paulo*

*Portugal*

*“The training course was good. I’ve learned a lot by working with people coming from different cultural backgrounds. I really appreciate that we took various perspective on the topics of the TC.*

*The combination of working in groups and learning was so cool but also at times very exhausting”*

*Oliver*

*Slovakia*

*“I don’t like formal education, so the project was a big opportunity for me. Firstly, I learned something (unemployment rates, refugees...) about condition of other countries. So I could compare information of other countries with Turkey. At this time we learned without any teacher, it was amazing for me. And I met with refugees, I listened their problems. After that I want even more to help these people. But I didn’t know how can I help these people. Next days we worked on projects to support them. I went to the Greek Council of Refugees so I could see the reality of life. Also i improved a lot my English skill. I improved myself”*

*Serdarhan*

*Turkey*

*“Participation in this training was powerful experience for me. I learned a lot about Greece and about the situation with immigrants in 12 European countries. I understood that World is even smaller than I usually think and how countries influences each other. The main outcome is an understanding and feeling that we are all connected inside and out of Europe. It is our common mission to support and provide opportunities for everyone towards prosperity and cohesion”*

*Julia*

*Estonia*

*“For me it was a very important project because I was able to contact with different realities, so different of mine. I have learned to identify problems and have tools to help solve them.”*

*Rosario*

*Portugal*

*“Throughout the week I got many new impressions and experiences which helped me grow and raise my knowledge on the topic. It was very interesting to listen to other participants’ point of views and learn what the situation is in their counties. We had the chance to share and listen which I find very important especially in such a culturally diverse environment. It was very inspiring to work together with people from different backgrounds and cultures”*

*Renata  
Hungary*

*“During this TC it was a great opportunity to meet wonderful experienced people that inspired me a lot. It was a great space to exchange experiences, tools, knowledge, ideas, energy, and beauty.*

*I enjoyed all the activities and I am very grateful for being here in this place with perfect people in a wonderful space  
Thank you from my heart”*

*Diana  
Romania*

*“For sure I can say this training course (Rebuilding lives through Employment) was the most useful for me till now. I learned a lot of things that I will use in the future. This training course was really useful not only because of the topic and the things that I learned, it was also useful because I met really great and intelligent people. We created friendship for all life.”*

*Georgi  
Bulgaria*

*“I really would like to say thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project. It was my second and I hope it won't be the last one.*

*I want to say that here was the place where you can feel like at home, a place where we were laughing, crying, raising our competences together and everyone individual. This week has gone much faster than I could think.*

*Trainings, meetings with refugees/immigrants, workshops, sessions with lecturers, the opportunity to visit refugee center, discussions and brain storming were really valuable experiences which you can't get in any University. Thank you so much for this opportunity to grow up like a personality.”*

**Renata**  
**Lithuania**

*“During this project I learned that as a big group of people with different backgrounds we can make an impact in our local communities by sharing other people stories, practices and knowledge. Furthermore, I think I am enriched by the people I met. Francesco taught us magic, Eugene taught us how to dance, Julia taught us how life in the north works. E- Life, Paulo made me think what should I do in order to be wise like him and Arnold taught me how much deepness I can find in a quiet person. Milan taught me every think about Slovakia and Thanasis taught me how to throw a basketball ball.*

*Thought I know a lot. But now I'm closer to know a lot*

**Matea**  
**Croatia**

*“It's often said that every fairytale begins with the words: “Once upon a time....”. To be honest, I know that this experience in Greece will become already next year one more fairytale, one more beautiful memory in which the main actors will be people from 12 other countries that I had the chance to meet. The biggest thing that Erasmus+ in general and especially this training course can give us is a fact that no matter where we are coming from and how far away we are living from each other, we could and can be friends with the same ambitions, desires, problems but also same dreams”*

**Sara**  
**Croatia**

*“In this project I learnt a lot about how I can help my country to combat unemployment of young immigrants/refugees. We shared a lot of ideas and the situation of employment in each country. In the beginning of the project the country groups shared in exactly what is the current situation in their country. We met different organizations and NGOs. They shared with us their ideas and how they help the refugees/immigrants in Greece and how we can practice their ideas in our country. We also met some immigrants/refugees, they shared with us their ideas and it was very good to work directly with them.”*

*Meryame  
Italy*

*“This project helped me see how much one person can do for vulnerable groups and how one person’s idea and/or initiative can help hundreds. So for me this project was very inspiring and informative and I thank everyone who also took part in it for giving their best in order to “teach” us about battling discrimination, stereotypes and indifference.”*

*Indriga  
Lithuania*

*‘I spent a great time during this training course, learned a lot about the situation with immigrants and refugees in other countries, met new friends, shared stories and experiences with them. I was able to seek out inspiration of how to start a new youth initiative. I come up with many ideas.*

*Radostina  
Bulgaria*