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Being-a-Citizen Workshop Report

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WP2 Being-a-Citizen Workshop Report

1. Introduction

The “Being-a-Citizen” workshops were part of the activities of the WP2 Orientation Action Involving the Local Community. A One-Stop-Shop was established under the DREAMM project to promote: Social Activities for Vulnerable Groups, Language Cafés, and Language Courses (See Teacher's diary), Being-a-Citizen Workshops and Familiarising with the Place Workshops (See Familiarising with the Place Workshop Report). This set of activities aimed to foster the process of integration and inclusion of newly arrived migrants by providing them with a safe space to share their experiences and emotions, network and connect with local stakeholders that could help migrants with their daily needs, understanding of their rights and responsibilities and their wider integration into the host community. For a comprehensive report on the activities, see One-Stop-Shop Report.

The Being-a-Citizen Workshops specifically aimed to strengthen migrants' sense of belonging by helping them understand the host society and develop participatory skills and social relationships that enable them to feel and act like members of the local community. Self-confidence starts with knowing where to go and who to turn to when voicing concerns and asserting rights.

In most cases, these workshops introduced migrants to their new rights and responsibilities as proactive members of a new community where they will live, work, and socialise. The workshops covered different aspects of the integration process in a host community, including legal and intercultural aspects.

Each partner organised workshops using different planning methods, but all involved DREAMM Lead-Mentors and Mentors. Sometimes, the workshops were organised jointly with other local actors working in the fields of migration, inclusion, and integration. The main target group was newly arrived migrants, but anyone with a particular interest in the issues or topics covered was welcome.

It is important to note that the DREAMM project started during the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, all workshops were conducted with security measures in mind, and some workshops took place online because of local restrictions and containment measures.

When possible, the workshops were conducted in person as in the case of Perugia, Naples, Athens, Nicosia, Vienna, La Valletta, Göttingen and Altwarmbüchen. The activities were implemented mainly at the headquarters of the partner associations.

2. National Experiences

Austria – die Berater

Eight workshops were conducted by die Berater in Vienna between November 2021 and August 2022.

1	Topic: Video journalism I - Date: 16/11/2021 - 11 migrants from Afghanistan and Iran reached - This workshop aimed to help TCNs and refugees that have worked in their home countries in journalism to strengthen their skills so that they might work again in the field in Austria. The focus was on how to write and create texts for documentary and other journalistic formats.
2	Topic: Video journalism II - Date: 23/11/2021 - 11 migrants from Afghanistan and Iran reached - This workshop was dedicated to video production itself.
3	Topic: Video journalism III - Date: 30/11/2021 - 11 migrants from Afghanistan and Iran reached - The workshop aimed to improve the skills of participants in cutting and preparing videos. - In all the 3 workshops, the already mentioned basic “citizen topics” such as freedom of speech, the liberal press market and a better understanding of the Austrian media system were as well an important part.
4	Topic: Photography I - Date: 19/03/2022 - This workshop aimed to emphasize how photography and pictures served as a base to discuss civic engagement, what makes someone a citizen, and how these concepts can vary from culture to culture.
5	Topic: Photography II - Date: 26/03/2022 - This workshop was a theoretical session about photography
6	Topic: Photography III - Date: 02/04/2022 - This workshop was an interactive session where participants could put learned theory into practice by trying out photographic techniques.
7	Topic: The Public Employment Service Austria - Date: 10/08/2022 - This workshop informed migrants about the job market in Austria focusing specifically on AMS. It was an opportunity for migrants to discuss their educational plans.
8	Topic: The housing market in Austria - Date: August 2022 - This workshop gave participants important insight into where and how they can research housing focusing specially on cooperative housing.

Note: Both video journalism and photography workshops led to additional workshops in Work package 3, where participants could put into practice what they have learned by producing artistic photos and pictures that became part of a small exhibition as part of the DREAMM project dedicated to the rich culinary variety of Vienna and its communities. The activities of WP3 were therefore strongly interconnected with WP2 and the next step, where participants could further put into practice the skills that they have learned during these workshops.

Cyprus – C.I.P.

Eight workshops were conducted by Citizens in Power (C.I.P) in Nicosia and Larnaka.

1	<p>Topic: Learn Greek mythology and culture with eBooks, using material from the Erasmus+ KA2 project Bibliodos - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop focused on introducing Greek history, mythology, and culture to newly arrived Third Country Nationals (TCNs). The workshops helped them receive a historical framework of the origins of the Cypriot people, as well as their traditions and beliefs that are also very much present in the lessons they are taught in school from an early age.
2	<p>Topic: Meet the national policies and the local norms, through networking with NGOs in the migration and inclusion fields - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migrants and local NGOs came together. Migrants were able to ask questions about the legal aspect, the national and local policies, and other integration-related concerns they had.
3	<p>Topic: Creating an Intercultural Cyprus through food - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop took place in a park where migrants and locals were invited to share their nation's traditional food.
4	<p>Topic: World Refugee Day Celebrations with local snacks/commandaria - 14 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop aimed at facilitating learning about different cultures through food. Migrants were called to meet Cyprus through food and by playing informal card games that were created in the context of CIP's involvement in DREAMM.
5	<p>Topic: Creating an Intercultural Cyprus through art - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop focused on providing a safe space for TCNs to explore their feelings and experiences regarding discrimination and racism using art. At the end of the workshop, everyone was gathered in a circle of trust, wherein they were free to express their thoughts, opinions, and experiences regarding their integration (or not) in Cyprus, re-interpreting the concept of discrimination through a personal lens.
6	<p>Topic: World Refugee Street Festival - 11 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop took place during the World Refugee Day Street Festival when CIP was given a booth where they provided general information about the DREAMM project and offered interactive activities such as a card game with the stories of the main refugees. During the festival, participants had the opportunity to enjoy traditional and cultural experiences from diverse groups of people. They also had the opportunity to network with several NGOs regarding their integration in Cyprus.
7	<p>Topic: Walk a Mile in my Shoes Tour I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop includes a city walk in the centre of Larnaka where groups of migrants & refugees, but also well-integrated non-locals were introduced to the historical awareness of the city. The city tour provided a way to show that no one should be considered a "foreigner" in Larnaka and that all residents are equal.
8	<p>Topic: Walk a Mile in my Shoes Tour II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was the second part of the city tour.

Germany - blinc

Eight workshops were conducted by blinc in Göttingen and Altwarmbüchen.

1	Topic: Visit to the Museum in Altwarmbüchen I - The workshops in Altwarmbüchen included field trips to three different cultural and historical museums with mixed groups of migrants and Germans since the local project mentors in Altwarmbüchen felt that the migrants and locals would benefit from learning about historical and cultural subjects that would be equally interesting for both groups and could be talked about informally.
2	Topic: Visit the Museum in Altwarmbüchen II
3	Topic: Visit to Museum in Altwarmbüchen III
4	Topic: Roleplaying against the stereotypes - This workshop took place in Göttingen and included roleplaying focused on reflecting on stereotypes
5	Topic: Sport workshop - The workshop was organised in collaboration with a local sports club in Göttingen
6	Topic: Story workshop I - The following series of workshops took place in Göttingen and they focused on encouraging reflection on the societal role of school-age migrants in Germany.
7	Topic: Story workshop II
8	Topic: Story workshop III

Greece - IASIS

Eight workshops were conducted by IASIS in Athens between April and September 2022.

1	<p>Topic: European Citizenship and Global Competence - Date: 01/04/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by a One-Stop-Shop operator and a guest from SolidarityNOW who provided inputs regarding Global citizenship. A first step toward developing European and Global competency is to establish a pertinent, practical, and stimulating learning environment that encourages in-depth investigation and knowledge of the ways that culture, especially world languages, shapes identities and worldviews.
2	<p>Topic: Local business and social entrepreneurship - Date: 05/04/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by Dimitris Sannas (One-Stop-Shop operator) and a guest from Evropaiki Ekfrasi NGO, who provided inputs regarding the Entrepreneurship action plan design. The current workshop aimed to simultaneously strengthen migrants' capacity to generate business ideas and think strategically as well as increase their knowledge of the social challenges in their immediate environment.
3	<p>Topic: Funding opportunities - Date: 10/05/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was designed for migrants who followed the previous workshop and attended the current educational activity that gave insights on how their business plan and idea can receive funding from several national and European frameworks
4	<p>Topic: Greek educational system - Date: 11/05/2022 - 6 migrants from Ukraine and Nigeria reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was about the Greek educational system.
5	<p>Topic: Public Second Chance School - Date: 16/06/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop aimed to inform migrants about the Second Chance School (SCS). In many cases, migrants do not manage to complete their compulsory education due to the emergency of abandoning their country or because they did not have the resources, but they can have a second chance.
6	<p>Topic: Communication for Business - Date: 15/07/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop concerned the professional communication skills TCNs should develop to meet the needs of the labour market.
7	<p>Topic: Communication for Business II - Date: 29/08/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop concerned the professional communication skills TCNs should develop to meet the needs of the labour market.
8	<p>Topic: Communication during Interview - Date: 02/09/2022 - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop implemented employed simulations and role-plays that were conducted to foster the interview communication skills of the migrants who attended to successfully conquer the job position.

Italy - CIDIS

Perugia

Eight workshops were conducted by Cidis in Perugia between May and November 2022.

1	<p>Topic: The language of migrations - Date: 20/05/2022 - 13 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was organised in collaboration with Tamat. Participants watched a video that was a guide to talk about 3 topics: migration phenomenon and the most common reasons to migrate, how people imagine migration travel and how it is, and how we can talk about migration and migratory travel to people and in mass media using words and gestures.
2	<p>Topic: Climate migrations - Date: 24/06/2022 - 12 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was organised with the environmental NGO Legambiente. During the workshop, Legambiente discussed with migrants on data and facts about climate migration. It was an opportunity to understand how climate changes can influence the lifestyle of several populations forcing them to migrate.
3	<p>Topic: University and scholarships - Date: 24/06/2022 - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop informed migrants from One Roof Community Meetup (One-Stop-Shop) about the University system in Perugia. The operators helped migrants to fill out the form to apply for scholarships and showed them how to use the CIMEA system to upload documents and request free services for refugees.
4	<p>Topic: Visit to the Rocca Paolina and the Perugia exhibition - Date: 12/09/2022 - 7 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participants were the One-Stop-Shop attendees. They explored the local monument "Rocca Paolina," which is one of the most important historical buildings in Perugia. It was a great opportunity for migrants to better understand the history of Perugia and the importance of chocolate in local culture.
5	<p>Topic: Italian music and world music workshop - Date: 14/09/2022 - 11 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was about Italian music. After listening to some Italian music, both migrants and Mentors wrote a sentence about travelling. Then, all together, they combined the sentences to write a song and its melody, led by a Mentor who is a musician.
6	<p>Topic: Visit to the Morlacchi theatre - Date: 12/10/2022 - 5 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was designed for migrants from One Roof Community Meetup (One-Stop-Shop). They went to the open day of the theatre, and they could attempt 10 performances in different arts areas. It was an almost unique opportunity to explore the theatre.
7	<p>Topic: Main offices and documents - Date: 28/10/2022 - 9 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop comprised going to Perugia's centre to explore the main offices: municipality, police station, estate agency, bank, and Poste Italiane (post office). Migrants received an explanation for each service and a map of Perugia Centre and its offices.
8	<p>Topic: Working in Italy - Date: 28/11/2022 - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by Cidis operators with the support of Lead-Mentors and Mentors, which provided the students of the Italian course with information on working in Italy (how and where to look for work, how to write a curriculum vitae, what documents are needed, etc.)

Naples

Three workshops were conducted by Cidis in Naples between August and January 2023.

1	<p>Skills Assessment - 4 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was led by a DREAMM Mentor to support foreign citizens in active job search through writing and updating CVs
2	<p>Skills Assessment - 5 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was created by a DREAMM Mentor with the supervision of a Lead-Mentor to support young foreign citizens in active job search, starting from the assessment of the skills acquired during the training courses and informal situations. Through tests, group games and simulations the participants were able to discover skills they did not believe they had before.
3	<p>Active Job Search - 5 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was realized by a DREAMM Mentor with the supervision of a Lead-Mentor to support foreign citizens with a good command of the Italian language in the active search for work. During the meeting the tools to look for work were shared, the CVs of the participants were updated, and some simulations of job interviews were carried out
4	<p>How to find a home - 9 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop aimed to support migrants in searching for accommodation and discovering the main real estate agencies and help desks for accommodation.
5	<p>Meeting with FAI: a bridge between cultures - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was led by an FAI volunteer to present FAI activities and to invite migrants to participate in on-coming events. At the end of the workshop, 4 migrants have filled in the form to become FAI volunteers
6	<p>Meeting with the theatre company “Women Crossing” – 3 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop took place during the show “Agaish. La solidarietà sotto processo.” Migrants could see the show and then discuss it with the directors Alessandra Cutulo and Enrica Rigo
7	<p>The Civil Service - 5 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop aimed to analyse the new call for Civil Service
8	<p>Meeting with Luca Trapanese, the City councillor for Social Affairs - 5 migrants reached</p>

Note: Workshops and certain activities were delayed in Naples due to Covid 19 restrictions but are scheduled and should be delivered before the end of the WP activities.

Malta - UM

Eight workshops were conducted by the University of Malta in La Valletta between April and June 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Employment Issues: Workers' Rights and Obligations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was designed in collaboration with the Department for Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER - a governmental organisation), JobsPlus (a governmental organisation), and Jesuit Refugee Service Malta (JRS NGO). The workshop informed migrants how to seek, obtain and maintain a job upon entry into a new country, the needed skills, and documentation migrants necessitate to accomplish the above, and whom to turn to for support and assistance when these requirements are not available
2	<p>Topic: Employment Issues: Employment Service in Malta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop informed migrants about the employment services offered by JobsPlus, which employment services migrants can benefit from the most, how migrants can access said benefits, and the issues often encountered once on the job migrants need to be aware of.
3	<p>Topic: Family Support Matters: An Overview of the Early Intervention Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by a representative from the National School Support Services within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research, and Innovation. He provided practical tips for parents on how to help their children acquire skills in various areas of development.
4	<p>Topic: Family Support Matters: Primary HealthCare Services and the Role of the Cultural Mediator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by cultural mediators working within the Maltese Primary HealthCare Department. They analysed migrants' entitlement to the healthcare system, the challenges they face in accessing it, and the various healthcare centres and services on offer.
5	<p>Topic: Maltese Educational System I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was conducted by a Lead-Mentor who introduced how the first primary to the secondary education system in Malta works.
6	<p>Topic: Maltese Educational System II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was about post-secondary to tertiary education in Malta.
7	<p>Topic: Migrants' Support and Legal Aid: Gaining Access to Legal Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop informed participants about newly arrived migrants' rights and obligations upon entry into a new country in the EU. The presenter gave a holistic perspective of the national and EU legislation regarding migrants' rights, the rights of specific vulnerable migrant groups: refugees, and asylum seekers, and the status of legal aid currently on offer to migrants locally.
8	<p>Topic: Migrants' Support and Legal Aid: Legal Challenges faced by Migrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop informed participants about newly arrived migrants' rights and obligations upon entry into a new country in the EU.

Note: Due to the Covid-19 situation and restrictions in Malta, all the workshops were held online via Zoom platform. Most participants were newly arrived Third Country Nationals from different communities (Sudanese, Serbian, North Macedonian, and Philippines communities) together with their community leaders.

3. The Role of Lead-Mentors and Mentors

The participation of Lead-Mentors and Mentors in most of the workshops were fundamental for the success of the activities. They have always been actively involved and in many cases have been involved in the organisation of the workshop itself. The experience, network, and skills of the mentors and especially the Lead-Mentors were of great value. They supported the DREAMM teams in each country designing the workshops and preparing the necessary materials. Sometimes they ran the workshop and guided participants in the activities. This happened especially when Lead-Mentors or Mentors had relevant competencies they wanted to share with the migrants.

Lead-Mentors and Mentors, who are part of or well-integrated into the local community, were able to share their knowledge of local traditions, history, available services, and opportunities in the area with the newly arrived migrants. They aimed to foster autonomy in tasks such as applying to find a job or asking for career guidance, applying for a scholarship or applying for a school.

When the workshops took place outside the partners' headquarters or in the offices of institutions and associations that were not involved in the DREAMM project, the role of Lead-Mentors and Mentors played an important part in guiding the group and encouraging individuals to participate proactively. They formed a bridge between the migrants and the local community. Sometimes they aided with interpretation or translation, introduced activities to local people to involve them in the workshops, and helped migrants communicate and get to know local people.

Some countries experimented with combining language courses with the Being-a-Citizen workshop. This aimed at providing participants with relevant language skills. In these cases, the support of Lead-Mentors and Mentors motivated mutual exchange and participation, while strengthening the newly developed relationships. Spending time together, volunteers and migrants could talk to each other, get to know each other better, and practice the local languages using everyday words and expressions.

In conclusion, the active participation of Lead-Mentors and Mentors was fundamental to helping design the workshops, carry out activities, involve migrants in the local community and create a relationship based on mutual exchange. It is important to consider that the main difference between a Lead-Mentor and Mentor is the degree of experience and involvement. In most of the territories, Lead-Mentors were professionals that attended the training to enhance their knowledge in migration, intercultural communication, and facilitation. They also acted as coordinators that encouraged Mentors to participate and be proactive while guiding them in their interactions with Third Country Nationals. On the other hand, they were figures that remained constant in the activities and interactions with Third Country Nationals, facilitating the process of integration and social connection (See One-Stop-Shop Report; the role of Lead-Mentor and Mentor).