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The scoop of the meeting: The KEYS! website is open!

<https://keys-project.eu/>

The meeting methodology

The meeting started dramatically when 4 out of the 10 project partner organizations were not able to land due to heavy wind. But the motivation and the determination of the partners that had arrived made it possible to start the work of the project.

We all agreed that this first meeting was all about getting to know each other, sharing best practices, finding a common ground and agreeing on the frames for the 3 PRs of the project. To do this we wanted to make this meeting as collaborative, interactive, activating and inclusive as possible.

The chosen methodology of work was workshops and networking over coffee, lunches and dinners.



To avoid misunderstandings we clarified the core definitions of the project and agreed on the expectations and challenges we face when educating migrants

During the 3 days of working we managed to create the frames for the project results, agree on what we mean by an interactive learning portfolio, a web based guidance systems, the main challenges we face and what kinds of surveys we must develop to collect the information we need to develop the KEYS! Toolkit, Portfolio, Guidance systems and recommendations based on best practices.

We are confident that the KEYS! project will help open doors that will smoothen the transition and integration of migrants from integration/language training to VET and society. KEYS! aims to promote the life-long learning strategy, highlight European values, and emphasize equal opportunities, diversity, and social inclusion in Europe



Picture: The KEYS! family. Partners and colleagues from the Basque Country (Spain), Portugal, Slovenia, Greece, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland

Our intention is to make a sustainable impact on migrant education and VET!

- 1) Create a framework that helps enable migrants to get a feeling of belonging and being citizens.
- 2) Identify the skills that are mandatory to succeed in education
- 3) Explain what kind of support systems are needed before and during migrant education and VET
- 4) Implement a methodology of challenges and solutions in migrant education (peer learning)
- 5) Showcase how to make sure that migrant education doesn't focus too much on language skills and too little on other key competences
- 6) Help migrants feel safe in their learning environment and make them recognize and adapt not only the written rules but also the unwritten.
- 7) Develop skills matrixes that help us recognize prior learning and existing skills in a way that empowers students
- 8) Showcase how educators can promote the European way of living among migrants
- 9) Develop and implement a web based guidance system that helps migrants succeed in life
- 10) Clarify the different realities partner countries face as well as lift up the similarities we have when it comes to migrants

To reach our intentions our PRs will be: **Activating** and will motivate the migrant educators and learners to implement the PRs of KEYS! We want KEYS! to unlock skills and competences in a way that motivates the beneficiaries of this project to start using these skills.

Responsive means according to us that the PRs will not only be inspiring but will lead to action and gives migrant educators and migrant learners the information they need and unlocks skills and competences that are needed to succeed in migrant education and VET. The PRs will be designed so that they will help migrants and migrant educators help themselves and discover new (sometimes hidden) skills

Participative so that we can share information and good & bad practices. We want to involve all stakeholders and build a bond between them. Our intention is to develop guidelines that provides first hand information on what migrants needs to succeed in education

Easy to use is one of the top requirements if we want the PRs to be sustainable and implemented by all. We will make sure that the PRs will not only benefit the project partners but all stakeholders involved in migrant education throughout Europe

The KEYS! PRs will be **accessible** for all. It will consist of simple, interactive and relevant case studies. They will be suitable for persons with limits, of different ages and different backgrounds.

KEYS! is **inclusive**. No one is left behind as we will keep in mind all type of migrants, all kind of skills and we will avoid stereotyping. We will elaborate the difference between inclusion and integration. Our focus will always be on abilities and promote positive learning!

Picture below: KEYS partners sharing their views on the biggest challenges they have faced when it comes to migrant education



During the kickoff we sharing best practices and learned about the way migrant education is provided in Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Cyprus. While sharing our experiences with migrants we discovered that despite our systems being very different, we all have some common obstacles.

The obstacles, or should we say challenges, are many. But what are the challenges we need solve to provide migrants the right keys to successfully integrate migrants to the society.

What can we, the KEYS! partners do to smoothen the transition from language/integration training to VET levels 1 - 3? How can we find the right solutions to the challenges so that migrant learners learn to cope with different work-life situations in terms of continuity of employment?

These were the questions that the participants of the KEYS! kickoff tried to answer. We divided the challenges into 3 main categories: 1) Migrant learners, 2) Teachers and 3) relevant Stakeholders



Picture above: Calasanz Santurzi team, one of the hosts of the kickoff meeting



Picture: The challenges open the door to development and changing existing negative prejudices

Obstacles KEYS! will address

How can collaboration between integration/language training and VET help social inclusion of migrants into society?

One of the aims is to develop, implement and transfer PRs that will help the social inclusion into society. To be able to do this we need to openly debate, analyze and review the challenges and realities that prevents this from happening. The partners agreed that the challenges are many and some of the challenges are out of our hands to solve. But what we can do is to highlight these challenges and encourage stakeholders to do their utmost to not ignore these challenges.

The challenges KEYS! will tackle and solve are:

1) Migrant learners' challenges

We will find the solutions to e.g. these questions. How can teachers deal with discrimination and prejudice both among its teachers and the migrant learners? Building up and atmosphere of safety is important but how can this feeling of safety in school be developed. How can we explain our education system in a simple way so that it makes sense to all migrant learners. How can we provide the learners with the skills they need to succeed in society?

2. Teachers' challenges

Migrant education providers need to learn how the migrant educators' soft skills, communication skills, pedagogical skills and cultural awareness can be upskilled so that they can recognize students' skills and competences to guide them further. Teachers need to learn how empower migrant learners and how to avoid dropouts. Teaching classes with many different cultures is a challenge that needs to be addressed. We need to make sure new migrant educators can adapt to new situations. One big challenge is to recognize skills and use these existing skills to empower learners. Providing a safe haven is also a challenge. How can we create a feeling of safety in a classroom consisting of learners from several various cultures.

3) Relevant stakeholders' challenges

Unfortunately many of the relevant stakeholders lack understanding of the realities of the education system and the challenges migrants face. The bureaucracy of migrant education puts a strain on the educators, the migrant learners and many times also on the stakeholders. One important question to tackle is how the stakeholders can, together with the education providers, integrate migrants in such a way that ghettos will not occur. We need to raise our knowledge about migrants, their backgrounds and the day to day challenges they face. Stakeholders can't afford to be stuck in the system and ignore the "realities" educator providers and migrant learners struggle with. This will cost the society too much and will result in damaging prejudices!