



National Contact Point Malta

Therapeutic Services Unit (TSU)

Vanja Vajagic, Unit Leader, AWAS



The current migration crisis is considered a direct outcome of violent conflicts, poverty, global warming, war, genocide, human trafficking and the continuous violations of human rights thus leading individuals to develop trauma-related psychological disorders (e.g. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder).

In order to provide a service to migrants who develop these disorders, the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers has established the Therapeutic Services Unit (TSU) which is co-funded by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Experts in the team are all trained to work in a multicultural environment and focus on cultural sensitivity during therapy. The Unit Leader, Assistant Psychology Officers, the Senior Psychology Officer, Counselors, Psychologists and Trained Interpreters, who are also acting as Cultural Mediators, are focused on the psychosocial burdens experienced among migrants. Service residents in Open Centres in Malta are also assessed and supported to overcome issues related to dangerous journeys, illegal border crossings, negative experiences of separation from social networks, cultural backgrounds, and concerns about family members who are left behind. Individuals are also supported to overcome experiences of unsafe or problematic living conditions, before or during the journeys, in refugee camps and also once they are out

from these camps, as well as maladaptation with respect to the cultural norms of the hosting country.

The need for increased psychotherapeutic interventions and support is recently recognized as a dominant public health concern worldwide. It is important to understand and address the continuous trauma effects and to recognize that empowerment is essential for further personal development and to ease the recovery process in order for vulnerable individuals to become active and independent members of the society.



2019 Maltese EMN Annual Conference 'The inclusion and Empowerment of Migrant students'

Anna Catania, EMN Officer, MHAS



The 2019 Maltese EMN Annual Conference was held on the 16th October 2019. The theme of this year's conference was 'The Inclusion and Empowerment of Migrant Students'. The conference was organised in collaboration with the Migrant Learners' Unit of the Ministry for Education and Employment.

The conference brought together stakeholders mostly from the educational field and looked into how Malta and other European Member States are addressing the rapid increase of learners' diversity due to immigration in their education systems while ensuring equality of access, quality education and

achievement. The conference looked at how inclusive educational practices affect the newly arrived learners and their families and enable them to integrate in the schooling community and society at large.

Education is an essential component in migration management as when education and migration cross paths, different scenarios may emerge. Relocation may cause discontinuity in education with negative social consequences on students: amongst them slow progress, higher drop-out rates and isolation from peers due to cultural differences and language barriers.

For this reason, the learning process needs to help migrant children form balanced multicultural identities. Also, the schools need to prepare the parents for the learning experience that their children will be going through and inform them of the education system's expectations as parents. For this reason, the LLAPSI project was set up in Malta in order to adopt a holistic approach to integration and language acquisition of migrant learners. LLAPSI has worked in providing ongoing training to teachers and community liaison staff, recruiting teachers to support migrant learners in induction, providing psycho-social support and also providing an online platform for the teaching of Maltese as a Foreign Language.

The Hon. Minister Dr Michael Farrugia, Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, in his opening address said that it is fundamental that all children in migration, whether accompanied by their family or not, are enabled to access education. Early and effective access to inclusive education and care is one of the most important tools for the integration of children, fostering language skills, social cohesion and mutual understanding. In addition, training teachers to work with children of diverse backgrounds is a key factor for integration.



Project ADMin4All: Supporting Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Migrants

Federica Parisoli, Project Assistant, International Organisation for Migration

“The population in EU Member States has become increasingly diverse as a result of intra-EU mobility and immigration from third countries. The latter comprises both established multi-generational migrant communities already in Europe, as well as migrant and refugee newcomers. Increasing diversity, coupled with entrenched disadvantage and marginalization for some groups, present challenges for the successful socio-economic integration of migrants in Europe and social cohesion within local communities.

In this regard, policy responses at the local level are crucial to address both the challenges related to successful socio-economic inclusion of migrants, and to explore ways to create inclusive communities. In particular, providers of employment and social services at the local level often experience difficulties in successfully reaching out to and supporting disadvantaged migrant and refugee populations.

In this context, IOM developed the project ADMin4ALL- Supporting Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Migrants in Europe implemented

with the support of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion of the European Commission. The project aims to enhance the capacity of local authorities and service providers to develop sustainable strategies and inclusive services for the successful social and economic integration of migrants and refugees. The project is in its second phase and it is implemented in 35 municipalities across 7 EU member states: Italy, Austria, Poland, Romania, Greece, Spain and Malta from July 2018 to June 2020.

The main objective of the programme is to increase the capacity of localities and other service providers at the local level, with particular attention to their front-line staff, in dealing with the multiple dimensions of long-term socio-economic inclusion of migrants and refugees. This is done through delivery of a series of trainings focusing among others on anti-discrimination, cultural diversity and conflict-resolution. The trainings will be complemented by mid-term regional consultations bringing together participants from

the 7 implementing countries and peer mentoring activities for the local authorities and both governmental and non-governmental service providers.

In Malta, IOM works together with the Identity Malta Agency, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, the Local Councils Association and 17 Local Councils. Between September and October 2019, three training sessions were conducted involving a total of 56 participants. In October 2019, a delegation of 5 persons representing Maltese stakeholders participated in the Mid-Term Regional Consultation in Milan together with the Head of the Human Rights and Integration Directorate. During this consultation representatives of the 7 participating countries exchanged knowledge and shared best practices, in order to improve service delivery at a local level to the target populations.

In the coming months IOM together with the involved stakeholders will organise the peer-exchange visit of a Maltese delegation to one of the participating municipalities and will prepare the welcoming of delegations coming to better understand the Maltese approach in the service provision to migrants.”



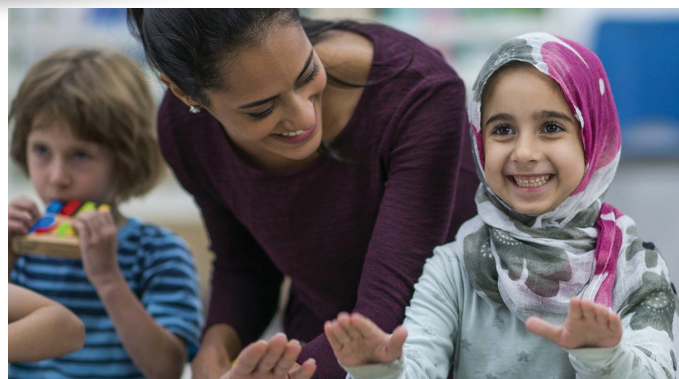


Migration, the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Education InterCap: Develop Capacities Together

Ms Ljiljana Cumura, Community-based researcher

During July and September 2019, Kopin Malta (professional NGO working in the human rights field) delivered two national training sessions for trainers about “Migration, the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Education”. Both training sessions are part of a 3-year project titled “Developing capacities together: European Civil Society Organisation university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world” (InterCap).

The project brings together 13 organisations from 12 different EU countries specialised in teachers’ training, educational reform, sustainable development and migration issues, along with more than 40 associates from all over the EU, aiming to explore and strengthen the link between quality development education and attitudes towards migration and development, building on



evidence-based practices, taking forward good cases and programs and establishing synergies.

The InterCap project provides a non-formal development education and global learning programme that caters for teachers’ interests and needs and enables them to progressively engage with development through various stages of participation. The methodologies consist of: inclusive, collaborative, dialogue and needs-oriented approach, experiential/authentic learning, peer-to-peer support and participatory education methods, such as Philosophy for Children, Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry, and Theatre for Living.

For all those who are teachers or educators and who want to learn more about migration, the SDGs and Global Education, Kopin Malta is offering free online 6-modules training. The self-study material of training requires effort by learners equivalent to 50 hours (i.e. 2 ECTS) and it is available on <https://www.developotogether.eu/en/training-package>. In October 2019, “Migration, the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Education” training became part of the DegreePlus Programme at the University of Malta.



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