



INTEGRATING REFUGEES IN SOCIETY AND THE LABOUR MARKET THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION



WELCOME STATEMENT

The University of Venice Ca'Foscari team and lead partner of the SiforREF project welcomes you to our first quarterly newsletter.

The project SiforREF's main objective is to enhance and launch refugee integration policies at the regional and local levels in our partner countries Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Germany. We are particularly interested in addressing the transition of refugee populations from the reception phase to socio-economic autonomy.

It has now become necessary to incorporate the current Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on refugee populations within our research regions. In coming newsletters we will present our research findings and highlight information and stories about how refugee populations and various organisations in our cities -

Berlin, Bologna, Ljubljana, Parma and Vienna - are finding innovative solutions to deal with this pandemic.

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For more information on the topic please visit our website:

www.interreg-central/siforref

FACTS ABOUT REFUGEES IN OUR CITIES



BOLOGNA

A participatory web radio project called "Alta frequenza" was launched in Parma to prevent the isolation of refugees and migrants during Covid-19. Italian and refugee youth contribute to and suggest the themes of this weekly program.

PARMA

Refugees from Burkina Faso & Guinea Conakry have donated € 1,300 to Parma's major hospital. And other migrant/refugee organizations have volunteered their time and energy by delivering groceries, collecting clothing and purchasing medication for Parma's citizens in need.



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BERLIN

Berlin has the largest accommodation for LGBTQI refugees in Germany. It was opened in 2016 to protect LGBTQI refugees, who are often victims of various forms of violence.

LJUBLJANA

The number of sheltered persons seeking international protection in Slovenia in 2019 (3.821) increased to thirteen times in comparison with 2015. However, many migrants still consider Slovenia as a transit country.



VIENNA

During the Covid-19 pandemic the "Community Cooking" project has shifted to Zoom. Refugee and migrants participate in the virtual "Kitchen Stories", they cook, eat and share stories together online. The network of Community Cooking is spreading all over Vienna and even guests from other countries can participate.



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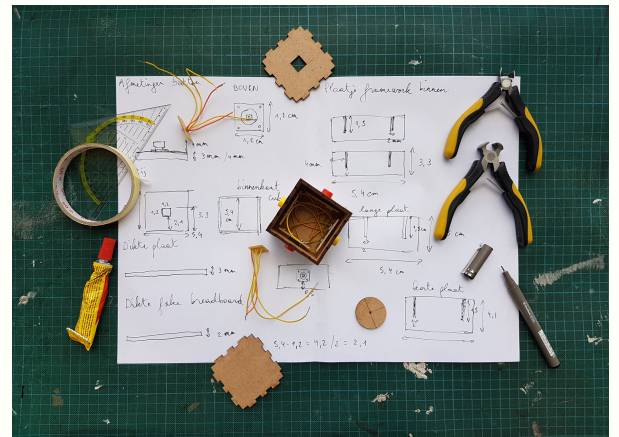
HORIZON 2020



Berlin University of Technology along with several SiforREF project partners submitted a Horizon 2020 joint proposal that would continue the project's current research. The proposal's focus addresses primarily pilots that introduce sound pathways to economic participation and integration. Viable or sound pathways that underline principles of social innovative dimensions of employment and self-employment, to meet the needs of the target groups themselves as actors as well as the needs of the local economy and its stakeholders.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

In our summer newsletter we will look at the concept of social innovation and share stories and information about the process of setting up and creating a toolbox to improve societal and labour market integration of refugees.



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