



IntegRARsi - Local networks for the integration of asylum seekers and refugees

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

IntegRARsi is a project financed by the European Social Fund under Round Two (2005-2007) of the **EQUAL** Community Initiative. In adherence to the EQUAL mission, i.e. to promote a more inclusive work life through fighting discrimination and exclusion based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, **the project aims to combat social and economic exclusion of asylum seekers and refugees.**

IntegRARsi is a nationwide project whose Coordination Unit is based in Rome. 8 local projects are developed over the territories of the city councils of Ancona, Bergamo, Bitonto, Bologna, Forlì, Genova, Roma and Torino.

The project intends to test tools and pathways to **social and vocational integration** of asylum seekers and refugees by accomplishing to its specific objectives:

- Improving reception related services and promotion of innovative training approaches;
- Strengthening skills and competences of Municipality operators and social workers;
- Establishing orientation and information services at the major points of entry;
- Modelling local experiences for the transfer of promising practices;
- Promoting a broader culture of protection of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as other vulnerable groups.

ACTIVITIES

Although closely interconnected, project activities fall under **5** major thematic areas:

- **Training and refresher courses** for Municipality operators and social workers. Expected outputs are the strengthening of a network of sustainable orientation services run by Municipalities and awareness raising on AS&Rs related issues.
- **Social and labour integration:** testing of innovative services to assist social and employment inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees, and foreigners holding a residence permit on humanitarian grounds, carried out by means of accreditation of prior learning (APL) and instruments such as skills audits, skills certification, training apprenticeships and preparation of the Curriculum Vitae.
- **Orientation and information.** Expected outputs are the creation of front offices and the activation of a freephone for asylum seekers in areas of major presence.
- **Awareness raising and educational activities:** production and dissemination of awareness and information products aimed at promoting an innovative cultural approach to asylum and migration related issues, to be used by various organizations, enterprises, local authorities and non-profit institutions involved in asylum as well as civil society as a whole;
- **Monitoring:** technical assistance, support, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and activities carried out by all project partners.

BENEFICIARIES

Final beneficiaries of the project are **asylum seekers, refugees and foreigners holding a residence permit on humanitarian grounds**.

Intermediate beneficiaries of the project are **Municipality operators and social workers** who benefit from training and refresher courses aimed at providing them with a deeper knowledge of the specific condition of asylum seekers and refugees.

PARTNERS

The project Development Partnership of the project comprises **17 partners**:

- **ANCI**, the National Association of Italian Municipalities, is the DP managing organisation;
- **IOM**, the International Organization for Migration;
- The **Municipalities** of: Ancona, Bergamo, Bitonto (Bari), Bologna, Forlì, Genova, Roma, Torino;
- **AS&Rs protection agencies**: Arci Nuova Associazione, Caritas Roma, Italian Refugee Council (CIR), Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS);
- **Expert partners** s.a. training and research institutes: Anciservizi, Censis (Centre for Social Policy Studies), FormAutonomie (Training Center for local Authorities).

In addition to the official partners, the project can count on a **network** of actors who share project objectives, methodologies, skills and the know-how needed for a successful integration of the beneficiaries of the project. The network is made of trade unions: CGIL and CISL; training and APL institutes: FormaTemp, CIMEA, Consorzio Alfa; job centres: Obiettivo Lavoro; entrepreneurs associations: LegaCoop; the Municipality of Venice; AS&Rs associations: Cooperative of refugee women Karibu, Hidden Theatre. The network avails itself of the contribution of the UNHCR branch office Italy.

Transnational Projects sharing tasks and responsibilities outlined in the Transnational Cooperation Agreement called **Aware-Net – working for social inclusion in Europe** are: Fluchtort Hamburg: Berufliche Qualifizierung für Flüchtlinge (Hamburg), Transition Supports Project (Dublin), PROGRES (Ljubljana).

CONTACTS

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