

SHARE Integration

Refugee Integration

Diaspora and citizen engagement 'look & learn' knowledge exchange & visits 18 - 20 of September 2019



1 **Engaging NGOs & local authorities through workshops & exchange visits**

As a part of the SHARE Integration project, Migrafrica and ICMC Europe, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Cologne and Caritas, will be organising a Refugee Integration 'Look & Learn' Exchange Visit to take place between 18-20 of Sept 2019 in the region of North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany. The aim of these visits is to increase the overall understanding of how refugee integration programme are implemented in its different aspects, highlighting best practices at local level by relevant actors in Cologne and small municipalities in the region. The visit targets regional, municipal and civil society participants from countries that have differing levels of experience in receiving and integrating refugees.

2 **The aims of the "look and learn" visits to North-Rhine Westphalia**

'Action New Neighbours' is an initiative run by the Archdiocese of Cologne in collaboration with Caritas. It is based on core values of compassion, acceptance and a willingness to help refugees, and a belief that 'contact and exchange mean that strangers become neighbours'. A central project fund offers small grants to 'non-bureaucratic' reception and welcome initiatives proposed by individual parishes, including for housing, language-learning and awareness-raising. Action New Neighbours aims to complement existing structures for refugee reception and integration by strengthening welcome and broadening the type and nature of available integration support, building the capacity and resourcing welcome activities of local parishes, and providing increased volunteering opportunities for local residents via their respective parishes.

Migrafrica is a migrant-led organisation operating in Germany and EU supporting the integration and participation of migrants and refugees. The organisation is active in labour market integration of refugees, self-employment and entrepreneurship, political participation of migrants as well as the inclusion of migrant women.

In Cologne, Migrafrica will present on the following topics:

1. Community based entrepreneurship
2. Job-market integration
3. Inclusion and empowerment of refugee women

The objectives of the “look and learn” event are:

- To present the work of Diaspora organisations (Migrafrica and other partners) on the integration of refugees;
- Present how ‘non-bureaucratic’ grant funding schemes can build capacity and support welcome activities of grass-roots volunteering initiatives in small local communities and parishes;
- Showcase local reception and integration programmes on the ground, including for the new pilot private sponsorship programme “New start in a team” (German: Neustart im Team, NesT) and identify common reception and integration challenges with reference to specific refugee groups and local contexts;
- To provide opportunities for networking and further collaboration between practitioners and city representatives from countries with differing levels of experience in receiving and integrating refugees.

3 Practical information & participation

The SHARE project will facilitate attendance by up to 10 fully funded and co-funded participants from different Member States. Project funding will cover participant and expert travel to and within North-Rhine Westphalia, as well as most of the other costs involved. The programme encourages participation of joint delegations of 2 persons, composed of a regional/local authority together with an NGO or other civil society partner, which will be drawn from the following Member States:

Learning & experienced participants	Croatia, France, Finland, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, UK
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Interested applicants will need to complete a short online registration form before Sept 1th 2019 available [here](#) and detailing their role, reasons for wishing to participate in the event and their willingness to disseminate learning and, where possible, engage in further networking.

The following costs for the visit may be - entirely or partially - covered from the AMIF funded project:

- Return flight to Cologne (or Frankfurt)
- 2 nights (Wednesday – Friday) in a hotel; 3 nights if participants need to arrive in advance / leave later due to flight schedules
- Meals
- Transport to the municipalities (probably by coach)

4 Programme format & content

The programme will be conducted during 1.5 days in Cologne and another 1.5 days by visits to two municipalities. The visits will showcase integration support for refugees by parishes and citizens in small-medium size municipalities in North-Rhine Westphalia that were supported by the ‘Action New Neighbors’ project.

The programme will be structured in a manner that enables plenary and workshop discussions to be shaped by participant experiences during site visits to municipalities. This approach facilitates active participation from all those attending the event, and ensures the transferability of reception and integration practices to different local contexts forms a central component of the programme's content and outcomes. The draft programme set out below reflects this approach:

Day 1 Cologne	Morning	Arrival Cologne, check in to the hotel and registration	
	12:00 – 14:00	Welcome, lunch, ice breaking and introduction to the event	
	14:00 -17:45	Presentation of the work of MigrAfrica and partners <i>Describe projects, challenges and how you've overcome them</i> 1. Community based entrepreneurship 2. Job-market integration 3. Inclusion of migrant women	
	18:00 – 21:00	Reception Welcome dinner at (tbc)	
Day 2 Morning Cologne	9:00 – 13:00	Presentation Neue Nachbarn Network at Caritas / Erzbistum Cologne	
	13:00 – 14:30	Travel to a municipality of Unkel, sandwich on the bus	
	Afternoon Unkel	14:30 – 16:00	Look and learn visit to municipality of Unkel supported by MigrAfrica and Neue Nachbarn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit of the ecumenical refugee services: labour market integration, mentor programme, welcome cafés, language courses, housing
		16:00 – 18:30	Presentations of integration programmes by the participating delegations and thematic group discussion with participants and hosts.
		19:00 – 19:30	Check-in to the Hotel in Unkel
	From 20:00	Dinner at (tbc)	
	Day 3 Morning Kerpen-Sindorf	9:00 -12:30	Travel to the municipality of Kerpen-Sindorf Site visit to local projects on refugee participation, particularly, supporting the participation of women and job mentoring
12:30 – 13:30		Lunch	
Afternoon		13:30 – 15:00	Feedback from the field visits and discussion with delegation and hosts

return		Closing - group/peer discussion on recommendations, lessons learnt and possibilities for applicability in participants' local contexts
	15:00 – 16:00	Travel to airport Cologne/Bonn or Frankfurt

a) Presentation of work Migrafrica and Neue Nachbarn (in Cologne)

1. Community based entrepreneurship
2. Job-market integration
3. Inclusion and empowerment of refugee women

b) Site visits

Visits will focus on municipal practices of particular interest as follows:

- Labour market integration
- Language learning
- Volunteering including citizen led initiatives
- Private sponsorship

c) Workshops & closing discussion

The last day of the programme will consist of a afternoon sessions formulating concrete recommendations and a closing discussions to take place at the last site visit location in Kerpen-Sindorf. The reflections will bring together experiences gathered during the site visits and additional promising practices as presented by hosts and participants. They will also give event participants an opportunity to discuss how those practices can be transferred and adapted to their respective countries and municipalities.

Annex 1.

Suggested relevant literature, website links, videos that participating delegates should read before the visit.

MigrAfrica: <https://www.migrafrica.org/2016/02/14/what-we-do/>

Aktion Neue Nachbarn: <https://aktion-neue-nachbarn.de/>

Private Sponsorship pilot programme NesT: <https://www.neustartimteam.de/>

Archbishop of Cologne calls for support to private sponsorship programme: <https://aktion-neue-nachbarn.de/blog-detail/Kardinal-Woelki-ruft-zur-Unterstuetzung-von-NesT-auf-00001/>

Municipality of Unkel: <http://welcome-in-unkel.de/> and <http://integrationswerkstatt-unkel.de/en/>

Municipality of Kerpen-Sindorf: <https://regional.aktion-neue-nachbarn.de/regionale-angebote-vor-ort/rhein-erft-kreis/laufende-projekte/kerpen/>

Annex 2.

Suggested template for site visits, for participants to fill in and take with them for group/peer discussion on recommendations, lessons learnt and possibilities for applicability in their country contexts.

<p>1. <u>What is the practice you have visited?</u></p> <p><i>(maybe this part could be filled in for participants in advance – e.g language learning – takes place for 1 year and is funded by X classes are divided by assessed ability etc etc</i></p>
<p>2. <u>What similarities did you see in this practice and that of your own country?</u></p> <p><i>e.g. funding, you may know this practice for migrants but not refugees?</i></p>
<p>3. <u>What difference did you see with this practice and that of your own country?</u></p>
<p>4. <u>Do you think this practice could be applied in your country? If not why not?</u></p>
<p>5. <u>What did you think was positive about the practice and what did you think was not so positive?</u></p>
<p>6. <u>What Lessons have you learned from seeing this practice?</u></p>