UNION MIGRANTNET

SYNDICAT EUROPEÆN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS NEWSLETTER

1. UMN project's implementing partners in Italy

2. Main goals of the MLP

3. Good Practices

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Final conference in Sofia (September, 2022)

2. MLP & Final Conference in Ljubljana (September, 2022)

THE UMN PROJECT IN ITALY

The Italian reception system is essentially divided into two levels: CAS - Extraordinary Reception Centers (asylum seekers) and SAI - Reception and Integration System (holders of international protection).

UnionMigrantNet and Cities Together for Integration Mutual Learning Programmes (MLPs)

A key part of the UMN project is a series of bilateral **Mutual Learning Program (MLP)** visits of the partners to respective countries to get to know the labour market integration practices in the field. So far, four exchange visits were implemented between Bulgaria and Belgium, Italy and Greece and a tripartite visit between Greece-Italy-Slovenia. The last one - between Slovenia and Italy – will take place in Ljubljana in September.

The MLPs followed various paths on integration of migrants and refugees through the UMN project. In the case of the visits to Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Slovenia, it was also an opportunity to follow the three main migration routes towards Europe: the Central Mediterranean Route, the Eastern Mediterranean Route and the Western Balkan Route. While the participation of partner organizations from Belgium added experiences of good integration practices at the level of central Europe.

NEWS

JOINT MLP of UMN partners from ITALY, GREECE and SLOVENIA

Italy and Greece, being closer to origin migrant countries as well external borders of the EU, are the main entry point for people travelling to Europe on irregular pathways. The EU's exclusionary migration polices force migrants and refugees to find much more circuitous routes toward Italy, Greece and across the Balkans. Particularly during the visits were discussed the risks faced by migrants and refugees during their journeys and the challenges to integrate. Therefore, the reception system and the issues related to migrants' inclusion have totally different dimensions in the 3 countries.

Milan

In the city of Milan there are about 3,000 CAS units, managed by the Prefecture (the local office of the Ministry of the Interior) in collaboration with third sector entities & 757 SAI units (places for adults and families, extremely vulnerable, and unaccompanied foreign minors), managed by the Municipality of Milan & Third sector partners. The presence of women and especially families has increased in recent years.

Municipality of Milan Guide

Between 9-14 May 2022 representatives of partner organisations from Athens (Greece), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the European Trade Union Confederation – ETUC (Belgium) were introduced to the work of the Italian local partner organisations of the UMN project in Milan, Pordenone and Trieste.

UMN project's implementing partners in Italy

Public authorities: Municipality of Milan & CELAV – Centre for Labour Inclusion of the City of Milan & **Municipality of Pordenone**.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): Trade Unions (FISASCAT & ANOLF CISL Milano Metropoli & ANOLF Nazionale & ANOLF Regionale FVG & FAI CISL FVG & CISL Pordenone), local Cooperatives, NGOs and Foundations in the large sense.

Migrants and refugees: Beneficiaries of local projects on integration.

International Partners: ETUC, Municipality of Athens & Athens Labour Unions Organisation (EKA), representatives of **Slovenian Public authorities** and local initiatives: **ZRC SAZU** (Science and research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts), **Municipality of Ljubljana** & **NSDS** (Independent Trade Union of Workers of Slovenia), Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Aim of the Italian **MLP** has been to share concrete experiences, working methods and best practices at national and local level about migrants' integration in the labour market, including the outcomes of the pilot project **"**Labour INT**"** - a milestone for the current UMN project.

The **UMN** project partners in **Milan**: CELAV - Centre for Labour Inclusion of the **Municipality of Milan**, **Fisascat Cisl Milano Metropoli** and ANOLF Milano - Association promoted by **Cisl** provide support of migrants and refugees in collaboration with various stakeholders by implementing social programmes on reception, integration and labour market integration.

The **Municipality of Milan** introduced the international partners to the specific bodies managed by public authorities in collaboration with the third sector: **CAS** - Extraordinary Reception Centres and **SAI** - Italian Reception and Integration System, followed by a visit to a local unit of SAI in Milan providing support to vulnerable people. Another issue discussed was the arrivals of **Ukrainian refugees** fleeing the war in the region.

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

Municipality of Pordenone

Social Services For Fragile TCNs

The Municipality of Pordenone provides information to foreign citizens, residing in the region on services and methods of accessing the local system of Social and Social-Health Services, as well as on all the opportunities present in the area. As regards the integration of TCNs- it supports their orientation through autonomous finding of resources and opportunities, job searching and placement in partnership with **Trade Unions** and local training bodies.

CELAV (the Centre for labour inclusion of the City of Milan is a part of the Social Policies Department. Its mission is to implement programmes for vulnerable people as adult refugees, unaccompanied foreign minors and young migrants. So far was presented the guide "Welcome to Milan" created by the Municipality of Milan for better and easier access to related services together with a range of tutoring activities.

ANOLF - CISL Milano Metropoli is a Trade Union based in Milan and before to join the UMN project it was also one of the main partners of the pilot project "Labour INT"; various actions were introduced as regards the integration and particularly into the labour market of migrants and refugees together with a testimony of an asylum seeker-beneficiary of the project were presented. Through the current UMN project the Trade Union provides an orientation program that includes linguistic courses and professional formation of the participants. Therefore the collaboration of Anolf and Fisascat with Bilateral Bodies and local companies has allowed adding professional training in the catering sector and an internship of 3 months in specific sectors.

READ MORE

Friuli Venezia Giulia region (Pordenone & Trieste)

In **Pordenone** there is a local welcoming network for the integration of foreign citizens managed by the **Orienta Lavoro Service** of the **Municipality of Pordenone** and other local stakeholders, including **Trade Unions (ANOLF FVG)** dealing with welcoming, training, orientation, job placement and inclusion in the local community.

Trade Unions and the UMN project: training activities on integration and employability in the labour market.

Orienta Lavoro and Union Migrant Net

The T-essere project is carried out in collaboration with Caritas of Concordia-Pordenone and the Health Authority of Western Friuli, and aims to develop a tailoring workshop aimed at social inclusion through job placement, socialization and the transmission of knowledge and skills in the field of textiles. Recipients of the project are mainly asylum seekers and refugees, people with disabilities, and other people in disadvantaged conditions.

During the MLP visit network's institutional, administrative and technical representatives shared their experiences on collaboration with the **Trade unions** (**ANOLF**), and particularly on the practices of successful language learning, the professional training, the vocational guidance and the successful job placement. The MLP' participants visited also the multipurpose centre of "**Opera Sacra Famiglia" Foundation (OSF)** providing facilities on accommodation and professional training programs for unaccompanied minors and learned about successful stories of **pre-labour integration** of the young people hosted.

Finally, a visit to the tailor workshop of the "Nuovi Vicini" cooperative followed by a meeting with migrants working there.

New emergencies with impact on migration

As a result of the return to power of the Taliban Italy receives recently a large number of people from Afghanistan together with the Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. Therefore the Italian part of the UMN project was revised in order to give particular support to the **Ukrainian refugees** in the area of the UMN project.

The National Association beyond the Borders (ANOLF) is an association of social promotion born in 1989 by immigrants of different nationalities.

It is structured as a network throughout the Italian territory, thanks to its over 130 offices divided between the National structure based in Rome, the Regional, Provincial and Territorial ones, each with one own statutory independence but linked by common goals, values and mission of promoting and fostering the full integration of foreign citizens.

ANOLF FVG & Municipality of Pordenone, SPRAR, trade unions and trade associations organised through the UMN project a training course in Pordenone, entrusting the management to the SoForm body and with a predominantly female presence: Italian language courses & internships with local companies& final exam acquired.

In **Trieste**, through an **Awareness raising** event organised by the Trade Unions, the regional activities of the project "UnionMingrantNet and Cities Together for Integration" were presented and various objectives on integration were broadly discussed. In addition, represents of the **Trade Unions** of **Greece, Slovenia** and regional *ANOLF* units exchanged experiences and good practices through the **UMN** project.

A number of visits were implemented to various reception and integration facilities for asylum seekers and refugees from the Balkan route, actively involved in serving problems related to the cross-border commuters, reception and integration, such as the **Reception and integration Community for unaccompanied foreign minors, Widespread and civil reception house**, and **House for children** under treatment and / or affected by non-curable diseases in their countries of origin together with their family members (**Struttura Fondazione Lucchetta Ota D'Angelo Hrovatin**).

Good practices

Collaboration between UMN Migrant HUBs of ETUC

* Collaboration of the TU with public authorities (City of Milan & Bilateral Bodies (Anolf &Fisascat & Local companies in Milan- work internships)

* Collaboration between TU and local community (Anolf FVG & Community of Pordenone)

* Pre-integration of minors during the reception period and professional preparation for the labour market (Pordenone)

* On- job trainings, internships and language courses organised by the TU

*The collaboration of the TU with public authorities and local stakeholders (EKA & Municipality of Athens, Greece)

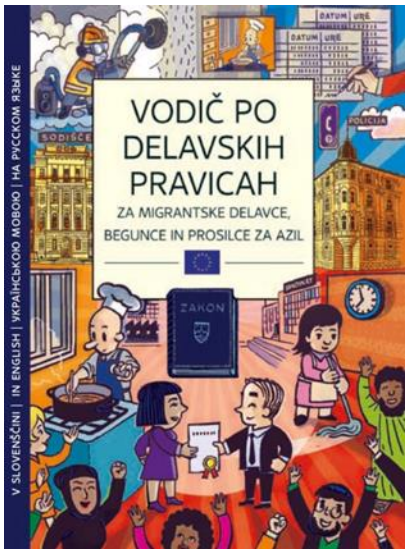
Main goals of the MLP:

- To raise awareness on the benefits of refugees' labour market integration.
- To define the national, regional and local context of all European countries/cities involved in the UMN project and respective challenges, regional active policies and good practices.
- To explore the role of **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**, synergies and collaboration between Public authorities, Civil Society Organisations with an active role of the Trade unions, third sector and local businesses on reception and integration: accommodation, health, legal support, training activities, language and vocational courses, job placement, work internships, safety education, etc.
- To overcome the **gender inequalities**, particularly the employment gap for migrant women due to economic and social factors.
- Involvement in various activities of **unaccompanied minors**: literacy, training, legality, knowledge of one's national / ethnic / religious affiliation to avoid marginalization.
- To propose **new actions** for the **refugees from Ukraine**.
- To search for **new paths on integration**, thus the Social economy and activities on Entrepreneurship skills development may be alternative solutions for integration.

The **migrant emergency** is still seen by the institutions as a 'momentary' phenomenon but it is not and it must be recognized as a real problem that Europe must face and manage. Another issue is the change of the immigration scene in southern Europe, where the countries that were a passage for immigrants became receiving countries. Therefore, **new policies** are needed based not only on temporary reception but also on **long-term integration** of various categories of migrants and refugees.

GOOD PRACTICES

A **Visual guide on labour rights** created by the Slovenian partners was presented in Italy as a successfully implemented good example of creative approach on labour market integration for mixed populations.



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