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Supporting Professional Development of Migrant-related Educators (SUMIGRE)

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SUMIGRE'S PROGRESS

The 4th Transnational Meeting in London

The 4th Transnational SUMIGRE Meeting took place in London between 6 and 7 November 2018. The partners were welcomed to London and held their meeting at the Engine Room, a venue located in the heart of the brand new community facility at the Hale Village, near the head office of Migrants Resource Centre. During the two days of works, the partners presented their research on the development of the second Intellectual Output, i.e. **the Training Curriculum**, and discussed the design of the Modules and the shaping of the e-Learning Platform. Additionally, the partners analysed the results of the Interim Evaluation and Dissemination Reports and they examined the outcomes of organising local workshops with the target audiences at the end of the first year of the project.

Furthermore, the partners had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with our Guest Speakers, the **Protection Gap Advocates**, a group of refugee women campaigners. The women presented their work and described their activities relating to the Protection Gap campaign to improve the gender sensitivity of the UK asylum system. The discussion with the partners included questions on the challenges faced by refugee women, the competences they would like to see in the professionals, who work with them and their methods for training and informing other women, who are going through the asylum claim process.

It was underlined that cultural awareness is paramount to migrants' and refugees' integration and that their participation in social activities reduces the symptoms of isolation and depression and helps to build trust in the communities.

At the end of the second day, the partners visited **Kensington Palace**, which was envisioned as an opportunity for the group to gain new experiences, become more knowledgeable on British historic issues, and be introduced to MRC's activities on promoting the civic and social participation of migrants. The visit was comprised of an Introduction to the Palace's history, a Guided tour to the King's State Apartments, and an Object Handling Collection session; in particular, the last session gave the group access to historic objects. The partners were able to take a closer look at the objects, talk about their origin and develop stories around them.



KOGED

KOCAELİ KÜLTÜREL GELİŞİM
VE DAYANIŞMA DERNEĞİ



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



BDA

Bulgarian Development Agency



SCHOLA EMPIRICA



The Training Curriculum: "Migrant-Related Educators' Training" : The Background to the Course

The current global estimate is that there are **258 million people living in a country other than their country of birth**, which is 3.4 percent of the world's inhabitants. By the end of 2017, 68.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide because of conflict persecution or generalised violence. By the end of 2017, there were more than 25.4 million refugees around the world. More than half – 52 per cent – were children. Among them, 7.4 million were of school age. However, four million refugee children do not attend school, the UNHCR says in the report "Turn the Tide: Refugee Education in Crisis, 2018". The refugee children and youth have far fewer educational opportunities than their peers. Of the entire population of refugees, 54 percent are out of school, compared to 10 per cent of children at primary or lower secondary school level globally – meaning that at this level refugees are five times more likely to be out of school.

Massive flows of migrants affect educational institutions, schools and educators in the host countries. **Education is a fundamental right for all according to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** It is not privilege but a basic need, which helps migrants acquire the knowledge and the life saving skills to build self-reliance and lead fulfilling and independent lives. Migrant children and youth's attainment to education can protect them from exploitation, radicalisation, crime, child soldiering ,child labour, child marriage and trafficking of human beings.

International migration, especially irregular migration, has an enormous impact on educational systems and services globally. These new developments should lead educators, who have a large role to play, to reflect on their teaching practices so that they can address the learning needs of the newly-arrived migrant students efficiently, regardless of their age. They should provide support for refugee students and foster tolerance and respect for diversity in the school community. However, according to research, teachers feel ill-prepared to teach students from diverse socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Handling cultural diversity in the classroom is a new and difficult experience for many. **Effective professional development** provided through pre-service and in-service training, can contribute to teachers' acquisition of relevant skills and competences for managing a multicultural and multilingual classroom. Educators with migrant students are faced with specific challenges which may affect their motivation which is crucial for creating a safe and effective learning environment and for ensuring student motivation in return.

What does the SUMIGRE training offer?

SUMIGRE partners developed the training course to provide sound material support and comprehensive training to educators working with migrants. The training will help educators to recognise their strengths and weaknesses, existing skills, needs and expectations. On the completion of the course, it is hoped that migrant-related educators will be empowered to support diversity better in their work place by adapting their work to individual learning needs and by acquiring new skills and competences.

The **30-hour Training Curriculum** is organised around 7 modules and 3 Annexes, as well as the e-Learning platform. Notably, the Modules are the following:

THE TRAINING CURRICULUM: "MIGRANT-RELATED EDUCATORS' TRAINING"	
Module 1	<i>Human Rights of Migrants</i>
Module 2	<i>Intercultural Awareness</i>
Module 3	<i>Intercultural Competences</i>
Module 4	<i>Intercultural Communication</i>
Module 5	<i>Addressing Discrimination in Education</i>
Module 6	<i>Training in Entrepreneurship</i>
Module 7	<i>Second Language Teaching in Migrant Education</i>

The online training will kick off in May 2019!



The 5th Transnational Meeting in Sofia

The 5th Transnational SUMIGRE Meeting took place in Sofia between 5 and 6 March 2019, where the partners were welcomed by the Business Development Agency. Throughout the meeting, the discussions were focused on the presentation and launch of the e-Learning platform and the piloting of the Training Curriculum, as well as the translation of the Curriculum in all the project partners' languages, the upcoming activities and the project evaluation so far. The upcoming Multiplier events will aim to raise awareness on the importance of supporting the professional development of the migrant-related educators and they will be addressed to representatives of public and private organisations, to school administrators and to policy makers with an interest in migration.

Furthermore, the partners were introduced to the two notable Guest speakers; Mrs. Azhar Alomar-Zlatkova, a leader of the Syrian community in Bulgaria, as well as a social worker and a translator, and Mrs. Anna Andreeva, a social worker, supporting the integration of refugees and immigrants in Bulgaria, an evaluator of projects related to migration in the Bulgarian national authorities and a former Head of a department at the Bulgarian National Agency for Refugees.

The speakers talked about the process of accepting immigrants and refugees in Bulgaria after 2010 and about the specific measures, which were adopted to support their integration. They also talked about the challenges that they have run into while working, the significantly increased number of refugees in Bulgaria and the need to find a way to secure shelter and support to refugees.



The next and final SUMIGRE transnational meeting will take place in **Budapest** between 20 and 21 June 2019.

Project Activities and Promotion

Business Development Agency shared with the partners the results of the Activities' report for the completion of the first year of the project. The presentation included an analysis of each partner's activities and the number of people reached.

Particularly, the activities held by each partner were addressed to Public and Private Organisations, NGOs, local authorities, professionals, volunteers, and local communities. The streams for the project promotion included sharing the updates via our social media and our organisational websites, as well as organising local workshops and participating in community events. On the whole, all the partner activities managed to reach out to the impressive number of **18.534 people**.

The partners have confirmed their strong commitment towards sharing and promoting the Outputs and the Aims of the project and they shall continue to work on organising multiple activities during the second project year as well.



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