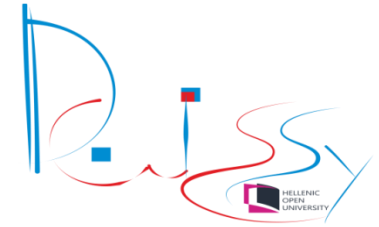




WEMIN
Migrant Women
Empowerment and Integration



Hellenic Open University DAISSy Research Group



AMIF PROJECT *WEMIN*: CREATING TWO-WAY INTEGRATION TOOLS



Migrant Women Empowerment and Integration (*WEMIN*) project was funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund under grant agreement No 776211.

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Hellenic Open University



- HOU is the sole **State University** that offers **formal** and **non-formal lifelong education** to **adult** students from **distance**
- HOU comprises **four Schools** (Social Sciences, Applied Arts, Science and Technology and Humanities)
- The University accepted its first students in 1998
- Currently, **over 35.000 undergraduate and postgraduate students** are registered in the courses offered; each year 5.000 new students are admitted
- HOU offers more than 40 **study programmes** (7 of them undergraduate) and a number of **VET courses**

DAISSy (Dynamic Ambient Intelligent Socio-technical Systems)



- DAISSy research group was founded in 2001 by highly skilled and motivated researchers coming from various backgrounds
- The DAISSy group mission is to promote the wide societal adoption of the broader Ambient Intelligence vision by realizing responsible research and constantly pursuing innovation
- The vision of the researchers of DAISSy group is to contribute to the realization of an **advanced humane society** by inventing **technology that adapts and supports human needs** and not the other way round

DAISSy (Dynamic Ambient Intelligent Socio-technical Systems)



- Since its establishment, DAISSy has coordinated and participated in **more than 45 national and European projects**, in various frameworks (i.e. FP5, FP6, FP7, Lifelong Learning, Erasmus+, H2020, REC, AMIF etc.), amassing a **total funding of more than 2,5 Meuro**. Indicatively:

Multi-culturalism and Inclusion

- TIPS
- Fragemex
- SONETOR
- TIME
- SONET-Bull
- DIVINA-Edu
- Tackle
- WEMIN
- MILE
- MiCreate

Competence Development

- VAB
- LPMnage
- i-Care
- Take Care
- EPOQUE
- DigiPlace
- TOY+
- BRIGHTS

Quality and Education

- CRITON
- P4LLL-Tec
- MOOQ
- KUTEL

Culture

- MuSA
- EuHerit
- SILVHER
- CrowdDreaming

DAISSy holds a solid experience in the successful Project design, management and implementation

Project *WEMIN*: basic information



- ❖ WEMIN – Migrant Women Empowerment and Integration
- ❖ Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF)
- ❖ 2 years
- ❖ Project Partners -> 8 countries
 - Hellenic Open University, **Greece** - Lead partner
 - Olympiaki Ekpaideftiki Kai Symvouleftiki Epe, **Greece**
 - ALDA - European Association For Local Democracy, **France**
 - Folkuniversitetet Stiftelsen Vid Lunds Universitet, **Sweden**
 - Ifa Akademie, **Germany**
 - Oxfam Italia Intercultura Societa Cooperativa, **Italy**
 - Associação Renovar a Mouraria, **Portugal**
 - Southside Partnership DRL, **Ireland**
 - Associacio per a Joves Teb, **Spain**

Main objectives



- Implement and promote a pioneering **model for the integration** of Migrant/Refugee Women (MRW) in the host countries
- Empower MRW to **actively participate** in the socio-cultural life of the communities they live in, and **act as multipliers** within their families and circles
- **Challenge existing narratives** on migration and strengthen the very communities involved, by promoting a close interaction between women of the host and migrant societies
- **Broad dissemination** of GP in MRW integration both inside and outside the partnership countries

Beneficiaries



- ✓ **Direct participants** in the project's activities
- ✓ **Their families** and immediate circles
- ✓ **Institutions** involved in peer learning and dissemination activities
- ✓ **All local communities** where the project's activities have been implemented

1. Selection and Uptake of Good practices



- ✓ Selection and description of 10 GPs in MRW integration
 - **Transferability**
 - **Sustainability**

- ✓ Creation of a **Good Practice Guide**
 - Addressed to all stakeholders
 - Information on **how to replicate or adapt** these practices
 - **Recommendations** on transferring them in partner countries

2. Community development and awareness raising



- ✓ Set the foundation for the **formation of a community** consisting of **MRW and locals**
 - A core set of 40-60 MRW per country was selected to participate in the core project activities
- ✓ Activities to **raise awareness** about project objectives
 - Addressed at **direct and indirect** short and medium term **beneficiaries** (migrants, refugees, migrant communities, policy makers, institutions)

3. Development of skills essential for social inclusion



- ✓ Conduct a **brief needs analysis report**
 - identify specific needs of the participants, that affected the content or methodology of interventions (educational level, level of knowledge of the host country's language, cultural awareness)

- ✓ Design **intervention training program**
 - Collection of existing training materials

 - Development of training **methodology, content, and schedule**

WEMIN learning materials



Seven sections with the following subjects:

- Use of free **language** learning software
- **Vocabulary lists** related to social and cultural life in host country
- **History** of the host country
- **Core values** of host country
- **Social and cultural life** of host country
- The **European dimension**
- Principles of **intercultural communication**

4. Empowerment and mentoring



- ✓ Empower MRW through **information on their rights and the roles of women** in the host societies, as well as on **available support structures/social services**
- ✓ Empower MRW to integrate themselves and to support their families' integration **in the education system** of the host country
- ✓ Facilitate active participation of MRW through **mentoring on opportunities in education, volunteerism and work**

Empowering interventions



Cultural Mediators and experts orientated the MRW on activities related to:

- Women's rights
- Women's health
- Enrollment in school of the children
- Social activities
- Domestic violence and other specific services
- Specific training (VET etc.)
- Job orienting
- Story telling

Mentoring sessions



They were implemented as empowering interventions for those women that demonstrated interest or were in needs of further explanations and training:

- Escort to **social services**, to **renew documents**, to **enroll children** in school etc.
- Escort to **social initiatives and events** of the local community
- Sensitization activities with **training materials** (flyers, videos etc.)
- Specific training on **job orienting** etc.

5. Shared arts, crafts and cultural activities with host community



- ✓ They were implemented as empowering interventions: **Workshops** - multiple sessions to create and explore topics through arts & crafts
- ✓ **Intercultural events**- cultural exchange as a method for dialogue
- ✓ **Exhibition** – opportunity for participants to showcase work and to make visible themes or issues explored in workshops

6. Development of platform



- ✓ **Point of reference** for the members of MRW and host communities
- ✓ **Peer and e-learning activities**
- ✓ Discussion forums and blogs, new posts, comments and announcements (**interactive use**)
- ✓ **Sustainability** of the project and its interventions

Policy Makers Guide



✓ General Observations

- **Level of implementation** (fragmented actions, local level, lack of dissemination)
- Lack of **sustainability** and exploitation plan
- Lack of **holistic approach** to women's needs
- Not offered on a permanent basis to **foster full integration**
- Difficulty in ensuring **regular attendance** and long term commitment
- Lack of **synergies**

Policy Makers Guide



Health

- Lack of **knowledge**
- Feelings of **distress** and unhappiness
- Specific **barriers to access** to healthcare services (cultural, religious)
- **Sexual and reproductive** health

Policy Makers Guide



Recommendations

- Interventions focused on **training and knowledge acquisition in healthcare matters**
- Enhance the **cultural and interpersonal competencies** of people working in health and social services
- Develop and provide **holistic psycho-social support** and therapy programmes especially for MRW who have suffered **GBV**

Policy Makers Guide



Employment opportunities

- **Unemployment rates** for TCN and especially MRW are **very high**
- **Stigmatization** and development of **stereotypes** concerning their professional and working abilities
- **Lack of inspiring role models** for young MRW
- High **digital illiteracy**

Policy Makers Guide



Recommendations

- **Monitor the trends** of the labour market
- Develop communication channels that allow the **connection and networking** of MRW with the local market/businesses
- Foster and facilitate **social entrepreneurship** and/or support the development of entrepreneurship skills for MRW
- Design projects that improve basic **technological/digital competences** of MRW
- Launch **information campaigns** aiming at the local population

Policy Makers Guide



Social participation opportunities

- Greater level of **isolation**
- Few opportunities for **MRW and women of the host country** to meet, converse and exchange ideas about their **shared experiences** as women

Parenting role

- Not much attention is given to the support of the **immigrant parents' educative role** in relation to their children
- Migrant children experience more **educational disadvantages** and lack of educational opportunities

Policy Makers Guide



Recommendations

- Design projects and policies addressed to **both** MRW and women from the host countries
- Promote **peer-to-peer learning activities** as a means to enhance the exchange of knowledge between women
- Design interventions that allow MRW to become autonomous, **informed and involved citizens** in their host society
- Develop projects especially addressed to **migrant mothers**/common activities for migrant women and their **children**/involve the **school environment**

Creating two-way integration tools



- What does it mean? ->a challenge, increased difficulties
- ✓ Importance of the interaction
- Involve both MRW and host community in all possible stages
- Successful integration -> two-way positive results

Current state of the art

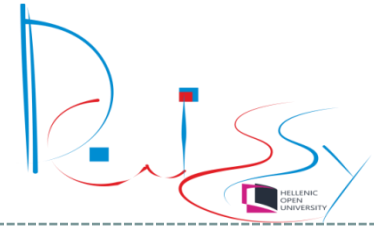


- All activities have almost been concluded
- Platform evaluation
- ✓ Final Conference: ***Women in Displacement: gender, migration and the challenges of integration in Europe of today, 8-9.12.2019***



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For further information



➤ Website: <http://www.wemin-project.eu/el/>

➤ Platform: <https://www.culturalmediators.eu/wemin-platform/>

➤ #WEMIN, #WEMINPROJECT

✓ Info: info@daissy.eap.gr

Web
– <http://daissy.eap.gr>

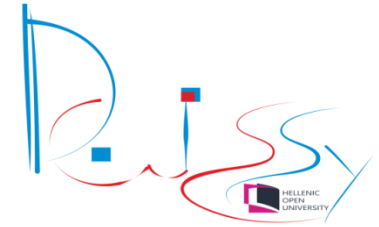
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