



**O5 Policy Paper**

# Policy Paper

Final

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**Erasmus+**

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## 1. Context

During the last years, the EU is experiencing an unprecedented influx of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers hoping to experience the European Dream and to build a new life away from their country of origin.

As assessed by Eurostat, in 2016 the number of people living in the EU28 who had been born outside of the EU was just over 36 million, representing about 7% of the total EU population.

Migration is a huge, complex phenomenon, capable of having significant economic, social and cultural implications, but it is not a new phenomenon for Europe. Migrant communities – in fact – have always made a major contribution to the economic development of the Union and to the social and cultural diversity which characterizes the European society today.

Nowadays, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers risk to deal with greater social exclusion than the native population, mainly referring to accessing education, social services, health and employment. Among them, women and girls are particularly at risk and require tailored gender-sensitive migration, asylum and integration policies and measures.

Migrant women and girls are able to impact in an extraordinary and positive way on the host country, mainly if they are able to become a resource and an asset for the host country.

Migrant women's and girls' role within families and communities should be recognized as pivotal and particular emphasis should be placed on their empowerment.

The partners of the ENGAGE consortium believe that effective migrants' integration should be concretized through education supporting and empowering migrant women and girls to act as integration and community leaders.

This Policy Paper aims to place emphasis on the essential role that migrant women and girls can play assuring sustainable and long-term integration measures if they are properly trained as they have been captured and reflected by the ENGAGE project consortium and stakeholders.



## 2. Project approach and results

This Policy Paper has been issued in the framework of the project ENGAGE: “Supporting Migrant Women as Integration Leaders”. ENGAGE is a project funded by the Erasmus+ French National Agency and its implementation spans from 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2019.

ENGAGE project is promoted by an experienced and engaged consortium representing 6 EU countries:

1. Cooperative Sud Concept (FR)
2. Cooperative Speha Fresia (IT)
3. DANTE, Adult Education Institution (HR)
4. BEST, Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH (AT)
5. Future in Perspective (IR)
6. CARDET, Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CY)

ENGAGE consortium partners are of the opinion that migrant integration will not be achieved by doing to migrant communities, or doing for migrant communities, but rather only by doing *with* migrant communities. It is for this reason that the whole project implementation has been carried out establishing Local Working Groups in each country, in order to fully engage migrant women and girls, adult education and migrant support workers as well as territorial stakeholders developing:

- a bespoke **integration leader curriculum** addressed to migrant women and girls that supports the acquisition of key skills essential to their new role as integration leaders in their communities. It is a 65-pages document presenting learning modules and resources developed to build skills, knowledge and competences through non-formal and informal learning methods. It is available in 6 EU languages (EN, FR, DE, GR, HR, IT) and it is structured in 6 modules (Interpersonal Skills; Assertive Communication; Cultural Identity; Community Empowerment; Civic Engagement; Leadership)
- an **in-service training programme** for adult education and migrant support workers working in migrant support centres that provides clear guidance and suggestions on how to address and implement training content and activities addressed to migrant women and girls. It is a 40-pages document available in 6 EU languages (EN, FR, DE, GR, HR, IT)
- a **cascading model of integration** where each woman and girl trained as Integration Leader engages a minimum of 5 migrant women in local micro-networks;
- a **toolbox of 85 resources** to support the integration of migrant women and girls. Resources are available in 6 languages (EN, FR, DE, HR, IT, Arabic)
- a **policy paper** – the present document – in order to promote policy change at local, regional, national and EU level.

All these outputs are accessible online on the project website and e-learning platform (<http://www.engageproject.eu>).



### 3. Recommendations to Policy Makers and Stakeholders

Based on ENGAGE methodology and experience, partners recommend policy makers and stakeholders to focus on the following key issues:

1. To assure impact, every measure, service, action provided on the ground should be designed and implemented based on migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking **women's and girls' needs** as well as migrant communities' needs.
2. To guarantee ownership and commitment, it is very important to fully and actively **engage migrant**, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls and migrant communities during the whole path of social, civic and economic integration.
3. To ensure sustainable and long-term integration, it is crucial:
  - To support and **train migrant**, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls to act **as community and integration leaders**.
  - To enable trained community and integration leaders to **become providers of integration services** within their own community.
4. To allow community building and mainstreaming, it is very important **to engage all relevant actors** at all levels (such as public institutions, NGOs, Grassroot associations, Migrant associations, etc.) during the whole path of social, civic and economic integration.
5. To promote sustainability and innovation, benchmark activities at EU level should result in **tailored and country-based measures**, services and actions.
6. To capitalise on innovation, **certified, tested and innovative methodologies**, approaches and tools in the field of social, civic and economic integration should be implemented at all levels.

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