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Familiarising-with-the-Place Workshop Report

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WP2 Familiarising-with-the-Place Workshop Report

1. Introduction

The “Familiarising-with-the-Place” Workshops were one of the WP2 Orientation Action Involving the Local Community activities. A One-Stop-Shop was established under the DREAMM project to promote: Social Activities for Vulnerable Groups, Language Cafés, and Language Courses (See Teacher's diary), Familiarising-with-the-Place Workshops and Being-a-Citizen Workshops (See Being-a-Citizen Workshop Report). This set of activities aimed to foster the process of integration and inclusion of newly arrived migrants by providing them with a safe space to share their experiences and emotions, network and connect with local stakeholders that could help migrants with their daily needs, understanding of their rights and responsibilities and their wider integration into the host community. A comprehensive report of activities can be found in One-Stop-Shop Report.

Familiarising-with-the-Place Workshops aimed to introduce migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to different local services and promote knowledge of the local system. After arriving in their new country, newly arrived migrants face many challenges: They need to familiarise themselves with the country and its cultural elements, know the services and how to access them, learn to use public transport, etc. Through these workshops, migrants can learn about the host country, its services, and opportunities and, most importantly, turn to professionals who can help them with their needs.

Each partner organised the workshops using different planning methods, but all involved DREAMM Lead-Mentors and Mentors. In some cases, the workshops were organised together with local stakeholders active in the fields of migration, inclusion, and integration. The main target group was newly arrived migrants, but anyone with a particular interest in the issues was welcome.

It is important to note that the DREAMM project started during the Covid 19 pandemic. For this reason, all workshops were conducted with security measures in mind, and some workshops took place online due to local restrictions and containment measures.

When possible, the workshops were conducted in person as in the case of Perugia, Naples, Athens, Nicosia, Vienna, La Valletta, Göttingen and Altwarmbüchen. The activities were implemented mainly at the headquarters of the partner associations.

2. National Experiences

Austria – die Berater

Three workshops were conducted by die Berater in Vienna between May and June 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Am I talking German? Talking with your body and objects - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was about using methods from improvisational theatre and fantasy languages, so the participants tried to communicate without using verbal language. The message of the activities was clear: Communication is possible in all settings, and it does not depend only on spoken language – this knowledge is crucial for migrants to help to overcome barriers that might be an obstacle to a successful integration process.
2	<p>Topic: Am I talking German? Talking with your body and objects - 6 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop aimed to show how it could be possible to communicate by using everyday objects. The participants interacted by using objects from their life.
3	<p>Topic: Everyday people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop used a combination of observation and mimesis to get participants familiar with the place and its inhabitants in a new and deeper way. As performing in public spaces decreases inhibitions, the participants found joy in being active and visible in public and feel empowered to be an active part of society. Furthermore, they also got to know better Vienna, their new home, which helped them in the integration process.

Cyprus – C.I.P.

Five workshops were conducted by Citizens in Power (C.I.P) in Nicosia and Larnaca.

1	<p>Topic: Microcontrollers in Modern farming - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was an opportunity for migrants to learn how microcontrollers (namely Arduino) can be used to enhance opportunities in farming, especially for those seeking to establish an enterprise in that field. This is especially important as farming is a profession in dire need of professionals in Cyprus and offers many opportunities for migrants who are looking to be employed.
2	<p>Topic: Increase your Technical capacity through 3D printing - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was an introduction to the concept of 3D printing to migrants and how the skills acquired from knowing its use can be utilised for enhancing labour market opportunities.
3	<p>Topic: The local labour and education markets, opportunities, and points of contact - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop informed migrants about most major job-searching websites and forums in Cyprus, the structure of the educational system and the opportunities for night classes and VET schools, and Cypriot organizations such as the Cyprus Refugee Council. - Organised with the support of Emphasis centre and RESET, two NGOs and research organisations based in Cyprus, and it had representatives from The Cyprus Refugee Council and the CSI (Cyprus NGO)
4	<p>Topic: Network through music and dance - 15 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop introduced migrants to local cultural places in Nicosia, as well as local education centres offering lessons for traditional Cypriot/Middle Eastern dancing and music practices. The participants were informed about after-school classes offered for free by the Ministry of Education and VET schools. Event participants had the opportunity to speak to two music teachers who also taught them how to sing one of the most traditional Cypriot songs.
5	<p>Topic: Museums tour Larnaca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was a visit to the biggest cultural institutions in Larnaca. Participants were informed about the events and frequent job positions/careers at museums due to the nature of the various exhibitions.

Germany - blinc

Five workshops were conducted by blinc in Göttingen and Altwarmbüchen.

1	<p>Topic: Workshops in Altwarmbüchen (Berggarten)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was a chance for migrants to see a part of the nearby city of Hannover that they might otherwise have missed. The goal of the workshops was to bring migrants and locals together and allow them to discover Hannover together.
2	<p>Topic: Workshops in Altwarmbüchen (Heilpflanzengarten)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was an opportunity for migrants to see a part of the nearby city of Hannover that they might otherwise have missed. The goal of the workshops was to bring migrants and locals together and allow them to discover Hannover together.
3	<p>Topic: Sports/Park event in Göttingen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was organised by a Lead-Mentor that planned a trip to a park “Schillerwiesen” for the participants of our language course, after finding out that none of the TCNs in question had ever been there before. The park is quite popular among the local population, but due to its location in an expensive residential area.
4	<p>Topic: City tour in Göttingen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop took place in Göttingen and participants were shown various points of interest, including several places “off the beaten path” places like hidden-away playgrounds and historical sites.
5	<p>Topic: Partizipacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was about discrimination and prejudice, so participants did a role-play activity to discuss these issues and overcome them.

Greece - IASIS

Six workshops were conducted by IASIS in Athens between April and September 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Greek History I and Greek History II - Date: 06/06/2022 and 07/06/2022 - 6 migrants from Nigeria, Togo and Syria reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop followed the evolution of Greek culture from the Bronze Age to the end of the ancient era as seen in its political, intellectual, and artistic accomplishments. Students read contemporary academic literature that had been translated into English, to get a historical idea regarding the host country.
2	<p>Topic: Cultural Heritage of Greece I and Cultural Heritage of Greece II - Date: 08/06/2022 and 09/06/2022 - 6 migrants from Nigeria, Togo and Syria reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop provided TCNs with the knowledge and skills necessary to experience Greece's physical and natural beauties, learn about the significance of certain cultural legacies around the country, and hone their public speaking abilities.
3	<p>Topic: Get-to-know with the neighbourhood - Date: 18/07/2022 - 6 migrants from Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop aimed to introduce migrants to the local neighbourhood, including the exploration of social parks, places to spend leisure time and places to socialize.
4	<p>Topic: Public Transportation Navigation - Date: 20/07/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was guided by a Lead-Mentor that introduced the public transportation system of Athens. Migrants were informed about the prices and the process of purchasing and validating the ticket cards. In addition, a route from Pireaus to Kifisia was taken by using 3 different transportation methods.
5	<p>Topic: Navigation to the City - Date: 30/08/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migrants toured the region's reaches from the sea to the mountains and examined some of the city's most historic locations, such as the Acropolis, Thiseio, Monastiraki, and Kolonaki.
6	<p>Topic: Social interaction with locals - Dates: 31/08/2022 - 6 migrants from Pakistan reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was focused on an open discussion activity in the Athens municipality of Nea Filadelfia with the support of the Lead-Mentors and the IASIS Project Manager. In this activity, 18 Connect Your City volunteers spoke with migrants about social issues, including the demand for labour and the availability of support services for immigrants.

Italy - CIDIS

Perugia

Five workshops were conducted by Cidis in Perugia between May and August 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Discovering Leonardo Cenci's park - Date: 03/05/2022 - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop took place in a famous park in Perugia. The workshop was organised with the Italian course, so it was an opportunity for migrants to practice the park glossary learned in class. Migrants and volunteers were divided into two heterogeneous teams to do an orienteering activity to explore the park.
2	<p>Topic: Discovering the city centre and the main shops - Date: 20/05/2022 - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was organised by the teacher of Italian Course A1 to improve the students' skills to enjoy the city centre's autonomy and to converse with store clerks. Participants took a walk to discover the main places and shops in the city centre. After that, the activity starts: migrants had to find the shops and record a video of themselves talking with the salespeople to pretend to buy something.
3	<p>Topic: Discovering Corso Cavour area and Frontone's Gardens - Date: 01/06/2022 - 9 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was organised with the teacher of Italian Course A1 and the target was the students, who visited one of the main streets in Perugia: Corso Cavour. It was an opportunity to discover the main medical offices, children's schools, restaurants, and libraries. The walk ended at Frontone's Gardens.
4	<p>Topic: Discovering the intercultural street Corso Garibaldi - Date: 03/06/2022 - 10 migrants reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was organised with the teacher of Italian Course A1 and the target was the students. They took a walk in Corso Garibaldi, which is one of the most intercultural streets in Perugia, with many ethnic restaurants and foreign students. At the end of the walk, we cooked "Pasta al Pomodoro" with fresh ingredients.
5	<p>Topic: Discovering the Urban Gardens in Perugia - Date: 25/08/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was thought for migrants newly arrived from One Roof Community Meetup. They took a walk to explore Corso Garibaldi and Sant'Angelo's Park until San Matteo degli Armeni Library. There they visited the garden while the guide explained how people from the neighbourhood cultivate the vegetable garden, how they divide the products and how everyone can participate.

Naples

Five workshops were conducted by Cidis in Napoli between September and December 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Discovering the Orto Botanico- Date: 24/09/2022 – 18 migrants reached</p> <p>This workshop was organized at the Botanical Garden of Naples, in collaboration with the FAI Volunteers, a non-profit foundation that works to protect, preserve, and enhance the Italian historical, artistic, and naturalistic heritage. The FAI volunteer group is composed of foreign citizens, including a woman who attends the activities of the DREAMM Project. The group of volunteers FAI accompanied the DREAMM group on an interesting walk to discover the plants of the Garden. At the end of the walk, the FAI volunteers also explained to the participants the activities of the Foundation and how to become volunteers. The visit was an opportunity to promote the activities of the DREAMM project and active participation in the territory through voluntary activities.</p> <p>The initiative was attended by DREAMM Mentors, students of Italian courses carried out within the DREAMM project, foreign citizens participating in One Roof Community Meetup (One-Stop-Shop) and Italian citizens.</p>
2	<p>Topic: Discovering the Real Bosco Capodimonte - Date: 09/10/2022 - 23 migrants reached</p> <p>The workshop, promoted with an electronic poster, was divided into two moments: a guided tour in the avenues and meadows around the National Museum of Capodimonte with DREAMM Mentors and foreign citizens and a picnic on the main lawn with games for children. The goal was to promote DREAMM Project and create new relationships between Italian and foreign citizens through games, music, and songs.</p> <p>The initiative was attended by a DREAMM Mentor, students of Italian courses carried out within the DREAMM project, foreign citizens participating in One Roof Community Meetup (One-Stop-Shop) and Italian citizens.</p>
3	<p>Topic: Discovering Pausilypon - Date: 23/10/2022 - 14 migrants reached</p> <p>The workshop was organized in two neighbourhoods of Naples, Posillipo and Bagnoli, unknown by foreign citizens. The meeting began with a walk in the former working-class district of Bagnoli and continued with a visit to the Archaeological Park of Pausilypon, crossing the Cave of Seiano, then ending with a walk on the Bagnoli's Bridge at sunset. The official of the Superintendence, as a guide, accompanied the DREAMM group illustrating the history of the Archaeological Park of Pausilypon and telling anecdotes and events related to the place. The participants were very happy because they got to know new places in the city.</p> <p>The visit to the two districts of Naples was an opportunity for participants to learn about the history of Naples, get to know each other and create new relationships with Italian citizens who participated in the meeting.</p> <p>The initiative was attended by a DREAMM Mentor, students of Italian courses carried out within the DREAMM project, foreign citizens participating in One Roof Community Meetup and Italian citizens.</p>
4	<p>Topic: Discovering the Parco Sociale Ventaglieri - Date: 03/06/2022 - 13 migrants reached</p> <p>This workshop was organized in the central Ventaglieri Social Park of Naples, in the Montesanto neighbourhood, during the "October Festival," organized by the associations that organize activities in the park (workshops, meetings, book presentations, Social Carnival, football matches). A representative of the Association "Parco Sociale Ventaglieri" told the participants about the history of the park and the various activities that take place inside. During the workshop, the participants had a relationship with Italian citizens and created moments of exchange and encounter. The meeting was an opportunity to present to foreign citizens a green area in the city centre, easily accessible on foot or by public transport, and to promote the DREAMM Project to the associations of the Social Park Ventaglieri and to imagine future collaborations.</p> <p>The initiative was attended by a DREAMM Mentor, students of Italian courses carried out within the DREAMM project, foreign citizens participating in One Roof Community Meetup (One-Stop-Shop) and Italian citizens.</p>
5	<p>Topic: Discovering the Museo Archeologico di Napoli - Date: 11/12/2022 - 20 migrants reached</p> <p>This workshop was held in the National Archaeological Museum of Naples and was organized to answer the request to discover the archaeological beauties of Naples by some foreign citizens, after the visit to the Archaeological Park of Pausilypon in October. An expert guide accompanied the participants during the visit, telling the history of the museum and presenting the different collections housed inside.</p>

Malta - UM

Five workshops were conducted by the University of Malta in La Valletta between September and October 2022.

1	<p>Topic: Cultural heritage excursion in Valletta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was an opportunity for migrants to delight themselves in the vast knowledge one of the Lead-Mentors owns about local history while walking along fortification walls, through the most emblematic districts and old regions within both locations and roaming the narrow alleys.
2	<p>Topic: Cultural heritage excursion in Mdina/Rabat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With this workshop, migrants could appreciate the different architectural styles marking the island's diverse conquerors along the passage of time while learning fascinating details about the legends of the places' origins and the local people's customs across centuries.
3	<p>Topic: Mater Dei Hospital Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was organised in collaboration with the health-MDH Maltese Department and the Sudanese Community and consisted of an informative visit at Mater Dei. Migrants attempted a brief tour of the hospital and discovered what the different coloured sections stand for and what type of services can avail themselves of in each section. One of the Customer Care officers explained to migrants how to approach Customer Care in case they would like to make an appointment, file a complaint, etc. and the documentation they need to present.
4	<p>Topic: Identity Malta workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was an opportunity for migrants to discover Identity Malta. A liaison person at Identity Malta took participants for a brief tour around the organisation's offices, explaining the services migrants can obtain within the sections being visited.
5	<p>Topic: Meeting with the Head of Quality and Training within the Office of the Prime Minister Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This workshop was online and about the newly launched government website servizz.gov. Participants learned how to apply online for an E-ID, Tax and Social Security numbers, Lifelong Learning Courses, and training programmes via Jobsplus.

3. The role of Lead-Mentors and Mentors

The participation of Lead-Mentors and Mentors in most of the workshops was fundamental for the success of the activities. They have always been actively involved and in many cases have been involved in the organisation of the workshop itself. The experience, network, and skills of the Mentors and especially the Lead-Mentors were of great value. They supported the DREAMM teams in each country designing the workshops and preparing the necessary materials. Sometimes they ran the workshop and guided participants in the activities. This happened especially when Lead-Mentors or Mentors had relevant competencies they wanted to share with the migrants.

Usually, these workshops took place outdoors or in offices of collaborating institutions or associations not directly involved in the DREAMM project. In these cases, Lead-Mentors and Mentors have played a fundamental role. They acted as a bridge between third-country nationals and the local community by offering a first interpretation or translation, introducing activities to the locals to get them involved, and helping third-country nationals to communicate with the staff in the offices and shops and to move around the area.

Some countries experimented with combining language courses with the Familiarising-with-the-Place workshops. This aimed at providing participants with relevant language skills when navigating their new environment. In these cases, the support of Lead-Mentors and Mentors was fundamental to spark mutual exchange and participation, while strengthening the newly developed relationships. Spending time together, volunteers and migrants could talk to each other to know each other better and practice the local languages using everyday words and expressions.

In conclusion, the active participation of Lead-Mentors and Mentors was fundamental to helping design the workshops, carry out activities, involve migrants in the local community and create a relationship based on mutual exchange. It is important to bear in mind that the main difference between a Lead-Mentor and Mentor is the degree of experience and involvement. In most of the territories, Lead-Mentors were professionals that attended the training to enhance their knowledge in migration, intercultural communication, and facilitation. They acted as coordinators that encouraged Mentors to participate and be proactive while guiding them in their interactions with third-country nationals. On the other hand, they were figures that remained constant in the activities and interactions with third-country nationals, facilitating the process of integration and social connection. (See One-Stop-Shop Report; the role of Lead-Mentor and Mentor).