

MMS PROJECT

In the second year in our project, we have delivered the second pilot training of MMS course. We would like to high light some succes stories of our learners who have really benefitted from the training across partners.



Germany

F.V. used to work as a pharmacist in Iran. Sixteen months ago, he was forced to emigrate from Iran because of religious reasons and he is currently living as a refugee in exile in Germany. Due to the political situation in Iran, the prospects of F.V.'s being able to return there are, for the time being, non-existent.

Despite his difficult personal circumstances, F.V.'s willingness to learn the language and integrate into German society has been outstanding. In only one year, he has reached a very good level of German-language proficiency and has taken part in a variety of social activities including voluntary service for migrants, integration courses and, some weeks ago, our 2nd Pilot Training.

Although initially his main motivation to enrol in our course was to improve his German-language skills, F.V. stated that what he gained from the course goes beyond the linguistic. One of the key aspects that F.V. cited when making this statement was him becoming able to break communication barriers with pedestrians, which was part of the activities during the city rally. Being part of a (multicultural) group provided him with the necessary confidence to approach people on the street, episodes that, in some cases, turned into relaxed and funny conversations.

Also, F.V. said that being able to engage with service providers within the framework of this course was very helpful in terms of developing an understanding of where these professionals are coming from and thus improving his capacity for effective communication and capitalising on the opportunities they present to him.

Last but not least, F.V. stated that he believes all migrants/people who face disadvantage should attend this course in order to improve their social skills, gain self-confidence and facilitate integration into their new society.



F.V. during his presentation as Cultural Ambassador for service providers



Participants from the 2nd Pilot Course during their visit to the DRK (German Red Cross).



Denmark: Interview with Rita from the 2nd pilot course CBSI

Rita wanted to join the pilot course after hearing about it from her teacher. "I enjoyed very much this project as we were working in groups, so we could help each other and learn from each other and about each other's cultures, too

We had to be very active all the way through. First we were learning how to talk to each other in the group-work. We were practicing to say 'I agree with you' and I don't agree with you etc.'

Then we had to prepare some questions for the interviews we were going to do in different workplaces. My group visited 'Rigshospitalet' and we had to do it without our teachers. That was challenging and a very good experience.

We learned a lot about the Danish healthcare system and hospitals. There is such a big difference between my country and the Danish culture. Afterwards we had to write our interviews with the computer. Then we had to learn how to present it to many people. At first the thought of doing this made me nervous, but when we practiced, I got more relaxed and it all went very well."



UK: Special thanks to the guest speakers.

In this Newsletter I would like to say a special thanks to all the guest speakers who gave their time and expertise to our learners. Without your support and time this training would not have been complete and learners could not have benefitted so much. Helen's Library talk and visit have been very much the highlight of the training. A visit to CCTV, CAB free advice and insight to their

housing has also been extremely useful even for us as a local residents. The school admission information was also useful to learners with children. Other services information was also received very positively. The learner's feedback was that they could not have learnt all this information anywhere else in such a short amount of time.





Turkey: Haluk is talking about the course and finding a job:

Hi, my name is Haluk.

I was graduated from university but it is very difficult to find a job if you are Roma. And actually I lack confidence to be able to apply for a job. I have attended this MMS course and it made a great difference in my life. I shared my problems, expectations and needs. The course really improved my self-confident. To meet a person from another country was a great experience. Thanks to George. We have made visits to Public Services and it was a chance for me to find a job. Now I have job and I can be a role-model for my people and for the Roma youth.



Greece:
2nd pilot course
in Greece

The second pilot was delivered in Athens from 9th to 13th of March and there were 11 participants from Albania, Romania, Kenya, Eritrea, Ukraine, Sudan, Pakistan, Egypt and Georgia. The participants spent 2 days in the classroom doing activities about discrimination and working with psychologists. The other days included outdoor activities. Participants visited local municipality, a bank, Athens Solidarity Center and the historic center of Athens.

During the pilot we hosted Harald from Norway for the staff exchange and he participated in many activities, presented the way Norway integrates different cultures and had discussion with the participants. In second pilot we used a facebook group as an e-learning tool to support the training activities, share materials and use it as communication platform.



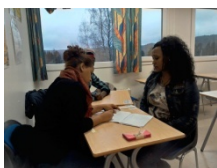
Norway

Norway went through with their second pilot course in the last week of February. There were 12 participants from the following countries: Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

During the week the participants visited 5 different services. These were the local health centre, a bank, a kindergarten, a church and a museum.

A representative from each service gave information to the students. In addition the participants spent time on the internet visiting the webpages of several public and private services in Norway, including the tax agency, the postal service and one second hand market similar to eBay.

The evaluation at the end of the course week showed that the students were happy learning about the Norwegian society and culture. One man stated that he really enjoyed visiting a kindergarten and watching how the children were playing there. Another lady wrote that it was the first time she ever heard about the child welfare service. However, we received some negative feedback on walking across the graveyard while visiting the local church. Some found it too touching to learn about how dead people are buried in Norway. Norway hosted the Turkish staff member Necmi Gündüz during the course. He contributed to a positive atmosphere within the group.



Classroom activity.



Visiting old buildings at an open air museum.



Visit to the local health centre.



Visit to Birkenes Church.

