



CREATIVE METHODS
SUPPORTING
Migrant integration



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Creative methods supporting migrant integration

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Research Manager:	Danijela Frangež, University of Maribor, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security
Joint Report prepared by:	Danijela Frangež
Design of the joint report:	Laura León and Pilar Naranjo, INCOMA
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BELGIUM

PREFACE

In this chapter we focus on creative methods for integrating migrants and refugees; they are bridges that span cultural divides, fostering empathy, understanding, and shared experiences. We refer to projects in community centres, around campfires, or through digital platforms, where migrants and refugees share their journeys, share tales of survival—the perilous sea crossings, the kindness of strangers. These stories challenge stereotype and humanize the "other." The methods used are very diverse: from theatre and music, or photovoice that empowers individuals to tell their stories through images. (Visual) arts in general play a significant role in fostering integration. Refugees and locals collaborating to create vibrant murals that depict their collective histories, dreams, and cultural heritage. Or collaborative art workshops that offer a safe space for migrants to express themselves creatively, breaking down language barriers through the universal language of art. These creative methods are not isolated techniques but interconnected expressions of our shared humanity. They invite us to listen, learn, and co-create a more compassionate world. By sharing stories through music, theatre, story circles, photovoice, and visual arts, a community is built that values and celebrates diversity, where everyone can find a place to belong.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Collecting stories from refugees can be a creative and empowering process that allows individuals to share their experiences, preserve their narratives, and promote understanding. In this document we focus on the process of allowing refugees, newcomers and migrants to share their story in a 'creative' way to reinforce their integration process. We will focus on story telling in general and its benefits and zoom in on specific methods to elicit stories.

The global refugee crisis has led to an unprecedented displacement of individuals, creating challenges related to trauma, integration, and mental health. In addressing the multifaceted needs of refugees, storytelling methods have emerged as a powerful tool for fostering resilience, facilitating communication, and aiding in the process of healing. This theoretical background explores the importance of storytelling methods with refugees, emphasizing their potential to empower individuals, build community connections, and contribute to the overall well-being of displaced populations.

One of the primary reasons storytelling holds immense importance with refugees is its therapeutic impact on mental health. Forced displacement often leads to experiences of trauma, loss, and disorientation. Narrative therapy (Lely et

al., 2019), a form of psychotherapy centred on personal storytelling, has been proven effective in helping individuals process and make sense of their experiences. By providing a structured platform for refugees to share their stories, whether orally or through written



mediums, storytelling becomes a means of self-expression, fostering psychological healing and resilience.

Also, refugees often grapple with the challenge of reconstructing their identities in the face of displacement (Islam, 2017). Storytelling becomes a vehicle for individuals to assert and preserve their

cultural identity. Narratives allow refugees to articulate their histories, traditions, and values, reinforcing a sense of belonging amidst unfamiliar surroundings. Through storytelling methods, refugees can not only share their unique cultural perspectives but also educate host communities, fostering cross-cultural understanding and reducing stereotypes.

Storytelling also empowers refugees by giving them agency over their narratives (Herman, 2017). In many displacement scenarios, individuals may feel a loss of control over their lives. By providing a platform for storytelling, refugees regain a sense of agency as they shape and share their own experiences. This empowerment contributes to increased self-esteem and a sense of purpose, crucial elements in the process of rebuilding lives and communities.

Furthermore, can storytelling methods play a vital role in building connections within refugee communities and bridging gaps with host communities. Shared narratives create a sense of solidarity among refugees, fostering a supportive community where individuals feel understood and validated. Additionally, storytelling serves as a bridge for communication with host communities, promoting empathy and dispelling misconceptions. Through shared stories, commonalities emerge, breaking down barriers and building a foundation for social integration (Dennison, 2021).

Storytelling also serves as an educational tool, raising awareness about the challenges faced by refugees. Personal narratives humanize the refugee experience, making it more relatable to a broader audience. This increased understanding can lead to advocacy efforts that address policy changes, dispel stereotypes, and promote inclusive practices. Through storytelling, refugees become agents of change, contributing to a more compassionate and informed society.

In conclusion, storytelling methods emerge as a crucial and multi-faceted tool in addressing the challenges faced by refugees. Beyond its therapeutic benefits, storytelling facilitates identity construction, empowers individuals, builds communities, and contributes to education and advocacy efforts. Recognizing the significance of storytelling in the context of forced displacement is essential for implementing effective programs and interventions that promote the well-being and resilience of refugees worldwide.

There exist many ways of story sharing (Salgado & Patuzzi, 2022) like theatre, music, and visual arts. These serve as poignant mediums for refugees and migrants to narrate their unique stories, fostering a sense of community and shared understanding. Through the emotive power of theatre for instance, individuals can dramatize their experiences of displacement and the quest for belonging, allowing audiences to witness the complexities of migration and the resilience required to forge new lives. Music, transcending language, offers a universal platform where the melodies and rhythms of diverse cultures can converge, creating a harmonious dialogue between the past and present. But also, visual arts in general, including painting, photography, and sculpture, provide refugees with a non-verbal language to express their emotions, memories, and hopes. These artistic expressions not only facilitate personal catharsis but also act as a bridge, connecting the experiences of migrants with the broader community, thereby humanizing the abstract concept of 'refugee' and promoting a deeper, empathetic connection.



RESEARCH METHODS

To gather data for this exploration of creative methods for integrating migrants and refugees, a combination of research methodologies was employed. A systematic literature review was conducted to comprehensively analyse existing studies and reports on the subject. This method ensured a thorough review of relevant literature, providing a solid foundation of knowledge.

In addition to the literature review, in-person interviews were conducted with practitioners and experts involved in various creative integration projects. These interviews provided valuable first-hand insights and inspiration.

The two case studies referenced in this text are based on our own experiences. These cases offer a personal perspective and a deeper understanding of the nuances involved in using creative methods for community building and integration. By combining systematic literature review, in-person interviews, and personal experience, this exploration presents a clear view of the transformative potential of creative methods in fostering community integration.



THE LATEST RESEARCH IN BELGIUM

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings/Findings related to trafficking in human beings	Link
1	The effect of a school-based creative expression program on immigrant integration (Kevers et al., 2022)	To evaluate the effects of a school-based creative expression program on immigrant and refugee children's mental health and classroom social relationships.	Cluster randomized trial.	Pre- and post-test assessment with children, parents, and teachers.	Elementary school children with refugee and non-refugee migration backgrounds.	<p>The research hypothesized that children who participated in the creative expression program would exhibit fewer behavioural problems, both externalizing and internalizing, show reduced posttraumatic functioning, and have more positive social relation</p> <p>ships within their classrooms compared to those who received the standard educational curriculum. This was particularly expected to be evident among refugee children. To test this hypothesis, classes from three multiethnic Belgian elementary schools were randomly assigned to either the creative intervention group or a control group. The intervention group consisted of seven classes with 68 students, while the control group had six classes with 52 students. All participants were between 8-12 years old and came from migration backgrounds, with nearly half being refugees. Data was collected before and after the intervention through assessments involving children, parents, and teachers.</p>	https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://backoffice.biblio.ugent.be/download/8772409/01GT1FOVCXQY935Z7AOH7AYCQ1&ved=2ahUKEwiujl2eh_qLAxXmhPOHHZVZAtYQFnoECBgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1wFzImI9lAppAe4U0aLlfh



The outcomes were analysed using multilevel analysis techniques. The findings revealed that children in the intervention group rated their classroom climate more positively at the post-test than their peers in the control group. However, there was no significant difference in symptomatic functioning between the two groups. Interestingly, a post hoc analysis considering baseline severity indicated that students with higher initial levels of posttraumatic stress reported fewer trauma symptoms at the post-test in the intervention group compared to the control group. This effect was more pronounced among refugee children, suggesting that the creative expression program was particularly beneficial in reducing trauma symptoms for this subgroup. In summary, the study concluded that the school-based creative expression program had a supportive effect on the classroom climate and helped alleviate posttraumatic stress symptoms in children with higher levels of trauma, especially among refugee children.

2	Harnessing visibility and invisibility through arts practices:	To understand the role of arts in migration-related issues and investigate migrants' differing	Ethnographic case studies.	Ethnographic research with migrant performers.	Undocumented and refugee migrants involved in artistic groups in Belgium.	This research highlights the potential of integrating migrants and minorities through arts and culture. It emphasizes the importance of boosting integration outcomes, strengthening social cohesion,	https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0752/8/2/49
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ethnographic case studies with migrant performers in Belgium (Damery & Mescoli, 2019)

objectives in participating in the arts.

and making cultural institutions more relevant and sustainable. Despite the vibrant cultural expression of immigrant communities, there remains a gap in their participation and representation in mainstream cultural institutions. The report suggests strategies such as promoting access to cultural services, supporting cultural co-production by immigrant communities, and anchoring diversity in institutions.

3

Co-creation in migration studies: the use of co-creative methods to study migrant integration across European societies (Van Praag, 2021)

The study aims to analyse the use of co-creative methods in migrant research and policy making.

Co-creative research.

The study employed workshops and participatory studies.

Participants included migrants in diverse European societies.

Co-creative methods are increasingly used to understand and facilitate integration processes of migrants in immigrant societies. This volume aims to contribute to the debates on the ways in which co-creative methods may advance migrant integration. More specifically, the contributions investigate how co-creative research strategies can provide insights into how integration processes into various domains of immigrant society (e.g. language learning, housing, employment) are shaped, and how they can contribute to policy making and new policy practices. Because co-creative methods are relatively new approaches to research and policy making, the authors evaluate and demonstrate the pitfalls and benefits of using them. Starting with a theoretical and methodological

<https://lup.be/book/co-creation-in-migration-studies/>



overview of co-creative methods, empirical chapters document and critically assess ongoing research experiences and studies to incorporate co-creative methods in academic research across Europe. Co-creation in Migration Studies' analyses the use of co-creative methods in migrant research and policy making, reflects upon the conditions required to successfully implement these methods, and offers new insights and recommendations for future research and policy making practices.

4	Zorg op school voor kinderen en jongeren met een migratie- of vluchtelingen achtergrond: De school als sleutelcontact voor een welbevinden onder druk (Spaas et al., 2022)	The study aims to investigate the role of creative expression interventions in schools following migration from the perspectives of parents and teachers.	Qualitative research	Interviews and focus groups with parents and teachers.	Parents and teachers of children and young people with a migration or refugee background.	The study provides a significant contribution to the field of refugee mental health research, particularly through the lens of arts-based research methods (ABRM). The research highlights the potential of creative exercises, such as drama-based interventions, to nurture positive coping mechanisms in refugee and migrant young people who have resettled in Europe. These creative processes are shown to foster trust, improve social relations, and provide a therapeutic platform for participants to process their trauma and experiences of exile. By integrating ABRM into research practices, the study suggests that not only can the well-being of participants be supported, but ethical research practices can be strengthened as well. This approach	https://biblio.ugent.be/publication/01GMWMF1DDX01YRZZYMH4FXNC3
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aligns with the call among scholars for participatory and strength-based research procedures that empower participants and address the power imbalances often present in research relationships.

5	Migranten- en vluchtelingen kinderen in België aan het woord (Dominicy, 2018)	Giving a voice to vulnerable children and young people, including migrant and refugee children, to share their experiences and rights in Belgium, their country of origin, and along the way.	Qualitative research with participatory methodology	Participatory methodology involving interviews and testimonies	170 children and young people from diverse countries, including Afghanistan, Syria, Guinea, and Congo, who resided or have resided in asylum seeker reception centres.	The children and young people recount their recent migration experiences, vividly remembering their journey and the challenges they encountered along the way. Their stories provide a kaleidoscopic view of migration. The narrative method used in the study by Maud Dominicy on migrant and refugee children in Belgium involved participatory methodology with interviews and testimonies. This approach is designed to give participants a voice and allow them to share their experiences in a more personal and direct way. It's a qualitative research technique that emphasizes the importance of listening to the narratives of individuals to understand their perspectives and experiences.	https://www.emnbelgium.be/sites/default/files/publications/What%20do%20you%20think%20-%20Migranten-%20en%20vluchtelingenkinderen%20aan%20het%20woord%20NL.pdf
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THE LATEST PROJECTS IN BELGIUM

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Adviescentrum Migratie, Vlaamse overheid	Bondgenoten na gezinshereniging	Support groups, storytelling	Ongoing	Local (city of Antwerp)	To reduce the challenges faced by families of unaccompanied minor refugees upon family reunification and provide essential support during their integration process.	https://www.therefuseebuddyproject.org/buddy-programme
2	11.11.11, Vluchtelingen werk Vlaanderen	Other Talk	Advocacy, storytelling	Ongoing	Regional (Flanders)	The project seeks to bring nuance to the polarized migration debate in Flanders, promoting understanding and empathy towards migrants and refugees.	https://www.11.be/othertalk
3	Koning Boudewijn Stichting	Trampoline: Tolkien @ work!	Language training, storytelling	Ongoing	Local (Brussels)	The initiative trains multilingual women for voluntary interpreting assignments, empowering them and enhancing their integration into the local community.	https://vluchtelingenwerk.be/trampoline



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
4	Caritas International België, CIRÉ, Jesuit Refugee Service Belgium	MOVE, voorbij detentie van migranten	Public debates, storytelling	Ongoing	National (Belgium)	To train multilingual women as volunteer interpreters, focusing on work-related contexts and reducing their distance from the job market.	www.therefugeebuddyproject.org/buddy-programme
5	Other Talk, Gastvrij Netwerk, Porticus	Verbindende verhalen	Public dialogues, storytelling	Ongoing	Local	To engage in nuanced and human dialogue about irregular migrants, bridging gaps and promoting understanding.	https://vluchtelingenwerk.be/project/verbindende-verhalen



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN BELGIUM

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
A Different Narrative on Migration & Superdiversity from Orbit vzw	To promote democratic dialogue and cooperation between cultures, religions, and worldviews, and to respect the rights and dignity of migrants	From the end of 2021 to mid-2023.	Dialogue tables, societal interventions, and connecting communication	Strengthening of social cohesion and an increase in affordable housing for people with a migration background.	https://www.orbitvzw.be/
Globe Aroma Artistic Support from Globe Aroma	To provide space, time, support, and a network for artists with a newcomer background.	Various events and workshops throughout the year.	Studio/workshop for artists, participatory workshops, and cultural excursions	Development of artistic oeuvre by newcomers and co-creation projects	https://www.globebearoma.be/en/about-us/mission-vision/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Refugee Got Talent	To make the talent of refugees visible and to offer them opportunities for professional development	Annual events and activities.	Talent hunts, workshops, and professional training	More than 1,000 newcomers have found a job through the network	https://www.thebulletin.be/two-brussels-organisations-helping-refugees-integrate-and-be-independent
Moussem Cities from Moussem Nomadic Arts Centre	The festival aims to highlight the artistic scene of a chosen city with a significant immigrant population, focusing on artists and content linked to North Africa and the Middle East	The festival is an annual event that takes place in Brussels.	The festival includes a variety of activities such as performances, exhibitions, and workshops that showcase the talents of immigrant artists and promote cultural exchange.	Moussem Cities has been successful in casting light on different stories and audiences, giving them access to arts centres and contributing to the interculturalization of the art scene in Flanders and Brussels	https://www.moussem.be/en/about-moussem



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Grenzeloze dagen	The project aims to use theatre as a means to empower refugees and asylum seekers, giving them a platform to tell their stories and express their experiences.	Until April 2025	The project includes theatre workshops, storytelling sessions, and the creation of plays performed by refugees themselves.	The project has been successful in providing refugees with a creative outlet, helping them to integrate into the community and raising awareness about refugee experiences among the wider public.	https://www.ccdewerf.be/nl/programma/detail/ligo-zuid-oost-vlaanderen-hetgevolg/8829/



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN BELGIUM

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Migrants Music Manifesto	European project	The initiative is centred around social inclusion and aims to promote intercultural dialogue and integration of migrants and refugees.	Its primary goal is to dispel prejudices and raise awareness of the positive contributions of migrants and refugees in Europe.	2020	France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, and Greece	The project succeeded in developing tools and methods for mediators to foster intercultural dialogue. It organized international residences, bringing together musicians and the public with migration backgrounds, and offered a mentoring cycle on instruments and musical skills. The project also aimed to enhance minority cultures, particularly those of migrants and refugees, and to strengthen intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for other



cultures to contribute to the social integration of migrants and refugees.

Jesuit Refugee Service Belgium (JRS Belgium)	Organisation that offers psychosocial and legal support in detention centres	Social inclusion	To provide support to extremely vulnerable and often forgotten groups of forced migrants, and to promote best practices to prevent racism and xenophobia.	February 2016	National (Belgium)	The project has successfully created networks of volunteers who host forced migrants in their homes, offering a more humane alternative to detention centres. It has also been active in advocacy, campaigning against the detention of children and supporting migrants in closed centres.
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Refugees for refugees	National project	The Refugees for Refugees project is an example of how the arts can be used to support integration and celebrate diversity.	The project aims to provide a platform for refugee musicians to share their talents, contribute to their social inclusion, and promote	Since January 2013	National (Belgium)	Over the years, the project has successfully brought together a diverse group of musicians, fostering a sense of community and
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It demonstrates the positive impact that such initiatives can have on both individuals and society as a whole.

cultural diversity within Belgium.

belonging. It has contributed to the cultural landscape of Belgium by showcasing the rich musical heritage that refugees bring with them. This initiative not only helps the musicians themselves but also enriches the Belgian cultural scene and promotes understanding and empathy among the broader population

Cinemaximiliaan

Socio-cultural organisation

Social inclusion, cultural exchange, education

Cinemaximiliaan is a platform with and by newcomers in Belgium. The initiative started in an improvised camp at the Maximiliaan Park in Brussels with daily film screenings. Cinemaximiliaan quickly grew by the commitment of a vast network of volunteers, amongst them many newcomers.

Since 2015

National, with activities in various asylum centres and cultural venues across Belgium

Cinemaximiliaan has successfully created a space for intercultural togetherness, where newcomers and locals can connect, share stories, and learn from each other. It has become a hub for collective art and cultural exchange, with participants from diverse backgrounds



finding support and
friendship

Moussem
Nomadic Arts
centre

Socio-cultural organisation

Cultural exchange,
artistic
development,
social inclusion

Moussem aims to contribute
to the interculturalization of
the art scene in Flanders and
Brussels, attracting a diverse
and urban audience. It
supports young artists,
providing opportunities for
oeuvre development and
integration into the Flemish
and international art scenes

Since 2001

International, with a
focus on the Flemish
and European arts
scene.

Moussem has been a
pioneer in providing
access to different
stories and audiences
in arts centres. It
maintains a dialogue
with an expansive
network of artists and
cultural figures,
fostering collective art
and cultural exchange,
and supporting artists
in individual and long-
term projects



CASE STUDIES

The "Homelands, places of belonging" project, led by the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, is an initiative that harnesses the transformative power of art to foster social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. This community co-creation project, which began in 2018 in Brussels, pairs newly arrived migrant artists with staff members from local cultural institutions. Over approximately six months, these tandems engage in a co-creative and artistic process with local community groups. The notion of "homelands" serves as a common thread, prompting an artistic exploration of what it means to feel at home and belong to a place, city, or community. In times of ongoing global conflicts, we as a society are every day confronted with the consequences of these conflicts on a political, economic but even more on a human level. The inclusion of thousands of migrants in our European habitat remains till today a challenging issue that directly or indirectly affects every one of us. Unfortunately, in recent years it has also been leading to more radical and intolerant political tendencies in our own societies. This project therefore aims to tackle some of these challenges by contributing to a fairer perception of these newcomers and a smoother and mainly more humane inclusion process by using one of the most powerful tools every culture cherishes: ART.

Participants in the Homelands project include both Belgian citizens and newcomers, who together develop artistic workshops culminating in public showcases ranging from dance performances to visual art exhibitions. The project's goal is to give newcomer artists the opportunity to establish themselves as artists within society, to share their knowledge with the host community, and to become the intercultural mediators of tomorrow.

In 2020 University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL) participated with 35 students from the international educating class in the Homelands project. UCLL is known for its commitment to international projects and for fostering global citizenship and development among its students. By participating in projects like Homelands, UCLL students engage with diverse cultures and perspectives, which is invaluable for their personal and professional development. The project offered students a unique opportunity to apply their skills in real-world settings, to learn from experienced artists, and to contribute to a more inclusive society.

The importance of student participation in this project allowed students to:

- Develop intercultural competencies and empathy by working closely with individuals from different backgrounds.
- Enhance their artistic and co-creative skills through hands-on experience.
- Contribute to social change and understand the role of art in societal development.
- Foster a sense of empowerment and belonging for artists and create tangible benefits for the community.

In essence, the Homelands project was more than just an artistic endeavour; it was a platform for learning, sharing, and building a more inclusive world.



LINKS:

- The Homelands Project | European Website on Integration: https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/integration-practice/homelands-project_en
- THE PROJECT | TheHomelandsproject: <https://www.thehomelandsproject.com/the-project>
- <https://www.thehomelandsproject.com/hanane-elfarissi-poya-sadeqi>

FEELING AT HOME: A PHOTOVOICE PROJECT FROM UCLL IN THE NOMADE

The University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL) has developed a project titled "Feeling at Home," a photovoice initiative aimed at fostering an inclusive society with refugees in Belgium. This project was centred at Nomade, a welcoming house for refugees in Leuven, where the stories and experiences of the refugee community were brought to life through the lens of a camera.

Photovoice is a participatory action research method that allows participants to capture their lived experiences and express their viewpoints through photographs. In the context of the Nomade house, photovoice provided refugees with a powerful medium to articulate their sense of belonging and integration into the Belgian society. By enabling participants to share their narratives visually, photovoice transcends language barriers, allowing for a more profound and personal expression of their journey towards feeling at home.

The photographs and stories produced through this project are not just personal mementos; they have been integrated into the Nomade house's visitor centre, creating a vivid tapestry of refugee experiences. These visual and narrative displays serve as both educational tools and conversation starters for visitors, fostering a deeper understanding and empathy towards the refugee community. Each photograph is accompanied by a personal story, giving context and voice to the visual representation, thereby enriching the visitors' experience and knowledge.

Participating in the photovoice project has been an empowering experience for the refugees at Nomade. By taking control of the narrative and sharing their own stories, refugees are able to reclaim their identities and assert their presence in the community. This empowerment extends beyond personal growth, as it also helps to break down stereotypes and challenge misconceptions about refugees among the broader public.

In November 2023, the success and impact of the "Feeling at Home" project were acknowledged through the "De Taal is Toekomst Trofee" (Language is the Future Trophy). This award was granted to the project for its innovative approach in using visual storytelling to bridge cultural and linguistic divides, promoting language learning, and fostering a sense of belonging among refugees. The project was recognized for its contribution to creating a more inclusive society where the stories of refugees are not just heard, but seen and felt by a wider audience.



LINKS:

- <https://research-expertise.ucll.be/nl/projecten/photovoice-het-geintegreerd-traject-met-anderstalige-nieuwkomers>
- <https://www.davidsfonds.be/nieuws/detail/2023/11/05/Persbericht-Davidsfonds-Taalunie-en-Xpair-Communication-reiken-allereerste-Taal-is-Toekomst-trofee-uit>



Finland

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN FINLAND

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Pienimäki (2021)	In what respects participatory photography can promote social inclusion for migrant youth and what aspects need more attention	Qualitative action study	Observation diaries and interviews	40 young people, most between ages 15 and 22	In participatory photography, social inclusion is usually understood as 'having a voice'. Besides this, it was also discovered that participatory photography can facilitate social inclusion by providing experiences of informal, interpersonal acceptance, by increasing perception of the photographer as a skilful person, by solidifying a sense of belonging to a group and society and by facilitating familiarisation with new spaces and local culture. The study suggests that experimenting with and analysing participatory photography as a facilitator of social inclusion from the perspectives of listening, transcultural interaction and spatiality should occur more in the future.	https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2020.1814227
2	Hiltunen et al. (2018)	To what extent does taking part in art and design workshops promote social integration?	Qualitative; ethnographic and art-based, especially participatory theatre methods.	Visual documentation (photographs and video clips), audio recordings of the discussions during the workshops, and drawings and poems done by the participants.	Ten women of different ages (from around twenty to around fifty)	This article addresses the 'My Stage' participatory theatre project for women with an immigrant background in Rovaniemi, Finnish Lapland. One of the fundamental ideas underlying the project was the conviction that multidisciplinary dialogue can be helpful in supporting social integration processes in an increasingly multicultural society. Based on researcher's experience, they propose that participatory theatre workshops can offer a creative space for these dialogues. Study analyses those experiences by combining social work and socially engaged art education approaches. Study addresses ethnic, cultural, and gendered 'otherness' and aim at understanding the impact of unequal power relations, social privileges and hierarchies in the integration processes.	https://doi.org/10.54916/rae.118888



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
3	Gentin et al. (2019)	To contribute to the theoretical understanding of nature-based integration of immigrants as well as to reveal the possible contribution of nature and green spaces to the integration of immigrants in Europe	Review article	A systematic review	11 articles	<p>The European Commission has promoted revisiting and developing approaches for the successful integration of migrants all over Europe. One possible response to address this challenge is using nature as an arena for social integration of newcomers. Study reviews European research on the relationship between nature and integration of immigrants. The aim is to contribute to the theoretical understanding of nature-based integration of immigrants as well as to reveal the possible contribution of nature and green spaces to the integration of immigrants in Europe. Based on a systematic review, we identified 11 European papers that linked nature to the integration of the immigrants. The relationship between nature and integration can be understood in terms of 1) Structural integration describing access to common resources and main institutions of society, 2) cultural integration with acquisition of knowledge and competences, cultural aspects, common practices, general rules of behaviour, 3) interactive integration describing friendships and social interactions, 4) identificational integration with emotional bonds to other groups and places. According to the results, nature can be understood to integration but also as a resource that should be equally accessible to all. This study concludes that to respond to the need for new solutions to the successful integration of immigrants, researchers should turn attention from describing and analysing immigrants' perceptions and use of nature into developing and analysing nature-based solutions and interventions for the purposes of integration.</p>	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2019.126379



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
4	Hänninen and Kivijärvi (2024)	Responding to the quest for a more tailored and participatory approach, we describe how attentive programmes were developed in seven countries along the migration route from the Middle East to Northern Europe.	Responsible research and innovation and action research.	Interviews	176 migrants	During 2020–2022, there were designed, implemented and evaluated attentive practices together with forced migrants, humanitarian agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders. Results showed that local conditions delimit the programme outcomes, but still, comprehensive conclusions could be drawn. Including migrants and fieldworkers in the process brought valuable insights and helped to challenge the top-down and nation-state centric framework of integration. The study argues that collaborative methodology can produce both tailored and feasible programmes. However, the process demands time and human resources, flexibility and volunteer engagement.	https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2319176
5	Camargo Magalhães (2017)	Exploration of how different regimes interact with the anti-trafficking policy mechanism.	Case study	Belgian legislation and interviews	Experts on human trafficking and a recognized victim	The article discusses how Belgium's anti-trafficking framework falls short in addressing labor exploitation among migrant domestic workers. It suggests expanding protections beyond trafficking to cover all forms of exploitation, empowering workers and deterring exploitation. Recognizing and valuing domestic work, implementing international labor standards, and promoting a shift in societal attitudes are proposed as crucial steps in combating exploitation.	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15562948.2017.1305472



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN FINLAND

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	KSAK Oy	TAIDA!	European Social Fund	2020-2022	/	<p>TAIDA! – Luovat menetelmät maahanmuuttajien ja nuorten elämänpolulla 2020-2022 (GUESS! – Creative methods on the life path of immigrants and young people)</p> <p>The project organised art-based activities for young people under the age of 30 and working-age people in Kuusamo immigrants, individually and in groups. The aim was to bring creative methods of social rehabilitation and to support integration services and to increase awareness of the well-being effects of creative activities. The activities consisted of several different workshops. The guidance utilised the work of an art coordinator and individual tutor. In addition to art activities, the client met their own individual tutor related to everyday life matters. Professionals from the social and creative sectors as well as target groups and representatives of the cooperation network.</p>	www.taidahanke.com



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
2	Laurea UAS	Maku (MALL)	ESR+ 2021–2027	2023–2025	/	In the MALL-project (Multisensory Approach to Language Learning) coordinated by Laurea, different approaches to learning the language needed in working life are tested, researched and developed in a new living lab. The project has been designed in response to the need to promote the rapid employment of immigrants, especially in sectors with a labour shortage. The underlying idea of the project is that effective learning of the Finnish language through multisensory or new technology motivates the acquisition of service work and tasks as well as professional vocabulary and thereby supports a long-term commitment to the employer.	https://www.laurea.fi/en/projects/m/moniaistinen-kosketus-uuteen-kieleen/
3	Laurea UAS	SMILE	Council of Europe Development Bank	2023–2025	/	SMILE – Strengthening Migrant Family Integration through New Dialogue Methods with Communities, Schools, and Services in Vantaa Neighbourhoods. The Project's main objective is to strengthen migrant family integration through service development and new dialogue methods with communities, schools and services in Vantaa neighbourhoods. This will be achieved through introducing a family and community level approach into the integration discourse. The project will pilot different community-based methods in strengthening the integration and employment of migrants.	https://www.laurea.fi/en/projects/strengthening-migrant-family-integration-through-new-dialogue-methods-with-communities-schools-and-services-in-vantaa-neighbourhoods/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
4	City of Vantaa	Get Work Vantaa	ESR+ 2021-2027	2023-2025	/	Get Work Vantaa project aims to encourage SMEs to hire immigrants who can speak English. As the result of the project, a Work first operating model is created. The basic idea of the model is to support both the worker and the employer to find and shape work opportunities with a sufficiently low threshold. A mentor model is created in companies and tutoring activities to support competence development. Get Work Vantaa project has two goals: 1. Help English-speaking immigrants find work & 2. Support businesses to hire immigrants who speak English. The City of Vantaa implements the project together with Laurea and Metropolia Universities of Applied Sciences.	https://www.vantaa.fi/en/projects/project/get-work-vantaa
5	Laurea UAS and Kivenkolo Community	Enabling active life at Kivenkolo	ESR+ 2021-2027	2023-2025	/	The main goal of the "Enabling active life at Kivenkolo" project is to support the inclusion and agency in their own life of marginalized groups in Espoo, especially people with an immigrant background, mental health and substance use rehabilitees, long term unemployed and people outside of working life and with no income. Depending on the situation, the goal may be education or working life, but also a better life and taking part in the community, outside of working life.	https://www.laurea.fi/en/projects/kivenkolosta-aktiiviseen-elamaan/



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FINLAND

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Taikusydän - Arts and Health Coordination Centre in Finland	A multisectoral coordination centre and national network for activities and research among the field of arts & health in Finland. The objective of Taikusydän is to make arts and culture a permanent part of wellbeing services in Finland.				About - Taikusydän information Taikusydän (turkuamk.fi)
Moniheli	A Finnish multicultural network which includes over a hundred member organisations that support immigrant, integration and social inclusion and advance equity				Moniheli – Strength in diversity



LAUREA STUDENT CONTRIBUTION ON CREATIVE METHODS SUPPORTING MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Laurea Bachelor and Master students of Social Services and Correctional Services have written JeS-topics related blogs and research articles as part of their studies both in Finnish and in English. These articles and blogs will be added to the JeS website and will additionally be modified for the WP4 purposes to meet the needs of varied educational materials.

Title	Writer	Country	Type	Results	Link
Creative Methods Supporting Migrant Integration: a Comparative Overview of Spanish and Finnish Approaches	Blog by Ana, N. S.	Spain	JeS Blog	In an era defined by global migration, fostering effective integration strategies has become an imperative for societies worldwide. In this review, I will embark on a comprehensive exploration of innovative and creative methods used in the pursuit of successful migrant integration, drawing a comparative lens between two distinct nations – Spain and Finland.	https://jointstories.eu/
Creative methods supporting migrant integration From Practical to Pioneering: 5 Unconventional Ideas for Fostering Inclusive Migrant Integration	Blog by Juha-Matti, S.	Finland	JeS Blog	As our world is constantly increasing in cultural diversity, the challenge of integrating migrants into new communities is not only a question of minimizing disruption for the existing social order but also an opportunity for creative and innovative approaches. In this post, we explore 5 unique and thought-provoking approaches that can challenge the conventional methods of migrant integration.	https://jointstories.eu/



Title	Writer	Country	Type	Results	Link
Navigating the Mosaic – Creative Methods Supporting Migrant Integration	Blog by Lara, G. E., and Oihane, L. D. L., 2024	Spain	JeS Blog	As exchange students from Spain immersed in the cold embrace of Finland, we find ourselves partaking in a course on Intercultural and Multiprofessional Competencies. One aspect that has particularly captured our attention is the innovative methods employed to support migrant integration. In this blog, we will delve into the current situation in Spain, draw comparisons between Finland and Spain, explore the successes and failures in both countries, discuss best practices, and propose ways to to create an inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment for individuals who've migrated to a new country.	https://jointstories.eu/



Italy

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN ITALY

Title	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Musical resilience strategies for African asylum seekers in Italy: the cultural mediator Bawa Salifu	Caruso (2022)	To examine music's contribution to the wellbeing, identity affirmation, and cultural integration of African asylum seekers in Italy	Ethnographic research	Active participation and documenting; unstructured and semi-structured interviews; implementation of workshops	Case study focusing on the life story and initiatives of a single musician; Bawa Salifu.	Musical participation gives meaning and value to migrants' disorientated lives, both connecting them with one another and with African roots.	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17411912.2022.2144402



Title	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Migrants Workers and Processes of Social Inclusion in Italy: The Possibilities Offered by Social Farming	Giarè et al. (2020)	Explore the possibilities that social farming gives for migrant integration	Qualitative methods	Purposeful sampling	Ten experiences of "rural excellence" chosen by a process of screening and evaluation involving experts named by the CREA and the Ministry of Agriculture	The main effects obtained are those on individual levels, such as the recovery of dignity, confidence in one's own abilities, and in the building of healthy and equal relationships with people, respect for their aspirations for study, work, and a future free from violence. Also, an effect on the mentality of local communities, that became more favourable and open to the reception of migrants from the outset	https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/10/3991
Immigrants, ethnicized minorities and the arts: a relatively neglected research area	Martiniello (2015)	Show the necessity to better understand the relevance of the arts in the theoretical and policy debates about immigrant incorporation	Compared analysis	Literature review	/	Comparative research helps to understand the specificities of each context and to propose generalizations about the role that arts play in the incorporation processes of immigrants and of ethnicized and racialized minorities	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01419870.2015.998694



Title	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
Education al integration of refugees: a comparative analysis of education al systems in Georgia, Italy, Tunisia, and Nigeria	Brandi and Tino (2023)	Highlight who the providers of educational integration of refugees in the four countries are, what the procedures and challenges	Compared analysis	Literature review	Four countries: Georgia, Tunisia, Italy and Nigeria	The four countries struggle to structure training courses that provide refugees with the tools to contribute to the development of the host society. Language difficulties, stereotypes, lack of employable skills and psychological disorders make the inclusion of these people very difficult.	https://ojs.pensamultimedia.it/index.php/siref/article/view/6141
Working in the classroom with migrant and refugee students: the practices and needs of Italian primary and middle school teachers	Biasutti et al. (2020)	Analyse teachers' methodologies, practices and needs to promote the integration of newly arrived migrant/refugee pupils in educational contexts	Qualitative methods	Subministration of an open-ended questionnaire	Twenty-nine primary and middle school Italian teachers	The results provided evidence of the complexity of teaching in an intercultural context and suggested a multidimensional approach for analysing educational issues. The categories that emerged could be used as criteria for developing a multidimensional approach to intercultural issues in education, considering many different aspects.	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14681366.2019.1611626



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN ITALY

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	M. Raeli Noto High School (Coordinator)	LISTENING TO YOU	Erasmus+ KA101	2020–2023	Local level	Improving skills related to the didactics in multicultural classes; identifying more effective strategies in the inclusiveness of foreign students and of the local nomadic community; reducing the average dropout rate	https://listeningtoyouerasmus.weebly.com/
2	I.C. DIVISIONE JULIA (coordinator)	INDIE DOCK	Erasmus+ KA101	2020–2022	Local level	To raise the teachers' language skills, to disseminate the CLIL methodology and the approach to integration and inclusion through drama	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-IT02-KA101-077927
3	Koinoniki Synetairistiki Epicheirisi Syllogikis kai Koinonikis Ofeleias Monopatias tis Elladas (Greece) LAG Svilengrad Areal (Bulgaria) Stichting Pocket Stories (Netherlands)	Rural Migrantour	Erasmus+ KA227	2021–2023	European level	To extend the existing Migrantour network to new – rural – environments; to create creative user-centred learning tools accessible as open source; to launch a digital archive of interactive story maps containing narratives of "ignored" histories and presentities	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-SI02-KA227-YOU-015859



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
VIAGGI SOLIDALI SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ONLUS (Italy)							
4	ilmiolavoro srl (Coordinator, Italy); Agrupamento de Escolas Águeda Sul (Portugal); Bursa Aile Calisma ve Sosyal Hizmetler Il Mudurlugu (Turkey); Bursa Valiligi (Turkey); CPIA TERAMO (Italy); Institutul Roman de Educatie a Adultilor (Romania)	SoJUST – Social justice in lifelong guidance services for low-educated adult migrants	Erasmus+ K204	2020–2023	Local level	Improve the quality and effectiveness of lifelong guidance targeting low-educated adult migrants by adopting a social justice approach that acts, at the individual level, on the development of specific guidance skills of educators and, at the organisational level, on the promotion of environments and practices focused on social justice.	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-IT02-KA204-079842
5	Itaka training (Coordinator, Italy)	REMI – Rethinking the Environment and Migrant Inclusion	Erasmus+ KA104	2020–2022	Regional level	Provide an adequate training to the staff of the consortium in their work with migrants, deepening the understanding of the links between climate change and migration	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-IT02-KA104-078649



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN ITALY

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Migrazione e violenza- viaggio per l'inclusione e il benessere della donna (Migration and violence - journey for the inclusion and welfare of women)	A festival with music, performances and lectures exploring the theme of the role of women in society and gender- based violence.	Since 2021	- Conferences online Artistic performances		https://www.alberodellavita.org/evento-mirasole/
Comunità e inclusione: femminili plurali (Community and inclusion: plural femininities)	Comunità e inclusione : femminili plurali is an initiative that aims to strengthen the dialogue between local authorities, associations , key actors of the territories of Piosasco, Rivalta and Orbassano.The project identifies the food as a special topic in facilitating the meeting of cultures, sharing of traditions and labour inclusion.	18 months	- Shows and cultural events - Workshops and culinary events. - Living libraries meetings	300 women involved	https://lvia.it/femminiliplurali/
Cantieri Meticci APS	Theatre company based in Bologna with artists coming from more than 20 countries.	Since 2014	Engage migrants in workshops and theatre performances	Multiple projects ongoing	https://www.cantierimeticci.it/
Associazione Progresso (Progress Association)	Association promoting social inclusion through art therapy and self- expression	Since 2017	Workshops, courses, listening groups and many other activities related to art therapy and art therapies,	Strong engagement with migrants and rom communities	https://www.associazioneprogresso.org/
- RifugiArti	- Art workshop for refugees	- Since 2017	- Workshops in body animation, painting, drawing, sculpture and more generally in expressive creativity	- Discovery of Fasasi, Nigerian sculptor who gained visibility thanks to the project	https://www.inmigrazione.it/it/progetti/rifugiarti



INFORMATION ON OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED TOPIC

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Results
Integra Network (Rete Integra)	Rights equality and citizenship programme	Social inclusion of young migrants leaving host communities	Promote pathways to autonomy for minors and young people who are about to leave the host communities.	2019 – ongoing	Local level – Palermo	A collaborative network of more than 30 members between civil society, private social organisations and public institutions.



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Results
Portale Integrazione Migranti (Migrants Integration Portal)	Ministry of labour and social policy	Online resource provided by the Italian government to offer information and support regarding the integration of migrants in Italy	To facilitate the integration of migrants into the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the country by providing them with the necessary tools to build a stable and fulfilling life in Italy.	2013 – ongoing	National level	The portal provides a wide range of resources, including information on migrants' rights and duties, reception services, integration pathways, job opportunities, training, and much more
Cestim (Centre for immigration studies)	Fondazione Sanzeno	Centre for immigration studies	Promote the integration of migrants	1990 – ongoing	National level	Project management in the field of migration; data collection; mentoring of academic researches and provider of scholarships



Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Results
Marenostrum – International Festival of Mediterranean photography	Partly financed by Città di Palermo and Regione Sicilia	Photography festival	Give visibility to artists reinterpreting migration narratives in the Mediterranean Area	2015 – 2022	Local level	7 editions of the festival; national coverage on the media
Exodos Exit – migration routes, stories of people, arrivals, inclusion	Regione Piemonte	Itinerant photography exhibition	Interpret the theme of migration from three points of view: those of the international experience and narrative, the reception system and inclusion tools of the Piedmont Region.	2018 – 2021	International level	Over 100,000 visitors in 35 exhibitions in four years



Slovenia

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Bez nec and Gombač (2023)	To analyse integration policies and practices in Slovenia, particularly after the refugee crisis in 2015/16.	Qualitative methods	Focus groups, semi-structured interviews	Activists, NGOs, migrants, officials at a local and national level, stakeholders, academics, migrant women and women asylum seekers, several employers and employees, migrant children and parents.	Slovenia has not made significant progress regarding integration policies and participation practices of migrants or put in effort to find durable solutions to migrant inclusion, despite being a net immigration country, since the state considers itself a transit country. Migrant workers work in bad conditions. Slovenia has a strong civil sector implementing individual integration programs, but that is limited by state policies. Overall, the state remains rigid and security-oriented towards migrants and certain integration policies need to be transferred to the local level.	Full article: New migration policies and innovative practices. Slovenia between bordering and inclusion (ukm.si)



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
2	Dežan and Sedmak (2023)	To analyse the effect of school environment on migrant adolescents' well-being.	Quantitative methods	Quantitative data was collected in the form of questionnaires.	Participants were migrant adolescents (n=700) surveyed in 46 schools in 6 countries, including Slovenia. Places with a high percentage of migrant population were identified and students were surveyed in selected schools.	The study found that migrant students feel safe and like school but are less satisfied with establishing relationships with their peers rather than teachers. The study concludes that schools that encourage intercultural education and interpersonal relationships are essential for migrant students' well-being and their successful integration.	Frontiers How do you feel at school? A cross-country comparative analysis of migrant adolescents' school well-being (frontiersin.org)
3	Pokorn and Čibej (2018)	To identify the most common mediation strategies used by asylum seekers and observe which communication strategy offers the highest level of linguistic inclusion.	Qualitative and quantitative methods	Preliminary questionnaires and semi-structured interviews	Asylum seekers residing in asylum centres	Asylum seekers define learning the language of the host state as the most desirable strategy for social and linguistic integration, they are reluctant to use translation technologies and interpreters.	"It's So Vital to Learn Slovene": Mediation Choices by Asylum Seekers in Sl...: EBSCOhost (ukm.si)



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
4	Pucelj and Gorenc Zoran (2024)	To examine the challenges of immigrant students' integration into Slovenian primary schools, the challenges that school staff encounter in this context, and the experiences of immigrant students.	Qualitative methods	In-depth semi-structured interviews	10 teachers, 8 social workers, 19 immigrant students, and 3 parents of immigrant students were interviewed. A non-probability sampling method was used.	Integration of immigrant students is done through additional hours for learning the Slovenian language, play, and social interaction, inclusion in various activities, use of bilingual books, and other adaptations. The biggest challenge is found to be language barriers and cultural differences.	Challenges of integration of immigrant students into Slovenian primary schools—Perspectives of teachers and other professionals (ukm.si)
5	Samaluk (2020)	To explore the projects' tactics, drivers, and impact on different institutions.	Qualitative methods	Analysis of 15 individual or group interviews – qualitative data collection as well as analysis of secondary sources.	18 participants were selected for interviews – activists, policymakers at ministries, and other relevant workers. There is no data about sampling.	The migrant integration projects were established with the help of EU funds by activists who used them to professionalise their activities and develop a provision based on the needs of migrants and their empowerment, and at the same time create standards and norms for their integration.	Integracija kot večsmerni proces: Študija primera inovativnih projektov integracije priseljence v v Sloveniji Andragoška spoznanja (uni-lj.si)



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN SLOVENIA

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	EMVI – Project (n.d.)	Krepitev migrantskih glasov v politikah vključevanja (Empowering migrant voices (EMVI))	Funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	1. 1. 2022–31. 12. 2023	Activities included for example identifying good practices, conducting focus groups with migrant organizations, decision makers etc., local trainings, workshops with local migrants, Innovative e-participation tool for migrants, and innovative local migrant consultative bodies will. We did not find any other results.	To increase the participation of migrants based on the empowerment of migrants to become actors of inclusive policies, increase the capacity of local and regional authorities to effectively consult with migrants and establish innovative tools for collaboration and open new spaces for migrant voices and structured consultation methods.	https://diaspora-participation.eu/

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
2	Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (n.d.–a)	Širitev obsega integracije migrant in migrantov na trga dela (Extending the scope of labour market integration of immigrants (MIGRASCOPE))	Funded by European Commission – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	1. 1. 2017–31. 10. 2018	We did not find data related to implementation level.	To facilitate access to work for migrants and encourage their integration into the workplace, more in detail, to increase the capacity of migrants by promoting their ability to find and maintain employment and to increase the capacity of employers and stakeholders.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/migrascope/
3	Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije (n.d.–b)	Solidarnost–Enakost–Istost (Solidarity–Equality–Sameness)	(Co)–funded by the European Union, Bridge 47, the Slovenian Government Communication Office, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia	1. 1. 2020–30. 11. 2020	Conducting workshops in high school across Slovenia. The workshops included themes such as the structural causes of migrations, the modern asylum institute, and basic terminology (e.g. migrant). Workshop methods included for instance work in pairs and groups, a living library, and games as “local is global”. We did not find any other results.	To inform students about migration with the aim of breaking stereotypes and hatred, and to empower them to deal with the issue through learning about the concepts of solidarity, equality and sameness.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/solidarnost-enakost-istost-2/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
4	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-a)	MULTIPLUS	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ program	1. 10. 2020—30. 11. 2022	The project produced the following materials: a handbook on didactic methodology, a collection of didactic tools, and a handbook on political education. We did not find any other results related to the implementation level.	To contribute to integration and meet the expectations of migrants in and towards European society by improving the competencies of multipliers.	https://www.filantropija.org/multiplus/
5	Slovenska filantropija (n.d.-b)	Podpora in pomoč pri integraciji imigrantk in imigrantov [Support and assistance in the integration of immigrants men and women]	Funded by the Municipality of Ljubljana	1. 1. 2019—31. 12. 2021	We did not find data about the implementation level.	To provide counselling, perform advocacy, and actively promote integration into the local environment for adult immigrants living in the Municipality of Ljubljana.	https://www.filantropija.org/podpora-in-pomoc-pri-integraciji-imigrantk-in-imigrantov-2/



No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
6	The Peace Institut – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (n.d.)	Priseljenski otroci in priseljenske skupnosti v spreminjajoči se Evropi (Migrant children and communities in a transforming Europe (MiCREATE))	Co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation program	1. 1. 2019–30. 6. 2022	The project encompassed various work packages such as state-of-the-art, perception communities, the educational community and schools system, fieldwork in schools, migrant children in transition, cross-cutting and comparative analysis, and policy lab. Partners wrote Living in multicultural schools: Handbook for teachers. The Slovenian partners found out that there is a lack of a comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing the issue of the integration of migrant children in Slovenian schools.	To promote the inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by implementing a child-centred approach to their integration at both the educational and policy levels.	https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/migrant-children-and-communities-in-a-transforming-europe-micreate/



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN SLOVENIA

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Ambasada Rog (Rog embassy)	The Rog embassy is a space managed by a diverse group of refugees, activists, squatters, artists, students, and workers, navigating bureaucracy and coping with hostile Europe.	Established in 2017	Connecting communities through music and cultural events, preparing free meals, organizing educational activities, language courses, and dance lessons, and providing social and legal assistance. Whenever an individual receives asylum or a positive response from the court, the entire Rog community organizes a party.	/	http://atrog.org/porostori/ambasada-rog
Razkrite roke (Revealed hands)	The project aims to foster intercultural connections, educate young people in textile manual work, socialize vulnerable groups, design and sell textile products, and form a group of women in Jesenice who are immigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo, generating textile products and teaching young people about manual work.	Established in 2013	Handcrafts are utilized as a means of communication and as a method of learning. The design team collaborated on a contemporary collection of hand-made textile products, redesigned in the modern spirit, incorporating Slovenian tradition and cultural heritage of vulnerable groups.	The project produced a series of photos, a sale web, and a documentary film. The project was honoured with the Alpine Pluralism Award in 2018.	http://www.razkriteroke.si/?lang=en
Štrikeraj (Creative women gatherings)	The knitting cooperative Breja Preja was initially established as a grassroots initiative, uniting women of various ages to exchange knowledge, skills, and concerns. It joined forces with Društvo Up, and together, they began hosting weekly knitting and crochet gatherings at an asylum home in Ljubljana. Occasionally, the meetings take place outside the asylum home. It is a two-way integration process – local women get to know the women who came to Slovenia, what is important to them, what worries and joys permeate their lives, and vice versa.	Established in 2016	Manual skills are a tool for communication, learning to knit, understanding diversity, and understanding the refugee background. Another significant activity involves creating crocheted blankets for newborns in asylum houses in collaboration with the Kvakvačkaš group.	/	https://epale.ec.europa.eu/sl/blog/pl-etilska-srecanja-strikeraji-kot-dvosmerna-metoda-integracije



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Tovarna Rog – Drugi dom (Factory Rog – Second home)	To support migrants' daily tasks, facilitate their connections, and organize them in a political manner.	Established in 2016	Workshops, individual and group socializing, political mobilization, migrant gatherings, cultural and social activities, advocacy efforts, legal guidance, social services (assistance with job searches, housing, medical care, etc.), employment opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers, integration of migrants into various political factions, temporary accommodation for migrants in transit etc.	/	http://atrog.org/pristori/second-home
Začetna integracija priseljencev – ZIP (Initial immigrant integration)	The program aims to provide immigrants with a knowledge of the Slovenian language needed for living and working in Slovenia and introduce them to Slovenian culture and history, which strengthens the integration of migrants into Slovenian society.	First introduced in 2012	The project is executed in the form of structured language courses, which are offered in an initial module (60 hours) and an advanced module (120 hours). The advanced module is only available to those who have completed the initial module. During the course, the participants get educated about the norms, history, and culture of Slovenian society. After they have completed the course, they may be assessed free of charge and upon successful completion receive a certificate.	/	Brezplačni tečaji slovenskega jezika – InfoTujci



INFORMATION ON DETECTION, PREVENTION, PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, AND/OR ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT

In the context of creative methods supporting migrant integration into our society, it is important to mention the Multisensory Space Method. Essentially, it is an open learning environment that was first introduced in 2007 at Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland. The method is utilized through multisensory dialogue, which supports authentic interactions, and encourages thoughtful encounters between people of different backgrounds. It allows people to enter and experience different cultural and psychological situations from their own, which can highlight individual stories and promote better mutual understanding as well as empathy development. At the same time, the Multisensory Space Method may also help enhance active citizenship and help people form a sense of belonging and community. Practically speaking, multisensory space is an area that can be easily modified and where all senses are activated through different stimuli, which provoke thoughts and conversations between people, it can be a place of relaxation or exploration of a different world. The space promotes well-being and provides comfort through various activities supporting the culture of multiple communities, including migrants (DISC, n. d.-a).

Some other goals of multisensory space include learning through the process of creating, learning and creating through teamwork, strengthening digital skills by creating and using e-materials and creating an innovative approach to learning chosen topics (Frangž, 2024).

The two projects that utilize the Multisensory Space Method are DISC project and Zelen in odporen prehod za varno in uspešno družbo (eng. A green and resilient transition for a safe and prosperous society). DISC project's main goals are to enhance the digital skills of people with a migratory background, which would support their integration into society. At the same time, it aims to promote intercultural dialogue between locals and migrant communities through digital tools, promote inclusive methods of teaching for educational staff and enhance the role of educational institutions (DISC, n. d.-b).

The project Zelen in odporen prehod za varno in uspešno družbo focuses on preparing starting points for a sustainable transition into Society 5.0. During the project, the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security will utilize various activities, including teaching in multisensory space (University of Maribor – Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, n. d.)



Spain

THE LATEST RESEARCH IN SPAIN

No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
1	Red Acoge (2021)	Rights as the basis for inclusion	Qualitative and quantitative	Literature review and policy proposals		<p>The object of the study focuses specifically on the factors that condition access to and/or renewal of temporary residence and/or work authorisations for employees and self-employed workers in Spain as a means of recognising their rights.</p> <p>The ultimate aim of this project is to advance in the inclusion of the migrant population as subjects of full rights, which requires the strengthening of Red Acoge organisations, the strengthening of the migrant population and political advocacy.</p>	https://murcia-acoge.com/retos-para-la-inclusion-de-personas-migrantes-en-espana/
2	Espinosa (2024)	Radiography of inclusion in Spain: migrants lead unemployment despite "pulling" the labour market	Qualitative	Data collection from Eurostat survey (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/dash-board/migrant-integration-inclusion/)		The data on the inclusion of migrants in Spain are that they lead in unemployment rates, employment in jobs for which they are overqualified and temporary jobs. These are the conclusions that can be drawn from the new tool published by Eurostat, the European Union's statistical portal, which provides an X-ray of the situation of migrants on the continent and, specifically, in each of the 27 EU countries.	https://www.newtral.es/trabajos-espana-migrantes-eurostat/20240206/



No	Author (year)	Study purpose	Study type	Data collection	Participants and sampling	Main findings	Link
3	Keersmaecker and Schmid (2023)	Preventing discrimination and social exclusion in Spain: the role of social contact between immigrant and non-migrant	Qualitative	Interviews and other means to make questions to participants to collect data to study/conclude afterwards.	Spanish population (2297)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-More than 15% of the Spanish population has been born abroad since 2021.-Many Spaniards observe this fact as immigrant being less competitive and threatening for the Spanish culture.-Other part of the Spanish population is less reluctant.	https://elobservatoriosocial.fundacionlacaixa.org/es/-/como-prevenir-la-discriminacion-y-la-exclusion-social-en-espana-el-papel-del-contacto-social-entre-autoctonos-e-inmigrantes
4	Garrido Casas (2020)	Study on the Needs of the Immigrant Population in Spain: Trends and Challenges for Social Inclusion	Quantitative and qualitative	Questionnaires, data collection, literature review		Through this research study, the aim is to improve knowledge of the reality of the most vulnerable migrant population, to evaluate interventions and to promote, from a gender perspective, the development of future actions in coherence with the needs and demands observed.	https://www.accem.es/estudio-las-necesidades-la-poblacion-inmigrante-espana-tendencias-retos-la-inclusion-social/
5	Keersmaecker and Schmid (2023)	Preventing discrimination and social exclusion in Spain: the role of social contact between natives and immigrants	Quantitative and Qualitative	Data collection, statistics, literature review		Spain is a common destination for immigrants, especially Moroccans and Latin Americans. In 2021, more than 15% of Spain's population was born in another country, and this figure is even higher in some large cities, such as Barcelona. A key social challenge for Spain – as for many other immigrant-receiving countries – is how to prevent the social exclusion of immigration.	https://elobservatoriosocial.fundacionlacaixa.org/es/-/como-prevenir-la-discriminacion-y-la-exclusion-social-en-espana-el-papel-del-contacto-social-entre-autoctonos-e-inmigrantes#



THE LATEST PROJECTS IN SPAIN

No	Author (year)	Title, Acronym	Programme	Period of project	Implementation level	Main objective	Link
1	Universidad Pompeu Fabra	Schools4inclusion	Erasmus+	2019-2022	Greece, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom	The "Schools 4 Inclusion" project proposed the elaboration of an effective strategy for the evolution of the school into an inclusive environment, conducive to the successful integration of children of migrant background.	https://www.upf.edu/web/schools4inclusion/
2	ICMC Europa	SHARE SIRA	AMIF		Belgium, France, Spain, Greece and Poland	The SHARE Network provides a Europe-wide platform for mutual exchange and learning between regional and local actors to foster the reception, inclusion and integration of newly arrived migrants and refugees in Europe.	https://spain.iom.int/es/proyecto-share-sira
3	Universidad de Salamanca	INCLUDEED	Erasmus+	2020-2023	France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain	After three international joint projects, the partners have established common lines of work and priority systems in their area of expertise: language teaching, especially for socially disadvantaged groups.	https://includeed.usal.es/
4	Horuelo	VAMOS	Erasmus+	2019-2022	Greece, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom	VAMOS addresses the growing multicultural character of EU societies in the current context of migration and the need to establish professional profiles specifically designed for migrants and by migrants.	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-ES02-KA105-014909
5	Taller d'Art, Cultura i Creació	YALAH	Erasmus+	2020-2023	Estonia, Hungary, Italy, North Macedonia, Spain	YALAH was a project that put young Europeans in contact with the purpose of familiarizing them with the reality of refugee people.	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-ES02-KA105-014909



GOOD AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN SPAIN

Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
Art for Coexistence Programme Art for social change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promoting inclusion and integration of migrant minors20 Good educational practices in integrating migrants through the arts, promoting interculturality, preventing absenteeism and early school leaving, involving families and providing methodology for teachers.- Promoting interculturality and acceptance of diversity in educational centres.- Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.- To be aware of the situation of the immigrant population.- Promote the participation of immigrant families in schools and constructive dialogue with Spanish society.- Equipping teachers with tools for diversity management.	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teacher training in interculturality- Workshops and labs for direct intervention with minors- Best practice activities- Open days to disseminate Integr-Arte. <p>Inclusive artistic workshops where participants have a voice and a space to create a collective identity that embraces diversity, working on self-esteem, motivation and personal initiative to take collective responsibility.</p>	Almost 200 organisations, including schools, NGOs and various administrations involved.	Arte por la Convivencia Fundación Yehudi Menuhin España (fundacionyehudimenuhin.org)



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
CREATE Project- Culture to empower	CREATE aims to harness the role of culture as a driver for social cohesion, inclusive recovery, active citizenship and well-being by promoting artistic creation and processes as a tool to enhance the social inclusion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special needs (young people with disabilities, migrant backgrounds and belonging to minorities).	2022- 2025	Capacity building course in CREATE methodology Creative laboratories with workshops for young migrants at risk of exclusion	- Manual for trainers in CREATE methodology - 30 artists from Greece, Lithuania, Spain and Italy took the course 80 teenagers will participate in the Labs in October 2024	CREATE Capacity Building - Create (createtoempower.eu)



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
AESCO - programa "Fortalecimiento de las capacidades de inserción laboral del colectivo inmigrante hacia una mayor empleabilidad"	<p>Programme financed by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, as well as the European Social Fund; It is carried out in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona, the main objective is to achieve an improvement in the social and labour integration of third-country nationals in a vulnerable situation or at risk of social exclusion.</p> <p>The training focuses in the area of commerce which offers the best opportunity for job placement at the current time. Also, in the hospitality area which has the greatest demand for job opportunities.</p>	2023	Capacity building trainings on Cashier and Stocker and Food Handler; logistics operator; warehouse assistant	Training courses to provide professional skills to the migrant population to foster their integration in the labour market.	https://ong-aesco.org/insercion-sociolaboral-colectivo-inmigrante/



Title	Aims	Period	Activities	Results	Link
CEPAIM: EU Project EPIC-UP	The ongoing Upscaling the European Platform of Integrating Communities project objective focuses on developing and testing integration strategies for the inclusion of migrants at the local level.	2024	EPIC-UP will establish Communities of Practice (CoPs) in six EU countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain) in which good practices and strategies will be studied and transferred. The CoPs will test and consolidate six new integration services through a process of social experimentation that includes co-creation phases carried out jointly by the various actors involved.	Expected results counts with an inclusive participatory methodology to promote the social inclusion of migrants more efficiently; trainings and recommendations. Finally, six pilot projects will be implemented that promote integration in different locations.	https://www.cepaim.org/arranca-el-proyecto-europeo-epic-up-para-la-integracion-local-de-migrantes/



Talents of New Europe – TONE

Develop, test and provide a training method for “new talents” – artists coming from a refugee/migrant background that want to pursue a career in the arts in Europe. This training programme was established by five partners organisations from four countries and a handbook is made to make the training accessible to organisations across Europe.

2020 – 2023

- Recruitment of migrants and refugees
- Trainings in three countries
- Communication with stakeholders: art schools, theatres, festivals, cultural organisations, academies etc.
- Facilitation of sessions between newcomers and professionals – invitations for masterclasses, events etc.
- Creation of a digital platform to increase visibility and ensure practical sources
- Publication of the training programme handbook with content of the trainings for further implementation
- etc.

The concrete outputs of the project include a training of refugees in three countries: NL/ES/IT.

–The TONE Handbook based on the methodologies and trainings; a digital platform that facilitated the networking between newcomers and the cultural institutions; a Match Making program to facilitate connections between newcomers and cultural professionals, etc.

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-NL01-KA204-064744>



INFORMATION ON DETECTION, PREVENTION, PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, AND/OR ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT

Title	Programme	Type	Aims	Period	Implementation level	Main results
Arte y Compromiso		Creative methods for social inclusion	Organised by Fundación Cepaim, this programme uses various art forms (theatre, painting, and dance) to empower migrants, giving them a platform to express their experiences and foster social connections.	Ongoing since 2012	Spain	
Barrio Abierto		Creative methods for social inclusion	Implemented by CEAR, this programme uses art and community activities to foster social inclusion and integration of migrants. It includes workshops in theatre, photography, and storytelling.	Ongoing since 2015	Spain	
Música para la integración		Creative methods for social inclusion	Run by the Red Acoge, this programme uses music to bring together migrants and the local community, facilitating cultural exchange and mutual understanding.	Ongoing since 2013	Spain	
Mediadores culturales		Creative methods for social inclusion	Developed by Fundación Secretariado Gitano, this programme trains migrants as cultural mediators to assist in educational and social settings, promoting cultural understanding and integration.	Ongoing since 2010	Spain	



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Contact
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