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Newsletter #2

PARENT INVOLVEMENT OF MIGRANT CHILDREN

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After completion of the joint design of approach and methodology for the workshops that includes tools, methodologies, ways of communication, the P2T project partners started national implementation of the workshops. For national implementation of the workshops, each partner followed the structure of the interactive workshops developed by the lead partner Compass. Project partners from Greece, Slovenia, Austria, Italy, and Belgium included the migrant/refugee parents at pre-primary and primary school into the P2T pilot training.

Let's look at the piloting process in the project partner countries.



ITALY

In Italy, in the city of Palermo, the P2T-Community project workshops organized by Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci and Centro Internazionale delle Culture Ubuntu have started. The course is held at Ubuntu headquarters, in the city center. The specialized trainers who participated in the training of the P2T project, in Innsbruck, in March 2023, are carrying on the activities.

At present, participating in the course, are more than 15 parents from different countries. Most of them are from countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Tunisia or Bangladesh. The participants' backgrounds fully reflect those of the major migratory groups in the Sicilian territory.

During the various meetings, the parents involved had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Italian language, meet parents from other cultural backgrounds, and learn some important bureaucratic procedures regarding their children's school. J. a mother from Ghana expressed the following thought:

"I think this course can be of great help to me because, although I have been here for many years, I still struggle in dealing with teachers. Communication is not always easy and I would like to have more tools to interface with them".

The initiation of diverse activities from the field of nonformal education allowed for the creation of a relaxed atmosphere. Parents felt comfortable expressing their opinions and asking questions. Their feedback will be crucial and will enable us to revise the training modules developed for them. Infact, the idea of P2T- Community is to create a process of co-construction that takes inspiration from the needs and requirements identified firsthand by the individuals to whom the project is directed.



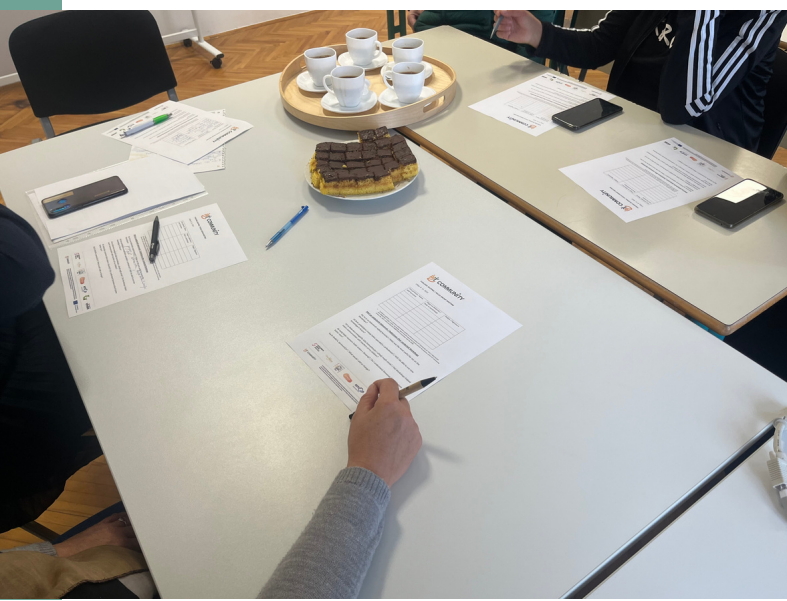


GREECE

In late November 2023, 8 workshops will take place in Athens, Greece, on the premises of the 132 Elementary School of Athens for the parents of immigrant children. These workshops are part of the Erasmus+ project P2T – Community implemented in Belgium, Slovenia, Austria, Italy, and Greece. Their goal is to help parents learn about the Greek language, the educational system in Greece, how to communicate digitally with teachers, bureaucratic procedures they need to know about the school, the school's academic schedule and how it focuses on the children's needs, extracurricular activities and much more.

SLOVENIA

During the months of September and October 2023, in Slovenia, in the premises of Education Centre Geoss in Litija rich and colourful workshops for parents of immigrant children took place. The workshops were part of the Erasmus+ P2T Community project. Parents learned about the Slovene language, the Education system in Slovenia, digital communication with teachers, schedules, extracurricular activities and much more. The atmosphere was very positive, and the participants were extremely motivated to attend. The number of 15 participants from the first workshop grew to 21 different workshop participants by the last gathering.



After the Workshops we conducted a Focus group meeting with some of the participants and a translator. One of the parents, who participated in the workshop reflected on the effect of workshops in her everyday life with these words:

"After the workshops, I feel more confident about talking to teachers of my child, and I also talk to my neighbours a lot more. I had a check-up with a doctor who praised my progress in the Slovene language. The workshops have encouraged me to continue improving my Slovenian."



BELGIUM

On the 10th of February the workshops started at the VLAM school in Menen, Belgium. Previously, similar information sessions were already organized at the school under the guidance of the principal. This facilitated the installation of workshops at the school as the parents had already established a good relationship with the principal. To date, 5 workshops have already been organized and 3 more will take place. So far, the workshops were about strengthening the digital skills of the parents (cfr. use of the school platform), providing information about after-school activities, informing the parents about the school system and the like. In total, already 37 parents participated in the workshops. So a great turnout! Parents seem enthusiastic about coming to the workshops and indicate that they take a lot from the conversations with other parents and school staff. For example, one of the parents said:

"We feel we can say whatever we want during the workshops. We have developed a good relationship with Isabel (the director) because of this."

The following workshops will focus on the relationship between teachers and parents and other needs as indicated by the parents.

AUSTRIA

In Austria, the P2T Community workshops by Compass GmbH started on 3 October. A parents' café was organised in a primary school in Innsbruck (VS Pradl-Leitgeb 1). Teachers from the school, the headmistress and the school psychologist took part. We used this opportunity to present our project and show some exercises to strengthen the relationship between parents and teachers.

The second and third workshops were organised in a refugee home in Innsbruck together with the Tyrolean Social Services (TSD). The TSD provided translators. The content of the workshop was the school system and school life in Austria.

Another workshop took place in the Reichenau district meeting place. This is a neighbourhood meeting place where people from the neighbourhood can meet regularly and plan events. In this workshop we talked about communication with teachers and the school.

Other two workshops were again held at the refugee home. Topics included learning materials for the home and associations and digital skills. We also visited different websites together and communicated with each other through digital channels.

During these meetings, we were able to reach parents of different nationalities, for example Serbian, Brazilian, Iranian, Afghan, Syrians, Ukrainians, Somalis, and Egyptians.

We used interactive exercises to familiarise the participants with the Austrian school system and received very positive feedback.

One of the participants stated that.

"I've only been in Austria for a short time, and I was overwhelmed by the new school system, it's so different from my own. I'm glad I got an overview today."



INFORMATION

The P2T - Community - Parent Involvement of Migrant Children project has been funded by the Erasmus + programme:
The partnership is made up of:



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Austria

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Slovenia

**Centro Internazionale delle
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Italy

**KMOP, Education and
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Greece

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