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Welcome to the second edition of the ESIRAS eBulletin. Its main purpose is to keep ESIRAS partners informed about project progress, key milestones and events, success stories and innovative strategies from the field to improve the labor market and social integration of refugees and asylum seekers.

Stories, news, tools, resources and relevant information on labor market and social integration of refugees and asylum seekers in the seven ESIRAS cities are more than welcome!

First ESIRAS Regional Coordination Meeting

Around 20 participants representing the eight ESIRAS European Red Cross National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and representatives from the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission (DG EMPL) attended the First Regional Coordination Meeting that was hosted by the Italian Red Cross in Milan.

ESIRAS local projects shared information on the progress made and the activities they are implementing and discussed in working groups on topics such as intermediation and engagement, project monitoring and reporting, women engagement in ESIRAS activities, and sustainability. Two dashboards were introduced at the meeting. These new ESIRAS tools capture and present an updated overview on three key elements of the project: participants' profiles, implemented activities and participant's individual records.

Second Quarterly Report

By June 30th, ESIRAS integration centres were open and providing services in all seven ESIRAS locations. In the second quarter there were 286 active participants, from which **194** new participants were registered in Q2 (53 women and 141 men). **218** participants received skills training, **19** were enrolled in vocational trainings and **16** completed and internship. In total, 315 participants have registered in both Q1 and Q2, which accounts for **26%** of the project target.

KEY FACTS

PROJECT NUMBER: VS/2017/0423

START DATE: 01/01/2018

DURATION: 18 months

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Austrian Red Cross (Steiermark region),
British Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross
Society, Danish Red Cross, French Red
Cross, Italian Red Cross and Slovenian
Red Cross

CONTRACT HOLDER: IFRC

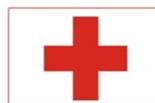
COORDINATOR: Spanish Red Cross



#ESIRAS



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Highlights

Graz

PRE-LABOUR WORKSHOPS

The Styrian branch of the Austrian Red Cross supports individuals to access employment through workshops and one-to-one consultations. Newly revised and updated job application materials and tailored support to prepare for the job interview have enabled a number of ESIRAS participants the chance to gain their first experience in the workplace. They were allocated placements as part of the ESIRAS Programme. All the participants successfully completed their work placements.



SUMMER SCHOOL

During the summer months, the Styrian branch of the Austrian Red Cross offered an intensive Summer School for ESIRAS participants. Numerous German courses and workshops took place during this period. Lessons outdoors on warmer days were a particular highlight of the programme and a welcome change for participants! 😊.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the Langer Tag der Flucht, the Styrian Red Cross together with the [Talenteküche](#), another initiative that supports the integration of refugees and migrants into the labor market, organized an event called [‘ESIRAS goes Talenteküche’](#). The aim of the event was to create discussions, sharing of ideas and new networking possibilities. This year’s theme was world cuisine and many prominent guests attended the event, such as the President of the Austrian Red Cross, employers from the field of Hospitality and Catering, representatives from the world of business, the Austrian Employment Service (AMS) and other organizations.



Ljubljana and Maribor



Follow [ESIRAS Slovenia](#) activities on Facebook!

NATIONAL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

A second ESIRAS Slovenia office was [open in Maribor](#). Volunteers and local branch staff assisted in the renovation of the office space. A joint one-day seminar for ESIRAS beneficiaries was organized in Novo mesto in collaboration with local staff. ESIRAS Slovenia also joined forces with Ljubljana local branch in the preparation of a social picnic/crafts workshop for women beneficiaries of its social inclusion programme - [Srečevalnica](#).



PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

In July, four beneficiaries successfully completed a dry-wall construction vocational course with the support of an ESIRAS interpreter and volunteers. Beneficiaries also continued with preparations for driver's first aid exam and national driving license tests. In September, a new group of beneficiaries started preparations for their driving license.

Glasgow

LIFESKILLS

The second *Lifeskills* class started on 18 July and ran for eight weeks. 23 participants completed the course, attending English classes, *Lifeskills* sessions about systems and culture in the UK and social activities. The group learned how to use the free citybike scheme and went on a day's cycling trip to the Scottish coast! When the programme finished, the Move-on caseworker helped young people get places in an English language course at a college. 21 participants are now attending classes.



PARTNERSHIP

15 participants have been supported so far through the partnership with Bridges Programmes. A variety of **placements** have been offered to suit ESIRAS participants' skills and experience. These include placements at: a carpet manufacturer's, a local nursery school, an animal welfare organization, a vet practice, a care home, Glasgow Community Initiative Food Initiative and of course the British Red Cross charity shops.

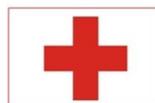
Jelling

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINING

In August the ESIRAS team in Jelling participated in a two-days training about Motivational Interviewing (MI). The training was designed to improve motivation among ESIRAS participants, which has been a challenge in Jelling. MI is a client based methodology which provides tools for listening for the motivation between the lines, when interviewing and communicating with the participants.



MI is about careful and active listening focusing on the small signs of motivation to change status quo in the participant, and then to build further communication on that.





EXPLAINING THE PROJECT

The ESIRAS team in Jelling created an Infographic that helps them explain in a visual and reader-friendly format the activities and steps that participants follow after joining the project.

Milan

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

A first group of 14 participants successfully completed their professional training course to be employed by the food service industry, fully funded by Esiras, of which 11 will participate in an internship program. Another 7 participants have recently started a course in buildings refurbishment and maintenance and 7 more are enrolled in a professional training for the food service industry. In addition, two new trainings will soon begin to develop skills as a warehouse worker.



Certificate for completion of training course



VOLUNTEERING

So far 16 participants of ESIRAS were given the opportunity to engage in volunteering activities - such as gardening, cleaning up public spaces, supporting the organisation of events in cooperation with several associations, in order to facilitate their social integration within the community in Milan.

Paris

JOINING FORCES FOR INTEGRATION

Following the French Red Cross Director General (Jean-Christophe Combe) invitation, the inter-ministerial delegation for refugees integration (DIAIR) and its Delegate, Alain Régnier, met up with the ESIRAS team in Bagnolet in July.



Read the full [article](#) (in French)



Tihana Ceho handing Tenzin Lama (Tibet) his ESIRAS certificate.

ESIRAS CERTIFICATE

After 5 months of intense training, participants received their ESIRAS certificate, handed by the project coordinator, Tihana Ceho. Following the ceremony, the participants, the team and volunteers all gathered in a nearby park for a festive pique-nique. A few participants gave a moving speech sharing their gratitude to the ESIRAS programme.



Nicosia



PROJECT START AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

The first interviews with potential participants started at the Training Center in Nicosia on June 21st. The following day, the ESIRAS team in Nicosia attended the World Refugee Day Festival in Larnaka and Nicosia where they handed out ESIRAS leaflets to attendees.

Red Cross News on Social Inclusion

The Italian Red Cross and the Red Cross EU Office organize a **workshop on 'EU funding to support the social inclusion of migrants'** that will be held from 21 to 23 November 2018 in the Italian Red Cross training centre in Bresso.

The event will explore possibilities to use EU funding to support the social inclusion of migrants in the coming three years. Participants will learn more about different means of accessing EU funding for social inclusion of migrants. Among others, the following programmes will be presented: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), European Social Fund (ESF), Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC).

Online [registration](#) is open until **30 October 2018**.

Agenda (UPDATE)

- Human Rights Day
10 December. For further information click [here](#)
- International Migrants Day
18 December. For further information click [here](#)
- 2nd ESIRAS Regional Coordination Meeting
Nicosia, 15-16 November
- ESIRAS Steering Committee
Nicosia (TBD)

Next project deadlines

- ❖ 26 October. Progress report questionnaire
- ❖ 26 October. Quarterly report (Q3)
- ❖ 31 October. Communication reach report
- ❖ 31 December. Quarterly report (Q4)
- ❖ 15 January. Inputs for ESIRAS eBulletin #3

Resources & Tools

- EASO. [Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2017](#)
- IOM. [Analysis of data obtained from the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals](#)
- Erasmus+. [Online Linguistic Support for refugees](#)
- EVA. [European Entrepreneurship VET Model and Assessment Framework for Ethnic Minorities](#)
- UNHCR-OECD. [Engaging with employers in the hiring of refugees](#)
- European Commission. [Science4Refugees](#)
- [2018 Red Cross EU Funding Guide](#). Available at the member's area of the RC EU Office website.
- OECD/European Commission. [Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees](#). Report [Fact sheet](#).

Inputs from ESIRAS partners for the next issue of the e-Bulletin are welcome at esiras@cruzroja.es by **January 15th**

