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The UnionMigrantNet & Cities Together for Integration Project

The [UnionMigrantNet](#) was set up in 2013 as a network of local, regional and national trade union structures. Today it is a **Network, Platform** and a **Tool** managed by the European Trade Union Confederation ([ETUC](#)) for the support on integration of migrants and refugees through **TU Contact points**. It is also a way to establish at local level a multistakeholder collaboration and synergies that are essential for quality reception and integration of TCNs. Various tools, a number of trainings, awareness raising events, and exchanging of good practices were produced through the UMN project (2019- 2022) in order to implement concrete initiatives with a view of promoting better socio-professional integration of migrants and refugees.

NEWS

UMN Final Conference

After 3 years of good cooperation and exchanges among partners including trade unions/ local authorities/ associations/ research institutes/ NGO's, the UMN Network Closing Conference was organised - 13 & 14 December 2022 – Brussels, Belgium.





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NEWS

UnionMigrantNet in Belgium – Social economy

An inclusion of migrant workers



The city of **Liège** declared itself "hospitable and welcoming" in a motion voted unanimously by the Communal Council in 2017 by members of Civil society and Trade unions for collaboration on better reception and integration of migrants. The **UnionMigrantNet** project has given a real boost to this dynamic, focusing on access to the labour market, gathered together in **Belgium** the [City of Liege](#), [Le Monde des Possibles](#) and [CEPAG](#). The Belgian activities aimed to highlight **social economy** initiatives that promote the inclusion of migrants, by identifying good practices in European municipalities.

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Mutual Learning Program



Two exchange visits were implemented between the Belgian and Bulgarian UMN partners. The existing mechanisms of reception and socio-professional integration were the aim of the meetings in **Sofia** with public authorities and association structures of **Trade Unions**, such as the **CITUB** (Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria), **Municipality of Sofia**, **Caritas Bulgaria**, **SDA** (Sofia Development Association) and local NGOs.

The meetings allowed to compare the practices in the two countries and receive new ideas for implementation.

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The project reflected in various activities carried out in Liege:

- 8 half-day workshops for asylum seekers and refugees on labour legislation and access to the labour market in Belgium (Le Monde des Possibles & CEPAG).
- Two months: individual consultations and group workshops on employment law and access to housing (Le Monde des Possibles) for refugees from Ukraine with interpreters (Universal service).
- A [Guide](#) on inclusion of migrant workers through the Social economy (French & English).
- 2 [Videos](#) have been created to illustrate the Guide and to focus on the project [Univerbal - the Social interpreting service](#) of Le Monde des Possibles.

UnionMigrantNet in Bulgaria

Cities and Social partners together for integration

The aim of the UMN project in Bulgaria was the building of an informal coalition of Civil Society Organizations, social partners, employers and public institutions to support labor market integration of TCNs in Sofia: **Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions of Bulgaria (CITUB)**, **Sofia Municipality** & **Sofia Development Association (SDA)**, UNHCR, and local NGOs.



Project activities:

-Bureau for Information and Services for TCNs

-Study "Access to the Labor Market in Bulgaria of Third Country Nationals ": identifying the most common problems for access to the labor market of TCNs in Bulgaria. Target groups: asylum seekers, migrants, employers and stakeholders/ interested parties.

-7 trainings on labour and social rights in Bulgaria for TCNs (4 in person and 3 hybrid).

-Dissemination materials: Printed brochures on the labour and social rights (Arabic, Bulgarian, English, Russian and Ukrainian versions) & Posters for asylum seekers (Arabic, Bulgarian and English versions) & Video.

- Final [conference](#) in Sofia.



Mutual Learning Program

The MLP included a visit of the partners from Bulgaria to the Municipality of Liege, the local integration center, Le Monde des Possibles - a partner in the UMN project, the General Labor Federation in Belgium and a refugee camp in Liege.

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EKA (The Athens Labour Unions Organization), the **City of Athens** and **Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity** were the Greek partners of the [UMN project in Athens on integration of Third Country Nationals](#) (TCNs).



Activities implemented:

- Training course on labor integration for TCNs (30 hours, with online modules and live sessions): “Working on equal terms in Greece” (EKA/Generation 2.0 RED).
- 8 Newsletters (English & Greek - EKA/Generation 2.0 RED) & 2 Videos.
- [Mutual Learning Programmes](#) (Italy & Greece).
- Awareness raising event (EKA/ Municipality of Athens).
- Guide on good practices of integration of TCNs in Greece (English & Greek versions- EKA/Generation 2.0 RED)
- Final conference in Athens: “[Exploring the gender perspective of TCNs’ integration in the labor market](#)” (City of Athens /EKA).



New integration paths for TCNs in Italy

Milan, Trieste and Pordenone



Comune di Pordenone

ANOLF



The Italian pilot action was a synergy between Associations, Unions, Municipalities, Bilateral Bodies and Companies and included training courses on labour integration & job placement of refugees and asylum seekers in Milan and in the Friuli area. Another key part of the project was the Mutual Learning Programs (MLPs) with exchanging visits between partner organisations in Italy (Milan-Pordenone- Trieste), Greece (Athens) and Slovenia (Ljubljana).

MLP visit in Poland (Warsaw) dedicated to the integration of the Ukrainian refugees

In Milan:

- Training course (100 hours of Italian & 20 hours of civic education & 80 hours of catering) for job placement of refugees and asylum seekers (**Anolf Milano** & Immigration desk-Cisl meneghina & **Fisascat** & **CELAV** & **CAPAC** & trade and services categories of **Cgil** & **Uil**).
- Weekly meetings for monitoring of the course attended by companies interested to take part in the project.
- 3 months Internships in restaurants & fast food companies (financed by EBITER & EBTPE, Milan's Bilateral Institutions for the Tertiary and Public Sector).
- Final Conference in Milan.

VIDEO



Friuli Venezia Giulia



Activities implemented by the Municipality of Pordenone, ANOLF FVG, managing bodies of SPRAR, trade unions and trade associations in Trieste & Pordenone:

- Administrative and bureaucratic [support service and orientation](#) at the Municipality of Trieste with support also to Ukrainian refugees.
- S.O.S LINGUA - an intensive course in Italian language & active citizenship & support to private families offering hospitality to refugees from Ukraine including baby-sitting service.



- Training course of immigrant women: 180 hours -professionalizing part & Italian language & active citizenship (Social Service of the Municipalities in the cleaning sector & Job Orientation service- Municipality of Pordenone & ANOLF FVG & Soform training agency & S. Cuore).
- Italian course training of Ukrainian refugees in the area.
- Training internships at companies in the area (Orienta Lavoro office- Municipality of Pordenone)

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UnionMigrantNet in Slovenia



City of
Ljubljana

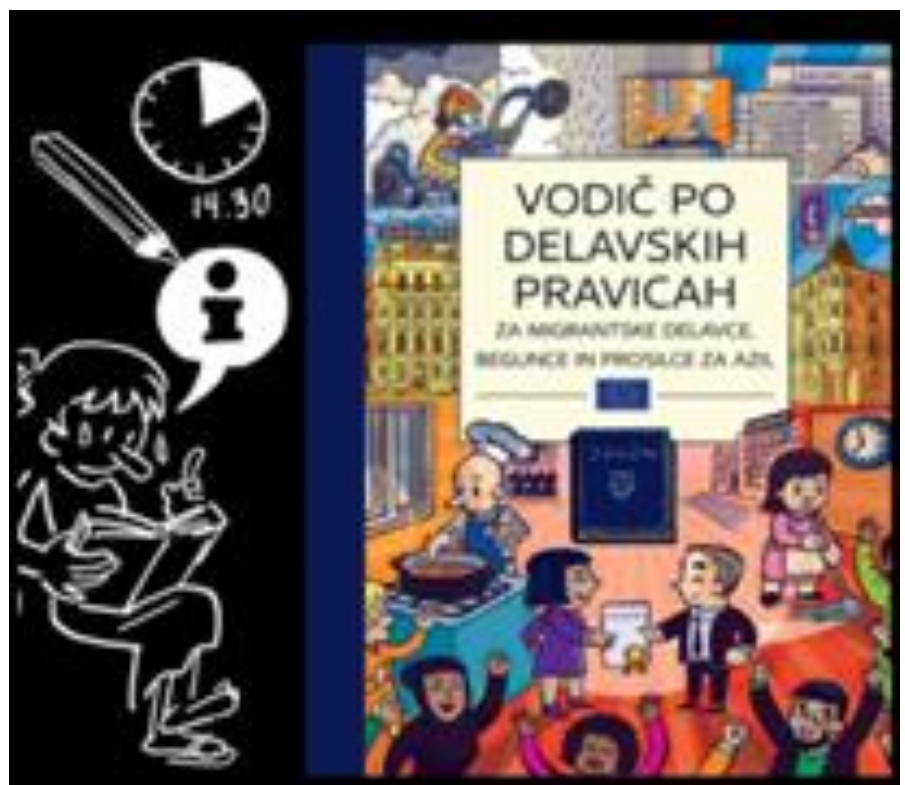


Neodvisni
Sindik
Delavcev
Slovenije

The UMN project in Slovenia was implemented by the **City Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL)** & **Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)**, and the **Independent Workers' Union of Slovenia**, with the support of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Care and Integration of Migrants, Sector for Reception and Care & Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Employment.

Project activities:

- Establishment of a **One-stop-shop point** ("Migration Information Point")
- 14 one-day workshops on labor integration in Slovenian, with interpretation at 11 different languages by 25 migrant interpreters- native speakers.
- 3 workshops for persons with temporary protection from Ukraine & evaluation workshop (Trieste, Italy).
- A Visual Guide on Integration (digital & printed versions).
- MLPs in Italy (with Greek and Italian partners) and Slovenia (with partners from Italy and Belgium): a number of visits were implemented with Public authorities, Civil Society Organisations and local stakeholders.





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