



NEWSLETTER 3

Boosting refugees' access to employment

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INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO COVID-19

Boosting refugees' access to employment is now, more than ever, a vital task. The past 5 months we have seen an increase in the unemployment rates all across Europe, including the unemployment amongst newcomers and refugees.

The tools and methods available in our TOOLKIT on our website www.brefe.eu can create the framework for activities, that are even more relevant when unemployment rates are continuing to rise. Refugees and professionals

can use this time to identify key competencies, work on language skills, and narrowing down what ambitions the refugees have. These are all activities that will help boost the refugees' access to employment once the unemployment rates stop rising.

TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

The BREFE partnership is an EU initiative, and even though the partners have not been able to visit each other due to the COVID-19 situation, we are finding new ways of communicating to keep the project going. We have throughout the spring had 2 transnational meetings with all partners present online.

To make sure that all of the tools we provide are both innovative and has international relevance, this international communication is very important. The current situation has forced us to be creative and to rethink our transnational ways of communicating.

Visit our web site: <http://www.brefe.eu>



Update from partners

Greta du Velay (FR)



After the stop of face to face activities decided on March 17th, support to newcomers has continued at distance during two weeks on a full time base. By mutual agreement, it has then been reduced and replaced by weekly Skype meetings. In addition to the BEFE web site, a blog, more informal, has been made available for the migrants to access and share resources. In June, some face to face support has taken place again in premises re-organised following the governmental instructions. The weeks lost because of the lockdown have been rescheduled and in particular the working periods in companies that could not be held.

Ceipiemonte (IT)



Before the pandemic we worked together with around 20 Italian companies and intermediary organizations to collect needs and practices on migrants' work inclusion. This collaboration led us to develop tools and methods to improve the process of selection, onboarding, managing and valorizing new non-EU migrants with poor Italian knowledge. Our material has been enriched by other outputs developed by our partners and it is now available on BREFE website for all economic bodies. We want now to share and test it with other companies to improve it, actions which we had to suspend during the COVID-19 emergency.

Association New Dane (DK)



In Denmark, the industries that we have worked with have been particularly badly affected by the COVID-19 - especially the tourist and hospitality industries. Our largest piloting partner has e.g. had to fire most of their staff, and they have been forced to stop all piloting activities. This has forced us to be creative in our way of working, and to find new piloting partners that will help us reach the goals of the project.

We find that the main objectives of this project are increasingly more meaningful in the current situation. We are therefore looking forward to resuming our activities in the fall.

Solidaridad Sin Fronteras (ES)



In Spain, all face to face activities stopped during the COVID-19 emergency. SSF's professionals kept providing guidance and counselling to their beneficiaries, mostly people with a migrant background, in an online mode and by phone. In addition, a new service to provide free psychological and emotional support to those who need it was enabled.

Regarding SSF's reference companies, they have been the most affected by the crisis. Most of them had to stop their activity for two months and with layoffs and restructuring of staff.

Since the end of June, SSF employment staff have resumed their face-to-face activities, limiting the number of attendants, and have communicated with companies again.

BREFE' materials have been improved and at this time the latest translations are being carried out. Within this scenario, some piloting activities are taking place during the month of July.

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