

# FAB

Fast-track Action Boost

Co-funded by



## Newsletter n°1

FAB project's aims to build a multi-level partnerships model for efficient integration actions dedicated to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in general, with special attention dedicated to women.

The project starts from what is actually managed in partners' countries and organizations, to the development of common approach mixed with integrated/developed activities in each partner's countries.

Through study visits all partners had the opportunity to see these experiences, that will be explored, adapted and transferred all along the project life.

All the municipalities that participate in this project have a long story of inclusion, of multicultural approach that, sometimes, is not always in line with the national government position: from the project design phase until now, the political background of the partner's countries is slightly (sometimes strongly) changed.

FAB project tries not to be affected by these changes in a relevant way.

# INCREASE KNOWLEDGE

**Study visits and benchmarking of models and practices in place**



The four study visits represent a significant part of FAB's Outcome 1, as mentioned in the project description: Analysis and transfer, of specific practices, measures, services and tools of the participating cities and countries that have been successful so far.

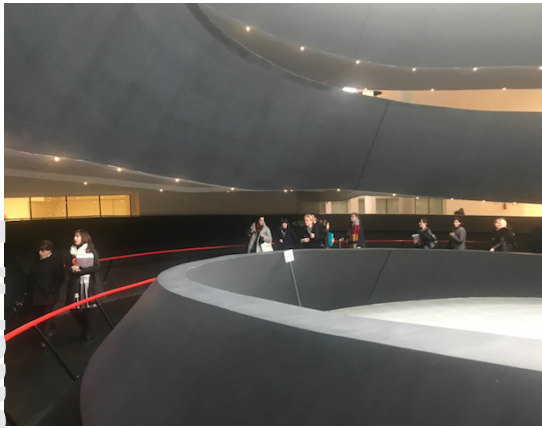
Study visits and Peer Reviews took place, through classical social research methods by qualified organizations and experts, in:

**MILAN – 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**STOCKHOLM – 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**WIEN – 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

**BERLIN – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**



Milan, AFOL Metropolitana,  
The Public Employment Center

The city of Milan has a huge network of institutions (approximately 72 organizations of the third sector) operating on the issue of immigration. The Municipality develops an integrated intervention model, able to combine the political level, technical level, institutional dimensions and multilevel partnership stakeholder's network (e.g. with AFOLMET).

## **CELAV (Centro di Mediazione Lavoro – Job Mediation Center)**

- ▶ Info point
- ▶ Professional integration
- ▶ Job matching
- ▶ One specialized team in handling asylum seekers and refugees

## **Unit for Social Emergency, Inclusion and Rights - Department for Social Policies (Municipality of Milan)**

- ▶ Data collection about the immigrants in the Milan area
- ▶ CAS – Extraordinary reception centers
- ▶ SPRAR - System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

## **AFOL Metropolitana (Agenzia metropolitana per la formazione, l'orientamento e il lavoro)**

- ▶ Public Employment Center
- ▶ Integration of services (VET, job placement, guidance)
- ▶ Networking with local stakeholders promoting partnership between public/private bodies

## **SPRAR - System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

- ▶ Material Assistance Program: food, accommodation, pocket money, public transport card etc.
- ▶ Health, Hospital Admissions, Mental Health and Wellbeing
- ▶ Social Integration (Italian for non-national language courses, school enrollment, sociocultural activities, sport activities, volunteering)
- ▶ Housing assistance

The first Peer Review done is about AFOL Metropolitana services. Collaboration between internal services and external actors (private employment agencies, companies, third sector), the high quality of staff and services offered are the highlights of this context, while there is a lack of staff (in terms of the ratio staff/clients) and the networks are often informal.

“During the study visit in Milan we learned about the SPRAR-program, that offers initial support for newcomers the first six months in Italy. In collaboration with local families and NGOs, newcomers meet locals which create social inclusion and language support.”

01. Lead Partner - AMF



Stockholm, SFX – Swedish for professionals in the Stockholm county

In Stockholm focus during the study visit was primarily on language. Measures that were introduced were for example language training for professionals, both for academic and non-academic professions, and vocational training with integrated language learning.”

01. Lead Partner - AMF

The Swedish Public Employment service – PES, offers an introduction during 24 months for newcomers. An introduction plan contains different activities that are to support on the way to find work.

#### **Project From newly arrived - to newly employed teacher**

- ▶ A fast track project for asylum seekers with pedagogical background (participants need to have been professional teachers).
- ▶ The project work in very close relation to the university.

#### **SFX – Swedish for professionals in the Stockholm county**

- ▶ Intense language studies combined with vocational classes for newly arrived professionals
- ▶ Assessment of previous qualifications is required for admission to specific courses
- ▶ No differences between refugees and, e.g., other European/US citizens
- ▶ Courses planned and carried out in cooperation with employers, PES and trade unions and other important actors on the labour market.

#### **SIFA – Stockholm's intensive Swedish for academics**

- ▶ Offers Swedish for Engineers, Swedish for Educationalists/ Teachers and Swedish for Economists, Lawyers and Social scientists

#### **Project YFI – vocational training for immigrants with integrated language education**

- ▶ EU-funded project that offers vocational training for immigrants with integrated language education
- ▶ Develop, test and evaluate methods where second language learning is integrated in vocational programs on upper secondary level

#### **EFAS – unit that develops collaboration with employers**

- ▶ Has a wide network and is able to find unemployed people suited for the jobs available or suited to be trained for the job
- ▶ Offers a coaching and mentoring in the work place program
- ▶ Integration between PES and municipality services

Data from peer reviews offers interesting feedback about the improvement of language skills, the close network with university and VET projects/institutions. What is still to be improved is the feedback collection after the training experiences of refugees, to get concretely the employee numbers (except for Project YFI). The offer of very high-level training is a plus for refugees but the dropout rate is quite high, because people need to find a job.



Wien, SINDBAD, a private job-mentoring association

“Vienna presented a diverse aspect of measures, especially for young people. That include mentors for youth with immigrant background and Spacelab, a hub organized by NGOs where young people are encouraged to gain new skills through creativity.”

01. Lead Partner - AMF

Wien has an entire department (MA17) fully dedicated to the management and promotion of integration and diversity; it has several task to manage but its heart activities are focused on creating and funding a large number of programs and projects, including language measures, basic education, advice on legal issues for immigrants.

## Start Wien – Integration from Day 1

- ▶ Is a project based on the experience that the first years after arrival are decisive for the personal and professional future of each immigrant/refugee
- ▶ Integration at 360° (living together, healthcare, school, job, etc.)
- ▶ Individual assessment, support with the recognition of qualifications
- ▶ Training for low level qualified people

## SINDBAD

- ▶ private job-mentoring initiative
- ▶ peer education/counselling system for young people in their last compulsory school year

## Work:In

- ▶ Their activities involve school-coaching, job-coaching and housing
- ▶ Supports young refugees through job orientation courses as well as through internships in different companies

## Bildungsdrehscheibe

- ▶ Is the primary education and job assessment point for asylum seekers
- ▶ Coaches and psychologists can advise on further education or professional training courses necessary to enter the job market

## Jugendcollege

- ▶ Works with young refugees between 15 and 21 years
- ▶ Offers very flexible training modules, each lasting eight weeks

## Spacelab Gestaltung (eng. Design and Creativity)

- ▶ Provide a system of assistance to young people at the transition from school to work, specifically to so-called NEETs

The strengths merged in the peer reviews show a very positive approach for the Municipality (welcome services in 26 languages) that also have specific attention for children and young people. But there's still some work to do in the connection between training offer and the concrete job vacancies (often low profile ones for refugees).





Berlin, Senate Department  
for Integration, Labour and Social Issues

“Berlin gave us an introduction to many measures and support for newcomers, both fixed institutions like Jobcentre. And examples of in outreach work in local neighbourhoods through the method Stadtteilmütter, and Mobile Education Counselling (MoBiBe), counselling for immigrant women on different locations in several languages.”

01. Lead Partner - AMF

The study visit in Berlin has offered several contexts, representing the multi-level approach proposed by the Municipality.

## **Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Issues**

- ▶ Federal strategy
- ▶ The Senate has its own comprehensive policy, aimed at strengthening the integration and participation of refugees. The strategy was developed in a participatory way, involving actors/organisations, i.e. migrant organisations, NGOs, chambers of commerce and of crafts, social partners.

## **Jobcenter Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg (one of 12 Jobcentres in Berlin – one for each district)**

- ▶ A comprehensive reform entailed the differentiation of two systems of granting benefits (unemployment insurance and funds to cover social welfare)
- ▶ Mandatory Integration course and a wide range of VET and qualification measures are offered
- ▶ No difference between migrants and refugees

## **Jugendberufsagentur Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg (Youth Career Agency - YCC)**

- ▶ Main aim is to enable young people under 25 in Berlin to obtain a vocational qualification
- ▶ The target group also includes registered refugees who are under 25 years old
- ▶ The qualification programs are combined with coordinated support measures

## **Project Company GeSBit – MoBiJob, MoBiBe, Arrivo Soziales**

- ▶ Mobile Job Advice for Refugees – MobiJOB: mobile Multilanguage counselors, focusing on the capacities of staff to help beneficiaries to find their sustainable and decent integration in the labour market
- ▶ MoBiBE – Educational counselling for refugees, to make employment and education services accessible to them
- ▶ Arrivo Soziales – project dedicated to the professions in the social and healthcare services: it provides different actions, advice-VET courses-placement in different professions of the sectors

## **District mothers - Stadtteilmütter**

- ▶ Unemployed mothers of migrant background trained in 10 topics of bringing up and educating children in order to support (in their native language) other families of the local area

## **Integrations facilitators - Integrationslotsen**

- ▶ Low-threshold access services, on all matters that can affect migrant people in their daily life.

It is possible to identify a diversified number of opportunities for the unemployed (in terms of financial benefits and support services) with a very rapid integration approach also thanks to a very efficient multi-stakeholder level.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

LEWs – Local Empowerment Workshops and Mentoring System.

A crucial step of FAB project is to establish a functioning *Peer mentoring system* among cities for the adaptation and transfer of a) fast track and b) women's integration models and practices.

This means that, after the research phase, which includes Context researches, Peer Reviews and Study visits, the partners have selected the most relevant and interesting practices and measures in the partnership, and offered/received availability to transfer these measures to/from their own contexts. This mentoring an exchange system is actually ongoing, through shared tools and methods – Local Empowerment Workshops, Mentoring Visits, Trainings, etc.

The FAB project is led by



In partnership with

