

into

intercultural mentoring
tools to support migrant
integration at school



January 2015

Project information

The INTO project is a Comenius Multilateral Project that focuses on “Reducing early school leaving, improving the learning of students with migrant background and Roma pupils as well as promoting gender equality and inclusive approaches to learning”.

The project aims to promote strategies and methods that help students with a migrant background who are at risk of school leaving early to maintain their motivation.

This is accomplished through a peer mentor, who will be able to provide support to their peers in learning, study guidance and homework support

This is the second newsletter for the INTO project. Since October 2014 each of our partner organizations have been running information and training seminars for teachers and education support staff in their regions. In the forthcoming months schools will be piloting the mentoring programme.

Italy

On the 30th October, 2014, the secondary school *Isis Marconi* in San Giovanni Valdarno organized and hosted the opening seminar to present the INTO project to the schools of the area. The seminar was attended by forty teachers and principals of several schools in the area, and several representatives of local authorities and educational organizations. The seminar was opened by **Oxfam Italia**, who introduced the main aspects of the project.

In the second part of the seminar one of the teachers of *Isis Marconi* school presented personal experiences of the peer education model proposed by the project. Later in the seminar some mentors and mentees shared their experiences with the participants. The next step is the organization of the teachers training, which will enable the teachers to set up the mentoring model within their schools.



Project partners:

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



OXFAM
Italia



**VNIVERSIDAD
DSALAMANCA**
CAMPUS OF INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE



**SPOŁECZNA AKADEMIA NAUK
ŁÓDŹ**



CARDET

Get involved!

- Attend a seminar to learn about the issues facing newly arrived migrants and their education.
- Participate as a teacher or student in the pilot testing stages of the Mentor Programme.
- Assist in the development of specific local INTO resources.

For more information contact

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Poland

The first Polish seminar for teachers took place on the 27th November at the **University of Social Sciences** in Lodz. Nearly forty teachers and headmasters of Gymnasium (Lower Secondary Schools) and Lyceum (Upper Secondary Schools) from Lodz region attended. During the seminar the objectives of the INTO project were presented as well as a report about useful tools for the integration of immigrant students.

United Kingdom

On the 4th November, the **University of Southampton** ran its introduction seminar for the INTO project. Teachers, Special Educational Needs Coordinators, and several university students involved in a similar project shared their experiences of working with migrant children and discussed the project. Following the success of this seminar, in December, Southampton began the training of classroom teachers, Special Educational Needs Coordinators and English as an Additional Language Coordinators from four local schools.

Cyprus

The opening dissemination seminar in Cyprus took place on the 28th of November 2014 in Nicosia. Teachers, educators, and social and healthcare workers participated in this seminar. During this seminar, **CARDET** presented the objectives and the aims of INTO project to the participants. Participants said that it will be very interesting to see how students interact with each other and how teachers can support their students to become mentors. According to one participant, this new model has all the potentials to promote the integration of migrant students in our schools.

Spain

On the 19th January, the **University of Salamanca** introduced the INTO project to the Education Faculty Staff. Furthermore, twelve students (future school counselors of the Secondary School Teacher Master) have been selected to act as mentors during the INTO pilot stage, and started their training stage prior to their internship at schools. On the 29th January, thirty secondary school teachers participating in the Researchers School Program (Government of Castile and León) have been introduced to the INTO training program for teachers, in order to better prepare schools to receive mentors. Both initiatives generated great expectations, so this is a good starting point to get prepared for the next stage.



Source Photos: Oxfam Italia