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## 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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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!

## Second ESIRAS Regional Coordination Meeting

Around 20 participants representing eight European Red Cross National Societies, the Red Cross EU Office and the ESIRAS Steering Committee attended the Second Regional Coordination Meeting that was hosted by the Cyprus Red Cross Society in Nicosia on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Two new videos describing ESIRAS activities in Nicosia and Milan were presented by the respective National Societies. The results and main highlights from the mid-term progress report were presented and a round table composed by a representative of each ESIRAS local project discussed and put in common relevant aspects of the implementation. The Austrian Red Cross shared their experience on joining forces with local employers for the labor integration of participants. The Danish Red Cross and Slovenian Red Cross co-facilitated the second experience sharing session where they shared key learnings from the moving of ESIRAS activities from Bornholm to Jelling (Danish Red Cross) and expanding project activities from Ljubljana to Maribor and other locations (Slovenian Red Cross).

## Third Quarterly Report

In the third quarter, 317 participants were registered in ESIRAS. By September 30<sup>th</sup>, a total of **637** participants (28% women and 48% under 25 years old) were registered on ODK, which accounts for **53%** of the project target. All of them had received individual guidance for the development of their work plan. In total, 39 participants have completed a professional training, 27 participated in an internship and 22 have had a civil service or volunteering experience.



## Highlights

### Glasgow

#### ESIRAS LIFESKILLS

Autumn saw our third cohort of participants start on the ESIRAS Lifeskills Programme. Our **language classes** use creative and practical ways for young people to practice their English, like role play and playing board games. We partnered with charity Crimestoppers to deliver a session on **laws and rights** and how to report crimes. Feeling safe in Glasgow and trust in the authorities are important issues for our participants and they said they found the session really engaging. The Lifeskills programme culminated in a **celebration event** organised by young people for their fellow ESIRAS participants. There was music, dancing and some very talented singers!



Playing board games such as Scrabble has served for young people to practice their English



Informative material used for the careers talk on Health and social care professions

#### NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A new partnership with employability officers in the National Health Service saw the delivery of the first of our careers talks for ESIRAS participants interested in **health and social care professions**. We have also made links with the Widening Participation Department at Glasgow University who came to talk to a group of young people interested in higher education.

### Graz

#### COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

The Basic Skills module for ESIRAS participants includes **communication and presentation skills** workshops. The first part began with a theoretical introduction to communication and telephone skills. Participants were then asked to discuss a range of communication situations (meetings, calling the doctor's surgery or the school depicted on cards). Spelling one's own name was also practiced. Participants were given a sheet of telephone tips and phrases specifically designed for their language level, that they can also use when making calls themselves at home. Then followed the interactive part in which participants were asked to write dialogues and present them to the group. In the second part, participants focused on how they come across in everyday situations, particularly in relation to posture and body language.



Participants conducted a role-playing of everyday situations such as a job interview, visiting a flat to rent and setting up a mobile phone contract.

## Ljubljana

### BASIC SKILLS

Based on recommendations from the Public Employment Service, and expressed need of ESIRAS participants, the most demanded and therefore implemented workshop in this quarter was **basic communication skills**. To reach more efficient collaboration with participants and to efficiently address the common challenges they face, we are now conducting three types of basic communication skills workshops. One for women, one for men and one gender mixed.



Basic communications skills session for women



Participants learned many different aspects of working in a commercial kitchen and also about hygienic standards and safety in the workplace.

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING - Cook Assistant

In collaboration with Public Employment Service, ESIRAS Slovenia team supported a group of three participants in **training for cook assistants**. Whether it is food preparation, cooking different types of food - entrees to desserts and everything in between. Training ended with a practical and theoretical exam. All successfully passed the training, obtained the certificate and received an employment opportunity with the on the job training that followed.

## Milan

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING - Food Service

Since June, six vocational trainings involving a total of 64 participants were organized. 90% of the participants passed them successfully. The participants of the first **Training in Food service**, organized in June in collaboration with IFOA, obtained a certificate of attendance.



Participants of the Training in Food Services obtained a certificate of attendance

Since September 2018, the participants started a 3 months internship, reimbursed directly by Sodexo. All were renewed for 3 more months.

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING - Machine tools maintenance

From October to December a **Machine tools maintenance course** (160 hours) was organized in collaboration with the Vocational Training Center of Salesiani for 12 participants who gave excellent feedback in terms of attendance, professional growth but also social inclusion. As part of the socializing opportunities that the training offered, two ESIRAS participants held meetings with students of the Training Center where they played a motivator role and replied to the questions of students of IV and V class in a thorough and engaging way. The teacher intervened only initially to present them, and then *"...two hours flew by"*.



ESIRAS participants attending a Machine tools maintenance course. Read the [article](#) about this collaboration with the Vocational Training Center of Salesiani

## Milan (cont.)

### PRELABORAL TRAINING

Before the vocational trainings, organized in collaboration with the Training Center, the participants had a first interview, attended an **informative session** and were again interviewed to define their **individual work plan**. If selected, on the basis of their Italian level, they were empowered through 3 sessions on **communication, relational and organizational skills**. The ESIRAS team interviewed 232 participants, of which 166 entered the informative session and then met again through second individual interviews. 136 started the internal sessions. Thanks to the Red Cross Volunteers, through volunteering, some participants were empowered also on **linguistic and new technologies skills**.

## Paris



ESIRAS team and participants with their certificates

### ESIRAS CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

On December 11, 2018, participants of the second session were invited at the French Red Cross headquarters for the **ESIRAS certificate ceremony**. Jean-Jacques Eledjam, President of the French Red Cross, congratulated the students for their hard work during the 5 month program. Two participants, one from Syria and another one from Tibet gave a speech to the assembly sharing their ESIRAS experience.

### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

At the beginning of October 2018, our partner association CEEL (community for linguistic exchange and mutual aid) organized its annual festival, the **CEELstival**. During this festive day, our participants had the opportunity to join several activities. They prepared a big meal made of their country specialties. They organized an alphabet workshop, learning Tibetan or Arabic letters. They also listened to poems from the world (Persian, Arabic, French), and enjoyed *pétanque* (French bowling). They finished the day dancing in a friendly atmosphere with young French members of the community.



CEELstival - An ESIRAS participant teaching Tibetan



Christmas meal

Just before the Holiday period, on December 21, 2018, the participants, the ESIRAS team and the volunteers celebrated both the end of the 5 month long French lessons and workshops, and Christmas. They enjoyed a French traditional cheese dish: « Raclette ». Everyone had brought a small present and those gifts were distributed by drawing lots.

## Red Cross News on Social Inclusion

The **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)** was adopted in Marrakesh on 10-11 December. The IFRC has engaged throughout its development, advocating for the safety and dignity of all migrants to be at the center of this new global agreement. The GCM offers concrete measures that will help to reduce the barriers that multiply the risks that migrants face. ESIRAS contributes to the implementation of the GCM, especially to Objective 16, where States commit to “... *foster inclusive and cohesive societies by empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting the reciprocal engagement of receiving communities and migrants..*”. This commitment is to be realized through actions such as establishing “...*community centres or programmes at the local level to facilitate migrant participation in the receiving society...*” (action f, CGM), or by capitalizing “...*on the skills, cultural and language proficiency of migrants and receiving communities by developing and promoting peer-to-peer training exchanges, gender responsive, vocational and civic integration courses and workshops*” (action g, CGM).

- IFRC Policy Brief **Global Compact on Migration** is available at this [link](#)
- **Recommendations on humanitarian priorities from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** can be downloaded [here](#)

### Agenda

- International Women’ Day  
8 March
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
21 March
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ESIRAS Regional Coordination Meeting  
Paris, 8-9 April
- ESIRAS Steering Committee  
Paris, 10 April (TBD)
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work  
28 April

### Next project deadlines

- ❖ 22 February. Communicate your interest to participate on the WRD 2019 planning working group
- ❖ 29 March. Inputs for ESIRAS eBulletin #4
- ❖ 31 March. Training/Workshop description forms
- ❖ 30 April. Quarterly report (Q5)
- ❖ 31 July. Quarterly report (Q6)

### Resources & Tools

- European Commission. [Report on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2018](#).
- Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) initiative. [Equality = Business](#) video.
- United Nations. Explore [here](#) which companies participate in the UN Global Compact<sup>1</sup> local network in your country.
- EUROCITIES. [Website](#) of the Integrating Cities Conference VIII - CITIES4PEOPLE: Migrating ideas, inspiring integration.
- ILO. [Guide](#) to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees
- Digital platforms that connect refugees and employers:
  - [vienna.impacthub.net/program/found/](http://vienna.impacthub.net/program/found/) (AT)
  - [wearechatterbox.org/](http://wearechatterbox.org/) (UK)
  - [www.actionemploirefugies.com](http://www.actionemploirefugies.com) (FR)
  - [linkedinforgood](#); [nonprofit partnerships](#)

Inputs from ESIRAS partners for the next issue of the e-Bulletin are welcome at [esiras@cruzroja.es](mailto:esiras@cruzroja.es) by **March 29<sup>th</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> The UN Global Compact is a call to **companies** to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, **labour**, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

