



Press Release 1

European Funding Aims to Improve Supports to Migrants and Refugees in Europe!

ReEntry is an innovative new project which aims to support refugees and migrants living across Europe into self-employment by developing an online catalogue where VET staff and career advisors can learn of best practices and innovative solutions to encouraging migrant entrepreneurship.

The ReEntry project is promoted by a project team of six organisations from across Europe with vast experience of collaborating in EU funded projects, and in working directly with the project target group. The project partners understand that becoming an entrepreneur is always considered a challenge, particularly so in the case of a migrant or refugee. Above all, what these budding entrepreneurs need is accurate and relevant information, opportunities for quality networking (with both other migrants and members of their host community), mentoring, training, and finally also investment and funding. By providing access to this information, including advice on training opportunities and funding initiatives for migrant entrepreneurs, and by integrating an online networking element to the project website, the main aim of the ReEntry project is to provide an overview of best practices, initiatives and programmes which specifically aim to support and facilitate migrant entrepreneurship in Europe.

The recent war in Syria and political instability and terror across the Middle East and North Africa region in recent years has seen over one million refugees travelling to Europe, and the influx is predicted to continue in the years to come. As well as political issues which concern the distribution of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across EU Member States, there are also urgent socio-economic issues to consider. These include the integration of migrants into European society, and providing opportunities for employment for migrants.

The project team believes that supporting migrant entrepreneurs in Europe is an effective means of improving their social and economic integration; providing them with equal opportunities to become economically self-sufficient in their host countries and therefore to create a more secure life for themselves and their families. Migrant entrepreneurs can also provide services and products to migrant communities across Europe which originate in their home countries; adding to the diversity of the European market, and providing a sense of familiarity to migrants who are far from home.

The ReEntry project commenced in September 2016 and will operate until February 2018. ReEntry is funded by the Irish National Agency, Léargas through the Erasmus+ Programme.

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