

# WEMIN PROJECT

MIGRANT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND INTEGRATION

WHAT DOES IT  
MEAN TO BE A  
MIGRANT OR  
REFUGEE WOMAN  
IN TODAY'S  
EUROPE?



## FINAL CONFERENCE IN ATHENS

Undoubtedly, the international conference entitled **"Women in Displacement: Gender, Migration and the Challenges of Integration in today's Europe"**, was a very successful event! It was organized on 8th and 9th December 2019 (Crowne Plaza Athens, hotel) by the **DAISSy Research Group of the Hellenic Open University (HOU)**, within the framework of the implementation of the **"WEMIN: Migrant Women Empowerment and Integration"** EU project. It triggered the interest of scholars, experts and practitioners, representatives of authorities, national and international institutions, organizations and associations, active citizens, and more generally anyone involved in the study, research and practice in the fields of migration, migration policy, empowerment and social integration of refugees.

This event was an excellent way of completing the WEMIN project implementation. All results and outcomes were presented during this conference. It allowed us to analyze the challenges for integration, strategies and best practices to help women in their everyday struggles.

Do you want to know more? [Click here.](#)

Final conference in Athens  
Booklet "stories of change"  
Peer to peer Platform  
Wemin's local impact in partner countries  
WEMIN Project: it's not over !  
Final partners meeting in Athens



# BOOKLET 'STORIES OF CHANGE '



## WEMIN PROJECT

DOCUMENTING MIGRANT  
AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S  
STORIES OF CHANGE



In order to share experiences and disseminate WEMIN activities, it was decided to create a booklet gathering the testimonies of migrant and refugee women who have participated in WEMIN activities in all partner countries.

Entitled "Stories of change", this booklet designed by ALDA aims to help empower these women, since by telling their stories they can make their voices heard. Each story is unique and each experience is worth telling. By reading the testimonies of these 54 women coming from 8 different European countries, readers can better understand what they have been through and discover how the WEMIN project helped them both on a personal and professional level.

**34 INSPIRING, TOUCHING, BRAVE STORIES OF CHANGE TOLD BY  
MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN WHO WERE PART OF THE  
PROJECT. YOU CAN READ THE BOOKLET HERE.**

## PEER TO PEER PLATFORM : A SPACE FOR SHARING AND LEARNING



**Thanks to the WEMIN Project, a digital sharing platform was created!**

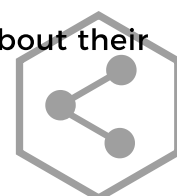
This is a place where migration professionals along with migrant and refugee women can share their knowledge, tools and experiences.

□ On the platform you will find innovative materials for courses regarding language, sociolinguistics, empowerment of migrant and refugee women, but also content that allows you to share the culture of the host country.

□ This platform also provides information to facilitate the adaptation to the daily life of the host country. You can use these digital aids on a variety of topics and talk to peers to learn about their experiences. This platform is intended to be easily accessible to be informed on various topics useful for their daily lives. (health, sexuality, housing...)

□ You can use these digital tools on various topics and discuss with peers to learn about their experiences.

□ You can register for free and enjoy the content at your own pace!



# WEMIN'S LOCAL IMPACT IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

**WEMIN project had a real impact in the lives of a large group of migrant and refugee women during the last 2 years.**

The project was ambitious as it aimed to promote the empowerment and inclusion of migrant and refugee women. In order to achieve this goal, all aspects of social life were taken into account: professional, daily life, the artistic field allowing a meeting with the other inhabitants of the city.

All partners have experienced difficulties in the implementation of this project. For example, the Spanish association "Colectic" said "what has been most difficult for us is to reach the target group of this action. In effect, we have experience of working with migrated people, but our experience supports us mainly in a male environment. "

It is necessary to take into account the specificity of this audience. The living conditions of migrants or asylum seekers are not the same as those of regularised people. Regularity in workshops is complicated. In addition, the trust relationship with the women participating in the workshops is also very important.

This project has also enabled women to **learn about and claim their human rights**. In Spain, for all participants, publicly expose their work during the events organized around the international day against sexist violence has been a source of pride. In Germany, migrant and refugee women learnt about their rights. Members of IFA Akademie Association believe that "Awareness of women's rights and knowledge of personal rights showed a clear impact on the daily life of migrant and refugee women participating in these creative workshops."

The **creative workshops** were an innovative approach, complementing the mentoring and empowering sessions. These workshops were very varied depending on the country: photography, embroidery, cooking, upcycling, textile activities... ALDA, the French partner, offered three different kind of workshops: embroidery and herbal dyeing, creative upcycling and photography.

The Italian partner, OXFAM, has offered cooking workshops. These workshops have the advantage of allowing women participants to talk about themselves and easily share their culture despite language barriers. Surely one of the most symbolic ideas is that cooking allows to be brought immediately back home. These moments of sharing help to change women's perceptions of each other.

**This project has had a real impact in the lives of the women who participated in it, but also at the state level.** The WEMIN Portugal team, members of Renovar a Mouraria Association, and the participating women organized an exhibition of their creations and a presentation of the WEMIN project during the Conference "A Travessia - Climate Refugees, what future? ", The Secretary of State for Migration, the Former Minister of Home Affairs, representatives of civil society organizations, researchers and the general public were present.

The partners have been fully invested throughout the project and are now pleased with the significant impact this project has had.

# WEMIN'S LOCAL IMPACT IN PARTNER COUNTRIES



**FEEDBACK FROM A PARTICIPANT FROM SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP ( IRELAND ) :**

**"EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT WE ARE ALL THE SAME WITH THE SAME STRUGGLES, PROBLEMS HOPE. I LOVED TO BE CREATIVE AND I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE START OF THE CLASS WHAT I WOULD HAVE CREATED BY THE END."**

## ITALY

168 Women have participated for mentoring sessions and 271 women for empowering sessions.

## PORTUGAL

In Lisbon, during the two years of intervention we involved around 160 women, 45 from the host community and 115 migrants refugee women mainly from Népal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Brazil.

## GERMANY

In total, around 140 migrants and refugee women in the Stuttgart region could be addressed directly by WEMIN and participate in the offers of the project.

In addition, around 30 local women were permanently involved in the seminars and meetings. In the expanded environment, refugees, social workers, political decision-makers and non-profit organizations.

## SPAIN

During these two years, we have worked with 160 different women with different intensity, adapting to their interests, needs and abilities.

## FRANCE

In France, 37 women participated in the empowerment sessions, 45 women attended the mentoring course and 57 women participated in the French course. Some of them participated in several of these sessions. In total, more than 100 women were involved in the WEMIN project through the art workshops and the exhibition of the creations.

## IRLANDE

A total of 128 women were involved in the art project at various stages, with relatively equal numbers of local and migrant women. Overall, a total of 80 migrant women participated in the english classes, which ran in three different venues from October 2018 until November 2019.

## WEMIN PROJECT : IT'S NOT OVER !

The tools and results of the WEMIN project will remain available on the website. Feel free to have a look and use them!

- Content of training courses
- Scrapbook of cultural workshops
- All publicity materials
- Guidelines for the implementation of activities
- Booklet of MRW stories of change
- Guide of Best practices on migrants integration
- Guide for Policy makers regarding migrants integration
- WEMIN Platform
- Digital training material (videos+ e-learning material )

# FINAL PARTNERS MEETING IN ATHENS, GREECE

On December 9 and 10 all the partners of the WEMIN project were gathered for the last meeting in Athens.

It was an opportunity to take stock of the impacts of this project, analyse the results and learn about the positive points of the project in each country.

The project is coming to an end and the challenge is to ensure that the positive impact of the project continues. The partners reflected on the exploitation plan, in particular through the dissemination of the various tools created.

An important point of the meeting was the final report that will be sent to the European Commission. All partners must collect data from the different objectives to demonstrate that this great project on women empowerment and inclusion which had a positive impact for migrant and refugee women, but also in the host countries.

The partners gathered in a restaurant to taste Greek dishes and celebrate the end of this beautiful project.



**MORE INFORMATION  
ON WEMIN'S WEBSITE  
[WWW.WEMIN-PROJECT.EU](http://WWW.WEMIN-PROJECT.EU)**

**USE #WEMIN TO FOLLOW  
OUR ACTIVITIES ON SOCIAL  
MEDIA!**

## CONTACT US!

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WEMIN has been funded with support from the European Commission through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) under agreement n. 776211. This newsletter reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

