

## 9 Conversations: Network building for self-employment of refugees

<https://9conversations.no>

ERASMUS+, Grant agr. 2018-1-NO01-KA204-038824,  
K204: Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education)

***November 19th, 2019,***

## **9Conversations: Education for Integration in the Labour Market**

*The Second Multiplier Event of 9Conversations*

Sapienza University - Dept. of Computer, Control, and Management  
Engineering - Via Ariosto, 25, 00185, Rome, Italy

*“Aula Magna”, 9:30 – 15:55*

*A workshop to present stakeholders and interested persons with  
current and future project accomplishments.*

Networked connection with the 9Conversation simultaneous event held at *Centro polifunzionale Stefano Bozzola. Loc. Casa Balestrieri, Valverde, Pavia, Italy*

9:30:00 AM	presentation; partners in project 9conversations. Participation from project DISCOW. Network connection with the event in Valverde (Pavia, Italy). Welcome Address from the Head of the Department, Prof. Tiziana Catarci	Andrea Sterbini, Marco Temperini, Sapienza
9:40	Description of the project: the Aim; Intellectual Outputs of the project.	Thorleif Hjeltnes, TISIP
10:00	The path to integration. From Request of Asylum to Refugee. When previous or new education can support integration. Action perspectives from Public and Private sectors	Paola Berbeglia, CREA
10:30	9Conversations: The completed Intellectual Outputs: IO1, IO2, IO3.	Demosthenes Stamatis, ATEI
10:50	Questions and Answers	All
10:55	Coffee Break	All
11:20	IO4 Course Material, and IO6 Facilitation	Anne Fox and Marco Temperini
11:45	Questions and Answers	All
11:50	Presentation of the APP. How the APP allows to attend the course.	Arne Bjorn Mikalsen, Rethink
12:10	Questions and Answers	All
12:15	Experience from a local area (Centri di accoglienza nearby Pavia, Italy)	Walimohammad Atai, Activist
12:35	The visiting Project: DISCOW. Presentation by the Coordinator.	Ujwal Gadiraju, LUH, Hanover (D)
12:55	Lunch	All
13:45	Demo - Use of the course, limited to first step. Anne Fox plays the role of facilitator. Participants from Rome and Valverde	Anne Fox, Andrea Sterbini, Marco Temperini
14:30	General discussion, questions, and answers. Questionnaire presented to potential course participants. Questionnaire presented to "experts".	All
15:15	Continuing the Questionnaires filling in, and Farewell Coffee Break	All

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An ERASMUS+ Project, Grant agreement 2018-1-NO01-KA204-038824  
(Action K204: Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education)

### **Description of the Project**

Refugee flows across Europe, especially after 2015, have increased significantly. Many European Member States, in the context of integration policy for refugees in local societies, organise training programs in the corresponding national language.

The immediate next step is integration, in a Member State, and in its labor market. Some Northern European countries, such as Denmark, are pursuing a policy of helping refugees learn the language through employment, notably in the context of specific funded programs, so that they can join the labor market at an early stage of their establishment to the country. Other Member States apply varied policies, always involving some form of support, either economical, or social, or aiming at primary immediate needs of incoming persons, or combinations of the above.

Whatever the national policy, there is a stage, two or three years after their arrival, when refugees cease to attract adequate support. At this stage many still do not have sufficient linguistic knowledge to be able to easily enter the labor market, and/or they lack sufficient knowledge and insight of the hosting society and culture, in particular with respect to the skills to elicit employment, or self-employment. Due to this fact (as well as due to other issues), the unemployment rate for refugees is remarkably higher in the Member States, compared to other segments of the population.

### **The Goal of the 9 Conversations Project**

Recognising the fact that some of the refugees already have business experience in their country of origin, the goal of the 9Conversations project is to help them set up their own business in the host country by providing them with a training program that takes into account both the specific national requirements and procedures for setting up a business (mainly personal or small) and the general principles of operation and funding.

Another reason that reinforces the above approach is the observation that many employers could more easily agree to assign a service to a refugee company than go ahead with a full employment status.

This program can, of course, also be addressed to refugees without previous experience.

### **The Training Program of the 9 Conversations Project**

To achieve the above goal, an on-demand e-learning training package will be developed, which can be completed by refugees either personally or preferably in small teams face-to-face.

The approach to be followed will be to encourage participants to learn by communicating with local business consulting services and, where feasible, with financial and legal experts. This will contribute to the development of professional networks deprived of refugees as well as to the provision of essential knowledge for starting a small business.

## **Products of the 9 Conversations Project**

The e-learning package associated to the Training Programme, the relevant accompanying manual-user guide, as well as the pilot application and testing are some of the main deliverables of the project. The analysis of the requirements of the training package and its pilot implementation will be attempted in collaboration with refugee supporting organisations and structures in the Member States represented in the project.

Upon completion of the project, the training material and the accompanying user guide will be available to the relevant refugee support agencies of the partner countries of the project and more widely to EU member states.

## **9 Conversations Project Partners**

- Anne Fox Aps, Denmark
- Alexander TEI (ATEI) of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Sapienza University, Rome, Italy
- Socialiniu Projectu Institutas, Lithuania
- Stiftelsen TISIP (Research Foundation), Norway (Coordinator)
- Rethink Learning Technologies AS, Norway

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