Welcome to our webinar

Political and Educational Spaces For ALL

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Welcome to our webinar

Political and Educational Spaces For ALL

What are your expectations for this webinar?
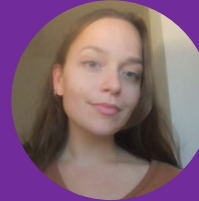
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Agenda

Political and Educational Spaces FOR ALL

13/11/2023

17.00 - 18.30

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- Introduction.

- Presentation of the policy paper "Making Political Participation Structures Accessible to Migrants". **Chiara Gunella**

- The role of migrant led organisations in promoting accessible political spaces. The Ripollet case study. **Razan Ismail**

- Accessibility needs in higher education for individuals with sensory disabilities. **Irene Hermosa Ramírez.**

- Challenges and strengths related to providing accessible education within the Metaverse. **Irene Hermosa Ramírez**

- Q&A and discussion.

MILE'S GOALS

- MILE (Migrant Integration Through Locally designed Experiences) is a two-year project focusing on creating sustainable ecosystems of exchange between **cities and migrant communities.**

  - Understand the **needs of municipalities and migrant and refugee communities in their local context**
  - Boost the **political participation** and leadership of migrants and refugees
  - Promote **inclusive policy-making in cities**
  - Create **long-term networks of exchange and collaboration for municipalities and migrant communities**

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

4 municipalities: Ioannina (Greece), Riga (Latvia), Birmigham (UK), Ripollet (Spain)

4 Research groups

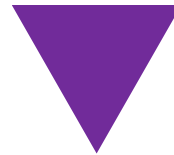**4 Migrant led organisation**

+ Integrim (European Level)

+ UNITEE (project leader and outreach)

+ **New Women Connectors** (Training)

+ **Amsterdam and Utrecht** (support)

The 4 research groups conducted research on **political participation for migrants in four municipalities** and produced reports with quantitative and qualitative data about **Ripollet, Ioannina, Birmingham, and Riga**.

OUR FOCUS
Making Local Political Participation Structures Accessible to Migrants

Examples of political participation structures:

- **Forums of community engagement**
- **Consultative bodies for stakeholder input**
- **Referendums**
- **Online questionnaire**
- **Advisory committees**
- **Participatory budgeting**

Migrant Integration through **Locally** designed **Experiences**

The 4 municipalities offer participation structures:

- **Ripollet and Riga** prioritize **participatory budgeting** as a method of promoting community involvement.
- **Ioannina** encourages internal meetings to discuss policies.
- **Birmingham** has implemented the **"Be Heard"** consultation page to foster greater community involvement.

But there is still a deficiency in well-defined formal frameworks with measurable benchmarks for assets the participation of migrants

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5 CRUCIAL STEPS THAT CAN GUIDE MUNICIPALITIES IN CREATING MORE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION STRUCTURES

1. Know and engage your community through partnership working

2. Make political participation structures accessible to all.

3. Promote diversity of political participation structures

4. Promote participatory budgeting

5. Measure your impact

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Migrant Integration through **Locally** designed **Experiences**

1. **Know and engage your community through partnership working**

   Ripollet, Riga and Ioannina reported difficulties in engaging with the migrant communities:

   - **Ripollet: Uncertainty surrounding legal status and the asylum application** process has resulted in reduced motivation among migrants.
   - **Riga:** A **limited understanding of the official language** has hindered communication and engagement.
   - **Ioannina:** As a transit city, people are hesitant to make commitments.

   - **L**ack of effective engagement strategies in some municipalities.

Establish an **Engagement Officer** to know migrants' communities needs and interact with migrant led organisation.

Birmingham introduced the **Engagement Officer in 2020**, resulting in increased interaction and participation.

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Experiences

2. Make Political Participation Structures Accessible to All

- Inadequate translation of political participation access points. Often, only bureaucratic and essential information is translated.

- Insufficient consideration of intersectionality when establishing spaces for dialogue and discussion.

- Conduct research on the **primary languages** spoken by migrant communities
- Invest in **comprehensive translation services** and keep in mind that certain terms may have different meanings in different contexts.
- Create an **accessibility plan for your municipality** to ensure that everyone can access important information. **Create a map of access take into account intersectionality.** (Women - who still often have childcare responsibilities)

- **Ioannina** has developed a guide of its social services to translate in the 7 most commonly spoken languages by migrants in the municipality.

3. Promote diversity of political participation structures

- Several participation structures are available in the 4 municipalities, including forums, informal meetings, questionnaires, and dedicated websites.

- **However i**ndividual migrant involvement is not actively promoted.
- **Language and cultural factors**, which can affect participation, are rarely taken into account.

- Keep in mind that **political participation can be perceived differently** depending on cultural, social and political context.

- Consider collaborating with **experts in intercultural dialogue and mediation** to find solutions.

- For example, Ioannina has partnered with Akadimia, an external organization that coordinates political participation spaces while taking into account **cultural, social, political and religious aspects.**

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Thank you!
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