



# Igma-Femina Newsletter October 2017

Erasmus+ Igma-Femina, Issue 2 — October 2017

## CONTENTS

- **Project update**
- **Sweden**
- **Greece**
- **Ukraine**
- **Netherlands**
- **United Kingdom**
- **Project information**

## PROJECT UPDATE

Erasmus+ Igma-Femina is fast approaching its first year anniversary. So far, Igma-Femina has focused on the development of the project's key transnational research report on the current services available to migrant, asylum seekers and refugee women with specific focus on gender-sensitive analysis.

The partnership mapped out existing migration/integration services available in all the countries involved in the project, carrying out interviews with refugee, asylum seekers and migrant women. Partners have promoted the programme, throughout Sweden, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Greece and Ukraine as well as internationally.

Project lead Folkuniversitetet is currently promoting Igma-Femina and its initial findings in Sweden through its' KISA project (Shorter Integration Quicker to Work). While Uppsala University collected input from the representatives of Sweden's Public Employment Services, Uppsala Municipality and interviewed refugee women currently living in the region about their situation and experiences.

Revalento spent time with Syrian women refugees in the Netherlands and learned about their journeys since entering the EU. The Ukrainian NGO "Ukraine-Poland-Germany" organized a press conference in Vinnytsia region to promote the Igma-Femina to the Ukrainian welfare to work sector and wider refugee support industry.

Rinova and 15Billion disseminated the Igma-Femina UK country report results to its UK partners including Caritas, Ashley Community Housing, Cornerstone Day Centre as well as key stakeholders: Barclays Bank, KPMG, Clifford Chance and Tate & Lyle Sugar. Finally, Greek partner DIMITRA hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting for Igma-Femina in June 2017, Larissa. More information about this meeting and the wider activities of each partner is included in this newsletter.

## Folkuniversitetet, SWEDEN

**Igma-Femina project was presented to the steering committee of the KISA project.**

Folkuniversitetet Uppsala has started cooperation with Public Employment Services in Uppsala region within the framework of the KISA project (Shorter Integration Quicker to Work) financed by European Social Fund. The goal of the KISA project is to develop local agreements for integration of the newly-arrived in 8 municipalities in Uppsala region. The role of the Igma-Femina project in this cooperation is to introduce gender-equality criteria into the local agreements. The agreements will be signed by the local stakeholder networks in 8 municipalities and will be applied as both strategy and practical manuals for promotion of integration of the newly arrived into the labour market.

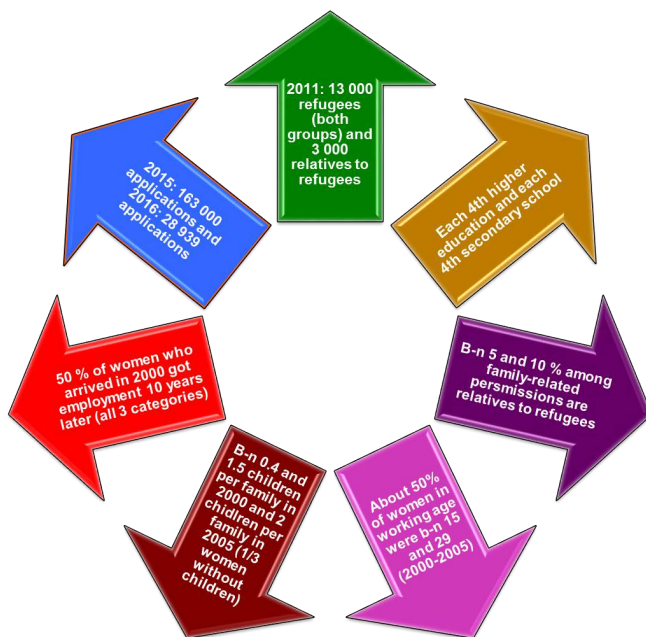
Further information at: [www.kisaprojektet.se](http://www.kisaprojektet.se)



*KISA project in Uppsala region*

## Uppsala University, SWEDEN

**Swedish national report was developed within the framework of integration activities**



*Results of Igma-Femina research*

Folkuniversitetet Uppsala in cooperation with the Centre for Gender Studies at Uppsala University have carried out the research to map existing migration/integration services available in Sweden with specific focus on gender-sensitive analysis.

Interviews with refugee women living in Uppsala Municipality were carried out to include their recommendations into the strategy for gender-equal integration services for the newly-arrived in Uppsala Municipality. Moreover, we collected input from the representatives of Public Employment Services and Uppsala Municipality to find out how they work in practice with gender equality.

## DIMITRA, GREECE

**During the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, DIMITRA hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting for Igamma-Femina in Larissa, Greece.**

Representatives from all partner organisations travelled to Larissa, Greece, in order to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting of the Igamma-Femina Project. During the meeting partners presented their results from the national research they had carried out with regards to the current services available for women refugee, asylum seekers and migrants in their own country. All partners had the opportunity to review, discuss and share their own experiences from the desk research and information from interviews and focus groups with stakeholders supporting women refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Furthermore, all partners presented information on the legislation that is currently implemented in each country, concerning refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with particular focus on the legal status of women. The results of this research will be used to support the further development of the Igamma-Femina methodology.

The second stage of the Igamma-Femina project: Igamma-femina methodology for cooperation of local stakeholder networks working with migrant women, was implemented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting.

The Igamma-Femina partners also discussed and agreed upon the next key steps required to successfully implement and achieve the outcomes for all the Intellectual Outputs of this project as well as for the Management and Dissemination processes. Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting of the project will take place in the UK on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 where the partners will be focusing on the development of the Igamma-Femina methodology.



*2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting in Larissa, Greece*

## VRD INGO, UKRAINE

The Ukrainian International NGO “Ukraine-Poland-Germany” for Vinnytsia regional department, conducted a press conference about the Igma-Femina project in Vinnytsia, Ukraine.

During this press conference, speakers presented the programme’s aims and objectives, the main stages of its implementation and the concept of the Igma-Femina methodology to media representatives, partners and other stakeholders.

The main speakers during the press conference included Serhii Tatusiak, the Igma-Femina project coordinator in Ukraine, Anastasia Lanova, the Igma-Femina project manager in Ukraine, Iryna Rudkovska, the representative of Vinnytsia regional Employment Center, Ruslana Kharkovenko, the project coordinator of Igma3 in Ukraine, and Natalia Paramonova, the president of NGO Association of refugees from the Eastern Ukraine and the Crimea.

The press conference promoted the Igma-Femina project to the Ukrainian welfare to work sector and wider refugee support industry. The results of the press conference involved the promotion and publication of materials about Igma-Femina on VRD INGO “Ukraine-Poland-Germany”’s website, stakeholders sites and by the mass media.



*Igma-Femina press conference in Vinnytsia, Ukraine*



## Revalento, NETHERLANDS

**As a part of the Igamma-Femina National Report for the Netherlands, Revalento interviewed a number of women refugees from Syria.**

Jan Vugts, Revalento representative met with Fatima at her apartment in Tilburg. Jan Vugts also met her husband and two sons.

With the help of the interpreter, Jan Vugts asked Fatima some questions about her journey to the Netherlands, her first experiences in Tilburg, her activities and her plans for the future. Fatima has not as yet started her lessons in Dutch due to health problems. Fatima's two sons help their parents in daily life because they already understand and speak Dutch. Since June 2017, Fatima has helped

out at a local Neighbourhood centre cooking meals etc.

Together with Syrian tea they offered, Jan Vugts four homemade biscuits. After two biscuits, Jan asked Fatima if he could take the remaining biscuits for his own children.

But Fatima went to the kitchen and came back with a pouch full of biscuits.

Jan Vugts hopes to revisit Fatima after the summer holidays and also plans to attend the Neighbourhood centre to enjoy a meal prepared by Fatima and other women.



*2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting in Larissa, Greece*

## Rinova, UK

**Between February and June 2017, Rinova's Igma-Femina Lead, Sheniz Tan, visited several Refugee support organisations in Manchester, including Caritas (Diocese of Salford) and Cornerstone.**

Caritas, is an international development charity which works towards ending poverty, promoting justice and restoring dignity: and delivers a wide range of refugee and asylum seekers support programmes, as well as community services such as emergency housing and welfare services. Cornerstone Day Centre, is one of Caritas' community centres where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, as well as the wider community, can receive support such as ESOL courses, meals, clothing, advice and support such as emergency housing through its night shelter. During Rinova's visit, Sheniz Tan stayed at a Caritas halfway house for homeless refugees, asylum seekers and migrants which provides free and low cost accommodation as well as free welfare advice, employability skills and ESOL.

Rinova also observed an ESOL course at Cornerstone Day Centre and afterwards had the opportunity to meet with women refugees and migrants in order to learn about their situations. These visits were also used to interview key stakeholders including Elizabeth Wiggins from Caritas and Andres Mora from Cornerstone Day Centre. Both live in a halfway house as Caritas support staff and provided Rinova with key information about women refugees', asylum seekers' and migrants' situations and also the lack of support available to women.

Andres Mora provided information on a new project funded by the UK government, Talk English, which specifically targets women to learn English through free lessons at local primary and secondary schools.

Caritas: [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org) — Cornerstone Day Centre: [www.cornerstonecds.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonecds.org.uk)

### **Building the UK Stakeholder Employer Network.**

## 15 Billions, UK

Earlier this year, the 15billion Trustees were given an overview of the Igma-Femina project by the 15billion Chief Executive, Ian Porter. The Trustees are all senior executives drawn from employers who work in partnership with 15billion and meet four times a year to formulate our strategic vision. These employers include Barclays Bank, financial advisers KPMG, international lawyers Clifford Chance and food manufacturer giant Tate & Lyle Sugar. Ian described the rationale of the project in terms of its objectives and the specific needs of the target group, namely female refugees. He then gave a brief outline of the Igma methodology including the outputs that would be created over the lifespan of the Igma-Femina project. Given the publicity surrounding the refugee crisis across Europe, Trustees were knowledgeable about the issues involved and demonstrated a clear commitment to the project through asking Ian a wide range of questions. As representatives from businesses that employ many 1,000's of employees in the UK and across Europe, they welcomed the invitation to become the local employer stakeholder network involved in the "education to work" transition and asked to be kept updated on the progress of Igma-Femina.

## Project Summary

Iigma-Femina aims to improve the accessibility of adult education for migrant/refugee women and gender-sensitive counselling in order to increase their chances to enter the labour market. The specific objectives of the project are to develop:

- Sufficient gender-sensitive career counselling through training of professionals;
- Efficient gender-sensitive strategy for cooperation within local stakeholder networks, dealing with validation/training/job placement to provide services based on individual needs and barriers of every woman;
- Active involvement of employers in the local stakeholder networks as a key to “education to work” transition.

The partnership is a mix of adult education providers with private companies, representing employers, regional NGOs working with refugees, migrants and women and European networks for inclusion from 7 countries. This will ensure relevance of developed material to the regional needs and to the needs of migrant and refugee women.

## Project Contact Information

For further information about the project, please contact:

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