

# Igma Femina newsletter

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Launch of Igma Femina project in Uppsala, Sweden
- Representatives from Ukraine, UK, Greece and hosts from Sweden attended
- Project aimed at improving access for migrant/refugee women to the labour market

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## Launch of Igma Femina project

Over a couple of crisp December days in Uppsala, Sweden, the project team met to launch the latest Igma project, Igma Femina. It is aimed at improving the accessibility of migrant/refugee women to (adult) education and providing gender-sensitive counselling so they are better able to enter the labour market.

This follows previous successful Igma projects, using the methodology of integrated services and network collaboration.

The number of women refugees



Lead Partner Folkuniversitetet (Sweden) open the kick-off meeting, December 2016

is increasing rapidly as a consequence of the refugee crisis. Unemployment and underemployment of these migrant and refugee women has been growing as the number and background of these women has changed significantly in recent months and years.

## Project Context

In 2015, 1,321,560 refugees claimed asylum in the EU, out of which 292,540 applications were approved (Eurostat). Of these, the number of women refugees is rising significantly with just over **55%** of those arriving, as of

15 January 2016, being women and girls, as compared to only **27%** in June 2015 (UNHCR).

On average, there is 24% difference between male and female **employment rate** when it comes to non-EU citizens in EU-28 (Eurostat 2014).

# Gender Equity in the Labour Market



**Gender equality specialist, Anneli Hayren's presentation on Gender perceptions regarding men and women in the Labour Market.**

The difference between male and female employment rates when it comes to non-EU citizens in the EU is due to:

- Inadequate mapping of prior knowledge
- Lack of individualised support
- Lack of stakeholder cooperation leading to repetitive and standard measures where an approach is missing
- Lack of gender-sensitive education and employment services

The Igma-Femina project aims to address these factors through structural reforms and individual empowerment.

**“Investing one euro in welcoming refugees can yield nearly two euros in economic benefits within 5 years”**  
(Source: International Monetary)

## Economic and Social benefits of project

The long-term unemployment among half of the migrant population does not only cause economical losses in the partner countries, it leads to demotivation, loss of self-esteem, social isolation, physical and psychological disorders. As soon as refugees start to work they provide further economic

dividends as taxes and often tackle jobs where there are shortages. Moreover 37 % of newly arrived Syrian refugees who arrived in Sweden in 2015 have college or university education. When they spend their wages they boost the demand for services and goods

## Igma Methodology

Lack of coordination among stakeholder organisations leads to the following socio-economic consequences:

a) lack of transparency resulting in repetitive measures and double funding;

b) inefficient service provision where organisations provide standard services without considering individual needs;

c) big case loads for individual professionals because roles and responsibilities are not shared with other organisations.



# Igma Methodology (continued)

Dialogue among providers as well as clear division of roles and responsibilities will promote transparency and improve the quality of provided services. This will not only produce money savings, but also avoid double-funding and repetitive measures. What's more, the project will enhance the commitment of the regional stakeholder organisations including employers to the qualitative development of the adult education. Finally, the priority of strengthening the

recruitment, selection and induction of Educators is core to the project. Through the innovative methodology and training courses, the project will be a step forward in the development of the professional profile of adult educators/counsellors working with migrant and refugee women.

The benefits of migrant and refugee women being an active part of the project during research, development and piloting of its intellectual outputs are evident for the long-term impact.

*In most European countries (14 /17 EU partners of the NICE project, Erasmus) there is lack of professional standard for the workers in the area of career counselling for adult learners.*

## Target audience and outputs of project

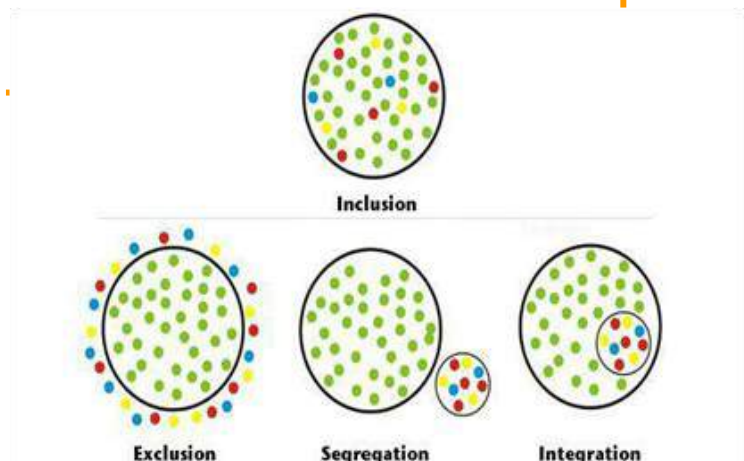
The Primary target group for the project includes local stakeholder networks (decision-makers and counsellors at adult education organisations, counselling services, public organisations working with employment as well as employers/ employer associations).

The project will produce:

- National reports on current services for refugees/migrants with focus on gender-sensitive analysis
- Igma-Femina guidelines for inclusion of gender-sensitive perspective as a part of migration/ integration policy
- Igma-Femina methodology ...for cooperation of local stakeholder networks working with refugee/ migrant women
- 2 Igma-Femina training courses for decision-makers and counsellors/

### Moving from integration of groups of refugees to the inclusion of them into the Labour Market and Society

( Yevgeniya Averhed, Deputy Director and Project Manager, Folkuniversitetet Uppsala)



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**Project partners from (L-R) UK, Greece, UK and Ukraine in Uppsala, Sweden**

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