



Embrace

Embrace Project

Press-release n° 4

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PLACE



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EMBRACE PROJECT: DELIVERABLES ARE FINALLY OUT, WHILE PARTNERS AND NEWCOMERS ENGAGE IN THE LAST ACTIVITIES

The main deliverables of the Embrace project - **the European Booklet, the Toolkit for Active Migrant Participation and the Local Booklets** - are ready to be disseminated.

The **European booklet** compiles the knowledge collected during the participatory processes - listening sessions, face-to-face meetings, and co-projecting workshops - in the 11 territories where the Embrace project took place. It is intended to be a working tool for decision-makers and practitioners, using the lived experiences of newcomers to make better-informed and efficient decisions when defining integration policies, aligned with the beneficiaries' real needs. It also aims to be **a working tool that inspires to experiment**, with different solutions co-created by newcomers and practitioners/decision-makers.

The **local booklets**, translated in English and in the local languages, gather the insights from the participatory processes carried out in each territory of the project and are thought to be a tool of reflection and implementation for local stakeholders.

The **toolkit** gives access to ComParte's methodology and Second Tree's training path that were implemented and tested during the project, supported by a thorough analysis and reflections from the 11 territories that tested them. We hope it will be of good use and that it can **bring many ideas to your work involving newcomers in political and civil participation**. The document is for anyone who wants to promote migrant participation.

The tools and methodologies consolidate what is most valuable in decision-making processes: **the people involved**. Yes, the people involved in the process are the most precious resource when thinking about changes or solutions. In this toolkit, we bring ideas on how to create contexts so that the experience of beneficiaries of services, programs, and policies - in this case, newcomers - is considered a useful source of information to think about solutions for the integration system.

The last months of the project are also devoted to the organization of raising-awareness events at local level. On Thursday 21 of September, Refugees Welcome Italia, one of the partners involved in the project, organized a public meeting in Milan to gather all the local community, newcomers and decision makers who joined the Embrace's activities. Another similar event was hosted by our Greek partner **Second Tree in Ioannina** and took place at the end of September. Portugal joined the race with a special meeting organized by **ComParte in Lisbon** at the end of October, followed by another event by **Refugees Welcome Italia in Palermo**. All the gatherings provided a chance to reflect on the state of the art of the project, to raise awareness about its outcomes and deliverables, but also to strengthen the sense of community.

The group of newcomers that joined the *Emerging Leaders training*, led by the French partner PLACE network, started their internship in the public sector. Among them there is Venus Anwari, from Paris. During the summer, **Venus interned within the local democracy department** at the Municipality of Pantin, located in Seine-Saint-Denis in the Grand Paris Metropolis. Her main missions included: promoting projects carried out by and with residents, meeting project leaders, participating in teams reflection on the promotion of citizen projects and participation. Venus was directly immersed in public institutions and **got familiar with municipalities and their processes**. She felt like she improved her speaking and professional communication skills as well as her ability to feel comfortable going towards people.