

SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION

PITCH PRESENTATIONS – MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 17.00 – 18.30 (PLENARY ROOM)

1. Kiron Open Higher Education

At Kiron, we believe that everybody has the right to fulfill their potential and improve their life prospects through education. We know that the obstacles refugees face in accessing education can be overcome.

Kiron Open Higher Education is a social start-up that facilitates access to higher education for displaced people. Its study model combines online and offline elements, is offered free of charge and its students may access from everywhere in the world. Kiron's model allows displaced people to start studying regardless of their legal status. With a diverse range of partners, we strive to create an education model that is more accessible, more human-centred, and more supportive of personal growth.

2. Bibliothèques sans frontières – Ideas Box

Conceived by Libraries without Borders, the Ideas Box is a portable media center designed as a kit that fits on two pallets and can be installed in less than 20 minutes. The box creates a cultural space covering 330 sq ft and includes a satellite internet connection, laptops and tablets, a library with both paper books and e-readers and a built-in cinema. The Ideas Box is a remarkable toolbox that empowers children and adults alike to pave foundations for a self-reliant future. Mobile, robust and with its own power source, the Ideas Box provides an area where creativity can flourish.

3. City of Senigallia

The city of Senigallia strongly believes that successful integration can come about through and by enhancing skills. For this reason, particular attention has been paid to scholastic integration for minors, to adult education, as well as to the creation of job training and professional re-qualification programmes. As soon as legal conditions allow, the beneficiaries are accompanied to a job agency and are enrolled so as to set off on a job search path which takes into consideration the person's own skills in the creation of a personalized training plan. Job training and apprenticeship programmes have been set up geared to integration which include; accompanying integration in the labour market both by businesses and individuals, accessory work vouchers, job training, festivities, photography workshops, and courses in Italian for foreigners. Animated readings and summer camps have also been created for adolescents and young children and upon leaving many have had the opportunity to successfully join the workforce in the city of Senigallia.

4. Solomon

Taking into consideration that Greece has always been a transit region for refugees and im/migrants, it's surprising that a framework for social integration (either from the state or from NGO's) never existed and still has not been created. This is where Solomon comes encouraging refugees & im/migrants to join the co-shaping of society through the free expression of their views, ideas & skills. Involving locals in equal terms is a prerequisite in every phase of each project because social integration is an issue that concerns all of us as

a whole and not refugees and im/migrants alone. Solomon magazine, a digital publication, is the first action and it's consisting of an editorial team of talented people from Afghanistan, Belarus, Ethiopia, Greece, Pakistan, Russia and Somalia until now.

5. City of Botkyrka - “Connect, create, communicate – Art as a language to make new voices visible.”

With art as a tool the art studio at the Multicultural centre focus on reaching participants within our local community. The studio has also been able to work more as a mobile art studio. Under the last year we have visited different refugee centers where the staff has started artistic processes.

Some of the refugee groups prepared big paintings which were exhibited at the local art hall. This pitch will briefly show some examples how art can be a tool for refugees to be able to be more visible in the public space.

6. City of Zarqa - Youth Council

Members of Zarqa City Youth Council received training on human rights and good governance and learnt how this requires fair laws, participation and inclusion of everyone in planning for equal opportunities, as well as better services that cater for everyone. That's why the youth in Zarqa, with the support of LDU & Actionaid, established a Youth Council which includes refugees so that they can identify everyone's needs, develop plans and advocate for the inclusion of every person in the cities decisions, as well as get to know each other. Through engaging with the youth and refugee youth, the Council would like to start up joint programs that will seek equal opportunities for all, especially employment through small scale projects that generate an income for the youth, but also advocating for better development policies, transparency and accountability.

7. Bureaucrazy

Bureaucrazy will a mobile and web-based application, that is being created by a group of Syrian refugees and few mentors from ReDi School For Digital Integration. All the forms a newcomer might encounter during the stay in Germany will be entered into a database inside the app. Here they will be translated into multiple languages starting with English, Arabic and German. The app will give newcomers the ability to fill out all of these forms in their own language, through simple questions and answers.

8. Refugee Text

Refugee Text is a tool for trusted organisations to make information available, on-demand to any refugee with a phone. Think of it as a chat bot for refugees - you tell it your situation, and it gives you the information you need, automatically. It's available online and over SMS. Refugee Text can be used to deliver camp-specific information, details on applying for asylum or family reunification, or any number of other uses. It also gives refugees a channel back to organisations, allowing them to better meet the needs of refugees. Any time information needs to be updated, trusted organisations have a simple, online interface with which they can manage the content in the service. Refugee Text is designed by a team of people-centred designers who can customise, brand and implement Refugee Text for the specific needs of your organisation's beneficiaries.

9. Solentra

Solentra is an abbreviation for “Solidarity & Trauma”. The organisation was founded by Paika, the department of psychiatry for infants, children and adolescents of UZ Brussels (University Hospital). Solentra provides diagnostic and therapeutic support to refugee & migrant children, as well as to their families.

Increasing the accessibility and efficiency of the psychosocial care system for our target group has been (and still is) one of our main objectives. One of our main instruments is PACCT® (Psychiatry Assisting the Cultural diverse Community in creating healing Ties): a methodology specifically designed to meet the (psychological) needs of our target group.

10. British Red Cross - Integration through restoring family links

By helping with travel costs, our travel assistance programme provides a vital route for separated families to find protection in the UK. The programme has helped over 7,000 family members since the 1990s. The programme enables opportunities to plan integration activities in advance of the family’s arrival, preventing destitution, mitigating integration crisis and supporting families through the ordeal of forced separation.

11. City of Sahab

Sahab is one of the most important industrial cities in Jordan with a population which has grown impressively from 43,000 in 2004 to 150,000 in 2016. The Social Development Unit has been initiated to face the challenges posed by this increment. So far, the Unit has managed to implement nearly 150 social projects. It has also pioneered a change in culture within the municipality and a transformation of its relationship with the community by opening up important decisions to public consultation and influence. Citizens have been invited to discuss and vote on important items of expenditure and there are regular monthly public meetings to discuss priorities with the Mayor. One initiative has been to open an office for the protection of the human rights of migrant workers, which draws upon the expertise of 15 freshly graduated lawyers who offer their services on a pro-bone basis. The office is located prominently in the lobby of the city hall, and is said to be the first such service in any municipality in Jordan. Regarding the refugee population, most of Sahab refugees lack official papers and work permits, but found employment due to Sahab’s high economic activity and need for labor force in industrial city and, especially, the fact that the Sahab Municipality has silently supported their economic activity.

12. Haus der Statistik

Since 2008, the huge former “House of Statistics” at Berlin-Alexanderplatz is empty. Artists, architects and big parts of the civil society want to turn the 40.000 sqm into a social housing project with shared residence for refugees, students, families, elderly, etc as well as working and meeting spaces for artists, cultural organizations and education. The idea is to create an atmosphere of social innovation through synergies between these diverse users and the neighborhood and through organized massive self-empowerment of all those partly displaced user groups in the center of the German capital.

13. Homefull Project

Homefull is a project funded by Lazio Region, started in January 2015 and lasting 11 months. It was managed by Programma integra in partnership with Meta Onlus.

The project meant to build an innovative model of cohousing, matching the needs of elderly people and their feeling of loneliness with the needs of refugees and their will to leave the reception centres. It was an experimental project that foreseen a period of communication, dissemination and several meeting with migrants and elderly people to allow them to know and choose each other.

14. City of Montreal - “Observatoire du vivre ensemble”

The International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together is an international collaborative initiative based on a unique partnership between cities and universities whose aim is to document best practices and produce case studies and original analyses concerning new forms of diversity in cities across the globe.

The Observatory is composed of an international network of cities and a web-based interactive platform for the exchange of experiences, knowledge and innovative practices related to social cohesion, inclusion and community safety in cities.

The Observatory, which is based in Montreal, features initiatives in four categories (On the Ground, Policy, Organizations, Tools) that are cross-listed with ten general themes (including culture, social development, immigration, justice, and housing).

15. MindSpring

MindSpring is a group program for and with refugees and immigrants. The MindSpring method empowers the participants via new knowledge, reflexions and competences about issues related to living in exile. MindSpring can furthermore create the basis for a social network. The themes of a MindSpring program are among others stress, identity, trauma and general challenges related to living in exile. The MindSpring method is unique in the sense that the group program is facilitated by a volunteer with a similar background and language as the participants – a MindSpring trainer. The MindSpring trainer is collaborating with a professional, in MindSpring named “co-trainer”, employed in the organization where the group is organised, e.g. a municipality, school, social institution.

16. L&D Support Amsterdam

Providing a quick start in the guidance and counseling of refugees and asylees on vocational, educational, and training opportunities L&D Support offers the first measurement method specifically for refugees - InCheck.

The multilingual measurement method of L&D Support focuses on the individual in terms of competencies, education level, profession/job, and personal balance. Over time the measurement has been translated into several languages, such as Arabic 10 years ago.

Employment integration of refugees creates many challenges for various organizations, including central and local government. The large number of requests for assistance, the language barriers, the evaluation of equivalent professional education, and the assessment of the ability to work requires new tools and approaches to integrate approved status holder refugees into employment quickly and sustainably.

17. Singa - Kiwanda

SINGA is an international community connecting refugees and local citizens of their host society around passions and projects. The organization creates tools and spaces to meet, interact and build a successful society together.

KIWANDA is a co-working and event space for interpreneurs, people connecting people, a direct innovation from the refugee field to mainstream society.