



Language Support for Migrants *A Council of Europe Toolkit*

Tool 37 - Supporting migrants who need to look for training opportunities

Aim: To provide guidance on assisting migrants to begin their search for training or further education opportunities in the host country.

Certain priorities such as looking for a job cannot be left until migrants have the language skills needed to carry them out. For this reason, the role of those providing language support to migrants must often go beyond language support, especially if no counsellors or other relevant specialists are available in the organisation. Educators and others offering advice to migrants about their training or further education needs should be well informed about the options, courses and qualifications available, how the training needed can be accessed, the costs involved and any funding that may be available.

Below are some simple ways of assisting with this problem, but additional mediation may be needed, for example via online translation and reference to relevant websites. It is also important to brief other professionals who migrants will be dealing with so that they are prepared to be understanding and helpful to migrants (see also Tool 64, *Scenario - - Asking about and applying for training opportunities*). Young adult migrants who arrived in the host country some time ago and intend to remain there may be considering doing a training course. This is especially the case with those who are beyond the age of obligatory schooling. Some older migrants might also be thinking of doing further training or education, or they may be looking for different employment opportunities. Below are some ideas for organising discussions with migrants about this topic.

Ask migrants whether, In the medium term:

- they want to continue with the kind of training that they were doing before they left their home country, or:
- they want to do some training or further studies in a new field.

A. If an individual wants to continue with their previous studies or training, ask:

- what field, area or specialism the previous training focused on
- what the dates of the training were, what level they reached, whether they obtained certification, etc.

Depending on the competences of migrants in the host country language, ask them (or, if you have time, help them) to check whether:

- there is a system in the new country for recognising equivalences of qualifications from abroad
- a qualification can be obtained based on the validation of prior learning and professional experience (i.e. not through formal examinations)
- distance training is available in the fields they are interested in
- financial support is available for these studies or training
- they can choose to apply for a long-term or shorter-term (a year or two) course of studies.

Find people who can help you to contact organisations offering advice on training opportunities.

B. If individuals want to go into a new field of training or further education, ask or help migrants to put together information about:

- their previous training, the level they achieved, the qualifications they gained
- the kinds of work that they have done in the past

Also ask them to think about:

- why they wish to move into a new field
- whether they have a specific new professional qualification in mind
- whether they are familiar with the qualification and job they have in mind
- whether they have an idea of the training required, for example what it involves, how long it takes, what it costs etc.
- whether there is a demand in the job market for people in the profession they chosen, and whether there are likely to be real opportunities for advancement
- whether financial support is available for the necessary training or studies
- whether, given their personal situation and family circumstances, they think they have enough time to undertake the necessary training.

Suggest that they ask teachers and volunteers in the organisation providing language support to help them make contact with job centres, career advice services, employment agencies or trade unions, and to find websites that offer employment and training opportunities and advice.