

# Immigrant Integration to Rural Areas



Workshop international meeting  
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## Location

Tyrol region, Austria

## Country

Austria

## Short summarizing description

Immigrant Integration to Rural Areas: Identification and Exchange of Good Practices is a Transnational Co-operation project (under the LEADER Cooperation Measure of the respective National Rural Development Programmes) between 16 partners within the European Union (Austria, Finland, Germany and Sweden) to stimulate within their respective regions the exchange of good practices related with immigrant integration to rural areas. This project aims to help newcomers with various backgrounds integrate and adapt to live in rural territories of the EU. A tangible outcome of the project is a joint publication of good "immigrant integration" practices from each of the partner regions.

## Key Terms

Integration, social inclusion, cooperation

## Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

The background of the project is the well-known refugee crisis, which peaked out especially since 2015 in the participating countries. The problem now is how to integrate the new individuals as this is a big challenge for the rural areas. Summarised best practice toolboxes, a database for measures and methods in the rural areas, shared public relations, organisation and implementation is the main outcome of the project to develop a better integration process especially for rural areas in the EU.

## Which are the key objectives of your measure?

The project wants to establish pilot measures in the participating rural areas in different topics. The aim of this project is to collect and spread the best practices of immigrant integration in rural areas. Participating areas collect their practices among the local expert network and then transfer these best functioning initiatives as models for other regions in the attending countries. Integration and exchange meetings will be held for involved stakeholders and persons of integration processes.

## Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

- refugee coordinators - refugee camps - state organisations - voluntary partnership organisations - integrations ministries

## Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

Integration will not happen in class rooms and lectures, although those are needed in the process. We need to DO things and MEET other people to become integrated. There were already meetings in Sweden and Austria with more than 200 participants. Interesting facts about the countries concerning integration and study-visits as well as field-trips were made. Good working examples of integration were shared and people got connected throughout the 4 partner countries.

## Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

Challenges are the different regulations and laws in the partner-countries. It was also tricky to harmonize the needs of the projects with the funding-bureaucracy, because the needs changed a lot in the last month. With personal meetings and conferences where the differences were shown we tried to overcome these challenges. On the other hand this was also very good concerning learning by doing of every stakeholder.

## Link to website

<https://ruralintegration.eu>

## Starting date

2016-12-01

## Duration

23

## Regional scale

5 - trans-national

## Other involved partners

15

## Contact person

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## Category 1, Managing social change

With the experience of the participating countries and their different access to the problem of migration the tool box is invented to collect best practice examples which can be then implemented in other rural areas. The regular exchange with the involded beneficiaries helps to directly meet the local needs and adapt theses best practice examples for their rural areas.

## Further Information



sharing experience with refugees in an workshop  
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