



# EMBRACIN: Enhancing Migrants' Bottom-up, Responsive and Citizen-led Integration in Europe

Newsletter 1

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# About EMBRACIN

The project EMBRACIN arose from a small but significant experience of Prof. Calò in Italy, who as a host of migrants, developed a scheme called “6+6x6” which in 2018 allowed him to win the European Citizen’s prize. It foresees integration policies of migrants avoiding big hosting centers: 6 migrants/refugees for every 5,000 with a personalized approach and individual support to each person, allowing them a complete path to social and economic integration in 22 months.



## Aim of the project

The project aims to raise awareness and capacity building on topics related to integration policies among European local authorities, in particular municipalities, with the final aim to increase the number of municipalities that will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to promote and engage the EMBRACIN model.

## Meet the EMBRACIN consortium

EMBRACIN developed a core network of 10 partners from 6 different countries (Italy, Sweden, Cyprus, Greece, Spain and Slovenia) willing to share and scale-up this experience, developing and testing a model of integration, which can be valid for all European Countries, starting from the assumptions of 6+6x6. The partners of the consortium are: Municipality of Padova, Alterevo, Municipality of Sala, Center for Social Innovation (CSI), Municipality of Engomi, Major Development Agency Thessaloniki S.A. (MDAT), The Andalusian Municipality Fund for International Solidarity (FAMSI), Polibienestar from Universitat de Valencia and The European Coalition of Cities Against Racism – ECCAR and Red Cross Maribor in collaboration with Municipality of Maribor.



### *Kick-off Meeting*

The project kick-off meeting took place on February 3-5, 2020 in Padova, where partners had the opportunity to learn more about the project’s content, as well as discuss about the outcomes, and each partner’s responsibilities.

## Our work so far

Since the start of the EMBRACIN Project, Major Development Agency Thessaloniki (MDAT) &



1<sup>st</sup> Online Bi-lateral Session, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 MDAT & Municipality of Padova (with Technical Partners)

Polibienestar coordinated the partner efforts in drafting the baseline studies of each pilot city. This laid the groundwork for the ongoing discussion of what environment each pilot city had at the start of the project. This was finalized by May 15, 2020. MDAT held a pre-session meeting on June 16, 2020 to personally introduce the project. The 1<sup>st</sup> Official Online Bi-lateral Session was held on July 10, 2020 with the Lead Partner Municipality of Padova and Technical Partners, (Alterevo and Polibienestar).

During this Session, there was much interest in the model of Professor Caló in the form of a lively discussion. Finally, MDAT held the Online Session, showcasing the Blue Refugee Center of SolidarityNow (a local NGO) as the virtual field study visit open to all International partners.

From the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the first two sessions have been held online with stakeholders in Spain. In addition to the presence of Professor Caló, who helped the presentation of the project -as an inspiring figure- both meetings provided real experiences and practices carried out in the local context of Andalusia, such as those shared by the Andalusia Hosts Federation, the Salesianos de la Trinidad and CEPAIM Foundation. Furthermore, this first contact with the reality of the community environments in the region was enriched by the know-how of colleagues and partners of FAMSI, such as the city of Seville and municipalities like Campillos, Villamanrique de la Condesa and Puerto Real, among others. The knowledge and ideas shared during the meetings have been a fundamental contribution to establish the common base that will guide the landing of this ambitious project in Andalusia, with the support of all the associated entities.



Online meeting with stakeholders from Spain, partners, and professor Caló

## Next steps

The partners at Polibienestar are leading WP4 Experimentation and evaluation of the model and so far, they have focused on building a common evaluation system for the pilots, which will be presented over the coming months and will have three key dimensions: evaluation of the impact of the pilots (on beneficiaries and the local community), evaluation of implementation (including governance and cooperation among actors related issues) and cost-effectiveness evaluation.

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