

# NEWSLETTER 1

## «Improving the Skills of Social Workers Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees»

### GET TO KNOW THE PROGRAM

A small scale but remarkable ERASMUS+ program project “ENHANCED SOCIAL WORKERS – Enhancing Intercultural Communication Skills and Competences for Social Workers in the Provision of Assistance to Forced Migrants” addressed to Social Workers working with Asylum Seekers and refugees, will give the opportunity to Social Workers in Cyprus and Lithuania to improve their Intercultural Communication skills and generally the quality of their offered work.

Through training seminars both in Cyprus and Lithuania, a group of Cypriot Social Workers with Lithuanian colleagues will discuss Methods and Techniques to improve their work with asylum seekers. The exchanges of experience of Social Workers will play a leading role in the interactive seminars. The Training Seminars will discuss Innovative ways of working with refugees and Asylum Seekers, promote Experiential Training Practices, study the mental and emotional traumas of Asylum Seekers and how they affect integration.

The Methodology that will be prepared will be a necessary aid for every Social Worker in the execution of his work.

### ACTIVITIES

ENHANCED SOCIAL WORKERS project foresees the non-formal experiential education-training of a team of Social Workers from Lithuania and from Cyprus, which will take place through two training seminars both in Cyprus and Lithuania. The preparation of the methodology will be based on the experiences of the Social Workers, on the implementation of innovative methods of working with asylum seekers/refugees and will include practical suggestions for improving the work offered, good practices, interactive techniques, etc.

The dissemination of the results of the program both to Social Workers and to Services and Organizations dealing with asylum seekers and refugees will be pursued so that as many Social Workers as + embrace the program.

There is great cooperation with the main refugee-related institutions in both countries. In Cyprus - with the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior and with the Contractor of the structures Pournaras Kofinou

Lakes KOTEKA. There is also great cooperation with the officers of the structures where asylum seekers reside. In Lithuania – with Foreigners' Integration Group of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and the mayor of Jonava municipality and Refugee reception centers.

### EDUCATION-TRAINING IN CYPRUS

An important activity of the project is the organization of a meeting of partners in Cyprus. This took place on the 23-25th of April, 2024 with the participation of 15 Social Workers from both Cyprus and Lithuania. The training was interactive with the use of many innovative practical teaching techniques, in order to highlight the experiences of Social Workers, express their ideas and feelings through small groups, through case studies to find solutions to problems, etc.



The Lithuanian colleagues had the opportunity to visit the Pournara, Kofinu and Lakes structures and to be guided by the Responsible Officers. They also visited the Nicosia Municipality, were informed about its activities and were given a tour of its premises.



### THE PARTNERSHIP

The coordinator of the project is the Jonava Social Services Center, Lithuania and partners the Social Projects Institute, Lithuania and from Cyprus the Pancyprian Family and Child Support Association "KIBOTOS".

