

Newsletter #1 February 2021



INTEGRA: DevelopINg Tailored comprEhensive services for younG migRAnts

What is the INTEGRA project about?

During the past years, a number of socio-economic reasons has led to significant migration flows and displaced populations. This situation has affected not only Europe, but mostly Asian countries, such as India and Pakistan. The vast majority of these populations consist of young persons who although carry a substantial unrealised and untapped potential, often lack the necessary basic skills or prerequisites in order to attend higher education institutions in their

new countries of residence.

INTEGRA at a glance!

- Desk & field research on specific needs analysis in India and Pakistan.
- Design and implementation of a 1-year accredited ICT course including different programmes & modules based on the state-of-the-art analysis.
- Psychosocial support structures providing personalized support to young refugees.
- Development of a comprehensive capacity building programme for tutors and professionals for the structures, along with a pilot delivery of the services developed.

Our innovative 3-year Erasmus+ project, under the name "INTEGRA DevelopINg Tailored comprEhensive services for younG migRAnts" involves highly qualified organisation partners from **Greece**, **Portugal**, **India** and **Pakistan** and aims at responding to the limited participation of young migrants and refugees from conflict affected countries in Higher Education in India and Pakistan. How? By introducing an innovative methodology that combines education on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) with psychosocial support, for promoting the integration of vulnerable groups!

What have we achieved so far?

Within the first year of our project, we have been working building the INTEGRA project's network and we have conducted both desk and field research in India and Pakistan aiming at the following:

- Identification of the existing skillset of young migrants and refugees;
- Identification of the main psychosocial conditions and needs of the aforementioned vulnerable youth;
- Profiling of the basic skills and competences required by the national ICT labour markets in India and Pakistan.



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Are you interested in some of the key highlights from our partners' reports?

- More than 150 relevant stakeholders were personally consulted during the field research on both India and Pakistan
- In Pakistan, 39% of the registered Afghan refugees (544,102 out of 1,402,180) are school-aged children and of these, only a 22% (119,403) received a formal education last year.
- Field research showed that problem solving and data literacy skills were regarded as the most important; the lack of relevant training services was identified.
- Regarding barriers, language, financial constraints and emotional stress were mentioned as the most important challenging factors regarding the refugees' integration.
- At the same, in India there are 2,89,394 stateless persons according to the recent data.

In addition, based on the abovementioned research and further desk research we have identified good practices in education and useful guidelines that may better work with the target population of students in India and Pakistan, considering their traumatic background and their psychosocial conditions.

The results of our research and relevant project's publications are available (in English) to read online or to download from our website! Below are the direct links:

- 1. INTEGRA Report on refugees' skills and needs in Pakistan by IISU
- 2. INTEGRA Report on skills required by the ICT market in Pakistan by LUMS
- 3. INTEGRA Report on refugees' skills and needs in India by RKU
- 4. INTEGRA Report on skills required by the ICT market in India by SAL



Visit our project's website: https://project-integra.eu



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While you are reading these lines, our team is working on the set of curricula that concerns the implementation of the design of the INTEGRA ICT course.

Follow us on Social Media and stay tuned for our next steps!

...or even better: Join us and make a difference!

The INTEGRA project addresses:

- Young refugees wishing to integrate in the Higher Education system in India and Pakistan and in the local communities, in general;
- Academic and administrative staff of the participating HEIs in India and Pakistan, as well as
- psychosocial support professionals, wishing to upskill themselves so as to better meet the educational and psychosocial integration needs of vulnerable youth;
- Academic institutions with ICT departments interested in the exchange of good practices;
- ICT sector and relevant stakeholders looking for networking opportunities and scouting for new talents while wishing to contribute to a better society;
- NGOs and other organisations providing support to migrants and refugees, interested to an alternative path to the ICT labour market and social inclusion;
- All those who wish to learn more about an innovative project that facilitates inclusive ICT education by tackling psychosocial traumas of vulnerable groups.

Even under the current Covid-19 situation our team seeks to incorporate the huge social changes impacting on all partner countries (and beyond) and offers a range of opportunities for people who want to make the difference along with us!

If you want to get involved in the project, visit our website (https://project-integra.eu) or Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/Integra.EU.Project) and send us a message or contact one of your in-country partners to find out more!

Partners









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