



CIVIS Alliance – Open Lab Project Impact Assessment Report

01 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Title of the project** Supporting access and participation to lifelong learning for disadvantaged migrants
- Project coordinator** Dr Léa Moreau, Unil
- Universities involved** UNIL, UAM, UB, UofG, NKUA
- Hub theme** Society, culture, heritage
- Duration of activities** May-June
- Place of the activities** Unil and UB (*those outside of the EU covered with other funds*)

02 – PARTNERS/TARGET AUDIENCE

Number of internal and external stakeholders involved in and impacted by the project

INTERNAL (All CIVIS universities)				EXTERNAL (All CIVIS cities/regions)	
Academics	Researchers	Students	Admin personnel	Citizens	Other - please specify
5		4	9	52	14 partners

Non-university associations and organisations that have been involved in the project

ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANISATIONS		
Name	Country	Description
Etablissement Vaudois d'Accueil des Migrants	Switzerland	Public administration, Asylum seekers support and integration
Centre social d'intégration des réfugiés	Switzerland	Public administration, refugees support and integration
Ministry of Education, National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas	Romania	Education, Recognition of Diplomas Abroad
Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)	Romania	Refugee support and integration
Bucharest General Directorate of Social Assistance (DGASMB)	Romania	Social Assistance and Social Inclusion
Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDROM)	Romania	Migration, Asylum and Refugee Integration
ARCA - Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants	Romania	Migration, Refugee Support and Integration

JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service)	Romania	Refugee Protection and Integration
University of Sanctuary team, University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	Higher Education and Research
UNESCO Chair on Refugee Integration through Education, Language, and the Arts, University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	Higher Education and Research
UNHCR	Spain	International relations
CEAR	Spain	NGO
Epapsy	Greece	Association
IASIS	Greece	NGO

03 – PROJECT IMPACT

Social dimension

This project has helped to strengthen ties between the five universities involved and has served as a platform for sharing best practice in the field of inclusion. Through online discussions and, in particular, during the meetings in Lausanne and Bucharest, we were able to map out the existing integration measures at our universities, identify bottlenecks and propose best practices for the integration of vulnerable migrants within our universities. Furthermore, around thirty people attended the public meeting in Bucharest, including the vice-deans of two faculties.

Partners on the ground also welcome the universities' commitment to addressing this issue. Although we were unable to establish a network linking the various partners with whom we work locally, the feedback was unanimously positive. It is clear that universities are often difficult to access and understand from the outside. Having clearly identified points of contact is seen as an advantage, which this project has provided.

Cultural dimension

We organised a major dissemination event in Bucharest where stakeholders participated, including people from Bucharest's city hall and the Ministry of Education. The aim was to raise awareness of the work carried out as part of this project amongst the authorities, so that they might recognise the importance of facilitating the recognition of qualifications and the need to clearly inform vulnerable migrants about opportunities for higher education. Representatives from three NGOs working with migrant communities in Romania took part in the meeting, presenting their work and their needs. The project's coordinator participated in two dissemination events to present the work done, the approach and the results.

The report resulting from this project will be available online on the project page on the CIVIS website.

Economic dimension

This project will merge with another Open Lab project to submit a common proposal for the 2026 Civic Engagement call, under the coordination of Dr Oana Serban and Dr Patrick Michel. One of the objectives is to draft a proposal for a major European research grant.

Added value for the beneficiaries

A major event was organised to raise awareness amongst our universities about the difficulties faced by vulnerable migrants in accessing higher education. We hope that the report, with its clear and practical proposals, will resonate within our institutions so that measures can be put in place. Discussions with the beneficiaries showed that there is a genuine need for access to higher education, both to improve their prospects for socio-economic integration and to enhance their general well-being.

Partners on the ground emphasised the importance of the issue and of the work carried out, both by the working group and by its individual members, to raise awareness of this issue and improve the situation.

In addition, the project coordinator spoke at two conferences to present the project, its objectives and results. This outreach work enabled the project to reach other audiences and universities within the alliance and generated interest amongst those present.

Relevance to the context

Given its short duration, this project was seen as a first step towards clearly establishing the needs of migrants in terms of access to university, identifying barriers within our institutions, and discussing existing best practices for integration within our universities. It also became apparent that a detailed analysis was needed of the various contexts and university policies relating to social inclusion.

This project concludes with the publication of a report clearly identifying the needs of migrants regarding access to higher education and setting out several concrete solutions that can be implemented, based on discussions held with migrants and the organisations that support them. Our project team's aim is to bring this report to the attention of university authorities so that concrete measures can be put in place.

One possible course of action would also be to offer in-house training within universities to raise awareness amongst administrative staff and teaching staff alike of the specific needs of this vulnerable group.

On the other hand, this project also highlighted a significant limitation of collaborative research within CIVIS. The various universities had different requirements regarding approval by ethics committees. This brought the project to a virtual standstill for several weeks, with no comprehensive solution being found. As we work with external participants, and in particular with vulnerable groups, it is difficult to bypass these administrative procedures. However, this stage significantly complicated a project that had only a few months in which to be completed. It would be helpful if CIVIS were to propose an ethical framework for this type of project involving stakeholders.

Explain how the project has fulfilled the CIVIS2 goals, especially the Stream1 objectives (as per your original project application):

The four objectives set out in the application have been met as part of this project, albeit to varying degrees. Whilst we have established contacts with stakeholders in each geographical context, we have not, at this stage, succeeded in creating a network of stakeholders. On the other hand, objectives 2 (to map and critically analyse institutional approaches), 3 (to identify and document the needs of migrant and refugee learners) and 4 (to co-develop and disseminate) have been fully achieved. This project has clearly enabled to identify the needs of a vulnerable population and some concrete solutions for making our universities more inclusive. Whilst national and regulatory contexts vary widely from one university to another, we have managed to identify certain solutions that may be applicable across all contexts, including the need to offer language courses tailored to academic purposes and to communicate more effectively about the enrolment process to this group and the NGOs supporting them. These proposals, which are based in particular on requests from refugees and NGOs, clearly enable universities to strengthen their civic engagement and inclusivity.

We ran out of time to adopt an art-based method and decided to focus on an approach involving interviews and focus groups to collect data and involve stakeholders. We note that for this type of inclusive project, the research timeframe is extended. However, in this instance, we had only seven months to carry it out, which is very short. We therefore had to adapt the approach to this constraint, compounded by the requirement for ethical approval.

Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither can be held responsible for them.

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Member universities :

amU Aix
Marseille
Université

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National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

ULB UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

UNIVERSITY OF
BUCHAREST

University
of Glasgow

Unil.

UAM Universidad Autónoma
de Madrid

SAPIENZA
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