



## **PASSI- Study Visit to Portugal Lisboa, 14/03/07-18/03/07**

### **1 Description**

#### **1.1 Objectives / Programme / Participants List**

The visit was part of the European EQUAL II Programme: «Transnational partnership PASSI» - Study Visit with subject « Vocational training for the development skills of the Asylum Seekers», The visit was hosted by CPR (the Portuguese Refugee Council) and the VIAAS Partnership in the terms of the activities of the transnational partnership "PASSI" – Prepare Asylum Seekers and Society for Integration. The visit to Lisbon lasted 5 days (2 travelling days). The participant list was the following:

- ✓ Malta (3 people)
- ✓ Greece (3 people)
- ✓ Germany (3 people)
- ✓ Portugal (3 people)
- ✓ Italy (3 people)

The objectives of the visit were:

- To get familiar with the project of the Portuguese Council for Refugees and its actions.
- To facilitate the integration into the labour market of asylum seekers, throughout vocational training courses and occupational activities.
- To exchange information about the social-professional actions regarding the target-group (asylum seekers) of each participant member and specifically about the vocational training and guidance and the professional orientation.
- To facilitate social inclusion and fight discrimination suffered by asylum seekers and refugees.
- To eliminate isolation and promote inclusion and fight the lack of occupational activities.
- To exchange information about each national project and products, referring to the specific programmes of vocational training of each country.
- To share experiences of good practice
- To work and benefit from the transnationality component and share experiences with the other members of "Passi"

**AGENDA**  
**14-18 March 2007, Lisboa - Portugal**

Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Thur. 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Travelling Day	10:15 - Welcome Coffee at the Vocational Training Centre for the Alimentary Sector ( <i>Centro de Formação Profissional para o Sector Alimentar – CFPSA</i> )	10:30–11:30 – Visit to the Vocational Training Department and the Center for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences of <i>Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa – SCML</i>	10:30-11:30 - Visit to the Portuguese Refugee Council Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Bobadela, Loures	Travelling Day
	10:30–12:30 – Meeting with the members of the Portuguese DP, at CFPSA*	11:30-13:00 - Meeting with the DP and asylum seekers, at SCML	11:30–13:00 – Meeting: exchange of impressions and conclusions	
	12:30–14:00 – Lunch (offered by the CFPSA)	13:00–14:30 - Lunch	<b>End of the Visit</b>	
	14:00-15:30 Visit to the vocational training courses and meeting with asylum seekers, at CFPSA			
	15:30–17:00 – exchange of country information and experiences under the theme	14:30–17:00 - Presentation of each national project and products and exchange of information on training, at SCML		
	Free Time	20:30 - Dinner "all together!"		

### **Agenda, Thursday, 15 March 2007**

10:15- 10:30 Welcome Coffee at the Vocational Training Centre for the Alimentary Sector (*Centro de Formação Profissional para o Sector Alimentar – CFPSA*)

10:30- 12:30 Portuguese DP partners and activities

- Director of the Vocational Training Centre for the Alimentary Sector (CFPSA)  
**Dra. Gracinda Ramos**

- President of the Portuguese Refugee Council (PRC)  
**Dra. Maria Teresa Tito de Morais Mendes**

- Sub- Director of Social Intervention Department of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML)  
**Dra. Anabela Sousa**

- Director of the Social Intervention Unit of the Lisbon District Centre of Social the Welfare Institute  
**Dra. Otilia Queiroz**

- Co-ordinator of the Social and Religious Affairs office of the Loures City Council  
**Dra. Ana Carla Assunção**

- VIAAS Project Co-ordinator, Portuguese Refugee Council  
**Tito Campos e Matos**

12:30/ 14:00 Lunch  
(offered by the CFPSA)

14:00/ 15:30 Visit to the Vocational Training Courses and meeting with asylum seekers, at CFPSA

15:30/ 17:00 Exchange of country information and experiences under the study visit theme: "*Training to Asylum Seekers*"

17:00 **Free Time**

## PARTICIPANTS LIST

Projects / Countries	Participants / Organisations / E-mails
<i>Aktinergia</i> Greece	Maria Zigouri Hellenic Red Cross swd@redcross.gr
	Chatzimikes Anastassios HELINAS (Hellenic Institute for Solidarity and Cooperation with Developing Countries) <a href="mailto:helinas@otenet.gr">helinas@otenet.gr</a> / <a href="mailto:hel@hol.gr">hel@hol.gr</a>
	Amin Azad Greek Council for Refugees amin@gcr.gr
<i>Asylum Seekers Partnership</i> Malta	Rennie Stivala FSWS rennie.stivala@gov.mt
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<i>Orizzonti</i> Ferrara, Italy	Maria Merlante Ecipar Ferrara mmerlante@eciparfe.it
	Valentina Andreotti CSII dirittodiasilo@coopcamelot.org
	Federico Tsucalas CSII federico.tsucalas@libero.it
<i>VIAAS – Vias de Interculturalidade na Área do Asilo</i> Portugal	Ana Cameira Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML) crvcc.asi@scml.pt
	Maria José Costa Centro de Formação Profissional para o Sector Alimentar (CFPSA) maria.costa@cfpsa.pt
	Tito Matos Conselho Português para os Refugiados (CPR) tito.matos@cpr.pt

## 1.2 General Remarks

- The study visit was very well organised.
- The visits to the Reception Centre, the Training Centres and companies gave us the opportunity to approach AS but not to discuss enough with them about their experiences of the programme.
- The visits to the companies that host AS as trainees gave us the chance to discuss with the employers and make conclusions about the utility of the programme.
- The participants presented the national programmes and pointed out the difficulties and the barriers related with the national policies for the integration of AS.
- For everybody it was very important to support asylum seekers with language and vocational training. One main aim of that is the integration into the labour market in Italy, Portugal, Malta and Greece. For the German project the sustaining of the employability of the asylum seekers is the most important point which may lead to an integration into the labour market of the host country or the country of origin.
- The holistic approach of the Portuguese project was very interesting for us: They combine the running of an accommodation center with a neighbourhood work in the suburb. In the same center they offer vocational and language training for the asylum seekers and deliver activities for the local population.

### 1.3 Expectations

DP Greece, Italy and Malta <sup>1</sup>	DP Italy additionally	DP Germany
<p>To be informed about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national policy of Portugal for Asylum seekers.</li> <li>• The legal processes and support for AS in each participant country (accommodation, health support, training courses, access to employment etc)</li> <li>• The reactions of the local community to the influx of asylum seekers and their insertion in the local labour market.</li> <li>• The vocational training programmes for AS in Portugal and their yielded results.</li> <li>• The vocational guidance offered to asylum seekers and the actions that are implemented in order to match their interest in professional development to the demand of their contextual labour market, so that AS could be promoted into the labour market</li> <li>• The experimentation of new ways of valuing interculturality / multiculturality.</li> <li>• To compare the wider supporting system for AS of Malta with that of the other members of the Partnership.</li> <li>• To share useful information/conclusions about the existing practices.</li> <li>• To exchange ideas in order to help each national project to be more effective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discuss with the other participants about each national project and the different ways to approach AS local laws, social situation and integration into the labour market</li> <li>• To discuss with AS about their life experiences, vocational training and their integration into the Portuguese labour market, in order to compare their situation with the Italian one.</li> </ul>	<p>To be informed about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal situation of asylum seekers in other countries and their possibilities to participate in vocational and educational training</li> <li>• The chances of asylum seekers to be integrated into the labour market in other European countries</li> <li>• To exchange experiences about the integration of asylum seekers into the labour market and the contacts to companies and firms.</li> <li>• To get to know the approaches of the other countries concerning the vocational training for asylum seekers.</li> <li>• To exchange new ideas and approaches in general with other experts in the area of vocational training.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The DP Greece wrote down the experiences and observations of the visit first. The DP Italy and Malta worked out their report on that basis. The DP Germany noted their remarks separately.

#### **1.4 Short Comings**

The visit was very well prepared and all participant organisations were willing to help by explaining their role in the project, however it was generally felt that the time allocated was too short for the participants to be able to speak to asylum seekers and get a better insight of what they actually experience during training and during the insertion phase into the labour market.

We didn't have time enough to discuss with asylum seekers about their life experiences, vocational training and their integration into the Portuguese labour market, in order to compare their situation with the Italian one. We needed more opportunities to exchange information and opinions with the participants about their role, their ways to approach AS problems, and good practices about AS in their countries.

The time for the presentation of the projects from the visiting countries was too short. Or better to say: The first presentations were too long and not to the point so there was a lack of time for the others. Their presentation was then transferred to the end of the visit after the normal programme. This was not very good.

## 1.5 Reflection on the Benefits of the Visit to: AS – PASSI – Third parties

Identified by DP Greece, Italy and Malta <sup>2</sup>	Identified by the DP Germany
<p><b>AS – Indirect benefits:</b> The participants transferred to asylum seekers living in their countries and to organisations supporting them the information about the conditions offered and the opportunities of access into the labour market for asylum seekers in other European countries.</p> <p>Italy added: The exchange of information about the shelter offered and the opportunities of access into the labour market for asylum seekers in other European countries is useful for each national project to improve his services for AS.</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The network developed between the Portuguese NGO's target to integration of asylum seeker into the job market</li> <li>▪ The experimental new practices to promote interculturality</li> <li>▪ The promotion of the access to vocational training into the alimentary sector</li> <li>▪ The cooperation between the AS and the NGO's professionals after the completion of training courses</li> <li>▪ The professional training for AS is designed so as to fit the relationship between job demand and individual interest of asylum seekers who wish to participate in the project.</li> <li>▪ The promotion of the training necessity during the asylum procedure</li> <li>▪ The wide – sided vocational training in versatile aspects (for example: language lesson and the cultivation of personal skills via technical programs)</li> <li>▪ The creation of new methodologies for the evaluation, validation and the certification of AS competences</li> </ul> <p><b>PASSI – Direct benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To collect information and to exchange experience with partners who are operating programmes in their countries</li> <li>▪ To obtain knowledge in the Portuguese vocational training programmes</li> <li>▪ To get ideas and create alternatives on how to improve the quality of the services provided to asylum seekers in Malta.</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Parties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Maltese participants transferred to the home organisations and wider support structures the political and social conditions for asylum seekers in other countries</li> </ul>	<p><b>AS – Indirect benefits:</b> The asylum seekers can benefit from the visit by the way that we reflect about our one work and the very good example of the Portuguese project to combine the support of asylum seekers with a neighbourhood work.</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The networking within the Portuguese organisations and the combination of their activities.</li> <li>• Impressing was also the vocational training in the training centers and the education to bakers, cooks and butchers.</li> <li>• The accommodation center with its different offers for asylum seekers and neighbourhood.</li> <li>• To take into account interculturality as one aspect in the work of the DP.</li> <li>• The process of evaluation, validation and certification of competences.</li> <li>• Very interesting was the support of the state for aims of the project, e.g. that asylum seekers participate in the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>PASSI – Direct benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We think that everybody of the national DPs had a lot of things to take with him or her as learning point.</li> <li>• We got a very practical impression of the work delivered in Portugal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Parties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We may discuss the Portuguese approach in our home organisations as a possibility for further projects and present it to other organisations in Germany.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The DP Greece wrote down the experiences and observations of the visit first. The DP Italy and Malta worked out their report on that basis. The DP Germany noted their remarks separately.



## 2 Comparison<sup>3</sup>

Theme	Portugal (by DP Greece)	Greece (by DP Greece)	Italy (by DP Italy)	Malta (by DP Malta)
Language training (content and methodology)	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language skills</li> <li>Life skills and orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language training is not compulsory for refugees</li> <li>There are offered language courses in both NGO's and the public sector</li> <li>The selection of participants is adapted to their personal needs</li> <li>There are held meetings with the participants via selection tests and interview</li> <li>The ultimate goal is to obtain sufficiency of the Portuguese language in order reach a basic level of communication</li> <li>The duration of the language training programmes differs in each organisation (short and long term courses)</li> <li>Incitation of conversation and active participation</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language and communication skills</li> <li>Life skills and orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language training is not compulsory for refugees</li> <li>There are offered language courses in both NGO's and the public sector</li> <li>"Centers of Vocational Training" provide subsidized programmes of greek language</li> <li>The duration of the language training programmes differs in each organisation</li> <li>The language training may includes intercultural activities</li> <li>The language lesson may provide extra supportive teaching (tutoring classes)</li> <li>After passing exams, AS can acquire formal certification for knowledge of the Greek language from the Centre of Greek Language (KEG) or the University</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language skills/ communication skills</li> <li>Life skills and orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language training is not compulsory for refugees</li> <li>There are offered language courses at the training centre which is the promoter of the project.</li> <li>The selection of participants is adapted to their personal needs</li> <li>The duration of the language training programmes differs for each course depending on the exigencies.</li> <li>The language training may include intercultural activities and social support.</li> <li>The language lesson may provide extra supportive teaching (tutoring classes)</li> <li>Incitation of conversation and</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language skills.</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS were offered voluntary english classes, which would help them in their integration, especially in finding a job.</li> <li>Duration of the courses differed upon the need of the particular class.</li> </ul> <p>Different English courses were provided, depending on the level of the particular individual.</p>

<sup>3</sup> The DP Greece wrote down the experiences and observations of the visit first. The DP Italy and Malta worked out their report on that basis. For the comparison the DPs added the situation in their own country. The DP Germany noted their remarks separately.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual classes</li> </ul>	<p>University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incitation of conversation and active participation</li> </ul>	active participation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational orientation (content and methodology)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual approach depending on knowledge, skills and experience of the asylum seekers</li> <li>Theoretical orientation</li> <li>Practical orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a methodology for the evaluation, validation and the certification of asylum seekers competences</li> <li>Keep an Individual database</li> <li>Keep a Personal portfolio</li> <li>Give a final certification/diploma of the training course (it is recognized by the state).</li> <li>Selection of the participants in order to be registered into a vocational course based in their personal skill level.</li> <li>Preparation for self-presentation in interviews.</li> <li>Information/encouragement for participation in vocational training courses</li> <li>Information/ encouragement for participation in programs for learning the Portuguese language</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual approach depending on knowledge, skills, experience of the asylum seeker</li> <li>Theoretical orientation</li> <li>Practical orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration of professional interests and professional abilities</li> <li>keep a database</li> <li>Information for legal working rights and obligations</li> <li>Information/guidance of the target-group about the fields in which they could be integrated</li> <li>Information/ encouragement for participation in programs for learning the Greek language</li> <li>Information/encouragement for participation in vocational training courses</li> <li>Preparation for self-presentation in interviews.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual approach depending on knowledge, skills, experience of the asylum seekers</li> <li>Theoretical orientation</li> <li>Practical orientation</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a methodology for the evaluation, validation and the certification of asylum seekers competences</li> <li>Exploration of professional interests and professional abilities</li> <li>Keep an individual database</li> <li>Give a final certification/diploma of some training courses (it is recognized by the state).</li> <li>Information for legal working rights and obligations</li> <li>Information/guidance of the target-group about the fields in which they could be integrated</li> <li>Information/ encouragement for participation in programs for learning the Italian language</li> <li>Information/encouragement for participation in vocational training courses</li> <li>Preparation for self-presentation in interviews.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical &amp; Practical orientation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of abilities and professional interest of AS involved in the project</li> <li>Guidance on individual basis towards the most adaptable professional development/interest of each AS.</li> <li>Life skills training.</li> <li>Preparation for self-presentation in interviews.</li> </ul>
Vocational training (Content and methodology)	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational training: theoretical and practical courses, lasts usually 3-6 months</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational training concerns both theoretical and practical courses and lasts usually 3-6 months</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational training concerns both theoretical and practical courses and lasts usually after</li> </ul>	<p><u>Content:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational training both through theoretical and practical approaches.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vocational training throughout the alimentary sector</li> <li>▪ Vocational training is also provided by NGOs, charity and job agencies</li> <li>▪ The vocational training courses are offered for both AS and declared refugees</li> <li>▪ There are cultural expression “Ateliers” witch include group of actors, gastronomic Ateliers and socio-cultural activities</li> <li>▪ There are “meet chopping” vocational training courses in special spaces witch are equipped with all the necessary facilities</li> <li>▪ There are “restaurant waiters” vocational training courses</li> <li>▪ There are also vocational training courses such as “laboratory analyzes in the food sector” and courses of bakery and cooking</li> <li>▪ E-learning courses on asylum low, refugees and human rights (courses of 30 hours)</li> <li>▪ There are also Workshops and Extra Scholar Courses witch focus on the guidelines to adults education and training key competencies</li> <li>▪ Professional areas in childcare, geriatric agent and hairdresser</li> <li>▪ During the apprenticeship period the AS is supervised by a tutor of the hosting company and by a tutor of the Equal project with main aim to promote the working and social integration of AS.</li> <li>▪ Identifying other areas of inter-</li> </ul>	<p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vocational training is provided by the “Centres of Vocational Training”. These centres are especially authorised by the State for this purpose and function according to official standards.</li> <li>▪ Vocational training takes place mainly in class including in-company training</li> <li>▪ Asylum seekers have to register into the Manpower Organisation in order to have access to vocational training.</li> <li>▪ There are various types of vocational training carried out by different bodies</li> <li>▪ Asylum seekers are subsidized when participating in vocational training programs</li> <li>▪ Teachers have to be certified by the National Centre of Certification in order to teach in vocational training programs</li> </ul>	<p>60 hours.</p> <p><u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vocational training is provided by the “Centres of Vocational Training”. These centres are especially authorised by the State for this purpose and function according to official standards.</li> <li>▪ The vocational training courses are offered for both AS and declared refugees</li> <li>▪ Vocational trainings take place mainly in classes including in-company training</li> <li>▪ Asylum seekers have to register into the Job Centre in order to have access to vocational trainings.</li> <li>▪ There are various types of vocational trainings carried out by different bodies</li> <li>▪ During the apprenticeship period the AS is supervised by a tutor of the hosting company and by a tutor of the Equal project with main aim to promote the working and social integration of the AS.</li> <li>▪ Asylum seekers are subsidized when participating in vocational training programs</li> <li>▪ Identifying other areas of interest of AS and refugees in order to allow them to have other options</li> <li>▪ During the project meetings with asylum seekers and cultural mediators are organised in order to facilitate the integration of AS</li> </ul>	<p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Life skills training</li> <li>▪ Computer classes</li> <li>▪ English language classes.</li> <li>▪ Guidance towards the desired area of professional development.</li> <li>▪ Different vocational placements according to the needs and abilities.</li> </ul>
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	est of AS and refugees in order to allow them to have other options		and the communication between them, the operators of the project and the employers	
Social support (Content and methodology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Asylum seekers have the choice of staying in accommodation centres, in apartments, etc</li> <li>▪ The support given is based to the fact that the AS should manage to integrate independently from the outcome of the asylum claim</li> <li>▪ Individual meetings in order to recorder the personal qualifications and the special needs</li> <li>▪ Psychological support during the whole asylum procedure</li> <li>▪ Social support is provided to the AS by the social services of the specialised NGOs and the public welfare services as well</li> <li>▪ Basic needs are covered by social security benefits</li> <li>▪ Counselling services are provided</li> <li>▪ There is offered extra social support for vulnerable groups (unaccompanied minors and others)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Asylum seekers have the choice of staying in accommodation centres, in apartments, etc</li> <li>▪ Individual meetings in order to recorder the personal qualifications and the special needs</li> <li>▪ Psychological support during the whole asylum procedure</li> <li>▪ The support given is based to the fact that the AS should manage to integrate independently from the outcome of the asylum claim</li> <li>▪ For the asylum seekers hosted in the accommodation centres, basic needs are fully covered</li> <li>▪ Every asylum seeker has access to counselling services and support</li> <li>▪ There is no beneficiary policy in Greece for AS</li> <li>▪ Social support is provided to the AS by the social services of the specialised NGOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some AS are hosted in an accommodation centre provided by the ministerial project for accommodation and integration of AS, refugees and people under humanitarian protection.</li> <li>▪ Individual meetings in order to recorder the personal qualifications and the special needs</li> <li>▪ For the asylum seekers hosted in the accommodation centres, basic needs are fully covered</li> <li>▪ Social support is provided to the AS by the social services of the specialised NGOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ holistic support given to the AS through all the process</li> <li>▪ Placement in open centres if AS does not manage to settle on his/her own.</li> <li>▪ Financial support given to those registered as AS for the period of time when their request is being attended to.</li> <li>▪ Psychological and social work support throughout the process given by a multi-disciplinary team appointed ad hoc.</li> <li>▪ Free health care for the period of their stay.</li> </ul>
Legal support (Content and methodology)	Legal support is offered by both NGO's and public welfare services (throughout internet sites with contain in formations about the laws and the asylum procedure)	Legal support and counselling is provided by the Legal Unit of the Greek Council for Refugees	Legal support and counselling is provided by the Legal Unit of the CSII (IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION SERVICES CENTRE)	Legal support is provided through NGO's and some specific legal support related to their request for asylum is provided by the Commissioner for Refugees
Other conditions	As in every European country, a person who has a well – found persecution due to his race, religion, ethnic origin, political opinions or because he/she belongs to a specific social group is a refugee (Treaty of Geneva	AS stay in accommodation centres voluntarily.  The right to apply for work permit is given as soon as the AS has obtained the "the special document of an alien	AS stay in accommodation centres voluntarily.  The right to work is given 6 months after the asylum request, if the AS didn't receive the resort in this	AS are placed in open centres run by the state and supported by NGO's who offer their help.

	<p>1951, Article 1 A) and he/she has the right to apply for asylum.</p> <p>As soon as the AS requires for asylum and has no shelter, accommodation is offered by the state in a reception centre.</p> <p>The examination of the asylum application takes normally more than 3 years.</p> <p>Portugal, in 2006 represents 117 asylum applications – a monthly rate of 9,7 requests. As a country, it has one of the lowest percentages of the income refugees and has no experiences in mass AS arrivals in Europe.</p> <p>Nationality diversity has been a main characteristic of AS in Portugal. The main majority of AS came from Africa, followed by Asian Nationalities.</p> <p>Also, the refugee status recognition rate reaches the 19,6% (23 refugee status were granted by the Ministry of Interior in 2006) and 7 residence permits were given for humanitarian reasons.</p>	<p>who has requested the status of refugee”</p> <p>AS have the same obligations and rights on the labour market as every Greek citizen.</p> <p>There are programmes organized by Vocational Centres and NGOs exclusively for AS (language or vocational courses).</p> <p>AS have the right to health care in public hospitals.</p> <p>Have access to public education system</p> <p>The examination of the asylum application takes normally more than 3 years</p> <p>The rate of recognition of refugee status in Greece is one of the lowest in Europe.</p> <p>Freedom of movement from region to region in Greece, on the condition that the change of address is stated to the police.</p> <p>A lot of bureaucracy concerning their documents and the everyday access to public services.</p> <p>Lack of cooperation among the public services and very limited information about the asylum seekers status.</p>	<p>period.</p> <p>AS have the same obligations and rights on the labour market as every Italian citizen.</p> <p>AS have the right to health care in public hospitals.</p> <p>Have access to public education system</p> <p>The examination of the asylum application takes normally more than 1 year</p> <p>Freedom of movement from region to region in Italy, on the condition that the change of address is stated to the police.</p> <p>A lot of bureaucracy concerning their documents and the everyday access to public services.</p> <p>Lack of cooperation among the public services and very limited information about the asylum seekers status.</p>	
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Empowerment of AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A supportive network of organizations provides assistance to asylum seekers. Through counselling procedure the asylum seekers are being motivated to participate in the integration process.</li> <li>▪ Educational programmes, training vocational courses and apprenticeships are considered as a very positive step towards the empowerment of asylum seekers in Italy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Programmes of Accompanying Supporting Services provide work counselling, empowerment and physiological support in order to prepare AS to enter into the labour market and avoid social exclusion.</li> <li>▪ NGOs that implement Equal projects provide work counselling in order to assess AS special skills and professional qualifications, to encourage them and to promote their access to employment.</li> <li>▪ AS have the right to form their own associations and representative bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organizations that implement Equal projects provide work counselling in order to certify AS special skills and professional qualifications, to encourage them and to promote their access to employment.</li> <li>▪ AS have the right to form their own associations and representative bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training is provided in various areas which help their integration like lifeskills and language training.</li> <li>▪ Through the support and training given, AS have been more in control over their integration process and could participate even more.</li> </ul>
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Theme	Germany (by DP Germany)	Portugal (by DP Germany)
Language and vocational training (content and methodology)	<p>The content: Language training first – vocational orientation with a skills audit part – training on the job or further vocational training (depending on the individual case).</p> <p>Methodology: Individual approach depending on the possibilities of each single person First class teaching (language and vocational orientation) asylum seekers among themselves, second vocational training or training on the job together with Germans</p>	<p>The content: Language training – skills audit and evaluation of competences – vocational training or further vocational training with the aim to get a job in the Portuguese labour market</p>
The Evaluation, validation and certification of competences	<p>In Germany we use the evaluation of competences to be able to find a suitable place for the asylum seeker in the training offers and in the labour market which is quite difficult because of legal restrictions.</p>	<p>In Portugal they use the evaluation of competences to be able to find a suitable place for the asylum seeker in the labour market with better chances for him or her to be integrated.</p>
Legal situation of asylum seekers	<p>In Germany our project is the only possibility for asylum seekers to take part in vocational training or to get practical experiences in companies. Normally they are practically not allowed to get a vocational training or further qualification.</p>	<p>The state support the project and the participation of asylum seekers in that project. We understood that there will be a funding after Equal by the state so that asylum seekers will get support after the project has ended. The aim – and it seems to be also the aim of the state -is to find a job for asylum seekers.</p>
Expectations of the asylum seekers while entering the projects.	<p>The asylum seekers know very well the legal restrictions in Germany and their poor chances. So they expect a support for language training and activities for the duration of the project. They do not expect necessarily to get a job.</p>	<p>The asylum seekers expect to get a vocational training in a job which is needed on the Portuguese labour market. Accordingly they expect to get a job afterwards. They also expect to improve their contact to the Portuguese society.</p>
Statistics about asylum seekers	available	available

<p>Living conditions for asylum seekers</p>	<p>Most of the asylum seekers live in accommodation centers, some in private flats. That depends on the municipality.</p>	<p>Most of the asylum seekers live in accommodation centers, some in private flats. That depends on the municipality. Bobadela is not only a accommodation center but offers also activities for the neighbourhood (common kindergarden, sport places...)</p>
<p>Co-operation with the police.</p>	<p>No co-operation and no integration into the project.</p>	<p>There is a direct involvement of the police into the Portuguese project.</p>
<p>Chances of the asylum seekers to be integrated into the labour market and society.</p>	<p>In Germany it is difficult for asylum seekers to be integrated because of the restrictions in the access to the labour market and to vocational training.</p>	<p>In our impression asylum seekers have a realistic chance to be integrated into the Portuguese labour market and – as a second step – into the Portuguese society.</p>

### 3 Intercultural Practices Encountered

Identified by DP Greece, Italy and Malta <sup>4</sup>	Identified by DP Germany
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All organizations involved hold intercultural activities which target the integration of AS in the local community.</li> <li>▪ Intercultural activities done in cooperation with the community structures.</li> <li>▪ The main goal is to promote and facilitate social inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of the most direct intercultural work was the concept to open up the accommodation center for asylum seekers to the neighbourhood as well.</li> <li>▪ A second aspect of interculturality is the integration of asylum seekers into vocational training courses with others.</li> </ul>

### 4 Recommendations

#### **General:**

- Local community's involvement should be supported more in this project so as to better understand the rationale behind it and maybe offer its support even more.
- All the European countries should keep the same standards in reception, social support and vocational training of AS
- The professionals who support the AS should incite the integration independently of the final asylum decision
- Asylum seekers should be allowed access to paid employment at the earliest possible stage in their asylum application process
- Language courses should be tailored to the needs of refugees and provide the level of language necessary for them to find suitable employment
- There should be a pocket money regulation during the vocational training projects
- Asylum seekers should be allowed access to paid employment at the earliest possible stage in their asylum application process
- Language courses should be tailored to the needs of refugees and provide the level of language necessary for them to find suitable employment
- There should be a pocket money regulation during the vocational training projects
- All the European countries should keep the same standards in reception, social support and vocational training of AS
- The professionals who support the AS should incite the integration independently of the final asylum decision
- Local community services should be involved in the implementation of activities in favor of AS.

#### **PASSI:**

- Evaluation of the reports as a means of exchanging information and good practices used by the different countries involved.
- More co-operations in the future between the same Partnership.
- Extra international meetings in the terms of exchanging experiences
- The organisation of the study visit itself was really good. The exchange meetings and discussions within these visits has to be improved (presentation of the projects and discussion more to the point).

<sup>4</sup> The DP Greece wrote down the experiences and observations of the visit first. The DP Italy and Malta worked out their report on that basis. The DP Germany noted their remarks separately.

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