

THE ENTER GAZETTE

THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ENTER TO TRANSFORM

ISSUE #4

July 2022



Editorial

Dear Reader,

The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR informed in May that due to the war in Ukraine and other conflicts the number of people forced to flee conflict, violence, human rights violations and persecution reached the staggering milestone of 100 million for the first time on record. It is a record that should never have been set. At the same time, however, this figure also shows the necessity of the Enter to Transform project. Entrepreneurs with a refugee background are now an integral part of regional ecosystems in Europe. In this newsletter, we would like to report on the progress of the mentoring program and present the German partner region. Enjoy the read and all the best!

All the best,
the Enter to Transform team

In This Issue

Faces of Enter : Institute for Work and Technology

Faces of Enter : FIAP e.V .

Faces of Enter: Train of Hope

Entering the German Hub

News from the Regions

Upcoming Events

Faces of Enter: The German Team

Institute for Work and Technology

By L. Wloka

The Institute for Work and Technology was founded over 30 years ago to provide scientific support for structural change in the Ruhr region. It is a research and development institution whose scientific and practical interest is the organization of knowledge and innovation for sustainable prosperity and quality of life. In regional, national and international research projects, the competences of the IAT are continuously developed and implemented in design projects as well as in university teaching.

As a research institution at the interface of science and practice, the IAT offers approaches to solving societal and economic challenges based on state of the art science and newest findings in research and development.

Migrant and refugee entrepreneurship as well as sustainable development are topics that have been researched at the IAT for a long time. The institute focuses in particular on the political, economic and socio-cultural effects of migration in Germany and other European countries. In addition, it advises local and national actors such as the federal government of Germany.



Train of Hope

By J. Alyou, C. Reilly, F. Karacakurtoglu

The refugee support association Train of Hope Dortmund e.V. was founded in September 2015 by volunteers in order to welcome those recently arriving in Germany. It is an organisation that helps people, regardless of social status, nationality, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation, in various matters.

Train of Hope has a multicultural background and vision of solidarity, supporting refugees from all over the world. Through empowerment and language teaching, members of the organisation are able to develop and use their skills and abilities to become volunteer helpers who can react quickly to the changing needs of other refugees because of their background and experience.

Train of Hope is a part of the Enter to Transform Project because it sees the lasting importance of empowerment and self-sufficiency in the communities it supports. Enter to Transform benefits refugees by providing them with a better understanding and access to the world of Migrant Entrepreneurship, and by promoting access to information and recognising the expertise from refugees. The lasting positive impact can be seen both within the communities and society as a whole.



Institute for Innovative and Preventive Job Design

By R. Große, S. Steinberg

The non-profit research institute for innovative and preventive job design (FIAP e.V.) was founded in February 2010 by a group of scientists from different disciplines who are connected by the questions and problems of modern working environment and changing settings in modern economies. The institute carries out interdisciplinary national and international research projects to investigate fundamental and applied problems in the fields of work place design, chances and challenges of the modern labor market, (educational) service development, and innovative entrepreneurship in the social & green economy, among others. Our goal is always to co-develop innovative and customized solutions with the target groups in our projects.

From FIAP's perspective, entrepreneurship is more than just the ability to start a business. Entrepreneurs create solutions to problems, they take responsibility for inclusive development in the local economy, develop innovative products or services, create new markets and promote stable economic development.

For many years, FIAP has focused on the special fields of social and green entrepreneurship. Within national and international projects we supported young founders (a strong focus is on women as entrepreneurs, migrant founders, young unemployed and disadvantaged people) in developing social and sustainable business ideas to create the balancing act between economical mindset and social and sustainability oriented added value.



Research Institute for Innovative and Preventive Job Design

Entering the German Hub

By R. Große, J. Alyou, C. Reilly

As part of the Enter to Transform project in Germany, an Umbrella HUB will be located at the refugee support association Train of Hope e.V. in the North City of Dortmund. In addition, we cooperate with existing incubators and co-working spaces in the Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region (especially in the cities of Gelsenkirchen and Essen), which offer participants a contact point and established support infrastructure.

We also link our services of support to the offers of existing institutions (e.g. chambers of crafts, business development agency, employment promotion agency). Here, participants can take part in collective training on relevant entrepreneurship topics and improve their knowledge of the specifics of the German entrepreneurial market.

To address the different needs of recognized refugees, the German Hub's special focus is on individual mentoring and customized entrepreneurial support. Networking with experts from the entrepreneurial scene in the Rhine-Ruhr region is a central component of the German Hub.

Here an inside into our work:



News from the regions



Partner Meeting in Amsterdam

News from The Netherlands

By L. Wloka

On March 30th and 31st, the Enter to Transform team met all together in Amsterdam for a consortium meeting. On the first day, the steering committee meeting discussed about project management, communication and finance. It was followed by a quick overview of project progress by the lead partner University of Twente. Afterwards, the Enter team zoomed more into detail into the hubs. Pulse, LYIT and NAO and gave presentations about the progress they have made. The next day started with the continuation of the work packages presentations. Thereupon further project issues

have been discussed. The meeting ended with a partner's reflection and a knowledge exchange.

Departing from a successful mid-term conference organised by NAO and the Worldmakers an exchange with stakeholders from several Dutch regions has been valuable to further sensitize and raise awareness for RR restarters, we continued with a partner meeting to transnationally exchange experience on hub creation and ecosystem development.

The program for the two-days-meet-

ing was accompanied by presentations from the work package relevant partners under the lead of the Twente University. A detailed zoom into the hub creation and its progress in the partner regions was given by the implementation partners. Closed with a team building activity and a dinner the two-day-meeting was a success.

All in all: We had new insides and a lot of FUN! (See pic below)



Conference “A Hub for Newcomer-entrepreneurs: an alliance for more impact”

News from The Netherlands

By G. Oosterhof, H. Oosterhof, A. Cassano

The NAO/WMF conference on newcomer entrepreneurship that took place on March 29 2022 in Amsterdam, with project partners, stakeholders and participants in the Enter to Transform program was a joyful event! We have harvested more input than we could have anticipated.

[Lynn Zebeda](#) was the facilitator of the event and delivered great workshops that really invited the visitors to re-frame their thoughts, about what we are all working on -> better opportunities for newcomers.

But first: [Bright Richards](#) woke us up early in the morning with a story about

his experiences how the forest recognizes you as a newcomer, instead of the urgency that the newcomer must fight her/his place and space, in new surroundings. So beautiful!

All 4 participating countries; Ireland, Germany, France and the Netherlands, gave a brief insight into what has been achieved.

After that, we had a great forum with experts in the field where we could fire our questions, with participants: [Rachel Janiuk](#), Head department entrepreneur support, Municipality Amsterdam

[Femke Bartels](#), director THNK, School

of creative leadership [Karijn Nijhof](#), Senior Researcher at the Hague University

[Mohammed Alassar](#), Entrepreneur & founder of AskPro [Paul Leistra](#), LANSKO National network for social cooperative entrepreneurship

It is not possible to give all the results of this special meeting in this news overview. Big thanks to all participants! That we can achieve set goals is only because we are all together.



German Kick-Off Meeting

News from Germany

By L. Wloka

On April 20, 2022, the German kick-off event of the Enter to Transform mentoring-program took place. The event was jointly organized and conducted by Train of Hope, FIAP and the Institute for Work and Technology. Romina Große first presented basic facts about refugee and migrant entrepreneurship, which were translated into Arabic by Jamil Alyou. For example, 20% of all entrepreneurs in Germany nowadays have a migration background. In addition, companies of refugees and migrants have many advantages - not only personal, but also for Germany as a business location. Afterwards, the participants of the mentoring program introduced themselves and explained their ideas. 75%

of the participants have already acquired experience as entrepreneurs in their home countries. Their plans and ideas covered a wide range of branches ranging from kitchen studio to shoe store or engineering office. The introduction was followed by a presentation of a successful entrepreneur with a refugee background. During the Q&A that followed it became clear that financing and finding places to go to and ask for entrepreneurial advice constitute big challenges. These challenges will be addressed in the mentoring that is to come: During the online bootcamps and entrepreneurship trainings in spring, various workshops will discuss in detail how companies can be founded successfully in Germany. There will be

topic-specific workshops covering all-important aspects of starting a business, such as financing, law or marketing. A pitching event is planned for August, where ideas can be presented. Afterwards the Enter to Transform Project will start with individual mentoring.

After the successful kick-off event, the German Enter to Transform team is looking forward to the following workshops and events.



CRÈME International Conference and LEMEX Workshop

News from Germany

By A. David

The German partner IAT presented results of the ENTER to Transform sectoral report at the University of Bremen (LEMEX Institute) in a workshop on Refugee Entrepreneurship (23.05.22). With over 50 participants in hybrid sessions from different countries and continents, the potential and challenges of refugee entrepreneurs has been highlighted. Alexandra David and Judith Terstrief referred on the context-specific factors in refugee entrepreneurship and the building of a

transnational ecosystem.

Just three days later (26.05.22), the Enter to Transform project was presented and the CRÈME International Conference in UK where policy and practice on refugee and migrant entrepreneurship has been presented from the German view. Among others the Enter to Transform Hub was introduced. In the afterwards discussion a conclusion has been made, that the potential of migrant and refugee entrepreneurship still are untapped. In

fully exploit the potential of these groups of entrepreneurs it needs a deeper understanding of objective, an openness of regional ecosystems and the willingness to include.





CONTEXT-SPECIFIC FACTORS IN REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURSHIP – OUTCOMES OF THE ENTER TO TRANSFORM PROJECT

ALEXANDRA DAVID & JUDITH TERSTRIEP

Westphalian University Gelsenkirchen, Institute for Work and Technology

Workshop on Refugee Entrepreneurship University of Bremen, LEMEX Chair, May 23rd, 2022



The Entrepreneurial Mentoring Journey in Germany

News from Germany

By R. Große

An important goal of the German hub is to avoid parallel structures. Instead, we refer to the existing support services for entrepreneurial actions for recognized refugees and migrants and make them useable to the participants.

To this end, we cooperate with institutions in the region that prepare the target group in the entrepreneurial process through collective training. In the initial bootcamps that took place in May, however, the need for individual support and mentoring became particularly strong.

As part of the mentoring program, which started in June and will continue until the end of the year, the participants are supported by the Enter 2 Transform team in the development of their business idea in regular bilateral meetings. This includes the transfer of knowledge (e.g. via the format of learning snacks developed for Enter 2 Transform on classic entrepreneurship topics and the special challenges of the German market), the elaboration of the business idea in a viable business model canvas and business plan and the preparation for pitching

events (planned for autumn) to present their business ideas to potential sponsors and interested parties.

Depending on the needs of the participants, contacts to other mentors, who are experts for the respective issues, are arranged. By integrating the participants into the start-up networks in the region, it is ensured that the participants build up an independent network and also have a secure support structure beyond the Enter to Transform mentoring program.



Mentoring Commences at the Enter to Transform Hub in Ireland

News from Ireland

By J. Blue

In January 2022, the Enter to Transform project team in Ireland commenced the mentoring element of the Training Programme designed to introduce recognised refugees to the concept of entrepreneurship in Ireland. The participants had previously completed the Enter to Transform Training Workshops that had been delivered online to teach the cohort about entrepreneurship in Ireland, business ideation, business planning, sales, marketing, finance and basic law.

Following the workshops, 19 participants from various countries in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and South America were offered one-to-one mentoring to further develop their business ideas, produce a business plan and explore how they could get their businesses up and running. Business ideas included beekeeping, hair extensions, personalised healthcare, IT developments, mobile barber shops, bakeries, sesame oil production and panel beating. Participants met with project mentors for a consultation to discuss how their

businesses could become a reality. The each of those who wanted to pursue mentoring, met regularly with project experts who helped them to produce viable business plans that would aid them in seeking assistance from existing business support structures in the Irish entrepreneurial ecosystem. Overall, the Enter to Transform Training Programme has been a great success in Ireland and the project team are exploring the possibility of running the programme for a second time.

Enter to Transform Project Success Shared at “Include Us” Conference

News from Ireland

By J. Blue

In June 2022, the Enter to Transform project team in Ireland was invited to introduce the project to a new cohort of academics, NGOs and other support & interest groups at the national Include Us Workshop & Conference held at the St. George's Heritage and Visitor Centre in Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim. Include Us focuses on the importance of digital skills and competences for migrants and seeks to identify new approaches to inclusion of newcomers. The event presented a grand display of learning, multiculturalism, and unforgettable experiences as people from all corners of the globe and all walks of life came together with

a common goal of inclusion. Enter to Transform project manager, Juanita Blue who is an Australian living in Ireland, gave a lively presentation that touched on important topics for migrants and refugees such as feeling like an outsider, homesickness, the need for systematic change in the way newcomers are received and how much migrants have to contribute to their new home countries. Juanita outlined the Enter to Transform project, describing the overall project aims and objectives. The Enter to Transform Training Model was also presented, along with the positive results that had been produced through

the pilot programme in Ireland. The project was extremely well received and mustered a large amount of interest among attendees. Many individuals and organisations stated that they would be interested in transferring the model for use within their own communities and other migrant cohorts including Ukrainian refugees. The Irish team are excited by the new prospects presented and hope to see the model adopted by others and eventually mainstreamed by existing migrant and business support agencies in Ireland.

French initiative for a more accessible impact entrepreneurship and a better inclusion of refugees

News from France

By J. Charlot, A. Zalay

The PULSE team participated in several workshops to enhance the visibility of refugees in the impact entrepreneurship French ecosystem. Indeed, between April and July 2022, as part of the ACT! Project (project led by PULSE and funded by Google.org to promote a more inclusive entrepreneurship) PULSE was able to consider the role of refugees in the entrepreneurial ecosystem alongside numerous partners

such as Singa, La Ruche, Makesense, France Terre d'Asile, specialists on the issues, and two refugee entrepreneurs who gave their insights on the needs they faced and still face. It allowed us to share our experiences and knowledge with each other in order to find concrete solutions on how to better support refugee entrepreneurs and give more visibility to the support. The main goal of this ACT! initiative is

to collectively strengthen the approach of entrepreneurship professionals for a better inclusion of refugee populations in their support programs. Following the workshops, methodological kits are to be created and put into practice by the end of 2022





Upcoming Events

1

Enter to Transform will participate in the fifth annual summit of the refugee entrepreneurship network in Venice

3

Good practice podcasts coming soon!

2

Next partner meeting in Ireland in November 2022.

Imprint

Editor

Westphalian University Gelsenkirchen
Institute for Work and Technology
Munscheidstr. 14
D-45886 Gelsenkirchen

eMail: david@iat.eu; wloka@iat.eu
Web: www.iat.eu

Disclaimer

This Newsletter is part of the Deliverable 2.3 of WP C. The information and views set out in this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the NWE Secretary's views

Enter to Transform is a joint transnational project that develops a supportive environment of hubs functioning through mentoring as «door opener» for recognized refugee (RR) restarters to enter existing entrepreneurial infrastructure in NWE. It introduces RRs in how, where, and by whom to get the tools they need to restart business activities. The project is co-funded by the Interreg North-West Europe Programme under grant agreement NWE1096.

Design by Judith Terstriep

Photo credits

Page 1	Danigeza on Pixabay
Page 2	IAT and ToH
Page 3	FIAP e.V.
Page 4	Ciara Reilly
Page 5	Jon Tyson on Unsplash
Page 6	NAO and The World Makers Organisation
Page 7	NAO and The World Makers Organisation
Page 8	NAO and The World Makers Organisation
Page 9	Laura Wloka
Page 10	Alexandra David
Page 11	Alexandra David
Page 12	StartupStockPhotos on Pixabay
Page 14	Group SOS Pulse
Page 15	Group SOS Pulse