



INTARTS

Research Report



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Credits

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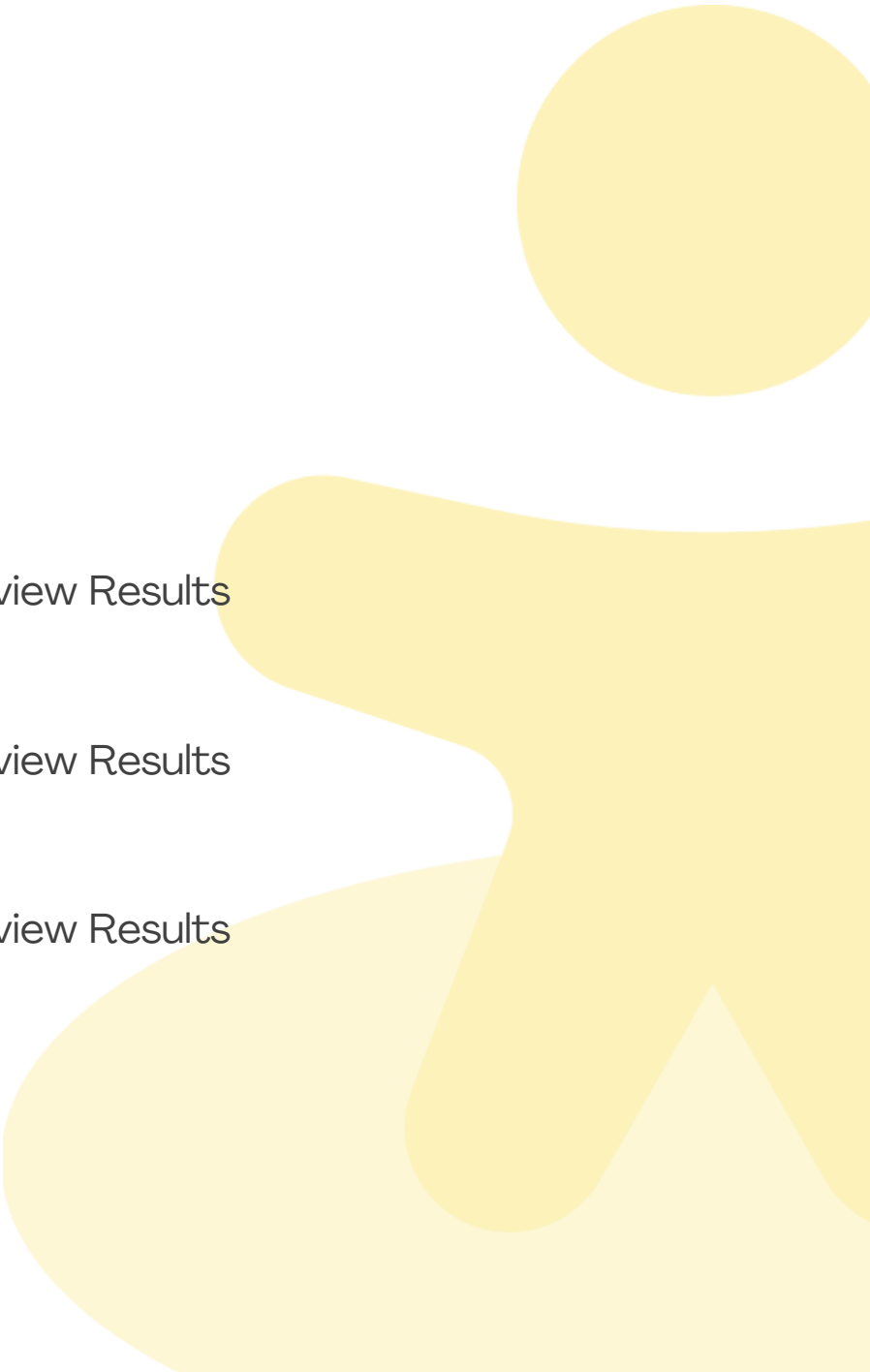
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About the project

The INTARTS Project, which stands for “Integration through Creative Arts: Fostering Cross-Cultural Harmony,” is focused on helping migrants and refugees integrate into European communities by using creative arts as a medium for connection and understanding. The project aims to create partnerships among various organizations, including NGOs and youth centers, to promote social cohesion and cultural exchange.

One of the primary objectives of the INTARTS Project is to develop training materials specifically designed for youth workers, migrants, and refugees. These materials will focus on creative art methodologies that can enhance youth work skills. The expected outcome is the creation of an online guidebook that provides youth workers with innovative tools to support young migrants and refugees effectively. This objective aligns with the broader goal of improving the quality and recognition of youth work.

The project also aims to empower youth workers and marginalized groups by equipping them with the skills necessary to facilitate cross-cultural integration through art-based strategies. By doing so, it seeks to foster a sense of belonging and encourage active participation in host communities. Additionally, INTARTS emphasizes collaboration among NGOs, youth centers, and refugee centers to create a network for sharing best practices in integration.

To achieve objectives, a preliminary study has been carried out on the current situation of migrants, youth workers and refugees, in order to assess their knowledge of integration processes. In this research report, quantitative and qualitative research results have been presented. The questionnaire and focus group interview were analysed and serve as a preliminary study to understand participants' attitudes, challenges, and aspirations regarding sustainability and integration. These insights will directly inform the project's design and implementation, ensuring it effectively addresses the needs of its diverse target groups.



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Research Methods

Here are the questions for the questionnaire form, and the focus group meeting question form has been developed to collect data. The answers are measured in a qualitative and quantitative way to obtain the best and detailed information from the professionals.

Quantitative Research - Survey - Questionnaire Form

1. Name and Surname (optional)
2. Age (Under 18 / 19-25 / 26-35)
3. Your gender
4. Country of residence
5. How long have you been a migrant or refugee?
(Less than 1 year / 1-3 years / 3-5 years / More than 5 years)
6. Which country/countries did you come from?
7. In your experience, what are the primary challenges faced by migrants and refugees in integrating into the community? (please select all that apply)

Language barriers - Cultural differences - Lack of access to education or training - Employment difficulties - Social isolation - Discrimination or prejudice - Legal or bureaucratic obstacles
8. How do these challenges impact the daily lives, mental well-being, or social integration of migrants and refugees?
9. What specific needs do you observe among migrant and refugee youth, such as access to education, mentorship, and language learning, that hinder their integration?
10. Have you ever participated in any art event? (Painting, sculpture, music, dance, etc.) If yes, what art events have you participated in? (Yes - No)
11. Have you used creative arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, drama) in your work with migrant and refugee youth? (Yes-No) If yes, what creative arts have you used in your work with migrant and refugee youth?

Research Methods

Quantitative Research - Survey - Questionnaire Form

12. Which forms of art are you interested in? (You can select more than one)

(Painting - Music - Theater - Dance - Digital arts (graphic design, video production) - Other)

13. How do you think art can help the integration of migrants and refugees? (You can select more than one)

(Overcoming language barriers - Understanding cultural differences - Self-expression - Better interaction with the community - Providing emotional support - Other)

14. In your opinion, how effective are creative arts in addressing the integration challenges faced by migrants and refugees?

(Rate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = Not effective at all and 5 = Very effective)

15. Please provide examples of successful creative arts initiatives (e.g., art workshops, music programs, and community art projects) that have fostered integration among migrant and refugee youth.

16. What innovative strategies do you think could enhance the use of creative arts for the integration of migrants and refugees?

17. What resources or support do you believe are necessary to implement these strategies effectively?

18. Do you have any additional comments or insights regarding the integration of migrants and refugees through creative arts?



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Research Methods

Qualitative Research - Focus Group Interview Form

1. Can you tell us about your background in youth work and how long you have been involved in integration efforts?
2. Could you share a successful integration story that you have witnessed or been part of? What made it successful?
3. What specific challenges have you encountered while working on youth integration initiatives?
4. In your experience, how have you contributed to the integration of young migrants and refugees?
5. If you have helped with youth integration, what strategies or approaches did you find most effective?
6. Have you incorporated creative arts into your integration efforts? If so, how did you use them, and what impact did they have?
7. What additional support or resources do you think would enhance your ability to facilitate effective integration for young migrants and refugees?



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Survey Results: Poland



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Survey Results

Question 1: Name and Surname

This question invites participants to provide their names and surnames, and it is an optional question.

Question 2: Age

The 19–25 age group (57.7%) constituted the largest portion, followed by the 26–35 age group (42.3%). There were no participants under the age of 18.

Question 3: Gender

Female participants (61.5%) outnumbered male participants (38.5%).

Question 4: Country of residence

The majority of participants reside in Poland (73.1%). Other countries of residence include Turkey (7.7%), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia (3.8% each).

Question 5: How long have you been a migrant or refugee?

Those who have been migrants or refugees for more than 5 years (46.2%) formed the largest group, followed by participants with 3–5 years of experience (42.3%). Only 11.5% reported being migrants or refugees for 1–3 years, with no participants under 1 year.

Question 6: Which country/countries did you come from?

The majority of participants originated from Turkey (61.5%). Other countries of origin include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia.

Question 7: In your experience, what are the primary challenges faced by migrants and refugees in integrating into the community?

Participants identified several primary challenges during community integration. Language barriers were the most common issue, highlighted by 73.1% of participants. Cultural differences and employment difficulties were each reported by 50% of respondents. Legal and bureaucratic obstacles were another significant challenge, identified by 57.7% of participants. Social isolation was mentioned by 46.2% of respondents. Lastly, educational access and discrimination were less frequently reported, with 15.4% and 42.3% of participants noting these issues, respectively.

Question 8: What specific needs do you observe among migrant and refugee youth—such as access to education, mentorship, and language learning—that hinder their integration?

Migrants and refugees face various challenges during their integration process. Language barriers are one of the most significant issues, impacting their ability to communicate, access services, and find jobs. Bureaucratic obstacles, such as lengthy residence permit processes, create additional stress and uncertainty. Cultural differences and experiences of discrimination or racism contribute to feelings of isolation, negatively affecting mental health and motivation. Many migrants struggle with adapting to the new environment while dealing with misunderstandings rooted in cultural norms. Social exclusion and a lack of recognition for prior qualifications further hinder their professional and personal growth, leaving many feeling stuck in survival mode rather than thriving in their new community.

Question 9: What specific needs do you observe among migrant and refugee youth—such as access to education, mentorship, and language learning—that hinder their integration?

To facilitate integration, migrants and refugees need access to effective language learning opportunities and mentorship programs. Affordable and accessible language courses, including online options, are crucial for building communication skills and confidence. Mentorship programs, particularly involving locals, can provide practical guidance on navigating cultural, educational, and professional challenges. Social activities that encourage interaction with local communities can foster a sense of belonging and cultural exchange. Additionally, more nonprofit organizations and cultural centers are needed to support integration through targeted programs and community-building initiatives.

Question 10: Have you ever participated in any art event?

The majority of participants (80.8%) have attended an art event, such as painting, sculpture, music, or dance, while 19.2% have not. This suggests that art is a familiar activity for most respondents.

Question 11: Have you used creative arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, drama) in your work with migrant and refugee youth?

About 65.4% of participants have used creative arts, like visual arts, music, dance, or drama, in their work with migrant and refugee youth, while 34.6% have not. This indicates a significant adoption of creative arts as a tool for engagement.



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Question 12: Which forms of art are you interested in?

Music is the most preferred form of art, with 65.4% of respondents showing interest. Painting follows at 50%, and digital arts attract 38.5%. Theater and dance are less popular, with 26.9% and 11.5%, respectively. Pottery was the least selected, at 3.8%. These results highlight the broad appeal of music and painting in creative expressions.

Question 13: How do you think art can help the integration of migrants and refugees?

Art is considered a powerful tool for integration by respondents. Self-expression (80.8%) and better interaction with the community (73.1%) were the top benefits identified. Overcoming language barriers (53.8%) and understanding cultural differences (50%) were also significant. Providing emotional support was noted by 46.2% of respondents.

Question 14: In your opinion, how effective are creative arts in addressing in integration challenges faced by migrants and refugees?

Creative arts are rated as effective in addressing integration challenges. Most participants rated effectiveness at 4 (30.8%) or 5 (26.9%) on a scale of 1 to 5. A smaller portion rated it as less effective, with 26.9% giving a score of 3 and 15.4% giving a score of 2. No one rated it as completely ineffective.

Question 15: Please provide examples of successful creative arts initiatives (e.g., art workshops, music programs, and community art projects) that have fostered integration among migrant and refugee youth?

Participants provided various examples of creative arts initiatives that have successfully fostered integration among migrant and refugee youth. These include art workshops, music programs, and cultural days that allow participants to express themselves, connect with others, and share their cultures. Specific examples include collaborative mural projects, Polish song contests, African music nights, and pottery workshops. Programs like storytelling through theater and exhibitions showcasing refugees' work were also highlighted. Some participants mentioned the importance of integrating networking opportunities within cultural events to ensure meaningful interactions.



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Question 16: What innovative strategies do you think could enhance the use of creative arts for the integration of migrants and refugees?

Participants suggested innovative strategies to enhance the use of creative arts for integration. These include organizing consistent and long-term workshops, festivals, and community spaces where migrants and locals can collaborate on art projects. Digital tools such as apps, e-exhibitions, and virtual reality for storytelling were proposed to make arts more accessible. Combining arts with language learning, hosting cultural exchange programs, and leveraging social media to promote events were also recommended. Some respondents emphasized the need to address basic needs (housing, mental health, etc.) to enable participants to fully engage in creative arts activities.

Question 17: What resources or support do you believe are necessary to implement these strategies effectively?

To implement these strategies effectively, participants identified several key resources and supports. Funding was considered essential to cover materials, trained facilitators, and accessible spaces. Partnerships with NGOs, local organizations, and government involvement were highlighted as critical for providing policy support and broader reach. Additionally, digital tools, mentorship programs, and safe spaces for creative expression were recommended. Some participants suggested targeted surveys to identify specific interests and needs among migrants to design relevant and impactful initiatives.

Question 18: Do you have any additional comments or insights regarding the integration of migrants and refugees through creative arts?

Participants emphasized the transformative power of creative arts in fostering empathy, breaking down stereotypes, and promoting cultural exchange. Many noted that arts can help migrants and refugees feel valued and included while enriching the local culture. Suggestions included ensuring broader participation from both migrants and locals, emphasizing common human experiences, and reaching out to those who may not have access to these opportunities. Dialogue and strong leadership were identified as crucial elements for creating sustainable impacts through creative arts.



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Conclusion

The INTARTS survey conducted in Poland reveals both the key challenges and the transformative potential of creative arts in the integration of migrants and refugees. Language barriers, legal and bureaucratic difficulties, cultural differences, and social isolation emerged as the most pressing obstacles. Yet participants also expressed the value of creative expression in overcoming these challenges.

Artistic activities such as music, painting, and community workshops were widely recognized as effective tools for building confidence, fostering communication, and creating a sense of belonging. The findings affirm that creative arts are not only a form of expression but a bridge to connection, inclusion, and mutual understanding.

Recommendations

Building on the stories and suggestions from participants, the following recommendations can guide future efforts:

1. Expand access to creative programs tailored specifically to migrant and refugee youth — including music, visual arts, digital storytelling, and theater. These should be affordable, culturally sensitive, and designed to encourage self-expression.
2. Integrate arts-based activities with essential services, especially language learning, mental health support, and access to housing. Creative spaces thrive when basic needs are met.
3. Leverage digital tools to broaden participation — virtual exhibitions, online workshops, and interactive platforms can reach those who might not attend in-person events.
4. Build strong partnerships between NGOs, local authorities, cultural centers, and migrant communities to secure sustainable funding, share expertise, and promote best practices.
5. Encourage joint participation of both migrants and local residents in artistic initiatives, creating shared spaces of learning, empathy, and mutual understanding.



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Survey Results: Lithuania



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Survey Results

Question 1:

This question invites participants to provide their names and surnames, and it is an optional question.

Question 2:

The age distribution of the participants in the survey. The results show that:

- The largest group of participants (52%) falls within the 26–35 age range.
- A significant portion of participants (40%) belong to the 19–25 age range.
- Only a small fraction (8%) of respondents is under 18 years old.

Question 3:

The gender distribution of participants:

- 64% of respondents identify as male.
- 36% of respondents identify as female.

Most of the participants are male; however, a significant proportion are female. Women may face additional challenges in integration, such as balancing family responsibilities or overcoming language barriers. Incorporating a gender-sensitive approach in project activities is essential to ensure inclusivity and address these unique challenges effectively.

Question 4:

The duration of participants stay in Lithuania as migrants or refugees:

- 32% of participants have been in Lithuania for more than 5 years.
- Another 32% have lived in Lithuania for 1–3 years.
- 20% of respondents have stayed for 3–5 years.
- 16% have been in Lithuania for less than 1 year.

The data indicates that participants are at different stages of their integration journey. Those who have been in Lithuania for longer periods may face challenges related to deeper social cohesion and long-term stability. Meanwhile, newer arrivals might need immediate support in areas such as language learning and cultural adaptation. Tailoring integration strategies to address the unique needs of these groups is crucial for effective outcomes.

Question 5:

The distribution of participants based on their countries of origin. The results are as follows:

- The largest group of participants, 20%, are from Kazakhstan.
- 12% of participants are from Turkey.
- Smaller proportions, 8% each, are from Belarus, Russia, and Türkiye (another mention of Turkey).
- 4% of participants are from Morocco and Tajikistan.

The participants come from diverse regions, with a noticeable representation from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan), Eastern Europe (Belarus, Russia), and Turkey. This diversity highlights the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in the integration process, ensuring that the unique backgrounds and experiences of each group are respected and addressed.

Question 6:

The primary challenges encountered by migrants and refugees when integrating into the community. The results are as follows:

- 84% of participants identified language barriers as the most significant challenge.
- 60% highlighted employment difficulties, while 52% mentioned social isolation.
- 48% cited cultural differences as a major obstacle.
- Other challenges include discrimination or prejudice (28%), legal or bureaucratic obstacles (20%),
- lack of access to education or training (16%), and racism (8%).

Language barriers are the predominant issue, significantly impacting both social and professional integration. Cultural differences and employment difficulties are also major hurdles. Addressing these challenges through creative and artistic methods, such as workshops or collaborative art projects, can foster a sense of community and provide a shared medium of communication.



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Question 7: How do these challenges impact the daily lives, mental well-being, or social integration of migrants and refugees?

Migrants and refugees in Lithuania face significant challenges that impact their daily lives and mental well-being. Key issues include difficulty communicating in Lithuanian hinders social connections and access to services, even in English-speaking workplaces; Limited job opportunities, particularly in social fields, affect financial stability and a sense of purpose; Experiences of bias, especially against women wearing hijabs, contribute to feelings of isolation and fear; Difficulty securing housing due to discrimination increases vulnerability and stress.

Question 8: What specific needs do you observe among migrant and refugee youth—such as access to education, mentorship, and language learning—that hinder their integration?

Refugees are generally more vulnerable than migrants, as they often lack a place to return to and need immediate support for integration. State policies that do not recognize refugees as long-term residents or provide adequate language learning opportunities hinder their ability to adapt. Also, Negative stereotypes And discrimination against refugees can further impede their integration efforts, affecting their mental health and sense of community. Refugee and migrant youth require psychological support, economic opportunities, housing assistance, and community integration programs to foster a sense of belonging and stability.

Question 9

The participants' involvement in art events such as painting, sculpture, music, or dance:

- 56% of respondents have participated in at least one art event.
- 44% of respondents have never participated in an art event.

Most of the participants have some experience in art events, which suggests a foundation for leveraging art as a medium for engagement and integration. However, a significant portion (44%) has not been involved in such activities, indicating the need for inclusive initiatives to encourage broader participation and accessibility to art-based programs



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Question 10:

The participants have used creative arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, drama) in their work with migrant and refugee youth:

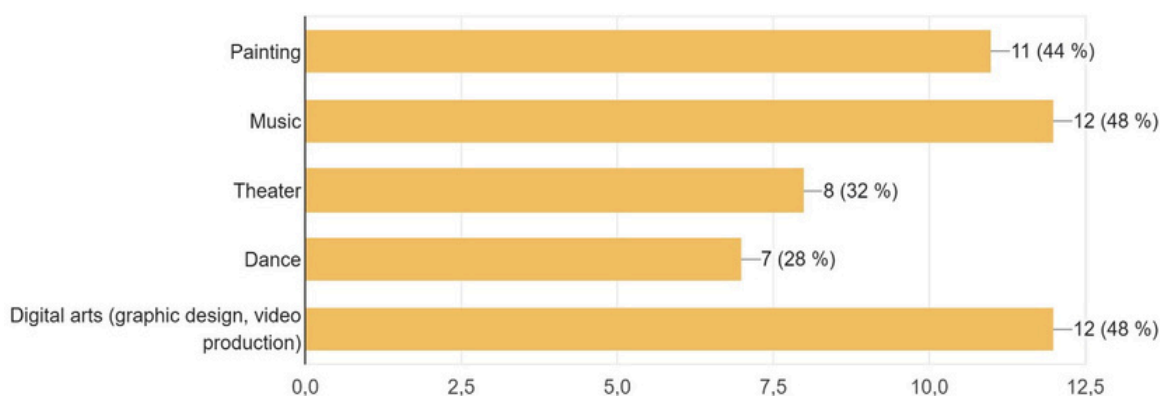
- 28% of respondents have used creative arts in their work.
- 72% of respondents have not used creative arts in their work.

Most of the respondents have not integrated creative arts into their work with migrant and refugee youth. This highlights an opportunity to provide training or resources to help professionals incorporate creative arts as a tool for engagement, integration, and empowerment in this context.

Question 11:

11. Which forms of art are you interested in? (You can select more than one)

25 ответов



The chart illustrates the art forms that participants expressed interest in (multiple selections were allowed):

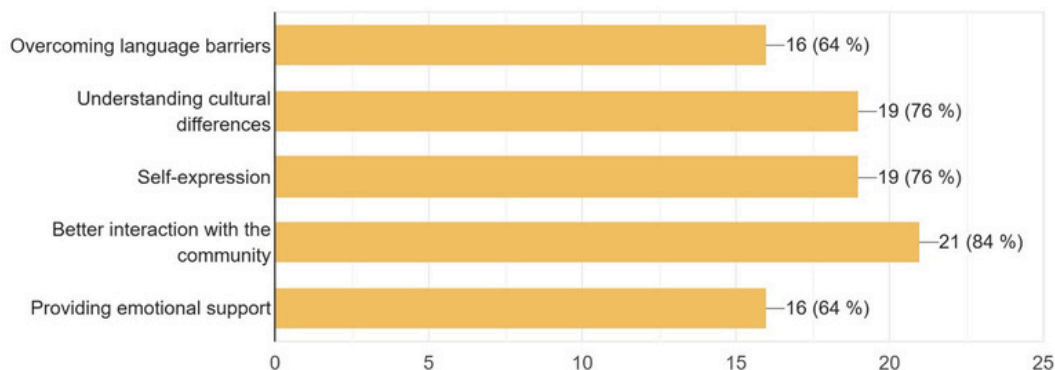
- 48% of respondents are interested in both music and digital arts (e.g., graphic design, video production).
- 44% of respondents expressed interest in painting.
- 32% are interested in theater, and 28% in dance.

Music and digital arts are the most popular art forms among participants, indicating their potential as effective mediums for engagement in art-based programs. Painting also holds significant interest, making it another valuable focus area. To maximize participation and impact, future activities should align with these preferences while offering opportunities in less-selected areas, such as theater and dance, to foster diversity in artistic expression.

Question 12:

12. How do you think art can help the integration of migrants and refugees? (You can select more than one)

25 ответов



The chart illustrates how participants believe art can support the integration of migrants and refugees. Respondents could select multiple options, and the results are as follows:

- 84% believe art can facilitate better interaction with the community. 76% view art as a tool for promoting understanding of cultural differences and enabling self-expression.
- 64% believe art can help in overcoming language barriers and providing emotional support.

Art is widely recognized as a valuable medium for integration. The responses highlight its potential to foster community interaction, bridge cultural gaps, and encourage self-expression. Additionally, its role in addressing language challenges and emotional well-being underscores its versatility and importance in integration efforts. Incorporating these aspects into art-based programs can enhance their effectiveness and inclusivity.

Question 13:

The participants' opinions on the effectiveness of creative arts in addressing integration challenges faced by migrants and refugees. Ratings range from 1 (not effective at all) to 5 (very effective):

- 40% of respondents rated creative arts as a 4, indicating they believe it to be highly effective.
- 20% rated it as a 5, showing they see creative arts as very effective.
- 28% gave a neutral rating of 3, suggesting moderate effectiveness.
- Smaller proportions rated it as 2 (8%) or 1 (4%), reflecting skepticism about its impact.



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The majority of respondents (60%) view creative arts as an effective or very effective tool for addressing integration challenges. These results underscore the importance of integrating creative arts into programs aimed at supporting migrants and refugees, while also exploring ways to address the concerns of those less convinced about its impact.

Question 14: Please provide examples of successful creative arts initiatives (e.g., art workshops, music programs, and community art projects) that have fostered integration among migrant and refugee youth.

Several successful creative arts initiatives were mentioned. The first one is workshops that focus on ceramics and art on sand provide hands-on creative experiences, allowing migrant and refugee youth to express themselves artistically while fostering community connections. Second, recognizing music as a universal language, various music programs and music parties allow youth to connect across cultural boundaries, encouraging collaboration and friendship. Third, organizing exhibitions that focus on historical events related to intercultural dialogue provides a platform for youth to showcase their work while educating the community about diverse backgrounds.

Question 15: What innovative strategies do you think could enhance the use of creative arts for the integration of migrants and refugees?

One effective approach is to open dedicated spaces where refugees can express their feelings through various art forms, allowing them to share their experiences and cultural backgrounds with the local population. This not only promotes understanding but also creates a sense of belonging. Intercultural storytelling and collaborative art projects are particularly powerful in bridging gaps between migrants, refugees, and locals. These initiatives encourage participants to share their narratives and artistic expressions, fostering empathy and connection. By organizing art shows that invite participation from both migrants and residents, communities can celebrate diversity while showcasing the talents of newcomers.



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Question 16: What resources or support do you believe are necessary to implement these strategies effectively?

First and foremost, a financial budget is crucial to cover the costs of art materials used in various activities, ensuring that participants have access to the tools they need for creative expression. Additionally, securing participation and guidance from the local community can foster a supportive environment that encourages interaction and collaboration. Language support is another vital resource, as it helps bridge communication gaps between migrants, refugees, and locals. This can be achieved through multilingual staff who can assist participants in navigating both the creative processes and their integration into the community. Partnerships with local artists can also enhance these initiatives by providing mentorship and expertise, enriching the artistic experiences available to migrant and refugee youth.

Conclusions

The survey results reveal the significant role of creative arts in facilitating the integration of migrants and refugees. Most participants are young adults aged 19 to 35, a demographic often facing challenges related to education, career development, and social integration. While male participants are more numerous, women also represent a considerable proportion. This highlights the importance of adopting gender-sensitive approaches to address the unique needs and challenges faced by women during integration.

Language barriers were identified as the most significant challenge by participants, heavily influencing both social and professional integration. Other notable challenges included cultural differences, employment difficulties, and social isolation, reflecting the complexity of the integration process and the varied experiences of migrants and refugees.



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Participants acknowledged the value of art in integration, emphasizing its role in fostering community interaction, promoting understanding of cultural differences, and providing emotional support. Many highlighted how art serves as a medium for self-expression and overcoming language barriers, further demonstrating its effectiveness in addressing multifaceted integration challenges. Among the forms of art explored, music, digital arts, and painting emerged as the most popular among participants. These preferences indicate the potential for targeted programs in these areas to engage participants and enhance the overall impact of art-based initiatives.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, several recommendations have been developed to improve integration initiatives through creative arts. First, bilingual workshops and cultural interaction sessions can be introduced to address language barriers and promote cross-cultural understanding. These initiatives should prioritize inclusivity and accessibility to ensure a wide range of participants can benefit.

Given the demographic profile of participants, programs tailored for young adults should focus on career development, educational opportunities, and social engagement. Additionally, gender-sensitive programs should be designed to support women in overcoming unique challenges, such as balancing family responsibilities and social integration. To align with participants' preferences, future initiatives should include activities centered around music, digital arts, and painting. Incorporating digital tools like graphic design and video production into workshops could also attract broader participation and foster creative skill development. It is also essential to train facilitators and youth workers to effectively incorporate creative arts into their programs. These efforts can enhance the quality of engagement and the overall success of integration initiatives. Finally, regular evaluation of art-based projects should be conducted to measure their effectiveness and make data-driven improvements to ensure sustainable impact.



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Survey Results: Greece



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Survey Results

Question 1:

This question invites participants to provide their names and surnames, and it is an optional question.

Question 2:

The age distribution of the participants in the survey shows that:

- The largest group of participants (36%) falls within the 26–35 age range.
- A significant portion of participants (48%) belong to the 19–25 age range.
- Only a small fraction (16%) of respondents is under 18 years old.

Question 3:

Young adults (19–35 years old) form most participants, suggesting the need to focus on supporting their education, career development, and social integration within the project.

- 60% of respondents identify as male.
- 36% of respondents identify as female.
- 4% of respondents prefer not to say.

Most of the participants are male; however, a significant proportion are female.

Question 4:

The distribution of participants based on their countries of origin. The results are as follows:

- The largest group of participants 44% are from Greece.
- 16% of participants are from Yunanistan (another mention of Greece).
- Smaller proportions 8%, are from Netherlands.
- 4% of participants are from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Germany, Switzerland, Athens (another mention of Greece).

The participants come from diverse regions, with a noticeable representation from Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Afghanistan and Cameroon. This diversity highlights the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in the integration process, ensuring that the unique backgrounds and experiences of each group are respected and addressed.



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Question 5:

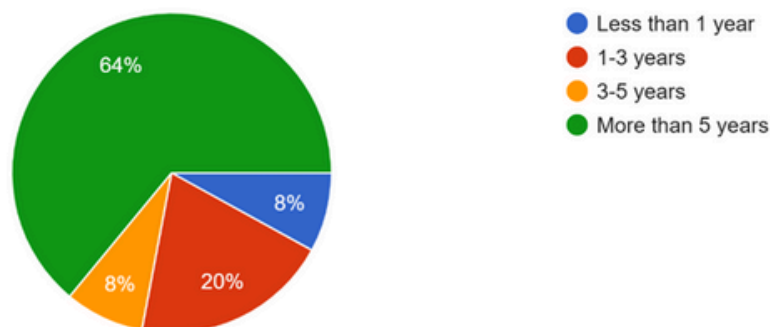
The chart illustrates the duration of participants stay in Greece as migrants or refugees:

- 64% of participants have been in Greece for more than 5 years.
- Another 20% have lived in Greece for 1-3 years.
- 8% of respondents have stayed in Greece for 3-5 years.
- 8% have been in Greece for less than 1 year.

The data indicates that participants are at different stages of their integration journey. Those who have been in Greece for longer periods may face challenges related to deeper social cohesion and long-term stability. Meanwhile, newer arrivals might need immediate support in areas such as language learning and cultural adaptation. Tailoring integration strategies to address the unique needs of these groups is crucial for effective outcomes.

5.How long have you been a migrant or refugee?

25 responses



Question 6:

The distribution of participants based on their countries of origin. The results are as follows:

- The largest group of participants, 20%, are from Turkey.
- 24% of participants are from Türkiye (another mention of Turkey).
- 12% of participants are from Türkiye (another mention of Turkey).
- 4% each of participants are from Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, Italy and Turkey/Greece- turkey (another mention of Turkey).

The participants come from diverse regions, with a noticeable representation from Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Afghanistan and Cameroon. This diversity highlights the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in the integration process, ensuring that the unique backgrounds and experiences of each group are respected and addressed.

Question 7:

The primary challenges encountered by migrants and refugees when integrating into the community. The results are as follows:

- 96% of participants identified language barriers as the most significant challenge.
- 60% highlighted legal or bureaucratic obstacles, while 44% mentioned social isolation.
- 36% cited cultural differences as a major obstacle.
- 32% highlighted lack of access to education and employment difficulties as obstacles
- Other challenge includes discrimination or prejudice (16%).

Language barriers are the predominant issue, significantly impacting both social and professional integration. Social isolation and legal or bureaucratic obstacles are also major hurdles. Cultural differences, lack of access to education and employment difficulties are another important obstacle according to the survey. Addressing these challenges through creative and artistic methods, such as workshops or collaborative art projects, can foster a sense of community and provide a shared medium of communication.

Question 8:

One of the biggest challenges refugees and migrants face is the language barrier. Not knowing the language makes it difficult to establish social relationships, find a job and even access health services. Language barriers and cultural differences cause refugees and migrants to experience social isolation. Feeling alone and alien in a new environment can lead to psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Furthermore, facing discrimination and prejudice can make refugees feel even more marginalized and make it difficult for them to integrate into society.

This has a profound impact on refugees' and migrants' daily lives. Even seemingly simple tasks such as shopping, accessing health services or finding a house can be a major obstacle for a refugee or migrant who does not speak the language. In addition, social isolation negatively affects refugees' and migrants' mental health, reducing their quality of life. In the long term, these challenges delay refugees' and migrants' integration into society and limit their access to economic opportunities. Not knowing the language negatively affects their education and reduces their chances of finding a job. This makes it difficult for refugees to lead an independent life and can lead to a cycle of poverty.

Question 9:

What specific needs do you observe among migrant and refugee youth—such as access to education, mentorship, and language learning—that hinder their integration?

Respondents strongly emphasized the need for improved speaking skills within language courses, highlighting a perceived lack of focus on this crucial aspect in current programs. Access to free, government-funded language programs was frequently mentioned, mirroring the importance of private tutoring in some educational systems. The need for early language support, particularly in the initial years after arrival, was recognized as crucial.

Ensuring access to quality education at all levels, including primary, secondary, and tertiary education, was a recurring theme. Recognizing and validating prior educational qualifications from their countries of origin is vital for academic progression. This includes providing necessary academic support services, such as tutoring, mentoring, and access to resources.

Respondents highlighted the need for mentors to guide youth through the complexities of the host country's education system, including navigating bureaucratic procedures, understanding academic expectations, and accessing available resources. Mentors can provide crucial emotional and social support, helping youth overcome challenges, build confidence, and integrate into the host community. Respondents emphasized the importance of providing education about the host country's culture, values, and social norms to facilitate smoother integration.

Respondents called for increased government support for refugee children, including free language classes, subsidized tutoring, and improved access to educational resources. The need for teacher training programs that equip educators with the skills and knowledge to effectively support refugee students was highlighted. Recognizing the potential impact of trauma and displacement on mental health, respondents emphasized the need for access to psychological support services. Addressing the lack of career planning and guidance, which can be exacerbated by language barriers and limited access to information.



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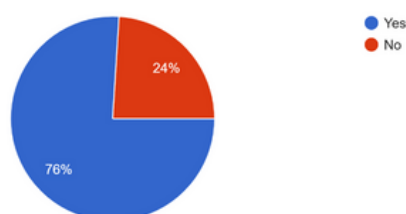
Question 10:

The chart represents participants' involvement in art events such as painting, sculpture, music, or dance:

- 76% of respondents have participated in at least one art event.
- 24% of respondents have never participated in an art event.

Most of the participants have some experience in art events, which suggests a foundation for leveraging art as a medium for engagement and integration. However, a quarter portion (24%) has not been involved in such activities, indicating the need for inclusive initiatives to encourage broader participation and accessibility to art-based programs

10. Have you ever participated in any art event? (Painting, sculpture, music, dance, etc.)
25 responses



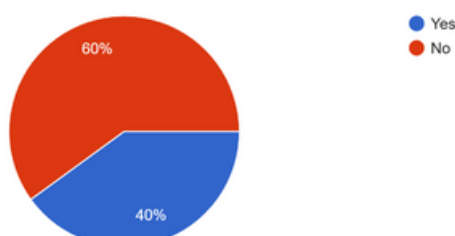
Question 11:

The chart illustrates whether participants have used creative arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, drama) in their work with migrant and refugee youth:

- 40% of respondents have used creative arts in their work.
- 60% of respondents have not used creative arts in their work.

Most of the respondents have not integrated creative arts into their work with migrant and refugee youth. This highlights an opportunity to provide training or resources to help professionals incorporate creative arts as a tool for engagement, integration, and empowerment in this context.

11. Have you used creative arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, drama) in your work with migrant and refugee youth?
25 responses



Question 12:

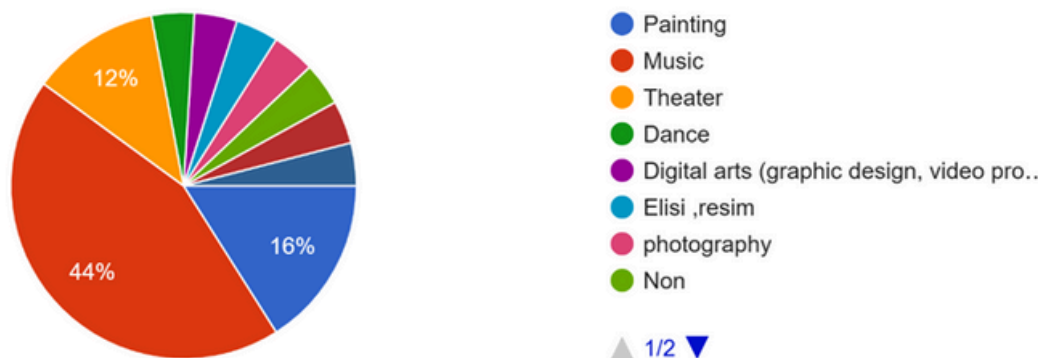
The chart illustrates the art forms that participants expressed interest in (multiple selections were allowed):

- 44% of respondents are interested in both music.
- 16% of respondents expressed interest in painting.
- 12% are interested in theater, and 4% each of participants are interested in dance, digital arts, photography, handmade and sports.

Music and painting are the most popular art forms among participants, indicating their potential as effective mediums for engagement in art-based programs. Theater also holds significant interest, making it another valuable focus area. To maximize participation and impact, future activities should align with these preferences while offering opportunities in less-selected areas, such as photograph, dance, handmade and sports to foster diversity in artistic expression.

12. Which forms of art are you interested in? (You can select more than one)

25 responses



Question 13:

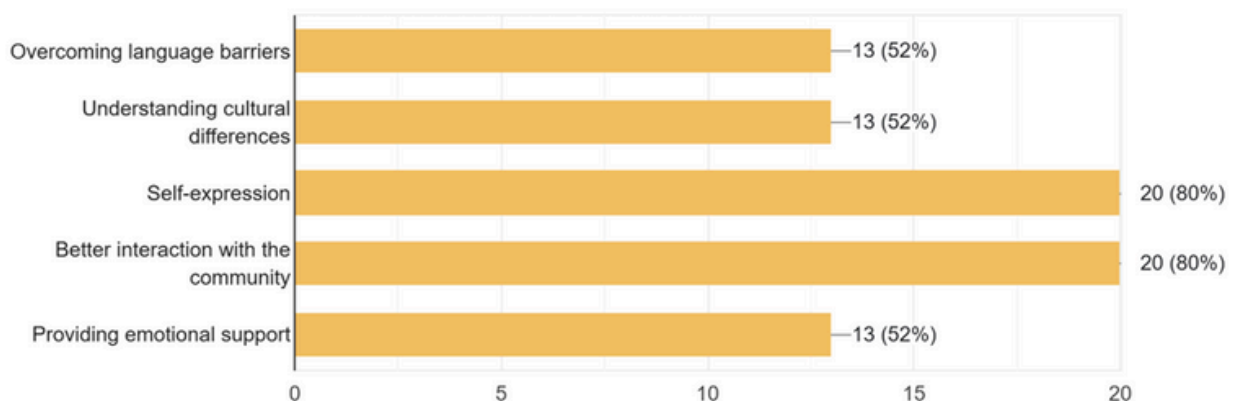
The chart below illustrates how participants believe art can support the integration of migrants and refugees. Respondents could select multiple options, and the results are as follows:

- 80% believe art can facilitate better interaction with the community.
- 80% view art as a tool for promoting enabling self-expression.
- 52% believe art can help in overcoming language barriers, providing emotional support, understanding cultural differences.

Art is widely recognized as a valuable medium for integration. The responses highlight its potential to foster community interaction, bridge cultural gaps, and encourage self-expression. Additionally, its role in addressing language challenges and emotional well-being underscores its versatility and importance in integration efforts. Incorporating these aspects into art-based programs can enhance their effectiveness and inclusivity.

13. How do you think art can help the integration of migrants and refugees? (You can select more than one)

25 responses



Question 14:

The participants' opinions on the effectiveness of creative arts in addressing integration challenges faced by migrants and refugees. Ratings range from 1 (not effective at all) to 5 (very effective):

- 44% of respondents gave a neutral rating creative arts as a 3, suggesting moderate effectiveness.
- 24% rated it as a 4, showing they see creative arts as very effective.
- 32% gave a rating of 5, suggesting they believe it to highly effective.

The majority of respondents (56%) view creative arts as an effective or very effective tool for addressing integration challenges. These results underscore the importance of integrating creative arts into programs aimed at supporting migrants and refugees, while also exploring ways to address the concerns of those less convinced about its impact.

Question 15:

Several successful creative arts initiatives were mentioned. The first one is workshops that focus on drawing, photograph and painting, allowing migrant and refugee youth to express themselves artistically while fostering community connections. Second, recognizing music and playing an instrument as a universal language, various music programs and music parties allow youth to connect across cultural boundaries, encouraging collaboration and friendship. Third, that focus on theater events related to intercultural dialogue provides a platform for youth to showcase their work while educating the community about diverse backgrounds.



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Question 16: What innovative strategies do you think could enhance the use of creative arts for the integration of migrants and refugees?

It is important to organize joint workshops with local people, interact about artistic talents and promote cultural exchange. In this way, social ties are strengthened and young people from different cultures come together and develop their creativity. Arts education programs can be organized to enable young people to discover and develop their talents in different fields such as music, theater, painting, photography. Language courses that focus specifically on speaking skills help them communicate while engaging in the arts. By organizing art competitions, exhibitions and workshops, young people are given the opportunity to showcase their work and receive recognition. In addition, opportunities to meet with international artists and explore different cultures can be provided to broaden their horizons. Mentorship programs provided by expert artists help young people take their talents even further. These mentors not only provide technical support to young people, but also increase their motivation and guide them in their career planning. A multifaceted approach should be adopted to support the artistic development of migrant and refugee youth.

Question 17: What resources or support do you believe are necessary to implement these strategies effectively?

A multifaceted approach should be adopted to support the artistic development of migrant and refugee youth. This approach should include programs tailored to the needs of young people, adequate funding, mentoring, language support and community engagement. Through the arts, young people will have the opportunity to express themselves, participate in their communities and support their personal development.



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Question 18: Do you have any additional comments or insights regarding the integration of migrants and refugees through creative arts?

As a person living far from my own family, friends, and nation, I hope that everyone has equal access to education and cultural events like social integration music art ect that help integrate into the Greek society and to be a good citizen so that we may live freely without worrying about our rights and responsibilities. These types of events, that is, bringing refugees together with art, will enable refugees to adapt better in the countries they are in and establish a bond with society. It is very important for them to understand society better and integrate into it.



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Conclusion:

This analysis highlights the significant potential of creative arts in fostering the integration of migrants and refugees. The findings demonstrate that participants strongly believe art can facilitate community interaction, promote self-expression, and address challenges such as language barriers and cultural differences. While language barriers and social isolation remain significant obstacles, the majority of respondents view creative arts as effective tools for overcoming these challenges.

Recommendations:

According to the searches, can be offered a diverse range of art forms, including music, visual arts, theater, dance, and digital arts, to cater to varied interests while be ensured programs are culturally sensitive and inclusive, considering the diverse backgrounds and needs of participants. In addition can be provided free or low-cost access to art materials and resources, removing financial barriers to participation.

In scope of the training can be rovided training for professionals working with migrants and refugees on how to effectively integrate creative arts into their work, offered mentorship programs to connect aspiring artists with experienced professionals and support the development of culturally competent art educators and facilitators.

In order to foster community collaboration, can be organized joint workshops and events that bring together migrants, refugees, and members of the host community, created opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and collaboration through artistic projects and promoted the showcasing of artistic work by migrants and refugees in local galleries, theaters, and community spaces.

By implementing these recommendations, we can harness the power of creative arts to build bridges, foster understanding, and create a more inclusive and welcoming society for all.



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Focus Group Interview Results: Poland



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Discussion point 1: Background in Youth Work and Integration Efforts

The participants in the group interview come from diverse backgrounds, reflecting a wide range of experiences in youth work and integration efforts. For example, one participant from Tanzania has been actively involved in helping students integrate into Tanzanian culture. Another participant from Russia supported international students adapting to life in London while studying there. Additionally, participants from Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have also contributed to cultural integration initiatives. Collectively, these individuals have dedicated at least 3-4 years to integration efforts. Cultural differences and their impact on the integration process were emphasized by the participants as an important factor.

Discussion point 2: A Successful Integration Story

An inspiring success story shared during the interview involved a teacher from Turkey who was embraced by Lithuanian students. This relationship flourished due to the teacher's deep understanding of both the language and culture, which facilitated effective communication and connection with the students. The success of this integration effort highlights the importance of cultural competence and language skills in bridging gaps between different communities. Additionally, a loving approach and empathy from teachers towards the integration process resulted in positive feedback and more successful integration outcomes, especially for migrants with difficult pasts.

Furthermore, in Lithuania, the annual event where people from different cultures come together to read Lithuanian poetry is a fantastic example of successful integration. This event brings people from various cultures under one umbrella, creating a vibrant atmosphere that celebrates diversity. Such programs are a great example of how integration can be colorful and dynamic, showcasing how different cultures can coexist harmoniously and respectfully.

Discussion point 3: Challenges Encountered

Participants identified several challenges they have encountered in their integration work. Specifically, past traumas experienced by some young migrants pose significant obstacles to integration. For example, many Ukrainian students are dealing with trauma from the ongoing war, making it difficult for them to open up and engage fully in integration activities.

Physical contact also emerged as a major challenge in the integration process. In some cultures, physical touch (like hugging or handshakes) carries different meanings, which can cause misunderstandings in social interactions. This cultural difference often leads to difficulties in social engagement for migrants who may not be accustomed to such forms of physical interaction.

Additionally, there is a misconception among young people that integration primarily involves participating in social events, which leads them to overlook more constructive activities such as reading clubs or speaking clubs. This trend poses a challenge for facilitators who aim to promote a more holistic integration experience.

Discussion point 4: Contribution to the Integration of Young Migrants and Refugees

Participants have contributed to the integration of young migrants and refugees in several ways. These efforts include creating opportunities for mentorship, organizing social activities, and hosting educational workshops that help overcome language and cultural barriers. Book clubs have been particularly effective, as they allow young people to better understand one another's cultures while promoting engagement and participation. Such activities do not only foster integration but also create cultural awareness and strengthen the involvement of young migrants in their new communities.

Discussion point 5: Effective Strategies and Approaches

Effective strategies typically involve fostering a sense of community through structured activities that encourage participation beyond social gatherings. Educational workshops, mentorship programs, and collaborative projects were highlighted as essential for shifting the perception of integration from simple socializing to meaningful community involvement. Storytelling programs were particularly noted as an effective way for young people to share their personal experiences and express themselves. These programs allow migrants to narrate their stories, helping them to understand and communicate their identities in a supportive environment.

Additionally, the poetry reading program held annually in Lithuania, where people from different cultural backgrounds come together to read Lithuanian poetry, stands as a brilliant example of successful integration. This initiative offers a platform for showcasing how diverse cultures can unite under one common activity and express themselves in a collaborative and creative way.

Discussion point 6: Incorporation of Creative Arts

Creative arts have been integrated into various youth programs to facilitate the integration process. Activities such as drawing, ceramics, storytelling, and even participation in art events like opera and ballet provide not only therapeutic benefits but also promote cultural exchange and understanding. For example, activities like painting on stones serve as a form of self-expression while fostering a sense of belonging in a community setting. These creative initiatives have a significant impact on improving emotional well-being, enhancing social skills, and building stronger community bonds among youth.



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Discussion point 7: Additional Support Needed

Participants noted that government involvement in the integration process is often minimal, with much of the support relying heavily on volunteers. Greater government engagement would be beneficial in creating more structured programs to support young migrants more effectively. Additionally, it was observed that earlier-arrived migrants often help newcomers, but they may not have the same depth of knowledge about the local culture and language nuances as native Lithuanians. Encouraging migrants to be more proactive in seeking integration support can help them break out of isolated groups and foster greater community interaction.

Lastly, offering targeted psychological support to address past traumas is crucial for facilitating a successful integration process. Such support can help young migrants better cope with their challenges and transition into their new environment more effectively.



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Conclusions

The focus group interviews with youth workers provided in-depth insights into the realities of working with young migrants and refugees. Participants brought diverse cultural and professional experiences, enriching the discussion with a wide range of perspectives on integration.

Several key themes emerged. Youth workers emphasized the importance of cultural awareness, language skills, and empathy in fostering successful integration. Positive examples, such as culturally sensitive mentorship and community-based projects, highlighted the power of connection and understanding in bridging differences.

However, the interviews also revealed persistent challenges. Many young migrants carry trauma from past experiences, and cultural misunderstandings—particularly around social norms—can create barriers. Youth workers stressed the need for psychological support, structured programs, and stronger government involvement to provide the long-term, stable assistance young people need to thrive.

Creative arts were consistently mentioned as a powerful tool in integration, offering young migrants safe spaces for self-expression, emotional release, and cultural exchange. Activities like storytelling, drawing, and cultural festivals not only support mental well-being but also build bridges within diverse communities.

Overall, the findings point to the need for a comprehensive and collaborative approach—one that combines cultural sensitivity, creativity, and institutional support to effectively support youth integration.



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Recommendations

- Expand creative arts programs as a core tool for integration, focusing on storytelling, visual arts, and collaborative projects.
- Provide trauma-informed psychological support services tailored to the needs of young migrants and refugees.
- Involve early-arrived migrants in peer mentoring roles and train them in local language and cultural skills to support newcomers.
- Increase government support and funding for youth-centered integration programs, ensuring long-term impact and reach.
- Encourage meaningful community engagement beyond socializing—promoting shared activities that foster empathy and mutual understanding.
- Facilitate continuous dialogue between youth workers, NGOs, communities, and public institutions to share best practices and adapt strategies to changing needs.



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Focus Group Interview Results: Lithuania



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Discussion point 1: Background in Youth Work and Integration Efforts

The participants in the group interview come from diverse backgrounds, reflecting a wide range of experiences in youth work and integration efforts. For example, one participant from Tanzania has been actively involved in helping students integrate into Tanzanian culture. Another participant from Russia supported international students adapting to life in London while studying there. Additionally, participants from Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have also contributed to cultural integration initiatives. Collectively, these individuals have dedicated at least 3-4 years to integration efforts. Cultural differences and their impact on the integration process were emphasized by the participants as an important factor.

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An inspiring success story shared during the interview involved a teacher from Turkey who was embraced by Lithuanian students. This relationship flourished due to the teacher's deep understanding of both the language and culture, which facilitated effective communication and connection with the students. The success of this integration effort highlights the importance of cultural competence and language skills in bridging gaps between different communities. Additionally, a loving approach and empathy from teachers towards the integration process resulted in positive feedback and more successful integration outcomes, especially for migrants with difficult pasts.

Furthermore, in Lithuania, the annual event where people from different cultures come together to read Lithuanian poetry is a fantastic example of successful integration. This event brings people from various cultures under one umbrella, creating a vibrant atmosphere that celebrates diversity. Such programs are a great example of how integration can be colorful and dynamic, showcasing how different cultures can coexist harmoniously and respectfully.

Discussion point 3: Challenges Encountered

Participants identified several challenges they have encountered in their integration work. Specifically, past traumas experienced by some young migrants pose significant obstacles to integration. For example, many Ukrainian students are dealing with trauma from the ongoing war, making it difficult for them to open up and engage fully in integration activities. Physical contact also emerged as a major challenge in the integration process. In some cultures, physical touch (like hugging or handshakes) carries different meanings, which can cause misunderstandings in social interactions.

This cultural difference often leads to difficulties in social engagement for migrants who may not be accustomed to such forms of physical interaction. Additionally, there is a misconception among young people that integration primarily involves participating in social events, which leads them to overlook more constructive activities such as reading clubs or speaking clubs. This trend poses a challenge for facilitators who aim to promote a more holistic integration experience.

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Discussion point 5: Effective Strategies and Approaches

Effective strategies typically involve fostering a sense of community through structured activities that encourage participation beyond social gatherings. Educational workshops, mentorship programs, and collaborative projects were highlighted as essential for shifting the perception of integration from simple socializing to meaningful community involvement. Storytelling programs were particularly noted as an effective way for young people to share their personal experiences and express themselves. These programs allow migrants to narrate their stories, helping them to understand and communicate their identities in a supportive environment.

Additionally, the poetry reading program held annually in Lithuania, where people from different cultural backgrounds come together to read Lithuanian poetry, stands as a brilliant example of successful integration. This initiative offers a platform for showcasing how diverse cultures can unite under one common activity and express themselves in a collaborative and creative way.

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Creative arts have been integrated into various youth programs to facilitate the integration process. Activities such as drawing, ceramics, storytelling, and even participation in art events like opera and ballet provide not only therapeutic benefits but also promote cultural exchange and understanding. For example, activities like painting on stones serve as a form of self-expression while fostering a sense of belonging in a community setting. These creative initiatives have a significant impact on improving emotional well-being, enhancing social skills, and building stronger community bonds among youth.

Discussion point 7: Additional Support Needed

Participants noted that government involvement in the integration process is often minimal, with much of the support relying heavily on volunteers. Greater government engagement would be beneficial in creating more structured programs to support young migrants more effectively. Additionally, it was observed that earlier-arrived migrants often help newcomers, but they may not have the same depth of knowledge about the local culture and language nuances as native Lithuanians. Encouraging migrants to be more proactive in seeking integration support can help them break out of isolated groups and foster greater community interaction.

Lastly, offering targeted psychological support to address past traumas is crucial for facilitating a successful integration process. Such support can help young migrants better cope with their challenges and transition into their new environment more effectively.

Conclusions:

The findings from the questionnaire provide valuable insights into the experiences and strategies of youth workers involved in the integration of young migrants and refugees. The data highlights both successes and challenges in this important area of social work. Participants come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, which enhances their perspectives on integration. Their experiences demonstrate that understanding cultural differences is essential for effective integration initiatives. This diversity allows for a more tailored approach to meet the specific needs of young migrants and refugees.

Conclusions

Successful integration stories underscore the importance of cultural competence and language skills. Initiatives that foster understanding and empathy, such as mentorship programs and community events, have been effective in bridging gaps between different cultures. For instance, a Turkish teacher in Lithuania was able to connect with students due to her understanding of both the language and culture, facilitating smoother integration.

However, the integration process is often complicated by past traumas experienced by young migrants, particularly those fleeing conflict zones. Cultural differences regarding social interactions, such as norms around physical contact, can also lead to misunderstandings. These challenges highlight the need for support that addresses both psychological issues and cultural barriers.

A focus on meaningful community involvement, rather than just socializing, is crucial for successful integration. Programs that promote storytelling, educational workshops, and collaborative projects help create a sense of belonging among young migrants while also fostering cultural awareness among all participants.

Incorporating creative arts into integration efforts has proven beneficial in promoting emotional well-being and building connections among youth. Activities such as drawing, storytelling, and participation in cultural events provide opportunities for self-expression and cultural exchange.

Participants noted a need for increased government involvement in supporting integration initiatives. Structured programs backed by government resources could offer more comprehensive assistance to young migrants. Additionally, psychological support services are important for addressing trauma-related challenges, which can facilitate smoother transitions into new communities.

Encouraging early-arrived migrants to take an active role in supporting newcomers can improve community interaction and reduce feelings of isolation. Providing them with training on local culture and language can further enhance their ability to assist effectively in the integration process.

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Focus Group Interview Results: Greece



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Profile of Participants

The primary target group for this activity includes youth workers, professionals and volunteers actively involved in integrating migrants and refugees. This group encompasses individuals with varying levels of experience and expertise in youth work.

Analysis:

Discussion points 1: Background in Youth Work and Integration Efforts

Our shared experience in youth work involves a variety of roles and settings. One of our participants has been working with youths for 11 years and about for five years he has been involved in integration work. Second youth worker has been involved in youth work for ten years, and she has been in the integration process and she tries to support young people in the same process. Other participants are new comers to Greece and they supports to people of their integration duration for 2 years..

Discussion points 2: A Successful Integration Story

One of the best and unique stories belongs to students. A powerful testament to successful integration lies in the numerous young individuals who arrive here, diligently pursue their education, and persevere through life's challenges. These young people demonstrate resilience by completing their secondary education, pursuing higher education, or acquiring new vocational skills. Their journeys exemplify a successful transition into a new life and a harmonious integration into the community.

Another is about racism. Among young people coming from the Middle East, there are sometimes racist statements against the society they come from, at the end of our long humanitarian conversations with such a young person, he understood that human beings are basically saints and started to respect fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of race, the reason for success is to patiently listen to the other side and negotiate with him by standing behind the arguments we believe in.



Discussion points 3: Challenges Encountered

Participants identified several challenges but according to participants the most important problem is they faced was that they could not be more useful to young people because they could not invest much in themselves in terms of language and education, but environmental factors such as materialism and the lack of democracy and open communication of young people's families, being closed to ideas, not valuing everyone, no matter who they are, were a problem for them.

Otherside second one is psychologically; they have seen that young people have a big challenge. the process of learning the language and making friends in a new country is very challenging. Even being in a school environment where they don't feel they belong is very difficult for them. One youth worker mentioned about her workshops which created a 16-week psychological support group to contribute to this situation. They conducted group therapy with a total of 8 young people. They try to find a solution to solve these problems

Discussion points 4: Effective Strategies and Approaches

The first is to accept that there is a very valuable and saintly person in front of us and to communicate with sincerity against this, to listen to the opinions of young people without prejudice and to make positive or negative returns, to consider life as a whole and to plan activities such as entertainment, art, excursions, etc. without ignoring them, to make ourselves accept that we have decided to help them in all kinds of problems. Here the most effective strategy is to create an environment where they can express themselves, where they are accepted, and where they can talk together about their difficulties and find solutions.

Discussion points 5: Incorporation of Creative Arts

In summary, they united young people who have a talent for music and provided them with the opportunity to improve themselves and be useful to their environment, and this was very useful and increased their motivation and enthusiasm. They use art therapy techniques in their group sessions. Young people expressing themselves through music is one of the methods which youth workers use.



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Discussion points 6: Additional Support Needed

Generally, they think it is necessary to provide more local youth with environments where they can share together. Related to this sentence's education and integration, are sometimes can be expensive, but if it is financially supported to the extent that it is important, integration and education will be easier and the quality of planning for it will increase.

Conclusions

This discussion highlights the multifaceted nature of youth integration efforts. Experienced youth workers stress the importance of being patient, empathetic and creating supportive environments, especially for young people who are encountering new cultures and languages.

Key challenges identified include the psychological impact of migration, language barriers and societal factors such as racism and limited opportunities. Successful integration stories often include education, skills development and community involvement.

Effective strategies include encouraging open communication, providing emotional support and using the creative arts to facilitate self-expression and build resilience.

There is a clear need for more support, particularly financial assistance for education and integration programmes. By investing in these areas, communities can better support young people on their successful integration journey and contribute to a more inclusive society

Conclusion

The INTARTS project, “Integration through Creative Arts: Fostering Cross-Cultural Harmony,” underscores the transformative potential of creative arts in facilitating the integration of migrants and refugees. Conducted across Poland, Lithuania, and Greece, this research highlights how arts-based initiatives—when combined with community engagement and institutional support ,can effectively address the emotional, social, and cultural barriers to integration.

Key Highlights:

- Language barriers were the most common challenge identified across all countries, affecting access to services, education, employment, and social inclusion.
- Creative arts, especially music, painting, and digital storytelling, were rated as highly effective in helping migrants and refugees express themselves, connect with communities, and overcome cultural and linguistic obstacles.
- Over 60% of respondents had participated in or facilitated arts-based programs, emphasizing a growing awareness of art’s role in integration efforts.
- Successful initiatives included collaborative murals, intercultural music nights, poetry readings, and digital art workshops, all of which promoted empathy and mutual respect.
- Youth workers highlighted the importance of mentorship, trauma-informed care, and culturally sensitive approaches to foster a sense of belonging.
- Participants from diverse backgrounds emphasized the need for more inclusive, long-term strategies that combine arts with essential services like language training, mental health support, and housing.
- Government and NGO collaboration was recommended to ensure stable funding and broad reach, while also leveraging digital platforms to increase accessibility.

INTARTS proves that creative expression can bridge divides, empower vulnerable groups, and build inclusive communities. The project’s insights and recommendations lay a strong foundation for developing innovative, sustainable programs that celebrate diversity and foster integration through shared human experiences. By investing in creativity, empathy, and collaboration, Europe can continue to lead with compassion and resilience in the face of ongoing migration challenges.



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