



immerse

INTEGRATION MAPPING OF REFUGEE
AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

PRESS KIT

IMMERSE is a Horizon 2020 funded project aimed at mapping the integration of refugee and migrant children in Europe

www.immerse-h2020.eu



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IMMERSE project will contribute to define a new generation of indicators on the integration and socio-educational inclusion of refugee and migrant children in Europe

IMMERSE aims to incorporate all relevant stakeholders (children and their families, researchers, NGOs, policymakers, educators or learning institutions) in the co-creation and validation of a dashboard of indicators. This will lead to data that best reflects the particular needs and expectations of the relevant stakeholders.

IMMERSE researchers will collect and monitor data related to the selected indicators from children age 6-18 years old in 6 European countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain.

IMMERSE will develop an innovative ICT-supported solution to carry out data collection (onboarding platform), data visualization and analysis (dashboard of indicators).



MAPPING THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN IN EUROPE

Between 2013 and 2017, almost 2 million non-EU citizens took up residence in the EU-28 on a yearly basis. Among them, 20% approximately are children, many of whom are unaccompanied or separated from their families. The increased and diversified flows of recent years have exposed gaps in the **protection and support of migrant children**. National education systems are the most impacted by this situation since they need to embrace growing cultural, linguistic, socio-economic and ethnic diversity.

One of the most fundamental challenges lying ahead for the EU consists of the **successful integration of these recent arrivals, as well as of longer-established migrant populations and their descendants**. A lack of integration can lead to significant political, social and economic problems: it entails political costs and instability, it erodes social cohesion, and it fosters negative public attitudes that constrain the political space in terms of appropriate management of migration.

Migration flows also represent **significant opportunities**, and such opportunities are

to be found, above all, in the value of diversity for social progress and economic innovation, but also in the demographic revitalisation of ageing societies and increased sustainability of existing welfare states. But to unlock the benefits of migration, effective education and social policies are necessary to integrate migrant children successfully into society.

Early integration in schools has proved to be the best way to build up an inclusive and equal society. Solutions must take into account children's needs and expectations, listening to their voices and using a child-friendly approach.

IMMERSE will define a new generation of **indicators on the integration and socio-educational inclusion of refugee and migrant children in Europe**, adopting a whole school approach emphasizing the needs of migrant and refugee children but also those of schools, educators and classmates to foster integration and build an diverse and inclusive environment.

The project, awarded with a H2020 Programme Grant of near 3M€, started in December 2018 and will run for 4 years.





KEY FEATURES

IMMERSE aims to enhance the socio-educative inclusion of refugee and migrant children in Europe in order to foster the construction of inclusive and cohesive societies. The project will achieve this mission by means of four pillars:



Defining new research methods and tools

Developing new **technological solutions**, as well as **co-creation methodologies** to incorporate all relevant stakeholders



Incorporating children's voice throughout the process

Children will co-create and validate the dashboard of indicators through participatory research. A **Children's Research Advisory Group** will provide advice throughout the life of the project



Collecting data representative of Europe's reality

The project will develop a **digital platform** that will help researchers to collect, monitor and analyse data along 6 different European countries



Influencing stakeholders for the adoption of recommendations

Producing and disseminating a series of **good practices and tailored policy recommendations** to improve the integration systems of refugee and migrant children in Europe



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1

Listen to and include the voices of refugee and migrant children to consider their experiences and design better social and educational integration systems in order to enhance their skills and general welfare.

2

Identify the main parameters and indicators affecting migrant children's socio-educational integration that are key to consider in order to improve refugee and migrant children's integration and the host society's preparation.

3

Take advantage of current data sources and data analysis systems regarding refugee and migrant children to work towards the improvement and visibility of parameters that challenge and support their successful integration into the host societies.

4

Collect and monitor data regarding refugee and migrant children integration in learning environments and migrant reception centres across 6 European countries.

5

Support the activity of the EU, its member states, NGOs and other associations that work on refugee and migrant children's integration by facilitating the access to reliable data and to recommendations and best practises.

6

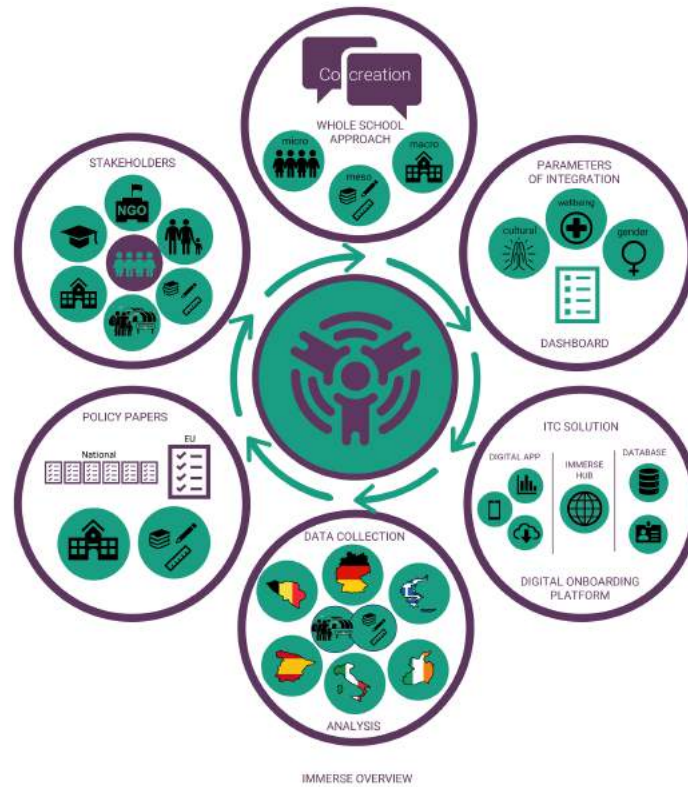
Raise awareness about what integration means for EU and for refugee and migrant children and to demonstrate how schools and other educational and experiential environments can contribute to improving their social integration and to support the development of intercultural societies.

7

Encourage policymakers, school and other learning and experiential environments to take action to assure access to integration programmes of refugee and migrant children. children.



IMMERSE PROCESS



Define new research methods and tools, including new **technological solutions** (a digital platform) and **co-creation** methodologies

Incorporate **refugee and migrant children voices** in the co-creation and validation of the dashboard of indicators

Identify and incorporate the main relevant **stakeholders** in migrant children's social and educational integration

Collect and analyse data regarding refugee and migrant children integration along 6 European countries, taking advantage of current data sources and data analysis systems

Identify the main **indicators** affecting migrant children's socio-educational integration

Facilitate **access to reliable data** to the EU and member states, as well as NGOs and associations working on refugee and migrant children's integration

Produce good practices and **policy recommendations** aimed at influencing stakeholders, school and other learning and experiential environments to improve the integration systems of refugee and migrant children in Europe

PROJECT RESULTS

IMMERSE RESEARCH

Selection and creation of dashboard of socio-educational integration indicators

Comprehensive synthesis of 30 indicators related to three levels of migrant integration (micro, meso and macro) and organized along two dimensions: key outcomes and key determinants.

Online platform for data collection

This digital platform will allow IMMERSE researchers to collect data related to the dashboard of socio-educational integration indicators from migrant and refugee children.

Good practices on refugee and migrant children integration

The consortium will identify and collect Best Practices on the integration of refugee and migrant children at schools and other learning experiential environments. Best Practices will be shared through the IMMERSE hub to foster their replicability in Europe.

Policy Recommendations on refugee and migrant children integration

Data analysis will lead to develop a set of six national policy papers, tailored at IMMERSE consortium countries, and a European policy paper, discussing guidelines and recommendations on migrant children's integration. The recommendations will have two different target groups: policymakers, on the one hand, and the educational sector, on the other hand.

IMMERSE COMMUNITY

IMMERSE hub

Online platform aimed at building up a virtual community of professionals, institutions and other actors interested on the socio-educational inclusion of migrant and refugee children. The platform will provide them with a common space to share their own experiences, ideas and concerns, and a place to get relevant information, resources and best practices and initiatives identified within IMMERSE. The IMMERSE hub will also help to create awareness and to disseminate the project activities and results.

IMMERSE dashboard of indicators on refugee and migrant children integration

The dashboard of indicators will be a data visualization tool integrated in the IMMERSE hub. It will allow visualizing the data and running basic analyses with the selected indicators, at different levels of disaggregation (European, national, regional).

Online digital database of good practices and resources in social integration of refugee and migrant children

Exhaustive compilation of good practices, projects, policies, methodologies, pedagogical approaches, resources and tools on the socio-educational integration of migrant and refugee children.

WORK PACKAGES

The Work Plan of IMMERSE is broken down into seven core Work Packages, providing a set of ad-hoc approaches to reach the fulfilment of each key concept during the lifetime of the project.

WP1

Co-creation of the dashboard of indicators

Lead beneficiary: COMILLAS

WP2

ICT digital onboarding platform and IMMERSE Hub

Lead beneficiary: IECISA

WP3

Data collection and monitoring

Lead beneficiary: UCC

WP4

Cluster and guidelines of recommendation on refugee and migrant children integration

Lead beneficiary: SCIT

WP5

Social awareness and stakeholder engagement

Lead beneficiary: ZABALA

WP6

Communication and dissemination

Lead beneficiary: INFODEF

WP7

Project management

Lead beneficiary: COMILLAS

WP8

Ethics requirements

Lead beneficiary: COMILLAS





PARTNERS

11 partners from 6 countries: 3 universities specialised in migration and childhood studies, 2 public administrations with competences in migration and education, 3 NGOs focused on child's rights, integration and protection, 2 companies experts in social innovation and stakeholder engagement and 1 technology-based company specialised in digital transformation



Universidad Pontificia Comillas ICAI-ICADE | SPAIN



Zabala Innovation Consulting | SPAIN



INFODEF Instituto para el Fomento del Desarrollo y la Formación | SPAIN



Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social | SPAIN



Informática El Corte Inglés | SPAIN



University College Cork | IRELAND



Save the Children Italy | ITALY



DOZ E. V. International | GERMANY



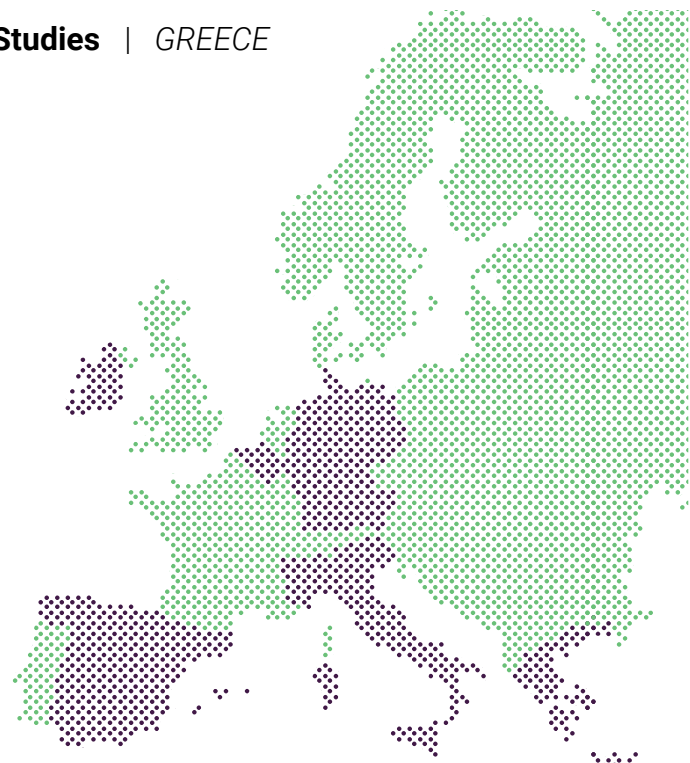
Active Citizen Europe | BELGIUM



Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Crete | GREECE



Panteion University of Social and Political Studies | GREECE





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For more information visit the project site
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