

# PlurAlps

Socio-economic inclusion of migrants: the PlurAlps Project and experiences from the Bregenzerwald (AT)

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## Pluralism as value of the EU

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„The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which **pluralism**, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.“

(Lisbon Treaty - article 2 of the European Union treaty from 2010)

# Definitions

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- Multicultural society (empiric): different cultures within a society
- Pluralistic society (empiric): different ideologies and concepts of life in a society
- Multiculturalism (normative): idea of togetherness of different cultures which are all considered as equal and worth to be protected – focus on collective rights
- Pluralism (normative): idea of togetherness of cultures with binding agreement on basic values across all cultures – focus on individual rights

# Pluralism

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- First, pluralism is not diversity alone, but the **energetic engagement with diversity**.
- Second, pluralism is not just tolerance, but the **active seeking of understanding across lines of difference**.
- Third, pluralism is not relativism, but the **encounter of commitments**.
- Fourth, pluralism is **based on dialogue**.

Source: Diana L. Eck (2006), The Pluralism Project, Harvard University

# Interreg Response to Migration Challenges



## Some short facts

- European Agenda on Migration COM(2015) 240
- Structural funds can be mobilized to tackle migration challenge (COM (2015) 490)
- The Interreg role is now slowly being developed
- Interact Meeting in Brussels (1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2017)
- WG on social and labour market integration (with DG EMPL, DG GROW)
- WG focus on possible actions related to the insertion and inclusion of migrants in local labour markets
- Interreg programmes may undertake analysis or pilot projects targeted to migrants (also involving SMEs)

# Funding Programme



Innovative Alpine Space

## ToR Terms of Reference

### 2nd call for project proposals:

Helping to respond to the migration related challenges through the promotion of welcoming culture/integration in our societies of migrants and refugees and the development and implementation of related services.

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## Interreg ALPINE SPACE 2014-2020

2nd Call for Project Proposals

Specific objective 1.b.2 Increasing capacities for SGI delivery

## PlurAlps - Overview

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- Project title: PlurAlps - Enhancing capacities for a pluralistic Alpine Space
- Funding programme: Interreg Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020
- Funding rate: 85 %
- Lead Partner: Regional Development Vorarlberg eGen (AT)
- Consortium: 10 partners from 6 Alpine countries
- Duration: November 2016 until October 2019

# PlurAlps Project Partners



Lucerne University of  
Applied Sciences and Arts



Social Work  
FH Zentralschweiz



## Regional Development Vorarlberg eGen (AT)

CIPRA International Lab Ltd. (AT)

Regional Development Agency  
Upper Styria East Ltd (AT)

Auvergne Rhone-Alps Region (FR)

Community Network Alliance in the  
Alps (AidA) (DE)

European Academy of  
Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC) (IT)

Piedmont Region (IT)

Franco Demarchi Foundation (IT)

Urban Planning Institute of the  
Republic of Slovenia (SI)

Lucerne University of Applied  
Sciences and Arts (CH)





# PlurAlps – Project Team



12.05.2017 Foreign immigration in the alps - Salecina

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

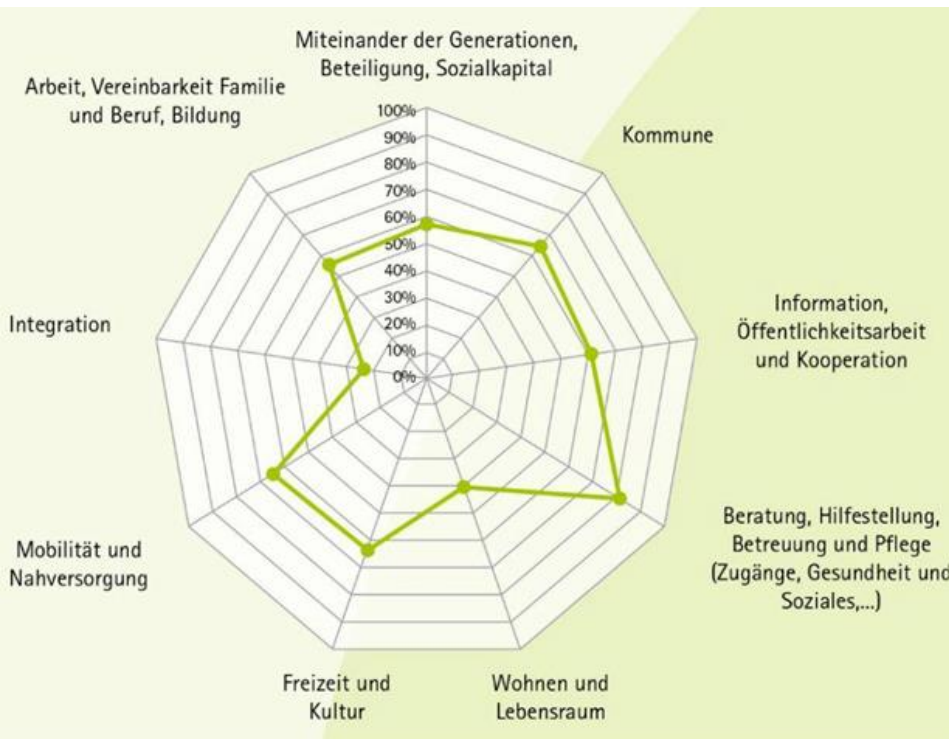


Regionalentwicklung  
Vorarlberg *eGen*



# PlurAlps – Outputs

## Social Planning Instrument



### Main points

- Transnationally applicable instrument for medium to long-term social planning and the integration of migrants in municipalities
- Based on experiences from the “family plus” program in Vorarlberg
- Multilingual planning instrument – tested in all Alpine countries
- Easy to use online version
- Leads to action plans in municipalities

Family Plus Planning Instrument, Source: Land Vorarlberg

# PlurAlps – Outputs New Offers and Services



LEADER project *vorankommen*

## Main points

- 9 pilot projects
- Focus on welcoming services and offers in municipalities
- Goal is long-term integration of migrants in rural areas
- Process-oriented, participatory social space approach for development of new offers and services
- Local solutions for social and labour integration and the management of alpine landscapes by migrants

# PlurAlps – Outputs

## Policy Advice – White Paper



### Main points

- Identification of good practices
- Knowledge exchange between Alpine regions
- Documentation of lessons learned
- Cooperation with Alpine-wide bodies like ARGE Alp, EUSALP Action Group 3 and 5
- Development of white paper focusing on Alpine cooperation opportunities and regulatory and harmonisation



- Communication challenge for PlurAlps
  - Migration is a highly political issue
  - Communication of migration issues is highly emotional
- Overall communication objective
  - Strengthen a pluralistic identity in the Alpine Space.
  - Strengthen awareness and anchoring of the pluralism approach among the project target/dialogue groups

# Socio-economic inclusion of migrants

## Experiences from the Bregenzerwald



Literacy Course, Source: Regio Bregenzerwald

### Literacy Courses for Women

- Challenges:
  - Family reunification
  - Distance to cities
  - No childcare during courses
  - Patriarchal norms
- Solutions:
  - Locally available course
  - Childcare through local and migrant women
  - Interaction between local and migrant children

# Socio-economic inclusion of migrants

## Experiences from the Bregenzerwald



Literacy Course, Source: Regio Bregenzerwald

### Literacy Courses for Women

- Experiences:
  - Women between 20 and 45 years
  - Children from 0 to 3 years
  - Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan
  - Low drop-out
  - Playful interaction between local and migrant children

# Socio-economic inclusion of migrants

## Experiences from the Bregenzerwald



LEADER project *vorankommen*

### Language Courses for Working Migrants

- Challenges:
  - Migrants in tourism sector
  - Distance to cities
  - Time constraints
- Solutions:
  - Tailor-made local courses
  - Afternoon hours
  - Employers pay course fee
- Experiences:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> course
  - 30 participants – low drop out
  - Interaction between migrants



# Socio-economic inclusion of migrants

## Experiences from the Bregenzerwald



Wir sind aktiv

### Self-help group: “We are active”

- Challenges:
  - Limited work possibilities
- Solutions:
  - Self-help group for asylum seekers and refugees entitled to stay
  - Non-profit-making work for municipality, people in need, social and charitable actions
  - Donations
- Experiences:
  - 2300 working hours in one year
  - Increased acceptance
  - Social capital

# Socio-economic inclusion of migrants

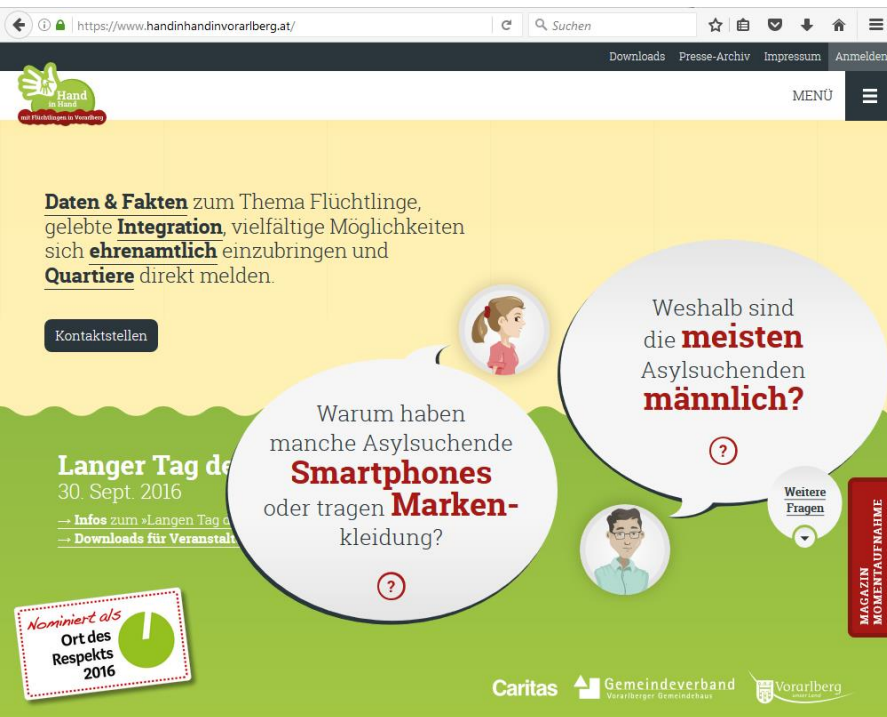
## Experiences from the Bregenzerwald



LEADER project *vorankommen*

- Challenges:
  - Jobs are available in tourism, crafts, building sector
  - Practical solutions needed for inter-municipal and cross-company cooperation
- Solutions:
  - Pooling of resources to attract and integrate migrant workers
  - Joint welcoming folder
  - Internet platform

# Success Factors



- From refugee situation to long term integration of migrants
- Municipalities are overburdened. They need to pool resources and build on support from volunteers
- Experience shows that for successful integration we need:
  - Committed people on the political and administrative level as well as volunteers
  - Efficient networking within municipalities and regions
  - Good communication with population and migrants
- *NewHere* information platform for all migrants

Source: [www.handinhandinvorarlberg.at](http://www.handinhandinvorarlberg.at)

# Thank you for your attention!

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