

Share SIRA

Regional Trainings - Poland

From October 2021 to February 2022, Share SIRA project partners organised several regional online and offline training sessions in several European countries, enabling more than 230 stakeholders active in rural integration to benefit from capacity building in intercultural communication and local community engagement, as well as in migrant participation and co-creation.

A needs assessment had been conducted by the Share Network during the first months of the [Share SIRA](#) project, so that the trainings drawing from the **Share “Welcoming Communities”** and **IOM “Admin4All”** training curricula would specifically answer the differing needs of the stakeholders in each region. Initially, 10 regional trainings were to be held in each of the regions participating in the Share SIRA project. Due to Covid19 restrictions however, trainings in Spain were transferred online, whereas those in Greek and Polish regions could take place as in person events. In France, the trainings were delivered in hybrid manner. Each training programme was uniquely developed to meet the learning needs of each regional partnerships. Click [here](#) to find out more about these regions!

Regional trainings for migrant and refugee integration in Lower Silesia and Mazovia, Poland

In Poland, the day-long regional trainings could be held in person, **on November 8th, 2021**, in Mazovia and on **December 9th, 2021**, and **February 4th, 2022**, in Lower Silesia. In total, **60 stakeholders** from local authorities, mainstream service providers, public employment bodies, political representatives, NGOs, cultural centres, migrant and refugee-led associations and educational institutions profited from three training modules.

At first, trainings provided participants with an overview to key facts of migration in the European context including different legal statuses of newcomer. Not only on the macro level did participants learn to better distinguish rights and obligations of foreigners holding different residence documents, city representatives from Wałbrzych had also requested an introduction into public integration measures for refugees and holders of subsidiary protection in the local Polish context.

During the second part of the training, participants were invited to develop their own working definition of “integration” as compared to “assimilation” before identifying respective integration needs on the micro-level and develop solutions together. The results are summarised in the table below:

Identified Needs or Challenges	Proposed Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free access to information for newly arrived migrants 	→ creation of a centralised information point where foreigners could obtain information on various aspects in their native language, culturally sensitive communication,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish language learning 	→ increasing the availability of language courses and setting up a language chatting club,



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to housing (difficulties in finding a flat for rent, especially for vulnerable migrants) 	→ creating a database with landlords, apartments, and explanations for the renting process to be available at the info point,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orientation towards and navigation through public services (administration, healthcare, education, etc.) 	→ intercultural mediators accompanying visits to the doctor or administrative appointments,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental health 	→ funding for appropriate social and psychological support for children and adults,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • labour market inclusion 	→ intercultural assistance for school integration, outreach activities for job matching between newcomers and local employers,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social and cultural inclusion 	→ inviting to musical and social activities organised by local cultural centres to facilitate cultural exchange,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • labour market inclusion 	→ intercultural assistance for school integration, outreach activities for job matching between newcomers and local employers,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legalisation of stay 	→ info point, legal assistance, information on the website, improving the functioning of administration responsible for residency procedures.

In both regions Mazovia and Lower Silesia, participants in the trainings agreed that better cooperation between locally engaged stakeholders would be needed for smoother integration processes. The participants in Lower Silesia proposed the appointment of an interdisciplinary team including city councillors, councils of local communities, legal advisor, representatives of local institutions to better exchange information and coordinate between local stakeholders.

The participants praised the format of the training with practical and interactive exercises, they felt that they had built stronger intercultural competences, and improved their ability to understand cultural differences and the problems that many stakeholders face during the implementation of integration activities. They enjoyed the opportunity to exchange and cooperate with a variety of stakeholders as well as the inclusiveness of the space and the freedom to express themselves, expressing an interest for future trainings focusing on more targeted topics such as legal assistance or the support of unaccompanied minors.

