

Cultivating Understanding of Refugees and Vulnerable Environments (CURVE)
Athens, 19-26 November 2023

Evaluation Report

In partnership with Kairos Europe, UK and in the context of the Erasmus+ KA1 project “CURVE Cultivating Understanding of Refugees and Vulnerable Environments” Inter Alia hosted the Professional Development Training “Rethinking Migration in Europe, the Education and Employment aspects”, which saw the participation of 10 participants from Greece and the UK.

The overall aim of the Training was to provide the participants with information about the current local status quo, as well as to launch a multilateral dialogue on potential futures for migrant populations in Europe.

The participants were asked to evaluate their overall experience both during the training, at the end of every day and on the last day of the course through a structured non-formal activity, as well as through a questionnaire after their departure.

The vast majority of the participants evaluated their experience positively (60 % as *good*, 20% as *exceptional*, 20% as *average*), with the group’s cohesion and the possibility to share best practices and learn together being particularly appreciated. The content as a whole was mentioned as a strong point, although some participants would have needed more time to process, question and/or challenge what was learned during the training days.

Concerning the logistics (food, accommodation, local travel), 20% of the participants rated the quality of the services as *exceptional* and 80% as *good*. The local transportation was appreciated, together with the accommodation and location of activities. More and better structured free time would have been preferred by participants.

Regarding the sessions, the collaboration with the hosts/guests/surrounding community was considered *exceptional* by 40% of the participants, *good* by 40% and *average* by 20%. Participants felt welcomed by the Inter Alia team and appreciated the holistic approach followed to structure activities and create connections with other organisations working on the field. However, a better structure of some of the sessions, both content-wise with more in-depth knowledge and time management-wise, would have allowed a better learning process.

The participants rated the overall quality of the guest lecturers (style, knowledge, experience, expertise) as *good* (80%) and *average* (20%). Interventions from the speakers were especially appreciated for being stimulating, thanks to the use of diverse non-formal learning methods, and coherent. The study visits were highly valued by participants, whereas some of the lectures could have been better structured, according to some participants.

The space for participation was evaluated as inclusive and generally safe, since the majority of participants considered that their opinion was valued *throughout the whole training* (40%)

or *some of the times* (40%). Activities in small groups allowed more freedom to those who felt intimidated or hesitant to participate or intervene in larger groups or in plenary. Having an evaluation session at the end of each day was appreciated, as participants felt their opinions were valid and taken into consideration.

40% of participants were *highly satisfied* with the structure and style of the training programme, while 60% were *somewhat satisfied*. Again, participants remarked how more free time and a less packed programme would have allowed them to better reflect and digest experiences, and to also get acquainted with the city. With respect to the duration, the training was considered *too long* by 40% and *about right* by 60% of participants.

Among all activities, the different study visits to community centres and refugee-led organisations in Athens were the most appreciated ones, as this allowed a direct contact with migrants and a true opportunity for exchange and understanding. The connection with the Inter Alia team as well as with the other participants was also considered highly beneficial to exchange best practices and exchange on working methods and future projects.

With respect to suggestions for improvements, better time management of training/free time was suggested, together with a better structure of the programme in terms of quantity of the sessions proposed.

All participants said that they will be able to put into practice what they learned. The networking opportunity was relevant in order to kick start personal projects, further understand issues that refugees face and plan partnerships for future projects.