PRESS RELEASE



STAGE: the European project aiming at the inclusion of migrants

As is well known, **migration flows** are one of the hot topics of national and international politics in recent years. Migrating today means crossing borders, physical or natural, made increasingly impassable by securitarian and nationalistic logics.

Migrants wishing to move to other countries often face various obstacles. These challenges have become more acute in recent years, following the peak in migration flows in 2015 and the onset of the pandemic in 2020. The deepening economic crisis in Europe and, as a consequence, the increase in inequality, together with widespread anti-migrant propaganda and the criminalisation of solidarity, have reinforced anti-immigrant sentiment and the hostile reception of migrants.

The purpose of STAGE

The main objective of the <u>STAGE</u> project is to strengthen the social inclusion of migrants in partner countries, regardless of racial and ethnic identity, gender, age and sexual orientation. The project aims to create an environment in which migrants feel welcomed and included in the host country, while combating the racism, xenophobia and discrimination they face.

The STAGE consortium is composed of **five organisations** based in **France**, **Cyprus**, **Greece**, **Germany** and **Italy**, which have committed to share the vision of better integration of migrants through the project and have worked together in total synergy for its implementation.



Project beneficiaries

The project addresses a very broad target group, namely:

- **persons with a migration background (**including resident foreigners, asylum seekers, refugees and persons with international protection, as well as their families)

- mentors and trainers of adult foreigners;
- NGO volunteers, adult education staff;

- general public.

Project results

On 20 January, the Consortium presented Outcome 1 of the project, i.e. research on "*Identification of local and national needs for social inclusion*". The aim of this research was to collect data to create the content of the Web App and training courses. The <u>Web App</u> was released a few days ago and consists of a platform useful to familiarise oneself with the language of the host country, as it has basic language learning and translation services, and to build networks in local communities.

The application will support migrants, whether newcomers or not in local communities, on their arrival in the host country, but also in their daily life. It also includes a **mentoring area**, where migrants will be able to get in touch with mentors, an information area on services, where they can find useful links, and an interactive map to share migrants' stories and journeys. It is not yet possible to register as a mentor, but it will be in the coming months.

STAGE: a journey of social inclusion that invites solidarity!

