



Associação Portuguesa de Saúde, Higiene e Segurança no  
Trabalho para o Desenvolvimento e Cooperação Internacional  
ONGD

KA2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

N.º 2016-1-ES01-KA204-025278



Project “**Self-Employment for Migrants and Refugees  
with Low Literacy Skills**”

**REPORT FOR PORTUGAL**



Erasmus+

## INTRODUCTION

Portugal has for long been a country of departures and arrivals. This vocation of ours has placed us on the lead of the best integration policies of those who chose Portugal to live in. However, the last decade has brought us new global challenges that migration holds. The mission of integrating immigrants added to the inclusion of new Portuguese citizens as well as to the connection and support for our non-residents Portuguese citizens. Providing migration services tailored to new profiles has been one of the largest projects of this new High Commission.

Therefore, the recently approved Strategic Plan for Migration (2015-2020) has set the foundation for a more comprehensive migration policy. A modern, broad spectrum and pro-active migration policy.

Migrations represent a huge opportunity that Portugal has been able to manage effectively. This management has been nationally and internationally acknowledged, being a reference in many areas for practices to replicate in different contexts. I invite you therefore to get to know the work of the High Commission for Migration and its numerous partners.

Portugal have a High Commission for Migration. It is a Public Institution, directly dependent of the Presidency of the Ministers Council, has the mission of collaborating on determining, executing and assessing the public, transversal and sectorial policies concerning migrations that are relevant for the integration of migrants in the national, international and Portuguese-speaking contexts, for the integration of the immigrants and ethnic groups – in particular, the gypsy communities – and for managing and valuing of the diversity between cultures, ethnics and religions.

## **The Mission of the High Commission for Migration (ACM, IP.):**

Promotes the international image of Portugal as a destination of migration;

- Encourages and streamlines the hosting, integration, participation and professional and civic education of immigrants and their descendants, including through the development of transversal policies, centers and offices to support immigrants that provide an integrated response of public services, and partnerships with civil society, local authorities and immigrant associations, in order to promote cohesion and social solidarity, access to citizenship and strengthening social integration networks and public participation;
- Cooperates with all relevant entities in the implementation of immigration policy, notably through actions, national and international, of reaching high potential immigrants;
- Practices functions of dialogue, along with current and potential immigrants in administrative or out of them, without prejudice to the specific competencies of the organizations involved through counseling of those immigrants, the contact with other public and private entities, the use of electronic media as well as the relevant documentation preparation;
- Manages funds initiatives and action plans of the European Union on migration, where the jurisdiction is delegated to you;
- Cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through an integrated approach to the dynamics of emigration and immigration, as well as the respective diasporas, particularly in actions to support, encourage and monitor the return of emigrant national citizens abroad or strengthen their bond ties to Portugal;
- Ensures access for immigrants, their associations and other communities, all relevant information for the exercise of their rights and duties of citizenship;
- Contributes to improving the collection and dissemination of official statistical data on migration flows, by consolidating data collection or further information which are not directly accessible on primary sources;
- Celebrates agreements with public or private entities on all matters with an emphasis on the reach, fixation and integration of migrants, particularly with regard to employment, training and employability, entrepreneurship, migration mobility, socio-cultural mediation, housing, health and education, given the local and regional co-development, mobilization of skills and economic and social inclusion;

- Promotes dialogue, innovation and intercultural and inter-religious education, by supporting associations and valuing of positive interaction and cultural diversity in a framework of mutual consideration and respect for the legal and constitutional requirements;
- Combat all forms of discrimination based on color, nationality, ethnic origin or religion;
- Favors learning the Portuguese language and the knowledge of Portuguese culture by immigrants, with a view to better social integration, professional and civic;
- Fosters research, surveys and observation of migratory phenomena, in conjunction with university research centers and international organizations, to contribute to the definition and evaluation of public policies or legislative initiatives;
- Develops programs and action to promote inclusion and economic empowerment of current immigrants and their descendants in order to contribute to the improvement of their conditions of life and work for equal opportunities and better recognition and use of their skills and their potential;
- Develops social inclusion of children and youth programs from more vulnerable socio-economic contexts, particularly the descendants of immigrants and ethnic groups, with a view, among other objectives, the school inclusion and education, vocational training, enhancing employability and community dynamics and citizenship.

## **Observatory of Migrations (OM)**

The Observatory of Migrations (OM) and the Roma Communities Observatory (OBCIG) are fundamental for deepening the knowledge about the reality of migration in Portugal in order to define, implement and evaluate effective integration policies for immigrant populations, including ethnic minorities, and sustained return for Portuguese emigrants.

The Observatory for Migration is an informal unit within the High Commission for Migration, which is accountable for the study and strategic and scientific monitoring of migration. It succeeds to the Immigration Observatory, created in 2002 under the ACIME (High Commission for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities).

The Observatory of Migration (OM) has assumed as a priority to deepen knowledge about immigrant populations living in Portugal, informing policy makers to define public policies and legislative initiatives for the integration of immigrants, and raising public awareness in general, by fighting myths and stereotypes about immigrants through facts and statistical data.

## **Fields of Work**

The Observatory for Migration is responsible for launching studies and highly relevant conference organization for the understanding of the migratory phenomena in Portugal.

The areas of work of the new observatory include, namely, the deepening of knowledge about the new immigration profiles, such as students, entrepreneurs, retirees and investors, as well as cooperation with other entities, public and private, national and international, including universities, observatories, statistical agencies and research centers.

Following the change of the bodies of the High Commission for Migration, the Observatory is dedicated to the integrated study of the emigration / immigration binomial, particularly as regards the return of Portuguese emigrants to the country and the integration of immigrants in Portugal.

The philosophy of work of the Observatory is a subsidiary regards all institutions and research teams engaged systematically the subject of the study of migration. Accordingly, the Migration Observatory intends to intervene essentially as an activity catalyst and a promoter of networks of academic cooperation, scientific and institutional only where this is beneficial for better public understanding of the issues and themes that are its dominant concern.

### **Learning the Portuguese language for Migrants**

Learning the language of the host country by immigrant adults is also one of the most relevant guidelines in the context of public policies on integration, since it assumes a mitigating effect of factors of vulnerability to integration, namely in the labor market and Access to citizenship. In this context, the Portuguese for All Program (PPT) is part of the larger scope of immigrant integration policies in Portugal, providing Portuguese language courses free of charge to immigrant citizens. Promoted since its inception in 2008 by the High Commission for Migration (ACM), as an intermediary body of the Operational Program of Human Potential (POPH), the PPT is developed from two types of courses: (1) courses From Portuguese to speakers of other languages with certification for A2 levels (elementary user) and B2 (independent user) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; And (2) technical Portuguese courses, oriented to various economic activities with the purpose of facilitating the insertion of immigrants in the labor market in Portugal.

These courses cover immigrant citizens and their descendants with regular status in Portugal and aged 15 years or more for courses promoted in public schools, and aged 18 years or over for courses promoted by employment centers of the Institute Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP).

The distribution of Portuguese for All Program graduates in the different regions of the country reflects the distribution of the foreign population residing in Portuguese territory, with more than half of the students residing in the regions of Lisbon (41.7%) and the Algarve (20.5%).

## **Online Portuguese Platform for Learning the Portuguese language for Migrants**

Web site: <https://pptonline.acm.gov.pt/>

In May 2016, the High Commission for Migration (ACM, I.P.) launched the Online Portuguese Platform. This platform, available in the Portuguese and English versions, is an online tool that allows the user to learn and enrich the Portuguese vocabulary, as well as to acquire the knowledge of Portuguese grammar in the contexts of language use. The learning modules are thematic and are available in text, audio, video and image formats and are organized at two levels - level A and level B - according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEC) produced by the Language Policy of the Council of Europe. The contents of these two levels are described in two references: (1) Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages: The Elementary User in the Host Country and (2) Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages: The Independent User in the Host Country.

Between May 2016 and the end of January 2017 the platform reached 1901 users from 110 different nationalities. In these months, the main users of the platform are nationals of Russia (7.5%), the United States (6.9%), Ukraine (5.9%), the United Kingdom (4, Spain (2.6%), China and Germany (both with 2.5%).

### **Demographic Data for Migrants in Portugal**

In 2014, four out of every 100 residents in Portugal had a foreign nationality, a figure well below the average for all EU countries where the ratio is seven out of every 100 residents. The relative importance of the foreign population residing in Portugal is still relatively low. According to data released by Eurostat, in January 2014, Portugal ranked 20th among the 28 countries in the European area, due to the relative importance of foreigners in the total population, having declined in its position as a consequence of having reduced the foreign population residing in the Country in recent years.

In 2014, 395,195 foreign nationals resided in Portugal, representing 3.8% of the country's total residents. In recent years there has been a decrease of the foreign population residing in the country and for the first time since 2002 the number of foreigners is less than 400,000.

Compared to the year 2013, there is a 1.5% decrease in the number of foreigners (although this decrease is slowing down - at the beginning of this decade the decrease was -5%).

In 2014, the structure of the ten most representative nationalities remained, with China becoming the fifth most expressive (with an increase of + 14.8%, contrasting with the decrease of other foreign nationalities) supplanting Angola. The ten most represented foreign nationalities in 2014 were: Brazilian (22.1%), Cape Verdean (10.4%), Ukrainian (9.6%), Romanian (8.0%), Chinese (5, 4%), Angolan (5.0%), Guinean (4.5%), British (4.2%), Sao Tome (2.6%) and Spanish (2.5%). Regarding the distribution by sex, in 2014 the resident foreign population is mostly composed of women (51.5%), male foreigners corresponding to 48.5%, which reinforces the trend of feminization of immigration in Portugal Observed only in recent years.

In recent years Portugal has not only seen a decrease in the number of foreigners, but has simultaneously changed its immigration profile, attracting and / or reinforcing new immigrant profiles. By the middle of the last decade, the main reasons for entering or requesting entry into the country were labor-related (mainly for subordinate activity) in recent years - also due to the situation of the Portuguese economy and the decrease in employment opportunities. Work in the economic sectors where immigrants tended to be inserted - the inflows were mainly associated with study and family reunification.

The positive evolution of the foreign population in Portugal, it is noticeable that foreigners tended to increase more the propensity for entrepreneurship in the country (+ 15% from 2001 to 2011) than the nationals who, Last decade saw their number of employers drop (-7%).

These trends between decades are fundamental to characterize the contributions of foreigners to the Portuguese economy, namely as generators of employment, however in this annual report it is necessary to resort to other national data sources to be able to ascertain some trends of the business activities of resident foreigners to The years that followed the 2011 Census.



## **MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PORTUGAL**

With regard to the creation of companies in Portugal, in 2013, 32,723 companies were formed, most of them under the legal form of a sole proprietorship (Racius, 2013). However, studies carried out by the European Commission over the years also indicate Portugal as one of the countries with the highest percentage of people that highlight several obstacles to starting a business. The complexity of the process and the lack of information are still the most referenced factors, as opposed to administrative complexity, which has been decreasing - this phenomenon can be explained by the various initiatives created by the Portuguese government, such as the Company at the time ("Empresa na Hora").

Despite all these constraints, 32% of the population surveyed by AGER 2013 admits the possibility of creating a business. On the basis of this intention are several motivations, which are generally distinguished between internal motivations and external motivations. The internal motivations - called entrepreneurship by opportunity - are linked to the image of the classic entrepreneur who seeks independence and professional and personal fulfillment. With regard to external motivations - entrepreneurship by necessity - individuals seek security in the absence of alternatives, such as prolonged unemployment.

Entrepreneurship is often taken as a means of labor integration of the immigrant population in the host country. Immigrants work mainly to avoid unemployment, to make their skills and resources profitable, to increase incomes and to create jobs, whether in the family or in the community in which they are inserted.

Immigrant entrepreneurship is an asset, not only by harnessing the resources and skills of immigrants, but also by the dynamism it creates in the host country economy. Consequently, and thanks to established social networks, the impact of immigrant entrepreneurship is also evident in the home countries of entrepreneurs, fostering trade between countries and the internationalization of enterprises. In Portugal, immigrant entrepreneurship improves the integration of the immigrant population, stimulates the Portuguese economy, creates jobs helping to combat unemployment, and brings new ideas and projects to the Portuguese business panorama, resulting in more innovation.

However, at the time of undertaking, this population is also subject to obstacles, which condition the development of their business. The two obstacles to immigrant entrepreneurship most commonly referred to are the lack of knowledge of the mechanisms necessary for the creation and management of a company in Portugal and the access to financing.

## **GOOD PRACTICES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

### **PEI – Project Promoting the Immigrant Entrepreneurship**

**PEI – Project Promoting the Immigrant Entrepreneurship** has the purpose to encourage the entrepreneurship by communities of immigrants, especially those who live in the most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Support immigrants in structuring and implement a business idea is the main purpose of PEI (Project Promoting the Immigrant Entrepreneurship), an initiative established by ACM (High Commission for Migrations). This measure has being developed, throughout the territory, since 2009.

#### **To whom it is intended?**

Immigrants that want to structure a business idea, in order to implement.

## What are the purposes?

- Develop an enterprising attitude to life, promoting self-esteem and trust in yourself;
- Develop personal, social and business management skills, essential to the business creation;
- Promote the business creation in a sustained way;
- Facilitate the connection between the potential entrepreneur and the entrepreneurship support programs already existing and carried by several entities;
- Promote the execution of businesses already existing in the informal economy.

## What are the main project activities and support?

- **Course «Supporting the Creation of Businesses»**, it lasts for 62 hours, during 10 weeks (10 group and 8 individual sessions).

This allows in leading the attendee in structuring a business idea and in the development of the entrepreneurial skills. At the end of each course, two documents can be issued:

- Certificate of Attendance (CF) confirms the presence (total) at least in seven group sessions and in two individual sessions.
  - Letter of Recommendation (CR) that focus on the maturity of the business idea. This document proves, in the trainer's perspective, that the business project at issue gathers conditions to become a credible business, being its development recommended, in order to implement.
- **Consulting** – addressed to the participants whose business idea indicates to gather conditions to become a credible business, namely the attendants who received the Letter of Recommendation. This support has as goals: Restructure little aspects of the business idea (when that justifies); Identify financial supports or others; Support the business execution; Guide in the business management, in the meantime formalised.
  - **Consulting meetings** are held after the course and are, generally, individual. Consulting meetings are promoted by the trainer and are held by request of the entrepreneur, having in account specific necessities.

- **Thematic workshops**, meetings or other events organised within the support initiatives to the migrant developer pursued by the ACM, I.P.

### How does it work?

**Stage 1** – The promoting entities of PEI announce the initiative to the target audience, as well as by the key entities in supporting the business creation.

**Stage 2** – The promoting entities of PEI receive the registrations. (For the events developed in the CNAI of Lisboa and Porto, the interested can express their interest in attending through the filling of a registration form available in <http://goo.gl/forms/l28udEjhk0>).

**Stage 3** – The technician of the promoting institution contacts the candidate to perform an individual interview, or an extended meeting to show the project and discussion of the candidates' expectations.

**Stage 4** – The candidate confirms the interest in attending PEI.

**Stage 5** – Beginning of the course «Supporting the Creation of Businesses», which will be led, during 10 weeks, by a trainer specialized in business development.

**Stage 6** – Consulting, after ending the course, addressed to the attendees that received the Letter of Recommendation.

### The promoting entities are:

- ACM - High Commissioner for Migration
- National Immigrant Support Center of Porto
- FEINPT - European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals:
- ACMJ - Youth Windmill Cultural Association
- AJPAS - Association for Community Integration of Social and Health Development
- AMRT - Improvement and Recreative Slope Association (with support from ACMJ)
- Seixal City Hall (with the support of ACMJ)
- RUMO, Social Solidarity Cooperative, Crl
- SEIVA - Association for the Service of Life (with the support of RUMO)
- SCMA - Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (with the support of RUMO)

**High Commission for Migrations (ACM) have been doing in this area of the Entrepreneurship:**

### **Office for Support to Migrant Entrepreneurs**

We created the Office for Support to Migrant Entrepreneurs (MRG) to guide you if you want to start a new project in Portugal. This office provides expert advice to entrepreneurs, accompanies the immigrant entrepreneurship promotion project and the project of entrepreneurship for international students.

### **Training platform for Entrepreneurship**

Training of immigrant entrepreneurs. We developed an online training platform that promotes the involvement of immigrants in encouraging the creation of self-employment programs, through its training and better use of existing credit lines. This platform allows you to receive 240 trainees per year and launch 20 businesses a year.

### **Business diversity seal**

The corporate diversity label aims to distinguish private and public companies that excel in promoting and / or implementation of internal and external practices, strategies, measures and policies, for the recognition and appreciation of cultural diversity as a competitive advantage and a human value.

## **Office to Active Migrants in Portugal (GAEM)**

The High Commission for Migrations has, in the National Immigrant Support Centre in Lisboa, from the Office to Active Migrants (GAEM), in which the following supports are given:

- a) specialized assistance to developers;
- b) training programs;
- c) interaction with several organisations supporting business development;
- d) other additional actions to the developed activities (workshops, meetings with entrepreneurs, promotion initiatives from the entrepreneurial, etc.).

These initiatives of the GAEM are destined to any foreigner who has a business idea and wants support for structuring, implement or manage, regardless its complexity or financial investment value.

## **Migrant Support Line**

The Migrant Support Line - 808 257 257 / 218 106 191 - is a telephone support service by the High Commission for Migration (ACM) in partnership with the civil society.

This line was created following the new competences granted to the ACM and continues the SOS Immigrant Line which operated since 2003. The main objective of the Migrant Support Line is to respond immediately to the most frequently asked questions of Migrants, providing all the information available in the area of Migration by telephone and forwarding calls to the relevant departments, whenever they do not fall within the competence of the ACM, IP.

The Migrant Support Line also has the following duties:

Immigration area:

- To promote and help ensure effective equality of rights and duties in access to work, housing, health, education, among others;
- Responding later to questions of immigrants when, due to the complexity of the issue, it is not possible to make it at the time;
- Advise and detect situations that require an effective response.

Emigration area:

- Advise and detect situations that require an effective response by non-resident Portuguese, particularly forwarding for responses in the fields of access to work, housing, health, education, among others;
- Support the return of Portuguese emigrants who require support for this purpose, linking directly with the Emigrant Return Support Office (GARE);
- Coordinate with the Office for Support to Migrant Entrepreneurship (MRG), supporting entrepreneurship of migrants.

The Migrant Support Line also provides clarification and information to immigrant associations, as well as to enterprises and public administration.

The Migrant Support Line is currently available in 9 different languages, from Monday to Friday, between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm (Lisbon time) via the following contacts:

808 257 257 – calling from the landline (local call cost);

218 106 191 – calling from a mobile number;