



INTEGRATION INITIATIVES FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**MAIN RESULTS FROM THE STUDY VISIT
BUCHAREST & BRASOV, ROMANIA
20-26 JANUARY 2025**

K.a.210 Capacity Building for Refugee Youth
Integration in Erasmus+ projects



ABOUT THE STUDY VISIT IN ROMANIA K.A.210 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR REFUGEE YOUTH INTEGRATION IN ERASMUS+ PROJECTS



- **Aim of the study visit:**
- **The study visit aims to provide firsthand exposure to successful integration initiatives and best practices for refugee youth from refugee community centers and youth organisations.**

- **Objectives of the study visit:**
- **01: The study visit exposed the participants from grow e.V. & LIFE Association to successful integration initiatives and best practices for young refugees, increasing their practical knowledge and understanding.**
- **02: By identifying and documenting successful integration initiatives, participants gather valuable insights and examples to develop concrete integration strategies.**
- **03: There will be an improved capacity of the participants resulting from the study visit which leads to more inclusive and supportive projects for refugees in the future.**





1. FILM & MEDIA PROJECTS FOR SELF-EXPRESSION

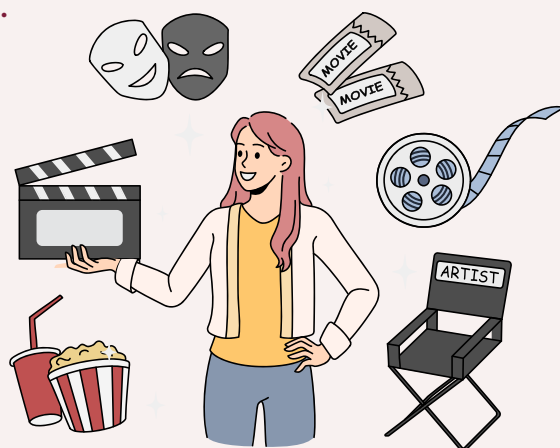
Organization: AHA Center (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Refugee youth, especially from Ukraine, create short films to process their experiences. This creative approach enhances self-expression and emotional well-being. Storytelling becomes a tool for empowerment and social inclusion.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Target Group:** Refugee youth aged 12–25.
- **Duration:** Weekly sessions over 6–8 weeks.
- **Structure:**
 - **Session 1:** Introduction to storytelling and brainstorming.
 - **Session 2–3:** Basic filming techniques and script development.
 - **Session 4–6:** Shooting and editing.
 - **Session 7–8:** Final edits and screening preparation.
- **Tools:** Use smartphones, basic tripods and free editing tools (CapCut, iMovie).
- **Guest Support:** Partner with local media students or volunteer filmmakers as mentors.
- **Safe Space:** Integrate check-ins and emotional reflection at the end of sessions.

Outcome: Organize a short film screening event and optionally publish videos online with participant consent.





2. ENGAGING REFUGEES AS VOLUNTEERS

Organization: AHA Center (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Refugees participate as active volunteers in ongoing projects. Builds ownership, trust, and peer-to-peer engagement. Volunteers often become role models for new participants.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Opportunities:** Roles include co-facilitators, interpreters, logistics support, outreach assistants.
- **Recruitment:** Share opportunities during events and via WhatsApp/in-person outreach.
- **Onboarding:** Brief volunteer training covering responsibilities and basic communication.
- **Mentorship:** Match new volunteers with experienced refugee role models.
- **Recognition:** Monthly volunteer certificates, thank-you events, and social media shoutouts.

Impact: Track how many volunteers transition to employment, leadership roles, or further volunteering.





3. ROMANIAN LANGUAGE + ART WORKSHOPS

Organization: AIDROM (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Language classes paired with creative activities like art and crafts. Refugees choose workshop types that help them express themselves. The program avoids the term 'therapy' and focuses on open, participant-led learning.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Participant Autonomy:** Offer a menu of workshops (e.g., painting, mosaic, embroidery) and let participants choose.
- **Language Integration:** Incorporate vocabulary building within the art process (labels, descriptions, conversations).
- **Tone:** Keep the atmosphere informal, avoiding clinical or therapeutic language.
- **Facilitators:** Involve one language teacher and one creative professional per group.

Display: End each cycle with a community exhibit of participants' work.





4. MIXED INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES WITH LOCAL YOUTH

Organization: AIDROM (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Refugees and locals participate in shared non-formal learning spaces to promote mutual understanding and reduce social barriers. Emphasis on equal participation and informal exchange.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Activity Examples:** Joint mural projects, cooking classes, photography walks, cultural exchange games.
 - **Partnerships:** Collaborate with schools, youth centers, and community clubs.
 - **Language Support:** Use multilingual facilitators and visual tools to bridge gaps.
 - **Inclusion:** Ensure balanced numbers of local and refugee youth in each session.
- Group Roles:** Assign rotating roles (e.g., discussion leader, materials manager) to encourage equity.





5. OPEN COMMUNITY CULTURAL EVENTS

Organization: IOM - International Organisation of Migration (Braşov)

Original Concept: Events such as karaoke nights, BBQs, and holiday celebrations are open to all nationalities. Promoted through WhatsApp and Instagram with high participation rates. These low-threshold activities enhance belonging and social contact.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Event Frequency:** Bi-monthly or monthly open events.
- **Event Types:** Karaoke, international food potlucks, talent shows, cultural trivia nights, family movie screenings.
- **Promotion:** Use WhatsApp groups, Instagram reels, and local posters/flyers.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure venues are central, free, and accessible to all.

Engagement: Use sign-up forms and photos (with consent) to maintain a connection with attendees.





6. ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK SYSTEM FOR ACTIVITY PLANNING

Organization: Migrant Integration Center (Braşov)

Original Concept: Refugees anonymously suggest desired activities. Ensures demand-driven, relevant programs. Fosters participation and trust in the host organization.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Tools Used:** Anonymous paper drop-boxes, QR-coded Google Forms in multiple languages.
- **Frequency:** Review suggestions monthly and discuss with staff and youth leaders.
- **Visibility:** Share suggestion summaries and upcoming activities on bulletin boards and social media.
- **Responsive Planning:** Commit to implementing at least 1–2 top-rated suggestions per quarter.
- **Inclusive Language:** Avoid jargon; offer forms in Romanian, Arabic, Ukrainian, etc.





7. CHILDREN ADVISORY BOARDS (CABS)

Organization: Resilience & Innovation Center of Terre des hommes Organisation (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Children and youth form 'mini-governments' to lead and improve project activities. Weekly meetings encourage responsibility and self-initiative. Supports leadership and civic engagement.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Board Structure:** 6–10 youth elected or nominated by peers; ages 10–17.
- **Meetings:** Weekly 1-hour meetings with rotating facilitators from among the youth.
- **Scope:** Discuss and vote on activity proposals, event ideas, feedback from peers.
- **Support:** Assign adult mentors who support logistics and facilitate only when needed.
- **Budget Control:** Allow CABS to manage a small budget for activities/events.

Recognition: Offer certificates, badges, or public acknowledgment of board contributions.





8. FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR YOUTH

Organization: Resilience & Innovation Center of Terre des hommes Organisation (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Teach saving and budgeting through creative, age-appropriate activities. Example: DIY piggy banks and project-based money education. Promotes economic empowerment from a young age.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Curriculum Topics:** Budgeting, saving, distinguishing needs/wants, online spending safety.
- **Fun Formats:** Build DIY piggy banks, create mock shops, play budgeting board games.
- **Group Projects:** Assign 'budget missions' where groups plan a fictional or real low-cost outing.
- **Age Focus:** Tailor complexity to age groups (e.g., use drawings for younger kids, apps for teens).

Parental Involvement: Optional take-home worksheets or parent workshops.





9. SUMMER COURSES ON LANGUAGE, LIFE SKILLS & DIGITAL SAFETY

Organization: UNHCR Romania (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Romanian language courses are combined with sessions on employability and cyberbullying. Builds communication and resilience in refugee youth. Tailored to younger age groups and implemented with local NGOs.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Schedule:** 3–4 week program, 4 days/week, combining Romanian classes with soft skills and digital literacy.
- **Topics Covered:** Basic language, teamwork, CV writing (for teens), internet safety, digital citizenship.
- **Interactive Delivery:** Use games, role-play, group projects.
- **Age Groups:** Divide into groups (e.g., 10–13, 14–17) for relevance.
- **Partner Support:** Collaborate with schools, youth centers, and tech education NGOs.

Certificates: Award participation certificates and small incentives like books or school supplies.





10. QUARTERLY PARTICIPATORY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Organization: UNHCR Romania (Bucharest)

Original Concept: Regular community meetings assess youth needs and adjust programs accordingly. Ensures refugee-led feedback informs services. Strengthens ownership and long-term integration.

Facilitator Implementation:

- **Assessment Tools:** Focus groups, suggestion boxes, surveys, World Café discussion rounds.
- **Frequency:** Conduct every 3 months with youth and caregiver participation.
- **Language Access:** Use interpreters or multilingual facilitators.
- **Follow-Up:** Create and distribute visually accessible reports (infographics/posters).
- **Action:** Each assessment should inform updates to the next quarter's activities.
- **Youth Involvement:** Have youth present results or lead parts of the sessions.





These are the 10 Integration Initiatives for Migrants & Refugees that were researched by the participants from Grow and LIFE Association during the study visit from Bucharest & Brasov in Romania between 20-26 January 2025.

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Disclaimer: This publication reflects only the views of the participants in the project and the EU Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

