

Women return to work - Final Conference

Report

Presentation of the Women return to work project by Suleyman

Suleyman Kececi, KOMEK

Suleyman provided an overview of Konya, its history and the work of Konya Metropolitan Municipality Vocational Training Course Centre (KOMEK)



KOMEK offers training and courses with a programme of over 300 courses in 31 districts. The courses include: gardening, IT, wood technology, nursing, personal growth, accounting, music, nutrition, sport, and languages - Japanese, İngilizce, or German. There are currently 100,000 Participants with services provided in 65 centers and 20 of these are for women only being mixed with the remaining 45 centers. There is also a focus on the participants providing them with a platform to display, exhibit, and sell the goods that they produce. Some of the centers having a specific space for the women to sell their goods. The exhibitions held in May each year attract around 100 000 visitors. Members of the public are able to buy goods online or at the sale centers. To date, there have been 452 000 candidates who at the end of the course will have gained certificates which they can use to enter employment.

Marianne Lundberg, Sweden provided a presentation and information about Stiftelsen Minerva: Mentoring programme



Mentoring Programme for working life
Mentees, Mentors, Activities

The Minerva Foundation Mentoring Programme

The purpose of The Minerva Foundation Mentoring Programme is to support Professional women, both local and migrant, to return to their profession after an absence from work. Mentoring is provided through seminars, job coaching, one to one mentoring, language training, networking, evaluation, work Training and placement.

After selection of mentees they are provided with information on the labour market and supported to prepare their CV, to apply for job and gain interview skills and techniques.

Women of all professions who have migrated to Sweden are supported to develop their skills in written and oral Swedish so they can work at a professional level. Women are supported in professions such as Engineering, Chemical, Electronics, Construction, IT, Machine, Administrators/Project



leaders, Psychians/Dentists, Pedagogos, Language teachers, natural science, Journalists, Lawyers etc.

Work oriented seminars

Work orientated seminars are held to provide migrant women in particular with insight into the working life of women in Sweden, the laws and requirements.

Training is also provided on the different cultural communication styles between the women's own culture and Sweden to help them fit in socially and at work.

Mentor activities

Mentor activities include a start-up seminar where a mentee is matched with a mentor for ongoing support with mid term evaluations to support the

Integrated language training

This includes language and job coaching so the women are aware of the correct technical language for their profession.

Work training/studies

Work training in their own profession for professional development to meet Swedish standards.

Results in numbers

Year 1998-2014

7 mentoring programmes

90 mentees + 90 mentors

99 Per Cent

Employment in their own profession, Some started own business, Some started PhD studies



Presentation on KOMEK and the activities for women by Abdullah KALELİ Mr Kaleli gave us some information about KOMEK and GENÇ KOMEK

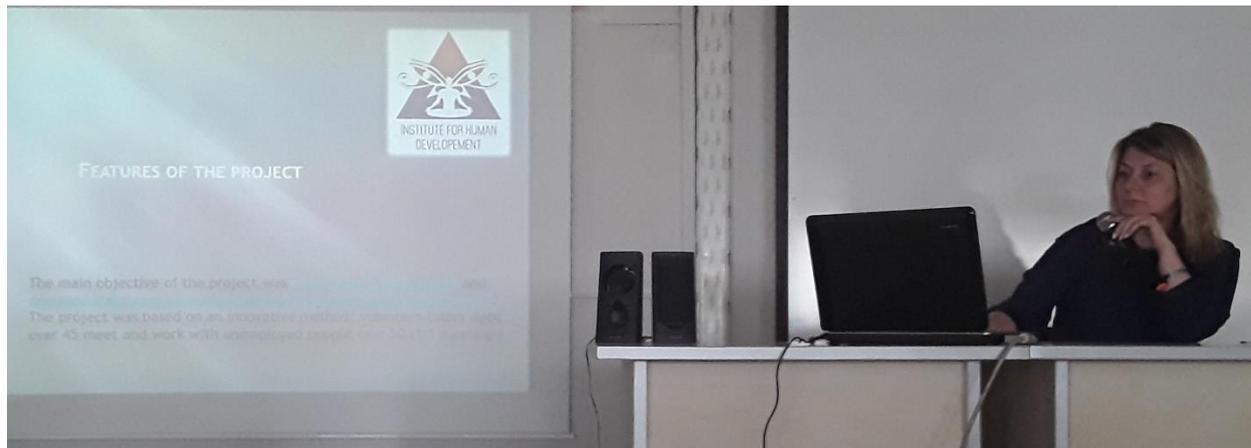
KOMEK stands for Metropolitan Municipality Art and Vocational Training Courses. It provides occupational and skill training courses for women. It arranges a great many of cultural, artistic, social, instructive and sportive activities throughout Konya. KOMEK courses are provided in a number of different branches across the region to provide Turkish Islamic Arts, handicraft, music, language, computer, fashion design, visual arts, vocational and technical training, health and special training courses. First we learnt about the art of Ebru or 'Marbling'



Konya Vocational Training Courses (KOMEK), provides training for youth and has been serving Konya for 12 years with 53 Training Centers and 62 training centers in Konya center and 31 districts. The students will learn arts, religion and values, sports from 8-16 years of age this summer.

In addition to the lessons of Art, Religion and Values, students also spend summer vacation healthier with sporting activities such as swimming, football, volleyball, table tennis, chess and archery.

Lidia Koziel Siudut from Poland provided information about the Foundation Institute for Human



Target groups:

The Foundation supported 240 unemployed people aged 50-64, who were at risk of social exclusion. Project participants developed their “soft” skills, so that they could return to the labour market.

The second group of participants supported (170) were volunteers aged 45+ working for WIOSNA Association, who wanted to get involved in the process of mobilization of people aged 50+. They have wide knowledge and professional experience as well as motivation and willingness to share their skills with the unemployed participants of the project.

Features of the Project

The main objective of the project was to increase employability and decrease the threat of social exclusion of unemployed people over 50. The project was based on an innovative method: volunteer-tutors aged over 45 meet and work with unemployed people over 50 (1:1 meetings)

The main steps

- Preparing volunteers/tutors to work with people aged over 50 years (20 hours of training)
- Individual meetings (1:1 - tutor and 50+ person)



- Organizing group, inspiration meetings in order to exchange experience, build confidence, enable cooperation
- Implementing 4 months long traineeship for people aged 50+
- 30% of participants will find an employment at the end of Project

Project Effects

40% of participants aged 50+
found an employment after traineeship

Heather McLaughlin gave provided information about Network for Enterprising Women: Support for Business women



Network for Enterprising Women (NEW) Networking, Collaboration, Training & Support

A network group for women entrepreneurs who:

A network group for women entrepreneurs who: Run their own business , Who want to set up their own business , Work in the corporate, voluntary or community sectors ,Work for an organisation that supports businesses

Networking, Collaboration Training & Support



Networking to connect women ,Linking with other business women's networks
Training and support for business , Regular news updates on business events,
funding and support

A forum to share & motivate

NEW(Kadın Girişim Ağı) brings women together for encouragement, support
and stimulation n A place to bring women together who share similar values,
who want to develop their skills to become entrepreneurs

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Sharing Expertise: May 2017

In May 2017 we hosted project partners in Northern Ireland. We met in the EU
Commission Representation office,Belfast

Meeting with the Mayor of Dungannon at a Centre supporting migrant women

Meeting with the Mayor of Fermanagh at a seminar in Fermanagh for women in
business

Suleyman spoke about the work of Konya Metropolitan Municipality Vocational
Training Course Centre (KOMEK)

Sharing expertise through projects like Women return to work is very important
to learn from each other

PRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN

Ayşegül KAVUMSAL



KOMEK Courses are free of charge while providing high quality service. It is an opportunity for any woman who wants to set up her own businesses and who want to become highly qualified to seek employment.

The group heard from one woman, Ayşegül KAVUMSAL, who had completed training through KOMEK. She was 32 years old, married with two children. She explained how she had applied for KOMEK Art Course in 2007 after graduating from High School. As soon as the course ended she received a job offer from a local firm. She started to work on the KOMEK dressmaking and Mold Designing course to develop her Professional skills in styling by registering on a course for dress making.

Her creations became popular and she prepared a fashion Show. After taking time out to have children she returned to work as self employed and opened her own business designing and selling jewellery.

She could only have achieved this dream of setting up her own business because of the training she received through KOMEK. The first course she took was a KOMEK ACCOUNTING and FINANCE course so she could manage her business



Erasmus+



accounts professionally. She acquired KOSGEP (small and medium enterprises development organization) entrepreneurship training.

She also registered on a KOMEK JEWELRY DESIGN COURSE. After these courses she presented her business plan to open her business which was approved and she began her self-employed journey in 2017.

She intends to continue attending Komek courses to grow and improve her business.

Gülizar TOSUN



Gulizar TOSUN, attended a hairdressing course at KOMEK, is one of the trainees who also succeeded in establishing her own business. Gulizar Tosun stated that she has now established a job that she had dreamt since childhood. She said that she was very happy because KOMEK provided her this opportunity. She had both profession and self-confidence in the courses. She was an unskilled individual before that. She has been running her business now earning enough money and has been contributing her family budget.