

Romania

My Place - Multifunctional Cultural Centre – A Bridge for Integrating Third Country Nationals in Romania

Locations	Bucharest
Level of implementation	Local
Name(s) of implementing institutions	JRS Romania Association
Partners/Supporters	Novapolis Association
Main idea behind it, initial situation (why?)	The idea behind this initiative was to create a multifunctional centre “My Place” that can bring together TCNs, people with a form of protection, and host community representatives through educational, socio-cultural and recreational activities.
Objective (what for?)	The main objective of the project was to support TCN communities to integrate into the host society, and to contribute to the development of a more open, more accountable and more informed society designed to facilitate the bidirectional integration of TCN and increasing the socio-cultural cohesion. Promoting intercultural dialogue within the TCN communities by organising specific activities, and promoting active participation in the community life to which they belong.
Description of practice (what?)	The good practice consists of creating and developing a Multifunctional Cultural Centre as the core of the social, educational, cultural and recreational activities designed for TCNs, aiming to facilitate a suitable environment meant to assist the (multicultural and intercultural) activities of the TCN through their direct support and involvement. The project promotes the Centre to be an appropriate place to conduct three main categories of activities: socio-educational, socio-cultural and recreational, for children, youth and adults, including vulnerable persons.
Managed/driven by	Civil society: JRS Romania
Time-frame (start/end/ongoing)	Ongoing. This practice has been implemented by JRS Romania since 2013; so far all projects are aimed at integrating holders of some form of international protection and TCNs.
Stand-alone initiative or incorporated into other initiatives?	Initially, this initiative was an autonomous one. Later, it was taken as a good practice model and it has been incorporated into other projects.
Main target group (nationals, non-nationals - types)	Third country nationals Asylum seekers, international protection status holders (refugee status, subsidiary protection)

Promotion	<p>Oral, printed, online, mobile application</p> <p>Languages: Romanian (national language), English, French, Arabic, Kurdish</p>
Information provided on legal, practical and procedural aspects of protection against racism/hatred and discrimination	<p>Yes. Legal information is included into the Romanian language courses and the social counseling sessions and is provided upon request.</p>
Methods of language/content teaching	<p>All the project's activities are being performed by specialized personnel with the support of interpreters and cultural mediators. The programme's activities take into account the preferences of the TCN and are carried out according to the agenda established together with the beneficiaries.</p> <p>A wide range of activities is provided: Romanian language courses, social orientation courses, photography, yoga, self defense, project writing, sporting activities, thematic meetings, multicultural sessions, watching movies, sightseeing tours, etc.</p>
Accessibility:	<p>Costs: free of charge</p> <p>Obligatory: No</p> <p>Eligibility criteria: Any person belonging to the categories: TCNs, International protection holders</p>
Budget, sources of financing	<p>Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows – European Fund for Integration of Third Country Nationals (TCN) and Private Sources.</p>
Sources and references (hyperlink(s))	<p>https://jrsromania.org/en/centru-my-place/</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC91bi1z574</p>

Impact assessment foreseen?	No.
Which actors of host communities are included?	The events organized at “My Place” Centre (such as: intercultural communication sessions, multicultural events, fairs, sports, culinary events, etc) benefit from the support of the following local actors: student associations, embassies, local communities, foreign communities, trained volunteers, media, private sponsors.
Degree of inclusion	voluntary. The active participation within the events is done on a voluntary basis.
How can racism and xenophobia be countered through this activity?	Romanian language and social orientation courses contribute to combating racism and xenophobia by better adapting and integrating foreign citizens into Romanian society. By knowing the specificity of the host country and the national language, the perception of the native population regarding foreign citizens improves, and reluctance and distrust are reduced.
How can the impact of this practice be measured/made measurable?	The impact of this practice can be addressed by following the social evolution of the beneficiaries in the host country and the degree of their assimilation and inclusion by members of local communities.
Elements of sustainability	The sustainability of this project is ensured by the existence of social networks, developed over time, consisting of trained volunteers, media partners, student associations, that support the center activities designed to connect people.
Elements of transferability	<p>A transferability element refers to the know-how acquired by the: coordinating organisation, project partners, Romanian language teachers, cultural mediators and volunteers involved in the project who have acquired specific competencies in relation to beneficiaries.</p> <p>Another transferable element refers to the specific protocols and working methods developed by the local authorities involved in the implementation of the project.</p>