

***Invitation letter to the Network for Dialogue Online Workshop “Advancing the role of education in migrant and refugee inclusion”***

Vienna, 25 August 2020

Dear member of the JLI Network on Faith & Local Communities,

KAICIID’s Network for Dialogue platform has the pleasure to invite you to its online workshop on “Advancing the role of education in migrant and refugee inclusion”. Over the recent years, the number of refugees and migrants in Europe has significantly risen, with social inclusion becoming an imperative task to achieve for the wellbeing of both newcomers and as well as the communities they arrive in. In this context, of particular importance is addressing how formal and non-formal education can contribute to empower refugees and migrants, as well as the organizations working towards their inclusion in the host communities. For this reason, the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) has set up the Network for Dialogue in 2019 as a platform to bring together faith and dialogue actors to empower intercultural and interreligious action for the social inclusion of refugees and migrants. As such, the Network for Dialogue is pleased to offer you an enriched learning experience in the field of the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe through an **online workshop on education**.

This free online workshop is a participatory learning programme for individuals and organizations working in the social integration of refugees and migrants in Europe. It is accessible for Network for Dialogue members as well as other selected networks, in particular the JLI Network on Faith & Local Communities. The workshop is the online equivalent of a training room where participants gather and learn together as a group through collaborative activities stretched over 4 days, consisting of 3 hours each on Zoom.

The aims of the 4 days online workshop on 17-18 and 24-25 September are to share experiences, tackle and embrace challenges, and explore paths forward in the field of education that can further the social inclusion of refugees and migrants. This process will be done together with other peers from around Europe working on similar themes and will be guided by expert facilitators. The outcomes will be the development of lesson plans, strategies and the first steps towards establishing joint projects or joint grant applications. While the format is set, the process will be flexible to allow each participant to achieve their desired outcomes and successfully complete the practical exercise (lesson plan, grant application, joint initiatives).

We are looking forward to **receiving your application until Thursday 3 September at 7pm via the Google Forms** link. If you have any questions, please check the FAQ below and contact the Network for Dialogue Project Manager Aleksandra Djuric-Milovanovic ([aleksandra.djuric@kaiciid.org](mailto:aleksandra.djuric@kaiciid.org)).

With best regards,



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## FAQs about the Online Workshop on Education

- **When is the workshop taking place?**

The online workshop will take place between 17-18 September 2020 and 24-25 September 2020, at 3pm to 6pm CEST.

- **How much time do I need to complete the workshop?**

It will span over 4 days, consisting of 3 working groups interacting for 3 hours each day. There will be a week in between to allow the participants to actively work on the materials and proposals given. The course readings will take between *1-3 hours* to complete, depending on your pace of learning and language skills.

- **How is the teamwork achieved online?**

The reading materials will be provided beforehand. As for working groups per se, a co-facilitator and moderator will be guiding the lessons and prepare you for individual and team tasks. A main facilitator will also oversee each group and provide advice or guidance, where deemed appropriate. All group work takes place through online discussion forums throughout the course.

- **What support will I receive from the facilitators?**

Your facilitators will direct, steer, and support your learning journey. They will send you the reading materials beforehand, present the key concepts at the beginning of each session, and initiate the dialogue amongst the group members.

- **What are the language requirements?**

The workshop and reading materials are provided in English. No interpretation will be available.

- **Will I receive a certificate for completing the workshop?**

Yes. We will provide an electronic certificate to all participants who successfully complete the online workshop. We will assess participation throughout the four days and converse with the co-facilitators.

- **What benefits does the workshop offer?**

- Learning more about the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe through an engaging and participatory experience
- Interacting and exchanging experiences and ideas with other participants and a facilitator in a virtual and social learning environment
- Networking with other individuals and European organizations invested in tackling the core issues surrounding the social inclusion of migrants and people seeking refuge
- Benefiting from the guidance and expertise of leading facilitators in the field of migrant inclusion, education, and human rights
- Working within delegated groups in a practical activity or project (taking advantage of the feedback and support of the facilitators throughout the entire learning process)
- Receiving a certificate which attests your work and contribution throughout the workshop

## **Description of the three subgroups of the Online Workshop**

### **1. The role of Non-formal education in promoting the social inclusion of newcomers, migrants and refugees**

*What the sub-group will work on:*

1. Examining non-formal initiatives outside the school system in a European context (e.g. training, NGO based initiatives, after school activities, mentoring, lifelong learning etc.).
2. Examining how informal initiatives can support non-formal education and vice versa.
3. Reflecting on the current challenges that participants face when implementing non-formal initiatives and using the group's feedback to formulate feasible solutions for their future work.
4. Discussing examples of effective practices.
5. The final outcome will be determined by the participants, who, together with the expert facilitators, will engage in a concrete exercise or a hands-on activity to develop an action plan.

*Guiding Question: How can we best utilize the realms of non-formal education to improve the social inclusion of newcomers, migrants, and refugees in their host communities?*

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### **2. The role of formal education for and about newcomers, migrants and refugees – focusing on diversity, tolerance, and discrimination**

*What the sub-group will work on:*

1. Examining the existing formal curricula and how they deal with newcomers, migrant and refugee issues (special attention will be paid to specific subject areas such as history education, citizenship education and RE (religious education)).
2. Looking at issues relating to multilingualism and bilingualism and how they can be addressed in the classroom.
3. Examining how schools attempt to include newcomers, migrants and refugees – and how they can better reach their full educational potential.
4. Discussing examples of effective practices with hands-on materials/approaches.
5. The final outcome will be determined by the participants, who, together with the expert facilitators, will engage in a concrete exercise or a hands-on activity to develop an action plan.

*Guiding Questions: How can we improve the formal curriculum so that all students gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to better understand the complex societal issues relating to migration, newcomers, migrants and refugees? How can we adapt the curriculum to make it more sensitive to the needs of newcomer, migrants and refugee children?*

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### **3. The role of informal education in improving the social integration of newcomers, migrants and refugees**

*What the sub-group will work on:*

1. Examining the informal dimensions of educational contexts as they relate to newcomers, migrants and refugees (for instance, the school-parent and school-community relations, anti-bullying initiatives, including cyber-bullying, and school drop-out, peer-to-peer and teacher-student relations).
2. Examining how informal initiatives can support formal education and vice versa.
3. Discussing examples of effective practice in informal education.
4. The final outcome will be determined by the participants, who, together with the expert facilitators, will engage in a concrete exercise or a hands-on activity to develop an action plan.

*Guiding Questions: What steps can we take to improve the informal aspects of education, as they relate to newcomers, migrants and refugees? How can informal educational initiatives connect better and support formal education?*