
Mentees' Reflection Workshops Report

I. General Information

Country and Institution: Austria, Verein InterAktion

Title of the event: Mentees' Reflection Workshop in Linz

Date of the event: 21.06.2024

Location of the event: a room from Verein SOS Menschenrecht Österreich

II. Participants

Number of participants: 5

Country of origin: Syria

For how long they have been in the country: up to 1 year

What is their official status (Asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented etc): They don't have yet the asylum

Age range (here you can use an average age of the group): 25 – 50

Gender: women

"Friends We Share – Wellbeing Programme for Refugees with Role Models and Mentors ", Erasmus + project nr 2023-1-PL01-KA220-ADU-000150729.

III. Summary of the exchanges during the event

Summarize the main points from the workshop including interesting findings or anything that is worth mentioning for report.

We started with a short introduction to the project and getting to know each other. The workshop was led in Arabic, as most of the participants don't speak German yet, being led by one of the workers in InterAktion who speaks Arabic.

The main expectation of all the participants was that they learn fast German and they get integrated into the Austrian society and regarding their challenges, they main ones were not having much contact with the austrians, not having much information about Austria and the rules, as well as there are too few opportunities for learning German.

We have discussed about the most important areas such as integration, language, rules in Austria, family and work.

At the same time we made together a plan for a smooth integration in Austria, how to meet new people and how to find the right education opportunities and work.

They were very excited to come to the Connection Cafes and meet the mentors and would like to practice their German language with them and learn as much as possible about Austria from them.

IV. Workshop development

1. Did you include all the activities from the Agenda? If not, which ones did you excluded and why?

Unfortunately, we couldn't include all the activities due to the time, some of the participants had some other appointments and couldn't stay the whole workshop, but we focused on the main ones.

2. Did any issues arise during the workshop? If yes, what kind of problems appeared from the participant point of view?

No issues arose

3. Did you, as an organizer, faced any issues? If yes, what kind of problems did you face during the workshop?

No, only regarding logistics, as some of the women are living outside of Linz and they had to travel to Linz and find the place of the meeting.

V. Evaluation of the participants' satisfaction

Please report the feedback on the participants' satisfaction with the workshop – include images or data provided in the feedback form.

They were really happy with the workshop and they are looking forward to the Connection Cafes and meeting more often. A bit of a down side was the location for the women that don't live in Linz.

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Mentees' Reflection Workshops Report

I. General Information

Country and Institution: Austria, Verein InterAktion

Title of the event: Mentees' Reflection Workshop in Graz

Date of the event: 23.05.2024

Location of the event: International Welcome Center, Graz, Austria

II. Participants

Number of participants: 4

Country of origin: Somalia, Iran

For how long they have been in the country: from 7 months up to 2 years

What is their official status (Asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented etc): 3 of them are still waiting for their asylum and 1 just received it.

Age range (here you can use an average age of the group): 25 - 40

Gender: 3 women, 1 man

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III. Summary of the exchanges during the event

Summarize the main points from the workshop including interesting findings or anything that is worth mentioning for report.

We started with introducing the project and signing the consent documents for data protection, as well as the participants list. Then we played a few games for getting to know each others names and hobbies, including the BINGO game. Then we talked about expectations, fears and contributions where we found out that most of the participants were afraid of meeting new people for the first time or one participants didn't want to meet people from their country, at the same time they are expecting to learn new things from the mentors, to get new ideas, information and discover other cultures.

Regarding contributions they said they could teach Somali language, share ideas, make henna tattoos, teach about music production and how to establish an online business and how to develop it.

After this we shared with them the rules for the Connection cafes and they all agreed and added a new one that was really important: Keep shared information private!

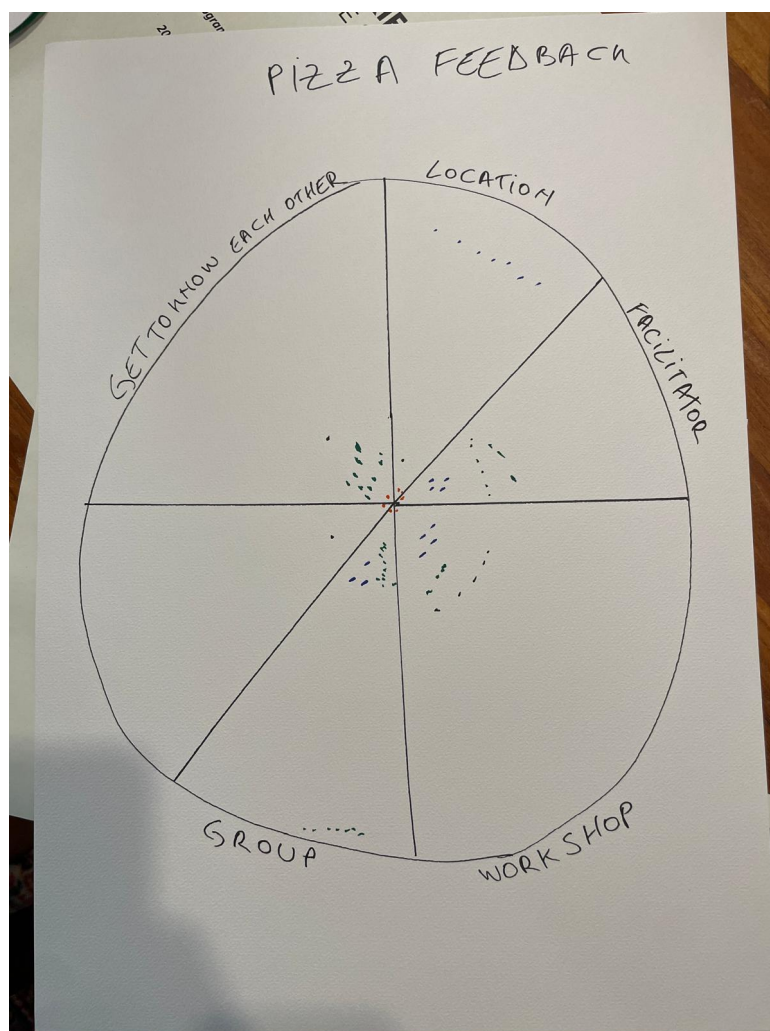
We have discussed about challenges they are facing in Austria and the following were mentioned: language barrier, no access to free education before having the asylum, missing their families, no access to the labour market before having the asylum, difficulty of staying in camps with no privacy until they get their asylum and difficult to find solutions to be independent again.

Regarding needs most of them mentioned the need of getting their documents, having access to education and job market, as well as safety.

After that we talked about their strengths and asked them to fill up the document and keep it for themselves and look over it during the connection cafes.

When asked to share 1 thing they would like to focus on, they said: German language, Digital skills, Self-care, beauty and learning from experiences of others.

At the end we asked them to give us feedback using postcards and the pizza feedback, as well as filling up the online feedback form. See below:



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IV. Workshop development

1. Did you include all the activities from the Agenda? If not, which ones did you excluded and why?

No, unfortunately was not possible due to time constraints, we were informed during the workshop that 2 of them had a German language exam and had to go earlier, so we didn't include the passion mapping part.

2. Did any issues arise during the workshop? If yes, what kind of problems appeared from the participant point of view?

No, no issues arise, even though we had a language barrier, only 2 people being able to speak English, the other 2 were speaking only Somali and few words in English and German. But we translated and printed the handouts in Somali and one of them helped us translated, so it went smoothly.

3. Did you, as an organizer, faced any issues? If yes, what kind of problems did you face during the workshop?

No, expect having to squiz the activities in a shorter time due to last minute information. Also it was challenging working with the language barrier, but we have experience with this, so we adapted some activities to make them more visual, so we wouldn't need so much language.

V. Evaluation of the participants' satisfaction

\Please report the feedback on the participants' satisfaction with the workshop – include images or data provided in the feedback form.

The participants were overall happy with the workshop and found it interesting, the only down side was the location for the 3 Somalian ladies who live outside of Graz in a refugee camp. They felt comfortable in the group and liked the activities especially the one about the strengths.

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