

THE ENTER GAZETTE

THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ENTER TO TRANSFORM

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

The last months of the Enter to Transform have begun and we would like to look back on what happened last month in our project. Besides the news from the regions, this time we would like to present the Irish hub to you.

All the best

The Enter to Transform Team

In This Issue

Entering the Irish Hub

News from the Regions

Upcoming Events

Imprint

Entering the Irish Hub

By J. Blue

In October 2021, Atlantic Technological University's CoLab incubator opened its Enter to Transform Refugee Entrepreneurship Hub. Due to COVID, the entrepreneurship training offered to recognised refugees who were interested in starting a business was conducted online. This facilitated participation of over 50 budding entrepreneurs living in various counties all over the Republic of Ireland. Those who attended were originally from countries such as Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Ukraine Democratic Republic of Congo and other locations around the world.

Participants were offered basic training on how to start a business in Ireland and informed about various business-related

topics such as business ideation & planning, funding, sales and marketing, budget & finances, as well as legal and bureaucratic advice. Attendees who participated in the complete training programme then availed of one-to-one mentoring where they were offered bespoke advice on how to utilise existing business structures to get their business started. Since the training programme was implemented, many regional business support agencies have sought advice from Atlantic Technological University representatives, to better serve and support the refugee entrepreneurs in their regions. ATU plans to hold an Enter to Transform training programme for business support agencies in January 2023 to ensure the piloted programme can be mainstreamed across the west of Ireland.



News from the regions



Pedagogical tools developed and tested to facilitate the professional insertion of recognised refugees in impact entrepreneurship

News from France

By J. Charlot, R. Iniguez

To help disseminate the results of the Enter to Transform project, PULSE has developed a new initiative around the issue of accessibility to social entrepreneurship: "ACT!-Acting together for a more inclusive impact entrepreneurship". Its ambition is to promote access to support for some vulnerable populations including recognised refugees, by training professional integration actors and support operators. Therefore, they can be acculturated to entrepreneurship, or equipped with pedagogical tools for sensitizing, informing or directing their beneficiaries.

Phase 1 - workshops and conclusions. Following workshops that enabled multi-stakeholders (in the field of work integration and impact entrepreneurship) to meet and reflect, methodological kits were co-constructed during the first phase of the ACT! initiative, which ran from February to July 2022.

Tools: two methodological kits: The first one is aimed at work integration structures in order to: make support programmes more visible for these professionals, ensure their knowledge of support programmes in their territories; train them to adopt appropriate postures; make them aware of the opportunities (and risks) that impact entrepreneurship represents for their beneficiaries and therefore better understand individual situations. The second is intended for impact entrepreneurship operators to: work on

sourcing and identifying new project leaders; propose a pedagogical adaptation of programmes to facilitate the inclusion of people who are currently far from impact entrepreneurship, such as RRs; work on communication elements to reach more diverse targets.

The aim of these tools is to expand the support for impact entrepreneurs and to support the sector's change of scale so that everyone can participate in the social and ecological transition.

Phase 2 - Experimenting with the kits: From October 2022 to April 2023 in the Ile-de-France region, the kits are being tested according to a process formalised in several stages. The first is the implementation of the recommendations by a consortium of operators (such as SINGA or La Ruche, working specifically with RRs) and socio-professional integration structures (such as temporary accommodation centres for RRs, or France Terre d'Asile). Sharing of good practices during sharing sessions with consortium members. The second is the evaluation of the impact of the methodological tools, thanks to activity and impact indicators measured by the service provider 'Mesurez votre Impact' (Groupe SOS Consulting x Croix Rouge Française). Third, the improvement and adjustment of the tools according to the recommendations drawn from the experimentation phase and fourth the identification of actions and levers to disseminate these tools on a national and

European scale.

Phase 3 - Dissemination prospects: In a perspective of spreading the support of impact entrepreneurs, the current ACT! consortium will be an ambassador for the dissemination of the methodological tools in open source on the French national territory in a first phase. Four key territories will be prioritised in this dissemination: the cities of Marseille, Bordeaux, Strasbourg and Nantes.

The dissemination of the project will therefore be oriented around collective awareness-raising sessions for professionals who work with refugees in order to make the tools their own, promotional events, PULSE monitoring to accompany the consortium and the creation of video supports complementary to the tools and the graphic restructuring of our tools

What we want this project to achieve is that it can be grasped, understood and easily used by the entrepreneurial and professional integration ecosystem. Its strength lies in the adaptation of pedagogical tools to accompany different groups far from employment, especially refugees, who are the strength of a sustainable and inclusive economy. Then, in a next step, these tools will be disseminated throughout the NWE region in the framework of the Enter to transform project. They will be available on the project platform and partners will be trained to use them at the final event in February 2022.



PULSE participation to World Impact Summit to carry the voice of accessibility of entrepreneurship to RRs

News from France

By J. Charlot, R. Iniguez

As the French final event of the Enter To Transform project, PULSE went to the 5th edition of the World Impact Summit to discuss high-impact entrepreneurship and launch its advocacy to make impact entrepreneurship accessible to all.

The World Impact Summit is an international event that aims to enhance and find solutions to accelerate the social and ecological transition. The event took place in Bordeaux, France, on 30 November and 1 December. 5000 visitors were gathered including government officials, civil society organisations, entrepreneurial support structures, entrepreneurs.

There, PULSE organised a panel on the theme of "Solutions to make impact entrepreneurship more inclusive". Together with the panellists, such as Nathalie Le Roux, Director of La Ruche Bordeaux, one of the partners of the project Enter To Transform, they discussed the solutions for a high-impact entrepreneurship accessible to all,

which are divided in four categories: 1. High-impact entrepreneurship for all, 2. Fairer access to funding for high-impact entrepreneurs, 3. Grassroots high-impact entrepreneurship, 4. High-impact entrepreneurship to bring together and strengthen local stakeholders.

As part of the first category of solutions, PULSE's Managing Director, Anne-Leila Batel, talked about the Enter to transform project and the challenges of enabling refugees to access solutions to develop their entrepreneurial activities as part of the first category of solutions. High-impact entrepreneurship for all means that regardless of social background, gender, race, age, or level of project's maturity, it is essential to understand all entrepreneurs and their motivations. Usually, one becomes an entrepreneur to make a life project come true and to become financially and professionally independent. Notwithstanding these motivations, many are those who will

be discouraged by their lack of experience and failure to grasp the inner workings of entrepreneurship. Self-censorship, administrative and financial apprehension are also often at play.

In this regard, the ACT! Initiative helps disseminate the results of the Enter to transform project, by training professional integration actors and support operators around the issue of accessibility to social entrepreneurship. Its ambition is to promote access to support for certain vulnerable populations, who are far from entrepreneurship, namely women, refugees and jobseekers - who are particularly interested in professional retraining.

Other panellists include Erwin FAURE, co-founder of KEENAT, Christophe Itier, President of Mod'emplois, Former President and co-founder of Mouves (Mouvement Impact France) and former High Commissioner for the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation and Nathalie Le Roux, Director of La Ruche Bordeaux



Enter participated in the Global Refugee Entrepreneurship summit in Venice

News from Germany

By L. Wloka

From October 26th to 28th, the global refugee entrepreneurship summit took place in Venice. This event is one of the largest and most important events for refugee entrepreneurship worldwide. Enter to Transform was represented there and led a session on "transforming migrant entrepreneurship through collaborative frameworks" together with Hello Europe and Ashoka. The session identified four barriers to refugee entrepreneurship: a lack of data, especially at the regional level;

complex and bureaucratic processes which impede access to entrepreneurship and the labour market for refugees and migrants; too few funding opportunities; and the lack of a connected, visible and recognized ecosystem for migrant entrepreneurs. Possible solutions to address the problems (e.g. reframing migration narratives, initiating a platform for exchange, harmonize methodologies on data collection, tax incentives for hiring migrants, recognize foreign qualification,

handbook for the public sector etc.) were further presented. Other sessions revolved among others around funding, working with large companies and the visibility of migrants and refugees in politics. There were also two academic sessions where the state of research was discussed. For Enter to Transform, the conference was a great success. We networked with more actors and exchanged ideas with others





Launch of scientific competence centre on migrant enterprises

News from Germany

By L. Wloka

Scientists and business experts from North Rhine-Westphalia are joining forces in the "NRW Business Dialogue - Competence Centre for Multicultural and Migrant Entrepreneurship". The signing of the declaration of cooperation between the Institute for Work and Technology (IAT) of the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences in Gelsenkirchen, the Centre for Turkish Studies and Integration Research Foundation (ZfTI) and FIAP - Research Institute for Work Design and Prevention e.V. and Train of Hope (ToH) Dortmund e.V. laid the foundation stone for the think tank.

Although migrants found much more frequently companies than natives, not every start-up becomes a success story. Sometimes entrepreneurial know-how, financial possibilities and preparation time are lacking. The promotion and preservation of the economic and social potential of migrant

entrepreneurship is the focus of the newly founded think tank "Wirtschaftsdialog NRW".

The competence centre has set itself the goal of taking a scientific look at founders and entrepreneurs with a history of immigration in NRW and creating dialog forums in which migrant and non-migrant, new and experienced entrepreneurs as well as representatives of economic development institutions in the state can exchange ideas and develop growth and internationalization strategies. Represented by the founding members Dr. Judith Terstriep (IAT), Dr. Alexandra David (IAT), Prof. Dr. Maria Elo (SDU & IAT), Fatma Karacakurtoglu (ToH), Armando García Schmidt, Cem Şentürk (ZfTI) and Silke Steinberg (FIAP), the new think tank starts its activities NRW-wide.

The focus of the joint project is the ev-

idence-based sensitization for multicultural and migrant entrepreneurship as an economic factor with innovative power and the associated appreciation of entrepreneurs. The generation and dissemination of new knowledge on the role of migrant entrepreneurs in local ecosystems as well as diaspora and network structures are central cornerstones.

The initiation of joint projects with a model character seems to be just as important to the think tank's creators as the establishment of suitable transfer and dialog formats that create space for exchange between science and practice and for experimenting with new ideas and approaches. In addition, it is planned to offer consulting services for cities and municipalities as well as interested intermediaries.



Launching Event - Transforming the field of migration through collaborative framework report

News from Germany

By L. Wloka

From On November 3, the launching event of Hello Europa and Ashoka for the report on recommendations towards a connected and resilient migrant workforce and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Europe took place.

Dr. Alexandra David from the Institute for Work and Technology and Dr. Judith Terstriep, who contributed to the report participated from the Enter to Transform consortium. They represent two of the more than 130 experts from academia, politics, business and media who have met in several groups over the past year to discuss the following 4 topics:

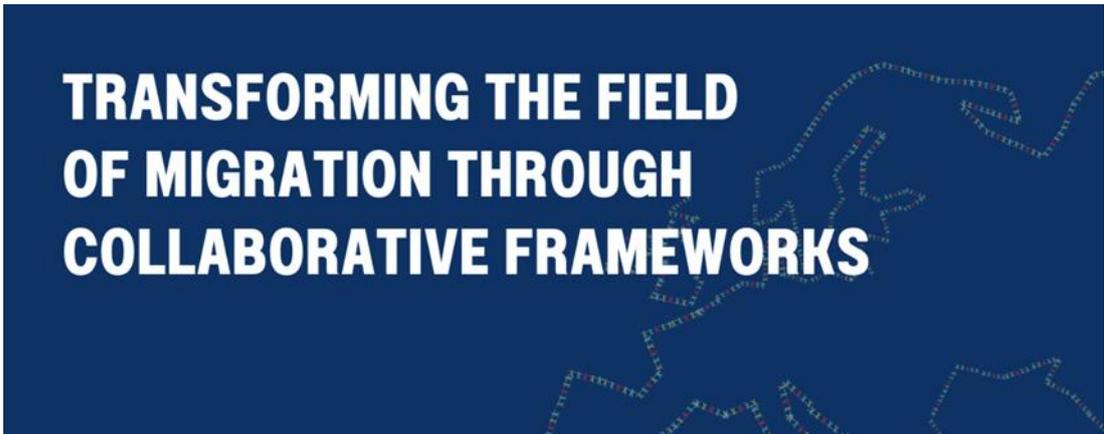
1. To assess the root causes of the lack of a well-articulated and connected migrant workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Europe;
2. To analyze the systems in which migrants operate as employees and entrepreneurs;
3. To co-design critical shifts to achieve system change and

4. To brainstorm on steps to collective action.

With her expertise and practical knowledge from the Enter to Transform project, Dr. Alexandra David served as one of the presenters in the event. She underlined the value of migrant entrepreneurs for sustainable development and emphasized that migrants are the backbone of economies in Europe. She also explained that nowadays we can see an upscaling in the field of migrant businesses as more and more migrants are starting their businesses in the tech industry. What we have seen in the Enter to transform project is, that the needs and stories of our clients are very different. Every migrant and refugee entrepreneur is unique and needs individual support.

Four visions and major steps for migrant and refugee employment and entrepreneurship were presented: For improved data, a platform or

knowledge network is recommended to share data and look at what already exists. Second, it would be desirable to hire more migrants and refugees, which would require inclusive hiring processes. Third, better financial support for migrant and refugee entrepreneurs and more support services such as Enter to Transform would be needed. Fourth, in order to create a connected and resilient migrant workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem we need to create a connected network of innovation, workforce, entrepreneurial and start-up ecosystems on the topic for knowledge exchange and funding support. This would include helping local ecosystems, good practice sharing, co-creating an action plan on how to work with the public sector to improve public-private-partnerships (PPP) and developing special purpose vehicles to share project ownership.



Enter represented at the Ashoka Change Maker Summit!

News from Germany

By L. Wloka

From This year's Ashoka Change-maker Summit took place in the Belgian capital of Brussels from November 29th to 30th. Ashoka is a global network of social entrepreneurs, with more than 3,700 innovators working across 90 countries on today's most pressing issues. The Change maker summit was one of the largest and most important gatherings of social, refugee and migrant entrepreneurs. The annual meeting of practitioners, academics and representatives from business and policy, which has been taking place since 2018, was held in person for the first time since Covid and offered many opportunities for exchange, networking and mutual learning.

Dr. Alexandra David from the Enter to Transform team, together with representatives from SINGA, Ashoka Hello Europe and the Human Safety Net, led the session "Transforming the Field of Migration Through Collaborative Frameworks" and participated in the discussion and the report by exchanging knowledge from the project. On this basis, during the session, the Ashoka-Hello Europe-report was presented (see other article in this newsletter) and recommendations were discussed with the participants of the session. Migration is seen as change making in action, where migrants are recognized as change makers, innovative solutions are scaled, and collabora-

tive frameworks emerge to transform the entire system. Differences should be reframed as strengths and we need a mind-set shift around what refugee and migrant entrepreneur are capable of. In addition, access to resources plays a key role and enhancing access to resources and making entrepreneurship more inclusive is exactly what Enter does through its training and mentoring programs. The event was a great success and it was very encouraging to discuss with social and migrant entrepreneurs how to remove barriers on access and equity. Here we were able to bring in experience from Enter to Transform as well as get new ideas and inspiration for the project.

► Transforming the Field of Migration Through Collaborative Frameworks

Dr. Alexandra David
Institute Work and Technology | Westphalian University

Nuha Boga
Embark Project

Fatemeh Jailani
SINGA Global

Stefano Rovelli
The Human Safety Net | Generali

Kenny Clewett
Ashoka | Hello Europe

Ibrahim Ahmad
Ashoka | Hello Europe

Ella Goncarova
Ashoka | Hello Europe

ASHOKA
DECISIONS
▲ Ashoka Changemaker Summit

Tuesday, November 29th
Bruxelles, Belgium

acms.ashoka.org

Refugee Entrepreneurship Conference held at ATU!

News from Ireland

By J. Blue

In October 2022, Atlantic Technological University played host to the Enter to Transform Refugee Entrepreneurship Conference. The event was attended by professional representatives of organisations who have an interest in improving the wellbeing and inclusivity of refugees, as well as improving the opportunities available to them. Attendees included the Irish Refugee Council, Donegal Intercultural Platform, Local Development Companies, The Red Cross, Youth Services and many others. The recent influx of refugees from Ukraine has heightened awareness of refugee af-

fairs and increased interest in improving prospects for those who are misplaced due to war and other factors. It is hoped that this will continue to stimulate organisations to better accommodate refugees in the years to come.

Speakers included Rory O'Neill from the Irish Refugee Council, who highlighted that refugee access to business support in Ireland is vital to allow newcomers to contribute to the Irish economy and to be self-sufficient. Paul Kernan of Donegal Intercultural Platform discussed the importance of Refugee Entrepreneurship for inclusivity and equal opportunity in Ireland.

Juanita Blue of Atlantic Technological University presented the Enter to Transform Entrepreneurship Training Programme framework, sharing the learnings and experience gained from piloting the bi-lingual training programme in the North-West region of Ireland. Following the presentations, all attendees participated in a roundtable discussion that addressed all aspects of refugee entrepreneurship in the Republic of Ireland. Through this, many potential infrastructural improvements that could develop the opportunities for refugees were identified.





Save the date! – Final Event Enter to Transform

After three exciting, busy and informative years, the Enter to Transform project ends this year.

The project focuses on developing an enabling environment of hubs supporting recognised refugee (RR) re-starters to unfold their economic and social potential. Through individual mentoring, the hubs function as »door openers«, enabling access to existing entrepreneurial infrastructures while introducing RRs to the how and where and from whom they can obtain the tools necessary to restart business activities.

We invite you to participate in our Online Panel Discussion on meaningful future support of newcomers' entrepreneurial activities on Wednesday, 22 February 2023, from 10:00 to 12:00 am.

Detailed agenda coming soon!

Register today!



Upcoming Events

1 ATU will be hosting the Enter to Transform Train-the-Trainer Event in January 2023. During this event, ATU will share all aspects of the Irish ETT programme with various business support agencies across the West of Ireland.

2 Next partner meeting in Germany in February 2023.

3 Online Panel Discussion on support of newcomers' entrepreneurs

Imprint

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Disclaimer

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Enter to Transform is a joint transnational project that develops a supportive environment of hubs functioning through mentoring as «door opener» for recognized refugee (RR) restarters to enter existing entrepreneurial infrastructure in NWE. It introduces RRs in how, where, and by whom to get the tools they need to restart business activities. The project is co-funded by the Interreg North-West Europe Programme under grant agreement NWE1096.

Design by Judith Terstriep

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Page 11	Alexandra David/ Ashoka
Page 12	ATU
Page 13	ATU
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