Qredits, a leading microfinance organisation for small and medium-size enterprises in the Netherlands, has partnered with the Dutch Council for Refugees and the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KVK) to implement a training project on entrepreneurship tailored for migrants. The project aims to improve the inclusion of migrants in Dutch society and boost their self-reliance and prospects of success in self-employment.

In the Netherlands, employment rates for migrants are stagnating while the population of third country nationals in the country is increasing. Many migrants have precarious contracts and work in vulnerable sectors. On average, only 3% of employed migrants are self-employed. Support for migrant entrepreneurs is not tailored to their needs, with limited options available. This project will contribute to the provision of better support for migrants starting their own businesses, by familiarising them with the Dutch business environment and facilitating their access to innovative financing instruments.

The Qredits initiative will target migrants 18 to 60 years old who have a business idea or with an entrepreneurial background in their country of origin. The project will provide tailor-made trainings and financing to potential entrepreneurs, drawing on previous experiences of the implementing partners working on migrant entrepreneurship. By completing the training programme, participants are expected to improve their business skills and network and to have better opportunities for gaining the required funding and for successful self-employment.

A total of 18 training programmes will be made available in at least 10 municipalities throughout the Netherlands, reaching some 270 migrants in need of entrepreneurial support. The different modules focus on developing their entrepreneurial skills, a business plan, defining customer groups and markets, financial skills and practical aspects of starting a business in the Netherlands. Alongside the training, the participants will be able to access individual coaching run by volunteers. In addition, once migrant entrepreneurs are ready to start their businesses, they will be able to apply for microcredit loans from Qredits. If their application is approved they can receive a loan of up to €50 000 made possible through funding from a CEB loan to Qredits.

The Qredits partnership with the Dutch Council for Refugees and KVK addresses migrant entrepreneurs needs and complements other support and services on migrant integration offered by local municipalities. The Qredits Entrepreneurial Training Program for Migrants will further benefit municipalities by generating employment and public savings. It is expected that this economic impact will encourage municipalities or host organisations to support repeat cycles or the scaling up of such training programmes.