



EMPOWER!

Empowering Migrants in Professional Welfare & Economic Rights



In Turin, Italy, non-EU migrants account for around 5% of the population. They experience a significantly higher unemployment rate than locals and EU migrants, and are very often overqualified for the work they do. Furthermore, they are frequently unable to ensure recognition of their skills and qualifications, and therefore cannot use these. Faced with a lack of employment opportunities, many choose to become self-employed or to start a business. However, they often encounter difficulties in accessing business loans, due to a lack of credit history and guarantees.

The **EMPOWER! Empowering Migrants in Professional Welfare & Economic Rights**

pilot project aimed to increase the employability of migrants through job orientation paths by enhancing skills already acquired in their countries of origin, and via tutorship and financial support when starting a micro-enterprise. EMPOWER! – which was part of the EU-funded **Partnerships and Financing for Migrant Inclusion (PAFMI)** initiative – was led by Microlab, a voluntary association that promotes social inclusion in Italy through mentoring and training to support entrepreneurship and financial education.





Results

- **600** beneficiaries were reached, of whom 50% were women and 36% were people under 30 years old.
- **118** migrants improved their financial literacy.
- **176** migrant centre operators were trained in financial education, enhancing their ability to support migrants with these topics.
- **45** beneficiaries received support in having their qualifications recognised, including eight admitted into training/education and six obtaining formal recognition of educational titles.
- Of the **61** participants in individual career counselling, 12 are known to have found a job, others are doing internships, and further results are expected in the long term.
- **25** microloans were awarded (for an average amount of EUR 17 000), mainly to those launching businesses. Nine of the recipients were under 36 years old.
- **101** migrants received entrepreneurial education and mentoring.



Best practices and lessons learnt

- **Step-by-step support in ensuring that educational credits obtained in home countries are recognised in host countries is instrumental** in facilitating integration.
- **Effective business mentoring requires an understanding of the specific situation and past experience of the migrant**, including the context of their country of origin.
- **Finding the 'right time' to enrol a migrant in a training pathway is key** to prevent drop-outs due to personal circumstances, and to help migrants reconcile their current work and family commitments.



Timothy Donato
Project Manager, Microlab



The involvement of the European Union, CEB and PAFMI has allowed the [EMPOWER!] project to experiment. This experimentation can turn into good practices and policies - policies that are able to accompany migrant people to full integration."

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