

Factsheet of Good Practice

SHAPE Academy for Local Authorities in Hungary



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SHaring Actions for Participation
and Empowerment of migrant
communities and Las

SHAPE Academy for Local Authorities in Hungary

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Background information

Title	SHAPE Academy for Local Authorities in Hungary
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Summary

The SHAPE Academy for local authorities was implemented in Hungary on 30th of January (Monday), 6th of February (Monday) and 10th of February (Friday) to provide training for local municipalities decision-makers about the integration and participation of migrants.

Goals

Based on research conducted by Artemisszió Foundation within the SHAPE Project, migrants are rather an invisible group, local municipalities don't exactly know who they are and what their needs and challenges are, so they can't provide them adequate services. On the other hand, migrants struggle mainly because of the lack of information and language barriers as there is no state-supported Hungarian language education provided, while services and information are only available in Hungarian.

The 3-days long training series main aim was to provide information to local municipalities' decision-makers about integration and participation of migrants in Hungary and about the civil society organizations in the field. The Academy also aimed to sensitize participants about the issue by involving migrants themselves, and to motivate them to act and create change.

How does it work?



The Shape Academy's first day started with an introductory session of the project, of the participants, their expectations and motivations. We continued with an introductory presentation of Good Democratic Governance and lunch. In the afternoon the participants had a chance in the frames of a World Café to talk about integration and define what they think integration means. This was followed by the presentation when we talked about participatory democracy and the integration process talking about theoretical models like the Berry model discussing the difference between separation, marginalization, multiculturalism and interculturalis, as well as about integration process on the EU level (Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion and Common Basic Principles for integration of migrants).



We started the second day with a Migration Quiz. It is an interactive way to learn more about facts, numbers and definitions connected to migration. We asked 15 questions connected to migration moving from the global than to the EU than to the local context. After each questions, we screened some charts and explained some definitions connected to migration. After the Migration Quiz we had a session where we invited empirical experts, an Afghan refugee living in Hungary for 8 years, a Jordanian pregnant woman with family-reunification visa living in Hungary for a few years and a Kosovar university student living in Hungary for a year. In addition we screened the presentation of a Jordanian woman with family reunification visa and kids with different ages who couldn't join eventually. This was one of our most successful sessions, we had challenges to translate from English to Hungarian to the participants, but still it was very engaging for the participants to learn about migrants' difficulties in Hungary from migrants themselves.

After lunch we did a presentation about the local context in Hungary, including MIPEX and NIEM's general findings. The main takeaway here is that in terms of law, Hungary is doing well, but policy and implementation is very poor as there is only equality on paper. We also talked about the brief history and current practice regarding integration and about rights of migrants especially refugees, such as voting and citizenship. Finally, we closed the day with a session connected to interculturality. We started with a take a step ahead game, where participants received role cards and had to step only when they thought a statement is connected to their characters. The aim of this game aim is to further develop empathy and see the obstacles migrants face and understand the difference between the concepts of equity and equality. Afterwards we continued with a “What does that mean to you” game with an aim to explore that we understand differently very basic things such as “how many minutes does it mean to be late?” In the last half an hour we made a presentation about concepts connected to interculturality and participants could take home Artemisszió’s handbook for intercultural trainings.

In the first days of the training our participants asked us to invite civil society organizations so that they can learn about their activities and good practices to involve migrants. In the last day of the SHAPE Academy we had 4 different presentations, from Menedék, Hungarian Association for Migrants, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Next Step Association and Artemisszió Foundation’s Mira Intercultural Community. After the presentations we had a discussion and the invited presenters stayed for lunch as well. This was our second most successful session after the empirical experts. In the afternoon we concentrated on the future; we asked the question what local governments could do to better handle the needs of migrants and to involve them better. We also concentrated on what individually each of the participants could do in their own fields of work. At the end of the day, we finished the SHAPE Academy with a feedback session and with talking about the next steps of the SHAPE Project.

Results

As an impact local decision-makers can use the knowledge and tools they gained during the training to better involve migrants. We are glad that as a direct result of our training, in the 8th district municipality the need for translators in nurseries and kindergardens were defined and put it into the local equal opportunity plan, meaning that a budget will be allocated for this cause as well.

Evaluation

We sent out an evaluation questionnaire to the participants from where we received positive feedbacks, especially to the invited empirical experts, invited civil society organizations, “take a step back ahead”, presentation about the integration policy and practice in Hungary, and World Café: What does integration mean to you? Sessions, where we received maximum scores from all the participants who filled out the survey to the question: “How satisfied are you with this block?”

Who benefits?

15 participants joined in total, 15 to the first session, 14 to the second and 14 to the third session. 13 participants joined to all the 3 sessions and 2 people only joined to 2 sessions because of sickness.

Budapest itself has 23 different municipalities (23 different districts) that has the same role as municipalities in all the ther city, town and village municipalities in Hungary. The participants came from 3 different municipalities: 7th district of Budapest, 8th district of Budapest and 9th district of Budapest. These are inner districts of Budapest with a more significant migrant population.

From the 8th district municipality one of the deputy mayors joined who is responsible for social and civil issues and is in a decision-making position regarding integration policies. In addition professionals from the social services and child protection service and many nursery managers joined, who are one of the first contact for migrant families in the municipality. From the 7th district the office manager and the assistant office manager joined from the Municipality office as well as someone from the Integrated Human Services Center. Finally from the 9th district the equal opportunity and youth referent joined. These resulted in a very diverse group of participants from different levels starting from people who are in a daily contact with migrant families to office managers to decision-makers regarding integration policies. Indirectly migrants living in Hungary benefited as well as they enjoy the more inclusive services local municipalities provide.

Source of funding and resources used

The SHAPE Academy for local municipalities was funded by the European Union's AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) funded SHAPE Project.

Replicability

The Hungarian SHAPE Academy for local authorities can be replicated in similar context where there is limited knowledge and practices about the integration and participation of migrants. In context where there are measures already taken a more advanced Academy is needed.

Insights gained

The Hungarian SHAPE Academy for local authorities was an important event to bridge the information gap of local municipalities and to engage them to better involve migrant in decision making.