



ACTIVE REFUGEES
IN THE COMMUNITY

PROJECT RESULTS

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Active Refugees in the Community

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As a result of the ARC project, the wellbeing, acceptance, societal knowledge, handcraft, language and job creation skills of participating immigrants with refugee background have improved. Altogether 506 immigrants with refugee background were directly influenced by the project. Also, 435 local people, 225 representatives of local public sector and 122 NGOs and other interested groups in Finland and Sweden have improved their understanding on refugees, their background, challenges and personal assets via participating in project activities and events, via social media and the final seminar.

Project main results are:

- 8 greenhouses were designed and built out of recycled materials to meet the needs of urban farmers and the needs of the city development
- Model of communal gardening was developed in cooperation with local public authorities and associations
- Concept "Seed 2 Pot 2 People" was piloted
- E-learning materials were created: 11 video tutorials and online vocabulary test in Finnish language
- Urban Farmer Certificate was created
- 1 immigrant with refugee background was employed via project activities
- Local language programme was developed in Sweden
- Documentary film called "Pistokkaat" was filmed
- An Internet Radio Station managed by immigrants was founded and experimented
- 86 events were organized with 904 participants
- Research made by Emma Piirinen "*Greetings from the ARC -Creating Community Garden in Urban Environment*"
- New cooperational network between NGOs, other associations and local authorities to improve sharing information on immigrants
- Initiative for City of Tampere is planned to improve the cultivation possibilities in Tampere
- Recommendation report for local authorities and NGOs was created

ARC project piloted cost efficient methods to combine building, urban farming, green care, cultural activities and community building for the integration of Finnish and Swedish immigrants. The piloted methods and practices were disseminated to local public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders working with immigrants. The developed concepts and methods are transferable and can be used also in other regions and countries, especially in Northern Europe. The piloted methods with recommendations can be found in the report *""Recommendation Report ARC"*.

ARC project has increased information on immigrants and their stories among public authorities, NGOs and local people to prevent the marginalization of immigrants. During the project, the stories of immigrant families have been shared in documentary film made by Tampere Region Film Centre. The documentary called *"Pistokkaat"* follows the immigrants participating in the ARC project activities throughout the project. Also, several public authority representatives have been influenced by the project activities by taking part of the activity planning, recruitment of the immigrants and by participating in the project activities to meet immigrants.

ARC project has enabled peer support for immigrants with refugee background in Finland and Sweden by offering them joint activities to meet other immigrants. The developed Language Cafe in Sweden has been very important part of the immigrant daily routine and to give peer support. Also, joint project starting from the glasshouse planning followed by building activities and growing vegetables has given a good platform for encountering of many kinds of people. Piloting *"Seed 2 Pot 2 People"* the immigrants were able to practise work place skills and were responsible for the cultivation, bringing them sustainability and responsibility.

ARC project organized 86 events of which 59 were public. The events consisted on different subjects such as building, growing vegetables in pots, raised beds, greenhouse environment and outdoors. Also cooking, nature related events, interviews and cultural events were organized. The immigrants also participated in organizing events, radio station programming and language cafe developing.

Tampere University research project *"Co-designing social interactions in everyday life"* has participated in the Active refugees in the community project. The research project investigates second language use and learning in everyday interactions embedded in diverse sociocultural and material environments. The aim is to provide new understanding on how Finnish is used and learned by L2 speakers in and through everyday interactions and contribute to the development of experientially based pedagogical practices that connect the language use environments in L2 users' life-worlds with classroom practices.