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ERASMUS+ PROJECT '*EDUCATING SOCIAL PARTNERS TOWARDS ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN SMEs*' (MigrAID)

### THE CLOSING PHASE OF MigrAID

The MigrAID project, running since October 2016, has become to its latest stage of implementation. The partnership, during the last 34 months, carried out a number of research and educational activities. At first, a research study that scrutinizes the integration of migrants from different angles and perspectives and the existing challenges carried out among the five countries. Then the partnership constructed a set of educational materials and tools that aim to foster the integration of migrants in SMEs and society. Some of the materials and tools are addressed to social partners – trade unionists and business executives – and some other to migrants living and working in the five MigrAID EU member states: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, France and Denmark. The MigrAID outputs are applicable to all EU Member States as well; thought certain parts require adjustments to fit national contexts.

The partnership also implemented a series of other activities such as seminars designed specifically for the two major target groups of the project – social partners and migrants; the seminars aimed to inform the audiences about the outputs of the project, to raise awareness among the participants on migrants' integration and/or provide basic training. The seminars for both groups have been implemented in all five countries of MigrAID.

Additionally, between 13 -17 May 2019, the partnership organized and carried out a training week in Padua, Italy. The training week was addressed to the staff of the partners' organizations, to trade unionists, SMEs representative, business executives and representatives of migrants' organizations. 31 participants from all five countries, from different ethnic backgrounds, educational levels and work experiences made up the training group.

On Friday 12, July 2019, the Final Conference of the project has been carried out with the title '*The Integration of Migrants in Work and Society: Challenges, Processes and Tools that Stimulate Effective Integration*'. The Conference attracted a considerable number of participations; particularly, more than 90 participants attended from more than 40 local organizations and from both of the communities of the Island including: trade unions, migrants' associations, public authorities, NGOs and employers' associations.



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The keynote speaker of the Conference, *Dr. Rebekka Ehret from the University of Lucerne*, delivered an inspirational speech on the intersections of diversity and the ways that the multiple dimensions of differentiation shape social patterns and conditions. The speech held the interest of the audience to the end and inspired an interesting discussion.

The Conference also accommodated a speech on the migrants' integration in SMEs, the challenges and problems faced in the Turkish Cypriot community of the Island, which was delivered by Mr. Hasan Yikici representing the trade union DEV-İŞ. Finally, the partners of the consortium presented the final outputs of the project, the experiences in implementing the project within their national frames and conditions and the challenges and the opportunities that the produced tools imply for social partners and the integration of migrants in the EU societies.