

Storytelling is a wonderful way to playfully learn to use a language, to be in touch with others and to express oneself. What if storytelling is used as educational method favouring migrants integration in local communities?

LISTEN offers a storytelling-based approach to stimulate personal development and learning of refugees that have to establish themselves in their new host countries, often under very difficult conditions. Storytelling has the potential to unite different groups in a community because of being interactive, immediate and personal. Through storytelling trust can be built between people, creating the conditions to exchange freely, and through sharing (life) stories, a bond develops that helps to overcome the focus on difference and to discover the commons of our human experience.



## What has been done so far?

### 📖 LISTEN Research

A large scale online survey has been launched in May 2017 to understand how trainers and facilitators feel about storytelling and the idea to connect it with radio broadcasting to give refugees a voice in their new communities. We thank everyone who contributed to our research, we received 208 answers from 13 countries.

Among all the impressions, here are the main conclusions:

- 📖 the storytelling approach is well known;
- 📖 many have experiences with storytelling from teacher's/trainer's perspective;
- 📖 see positive effects of using storytelling in their work with migrants/refugees;
- 📖 are open to use storytelling and radio broadcasting in their work.

Nevertheless, the respondents found out that therefore:

- 📖 they need more competences in: storytelling, intercultural communication/awareness, media competences and technical expertise;
- 📖 challenges to do radio are seen in: their learners' language skills, radio station access, and lack of technical skills as well as conventionalization of radio programmes.

**>> Read all results [here](#).**

### 📌 Partner meeting in Athens

Based on the research results, the partners have met on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Athens (Greece), hosted by Active Citizens Partnership, and worked on the development of the training modules that were then tested during the Training Course.

### 📌 Training course

The LISTEN training course was held from January 22<sup>nd</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> at the premises of the Verein Multikulturell – Tyrolean Integration Centre in Innsbruck, Austria.

The LISTEN training course was attended by 20 trainers, counsellors and social workers from UK, Greece, Sweden, Italy, Austria and Germany, who work with refugees and other people who were forced to leave their countries and to migrate to Europe, and who are interested in storytelling and broadcasting techniques.



The five-day course covered four topics that make up the LISTEN approach:

- 📌 **Intercultural, ethical and psycho-social basics for working with refugees:** how to deal with language barriers, gender roles, different educational backgrounds and traumatisation, but also how to create preconditions in a group to open up to exchange stories with each other.
- 📌 **Storytelling methods to empower refugees:** after a brief theoretical introduction to the forms and potentials of storytelling, the practical application of various storytelling methods (e.g. biographical, for language learning, stories for reflection) were exemplified in group activities, to be used in different social and learning contexts. This also included finding stories and presenting stories.

- ☞ **How to make radio:** the LISTEN consortium considers radio as an important and fruitful medium to support the integration of refugees by offering a platform to share stories. Also the medium offers the opportunity to implement project oriented activities, in which a number of relevant organisational and social competences can be developed. Trainers learnt how to make use of this medium with their learners, in regard to technical skills, but also how to conceptualise such approaches.
- ☞ **Competence development and learning** through storytelling and creating radio programmes. The LEVEL5 approach was introduced in order to support structured reflection on individual competence developments gained in non-formal and informal learning contexts (like LISTEN) and how to apply this method with refugees to help them become aware of their competences and to evidence this development.

The last day was dedicated to collaboratively develop ideas how to implement the LISTEN approach into the own working environments of the trainers present. All participants agreed that this new method will positively inform their work at home and looked forward to try some of the methods practiced during the course.

>> [Click here to listen to the radio show](#) held with LISTEN partners on FREIRAD - Freies Radio Innsbruck: one hour of interviews, stories and music, moderated by Ovagem Agaidyan from Verein Multikulturell – Tyrolean Integration Centre (Austria) on Wednesday, 23/01/2018.



## Upcoming events

The LISTEN training material will be finalized after the training course to include the additional insights and the participants' overall feedback.

The participants will organise pilot projects with refugees and migrants on storytelling until August 2018. Both trainer and participants of the piloting will have the possibility to assess and validate their competence developments through validation system called LEVEL5.

An European award will be launched for stories told by refugees. The price is an invitation to join the LISTEN final event in Palermo in autumn 2018. The awarded stories will also be published as multilingual audio book. The call will be published in early Spring.



## LISTEN WEBSITE

Find more information about the project, materials for storytelling in education and its partners on our **website** [listen.bupnet.eu/](http://listen.bupnet.eu/) and our [Facebook Page](#).

## Who is behind LISTEN

LISTEN – Learning Intercultural Storytelling is a two-year project (December 2016 to November 2018) co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships in the field of Adult education, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany.

The partnership is made up seven partners out of six European countries:

- 🕒 BUPNET Bildung und Projekt Netzwerk GMBH (Germany),
- 🕒 Verein Multikulturell – Tyrolean Integration Centre (Austria),
- 🕒 Active Citizens Partnership (Greece),
- 🕒 Kommun Skellefteå (Sweden),
- 🕒 Blended learning institutions' cooperative (Germany),
- 🕒 Community Action Dacorum (United Kingdom),
- 🕒 CESIE (Italy).



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