

Storytelling is a wonderful way to express oneself. What if storytelling is used as a tool to promote refugees' integration in local communities? LISTEN – Learning from Intercultural Storytelling – offers a storytelling-based approach to stimulate personal development and learning for refugees that have to establish themselves in their new host countries, often under very difficult conditions. The LISTEN approach was successfully piloted in all partner regions. One



of the outcomes of these activities is a collection of life stories told by involved refugees. This collection was enriched by stories that were submitted in the European LISTEN award aimed to collect refugees' stories across Europe. From all these stories two were nominated for the LISTEN award and presented during the Festival of Social and Labour Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees held on Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at the co-working space and restaurant "Moltivolti" – the final event of the LISTEN project and an excellent opportunity to make everyone aware of the project, its techniques and results.

What has been done so far?

LISTEN Festival



The Festival, with the participation of all the European partners of the LISTEN project, was also an opportunity for external experts, such as professionals, trainers and other volunteer working with migrants and refugees to learn and familiarise with some of the techniques of storytelling to be integrated into their daily practice. Indeed, following the presentation of the project held by the coordinator BUPNET, a workshop on storytelling was held in which the participants

took part in different storytelling activities, learning and practicing in this way different methodologies that can be reproduced in their respective working contexts.

Through the activities, a storytelling path was proposed in which the participants were guided with simple techniques to stimulate their ability to tell and invent stories, and give voice to images with the use of their imagination and creativity. Applied storytelling represents a creative method that serves to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, because these are qualities that we find in different variations in each person and cultures of the world.

Actually, during the workshop the participants spoke different languages, thus being an occasion to demonstrate that verbal language does not constitute an obstacle, but rather an instrument that unites, which allows us to know each other better and share stories and experiences – a tool that can be used in a thousand ways.

The final exercise was a summary with a particular effect and a strong message: by choosing black and white images the participants created the recipe for the 'inclusion soup', then explaining each one the reason for choosing their own photo and in how this image or message is a fundamental ingredient to favour the path of inclusion.

LISTEN Award

Following the workshop, there was the moment of the Award Ceremony that celebrated the two best stories told by migrants and refugees and recorded during the LISTEN project. The two winners of the storytelling contest, Mamadou and Prudence, with their own voices and narrations have made it possible for the audience to get a glimpse, a memory of their country, a witness of their experiences, far away, difficult, but full of meaning, which they could convey with their emotions.



Real/Non-fictional story: Mamadou Oury Diallo with «A talented boy» (in Italian)

Omar, a young boy from Guinea Conakry, with the dream to become a singer and a traveller. After the death of his father, he couldn't stay anymore and has decided to escape from his country. He travelled more than two years to reach Italy. The journey was difficult. At the age of 15, he started a new life in Palermo. He studied and started art activities: theatre, music. His role model in his life is Thomas Sankara. He wants to spread a message to all African young people migrating to Europe: to have patience and hopes. Tomorrow will be a better day.

Fictional stories/ legends: Prudence Onyejiaka with «The arrogant princess» (in English)

In a certain Kingdom somewhere in the western part of Africa lived a king who planned to marry out his daughter the princess to the any man of her choice. The arrogant princess was too proud and saw nothing good in all her suitors until she learnt her lesson the hard way.

Another story has been shared during the Festival, from Mouhamed Chamwil Njifon with “Bamba” (in Italian)

The story tells about his journey from Libya to Italy and then about his life in Italy. At the end he expresses the desire of something he would like to have in the future. Through his story he wants to spread a message to all migrants that are waiting for their documents in refugee camps: to be patient.

The Festival ended with a surprise for the winners. They received as a gift a smartphone as a tool to continue the journey of telling and disseminating stories independently. With an aperitif the event closed, giving the opportunity to the participants to interact with each other and exchange impressions about the event.

🎧 **The LISTEN LABEL**



Do you represent a European organisation that promotes commitment in working with refugees and providing space for their (life) stories? Why not letting your stakeholders know about it and use the LISTEN label!

LISTEN seeks to give refugees or migrants a voice by using stories as a means of promoting an intercultural dialogue and a way of integrating them in the community. The LISTEN consortium developed a label that organisations can use to signal that they have given space to refugees to tell, and maybe broadcast, their stories. It shows their commitment in working with refugees and providing space for their stories.

Five good reasons to get the LISTEN Label

- 🎧 Recognising organisations that give refugees a voice and employ storytelling approaches;
- 🎧 A great way to show other people of your community what your organisation's values are;
- 🎧 Get in touch with new European organisations working with refugees and migrants;
- 🎧 Promote a positive image of integration;
- 🎧 Enrich your competences!

Find out how to get the LISTEN label: <https://listen.bupnet.eu/label>








LISTEN WEBSITE

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

Who is behind LISTEN

LISTEN – Learning Intercultural Storytelling is a two 2018) co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2 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).



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

And co-funded by