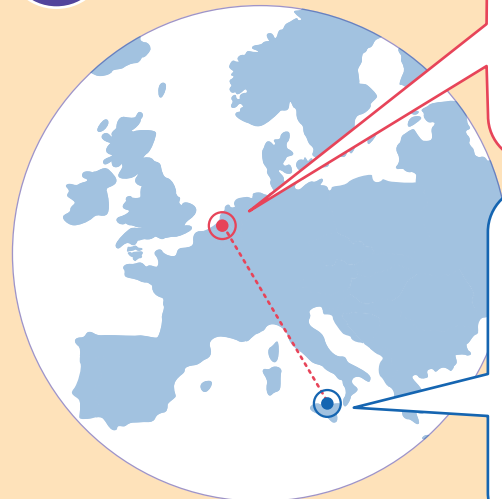


Building a city for all with 'Buddies with refugees'

1 Identification



Who?



Mentor Mechelen (BE)



87.000 inhabitants **32 %** foreign origin

City of Mechelen and the **Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSC)**.



Mentee Capaci (IT)



11.500 inhabitants The region has a **changing population of migrants** or people of foreign origin

City of Capaci and the **Italian Association of CEMR (AICCIRE)**.



Challenges in Capaci



Lack of social interaction between migrants and the local community.



Due to recent migration flows, **lack of trust** and **increasing fear** in the host community.



Poor support for inclusion initiatives at the national level.



Strengths of Mechelen



A model of an inclusive city where **'Diversity is a strength and solidarity a must'**.

Good practice



Positive narrative on migration, storytelling project 'People make the city'.

2 Mentoring



- **3 Study Visits**
- **Transfer Knowledge Workshop**
- **Training Academy 'Inspiration day'** organised together with Orient8 project in Mechelen

"Buddies with Refugees"

- Complementary tool for the **integration of refugees and newcomers** in Mechelen
- A **Buddy** is someone from the host community who **spends a few hours a month with a newcomer in the city** to learn the language and/or find a job
- The **Buddy programme** brings people together and builds an inclusive society

3 Outcomes



Action Plan - Capaci

Implementation of a Buddy Project - Tutti Capaci



- Boosting **social participation** and **changing public attitudes**
- **Promoting diversity** and a new sense of an **open community**
- Tutti Capaci is **to be replicated in other IT cities** by municipal commitment via 'Consulta delle Donne'



One Stop Shop - Mechelen



www.mechelen.be/welkom-app

Improvement of the mobile application Welkom-app.



Other outcomes



Thematic Toolkit

Building a city for all



Inspiration

A new city-to-city collaboration beyond the IncluCities with Fuenlabrada and Levadia on another EU project on inclusion (MUST-a-Lab).



Media

- Video presenting the mentoring pair
- Facebook page IncluCities Italia



Press

- Euroactiv
- ANSA
- TV Occidente