

Language learning as a tool for better integration

1 Identification



Who?



Mentor

Schaerbeek (BE)



133.000 inhabitants



35 % foreign origin

Schaerbeek and Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (BRULOCALIS).



Mentee

Jelgava (LV)

17.000 inhabitants



43 % national ethnic minorities, a very small part migrants of foreign origin

City of Jelgava and Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG).



Challenges in Jelgava



Language limitations in accessing **basic services** for the new arrivals.

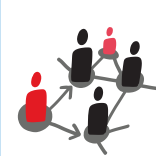
Limited capacities for **inclusion and integration initiatives** at the municipal level.



Lack of experience with **refugees and migrants**, a challenge for officials and the local community.



Strengths of Schaerbeek



Diversity incorporated in **all municipal policy areas**.

Migrants as volunteers **support integration** of new arrivals.

Good practices



VIA reception **programme** for the newcomers.

2 Mentoring



• 3 Study Visits

• Knowledge exchange

• Training Academy in Brussels

1 CAMIM (VIA)

• Complements the **official integration path** for the newcomers

• 'Maison d'Immersion' offers **language learning** with French-speaking volunteers in an informal environment

2 Women's Centre (Maison des Femmes)

• Empowers and **connects women** from the local community

3 Outcomes



Action Plan - Jelgava, Latvia

Fostering formal and informal language learning



- **Strengthening municipal cooperation** with CSOs and the University
- Awareness-raising campaigns to **boost positive public attitudes** towards the newcomers
- Fostering social cohesion by **engaging migrants as volunteers in language learning**



One Stop Shop - Schaerbeek



www.via.brussels/en/new-parcours-daccueil

Improvement of the multilingual website VIA Asbl.



Other outcomes



Thematic Toolkit

Language learning support



Media

- Video presenting the mentoring pair



Press

- Trait d'Union (BRULOCALIS)