

TandEM

Towards Empowered Migrant Youth
in Southern Europe

Background

Over the last decade, Southern Europe has become the entry point for large numbers of refugees and migrants who are seeking a better life in Europe.

While to some, Southern European countries may just be a leg in the journey, others are settling and building their lives here.

Multiculturalism and diversity have shaped the face of Southern European countries for centuries. However, misconceptions and negative attitudes towards migration and diversity, based on fears and misinformation, are becoming the norm. Subsequently, it is essential to debunk false representations, share the positive contribution of diversity among the different societies living in this part of the Mediterranean.

In this spirit, the project TandEM - Towards Empowered Migrant Youth in Southern Europe - aims to build a bridge between migrant and local youth to **promote dialogue, mutual understanding and cohesion** in Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Croatia and Cyprus.

The project is grounded in a network of universities, as the places of socialization and integration for an increasing number of foreign students in Southern Europe, and the ideal places to design a youth-led response to discriminatory and toxic narratives on migration.

The project aims to encourage young Southern Europeans' active participation in the integration of young migrants in their countries, while allowing young people to speak up and define their identities.

Objectives

The project has four main objectives:

enhancing education, promoting understanding, encouraging communication and supporting integration.

Each goal will be promoted through specific regional and national activities, which will be implemented from January 2018 to December 2019.

Activities

The main project activities are:

Enhancing Education: a **regional study** will explore foreign students' needs and barriers to access to higher education, mapping challenges to integration in Southern European universities and developing recommendations for national Governments, Universities, international organizations and students themselves.

To participate in the research, contact us at tandem@iom.int

Promoting Understanding: universities, in partnership with local religious organizations, will organize conferences and meetings to foster inter-religious and **inter-cultural dialogue and understanding** among students and young people, fighting Islamophobia and intolerance.

More information about our next events on www.iomintandem.com

Encouraging Communication: regional and national **social media campaigns** will be launched to empower young people to define their own narrative on migration and inclusion, fighting xenophobia and prejudice. **Follow IOM TandEM on Facebook and Instagram**

Supporting Integration: **student mentorship programs** will start within selected universities in Italy and Spain, to support the active inclusion of foreign students, and create cohesive academic communities.

To join or support an existing mentorship scheme in Italy or Spain contact us at tandem@iom.int

Partners

The project is funded by the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the European University Association (EUA) and the Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana (COREIS), together with an **international network of universities** in project countries.

Contacts

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