

# Bridge-it

Be Relevant to Intercultural Diversity Generation in Europe Integration Team



## BRIDGE-IT PARTNERS

IT



<http://www.unipg.it>

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<http://www.club-austria.info>

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DE



<http://www.f-bb.de>

IT



<http://www.keyandkey.it>

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<http://www.um.edu.mt>

NL



<http://www.hszuyd.nl>

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<http://www.est.edu.pl>

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<http://www.yozgat.meb.gov.tr>

## THE PROJECT

### BRIDGE-IT

Be Relevant to Intercultural Diversity Generation in Europe - Integration Team

**510101-LLP-1-2010-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP**

<http://bridge-it.communicationproject.eu>

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## SUMMARY

Intercultural communication (ICC) skills are fundamental for the integration process of an immigrant/foreigner as an 'adult-in-mobility' in a host country. As the 6th "COMMON BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION" (2004) declares, "Access for immigrants to institutions, as well as to public and private goods and services, on a basis equal to national citizens and in a non-discriminatory way is a critical foundation for better integration". The main objective of this project is to offer concrete tools in several languages (English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Turkish, Arabic) to facilitate the life of vulnerable 'adults-in-mobility' (AMs), as they interact with 'adults-professionally-in-contact-with-mobility' (ACMs) within institutional-bureaucratic systems.

The project, led by the Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy, involves partners from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, and Turkey. This project sets out to develop: blended training courses for interactional parties involved in 'first-impact' bureaucratic-institutional interactions. These courses revolve around a collection of real-life communication materials from a range of bureaucratic-institutional contexts from different countries (EU and candidate); blended courses for ICC trainers and facilitators; and a multilingual online depository of communication materials that can be used by educators as well as AMs and ACMs.

In collaboration with 33 associated members from all the partner countries as well as from a Third Country (Benin, West Africa), thereby guaranteeing maximum impact, the partnership uses a range of sites and international events to disseminate its adult training products. The impact will produce an undeniable change, during and after the project, in attitude toward mutual integration and improve communication between migrants (AMs) and service providers (ACMs) facilitating also intra-European mobility.

## WHY DO WE WANT TO UNDERTAKE THIS PROJECT?

The latest news and data on immigration show on one side the constant increase of both regular and irregular mobility from outside and within the EU, on the other, a sharp growth of racism episodes. According to Eurostat, the foreigner population in Europe in 2008 was about 31 million people, 1/3 of which (about 10 million) coming from other EU countries, and the remaining 2/3 (about 20 million) coming from non-EU countries. Within the non-EU, in 2008, the number of asylum seekers and refugees were about 6 per 1000 of the EU population. Most of the EU member countries saw an increase in the number of asylum and refugee requests (IT +116%, NL and MT +89%). Being e.g. asylum seeker in a foreign country requires the competence to deal with bureaucracy. While migrants need to acquire new terminology and different culturally determined communication practices, also service providers need to acquire awareness of the communication difficulties involved in this bi-directional interaction: "Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States" (1st of the COMMON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION" 2004).

Preparatory work and needs analysis are, among others, from EU projects of the partners (SPICES - 224945-CP-1-2005-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-G11, winner of a "Quality in Mobility" Silver Award, UNEC - 225862-CP-1-2005-1-AT-GRUNDTVIG-G11, winner of a "Quality in Mobility" Bronze Award, CCT-I; Klein G.B. & Caruana S., eds.: Intercultural communication in bureaucratic and institutional contexts - Proceedings of the Final Conference of the European Project SPICES. Perugia: Guerra 2008).

The partnership intends to work out a solution through the creation of learner-centred e-learning modules (in English, German, Italian, Dutch, Polish, and Turkish) through an Open-Source (DOKEOS), adaptive and conducive learning environment which provides both AMs and ACMs with the necessary spoken and written communication and relational skills to manage bureaucratic-institutional interactions. Furthermore a training course for e-tutors will be delivered.

