



BEST FORM project: Boosting Entrepreneurship Tools FOR Migrants

Project no.: 2010-1-PT1-LEO05-05164; URL: www.spi.pt/bestform

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BEST FORM BRINGS INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP!

Porto, Portugal, 5th of August 2011. A new approach to support immigrant entrepreneurs is developed and implemented by the partnership of the BEST FORM project.

BEST FORM– Boosting Entrepreneurship Tools for Migrants – is a transnational project funded by the European Commission through the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), under the sub-programme Leonardo da Vinci-Transfer of Innovation (LdV-TOI). The project involves 8 institutions from 7 different European countries: Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

BEST FORM builds on the Community-Based Business Support (CBBS) model, developed in the UK by the Support Inclusive Entrepreneurship Development (SIED) project, also funded by the European Commission.

BEST FORM envisages enhancing the cultural and interpersonal competences of business advisers, so they can be better prepared to provide a more effective service to immigrant entrepreneurs; the project also targets to disseminate the CBBS model, an outreach method of business support based on confidence-building relationships aiming to engage “hard-to-reach” communities, such as immigrants.

The CBBS model consists in providing business advice through immigrant-oriented associations, by training local ethnic leaders to perform such tasks and by specially strengthening interpersonal, communication and client-advisory skills. It offers a sustainable pathway to the integration and social problems of communities of immigrants, by endowing them with entrepreneurial skills, by giving them entrepreneurship as a viable solution and by creating/training business advisors recruited among them.

The CBBS model addresses several key agendas:

- Making “enterprise” available to all, particularly people facing disadvantage (Equalities agenda – New engagement approaches)
- Improving the rate of formation and survival of businesses owned by underrepresented groups and therefore stimulating the SME sector (Enterprise agenda – competitiveness)
- Presenting enterprise/self employment as a way of lifting some people out of unemployment (addressing labor market policies)
- Enhancing the delivery role of the third sector (Community Development)
- Improving links between community, statutory and private sector providers (Mainstreaming)
- Enhancing interaction between people from different backgrounds (Social cohesion).

The CBBS model adapted to national contexts (transfer of innovation) will be tested in Portugal and Italy, in the winter of 2012. Also, an International Seminar will be held in Romania, in April 2012, to disseminate the CBBS model and to present BEST FORM tools and results.

BEST FORM team



PRESS RELEASE

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BEST FORM COURSE TO ENHANCE THE SKILLS OF BUSINESS ADVISERS DEALING WITH IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS!

Porto, Portugal, December 2011.

The partnership of the BEST FORM project offers a training course for business advisors from national immigrant-oriented associations.

BEST FORM course is designed by a consortium of 8 organisations from 7 different European countries: Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

BEST FORM course is based on the Community-Based Business Support (CBBS) model and envisages enhancing the skills of business advisers, so they can be better prepared to provide a more effective service to immigrant entrepreneurs.

BEST FORM course main objective is to improve business adviser's skills – such as client-advisory skills, communication skills, confidence building, business, financial and marketing knowledge, among others - helping them getting to "hard-to-reach" clients and overcoming the obstacles stemming from the mixed embeddedness to which immigrants are subjected (structural factors, cultural conditions and personal characteristics).

BEST FORM course is composed by 7 modules:

- Making Business Support Accessible to All
- Understanding Business
- Introduction to Business Start-Up
- Working with Clients (Advisory Skills)
- Finance for Business Advisors
- Marketing for Business Advisors
- Spreadsheet for Business

BEST FORM course will be delivered in March 2012 in Portugal and Italy, by SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE INOVAÇÃO (SPI - Portugal), ASSOCIAÇÃO DE SOLIDARIEDADE INTERNACIONAL (ASI - Portugal) and OXFAM (Italy):

In Portugal, the course will take place on 03/03, 10/03, 17/03 and 31/03, at Avenida Marechal Gomes da Costa, 1376, Porto.

In Italy, the course will take place on 07/03, 14/03, 17/03, 21/03, 24/03, 28/03 e 31/03, at Via C. Concini, 19, Arezzo.

For further information regarding the course please visit BEST FORM website at www.spi.pt/bestform.

For registration please contact the organizers at: andrebarbosa@spi.pt; geral@asi.pt; caterina.casamenti@oxfamitalia.org

The BEST FORM team

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BEST FORM PILOT COURSE RECEIVE EXCELLENT EVALUATION AND FINAL PRODUCTS READY SOON!

Porto, Portugal, August 2012.

The BEST FORM course is designed by a consortium of 8 organisations from 7 different European countries: Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The partnership of the BEST FORM project is happy to announce that the final versions of the Support Handbook and Guidelines Handbook will be ready soon after the completion of two successful pilot courses.

In the spring of 2012, the BEST FORM pilot course was implemented in Italy and Portugal.

In Italy a total of 8 participants from 8 different countries and different linguistic competencies: Chinese, Romanian, Albanian, Moroccan, Arabs, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu. The participants expressed that the most positive aspects were about the chance to know a new working area with the hope of future job perspectives. In addition, some respondents showed satisfaction with the improvement and enlargement of views in the thinking and the ability to get in contact with business professionals.

In Portugal the pilot course was attended by 12 participants. The characteristics of the participants were the following:

- Individuals working in associations engaged with immigrant entrepreneurs;
- Individuals working with unemployed people and people at risk;
- Individuals seeking to improve their inter-personal and advisory skills.

A total of 3 trainers were teaching the different parts of the workshops, each one selected for their expertise in their particular field.

The overall evaluation showed the pilot course added value has been the networking opportunities between professionals and organizations with different skills, there was especially a mutual awareness for the need for a service that can improve the chances of immigrant integration and to recognize immigrant entrepreneurship as an engine for economic development and regional economic growth.

For further information regarding the BEST FORM project please visit the project's website at www.spi.pt/bestform or contact André Barbosa at andrebarbosa@spi.pt.

The BEST FORM team