CB4VOL Campaign

"Migrant Womxn Deserve Language at No Cost"

#Language4Migrants #LetThemSpeakUp #IntegrateThem #volunteering4equality

As young women representing the CB4VOL project campaign team that is part of WIDE+, we conducted an online social media campaign to highlight the importance of accessible language courses for migrant women and gender-nonconforming persons.

Therefore, we included a focus on sharing the lived experiences of migrant women in their language learning journeys that are residing in the EU, representing various countries. We conducted extensive interviews, did desktop research and reflected on our own experiences to provide a picture of the importance of free language and the many barriers that exist to exercise this right. By doing so, we aim to bridge the gap of awareness surrounding language barriers, thereby fostering a more inclusive and informed society.

The campaign was concluded with a public letter we sent out to a number of stakeholders, especially organisations that we consider to be important actors in fuelling change in this field and that can contribute to improving the access to free
language classes for migrant womxn in Europe.

Read our full public letter here.

Testimonials
Meet Anastasia, a Ukrainian refugee settled in Poland. Despite her long journey to find a new place to live, she finally ended up in Poland, where she met a Polish family who guided her to find a free language course.

Anastasia highlights that in order to get the equivalence of her medical degree and work in Poland, she has to know Polish. Luckily, with the assistance of the Polish host family, she managed to return to her profession.

Meet Inga, a hard-working Georgian migrant living in Italy. Despite her age, she's passionately learning Italian on her own to broaden her opportunities beyond caregiving and housekeeping roles.

Inga emphasizes the need for free and accessible language programs, adapted to caregivers' schedules. She believes learning the language is the most important thing for finding a job and managing daily life activities.

Meet Maryam, an Afghan refugee woman living in Italy.

When Maryam arrived in her host country, she was overwhelmed by the language barriers. It was impossible to find accessible, structured Italian classes with a professional teacher. Thus, Maryam turned to YouTube and translation apps, but critical situations demanded better understanding.
This is a selection and brief version of the testimonials that were collected. The others will be published additionally on the WIDE+ website soon.

**About CB4VOL - Across borders: strengthening youth volunteering to fight for gender equality and social inclusion**

We are a group of women volunteers from different countries who come together under the roof of the collaborative Erasmus+ project “Across borders: strengthening youth volunteering to fight for gender equality and social inclusion”, short CB4VOL.

The project is a collaboration between Alianza por La Solidaridad (in Spain), YWCA (in Palestine), Asticude (in Morocco) and WIDE+ (in Belgium/Europe), and led by Alianza por La Solidaridad.

CB4VOL’s main objective is to strengthen the capacity of the consortium organisations to develop volunteering work at local level. At the same time, the project organisations will promote the participation of youth in their local communities, to improve awareness and knowledge about gender equality and inclusion.

In the current stage of the project the volunteer teams of the partner organisations have each been working on a different campaign. Our team of volunteers, coordinated by WIDE+’s Gea Meijers, decided to focus the campaign on the objective of awareness raising about the lack of migrant women’s access to language classes.

To learn more about the project, click [here](#).