

One page summary

Programme	Europe for Citizens; Democratic engagement and civic participation- Network of Towns
Background – what should be solved/developed with the project?	The number of asylum-seekers increases every year in Sweden, with a distinct increase last year. Therefore, the number of new arrivals has also increased in the municipalities in northeast Skåne. Östra Göinge municipality, for example, has during the last couple of years received a high number of new arrivals in relation to their small population. Challenges we have to face are, among others, how to integrate this group of people into the society and especially into employment. How can the municipality work together with local NGOs and local businesses in the work with new arrivals and integration? Furthermore, education is also an important field to work with, more specifically integration in school. In connection to education, teachers at Swedish for Immigrants also need to develop methods on how to help new arrivals with disabilities. There is also a need for more knowledge on how to handle people with traumas and PTSD. In conclusion, there is a need to develop och increase the knowledge on how to integrate the foreign-born people and the new arrivals into the different aspects of society.
Does the project have an "European dimension"?	The project has a European dimension since one of the targets in the EU2020 strategy is to raise the employment rate of 20 to 64-year olds in the EU to 75%. One of the means by which to do this is by better integrating legal migrants. In Sweden new arrivals are at a greater risk of social exclusion, therefore the target concerning combating poverty/social exclusion is also relevant. Moreover, many EU countries are today confronted with integration challenges. Therefore, it is a common task that we need to work on together.
Purpose- what is to be achieved?	The purpose of this project is to raise awareness and increase the knowledge on these questions in order to improve and facilitate our own work. Furthermore, the purpose is to strengthen the cooperation and relationship between the partners in the four participating countries.
Content/Activities-proposals for potential activities within the frame of the project.	<p>The project will arrange four conferences or workshops, one in each country. Every workshop will focus on one of the selected themes on integration. The meeting can consist of a lecture on the current theme, followed by an open discussion between the countries. The four themes we aim to emphasize are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business industry/employment- how can we increase the employment rate of foreign-born people? For example give relevant support for those that would like to start their own business? • How can public organizations cooperate better with non-profit organizations/Volunteers- different social and cultural activities? • Adult education- integration in school, develop methods for language training and dealing with persons with traumas. • Health and elderly care- how will we handle the aging population? Multicultural elderly care. <p>The idea with this project is to include all the different aspects of life, but</p>

	the themes can of course be discussed with potential partners.
Results- what is the end product of the project?	The project will first and foremost result in exchanging knowledge and experiences as well as taking part of good and successful examples on how others have dealt with these issues. This will lead to a more efficient integration, so we can integrate the new arrivals into society in the best way possible.
Target groups- who should be involved in the project?	The target groups are related to the themes of the planned workshops, that is, local businesses, business organizations, the public and private sector, and also organizations representing/supporting migrants and new arrivals will benefit from this project in the long run.
Partners- who/whom should participate in the project?	The programme requires a minimum of four partners/towns. Local- and regional authorities and NGOs in 4 participating countries, including Sweden. Partners searched for: Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands. Relevant organisations from other countries will also be considered.
Resources and budget	The programme contributes by lump sum the costs of the conferences and international participants travel expenses. The partners will contribute with work time for planning and participation.
Who we are	EU-office Skåne Nordost- a resource for EU-financed project development in southern Sweden. EU- office Skåne Nordost is functioning on behalf of a number of municipalities; Bromölla, Hässleholm, Hörby, Höör, Kristianstad, Osby, Perstorp, Älmhult och Östra Göinge.
Contact information	Tommy Bengtsson, EU Coordinator, EU- office Skåne Nordost Tommy.bengtsson@skanenordost.se +46 (0)723 89 87 99 Emelie Eliasson, intern, EU-office Skåne Nordost EDassistent@hassleholm.se +46 (0)734 35 67 21