



1. Innovation in the project idea – novelty

a. Is the project dealing with new social approaches?

YES, the project idea is new in its approach: these workshops prepare the participants specifically for trials in the asylum procedure. It is not about providing legal advice but rather a workshop in the field of communication – how to deal and communicate with judges and interpreters, how to prepare for the trial and how to conduct the trial. In addition, the workshops offer the possibility of connecting with people in similar situations (I am not alone!) AND also provide trusted persons with ideas and options on how to be able to assist and help.

b. Is the project dealing with new social challenges?

YES because during 2015 and 2016 many people followed the call to help people who had fled their home country and came to Austria. Friendships and trust were built, and now, under current circumstances, people who have reached out their hands and helped, have to witness - without being able to intervene - how second negative decisions in the asylum procedure destroy all efforts of integration. People who have developed deep relationships are torn apart.

Caretakers also witness how, during trials, people suffer additional emotional harm. Especially young refugees are immensely scared during trial processes which results in inability to reason and communicate. It helps to get active again - to actively build up a life. This applies to both the refugees as well as to the caretakers, godmothers and -fathers. If caretakers surrender to the feeling of powerlessness or deny all possible dangers, the situation of their protégés is only getting worse.

c. Is the project dealing with a target group that so far has received little attention?

Yes, the project provides support for asylum seekers who cannot afford to pay a lawyer.

2. Innovative approach to reach the target group - participation

a. Which specific and sustainable benefit does the project have for the target group?

The participants learn how to describe a significant event in a way to increase credibility in court. They learn how to respectfully treat lawyers, interpreters and secretaries, leaving a good impression, regardless of other people's behavior in court. This way they protect their dignity.

Example: one young man explained after a court meeting that without the preparation workshop he would have screamed with anger and despair. The judge left me without a chance. But I stayed calm and friendly. I could leave the court room with proud and dignity - I was not unfriendly like the judge.

The workshops are designed to strengthen both the participants but also the relationships to caretakers, godmothers and -fathers. Ideally, and it has happened in the past, the workshops contribute to get asylum amongst many other prerequisites.

b. Is the project contributing to enhance potentials of the target group?

Yes, the participants learn more about their strengths and resources and how to use them to their benefit.

c. How is the target group integrated in the project?

Participants are encouraged to transfer skills and knowledge acquired in the workshop to people

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who do not have the possibility to attend. They are therefore offered to collaborate as assistants to future workshops.

d. Is the project contributing to a social appreciation of the target group?

Yes, because it improves their demeanor and behavior.

3. Innovation in implementation - effectiveness

a. Is the implementation of the project idea resourceful, inventive, creative and courageous?

Yes, the implementation has to certainly fulfill these attributes as in a short amount of time, complex content needs to be delivered. It requires courage to promote and deliver these workshops outside of the association.

b. Which effects and on whom can be seen through this social innovation?

Asylum seekers/beneficiaries of subsidiary protection: their self-effectiveness and hence their self esteem is strengthened. They get motivated to actively deal with their situation.

Caretakers/godmothers, -fathers: They will better understand their role in the asylum seeking process; they learn about options for action and strengthen their confidence.

c. Is the project designed to adapt to changing needs of the target group, the problem and the framework conditions?

Yes, as the project is dealing with helping people during the asylum seeking process. A process itself ever changing - flexibility to adapt the project is therefore required. The participants' feedback after their court trials is integrated in the workshop as well as legal changes like the publication of the UNHCR Guidelines in August 2018.

d. Is there a cooperation between different disciplines /competences/professions?

Yes, we are in constant contact with asylum lawyers, support organizations (psychologists, educators, social workers), psychotherapists (association Hemayat – they are offering therapy for war and torture victims) as well as of course with „Asylkoordination“ and other project groups dealing with connecting godmothers and -fathers.

4. Innovation in the external impact - effect of example

a. How is the project integrated in the local and regional surroundings?

In Lower Austria our association „PatInnen für alle“ is already well known. Our work and projects are regularly published. We won the prize „NÖN Leopold“ in October 2018. The first workshop in Vienna started on January 10, 2019. (funding commitment was confirmed on December 20, 2018). Therefore it is necessary to work on the communication and integration of the project at CORE in Vienna.

b. Does the project support cooperation/dialogue with other institutions and organizations?Ja

Yes, please refer to point 3.d

c. Does the project draw the attention of other organizations, media, funding institutions and politicians?

Yes, since autumn 2018 the association is promoting this important project, carefully selecting sympathetic reporters and politicians.

d. Are new ways of dealing with the „outside world“ being explored?

No not really. We just try to be careful and protect our participants.