

European cooperation on integration

Hanen Viken will partake in a two-year European cooperation, which aims to increase our intercultural competence. The partners are from different institutions in Iceland, Croatia, Italy, Germany and Romania.

In a time of immigration from different parts of the world, we believe that sharing experiences and skills of integration work is valuable. We can learn a lot from each other because we are experiencing immigration in different ways and act very differently.

Intercultural competence and language skills

The members of Hanen Viken come from the surrounding area around Oslo. We work with traditional agriculture, green care and farm tourism. Our members create new employment opportunities in the region and we believe that our farms are good venues to learn the language and provide good employment possibilities. We would like to use this project to inspire our members to take the initiative to share their experiences with our immigrants and to increase their intercultural competence and help improve their language skills.

What will Hanen contribute to the project?

As an example of expertise we share with our partners:

- Agriculture has given many immigrants a good knowledge of Norwegian culture and language through providing employment or work practice.
- Agriculture has established programs for integrating refugees such as 'Inn på tunet'
- Several members have experience from non-agriculture employment, attached to the teaching of immigrants. They can share their experience on cooperation with language schools, refugee services and NAV.
- Many members work as volunteers with integration.

History – a road to integration

As our contribution to the project, we want to show how we can use storytelling as a means for better integration. We invite locals where we were staying to interview immigrants in our district. This activity gives participants more knowledge about each other and are good Norwegian training. Both are important to get good integration.

To get started, we provide guidance and training in motivational interviewing and writing. Events on our farms can be used as venues for those who wish to convey their story.

Dividends through active participation

Through increased focus on integration in everyday life and experience with our partners, we believe that those who are active participants will benefit greatly from the project. Members can participate by accepting immigrants in language practice or work and / or help in volunteer work related to language learning and integration.

During the project will all participants have the opportunity to share their experiences with project partners either when the delegation visits Norway or on a study trip to one of the partner countries.

The project will start in Iceland 01/16/17. Information from the project will be posted on the website for the project <http://eu-island.weebly.com/>