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## **WINGS Project's empowerment of immigrant women in Malta takes full flight.**

Erasmus+ WINGS project has established a training scheme, called WINGS Local Action Programme that has given the opportunity to migrant women to participate in free tailor-made courses and training workshops designed to empower them at a social and economic level in order to actively engage and integrate in the community.

The WINGS Local Action Programme encapsulated a systematic attempt to develop a dedicated course programme in each project partnering country (Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Malta) that has improved the supply of high quality learning opportunities tailored to the needs of migrant women.

The dedicated 50-hour training programme took place at previously abandoned space, The Meeting Room in Marsa which was transformed into a premises for NGO's and other non-government associations as part of an initiative driven by the Marigold Foundation, courtesy of EU funds back in 2019. Saviour Grima, Manager of The Meeting Place, welcomed the WINGS initiative and training to The Meeting Place as fitting perfectly in line with their ethos of encouraging integration and inclusion for all.

The project consortium directed their focus on the development of a wide range of learning units such as cultural awareness, benefits and government support and how to apply for it, introduction to basic administrative processes such as the health system, social insurance & contributions, legal frameworks and learning how to job hunt, including CV writing and job interviewing.

Director of professional training hub, Skills Zone Malta and WINGS project coordinator for Malta, Maryrose Francica said the WINGS training programme lies at the heart of the project because it aims to extend and improve the supply of high-quality learning opportunities for low-qualified and marginalized adults, such as migrant women.

*'The training has been particularly important for migrant women who are not in employment, education or training due to family and childcare obligations, as it has given them the access to training that would otherwise have been unavailable to them'.*

In the coming months, migrant women will also have the opportunity to build their ICT and digital skills through online training as well as through a multimedia good practice electronic booklet that they will develop with the project's partners' collaboration which will also include vital feedback and testimonials from WINGS participants.

The project is set to run for 2 years and target at least 1300 stakeholder across Europe, which will include migrant women, adult educators and organisations. The EU spends approximately 100 euro per citizen per year on regional funds, creating jobs, improving infrastructure and organising training.

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Skills Zone Malta is a training hub of professional trainers in the field of entrepreneurship, personal development and soft skills, training people in both f2f and online environments. Skills Zone Malta has over 20 years experience in EU Projects with a specific interest in topics which contribute to the empowerment of minority groups, adult education and sustainability.

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