ERASMI — Empowering Regional Actors & Stakeholders for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion

Good Practice:
CFE REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

Status of information: February 2021

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the network	CFE Refugee Entrepreneurship Network
Founding year	2018
Location	Global network based in the United Kingdom
Coordinating Organisation	Centre for Entrepreneurs (CFE)
Degree of formalisation	Soft formal agreements and norms
Members	Practitioners, philanthropic foundations, researchers, academics and investors that actively support refugee entrepreneurship
Field(s) of action	Inclusion / Integration in general; Labour market; Education and training; Other: Specifically, supporting refugees into business and self-employment, including for commercial and social businesses
Target group(s)	Refugees; NGOs; Volunteers; Companies
Type of network	Non-state integration network

2. NETWORK PROFILE

Brief description	The CFE Refugee Entrepreneurship Network (REN) is a global community working to improve the scale and impact of refugee entrepreneurship programmes. It brings together practitioners, philanthropic foundations, researchers, academics, and investors that actively support refugee entrepreneurship. The network pursues the following objectives: • building a positive narrative around refugees by highlighting their entrepreneurial capabilities; • accelerating the social integration of refugees in their host communities through business; • economically empowering refugees through entrepreneurship; • equipping global actors (e.g. refugee incubators, governments, IOs, corporates and philanthropists) with the know-how, evidence and resources to support refugees through entrepreneurship. To reach these objectives the network approaches real-time best practice exchange via online collaboration tools, an annual summit, year-round events and workshops, ongoing research revealing the impact of refugee entrepreneurship, and an outreach to policymakers, international actors and the public.
Resources	• Funded by various donors
Internal Communication & Facilitation techniques	• Network meetings (annual global summits) • Meetings via video telephony (Skype, Zoom) • Instant Messaging (WhatsApp, Slack) • Cloud-based file share platforms and collaboration tools (Dropbox; Google docs; Microsoft 365)
External Communication & Event formats	• Externally facing events (congresses and summits) • Website

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3. SUCCESS FACTORS AND MAIN CHALLENGES

Success factors	• Regular and instant communication and coordination: have clear topics and moderation circulating amongst members and make sure it's a democratic process • Value, purpose, and strategy alignment: all actors should take enough time upfront to align the vision values and strategies in enough detail upfront • Keep the network informal at the start and then formalize it: make it work without funding and use informal Memorandums of Understanding before shaping formal networks • Fairness and transparency at all times
Challenges & Lessons learnt	/
Evaluation & Sustainability	• Investing time into relationships with representatives of other partner organisations • Always have a lookout for the networks and closer partners when thinking of new projects and strategies • Learning from mature, well working network and alliance coordination techniques from other networks that have done it well before
Impact, Innovation & Transferability	The network allows for an exchange of knowledge on the topic of refugee entrepreneurship between many heterogenic actors on a global level. It is thus excellently suited to empower refugees and equipping global actors with the know-how, evidence and resources to support refugees through entrepreneurship.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Website, Social Media	Website: https://centreforentrepreneurs.org/networks/refugee-entrepreneurship-network/
E-Mail-Address	reception@eastbelfast.org

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