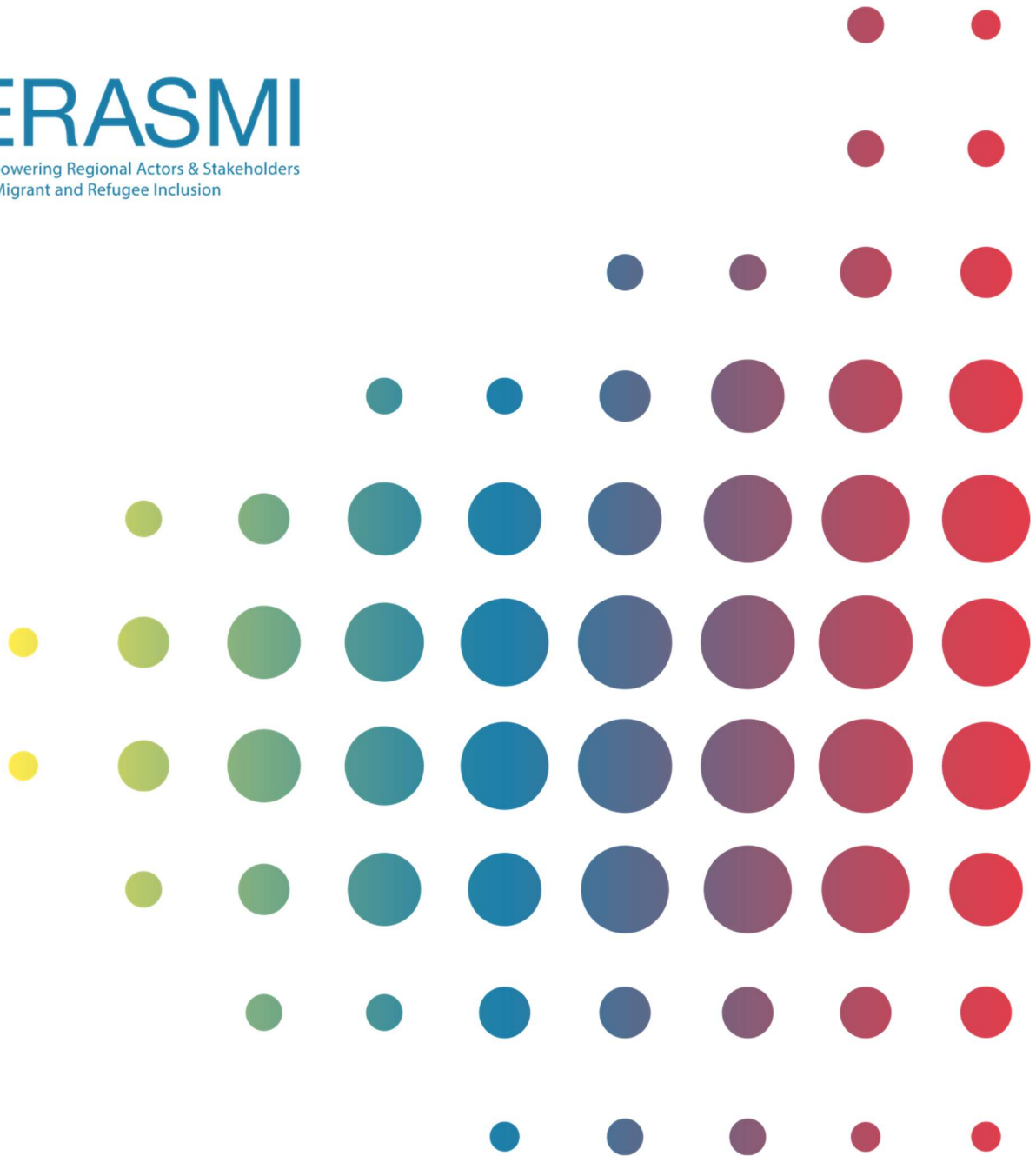




ERASMI

Empowering Regional Actors & Stakeholders
for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion



Good Practice: MAGNET NETWORK

Status of information: January 2021

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the network	MAGNET Network (Migrant Acceleration for Growth – Network for Entrepreneurship Training)
Founding year	2017
Location	Europe wide, with eight partners from Austria, Germany, Spain, Bulgaria
Coordinating Organisation	University of Danube (Austria)
Degree of formalisation	Formal cooperation agreement
Members	Microfinance Centre; IATAP (Technology & Human Resources Institute); SINGA; DELITELABS; TERN; European University Continued Education Network; VUZF University
Field(s) of action	Inclusion / Integration in general; Labour market; Education and training
Target group(s)	Refugees; NGOs; Volunteers; Companies
Type of network	Project consortium

2. NETWORK PROFILE

Brief description	The MAGNET project and the network based on the project consortium brings together European organizations active in the field of migrant entrepreneurship support as well as interested public and private actors. It aims at building and establishing a European community of organizations and institutions interested in migrant entrepreneurship support. Its purpose is to serve as a platform of exchange, experience sharing and finding collaboration opportunities beyond the actual project.
Resources	EU funding (COSME Programme)
Internal Communication & Facilitation techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video telephony (Zoom etc.) • Instant Messaging (Slack and WhatsApp) • NOTION for wiki / knowledge base building • Google docs, Microsoft 365, Dropbox for collaboration
External Communication & Event formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (e.g. Facebook) • Newsletter • Homepage • Online Forum • Community meetings



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3. SUCCESS FACTORS AND MAIN CHALLENGES

<p>Success factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network has a clear focus (migrant entrepreneurship) and can rely on the experience of public and private institutions from many European countries • Common values, purpose and strategy alignment: When all actors take enough time upfront to align the vision values and strategies in enough detail up front • Informal letter of intent before formal cooperation agreement: Practise of using informal letters of intents to agree on terms in enough detail before having to shape long term formal cooperation agreements • Make it work without funding first: Networks that can start with voluntary collaboration tend to be better than those that can only work and start when they have acquired funding which is often much more opportunistic. This tends to show that people are in it for the right reasons and really committed to develop mutual value add. • Regular communication, instant communication and coordination: Have clear topics and moderation circulating amongst members and make sure it's a democratic process we're different chairs or coordinators get to speak without losing out of sight the wider strategy for the network, which is why it's very important to have a typing it coordinator group from different organisations • Fairness and transparency at all times: Don't force other actors into only progressing in the context of your network. At the same time make sure that you always are fair and transparent about opportunities that intersect with the agreement you have and that could present a conflict of interest. • The very heart of the network is the collaboration between TERN, SINGA and DELITELABS (already cooperating for more than 5 years)
<p>Challenges & Lessons learnt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project consortia which are just being shaped by different organisations for the sake of acquiring funding together which leads to a lack of strategic alignment and to “confused projects” • Bad attitude and “Trittbrettfahrer”: Network members only acting if they have funding for it or can take advantage of the harder working network members and hiding in the background while acquiring similar funds • Lack of clarity of purpose and strategy for the network



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of efficiency in coordination mechanisms • Lack of “lean startup” thinking that would produce effective pilots. Often networks have an unwieldy project design or collaboration design and are very hard to get off the ground.
Evaluation & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU funding ended in autumn 2020 after three years, but the clear aim of MAGNET is to develop the network based on the project consortium. If it evolves into a new form of network, it should interlock with the other consortia funded under same COSME funding call (four consortia of eight organisations each). For the time being, practitioners and organisations are invited to sign up to the MAGNET network newsletter and Facebook group • Investing time into relationships with representatives of other partner organisations • Always having a look out for their networks and closer partners when thinking of new projects and strategies. • Defining mature, well working network and alliance coordination techniques from other networks that have done it well before • Defining what a network secretariat should do, shaping a work package, finding the right coordinator talent and then acquiring funding to take the networks up a notch in terms of effectiveness and rate / speed of progression • Evaluation is work in progress – the individual organisations have measurement mechanisms, but the network has yet to agree to a common framework for impact measurement and evaluation.
Impact, Innovation & Transferability	MAGNET provides a set of very helpful tools, e.g. an Open Toolkit and a peer-learning program (“Academy”) for practitioners in migrant entrepreneurship support. The project consortium set up a Europe wide network for organisations and institutions interested in migrant entrepreneurship which is accessible to everyone.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Website, Social Media	Website: https://migrantacceleration.eu/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MagnetNetworkEU/
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