

# RE-CULT NEWSLETTER 1/2022

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## WELCOME TO RE-CULT

RE-CULT project was launched in January 2022 in the frame of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The main objective of RE-CULT is to use the power of art and visual education to support and facilitate the active participation of people with refugee, migrant or cultural minority backgrounds in their local communities and to find new opportunities to reinforce the resilience of the creative sector. RE-CULT will be focusing on visual art and creation, and will aim at improving the competences of adult educators working in (inter)cultural, art, and creative trainings.

RE-CULT is an almost 3 year-long project addressing trainers, educators, social workers artists and any other persons interested in using art and creativity for social inclusion of vulnerable groups. RE-CULT's 3 main results will be:

- 1- An interactive platform
- 2- 9 video tutorials
- 3- A curriculum handbook

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**Comparative Research Network** was founded in 2007 and works since then in the field of adult education and research. The CRN Network is specialised in training activities within the fields of intercultural competences, intergenerational learning, mobilities and migration. Additionally, CRN is specialised in creating and performing evaluation and dissemination processes. Comparative Research Network is based in Berlin and since 2007 active in Horizon2020, Erasmus+, REC as well as national and local programs.

**COTA ONG** (Contemporary Creation and Traditional Arts for Social Exchange) is a non governmental organisation founded in 2020 and based in Paris. The team has been engaged in a wide range of cultural, educational and associative activities since 2009. Members of the organisation use visual arts as means of communication in addition to linguistic and cultural education in order to raise awareness about current social problems, to fight exclusion and ethnic or religious prejudice through trainings, public events and publications and by ensuring an intercultural dialogue.



**Koopkultur e.V.** is a non-profit association in Berlin established in 2018. It was created by an intercultural team of artists and cultural workers, scientists, educators and socially engaged people. The team develops interdisciplinary projects with the inclusion of artistic or creative approaches. Members of the association have lived, studied and worked in different countries and apply their multiple migration experiences and great linguistic diversity in multilingual transdisciplinary projects for children and adults. Koopkultur team is committed to promoting a culture of cooperation and co-creation in all areas of life as well as cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural exchange.







**STANDO LTD (STANDOutEdu)** is a research and educational organisation based in Cyprus, dedicated to the advancement of research and innovation. The organisation, at the same time, an approved VET Centre accredited by the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus. The strength of the enterprise primarily lies in the highly qualified team and its extended network of international partners. The dynamic and experienced academics, researchers and practitioners are committed in implementing large scale co-funded projects and collaborate with organizations from Cyprus and around the world. The team actively participate in the planning and implementation of national and international projects, aiming at providing innovative solutions that facilitate the development of people and the cohesion of societies

Established in 2000, **The Association on Refugees and Migrants in Bulgaria (ARM-BG)** is human rights, refugees' and migrants' social protection network and inter-cultural education, research and art-in-action NGO forum. ARM-BG is a social innovation and change forum, research and training institute and a socio-cultural instrument for exploring, communicating and protecting the rights and life space of old and new minorities in Bulgaria and the Euro-Mediterranean region. ARM-BG is actively involved in comparative interdisciplinary research, teaching, artistic, intercultural and inter-religious activities that link the realm of ideas with everyday experience.



**ASNOR** is the Italian National Association for Career Guidance. It promotes a new culture of career guidance, and managed the Italian National Registry for Career Guidance.

The Association, with the support of its Scientific Technical Committee and with the collaboration of Italian and foreign university institutions, has built and defined a detailed system about the professional profile of the career guidance practitioner, pushing to stimulate its full recognition and to promote its regulation.



**RE-CULT** started as a first phase, by knowledge gathering and needs assessment activity. This activity was in large part based on the implementation of **Local Blended Workshops** by each partner organisation. The workshops served as a sort of living laboratories for RE-CULT with a triple aim:

1. To actively involve the target groups from the start
2. To gather and test existing methods and techniques
3. To assess the needs, skills and competences of the target groups.

The local blended workshops were focusing on three main themes :

A) Recycling visual heritage and cultural identity

B) Upcycling techniques

C) Recycling materials

The workshops were held by each organisation during summer-autumn of 2022. They followed a common guideline, dividing the workshops into 3 main phases:

- **discovery** : finding images that represent the cultural identified of the people
- **art creation**: based on the images, participants of the workshop were planning and creating their own art pieces
- **digital learning**: during or as a last step of the workshop, participants learned to use some digital tools permitting them to better communicate and to learn more about digital creativity.

The three parts were common, but the implementation of the workshops was very different: each partner represented one (or several) specific target group, one specific form of creativity and of course specific time frame, taking into consideration the target groups' needs and capacities.

## A Painted Collage prepared in Berlin (CRN)

An art and digitisation workshop for Turkish and Kurdish migrant women aged 50 - 75 took place in Berlin-Neukölln. Over several weeks, the home culture (Turkey) and the culture of the country of residence (Germany) were expressed in a creative way. The task was to express the hybrid culture that unites the two countries. With various artistic techniques such as painting, collage and frottage, a large collaborative work of art was created at the end of the workshop.





## A workshop on migrating objects with Syrian women in Marseille (COTA ONG)



Cota has been working with a group of Syrian woman between 40 and 60 years old living in Marseille. After having visited exhibition about migrating object, the team held an upcycling workshop to create themselves migrating objects in the shape of talismans made of metal wires, spices, pigments and resin.

## A sewing art workshop in Berlin (Koopkultur)

Koopkultur was working with a group of 10 women from the sewing workshop of the Kurdish parents' association Yekmal in Berlin. The group shares a love and passion for clothing that expresses their Kurdish identity. The group had been meeting twice a month for an art project in the Berlinische Galerie accompanied by two facilitators with artistic backgrounds. RE-CULT activities included several visits of museum exhibitions, home tasks, various creative workshops and a practical part. During the activities the women questioned their relationship to nature and explored the relationship between nature and Kurdish clothing. A landscape of stories, sketches, fashion designs and garments was created and presented to the public at the museum exhibition in December 2022.





## Rediscovering Cypriot identities through painting (STANDO)



In order to increase the Turkish Cypriot minority group's cultural awareness and build their sense of belonging through visual art, in August 2022 the STANDO Team organized a very successful workshop with them. At the same time, organisers created a peaceful environment and enabled participants to adopt better acceptance attitudes as well as greater openness to other cultures. With the RE-CULT Project, participants greatly increased their knowledge of culture and visual art. The three-phase blended workshop was a novel experience, and both the STANDO Team and the participants were surprised by the results because the knowledge gained and the enhanced connections and emotions were immeasurable. The aquarelle technique was the main focus of the STANDO Team's creation stage. Participants drew or painted a cultural object that they indicated was related to their own culture.

## Visual Art Therapy as a Tool for Identity Formation of Refugee Adolescents in Sofia (ARM-BG)

ARM-BG RE-CULT project local workshops with adolescent asylum-seekers-in-transit explored how visual art therapy could aid them in overcoming post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), and in the formation of their understanding of specific parts of their identities. The workshops were offered mainly in the Registration and accommodation centers of the Bulgarian State Agency on Refugees, but also in museum environments. The ARM-BG local workshops offered unaccompanied minors/adolescents a safe space to artistically express their identity. Early assessment of these workshops' results provides indications that visual art therapy could be used as a positive aid in adolescent identity formation even in the risky, dangerous and precarious context of transit migration.



## LEGO workshops with migrants in Iceland and Italy (ASNOR)



ASNOR's workshops with LEGO® bricks were engaging activities with relevant insights. The first workshop was held in Iceland with migrants and aimed to support a career guidance starting from the personal culture and identity of the participants. The second workshop held in Potenza (Italy) was about building meaningful models made by bricks about the cultural identity and to reflect on the role of the participants in their new inclusive communities. The participants' feedback were enthusiastic and they felt the workshop was really supportive and helpful.

## FOLLOW UP

The methods and tools used by the partners at the local workshops will be used for the RE-CULT tutorials and embedded into the RE-CULT curriculum.

The tools and methods as well as the description of the workshops can be found on the RE-CULT Platform (under construction):

<https://www.re-cult.eu>

