



September 2021

PASSAGE: the path from admission to education

The aim of the PASSAGE project is to develop innovative and relevant methods that would help to ensure a more effective integration process of newly arrived children from third countries into school life. The PASSAGE project aims to promote inclusive education and quality education for children from third countries from an early stage in the integration process, focusing on providing teachers with the tools and resources they need to tackle systemic pedagogical challenges more effectively and "flagship" program development and application that would help the successful integration of newly arrived students into the school community.

During the PASSAGE project the study of Lithuania's experience in analyzing the current situation and identifying the main challenges faced by schools in integrating newly arrived children of third-country nationals through data analysis and initial qualitative and quantitative research was conducted which revealed that Lithuania strives to improve their performance while integrating migrant families into the educational process. The study aimed to identify the educational needs of migrant children in schools to ensure their successful integration into school and society. Successful experiences and useful integration measures in schools, which are being developed in a network of schools ready to accept migrant children, were also discussed. According to education experts and teachers from various schools who participated in the discussion, the main obstacles currently faced by Lithuanian educational institutions are education only in Lithuanian as an official language of instruction in schools, lack of tolerance and insufficient pedagogical competence in working with foreigners. Teachers believe that the joint efforts of the school community and the collaborative environment at school are one of the most successful ways to help teachers work with migrant children. Experts and educators who took part in the survey were concerned that the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania does not provide a unified system for integrating children and young people from abroad, so each school decides independently how to work with new students. Successful integration of students depends on the efforts and competencies of the school community.

The ongoing challenges for migrants' education, access to basic services and the social inclusion of migrants lie with all stakeholders - national and local authorities, teacher training centers, schools, pupils and their parents. The study revealed the following key problem areas:

1. Teachers lack the knowledge to work effectively with migrant students. They emphasize the importance of developing the competencies of teachers and other staff in relation to their professional and personal growth.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

2. Teachers do not have the practical skills to deal with migrant families' problems related to language barriers, differences in programs and learning, integration into the school community, societal stereotypes about migrants.
3. Teachers are keen to learn new educational tools and practices to help refugee and immigrant students and are willing to try new types of methodologies and techniques.
4. Lack of teaching strategies and methods to better integrate migrant children and foster the well-being of the whole school community is prominent.
5. It is essential to meet the general and specific social and emotional needs of migrant children in order to ensure successful integration, cooperation in school communities between parents, teachers, students and the school administration.
6. The development of students' cognitive, emotional and language skills, the social interaction of intercultural communication in the classroom and networking with the local community should be encouraged.
7. Economic resources, teaching support issues and schoolwork organization strategies remain important in a complex teaching process in an intercultural context, and therefore offer a multifaceted approach to the analysis of educational problems and solutions.

Based on the results of the conducted study partners of the PASSAGE project are working on developing a model for organizing the education of migrant children and recommendations for schools on how to successfully integrate students from abroad.