



PFR SIE-16671

Social activities for language improvement for women from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea.

Project information

Structure	Sotenäs
Contact	Monica Kjellson monica.kjellson@telia.com
Project title	Social activities for language improvement for women from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea.
Project start date	01/09/2018
Project end date	30/06/2019
Project location	Sweden
External partner (NGOs, companies, local government, etc.)	NO PARTNERS WITHIN SOROPTIMIST CLUBS

Programme objectives

Economic empowerment
Education

The story of your project

Please summarise your project in some sentences:

Soroptimist bring their engagement, their skills and sisterhood to the table and magic appears.

Why did your club / union choose to do this project?

In our municipality we have quite a few women who come here as refugees from different countries, among them Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea. Some of them have a residence permit and are obliged for studies, others are waiting for their a decision whether to stay in Sweden or not and have no opportunity to learn Swedish in school. We wanted to make a real difference in their life.

How did you implement this project? What concrete actions did you take to tackle the issue you mentioned in the previous question?

We discussed the possibility of organizing some kind of language café for women, but were not sure which target group we would turn to. After some discussion we decided to turn to both groups and managed to get a room in connection with SFI's premises. To inform the women who read SFI, we contacted the school's leadership and had the opportunity to come to their classes to inform. We also set up posters in SFI's premises. The other women we already knew from an early knit café that we participated in upon their arrival in Sweden. During two semesters, the autumn term 2018 and the spring term 2019, we gathered in this room every Tuesday afternoon at 12.30-15.00. This was a wish from the women who read SFI and did not feel it was possible for them to go home and back. We are a municipality with several communities and it is not always easy to get between these.

We became between 4 and 7 participants, including two women from Afghanistan who do not have a residence permit and 4-5 club members each time.

We worked with different themes and did collage with clothes, make-up, furniture and supplies.

We also played games with words and sentences where you could use the Swedish language in a natural and fun way. This led to good discussions and everyone was given the opportunity to talk.

At one point we had a club member working in a pharmacy at the language café and the women had many questions for her. At Christmas time we made wreaths with Christmas decorations and once in the spring we showed and talked about spring flowers. We also made a small excursion to the Gerlesborg School.

Did you encounter any problems in organising or running your project?

no

How did you solve this problem? What did your club/union learn from solving these problems that you would like to share with others Soroptimists who might find themselves in the same situation?

-

Did the members of your club/union consider this project a success?

The language café was appreciated, the participants had the opportunity to speak Swedish and learn a little about our Swedish culture and we were given the opportunity to get to know and know a little more about the new residents we have in the municipality. Some friendships were also formed.

There is a lot of talk about integration and our immigrants to integrate into society, but if this is to work, we Swedes must do something. We believe that our language café has contributed to both integration and understanding.

Project results

Our project's main target were:

Women

How many people benefited from your project in total?

20

How much money did you raise?

0 €

How many hours have you spent to achieve this project?

750

Supporting material

Women's voices

Do you have a nice story or quote from a woman or girl who directly benefited from this project? If yes, please share it with us in the space below.

A soroptimist said:

There is a lot of talk about integration and our immigrants to integrate into society, but if this is to work, we Swedes must do something. We believe that our language café has contributed to both integration and understanding.