



PFR SIE-16657

A possible way into working life

Project information

Structure	Umeå-Sävar
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Project title	A possible way into working life
Project start date	17/11/2018
Project end date	28/01/2020
Project location	Sweden
External partner (NGOs, companies, local government, etc.)	Local government, Länsstyrelsen i Västerbotten SFI , Swedish for immigrants

Programme objectives

Economic empowerment
Education
Violence against women and children

The story of your project

Please summarise your project in some sentences:

A help for immigrants, 17 Congolese women, ratio refugees, to get a better knowledge of the Swedish society and our labour market

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

A club member met an African female shopkeeper who told her about the need among the African female community in Umeå to have a job and an income. At the same time the county government had some funds for immigrant working projects so the club applied and our project was approved.

The biggest issue was the in general poor language skills despite the fact that they had all at been studying Swedish at least one year at SFI ,Swedish for immigrants

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

Every month, except during the summer, there were two gatherings, one where we had a lecture, and one some week later when we discussed the previous lecture and practiced to speak Swedish. The topic of the lectures: cultural differences, parenting, women legal position in Sweden, equality, the Swedish labour market, how to apply for a nurse and care job, how to behave when you are looking for work, how to fill in forms and to make a CV.

We also had an after-noon with cycling and several meetings over dinner or coffee.

After our first meeting we realized that we had to have an interpreter who could speak Swahili, and he was joining us at all lectures

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

Late arrivals, some times hard to start in time

Participants not appearing as promised

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

We had to have many discussions and reminding about the importance of arriving in time, a cultural difference that improved over time.

The whole board and all functionaries have been leaders of the project, and every African woman has had her own soroptimist contact among the other members. By doing this and being so many sisters involved we were able to assist help those women who needed extra transportation help or a reminding.

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

Yes, we think it has been a success

We have all, soroptimists and participants, experienced not only a greater knowledge about the Swedish society but also an improved understanding about other cultures.

And by being so many sisters involved we have also learned to know each other better and enhanced our sisterhood

Project results

Our project's main target were:

Women

How many people benefited from your project in total?

17

How much money did you raise?

0 €

How many hours have you spent to achieve this project?

690

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.

- The swedish people are equal and they respect each other and us
- The swedish people are not expressing themselves directly
- It is important to learn the language and to be in time