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www.storylightproject.eu

STORYLIGHT

Newsletter #1

September 2025

Objectives

- 1. Empowering educators:**
Enhancing the skills and competences of educators, adult learning professionals and guidance staff to better support migrant women.
- 2. Learning spaces:** Promoting local learning centers and fostering innovative educational environments that encourage digital upskilling.
- 3. Inclusion and diversity:**
Providing inclusive and diverse learning opportunities in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.

Target groups

- Migrant women
- Adult educators/migrant support workers
- Adults

Social



1st Newsletter at a glance

It is a privilege to share with you our first newsletter of STORYLIGHT project. Our project is dedicated to empowering migrant women throughout Europe with the power of digital storytelling and inclusive learning. We aspire to allow their voices to be echoed through social inclusion, development of digital competences, and creating connections among different communities.



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Research Insights: Migrant Women in Europe

Our most recent **Comprehensive Report** integrated knowledge collected from **Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, and Germany**.

Some **highlights** from the findings:

- They are now a part of society to such an extent that they account for more than 20% of Austrian women and one-third of Belgians living in Brussels.
- Despite diverse backgrounds, many face similar challenges: language barriers, limited recognition of qualifications, childcare responsibilities, and discrimination.
- Digital literacy is even more fundamental nowadays but most women lack access to machines or even a course. Closing that digital gap is core to empowerment and inclusivity.



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Voices of Migrant Women

By means of focus groups and interviews, women disclosed their experiences:

- Most expressed their feelings of isolation, especially in their early years after they were resettled.
- Professional skills recognition is one major barrier—teachers, accountants, and other trained professionals often cannot conduct their professions.
- Their aspirations, however, are lofty: to be independent, to support their families, to be a part of their new communities.
- Digital storytelling workshops emerged as an effective outlet for expression, building confidence and encouraging inclusivity.



"When I first arrived, I felt completely isolated. I didn't know the language, and my qualifications were not recognized. Joining a digital storytelling group changed everything — I could finally share my story, meet other women, and start to feel like I belong. Now I believe I can build a future for myself and my children here."

— Sara, migrant woman from Afghanistan, now living in Austria

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Perspectives from Educators



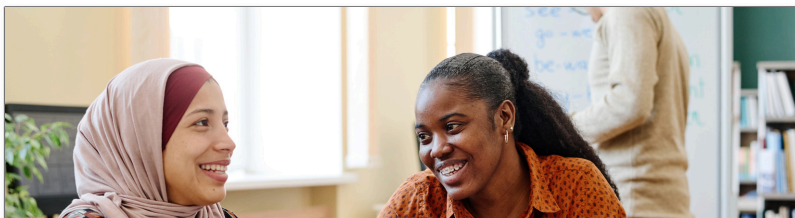
Educators who taught among migrant women emphasized:

- Need for female-centric programmes sensitive to women's experience such as part-time programs and child care support.
- Digital storytelling has massive potential where women can express their tales, strengthen their identity, and gain much-needed digital literacy.
- Value of a safe space and mentoring where one can be free to speak, to learn, to grow.

Key Recommendations

From our results we would advise:

- Investment in digital literacy is a fundamental integration enabler.
- Strengthening social networks and encouraging peer support.
- Developing comprehensive approaches that transcend mere employment, emphasizing the importance of social connections and cultural engagement.
- Developing policies responsive to women's specific needs, for instance, credit for course work and open access to education.



Next steps

The STORYLIGHT partnership is set to:

- Design and pilot digital storytelling workshops.
- Develop teaching materials for facilitators.
- Record inspiring tales of migrant women throughout Europe and preparing the interactive game, based on their stories.
- Coming up is our next newsletter where we will be hosting real digital stories created by the incredible women who are part of our project.

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The STORYLIGHT partnership



Our coordinator, **The VNB** (Association of Education Initiatives in Lower Saxony), is a recognized state-wide institution for adult and youth education, with a network of over 200 partners. Its work focuses on migration, integration, sustainability, intergenerational learning, gender and LGBTI education, and global learning.



Voices of the World (VOW), is a Brussels-based non-profit, committed to enhance global accessibility and knowledge through education, research, and cultural activities, fostering inclusivity and cross-border collaboration, adhering to European values of inclusion, diversity, and democracy,



innopixel is a digital design and innovation studio in Denmark using VR, AR, 360° video etc., aiming to empower organisations by helping them embrace new technology, fostering innovation, and supporting startups.



uniT (Austria) is an organization working at the intersection of arts and social fields. Since 2008, uniT has been active in adult education, offering integration and skills development programs for refugees, migrants, and disadvantaged individuals.



The Hub Nicosia is a coworking space and educational NGO mobilising youth to engage fully in civic, political and economic life by offering learning opportunities in active citizenship, skills development, social entrepreneurship, and supporting disadvantaged groups including migrants.