DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE INTEGRATION PATHS 4 MIGRANT WOMEN

ENGAGE

Press Release

ENGAGE
Open Badges

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ENGAGE Project Implements Open Badges Methodology to Validate and Recognize Skills of Female Refugees

The ENGAGE project, (Development of inclusivE iNteGration pAths 4 miGrant women), is dedicated to facilitating the effective integration of female refugees into their new social environments and promoting their social and economic inclusion. The project focuses on several key objectives, including informing female refugees about their rights, providing vocational training and upskilling workshops to enhance their employability, promoting gender equality and diversity management in implementing organizations, and initiating Job Shadowing Schemes to enable professional development.

To validate the skills acquired through the ENGAGE project, the consortium has adopted the methodology of Open Badges.

Open Badges are digital representations of skills, learning outcomes, achievements, or experiences. They encompass various aspects, including hard skills (knowledge, competences), soft skills (collaboration, communication), participation and community involvement, official certification, and authorization. This innovative system, widely used in the USA and many EU countries, serves as a means of validating and recognizing learning achievements using open educational resources.

Open Badges promote open access and participation among all stakeholders involved in the badge process, including learners-earners (such as young people and students), issuers (VET schools, stakeholders, enterprises, NGOs, including VET trainers and volunteers as facilitators), and badge consumers (employers, formal education, public authorities, official bodies). This collaborative approach fosters transparency, transferability, and credibility in validating a range of competences and skills, such as coding skills for VET students and teachers.

The ENGAGE Project's implementation of Open Badges embodies inclusivity, allowing anyone to actively participate in designing, testing, implementing, and promoting learning outcomes and achievements. This approach aligns with major European documents on Recognition and emphasizes the importance of transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications to facilitate learning, employability, and labor mobility.

Key characteristics of the ENGAGE Open Badges initiative include:

1. The consortium has designed the framework, syllabus, and teaching-learning materials for modules covering settlement into the new community, soft skills, digital skills, and professional development skills.
2. Corresponding badges have been created for each module and made available for earning via the project's e-tool, designed specifically for learning and assessment purposes.
3. TCN women are invited to register on the platform and complete the ENGAGE project's courses.
4. The e-platform specifies the criteria for earning each badge, which participants must meet and provide evidence for through the e-tool.
5. Badges will be awarded automatically through the e-platform based on specific criteria.
6. The issuer, ENGAGE Consortium, will offer users the option to create an account in the Badge Backpack to display the earned badges.

The ENGAGE consortium plays a critical role in developing inclusive integration paths for migrant women, and the implementation of Open Badges methodology further supports learners in achieving collaborations, job opportunities, internships, and fostering richer connections throughout their lifelong learning journey.

For more information on the Open Badges methodology and more information about the ENGAGE Project and its initiatives, please visit https://amif-engage.eu/ or follow us on social media: @amif-engage.eu, @ProjectEngageU, @engage_project.

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