

SIGNS goes north TIMES

'Signs' in short...

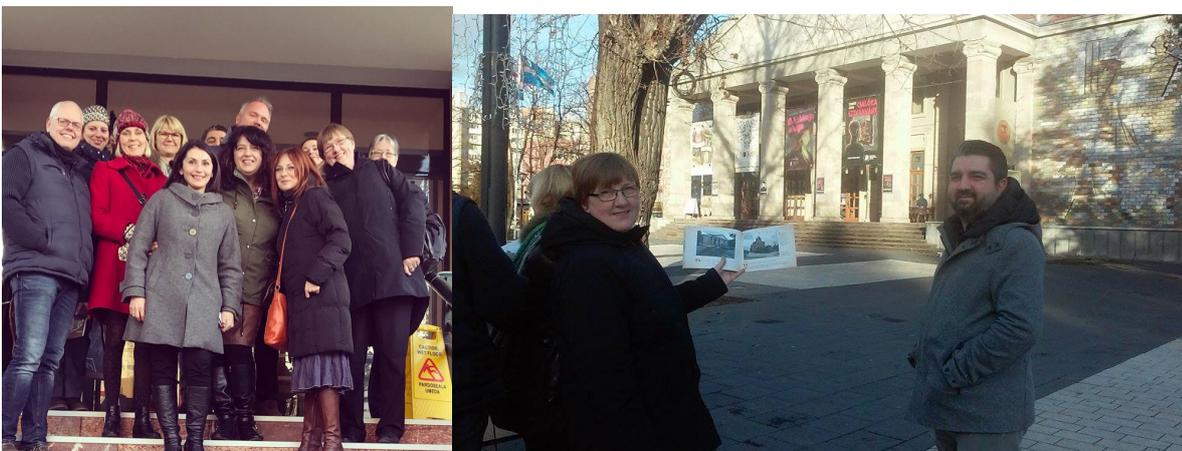
'Signs' Goes North offers innovative ways for refugees and migrants to learn the language, culture and way of life of the city they recently moved in.

Innovative learning takes place using photography of the city to include street signs, restaurants or shops, places of education, leisure or worship and natural or historic heritage. City signs provide an easy, visual and clear way to promote language and culture offering informal learning in 'real life' situations.

'Signs' Goes North helps refugees and newly arrived migrants learn the local language and communicate with others beyond their own group supporting them to adapt to the new place of residence as easily as possible. Five cities are participating in this initiative: Rotterdam in The Netherlands, Söderhamn and Bollnäs in Sweden, Vejle in Denmark and Reykjavik in Iceland promoting the learning of Dutch, Swedish, Danish and Icelandic languages respectively.

The project will develop innovative products based on the successful *Signs methodology* designed in 2004 and awarded with two European Language Labels by the European Commission. The four Northern European cities join a network of 10 other cities in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe (Alcalá de Henares for Spanish, Bad Radkersburg & Gornja Radgona for German and Slovenian, Barcelona for Catalan, Birgu for Maltese, Dobrich for Bulgarian, Gdańsk for Polish, Izmir for Turkish, Miercurea Ciuc / Csíkszereda for Romanian and Hungarian and Nafplio for Greek).

December 2017 Kick-off meeting in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania



In the beginning of December 2017, an enthusiastic team of partners from six countries got together to mark the signs of the new project. The host partners from Spectrum, who participated in previous *Signs* projects, organised a demonstration tour of the methodology 'Signs in Miercurea Ciuc': a walk around the city learning about the local languages and culture by pointing out city signs.

Needs analysis

The partners are already working on a needs analysis to better understand their target groups. The focus is on carrying out surveys and interviews to gather information on migrants' needs of the four target countries: the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland. They have started building relations with local partners and stakeholders and are selecting places of interest and linguistic and cultural themes in their respective cities which will be included in the project materials.

What's coming next...

The second project meeting will take place on **10 April 2018 in Rotterdam** where the partners will discuss the needs analysis' results and will design the methods and format of the Signs products. From 11 to 14th of April the working group will start filming and taking pictures of the selected places of interest in the city of Rotterdam.

Project partners

HÄLSINGLANDS UTBILDNINGSFÖRBUND, Sweden (coordinator)
Inthecity Project Development (The Netherlands)
JFdeK Ltd (United Kingdom)
Pressure Line (The Netherlands)
Landsbyggðin lífi (Iceland)
Fundatia Centrul Educational Spektrum (Romania)
Videnscenter for Integration (Denmark)

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