



The more you will impregnate yourself with the culture of the host country, the more you can impregnate it with yours; the more an immigrant will feel his culture of origin respected, the more he will open to the culture of the host country.

Amin Maalouf, 1998



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Project aims: preventing violent radicalization and promoting democratic values, fundamental rights, intercultural understanding and active citizenship.

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The demographic changes indicate the evolution of Europe in the direction of a more interethnic, inter-religious and intercultural society. The policies should promote a harmonious development of the community with equality and solidarity for its people while averting discrimination, exclusion, ghettoization which leads to tension and violence.

A key component of demographic changes is the migration of individuals, predominantly Muslim, and this trend is set to grow steadily.

The aims of REM are:

- to prepare interventions in respect of the quality of short or long term stay, of Muslim migrants, in three sectors: educational centers, prisons, hosting communities.
- to focus on democratic values, human rights and active citizenship, by acknowledging the principles of Constitutions of both European and predominantly Muslim countries.
- to foster mutual understanding and respect amongst those with different ethnic backgrounds, and religious beliefs, while addressing stereotypes, prejudices, misunderstandings and misconceptions. This will begin with promoting intercultural dialogue and the recognition of others.
- to prevent violent radicalization in prison, closed institutions and society, while taking into account the complex socio-economic reasons behind sources of violence.

The challenge

The challenge is to engage with migrants when they are in the various centers, e.g. educational institutions, social welfare offices and prisons. REM aims to improve knowledge and skills of organizations and institutions dealing with migrants in these contexts, so they can become a space for the promotion of integration, intercultural dialogue and ownership of democratic values and human rights, while eliminating segregation, exclusion, stigmatization and radicalism.

The strategic plan includes:

- development of training modules;
 - identification and consolidation of networks of organizations with different expertise;
 - sharing and comparing of experiences and project's results with the partnership and stakeholders;
- REM will identify institutions, associations and groups suitable for implementing the training modules with migrants in the hosting communities. This will rise the awareness about how living together can enrich the lives of those in hosting communities as well as the migrants while promoting a cultural and educational approach that would grant both of them a deeper, healthier and more fulfilling interaction.