Project idea: Integration of refugees.

Citizens’ participation and democratic commitment at grass roots level in order to create a social sustainable development within reception and integration of refugees.

Purpose: Facilitate the integration of refugees and exchange experiences and learn from each other concerning the reception of refugees. In a society there are always changes of the common base of values and in a situation like this it is important to raise awareness where you stand and reflect over it. Where is our base of values considering the reception of refugees? The purpose is to change ideas and experiences about the roles of the civil society and the municipalities/authorities. Here we want partners with different angles and that can enhance the value of the whole project by giving examples of good practices within these collaboration areas.

Background: The Municipality of Falköping in Sweden work effectively with the integration of refugees and they are at the leading edge concerning these issues. Falköping is part of a pilot project with the purpose to obtain an effective integration of refugees coming to Sweden. The plan is focusing language development, general education, access to a place to live and possibilities to access the Swedish labour market. By that the municipality of Falköping is well equipped to handle the challenges integration leads to considering practical and material challenges. Falköping has a big network of associations of different kinds who all help and collaborate with the integration of refugees.

Sweden is a country reflected by secularized values and to a great extent of self-fulfilment. The refugees coming to Sweden carry a very different base of values that springs from traditional values and with a focus on survival. The confidence to the state is very low in the refugees’ countries and as a general you trust only your family and your clan. Considering this our values are very separated.

The Municipality of Marsala is at the south west cost of Sicily and receives refugees coming by boat. Some of them continue their journey to other European countries while others stay in the municipality. The municipality has a plan to integrate these people in the society and Falköping seems to have proceeded successfully with this. Marsala as a change is situated only 160 km from Africa’s coast and its citizens seem to stand close to the base of values that the refugees coming there have. The Civil Society is also committed to another extent in Marsala than in Falköping.

Objectives: A successful integration of refugees is based on a broad citizens’ participation and democratic commitment. Communication is important and a clear citizen perspective is indispensable. It is of great importance that the civic society actively takes part in the project. That is how we get more understanding for the values we meet from our newly arrived refugees and how we actively can take part in the changes of our common base of values.
Exchanging ideas and methods concerning language development, general education, access to a place to live and possibilities to access the labour market can enable an effective integration of the refugees as well. Both the Civic Society and the Municipalities/Authorities will develop their capacity and learn from this project in order to improve the situation for the refugees.

**Call for proposals:** Europe for citizens "Democratic engagement and civic participation"

**Deadline:** 1st of March 2017

**Duration:** Two years

**Budget:** 150,000 €

**Partners:** Municipality of Falköping - Sweden, Municipality of Marsala - Italy. Two more partners (municipalities) are needed. As a whole there has to be four partners, all from different countries, but preferably is to be at least five or six partners. To be answered at the latest the 28th of November.