

QUEER ON THE MOVE

The Queer on the Move (QOTM) project is aiming to strengthen the capacities of individuals who are working with migrants and to better address the need of the LGBTQIA+ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The project promotes inclusion and empowers educators, social workers, and migrant centre coordinators by providing them with the necessary knowledge and educational tools for addressing the needs of such marginalized individuals. In this way, QOTM establishes safer, more supportive environments across Europe. Through the transnational cooperation between Italy, Greece and Romania brings together organisations and shares best practices in the field of tackling discrimination, while promotes diversity within education and working environment. Solidarity and the fight against discrimination are achieved through the project's derivatives such as the Protocol of Action, which will enable service providers and queer migrants to have better training regarding the current situation.

QONT does not stop there, on the contrary the project brings together professionals in the field and queer migrants in shared and safe spaces of dialogue and learning. It creates a bridge between the providers and the beneficiaries by implementing local activities which reduce stigma and encourage personal and institutional change. Therefore, professionals are cultivated to apply inclusive policies according to the consultation with the queer migrants themselves. On the other hand, queer migrants have on their hands tools and build confidence to rebuild their lives in their new home.

In the activities we organised, we encountered several queer migrants who, as they confided in us, were forced to leave their homeland as their lives would be in danger if someone discovered that they were queer. They are afraid of what will happen to them and do not know how to adapt to their new environment. QNTM tries through its work to transform this reality by creating opportunities for healing and connection with native and other migrants. In one of our activities a person from Afghanistan & Iran shared that it was the first time that they can speak without fear. Stories like this one, are what motives professionals to improve their inclusiveness in their approaches towards queer migrants and remind us that education and empathy build trust, dignity and acceptance.