



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Trappan Resource Centre
Green Transition and Civic
Empowerment of Women

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Trappan Resource Centre

– Green Transition and Civic Empowerment of Women

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	Trapan Resource Center
Geographical scope	Local, Örebro Municipality
Sources of funding	Trappan was an ESF-funded project led by ABF Örebro County in collaboration with the Employment Service, Örebro Municipality, Örebrobostäder (Housing companies), and Region Örebro County.
Stakeholders involved	This was an ESF project where ABF Örebro County was the main project owner.
Duration of the initiative	2018 – 2022
Target audience	The Trappan project targeted long-term unemployed foreign-born women. Over five years, a total of 213 women participated.
Social justice focus area	
Goals of the initiative	Trappan aimed to empower and motivate foreign-born women between the ages of 18 and 64 who are particularly distant from the labor market. Through education on the labor market, society, language, and community life, participants gained practical skills, increased self-esteem, and greater knowledge of their rights and obligations. The main objective of the project is to create sustainable development for women with foreign backgrounds and support the European Union's efforts with the green transition.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

Trappan is an ESF-funded project led by ABF Örebro County in collaboration with the Employment Service, Örebro Municipality, Örebrobostäder, and Region Örebro County.

Methodology used

- Language teaching and conversational training
- Civics education and the green transition
- Internships/observation at workplaces
- Recreational activities
- Job search activities and counseling

Teaching approaches

Women's Project: A classroom exclusively for women created a sense of security and facilitated discussions on gender roles.

Full-time Activities: Participants spent whole days with staff, which built trust and understanding.

Short Internship Periods: Two-week internships provided quick feedback and motivated participants.

Social education for Language-Weak Individuals: Trappan developed teaching materials to make basic civics education accessible to individuals with low educational levels.

Social education and the green transition: The program has elevated the circular economy, combining theoretical knowledge of resource management with practical training in recycling and repair, as well as identifying edible resources in nature.

Focus on Health: Trappan collaborated with Region Örebro County to educate participants on healthcare and reproductive health.
Gender Roles and Power Structures: Trappan addressed gender dynamics, including issues of domestic violence and women's rights.
Language and Education: Participants faced challenges in language comprehension and lacked study habits.
Health: Mental and physical health issues were common among participants.
Limited Understanding of the Labor Market and Job Seeking: Participants lacked essential job-seeking skills and misconceptions about the labor market.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Needs-driven conversations have been pivotal for the project's success. These dialogues, despite language barriers, allow for a comprehensive understanding of participants' situations, fostering interpersonal values and creating conducive learning environments.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Language and Education A significant obstacle is the participants' limited language comprehension, especially for those who haven't passed Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) levels B or C. Additionally, many lack study habits and struggle with self-study, hindering their language development.

Health Participants commonly face both mental and physical health issues, impacting their ability to work. Mental health issues and disabilities often go undiagnosed, while physical health issues are more frequently addressed but not always documented with relevant authorities.

Limited Understanding of the Labor Market and Job Seeking There's a widespread misconception about the labor market among participants, with many lacking essential job-seeking skills such as writing CVs or understanding job requirements.

Green transition: Limited language skills hinder understanding of environmental issues. Differences in perspectives affect how environmental issues are perceived and prioritized. Focus on immediate needs makes environmental issues seem less relevant. Limited financial resources can restrict environmentally friendly choices.

Recommendations

Demand Full-Time Activity Earlier Encourage early engagement in full-time education to challenge traditional gender roles and prioritize personal development and employment.

Assess the Health of All Job Seekers Ensure clarity on participants' health conditions to tailor support accordingly, involving healthcare professionals in the process.

More Opportunities for Education Extend support for education, including vocational training, to address skill gaps and increase employability.

Guidance all the Way to Stable Employment Provide continued support during employment to address deficiencies, offer further education opportunities, and assist with financial management and other life challenges.

Limit Internships that Do Not Lead to Employment Ensure internships have clear objectives and pathways to employment, avoiding prolonged placements without tangible outcomes.

Green transition: By addressing these challenges with targeted educational efforts, culturally adapted programs, and supportive community structures, the understanding and participation in the green transition among refugees can be improved.

Impact

Of the participants who left Trappan, 25 percent found employment, primarily in temporary positions. Additionally, 34 percent pursued further education. Some participants initiated their businesses, creating job opportunities and facilitating work-life balance for others. A majority of the participants felt that they have gained a better understanding of the importance of environmental issues, but find it difficult to apply this knowledge in practice.