

**Preparatory course for the creation of a network for those working in the  
language and civic training for immigrants sector  
European Integration Fund 2010/2011**

- **provincial area background analysis and mapping** identifying German and Italian L2 language provision for immigrant citizens. Information flyer containing indications on bodies and associations offering training activities in an ongoing and structured way, distributed across the board to all those involved, for the purposes of ensuring widespread information dissemination.
- **promotion of language education** via the funding of specific literacy and language courses.
- **educational course quality improvement** with on-site monitoring of individual actions. Interviews with teachers and methodological-educational visits were carried out during agency-organised courses. Immediate feedback and a final assessment indicating strengths and weaknesses were supplied.
- **teaching staff skill upgrading** for staff working in the province, via specific educational and refresher course initiatives. In the light of the heterogeneous nature of the learners involved, requiring teachers to adopt new approaches and refresher courses on learners' cultural backgrounds, two trans-cultural refresher and educational courses were organised (one for the Italian and one for the German language) lasting one day each, using external experts.

A rapid growth in the number of officially resident immigrants in Italy has required the implementation of initiatives promoting reciprocal knowledge and acceptance and respect for diverse cultural identities. The national immigration laws are designed to promote co-existence between Italian citizens and citizens of foreign countries with official Italian residence permits.

Within their spheres of jurisdiction, states, regions, provinces and town councils have been called on to foster the dissemination of information capable of facilitating the positive integration of migrants into Italian society and to encourage the cultural, recreational, social, economic and religious expressions of these latter.

Issues around the presence of these new citizens in Alto Adige/South Tyrol have been taken on by a range of local players who have developed a range of strategies designed to create an integration policy capable of fostering raised awareness and inter-personal contact between local people and new arrivals.

The intention of the autonomous province of Bolzano, in provincial law no. 12 of 28th October 2011, is to foster reciprocal understanding and promote cultural, religious and linguistic identities inspired by principles of equality and religious freedom as enshrined in the Italian Constitution. In addition to fostering migrant participation in its social life, the province has also prioritised their knowledge of Alto Adige's official languages.

For the purposes of ensuring co-ordination in legal measures, an Immigration Co-ordination Service has been set up at the Provincial Labour Section. Within this service, in 2011, a

Reference Network for Immigration and Integration of the various provincial sections was set up for the purposes of fostering information exchanges between the various provincial institutions and co-ordinating the various actions, with the goal of developing integration promotion strategies.

Within this framework, language learning was paid specific attention, in the light of the province's specific consolidated language pluralism and the existence of various specialist language teaching agencies.

Within the context of the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals, set up by the European Union Council in 2007, and on the basis of action priorities identified by the European Commission for 2010/11, the provinces' Italian and German sections have developed a preparatory project for the creation of a network for those working in the language and civic training for immigrants sector in Bolzano province.

The objectives identified and action taken for the pursuit of these are as follows:

This project was designed to take on board the operational principles and concrete impact of course provision on adult immigrant language acquisition. The panorama highlighted by this overview is encouraging, both as regards the availability of a range of sector agencies and awareness of the importance of language teaching as a key element in creating an environment fostering the integration and participation of new citizens in the provincial context.