



II CALRE AWARD “Stars of Europe”

Participation form

Regional legislative assembly: Cortes de Castilla y León

Country: Spain

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Type of project:

a) Regional law:

b) Administrative act:



c) Procedure:

d) Other: Initiative: **“Castilla y León, Tierra de Acogida” – “Castilla y León, Land of Welcome”**. Migrants’ integration Project.

Date of issuing of the initiative: 04/ 2016

Reference period: 2016 - 2017

Short description of the initiative

The initiative called “Castilla y León Tierra de Acogida – Land of Welcome” is a project launched by the Cortes de Castilla y León based on its Law 3/2013 and on its parliamentary institutional Declarations supporting migrants’ arrival and integration into European borders which main aim is to boost migrants’ integration into Castilla y León society.

“Castilla y León Tierra de Acogida – Land of Welcome” is composed by the development of different activities with migrants at the Regional Parliament premises, in collaboration with different NGOs of the region such as Red Cross, Caritas, Asociación Cultural y Social Atalaya, Fundación Cauce, ACCEM, Procomar Valladolid Acoge, Red Incola, ASAIN and Sociedad San Vicente de Paúl.

Main activities carried out split up into two parts. Firstly, undertake intercultural and family activities and secondly, develop institutional activities involving migrants into regional parliament democratic processes’ life.

The Cortes of Castilla y León took the opportunity of the celebration of the Castilla y León Regional Day which takes place on 23th April, to implement this project bringing together all migrants living in the region. The celebration of this event during the regional day aims to recognize migrants’ contribution to the region.

This project was held by first time in 2016 and due to its success a second edition was celebrated this year on the same day.

Role of the regional Assembly:

Encourage EU democratic values and the EU moto “united into diversity” involving migrants into regional cultural diversity and parliamentary democracy.



Enhance basic principles of the European Year of Cultural Heritage proposed for 2018, highlighting the importance of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue involving citizens from different backgrounds.

Main features of the initiative

Main goals of the initiative were to encourage intercultural coexistence, social and cultural inclusion, give known immigrants reality and positive values of migration into European regions.

The initiative “Castilla y León Tierra de Acogida – Land of Welcome” was hosted at the premises of Cortes de Castilla y Leon and was held on the regional day, granting a special recognition to migrants in this special day for the region.

In particular, in Castilla y León region 5,26% of regional population are migrants. Most part of them are coming from Rumania and Bulgaria from Europe, Morocco from Africa and Colombia, República Dominicana, Ecuador and Brazil from America and are ranged in working age. To this extent, it is worth to highlight the important contribution migrants do to the region.

This initiative’s implementation took two days and split up into two main sorts of activities.

Firstly, undertake intercultural and family activities. The main aim was to promote intercultural coexistence through different international traditional music, traditional food, painting, picture and leisure activities for kids and adults. Notably, kids painting activity aimed at highlighting the values of respect and solidarity among people from different origins painting their partner and showing differences they find between them likewise adults picture concourse which main aim were to boost values of solidarity, integration and tolerance. Moreover, all pictures made by migrants taking part at this event where displayed at the regional parliament main façade intending to show migrants’ work to all citizens. Further to this, it is worth to highlight the undertaken brotherhood meal with all participants, MPs and social and economic agents of the regional community. Specially, this meal was the result of a joint effort of the Castilla y Leon society through the voluntary engagement of 39 food business and 14 quality figures of this community which donated selected regional products as well as Associations of catering and catering college students who took part voluntarily at this event. In total, almost 100 persons participated on it.

Secondly, develop institutional activities involving migrants into regional parliament democratic processes' life. First of all, migrants reunited at the Plenary Sitting chamber had the opportunity to read a declaration on their views of regional migrants’ integration main success and main needs. Second, two migrants who carried out a successfully professional career in the region spoke about their experience and integration process. These declarations were addressed to all MPs present at the event. Finally, to conclude all participants had the opportunity to take part in a guided tour to the parliamentary facilities learning about different bodies conforming regional parliament as well as how regional democratic parliamentary processes work.

It should be stressed that in 2017 edition almost 400 participants took part at the event in the regional parliament premises, from which 37 were Syrian refugees, main collective gathering EU borders lately.

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At the same time, in parallel same activities were developed in Burgos, the Castilla y León province counting with the largest number of migrants, 20% of the total regional migrant population. Notably, intercultural activities were developed there.

In total, more than 800 persons had the opportunity to take part in this initiative during the second edition held on 23th April 2017.

Description of the consequences on the regions pointing out the positive European implications

More than 800 migrants had the opportunity to interact with political inhabitants' representatives to bring out their thoughts about all needs and progress made at regional level regarding migrants' integration and intercultural coexistence.

Raise awareness within all citizens from Castilla y León about migrants' context towards social inclusion of migrants' collective as well as to involve migrants in regional democratic processes, bringing parliamentary processes close to them, enhancing political dialogue with citizens under an intercultural background.

In conclusion, the defence of respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy while contributing to the building of more inclusive societies for European citizens that respect diversity.

