



TRAMIG

Workshop in Thessaloniki, 25.12.2020

The workshop took place in Thessaloniki on the 15th December 2020; the participants were community interpreters or intercultural mediators, who come mostly from Arabic speaking countries. Most of them have been working for years in this sector and had followed the previous workshops. Furthermore the videoconference was attended by students of the Interdepartmental MA Program on Conference Interpreting of the Aristotle University.

The Thessaloniki workshop was meant to be held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at the beginning of November 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was cancelled and rescheduled as an online event, on the 15th December 2020 between 10.00 a.m. and 14.00 pm. Nevertheless, the Workshop was attended by 25 people including the project partners representatives of AUTH.

The aim of the Thessaloniki workshop was to present the training material of the workshops organized by AUSL-IRCCS Reggio Emilia and Aristotle University. The participants were trained on the following subjects:

- **Project-based learning through immersion**
- **Final Examination and Quality Control**

In the beginning Simos Grammenidis made a presentation of the TRAMIG project and the topics of the workshops organized by AUSL-IRCCS Reggio Emilia and Aristotle University. The participants asked several questions about the project, a thorough conversation followed.

After Mr. Ampntel Nour Allous and Mr. Hamed Rouzbehani presented the training material and some exercises were introduced from the material, available in the website of the program. Special emphasis was given on the role play exercises proposed for the training and the evaluation.

There was a particular reference to interpreting on healthcare environments, which are equally complicated for community interpreters, who are expected to handle traumatic situations, despite their lack of experience and training. A special case that was mentioned during the workshop in relation with cultural barriers is the one of psychological support groups that cooperate with women.



The presentations were followed by a Q&A session and a productive discussion.

Participants expressed for one more time their wish to have some vocational training as well as studies in an undergraduate or postgraduate level or even part-time studies in interpreting, because the demand for community interpreting is increasing more and more. Special emphasis was placed on the following points:

1. Exercises and techniques for the interpreters in order to be able to deal with the denial and establish an environment of mutual respect and trust, where all participants' roles will be explicit.
2. Ways of tackling potentially inappropriate attitude and avoidance of such incidents.
3. The importance of posture of the participants during interpreting. The interpreter must always stand or sit between the two parties and if possible, sit slightly behind them so that the "communicative triangle" is established. In this way, bilateral communication is achieved and, at the same time, the interpreter does not possess the major role.
4. Special management techniques for interpreting for minors.
5. Workshops for anger management and psychological support for the interpreters.