



Safe spAcEs For LEarning | SAFE

IO1.A2: Collection of Good Practices

“Orient Express”



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SAFE SPACES FOR LEARNING





“Orient Express”

A short presentation of the project:

The association was founded in 1988 by Turkish women - House of Friendship by women from Turkey for women from Turkey. German language courses were central, even then with child care. Because of the demand, the association began to offer more counselling in 1993.

Today, the "Orient Express" is both a counselling and coordination centre, a shelter (emergency and transitional housing for women affected by sexual trafficking) and a learning centre.

The target group are women with a migration history, especially Arabic- and Turkish-speaking women; counselling and support is offered in several languages.

Raising awareness and protection against abduction and forced marriage is a major focus of the association. This also involves very concrete spaces that can be made available to girls or women if they are threatened or affected by forced marriage.

Aspects that make this practice a good example of safe learning space:

There are several aspects that are of interest here. On the one hand, it is the very concrete shelter for girls/women who are threatened/affected by forced marriage and who are intensively accompanied at this transition.

On the other hand, this is also a place of learning that addresses the needs of migrant women in a relatively "holistic" way. Counselling, accompaniment as well as learning (in the association there are also literacy courses for women who have not had the opportunity to learn to read and write) with childcare.

Exploring the cross-border transferability:

We can see that learning opportunities need to take into account the context of the life circumstances of the learners (in the example above, women with a migration history) and that a learning space alone is often not enough.

Contacts and links for further reading:

<https://www.orientexpress-wien.com/>

