



Embrace

Embrace Project Newsletter n° 1

EMBRACE has been co-funded by
the European Union's Asylum,
Migration and Integration Fund



PLACE



MECHELEN



ZRC SAZU



Embrace is 1 year old!

One year has passed since the kick-off of Embrace, an EU-funded project **promoting newcomers' participation** in designing and implementing integration policies alongside local decision-makers.

Over the first 12 months, through **listening sessions, trainings, circles of conversation and face-to-face meetings** involving newcomers and policymakers, we paved the way for these groups to cooperate, negotiate proposals and practically design new policies.

Some numbers: 11 territories across 6 European countries, 180 newcomers and 100 decision makers joining the activities, more than 300 hours of training.

[Find out more about what we have been doing.](#)

Lessons learnt

“By addressing these preconceptions with both newcomers and decision-makers, giving them tools and spaces to interact with each other equally, **we are halfway through the process of creating fairer and more united local communities**”.

We reached out to **Martina Todisco**, from the leading partner Second Tree, to gather her insights about the first year of implementation.

[Read the full interview.](#)





Meet the newcomers: Emna Kanzari

“The project provides the opportunity to engage directly with decision makers in order to start a conversation based on **mutual listening and exchange, creating a space for finding shared solutions** to the different issues”.

Emna Kanzari is a PhD student in economics and statistics at the University of Palermo. She is one of the newcomers engaged in the Embrace project in Italy.

[Read the full interview.](#)

Meet the decision-makers: Jean Baptiste Pointel

“The main lesson is about the **implicit bias** we all have. Most of us think through stereotypes. What is at stake, for civil servants, is to switch from a humanitarian to a user perspective. The training pathway helped me to have **tools to struggle against such representations** and to better involve newcomers”.

Jean Baptiste Pointel is the head of user&citizen participation unit of the Est ensemble of Paris. He is one of the decision makers who joined the Embrace project in France.

[Read the full interview.](#)

