



3RD NEWSLETTER, JULY 2023

# News from the Need to Connect project!

## Vilnius Uni

Vilnius University held a multiplier event/discussion entitled "Motherhood Today – what Remains Silenced" in collaboration with Center for Equality Advancement and the National Human Rights' Forum on 9 December 2022. It was an occasion to present the findings of the "Need to Connect" desk research to both young mothers and a wider audience alike as well as anticipate some of the interventions that the project would potentially introduce. The tension created by the contrast between popular representations and the multiple as well as complex realities of motherhood dominated the discussion.



**CESIE**

In June 2023, CESIE has conducted two of the three piloting sessions of the NTC curriculum and training program. The activities were led by CESIE trainer, Soad Ibrahim, and were conducted with a group of mothers that are currently hosted in a shelter for survivors of gender-based violence. The general feedback has been positive so far, and all the mothers participated actively and in an atmosphere of excitement and fun; through the activities, mothers shared their emotions, difficulties and dreams, which helped them connect with one another as well as re-connect to their own selves.

## Einurd

The Need to Connect pilot training will take place in Iceland from 14th to 23rd August 2023 and the multiplier event or seminar will be held on the 30th August in and in collaboration with the Family Centre in Gerðuberg Reykjavík City. In the seminar good practices related to empowerment and training for mothers, parents and families will be presented such as MemPlay, family events organized by the Reykjavík City Library – culture houses and support provided by the family center as well as presenting the results from the "Need to connect" project and results from the pilot training.



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## Happiness Academy

Happiness Academy has done the piloting of the Need to connect curriculum, training program and open educational resources, in cooperation with KindyRoo Bulgaria. KindyRoo is a network of centers for babies and children development that have active offices in 10 cities in Bulgaria. KindyRoo centers have implemented a science-based system of activities and games that support the intellectual, emotional and physical development of babies and children. In the KindyRoo weekly classes – parents visit the center together with their child and participate in the program.

The NTC piloting took place between Mar 16 th and April 18 th 2023 and 11 young mothers have participated in it. Printout materials in Bulgarian were prepared and distributed to the young mothers.

The feedback that has been provided by the participants was very positive. The young mothers mentioned as most useful the following topics included in the NTC piloting programme: time management, task prioritization, smart goals, work-life balance.



## DFW2W

Dutch Foundation of Innovation Welfare 2 work is starting their piloting this Friday 28th . It will be conducted 5 Fridays in a row during July and August: 28th July and August 4th , 11th , 18th and 25th . The piloting of the 5 modules developed by the Need to connect partnership will be tested in the Netherlands among mothers in a vulnerable situation.





# IC Geoss

IC Geoss is scheduled to conduct the training programme pilot in September 2023. The workshops will take place at two different locations, in collaboration with corresponding centres that support mothers. The piloting phase is set to conclude by mid-September, followed by the organization of a multiplier event during the last week of September.

The decision to partner with centres for mothers was driven by their alignment with the goals of the Need to Connect project, which aims to provide a secure space for women on their motherhood journey. The centres for mothers are safe communities where mothers can talk and express their feelings and needs during this exciting journey. They can share their anxiety or experiences in a circle of women in similar situations. Through our collaboration, our aim is to reach as many mothers as possible on their journey of empowerment.

All mothers and expectant mothers are warmly welcomed to participate. For further details about the piloting activities in Slovenia, please visit our website: <https://www.ic-geoss.si/projekti/povezujmo-se/> If you are interested in taking part, feel free to contact us through Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/icgeoss>) or send us an email at [eu-projects@ic-geoss.si](mailto:eu-projects@ic-geoss.si).

# CIS

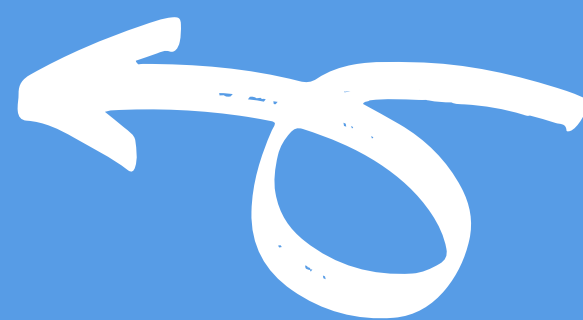
In between mid and end of April 2023 Consultoría de Innovación Social held the piloting together with the organisation Málaga Acoge in Torre Del Mar in Spain. Málaga Acoge is one of the main stakeholders in the province of Málaga working with vulnerable people in the areas of training, employment, social work, volunteer ship and youth work.

The multiple sessions with its creative activities inspired the participants to reflect their situation and to re-connect with their wishes. They shared emotions and challenges they actually face in their situation, which helped them to see that they face similar situations.



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