

BEST PRACTICE PROJECT "AT HOME - WE KNEAD, SHARE AND PLAY".



Project "At home - we knead, share and play".

Leading organization: Association "Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria".

Donor: International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

In March 2018, the project "Psychosocial activities with women and children, refugees and asylum seekers accommodated in the regional reception centers of the State Agency for Refugees in Sofia" was launched and implemented by the Association "Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria" in which Bakery Network is a partner.

"At home - we knead, share, play" is the working title of the initiative, which includes creative culinary activities with women and children from the regional reception centers.



The events are held according to the method "Theater of Crumbs" of the Bakery Network and are located in the Sofia Bakery. Six of the events are for women from Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. They involve women in culinary activities inherent in their culture and at the same time give them space to spend time and share experiences, outside of their usual everyday environment in the reception centers.



In parallel with the activities of the women, educational and creative activities are held for their children, led by an animator. The target group of the other six events are refugee and asylum-seeking children, who participate in a series of educational interventions, supporting their social adaptation, developing their social skills and their language skills in Bulgarian. While the children knead bread and other culinary products, their mothers participate in information meetings related to opportunities for receiving social support and discuss specific cases related to the needs and conditions of living in the regional reception centers.

The meeting under the motto "At home - we knead, share, play" is part of a project of the "Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria" - "Psychosocial activities with women and children, refugees and asylum seekers accommodated in the reception centers of the State Agency for refugees in Sofia. " The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Commission's Asylum, Migration fund it as well as The Integration Fund.



Eight women from Afghanistan and Iran gathered at the Sofia Bread House on June 12th to share several hours of conversations while making bread. During the activity under the motto "At home - we knead, share, play" a facilitator from the host team and a social mediator from "Council of Women in Business in Bulgaria" accompanied the women seeking protection in Bulgaria and currently accommodated in the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers Sofia - Military Ramp.

At the same time, the children painted, played, built houses and castles with colored wooden cubes, along with Ally Bronson and Riley Pettit, students at Vanderbilt University, USA, and volunteers at CWBB.

In the beginning, each of the women drew a card with the symbolism of which she connected an area of her life. The women drew their plans, hopes, and dreams on the flour, spread on the table and tried to connect them in a story. Then they kneaded dough, shaped, decorated and baked bread. The women shared some of the bread with all participants in the event, and the rest of the bread was taken with them to share with their loved ones.

By the end of July, five more meetings are forthcoming, with which the "Council of Women in Business in Bulgaria" team supports women and children - refugees and asylum seekers.

