

FOR-IN

Kick-off Conference

SHAPING INCLUSIVE CITIES TOGETHER

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Yanika Wilen

MIRGAL

MIRSAL, ARABIC SPEAKERS IN FINLAND - FOR INTEGRATION AND EQUALITY

- Mirsal, meaning "messengers" in Arabic, serves as a bridge between Finnish and Arabic communities.
- While focusing on Arabic speakers in Finland, it remains inclusive to all.
- It strengthens competencies, promotes equality, and provides a platform for integration, youth empowerment, and feminist education.



VALUES

- Mirsal promotes gender equality, inclusivity, and open dialogue on sensitive issues.
- It fosters unity through shared humanity, prioritizing cooperation over competition.
- We work for community development empowering People with Fewer Opportunities.
- By empowering marginalized voices in Finland's democracy and celebrating Arabic culture, Mirsal actively combats Arabophobia and advocates for a more inclusive society.



STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

1. Community Engagement & Social Cohesion
2. Access to Essential Services & Systemic Barriers
3. Policy Innovations & Political Participation
4. Collaborative Approaches for Resilience
5. Sustainable Integration & Long-Term Impact

Conclusion: Mirsal's 2024 Lessons for Inclusive Resilience

1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL COHESION

Key Actions:

- Peer-led Men's Cafés promoted fatherhood, mental health, and gender equality.
- Cultural Walks reduced isolation among elderly migrants through nature and shared activities.

Why It Matters:

- Familiar spaces and peer support build trust and empower communities.



2. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES & SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Key Actions:

- Volunteers guided migrants in navigating Kela, housing, and bureaucracy.
- Arabic-language OmaStadi workshops increased migrant civic participation.

Why It Matters:

- Language-accessible support helps overcome service gaps and boosts inclusion.



3. POLICY INNOVATIONS & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Key Actions:

- Migrant youth visited the EU Parliament and shared stories through workshops.
- Among Us project raised awareness on racism and underrepresented voices.

Why It Matters:

- Direct contact with institutions encourages democratic participation and visibility.



4. COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES FOR RESILIENCE

Key Actions:

- Erasmus+ projects united youth across countries through creative exchange.
- Partnerships with Moniheli and YLE Arabic co-created local integration programs.

Why It Matters:

- Cross-sector cooperation expands impact and shares effective practices.



5. SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION & LONG-TERM IMPACT

YouthUp Project:

- gave Arabic-speaking youth leadership and financial skills

Employment & Career Support:

- Mentorship initiative where migrant job seekers get career guidance from professionals and many participants secured jobs & improved skills.

Mental Health & Well-being Support:

- Peer support groups for Arabic-speaking migrants dealing with trauma & adaptation challenges.



Safe Spaces for Sensitive Issues:

- Closed discussion groups
 - for women to talk about gender-based violence & social restrictions.
 - About divorce & custody of children

Why it matters:

- Building capacity leads to self-reliance and lasting community engagement.



CONCLUSION: MIRSAL'S 2024 WORK SHOWS

- Holistic approach: Tackles isolation, access issues, and political exclusion.
- Big impact: 1,200+ reached; 70% started community initiatives.
- Key needs: Fund peer-led efforts, use mobile-friendly tools, and scale international collaboration
- Call to Action:
 - Fund peer-to-peer programs (e.g., Men's Cafés).
 - Prioritize multilingual, mobile-friendly civic tools.
 - Scale cross-border solidarity (e.g., Erasmus+ exchanges).



THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

- Local integration initiatives help migrants adapt and thrive by breaking language barriers, supporting employment, and building social connections.
- Key strategies include multilingual services, access to essential resources, cultural exchange, and civic engagement.
- These efforts benefit both migrants and society, fostering inclusion and resilience

Thank you!

yanika.wilen@mirsal.fi