

Welcome Session, 22th November 2018



Maria Helena Antunes
RefugeesIN Project Coordinator

Leonor Silveira, representing the Ministry of Culture,
Pedro Delgado Alves, President of the Lumiar Town Council,
Rui Gato, on behalf of the Portuguese National Agency Erasmus+ Education and Training
And all of our guests, partners, stakeholders and other participants, welcome!

My name is **Maria Helena Antunes**, and it's my privilege and pleasure on behalf of the RefugeesIN Partnership and AidLearn, HR Consulting, to welcome you here today.

We are delighted to have you with us to participate and share in our RefugeesIN International Conference & Film Festival – Portugal 2018. Thank you for coming.

We are honoured to have with us today

Pedro Calado, the Portuguese Commissioner for Migration,
Nour Machlah, member of the European Migrant Advisory Board, **Maria Karoumpali**, Greek Council for Refugees and
Joana Menezes, support unit for migration and discrimination victims/Portuguese Association for Victim Support/APAV.

All four are esteemed specialists who will help us to better understand the situation of Refugees in the EU and Portugal as well as the type of discrimination they suffer and the support provided.

Now that we are living through a humanitarian calamity of historic proportions with individuals facing complex and painful processes in their adaptive pathways to European societies, we believe adult education and films can and should more often convey successful stories of refugees' social inclusion in their newly adopted homeland.

In this context, will be the privilege of the RefugeesIN team to introduce you the Project and the intellectual outputs generated in two years of intense work, which stands for adult learning opportunities to social inclusion by critical analysis of European cinema and documentary film making on inspiring refugees' life stories.

A way to exploiting the RefugeesIN approach, methodologies and Pack, to debating and showcase what can be done with cinema and collaborative multicultural work.

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Thus encouraging intercultural dialogue, combat discrimination against refugees and promoting their social inclusion and citizenship for all.

But there are other relevant strategies, as is the case of 4 projects: **OPLICO**, **Live2Work**, **Tell Me** and **PARTIS**, that, although under different approaches and methodologies, are also intended to promote the social inclusion of refugees. Thank you **Sofia Matos**, **Joana Carneiro Pinto**, **Nazzareno Vasapollo**, **Sérgio Novo**, **Ângelo Merayo** and **Sérgio Condeço**, for accepting our invitation!

And then, the most anticipated moment! Finally we will have the *premiere* of the **12 documentaries short films**, subtitled in English, that were produced by multicultural teams, in the RefugeesIN partner countries.

You are all invited to express your opinion and vote for the awarding of 3 prizes: Best Documentary; Best Director and Most Inspiring Stories, to be given during tomorrow's closing session. May the best win!

At the end of the day, we will also have the privilege of talking with and listening to the experiences of some of the refugees' protagonists, adult educators and film directors, involved in the documentaries crews. Thank you **Eduardo Amaro** for leading the process of final editing and subtitling of the documentaries in 6 languages!

Tomorrow morning, time to screen "Lampedusa in Berlin", and talk about with **Mauro Mondello**, Director and **Paolo Lafratta**, cinematography.

The film shows the everyday life of refugees in Berlin who came via Lybia to Italy and then to Germany. They show a great deal of courage, resilience, initiative and they have integrated themselves into a niche of German society despite the many challenges they face.

Inspiring stories, where it is worth reflecting on! Thank you Mauro and Paolo by sharing your work!

Then **Joana Carneiro Pinto** and **Nour Machlah** will tell us their experiences and reflections over the Conference, from their perspectives as an academic and a refugee. Surely not to be missed! Thank you Joana and Nour for accepting the challenge!

And before I handover to Dr. Rui Gato, who will address some opening messages to us, I want to say once more, on behalf of the organizing committee, welcome.

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It's wonderful to see so many of you here. Prepare yourself to be challenged, excited and inspired!

And a special thanks to the organizing team and to the technical/audio-visual team - Catarina Carvalho, José Nogueira, Eduardo Amaro, Carlota Flieg, Marisol Carmelino, Samuel Oliveira, Giulia Brescianini and Hélder Ferreira. Without you it would not have been possible!

Enjoy the RefugeesIN International Conference & Film Festival – Portugal 2018!

