

Associació Educativa Integral del Raval (AEIRaval): “Supporting the community leads to being supported by the community”

Non-formal education dimension of the programs for young migrants at risk in Barcelona was presented through the education association AEIRaval, a non-profit association that **implements and develops socio-educational intervention programs** in the Raval district. They work with the most vulnerable groups, with difficulties in social inclusion in a society that presents inequalities of opportunities and where vulnerability is often inherited from generation to generation. Moreover, AEIRaval is also a **social services provider** and they are working with children and adolescents, youth, provide support for families and work on inclusion of children and young people with disabilities as well.

Two elements of their work were presented in more details, work with children and adolescents and with youth, more specifically *Prometeus* project focused on the supporting students from vulnerable backgrounds, especially young migrants in higher education enrolment and studying.



AEIRaval in their work with children and adolescents provides support spaces and services, with intent to **stimulate and enhance the personal abilities of children and adolescents**, between 3 and 16 years old. The activities carried out are aimed at basic and recreational **learning activities, socialization** as well as compensating for **socio-educational deficiencies**.

Prometeus is a project coordinated by AEIRaval and supported by the educational and social entities with main goal to **inform young people from vulnerable groups** from public schools in the neighbourhood on the access to higher education. Project manager, Shazra Javed, elaborated how in order to **ensure and promote equal access to higher education**, the project starts with the activities in the secondary schools, informing students about their rights and various options and support mechanisms that contribute to the equal access to higher education. Afterwards, the project supports the students in the process of **enrolment to the higher education institutions** and continues **supporting and empowering students throughout their studies**. The element they are especially proud of is the fact that students who were receiving the support and being mentored are now more

than happy and proud to step in the role of mentors themselves and spread the word about the project and offer support to younger students in need of guidance and empowerment. As the first students being mentored are now close to finishing their studies, the project team is working on the forming and implementing the project dedicated to the guidance and support in the next step to **full social integration** of youth from vulnerable backgrounds and that is employment.

Associació Superacció: “Holistic approach with the mental health at its core”

Zuhir Zammouri and Sara Vilà, director and manager, introduced us with the *Superacció*, a non-profit organization that promotes the **overcoming of social exclusion of the young people at risk**, especially unaccompanied migrant minors. The organization has diverse and wide scope of activities that are being implemented, however they can be summed up to the **three main pillars**: sport and action, expressive and artistic activity and mental health that are focused on nurturing physical, socio-emotional and cognitive aspects of the individuals, specifically emphasising the importance of the emotional aspect, as a central element that ensures cohesion and integrity.

About 70% of their participants are minors, however, they are free to stay in the association and programs after reaching the legal adult age and until they are fully **socially integrated**. After sharing the data that **80% of youngsters in their programs are eventually socially included**, they explained how they measure social inclusion: “When they are independent, **they can choose freely their future**, what they want to be, not influenced or restricted with administrative or economic situation. They have economic tools to be independent, like job, and social tools to live in society, if they have to share the flat to be able to live with other people.”.

One of their major projects is **triathlon**, an endurance sport that combines three sports:

swimming, cycling and athletics. In this context, they see it as a vehicle to help these young people with a very vulnerable profile and great difficulties in integrating into society. Sport offers a **high motivation** to minors and young people, which allows us them to get closer, know their reality and offer them resources based on their needs. Their goal is to help minors and young people at risk of exclusion through regular triathlon sessions so that they can gain **self-esteem** and be able to **achieve their goals**.

