



KALA ÈLLÈK

THE FUTURE IS STILL TO BE DRAWN.



"YOU CAN'T GO BACK AND CHANGE THE BEGINNING. BUT YOU CAN START WHERE YOU ARE AND CHANGE THE ENDING."

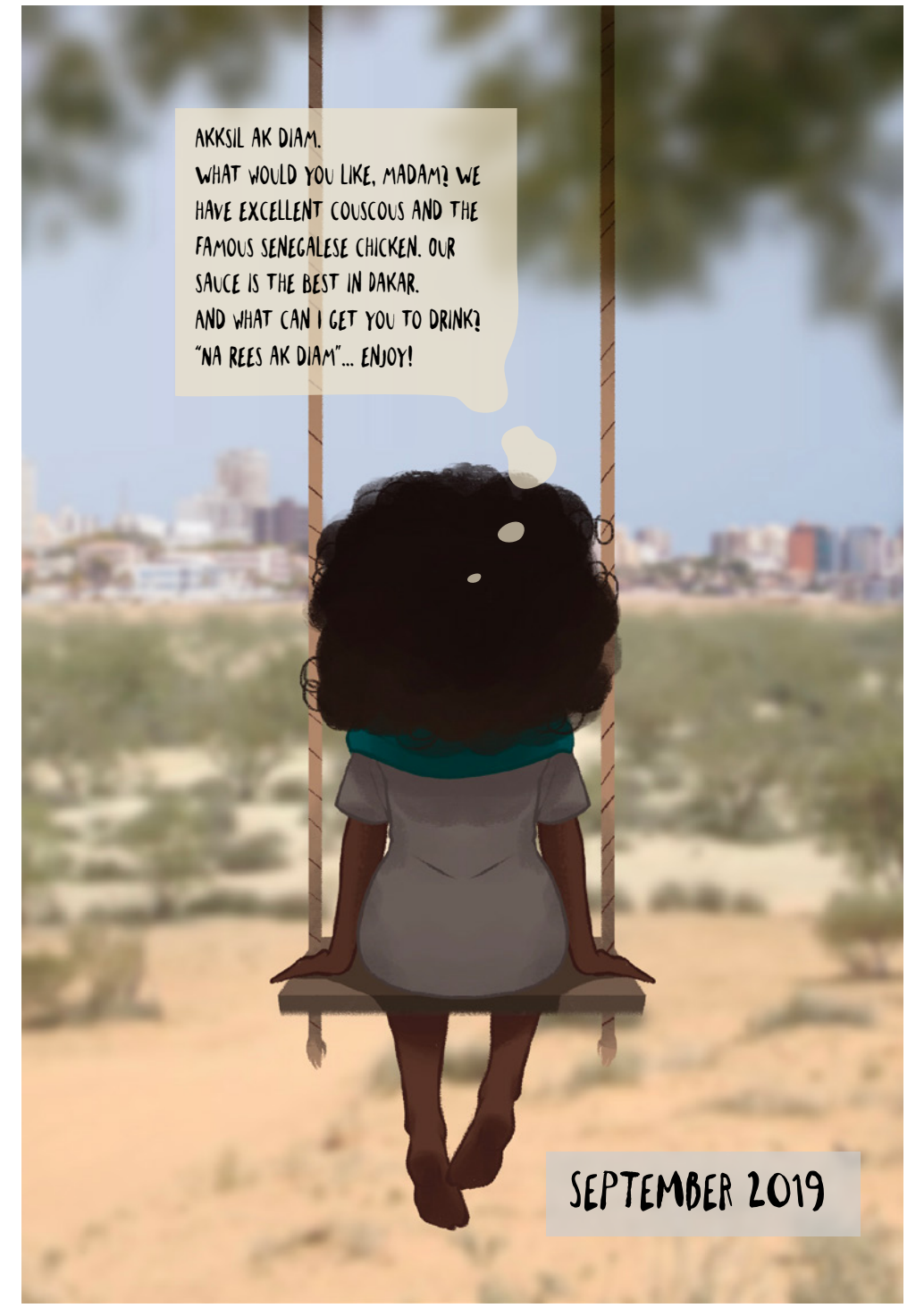
This sentence by C. S. Lewis expresses the essence of our LIME project which sees the collaboration of a varied group of motivated and experienced Italian and Spanish partners.

Introduction about the LIME project and the MEIC methodology

The successful integration of young third country nationals (TCNs) into the labour market is not just a challenge, but also a great opportunity. This is the vision carried out by the LIME project – “Labour Integration for Migrants Employment” which aims to promote the swift integration of young third country nationals (TCNs) - between the age of 18 to 29 years old - into the labour market. This 2-years project started in December 2018 and funded by the DG Home Affairs - Asylum, Migration and Integration fund of the European Union gathers 7 partners from Italy, Spain and France

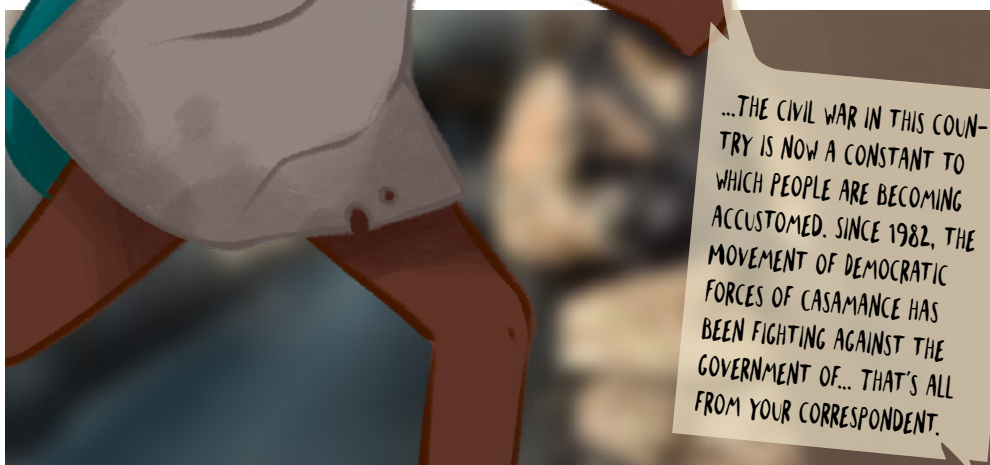
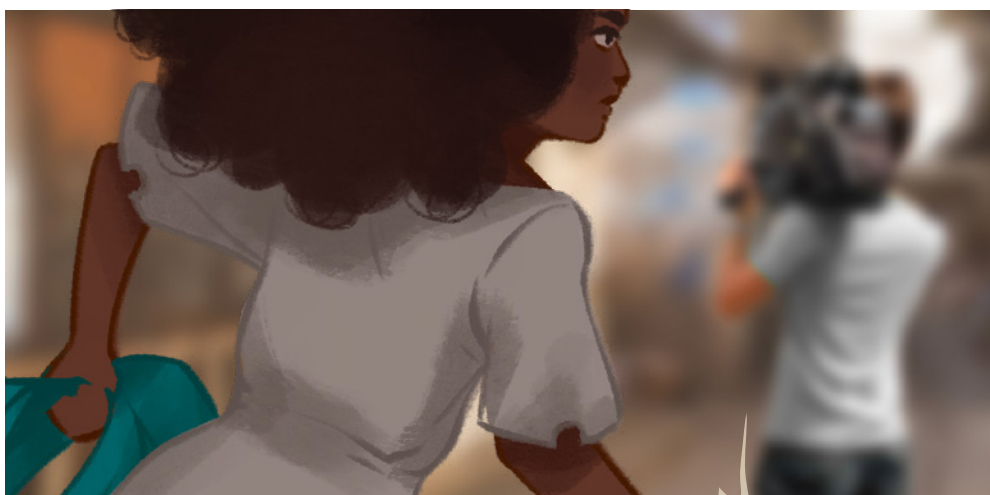
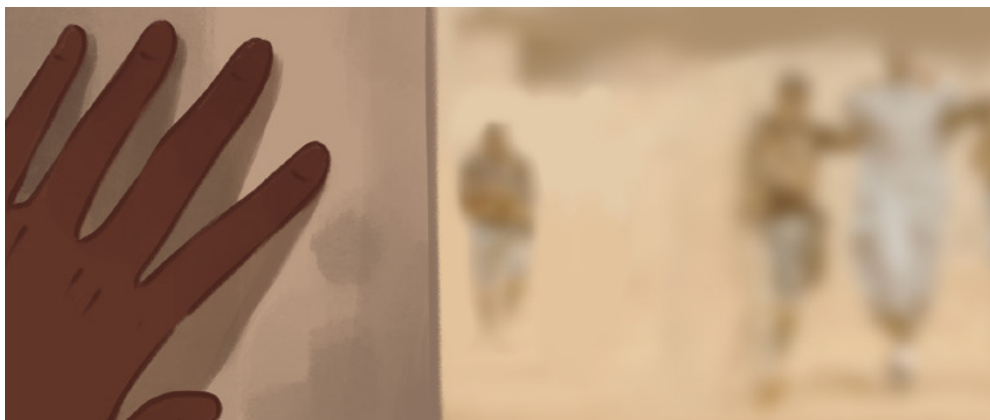
In order to improve the migrants' labour inclusion, the LIME project is willing to implement all over Europe an innovative and high participatory methodology: the MEIC - Migrants Economic Integration Cluster methodology, an innovative and participatory approach based on the creation of a partnership of socio-economic multi-stakeholders, including public and private actors.

The core of the project is the 2 pilot actions implemented in Rome and Madrid, under which the MEIC methodology has been developed and tested. These two pilot projects involved around 100 young third country nationals (TCNs) through several courses (language courses, cooking classes, business training, etc.). The LIME project also aims to mobilize key actors in terms of migrants' labour inclusion to apply the MEIC model all over Europe, and thereby organized several workshops and webinars in order to raise awareness among stakeholders and institutions on this topic.



AKKSIL AK DIAM.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, MADAM? WE
HAVE EXCELLENT COUSCOUS AND THE
FAMOUS SENEGALESE CHICKEN. OUR
SAUCE IS THE BEST IN DAKAR.
AND WHAT CAN I GET YOU TO DRINK?
"NA REES AK DIAM"... ENJOY!

SEPTEMBER 2019



...THE CIVIL WAR IN THIS COUNTRY IS NOW A CONSTANT TO WHICH PEOPLE ARE BECOMING ACCUSTOMED. SINCE 1982, THE MOVEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF CASAMANCE HAS BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF... THAT'S ALL FROM YOUR CORRESPONDENT.



PLEASE, PLEASE...
DON'T LET HIM SEE ME!

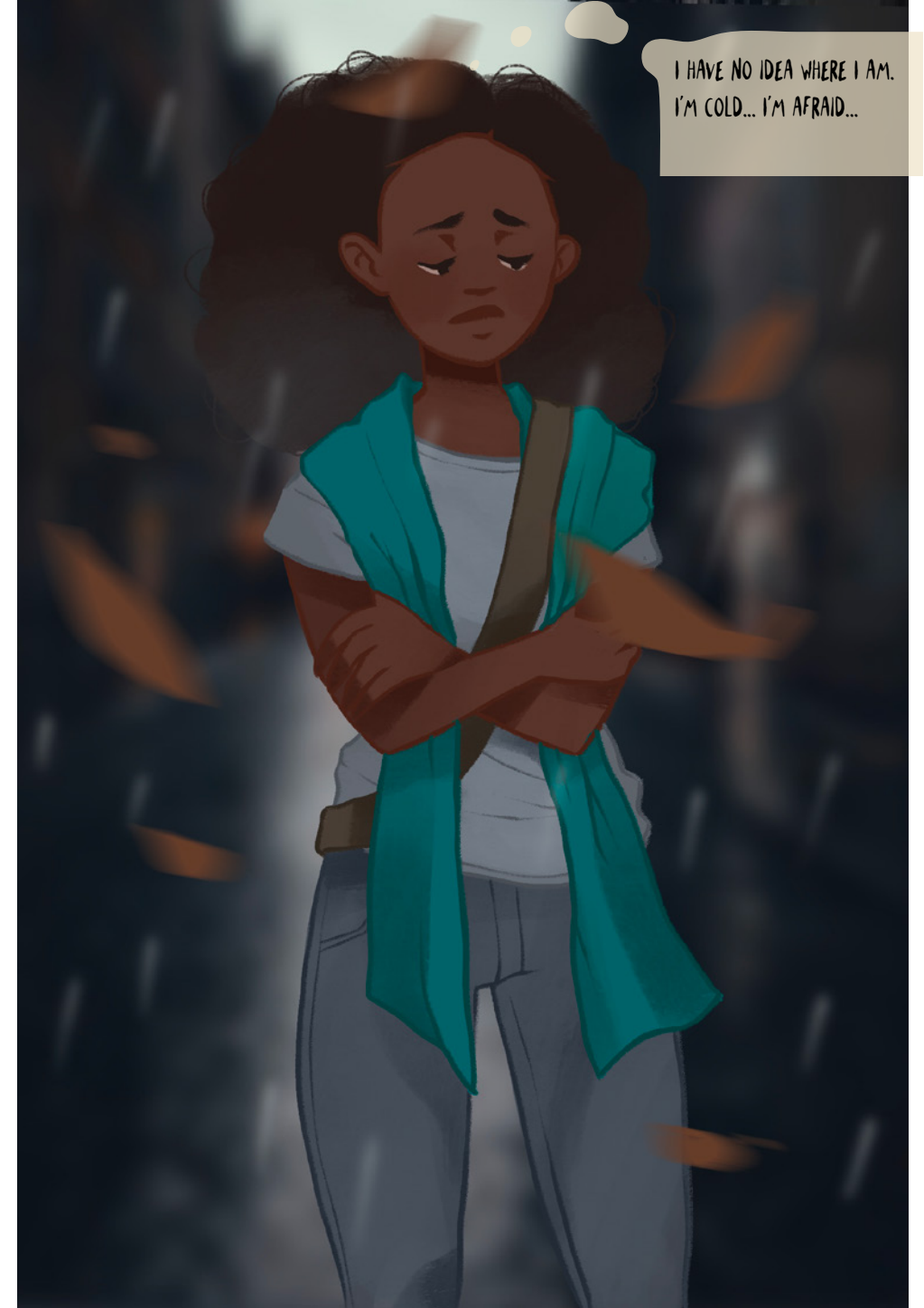
I CAN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE.
IF I DON'T ESCAPE, I'LL DIE.



...I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY
MY DECISION... I LOVE YOU.
GOODBYE.

MUM



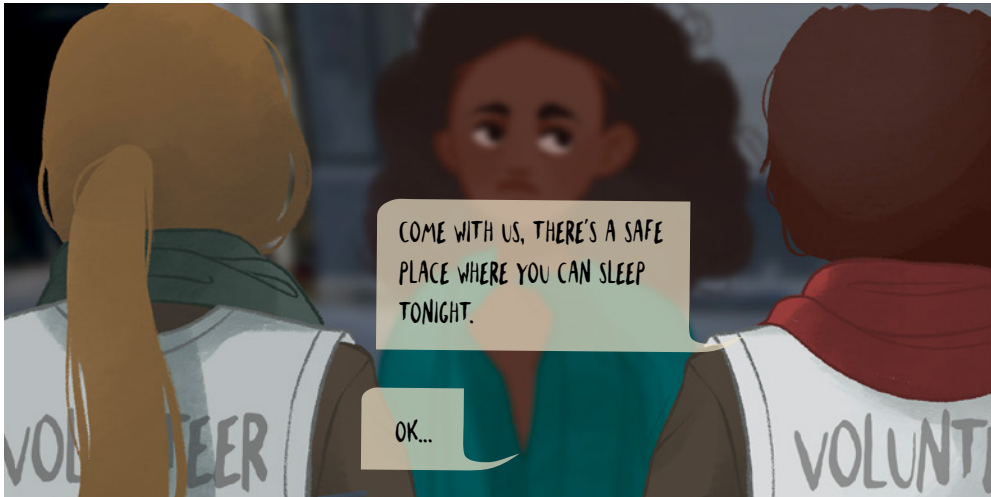


I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM.
I'M COLD... I'M AFRAID...



HELLO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I AM ANNA AND HE IS JOHN.
WE ARE VOLUNTEERS, WE HELP
PEOPLE IN DIFFICULTY.



COME WITH US, THERE'S A SAFE
PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SLEEP
TONIGHT.

OK...




A FEW HOURS LATER, IN THE
PORTANOVA DORMITORY.




THE NEXT DAY

GOOD MORNING KALA, WE TALKED TO THE SOCIAL WORKERS. THERE WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY TO BE WELCOMED BY A FAMILY AND SLEEP IN A REAL ROOM.



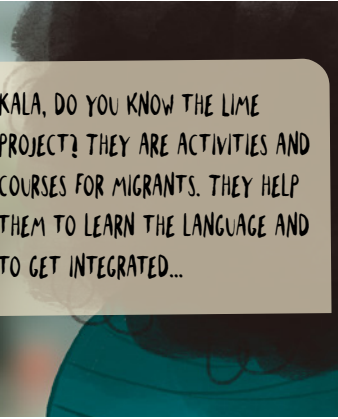
I AM PALOMA.
MY DAUGHTER HAS GONE TO
WORK ABROAD. HER ROOM
IS FREE.




IT'S A SMALL ROOM, IN
THE ATTIC. YOU CAN SEE
THE WHOLE CITY FROM
THERE. YOU'LL LIKE IT.




TWO DAYS LATER




KALA, DO YOU KNOW THE LIME PROJECT? THEY ARE ACTIVITIES AND COURSES FOR MIGRANTS. THEY HELP THEM TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE AND TO GET INTEGRATED...



HELLO. I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU BEFORE... KALA, RIGHT? I'M MEA. I'M PART OF THE LIME PROJECT. WE DO A LOT OF THINGS, STARTING WITH THE CLASSES.



IT'S LIKE A DREAM. EVERYTHING IS SO WELL ORGANISED HERE.

An illustration of a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling warmly. She is holding a large black folder or book in front of her. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and grey. Two yellow speech bubbles with black text are overlaid on the image. The top speech bubble is larger and contains a long paragraph of text. The bottom speech bubble is smaller and contains a shorter paragraph of text.

THESE ARE NOT COURSES LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. HERE, IN ADDITION TO LEARNING THE LANGUAGE SO THAT YOU CAN ENTER THE LABOUR MARKET QUICKLY, YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ENHANCE YOUR CAPABILITIES. THERE ARE VOCATIONAL COURSES, COOKING CLASSES AND SOFT SKILLS WORKSHOPS, WHICH WILL HELP YOU PRACTISE YOUR NEW LANGUAGE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SKILLS. AT THE END OF THE COURSE IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT YOU WILL FIND A GOOD JOB. TEACHERS AND TUTORS WILL HELP YOU WITH THIS. CONSIDERING THE SITUATION IN SENEGAL, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO REFUGEE STATUS. I WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH A LEGAL AID OFFICE THAT CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM.

YOU CAN START IN THE AFTERNOON IF YOU WANT. AND TOMORROW IS "APPLIED LANGUAGES IN CATERING", IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

IN THE AFTERNOON...

THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
TOMORROW WE'LL TALK
ABOUT FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES, POTS
AND GLASSES... SEE YOU
TOMORROW!

THE NEXT DAY





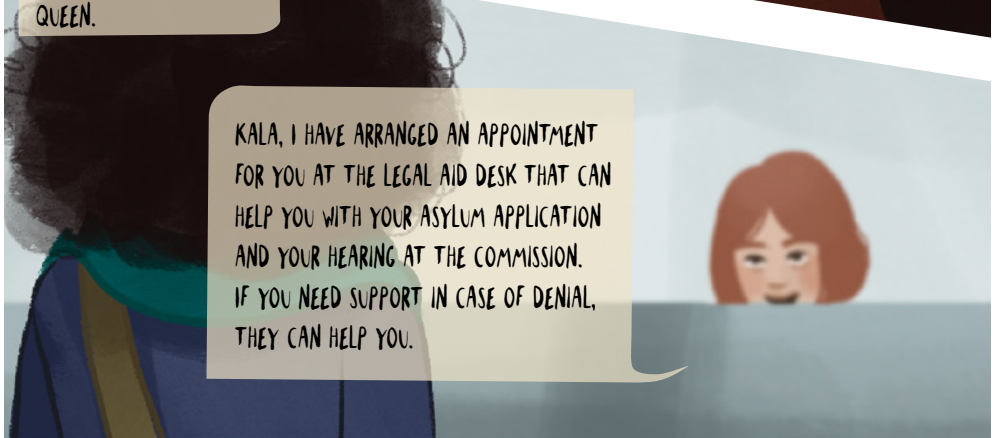
PREPARE THE INGREDIENTS IN THE BOWL AND MIX THEM WITH A LITTLE OIL...

I AM KALA, FROM SENEGAL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?




I AM NAHA, I COME FROM MOROCCO. I LOVE YASSA POULET AND I LISTEN TO QUEEN.

MY NAME IS JEAN,
I COME FROM HAÏTI.




KALA, I HAVE ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU AT THE LEGAL AID DESK THAT CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION AND YOUR HEARING AT THE COMMISSION. IF YOU NEED SUPPORT IN CASE OF DENIAL, THEY CAN HELP YOU.

ONE WEEK LATER



...MRS PALOMA, I AM REALLY HAPPY. THANK YOU FOR HOSTING ME, AND THANKS TO THE GUYS FROM THE LIME PROJECT, TO THE TUTORS WHO TEACHED ME SO MANY THINGS AND THEN...




EVEN IF I MISS MY COUNTRY AND MY FAMILY, I AM HAPPY. BECAUSE TODAY I HAVE OBTAINED REFUGEE STATUS.



I AM HAPPY FOR YOU. YOU DESERVE ALL THE GOOD IN THE WORLD!

APRIL 2020




EIGHT O'CLOCK EDITION. THE NUMBER OF INFECTED CASES IS SOARING IN EUROPE. IN THE UNITED STATES COVID IS EVEN MOBILISING THE ARMY. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION ANNOUNCES: IMMINENT CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS, SHOPS AND OFFICES TO LIMIT THE PANDEMIC...

A comic panel showing two characters. On the left, a woman with dark hair and large hoop earrings, wearing a blue top, is smiling and looking towards the right. On the right, a man with dark skin and curly hair is looking back at her. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

THIS IS CATARINA, OUR TUTOR.

NICE TO MEET YOU KALA, I KNOW YOUR STORY WELL. YOU'RE GOOD! HOW'S IT GOING?

A comic panel showing a close-up of the man from the previous panel. He has a thoughtful expression and is looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a teal shirt. A woman's dark hair is visible in the foreground on the left, partially obscuring the view.

THANK YOU, CATARINA, I'M MUCH BETTER NOW. I'M SAFE AT PALOMA'S HOUSE, I'M DOING WELL WITH THE LANGUAGE. I'M LEARNING A LOT OF THINGS AT THE LIME PROJECT COURSES, BUT... I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT... I WOULD LIKE TO FIND A JOB.


I'LL TALK TO THE TRAINING TUTOR IN CATERING. WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.



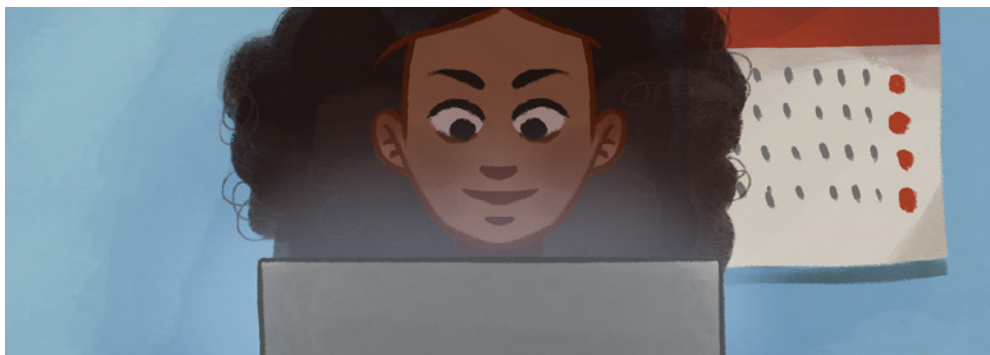
ATTENTION
CLASSROOM COURSES
SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID.
ONLINE LESSONS AT:
WWW.LIMEPROJECT.EU




MRS PALOMA, I NEED HELP!
DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER AND AN INTERNET
CONNECTION?



TAKE THIS ONE, IT'S A FEW YEARS OLD, BUT
IT SHOULD STILL WORK. THERE'S A CABLE FOR
SURFING. THE PASSWORD IS... I THINK... YES,
THE PASSWORD IS "PASSWORD".



MAY 2020



KALA!... KALA! GET OFF!!!



KALA, WHY
HAVEN'T YOU L
OGGED ON?

I CAN'T PAY ATTENTION IN FRONT OF THE
COMPUTER... I WANT TO QUIT THE CLASS.



KALA, YOU CAN'T QUIT NOW.
WE'RE REORGANISING OURSELVES WITH
ONLINE ACTIVE JOB RESEARCH COACHING
AND TUTORING FOR BUSINESS START-UP.
THIS PANDEMIC HAS PUT US IN A DIFFICULT
SITUATION, BUT IT WON'T STOP US! THERE
ARE OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW SECTORS SUCH AS
RETAIL AND LOGISTICS. DON'T GIVE UP!





MAYBE LATER BUT
NOT FOR NOW.



IT'S A DIFFICULT
TIME, LET'S TALK
LATER.



SHE'S NOT THE RIGHT
PERSON FOR US. THANK
YOU. GOODBYE.



WE HAVE ALREADY
HIRED A BOY.



KALA, I HAVE GOOD NEWS. A LOCAL ASSOCIATION HAS FUNDED AN INTERNSHIP. AND MAYBE WHILE YOU ARE WORKING YOU CAN ATTEND THE START-UP WORKSHOP TO LEARN HOW TO DEVELOP A REAL BUSINESS PLAN.



MISS, THERE'S A POSITION HERE FOR YOU IN FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION, BUT YOU NEED FOOD PROCESSING CERTIFICATION, HACCP AND...



MR ARMANDO, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. MY TUTOR CATARINA HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE JOB CENTRE. THE COURSE IS NEXT WEEK.



VERY WELL THEN. SEE YOU ON MONDAY. BE ON TIME.

AUGUST 2020

KALA, WERE THE TWO BOXES OF RICE DELIVERED? AND THE SIX BOXES OF BEANS?

SURE, YOU'LL FIND THE SIGNED BILLS INSIDE THE BINDER. NUMBER... 1045 E 1048.

CONGRATS, KALA. WE ARE ALL PROUD OF YOU. AT THE END OF YOUR INTERNSHIP YOU WILL BE HIRED WITH A CONTRACT!

THANK YOU MR. ARMANDO. I'M SO HAPPY!



DO YOU KNOW, MRS. PALOMA, THAT I HAVE BEEN HIRED WITH A REAL JOB CONTRACT!

I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU. YOU'RE GOOD AND YOU WORK HARD, YOU DESERVE IT.

YES, ALL OF US IN THE LIME PROJECT ARE PROUD OF YOU. AND WE ALSO HAVE NEWS. WITH A HOUSING ASSOCIATION WE FOUND A HOUSE FOR YOU!



OOOHHH! I'LL MISS YOU KALA!

I'LL MISS YOU, TOO, BUT I'LL COME BACK TO SEE YOU, MRS. PALOMA. I PROMISE!

SEPTEMBER 2020

HOW MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED... TWO YEARS AGO MY LIFE WAS HANGING BY A THREAD, AND TODAY I HAVE A JOB, A HOUSE IN A SAFE COUNTRY, AND MANY GOOD FRIENDS... HOW NICE IT IS!





JUNE 2026

HEY, LOOK AT THIS NICE LITTLE ETHNIC RESTAURANT... AND WHAT A GREAT SMELL... WHAT DO YOU SAY WE STOP HERE FOR DINNER?



AKKSIL AK DIAM, WELCOME!

BUT... KALA! IT'S YOU!!!!



CATARINA!!! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! YOU REMEMBER, I DREAMED SO MUCH OF OPENING A RESTAURANT IN MY COUNTRY. IT IS ALSO THANKS TO THE LIME PROJECT THAT MY DREAM HAS COME TRUE, BECAUSE THIS IS NOW MY COUNTRY.



I AM VERY HAPPY, KALA.
BUT... HOW'S LOVE GOING?



THIÉBOUDIÈNE
AND SESAME CHICKEN!

Results of the project

During its two years of implementation, the LIME project has produced very good results, especially in the two pilot actions in Spain and in Italy.

In Madrid, Total participants 49 young adult asylum seekers took part in the pilot project and participated in various activities and courses such as Spanish courses, soft skills training, kitchen training, mentoring sessions, job orientation. During the project: 49 people were trained in the catering sector, 10 participants were involved in the training on the job, 7 ended the project with job contract after the training and 14 beneficiaries have found a job without the training on the job.

As for Rome, the beneficiaries could also have access to numerous vocational training courses: catering, automotive and electrical courses, soft skills assessment activities, self-entrepreneurship training, coaching courses, and professional Italian courses. Thanks to this project, 12 people were afterwards involved in on-the-job training, 1 was involved in the national civil service and 11 participants even found a job! The pilot action also made possible the creation of 2 business plans as well as a new start up. Through this comic book and Kala's story, we have tried to give a voice to all the people we have met during the two years of the project. We wish them the best of luck.

49 Trained in the catering sector

10 Participated in on-the-job training

7 Obtained a job contract after the training

14 Found a job in Spain

4 Professional courses in Italian and Spanish

54 Attended soft skill assesment activities

8 Attended vocational training courses in the catering sector, automotive and electrical sectors

13 Group and individual coaching activities

10 Involved in the self-entrepreneurship pathway

11 Found a job in Italy

2 Business plans realised & 1 New start-up

ALTHOUGH IT IS UTOPIAN
TO THINK OF A WORLD
IN WHICH IMMIGRATION
RHYMES WITH INTEGRATION,
THERE ARE WAYS
TO COME EVER CLOSER TO THIS GOAL.
TO THIS OBJECTIVE,
IT IS IN KNOWLEDGE,
IN MEDIATION
AND UNDERSTANDING
THAT ONE CAN IMPROVE
THE LIVES OF THOSE BORN HERE
AND THOSE BORN ELSEWHERE,
OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALWAYS LOVED A PLACE
AND THOSE WHO CAN LEARN TO LOVE IT.



European Association
for Local Democracy



Labour
Integration
for Migrants
Employment



CENTRO
INFORMAZIONE E
EDUCAZIONE ALLO
SVILUPPO ONLUS



LUMSA
UNIVERSITÀ



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Martina Ruggero and the LIME Consortium.

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