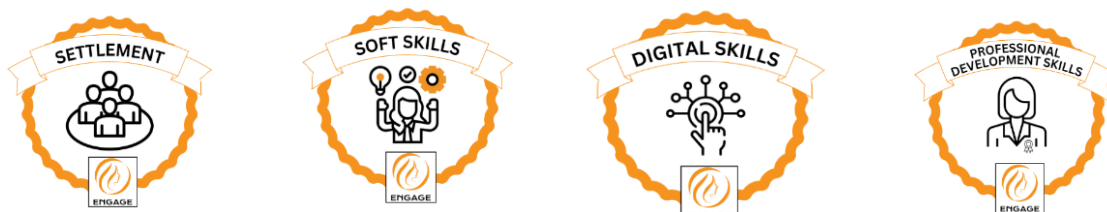


## ENGAGE Project Newsletter

The AMIF project 'ENGAGE' aims to ensure the effective integration process of female refugees in the new social environments they live in, as well as to promote their social and economic inclusion. Among the fundamental objectives of the project are, to promote the integration of female refugees in host societies through inform them about their rights, to provide vocational training opportunities and upskilling workshops to enhance their employability skills, to promote gender equality and diversity management in organisations which implement integration programmes as well as to initiate Job Shadowing Schemes in organisations in order to enable them for professional development.

In order to validate the skills gained through the project, the methodology of the Open Badges has been adopted by the consortium.



Open Badges are a digital representation of skills, learning outcomes, achievements or experience such as:

- Hard skills: knowledge, competences, etc.
- Soft skills: collaboration, communication, etc.
- Participation and community involvement
- Official certification
- Authorization

Open Badge is an innovative system used in the USA and many EU countries for the validation and recognition of learning using the OB technology offered as an open educational resource. It is a technology which promotes open access and participation of all stakeholders involved in badges process, while allowing the creation of synergies between the learners-earners (i.e., young people, students), the issuers (i.e., VET Schools, stakeholders, enterprises, NGOs including the VET trainers/Volunteers as facilitators) and the badge consumers (i.e., employers, formal education, public authorities, official body). This will lead to the endorsement process leading to a transparent, transferable, valid and credible validation of a body of skills and knowledge related to a set of competences, such as coding skills for VET students and teachers.

Open Badges is a very inclusive solution: it enables anyone to get actively involved in designing, testing, implementing and promoting the learning outcomes and achievements. This is what major European documents on Recognition are calling for, as well as Erasmus+ in emphasizing the “transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications to facilitate learning, employability and labour mobility: priority will be given to actions promoting permeability across education, training and youth fields as well as the simplification and rationalisation of tools for transparency, validation and recognition of learning outcomes. This includes promoting innovative solutions for the recognition and validation of competences acquired through informal, non-formal, digital and open learning” (Horizontal Priorities).

Main characteristics of the ENGAGE Open Badges:

- The ENGAGE consortium has designed the framework, syllabus and teaching - learning material for the following modules (which are presented in WP3) namely:
  - Settlement into the new community
  - Soft Skills
  - Digital Skills
  - Professional Development Skills



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- The ENGAGE consortium has created the corresponding badges. There are 4 badges, one for each of the modules. These badges are made available for earning via the e-tool, which has been designed specifically for the learning and assessment purposes of the ENGAGE project.
- TCN women are invited to register on the platform and take the course(s) of the ENGAGE project.
- The e-platform specifies to TCN women the criteria for earning each of the badges shown below. These criteria will be elaborated in the following section.
- TCN women have to provide evidence to meet the badge criteria in order to claim a specific badge. This process is automatized on the e-tool.
- The badges will be awarded automatically through the e-platform based on certain criteria, which are presented in the next section.
- The issuer (ENGAGE Consortium) will provide the user with the opportunity (through the e-tool) to create an account in the Badge Backpack in order to display the earned badges there as well.

The ENGAGE consortium plays a critical role in developing inclusive integration paths for migrant women. Open Badges can support learners to achieve new collaborations, jobs, internships and richer connections between lifelong learners.

More information about the Open Badges methodology used in the ENGAGE project can be found here : <https://amif-engage.eu/>



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