



PLOUTOS

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Press Release

- The PLOUTOS project moves into financial literacy training and develops digital tools
- Financial education courses successfully run in 6 European Union countries
- PLOUTOS digital tools application is now available

After receiving positive feedback and witnessing successful outcomes from the Business Language Training, the PLOUTOS Project initiated Financial Literacy Training for Third Country Nationals (TCNs) in six European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Sweden. The training aimed to equip TCNs with skills and knowledge in personal finance management and entrepreneurship. Angelique, who has been living in Belgium for more than three years said that the Financial Literacy Training helped her be more careful about invoices and expenses.

Through this program, the objective was to empower TCNs to make informed decisions regarding their expenses, income, savings, and investments. Regarding entrepreneurship, they learned essential aspects such as setting up a business in their host country, developing a business plan, and how to secure financing for their projects. The benefits of this initiative are significant for the six European countries involved, as studies have indicated that providing financial literacy training to TCNs can boost the national economy by fostering increased business activity, higher employment rates, and improved integration. Thanks to the training, Mustafa says he has a clearer vision for opening his Afghan-style tea bar.

Furthermore, in line with its mission, the PLOUTOS project has also developed digital tools to support TCNs in their financial journey. The three-component app enhances the financial knowledge of TCNs residing in these European countries. The Practice Business Virtual Environment offers a simulated platform where users can engage in various transactions, including banking operations such as credit card or microloan applications, employee management, tax procedures, e-commerce, payroll, shifts, logistics, and marketing. The Microfinance Platform enables business users to assist individual users from the same country in requesting microloans and accessing their data. The library provides a collection of reference materials containing information on country-specific laws and regulations related to microloans, credit card applications, business establishments, and more.

In the coming months, under the guidance of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Project will launch the PLOUTOS online Community Interpreter training program. This program aims to train community interpreters who will accompany TCNs in their integration process. Additionally, the project will introduce the Business Acceleration Programme, which will enable TCN entrepreneurs to engage in real business activities using digital tools.

Zara from the business language course said: *“What I am really looking forward to is working with some of the participants I met during the course to sustain and grow my business.”*



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