



# PARTNER SEARCH

## INTRODUCTION

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is interested to join as a partner a project developed under one of the following EU Programmes :

- [Asylum, Immigration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\) – Actions in the Area of Integration.](#)
- [Transnational projects to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance.](#)

## EU PROGRAMMES

### AMIF – Area of Integration

**Two Priorities:** a) To foster integration of migrant women; b) The EU has issued a call for proposals for transnational projects that foster integration of third country nationals in the Member States of the European Union.

**EU Funding:** up to €650,000

**Deadline:** 29 February 2016

### Prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other intolerance

**Three Priorities:** a) Developing best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance; b) Training and capacity building for strengthening criminal responses to hate crime and hate speech; c) Empowering and supporting victims of hate crime and hate speech.

**EU Funding:** minimum of €300,000

**Deadline:** 18 February 2016

## **PROFILE OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Located in the North West of England, covering an area of 13,700 hectares, Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) comprises the two towns of Blackburn and Darwen and the surround countryside. The total population of the two towns is 147,489 (2011 Census), of which 14.8% were born outside the United Kingdom, which is above the England average of 13.8%. Over half of the 21,924 residents born outside the UK have come from India or Parkistan. White residents make up 69.2% of the borough's population, down from 77.9% in 2001. Since then, the Indian population has risen to 19,791 (13.4%) (11<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of any local authority in England) and the Pakistani population has risen to 17,801 (12.1%) which is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest.

BwD has 9,170 households out of 57,453 where *not everybody* aged 16+ has English as their main language. These include 4,063 households where *nobody* has English as their main language, and another 808 where only children have English as their main language.

Up to 18 months after settling here, lack of English language skills remained fundamental barriers to progress towards integration, and an important source of anxiety and frustration for migrants.

## **EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS IN THE BOROUGH**

### **Integration, Citizenship and Engaging Communities**

This was an innovative programme, in partnership with Blackburn College, combining language, citizenship skills and enrichment activities aimed at integrating third country nationals. A partnership approach was adopted between the Council and the College to embed integration based modules into the delivery of an ESOL course. This included enabling arrivals to acquire basic knowledge of: the host society's language and culture; the town's history and to develop understanding of services with the community (doctors, football ground, town hall and places of worship).

### **Community-based English Language Project**

Worked in collaboration with North West England partners; Manchester Adult Education Service, The Manchester College, Oldham Lifelong Learning Service, Oldham College, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Lancashire Adult Learning, Shipley College, Kirklees Council Learning Service. The project was to develop volunteers to support a programme of England language training and integration activities; #Talk English

Talk English had 5 strands:

- Recruit and train volunteer ESOL teachers
- Recruit and train 'Talk English Friends' volunteers who were paired with individuals who don't speak English. They offered peer support to access local activities which complemented the ESOL class activity and to encourage integration within local communities.
- Work with local businesses and public services to identify and train people in shops, libraries and other services – for people with local levels of English to feel comfortable to interact and engage in conversation with (Talk English Friends).
- Work with local community groups to design a programme of informal learning activities.
- Develop a website to provide links to learning resources, communication between all parties involved in the project and links for community groups to make contact with the project.

### **Trans-Pennine Partnership for English and Integration (Al-Hayat Languages, Blackburn)**

This project was aimed at Third Country National women who had arrived within the past 10 years and faced multiple disadvantages preventing integration into Britain. Their level of English language, low self-confidence, isolation, and lack of education, knowledge about their rights and responsibilities and British society prevented full participation in wider society.

Three community organisations from Bradford, Blackburn and Rochdale formed a partnership to deliver the English and Integration project to improve the integration of eligible participants through a cohesive programme of English language, IAG, confidence building, cultural/heritage visits and cross-community social activities such as cooking and sharing food, sports and leisure activities.

The targets were to enrol 60 beneficiaries and work towards accreditation in ESOL in Speaking, Listening, Reading & Writing, as well as gaining Functional Skills certificates wherever possible. Other targets were to be involved in 6 short visits and 1 long visit to help integration, and allow beneficiaries to understand more about the history, culture & values of the UK. There was also provision for 1 – 1 information & guidance sessions for all beneficiaries throughout the courses.

## **Women Building Peace Project**

Based across the North West region, this language, integration and peace building project supported and trained women towards active citizenship in order to prevent and resolve intercultural conflict through dialogue. Participants completed highly interactive and accredited non-formal learning modules both in community venues in Blackburn and at the Warrington Peace Centre.

They acquired the skills essential to labour market participation and civic action through volunteering. The participants were thus equipped to tackle community issues and integration barriers important to them, and be afforded the opportunity to influence integration policies at many levels.

## **CONTACT**

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