

# REVES EXCELLENCE

## AWARD 2017

*Application form*



### ▪ **Part A: APPLICANT'S DETAILS**

Name of the organization: Le Monde des Possibles  
Type of organization: Non profit.  
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Le Monde des Possibles (MDP) – <http://www.possibles.org> was founded in 2001 to promote services and integration for all immigrants and their families regardless of their immigration status in the East of Belgium, mainly in the city of [Liege](#). They actively promote: access to literacy, ICT and programs for French as second language, social & legal services, civic engagement, legalisation, freedom of movement in EU, and reunification with family. MDP works to achieve this mission of immigrant rights through intercultural popular education building grassroots leadership, providing assistance with free immigration legal services, promoting community education and training in French as second language, and organising to empower immigrants.

Each week, MDP work with 205 trainees (69 nationalities – 410 languages) :

- On a front line basis aimed at supporting the fundamental rights of migrants in the east of Belgium (in Liege province) with literacy in French as second language and digital programs. They believe that empowered relationships may emerge between people by crossing public and individual claims. They implement various local initiatives and also consider unemployed, seniors, women and youth (transversal approaches)
- On a second line basis they are dedicated to European projects inspired by what they experience on the front line in a multiplier approach.

The main objectives of the MDP non-profit organisation are:

- To identify the needs and concerns of immigrants;
- To provide French as a second language courses and ICT literacy programs from Monday until Friday 9 AM to 4 PM each day;
- To propose, contribute and to respond efficiently to inform and develop relevant city policies and practices among all stakeholders;
- To increase civic and social participation of disenfranchised immigrant communities in diverse projects ;
- To strengthen local government's accountability to their immigrant constituents;

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- To recognise the diverse contributions of Liège immigrants and support solidarity actions;
- To support cross cultural understanding and inclusion;

#### ▪ **Part B: DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE**

1. Name of the initiative: Univerbal. <http://www.possibles.org/univerbal/>

2. For which topic(s) are you applying?

- Integration of migrants/refugees
- Digital economy
- European Structural and Investment Funds(in particular the implementation of Community-Led Local Development, CLLD)
- Youth capacity building
- Child poverty and vulnerability
- Transfer of enterprises (e.g. worker buy-out phenomenon)

3. Please describe the context of the initiative, providing also information about the identification of perceived needs and constraints in the target group(s).

The main motivations of the current Univerbal interpreting service is to promote the sharing of resources among a wide-range of migrants municipality service providers and community-based organizations and then to empower refugees and immigrant women through training of interpreting service skills. Since 2001, we are facing a lack of a gender equality dimension and no consideration of migrant women in the Belgian labour market. 'Deskilling' is often reported by our training participants as the only way to find a job, often only a part-time one. The different levels of state in Belgium, with their different conceptions of migration policies in different regions, fail to recognise the rights and needs of migrant women. So we have created our own multilayers migrant led initiative.

*(Max 7 lines)*

4. Which are the main objectives of the initiative?

The right to understand and receive appropriate communication support for newcomers is a civil right and fundamental to an inclusive and democratic society that seeks to ensure that it provides for the needs of all its citizens. The impacts of recent migration flows into Europe have been felt and they highlight the necessity to foster energies and to try to find a solution to accessing the job

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market for migrant women. We planned to found and implement an interpreting service as a part of the solution and to develop best practice for this.

*(Max 5 lines)*

### 5. Please describe the initiative, including the actors involved and the concrete activities.

The Univerbal social interpreting project in Liege promotes an integrative approach which tries to work on multiple fields (employment, violence against women, working conditions, participation in public and political life, lobbying for improvements in immigration and asylum policies, articulation of fundamental rights, etc.). In 2016, we have trained local sociocultural actors and bring municipality partners together to develop local integration strategies. This process has in turn facilitated resource mobilisation for the implementation of an interpreting service, on the local level at least.

The actions we proposed were dedicated to work on the essential roles migrant women play in the labour market. It is not a secret that they are segregated compared to non-foreign born women. The interpreting service we have implemented with migrant women tries to fight against a traditional women's role (e.g. in domestic and as care workers in households, "ethnostratification" of labour market) that limit the personal rights and potential of these women and renders them dependent on their husband. Our training program tried to take into account access to the workplace (or to create this access) and professional recognition in interpreting skills.

Still in progress, we are working with Liège municipality and regional migration services to:

1. Clarify the social interpreter job functions – professional framework to ensure that appropriate quality assurance processes are checked. To work on a competence certificate that ensure a qualified staff is trained to standards.
2. Enhance the quality of interpreting meetings on specific semantic issues (FGM, debts, housing, asylum procedure...), to cope with municipality specialist's vocabulary through quality training and simulation.
3. Implement a constant evaluation of interpreting assignments to gauge that the individual needs are being met.
4. Ensure that interpreters have appropriate payment of fees for their job – contracts between skilled migrants and public bodies following a tendering process.
5. To give to interpreters the knowledge of municipality department's environment and operating processes.

*(Max 25 lines)*

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6. Please highlight the strengths of your approach, stressing also the elements that make it a real partnership.

Liège citywide partnership for translation and interpretation services tends to become on the “public support” authority agenda (we plan to introduce a FEDER call 2 “*Urban innovative action*” together)The Univerbal interpreting services is considered of central importance in facilitating access to mainstream services for ethnic minority and migrant groups for whom French is not their first language. In recent months, this has included the need to provide interpreting assistance by frontline municipality service staff, who are dealing with an increasing number of eastern European languages, as well as languages spoken by asylum seekers and refugees (Syrian, Kurd from Irak, Dari, Urdu (Pakistan), Yoruba (Benin), Nepalese, Berber, Arabic, Pashtun (Afghanistan), Peul / pulaar, Lingala (RDC), kicongo, Bangu, Dioula, Fulfulde, Tshiluba, Lari, Chechene, Serbian, Albanian, Mbochi, Mbembe, Baham, Romanis, Nalu (niger), Baga, Chinese, Malenké, Loma...).

*(Max 10 lines)*

7. Please explain who are the partners, what exactly is their role and what is their concrete contribution to the initiative.

For now, we find these 6 local and regional partners in Univerbal :[Citadel Hospital](#), Intercultural mediation service, [Regional centre of Foreign people integration](#), [Social support public centre](#), Red Cross centre of Liege Province, Regional centre of French literacy. This wide partnership of the Univerbal project coordinates and not only deliver interpreting services with a full range of language by a joint approach with municipality service providers needs. These institutions are opened to support our trainees (by 48 hours of internship) and take account of the following legislative and policy changes (to emphasise community empowerment, to put equality at the earth of policies, to fight against racism, to define right and entitlements to the assistance of an interpreter, to contribute to the social interpreter function framework with the Mons University)

*(Max 10 lines)*

8. Which are the main results – if already visible – resulting from the described initiative; and how do you imagine the continuation of this action?

The results already visible are published on the project’s blog “Projet Univerbal” (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com>). The Univerbal group of interpreting women produce the professional code of ethics (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com/2016/11/22/notre-code-deontologie/>), they translated the project’s presentation on the MDP website (<http://www.possibles.org/univerbal-version-arabe/>), they translated communication flyers for non profit organization in Liège (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/traduction-arabes-parents-et-lecole-maternelle/>). In 2015-2016, the interpreting service of Le Monde des

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Possible received more than 15 translation requests and 45 interpreting requests. The interpreting women were paid for all this requests. We plan to promote the self-management of this interpreting service that is already began thanks the collaboration of a interpreting woman who was involved in the Univerbal Project in 2016.

*(Max 10 lines)*

9. Please provide some details on how you raised the resources for the initiative. (This is not an element to be judged by the jury – however, it is important to readers of our Yearbook in which eligible initiatives will be presented.)

*(Max 5 lines)*

Supported by the European Social Funds in 2016 (AMIF), we think such an interpreting service could inspire changes in current legislation and be a good practice to improve labour market participation of migrant women. We are convinced that this kind of initiative could be adopted more widely within Europe. An example of this multilayer project is now introduced in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine EMR33 InterReg call, another configuration of this concept is prepared for a European cooperative model in Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership/Social Dialog in DG Employment.