

# Handshake Scalability plan

To scale up the Handshake project beyond Paris, Brussels, and Milan, it is essential to identify major European cities with significant expat populations and a need for fostering inclusion. Cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Barcelona, and London could be potential candidates due to their multicultural environments and high numbers of expats. Partnerships could also be explored in Florence where garagerasmusus has solid contacts with INDIRE National Agency, thanks to the long-lasting collaboration and recurrent participation at Festival d'Europa in Florence. Building partnerships with key stakeholders in the city like local organizations, universities, and cultural institutions will provide valuable insights and support for the project's implementation. To foster inclusion among expat and local communities in these cities, the following strategies can be employed:

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** Establish collaborations with local organizations, universities, and community centers that work with expats and international individuals. This allows for shared resources, knowledge exchange, and the development of inclusive initiatives.
- **Consider developing a Key Action 2 project under the Erasmus+ program:** This proposal would aim to expand the Handshake project on a larger scale, focusing on multiple cities or regions, including Florence. The proposal would outline the objectives, activities, and expected outcomes of the project, highlighting the need for fostering inclusion among expat and local communities.
- **Enhancing the Web App:** Allocate resources and efforts to improve the existing web app, making it more user-friendly, comprehensive, and adaptable to the needs of different cities. Incorporate feedback from users and stakeholders to ensure the web app remains relevant and effective in providing information and support for expats and locals in target cities.

- **City guides:** Adapt and update the existing web app with new guides to meet the specific needs and challenges of each new city. Consider the local culture, language, services, and regulations to provide relevant and accurate information for expats. Engage local volunteers and experts to contribute their insights.
- **Local events and workshops:** Organize events, workshops, and meetups that bring together expats and locals to foster understanding, cultural exchange, and community building. These events can provide a platform for networking, sharing experiences, and addressing challenges faced by both groups.
- **Language and integration support:** Offer language courses and integration support programs to help expats navigate their new city and develop connections with locals. This can include language exchanges, mentorship programs, and assistance with administrative procedures.
- **Cultural exchange and integration programs:** Design and implement cultural exchange programs, language courses, and integration initiatives. These programs should promote interaction and understanding between expats and locals, facilitate language learning, and provide guidance on navigating the local culture and society.
- **Social media and online platforms:** Utilize social media channels and online platforms to reach a wider audience and create virtual communities. Encourage discussions, provide helpful resources, and facilitate connections between expats and locals through online forums or dedicated groups.
- **Research and data collection:** Conduct research and collect data on the specific challenges faced by expats in each city. This information can guide the development of targeted initiatives and policies to improve their integration and overall well-being.

By implementing these strategies, the Handshake project can expand its impact to other major European cities, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening the connections between expat and local communities.