

CRAFTSWOMENSHIP: ENHANCING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN

TEAM PROFILE

Students with an interest in Feminist Studies and International Affairs.

INSTITUTION PARTENAIRE (PARTNER)

Nest

501 Fifth Avenue New York, New York, NY 10017, United States of America

<https://www.buildanest.org/>

american non-profit

This Project is coordinated by [Sciences Po's Gender Studies Program \(PRESAGE\)](#):

PERSONNE RESPONSABLE DU DÉFI (PERSON IN CHARGE)

Rebecca van Bergen, Founder & Executive Director at Nest

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTITUTION AND CONTEXT

The aim of this action-research project is to support young migrant and refugee women's economic and social inclusion through craftwork. This programme will lead to the creation of a report mapping the craft landscape within migrant and refugee programmes in Europe for Nest, a non-profit building a new handworker economy to increase global workforce inclusivity. Sciences Po students will conduct research and outreach with networks serving refugee and migrant women to identify the groups that can benefit from Nest's Guild, a network providing artisans with free tools and resources to help their businesses thrive. Once identified, businesses will participate in a survey that allows them to join the Guild. The report will also provide key information about refugee and migrant women artisans in Europe to help Nest identify overarching trends that could allow Nest to devise programmatic and/or outreach efforts supporting this community as a whole.

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Women have historically been excluded from positions of power. Building on the experience gained from a first WFI action-research project conducted in 2020-2021 on the political participation of young migrant and refugee women in Europe, we will move the focus to these women's economic empowerment. More specifically, to the economic marginalisation of migrant and refugee women from the formal economic sector. The employment rate for refugee women in Europe is on average 45%: it is 6 percentage points lower than for other non-EU born migrant women and 17 percentage points lower than that of refugee men (2014 EU LFS). Statistical evaluations tend to show that this situation results from both a low level of education and a

relatively low activity rate amongst migrant and refugee women. This exclusion contributes to their social and economic disadvantage and perpetuates systemic inequalities.

WHY IS THE PROPOSED CHALLENGE IN THE GENERAL INTEREST?

This action-research project will both create new knowledge and insight on the situation of refugee and migrant women artisans in Europe (research component) and suggest concrete strategies and action plans to be spread and implemented by/through Nest (action component).

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES INTENDED

Artisan Mapping: a report presenting the European women's craftwork landscape
Resource Guide: a report mapping the opportunities (for training, education, business expansion, legal advice, ...) available to craftswomen in Europe to help spread the word.

FORWARD SCHEDULE

October-November: Desk research and remote networking with refugee and migrant programmes or associations supporting craftswomanship. Qualitative remote interviews.

December: Guiding the identified organisations (cooperatives, programmes ...) to filling out Nest's Guild Survey Form.

January: *(if travels are authorised)* Travel to European countries to complete the mapping

February-April: Finalise the Artisan Mapping and the Resource Guide and deliver the final deliverables to Nest and Women Forward International.

METHODOLOGY

Regular remote meetings with both the Nest and Women Forward International Teams.

LOGISTIC

The students will have access to a working room.

This Project is coordinated by [Sciences Po's Gender Studies Program \(PRESAGE\)](#): students will have access to academic and research advice.

This Project and the students' travels in Europe are funded by the global non profit [Women Forward International](#).