

## Interview to Sanae El Bayad in the frame of the Integra project.

21/02/2023 - Valencia

### ***Tell me about Espai Obert Maritim and the idea of creating it***

Espai Obert Maritim is a project of social intervention, inclusion and social cohesion that aims to create spaces for meeting, coexistence and exchange and participation, allowing the promotion of intercultural and religious diversity, strengthening family and community ties, promoting the autonomy of people and creating opportunities to reduce social inequality, increasing the autonomy of people in situations of social exclusion or vulnerability, enhancing the construction of an inclusive citizenship.

### ***What kind of services and/or activities do you offer in Espai?***

The services and activities of Espai Obert Maritim are:

- Inclusion and Intercultural Encounter
- Integral Health
- Empowerment of women
- Improving employability and socio-educational training
- Awareness-raising and socio-community action.

### ***What is the target group of your services?***

Adults, migrant youth and children, indigenous people, asylum seekers and refugees, women victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, domestic worker women...

### ***Tell me about the Spanish language program for immigrants and refugees.***

The Spanish teaching program for immigrants and refugees aims to promote socio-labor inclusion and personal growth through the acquisition of learning skills and employability for work. It includes the teaching of the two official languages Spanish and Valencian.

### ***What is the criteria and/or profile of the Spanish teacher?***

The Espai Obert teaching staff is made up of a very varied and valuable group of volunteers, with academic and professional backgrounds in various disciplines, ranging from Doctors, Professors, Engineers, Graduates, Technicians, Teachers, Practitioners...

### ***What is the protocol/process for teaching Spanish to immigrant people?***

The process of teaching the two official languages begins by inserting the students in one of the following areas of intervention: Inclusion and Intercultural Encounter, Integral Health, Empowerment of women, Improvement of employability and socio-educational training, Awareness and socio-community action.

### ***What are the profiles/characteristics of your immigrant students?***

Adults, immigrant youth and children, indigenous people, asylum seekers and refugees, women victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, women domestic workers and students, professionals from different disciplines, researchers, displaced people...

### ***What are your challenges in teaching Spanish?***

To achieve through cultural and social diversity, that students reach the goal of learning designed for each class.

### ***What are their personal barriers to learning Spanish?***

Students face multiple emotional and economic factors that hinder their learning process.

### ***How could you support them psychologically during the Spanish learning process?***

Having people trained in mediation and personal accompaniment.

### ***How could the teacher motivate them to learn and practice Spanish?***

By means of techniques to develop the student's cognitive abilities.

### ***Could you give us an example of the case of one of your students?***

Espai Obert El Marítim throughout 20 years of teaching official languages has successfully accompanied the itinerary of students from 20 countries of different cultures.

A case that has been repeated on several occasions is that of the student who starts from scratch, (having gone through a difficult migratory process such as crossing in the well-known "death boats" to reach the Spanish coasts), in search of a better future and quality of life. This person arrives at the EOM in a situation of extreme vulnerability and begins to acquire language skills that in the first month facilitate his or her insertion into the labor market.