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Adapted, written, and drawn by JEAN LEVEUGLE

# LIVING THE DREAM?

THE ODYSSEY OF A MIGRANT ENTREPRENEUR





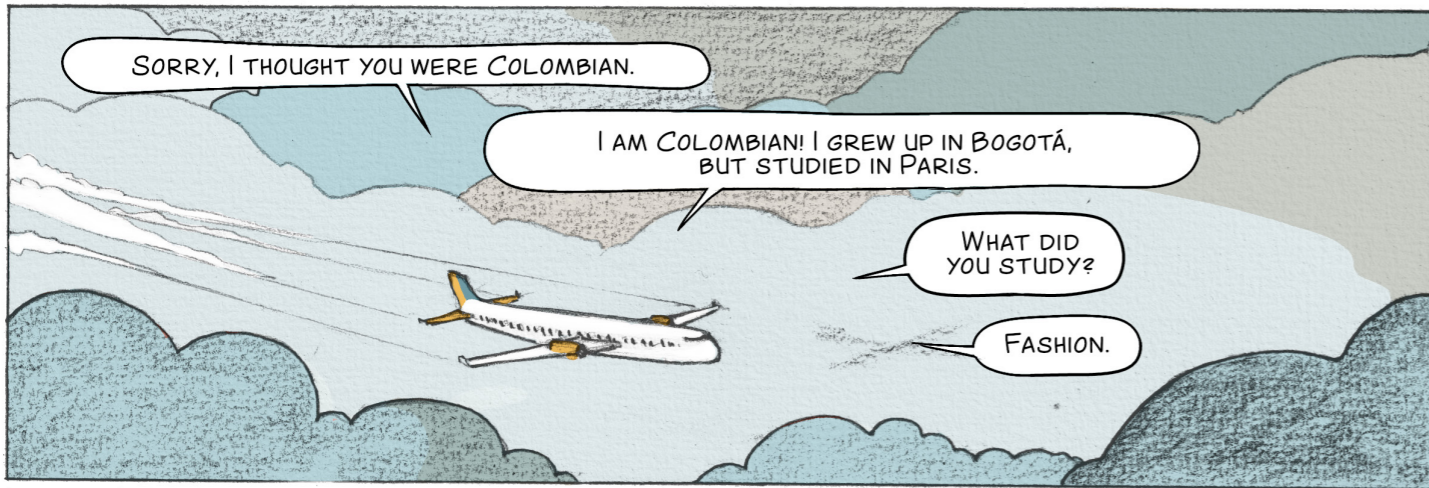


This project would not have been possible without the support of our research partners, friends, and families.

Many thanks!





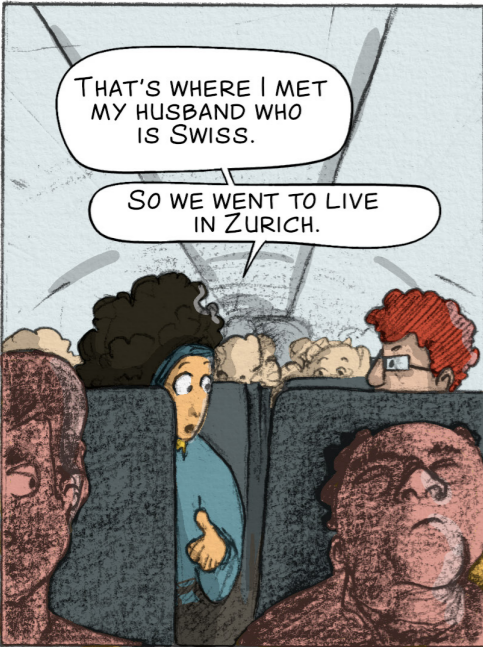


SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE COLOMBIAN.

I AM COLOMBIAN! I GREW UP IN BOGOTÁ, BUT STUDIED IN PARIS.

WHAT DID YOU STUDY?

FASHION.



THAT'S WHERE I MET MY HUSBAND WHO IS SWISS.

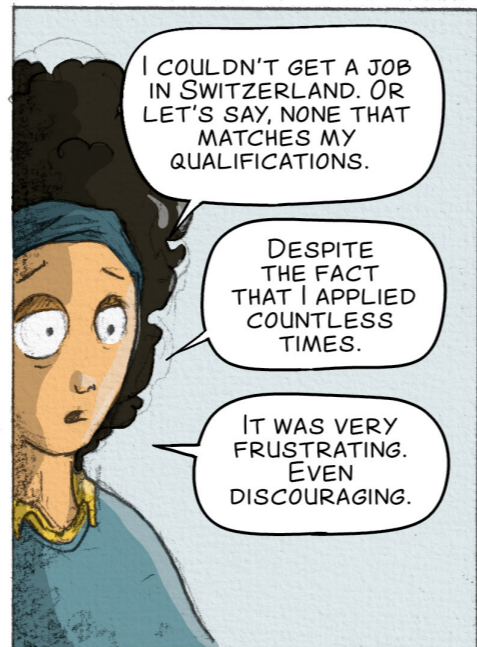
SO WE WENT TO LIVE IN ZURICH.



OKAY. BUT YOU WORK IN COLOMBIA?

YES...

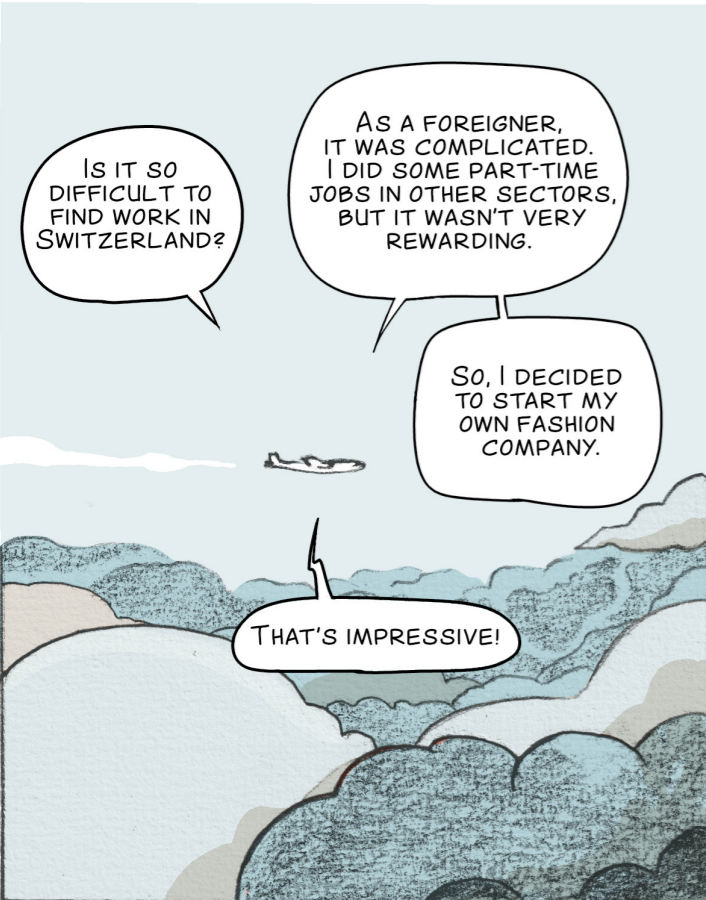
WELL... YES AND NO.



I COULDN'T GET A JOB IN SWITZERLAND. OR LET'S SAY, NONE THAT MATCHES MY QUALIFICATIONS.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT I APPLIED COUNTLESS TIMES.

IT WAS VERY FRUSTRATING. EVEN DISCOURAGING.



IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO FIND WORK IN SWITZERLAND?

AS A FOREIGNER, IT WAS COMPLICATED. I DID SOME PART-TIME JOBS IN OTHER SECTORS, BUT IT WASN'T VERY REWARDING.

SO, I DECIDED TO START MY OWN FASHION COMPANY.

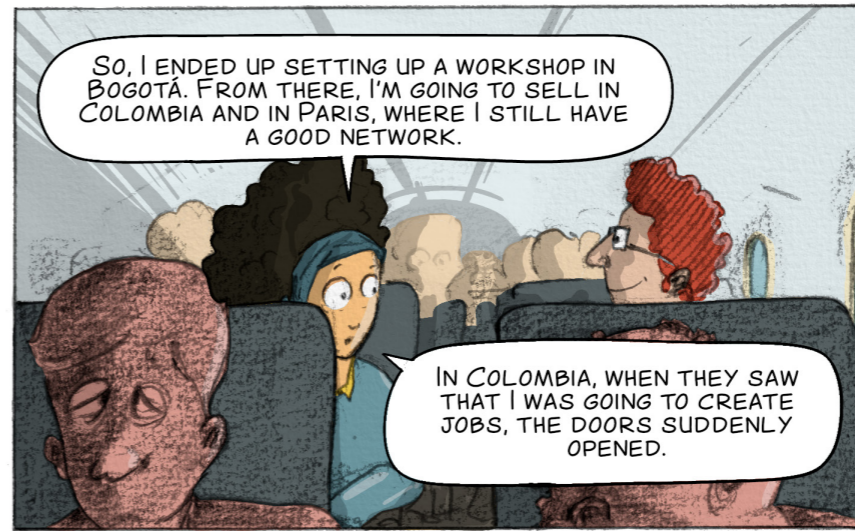
THAT'S IMPRESSIVE!



MAYBE, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED...

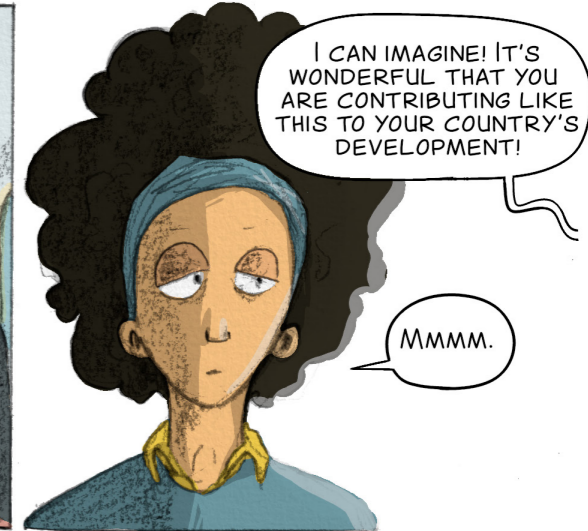
EVERYTHING IS SO EXPENSIVE IN SWITZERLAND.

AND I FOUND FEW OUTLETS, FEW CUSTOMERS...



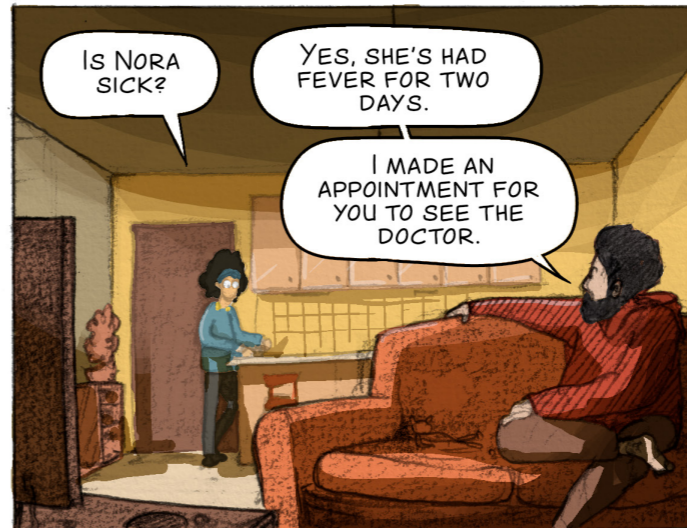
SO, I ENDED UP SETTING UP A WORKSHOP IN BOGOTÁ. FROM THERE, I'M GOING TO SELL IN COLOMBIA AND IN PARIS, WHERE I STILL HAVE A GOOD NETWORK.

IN COLOMBIA, WHEN THEY SAW THAT I WAS GOING TO CREATE JOBS, THE DOORS SUDDENLY OPENED.



I CAN IMAGINE! IT'S WONDERFUL THAT YOU ARE CONTRIBUTING LIKE THIS TO YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT!

MMMM.



IS NORA SICK?

YES, SHE'S HAD FEVER FOR TWO DAYS.

I MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU TO SEE THE DOCTOR.



OK, THANK YOU. AND HOW IS THE LITTLE ONE DOING?



ALL GOOD.

SHE WANTED TO WAIT FOR YOU BUT I TOLD HER IT WAS TOO LATE.

OK.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

REJECTION LETTERS.

FOR SHOP PREMISES I WANTED TO RENT.

WHICH ONES?



THE ONE CLOSE TO THE STATION. AND THIS IS FOR THE ONE IN WIEDIKON.

THE ONE WITH THE NICE WINDOW.



I'M SORRY, LUISA...

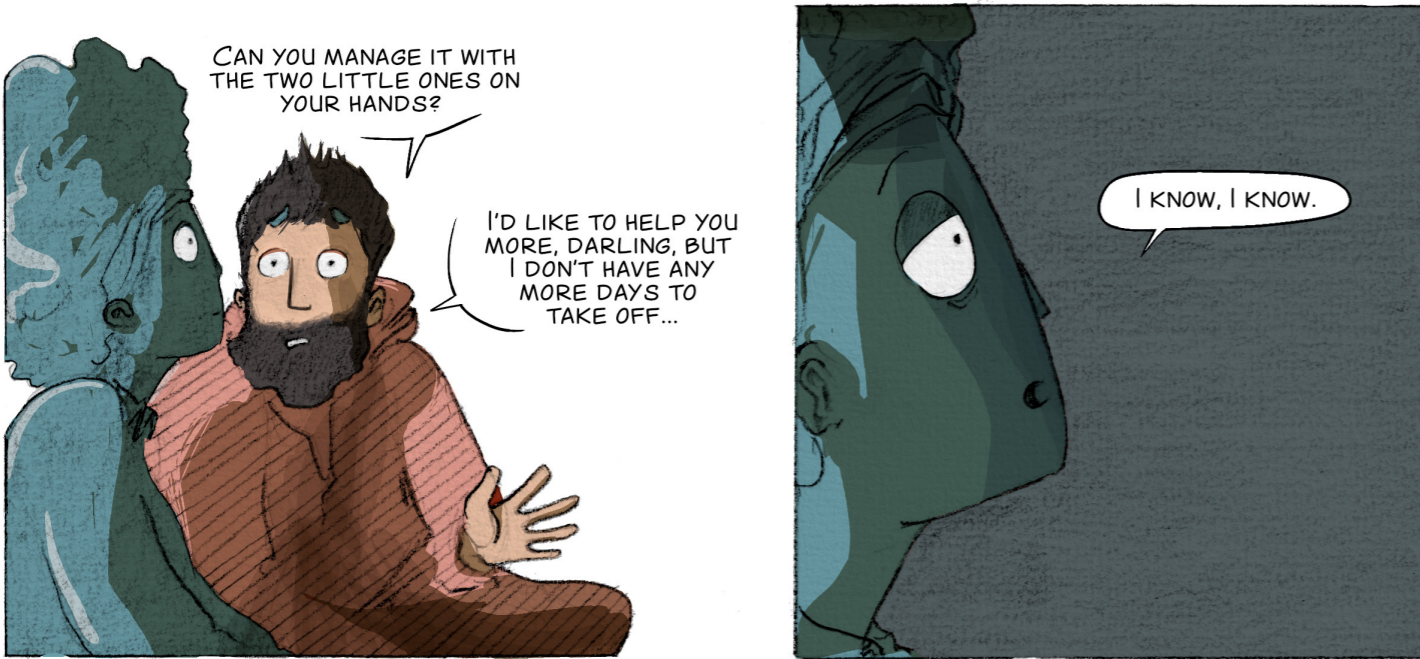
DO YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A CHAT?





DAMN IT...

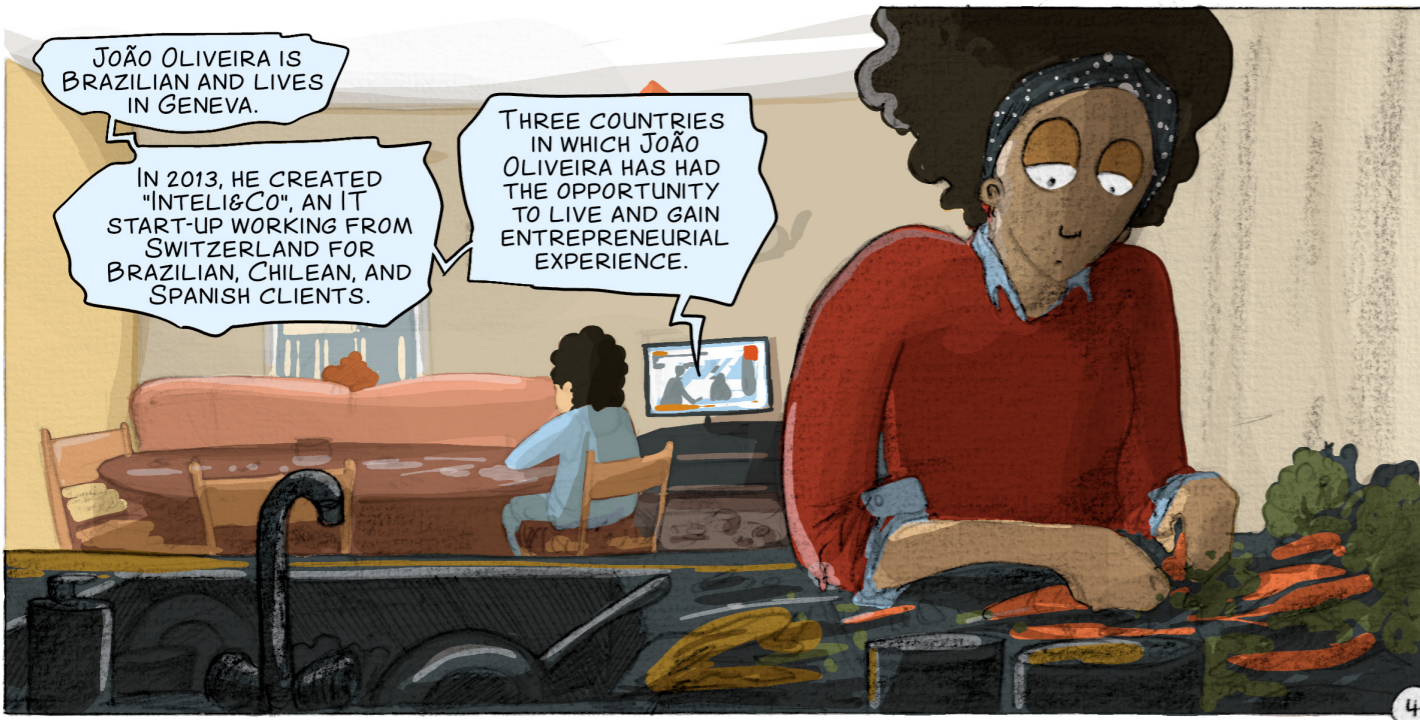
I WILL CALL THEM TOMORROW TO FIND OUT WHY THEY REJECTED MY APPLICATION.



CAN YOU MANAGE IT WITH THE TWO LITTLE ONES ON YOUR HANDS?

I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU MORE, DARLING, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE DAYS TO TAKE OFF...

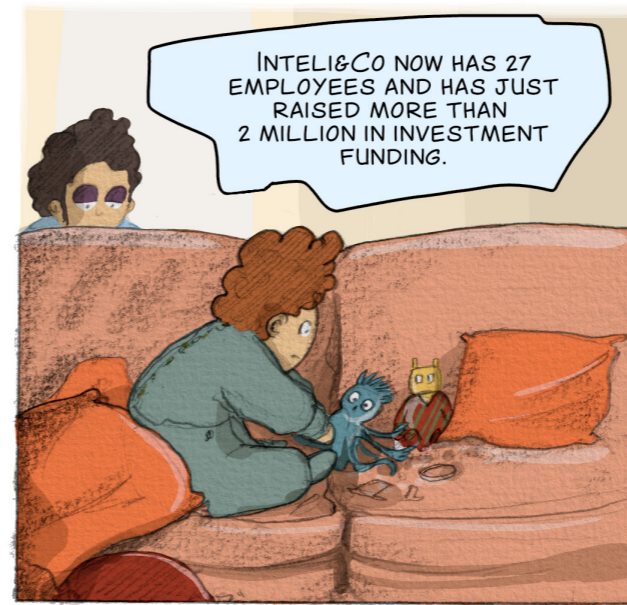
I KNOW, I KNOW.



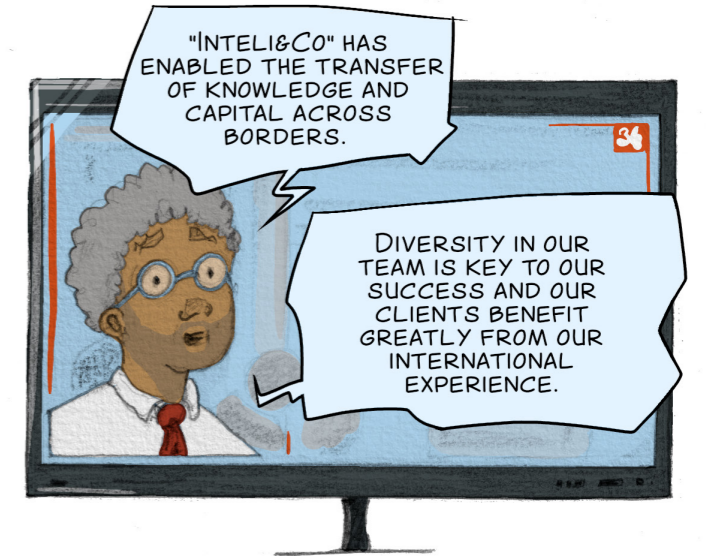
JOÃO OLIVEIRA IS BRAZILIAN AND LIVES IN GENEVA.

IN 2013, HE CREATED "INTELI&CO", AN IT START-UP WORKING FROM SWITZERLAND FOR BRAZILIAN, CHILEAN, AND SPANISH CLIENTS.

THREE COUNTRIES IN WHICH JOÃO OLIVEIRA HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AND GAIN ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE.



INTELI&CO NOW HAS 27 EMPLOYEES AND HAS JUST RAISED MORE THAN 2 MILLION IN INVESTMENT FUNDING.



"INTELI&CO" HAS ENABLED THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND CAPITAL ACROSS BORDERS.

DIVERSITY IN OUR TEAM IS KEY TO OUR SUCCESS AND OUR CLIENTS BENEFIT GREATLY FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE.



EVERY YEAR, MANY MIGRANTS LIKE JOÃO OLIVEIRA START THEIR OWN BUSINESS.



THEIR SKILLS AND CREATIVITY ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE DYNAMISM OF THE SWISS ECONOMY, WITH GREAT COMMERCIAL SUCCESSES TO SHOW FOR IT.

A TRUE MODEL OF SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION.



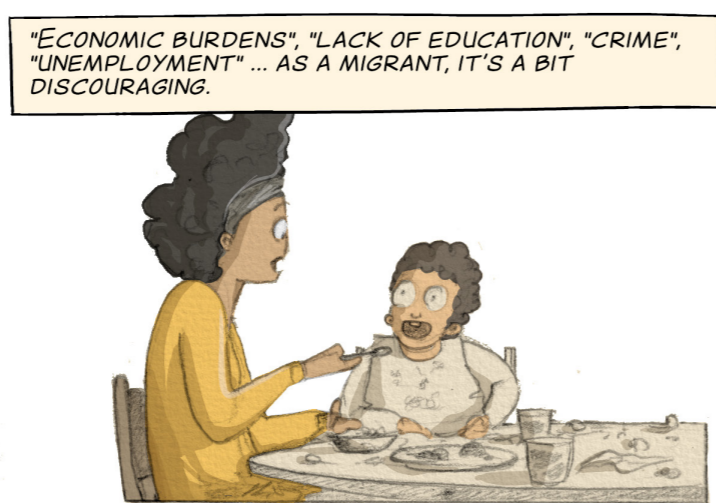
AH, FOR ONCE THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT A MIGRANT IN A POSITIVE WAY. SO NICE!

WELL...





MOST OF THE TIME WHEN I HEAR ABOUT MIGRANTS THROUGH THE MEDIA, IT'S NOT IN A GOOD LIGHT.



"ECONOMIC BURDENS", "LACK OF EDUCATION", "CRIME", "UNEMPLOYMENT" ... AS A MIGRANT, IT'S A BIT DISCOURAGING.



SO HEARING ABOUT A MIGRANT IN TERMS OF OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS IS REALLY INSPIRING.



BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE TO BE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR TO BE A GOOD MIGRANT AND BE WELCOMED IN SWITZERLAND?



AND WHERE AM I IN THIS?

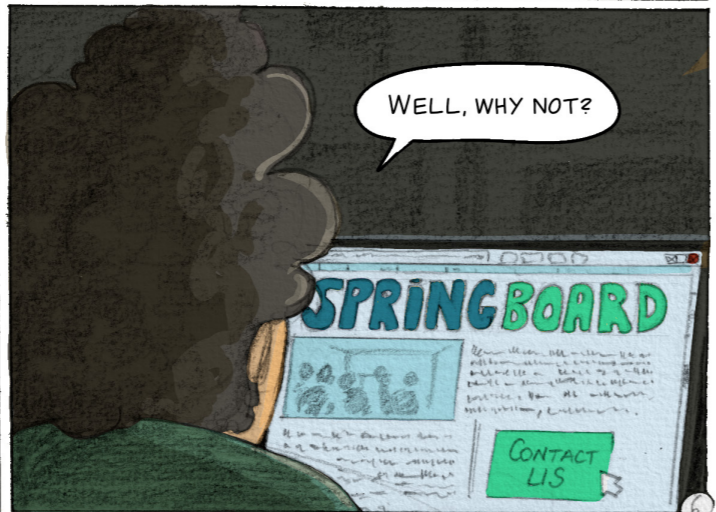


I WORK WHENEVER I HAVE TIME, BUT MY BUSINESS IS NOT TAKING OFF.

SO, THE ENTREPRENEURIAL CAREER, WHO IS IT FOR?



SPRINGBOARD, A SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS...



WELL, WHY NOT?

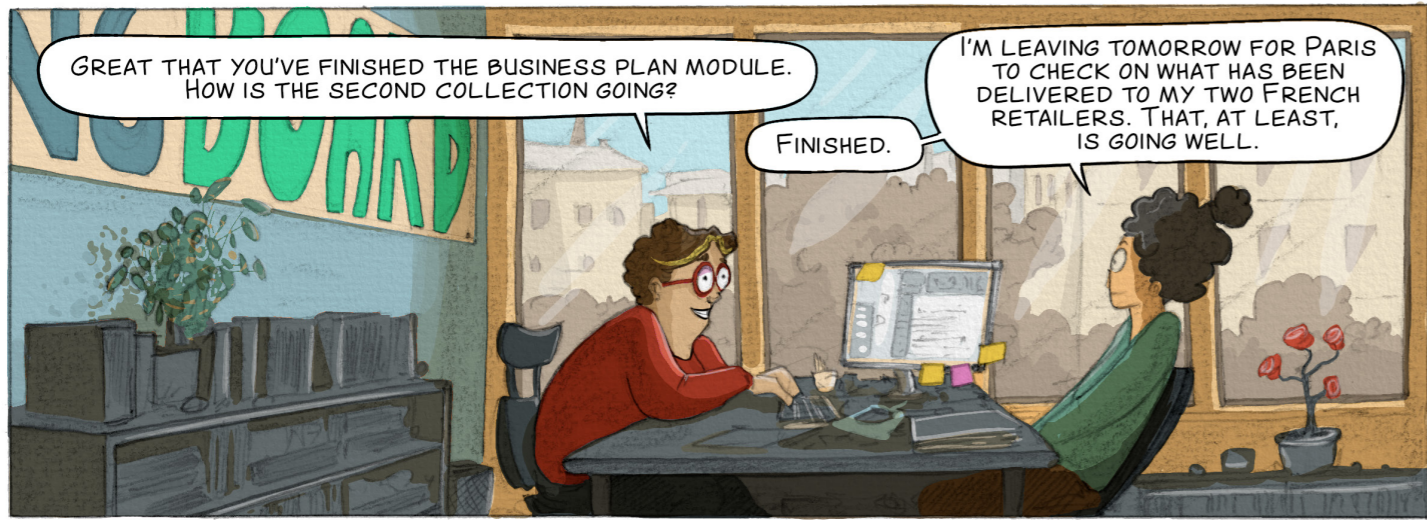
2016 2018 2020 2022

ZURICH



SO, THE CUSTOMER BASE IS OK, THAT'S FINE.





GREAT THAT YOU'VE FINISHED THE BUSINESS PLAN MODULE. HOW IS THE SECOND COLLECTION GOING?

FINISHED.

I'M LEAVING TOMORROW FOR PARIS TO CHECK ON WHAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO MY TWO FRENCH RETAILERS. THAT, AT LEAST, IS GOING WELL.



VERY GOOD!

SO, FROM MY SIDE...



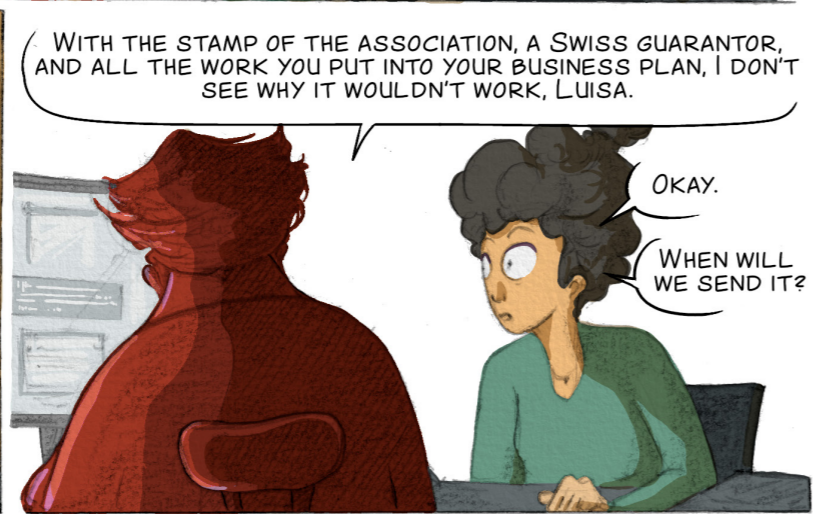
... REGARDING THE APPLICATIONS, WE'RE READY FOR THE SHOPS IN THE OLD TOWN AND IN WIPKINGEN.

IT'S ALL THERE.



I HAVE INCLUDED YOUR HUSBAND'S PAYCHECK FOR THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.

Click! Click! Click!



WITH THE STAMP OF THE ASSOCIATION, A SWISS GUARANTOR, AND ALL THE WORK YOU PUT INTO YOUR BUSINESS PLAN, I DON'T SEE WHY IT WOULDN'T WORK, LUISA.

OKAY.

WHEN WILL WE SEND IT?



ARE YOU READY?

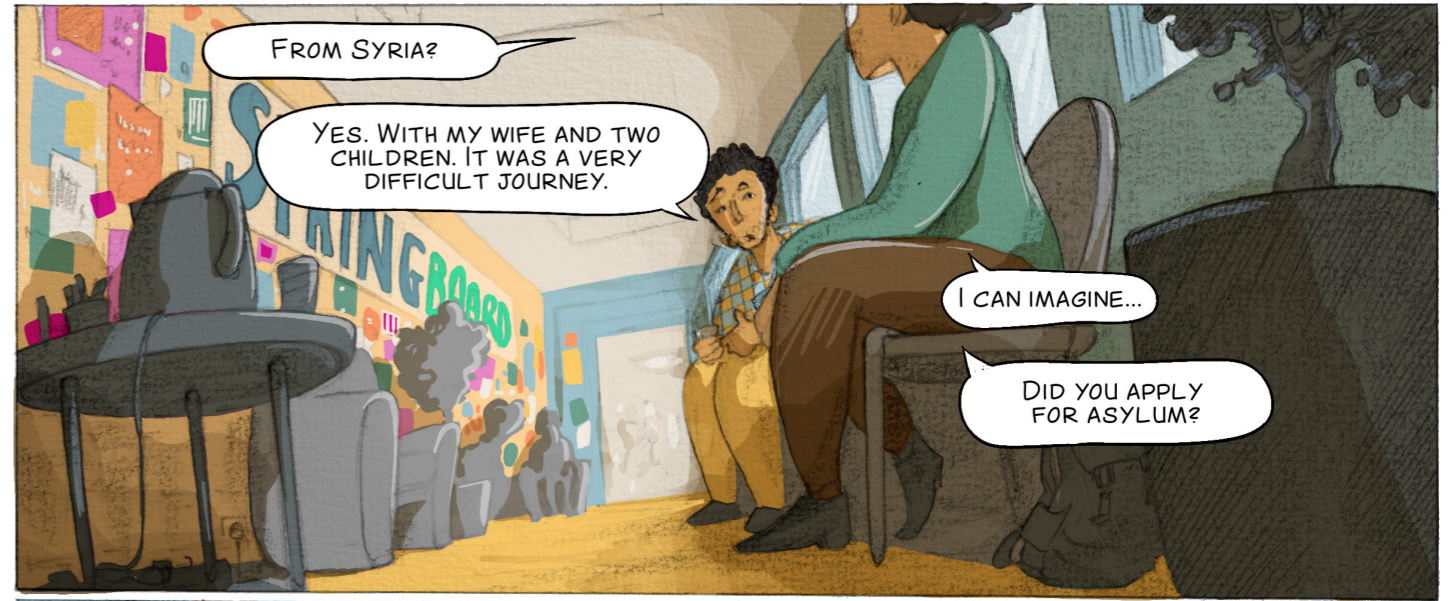
UM... YES.



Click!



HERE WE GO.



FROM SYRIA?

YES. WITH MY WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT JOURNEY.

I CAN IMAGINE...

DID YOU APPLY FOR ASYLUM?



YES, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN ANSWER FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS NOW....

AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE AN N PERMIT, BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY RIGHT TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY.

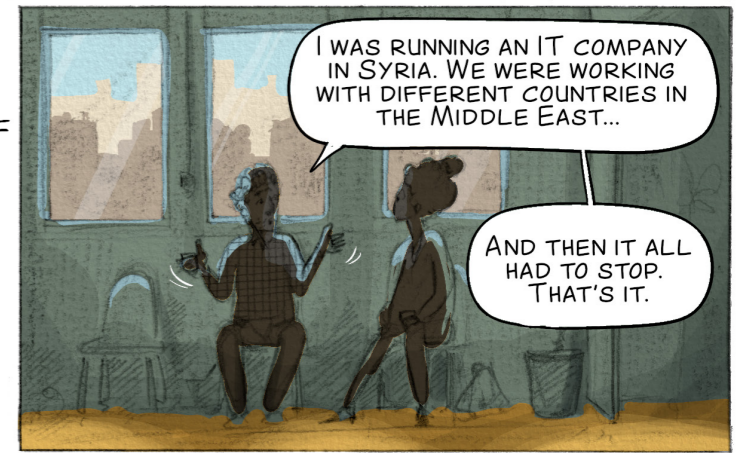
AND I GUESS IT DOESN'T HELP IN FINDING A JOB EITHER.

EXACTLY.



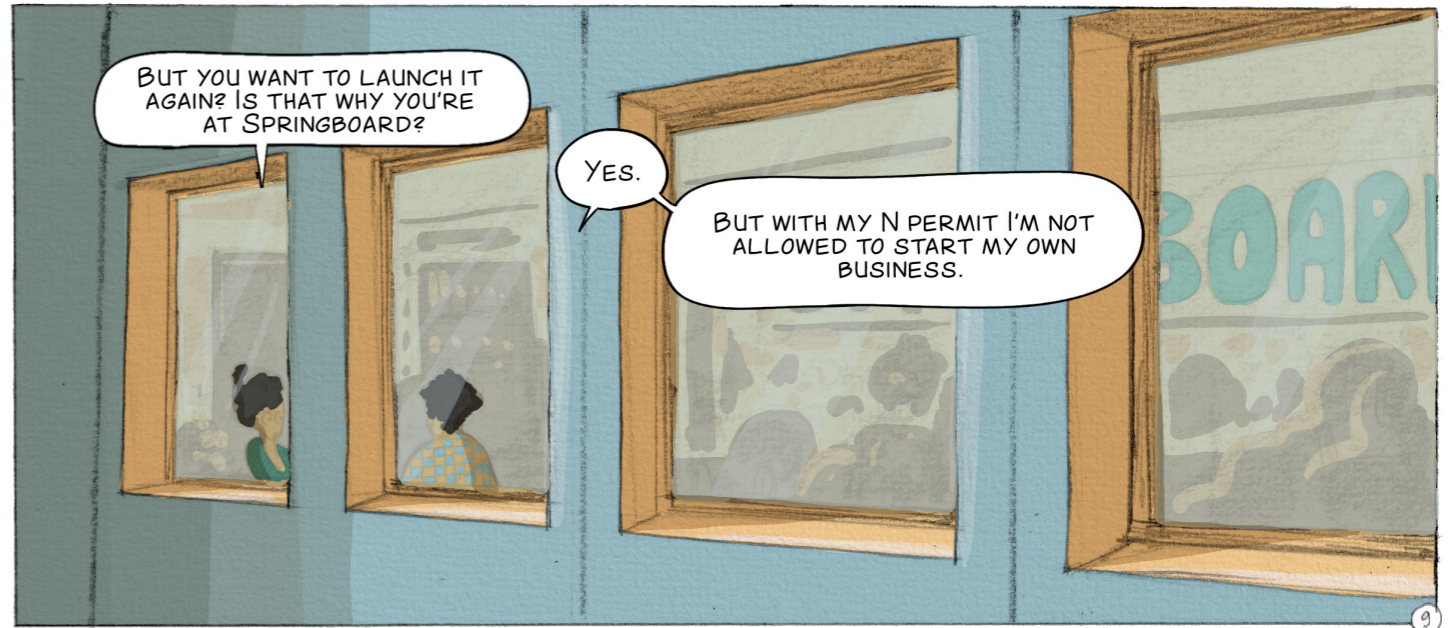
WHAT DO YOU WORK IN?

IT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.



I WAS RUNNING AN IT COMPANY IN SYRIA. WE WERE WORKING WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST...

AND THEN IT ALL HAD TO STOP. THAT'S IT.



BUT YOU WANT TO LAUNCH IT AGAIN? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE AT SPRINGBOARD?

YES.

BUT WITH MY N PERMIT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO START MY OWN BUSINESS.





BESIDES, I CAN'T LEAVE THE COUNTRY FREELY, SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I GUESS, IF I GET ASYLUM, IT WILL BE EASIER.

IF I EVER GET IT.



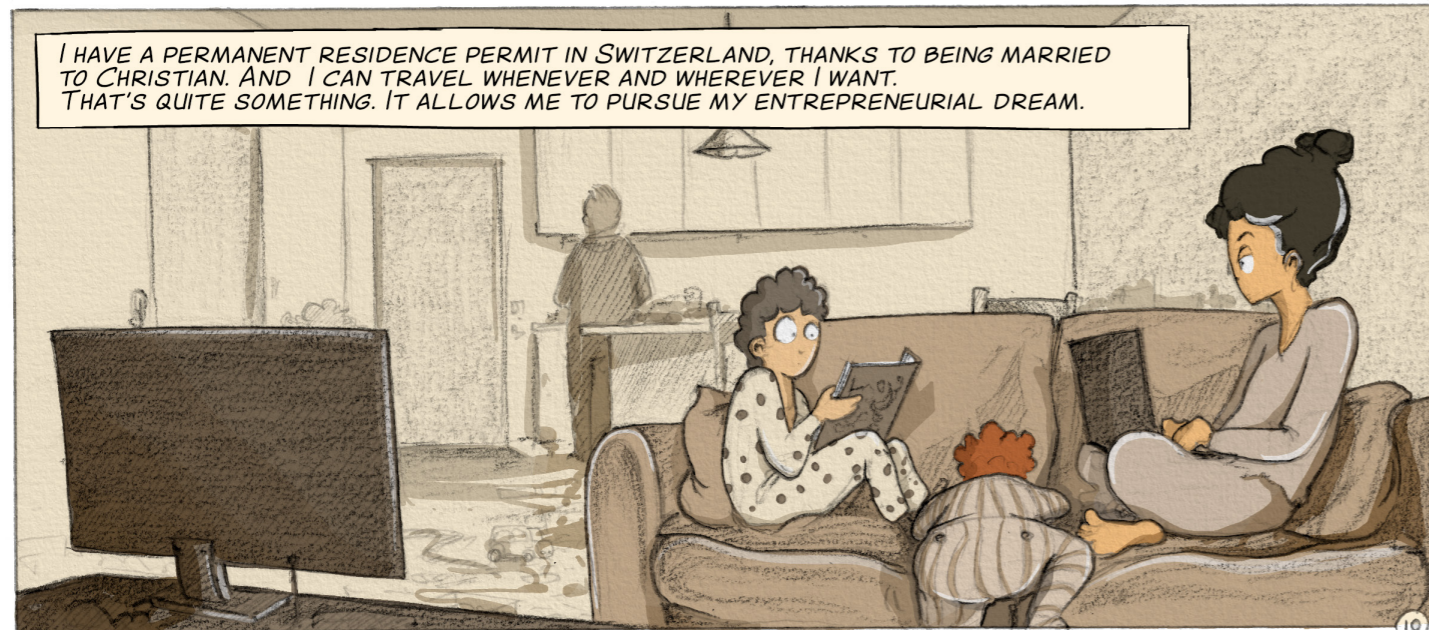
BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS CARIM.

LUISA. NICE TO MEET YOU!



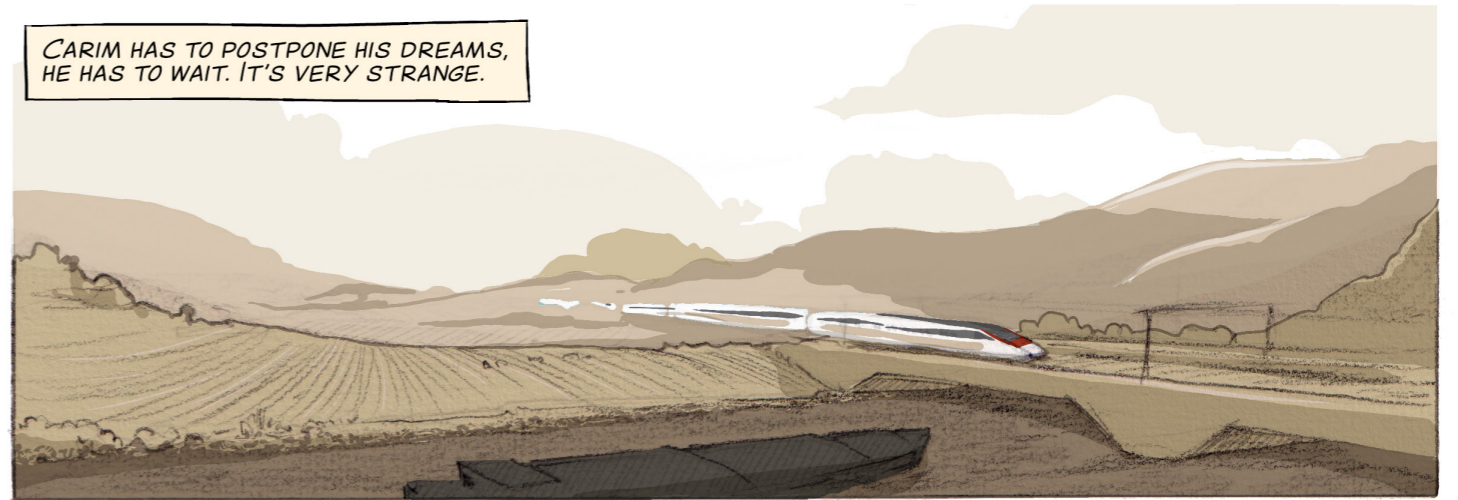
CARIM IS VERY NICE.

BUT TALKING TO HIM MAKES ME REALISE THAT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS NOT AN OPTION FOR EVERYONE.



I HAVE A PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT IN SWITZERLAND, THANKS TO BEING MARRIED TO CHRISTIAN. AND I CAN TRAVEL WHENEVER AND WHEREVER I WANT. THAT'S QUITE SOMETHING. IT ALLOWS ME TO PURSUE MY ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAM.

CARIM HAS TO POSTPONE HIS DREAMS, HE HAS TO WAIT. IT'S VERY STRANGE.



IN SWITZERLAND, MIGRANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, TO BECOME FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT. BUT CARIM'S STORY SHOWS THAT IT'S NOT ONLY UP TO THEM.

THE STATE DOES NOT ALLOW HIM TO BECOME THE HERO THAT SOCIETY WOULD HAPPILY WELCOME.

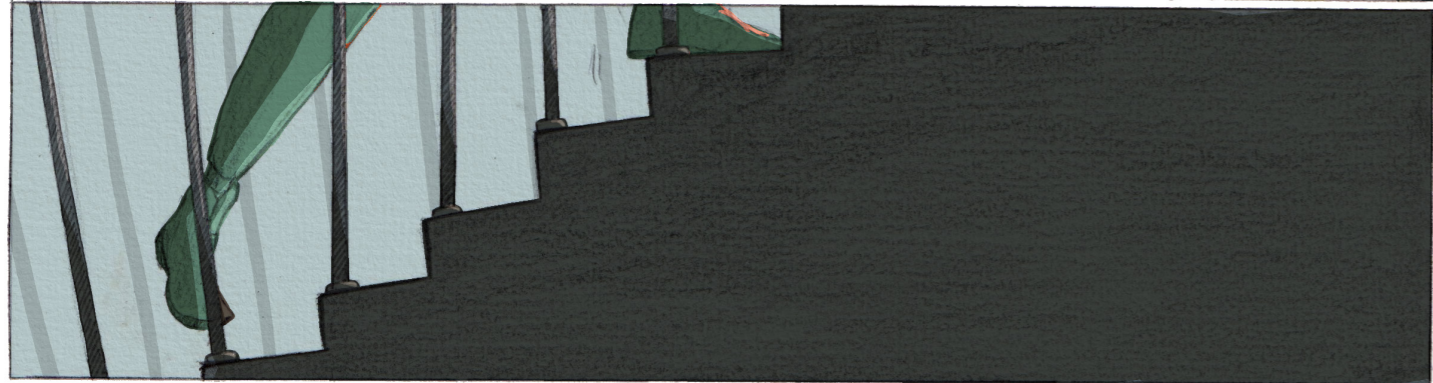


ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS NOT ONLY ABOUT HAVING COURAGE AND SKILLS. IT'S ALSO ABOUT HAVING LEGAL ACCESS TO THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAM.



I FORGOT THAT I HAVE THIS PRIVILEGE.









IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME.

IT DID!



BUT IT'S ALRIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT?

YES, ON THE PROFESSIONAL SIDE, EVERYTHING IS FINE.

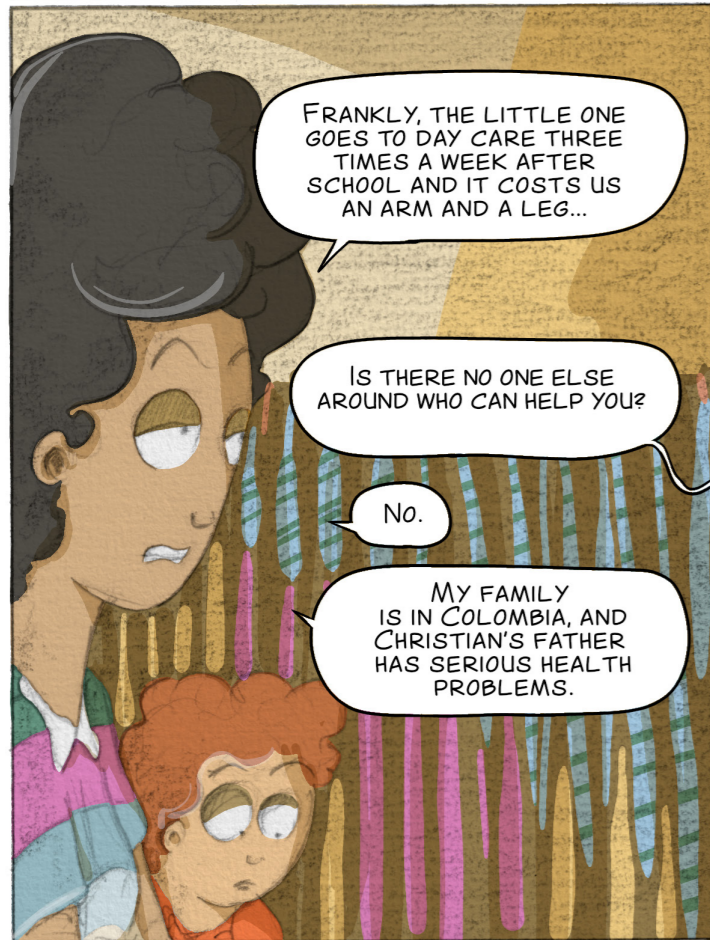


BUT I OFTEN HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MY DAUGHTERS.

IT'S NOT EASY.



CAN'T YOU GET A BABYSITTER?



FRANKLY, THE LITTLE ONE GOES TO DAY CARE THREE TIMES A WEEK AFTER SCHOOL AND IT COSTS US AN ARM AND A LEG...

IS THERE NO ONE ELSE AROUND WHO CAN HELP YOU?

No.

MY FAMILY IS IN COLOMBIA, AND CHRISTIAN'S FATHER HAS SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS.



RUNNING MY OWN BUSINESS ALLOWS ME TO ADAPT, TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

BUT THEN I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO JUGGLE WORK AND FAMILY.



BY THE WAY... ANY NEWS FROM CARIM?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.



HE STILL OFTEN COMES TO OUR EVENTS.

BUT IT'S NOT EASY FOR HIM.

OH...

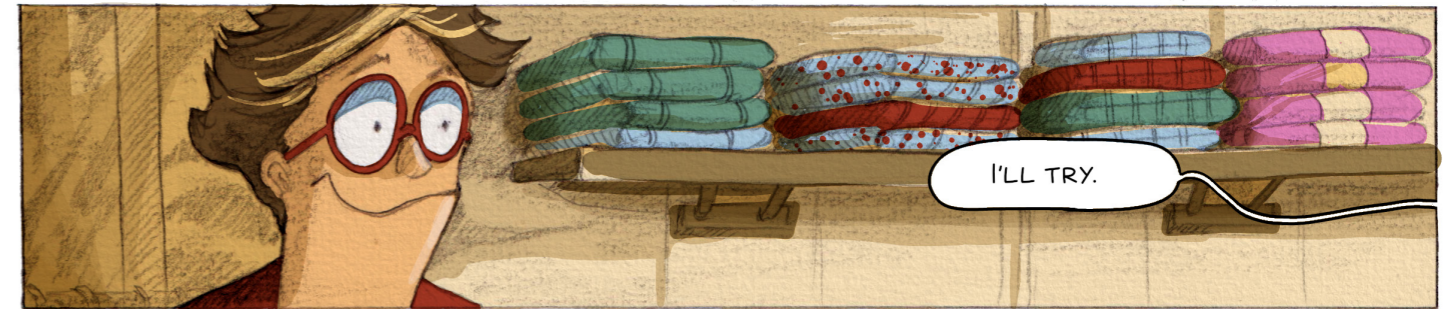


I'LL CALL HIM TO CHECK IN.

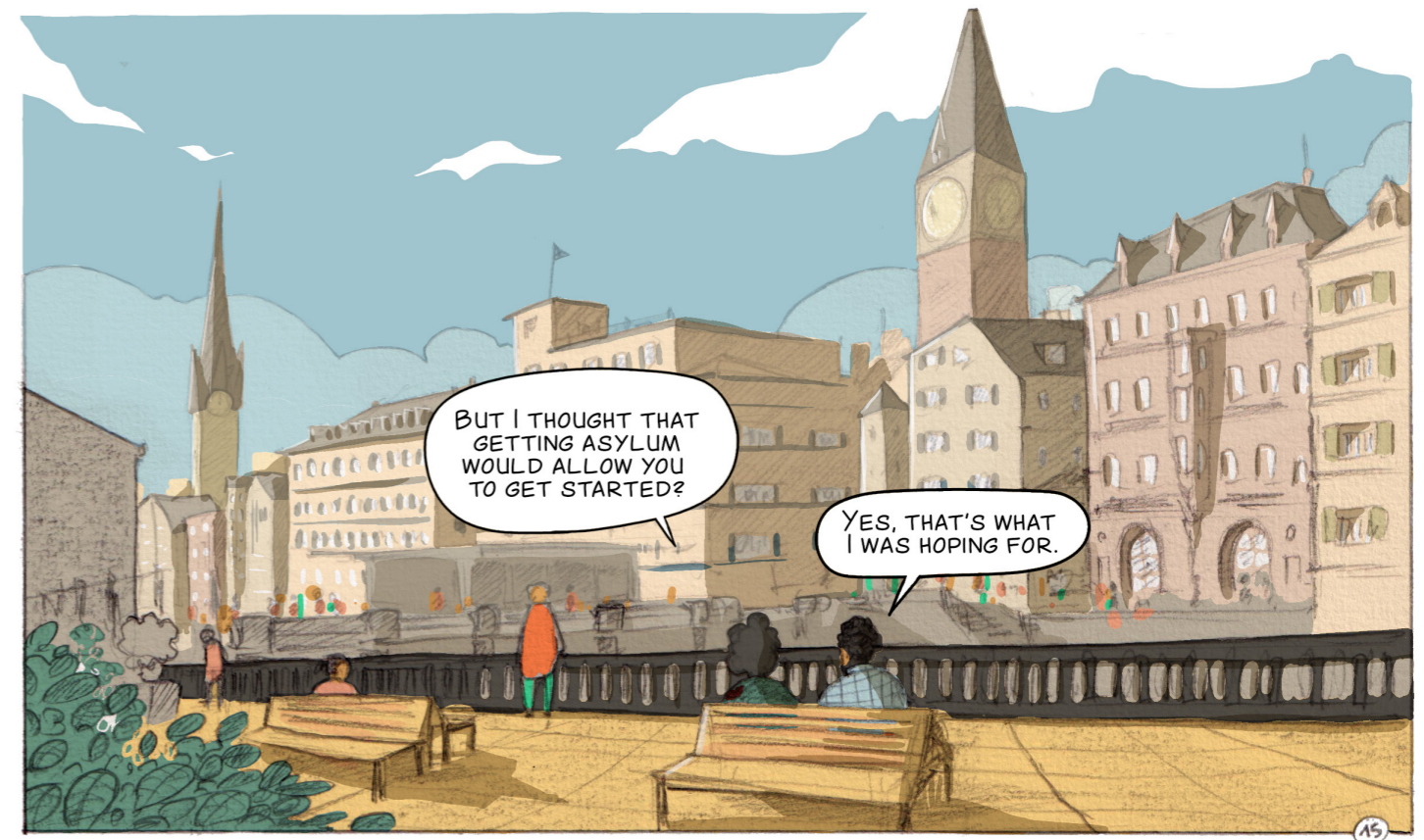


OH, AND LUISA, WE'RE ORGANISING AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS NEXT MONTH.

YOU SHOULD COME.



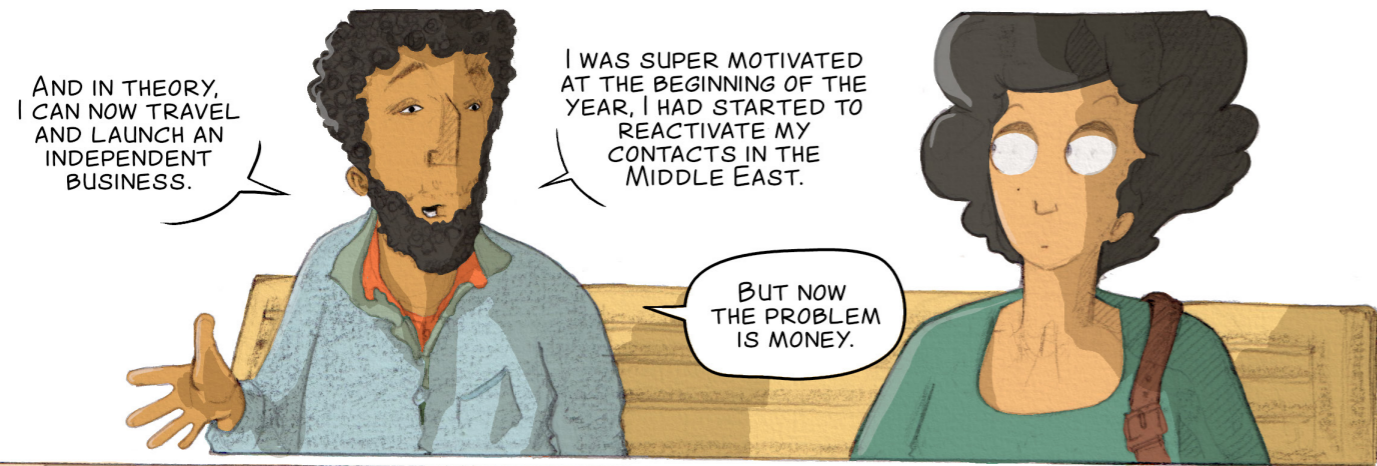
I'LL TRY.



BUT I THOUGHT THAT GETTING ASYLUM WOULD ALLOW YOU TO GET STARTED?

YES, THAT'S WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR.

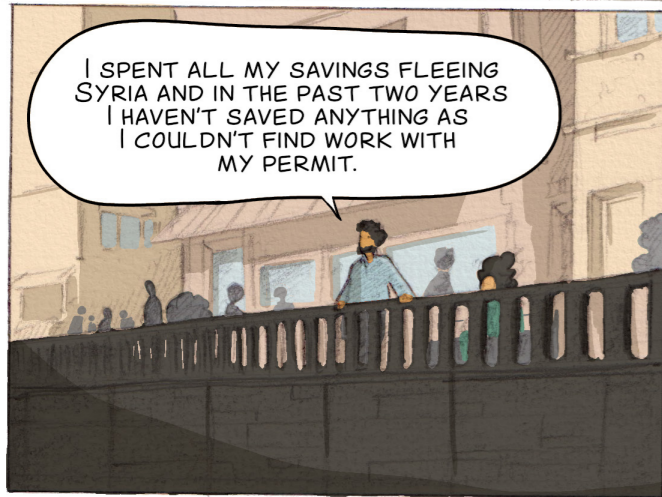




AND IN THEORY, I CAN NOW TRAVEL AND LAUNCH AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.

I WAS SUPER MOTIVATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, I HAD STARTED TO REACTIVATE MY CONTACTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

BUT NOW THE PROBLEM IS MONEY.



I SPENT ALL MY SAVINGS FLEEING SYRIA AND IN THE PAST TWO YEARS I HAVEN'T SAVED ANYTHING AS I COULDN'T FIND WORK WITH MY PERMIT.



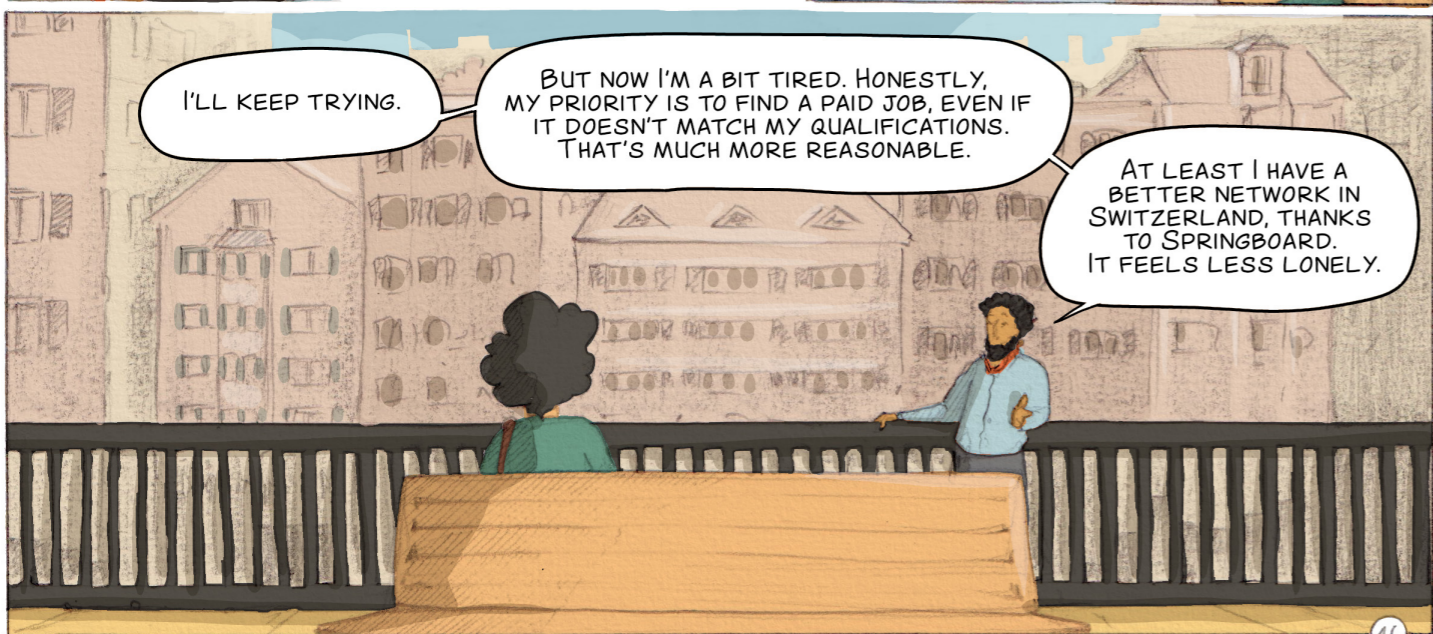
SO, WE ARE STILL DEPENDENT ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND I RISK LOSING IT IF I OFFICIALLY LAUNCH MY OWN COMPANY.



AND I CAN'T BE SURE TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY RIGHT AWAY TO FEED THE FAMILY AND PAY THE RENT.



MAYBE YOU COULD FIND SOME INVESTORS...?



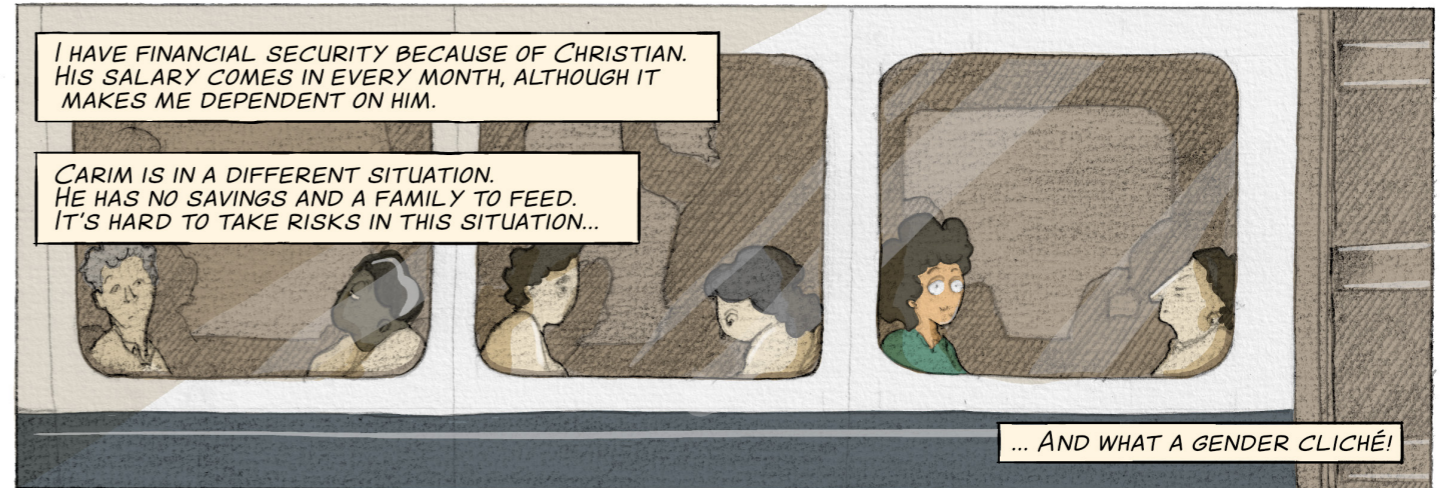
I'LL KEEP TRYING.

BUT NOW I'M A BIT TIRED. HONESTLY, MY PRIORITY IS TO FIND A PAID JOB, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MATCH MY QUALIFICATIONS. THAT'S MUCH MORE REASONABLE.

AT LEAST I HAVE A BETTER NETWORK IN SWITZERLAND, THANKS TO SPRINGBOARD. IT FEELS LESS LONELY.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS ABOUT TAKING RISKS.



I HAVE FINANCIAL SECURITY BECAUSE OF CHRISTIAN. HIS SALARY COMES IN EVERY MONTH, ALTHOUGH IT MAKES ME DEPENDENT ON HIM.

CARIM IS IN A DIFFERENT SITUATION. HE HAS NO SAVINGS AND A FAMILY TO FEED. IT'S HARD TO TAKE RISKS IN THIS SITUATION...

... AND WHAT A GENDER CLICHÉ!

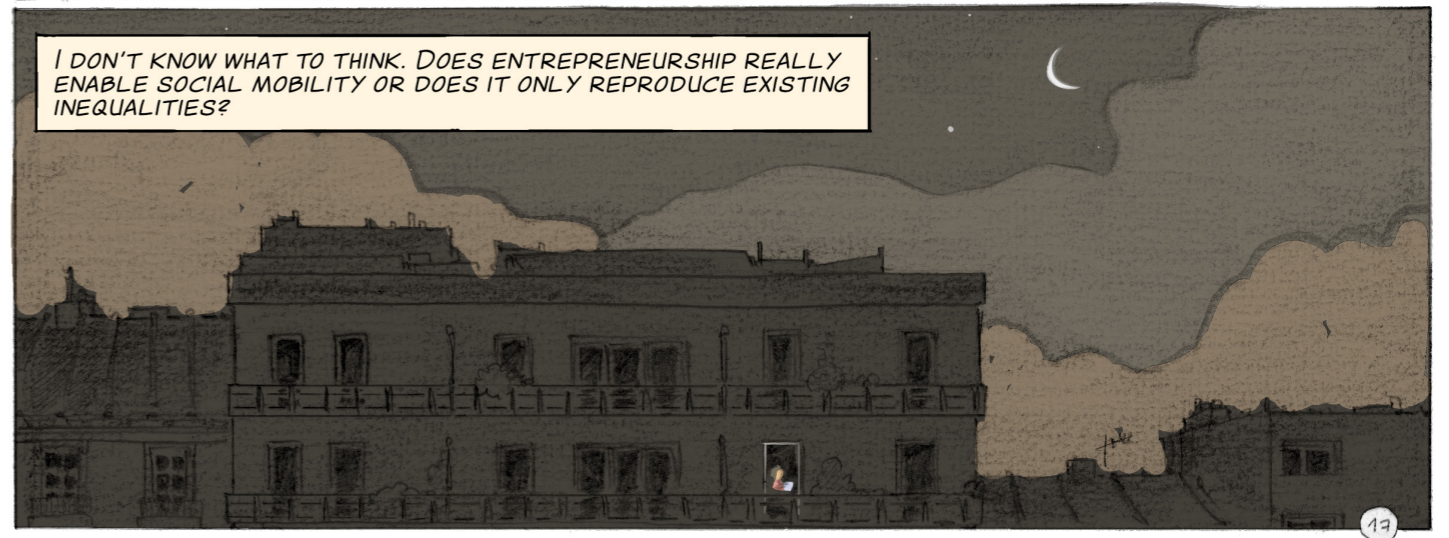


WHO IS THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAM FOR?

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN?

WHO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A PARTNER?

WHO ALREADY HAVE MONEY?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. DOES ENTREPRENEURSHIP REALLY ENABLE SOCIAL MOBILITY OR DOES IT ONLY REPRODUCE EXISTING INEQUALITIES?





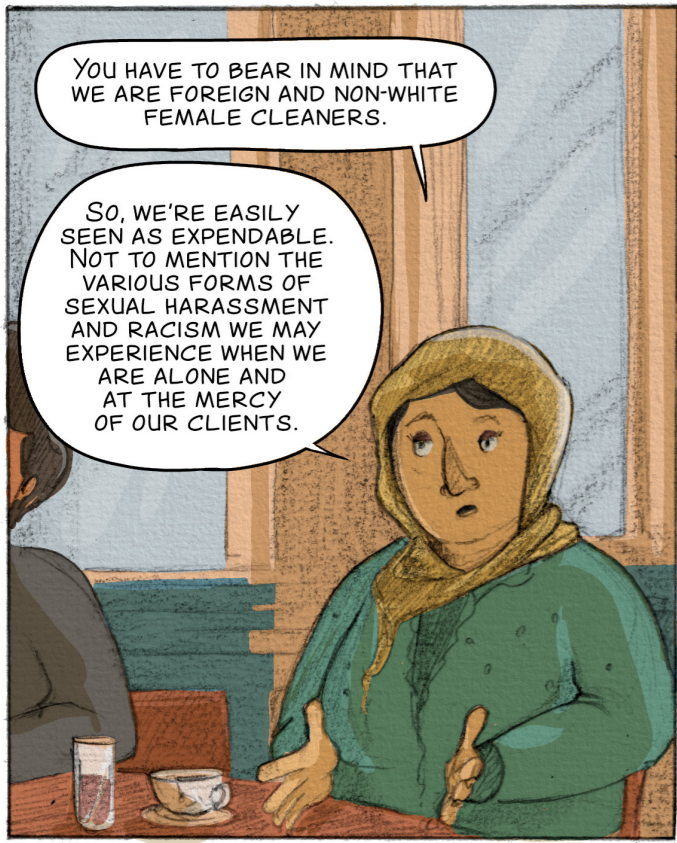
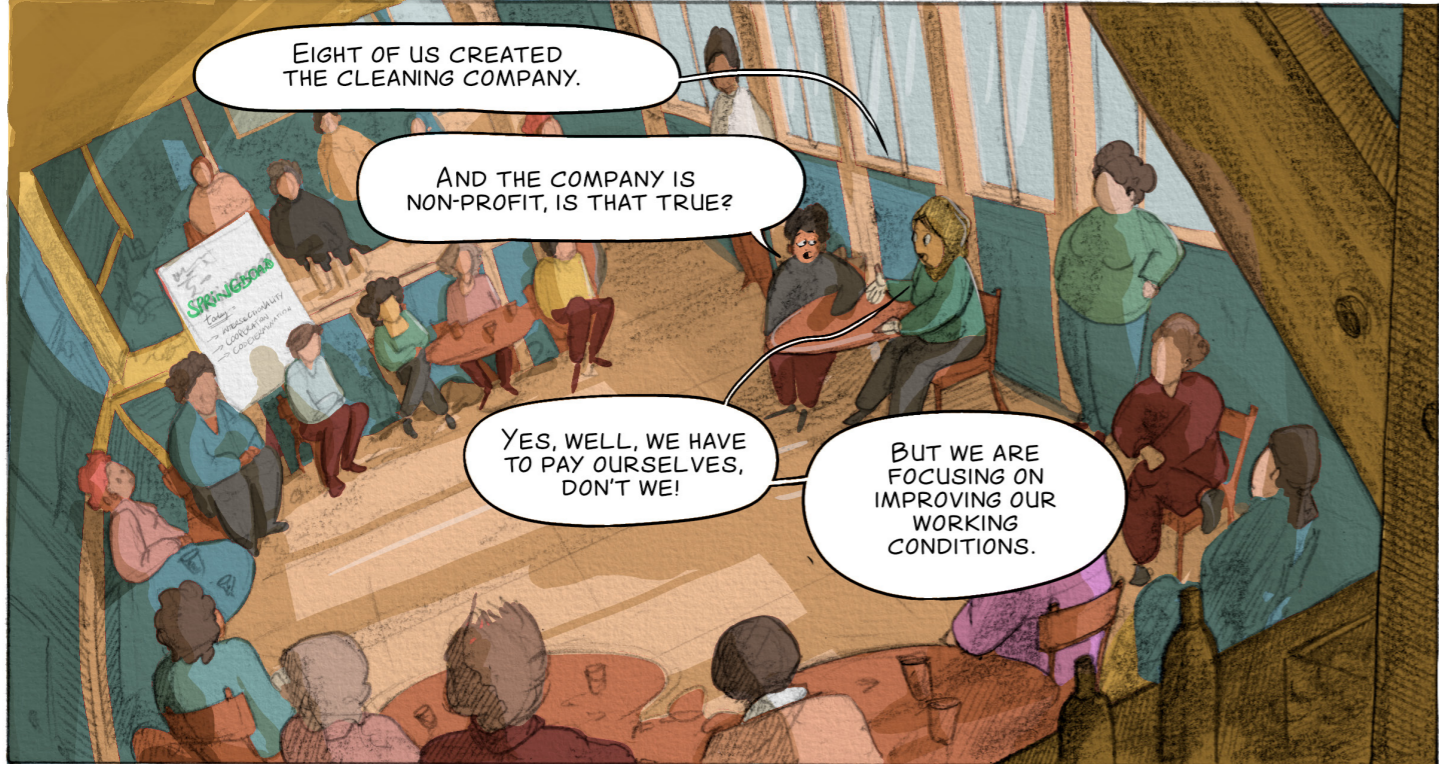
SUSANA, HOW MANY ARE YOU IN YOUR COOPERATIVE BUSINESS?

EIGHT OF US CREATED THE CLEANING COMPANY.

AND THE COMPANY IS NON-PROFIT, IS THAT TRUE?

YES, WELL, WE HAVE TO PAY OURSELVES, DON'T WE!

BUT WE ARE FOCUSING ON IMPROVING OUR WORKING CONDITIONS.



YOU HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT WE ARE FOREIGN AND NON-WHITE FEMALE CLEANERS.

SO, WE'RE EASILY SEEN AS EXPENDABLE. NOT TO MENTION THE VARIOUS FORMS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RACISM WE MAY EXPERIENCE WHEN WE ARE ALONE AND AT THE MERCY OF OUR CLIENTS.



AND THE ADVANTAGE OF STARTING A BUSINESS TOGETHER?

THERE ARE PLENTY.



THE MAIN THING IS THAT NONE OF US COULD HAVE SET UP A BUSINESS ON OUR OWN. WE DIDN'T HAVE THE CONTACTS, THE KNOWLEDGE, THE STARTING CAPITAL...



WITH A COOPERATIVE, WE PUT ALL OUR STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES TOGETHER.

NOW WE CAN DETERMINE OUR OWN WAGES, OUR OWN CUSTOMERS, OUR OWN CONDITIONS...

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO RUNS THIS COOPERATIVE?

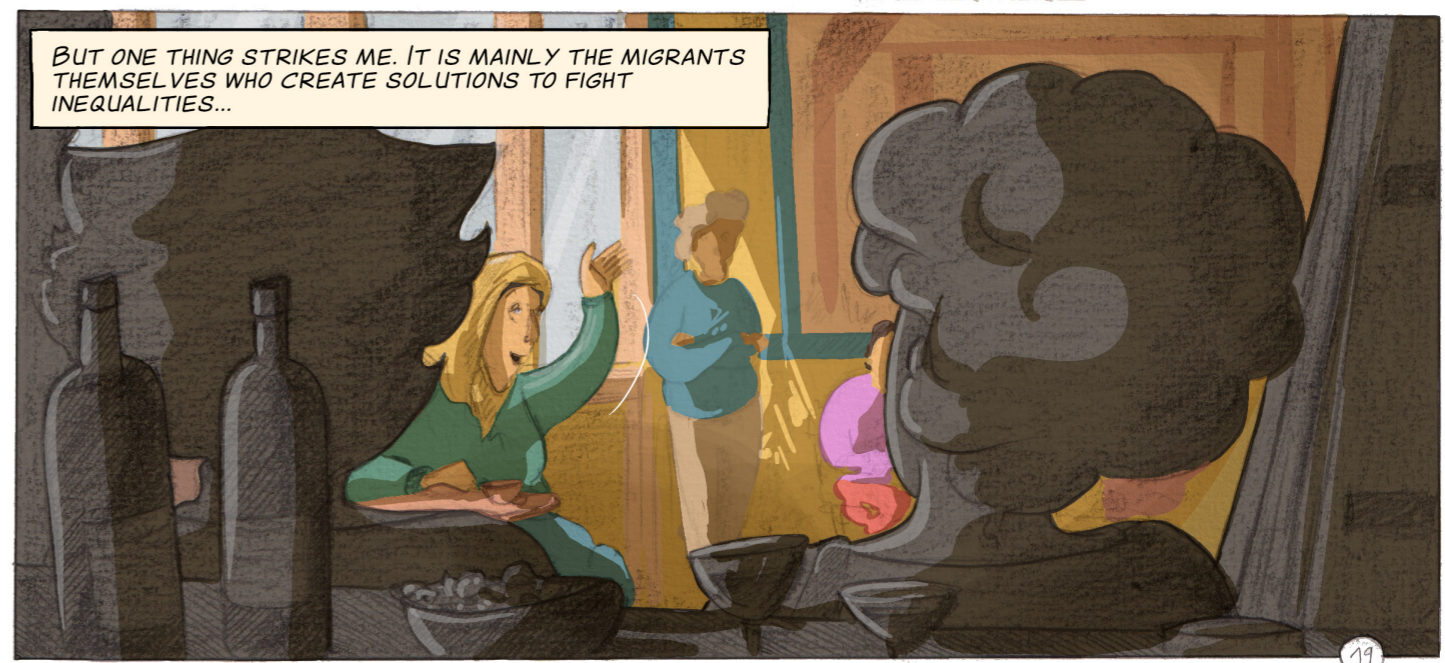


WE ARE ALL CO-MANAGERS.

EACH MEMBER HAS A SAY IN THE ORGANISATION. IT'S REALLY A COLLECTIVE LOGIC. WE SHARE THE RISKS AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

THEIR PROJECT IS SUPER REFRESHING. IT BRINGS COLLECTIVE ANSWERS TO INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS.

AND IT CHALLENGES THE MYTH OF THE SELF-MADE ENTREPRENEUR.



BUT ONE THING STRIKES ME. IT IS MAINLY THE MIGRANTS THEMSELVES WHO CREATE SOLUTIONS TO FIGHT INEQUALITIES...

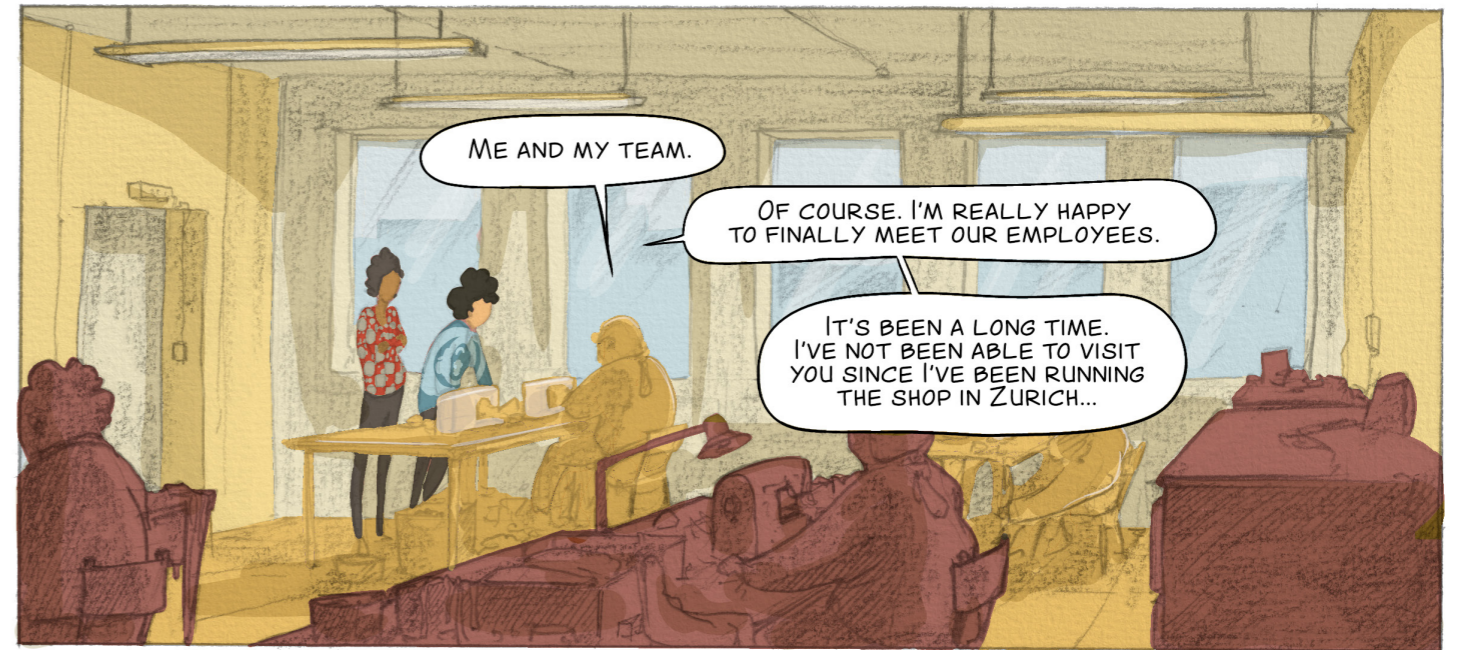




YOUR NEW MACHINES ARE REALLY GREAT, LUISA.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING WITH THEM.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING WITH THEM!



ME AND MY TEAM.

OF COURSE. I'M REALLY HAPPY TO FINALLY MEET OUR EMPLOYEES.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. I'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VISIT YOU SINCE I'VE BEEN RUNNING THE SHOP IN ZURICH...



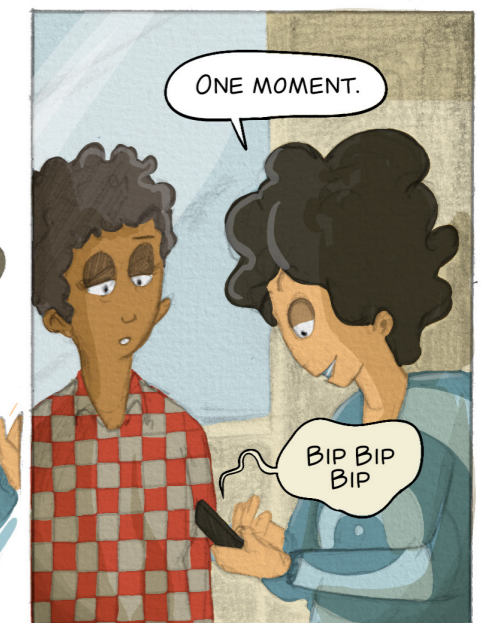
YES, BUT I HAD THE IMPRESSION YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH US.



I THINK I GOT USED TO THE VIRTUAL LUISA.

HA HA HA!

BIP BIP BIP



ONE MOMENT.

BIP BIP BIP



SHE IS ALWAYS CONNECTED TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

HELLO?



YES.

YES, OF COURSE I CAN PARTICIPATE... YES.

OH, ABSOLUTELY! ... OK.

THERE WON'T BE TOO MANY PEOPLE, RIGHT?

WELL, IF IT'S NOT TOO CROWDED, I'LL DO IT.



ZURICH

LUISA, WE WANTED YOU TO TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR INTEGRATION IN SWITZERLAND, THE STORY OF HOW YOU BECAME AN ENTREPRENEUR.

WELL I... ACTUALLY...

MAYBE SOME PEOPLE HERE EXPECT US TO TELL SUCCESS STORIES AND HIGHLIGHT THE POSITIVE SIDE OF OUR MIGRATORY EXPERIENCES.

BUT I'D RATHER CHALLENGE THESE NARRATIVES OF SUCCESS AND "GOOD INTEGRATION".

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MY JOURNEY IS, ABOVE ALL, A STORY OF UPS AND DOWNS, OF MANY DIFFICULTIES.

AND I BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASE FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING STARTED.

YET TODAY, WE CAN SAY THAT YOUR PROJECT IS A SUCCESS, RIGHT?

MAYBE, BUT THANKS TO WHAT OR WHOM?

MEANING?

OK, I MAY HAVE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, BUT I ALSO SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ALONE.

OR THAT WE ALL HAVE TO DO IT, FOR THAT MATTER.

AND THAT IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF SKILLS OR MOTIVATION.

OH NO?

No.

THIS ALL REMINDS ME OF THE "AMERICAN DREAM": THE MYTH THAT HARD WORK AND CREATIVITY WILL ALWAYS BE REWARDED APPROPRIATELY AND FAIRLY.

WHICH MEANS, BASICALLY, THAT THOSE WHO DON'T SUCCEED AND INTEGRATE MUST BE LAZY OR LACK COURAGE.

IN MY OPINION, THIS IS ALL ABSURD.

BUT THEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK DETERMINES THE SUCCESS OF A PROJECT?

WHAT I THINK IS THAT TOO OFTEN WE FORGET SOME OF THE VARIABLES: YOUR GENDER, THE COLOUR OF YOUR SKIN...

... BUT ALSO YOUR FAMILY SITUATION, YOUR LEGAL STATUS, HAVING A NETWORK THAT SUPPORTS YOU, SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES...

TO ME, ALL THIS IS CRUCIAL.

I THINK THAT SOCIETY HAS TO TAKE THIS INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY INTO ACCOUNT.

... AND STOP VIEWING MIGRANTS ONLY IN TERMS OF THEIR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL!

THAT'S IMPORTANT!



ENTREPRENEURSHIP, IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT SEEKING ECONOMIC SUCCESS. ABOVE ALL, IT'S ABOUT DREAMING OF A FUTURE IN WHICH ONE CAN FEEL GOOD.

BUT WE NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT MANY MIGRANTS FACE OBSTACLES BECAUSE OF THE WAY SOCIETY IS ORGANISED.

FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, POLICY MAKERS ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP SUPPORT MEASURES.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAM, YES, BUT A DREAM IN WHICH THE DREAMER IS NOT LEFT ALONE!

Jean Leveugle 2022

24

This comic booklet was developed as part of a research project entitled "Migrant Entrepreneurship: Mapping Cross-Border Mobilities and Exploring the Role of Spatial Mobility Capital". The aim of the project was to explore the role of spatial mobility in the business activities of migrant entrepreneurs, and to understand to what extent and under what conditions migration experiences constitute an asset for them. It was led by Prof. Yvonne Riaño and Prof. Etienne Piguet between 2018 and 2022 at the Geography Institute of the University of Neuchâtel, and was part of the National Centre of Competence in Research for migration and mobility studies "nccr – on the move".

The stories and characters portrayed in the comic are fictive. Yet they are directly inspired by qualitative research conducted by Christina Mittmasser in Switzerland. As part of her PhD dissertation, she interviewed 34 individuals with migration experiences developing a business or social project. She was particularly interested in the inequalities that have affected the life trajectories and entrepreneurial careers of her interviewees. In order to develop a collaborative approach with practitioners in the field, she conducted her research in partnership with an organization supporting migrant and refugee entrepreneurs in Zurich.

In addition, the comic builds on theoretical reflections and empirical observations by the project members Yvonne Riaño, Laure Sandoz, and Lorena Izaguirre, who carried out ethnographic research on migrant entrepreneurship in Colombia, Spain, and Peru.

To develop the storyline of the comic, the research team shared their ideas and empirical material with the urbanist and illustrator Jean Leveugle, from the studio "Savoirs Ambulants". He helped them transform their scientific data into a story accessible to the broader public, and created the aesthetic universe of the comic.

In the following pages, we provide references and links to go further, including a list of publications by the research team and information about the organizations that have inspired and/or supported this project.

**More information on the research project:**

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/projects/migrant-entrepreneurship-mapping-cross-border-mobilities-and-exploring-the-role-of-spatial-mobility-capital/>

**More information on the studio "Les Savoirs Ambulants":**

<https://www.lessavoirsambulants.fr/>



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**CHRISTINA MITTMASER** studied sociology and human geography with a special interest in migration and the (re)production of social inequalities across borders. Motivated to find a creative way to make her research visible and give something back to her research participants, she initiated this comic project and the collaboration with Jean Leveugle.



**LAURE SANDOZ** is an anthropologist and migration specialist interested in how mobile people are affected by the internationalization of labor markets and the emergence of more flexible forms of work. She is also a comic lover who enjoys building bridges between science and the arts and integrating emotions into knowledge production processes.



**YVONNE RIAÑO** is a social geographer specialized in migration studies. She is particularly interested in the labour market barriers of migrants and their coping strategies. She is passionate about participatory research methods and uses short films as a means of communicating the realities experienced by migrants, particularly women.



**JEAN LEVEUGLE** is an author of scientific comics. After graduating in geography at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris and studying at the École Estienne, he created the studio "Savoirs Ambulants" in Rennes, dedicated to the mediation of knowledge through illustrations and comics. He is particularly interested in writing narratives that promote the understanding of social phenomena through the experiences and analyses of the concerned individuals themselves.

## PUBLICATIONS BY THE RESEARCH TEAM

### SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Komposch, Pohl, Riaño (2021) Worker cooperatives' potential for migrant women's self-empowerment. Insights from a case study in New York City. nccr – on the move Working Paper 29.

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/publications/worker-cooperatives-potential-for-migrant-womens-self-empowerment/>

Mittmasser, Stingl (2021) Migrant counterspaces: Challenging labour market exclusion through collective action. *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales (REMI)* 37 (1-2), 229–249.

<https://doi.org/10.4000/remi.18507>

Mittmasser (2022) "Because you've lived in different places all your life" – How mobility trajectories create cross-border entrepreneurial opportunities. *Geoforum*, 129, 161–171.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.12.018>

Riaño (2022) Migrant entrepreneurs as agents of development? Geopolitical context and transmobility strategies of Colombian migrants returning from Venezuela. *Journal of International Migration and Integration (JIMI)*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-022-00959-w>

Riaño, Mittmasser, Sandoz (2022) Spatial mobility capital: A valuable resource for the social mobility of border crossing migrant entrepreneurs? *Societies*, 12(3), 77.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/soc1203077>

Sandoz, Mittmasser, Riaño, Izaguirre (in review) Transnational migrant entrepreneurs: Understanding their dependencies, fragilities, and alternatives. *Globalizations*.

Sandoz, Mittmasser, Riaño, Piguet (2021) A review of transnational migrant entrepreneurship: Unequal spatialities. *ZFW - Advances in Economic Geography*.

<https://doi.org/10.1515/zfw-2021-0004>

Sandoz (2021) Localising informal practices in transnational entrepreneurship. *Migration Letters*, 18(2).

<https://doi.org/10.33182/ml.v18i2.1177>

### BLOGS

Mittmasser (2022) Migrants' collective attempts to counter economic exclusion. nccr – on the move Blog.

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/blog/migrants-collective-attempts-to-counter-economic-exclusion/>

Mittmasser, Sandoz (2020) Transnational entrepreneurs: Between vulnerability and solidarity. nccr – on the move Blog.

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/blog/transnational-entrepreneurs-between-vulnerability-and-solidarity/>

Sandoz (2021) The informal practices of transnational migrant entrepreneurs in Barcelona: Three contrasting cases. nccr – on the move Blog.

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/blog/the-informal-practices-of-transnational-migrant-entrepreneurs-in-barcelona-three-contrasting-cases/>





## FURTHER RESOURCES

### ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS

#### Capacity

Talent & Startup incubator for people with refugee and migrant backgrounds in Zurich  
<https://www.capacityzurich.ch/>

#### Singa Switzerland

Business incubator for people with refugee and migrant backgrounds in Zurich and Geneva  
<https://singaswitzerland.ch/>

#### Crescenda

Entrepreneurship centre for migrant women in Basel  
<https://www.crescenda.ch/>

#### Autonomía

Cleaning platform cooperative in Zurich  
<https://autonomia-kooperative.ch/>


### GENERAL INFORMATION ON MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UNCTAD, IOM, UNHCR (2018) Policy guide on entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees.  
<https://publications.iom.int/books/policy-guide-entrepreneurship-migrants-and-refugees>

OECD, EU (2021) The missing entrepreneurs 2021: Policies for inclusive entrepreneurship and self-employment.  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/71b7a9bb-en>

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The entrepreneurial dream – who is it for?  
Do you have to be an innovative and  
successful entrepreneur to be welcome in  
Switzerland?

Luisa, a Colombian fashion designer based  
in Zurich, reflects on these questions.  
Through her experiences and encounters,  
she raises awareness of the obstacles along  
the entrepreneurial path and challenges  
simplistic success stories. This comic is  
the result of a research project conducted  
at the University of Neuchâtel.

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