



Summary of debates on Refugee Migration in Central Europe

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Contents:

- 1) Foreword
- 2) Summary from the conference in Budapest - Refugee Crisis and Radical Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe
- 3) Summary from the conference in Prague - The Role of Media, Journalists and Propaganda in the Refugee Crisis
- 4) Summary from the conference in Ljubljana - Volunteering and Migration – from good to the best stories
- 5) Summary from the conference in Krakow - New Approaches to Intercultural Youth Education
- 6) Summary from the conference in Bratislava - The Role of Academicians and Religious Leaders in relation to Refugees and “Refugee Crisis”
- 7) Summary from the conference in Zagreb - The Role of Civil Society in Supporting Refugees and Shaping Future EU Policies
- 8) Zagreb Declaration on Refugee Protection and Xenophobia including Recommendations

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Foreword:

The aim of this summary and of our transnational project called Debating New Phenomena of Refugee Migration in Central Europe was to provide an insight into the public atmosphere and approaches of civil society organizations in Central Europe and Lithuania with regard to the topic of migration and refugees. We selected 6 main phenomena related to refugees and migration and tried to bring together the best civil society experts and academicians to six cities in the Central Europe to discuss and share best ideas and lessons learned from the last two years of the so called “refugee crisis”.

This summary of good ideas, projects and lessons learned was drafted in an experimental way with many pictures and only very short descriptions of ideas presented by the speakers. We will be happy if some of the good ideas and recipes can be successfully copied in your country, city or an NGO because we gathered many of them with very interesting results. It is the civil society which showed a very different face to newcomers than the politicians in Central Europe and we, as NGOs, are proud to belong to the European family of open, tolerant and solidary societies.

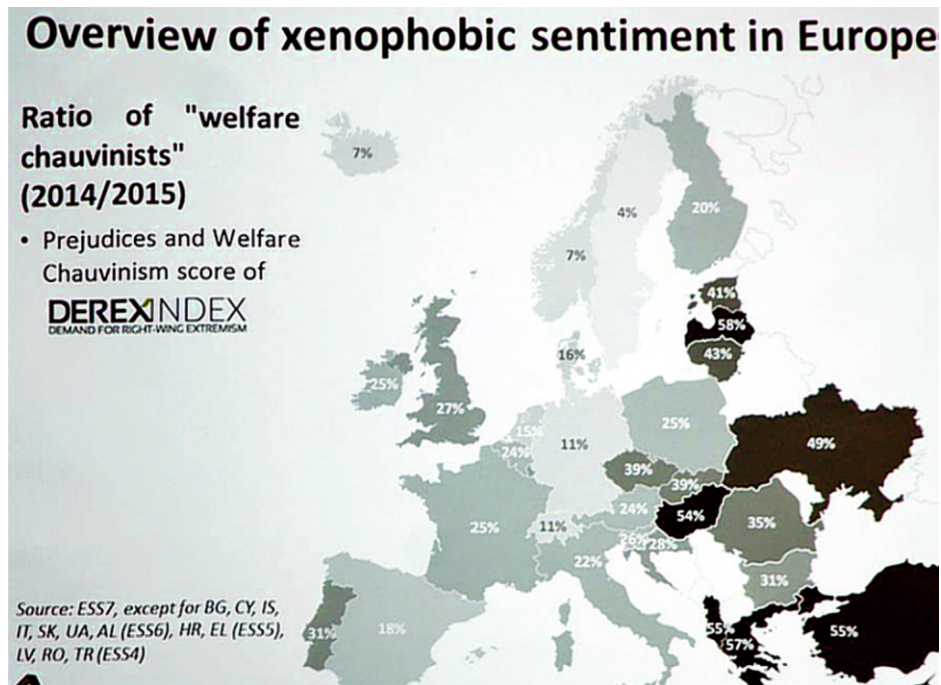
I would like to thank all the partners for their work on the themes and on the preparation of the conferences, then I want to thank Ms. Margarita Kirilkina, who drafted the summaries for us, and the European Union for its co-financing of the 6 very interesting events in the Central Europe.

Martin Rozumek
Organization for Aid to Refugees
Prague, 1 February 2018

2) Refugee Crisis and Radical Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe

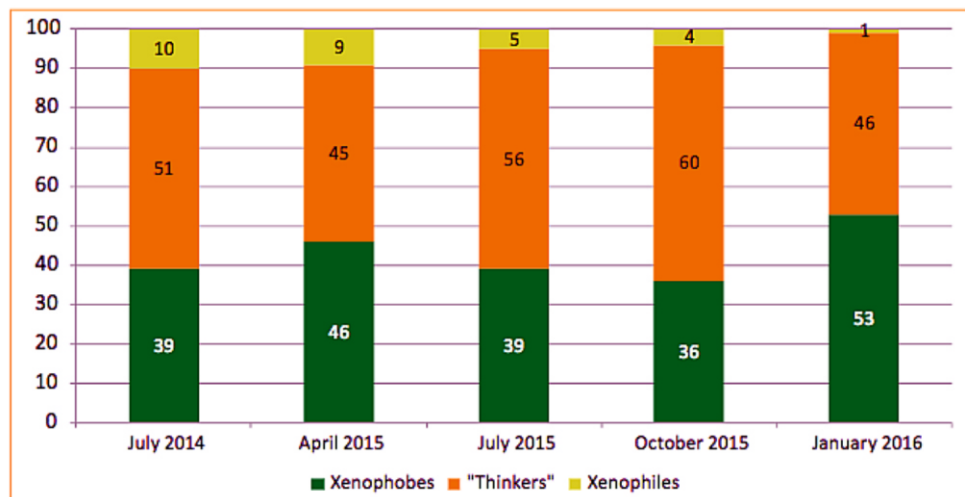
November 3-4, 2016

Budapest, Hungary



Increase of xenophobic moods from 2014 to 2016 on the example of Hungary:

Chart 1.3.2
The proportion of xenophiles, xenophobes, and "thinkers" in Hungary 2014–2016 (per cent)



Source: TÁRKI Omnibus 2014–2016.

"Official" methods of increasing xenophobic moods

Anti-migrant campaigns:

- Such as **billboards** ordered by the government in Hungary with messages to newcomers. The fact that messages are written in the Hungarian language reveals that the true recipients of them are Hungarians.



If you come to Hungary you must respect our culture! If you come to Hungary you can't take jobs from Hungarians!

• and **anti-migration discourses**:

according to Anna Szilágyi's presentation "Mighty Words — Hungary's Great Anti-Migrant Campaign":

- using the term "Brussels" instead of "European Union" creates the false impression that the EU is a foreign power to Hungarians.

- referring to the "Brussels elite" indicates that the Hungarians are ruled by a small group of rich and privileged foreigners. Meanwhile, the label "Brussels bureaucrats" implies that Hungary's faith is in the hands of some rigid, heartless foreign officials who are detached from their reality.

- "migrant" is a foreign word in Hungarian and hence can underline that the migrants "differ" from the locals ("even their name is strange"). Accordingly, in the vocabulary of the Hungarian government and its media, since 2015, the word "migrant" is not a neutral term but a stigma. It reduces refugees to one single, impersonal, and repulsively represented status.

- "illegal [migrants]" evoke the frame of "unlawfulness" in the mind, misrepresenting the masses of innocent people who are running for their lives, and portrays them as dangerous and fearsome criminals.

- words that could activate the frame of humanitarianism ("shelter", "food", "protection", "family reunion", "children") were completely absent from the campaign. The vocabulary of the Hungarian propaganda ("danger", "danger of terrorism", "no-go zones", "rapes", "epidemics") merged facts which were taken out of context with lies, as well as blurring the difference between "migrants" and "terrorists".

Full article is available on a Blog About the Power of Language in Politics:

<https://www.talkdecoded.com/blog/2016/10/6/mighty-words-hungarys-great-anti-migrant-campaign>

Should hate speech be criminalised?

based on his books

Free Speech and Censorship around the Globe

The Content and Context of Hate Speech: Rethinking Regulation and Responses

Peter Mohar illustrates the relation between anti-migrant governmental campaigns, physical violence and abusive speech against migrants. Through such campaigns governments create hostility between people, Governments use media platforms to often blame migrants as the first perpetrators of violent behavior (overusing the Charlie Hebdo case), labeling them as inhuman because they came from countries with no human rights, etc. Through this official rhetoric it implicitly legitimises "responding" attacks and hate speech against people from muslim countries.

Due to this it becomes very important to investigate hate speech by its criminalisation to find a direct cause.

"Effects" of official propaganda

could be followed on an interactive Map of anti-migrant violence, hatred and sentiment in Europe



<http://www.enar-eu.org/Map-of-anti-migrant-violence-hatred-and-sentiment-in-Europe>

Pro-migrant protests

When activists are trying to protest against anti-migrant policies they are limited through police blockades that establish their designated routes in a city. This allows police to lead pro-migrants protesters through the least populated streets, while anti-migrants protesters often occupy main and congested areas. This causes anti-migrant protests to be viewed as more powerful and important. Moreover if migrants participate in protests they can be accused of "terrorism and other crimes" as in the case of Ahmed.

How could WE react?

· create possibility to report hate speech

as web site <http://www.dostajemrznje.org/>



created by Human Rights House Network and civil society organization GONG in Zagreb where citizens could report hate speech. The project is an attempt to respond to the frequent presence of unacceptable public speech which is destructive for social cohesion, values of pluralism and intercultural tolerance towards those who are different.

as [#NoHateEP2014 campaign](#)



online form enabled the public to report discriminatory or intolerant incidents during the European Parliament election campaign created by anti-racism network Enar

· made research, analysis about concrete positive contributions of foreigners to Europe

as publication [Hidden Talents, Wasted Talents?](#) about migrants contributions and ethnic and religious minorities

· collect news on migrants which are ignored by official media or overused

as web site **ISLAMONLINE.sk** created by muslim's community in Bratislava focused on topics related to Islam and Muslims in Europe and the world

ISLAMONLINE.sk

· work inside the local community

organizing events at schools, in neighborhood, in social networks, where migrants/foreigners could be involved by themselves to create dialog

as a project "Zerophobia" coined by a group of students from the University of Debrecen in Hungary and focus on education. They are visiting different high schools, where they talk about projects, and students attending high school have the option to meet international students personally, learn about their culture, about their lives, and about the reality of the current situation.



· organize direct help to refugees on their "transshipment points": railway stations, borders, camps etc:

collect cloths and living essentials, organizing the distribution of them, organize events for children, provide professional psychological support, language courses, friendship communication



pictures from railway station in Budapest

· react to government campaigns in public space

as activists reacted to billboards ordered by the government in Hungary with messages to newcomers.



· react by artistic projects which could make impact

No longer existing tumblr page Zlovenia, was a place where activists were uploading xenophobic comments from facebook together with a picture of the author from his home and family environment to make a contrast. The project was stopped because most of the "authors" asked to have their pictures deleted as they "reconsidered their views".

3) The role of media, journalists and propaganda in the refugee crisis

January 26-27, 2017
Prague, Czech Republic

Currently Central Europe and the Baltic States are dealing with a refugee crisis that is fueling mass hysteria without almost any refugees being physically present in the region. Islamophobia has been on the rise feeding into anti-Muslim rhetoric which is often being reiterated from politicians. These politicians are happily playing the role of saviors which has gained them significant support from demographics that tend to be less informed but harbor fear and resentment for these refugee populations.

To get first hand information and to control disinformation by state media it is very important to develop cooperation between media, NGO's and research institutes.

Mechanisms of media propaganda



Source: Foundation against corruption <http://www.nfpc.cz/>

A majority of media belongs to politicians who can easily use it as a tool to manipulate public opinion. As we can see on infographics, the owner of a few of the most popular media sources in the Czech Republic is Andrej Babiš – a politician with open anti-refugees views. According to the journalist, Martin Biben, who used to work in Andrej Babiš's newspaper, Mladá fronta Dnes, over the last few years the chief editor controlled journalists work, allowing them to publish only certain material while hiding or withholding other information. Articles were published that criticized Angela Merkel's politics as well as negatively reporting on refugee situations in other countries. For example, one article discussed an upcoming civil war in France, caused by refugees. Simultaneously in other media, for example from Economia group, there is a platform for mixed opinions and positive comments about refugees.

Furthermore, chief editors use several tactics to influence moods in society such as:

- portraying refugees as a danger and threat
- publishing/posting pictures only featuring male refugees (no women, no children)
- showing only disadvantages of refugees coming to the country
- simplifying the situation
- creating new geopolitical mythology



Criminal case of Lisa F. is an example when disinformation about "kidnapping and rape of 13 years old girl by migrants" has provoked anti-migrant demonstrations in Germany. Ignoring official investigations, the Russian media extensively covered the story and reported that the girl had been mistreated and held as a "sex slave". Even after police announced that girl spent 30 hours at her friend's house and lied to her parents to avoid problems at school. Sergey Lavrov, a Russian foreign minister, claimed that German police tried to cover up the information about the crime leading to continued demonstrations.



Liberal media's mistakes

(case of Austria with 19 000 people seeking asylum in 2015)



Liberal media often highlights small stories. For example, a fight between Afghans and Chechens in a street of Vienna. Instead of explaining the circumstances of the picture only a short report was given. If media want to influence public opinion, especially the middle class - who raise questions, they have to be as serious as possible. Furthermore, it is recommended that these media outlets make debates more open and less hysteric, stay honest and

understandable and not give opportunities to yellow press and right wing politicians to create their

own myths. It is important for these stories to be published because people want to be informed about refugees, for example they want to know the differences between working migrants and refugees, from where they are coming and why and what made them leave their countries. They want to be aware of who they are going to accept into their countries. Unfortunately for now not a lot of media provides this information, so liberal media has to work more on describing the wider context and to show perspectives. If they would look at the big picture and try to clarify the situation with accurate details, we could avoid such debates often based on misinformation. For example, debates about why asylum seekers gets more social money then for example retired people, as such topics evoke harmful stereotypes onto refugees.

(Official) disinformation in Czech Republic 2016
(based on Jakub Janda presentation and Watch Kremlin research)

- 1) smearing USA, assigning blame for migration crisis (50% Czechs)
- 2) relativisation & advocating for Russia Federation
- 3) EU collapses, EU intentionally brings jihadis to Europe
- 4) criticism of domestic political actors
- 5) advocating Russian interpretation of events in Syria
- 6) attacking mainstream media, big conspiracy
- 7) Ukraine fails "nazis" (38% - Us responsible, 31% fascists)
- 8) manipulations about migration & Islam (60-70% threat)

Example of Russian influence:

- The Kremlin is clearly taking different approaches to spreading its influence in each country, adjusting the forms of influence and the messages to the particularities of the recipient countries. The two most important factors in this process are the host country's cultural proximity (e.g., shared cultural and historical origin, language, and values) to Russia and the public's perception of Moscow. The pro-Russian orientation of the elite and the public in general determines the room for maneuvering and modus operandi (e.g., using more manifest or subtle channels of influence).
- Generally, the cultural infiltration and the value export activity are much stronger via fringe organizations (radical parties, small NGOs, diaspora organizations, fringe media) than via the mainstream of the political spectrum. Fringe organizations are simply easier to influence and "buy up."
- In Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary public diplomacy played and continues to play a crucial role in spreading social ideologies of the Putin regime via mainstream (even governmental) political players. While in Poland, direct spread of Russian illiberal values plays a marginal role due to the dominant fears over Russian expansion in the country.
- In Slovakia, different paramilitary organizations seem to be the most important tools and sources of influence, while in the Czech Republic it is the pro-Russian media, and in Hungary the governmental party Fidesz and its satellite organizations, the far-right Jobbik and traditionalist NGOs. In Poland, Russia tries to push political statements, not values, through various channels with limited impact. In Austria, beside strongly pro-Russian political players (FPÖ, most notably), organizations are rather used for reaching specific political and economic goals rather than to exert ideological influence

Trolling in social media

The other method to negatively influence public opinion on refugees or some other topic is trolling on social networks. This is highlighted through an example of pro-Russian propaganda from Daiva Repečkaitė the presentation illustrates the attitude of pro-russian activists to Lithuania (writing it with russian word "хуй" ("dick")) but also attitudes to refugees and Muslims in general.



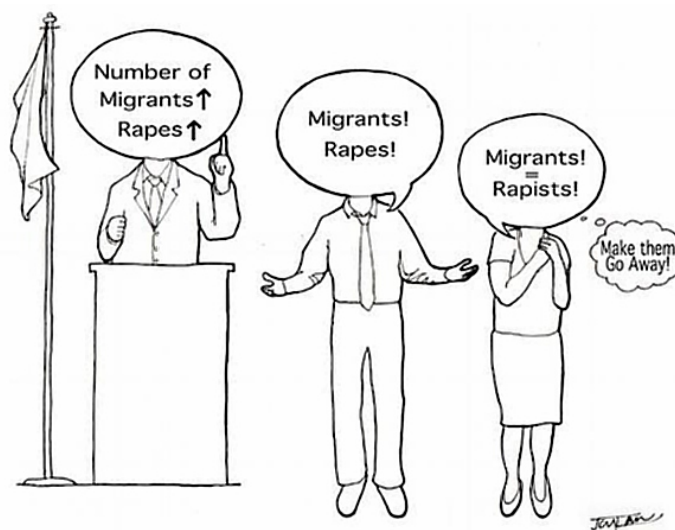
To avoid such cases, it is important to prevent disinformation and trolling, and with a help of NGO's who have

- to be objective and sober as much as possible
- to research the context (instead of concentrate on small incidents)
- to analyze the situation
- to talk about problems openly
- to check the facts

Language construction of "refugee crises"

(example of Hungary from Anna Szilágyi's presentation)

Propaganda has made the Hungarian society vulnerable to false claims about Western Europe's no-go zones, rape incidents, and terrorism. Meanwhile, the more sophisticated techniques of manipulation could go almost completely unnoticed. How could the language influence the society's thinking?



Source: Anna Szilágyi's Blog About the Power of Language in Politics

1. FRAMING

When we hear or read a word it evokes conceptual frames in our mind. Terms therefore should be selected and adopted very carefully.

2. METAPHORS

According to linguists, an average person uses six metaphors a minute. Metaphors shape thinking in subtle way.

3. REFERENCES

It is crucial how we refer to individuals, groups, official entities, countries, and civilizations.

4. PERSONAL PRONOUNS AND DETERMINERS

Personal pronouns and possessive determiners can be used in controversial ways. Personal pronouns "*they*" and "*them*" and the possessive form "*their*" are widely used to present particular groups or communities as hostile or alien. In such cases, these typically appear as opposed to pronouns and possessive forms that represent the community ("*they*" and "*them*" versus: "*you*", "*we*", "*us*" and "*their*" versus "*your*" and "*our*").

5. SUPERLATIVE LANGUAGE

One should be careful to use words that indicate extreme qualities or degrees.

6. NOMINALIZATION

Not all the nouns refer to things and phenomena that actually exist.

7. IMPLICATIONS

Implications allow speakers to transmit messages that they would not or would only reluctantly say explicitly.

Necessary cooperation between journalists, NGOs and experts

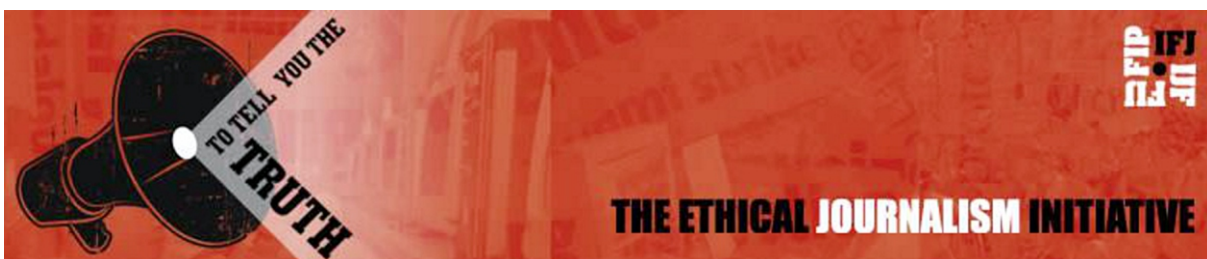
According to NGO's research people miss information about:

- governmental plans for refugees integration
- conditions of granting
- impacts of migration to the labour market and economy
- information about situations in refugees home countries
- comments of experts on migration
- personal stories of refugees

Working with media NGO's and experts have:

- to provide firsthand objective information
- to connect journalists with individual refugees who could tell their stories directly
- to provide expertise
- to give a chance for refugee journalists to return to their profession in a new situation
- to provide research on geopolitical "playground"
- to share research on official media's disinformation
- to research how media influences public opinion

Examples of organizations which unite journalists, NGO's, academicians



The Charter of Rome is a code of conduct for journalists regarding asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants.

main activities:

- make daily analysis of the press review on migration, refugees, racism etc
- organize trainings and workshops for professional journalists
- organize conferences and debates on refugees

Kremlin Watch is an example of a strategic program of the European Values Think-Tank, which aims to expose and confront instruments of Russian influence and disinformation operations focused against the liberal-democratic system. It is the only nongovernmental center in the Czech Republic, which systematically deals with Russian influence and disinformation campaigns.



4) Volunteering and migration – from good to the best stories

May 11-12, 2017

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Assisting migrants, regardless of their legal status is very beneficial. It contributes towards restoring people's dignity, creates new social networks for them and volunteers are able to act as cultural ambassadors and advocates. **Volunteers are actively included on the field of migration in crisis situations, they are working with asylum seekers and refugees COULDN'T UNDERSTAND?.**

International conferences in Ljubljana aimed to shed some light on the various aspects of organizing volunteer work. The presentation focused on multiple sides of volunteering, from the point of view of users, volunteers, volunteer organizations, institutions as well as from the solidary society's point of view. The first day focused on the main risks and opportunities depending on the type of volunteering available and the expectations of different stakeholders were checked. The second day moderated discussion about ethnic dilemmas, role of volunteering in the future, and concluding thoughts of the conference were discussed.

As Anica Mikuš Kos, president of Slovene Philanthropy, claims in her introduction speech, there could be 2 types of volunteer's work: self-organized volunteers (grassroots organizations) and coordinated volunteers (for example by NGOs). The main goal for organizing stays the same in both cases - to activate people, to spread the idea of motivation as solidarity, to create a sense of community. The work of volunteers becomes extremely important for the aspect of humanity, as it helps refugees to overcome their social isolation and exclusion from society. It diminishes frustration and hopelessness often felt among refugees when they are able to experience direct work with volunteers that want to help them and it can reduce these overwhelming feelings.

Self-organization is important, and it could compensate for the lack of governmental support for refugees, for example volunteers helping in Hungarian train stations. But at the same time it could unhelpful and unsustainable as there should be some trainings provided to volunteers, work should be organized by coordinators, human resources should be used in the most productive way. Which could decrease situations in which volunteers are overworked and safety concerns are not prevented and addressed.





In the case of Slovenia there are many organizations that organize volunteer work, for example Slovene Philanthropy – an association for the promotion of voluntary work, and humanitarian organization whose programs are aimed at increasing the quality of life in the community and advocacy for the socially weak. The central activity of Slovene Philanthropy is the promotion of volunteering that could contribute to a better and more tolerant society, based on the respect of all people regardless of their personal or living circumstances. Through their programs they are entering areas not yet covered by national institutions or covered only to a limited degree. The organization focuses on assistance to refugees, children and young migrants, aid for the homeless and other persons without health insurance in access to health services, advocacy of rights of migrant workers, establishment of intergenerational cooperation.

In response to the influx of refugees and the need of volunteers Slovene Philanthropy organized the following:

- Information points for potential volunteers and donators
- Orientation material education for volunteers
- Linking volunteers to other organizations
- Individual management of volunteers

Main obstacles that arise when working with volunteers:

- No or over-reaction with safety issues
- Non-professional attitude of some workers
- Lack of trust
- Suggestions for improving the system=activism
- No input data for long-term planning

To avoid these problems, it is recommended to:

- to avoid media influence which creates misinformed perceptions of the situation
- to understand that every volunteer comes with his/her own expectation
- to remember that cooperation and trust is very important
- to find an adequate response to volunteer resources

Why NGO's needs volunteers?



According to the NGO, Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center, located in Poland it is beneficial for them to find additional sources of help through volunteers. This NGO provides free legal counselling to people who are at risk of social exclusion and discrimination. Often, their clients or refugees ask the lawyers for additional support to solve problems not pertaining to legal matters. These can include, but are not limited to psychological problems, health care and questions about family separations. Having volunteers present to aid the refugees and offer guidance with these questions is a helpful tool for NGOs. Additionally, volunteers are able to help organizations

with administrative duties, preparing educational and cultural events, assisting refugees with state organizations and they bring their knowledge and expertise to the NGO as a tool.

For example, volunteers in the Croatian Centre for Peace Studies (CMS; CPS), is a non-governmental and non-profit organization which promotes non-violence and social change through education, research and activism. They provide language courses and individual language practice for refugees, give legal advice (by law students), organize such activities in local communities together with refugees such as evening board games, nature travels, "women to women" celebrations, a singing club, a football club etc. All these activities contribute to an intercultural exchange and create a positive impact which lasts well after the events.



It is important to note that age, gender and education aren't relevant when placing volunteer to a refugee population. The only important thing is for volunteers to share the same ideas.

During the work itself it is important

- to be sure that every volunteer has a mentor who can answer the questions and discuss the work to avoid stress
- to check the activities volunteers are involved in, to ask for reports from volunteers to make their work more accurate
- to provide security to volunteers - to make them feel safe
- to control conflicts and crises situations

Eva Kaličinská is a representative of Organization for Aid to Refugees from the Czech Republic. In her presentation "Volunteering as a supporting tool in direct work with clients" (refugees) she proposes the following important activities for work with volunteers:

Database of volunteers

A national database of volunteers working with refugees



Mentoring

Regular individual meetings of the client and the volunteer



Donations

Providing material help for refugees

Field work

The support of foreigners in the process of their integration



European project for solidarity: The European Solidarity Corps



The European Solidarity Corps is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

The initiative provides activities for volunteers in the following fields: education and youth activities, health, social and labor market integration, support and integration of migrants and refugees, environmental protection, rural development and nature conservation.

The Main goals of the initiative are:

- to contribute to young people's sense of citizenship but also supports their employability;
- to supports organizations, authorities and businesses with their solidarity related activities;
- to provide easier matching between young people and organizations looking for motivated volunteers, employee, trainees or apprentices for their activities;
- to increased synergies between the different instruments used at the European level.

The European Solidarity Corps works simultaneously with volunteers and NGO's. It is able to connect registered volunteers and organizations through a database. Through the use of this database both parties can identify opportunities for service.

To recruit a volunteer an NGO is obligated:

- to organize an interview to check the skills of volunteers
- to give all necessary information about the place, duties, working hours etc.
- to provide a mentor who will coordinate the volunteer work

The form for both volunteers and organizations who want to register for The European Solidarity Corps database can be found at the website of the European Commission:
http://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en



Additionally, any NGO, volunteer-involved organizations, private sector organizations, academia etc. can become a partner of The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program, which mobilizes volunteers to serve in UN agencies, both in development programs and peacekeeping operations. UNV engages volunteers to enable more people to be directly involved in humanitarian, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, as well as sustainable development and poverty eradication

To conclude it is important to be an active citizen and to engage directly with refugees to activate others and to educate them about their new surroundings and environments. To make cooperation between volunteers and organizations more efficient it is necessary to establish easily accessible databases for both volunteers and organizations. NGO's, from their sides, primarily have to provide trainings to volunteers, to inform volunteers of all needed information, to establish their activities, but also offer psychological support to make their work more productive and beneficial to both parties.

5) New Approaches to Intercultural Youth Education

June 12-13, 2017
Krakow, Poland



Over the course of a two-day conference speakers and participants attempted to formulate answers on how to debunk myths and stereotypes about refugees and migrants. The focus was changing these misconceived perceptions through education, and the challenges and opportunities of preventing further polarization of these negative social beliefs towards foreigners. The conference was also an opportunity to present examples of good practices from selected European countries including: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia and Poland.



Educational support models

- **Comprehensive support model** (Denmark, Sweden) - Intercultural learning in mainstream classroom: schools develop not only language skills but also give opportunities for students to follow first language classes, support integration and communication
- **Non-systematic support model** (Italy, Cyprus, Greece)- No policy: migrants are forced to cope and assimilate by themselves
- **Compensatory support model** (Belgium, Austria, Poland) - Correct differences: school supports integration according to intercultural differences and abilities
- **Integration model** (Ireland) - Intercultural learning integrated into the curricula: schools support intercultural classes, integrate new teaching methods
- **Centralized entry support model** (France, Luxembourg) - Centralized reception: students are divided into special classes

Limitations within the Educational Models

- bad **attitudes** from - society/teachers/headmasters/students/;
 - **educational attainment** - on average, migrant children have a significantly lower level of academic achievement;
 - **language barriers** - language is the most common barrier for migrant integration and educational success; poor language skills limit migrant parents' opportunities to support their children in their learning;
 - **social isolation** - psychological factors, such as feelings of isolation, exclusion, or prejudice - challenges for education and migrant families;
- Additional Problems include:
- insufficient resources for student integration;
 - lack of systematic information on supporting institutions;

- insufficient number of hours of local language classes as well as compensatory hours and often their bad organization;
 - lack of teachers - specialist of local language as a foreign and second language;
 - absence of intercultural issues in the core curriculum;
 - lack of procedures on how to integrate the children in the educational environment;
 - outdated forms of psychological and speech therapy support for migrant students;
 - overcrowded classes and schools;
 - limited amount of training on migration issues;
-
- lack of legal support for school-managers accepting foreign students;
 - lack of system support at pre-school level for children with migration background.
 - acculturation problems of the child and family;
 - frustration due to the inability to present own abilities and skills;
 - feeling of alienation;
 - lack of understanding of the new education system;
 - lack of educational materials for parents;
 - limited or impossible parental support for the child because of their own language limitations;
 - lack of legal support;
 - no meeting places for parents;
 - lack of governmental information about policy and regulations.

Often schools ignore these issues and don't respond adequately. Teachers often take a no "problem strategy" approach and form neutral attitudes towards their students that require special educational needs. To develop intercultural education and improve teachers' attitudes towards foreign students it is important to **organize forums, meetings, lectures and trainings for teachers**. This will allow teachers to identify existing problems and to solve them. **Migrant students' needs to get more local language classes** and their **parents needs materials with information** about educational systems.

There is one more crucial problem which causes bad attitudes towards foreign students. This problem is the lack of information about different cultures in the school programs. As a result, we can presently see growing xenophobic moods especially towards Muslims. For example, the Polish educational system lacks clear facts about Islamic history, culture, religion and media. Without any knowledge about the Islamic faith within the educational system the attitudes towards Muslims has become overwhelmingly negative.

- 66% people have anti-Islamic tendencies (EIR)
- 3 in Europe (after Hungary and Italy – PEW)
- 71% Poles don't want Muslim immigration (CHE)
- 70x overestimation of the Muslim population in Poland (7% - 0,1% real)
- 6/10 think Islam is a threat to safety
- 8/10 think Islam is a threat to our country

To reduce xenophobic moods in society it is necessary to teach about the Islamic faith at the highlighting both the differences and similarities of cultures



Psychological models concerning refugees which could help to reduce xenophobia in a society and change attitudes towards refugees

- contact model

It is necessary to create spaces for communication and sharing, to develop intergroup cooperation with the common goal of: integrated schooling cooperative learning, bilingual education etc. It would allow participants to better understand each other.

- information model

It is important to overcome ignorance and reduce the lack of information, to provide facts and numbers concerning refugees. Institutions could create norms of acceptance by teaching.

For developing an open, diverse society NGO's/institutions have to:

- support intercultural dialogue and social integration,
- challenge discrimination,
- increase knowledge and develop tools that strengthen social integration and equality,
- empower social minorities, migrants and migrant communities.
- organize trainings and workshops for:
 - public administration,
 - schools / teachers (esp. multicultural schools),
 - students,
 - NGOs.
- consult and advise on equality policies, from the planning to the implementation phase s.
- develop and share educational tools.

Experiential Education and Creative Workshops

Benefits for the refugees:

- active leisure time utilizing art
- space for meeting and practicing Czech language
- safe space to talk about heavy topics (such as war experiences, traumas from countries of origin)
- expressive therapy
- people who may have no experience with art develop their ideas at the same time

Benefits for the Art Education students:

- realization of student practice in a socially disadvantaged environment
- meeting clients with different intercultural background
- exchanges of experience
- interconnecting art with social issues



Contribution to the public:

- combining art and discussions about refugees
- meetings of the public and the refugees during exhibition openings
- intercultural dialogue
- art exhibitions (in public spaces, renowned galleries)
- presenting art to the public (gallery education)
- depending on specific projects, the results can be presented in renowned galleries



IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY PICTURE BOOK COLLECTIONS (IDPBC)

Have you ever thought that we, human beings, are like birds ... we are migrating and migrating...

IDPBC aims to equip teachers with the necessary knowledge, attitudes and competencies to successfully manage and support diversity in their classrooms, and help them make teaching and learning more inclusive.

The IDPBC project strives to empower children from disadvantaged backgrounds to see themselves in the curriculum, enable all children to function within diverse / multicultural educational environments, and prepare teachers to educate diverse learners.

Target Groups:

Children 4-12 years old
Teaching Community (pre-service and in-service teachers)
Parents

Stakeholders:

Teacher trainers, teacher training centers, instructional designers and curriculum developers
School Staff
Librarians
Researchers, NGOs
Policy makers, educational authorities

Organizations

Foundation for Social Diversity (Poland)

The FSD works in the following three activity areas: Contributes to research that increases knowledge about social diversity, integration and inclusion, and develops concrete tools to support social integration and inclusion. Foster public debate on issues broadly related to social diversity. Creates spaces for exchange and cooperation between social leaders and institutions working to support individuals and social groups who are at risk of social exclusion or discrimination as a result of their race, religion, nationality, ethnic background. Provide support to individuals and communities, such as migrants, multicultural schools, representatives of public administration working with migrants 5 Codes Equal Treatment program of FSD:



**Fundacja na rzecz
Różnorodności
Społecznej**

1. Equal treatment for all and every person in school
2. A broad understanding and involvement of school community
(teaching staff, management, school personnel, parents and legal guardians, students and pupils).
3. Sustainable framework for equal treatment at school
which means: equal treatment is a standard, not an exception / result of personal competence or decision.
4. (Live) process, not (rigid) documents.
The development and implementation of the CET should serve the school - respond to real needs, lead to action and change.
5. Increasing school autonomy and accountability
The school itself creates the content of the CET, plans all the activities.
The aim is to support leadership and the expert role of the management and staff of the school (not to make them dependent on external support)



Polish Humanitarian Action (Poland)



- Development assistance and humanitarian aid: assisting most vulnerable populations affected by conflict, natural disasters or poverty. Focusing mainly on water and sanitation projects and local communities' empowerment initiatives (food security, education/training).
- Education: shaping the common awareness related to humanitarian aid and global development. Contributing to the process of building tolerant and globally responsible societies through educational programs and campaigns in Poland.
- Assisting refugees and repatriates: providing basic social and legal aid for refugees and repatriates who seek assistance or intend to settle down in Poland.
- Fighting malnutrition among pupils in Polish schools: providing funds for supplementary meals for children suffering from malnutrition in Poland.

Subjective Values Foundation (Hungary)



The primary aim is to tackle racism and discrimination. One of the main objectives of the foundation is to provide a platform for young individuals, to identify and transfer those values and ideas to other young people, which play an important role in their lives. This is why SVF is able to implement projects connected to cultural diversity, art, antiracism, poverty and environmental protection.

Slovenian philanthropy (Slovenia)



This organization provides assistance to refugees, children and young migrants, aid for the homeless and other people without health, advocacy of rights of migrant workers and establishment of intergenerational cooperation.

They also organize various workshops on intercultural education:



Center for peace studies



Non-governmental and non-profit organization promoting non-violence and social change through education, research and activism.

Main activities:

- Trainings for teachers
- Presentations on migration, refugees and specific issues regarding their inclusion in education and schools - for schools: teachers, headmasters and parents council
- Teacher forums – gathering teachers that work with refugee children: discussing problems, approaches, exchange of good practice (base for advocacy and development of activities)
- Developing plans for inclusion of refugee children – working with headmasters and school expert teams on steps for integration; preparing info pack (legal frame, rights, possibilities)
- Cooperation with Pedagogy Department – students assisting schools, involved in integration of children (assistance in classes, workshops for pupils, workshops for teachers)
- School activities – including parents and children
- Cooperation with community –public community discussions, mapping actors and support, joint activities
- Workshops with pupils presenting Croatian African Society and Taste of Home cooperative
- Publications

Schools for Future Youth



Schools for Future Youth is funded by the European Commission to build the skills and capacity of teachers and young people. As global citizenships they can use these skills to improve learning both in and out of the classroom.

Schools for Future Youth has been designed to support:

Teachers to:

- Make their curriculum more engaging.
- Develop youth centered teaching approaches.
- Bring civic engagement into the classroom.
- Set up and run a Youth Ambassador Group encouraging young people to take action on issues they feel passionate about, outside of the classroom.

Young people to:

- Learn about global issues.
- Develop their critical thinking and participation skills.
- Be more motivated to take civic actions about globally relevant issues.
- Plan and lead their own actions.
- Participate in and lead activities within a Youth Ambassador Group.
- Network and connect with young people across Europe.

School leaders to:

- Motivate and develop staff.
- Engage young people in school.
- Help develop the school ethos.

Policy makers and civil society organizations to:

- Understand the benefits and educational outcomes of global citizenship and youth participation across Europe.
- Consult national and European recommendations to support the implementation of a global citizenship approach to education

6) Role of Academicians and Religious Leaders in relation to Refugees and “Refugee Crisis”

26 – 27 October 2017
Bratislava, Slovakia



The conference titled The Role of Academicians and Religious Leaders in relation to Refugees brought together more than 70 participants from more than 11 countries. The conference was organized by the Slovak Human Rights League and was under the auspices of Professor PhDr. Jaroslav Šušol, PhD. Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University. Participants discussed questions related to the role of academia and religious leaders as it pertains to State’s political responses to refugees. Further topics discussed were the influence of public discourse, activism, cooperation and exchange of ideas within the context of a future Europe.

Islam in Europe, Muslim activism and role of Muslim societies in Contemporary Europe (discussion: Egdunas Raciunas, Fajla Pašić Bičić, Lahcen Mehennaoui, Mohammed Safwan Hasna)



We identify and categorize Muslims through our own prisms of understanding the Islamic Faith. This leads us to form narrow perspectives, and we think about Muslims in Europe we must ask ourselves:

- *how this religion relates culturally*
- *how it appears in daily life*

There are two forms of Islam which exist in European Muslims communities: **high and low Islam**. High, or nominative Islam, is related to people who know the Arabic language, read the Koran and practice traditional Islamic rituals in special places, such as mosques. This form is not related to the majority of Muslim people. Low Islam is something far removed from what we imagine as strict Islam. As we now see in post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe where religions were strongly divided or even prohibited, people don't practice Islam and religious activities. Additionally, in Europe there appear to be new forms of practicing the Islamic faith which are either transformed from those which were brought by immigrants, or appeared due to the conversion of Muslim Europeans.

So we have to use a new term “a person with a Muslim background” or a “post-religious Muslim” describing people from the Muslim community. A lot of “Muslims” are not religious anymore and that's why that term stopped being relevant to them. It is similar to Europeans and their following of some Christian rules without being religious.

Solutions:



(“ISIS and Islamophobia are similar. Both are exceeding Islam!” - picture from the website islamonline.sk)

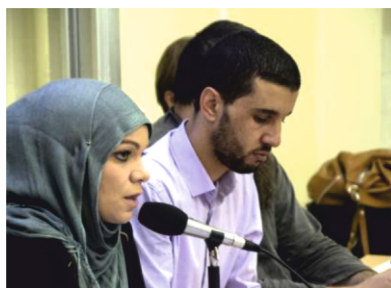
From a state perspective, governments must establish an effective way in which to deal with religion. Estonia claimed that they don't care about religion, and everybody can practice any religion freely. Lithuania recognized Sunni Islam as equal to Christianity from a historical context. Visegrad countries lack this historical representation of faiths and instead come from a “socialist” background in which religious practice was prohibited. This means some countries are coping with these religious diversities and dealing with different communities for the first time. Individuals should find a way to integrate with these communities through informed knowledge and experience but not through simplified images of Islam created in Europe for political reasons.

Europe must improve its interaction with immigrants. From both a social entertainment and political level. To become integrated into a society, immigrants need to be involved in the strategies of social interactions and integration. In many European countries integrated Muslims translate to assimilation which forces them to lose their identity. They are often prohibited from wearing the hijab, eating halal food, speaking the Arabic language and praying 5 times a day. Such assimilation doesn't allow a space for immigrant to exist and adhere to their own traditions and customs. It also excludes them from political strategic planning. Instead, governments should try to solve the

foreseen difficulties that could occur within these different communities within erasing the identity of the migrants. The Muslim community must have their rights be a central part of the community and they should be positively recognized by the local government. There is a giant responsibility for the state to make a peaceful integration between these two communities.

It is important to inform the public about positive Islam. For example, the Islamic Foundation of Slovakia gives lectures at schools and universities in their center, presents media project on the internet with news about Muslims. They also publish magazines and join collaborative events organized by NGOs.

Academia, Refugees and Activism in the Region: where we are, challenges and view for the future? Is there a role of academia in relation to debunking the myths on migration and refugees and promoting tolerance and diversity?



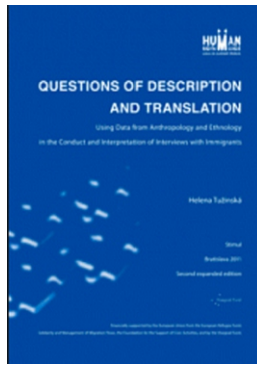
Only knowledge can solve the problem, but it needs to be applied realistically.

There is a disconnection between academics and activists, therefore between knowledge and how this knowledge is being used. Academia should have a strong role in discussions about the refugee crisis, Islamophobia and other problematic issues circulating in Central and Eastern Europe.

Academics observe social reality, critically evaluate it and make conclusions. However, it is important to translate research based academic knowledge into a useful tool which can be used in daily life. Academia has to provide expert knowledge that activists and religious leaders can use as a tool to spread factual information about benefits to integrating successfully with migrant populations.

A good example of academician being translated directly for people who work with immigrants is the book **QUESTIONS OF DESCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION** by Helena Tužinská, a professor in the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology in Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University in Slovakia.

This handbook is written **for all who come into contact with immigrants and who aim to understand them.** Principally, the information here **may be useful for state administrators, members of the police, interpreters, judges, legal representatives, and workers from the non-governmental sector.** But it **may be a source of inspiration for members of other professions also.** They will find here guidelines for conducting an interview: **information on the various methods of posing questions, on description, on human memory, and on the specifics of interpreting and intercultural communication.**



Integration of refugees through community work

Communities by themselves should take an initiative to make changes and to organize social events. For example, the Language cafe for tolerance was organized in Brno by Lahcen Mehennaoui, a social worker and community organizer in the Czech Republic. It is a good example where locals, refugees and expats meet together, drink coffee and communicate without any countries and borders. These kinds of activities contribute to successful integration. Refugees need not only language support, but to participate in social life with other community members.

Religious leaders, their role and their activism: experience, challenges and response of their communities?



When the refugee crisis started a few Croatian religious communities signed an appeal asking all believers to help refugee women in need. This is a good example of how religious leaders could participate in the ongoing crisis.

Nowadays in Croatia there are a lot of religious organizations (including Christian, Muslim and Jewish) who work with refugees on integration and provide humanitarian aid. First, **bishops have to give a positive picture about refugees**, if they are against refugees, it becomes very dangerous as they have a huge influence on religious communities. So it is important to have a dialog with religious leaders to make them **speak against nationalism, xenophobia and chauvinism**.

It is also important that religious leaders:

- use a **relevant translation** for the term “refugee” used in religious books (Tora, Koran, Bible, etc.)
- give **positive interpretation** in contrast to official media
- speak about **historical examples** of the local community being refugees
- teach about **positive attitudes and acting** (hospitality and the idea of sharing) to refugees as religious books teach
- leave a free **space** for listeners **to ask questions and have discussions**

Examples of initiatives/projects/activities/actions in relation to refugee issue



Believers for peace (Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia, Croatia) – a group of religious leaders and believers from different sects who actively oppose violence while affirming the peaceful and nonviolent content in faith.

The groups share positive news about different communities, organize conferences and also provide declaration to be signed with the goal of working for peace. The following are some paragraphs from the declaration:

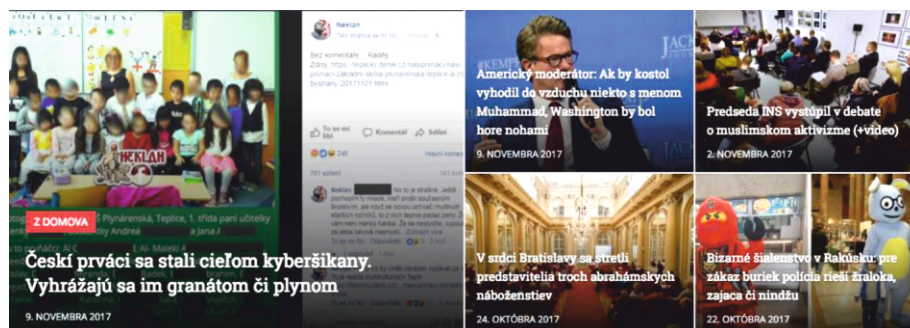
I listen actively, thereby contributing to understanding among diverse individuals, groups, faith and ethnic communities.

At the points of social conflict and where violence was committed I work for reconciliation between parties in conflict because healing of the community in which I live is important to me.

I work for solidarity and peaceful coexistence between individuals, groups, communities and ethnic groups of different world views and faith convictions.

In God face (Croatia)- an initiative organized by Lana Bobić and her colleges who try to create a dialog with the hierarchy of the Catholic church about how it is important to hear different voices, and create a dialog between believers and agnostics while using academic knowledge within the dialog to prove or cancel certain ideas related to religious dogma (for example to prevent misogyny existing in catholic religion).

ISLAMONLINE.sk islamonline.sk (Slovakia)- is a socio-political news portal focusing on issues related to Islam and Muslims in Europe and the world created by Islamic Foundation in Slovakia. The media platform provides positive information about Muslims communities mostly in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, tells about contributions to local policy and culture. islamonline.sk also has profiles in a different social network where people can create discussion boards, comment on certain issues in a free virtual space.



Caritas 'Share the Journey' - migratic campaign launched by Pope Francis.

The main goal of the campaign is to create a culture of encounter. The culture of encounter focuses on building stronger relationships between people, and as a result, stronger and more peaceful communities. As Caritas' inspiration, Pope Francis is the catalyst in prompting us to take practical action to open up spaces for migrants and local communities to meet and to talk. Caritas creates opportunities for communities to come together with migrants and refugees, to share stories and experiences and to speak out together on a local, national and international level.

Conclusions:

Generally, there were discuss **following issues:**

- The role of academia and religious leaders when it comes to State's politics related to refugees.
- The role of academia and religious leaders in relation to shaping the public discourse on refugees and/or other sensitive topics.
- Tools that academia and religious leaders can use when they want to shape public discourse on refugees and make their own ideas and opinion relevant to public and other stakeholders including politicians.
- Successful strategies on engagement with public or private groups or civil society actors in this respect.
- Inspiring examples of academicians' and religious leaders' initiatives/projects/activities/actions in relation to refugee issue (e.g. research, writings, media project and collaborations, scholarships, etc.).

Also there were given good **examples of academics and activists cooperation, initiatives organised by community members itself and religious leaders campaigns.**

7) The Role of Civil Society in Supporting Refugees and Shaping Future EU Policies

Nov 30 – Dec 1, 2017
Zagreb, Croatia

The aim of the conference was to open a discussion on the role civil society has in shaping national and EU policy on protection and supporting refugees, influence on public discourse and decision-makers. Also, speakers discussed possible strategies in overcoming divisions between "new" and "old" EU members over the Common Asylum System and what kind of political future can be expected with regard to the European system of international protection.



What shall we do as NGOs regarding both refugee development and EU Development?

In 2017 we have less than one fifth of the refugee arrivals than in 2015, and 40% less than 2016. So from the Central European perspective, the crisis is over – numbers are very low, and in fact there has never been any true refugee crisis in countries like the Czech Republic or Slovakia.

Nevertheless, the following questions remain open for discussion:

- Are we losing the struggle for refugees on European level?
- Is EU consensus only currently possible on a military level? Why is this the case?
- Should we make our work more sensitive towards the fact that there are numerous EU citizens opposing refugees? Should we change our strategies?
- What has to be done together to give us a "new momentum" in advocacy for and protection of refugees?
- Have we left some groups behind?
- How will Europe look if it continues to be afraid? What should we do with these fears?

Recent examples of successful engagement of volunteers and civil society working with refugees

Case of Ahmad Shamieh

Portret tedna: Ahmad Shamieh

Begunec v labirintu birokracije.

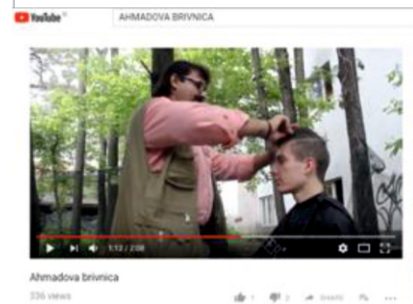
Božjan Videmec
pet, 17. 11. 2017, 20:00

Ključne besede: Ahmad Shamieh, begunec, Sirja, deportacija, italijanska uredba



Kdo je begunec, čigar deportacijo je premier (za zdaj) odložil #video

Za Ahmada Šamija je obdobje, odkar je prejel odločbo sodišča o deportaciji na Hrvaško, še posebej travmatično. Po vojni, preživelih balkanski poti, prek katere je pred slabima dvema letoma prišel v Slovenijo in se tu aktivno vključil v skupnost, je bilo njegovo življenje v veliki negotovosti.



Ahmad Shamieh from Daraje near Damascus, a refugee in Slovenia, became a psychological victim of bureaucracy, one of the key weapons of the European and Slovenian war against refugees and migrants. Slovenian authorities intended to deport Ahmad to Croatia but activists sent a complaint to the Constitutional Court, organized a press conference on a case of Ahmed, and brought his story to the public. In the local medias appeared articles describing Ahmed's story, situation and activities. Finally, Ahmad gained a lot of support when it emerged that he had made efforts to integrate, including learning Slovenian and volunteering with NGOS.

Roles of volunteers:

- psychosocial assistance, counselling and support
- language teaching and other learning assistance
- social, sporting and cultural activities
- support with integration
- advocacy and raising public awareness
- added value to the work of organizations and different professionals
- giving time, energy, company, personal engagement and human approach
- bridge between refugees and host society
- reduction of feelings of loneliness, increased feeling of acceptance, sense of security
- co-creation of a (supportive) social network in substitute of family, friendship ties and community assistance





The Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, (HNLAC) is a non-profit non-governmental organisation established in 2002 in Cracow. HNLAC's main objective is to protect human rights by providing free legal counsel to persons at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, including the poor, victims of domestic violence, foreigners, asylum seekers and refugees. The HNLAC also monitors the adherence to standards of human rights, undertakes legal interventions and advocacy activities, and pursues research and educational projects. The Centre also undertakes activities aimed at preventing and tackling human and child trafficking by organizing social campaigns and offering legal aid to the victims.



The statutory objectives of the Center:

- providing free legal aid, including representation before the authorities and the courts;
- initiating measures aimed at raising standards for the protection of human and civil rights, and intervening in cases of violations;
- conducting scientific and educational activities aimed at developing democracy, disseminating and promoting the concept of respecting human rights and the rule of law, and also shaping civil society and promoting a culture of law;
- cooperation with national and international organizations which deal with the issues of human rights protection.

Pro-refugee civil society initiatives:

- Refugees welcome! Welcome to Cracow!
- Saint'Egidio Cracow
- Children from the Brest Train Station
- Catholic Church initiatives

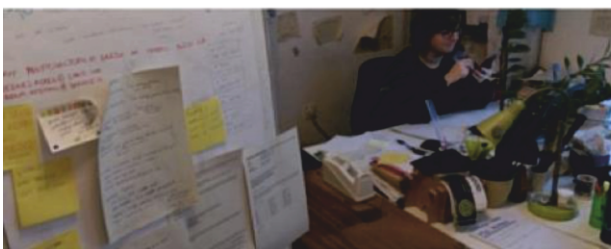




Centre for Peace Studies (CMS; CPS) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation promoting non-violence and social change through education, research and activism. CMS grew out of various forms of direct peace-building in western Slavonia (Volunteers' Project Pakrac, 1993-1997). It was founded in 1996 in Pakrac and formally registered in Zagreb the following year.

Main programmes:

- Peace Education and Nonviolence affirmation program
- Reinforcing Social Solidarity, Human Security and Developmental Cooperation
- Fight against Xenophobia, Racism and Ethnic Exclusion
- Peace Studies program



Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia is a voluntary interest trade union organization of a higher level, which is systematically working on improving the quality of jobs, and living and working standards of its members and of all citizens of Croatia. The UATUC and its affiliated trade unions are constituted and organized in a democratic manner, and are independent of employers, authorities, political parties and religious communities.

The UATUC advocates the development of tripartite and bipartite social dialogue. Its representatives actively participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council (ESC) at the national and county level, and its experts for various public policies in the ESC Committees and other working groups. The UATUC also advocates for the improvement of the bipartite cooperation with the Croatian Employers' Association and works actively on the creation of the environment that stimulates the development of the bipartite social dialogue (dialogue within individual industries, i.e. activities/branches).



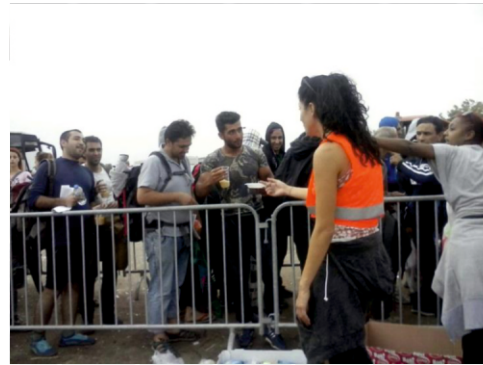
Human Rights League is a non-governmental non-profit organization, established in 2005 by lawyers and attorneys with a long-term experience in asylum law. Since the very beginning, protection of the rights of foreigners dwelling in Slovakia has been the main aim of the organization. Human Rights League has been realizing various legal activities (legal counselling and informing, legal procurement at proceedings). These activities focus particularly on foreigners in need of protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection or who, for various reasons, cannot return home to their country of origin.

Recent projects:

- Children Do NOT Belong in Prison
- Refugee Friendly Slovakia
- Legal Counselling for Residence and Citizenship
- Legal Aid to Refugees
- Asylum Law Clinic
- Border Management and Protection of Refugees
- First Legal Aid for Asylum Lawyers
- Disappearing children
- Developing good practices: promoting compliance with the Return Directive in Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia
- Coaching-Innovative approach for better integration of refugees

SUBJECTIVE VALUES FOUNDATION

Subjective Values Foundation was founded in 2002. The main goal is to provide opportunities for young people to realize their creative ideas, and to implement projects emphasizing cultural diversity with them, to support the education of young people from underprivileged backgrounds, to promote their social inclusion, to address conflicts arising from social inequalities, to create a sustainable society, and to promote the European ideals in Hungary.



Zagreb Declaration on Refugee Protection and Xenophobia

We, the representatives of below listed non-profit organizations from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia commit to build on the legacy of traditions of our countries to respect human rights, tolerance and tradition of peaceful cohabitation of peoples of different nationalities in Central Europe, Baltics and Western Balkans.

We are worried by the erosion of basic democratic principles, rule of law and free media work, which has taken place in some of our countries like Poland and Hungary, and is on the way in others – the Czech Republic. We are very worried by the rise of xenophobia and Islamophobia in our countries, which is not addressed by our politicians - it is rather provoked by them as they like to play the nationalistic cards in domestic politics. We are extremely worried that fascists groups are getting stronger and are not prosecuted by law enforcement agencies. Gatherings of right-wing extremists marching the streets in our capitals are becoming larger without politicians clearly denouncing them. Immigrants of different skin colors or Muslim women wearing scarfs are more and more often targeted verbally and physically.

Therefore, we call on national and EU politicians to take very seriously into consideration and actions the dangerous development in Central Europe. We offer our commitment and cooperation in prevention and addressing the undemocratic, xenophobic and fascist trends in Central Europe. From the series of conferences in capitals of Central Europe and Western Balkans, which all dealt with the issues of refugee protection, prevention of xenophobia and future Europe, we are taking the opportunity to make the following **recommendations**:

1) Related to xenophobia and hate crimes

- Hate speech and hate crime must be prevented and prosecuted in a consequent and strict way
- User friendly and easy reporting tools must be available to victims of HC and HS
- Tolerance campaigns should be promoted and funded

2) Related to the role of media:

- We should be well aware of the language used in the debates and reports on refugees and migrants. A small vocabulary with important terms could be developed and shared with journalists
- We should be well aware of the strong influence of Russian propaganda in our countries – A manual how to work with information, select and verify information should be developed and shared with wide audience, in particular students and pupils at schools
- We should be able to gather and channel individual refugee and migrants 'stories and connect individual refugees and migrants with journalists

3) Related to the role of volunteers

- Volunteers are key actors in the refugee „crisis“ because they connect the host societies with newcomers. Promoting and supporting volunteering is of great importance
- European Solidarity Corps (ESC) should be promoted to enable the exchange of „bridge“ persons and wide range of other people among the EU Member States. ESC should be widely promoted and financially supported
- Work with volunteers must be well organized as we cannot expect from volunteers to be able to replace professionals in the long term work
- Education and mentorship (including regular meetings and supervision) of volunteers should be promoted and funded

4) Related to Education

- It is necessary to focus on education on different cultures in the curricula of primary school learning.
- Empower children of disadvantaged backgrounds, empower social minorities, migrants and migrant communities
- Support intercultural dialogue and challenge discrimination

5) Related to the role of academicians and religious leaders

- We should encourage academicians and make use of their expertise to be able to communicate mere facts.
- Public should be informed by academicians/scholars/ religious leaders about positive Islam
- Interaction with refugees and immigrants of different backgrounds cannot be limited to cultural or culinary events. Their participation in public and political life should be supported and enabled in law.

