

REPORT

The EUROPEAN CENTER for PEACE and DEVELOPMENT (ECPD) in cooperation with Istria Region, City of Pula and Regional Youth Info Center Rijeka, from 24 - 25 September 2016, organized 4th International Youth Forum in Pula. The main topic of the Forum was **Culture of peace: Migrant Crisis and Youth**. In total there was 38 participants from different countries (Afghanistan, Austria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Syria and UK).

First part of the day was dedicated to **the Panel: Migrant Movements and their influence on the stability of Europe**. Speakers and their topics were:

- **Prof. Dr. Pasquale Baldocci**, Faculty of Diplomacy (Italy) More than a Crisis, the Migrants as a Valuable Incentive to Reliance the European Project in a Post-Modern Vision
- **Prof. Dr. Pio Baissero**, Director of the Accademia Europeista del Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) Youth – Partners Today, Peace Leaders in the Future
- **Dr. Vasilije Milnović**, Expert Associate at the Scientific center of the University Library (Serbia) Digital Literacy of Migrants: an Active Approach to Migrant Crisis
- **Ms. Katarina Šatara**, Manager, Youth Center Herceg Novi and Aris rešetke (Serbia); Migration of Values – Past and present
- **Ms. Johanna Westbrandt**, MA, Waytogo (Sweden) Inclusion and Connection in Civil Society Organizations
- **Ms. Alba Sabaté Gauxachs**, Youth Research Programmes Officer, Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University (Barcelona, Spain) Digital Tools, a Path to Peace: Catalan Youth Using Technology for Integration, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue

Second part of the day was dedicated to the four different **Workshops. *Migration-Social Inclusion of Migrants *Creating a Catchy Slogan * Migrant Policies Implemented by Different Countries * Proposal of Solutions**. Participants were divided into four groups.

Here are the conclusions and results of each of the workshops:

Migration-Social Inclusion of Migrants (CMS: SARA KEKUŠ)

In order to be fully included in the new society, there needs to be a long lasting two way process of dialogue and cultural exchange between. This is what the participants of the Youth Forum singled out as the most important elements when it comes to social inclusion of Migrants into the “host” society:

1. EDUCATION: Every child needs to have access to formal Croatian lessons before their school education, furthermore access to elementary school and high school needs to be systematically provided to every child. State has to have an alternative way for refugees to graduate school or get into universities (having in mind that Croatian is not their mother tongue and that because of their vulnerable position they often do not have money to join university as foreigners – at the moment in Croatia you are treated either as a Croatian citizen who has to pass state exam or as a foreigner who has to pay a much

higher tuition fee). State has to provide formal Croatian lessons for all migrants joining the society.

2. EMPLOYMENT: Recognition of qualifications and access to vocational training has to be ensured. State has to monitor the position of refugees on the labor market and prevent employment discrimination.

3. ACCOMMODATION: Capacities of reception centers need to be in accordance with actual needs, providing decent accommodation for each applicant for international protection. State should promptly react in cases of ethnic/racial/religious and other discrimination in cases where refugees and migrants are looking for rent.

4. SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE: Access to social and health care for refugees needs to be eased by state provided translators (as long as there are no formal languages courses). Social and health care workers need to be informed about the legislation and particular position of refugees in the society.

5. OTHER PRAXIS OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INCLUSION: Dialogue and cultural exchange needs to exist within the local communities and between locals and refugees/migrants in order to make both sides (migrants and locals) feel comfortable in the same society. Media coverage, at least national media, need to be objective and well informed, instead of sensationalist and biased.

Creating a Catchy Slogan (ALFA ALBONA: JELENA BATELIĆ)

Workshop „Creating a catchy slogan“ was done in a non-formal way of learning by putting special attention to motivate and inspire participants on the main focus of the event which was improving the existing and acquiring the new knowledge and skills for peaceful interaction with migrants, prevention of conflicts and peace building process among participants. Upon arrival on the workshop, participants were welcomed by the moderator who presented herself and then they get the chance to get to know each other better through short introduction. The workshop continued with an interactive game in which the participants could learn what is slogan, how important it is and why it is used for, in general.

As a team, they got the task to match different famous logos with the slogans, in a form of a puzzle. This was done with an attention to enhance creative thinking as an introduction to the bigger task that was waiting for them – creating the slogan of the 4th International Youth forum in Pula.

Upon finishing the game, there was a time for discussion which was continued with the presentation - guidelines how to create the slogan, in which the key words of the Youth forum were defined: *peace, youth, networking, migration, dialogue and cooperation*. Having the key words and the main focus of the Youth forum in mind, the moderator presented to the participants 3 steps on how to write a slogan by a creative example and exercise. Each participant got the chance to create his/her own slogan and present it to the group, after which each group voted for one slogan that passed in the next round.

The workshop finished by giving the participants fortune cookies that contained positive messages. At the final meeting the slogans of all four groups were presented, **and one slogan was chosen as the winning one: „Solutions through connection“, created by Joni Niemela from Finland.** The winning slogan was presented on the last day of the Youth Forum together with the conclusions and discussions of the implemented workshop.

Migrant Policies Implemented by Different Countries (ZVONIMIR PERANIĆ/ MARKO PERVAN)

Each group of the participants was divided into smaller groups based on their nationalities. The reason was because they were asked to identify any legislation regarding migrants or refugees and to qualify those acts if they have a positive or negative impact on migrants in their country.

In the second part of the workshop the participants were asked about their own opinion and their attitudes regarding migrants and refugees in their own country and divide them again into positive or negative categories.

Looking at the data, we came to a conclusion **that countries where there are not so many immigrants have the best ideas how to handle those problems**, probably because they had more time to prepare, are not under pressure of big immigrant waves and have more resources.

In general, legislation regarding migrants and refugees exist, but the implementation of those acts is in question.

The conclusion of this part of our workshop is that the participants have a positive attitude regarding migration and refugees and the impact they could have on their society.

Solution Proposal Workshops (TAMARA CRNKO/ KRISTINA TOLIĆ)

Participants were divided into four groups, for this workshop, each group was divided into working teams consisting of 2-3 people. Each team tried to reach common proposal for tackling migrant crisis. Proposed solutions addressed issues such as: European external politics and management of borders, problems of current asylum systems, inadequate integration politics, role of education, communication and media and similar topics.

Generally, solutions presented in workshops can be summarized as follows:

1. *Better management of external borders*: investment in Frontex, investment in transit countries, safer borders and prompt communication between countries regarding migrant routes to prevent unnecessary tragedies and deaths, more open borders that allow interests of migrants to be taken into account, early detection of problems and active approach in solution of problems

2. *Faster and better asylum systems*: common rules and standards, faster processing of applications, individualistic approach, and possibility of applying for asylum in

humanitarian centers opened within domestic countries to prevent dangerous journeys and enable faster administration.

3. *More efficient distribution of refugees between countries*: redistribution of refugees via quota schemes, participation of all countries in hosting of the refugees or via financial aid, faster resettlement and family reunification procedures, individualistic approach, more efficient registration of refugees when entering the country, modification of Dublin regulation.

4. *Integration politics*: camps and ghettoization are not solution, admitted asylum applicants should be able to access labor market promptly, education and informing refugees about their rights is necessary, efficient language lessons, equal education for all children, promotion of multiculturalism via media and intercultural events, empowering of civil society to carry out their initiatives to promote dialogue, focusing on similarities not differences, humanization of refugees in media and public space, more organized integration systems (accommodation, work, education), participation of community; mutual effort is needed to satisfy interest of both refugees and citizens (minimum standards for providing protection but also contribution of asylum applicants).

The story of AMIR ALI YARNIAN and his journey

Amir Ali Yarnian was born in Tehran, Iran, with an Afghan father and Iranian mother. Due to private reasons, he had to flee his country, find safety and start a normal life. When he started his journey, he was first living and working in Turkey, but he had to leave and he came to Croatia five years ago. He applied for asylum as a minor and got protection in only a couple of months. Then he moved to Pula where he finished high school in Croatia, but wasn't able to graduate Croatian language (his grammatical knowledge and literature weren't at the same level as those of Croatian students), which made it impossible for him to go to University. However, he managed to find a job in IT and he still hopes that one day he will be able to finance a private college in order to have a diploma. He is satisfied with his life in Pula, as people are very open and he managed to get well included in the society.