

## Headlines formulated at the end of the seminar

### Euromf EZA Seminar, Bucharest, 1 and 2 October 2015

It is not our goal to include in this summary of the headlines, all the topics of the work we did in the past two days.

We will present a short report with a more representative summary. Also our website is back on track and improved. Moreover, a statement of one of the participants is important to remember: "It is ok to make a list of all the problems, but we already made too many lists. Now it is time to act and react. Yes, we can."

It is also clear that we don't believe in the liberal view on building a society, a view that these days dictates the EU politicians and policies.

Several speakers told us that we have to be very careful with the language politicians use, because they create an atmosphere that is related to the fear of citizens for the unknown, more specifically: refugees and migrants. Politicians think in terms of votes, not in terms of leadership. We need leadership specifically in terms of creating a balance between all the positive and negative elements of migration, concerning both migrants and refugees. In fact their problems are similar. It is clear that empowering the fear for the unknown, in this case migration, is deadly for good policies. We need to oppose this and show the real facts and figures day by day.

We learned that migrants and migration have many faces and must be approached from different angles. It is important to enter their world and to listen to their story with an open mind, and not from within our possibly one-sided framework, not in an idealistic way but with a good sense of reality.

The problems are not only related to job opportunities, work conditions, etc, but also to leaving family and friends behind. Also children stay behind. What about their education and their need for affection?

There is always a positive and a negative side to migration, for migrants themselves, but also for the receiving country and for the country of origin.

It is also important to take account of the fact that work related migration is not always a success story. This is aspect of migration often stays in the shade.

A constantly returning topic on the seminar was the need for a good regulation of the rights and the duties for migrants and refugees in the receiving countries. This is a necessary condition if we want to received them properly and correct. Only in this way we can create a clean traffic of employees and workforce, both within the EU and coming from outside the EU. A proper legislation will encourage and facilitate the traffic of employees between countries.

We also learned that there will always be movement of employees for several different reasons. It is important to take this into account when making rules on migration that are very clear and easy to understand and to control.

A defensive approach of the flow of migrants and refugees ends only in more restrictions with more dead people on the path of migration.

It is important to create a social security system that can function worldwide. More details later in the short report.

Social security should be a system that 'accompanies' wherever they may be employed.

We also learned that the big differences between collective agreements about minimum wages, work conditions and social security, challenge us heavily. There is a mountain to be climbed, but once at the summit, we will have a nice and satisfying view.

Not only regulations and laws are important, there is also the matter of the reception of migrants in society.

For that to work, we need midfield organisations that take care of this reception, f.i. the International Comité in Belgium. We need self-organisations of migrants, side by side to trade unions and organisations of independent entrepreneurs. Trade unions must open their doors for the task of defending migrants and refugees and employ migrants who are familiar with the genuine problems and the different cultures.

Trade unions and midfield organisations have to co-operate, across the EU. And they have to find ways to reach and inform the migrant employees, even when it has to be with the help of wives or partners.

Local authorities, authorities as such, need to know what is happening in the workspace and what is the actual situation of migrant employees. They need to listen to mediators and midfield organisations to be able to create a fair and performant policy.

It also seems very important to create projects and initiatives that provide an active role for migrants and refugees. They must have the opportunity to get involved (example of Italy). The problem is that for this kind of initiatives there is no structural financial support available.

It was also made clear that it can't be an end in itself to attract migrant workers when there is a shortage on the internal labour market. The right approach is a dual policy: Take good care of the migrant workers who enter your social system (diploma, wages, licenses) and at the same time create a campaign to attract the unemployed in the internal workforce or employees looking for a new challenge.

The problems for the domestic workers are EU-wide, even worldwide and need a global approach. We need to establish a combined action. One of the speakers (Jan of ORCA) therefore urges the necessity to inform, activate, mediate, advocate active enforcement of rights, define obstacles and improve economic bargaining powers of workers.

At the end the speaker of International Comité tells us that working with the network is very important and this network is an important mediator to find a job. Creating self-organisations of migrants is beneficial to their self-confidence, language acquisition, etc. Also important is that their engagement as volunteer is a skill-building process.

**Mon Verrydt, 12 October 2015**