



Protection gap for migrant workers in the EU

Focus on working and living conditions for migrant workers and their families

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PROPOSALS FROM THE PLENARY WORKSHOP

I. WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS (INTER-EUROPEAN)

- ✓ To improve legislation in order to avoid subcontracting, which in turn will facilitate controlling the enterprises.
- ✓ To improve and make laws on a European level, that make it easier to set up a trade union, especially for countries in which regulations only permit to set up a trade union in small enterprises after attaining a high minimum of members in that enterprise.
- ✓ Necessity of long term thinking; therefore we need a real social dialogue everywhere.
- ✓ Involve civil society and trade unions to force those in political power to stage meaningful interventions and not just legislate.
- ✓ Exchanges between trade unions in all EU countries so as to share information about migrant workers and conditions with language support provided. Also involve migrant workers within the trade unions to bridge communication gaps and help foreign workers.
- ✓ Knowledge of the real situation of each individual country should be seen as something positive.
- ✓ School education is the key to building and developing equal opportunities for all migrant workers, whether these be EU-workers or non-EU-workers.
- ✓ More information and research on the impact of 'Brain drain'.
- ✓ Negative impact of recruitment agencies in the denaturalization of the labour market.
- ✓ Development of a common, shared digital European database (owners are people/social profit organizations) on specific issues:
 - Labour market legislation
 - Rights/Responsibilities
 - Social security systems

- ✓ The EU has to continue to nurture the awareness of European citizens (and Ukrainians) by giving information and communicating. = Key and power.
- ✓ Common equal labour security as a base for common equal social security.
- ✓ Stronger international cooperation and coordination for a fair labour market (employment).
Stakeholders are:
 - Governments
 - Trade unions
 - Civil society
 - Employers (business sector)
- ✓ Accurate information about migration and the circumstances/conditions is necessary and we need more empathy (with survivors or victims).
- ✓ European solidarity:
 - Stimulated by European Civil Society which must collaborate
 - Powered by sufficient social security for everyone
- ✓ Europe = 1 country. BELIEVE!

II. PROPOSALS FOR CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

- Two groups of children in this proposal. Firstly, the children who come as refugees without parents (unaccompanied children). For this children the states should be responsible: provide education and protection.
Secondly, the children who were left behind in their home country. Projects must be set up, as well as schools and education. Europe must share the costs and should financially support schools, but also create possibilities for a permanent mobility for the parents. Parents must have the opportunity to go home every two or three months.
- We need more investment in Europe, because it is investing in the future. Also more investment in education, because this is about the new generation. Must be a common European policy with common projects. (Not too much administration, no Kafka.)
- We need cross-country cooperation (country of origin and host country) in such fields as:
 - Taxation (legal workers + illegal workers),
 - Labour market,
 - Education,
 - Health and uprising the mental help.
- Problem of children left behind or staying with their parents must be tackled by a common European policy with much more investment in education in all countries. Focus on approving the possibilities for children leaving their country together with their parents. Learn from good practices in several countries. It means re-thinking investment in education, creative thinking about money and investing, awareness. Therefore we also need mixed teams and skills.

III. EXPECTATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS – QUOTES

- I hope to learn more about working and living conditions for migrant workers and their families.
- I hope to get to know new organizations and new people, so I can be inspired for my job.
- Multi-angle view on (labour) migration.
- To have a network after the seminar: so I know who to contact in case of.
- Special interest in the Eastern European view on this topic.
- The comprehension of migrant workers issues in other EU countries.
- Learn more about all different views about the topic.

- Hope to be able to do something about it (if only little steps).
- Dream of a strong bond in the future, a European network.
- Exchange information about migrants (family members/relatives, people we met/know very well).
- To learn about different opinions on migrant workers and free labour movements from the perspectives of both sending and receiving countries.
- Learn about the role of Trade Unions in the process of labour movement and migration. How to attract migrant workers to become Trade Union members.
- Networking on issues of children/youths of migrant workers (in host countries and left behind).
- To learn about and identify possible solutions.
- As a member of a police union, learning about the reality of being migrant worker, learning more about housing, surviving and education.
- Getting to know different civil organizations that already work on this particular topic – build a social network, also in other countries.
- Acquire expert information which I can use in the field in schools and share with co-workers and to improve help to parents/children/teachers.
- Practical proposals for an improvement of the situation/education of Euro-Orphans. Initiatives to bring this problem on the agenda of decision-makers.
- To learn more about the Euro-Orphan problem.
- Solution focused ideas for an adequate housing policy for migrant workers.
- To get a better understanding of needs and aspirations of labour migrants concerning their living/housing conditions.
- Get more information about migration problems in other countries. Get some ideas and solutions and apply these to our country, also propose our solutions as help to others.
- Enlarge knowledge about the subject of the conference in relation to developments in Europe, but also in relation to the new Silk Road from China to Europe/Eastern and Central Europe which is in construction.
- To improve my knowledge about migrant workers in the EU, especially about social security in their host countries.
- Learn more about immigrants as a global phenomenon. Not only for a better life, but also for another life. Learn about education for children and the role of grandparents. What does it mean to stay behind? Can we collaborate between countries?
- That the gap between myth and reality will be closed a little bit more. That we have contributed in opening minds and eyes for a topic that will shape our common future.
- Information, points of interest for social workers and formation of social workers concerning the target group (migrants and their families).
- Information that helps to reach out to this target group to get them to participate in activities during leisure time.
- I hope to discover more about the situation of migrant workers in countries like Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, ... The influence on their social life.
- To learn more about how the migrants feel in host countries. Do they receive enough respect? Or are they only cheap workers? Modern slaves?
- Data and evidence about children left behind (parents migrated).
- How to create a Europe where migration is not needed to seek a better life?
- I know the Belgian situation, but want to learn more about the European reality and about the reality of those who stayed behind and the impact on their families.
- Receive a new experience on improvement of working and living conditions of labour migrants in EU countries.

- Receiving new information about the work of trade unions concerning labour migrants in the EU countries.
- Create a strong European midfield, not just talk. Work together on solutions, have political impact, change the situation, global solidarity.
- Share and listen to experiences in different countries about the opportunities and threats for migrant workers.
- Seeking answers as to how the social security of migrant workers can be improved and satisfied? For example, agreements between countries on pension security, etc.
- Get more insides concerning the living conditions of migrant workers, because there are a lot of them in the Brussels area.
- To learn more about labour migration across Europe.
- I want to understand more approaches on migrant topic policies and I want to find more partners for future projects.
- I hope for a broad interaction between the participants, from their personal as well as their professional experiences.
- I will be pleased when, at the end of the seminar, the organisations that were present will be convinced of the necessity to work together, on a basis of solidarity, on the theme of migration. Hopefully these organisations will become part of the motor that drives cooperation in the field of migration and reception of refugees.
- My expectation is that, by way of the seminar, a larger commitment will be shown to work on the theme of migration and the reception of refugees.
- I would like to enlarge my knowledge by listening to the testimonies and the speakers who will share their experiences.

IV. AFTER THE SEMINAR: EXPECTATIONS THAT ARE STILL TO BE FULFILLED

- ❖ What after the seminar? What is our next step? Can we bring this to EU politicians?
- ❖ Maybe next time also invite EU politicians.
- ❖ We need time now to process all this information.
- ❖ Later on we need to think and talk about the new Silk Road China is building to Eastern and Central Europe. This is about the future role of China and about new ways of working.
- ❖ Solutions have to be more practical, useful. Therefore we need some more research.
- ❖ Think more with an open mind in the future – parachute.
- ❖ Children as refugees cannot be forgotten. They disappear too often.