

Update on EPIM funded projects: March 2010

Association Primo Levi (APL)

Promoting the appropriate care to victims of torture, through the creation of an information and training centre and building of advocacy

For the last six months, the association has participated to an advocacy campaign on the subject of unaccompanied minors. Anticipating the organization of a working group on this subject by the government, the CFDA (French Coordination for Asylum Right, of which APL is a founding member) has produced a report and several press releases to ask for a better protection for unaccompanied minors and react to the government's propositions.

APL keeps updating and promoting the projects it has developed for the past two years: the documentation center, the website and the network of care centers Reseda. APL also runs in Paris a multidisciplinary health care center dedicated to persons who have been victims of torture and political violence. It promotes a global approach, combining medical and psychological care as well as social and legal assistance.

The project promoted by APL with the help of EPIM aims at promoting appropriate care to refugees and asylum seekers who have been victims of torture or political violence. It is based on the creation of a documentation and training center and the development of advocacy activities.

Institute of Race Relations (IRR)

The IRR's **Alternative Voices on Integration** project's website now carries stories on fourteen innovative projects around Europe – that range from the Empowerment and Participation of Immigrants in east Germany project, the Kanafani Intercultural Initiative in Austria, to the internet project 'We're Here to Stay' in the Netherlands and Young Muslim Voices in the UK. Drawing on the experience of our partners, Alternative Voices is presently engaged in preparing a final report that will offer an alternative perspective on integration. Information gathered in the report will show that the true measure of integration is governments' willingness to challenge structural barriers through a strong commitment to national integration policies and anti-discrimination laws, effective national action plans against racism as well as immigration and asylum policies that comply with international human rights law. Both the work of our network partners and our ongoing research reveal how low down racial justice is on European priorities.

Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI)

Pathways to Parental Leadership (September 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2011).

Following the successful completion of a qualitative research element of the project involving 15 school staff and 25 parents and the analysis of the data, the work on the toolkit aimed at promoting and fostering migrant parents' involvement in their children's school life is ongoing. The next phase is the development of the toolkit. On completion of this work, the toolkit will be piloted in the five participating schools in the Dublin area. The pilot phase will help in refining the toolkit which will be launched officially in 2011. The implementation of the project is supported by an advisory committee in which many stakeholders in the Irish education system are involved (which meets 4 times per year) and a transnational committee composed of experts from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain and the UK (which meets once per year).

European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

The **Migrants Rights and Integration Project (MRIP)** completed the review of integration policies in the six partner countries. Six reports were prepared by the partners and presented at a roundtable discussion which took place in October. A summary analysis of our findings is in preparation. The partners have also discussed the next stage of the project's work, which will involve conducting peer reviews of specific integration projects in each partner countries. A methodology for conducting peer review has been considered, initially by the Project Advisory Committee, and latterly by the project partners. This methodology will be applied in peer review work which will

commence in the Spring. ENAR also initiated a JLI activity – a two day workshop on power analysis, peer review and toolkit design, which took place in October and involved partners from five other EPIM projects. A DVD resource pack is currently in preparation which reports on the discussions which took place at this workshop and reproduces all the material that was used during these two days.

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)

Integration Measures and Advocacy for Undocumented Migrants (December 2008 - December 2011)

Providing undocumented migrants with support to cover their basic needs (shelter, labor, health care, education and legal protection) and bringing in the foreground of policy debates their ignored reality are the main objectives of our NEF/EPIM funded project. Thus, in our daily work and contact with undocumented migrants we offered legal, social and psychological support in order to help them obtain legal status and cover their basic needs. In order to raise public awareness and debate on migrants' and refugees' rights, GCR is conducting a research on undocumented migrants (Afghans) and on the way they are treated by the Greek authorities and services and it also participated in several dissemination sessions involving civil services and schools.

GCR co-signed a complaint - drafted by the Dutch Council for Refugees and submitted to the European Commission- against Greece for violations of EU refugee law. Another similar complaint has been co- written by Greek NGOs and the National Committee for Human Rights. Additionally, we submitted an appeal before the Council of State against the presidential decree 81/2009 regarding the asylum procedure. These complaints and the general reaction against the asylum procedure, which would lead to the lack of regularization of asylum seekers by rejecting the applications with a fast track procedure, pressed the new Government to pursue the amendment of this law. GCR participated actively in the drafting of the new laws regarding asylum procedure, citizenship and migrants' rights.

Finally, GCR's participation in several fora, such as the initiative of the Greek Ombudsman and the MSF conference both focused on undocumented migrants' rights, contributed to the promotion of the issue in the agenda of the new administration.

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe

Advocacy Network for Destitute Forced Migrants (ANDES)

Over the past months the ANDES project has made considerable progress. Almost all of the planned national events in several EU Member States have taken place and lead to new or intensified partnerships with other stakeholders. In Romania, JRS decided to continue with organising these events because of them being so successful. The report on destitution in several EU Member States has been updated and enhanced with case studies from Ireland, Spain and Sweden, and is now in the final phase of proof-reading and editing. The preparation of the European Conference on Destitution in the first half of 2011 is also under way; partners have met for, inter alia, fixing the target group. Some MEPs have been contacted with the aim to organise a hearing on destitution of migrants in the EP during this year.

Médecins du Monde (MdM)

HUMA Network (Averroes)

The HUMA project (Averroes) is an advocacy project on access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers led by Medecins du Monde and is now present in 13 EU countries and is about to have 14 (one more in Romania). Since September:

We have been identifying a new partner (Romania) and have been supporting advocacy strategies (in Greece, in Poland) through mission there.

The 10 EU country comparative legislation and practice report on access to health care has been disseminated widely, in order to support the advocacy of the project, and allowed us among other to participate in some international meetings on migrants and healthcare. Some national events took place in the Netherlands, Germany and in Sweden, each advocating on health issues for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers with quite satisfactory results in terms of participation.

We have been working on the link with the health professionals, through the conception of a Europe-wide declaration of health professionals on indiscriminate access to healthcare, that will be launched btw march and

may in the countries of the network. We redraw the ways to advocate at EU level, namely, we are thinking about a public hearing at the European parliament as well as of launching a written declaration of the MEPs.

COSPE (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)

MEDIACTIVE – Empowering migrants in the media sector

Main developments:

The establishment of ANSI (Italian Intercultural Journalists' Association) and its formal recognition within the Italian National Union of Journalists (FNSI - 5 February 2010). ANSI is composed and promoted by journalists of ethnic minority origin who work in both mainstream and ethnic media in Italy. It aims at:

- representing a reference point for the ethnic minorities operating in media sector;
- enhancing specific intercultural skills as a qualifying professional feature within Italian journalism;
- promoting professional development on issues related to migration and multicultural society;
- contributing to the elaboration and implementation of diversity policies and practices in the media both in recruitment schemes and in contents.

The European seminar "Intercultural Journalists' Associations. Italy and Europe. Exchanging experiences" (19 February 2010): following a press conference convened for the official launch of ANSI, the seminar was also an occasion to initiate an exchange between ANSI and two similar organizations from Germany and Spain. The debate was animated by the spokespersons of the International Federation of Journalists, the FNSI and the secretariat of the European network On Line/More Colour in the Media.

Legal Info Centre For Human Rights (LICHR)

Addressing the problems of "new immigrants" in Estonia and in the Baltic States

The project has come to its final stage. Counseling of immigrants continued to take place in Estonia as well as awareness raising campaign in media and among authorities and politicians in all three Baltic States. In October 2009, the 2nd regional meeting took place in Latvia. The main issues discussed were the local situation with regards to migration and integration, as well as political and civil participation of immigrants. Certain attention was paid to good practices of cooperation between civil society organizations representing immigrants and authorities. This meeting also turned out to be a good capacity building opportunity for the national partner which is an NGO representing recent immigrants in Latvia. They finally had a chance not only to communicate with authorities and experts but also to meet politicians and media that are interested and willing to cooperate.

Another regional meeting took place in January 2010 in Vilnius. This meeting was a success because we have managed to bring rather high ranked authorities around the table with civil society, media and experts and to make them discuss key aspects of cooperation as well as pending local problems. In February 2010 in Estonia a new NGO run by and representing recent immigrants was officially registered. There was a long process of official establishment of a group of social activists advocating for such a group still lacking wide recognition.

Migreurop

The European borders observatory project continues its actions:

- The first annual report on violation of Human Rights on borders is now available on the website in French, English, Spanish and Italian. The 2nd report is under construction: all the missions on the field have been done.
- The readmission agreement working group organized a broader international meeting (November 2009) than the one in April 2009. 150 people from Europe and Africa: people from NGOs, the Council of Europe and journalists attended this meeting. In 2010 the working group will organize some concrete actions as a black book of deportation and refoulement which will highlight concrete consequences of readmission agreement on people through testimonies.
- The campaign right of access: the network continues to work on detention and will have a blog with migrants' testimonies on detention centers' reality. The blog will be a tool to inform about detention centers' conditions and migrants stories, but also to highlight the way of action for NGOs or activists when there is no access to detention centers.

European Women's Lobby (EWL)

Equal Rights. Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union

Making sure that Migrant Women's Organizations voices are heard by European and national decision-makers has been one of the main objectives of the project EWL has been developing with migrant women's organizations since 2006. Thanks to the support of EPIM, the project has achieved so far:

- To increase the visibility of migrant women's organizations and their expertise at European and national level. Over the last year, the migrant women's organizations, partners of the project, have been receiving an increased number of invitations to speak at European and international conferences.
- To develop a strong networking dynamic between migrant women's organizations at European and national level, which resulted in the setting up of the European Network of Migrant Women. At the European level, the European network of migrant Women is now a reality (with a logo) and all the partners of the project are now speaking as one voice at the European level, consulting each other before attending any European or international conference. Though the network is already operational, it will be officially launched at the EESC on 18 June 2010. In parallel, national meetings have been organized in the last 6 months in 13 countries that aimed at setting up national coordinations of the European Network of Migrant Women. This strong networking dynamic has also resulted in partnerships for funding applications either as European Network of Migrant Women or between partners of the project.

2010 will be a crucial year for the development of the project with many public transnational activities such as the launching of the public website of the European Network of Migrant Women, the release of a publication on integration and joint advocacy work.

People in Need (PIN)

Let's create a more diverse media!

1. Inspired by another EPIM grantee, MRC, we established a Forum of migrants in the Czech Republic. It is an informal group of young migrants from different communities opened to communicate actively with the media and in the media and interested in interacting with the public authorities in the role of unofficial community representatives. The group has already met twice; in the second meeting we invited 4 journalists and received a positive feedback from them, as well as from the migrants participating.
2. Our media list has already 120 journalists. We do regular media monitoring and maintain it updated. We produced a guideline for journalists writing about migration issues and we keep them updated through a fortnightly newsletter.
3. We have been continuously devoting our efforts to coordinate a group of Czech NGOs dealing with the media in order to strengthen our common power and voice in the dialogue with the public authorities. We have established regular meetings to prepare common strategy. We organized a workshop on lobbying strategies for them with an expert from Human Rights Watch from Brussels. We have been pushing forward the establishment of a formal structure for the association and now, together with two partners, we are preparing an application for EPIM second call.
4. We have been trying to find a solution for further development of our network project such as an application for the European Integration Fund and we also identified some new potential partners.

PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)

Promoting rights and facilitating justice for undocumented migrants (1 September 2009-28 February 2010)

In previous months, PICUM has carried out capacity building to ensure that our members could represent our concerns towards various intergovernmental institutions, including the UN Human Rights Council, the Council of Europe, and the Fundamental Rights Agency, as well as towards other civil society organizations and networks. Our members shared their expertise at these events on issues such as detention, access to health care for undocumented migrants, poverty and social exclusion of undocumented migrants, and multiple forms of discrimination of undocumented migrants. PICUM has also strengthened collaboration with other actors in the promotion of undocumented migrants' rights. PICUM worked closely with the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in recent months within the framework of a project CEPS is leading on the "policy gap" between current EU policies and the findings of projects and studies funded by the European institutions and carried out by networks of experts and civil society actors on undocumented migration and human rights. We are also now working in a

consortium with several think tanks/organizations (International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), CEPS and The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy - ELIAMEP) on a project for the Fundamental Rights Agency on the fundamental rights of irregular migrants in the EU. We also continued to build our communications strategy by continued relationships with the press and a launch of a newly designed website and newsletter.

STICHTING NIDOS

“Integration of unaccompanied minors through appropriate reception: European network of European guardianship institutions (ENGI)”

The ENGI-project has been concluded with a final report and a European conference in Amsterdam. One can boldly conclude that guardianship and responsibility for these children is only arranged properly in rare cases in Europe. What is the way forward? In Amsterdam in December experts from 16 European Member States concluded that:

- In each member state there should be an organization or person that has the clear-cut responsibility for a separated child and is accountable for this responsibility. Guardianship attributes this responsibility.
- The organization or person attributed the responsibility for these children, needs to be enabled to take this responsibility by a proper mandate and resources.
- To make next steps on the international level successful, bottom-up development of methodology and exchange of practices is needed as well. Without it, member states will resist large reforms and/or national system changes will be a shift of administrative responsibilities.

EPIM-grantees have been sent the final research report in English. If you want more copies or a French or German version, please send an e-mail to engi@nidos.nl

Migrants Resource Centre (MRC)

Migrants and the Media

Following the exhibition “La Ruta Prometida”, **CEPAIM** in Spain published a guide to understand the causes of West African migration to Europe. **CRWI** in Greece took part in the DESME campaign aimed at “pulling” migrant women from invisibility and making their problems known to society. **FOMACS** in Ireland has continued its radio production and mentoring project and produced two programmes, one for Radio 1812 and another for RTE together with 5 more stories in the pipeline for RTE. **MENEDEK** in Hungary participated in the “Migrants in Media” conference in Budapest and has, over the past few months, got extensive media coverage. **MRN/MRC** in the UK organised a Refugee Media Action Group meeting to consider a manifesto for migrants for the forthcoming election. **MRC** published a book of migrants’ poems and stories and ran photography workshops for migrants.