

Update on EPIM funded projects: September 2009

Association Primo Levi

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

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

Major achievements have been fulfilled so far, such as the creation (in 2008) of a network (called Reseda) of rehabilitation centers which should develop advocacy activities.

The Association has also created a new website on 2009 June 26th, UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. This new website gives access to an on-line documentation center on the subject of torture and political violence.

Institute of Race Relations (IRR)

The IRR's **Alternative Voices on Integration** project now has its own web-page at www.irr.org.uk/alternative_voices/ Having included information on projects in France, the Netherlands, the UK and Austria, we are now asking two German organisations: Kanak Attak and the project EmPA (Empowerment and Participation of Immigrants in East Germany), to write about their work. We are also working on articles on three important youth projects: the Muslim Youth Helpline (UK), 'Here to Stay' (Netherlands) and the creative video project 'Belonging' (UK, France, Portugal). One serious concern that has been raised with us over the last six months is the threat posed to integration by anti-immigration coalitions and far-Right groups which are turning towards incitement and violence at a time of global recession. The IRR report 'Racism, elections and the economic down-turn', which has been posted on the NEF Extranet, carries more information on this theme.

Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI)

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

The recruitment of schools to participate in the initiative aimed at fostering migrant parents in their children's school life was the first task the ICI undertook. Five schools with a significant number of migrant pupils (four primary and one secondary) are participating in the project. The research phase involved interviews with three members of staff and five migrant parents at each school. It was completed in May 2009 and preliminary results are expected in October 2009. The ICI is at the moment developing a toolkit to promote migrant parents' participation. Dr Dymphna Devine from University College Dublin provides technical support to the initiative. The project has an advisory committee with many stakeholders in Irish education that meets four times a year and a transnational steering committee with experts from seven EU member States that meets once a year.

European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

In the framework of the ENAR **Migrants Rights and Integration Project (MRIP)** the work has continued to be aimed at clarifying agendas and issues in preparation for practical engagements with migrant communities and integration issues which will form the core of our work during 2010. We are currently receiving national integration reports from the MRIP partners and this process will not be complete until the end of September. We will then review the issues reported by partners and prepare an analysis of good practice and significant impacts. This will be ready as a first draft by mid-October. During the summer we organized a meeting with the Advisory Group in order to discuss methodology issues on the subjects of peer review and good practice selection.

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The organization of the EPIM Joint Learning Event (which will take place in October) has provided an opportunity to consider methodologies for power analysis, peer review and toolkit design, drawing on the work of other EPIM projects, but also other organizations which have worked on these issues in other contexts. The theme of peer review has emerged as a crucial area as the project leaders have engaged with the need to develop this as a process facilitating critical analysis, learning, and empowerment of migrant groups. We have become aware of the rich experiences of a range of other organizations working in other areas of social policy which are potentially transferable into the work we will be seeking to do. In particular, our intuition that power analysis and toolkit design are integral parts of these process, and need to be draw these into the different phases of our work in 2010 and 2011 has to be properly planned for.

Greek Council for Refugees – GCR

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

Providing undocumented migrants with support to be able to cover their basic needs (shelter, labor, health care, education and legal protection) and bringing in the foreground of policy debates the ignored reality of these people 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 re-obtain legal status and cover their basic needs. In order to bring in the foreground of policy debates the reality of these people, GCR is conducting a research on undocumented migrants (Afghans) in Athens. Until now, while visiting their neighborhoods we have contacted more than 75 undocumented Afghans and interviewed 18 of them in depth.

The new Presidential Decree on Asylum Procedure and some amendments to the Immigration Law, both adopted this summer, was regarded as legal developments against migrants. Police sweeps of (undocumented) migrants and cases of violence against refugees and migrants occurred more often. GCR has co-organized three press-conferences in order to address and criticize these legal and policy issues. It has also produced press releases criticizing the xenophobic policy and the racist violence against migrants. Many interviews to Greek and foreign media were given and many meetings with representatives of national and European authorities and organizations took place (e.g.: the Vice –President of the European Commission, Jacques Barrot, representatives of the UNHCR Regional Office in Rome and in Athens, of the Greek Parliament, of migrants' communities and NGO's in Greece and in Europe etc). In order to raise public awareness on migrants and refugees rights, GCR participated in several events like the anti-racism festival and a hip-hop festival and organized two concerts with popular Greek singers and a competition in creative writing for pupils on "Being an alien in an unknown country".

Jesuit Refugee Service Europe

ANDES One Year Old

Since we started the ANDES project in October 2008, we gained a much better knowledge of the situation in which destitute forced migrants find themselves in the EU Member States. Two research trips to Sweden and Spain resulted in a virtual "truckload" of new information that we are now putting into the updated report. The updating itself brings a lot of new data as well, for instance on the impact of the new security legislation in Italy. This information also helps in shaping a clear and consistent definition of "destitution". On national as well as on European level we engage in new partnerships and networks, especially with organisations who not initially deal with migrants or refugees but with several aspects of destitution such as (lack of) housing, health care, education or work. Through national events we are raising public and policy makers' awareness of the destitution problem and lay the grounds for a European Conference in 2011. Hence, we are – more or less – on track but there is still much work to be done.

Médecins du Monde (MdM)

HUMA Network

The Averroes project which has been renamed HUMA (Health for Undocumented Migrants and Asylum seekers) is an advocacy project on access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers led by Medecins du Monde.

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The European election campaign helped identifying a set of elected MEPs willing to collaborate on the issue of UDM and AS access to health care in the EU. Despite the lack of results on the reform of the asylum directive (the amendment proposed by HUMA to integrated equal access to health for AS in the directive has not passed the level of the Commission), there is a focus by the network on the introduction of the issue of UDM in the debate on health inequality in Europe.

The 10 EU country comparative legislation and practice report on access to health care has been published in September and the website of the network is online since June (www.huma-network.org).

The network has two more partners (13 in total) in Poland and in Cyprus which entered the network in the past few months. They will collaborate in developing their own advocacy on the theme. National events in the Netherlands and Germany are in preparation.

COSPE (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)

MEDIACTIVE – Empowering migrants in the media sector

At the Italian national level MediActive supported the empowerment, networking and exchanges between journalists interested in establishing a National association/specialized group of media professionals of ethnic minority background. Specific meetings were organized in different regions aimed at discussing and elaborating the draft statute of the mentioned association. A dossier on the access of ethnic minority professionals to the journalistic profession in Italy was produced and disseminated so as to facilitate their involvement in the future association. In addition strategy meetings with relevant stakeholders took place at the local, regional and national level with the view of contributing to the institutional building of the forthcoming national association of ethnic minority media professionals. These meetings involved members of local government authorities, national and regional representatives of both the Italian Union of Journalists and the Board of Journalists, policy makers, media organizations. Public events and media-relation activities were also implemented so as to increase the visibility of media and diversity issues and to raise awareness on the need to attain equal professional recognition for ethnic minority media professionals. At the European level a survey on relevant similar experiences has been conducted in cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists and Miramedia.

Legal Info Centre For Human Rights (LICHR)

“Addressing the problems of “new immigrants” in Estonia and in the Baltic States”

During the first year of the project a network of experts from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia among whom public authorities, researches and civil society members representing or working with immigrants and equal opportunities has been launched. It aims at exchanging constantly experiences and knowledge with regards to immigration processes in three Baltic States as well as developing strategies for better involvement of immigrant community into dialogue with the society and improvement of the integration. Three shadow reports studying the legal and political provisions aiming at immigrants in Baltic States and their practical implementation were prepared and presented during an international conference in Tallinn. A number of meetings and communications with the authorities were carried out in order to discuss the real situation and needs of the immigrant community. While the main emphasis within the project has been to improve of the integration and participation of the recent immigrants, attention has been paid to long-term immigrants as well. In Estonia, the hotline targeting immigrants has been addressed in 573 cases, 74 articles were published with participation of the LICHRs or its partners.

Migreurop

European borders observatory

The European borders observatory has been developed, since September 2008, through different activities like:

- The international campaign on right of access in detention center for migrants, we mobilized MEP's, NGOs, migrant's voice, candidate to European Parliament on the issue of migrant's detention.
- Readmission agreement working group, we organized a first international meeting on readmission agreements with our partners and members and there will be another one in November 2009, enlarged to journalists and civil society.

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- The first annual report on violation of human rights on borders will be released in October 2009 after a year of work: field missions, writing, edition, translation...etc. This report is the fruits of the labour of volunteers, Migreurop's members and partners. It will be available on our website and EPIM extranet.
- The Migreurop Atlas is a collective work of the network between its members and partners. 50 authors work on it during a year. It will be released in October 2009.

Migreurop will continue to develop and strengthen the activity of the European borders observatory next year.

European Women's Lobby (EWL)

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

Making sure that Migrant Women's Organisations voices are heard by European decision-makers has been one of the main objectives of the project EWL has been developing with migrant women's organisations 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 national and European level. The partners organized on December 01.12.09 a seminar on gender and integration in Brussels, participated to key conferences at European level such as the European Integration Forum and have also organized national activities to expose issues affecting migrant women's integration (e.g. roundtables with decision-makers, bilateral meetings).
- To develop a strong networking dynamic between migrant women's organizations at European and national level. At the European level, the main activities were the organization of a meeting in November 2009 that aimed at identifying priorities for transnational work, the launching of an intranet in June 2009 and ongoing contacts to share information. This will lead to the official setting up of a European Network of Migrant Women that will be launched at the beginning of 2010. At the national level, project partners are also organizing activities in 13 countries to strengthen networking and set up national coordinations for the European Network of Migrant Women.

People in Need (PIN)

"Let's create a more diverse media!"

1. We have been strengthening our position as a reliable source of information for the media, disseminating news to more than 80 of them through our newsletter. We consider as a success that an article about regularisation of undocumented immigrants in Italy was published in the economic section of the biggest Czech daily on the basis of the information from our newsletter. Regularisation has been an almost unknown topic here.
2. At the workshop about good practises at BBC presented by Kevin Burden, BBC journalist and lecturer, and organized and facilitated by us, we were able to establish an open dialogue with several important Czech media representatives about the risks of an unbalanced portrayal of immigrants in the media. As a success we consider participation in the workshop of the chief editor of the big network of local newspapers. The media representatives showed willingness to continue reflection on the issue and we are going to develop the connection with them.
3. We have been proceeding to develop a functional network of European organizations dealing with the migration and the media. We intend to build an informal but active platform for exchange of information and ideas. First meeting took place in Prague and did give us inspiration and new enthusiasm to our work. We are sure that thank to the network we can strengthen our voice, power and fundraising potential and learn from each other. We are going to implement 2 projects about which we learned during the meeting in our work.

PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)

"Promoting rights and facilitating justice for undocumented migrants" (1 September 2009-31 August 2009)

Since PICUM started this project in September 2009, we have influenced the policy agendas of institutions on the global, European, national as well as local levels by mainstreaming undocumented migrants' concerns within key

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debates and building strategic partnerships with both organisations and experts active in the promotion of social justice. During the first year of the project, we contributed our expertise to 70 external events - averaging nearly 6 external speaking engagements per month - that were organized by intergovernmental and governmental institutions, research institutes and think tanks, civil society organizations and foundations. In addition to including a new category in our monthly newsletter on undocumented women, we published articles, talking points, press releases and reports on policy developments on the EU and national levels concerning undocumented workers, undocumented children, and seriously ill undocumented migrants. We have also significantly enriched our press contacts and have built relationships with journalists and researchers in some of the world's leading media outlets, a direct result of our improved communications strategy under this project.

STICHTING NIDOS

Integration of una's through appropriate reception: European network of European guardianship institutions (ENGI)

Being at two third of the ENGI project the overall targets are coming closer and closer: founding a permanent network of guardianship institutions in the EU, able to give a voice to representation of unaccompanied minors. To do so, the state of play in 11 Member States has been looked at closely and contacts in government, NGO's and other organizations have been built. A (first) network conference with 70-100 participants in November 2009 will be the kick-off of the network.

It has been highly encouraging how parties in, for example, Ireland and Finland have been able to use the preliminary findings to push for national changes in regulation, and how the Commission was able to use the midterm report to work with the Swedish presidency – an example of the purpose of ENGI in the years to come. At this point, accelerating the cooperation is a combined high priority with securing resources for the continued cooperation of the network after the set-up phase will have ended in February 2010.

MRC (Migrants Resource Centre)

Migrants and the Media

The Migrants and the Media Project was set up to build a strong network which together could explore how migrants can strengthen their media strategies and to undertake concrete activities to this end.

Over the first year, the partnership infrastructure and communication has been established. We have developed a joint project perspective document for the Migrants and Media Project and established a new website www.migrantsandmedia. We have also undertaken the following activities: FOMACS has been running a 14 week radio mentoring programme for migrant women to facilitate skills-transfer and access to the media industry in Ireland. MRC and MRN organised a debate on the media coverage of migrants and refugees at the House of Commons in the UK coinciding with the launch of MRC's free newspaper The New Londoners; CRWI contributed to a workshop on 'Migration and domestic work' in Greece; The MRC contributed to the first meeting of the Network of European organisations which focused on media and immigration issues in Prague; Menedek has facilitated 2 different trainings for individuals from grassroots organisations in Hungary on working with the media and co-facilitated training for journalists; Cepaim organised a travelling exhibition called 'La Ruta Promotida' to raise awareness of the reasons why so many people migrate from Africa to Spain.