

THE ROUTE OF SOLIDARITY

SEVILLA/CEUTA MARCH 12-18TH 2018

The Second International Meeting of the European program “TROS: The Route of Solidarity” took place over the week of March 12-18th in Sevilla and Ceuta. On this occasion, the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía¹ was in charge of carrying out the preparatory training regarding the reality of Spain’s southern border. The following organizations have participated to the exchange’s activities: APDHA (Spain), Elin (Spain), Digmun (Spain), Pedagogia Ciudadana (Spain) Un Ponte per... (Italy), Baobab Experience (Italy), Di.Fro (Italy), PANK (Croatia), Antigone (Greece), Lesvos Solidarity (Greece) in addition to some independent volunteers and activists.



¹<https://www.apdha.org>

MARCH 12th. Sevilla

The session on March 12th began with a presentation of the agenda and of the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos from the vice coordinator, Diego Boza, during which he explained the main areas² in which APDHA works. Afterwards there was a presentation of The Route of Solidarity project and an exchange about the activities, the strength and weakness of the participating organisations.



Main activities carried out by the participants/groups:

- Baseline needs (Housing, Food, Medical Psychosocial)
- Integration (Education, Training, Employment, Events)
- Adocacy and Raising Awareness
- Mediactivism
- Demonstration
- Cultural mediation
- No-formal education
- Legal assistance (International protection, administrative detention, working exploitation, trafficking and smuggling)
- Language barriers
- Counter narrative
- Enforce Practice of social cohesion

² <https://www.apdha.org/areas-de-trabajo/>



The outputs of the four groups are the following:

AWARENESS

- Challenges: working ourself in the communities and be the link between the migrants and decision makers. To involve migrants in demonstration.
- Proposals: Making research and report to denounce, health access for migrants key issue for fighting together for social rights. Exchange raising awareness methodologies.

MEDIA

- Challenges: reporting migration issue is happening in a global trend of deterioration of the media industry. Good information is expensive and take time. There is the need of finding new alternative way s of working. Most of the projects are self-financed. There is should be the need of umbrella organization for media workers sensitive to thos issues and not embedded in mainstream media. Keeping in mind the forces that want to destroy/manipulate the media. need to shape and spread a message relating migrant destiny to our destiny. How to force the governments and the mainstream media to give visibility to certain issues. Ethics problems: what is the border line?
- Proposal: Looking at other networking experiences, connecting European journalist with reporter in hot countries and connecting with NGOs, to create social media but keeping the freedom of critzing also NGOs

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Good practices of participating organizations: Outreach in local schools, No formal education tools and methodologies, facilitating in stead of leading, Leveraging the cultural exchange, Job Opportunities through worksops, Promoting co-living and co-existence advocacy are led by refugee community member)
- Proposals: Mapping local realities, Advocacy and Campaigning (most succesfullgoing beyond the humanitarian aspects to political, Broading the networking,

LEGAL WORK

- Challenges: we are supposed to be part of the system and at the same time we have to fight from inside. How to build trust with migrants, we need more skills, more capacities and offer more services. Includes other services in the legal support activities like psychologist, health care service for women victims of sexual exploitation. When we find solution for people they change the rules. In the last years the possibility get lower and lower.
- Proposals: Strategic litigation to build case on our side to build milestone. Work together on the European Court of Justice and European Court of Human rights. Need of be understandable by the society re-coding the legal language.



In addition, Matija from the Udruga PANK³ provided some key points for carrying out the work of photography in an ethical way within delicate contexts, that transmit honestly the situation of the subjects and the context without resorting to morbidity, and serve to publicly denounce the situation without damaging the image of those photographed:

- Carrying out preparatory work to get to know the terrain and the people
- Asking if they're okay with being photographed
- The possibility of achieving an ethical protocol

In principle it may seem that logic and common sense will be present, but we aren't working in contexts where the words 'common sense' have much meaning.



³ <https://www.facebook.com/udrugaPANK/>

“No es tu fotografía, es la vida de alguien”. - ‘It’s not your photography, it’s somebody’s life.’



The “Southern Border” workshop explained the reality in which we were going to be working, situating us within the context of the migration route in Spain.

This workshop fundamentally discussed the entities that participate in the protocols of rescue and life-saving, support, identification and relocation of the people utilising various methods (small boats, surfboards, jet skis, diving, hitchhiking and/or ferry...) in order to reach the peninsula through unauthorised points in Canarias, Ceuta and/or Melilla. Also discussed were the policies and practices that violate the rights of migrants, when it comes to not guaranteeing the right to protection or asylum, along with other known practices like illegal pushback (*'devoluciones en caliente'*) and the internment of foreigners in detention centres, prison-like not only by classification but also in their conditions.

Another point particular to this workshop was to make visible the reality and conditions in which Moroccan women carry goods across the Morocco-Ceuta border. On this subject an introduction was made about the context in which the APDHA carries out its research and the report “Respect and dignity for the Moroccan women who carry goods across the Morocco-Ceuta border” was presented, along with the political advocacy campaign “Porteadoras: La Injusticia a la Espalda,”⁴ (*Women Porters: The Injustice on their Backs*) created in 2017.

⁴ <https://www.apdha.org/mujeres-porteadoras-de-mercancias/>



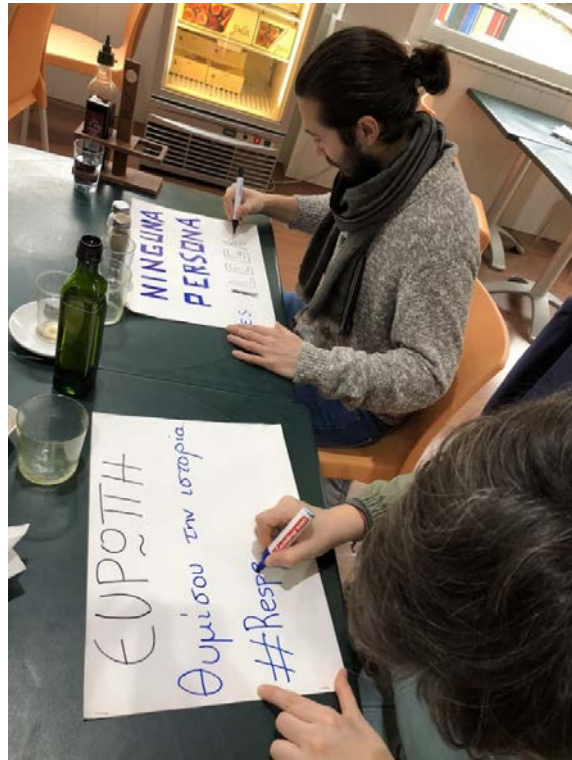
The session ended with a dinner and a concert in the framework of the Soundroutes⁵ project, another Seville based initiative financed by the Creative Europe programme, by Muhannad Dugheim a native of Syria refugees in Seville including a presentation of the project.



⁵ <http://soundroutes.eu/>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

On Wednesday, the 14th we headed to Algeciras to conduct a rally at the gates of the Centro de Internamiento de Extranjeros (CIE) “La Piñera” (Foreigners Detention Centre at “La Piñera”) located at the site of a former local prison, with our partners from the APDHA Campo de Gibraltar and Algeciras Acoge. The objective, in addition to joining the denouncement that these organisations have been carrying out for some time, was to make visible the current conditions of the migrants and to show support for the international organisations that participate in the project.



The rally was also picked up by national⁶ and local⁷ press.



Local television⁸ of Algeciras during the CIE rally

Once the rally was finished we headed to the port of Algeciras to catch the ferry to Ceuta. In Ceuta we met up with the responsables of the Red Cross, Clemen Núñez head of SAR department and Pascual Briebe voluntary nurse, who explained to us the work they do in health and humanitarian services for migrants after they've crossed border walls or arrived by boat.

⁶ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20180314/441519639473/activistas-europeos-reclaman-el-cierre-del-cie-de-algeciras.html>

⁷ <http://www.europapress.es/andalucia/cadiz-00351/noticia-varios-activistas-europeos-concentran-cie-algeciras-cadiz-pedir-clausura-20180314134934.html>

<http://laotraandalucia.org/?p=20000> <http://www.grupodiarioarea.es/2018/03/14/nueva-concentracion-para-exigir-el-cierre-del-cie-de-la-pinera/>

⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI9yDEuEGZQ>



Ceuta Red Cross.⁹

Ceuta Red Cross is tasked (by official agreement) to lend necessary assistance to migrants entering Ceuta through unauthorised points (border perimeter, border post and maritime access points.) To do that, they have the Immediate Emergency Response Team¹⁰ (known by the acronym ERIE in Spanish) which is divided in 64 volunteer personnel, who represent the majority of the first responders in these situations, and 2 professionals: a Registered Nurse (Diplomado/a en Enfermería or DUE) and another person tasked with mobilising the volunteer group.

The medical assistance conducts an initial assessment (triage) and attends to the possible contusions, impact wounds, burns or hypothermia (the most frequent injuries) of these people. They operate out of their own centre in Sevilla and act under the orders of the Spanish Civil Guard. They emphasised that the assessment of the ERIE depends on whether the patient will remain in Ceuta, above all in the matter of referring them to a hospital (pregnant women are automatically sent to hospital.)

The volunteer team is entrusted with offering the humanitarian kit, which is made up of blankets, dry clothing, and shoes, as well as food.

⁹ <https://www.cruzroja.es/principal/web/cruz-roja/inicio>

¹⁰ http://www.cruzroja.es/portal/page?_pageid=661,12404904&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30

Ceuta Red Cross has at its disposition (for purposes of health and humanitarian services) a field hospital, a pick-up truck, a humanitarian aid trailer and a rescue boat.

- I was not present for the subsequent debate, as I was attending to the media, so I couldn't quite catch the conclusions

Asociación Digmun. Meeting with Maribel Lorente, president of the association.¹¹ The association works with women and children. They don't get any fund from the local administration just some donation from a Catalan private foundation.

They work with the "porteadoras" (carry women) and women crossing the border every day from morocco to work in Ceuta. The carry women don't enter in the city they just cross and wait at the border to be sent to pick up goods in the commercial area. They carry 60-90 KG package for 4 Km without any protection. Recently rules had changed in order to avoid the flood of people. Spanish authorities restricted the number of entry to 2000 people per day and limited the day on entry to Monday and Wednesday for women and Tuesday and Thursday for men. This change deteriorated the life condition of those women because they can not work and gain money every day. Many women living close to the Ceuta border cross every day in order to



go and work as housekeeper. Who has a contract has the right to have a border pass, who doesn't have a contract has no right. This second group of women don't have access to any social services and have a monthly salary which ranges between 150 and 400 Euro. Digmun works especially with those women, working on their empowerment (through training and alphabetization activities) and advocacy work.

Concerning minors Digmun works for improving the living condition of children that are not officially resident in Ceuta because their families are illegally living in the city. Those children don't have the right of schooling. They also work with the unaccompanied minors that live in the migrant minor centre of Ceuta waiting to cross to go to the peninsula.

¹¹ <http://digmunceuta.blogia.com>

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

Thursday morning, we conducted observations on the border of El Tarajal and in the industrial trade zone. For this activity we travelled by bus and were able to observe the transportation of goods (Thursday being a day dedicated to male porters) in the entrance to the wholesale trade zone of El Tarajal. It was a rainy day, so business was pretty “quiet,” also due to the fact that only 2000 people are able to get tickets to access the trade zone per day. We were able to observe how the men carried the packages on their backs, even blind men, assisted by a cane and supporting themselves with one hand on the cargo of their companion in front of them, who passed through the main entrance of the trade zone towards the border crossing.

After the observation, we had a small meeting in a cafetería in order to exchange our impressions. Some of our conclusions were:

- Strong impressions from the images seen, and a sensation of powerlessness due to not being able to make any change, not only as individuals but also at a collective level
- Talked about what we could accomplish without damaging the possibility of any future work or investigations, after some people expressed the desire to stage protests
- When going as a group, if photography is permitted, the person who takes official photographs will be Matija. The rest can take photos of details and personal pictures.



Alarm Phone¹² offers the affected boat-people a second option to make their SOS noticeable. The alarm documents and mobilises in real-time. In this way, pressure to rescue is built-up, wherever possible. If coast guards do not act promptly, it will be sought, on the one hand, to enforce rescue operations through public pressure. On the other hand, attempts will be made to alert cargo ships and tankships in vicinity to the vessel in distress. It is an international network with local groups in Europe and along the migrants' routes. They work in all the Mediterranean Sea. The local group in Ceuta and in Morocco regularly visit the settlement of migrants waiting to cross in order to distribute the emergency number and cell phones. Moreover when people are taken back to the desert by the Moroccan police they activate the network in order to localize people and rescue them.



Shared lunch with activists from Alarm Phone Ceuta.

¹² <https://alarmphone.org/en/>



Pedagogía Ciudadana¹³ came out from the Ceuta students movement arose after the police shooting of Tarajal in 2014. This facts represents a milestone for the many young people in the city that gather in the association in order to leverage the demonstration to empower the citizens, raising awareness and build a real intercultural society In the city. Actually the association works with children belonging to family without regular resident permits and that don't have access to the schooling service. They organize the book fair, photo contest and a project in cooperation with the welfare local department addressed to underprivileged children.

Among other activities they organize a TV programme managed by the children themselves aiming at transforming them in a change makers.

Asociación Elín¹⁴ is working in CEUTA since 1999. They have an open centre offering support and orientation where migrants can feel at home and taking part to many social and cultural activities. First of all they provide migrants with all the information about their stay in Ceuta and the following step they will face. They organize Spanish Classes, group and social activities in order to let the migrants feel in a community, a music workshop and sport activities. They also have a candle workshop that they sell and the income is distributed among the migrants who made the candle

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/pedagogiaciudadana.ceuta/>

¹⁴ <http://www.asociacionelin.com/>

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH.

Visit to the Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes (Centre for Temporary Residence of Immigrants, Spanish acronym CETI) and presentation from its director, Ricardo Espíritu.

We attended an extensive exposition of the functions of the CETI, its programs and, above all, some of the characteristics of the residents.

The CETI is the first-response resource provided by the IMSERSO (Institute of Social Services and the Elderly of the Spanish State) for migrants who enter European territory irregularly through Ceuta. After an initial medical evaluation, they're provided with accommodation services: identification by national police, clothing kit, shower, food, medical examination, temporal residency permits from the CETI, and referral to a Social Worker who makes an evaluation before they're admitted to the centre as residents. Thereafter, follow-up protocol is carried out by those in the field of social services.

This protocol is based fundamentally in social development through Social Workers, Educators, Sports Monitors and health professionals who attempt to carry out the follow-up procedure through socio-educational intervention. They also usually have specific programs for specific needs: lawyers who specialise in asylum, treatment for victims of sexual exploitation, assistance for families with minors (unaccompanied foreign minors have a separate centre) and assistance for people with serious injuries.

In addition, they have four basic objectives in the areas of Solidarity, Punctuality, Responsibility and Gender Violence. The collaboration with public institutions is constant (especially with the national police); several NGOs and Catholic orders also work within the centre.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH.

Training workshop: "European Legislation vs. Spanish Legislation with regards to Migration." Provided by Carlos Arce. Coordinator in the area of Migrations¹⁵ with the APDHA.

In this workshop our colleague Carlos gave us some basic information to be able to understand the differences of jurisdiction within the EU in order to stop the contrary approaches to Human Rights present in the legislation of its Member States, since no common migratory policies exist.

¹⁵ <https://www.apdha.org/migraciones/>



In addition, he explained the shared regulation that all the Member States should adopt with regards to migration (Blue Card Directive, Schenguen and Frontex, Externalisation of Borders and Asylum and/or protection (Dublin Regulation, 2015 Refugee Crisis and EU-Turkey deal)), establishing some common tools in all countries in order to permit the entrance or expulsion of people native to countries that the EU doesn't want in European territory, known as non-EU nationals.

He also explained the state regulations of Spain and the necessary requirements contained within immigration law.

Sharing Session: "Shaping a common message to deliver to decision makers"

Since one of the most common missing skill emerged from the first day of the exchange was the advocacy, the session started with a short and simple workshop on what are the elements to build a Public/ Advocacy Campaign:

GOAL (need to be SMART. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely)

Between the GOAL and ACTION there are the STRATEGY (refer to the goal and long term, address the selection of targets, actions and allies, the definition of timelines and the management of resources) and the TATICS (refer to specific objective, is specific and short term).

The ACTION in a Public and Advocacy Campaigns can be diversified according to the strategy and the tactics and include: Independent Investigation, Network Building, Community organization and mobilization, Pressure on decision makers, Communication, Raising Awareness, etc.

In the light of one of the project's goal which is shaping a common message to deliver to decision makers at the end of the project, a group discussion took place in order to start to contribute to this collective exercise that will go on in the next meetings.

The exercise consisted in considering the potential message as a goal of a campaign and processing the proposal through a SMART analysis.

These are the proposal resulted by the group's discussion:

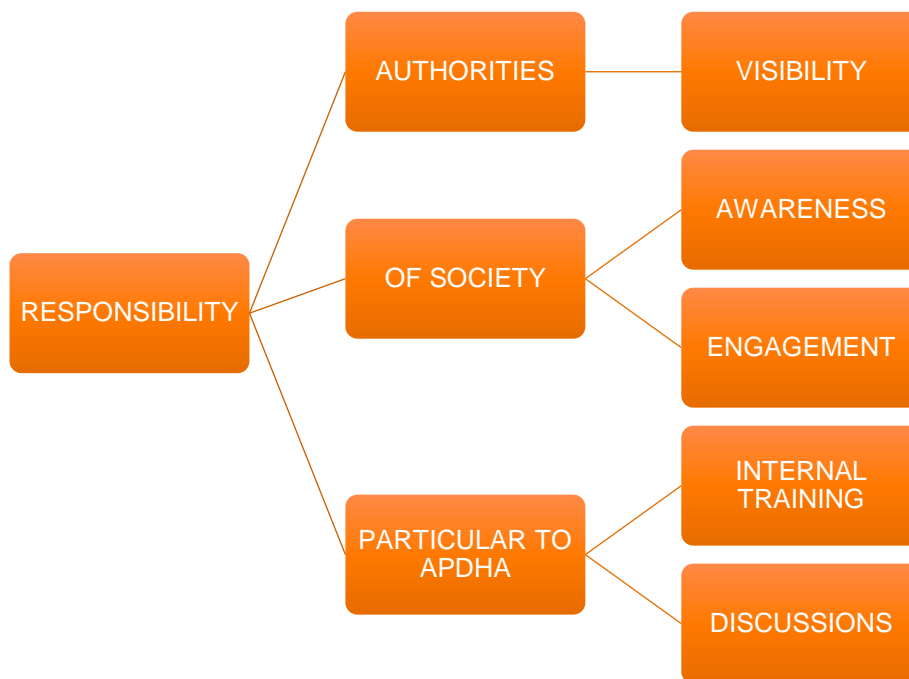
- Dignity for all at the border (Weak specificities)
- Open Borders (Weak specificities, Weak in realism)
- Reduce Funding for Border Control (not convincing)
- Safe Passage in Europe (Too much exploited)
- No violence in the borders (can be SMART)
- Respect right of legal access for refugees (can be SMART)

In the next meeting participant should follow up in shaping the main common message in order to produce the contents for the manifesto and the final web action.



“Political Advocacy Work of the APDHA” - Workshop led by Ana Rosado. Member of the Southern Border investigation team: Immigrations Area and International Solidarity¹⁶ Area.

The objective of this workshop was to share examples of good practices for sharing strategies and, above all, to make known the work that the APDHA does. To do that, we started with the foundations:



One of the key foundations of the APDHA is working with all people/entities involved in order to determine what is wanted/needed. To do that we carry out various activities such as providing free legal advice to migrants, as well as Spanish and Arabic language classes for children.

In addition, we conduct investigations in the field, above all in the contexts and places where the rights of these people are systematically violated.

After conducting investigations, we convey the information in different reports with various objectives: to obtain quantitative and qualitative data, broadcast it, and make it reach those in positions of power. To do that we make use of social media and public buildings to conduct day-long sessions, conferences, expositions, events, and, in all those exercises, to implicate the very people responsible.

We carry out these undertakings through agreements with the relevant people or political officials.

Another of the ways we do our work is by speaking out against injustices through the use of available legal outlets or through the media. In this way, we bring to light all the human rights violations of which we have record, making ourselves present as an entity or lifting up the affected people.

¹⁶ <https://www.apdha.org/solidaridad/>



Finally, in relation to social awareness and outreach, we conduct all kinds of activities from protests, workshops in education centres, shows of solidarity, to music or film festivals, as well as various awareness campaigns.

Evaluation Session.

In this session we gathered general and personal impressions from the group. The conclusions were:

- Importance of Self-Care.
- The positive group dynamic and the desire to continue the project
- Necessity of sharing and empathising
- Respect for place and circumstances
- Visiting other organisations and places gives us the chance to broaden our “micro-world” view and change our own roles



Screening of “Samba, un nombre borrado”¹⁷ (“Samba, an erased name”) in the Caótica.¹⁸

After an introduction by the person featured in the film, Mahmoud Traoré, and one of the producers Agustín Toranzo the documentary was screened and followed by a discussion in which we shared our experiences of the Ceuta trip and of the work done by each of the activists from the organisations who attended the second international meeting.

¹⁷ <http://intermediaproducciones.com/portfolio/un-nombre-borrado/>

¹⁸ <http://caotica.es/caotica/>



