

#TROS ZAGREB -11/4 - 17/4

EVALUATION

The third International Meeting of the European program “TROS: The Route of Solidarity” took place over the week of March 11-17th in Zagreb, Croatia. The Association PANK (Croatia) organized the meeting, and the discussion was about the „Balkan route “and the present situation regarding migrant sin Croatia and Serbia. The following organizations have participated: CHAPTER#2 (Spain), APDHA (Spain), No name kitchen (Spain), Lesvos Solidarity (Greece), OMNES (Greece), ANTIGONE (Greece), Alter Ego (Italy), Esc Atelie (Italy), DI. FRO (Italy), BAOBAB (Italy), Un ponte per... (Italy), Info Park (Serbia), PANK (Croatia), Centar za mirovne studije (Croatia), JRS (Croatia), AYS (Croatia), Živi atelje DK (Croatia), Taste of Home (Croatia), in addition to some independent volunteers and activists.

Here are ideas and wrap up concept from the last day of the meeting, from all participants:

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE MEETING:

1. During the meeting the agenda was shaped according the needs of participants and situation
2. Innovation workshop from CHAPTER#2 should be implemented during the next meetings - extremely useful and valuable to all of us
3. Conclusion: more discussion and workshops among participants and less presentations and more time for exchange between participants in the agenda
4. The group formed the group on Trello, as it could be a useful app to continue working on this as a group
5. Need more time for discussing concrete action points, to go home with
6. Content of some sessions changed, discussions took different directions
7. Very positive: we feel that we can work together!
8. Need for a facilitator: to keep discussions focused, to come to conclusions
9. Mix tasks and countries (lawyers from each country)
10. More participation of migrants
11. At the beginning of each meeting remind the participants of the objectives of the meeting

WAY FORWARD – IDEAS:

1. Idea/proposal some participants (Italy):

To give information to refugees/migrants in a different way, to give legal info through audio book.

Lack of legal info is an issue for refugees/migrants and sometimes they are illiterate. To make available in different languages.

Discussion:

Important to check what already exists: Reform, Welcome2Europe (Carmen to circulate)

In the information: we could also include who is involved in the struggle, which associations are around to support etc.

Example from Spain: partnership with legal clinic to explain Spanish law to refugees/migrants/municipalities and other actors. But this is written.

Could also be used to inform about education options, social entrepreneurship, ...

Risk: This would demand a lot of resources (plus many things are already out there, to check, as mentioned). Again, we keep operating in our 'bubble' as discussed in previous days. How will we reach wider society with this, how will we raise awareness with this tool outside our bubble?

Counterargument: If people know more about their rights they are less likely to end up irregular and they can be included. Can also be a useful tool for educators, journalists, ... Also, for wider society to understand: why do they live in squats? Why are they not allowed to work?

=> But how will we communicate this to citizens who are not with us? Through which channels?

To keep in mind: if you know your rights, doesn't mean they will be applied. For example, in Greece and elsewhere: a lot of rights exist in theory, but the implementation is the problem.

Example: No Borders wants to start an info center in Mytilene, Lesbos, to give information about all what is available, people's rights etc.

Ero: Omnes applied for some kind of platform (EU funds) that gathers all information.

Work with free numbers? => Call a free number for information in different languages

2. After the discussions we had this week about the context we are operating in and the need to be more political, to gather support among European citizens in order to influence political decision making: is an information project the best use of our resource? Can we be more creative/innovative and think about advocacy/influencing society to get out of our bubble? We have to think about how to reach society, how to connect with people. For example, those who voted for Brexit, Trump, ... How can we have a dialogue and address their concerns, fears, arguments?

=>Info project can be a start to show what we do

=>In the audio book we would include info for local citizens, associations who support etc.

=> Ideally yes, we have to think about connecting off-line, going around, talking to people, workers. But this is huge. How do we do that?
=> Use a marketing approach to get to people
=> Focusing on political actions and influencing politics is crucial!
=> Now people already have

Idea:

For administrations/refugees/migrants/... we can do the info project

For wider society: focus on positive case studies and practices

Mapping of services is available in Thessaloniki. Technology very helpful.

Uri can start Trello discussion:

we share what already exists re information

we share good practices

mapping of services?

To take things forward:

It would be good to continue the discussions at the next meeting in Lesvos, to not start again from zero. Will be useful if some people from the Zagreb meeting can present the conclusions from Zagreb at the start of the meeting in Lesvos.

It would be good if the people can go to the meeting in their country (even on voluntary basis), so we have some continuity and some of us attend several meetings

HIGHLIGHTS:

The participants showed their own will to make presentation of their work and organizations:

- Group from Italy showed and presented the situation on the Venti miglia border
- Nikos from Antigone (Greece) hold the discussion about managing volunteers and ourselves
- Oriol from CHAPTER#2 hold the innovation workshop

The group worked together and was very proactive.