



Co-funded by
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Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

RE-FRAMING NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE



Subotica, Serbia

28 April - 7 May 2023

"No one puts their children in a boat..."



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INTRODUCTION

People have always moved for a variety of reasons, including economic opportunity, political unpredictability, environmental changes, and personal desires. Migration is therefore a basic feature of human history. The United Nations estimates that there are currently 750 million domestic migrants and 272 million international migrants. These people and their families are a part of a larger worldwide phenomena that affects politics, economy, civilizations, and cultures.

As a humanitarian movement, migration can present opportunities and difficulties for both the communities that migrants leave behind and enter. On the one hand, migrants may run into a lot of difficulties and dangers on their way, like exploitation, abuse, violence, prejudice, and exclusion. Additionally, they might find it difficult to access necessities like housing, healthcare, and education as well as to adjust to new languages, cultures, laws, and norms. Age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and legal status, which might alter their vulnerability and resistance, may make these difficulties worse.

On the other hand, migrants may also bring significant contributions and benefits to their host communities and societies. They may fill labor shortages, create jobs, start businesses, pay taxes, and generate economic growth. They may also enrich cultural diversity, foster innovation, and strengthen social cohesion. Furthermore, migration can be a means for people to exercise their human rights, to seek protection and asylum from persecution and violence, and to pursue their personal goals and aspirations.



Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, Turkey, one of the top countries used as a transit country, has been sheltering one of the greatest refugee populations in the world. While some live in refugee camps close to the Syrian border, the majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey reside in big cities like Istanbul, Gaziantep, and Ankara. The Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management estimates that as of April 2021, there were about 4 million registered migrants and refugees in Turkey. This includes around 3.7 million Syrians, as well as other nationalities such as Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians, and Pakistanis. Turkey is also a transit country for migrants and refugees who are trying to reach Europe, particularly via the Aegean Sea to Greece. The country has faced criticism over its cooperation with the EU in managing migration flows, as well as concerns over human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Greece, Italy, Spain, and France are additional migrant transit nations. These nations serve as the primary entrance points for people entering Europe across the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa and the Middle East. With discussions about border controls, rescue efforts, and asylum procedures, these nations have been under intense scrutiny and controversy regarding their immigration laws and practices. Both Bulgaria and Macedonia serve as migrant transit hubs, with many of the migrants arriving from Afghanistan, Syria, and other nations. Over time, the number of migrants has changed, with recent months seeing an increase. In Bulgaria, the largest immigration groups are from Afghanistan, Syria, and Morocco, while in Macedonia, many come from Serbia and Syria. There have also been asylum seekers from countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Congo, with the majority of applicants being men.

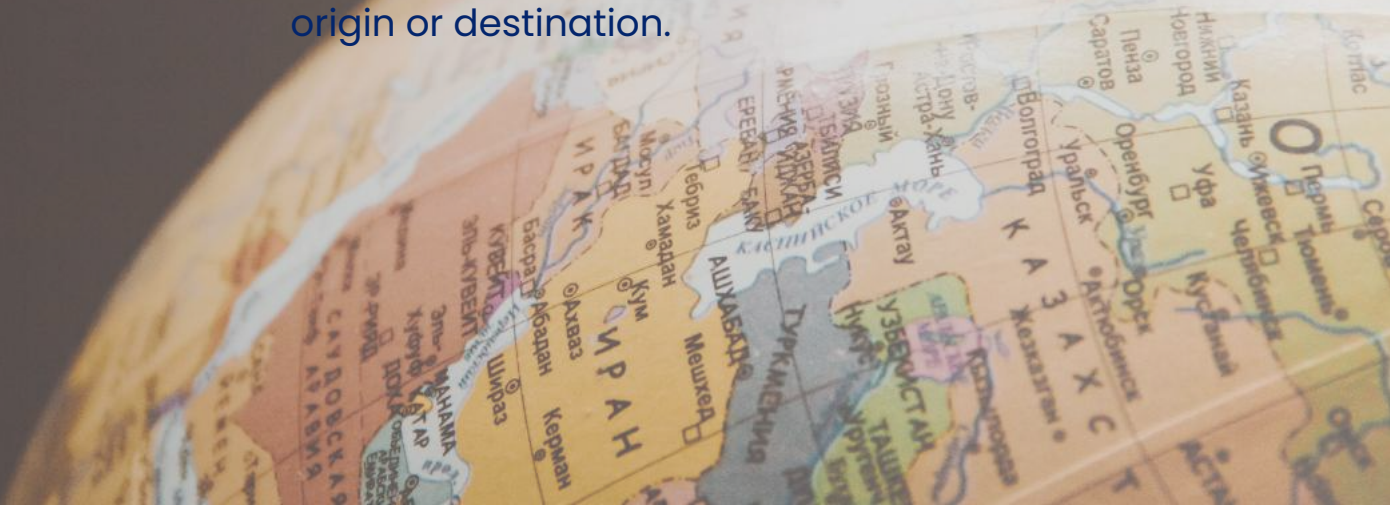
INTRODUCTION

The „Re-framing narratives about People on Move“ project is an upcoming initiative that aims to reshape the way we perceive individuals who are constantly on the move. The project is coordinated by the EDIT CENTER and took place from April 28th to May 7th, 2023 in Subotica.

The project will involve various partner organizations:
Youth Information Centre–Karlovo (Bulgaria)
Youth Empowerment Center (Greece)
ROMA YOUTH CENTRE ASSOCIATION (N. Macedonia)
Diyarbakir Cevre ve Kalkinma Dernegi (Turkey)
the bettermaking Ifjúsági Alapítvány (Hungary)
Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Osob z Niepełnosprawnością Open Mind (Poland)
and JUGEND, BILDUNG UND KULTUR EV (Germany)

The project seeks to reframe and challenge existing narratives about people who are on the move, and bring awareness to their experiences and contributions to society.

Within the scope of this project, this booklet aims to contribute to this paradigm shift by providing accurate, balanced, and engaging information about migration from various perspectives and contexts. By reading this booklet, we hope that readers will comprehend the complexities and subtleties of migration, appreciate the variety and resiliency of migrants, and promote laws and procedures that uphold and defend the human rights and dignity of migrants. Together, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate world for all, regardless of their origin or destination.



IMPORTANCE TO CHANGE NEGATIVE NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE

In recent years, Europe has experienced an increase in the number of migrants and refugees who have come to the continent in search of safety and a better life. Unfortunately, this influx has also been met with a rise in negative narratives and stereotypes about these groups, which can lead to discrimination and exclusion. It is essential to change these negative narratives towards migrants and refugees in Europe, to recognize their perspectives and contributions to the societies they move into.

Migration is one of the key challenges within the European Union in recent years.

Migration is driven by a number of push and pull factors – and narratives play an important role in shaping these factors and in influencing decisions about destinations, routes and expectations of migrants when they arrive.

For example, feedback from migrants back to their country of origin can affect the image or perception of Europe and thus affect migration in both positive and negative ways.

As in many European countries, the fear-driven discourse on migration is becoming more mainstream, the environment of the border

"acceptable" policy choices to measures guided by protection, security and exclusion.

How we perceive and talk about migrants and migration – the narrative – plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing equality and human rights of migrants.

One of the most important reasons to change negative narratives towards migrants and refugees is the moral imperative to treat all human beings with dignity and respect. Every person, regardless of their background, deserves to be treated fairly and without prejudice. By changing negative narratives, we can ensure that migrants and refugees are not unfairly stigmatized and can live with dignity and security.

IMPORTANCE TO CHANGE NEGATIVE NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE

Additionally, changing negative narratives can lead to a more peaceful and harmonious society. Prejudice and discrimination against migrants and refugees can lead to tension and conflict between different groups. By promoting positive narratives and highlighting the contributions of migrants and refugees, we can foster greater understanding and cooperation between different communities.

Moreover, it is essential to recognize the significant contributions that migrants and refugees make to the societies they move into. Many migrants and refugees are highly skilled and bring valuable knowledge and experience to their new communities. They contribute to the economy, create jobs, and enrich cultural diversity. Furthermore, many migrants and refugees are fleeing persecution, war, and other forms of violence. By offering them refuge, Europe is fulfilling its moral obligations and contributing to the global effort to support those in need.

Finally, changing negative narratives towards migrants and refugees is crucial for creating an inclusive and tolerant society. By recognizing and valuing diversity, we can build a society that is more resilient and better equipped to address the challenges of the future. Inclusivity and tolerance create a sense of belonging, which is critical for individuals' well-being and social cohesion.

In conclusion, changing negative narratives towards migrants and refugees in Europe is crucial for promoting human rights, creating a more peaceful society, recognizing the contributions of these groups, and building an inclusive and tolerant community. It is essential to recognize that migrants and refugees are not a burden on society but rather an asset. By working together to promote positive narratives, we can create a society that is more equitable, just, and prosperous for all.

Specific objectives:

- Built a community of practice on narrative change thinking and provided a safe and supportive environment to allow for the growth of NGO's in the area

- To gain knowledge and skills for youth about migration and situation in Europe nowadays, by using peer to peer activities and different methods of non-formal education

- To involve young people from Europe to stand out in their communities with the topic about migration

- To empower young people who will participate in this project to investigate their communities and identify public and social narratives about people who are faced with migration nowadays

- According to investigation, to teach participants how to create and run digital online campaign (using digital tools), in order to promote digital positive narratives referring to migration and people on move

- To promote New Programme for period 2021 - 2027 and opportunities which this program is providing

The project will help participants to plan their actions, develop and run campaigns designed to counter anti-migration narratives and help put diversity and inclusion back on the agenda

GENERAL CONCEPTS ON MIGRATION

The concept of Asylum Seeker; A person who has left their home country because they fear being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinions, or membership in a particular social group is said to be an asylum seeker. They file for asylum to be recognized as a refugee and look for safety in another nation.

Migrant is a person who relocates from one location to another, frequently for economic reasons, whether it's inside their own country or across international borders.

Immigrant is someone who relocates to another place with the goal of residing there permanently. Many immigrants leave their home countries in search of greater economic prospects or to flee social or political unrest there.

A person who has escaped their own country because of a legitimate fear of being persecuted because of their ethnicity, religion, nationality, political opinions, or membership in a particular social group is known as a refugee. Under international law, refugees are entitled to help and legal protection in a host nation.

A form of legal protection known as subsidiary protection is available to those who do not meet the criteria for refugee status but nonetheless run the substantial danger of suffering harm if they return to their country of origin. Similar legal safeguards and support are provided to refugees under this protection, which is provided under national or regional legislation.

Temporary Protection: People who are escaping war, conflict, or other types of violence may be eligible for temporary protection even if they do not fit the requirements for refugee status or subsidiary protection. After a set amount of time, the individual is required to return to their country of origin or apply for another type of legal status. In Turkey, Syrian refugees under the temporary protection.

STATISTICS

Communication	1st Communication	Repeated	GRAND TOTAL
ALLEGED_MINOR	19	0	19
CITIZEN	175	8	183
CITIZEN (UKRAINE)	543	3	546
HEALTH_INSTITUTION	15	3	18
IGO	51	16	67
NGO	2.126	713	2,839
OPEN ACC. FACILITY	239	19	258
OTHER	31	11	42
POLICE_DEPARTMENT	1.041	413	1,454
RAO	1.478	339	1,817
PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTER	160	10	170
SELF REFERRED ADULT (UKRAINE)	75	0	75
SELF REFERRED UAM (UKRAINE)	4	0	4
SELF_REFERRED_ADULT	76	6	82
SELF_REFERRED_UAM	593	79	672
TOTAL	6.626	1,620	8.246

Bulgaria net migration rate 1950-2023



- -0.704 per 1000 population, a 0.72% increase from 2022.
- -0.699 per 1000 population, a 0.72% increase from 2021.
- -0.694 per 1000 population, a 0.73% increase from 2020.

STATISTICS

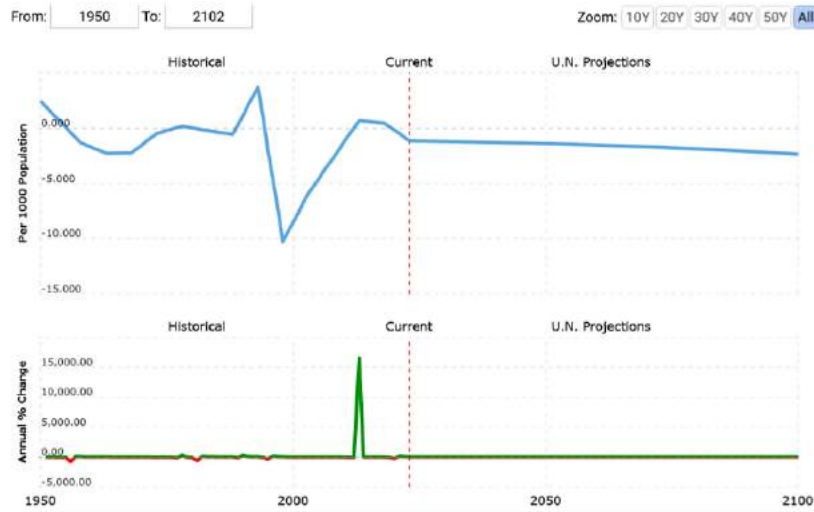


- The current net migration rate for Greece in 2023 is -0.778 per 1000 population, a 15.98% decline from 2022.
- The net migration rate for Greece in 2022 was -0.926 per 1000 population, a 13.78% decline from 2021.
- The net migration rate for Greece in 2021 was -1.074 per 1000 population, a 12.11% decline from 2020.
- The net migration rate for Greece in 2020 was -1.222 per 1000 population, a 10.8% decline from 2019.

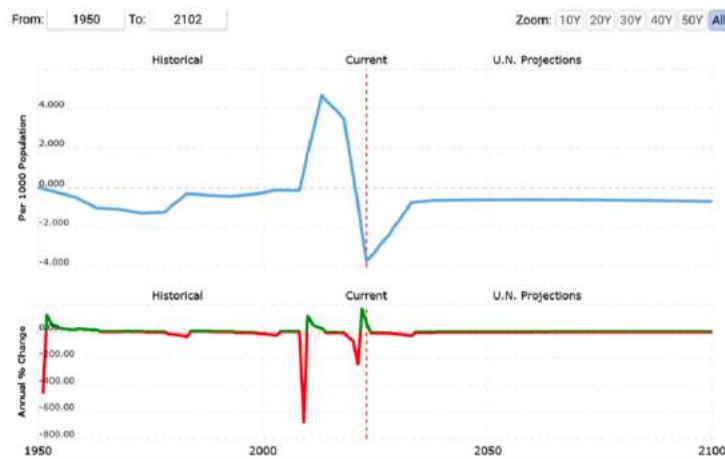


- The current net migration rate for Hungary in 2023 is 0.626 per 1000 population, a 0.32% increase from 2022.
- The net migration rate for Hungary in 2022 was 0.624 per 1000 population, a 0.32% increase from 2021.
- The net migration rate for Hungary in 2021 was 0.622 per 1000 population, a 0.16% increase from 2020.
- The net migration rate for Hungary in 2020 was 0.621 per 1000 population, a 0.32% increase from 2019.

STATISTICS



The current net migration rate for Serbia in 2023 is -1.160 per 1000 population, a 38.59% increase from 2022.
The net migration rate for Serbia in 2022 was -0.837 per 1000 population, a 62.84% increase from 2021.
The net migration rate for Serbia in 2021 was -0.514 per 1000 population, a 167.71% increase from 2020.
The net migration rate for Serbia in 2020 was -0.192 per 1000 population, a 246.56% decline from 2019.



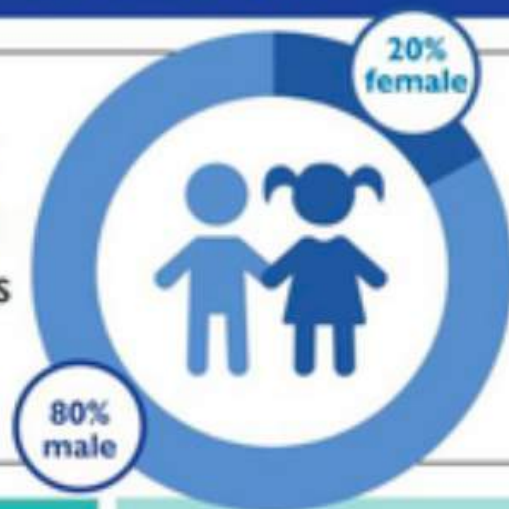
- The current net migration rate for Turkey in 2023 is -3.731 per 1000 population, a 63.14% increase from 2022.
- The net migration rate for Turkey in 2022 was -2.287 per 1000 population, a 170.97% increase from 2021.
- The net migration rate for Turkey in 2021 was -0.844 per 1000 population, a 240.67% decline from 2020.
- The net migration rate for Turkey in 2020 was 0.600 per 1000 population, a 70.63% decline from 2019.

STATISTICS

MERIMNA SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AT GREEK BORDER POINTS

March 2019 - March 2022

2,249 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) received assistance in Safe Areas (SAs). Among them, 1,851 are male and 398 female.



MAIN NATIONALITIES



4 Safe Areas are operating on five islands

Chios Samos Kos
Lesvos* Leros

*As of 1st of February 2022 the safe area is supported under the Development of Emergency Accommodation facilities for UMC

1,456
UMC

were transferred from SAs to shelters in Greece

2,497
PERSONAL HYGIENE KITS

were distributed to UMC in SAs

1,887
PERSONAL HYGIENE KITS

were distributed to UMC outside of SAs

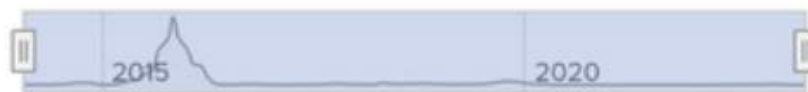
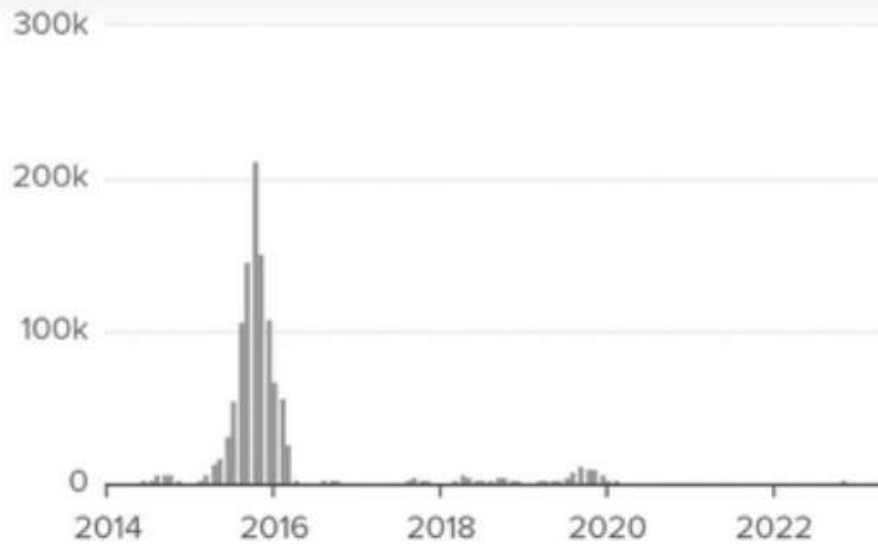
8,916
PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

were distributed to UMC in SAs

STATISTICS

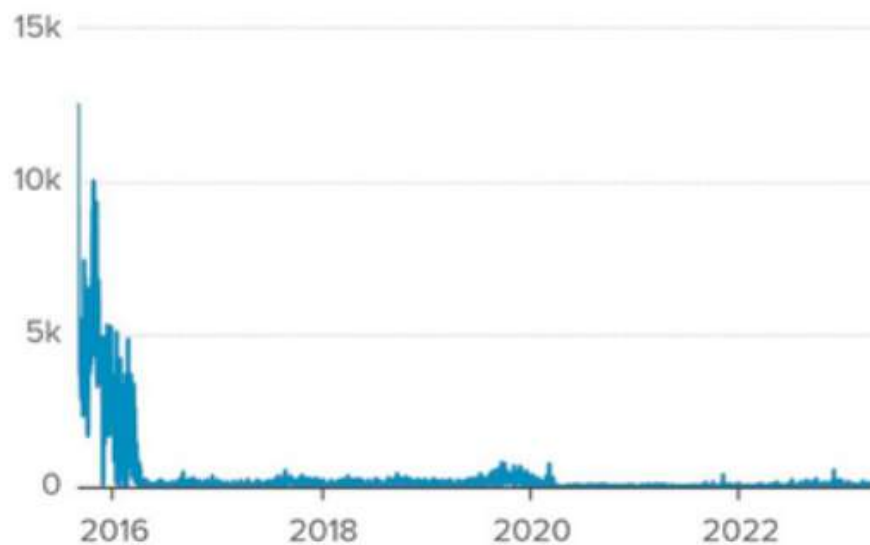
Sea and land arrivals monthly

[.CSV](#) [JSON](#)



Sea arrivals by day

[JSON](#)



STATISTICS

Most common nationalities of sea arrivals (since 1 January 2023)

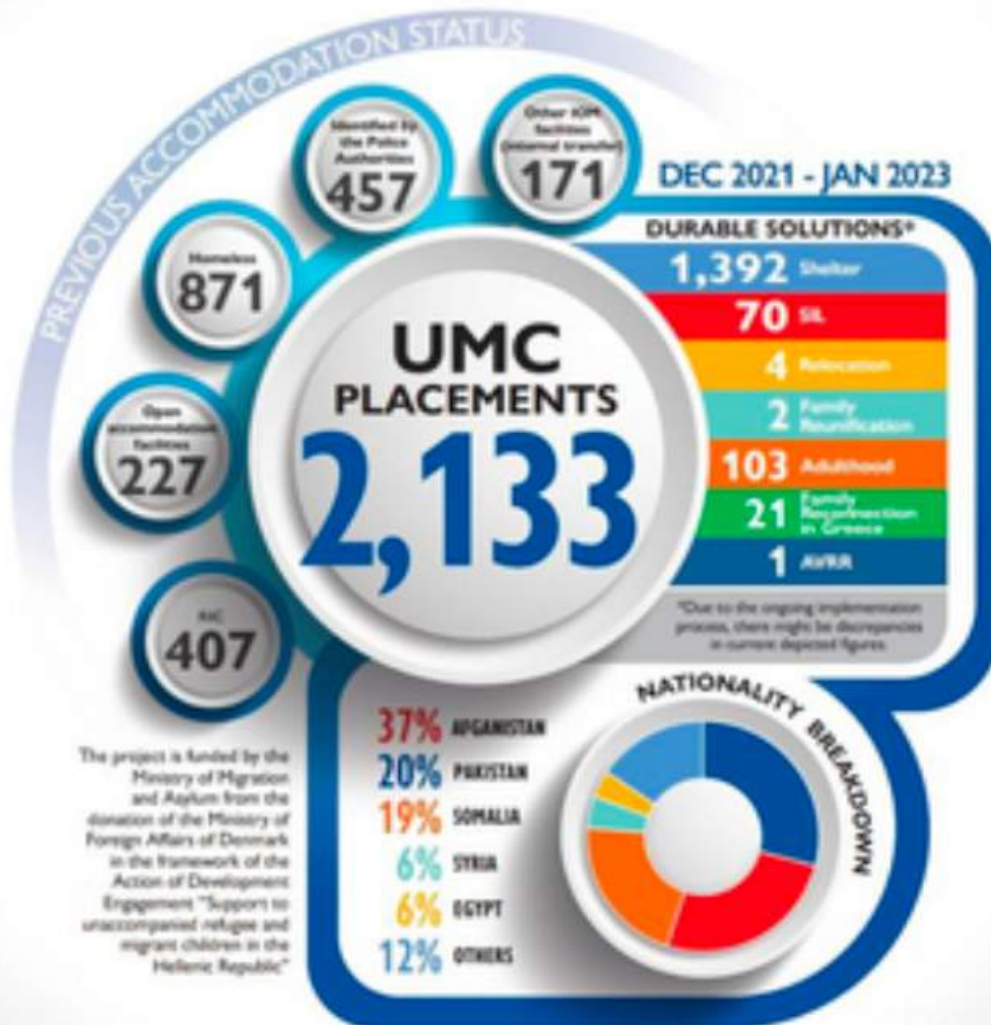
[.CSV](#)[JSON](#)

Country of origin	Source	Data date	Population
State of Palestine	Government	28 Feb 2023	510
Afghanistan	Government	28 Feb 2023	260
Sierra Leone	Government	28 Feb 2023	225
Somalia	Government	28 Feb 2023	191
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Government	28 Feb 2023	185
Syrian Arab Rep.	Government	28 Feb 2023	143
Eritrea	Government	28 Feb 2023	137
Yemen	Government	28 Feb 2023	112
Others	Government	28 Feb 2023	100
Cameroon	Government	28 Feb 2023	81
Sudan	Government	28 Feb 2023	81
Guinea	Government	28 Feb 2023	32
Ethiopia	Government	28 Feb 2023	16
Iraq	Government	28 Feb 2023	11
Gambia	Government	28 Feb 2023	10
Egypt	Government	28 Feb 2023	5

STATISTICS

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM

Establishment of Emergency Accommodation facilities for Unaccompanied Children



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum
Special Secretary for the Protection of UAMs



IOM
UN MIGRATION

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION



Consequently, it is particularly important to understand that migration has both positive and negative aspects. Helping people who want to migrate to realise their dreams, helping forced migrants and striving to protect their rights has been particularly emphasised in this project. Migrants need support to adapt to a new country, to express themselves and to build a new life. The fact that the participants learnt about this by observing it in a prominent region such as Subotica will undoubtedly contribute to future outputs.

Following the recent events in Afghanistan, Afghans have started to leave their country due to insecurity and uncertainty in their country. The Taliban's seizure of control in Afghanistan and the uncertainty this has created has led people to put their lives at risk. The massive influx of Afghans after the Syrian civil war can be linked to this current situation. Therefore, many Afghans want to seek asylum or refugee status in other countries. However, the plan of most refugees, as mentioned by the refugees interviewed in Subotica, is to reach EU countries. Serbia is therefore a transit route in this context.

Although the phenomenon of migration is often highlighted with its negativity, many people can change their lives positively in a new country. As a person who migrated from Turkey to Germany for the purpose of education, I am in a position to talk about a positive experience, at this point it can be stated that migration can help people realize their dreams, learn about different cultures, meet different people and build a new life. But certainly, there is a difference between forced migration and voluntary migration. However, it should be remembered that in both cases, people may face difficulties to adapt and lead a new life.

However, based on the experience that we gained in Serbia, in this project, with regard to the challenges of the migration phenomenon, it is also important to emphasise how difficult is the situation of illegal migrants who have been forced to migrate in Subotica, Serbia, a transit country that can be considered as the gateway to the EU in the context of this project. These people are forced to leave their homes due to war, poverty and other difficult circumstances and are exposed to many difficulties. The observations and mapping activities carried out within the scope of the project provided a realistic perspective on the life of the refugees. When people are in a forced migration situation, when human rights are not respected in their home countries and living conditions are poor, they seek a safe harbour. However, most migrants face difficulties in a new country, but are also forced to lose ties with the people and culture of the country from which they were forced to leave. The group we often met in Subotica was a group of Afghan refugees.

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

It was possible to speak Turkish with the interviewed refugees, but Afghanistan, although it is a country close to Turkey, does not have a direct border with Turkey, which could be of interest. The observations here are valuable in many ways, it seems that Afghans have to pass through countries like Iran or Pakistan before travelling to Turkey. In general terms, Turkey's open-door policy has undoubtedly enabled it to prioritise the transit of refugees to Turkey, while at the same time prioritising the building of a life there. This situation may be suitable to be presented as a factor that strengthens the use of Turkey as a transit point in a possible migration journey. However, due to the recent economic crisis in Iran and the increase in border controls, Afghans are looking for alternative ways to enter Turkey. When interviewed, the refugees firstly stated that they are in Turkey but they are still travelling because they are still not satisfied with the life here. At the moment it seems that they are in Subotica to go to Western Europe via there. After crossing from Afghanistan into Turkey, crossing into Serbia seems to have become a route used by many migrants to get to Western Europe. However, many of these routes are controlled by traffickers and can be dangerous.





ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

The Afghan refugees interviewed stated that they do not want to stay registered in Serbia, otherwise they know that they have to live here and therefore they want to live undocumented, even in difficult conditions, in order to access life in the EU. As a common problem, the refugees mentioned that the police come to inspect them and in this context they take their material goods and go back. The police demanding money from these people can lead to their further impoverishment and even to their being in a difficult situation. There is another aspect to this: if undocumented refugees have to pay money to the police, it can also jeopardise their safety, they may not trust the police to help them and they may be targeted by criminals. This interview was conducted as part of the project's talk with people on move in abandoned spots session.

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

In a world ravaged by conflict and upheaval, the story of Bilal T., a 29-year-old man from Syria, stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit. Driven by a relentless pursuit of a better life, Bilal embarks on a tumultuous journey in search of hope and opportunity. This article aims to shed light on his remarkable story, focusing on the need to inspire local communities and change the prevailing narratives about people on the move.

Bilal's journey begins against the backdrop of his dreams. Having completed five years of study to become an Electrical engineer, he aspired to contribute to the development of his homeland. However, the relentless war and mounting pressures in Syria shattered his dreams, leaving him with limited choices and a sense of despair.

In pursuit of better working conditions and a brighter future, Bilal decides to seek employment in Turkey. For three years, he toils as a laborer, but the reality falls far short of his expectations. As he grapples with the harsh conditions and unfulfilled dreams, he resolves to change his circumstances.

With unwavering determination, Bilal sets his sights on Europe, believing that his electrical knowledge and skills can contribute to society. Little does he know that this decision will mark the beginning of a series of challenges that will require him to rebuild his life from scratch. He recounts the arduous process of crossing borders, facing perilous obstacles, and the constant uncertainty that plagues migrants without proper documentation.

As Bilal arrives in Greece, he is confronted with a new environment and a need to adapt. The story delves into his struggle to acclimate to unfamiliar surroundings, forge new friendships, and navigate the intricate web of bureaucratic and legal barriers that often plague migrants. It shines a light on the mental and physical toll that repeated relocations and the inability to secure stable employment take on individuals.

Bilal's first hand testimony paints a vivid picture of the vulnerability and frustration experienced by those living in a state of constant uncertainty. Through his words, readers gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by refugees and migrants, offering a unique perspective on the realities of displacement and the strength of the human spirit. Bilal's story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of empathy, compassion, and solidarity in our interconnected world.

Bilal's journey embodies the resilience and hope that drive millions of individuals seeking a better life. By sharing his story, we hope to shift the narrative surrounding people on the move, encouraging local communities to embrace empathy and understanding. It is through compassion and unity that we can create a more inclusive and welcoming world for those who have faced unimaginable hardships on their journey to a better life.

What if your freedom was stripped away, leaving you with limited options for survival? How would you respond? Would you choose to remain in a place where your dreams are shattered, or would you embark on a perilous journey in search of hope and a chance for a better life?

These questions force us to confront the stark realities faced by individuals like Bilal. It compels us to question the narratives that surround people on the move and challenges us to dismantle the barriers that hinder their integration into new communities.

Imagine, for a moment, if you were in their shoes. Consider the strength and resilience required to leave behind everything you know and embark on a treacherous journey into the unknown. How would you want to be received upon your arrival? Would you long for empathy, understanding, and a helping hand?

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

Bilal's story reminds us that the power to change narratives lies within each of us. By fostering empathy and compassion, we can create a society that welcomes and embraces those seeking refuge and a chance at a better life. Let us challenge the biases and prejudices that hinder our ability to see the humanity in others.

So, I implore you to reflect upon Bilal's journey and consider how you can contribute to creating a more inclusive and compassionate world. Let us stand together, united by our shared humanity, and work towards dismantling the barriers that prevent individuals from finding safety, dignity, and a place to call home.

In the end, it is through our collective efforts that we can change the narratives, empower local communities, and foster a society that values the strength and resilience of those on the move.

Bilal (Syria)
Subotica



STORY OF MY LIFE

"Before I came here, before the war, we had a happy and quiet life with my family in Syria. With the start of the war, we had to leave our country behind. Because the city we were in was in the middle of the conflict on all sides. We started the migration journey quickly, taking my children and my family. As hard as it is to leave my home, homeland and memories behind, it is also difficult to migrate to another place and get used to living there. First of all, we migrated to Şanlıurfa, Türkiye. After staying there for a while in a refugee camp, we came here upon the invitation of our relatives who had settled in Diyarbakır before. We have been living here since 2016. Living here as a Muslim gives us a sense of comfort. People have helped us a lot because they like to help each other. The government also helps us partially. I am happy to live here now. I no longer have the strength to migrate to another country. I want to live here for the rest of my life. Some of my family have sought asylum in Germany or other European countries. I am not a fan of going."

Diyarbakir, Turkey



"Meeting my refugee brothers was one of the most difficult moments of my life. It is a very different situation to share their pain, try to understand them to some extent and empathize. I was trying to be extremely careful when asking them questions, because I didn't want to bleed their wounds again. When I entered the house, the smell of dampness felt intensely caused me a headache. This situation made me very sad and I thought that we couldn't do anything but let these people live in this situation. While we live in 4-room houses, 8 people live in this one-room house with a broken door, cracked windows, cracked walls. No one who does not have to, does not have to live here. He doesn't want to live here. The part that impressed me the most during the interview we had was the following words of Osman, the father of the family; We became refugees after the war. We lost everything, we lost our home, our job, our relatives, the land we live in. We lost our homeland. But we haven't lost one thing, and that is the smile on my children's face. If we lose the smile, there is no point in living anymore."

Diyarbakir, Turkey



STORY OF MY LIFE

Farooq is born and raised in Pakistan to a big family and big dreams. From small town went to big city in Pakistan but then life happened and he decided to move to Germany. Even being an entrepreneur and running a travel business, he decided to move to Europe to achieve his bigger dreams.

He ended up in Germany in 2020 during Covid pandemic and had very difficult times at start doing hard work in Factory and warehouse but he continued his masters in media arts and also got a job as working student in a big company. Last month he successfully finished his masters and now even dream bigger than Himalayas.

Farooq (Pakistan)
Frankfurt, Germany



ABOUT OBSERVATIONS
AND STORIES ON
MIGRATION



FROM SYRIA TO NOVI SAD: A JOURNEY OF DREAMS AND BELONGING

In war-torn Syria, a young woman named Hiba yearned to escape the horrors of the conflict and pursue her dreams of becoming a doctor.

Faced with immense challenges and a dangerous journey ahead, Hiba made the brave decision to leave her homeland in search of safety and a better future.

Hiba embarked on a perilous journey, traversing through neighboring countries, hoping to find solace and opportunities. She faced numerous challenges along the way, but her determination and resilience never wavered. Despite the difficulties, she managed to reach Cyprus, where she initially enrolled in a medical program on local University.

However, Hiba soon realized that the quality of education in Cyprus did not match her aspirations. Disheartened, she yearned for a place where she could truly excel and receive the education she deserved. It was during this moment of uncertainty that a phone call from her father's friend in Serbia changed the course of her life.

The friend, who was studying medicine at the University of Novi Sad, spoke passionately about the city's welcoming environment and excellent educational opportunities. Intrigued by the prospect, Hiba and her father made the bold decision that she needs to move to Novi Sad.

Upon arriving in Novi Sad, Hiba immediately felt a sense of belonging. The city embraced her with open arms, and she encountered nothing but warmth and kindness from the people around her. Gone were the prejudices and the discrimination she had experienced before. Here, she was simply Hiba, a young woman with dreams and ambitions.



With renewed hope, Hiba dove into her studies at the University of Novi Sad. She found herself captivated by the comprehensive curriculum, dedicated professors, and the supportive community of fellow students. The learning environment was nurturing, allowing her to flourish and reach her full potential.

As Hiba neared the end of her medical studies, she was filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. She had overcome incredible obstacles and was now only two exams away from realizing her dream of becoming a doctor. The thought of contributing to the well-being of others filled her with joy and purpose.

Hiba's dream was not limited to being just a doctor. She aspired to undertake a medical internship at a prestigious clinic in Novi Sad, immersing herself in the world of medicine and gaining invaluable experience. She yearned to use her skills and knowledge to bring healing and comfort to those in need.

In Novi Sad, Hiba found not only a city that embraced her, but a place where she could thrive and contribute to society. The positivity and support she encountered from the people of Novi Sad made her believe that anything was possible. With each passing day, she grew more confident that her dreams were within reach.

As Hiba stood on the verge of completing her studies, she knew that the future held endless possibilities. Novi Sad had become her sanctuary, a place where her refugee status didn't define her, and where her dreams could flourish. With gratitude in her heart and a determination that knew no bounds,

Hiba eagerly awaited the day she would proudly walk as a doctor in Novi Sad, ready to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

STORY OF MY LIFE



Beyond the realm of academics, Hiba created the network of friends in Novi Sad and together with them celebrated their diverse heritage through cultural events and gatherings. They shared traditional dishes, music, and dances, allowing their differences to strengthen their bond. These moments of joy and connection created a sense of belonging that Hiba had longed for since leaving Syria.

Together, Hiba and her international friends explored the vibrant city of Novi Sad, discovering its historical landmarks, parks, and bustling cafés.

They laughed, shared stories, and created lasting memories, knowing that they had found a second family in each other.

In addition to her studies and friendships, Hiba found fulfillment in volunteering as a translator.

Hiba's volunteer work as a translator not only helped others but also deepened her understanding of different communities and their challenges.

She witnessed firsthand the transformative power of language in breaking down barriers and fostering connection. Inspired by her experiences, Hiba's friends joined her in various initiatives, amplifying the positive impact they could make together.

Hiba's story in Novi Sad was not just one of personal triumph; it was a testament to the power of resilience, community, and embracing diversity. Through her determination, the support of her friends, and her commitment to helping others, Hiba had found a place where her dreams could flourish.

Novi Sad became a sanctuary where Hiba could pursue her passion and make a positive impact on the lives of others as she ventured closer to her goal of becoming a doctor.

Hiba (Syria)
Serbia

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

In January 2023. Adam moved from Czech Republic to Poland. In the continuation of the text, the participants of the project from the Polish organization conducted an interview with Adam.

What was the most difficult part of coming here?

- To leave my life back in Czech Republic and come here without a minimal amount of connections, friendships, etc.

What most surprised you?

- Quite low rent prices and good traffic infrastructure (highways, public transportation, etc.).

What do you like about living in Poland?

- Relatively cheap life (daily expenses, rent, services, etc.), overall quality of services, gastronomy, city culture and the overall vibe (this can be very subjective and dependable on my location since I don't have experience with a lot of places across Poland).

What do you not like about living in Poland?

- Big taxes, all sorts of administration, big influence of religion and its impact on women's rights and LGBTQI community.

Did you know any stereotypes about Poland before coming here?

- Conservative socio-political situation (the last point described in previous question) and for some less developed and progressive country in comparison to two countries I lived before (Slovakia and Czech republic).

Did you confirm or reject any of those stereotypes?

- The first one was more or less confirmed (even though not as much as I thought), the second one was rejected.

What were your expectations about Poland before coming here?

- Considering I was coming here from similar country/ies within similar geo-political area I didn't have any specific expectations.

Did you face any formal problems with registration/finding a job/at the university etc.?

- Yes, I found (still am finding) the registration process very difficult. It's a huge problem to even make a reservation, even when you have a reservation, you are not able to complete the process because some documentation is missing (even though it wasn't mentioned in official guidelines) and not very officer speaks English (not even elementary level). All of the above is making the whole process stressful, unnecessary long. There might be also an impact on other crucial things, for example creating your bank account, that is essentially not possible before you have at least PESEL number. I think there is a big space for improvement. Without help of my girlfriend in this area I would lost and desperate about the whole registration process.

Do you know any activities/actions in your neighborhood aimed to integrate the foreigners and the local society?

- Yes, I am aware of some initiatives. However, mostly about the ones organized on private basis. Not aware of any events organized by the official institutions.

What do you think could be improved in Poland regarding the migration?

- Definitely the registration process, for example it could be at least partially digitalized, and the whole process could be made a lot easier or at least official guideline should be reflecting everything what's needed to avoid situations that you think you have everything correct and then you are told that you have to provide many of follow up documentations/confirmations.

ABOUT OBSERVATIONS AND STORIES ON MIGRATION

How do you think that migration has changed you?

- I am more independent.

What are the 2 or 3 most important things that people could do to make the process of coming to Poland better?

- Digitalize the process, clear and complete information about the whole process should be provided.

If someone you knew were planning on migrating to Poland, what would you tell them to expect?

- A lot of administration but after that, very interesting life with a lot of opportunities in a beautiful country.

Adam (Czech Republic)

Poland



WHY IS IMPORTANT TO CHANGE PUBLIC NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE

Changing the narratives about a difficult topic such as migration is a huge challenge for our society. In this Erasmus project we attempted to find and talk to people who experienced leaving their HOMES. Our aim was to understand their situation, raise awareness, and recommend some solutions in order to make their life at least slightly better.

People who are forced to migrate from their home countries may have experienced significant trauma and hardship. Approaching them with empathy, compassion, and respect can help create a more welcoming and supportive environment.

Language barriers can be a significant obstacle for migrants and refugees in accessing services and integrating into their new communities. Providing language and cultural support can help facilitate communication and ease the transition process.

Building connections with local communities can help create a sense of belonging and support for migrants and refugees. Community events and activities can help promote interaction and mutual understanding.

Access to education and job opportunities can help migrants and refugees build their skills, find employment, and integrate into their new communities.

Changing the public narrative regarding migrants requires a multifaceted approach, including education and awareness-raising campaigns, promoting positive media portrayals, providing opportunities for intercultural exchange and dialogue, and promoting policies that are inclusive and fair towards migrants. Community engagement, building relationships with migrant communities, and showcasing their contributions to society can also help shift attitudes towards a more positive and inclusive perspective.

Approaching migrants or refugees with empathy, respect, and understanding is key to building trust and establishing positive relationships. This can involve providing essential services and support, creating safe spaces for migrants to share their experiences and perspectives, and promoting opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Communication should be conducted in a clear and accessible manner, and efforts should be made to understand and address the unique needs and challenges faced by different migrant communities.

Avoid asking them where they are from. We should start with asking them if they need help with anything. Try to integrate them in our society by making refugee schools and camps near the towns so they can be part of the society. When they start feeling comfortable around the other people their mental and physical health .

APPROACH AND RECOMANDATIONS



APPROACH & RECOMANDATIONS

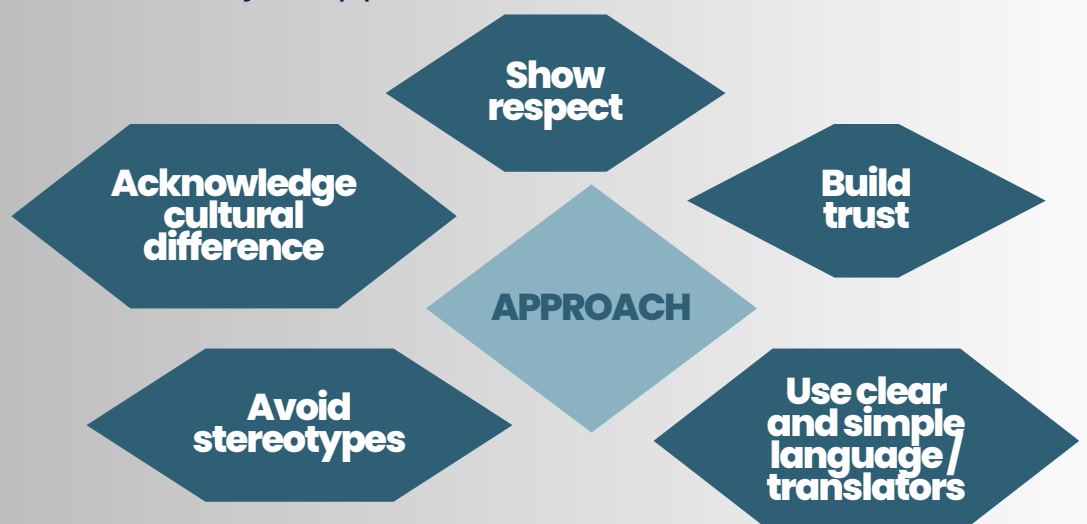
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The public's approach to migrants is mostly negative in each one of our countries. The citizens feel as if they're being superior and wrongly disregarded by the government in terms of distribution of money.

We should make the public aware of the fact that migrants have much less opportunities than citizens. Work opportunities and psychological help are also essential to truly make proper integration possible.

We should appreciate people who are specialists in certain academic areas and careers and give them suitable job opportunities.



Online campaigns can be instrumental in changing public narratives about migration. Here's how you can effectively use online campaigns to shape public opinion and promote a more inclusive understanding of migration:

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

1. Identify the narrative: Understand the prevailing narrative surrounding migration and identify the specific aspects that need to be addressed or countered. This could involve misconceptions, stereotypes, fear, or misinformation. Pinpoint the key messages you want to convey to challenge and reshape the existing narrative.
2. Craft compelling storytelling: Storytelling is a powerful tool for changing hearts and minds. Share personal stories of migrants, highlighting their experiences, contributions, and aspirations. Focus on humanizing migrants and showing the diversity and richness they bring to communities. Use various mediums such as videos, articles, interviews, and testimonials to effectively communicate these narratives.
3. Collaborate with migrant communities: Engage directly with migrant communities and involve them in shaping the campaign. Seek their input, perspectives, and stories to ensure an authentic representation. Collaborating with migrant-led organizations and grassroots initiatives can provide valuable insights and support for your campaign.



4.Leverage social media platforms: Utilize social media platforms to reach a broad audience and engage in conversations about migration. Create engaging and shareable content that challenges stereotypes and provides factual information. Use hashtags strategically to promote your campaign and encourage user-generated content that supports your message.

5.Engage with influencers and advocates: Identify influencers, activists, celebrities, and public figures who are supportive of migrant rights and inclusive narratives. Collaborate with them to amplify your campaign's reach and credibility. Encourage them to share stories, endorse your message, and engage with their followers to foster positive discussions around migration.

6.Provide accurate information: Counter misinformation and myths by providing accurate and reliable information about migration. Share data, research, and studies from reputable sources to debunk misconceptions. Offer accessible resources that educate the public about the economic, social, and cultural benefits of migration.

7. Foster dialogue and engagement: Create spaces for constructive dialogue and engagement. Encourage open discussions about migration by hosting live streams, webinars, or online forums. Respond to comments, questions, and concerns with empathy and provide well-informed answers to address misconceptions or fears.

Remember, changing public narratives about migration requires a sustained effort over time. It is essential to approach the topic with empathy, respect, and a commitment to fostering understanding and inclusivity. By leveraging the power of online campaigns, you can influence public opinion, challenge stereotypes, and promote a more compassionate and informed dialogue around migration.

ONLINE CAMPAIGN AS A TOOL FOR CHANGING PUBLIC NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE



EDIT Center and its 7 partners are launching a ten-day online campaign that is part of the Youth Exchange "Re-framing narratives about people on the move".

The aim of the campaign is to promote a positive narrative towards people on the move and influence the awareness of the local environment in which we live. During the online campaign, you will have the opportunity to see the results of 40 participants from Turkey, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Greece, Poland and Serbia who actively worked and learned about migration for 8 days and created digital content with the aim of informing.

CAMPAIGN

1

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

**BREAK
THE
WALLS**

MIGRANTS ARE NOT THE THREAT

**PEOPLE JUDGE MIGRANTS WITHOUT
KNOWING THEIR STORY. THEY ALSO
HAVE RIGHT FOR PEACEFULL LIFE
AND WE NEED TO GIVE THEM THE
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW
THEM AND LISTEN TO THEIR
STORIES. THE WALLS THAT
SEPARATE US NEEDS TO
BE DESTROYED.**

#BREAKTHEWALLS

#FREEDOM

#FREEMOUMENT



EVERY CRY
FOR HELP
MUST BE
HEARD.



Ukrainians
in Displacement

YOU'RE THE STARTPOINT OF
MAKING THIS HAPPEN.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE
AROUND THE WORLD, WHO
CAN'T SPEAK UP FOR
THEMSELVES.
AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES
AND LOVED ONES
THEY'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING,
BUT HOPE FOR BETTER DAYS.
HELP THEM FIND THE
BETTER DAYS.
BE THE CHANGE TODAY.

#SPEAKFORTHOSEWHOCANT
#HELPHUMANITY

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

3



ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

4

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE





ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

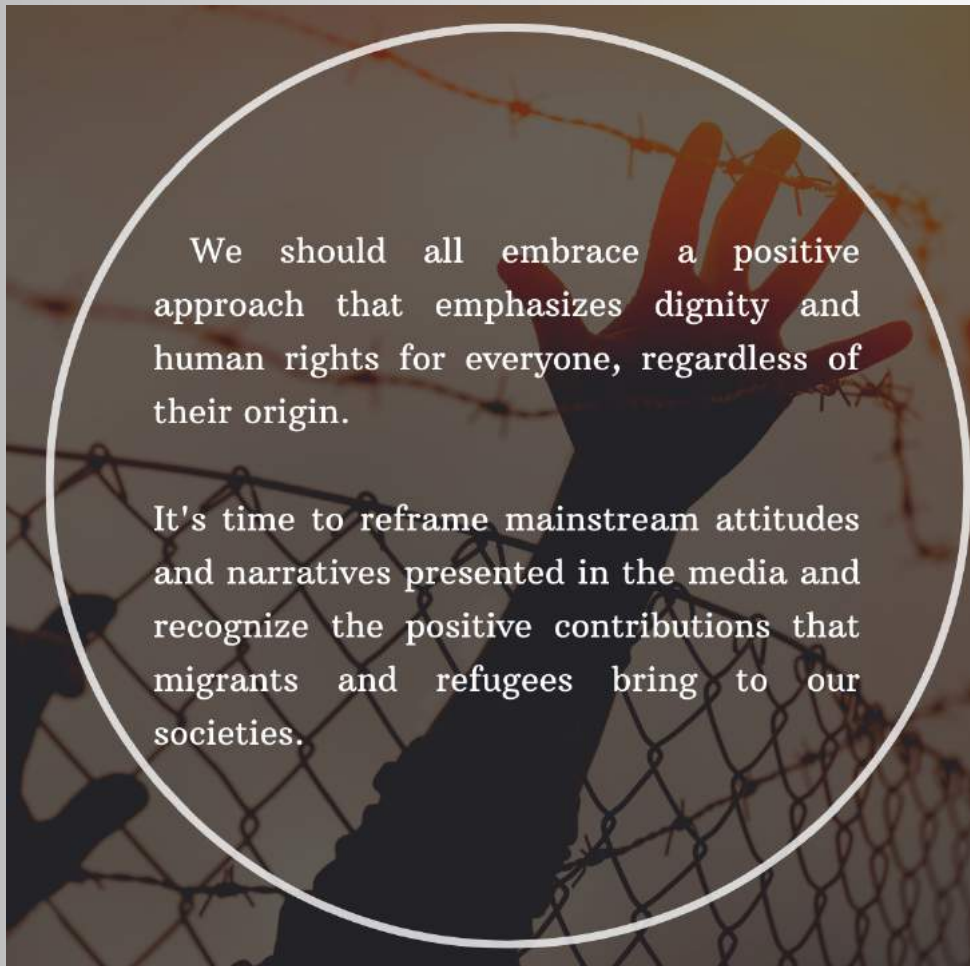


#MigrationIsPositive
#HumanRightsForAll
#EmbraceDiversity



We should all embrace a positive approach that emphasizes dignity and human rights for everyone, regardless of their origin.

It's time to reframe mainstream attitudes and narratives presented in the media and recognize the positive contributions that migrants and refugees bring to our societies.



6

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE



Co-funded by
the European Union



*“You are not entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to your **informed** opinion. No one is entitled to be ignorant.”*

Harlan Ellison



#migranstlivematter
#humanrightsforall
#reframenarratives



7

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

Co-funded by
the European Union

EDITCENTAR

**“Peace cannot be kept by
force; it can only be achieved
by understanding.”**

Albert Einstein



**We cannot and should not stop
people from migration. We
have to give them a better life
at home. Migration is a process,
not a problem.**

William L. Swin



ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE

We can't deter people fleeing for their lives. They will come. The choice we have is how well we manage their arrival, and how humanely.

Antonio Guterres

Co-funded by the European Union

If you want to change the world, start with yourself.

Mahatma Gandhi

REFUGEES
WELCOME

ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
NARRATIVES ABOUT
PEOPLE ON MOVE



Farooq's Journey



Farooq is born and raised in Pakistan to a big family and big dreams. From small town went to big city in Pakistan but then life happened and he decided to move to Germany. Even being an entrepreneur and running a travel business, he decided to move to Europe to achieve his bigger dreams.



He ended up in Germany in 2020 during covid peak and had very difficult times at start doing hard jobs in Factory and warehouse but he continued his masters in media arts and also got a job as working student in a big company. Last month he successfully finished his masters and now even dream bigger than himalayas.



10

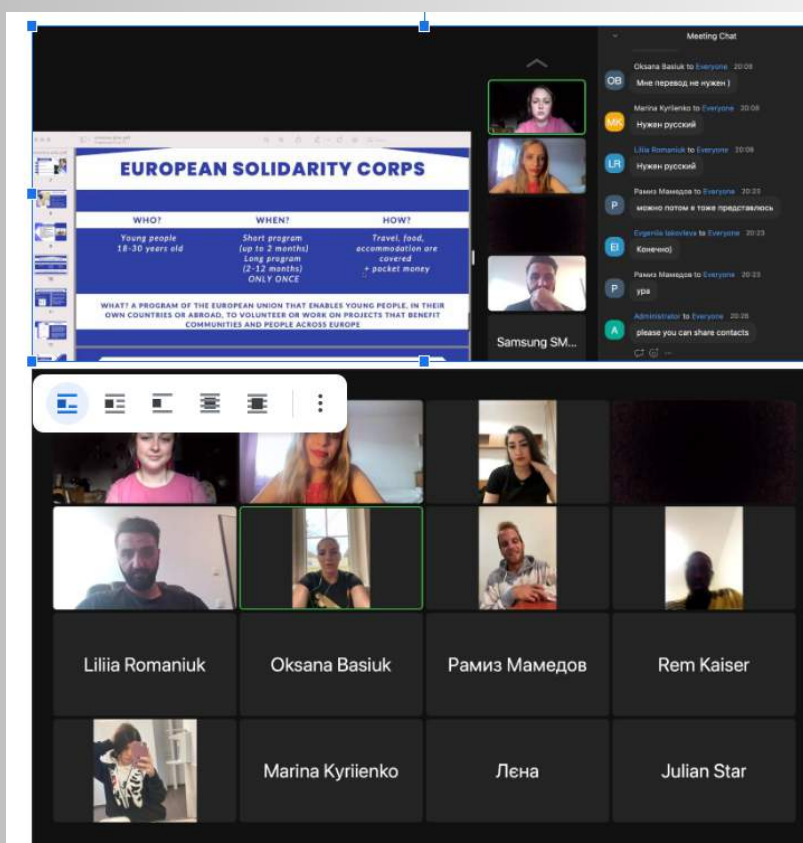
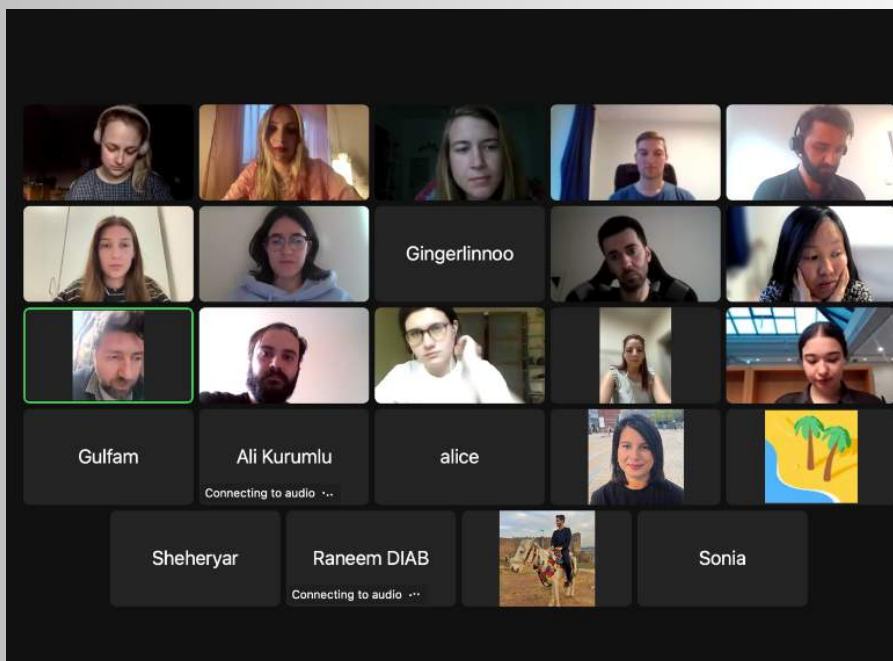


ONLINE CAMPAIGN
AS A TOOL FOR
CHANGING PUBLIC
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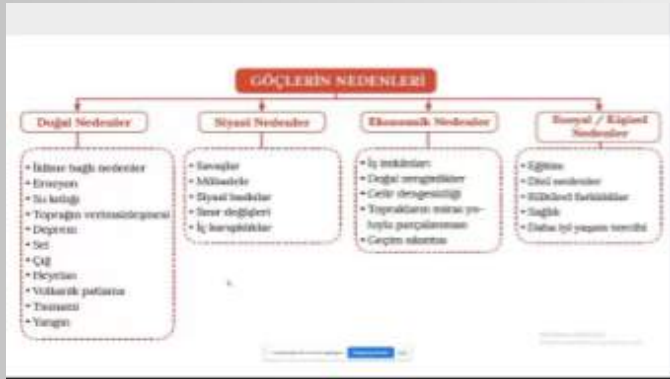
Certainly! Project results refer to the outcomes, achievements, and deliverables of this project. These results represent the successful completion of project activities and the fulfillment of project objectives.

In the following, we will refer to the work of the participants on the project and after.

Germany

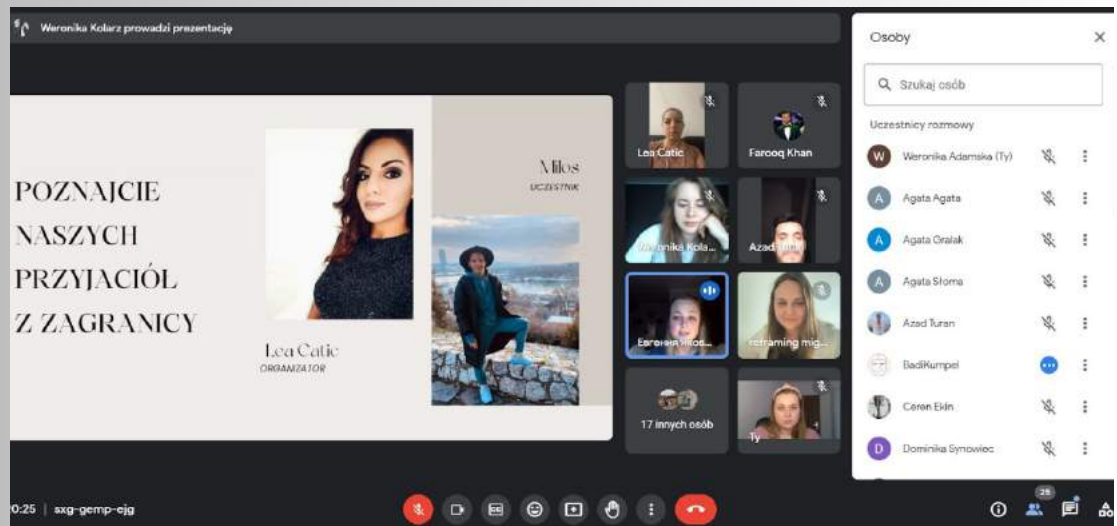
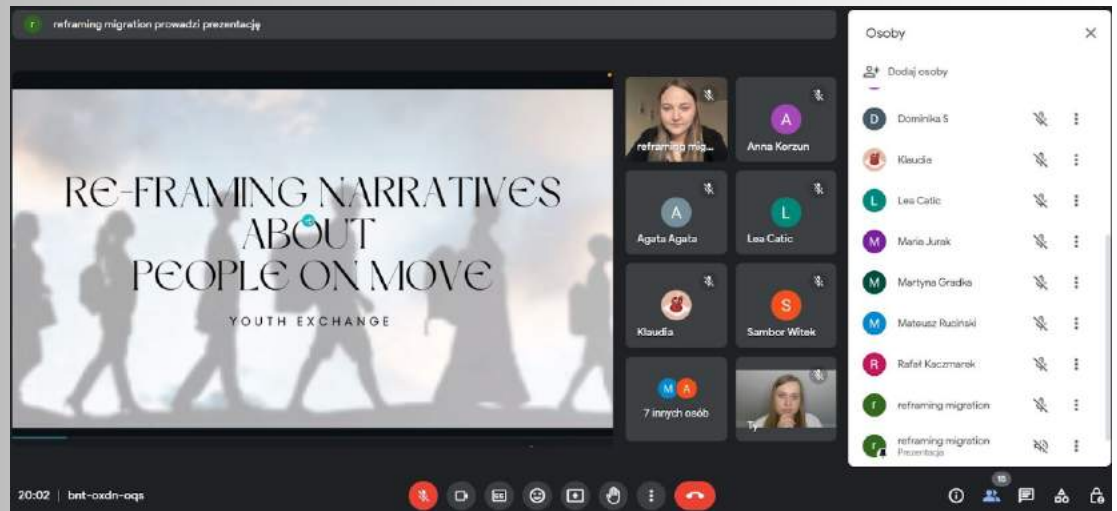


Turkey



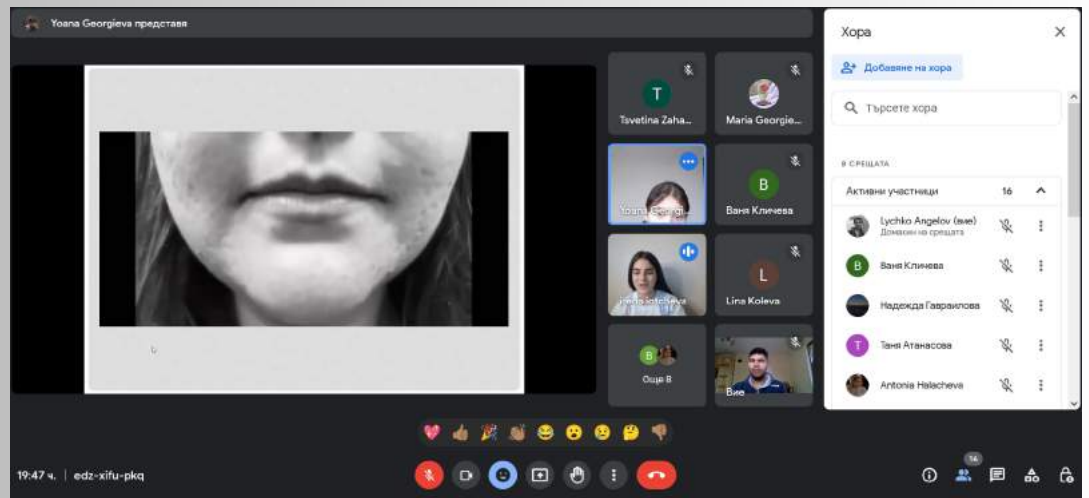
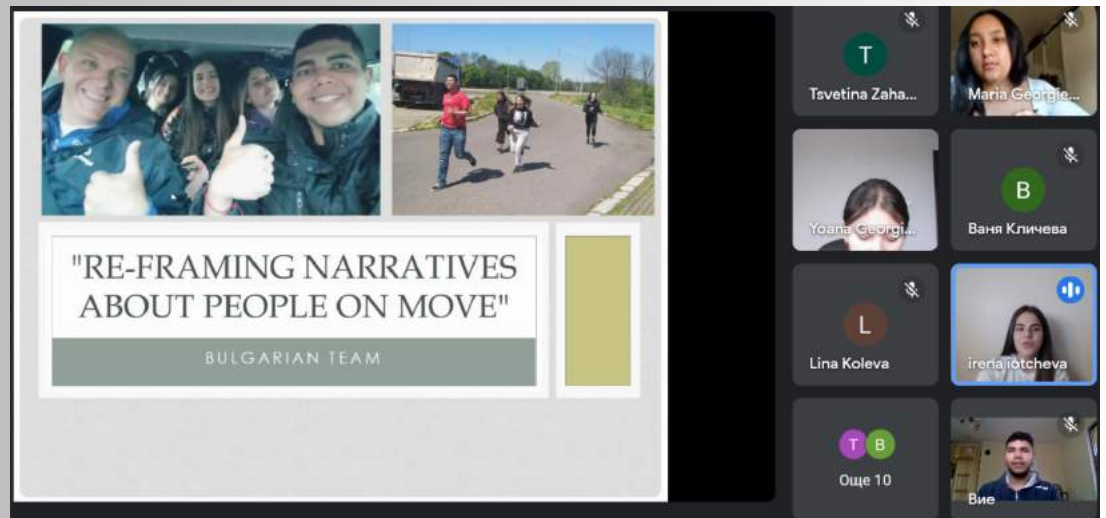
PROJECT RESULTS -
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

Poland



PROJECT RESULTS –
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

Bulgaria



PROJECT RESULTS –
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

Hungary

PROJECT RESULTS –
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH



Greece

PROJECT RESULTS -
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH



North Macedonia



Serbia



Serbia

PROJECT RESULTS – ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

O PROJEKTU/ABOUT THE PROJECT

„Menjanje javnih narativa o ljudima u pokretu” je razmena mladih čiji je glavni cilj osnaživanje učesnika i izgradnja kapaciteta omladinskih lidera, volontera, omladinskih aktivista i članova partnerskih organizacija da istražuju svoje zajednice i identifikuju javne i društvene narative o ljudima koji su danas suočeni sa migracijom. Projekat će pomoći učesnicima da zajedno isplaniraju svoje konkretne akcije, razviju i vode kampanje osmišljene da se suprotstave narativima protiv migracija i pomognu da se različitost i inkluzija društveno vrednuje.

“Re-framing narratives about people on the move” is a youth exchange whose main goal is to empower participants and build the capacity of youth leaders, volunteers, youth activists and members of partner organizations to research their communities and identify public and social narratives about people who are facing migration today. The project will help participants to jointly plan their concrete actions, develop and run campaigns designed to counter anti-migration narratives and help diversity and inclusion to be socially valued.

What we did...?

PROJECT RESULTS -
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH



What we did...?



PROJECT RESULTS –
ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

What we did...?



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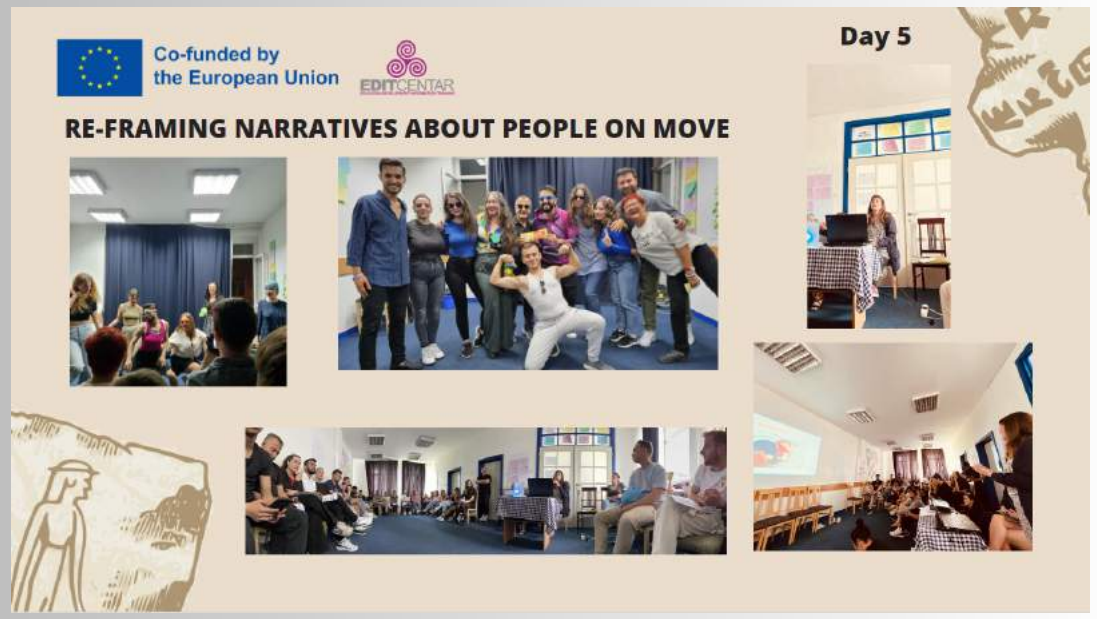
Day 3



RE-FRAMING NARRATIVES ABOUT PEOPLE ON MOVE



What we did...?



What we did...?

04.05.2023



WE ALSO HAD TO DO RESEARCH ON MIGRANTS IN OUR NATIVE COUNTRIES, LOOK INTO STATISTICS AND MORE.



ON THIS DAY WE ACTUALLY GOT TO TALK AND MEET WITH PEOPLE ON THE MOVE. WE WENT TO A "REFUGEE CAMP" AND HEARD THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE. WE ALSO DONATED FOOD AND WATER TO THEM.



CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IDENTIFY EXISTING PROBLEM
2. UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT
3. CHALLENGE THE NARRATIVE



4. AMPLIFY ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS
5. CREATE NEW NARRATIVES



What we did...?

DAY 8

Re-Framing Narratives About People on Move

A "secret friend" activity was prepared from the first day. In this framework, each day a friend had to prepare a special memorial note.



The day started with the participation of the Guest Lecturer. The documentaries focused on the migrant/refugee camp in Subotica, with a film focusing on migration issues.



Youth Pass Certificates were distributed.



After dinner, bowling and spending time together were organized.



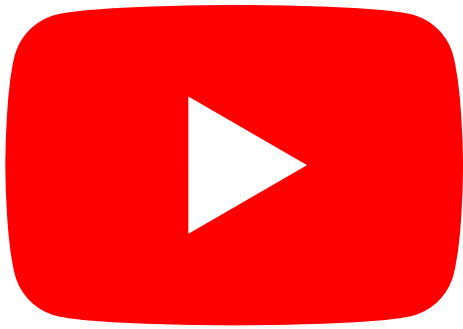
this is not goodbye...



Building trust within a team is crucial for fostering collaboration, open communication, and achieving shared goals. . .



follow us



@reframingmigration



@reframingmigration



@REFRAMINGMIGRATION



Project coordinators



EDIT Center

Partner organisations



Младежки информационен център-Карлово/ Youth Information Centre- Karlovo



Youth Empowerment Center/Κέντρο Ενδυνάμωσης Νέων



ROMA YOUTH CENTRE ASSOCIATION



Diyarbakir Cevre ve Kalkinma Dernegi



the bettermaking Ifjúsági Alapítvány



Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Osob z Niepełnosprawnościa Open Mind



JUGEND, BILDUNG UND KULTUR EV

...unless the water is safer than the land."

— Warsan Shire