

GOING LOCAL: GROUND-UP SUPPORT FOR DIVERSITY, INTEGRATION, SOCIAL CARE OF ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Date: 4th - 6th December 2019

Location: Hotel *Zira*, Ruzveltova 35, Belgrade.

DRAFT AGENDA

4TH DECEMBER

14.00-18.00 Arrival of international participants, Hotel Zira, Ruzveltova 35, Belgrade.

20.00-22.00 Joint dinner at Réfuge Bakery & Boulangerie, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 10z

5TH DECEMBER

9.00 -9.30 Registration of participants - Hotel Zira, hall Mikonos.

9.30-11.30 Panel 1: Asylum seekers and refugees in the host countries: state of play

This discussion will include representatives from all 12 countries participating at the Integration Days. In the tour de table format, each participant will present in maximum 10 minutes, very concisely:

- Latest statistics and trends on the numbers of asylum seekers and refugees in their home countries;
- Government's policy towards the refugees and asylum seekers:
 - to what extent is it restrictive/open;
 - are there any noticed shifts in that regard;
 - what is its relationship with the NGOs/providers of legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees
- Public discourse on the refugees and asylum seekers; citizens' perceptions and public opinion.

11.30-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-13.30 Panel 2: Local responses to integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees: success stories

This panel will explore the impact of small-scale efforts in supporting integration of M/AS/R in the local communities: community driven initiatives on integration, citizen engagement, benefits of volunteerism, inclusion into the labor market, and other success stories.

13.30-14.30 Transfer to Nova Iskra, Cara Uroša 18; light lunch

14.30-16.30 Panel 3: Breaking fears and prejudices in the host societies about the migrants, asylum seekers and refugees - comparative perspective

Public opinion polls across Europe reveal rather negative attitudes of local population towards the exiles. Most of the citizens' perceptions are believed to be influenced by ignorance, prejudices, unethical media reporting and populist political discourse. This panel will explore different experiences in countering prejudices and false information surrounding this topic and come up with inspiring examples.

16.30-18.00 Panel 4: "Lost generation" -unaccompanied minors' missing childhood on the road

Unaccompanied migrant children appear to spend a sizeable part of their childhood in complete uncertainty: on the road, or awaiting for their asylum requests to be processed or being the victims of human trafficking and abuse. The hosting states appear to be focused much more on administration and procedure, often neglecting the best interests of the child, basic human postulates, and their specific needs. This panel will shed light on this particularly vulnerable category of migrants by pointing to their specificities and what our societies fail to encompass when dealing with these cases.

6TH DECEMBER

9.00 -9.30 Registration of participants - Hotel Zira, Belgrade.

9.30-11.00 Panel 5: Access to employment to the refugees and asylum seekers in Serbia: experiences, challenges and lessons learned

Asylum seekers and persons granted protection in Serbia are facing with serious challenges in accessing labor market, in enjoying guaranteed right to work but also facing challenges in reaching and keeping their employment. APC has been a pioneer in providing legal and psycho-social assistance to the



asylum seekers and refugees for integration into the labor and empowering them to be competent on the labor market. This panel will explore the experiences and lessons of the conducted activities from the perspective of APC and state institutions, hear the testimonies of the refugees - beneficiaries of the assistance as well as hear the testimonies from the countries with more experience in this topic.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.30 Panel 6: Future perspectives in integration: future steps/paths, guiding principles and common conclusions.

This panel will discuss the future trends and perspectives in the field of integration of refugees in Western Balkan and other CEI countries, in a tour de table format. It will summarize all previously presented findings, conclusions and recommendations, for the future work in facilitating integration in Western Balkan and other CEI countries.

12.30-13.00 Wrap up and making final conference conclusions

13.00- Departures of international participants

