

Article name: “Successful integration of refugees – the result of the united efforts of all the process participants”

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The article presents an analysis of the first three mobility meetings for the project “From intention to implementation based on European know-how”, financed by the European programme Erasmus+ Committee of Youth, Migrants and Refugees Integration of the European Commission, which unites representatives of five European countries: Germany, Italy, Portugal, Norway and Bulgaria.

It tells in-depth about the main goals of the project – to analyze, systematize and offer various ways of solving the problem of labour market integration of the refugees within the countries of Europe, including by means of starting their own business, and the methods of reaching this goal: carrying out a pilot sociological research among the refugees and citizens of the receiving country with a questionnaire for the evaluation of the current governmental institutions, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, assisting refugees integration.

It informs about the regulations, defining refugee status, and highlights the meaning of refugee integration in the social, economical and cultural life of the receiving country.

Characteristics are given for the concluded mobility meetings in Italy, Norway and Portugal with definite data about the refugee flow into these countries, its dynamics, national programmes and measures for the integration of citizens of third countries, defined by the country differences and possibilities.

The article describes the situation in Bulgaria, which remains a transit point for a considerable part of asylum seekers heading into Western Europe.

The project’s coordinator, associate professor of the Institute of Societies and Knowledge of the Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS) Sergey Rozhkov, is cited and he underlines that it is of highest importance to “analyze the level of awareness, sense of commitment to the problems, attitude and reaction of the receiving society in regard to the current integration policies and practices...to determine how visible the refugees are to the population..., as well as how tolerant the position of the receiving society is, and their level of readiness to communicate with and help the refugees”.

In conclusion, the article mentions the positive tendencies in the refugee integration in Bulgaria, as well as the programmes, offering the possibility of permanent settlement of the refugees into the abandoned regions of Bulgaria, which will form the theme for the mobility meeting in Sofia in October of this year.

The article concludes with the following words: “The project ‘From intention to implementation based on European know-how’ proves the truth behind the slogan of the Bulgarian presidency of the EU: United We Stand Strong”.