Mediterranean Migration Network

International Meeting

Thursday, 19 June 2014

CARDET - University of Nicosia, Room M115, Millennium Building

Agenda Item
• **Registration**
CARDET welcomed participants and gave a small presentation on the work of CARDET and the Mediterranean Migration Network • Capacity building of its members • Promote integration for migrants • Give a voice to migrants • Constantly pursuing further enrichment of collaboration • Need to form partnerships to submit proposals • Development through submitting proposals
Needs and Challenges Discussion • Ineffective cooperation between public and private organizations • Competition instead of collaboration among NGOs • Lack of transparency • Multiple definitions and approaches towards integration • Imbalanced responsibility between North and South EU countries • Lack of participation of countries of origin and transit in decision making • Absence of a common migration policy framework • Practical support and training to fieldworkers • Negative stereotypes – Campaigns • Gap between Policy and practice • No holistic and coordinated support • Lobbying and advocacy • Definitions and interpretations of integration and Human Rights • Absence of migrants' associations and CSOs from decision making • Limited positive impact to the public • Uncertain financial sustainability
The goal of the meeting is to identify the aims that should permeate the network in order of significance based on the extensive experience of the participants. Participants were asked to present themselves and their organizations to the group and identify 3 of the above challenges or any other to relate to their organization's capacity and focus.   1. **CSV MARCHE**

Organization Focus: represents 1500 volunteer organizations and 100 organizations specialized on migration and inclusion.

Their seminal programs revolves around social inclusion which utilizes migrants as volunteer to enforce the idea of Active citizenship and negate negative stereotypes

Challenges

1. Relationship between South and North European Countries
3. Need to address the lurking competition between CSOs
4. Need for coherent definitions for migrants

2. **Media Diversity Institute**

Organization Focus: Marginalized Groups and Media coverage, Immigrants. Running project in China

Challenges

1. Definition of Stereotypes media element
2. Absence of Migrant organizations
3. Training support for field work

3. **International Organization of Migration**

Organization Focus: Labor, Migration

Challenges

1. Definition of Stereotypes media element (stereotypes
2. Absence of Migrant organizations
3. Training support for field work
4. Longevity of projects - long term objectives of good practices
5. Who are the majority users of the network
6. Collaboration with field work organizations

4. **Samaritans Association – Bulgaria**

Organization Focus: Social Worker - Child Abuse, Immigrants

Challenges

1. Stereotypes
2. Needs to be holistic support
3. Lobbying and advocacy

5. **Hellenic Migration Policy Institute – Greece**

Organization Focus: Government institutes and Non-Governmental organization relationship – Monitoring Migration in Greece – involved with social inclusion of Migrants in Greece

Challenges

1. Need for a definition of migrants (European discrepancy between countries that define immigrants as persons who came from outside the country Vs definition of an immigrant as a person who came from outside the EU)
2. Effective collaboration of government bodies and NGOs
3. Major problem a non-common EU policy for migration
4. He discovered when working in the government that some individuals like former ambassadors, ex ministers, ex commissioners are key players if you want to move a proposal forward - targeted lobbying
5. No holistic and coordinated support

6. CES – Lithuania

Organization Focus: Integration, tolerance, migration Research

Challenges

1. There needs to be a more effective collaboration between NGOs and Government organizations
2. Multiple definitions (integration definition on the local level). There exists a gap between different Government organizations in different ministries (e.g. Human rights violations concerns Vs Security concerns)
3. Negative stereotypes. Especially focused on stereotypes found on fieldwork officers of the government and non- government sector that deal with immigrants

7. Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants

Organization Focus: Subcontracted by Maltese Government to accommodate, integrate, rehabilitate immigrants ("boat people"). He is running a open welcome centre for immigrants. They are funded by ERF but he is looking for EFSF funds.
Mainly they help Sub-Saharan male Africans that transit from Africa and also asylum seekers with no status.

Challenges

1. Ineffective collaboration between Government and NGOs because Government is perceived as the enemy. He argues that politicians have to rely on NGOs because in his opinion pro- migrant rhetoric is unelectable.
2. Lack of participation and involvement from the countries of origin (Major developing countries of origin do not feel that they need to take measures to impede migration because of the inequality between the Global South and Global North. Ahmed feels that development Aid should try and address the issue right on the country of origin
3. Financial Sustainability: Create funding opportunities from the government. It's on the government's best self-interest to provide the co-funding on European projects on immigration and then subcontract the job on the NGOs.
4. Competition between NGOs thwarts the ability for collaboration because of the fear that ideas will be copied by other NGOs

Discussion on the abovementioned challenges

➢ Plethora of funding negates the competition point
➢ Real challenges is to find good ideas and then develop the capacity to submit proposals with the rights partners
➢ A project inception should provide pride to the organizations and not secrecy
➢ One of MMN pillars is to improve capacity for submitting proposals through synergies and utilize the collective knowledge of its accomplished constituent members
➢ "Much stronger together than alone"

8. KOPIN, Malta

Organization Focus: International Co-operation, Development Project in Ethiopia/ Provide Services - open centers, self-reliance for women/ empowerment for women, work support, Development Education Rights, Migration

Challenges

1. Multiple definitions of Migrant

2. There exists no institution that is mandated to deal with integration of migrants and asylum seekers

3. Coordination and support between CSOs – Currently there is no established structure or common network, can creates uncertainties and competition

4. Need to focus on stereotypes of the migrant as sickly and/or criminal

9. ASED Network- France

Organization Focus: Organize projects in South America/ Local Level Migration collaboration/Provide Social Services

Challenges

1. Practice and Educate CSOs, in order to have concrete results

2. Need to create clear aims and then implement swiftly

3. Government organization need to talk to the migrants and find up their needs and wants.

10. University of Nicosia

1. European Directive does not exist but the main problem is that there is no official definition of Migrants, thus policy, directive cannot be issued.

Discussion

- The network should engage with movement organizations in advocacy initiatives about the rights of migrants (movement organizations plan to write a migration chart to be able to lobby the Italian government to put it in its agenda during its Presidency of the EU)

- Grand coalition of Southern Europe CSOs and Migration origin country CSOs to intensify lobbying in Brussels

- The Network should take on the complexity of producing a workable definition of Migrants

- Constructing a Generic Definition of Migrants is very difficult as the rational of the immigration can swing widely from horizontal - vertical population mobility to war.

- Lobby for EU official definition of Migrants

- Divergence of Experience and Challenges

  ➢ Importance of Context through the Greek case:
  ➢ EU provides funds for **detention centers, integration of legal migrants, expansion of border security and repatriation** only
  ➢ 27% unemployment
  ➢ national laws legalizing immigrants are forbidden by EU courts
  ➢ 90% of all illegal immigrants of EU come through Greece and a large portion stays in Greece

- **Malta model** NGOs pursue funding from government. Government needs the CSOs to provide viable alternatives a voice. The model is based on a trusting relationship between the government and the CSO organization which keeps sensitive issues, away from any public bias. Open center is non-militarized. Migrants want to work, thus they are provided with vocational skills and employment opportunities. This is how they add to the local economy, which in turn provides positive stories for the media. Operator has a quality talk with the migrant to explain the situation he is in

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and offers alternative such as cash incentive to return to their home countries (Assisted Voluntary Returns). All migrants are given the permission to work, access to medical care and Employment center mandated by the Government.

- Independence issue and conflict of interest when collaborating with the government
- Spanish Inclusion Model – 5 million migrants– Government acknowledges that while in the past they needed them they do not anymore. Action: The Central Government provides funding to local authorities and NGOS for open centers. The local authorities have to keep track of the migrant population stock and flow, so that no migrant is left unrecorded.

  Positive. They know where they are, how many they are and what they doing (They legalize them but not naturalize). They provide the migrants with skills in vocational training centers in order to open job opportunities.

  Negative. There isn't feedback by the migrants so they do not affect decision over the actions that directly affect them.

MMN Sustainability Plan

Presentation about the MMN, its aims and current activities.

The MMN was launched in 2012 in the context of European Integration Fund to achieve:

- provide voice and support to migrants
- collaboration for and application of new Research
- Build capacities of its members
- Share experiences
- the online platform
- policy papers
- build collaboration between the public and private domain

Activities

- expanded the network membership to more than 200 members and in 34 countries
- visit Malta with 5 stakeholders to see how they address migration, integration problems in the ground
- Developed series of workshops
- produces European and Global reports
- participation in international conference
- online resources (e-learning) available to the members
- disseminate research to key decision makers

Challenges for the MMN

- A country of origin organization should be invited to be member of the MMN Steering Committee - Participants could propose relevant organizations
- MMN should be a non-descriptive, critical point of view as oppose the European Migration Network (which provides scattered pile of statistics, reports with no cohesion or aim.

Participants identify challenges for MMN workings and propose actions

- Need to start by establishing specified clear cut activities in order to avoid stalemate
- Implementation of good practices. A cultural, historical understanding of migration.
- Focus on issues of emergency that can be news worthy
- Definition of integration and promotion of collaboration between CSOs and Governments
- Consider creating, or providing the capacity to create, a migrant network like MMN for self- empowerment
- Active citizenship and participation of migrants
- Relationship between NGOs and no open plain information availability may create competitive environment.
- Organize focal points on significance, whereas one general focal point will address many secondary causal points (e.g. negative stereotypes can fall under more generalized points like inclusion)
- Lobby in governments or EU institutions to address negative stereotypes (Diana)
- There are many regional reports, critiques and statistics what will the MMN provide that is not already available?
- Reports need to provide a fair context of the challenges in order to prevent misconceptions
- Historic understanding and context

Concrete Actions/Next Steps on their admission in the MMN

- Participants were introduced to the MMN website and the simple process to become members
- Provide a 200 word essay on whatever subject they want with a photo.
- The participants need to propose the network in an additional 3 organizations.
- National Report (2 pg) from National Focal Points for case studies in their respective countries and publication of an annual eJournal
- Developing project proposals

Participants divided on two groups to brainstorm on four project proposals, the MMN will promote among its members

First group

 1. MIGRTION AND THE MEDIA

 2. MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

 Second Group

 1. CIVIC PARTICIPATION

 2. Online Training Initiatives for Migrants

Next Step:

The one page project descriptions are due on July 19th 2014