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Programme of Final
Online Conference
KapaCITY

24 – 25 February 2021

Support of Municipalities in Local
Integration of Foreigners



09:30 – 10:10

Opening of the conference:

- **Barbora Meššová**, Human Rights League

Main messages:

- **Matúš Vallo**, Mayor of the Capital City Bratislava
- **Milan Lichý**, Vice Mayor of the City of Banská Bystrica
- **Eva Nemčovská**, Vice Mayor of the City of Trnava
- **Matej Ovčiarka**, Director of the Regional Development Department of the Office of the Košice Municipal Region
- **Jana Červenáková**, Director of the Union of the Cities in Slovakia

Current situation in the area of integration of foreigners in the Slovak Republic:

- **Elena Gallová Kriglerová**, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

Main outcomes of the project KapaCITY and follow up challenges:

- **Michaela Dojčinovičová**, Human Rights League

10:10 – 11:40

Local Policies and Foreigners in our Cities and Regions**Moderator:** Barbora Meššová, Human Rights League

In this part of the programme we will learn about how municipalities take specific groups of foreigners into account in their local policies. Some have separate local policy aimed at integration of foreigners, some chose the model in which foreigners and their needs are reflected as a specific target group in all local policies. What advantages and disadvantages do various models have?

How to Create Local Policies of Integration:

- **Alena Holka Chudžíková**, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

Presentations and Moderated Discussion:

- **Milan Lichý**, Municipal Office of Banská Bystrica
- **Miriam Kanioková**, Magistrate Office of the Capital City of Bratislava
- **Tomáš Malatinec**, Office of the Košice Municipal Region,
- **Mária Koval'ová**, Tabita, Counselling Service Provider to Municipal Office of the City of Trnava

Example from Abroad:

- **Jan Janoušek**, Magistrate Office of the Capital City Prague, Czech Republic

Discussion:

- **Slido Questions**

- What are Local Policies in our Cities and Regions?
- What Kind of Foreigners Live in them?
- How should Municipalities work with Foreigners and how should they Engage them in Proactive Participation?
- How should they Communicate with the Public and how should they Provide Information to Foreigners?

The conference will present fundamental outcomes of the project KapaCITY – supporting integration of foreigners at local level, identified good practices in provision of services to foreigners, as well as in their participation in local policy making, in municipalities participating in the project. Our overview will also introduce examples of inspirational and proactive practices from other municipalities who will speak about how they handle increasing numbers of inhabitants with migrant background. Each panel will host experts from abroad to introduce their models of inclusion worthy of adaptation in Slovakia.

At the end we will outline our lessons learned and identified challenges vis-à-vis integration of foreigners. At the end of each panel we would like to discuss possible ways forward and the role of municipalities in this area in the foreseeable future.

The event aims to gather representatives of municipalities, cities and regions and provide them with an opportunity to better understand why it is beneficial and far-sighted to pay attention to foreigners who settle in our cities in increasing numbers. They will learn what can be done in various areas to improve their integration, why it is necessary to take into account their specific needs and how it is organised by municipalities in both Slovakia and abroad. The conference may also be inspirational for central state authorities who initiate policies and legislation, for decision makers, including administrators of public funds. Last but not least, foreigners and host communities are very much welcome to take part.

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11:40 – 12:10

Break

12:10 – 13:40

Preparation of Municipalities on How to Work with Foreigners

Moderator: Nina Galanská, Milan Šimečka Foundation

People who migrate find themselves in a new and unknown environment, strange to them, challenged by foreign culture and language. This life situation itself may result in fear, frustration, social anxiety and uncertainty. Municipalities play an irreplaceable role in their integration – being closest to everyday real life. Municipalities also have the best tools – so called practical policies to create space for peaceful life for everyone. In the discussion we will look into what employees of municipalities need to know about specificities of work with foreigners and which skills they need to respond proactively and work effectively with foreigners at local level.

What Employees of Municipalities Need to Know to Facilitate their Work with Foreigners:

- **Elena Gallová Kriglerová**, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture
- **Dáša Vranka Knošková**, Marginal

Online Educational Tool for Municipalities: www.kapacity.sk:

- **Michaela Dojčinovičová**, Human Rights League
- **Vanda Hlaváčková**, Seesame Agency

Moderated Discussion:

- **Benjamin Bossaert**, Department of Languages of the Philosophical Faculty of the Comenius University in Bratislava
- **Lujza Urbancová**, Department of Slovak Language and Communication of the Philosophical Faculty of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
- **Jan Heinrich**, Non-Governmental Organisation META – Association for Opportunities of Young Migrants, Prague, Czech Republic
- **Lenka Šafránková Pavlíčková**, Department of Social Integration, Magistrate Office of the City of Brno, Czech Republic

Discussion:

- **Slido Questions**

13:40 – 14:10

Break

14:10 – 15:40

Participation of Foreigners in Municipalities

Moderator: Alena Holka Chudžíková, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

Participation of foreigners in the lives of local communities can take many forms – from various community activities, through voting to their participation in local policy making. Their participation may have many positive effects – it brings diverse communities closer, allows for adoption of targeted policies, increases trust of people in local institutions, supports active citizenship and strengthens foreigners' sense of belonging which is crucial to their integration. In this part of the programme we will have a look at different forms of foreigners' participation on the local level in Slovakia and abroad and at experiences of a range of stakeholders with engaging foreigners.

How Voices of Migrants can be Heard and How to Engage them in Municipal Affairs:

- **Gregory Fabian**
- **Venus Jahanpour**

Presentations and Moderated Discussion:

- **Juraj Hurný**, Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava
- **Zuzana Gajdošíková**, Municipal Office of the City of Banská Bystrica
- **Nina Galanská**, Milan Šimečka Foundation
- **Barbora Meššová**, Human Rights League

Examples from Abroad:

- **Zachary Gallant**, City of Unkel, Germany
- **Sabina Esp**, City of Östersund, Sweden

Discussion:

- **Slido Questions**



09:30 – 09:40

Summary of the First Day of the Conference and Outline of the Second Day

- **Barbora Meššová and Michaela Dojčinovičová**, Human Rights League

09:40 – 11:10

Communication with the Public

Moderator: Elena Gallová Kriglerová, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

In this panel we will focus on the importance of communication about migration and integration of foreigners. Foreigners are becoming inhabitants of our cities. It is essential for them to feel welcome in the city and for the municipalities to count with them as regular members of the local populations. Symbolic policies and related communication to the public and to foreigners themselves is important for achieving acceptance of foreigners and for them to receive sufficient information and participate in everyday life at the local level.

Importance of Proactive Communication about Migration:

- **Nina Galanská**, Milan Šimečka Foundation

How to Communicate about Migration and Integration at Local Level:

- **Diana Dobrucká**, Neuropea Agency

Videopresentations:

- Lunch with "International" Bratislavans
- Multicultural Trnava
- I am from Košice

Example from Abroad:

- Praha Metropol of All: **Jan Janoušek**, Magistrate Office of the Capital City Prague, Czech Republic

Moderated Discussion:

- **Slido Questions**

11:10 – 11:30

Break

11:30 – 13:00

Provision of Information to the Foreigners

Moderator: Barbora Meššová, Human Rights League

Do foreigners feel informed about services provided by the municipalities? What innovative methods can municipalities, cities and regions use in order to get closer to their new inhabitants? In this panel we will introduce several positive examples of active approach of municipalities in provision of information to all its inhabitants regardless of their origin or state citizenship.

What Foreigners Need to Know:

- **Anna Barseghyan**, cultural mediator, Bratislava
- **Eleonóra Ďurišinová**, cultural mediator, Košice
- **Yaroslav Lysenko**, cultural mediator, Banská Bystrica

Presentations and Moderated Discussion:

- **Dáša Vranka Knošková**, Marginal
- **Lucia Gurbál'ová**, City of Košice
- **Zuzana Gajdošíková**, City of Banská Bystrica
- **Viera Orichová**, Community Centre for work and knowledge mobility in Nitra (COMIN), Nitra

Examples from abroad:

- **Jan Janoušek**, Magistrate Office of the Capital City Prague, Czech Republic
- **David Beraha**, City of Vienna, Austria

Discussion:

- **Slido Questions**

13:00 – 13:30

Conclusions: Challenges and Recommendations

Recommendations for Central State Policies:

- **Barbora Meššová**, Human Rights League

Concluding messages:

- **Elena Gallová Kriglerová**, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture
- **Dáša Vranka Knošková**, Marginal
- **Nina Galanská**, Milan Šimečka Foundation
- **Barbora Meššová**, Human Rights League



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