



You(th) and Migration: Transforming the Crisis

Report of the study session held by
International Federation of Liberal Youth

in co-operation with the
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Strasbourg
15-19 May 2017

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This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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Executive summary

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) came to the decision to organise a study session on the topic of migration due to the increasing number of migrants in different parts of the world that has been a topic of much interest for young liberals of our organisation.

The decision to gather young liberals from around the world under the topic of migration was important for several reasons, among them being the spreading of the concept among the organisations and acknowledgement of the importance of becoming actors for change as young active members of the society. This study session aimed to devise schemes and innovations that can promote social inclusion of migrants and refugees whilst attempting to avoid a negative impact for people in host societies.

The programme of the study session mainly focused on relevant theoretical concepts of migration and also on developing skills such as project management. Besides the identification of issues and gaps in political work, this study session also had a strong emphasis on other means of approaching the topic such as through civic action. The high relevance of the topic and the necessity to reflect on our own experiences emotionally has led to many valuable discussions and ideas for future action.

The theoretical knowledge on migration, the reflection, sharing of best practices and many discussions between participants of so many different countries has led to a logical culmination of the development of concrete project plans to be taken back to the member organizations. The study session has furthermore led to a better understanding of migration as well as of the challenges that migrants are facing in host communities. The different backgrounds of everyone have enhanced the mutual understanding of different perspectives on migration from different countries. The presence of many representatives of local NGOs in Strasbourg that are actively involved with the topic has led to a more holistic thinking of all the ways that a society can tackle certain issues.

There has been a lot of space to transfer the newly created knowledge, inspiration and empathetic investment into follow-up measures. The outcomes will certainly be used in the future both by IFLRY and its member organizations in continuously promoting inclusion and acceptance of migrants.

Introduction

About the study session

In 2011, IFLRY ran a seminar in Romania titled “Migration: Enriching Societies” with EYF support. The emphasis of this seminar was the role of young people in the social inclusion of migrants, and focused on developing innovative tools, and exchanging best practices, in order to influence the social and political discourse in their countries. In the current international landscape migration, and especially the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers, is of particular and increasing importance. As a political international organisation, with member organisations all over the world, IFLRY cannot be indifferent to this issue. Migration has an international and local context, and is thereby an essential topic for IFLRY and its member organizations to act upon together.

This study session with a focus on migration is relevant to IFLRY’s strategic aims 2016-2020 as follows:

a) Strategic Aim 1 requires that IFLRY facilitates inter-regional cooperation by setting up structures for increased dialogue and co-operation among member organizations worldwide, as well as to provide specific support to countries and sub-regions with particular needs. The topic of migration ties in with these Action Points: the issue of migration is contentious and thus co-operation and dialogue on this topic is of supreme importance; increased migration is creating new needs that in many cases were not foreseen or prepared for, and increased support in this area is thus highly necessary.

b) Similarly, Strategic Aim 3, requires that IFLRY has an educational policy, through an experienced pool of trainers and by developing standard training sessions and guidelines, and stresses that IFLRY should further enhance itself as a recognized leader in non-formal education. IFLRY’s wealth of expertise in non-formal education, as well as working with young people through study sessions and seminars in general, places it in a strong position from which to explore positive responses to migration with young people. This study session will also contribute to IFLRY’s own experience in this area. Using the expertise of IFLRY member organisations will also tie in with Strategic Aim 4, Action 1.2: IFLRY makes better use of existing talent to improve the organization.

Aims and objectives of the study session

In the current international landscape of migration, and especially the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers, is of particular and increasing importance for societies, politicians and young people. As migration is a crucial topic in the political arena, IFLRY, as a political international organization, with member organizations in all regions of the world, cannot be indifferent to this issue. This study session, being one of IFLRY’s first activities on the topic in recent years, was a central activity and experience to further strengthen IFLRY’s capacities to politically engage on the topic of migration. IFLRY held a widespread survey recently, which demonstrated the interest of member organizations in the topic. This has been translated directly into the organization of this study session and it can be seen as a ‘kickoff’ for future activity in IFLRY on migration. IFLRY has a variety of member organizations already working on migration in their activities and thus aimed to utilize their expertise in order to get the best results within the study session. This study session aimed to devise schemes and innovations that can promote social inclusion of migrants and refugees whilst attempting to avoid a negative impact for people in host societies. This study session further aimed to provide a platform to discuss how young people can influence

rhetoric and actions taken in their own countries with the overall intended result of promoting harmonious societies in which migrants and refugees can be included and respected.

The objectives of the study session were:

- a) To develop a better understanding migration of as a concept and the reasons why people migrate
- b) To better understand the experiences and needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the issues they face with a special focus on the impact of other factors such as their gender and age
- c) To develop a better understanding of the local policies and politics surrounding migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in different countries, and to explore how young people can influence these
- d) To better understand the thoughts and emotions of local people in host communities, the reasons for their actions and the shift in their political behaviour
- e) To explore actions, strategies and programmes that young people can take to help integrate migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into society and to promote their acceptance and inclusion, whilst also taking into account the interests of local people in host societies
- f) To analyze good practices promoting intercultural dialogue and exchange for social reconciliation, peacebuilding and multiculturalism
- g) To provide a platform for young activists and politicians to discuss the issues surrounding migration and possible solutions to tackle them
- h) To support youth organizations to develop their capacity and exchange good practices in order to facilitate the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into society, and for participants to become multipliers of this knowledge and understanding within and through their organizations

Profile of participants

IFLRY is always aiming with all of its projects as well as the current study session to reach out to many people with as various backgrounds and experiences as possible in order to establish a successful network for tackling the existing challenges linked with migration. During this study session participants represented different IFLRY member organizations, aged from 17 to 31 years old. Not all of them had previous knowledge on the topic, however, nevertheless, most were involved on local or national level in their organizations, and many had already worked with the topic. We specifically included people in the study session with a migrant background as well as people involved in working with migrants; 4 participants came from NGOs outside of IFLRY's membership, but working on the topic.

Total number of participants (including team):	32
Number of male participants:	18
Number of female participants:	14
Number of countries of residence:	20
Average age of participants:	24,2

The information about this event was disseminated in several ways. It was included in IFLRY's monthly newsletter, it was disseminated several times on IFLRY's social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Also, it has been sent to all the national International Officers of the member organisations who include it in their outlets of national organizations. Finally, the call for participants has also been posted on the website of the Council of Europe.



Main topics discussed

The study session addressed the different topics and issues during the programme. Those were logically put together in order to provide information about the topic and guide participants to identify possible proposals which will be important for their organisations.

The session provided an introduction of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. The Youth Department is part of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation of the Council of Europe. The Department elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming to promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans. The No Hate Speech Movement was also presented, especially the opportunities to engage online for the action days and to do campaigning online against hate speech.

IFLRY (International Federation of Liberal Youth) is the global umbrella organisation of liberal youth and student organisations from around the world. Our central mission is outlined in our tagline: Globalising Freedom. In practice this means that IFLRY advocates for liberal values at an international level by working through partners and representing

Member's views. It also works to increase capacity for democracy and liberalism through facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practice at events and online and to support Members to organise thematic Programmes to achieve both of these aims in either a particular policy area or specific region.

The study session also explore relevant concepts and definitions of migration, comparing different situations and looking into the work of the Council of Europe, the European Union and UNHCR. It allowed participants to understand the myths and misconceptions about migration, such as economic myths, cultural myths and welfare state myths. It was very powerful to compare the myths and facts and see how in populist discourse many facts are overlooked and there are many misconceptions about migration as something dangerous or negative.

In order to have a better understanding of the challenges and the situation, the reception of migrants in host communities was explored through cases which underline the thoughts and emotions of local people such as hostility, fear and anger towards migrants. This helped the participants to understand better the experiences of migrants in host communities and thoughts and emotions of migrants.

The programme also allowed space for reflection on the lack of interaction between migrants and host communities. This lack is often causing gaps between the needs of migrants and the response of the state and/or society to migration. A relevant reaction is needed in the shape of local, national and international policies addressing migration. In order to empower participants to work more on this topic, the study session also explored the role of young activists and politicians in enhancing integration and acceptance of migrants. In this line, the role of civil society and grassroots movements in inclusion and acceptance of migrants was very important, thus a meeting with different Strasbourg-based civil society organisations took place as well.

Finally the participants were provided with project management skills development sessions. These supported the participants to develop different follow-up ideas for the study session. In this line the European Youth Foundation was presented as a supporting instrument for the project's follow-up.

Programme – inputs and discussions

The welcome day

Sunday 14 May 2017

As the day was dedicated to arrival, a welcome evening was held with socializing activities, registration and with some “get to know each other” activities for team building purposes. The welcome evening activity was the first point where participants met each other and also got to know the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

First day: Understanding the topic

Monday 15 May 2017

The first day was dedicated to getting to know each other, building a group spirit, as well as to exploring the background of the topic and the organizers and the methodology of the study session.

The first day consisted of interactive input-sessions as well as group work to research and share with each other. The session ‘Migration in a nutshell’ consisted of a series of thought experiments to trigger relevant intuitions we have when talking about migration. With regards to objections to migration for labour market reasons, things that were mentioned included the fact that migrants might take jobs of non-migrants, negatively affect wages and undermine employment rights. Relevant statistical data was discussed,



showing that such objections -widely present in the public policy debate- are often proven wrong by facts. Historical examples (women, baby boomers, guest workers) show that immigrants often complement the workforce and the number of jobs is not necessarily a fixed one. Other objections discussed included the fact that migrants might not share the values and/or culture of local communities and threaten national culture and identity and migrants cost the state money through benefits they need. These myths were further debunked through mentioning that diverse cities are often cultural centres and new nationalities can enrich rather than threaten national identities, and through the fact that migrants who are included in the labour market can make a positive impact to the state budget. This session really prepared everyone for a study session to challenge our previously hold beliefs and to encounter some of our own prejudices.



The last session of the first day, called 'the interactive world map', was dedicated to introducing everyone to facts and figures on migration in order to internalize key figures. Research was done in small groups to and the results were further compared with our expectations to see the contrasts. Research topics included the definitions of migrant, asylum seeker and refugee and the differences amongst them, relevant laws and institutions such as the Geneva Convention, the UNHCR as well as the International Organization for Migration.

After a loaded first day including theoretical and conceptual frameworks and much input everyone was ready to engage in more interactive work in the next days.

Second day: Empathy

Tuesday 16 May 2017

After the teambuilding exercises and theoretically-driven introductions to the topic on the first day, the second day was aimed to get out of the comfort zone and to understand the topic not only from a theoretical (data, politics, philosophy etc.) point of view; but through the process of empathy. A theatre method was chosen to do so—in order to create powerful images for further discussion. In short, the day aimed at sketching the complexity of the topic through experience and reflection, and grounding this picture on facts and contemporary examples.

The morning started off with two simulation exercises to better understand the experiences and needs of migrants and individuals in host societies, to have an empathetical response to the thoughts and emotions of stakeholder groups and recreating face-to-face dilemmas and then try to find solutions through “play”. The first method used was the **'Museum of the Oppressed'**. The simulation game helped everyone review how we would act in real life situations and challenges and raised crucial questions to discuss afterwards. In the group discussion we reflected on our biases and their implications that were portrayed in the role plays. Later on, a session was dedicated to **identifying and mapping relevant stakeholders, needs, capacities and duties**, as



well as to provide an overview over the political landscape with regards to migration.

It was a process of collaborative thinking and analytical mapping, which also provided the basis for the group work later in the week. On the other hand, a presentation on EU migration policies such as Dublin system and EU-Turkey deal was important to establish a common level of knowledge on the topic. This session laid the ground in anticipation of MEP Angelika Mlinar's follow-up talk.



In the last session Angelika Mlinar, Vice President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe (ALDE), sketched her efforts in the so-called “refugee crisis”. She gave her insights after her visits to several locations intimately tied to the migration route from Syria to Europe in order to get a clear view on the issue herself. She discussed the European and domestic policy responses to the issue. Participants asked her challenging questions on several of her proposals. In general everyone appreciated the openness of the discussion—and felt they were already well-equipped to have a substantive discussion with a decision-maker. The feeling of empowerment was an important take-away here.

Third day: Connecting with civil society

Wednesday 17 May 2017

After an intense second day the third day aimed to get out of the political realm and broaden our horizons regarding the means of social change in order to better understand what role we can play in our own societies. The morning sessions provided the platform to discuss other means and experiences of making an impact, such as through civic action.

Several representatives of NGOs based in Strasbourg working on migration were invited to the study session with the help from Arleen Pimentel, Intern at the Youth Department:

- **Youth Express Network** : Veronique Bertholle (Secretary-General)

Youth Express Network is a European network of 30 grass-roots youth organizations. It's present in 23 countries and it works at each level from local to European. It aims at a more inclusive society, looking for recognition of youth needs and participations to be valued and appreciated. This network is very active towards the INGO conferences of the Council of Europe and at the Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

- **Le Centre Socio-Culturel du Neuhof**: Kenny Tanovan (Youth Worker), Khechab Khoutir (Director)

The Centre Socio Culturel du Neuhof is a local, social and cultural center in Strasbourg. Neuhof is a disadvantaged neighborhood and this is why this center is so valuable. Its approach as a center is to welcome people of the neighborhood especially young people in order to leave no one behind and fight against discrimination. This is done through introducing them into the labour market and the promotion of education and civil rights. Recently, a project called Challenge Citoyen was carried out, which consisted of a national competition to stimulate people from those districts to go out and vote. It was a success and by promoting this through medias, young people got a better profiling of themselves and some of them got an internship thanks to this project.

- **Ketenes NGO and No Hate Speech Movement France**: Lea Xailly (NHSM France), Coralie Derais (Coordinator NHSM France), Athena Dalipi (Ketenes Member/Volunteer), Mevlida Durmisovski (Ketenes Member/Volunteer)

Ketenes is a group originated after the 8th of April, International Roma day. As a follow up between the NHSM France and the action day this movement was set-up to fight against discrimination against Roma. After this, they decided to create this Facebook group as a follow up between the No Hate Speech Movement from France and this action day. Lea and Coralie discussed past actions of NHSM France and Athena and Mevlida gave testimonies of their own social integration.

The central outcome of the discussions during this session was the importance of interaction between the host society and migrants. The lack of this interaction often results in barriers to integration. We discussed several ways to enhance this interaction, such as integration into the labour market, political participation and the recognition of minorities. Furthermore, we discussed the existing gaps between the needs of migrants and the current political response to migration. The main challenges included the fact that certain neighborhoods (in Strasbourg) get prioritized on a political level to the detriment of others, inducing social and economic issues. Other challenges discussed were the large differences between local communities in their approach towards migrants (welcoming or hostile), the lack of attention towards traumas of migrants and a state approach that is centered around 'security and control'.



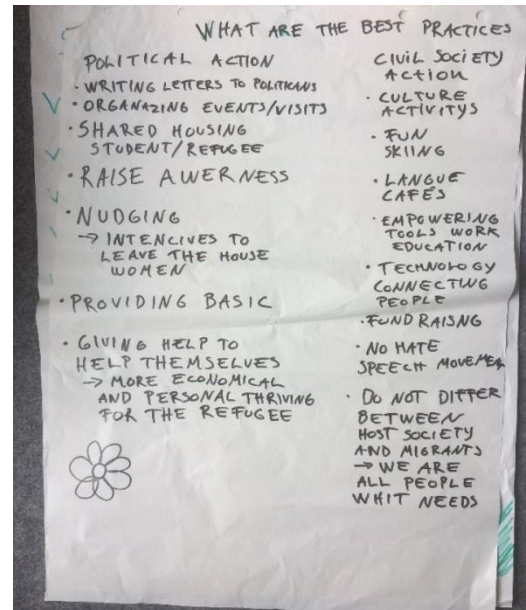
Fourth day: Taking action

Thursday 18 May 2017

After three days of different perspectives on migration – political, social, economical-, the main aim of the fourth day was for participants to take all the inspiration and experience from the past days to put them into action. The aim was thus to explore actions and strategies that participants could take back to their organizations to implement in their local communities to promote the acceptance and inclusion of migrants.

After watching a documentary called 'The Journey from Syria', capturing the personal journey of a Syrian family from Syria to Europe, participants were invited to join the 'world café'. Everyone could rotate between different tables where they could brainstorm about future actions. Furthermore, at one table best practices of existing projects, either through civil society or in the political sphere, were shared. This session was defined as one of the most successful of the study session. Some concrete ideas for projects were already made, such as:

- a) A public awareness campaign to approach migration in a way to contest negativity
- b) Involving migration into daily political activities
- c) Intercultural learning experiences between migrants and host society through cultural events
- d) Creative activities to break stereotypes around migrants (such as that migrants are not well-educated, do not want to work, are different than 'us')
- e) Engagement of migrants in political decision-making processes

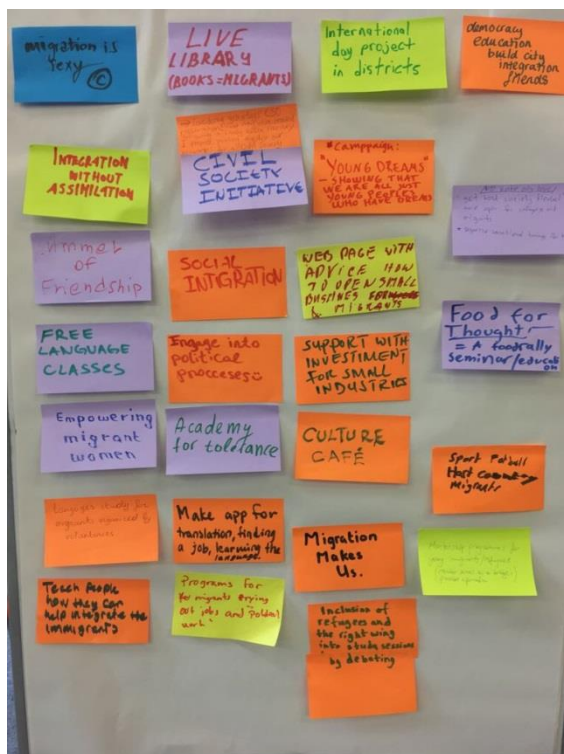


During the afternoon, there was more room for individual and group brainstorming, followed by group work to further develop project ideas into concrete strategies and action plans to be presented to each other the next day.

Last day: Conclusions

Friday 19 May 2017

The fifth day of the study session was dedicated to improve the projects through some supportive sessions on building soft skills, such as project management, presentation and peer feedback. Through the development of projects, we made use of the knowledge gained during the week. Soft-skills-building sessions helped everyone develop their capacities further to take action in their own organizations.



During the project management session, several tools were used such as project environment analysis, project management matrix and project management canvas. Handouts, including a project application form, helped participants better conceptualize their projects and detail them further on paper. After finalizing the plans, it was time to present the project to the audience to convince the group of the project being carried out and possibly funded in the future. The presentation of the action plans reflected the outcomes of the previous days in terms of knowledge, acknowledgement of the capabilities of young people to influence conflicts as well as the readiness and willingness to do so. With some more work and especially integration into the context of a liberal youth organisation, the ideas could be a very valuable add-on in political youth work. The presentations were followed by the participation of European Youth Foundation and its introduction of funding opportunities within Council of Europe.

Friday, being the last day of the study session, was closed by a closing ceremony. The expectations and learning experiences were revisited and in an open setting everyone shared their own experiences and takeaways of the study session. As in every IFLRY event, we ended the study session with a group hug.



Main outcomes of the study session

The main learning outcomes can be listed and summarized as follows:

1. Development of a thorough understanding of the terms, facts, and figures regarding the topic of migration on a conceptual level. The study session offered space for the participants to understand what is migration from a theoretical level, but also to build common ground on the topic by interacting with others.
2. The study session developed emotional understanding of the struggles of migrants and understanding of challenges of migrants in host communities from a practical point of view, in order to come up with appropriate policy solutions. In this way the participants had a chance to better understand which challenges are migrants having in order to integrate in the new community, thus based on this the participants could think on how policy can be helpful to overcome those challenges.
3. Awareness of local, national and international policies addressing migration was done through specific dialogue with different experts but also between the participants themselves.
4. The session supported the development of skills for project development which resulted with 4 project plans
5. The participants came up with practical and decentralized solutions on a local level to be implemented after the study session. A list of these solutions is provided in the next section of the report.
6. Participants also increased confidence and motivation to become multipliers of the newly created knowledge and investment into the topic of migration

Some more specific answers that participants mentioned as learning outcomes include the following:

- information and sensitivity to different migration realities;
- different perspectives on migration from different countries;
- understanding the concept of migration;
- differences between interests and positions;
- understanding the motives of different groups in society for their approach towards migration, feelings of fear and hostility;
- a more holistic thinking of all the ways that a society can tackle social problems;
- learning about the No-Hate Speech campaign;
- youth work and civil society work on migration;
- exposure to theatre as a way to tackle social and political issues;
- project management skills;
- facts and figures on migration;
- EU policies;
- experiencing what local NGOs are doing on migration;
- non-formal education approach and methodology;

The topic of the study session has been at the core of our member organizations' interests. The study session has equipped the participants with a thorough understanding of the terms, facts, and figures regarding the topic of migration. Since we encounter much confusion about the status of migrants (migrant, refugee, asylum seeker etc.) as well as myths about the social consequences of migration (e.g. migration lowers domestic working wages), establishing factual knowledge has been a crucial step towards having a productive conversation to begin with. The most important topics were:

- Philosophical foundations on migration and open borders from a liberal perspective. Participants discussed how migration links to liberalism and what 'a liberal view' on migration would be.

- Concrete policies and politics, especially in Europe. Many of us only possessed little knowledge of what is out there in terms of policies affecting migration. They learned about the major systems such as the Common European Asylum System, the Dublin system, the Refugee Convention and the external aspect of migration through the recent EU-Turkey deal.
- The development of new skills and knowledge and using it for a concrete project

Good political decision-making procedures are sensitive to the experience of the agents that are involved. Thus it has been one of the major incomes to become emotionally invested in the struggles that migrants face—in order to come up with policy solutions.

The study session further contributed to building strong links with relevant actors in the youth-field on a global level, by strengthening ties between different youth organizations and developing strategies and actions together, as well as encouraging political youth organizations to look beyond the political realm by discussing with relevant NGOs and non-political actors.

There has been a lot of space to transfer the newly created knowledge, inspiration and empathetic investment into follow-up measures that can be implemented almost instantly after their return to their home countries. In order to be most practical, everyone encouraged to be less reliant on other organizations, skills that would need to be established or insecure funding; but centred on the idea that we can change something ourselves.

The study session furthermore aligned the work of IFLRY and its member organizations with the work of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. Many of us were new to the whole concept of non-formal education. Being sceptical at the beginning, we turned into becoming fans of the approach. The topic of migration has become clearer and many of us will be advocates for the rights of migrants and the idea of open borders in our member organisations in the future.

Projects developed during the study session

1) Saturday @ eight

The aim of this project is to get young migrants to meet young locals through informal meetups. It is a simple Saturday @ eight activity in a local space (bar, NGO, public space) where locals and migrants meet and discussed in a structured way, to realize that they are not so different after all.

2) Together we walk

The aim of this project is to develop an app for migrants to help them find their way into the host societies. The mobile phone app will have information about the key places, where service is provided and in what form, what can be found in the host societies to support access to rights and responsibility.

3) Districion

This project aims to bring migrants and locals together through the organization of communal sports events. By ensuring inclusion of migrants in sports and sports clubs there will be more opportunity to make connections and integrate faster.

4) Young dreams

This is an advocacy project, aiming at changing public opinion on migration and making the topic positive and appealing in the political sphere. It aims to show how similar aspirations can create more understanding and support in the society.



Follow-up and impact

IFLRY considers to prioritize migration as a major topic for the next term, as this study session demonstrated the commitment of our member organizations and the the desire to intensify the dialogue across our member organizations on this particular issue. This doesn't only include the planning of external events and communications, but also IFLRY efforts to push this topic (and the solutions partly developed in this Study Session) as a representative organization in other platforms. Further, IFLRY will keep stimulating a debate within the liberal community to give more prominence to this topic in the political arena.

Hopefully, of the projects will be presented to our member organizations. It is a common practice within IFLRY that the participants of a Study Session are held accountable by the sending member organization to present their projects (or best practices). Furthermore, there has been a lot of dialogue on regional co-operation (e.g. between Norway and Sweden etc.), which might make concrete follow-up measures more likely (e.g. cooperation of political youth organizations with NGOs). IFLRY provides the platform for reporting the status on these ideas. Also, IFLRY offers its resources to further implement these projects—which have been very actively picked up by the membership already. Several project ideas will be integrated into IFLRY's platform for sharing best practices, such as several ideas for cooperation with NGOs on a local level, as well as concrete ideas for campaigns online as well as offline. The 'friendship box' campaign idea proposed has been proven a successful campaign in the past and could easily be transposed to the topic of migration. Cooperation with private entities (businesses etc) is also something IFLRY would like to explore further.

This report will be used as an internal reference work for IFLRY's political and educational work on migration as well as for the membership. The main outcomes of the Study Session have been discussed at the recent IFLRY General Assembly in Thessaloniki in order to include the membership of IFLRY in the topic and the work of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. Furthermore, [an article was published on our blog Libel](#) that was written by the group of participants.

To conclude, this session directly contributes to one of the main objectives of IFLRY for the coming years being bolstering our capacities as a leading organization in non-formal education, by improving internal capacity of our Pool of Trainers as well familiarizing our membership with NFE. Second, the study session directly contributes to the objective to sharpen IFLRY's role as a political platform. Migration is thereby an essential topic for IFLRY and its member organizations to act upon together and this study session being one of the first activities on the topic, the outcomes and experiences will be further used to strengthen IFLRY's role as a political actor on the global stage.

Final Conclusions

The following is an overview of conclusions linked with the policy and practice connected with migration. It serves as an inspiration for the future work not only of IFLRY and its' member organisations, but also others interested in the topic:

Economic Integration: There was much discussion about the regulation (or better to say deregulation) of labor markets when it comes to migration. We found that the integration of migrants, refugee or asylum seekers to the labour market is not only key to successful and sustainable integration of migrants into a host society, but also seems to be the most effective way to become autonomous and independent citizens.

Creating Human Empathy: One of the core findings of the study session was the emotional disconnection of members of the host society when discussing issues of migration. It was

incredibly helpful “to put oneself in the position of a migrant”, i.e. to understand the reason why they would leave their home, what struggles they face, and what ultimately matters to them. We came to the conclusion that bringing the stakeholders together in the most human (i.e. face-to-face) way is the most desirable step before deliberating about the concrete solutions to the social problems that migration reveals.

Civil Society: As political activists we tend to limit our thinking to political solutions to social problems. This study session aimed to help think “outside the box” of established policy solutions and get engaged in a dialogue with NGOs and other members of civil society. Migration is one of the biggest challenges of our time and a sole reliance on the political process thus might not be sufficient to tackle this issue in the most promising way. We thus endorse a pluralistic approach that incorporates politics, civil society, as well as individual responsibility.

We are very satisfied with the results of the study session and consider it as a success. All the material produced and prepared for the study session will be used in the upcoming events on migration that IFLRY will conduct.

The results of this study session will be multiplied even more in the next year as IFLRY will make sure the events are connected to each other in the benefit and use of both itself as a political umbrella organization and its member organisations in promoting inclusion and acceptance of migrants. The report of the study session will be available for our members.



Appendix 1 - Results of the participants' evaluation of the study session

PART I

1. In your opinion, were the objectives set forth by the team realized?
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	21.7%	52.2%	26.1%

2. In your opinion did the study session reach out to your expectations?
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	21.7%	47.8%	30.5%

PART II

1. Did you have any troubles understanding the content of the study session?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
0%	95.7%	4.3%

2. Do you feel the topic has been clearly and fully explained?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
81.8%	18.2%	0%

3. In your opinion, were the orders of the sessions (flow) logical?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
86.4%	4.5%	9.1%

Comments:

- It's so helpful.
- I thought that the participants would be more active in discussion/group works and that the difficulty level would be higher.
- Everything made sense and it was logical.
- Project developing management session weren't as productive as expected. But also due to participants and not only organisation.
- First experience with non-formal education and I really liked it.
- Could have been explained better – i.e. why we play theatre.
- Too focused on refugees.
- Everything was great – content, topics, practices, etc.

4. Which session was most useful to you and why?

- The world Cafe, we got to discuss and come up with ideas. Was creative and stimulating.
- Project management – it helped me to develop my skills and knowledge about strategies and project management.
- Daphnie's "clarification" presentation.
- Facts and figures – helps me analyse migration in a structured way.
- Theatre session (simulation II) - makes me think what I'd like to change in the situation on migration.
- World cafe was a big hit, well organised and inspiring.
- Session with Sven – good set of tools to take home.
- World cafe should have been longer – it was very good.
- Ethical case for open borders – I feel more equipped in arguing on this topic.
- All sessions were useful in different ways.

5. Which session was the least useful and why?

- The acting was a bit unnecessary.

- The session with local NGOs – it was so “local”. Too big of a panel and not to the point or specific.
- The simulations – they didn’t teach me anything new, but were fun.
- Mapping stakeholders was too basic. It never really took off.
- Mapping stakeholder – very very basic.
- Projects – i don’t think they’ll be implemented.
- Theatre session - didn’t learn anything, but fun. Took too much time with little outcome.
- EYP session was useful but gave little opportunity for non-Europeans to participate.
- All sessions were useful in different ways.
- Migration in a nutshell/facts and figures – the conceptualization of the workshop were guided by non-disclosed normative commitments by the presenters.
- All sessions had some logic behind it.
- The documentary – the information it meant to deliver is very well known.

6. Do you think there were enough theory presented to you to fulfil practical exercise?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
63.7%	22.7%	13.6%

7. Did you learn something new at the event?
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	4.5%	27.3%	31.8%	36.4%

8. Will you use the information and knowledge you gained in your home organization/community/work?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
100%	0%	0%

Comments:

- The information I gained is really useful, I will use it in my home country and develop my organisation transform the migration crisis.
- More theory could be added in my opinion.
- Some more theory about project development could be helpful as I don’t believe most participants have that experience.
- Yes, I wish to strengthen my organisation and develop it.
- Feels like we skimmed – we should have gone deeper.
- Too much on technical knowledge – would have been nice to visit European parliament.

9. Do you have any other comments regarding the programme of the event and/or any session in particular?

- Might be good to take the discussion in smaller groups to avoid long period of repeating comments, i.e. after the second simulation.
- Overall, really well set-up. Unfortunate that we didn’t have enough time to convey our opinions.
- Programme structure was good. But I’m hesitant about the participants effort or knowledge.
- Maybe less focus on Europe and more on home countries of participants - could increase the mutual learning between participants.
- Make smaller groups.
- The “projects” should have been more in the direction of what political youth parties could do.
- Was so much fun, thank you for the experience.
- Local NGOs session was very interesting – I will take home the knowledge.
- Shorter breaks and more often.

PART III:

1. Was the team successful in delivering the objectives of the activity?
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	4.5%	27.3%	68.2%

2. Was the team helpful if you needed additional explanations on some issues?

YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
95.5%	0%	4.5%	0%

3. Do you feel the team was well-prepared for the event?

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	0%	22.7%	77.3%

Comments:

- All the team members are well prepared and delivered well. Also very friendly and wish to see them again.
- The team was very competent and fun.
- Talented and experienced.
- I'd like to see this team more often.
- Each team member has his/her own added values which makes the team really good.
- Perhaps put time away for fixing reimbursements, we lost time to spent on i.e. looking at council of Europe building.

4. How would you assess the team building activities proposed by the team?
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	9.1%	36.4%	54.5%

5. Do you have any other comments regarding the team, their work and behaviour?

- All the games were kind of unnecessary.
- They are perfect
- Home group activity was a bit boring – but probably useful for team feedback.
- Good teachers and good planning.
- Thanks to them, it was a successful event.
- Group atmosphere was great.
- The team did not receive criticism that was negative well. Not very helpful in other issues like food or questions about the building. I understand that you do not know everything but I was met with hostility and not helpfulness.
- Flawless team work.
- I lacked confidence but gained it from the team and participants.
- More consideration needs to be given to the walking distance involved in activities and accessing venues. This wasn't mentioned anywhere.

PART IV:

1. How would you assess the organization of the event: communication prior to the event (logistics arrangements, information sent in time etc)
Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	18.2%	40.9%	40.9%

2. How would you assess the organization of the event: venue and capacities for productive learning process?

Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	9.1%	40.9%	50%

3. How would you assess the organization of the event: the combination of working sessions and extracurricular/evening activities?

Scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest grade)

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	4.5%	36.4%	59.1%

4. Do you have any other comments regarding the organization/logistics of the event?

- Weird reimbursement system.
- I thought we'd learn more advanced things at the session so perhaps it would be good to describe the level of difficulty prior to the study session.
- The organizational display should be reconsidered, maybe another format, timeslot or setting.
- Could have sent information earlier about programme and travels.
- I prefer more lectures and less participation – I rather listen to experts opinions.

PART V:

1. Now that the event is over, would you recommend your friends/colleagues to attend this event?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
95.5%	4.5%	0%

2. What is the most valuable thing(s) you are taking back home with you?

- All the connections and knowledge made. New friendships.
- Facts & figures on migration, Project management, project plans.
- I realized how low my knowledge was on this topic and the importance to research before having an idea.
- Good arguments for migration, legal framework surrounding migration.
- How to apply knowledge in every situation. How to start and lead projects. Cooperation.
- I feel inspired by others stories and situations.
- Experience of non-formal education and confidence of talking about migration because of toolkit I developed.
- Different perspectives of participants and knowledge from different organisations.
- Importance of multiculturalism and unity.
- Food and air conditioning was not so good. Strict rules about reimbursement.
- I have attended 20 study sessions and this was has been the best one yet.

3. Do you have any other comments regarding the event?

- The study session was so helpful; I advanced my skills and knowledge on migration. I hope to participate next time.
- Thank you a great and informative week.
- Love you guys.
- It was interesting, but would have liked to go deeper and into more specific political practices. Would be useful to come home with political practices that may be used.
- Translation of the menu would be good and useful French phrases as well.



You(th) and Migration: Transforming the Crisis

**Study session organised by the
International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)
in cooperation with the European Youth Centre Strasbourg**

15-19 May 2017
European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

PROGRAMME, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Sunday, 14 May 2017

Arrival of participants

20:00 Registration of participants (in the dining hall)

20:30 Welcome evening (at the Belgian Lounge)

Monday, 15 May 2017

9.30 Opening Ceremony

Welcome to the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, Tina Mulcahy, Executive Director EYCS

Introduction to the Council of Europe

Introduction to IFLRY

Programme and expectations from the Study Session

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Team-building

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Migration in a nutshell

Theories and concepts

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 The global state of migration

Facts & Figures of Migration: Live Infographic

18:00 Homegroups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Free evening

Tuesday, 16 May 2017

9.30 Simulation game

Migration & Host Society

13.00 Lunch break

14.30 Reflection and Mapping: Identifying Problems & Stakeholders

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 Policies & politics of migration

18.00 Homegroups

19.00 Dinner

21.00 Cultural evening

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

09.30 Civil society – Role and impact

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Civil Society Impact: visit from local NGO's

- Veronique Bertholle, Secretary-General of Youth Express Network
- Khechab Khoutir, Director of Centre Socio-Culturel du Neuhof

- Kenny Tanovan, Youth Worker Centre Socio-Culturel du Neuhof
- Lea Xailly, No Hate Speech Movement France
- Coralie Derais, Coordinator of the No Hate Speech Movement France
- Athena Dalipi, volunteer at the activity Ketenes
- Mevlida Durmisovski, volunteer at the activity Ketenes

Thursday, 18 May 2017

- 09.30 Migration and Europe, exchange with MEP Angelika Mlinar
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Pitching Policy Ideas & Feedback
With the participation of MEP Angelika Mlinar
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 Introduction of the No Hate Speech Campaign
Development of strategies and actions
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Development of strategies and project plans
- 18.00 Homegroups
- 19.00 Dinner
- 21.00 Participant-led evening

Friday, 19 May 2017

- 09.30 Development of strategies and project plans
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 Follow-up planning
Presentation of the European Youth Foundation
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Final conclusions of the Study Session
Evaluation and closing conference
- 19.00 Dinner
- 21.00 Farewell party

Saturday, 20 May 2017

- Departure of participants

Aim and objectives of the study session

- To develop a better of understanding migration as a concept and reasons why people migrate
- To better understand the experiences and needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers , as well as the issues they face with special focus on the impact of other factors such as their gender and age
- To develop a better understanding of the local policies and politics surrounding migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in different countries, and to explore how young people can influence this
- To better understand the thoughts and emotions of local people in host communities, the reasons for their actions and the shift in their political behaviour.
- To explore actions, strategies and programmes that young people can take to help migrants, refugees and asylum seekers integrate into society and promote their acceptance and inclusion, whilst also taking into account the interests of local people in host societies
- To analyse good practices promoting intercultural dialogue and exchange for social reconciliation, peacebuilding and multiculturalism
- To provide a platform for young activists and politicians to discuss the issues surrounding migration and possible solutions to tackle them
- To support youth organizations to develop their capacity and exchange good practices in order to facilitate the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into society, and for participants to become multipliers of this knowledge and understanding within and through their organizations



Study Session “You(th) and Migration: Transforming the Crisis”

Organised by the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)
and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

15-19 May 2017, European Youth Centre Strasbourg

List of participants

Participants

Armenia

Anushik Mkrtchyan, Youth Congress

Sevak Khnkoyan, Youth Congress

Qnarik Tadevosyan, Youth Congress

Bulgaria

Tanzer Yuseinov, Youth MRF

Finland

Theo Herold, Svensk Ungdom

Georgia

Salome Gugushvili, Youth Association Droni

Germany

Despoina Papadopoulou, Bringing Europeans Together Association

Hungary

Fatlum Gashi, Central European University

Italy

Giacomo Giorgini Pignatiello, Cassero LGBT Center

Jordan

Abdallah Abdoh, Free Thought Forum

Lebanon

May El Masri, Future Youth

Montenegro

Luka Nikolic, Centre for International Public Policy

Netherlands

Carmen Vermeer, Jonge Democraten

Norway

Sunniva Eide, Young Liberals of Norway

Katinka Kolaas Ekmann, Young Liberals of Norway

Pakistan

Walied Ali, IFLRY

Poland

Rafał Szkudlarek, Projekt: Polska

Russian Federation

Yegor Lapshov, Vesna Youth Democratic Movement

Sweden

Henning Håkansson, The Center Party Youth

Erik Lofstedt, Liberal Youth of Sweden

Ulla Lovcalic, Liberal Youth of Sweden

Romina Pourmokhtari, Liberal Youth of Sweden

Tanzania

Hamisi Kapalila, African Liberal Network

“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Sanda Krekikj, Lidem

Turkey

Nazlican Kanmaz, 3H Movement

Merve Gungor, 3H Movement

Yunus Barış Ertürk, 3H Movement

United Kingdom

Charley Hasted, Young Liberals

Guest Speaker

Dr Angelika Rosa Milnar, European Parliament, Belgium

Preparatory team

Sebastian Springer, IFLRY

Sven Gerst, IFLRY

Hussam Al Erhayel, IFLRY

Daphne Ploegstra, IFLRY

Ragip Zik, External Trainer

Council of Europe Secretariat

Stefan Manevski, Educational Advisor, Youth Department

Jackie Lubelli, Programme Assistant, Youth Department