

## SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION

12– 13 September 2016

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)  
Rue Belliard 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

### MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

13:15 – 14:00

#### REGISTRATION & MARKET PLACE

Lobby

Participants are invited to bring material about their organisation/initiative to share and discuss with the other participants. Tables will be set up in the foyer for this purpose.

14:00 – 14:15

#### WELCOME ADDRESSES

**Moderator:** Nigel Smith, *Journalist & Responsible for multimedia strategy*, Council of Europe

Room 62

- Adam Shub, *Chargé d’Affaires*, United States Mission to the European Union
- Catherine Woollard, *Secretary General*, ECRE
- Irena Guidikova, *Head of Division and Intercultural Cities Programme Manager*, Council of Europe
- Cristian Pirvulescu, *President of the Permanent Study Group on Immigration and Integration*, European Economic and Social Committee

14:15 – 14:45

#### BOLDNESS VS. STUCKNESS

Can we forge an innovation culture, commitment and capacity that can rise to the 21st Century transformational challenge of refugee inclusion in Europe?

Room 62

Eric Young, *The Social Projects Studio / Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Innovation*, Ryerson University

14.45 - 15.00

#### FIGHTING FEAR WITH COMEDY

Room 62

Firas Alshater, *Syrian actor and web video producer*, Germany

15:00 – 16:30

#### INNOVATION FOR A WELCOMING CULTURE – PLENARY SESSION

A welcoming environment is the prerequisite for any successful social inclusion. What are in practice the strategies and tools existing or to be developed in order to prepare communities and cities for more inclusiveness?

Room 62

**Moderator:** Lynda Ford, *Director*, iGen Foundation / Australia TechFugees

- Marta Siciarek, *Director of Immigrants Support Center and Coordinator of policy on Immigrants Integration Model*, city of Gdansk
- Yonous Muhammadi, *Director*, Greek Forum of Refugees
- Damien Carême, *Mayor of Grande-Synthe*
- Dr Alison Strang, *Chair*, New Scots Strategy Core Group / *Senior Research Fellow*, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

16.30 – 16.45

**COFFEE BREAK**

16.45 – 17.00

**REFUGEE? I HATE THAT WORD**

Room 62

Dawit Friew, *former journalist*, Ethiopian refugee in Norway, student in social education and child welfare work at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology

17:00 – 18:30

**PITCH PRESENTATIONS**

Room 62

**Moderator:** Irini Pari, Member of Permanent Study Group on Immigration and Integration, European Economic and Social Committee.

Organisations from around the globe will 'pitch' their inspiring tool, method or policy that has proven to be successful for social integration of refugees.

18.30 – 19.30

**NETWORKING COCKTAIL AND MATCHMAKING SESSION**

Atrium (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

During the matchmaking, participants will have the opportunity to express their interests and needs as well as present their skills. The information will be gathered and processed to be used for the second matchmaking session.

Drinks and snacks will be provided.

**TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**

09:00 – 10:30

**THE ADDED VALUE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION – PLENARY SESSION**

Room 62

From hackathons to partnerships: A reboot of the tech approach to refugee integration: putting solutions in the hands of refugees & practitioners

**Moderator:** Giuseppe Iuliano, *member of Permanent study group on Immigration and Integration*, European Economic and Social Committee

- Josephine Goube, *Global Chief Operating Officer*, Techfugees
- Kilian Kleinschmidt, *Global Networker and Humanitarian Expert*, Founder of the Innovation and Planning Agency
- Ahmad Al-Rashid, *Syrian activist*

10:30 - 11:00

**COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 – 13:00

**WORKSHOPS**

A more detailed description of the workshops is available below

A - With Us, Not About Us – Making Refugee Participation Real (with interpreting EN/FR/ES/IT) – room 62

B - From Solidarity To Political Change – room 63

C - Housing Crisis Vs. "Refugee Crisis" – room 3210

D - Boldness Project – room 3252

E - From Needs To Skills - The Road To Higher Education – room 2252

13:00 - 14:00

**LUNCH**

Atrium (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

14:00 - 16:00

### ROUNDTABLE WITH PRIVATE SECTOR – PLENARY SESSION

When the interests of the private sector meet the needs of refugee inclusion: developing new partnerships and strategies for refugee inclusion into the labour market.

Room 62

**Moderator:** Corinne Prince St-Amand, *Director General for Integration and Foreign Credential Referral Office*, Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

- Refugee Talent Hub, Accenture
- Trine Lundgaard Hoffmann, *Chief Consultant for career mentoring and internship team*, Foreningen Nydansker (Association New Dane)
- Ove Munch Ovesen, *Senior Advisor*, Novo Nordisk
- Mika Pyykkö, *Senior Lead*, Impact Investing (tbc)
- Marco Cilentio, *Advisor*, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- OECD (tbc)

16:00 - 16:30

### COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - 17:30

### WRAP UP – PLENARY SESSION

Room 62

17:30 - 18:30

### MATCHMAKING SESSION 2

Atrium (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

## WORKSHOPS

Each workshop will begin with a presentation of case studies, followed by a discussion amongst participants.

### A - WITH US, NOT ABOUT US – MAKING REFUGEE PARTICIPATION REAL (ROOM 62, WITH INTERPRETING)

This workshop will look at methods to foster the participation of asylum seekers and refugees in societies from arrival to the granting of citizenship, with a special focus on participatory mechanisms, such as mediation and mentoring.

**Moderator:** Andras Kovats, *Director*, Menedek (HU)

**Case studies:**

- Elodie Mignard, Scottish Refugee Council (UK)
- Annasophia Heintze, *Advisor to the Mayor in charge of refugee inclusion*, City of Erlangen (DE)
- Rita Finco, *Researcher*, Paris 13 and Milano Bicocca University (IT)

## B - FROM SOLIDARITY TO POLITICAL CHANGE (ROOM 63)

Over the past year, many citizens have become service providers for front-line humanitarian emergencies but also integration needs. Some choose to join mainstream organisations as volunteers while others have developed their own initiatives. This creates opportunities (fast mobilisation, innovative and entrepreneurial strategies) for better inclusion of refugees within communities but it can also present challenges including to the work of professional organisations and the authorities. This workshop will discuss how traditional asylum/migration stakeholders can open up to citizens' initiatives in order to create structural solutions to attain refugee inclusion.

**Moderator:** Dani de Torres, *Founder*, Antirumours Global / Council of Europe expert

**Case studies:**

- Thomas Huddleston, *Policy Analyst*, Migration Policy Group (BE)
- Barbara Day, *Domestic Resettlement Section Chief*, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (USA)
- Sophie Mirow, *Responsible for internationalisation*, Refugees Welcome International (DE)

## C - HOUSING CRISIS VS. "REFUGEE CRISIS" (ROOM 3210)

The conditions in which people live determine to a great extent their health, well-being and ability to engage in gainful occupation, pursue self-improvement through education and recreation and, as a consequence, attain a decent standard of living. This workshop will analyse challenges and solutions for permanent and adequate housing for refugees in the EU

**Moderator:** Huibert Haccoû, *IFHP Council Member*, International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)

**Case studies:**

- City of Bergen (NO)
- Audrey Vassalli, *Project Officer*, Forum Réfugiés cosm (FR)
- Housing of Europe (BE)
- Sam Healy, *Refugee Coordinator*, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. U.S. Embassy Belgrade (SRB)

## D - BOLDNESS PROJECT (ROOM 3252)

This workshop aims to bring together creative people who want to work on innovation on a larger scale to bring about transformative change in the way our communities welcome newcomers. How can we align the efforts of policymakers at all levels of government, tech entrepreneurs, NGOs, schools, health services, researchers, faith-based organisations, foundations, diaspora communities, politicians, and many others?

**Moderator:** Eric Young, *The Social Projects Studio / Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Innovation*, Ryerson University

## E - FROM NEEDS TO SKILLS; THE ROAD TO HIGHER EDUCATION (ROOM 2252)

Education plays a crucial role in encouraging integration. It allows newcomers to make connections and friendships to build self-esteem, master the language and to secure a better life. This workshop will focus on refugees access to higher education, and how innovative programs can overcome existing barriers.

**Moderator:** Najib Obaid Babakerkhail, *Human Right Activist* (FR)

**Case studies:**

- Nora Hauptmann, *Head of Public Affairs*, Kiron Open Higher Education (DE)
- Michael Ogubai, *Projectlead Corporate Partnerships*, UAF- Foundation for Refugee Students (NL)
- RESOME (FR) (tbc)