



“Bordering on the possible – Migration, Policy-making and Youth”

Report of the study session held by
Cooperation and Development Network

in cooperation with the
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest
8th – 13th June 2015



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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Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe
Rue Wiertz 31, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Dr Dragoslava Popovica 22, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
tel: +385917808348, +381691017029
E-mail: office@cdnee.org
www.cdnee.org

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1. Introduction to the report

(project background, relation with CDN and Eastern Europe, aim of this report)

Cooperation and Development Network (CDN) is a network of Young Green non-governmental organisations and youth wings of Green political parties in Eastern Europe. CDN consists of 17 member organisations in Eastern Europe and 7 partner organisations in Central and Western Europe, whereas its activities are attended by participants from all parts of Europe and beyond.

Youth mobility and migration policies are recurring topics at CDN events and in its everyday work, as they influence the network and its members in many ways. Freedom of movement starts on a very personal level for citizens, and especially young people, of many Eastern European countries. It is limited for them in terms of travelling, volunteering, education, employment or recreation. These youths are confronted at every step with vast amounts of paperwork and bureaucratic obstacles.

The restriction of movement becomes an even greater problem when someone's possibility to flee persecution and protect their life is endangered. Migration is one of the most burning issues in the current debates at the European level and an important societal question in many European countries. On their way to freedom, refugees are passing through Eastern European countries in the hope of reaching the North and West. Many get stopped or even die on their desperate journey full of peril and great expectations. Recently Greece, Turkey, Macedonia and Serbia had a big influx of refugees. Faced with their own ongoing economic crisis, those countries are hardly able to bear the pressure, especially without external support. That is the reason they are yearning for a response and are looking to share of the burden with the EU and international community - which are slow to secure it.

With this project CDN aimed to put the topic of migration on the agendas of its members and raise awareness about the importance of these issues. CDN wanted to empower them to participate in the discussions and decision-making processes on local and international level. Hence, the aspiration of this study session was to demystify the different actors and their motives in shaping national and international policies, prejudices colouring public discourses and to emphasize the undisputable value of human life and freedom of movement. Young Greens should raise their voices and become changers of the system, contributing to the improvement of the situation and searching for a sustainable and satisfying solution.

This report is compiled from participants' conclusions and discussions during the study session, input from external speakers, evaluation meetings and analyses done by the

organisational team, participants, CDN working groups and the CDN Executive Committee. The goal is to put down on paper what was learned, what doors were opened and what can or will be the next steps.

The following pages will present the discoveries made during this experience, the flow of conclusions in building the bigger picture and it will end with a statement produced by the participants. The statement, aside from formulating and gathering exchanged knowledge and disseminating conclusions, is intended to initiate discussions within CDN member organisations and to provide guidance when opening this topic (Annex 1). Additionally, it will serve as an inspiration for changes and additions to their own and CDN's political platforms.



2. Programme development

(aim and objectives, profile of participants, preparation team work and dynamics)

The international preparatory team was formed on the basis of an open call and consisted of Katarina Pavlović (Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe AISBL, Serbia), Ozgecan Kara (Young Greens of Turkey), Daniel Silberstein (Sweden), Adis Sadiković (Youth movement Revolt, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Netherlands) and course director Petra Škuljević (Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe AISBL, Croatia). The educational adviser to the preparation team was Menno Ettema (European Youth Centre Budapest, Council of Europe).

To better understand the rationale behind the Study session's agenda, aims, objectives and flow of the programme, the planning process within the preparation team will be presented. Furthermore, the aims, objectives and the participants' contribution to the project results will be explained.

2.1. Aims, objectives and addressed topic blocks

The original aim and objectives were developed by the CDN Executive Committee and Office during the process of the application submission. They were reviewed by the preparation team during their first meeting. The team found the aims and objectives to be relevant and corresponding to their vision and expectations of the study session. Nevertheless, some objectives were quite broad and improvements to the formulation and clarity of meaning were made. The rephrased aims and objectives are:

AIM: Increase the influence of youth organisations in shaping national and international migration policies in Europe.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Enhance participants' knowledge regarding present research and discourses regarding migration and human rights
2. Share realities of young people in migration and analyse causes and consequences
3. Review national and international policies on migration and identify entry points of youth organisations to influence decision-making points
4. Develop the competences of participants in advocating and educating in Migration issues
5. Initiate a development of a narrative on migration from the perspective of Young Greens

6. Create a network of young activists, politicians and journalists that will improve the flow of information and facilitate common campaigns

The newly formulated objectives enabled the preparation team to make a clearer connection with the topical blocks and agenda. Considering the anticipated profile of the participants, the prep team realised that the first block of the programme will have to start with establishing a good theoretical basis and presenting the scope of the topic. In order to achieve the aim of the study session, it was essential to explore relevant terms and causes and consequences of migration. Two major questions were: "Why do people want to migrate and why can't people live wherever they want?" When trying to understand the consequences of migration for individuals and societies, it was also important to consider whether they are subjected to immigration or emigration.

In the second topical block the preparation team wanted to introduce the various stakeholders which influence the national and international migration policies, and offer an overview of the public discourses. The aim was to help the participants position themselves somewhere in the field and determine how they can get involved in the public debate, also by questioning potential entry points. Overall, the idea was to create concrete linkages and causes (motives) that are behind certain institutions, mechanisms and political agendas in order to understand by whom, how and why migration policies are enacted in a certain way. The same principle was applied to the public discourses - what are the current public debates on migration saying? On what interests and arguments are they based? Where do they come from? This was intended to tackle prejudices, hate speech and an aura of negativism surrounding migration, especially connected with the increasing popularity of far-right and nationalist movements (xenophobia).

Another major objective of the study session, addressed in a third block, was providing tools to participants that they could use to analyse and communicate their message to the public. Therefore in the programme the tool 'Conflict mapping' was introduced, for assessing the situation and relation between different actors and stakeholders and their field of influence. Also, almost an entire day of the programme was devoted to lectures and workshops on advocacy and campaigning tools organisations could use. Action groups were organised as part of the optional evening programme to create additional learning opportunity and skills development for those who wanted more. We had five activity groups that enriched the programme of the study session: Report, Media, No Hate Speech Movement, Social and Statement.

The fourth and final block of the programme was the drafting and adaptation of a

statement. The participants were challenged to identify the contradictions in the current system by sharing experiences and knowledge and to define values the group wanted to stand for. Those values were included in the study session statement and should be advocated for. The main questions to be addressed in the statement were: how should the migration system function? Which priorities should be leading in defining migration policy? What do we want to see changed?

2.2. Participants

This project aimed to involve two main target groups: 1. Youth Green organisations and youth wings of Green political parties from Eastern Europe, CDN member and partner organisations from Central and Western Europe; 2. Young people from organisations working directly in the field of migration with concrete experience in the field. Realising that the topic of migration is not very present on CDN's member and partner organisations' agendas, the programme strove to enable the exchange between these two target groups. Participants from migrant organisations were expected to bring an expertise perspective on the topic, while the Greens were to contribute with a Green value-based approach. It was challenging to balance the programme in such a way as to keep it interesting and useful for both groups while also ensuring enough space for peer-to-peer learning between them. To enhance this exchange and increase the chances for a follow-up cooperation on local level, representatives from both groups coming from the same country were invited whenever possible.

Participants were selected by the preparation team two months before the event through an open call. Aside from the already mentioned criteria of equal balance between Green and migrant organisations, the team also took into consideration the geographical and gender balance, the motivation of applicants, potential to act as multipliers and contribute to the project follow up. We received 219 applications out of which 35 participants were selected and 33 attended the study session (Annex 2).

ORGANISATIONS	
Number of participating organisations:	26
Number of Green organisations:	12
Number of migration-based organisations:	12
Other	2

GENDER	
Total number of participants:	33
Female:	19
Male:	13
Other:	1
GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE	
Caucasus	6
Balkans	5
RUMB	7
West, South and North Europe	15

In total, there were more female than male participants as much more women applied. Their applications also tended to be of higher quality and closer related to the desired profile of participants than the applications received from men. However, the unbalance in gender didn't affect the programme or its outputs in any way.

The group's dynamic was very positive. There was a slight difference in input from both target groups - while those from migrant-based organisations had a better theoretical background and knowledge of the terminology, those from green organisations felt more comfortable in a Non-Formal Education environment. The preparatory team wanted to balance the participants' experience and motivation, so during the preparatory period an E-Learning platform was used to get to know participants and introduce the topic in advance. The online course proved to be useful during and after the study session to assemble and share all materials used and produced during the activity.

3. Programme

(topic blocks, discussion flow and conclusions)

In this chapter the topic blocks will be presented as they were developed during the study session to show how the participants were introduced and led through the learning process. The focus will be on the concrete discussion points, questions raised and conclusions made. For those who are interested to learn about the methodology, a copy of the session outlines, together with other used materials, can be acquired by contacting CDN secretariat or downloaded from the E-learning platform.

3.1. Migration definitions, causes and consequences

Taking into account all the different and very broad meanings given to the term migration nowadays, it was all but simple to come to a mutual understanding of the term among the participants. The aim was not to come up with new definitions of various types of migration, but rather to make sure that everyone is aware of the wide spectrum of possible meanings. Participants' understanding of the term "migration" was influenced by their cultural background and the context in which the term is used in their countries from legal and socio-cultural perspective. All of these were reflected in how the term "migration" was being referred to during the study session.

Therefore, the possible causes of migration, the reasons behind the limitation of movement for certain people and the consequences of migration were explored.

Causes for migration can be divided into two big clusters: 1) seeking a *better quality of life* which can be based on economic reasons such as finding a better job and opportunities for earning, professional migration. But participants also identified non-economic, rather social-based migration such as exploration of different cultures, travelling, adventures, or education. Some migrants are motivated by better conditions in regard to human and social rights and possibilities; medical reasons; personal relations; religion; diplomatic migration or repatriation.

Another cluster of causes was recognised as 2) *forced migration* which is related to a violation of human rights and political reasons for migration, threat to life - war, human trafficking, slavery, military service. Environmental causes also belong to this cluster which happens due to natural disasters, climate change consequences (floods, drought, etc.), food and water security concerns.

Once we went through the causes of migration, we moved to its **consequences**,

identifying five spheres, *cultural, social, political, personal* and *economic*.

In the *cultural sphere* we can see the change in lifestyle and cultures, art and food, language, debates on identity, cultural cooperation, but also gentrification and cultural appropriation.

Politically, participants recognized the potential of migrant groups to influence the development of new approaches to social and economic systems in the receiving countries. Migrants bring their own experiences and new ideas. Because of this they inevitably change the social structure, also affecting and contributing to the political diversity of options and opinions (sometimes directly through minority representation in the government). This potential to cause change is often presented as a negative consequence of influx of migrants among a majority population. A challenge for the society should be in finding ways how to benefit from diversity, interculturality and to work towards a better, inclusive, innovative and socially just society for everybody. Instead, triggered fear and rejection from the host community are fuelling the raise of the far right movements. Fear is used as a justification to slow down or completely obstruct integration processes, and even induces hate.

In their *Personal sphere*, individuals can get on the one hand a better quality of life, opportunities for self-actualisation, freedom, socio-political protection in terms of their rights and social security. On the other hand, people can feel isolated, disintegrated, forced to assimilate and trapped by bureaucracy and legal requirements.

The *Economic consequences* for countries differ according to whether they are experiencing immigration or emigration. One of the outcomes is the loss of highly educated human resources in less developed countries, whereas receiving countries get this potential without any investment. In this way, the gap between Eastern and Western countries, global South and North, gets only wider.

As positive *Social consequences* of migration we found an increase of social diversity, transnational connections and new public debates as well as increasing solidarity and tolerance. Migration can cause challenges to the social security in the receiving countries, which cannot respond to the raising needs, and stagnation in the country of origin. At the same time countries with strong emigration experience economic, cultural and social stagnation caused by this brain drain.

Deeply connected to the economic aspects of migration are also negative social consequences to migration. Apart from highly skilled migrants, labour migrants work on lower paid jobs which locals are not willing to take. Many migrants suffer or are in a high risk

of suffering work exploitation, below minimum wage pay and slavery. Migrants are often paid less for the same job than locals. This causes a labour price reduction which affects the living standard for the whole society. Visas, working permits and asylums are more easily granted to those who are better educated and seen as more “valuable” (e.g. profitable) for society. Migrants face discrimination based on level of education, race, profession, place of employment, etc. Highly skilled workers are more likely to be accepted and integrated (e.g. expat). In other words borders are open for capital and profit, but not for people, which is a contemporary paradox of our era.

After analysing possible causes and consequences of migration, participants turned to definitions of different types of migration, in order to comprehend their regulations and their connotations. The following is a list of the discussed terms, defined by UNHCR.

Asylum: The grant, by a State, of protection on its territory to persons from another State who are fleeing persecution or serious danger. Asylum encompasses a variety of elements, including non-refoulement, permission to remain on the territory of the asylum country, and humane standards of treatment.

Asylum-Seeker: An asylum-seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum-seeker.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Those persons forced or obliged to flee from their homes, “...in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”.

Migrants (Economic): Persons who leave their countries of origin purely for economic reasons, not in any way related to the refugee definition, or in order to seek material improvements in their livelihood. Economic migrants do not fall within the criteria for refugee status and are therefore not entitled to benefit from international protection as refugees.

Refugee: A person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under UNHCR’s mandate, and/or in national legislation.

Stateless Person: A person who, under national laws, does not have the legal bond of nationality with any State. Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless

Persons indicates that a person not considered a national (or citizen) automatically under the laws of any State, is stateless.

Statelessness: The condition of not being considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

Among all the terms, **expat (expatriate)** led to several discussions. Participants defined it as a person temporarily or permanently residing in a country other than that of the person's origin. Defined that way, any person who works outside their country of origin for a period of time would be an expat. But it was felt that the term is used differently in reality, being reserved for white people from western countries going to work abroad.

In the context of this study session (and report) the term "migrant" was often used in a broader meaning, as an "umbrella term" for all types of migration, no matter the cause, referring to a person who moved from one country to another. Internal migration and displacement weren't in the focus of this study session.

3.2. National and international policies

The second block of the Study Session aimed to dig into national and international laws, conventions and institutions, public discourses and contradictions in the current system. The starting question was "How would it be to become a migrant in my country"? The participants were asked to explore:

- Representation of different types and profiles of migrants in their country
- Access to information and structural support for migrants

Participants researched the internet looking for information about migration. They used resources such as the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), International Labour Organisation database, United Nations Human Rights, and references from national institutions. The objective was to estimate how accessible and easy it is for a foreigner to get to the right information and institutions.

Some of the observations made during the exercise: In certain countries (such as Russian Federation and Slovakia) it was quite difficult to find concrete and accurate information. Even though some general information could be found, there was no specification regarding when this data was collected or what statistics were behind the provided information. In contrast, countries like Denmark, France, Spain and Sweden, offer on governmental official sites big amount of information, not only in the national language and English but in many different languages. Moreover, the data is easy to access and use, although sometimes unfortunately

information is not updated in all languages.

As a positive example, we should mention Armenia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs updates the data on migration on a yearly basis (latest in 2015). There is even a special ministry department which works with Diaspora specifically, because there are far more people from Armenia leaving than foreigners coming to the country. The legislation and procedure are quite inclusive and one can get a working permission fast and easily. It is possible to get asylum even when the entry to the country was illegal.

In contrast, in the Republic of Macedonia refugees have almost no rights, they are hiding from police, cannot access public transportation and are mostly traveling by trains. The most accurate information can be found on social networks. Refugees are living near the railway roads and local communities are trying to help them. Basic supplies such as potable water, food, clothes are provided by self-organised civil initiatives.

The results differed from country to country, but the reality is that national policies do not always correspond to actual needs of the migrants. The information is not that easy to access or understand even for a native speaker, procedures are often complicated, and there are no local guides for migrants.

In the contrast to many differences seen on national level in practices and policies, at international level, there are mechanisms, conventions, treaties and agreements that stand for the rights of migrants. The **Universal Human Rights statement reads** *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”* In other words people have the human right of freedom of movement, asylum and non-discrimination that should be granted and implemented at a national and international level.

The rights of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers are in detail explained in various European legal documents that are based on the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. They guarantee and advocate access to basic human rights. There are also many international organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (The UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) that work worldwide on ensuring the protection of the rights of migrants and regulating procedures. Despite this, there are still reports in the European Union (not only Greece, Italy, but also France, United Kingdom) stating cases where human rights of migrants aren't fully protected and practiced. So where does it go wrong?

The main aim behind asylum is to help people to obtain basic safety in cases where it is

not possible to have it in their own countries. One of the discrepancies between international treaties and national policies can be noted when talking about asylum seekers, the question being whether asylum seekers are able to change the country of their asylum application and whether it is possible to relocate migrants according to current laws. According to law in some EU countries, the right to seek asylum is allowed only in the country of "the first EU entrance". When it comes to the national laws and implementation, standards and conditions for asylum seekers and refugees vary between countries. There are "safe countries" with better standards and those with fewer rights for asylum seekers.

To enable long term durable solutions, such as integration, resettlement and voluntary repatriation, the conditions for asylum seekers and migrants in general should be standardized. That would allow a better coordination and cooperation between countries, and lower the pressure for some. Hence, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was mandated to supervise the integration of international standards to national laws, to make quality assessments, thus having a mostly judicial engagement.

Of the long term durable solutions, integration is the most challenging as it includes adaptation and engagement from both sides: equalization of human rights, procedure to provide opportunity to self-realization, and cross cultural/cross social reciprocation. What makes it even harder is its extremely deep relation with socio-economic issues, culture and social perception. The latter includes an additional difficulty, the fact that it is permeable by mass media opinion and, more importantly, by political campaigns against migration. For example, in Hungary there was a campaign based on statements such as: "Migrants if you are coming to Hungary, you will not take our jobs".

By taking all the above mentioned elements into consideration, participants reached a common conclusion: Migration cannot be solved on a national level. Instead it should be discussed and addressed on the international level, being transferred and implemented equally in each state. There should be a mutual strategy, sharing the burden and responsibility towards humanity, in order to find fair solutions.

3.3. Contradictions current system and ideal society

After a theoretical introduction to the topic and an exploration of the various stakeholders, conventions and laws, the next step was to focus on implementation and practice. Although national regulations and international agreements are supposed to ensure Human Rights, there still seem to be many problems and contradictions caused by the system. So where are the roots of the problem? Why do policies not work and how come reality is so different from the justice that is advocated and represented in the laws?

In order to explore and go beyond this, the preparatory team used the method of “Conflict mapping” to put participants in the shoes of one of the study cases. An imaginary case of a Nigerian girl that escaped from Boko Haram, got smuggled out, ended up in prostitution and made an asylum claim in Spain, was used for the exercise. Participants analysed the different positions of the actors involved and visualised a map of different influences/interactions. This exercise helped to put together in one scheme the international institutions and organisations fighting for rights of migrants, national forces implementing laws (police, social service, etc.), and at the end individuals in direct contact with the girl (pimp, customers, etc.). Through the session direct and indirect relations as well as the direction of influences were drawn out.

This exercise enabled participants to see structural violence and marginalisation in a wider range of categories, i.e. gender, race, nationality, religion, corruption leading to inequality and discrimination. Stakeholders working on ensuring and enhancing the rights of migrants are oftentimes limited in their options for action. Local services are often restricted by national laws and procedures, and cannot offer adequate responses (e.g. in the case study - prostitution is illegal in Spain which would not allow the Nigerian girl to ask for their help) nor official information. It is very hard to find impartial bodies to offer objective information and provide help and advices to migrants in these kinds of situations. Journalists, the public and social media also appear in the overall picture, with important but often dual roles. From one side, they can provide help and support by raising public awareness, sensibility and sympathy towards individual cases. However, their impact can also be in spreading misinformation, being a tool for deepening public fear and nationalist propaganda.

What all mentioned stakeholders have in common is limited contact with the person in question - migrant, refugee or asylum seeker. It is hard to reach people caught up in difficult situations. Even those who are under direct attention and governmental care are often lacking proper support due to lack of information about procedural and structural conditions and their rights.

These observations led participants to consider two main points when planning activities. First is the need for an overview of positions of power and influence, which help to define the target group of advocacy work. Who is in the position to execute the desired change in society? Who must be influenced to reach the objectives? Second is to find their own position in the map, be aware of their relations with the others and their outreach. “Conflict mapping” has proved to be a useful tool for both purposes – self-positioning and defining other stakeholders, and areas of influences. With this awareness, the question of the participants’ next actions, roles and positions was left open to be answered by each of

the participants individually and in their organisations.

In this segment of the programme, it was time to shape a concrete vision of the desired social change. What are participants aspiring to and what kind of society they want? On what values should it be based? How should it be organised? In order to search for answers, participants were asked to create their ideal societies.

Each group had to do this by imagining how various social services should be arranged, and above all - how would migrants be integrated. They were asked to think of decision making processes, leisure activities, public services such as water, food, housing, electricity, education, management of goods and existence of monetary system, organisation of work, urbanism, conflict solving and so on.

The ideal society of each group involved: inclusive decision making, no borders, equality, sustainability, free education, orientation towards community. Different participant groups assumed that with this premise, the need for migration (involuntarily) would be significantly lessened and people could move freely wherever they wanted. A big emphasis was put on a safe environment and everyone's right to decide about their own lives, which needs to be guaranteed to every citizen.



What should be mentioned is that throughout all of the presentations the participants' reluctance and disbelief towards an ideal society was evident. One of the discourses focused on the necessity of a "sustainable civilization", saying that for the change of the social structure we need good education and respect for others. Participants assumed that in an ideal world, people would share the same values and have a common approach on how to reach them. Individuals and groups were spoken about in terms of their contribution and participation to/in the society, up to their own capacities. Challenge that lies ahead is how to bring together communal "contribution" and self-realisation (individualism)?

The idea that came up was that in order to change the view on migration, people needed to challenge the notion that someone has more privilege on certain land than others on the basis of birth and/or nationality. This raises a question of assimilation, integration and a right to keep your own cultural identity - how to find a better balance? Should the change start on an individual or on a group level?

For most participants the right direction seemed to be the initiative from the bottom, starting on an individual level. Most movements that made significant changes were always grassroot movements, those that mobilised a mass of people to go out and speak their mind. It is impossible to achieve an ideal society and social change only by relying on institutions, as they prioritize self-preservation and status quo (keeping the system).

3.4. Advocacy and campaigning

Advocacy is the act of pleading or arguing in favour of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy, in order to exert some influence¹. It is a part of an ongoing dynamic process that starts with posing the question *why* until the root of the problem is reached. Advocacy involves: a) ensuring a proper usage of power - enabling those without power to gain access to it, and helping those who feel powerless to use the power they already have, b) education of the powerless and the powerful, c) seeking justice for those who are oppressed or treated unfairly, d) bringing change - in personal situation and for individuals, through changing systems, structures and policies, and e) being a voice for the voiceless and allowing the voiceless to find their own voice.

When a certain party decides to advocate for something they need to have a clear goal. Possible goals are to: a) reform existing policies, laws, budgets; by developing new programme; b) inform and educate leaders and policy makers, or those who implement policies (social workers, lawyers, police); c) create a more democratic, open and

¹ The Free Dictionary: Advocacy (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/advocacy>)

accountable decision-making structures and procedures.

For a successful advocacy campaign it's important to have a careful and detailed planning process. The first of the several steps is to **develop the message** by setting a realistic policy goal with clear objectives known and understood by the whole team. Once the group agrees on what to communicate, an important part is to ensure that the message is concise and understandable. After that, the group should **create a strategy** to decide on the target group (to whom is the message intended, and who are the benefactors of social change – they don't have to be the same group) and what actions should be undertaken (task division, clear instructions and plan of action).

In order to achieve the goals, **lobbying and campaigning** are important advocacy tools that include innovation and creativity to gain public attention. The success of the campaign can be increased by joining forces with other organisations, interested stakeholders and building up informal connections (**networking**), innovative usage of social networks and media, various actions for raising awareness, etc.

A great method to check whether the message is good enough is known as **KISSing in the elevator** (Keep It Short & Simple). Advocators should be able to shortly and understandably explain who they are, what the issue is, what they want to change – in the duration of a time of an elevator ride.

After a campaign, it is very important to do a **follow up** so that results and outcomes can be visible. That will enhance the motivation of the activists, and show their efforts in a positive light. To preserve the motivation and the interest of people, it is essential to establish precise deadlines and respect them, to encourage activists to keep any commitments and to emphasise the appreciation for their time and attention. All information should be accessible, timely, and, when applicable, complemented with thought-through media and visual identity.

The last stage of every activity is an **evaluation** to explore and estimate the results, improve work through feedback and critical analysis, identify lessons learnt and build upon the achievements.

4. Evaluation

(prep team and participants' feedback)

The evaluation of the study session was conducted by the preparatory team, the educational advisor and participants. The participants' evaluation was done during the last session of the programme – both orally and in writing. During the Closing space the participants visited different corners and reflected on things they had learned, wanted to keep, would preferred to have been different, etc. Afterwards, they were given the evaluation form to fill in.

According to the results, the participants were in general very satisfied with the study session. Some appreciated a more formal approach, with a lot of input and new knowledge (in form of lectures). Others absorbed the knowledge better during more interactive sessions and non-formal learning methods. However, the majority said that the methods used were inclusive and diverse, providing space for different types of learning. The preparatory team was useful in facilitating their learning process. The EYC support (accommodation, food, stuff, facilities) was positively evaluated.

Concerning the things that could have been done better it was mentioned that a stronger representation of a Green value-based approach and perspective would have been appreciated. Some participants noticed that some discussions were too focused on the EU. The participants also wished to have more a “first-hand” experience approach.

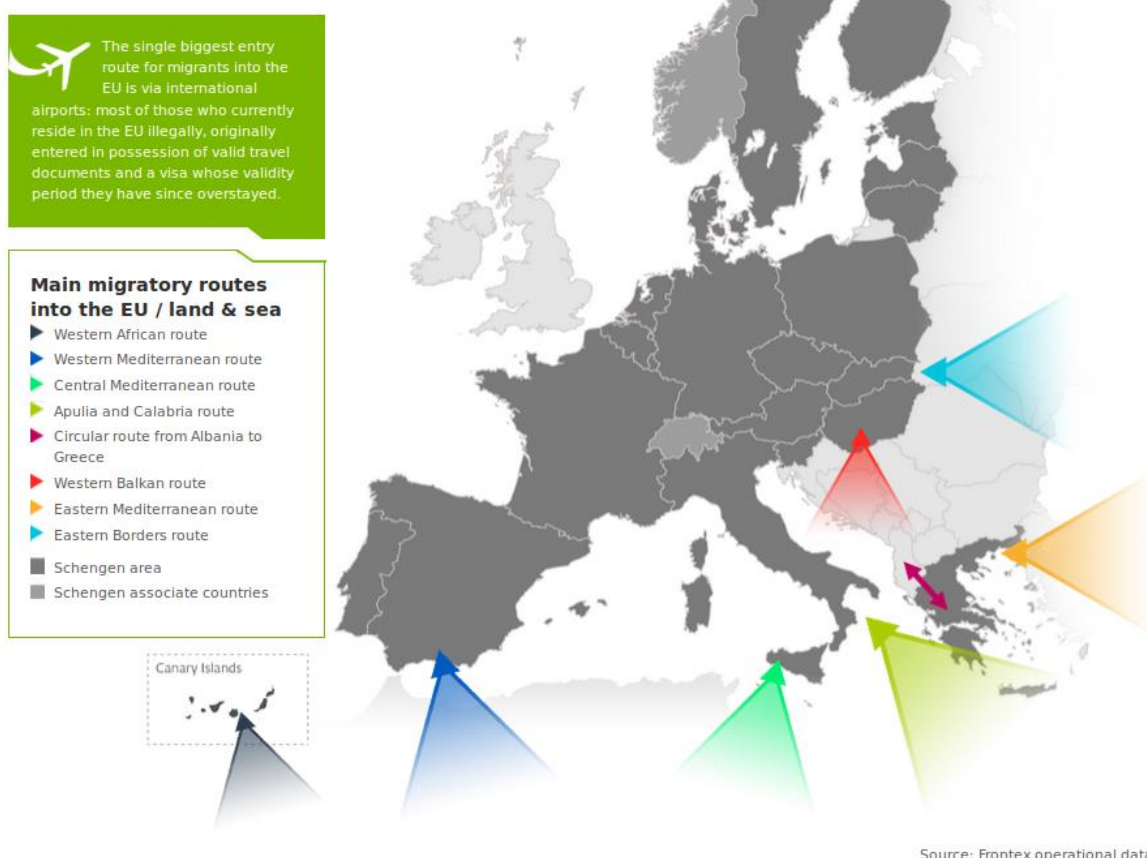
The preparatory team was very satisfied with the preparation and implementation of the project, the cooperation and support from the educational advisor and EYCB. The estimation of participants' profile and knowledge has proved to be good, and the programme corresponded to the aim and objectives set. During the study session, the preparatory team invested a lot of efforts to be reflective, to follow and reflect on the group learning progress and to adopt the programme if it was needed. This adaptation provided extra work for the team, but was essential to execute the programme flow that was planned. In that regard, the help and perspective of the educational advisor was very valuable.

Overall, the study session was evaluated as successful, with most of its objectives reached.

5. Conclusion

The Study Session took place at the peak of the asylum seekers' influx to the European Union. Being in Budapest at that time meant meeting many people on the streets who have "successfully" passed the Western Balkan route and reached the European Union. In the same time, the participants have witnessed the response of the Hungarian government and their anti-immigration campaign (communicated via posters and billboards). This was a visual reminder of the importance of raising awareness and sensibility of the public towards the asylum-seekers' position, the legal, social, political and personal challenges migrants face, and fighting against the violation of their Human Rights.

MIGRATORY ROUTES MAP



Migration as a topic needs a holistic approach integrating the historical and political aspects, and an analysis of the causes and consequences. During the study session the Statement group, composed of volunteers from participants and prep team, was assigned to facilitate the process of statement creation. The content for the statement was gathered from participants through world café and opens discussions, and formulated by the Statement group. Afterwards, every participant had the right to submit amendments which were

accepted or rejected by a simple majority vote. The purpose of the statement was to gather and disseminate the conclusions of study session, initiate discussions within the CDN member organisations, provide guidance for interested parties when opening this topic and to serve as an inspiration for changes and additions to their own and CDN's political platform.

Some of the participants and their organisations have launched solidarity actions with refugees in their countries right after the event. Some started planning joint international projects on migration. The CDN Balkan Regional meeting this year will elevate common efforts in responding to refugee crisis of Balkan Young Greens.

Eastern European societies are from one side hit by the brain drain phenomenon, and from the other side, are temporary hosts for masses of migrating people with very specific needs. In both cases, though very different ones, the capacities of the societies to support those needs are in question as the economic, social and political crisis in the region is still ongoing. Systematic international measures need to be taken and the responsibility fairly distributed within the international community. The changes need to be based on democratic discussions and education, where the role of young people as new progressive generations of change-makers is crucial.

As clearly concluded in our Statement from the Study Session, "There is a clear need to continue working on these topics at different levels of European youth work in order for us to solve the burning issues related to migration. We consider this an essential part of the European project, as its current manifestation does not correspond to a Europe base on Human Rights."

6. Appendices

6.1. Annex 1

40 participants from Green youth organisations, international organisations, academia and the media explored the topic of Migration. Here can be found summarized conclusions of their work:

STATEMENT

Human life must be valued equally, regardless of legal status. Coexistence and active support for migrant narratives is necessary to increase cooperation, communication and solidarity in Europe. In this context, causes of migration should be acknowledged and addressed, particularly colonialism and foreign and economic policy.

Rights of migrants

We demand the respect of the rights of migrants, regardless their official legal status. All migrants must have access to health care, the labour market and education, especially language training. The necessary measures must be taken in order to prevent migrants from being exploited by employers - migrants must benefit from the same labour rights as citizens. Formal and non-formal education should be used to create platforms for interaction and to support migrant narratives. We call for adequate and humane housing conditions. The only criteria for migrants who wish to apply for citizenship should be a short period of stay and basic working knowledge of an official language. The financial burden of applying for citizenship should not be an impediment.

Migration and the rise of the far right

Societal problems arising from inequality and the economic crisis are being blamed on migration. The far right hijacked the narrative on migration and has had a disproportionate influence on migration policy. Alarming, some actors on the political left have copied the far right's rhetoric. We need to engage with people who consider the far right as a political movement voicing their concerns. Parts of the media have propagated myths and stereotypes surrounding migration - this needs to change! We advocate migrant-led narratives in traditional and social media and promoting responsible human-rights based journalism.

Demilitarized border management

Borders that are managed by armed forces generate violence towards migrants as they are perceived as the enemy. Cases of using lethal violence against people crossing borders show a fundamental contradiction with the human rights obligations of the European Union

and European states. We call for de-militarization, transferring military tasks to civil initiatives and regulating borders humanely. There is an urgent need for an European Union action in the Mediterranean.

Solidarity and responsibility for refugees

We demand a unified system for accepting refugees all over the European Union territory. European Union and its states should recognise that asylum seekers have the right to apply for refugee status in the country of their choice abolishing the unfair Dublin Regulation III. Asylum seekers must not be detained. The cost should be shared proportionally between Member States. A fair system of assessing the qualifications for protection should be applied equally throughout Europe. This system should be monitored by civil society organisations and an ombudsperson for this purpose. Re-settlement of refugees in the European Union and issuance of humanitarian visas should be increased to meet the global need for asylum. The European Union should encourage other countries to also address this need.

Conclusion

There is a clear need for continuing to work on these topics at different levels of European youth in order for us to solve the burning issues related to migration. We consider this an essential part of the European project, as its current manifestation does not correspond to a Europe based on human rights.

6.2. Annex 2

List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
Mariam	Khalatyan	Student Scientific Society of Yerevan State University	Armenia
Tatevik	Durgaryan	Partnership for Green Development	Armenia
Asima	Nasirli	Azerbaijan Migration Centre Public Union	Azerbaijan
Gergana	Yovova	The Refugee Project	Bulgaria
Yauhen	Herasimenka	CDN / Green Generation	Belarus
Julian	Hauser	CDN	Belarus
Steffie	Koch	/	Germany
Mathias Klitgård	Sørensen	HYSTERIA	Denmark
Francesca	Ricciardi	ACNUR(UNHCR);Ecologistas en Acción (Ecologists in Action)	Spain
Tatiana	Krihtova	Youth human rights movement	Finland
Teo	Comet	Green Youth and Students	Finland
Agnes	Le Cossec	/	France
Aleja	Taddesse	African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)	United Kingdom
Arlind	Puka	North of England Refugee Service	United Kingdom
Jana	Szczepaniak	Young Greens of England and Wales	United Kingdom
Giorgi	Maruashvili	United Nations Association of Georgia (UNAG)	Georgia
Masha	Dzneladze	CDN / Georgian YG	Georgia
Natia	Kharibegashvili	Georgian Young Greens	Georgia
Louise	Crichton	Il Samaritano, SPRAR project Rieti	Italy
Gheorghe	Zugravu	Moldovan Young Greens	Moldova
Lisa	Gutu	CDN	Moldova
Lukas	Joura	Junge Grüne - Young Greens (Austria)	Moldova
Miriam	Ricevuti	International Organisation for Migration - Mission to Moldova	Moldova
Hiu Ling	Chan	Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)	Netherlands
Kazi	Farud	Wageningen Universiteit & Wageningen University	Netherlands
Anna	Orlova	Network of European Digital Youth (NERDY)	Russia
Viktor	Petrovic	Young Greens of Sweden	Sweden
Marián	Sedlák	IFMSA - The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations	Slovakia
Muhip Ege	Caglidil	Amnesty International Turkey section Activist group	Turkey
Pelin	Atakan	Young Greens of Turkey	Turkey
Ievgeniia	Bulgakova	Civic organisation "DESYATE KVITNYA"	Ukraine
Iryna	Okseniuk	NGO "Green Youth of Ukraine" (Ukraine
Milan	Nikolovski	MODOM	The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia