



NEWSLETTER NR 2/02/07

Around one thousand individuals, leaders of institutions, civic society organizations as well as migrants and people of various backgrounds supported our appeal to the European Commission. In the letter the Barka Foundation and its partner organizations asked the Commission to increase support for work migrants from the New Accession Countries and through that to join the EuroMI network (email: euromi@euromi.info).
<http://www.euromi.info>

A meeting with EU Commissioner Vladimir Špidla In Warsaw.

During an international conference called "Social Pacts- a chance for success" under the patronage of the Polish Prime Minister and the Speaker of Polish Parliament organized on the 24th of January 2007 in Warsaw, the EuroMI representatives - Małgorzata Malak and Ewa Sadowska met with Vladimir Špidla - Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

(http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/spidla/index_en.cfm) and his assistant Isabel Pérez-Minayo (email: isabel.perez-minayo@ec.europa.eu).

During the meeting the EuroMI representatives talked about the European Migrants' Integration Network and the need for cooperation with the European Commission. The Commissioner assured that a response to the EuroMI appeal to the European Commission will be sent soon.

http://www.euromi.info/konf_pakty.doc
http://www.euromi.info/koresp_spidla.doc

Media campaign conducted by the EuroMI in cooperation with the Polish TV Polonia

The EuroMI project has taken part in an intense media campaign for "work migrants". You can learn more about it from the link below.

As a result of our cooperation with the media, the perception of the "work migration" phenomena has changed significantly. Journalists, authorities and civic society organizations as well as another members of general public have changed their approach towards the issue. Luckily the negative lobbying has ceased. It was a dangerous phenomena since it was only evoking sensation and was showing the migrants in their worst state of degradation.

The issue of long term support of governments, communities and civic society organizations (both from the countries of migrants' origin and the countries of destination) as opposed to a short-term assistance is being raised more and more often. We feel encouraged to present new projects and organize the support system of institutions including our model centers for migrants integration in the major cities of the EU.

http://www.euromi.info/euromi_media.html

We started conducting training sessions for volunteers and staff of civic society organizations and institutions of public sector. This process has been implemented in cooperation with institutions specialized in the field. Individuals who have gone through recruitment and have completed an internship in a partner organization will have an opportunity to work in one of the planned model Centers for Migrants' Integration (CIM) in London, Dublin, Paris, Madrid and Rome as well as other centers established by our partner organizations and institutions.

Internships and training which prepare the future Staff of CIM to work with migrants, are currently conducted in the Centers of Social Integration operated within Consortium Barka and its partners.

http://www.euromi.info/euromi_staze.html

There are consultations being run with our partner organizations of the emerging EuroMI Network.

The cooperation with the UK has been particularly intense. It is in the UK (London) that we hope for our first Center for Migrants to be soon opened. The Barka Foundation staff started the process of registering the *Barka Foundation UK*. Mrs. Bernadette Cassidy from London offered to rent her house to the Barka Foundation at a fair price to serve the purpose of helping the "work migrants".

Michelle Mckearnon from the non-profit enterprise „Furniture Plus” from Edinburgh (www.furnitureplus.org.uk) came to Poland invited by the Member of European Parliament Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg from Wroclaw (south-western Poland). On the 11th and 12th of February Mrs. Mckearnon visited Consortium Barka within the project of European Migrants Integration Network.

The conversations with Mrs. Mckearnon resulted in designing a new EuroMI program for cooperation between polish social cooperatives and centers of social economy with non-profit enterprises in Old Member States.

[http://www.euromi.info/michelle_notka_pl\].doc](http://www.euromi.info/michelle_notka_pl].doc)

The number of our partners in EuroMI Network is increasing:

http://www.euromi.info/euromi_liderzy.html

The financial bids to support the EuroMI Network were submitted by Consortium Barka to the following sources:

Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Policy – The Homelessness Fund ;

European Commission, INTI ;

EACEA, "STRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL" ;

Polish Senate RP, The Fund supporting Polonia ;

Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Civic Initiatives' Fund ;

London Councils European Social Fund, Objective 3.

The EuroMI Network is learning lessons from experiences of the partnership „Social Economy in Practice” of the EQUAL Community Initiative.

The model program of the partnership „Social Economy in Practice” administrated by the Barka Foundation, has been realized by 15 civic society organizations and institutions in the six selected regions of Poland.

1. The network of communication and cooperation between institutions and civic society organizations in local environments of Poland has been in the process of creation.
2. The local partnerships established within the program “Social Economy in Practice” enable the implementation of complex solutions in the field of social integration, education, and entrepreneurship.
3. Partnerships may formally register through creation of an alliance of public institutions and private organizations. Act on Private-Public Partnership is in preparation.
4. Within the partnership “Social Economy in Practice”, there are centers of social economy operated whose aim is to provide social and professional integration and activation of the long-term unemployed, train the unemployed individuals to be self – employed establishing their own associations, social cooperatives and social enterprises as well as prepare for migration those who are interested.
5. There is a *loan fund* to be established for representatives of social cooperatives and social enterprises.
6. Local community clubs, centers of integration, educational associations patterned after folk universities are being established as well. They educate individuals in difficult life situations.
7. The model for leaders’ education (SLES) is being tested. It focuses on creation and management of the above mentioned programs.
8. Within Consortium Barka, a young leaders’ association called “Re- GENERATION” was created. The Association assembles leaders from 16 to 30 years old.

Model partnerships will embrace 16 regions of Poland and eventually will be replicated in all UE countries thus creating the EuroMI Network.

We welcome your proposals, comments and information about your activities and programs!

Warm Regards,

EuroMI Team POLAND

<http://www.euromi.info> euromi@euromi.info