

TO THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PLANNING TO WORK WITH REFUGEES

Preparation:

- *Youth workers need to receive training on working with young people from refugee background and involving them into activities with local youth. The training should include intercultural learning, human rights education, diversity, work with groups, conflict management, and interfaith.*
- In order for the refugees to come to the youth organizations and youth centres, they should be approached and invited to join by presenting the organizations, activities, and events
- Young people that are part of the youth centres or youth organizations should discuss the cultural and diversity aspects prior to the introduction of refugees. *Youth workers should be dedicating time and start preparing young people for interaction and living with others.*
- Before starting work with social integration of refugees organizational resources and capabilities need to be assessed. Remember what you do best and continue doing that.

Activities:

- The activities that are regularly organized by youth centres or youth organizations can be expanded to involve the refugees. The refugees should be accepted as any other person joining the organization or a youth centre.
- Refugees can be users of services provided by the NGOs as well as a resource of knowledge and experience to help other refugees so they can contribute to the organization as a member, volunteer or co-worker.
- Work with refugees should be started with low threshold activities. Giving young refugees time to do nothing, not to put pressure and high expectations.
- The following activities were chosen as interesting to the refugees: hanging out and communicating; board games; foosball (table football); watching movies; cultural evenings (telling about the country, culture, customs, singing songs, dancing, cooking traditional dishes); cooking; crafts; creating websites (learning how to do it); playing musical instruments; sports (football, volleyball, basketball); trips; participating in events; getting consultations and information on relevant topics.

Cooperation

- Approach other NGOs, youth centres and the organizations that are in charge of the socialization of refugees in your country.
- Joint activities will have bigger and wider impact than several organizations doing activities separately. Do not waste resources on doing something that is already being done or was done previously. Learn from each other's experiences.
- Public institutions are swamped with paperwork and formal assistance to the refugees – youth led organizations and youth centres can be a great platform for the refugees to actually find local friends.
- Organize joint actions between organizations working with refugees and youth organizations and tackle the media coverage of the refugees' topic.

Challenges

- Young people might not be happy with refugees joining the youth centres or youth organizations (look into preparation)
- Parents might have problems with joined activities between locals and refugees (look into work with communities)