

**MIGRANT AND REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
A WAY TO THE LABOUR MARKET**
International practical online seminar
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**Activities of Jonava district
Social Services Center in the
context of immigrant's integration
in the local community**

Director

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Social services center was established by Jonava district municipality in 2007. We work with all residents of Jonava district, have several departments in Jonava town and village areas of Jonava's region.

We are working with **different target groups**, there are:

- Disabled adults and children, their families;
- Eldery people;
- Young non-active people (who have experienced social exclusion, don't study, aren't active in a labour market);
- Families, wich experience social risk and their children;
- Refugees, forced migrants, foreigners and their children;
- Victims of domestic violence;
- Other people, who are in a crisis (who has problems with alcohol and so on).

<http://www.jonavosspc.lt/lt/>

<https://www.facebook.com/socialiniupaslaugucentras.jonava>

Jonavos r. socialinių paslaugų centro 2018 -2019 m. veikla



**Social inclusion
(The concept of
Jonava district
Social services
center)**

National and
international training
of staff

Understanding social
exclusion problems –
using new methods of
Inclusion

Program of assistance to
persons with addiction
problems

Preventing,
interfering and
dealing with
domestic violence

The implementation of
an extended approach
to exclusion groups -
events „together“

Inclusion of forced
migrants, ethnic
minorities

Activities of the care
center - support for
carers, adoptive
parents, GIMK training

Social, complexity
services at home

Interinstitutional,
client-oriented case
management - the role of
the local community

Early intervention -
prevention of social risk

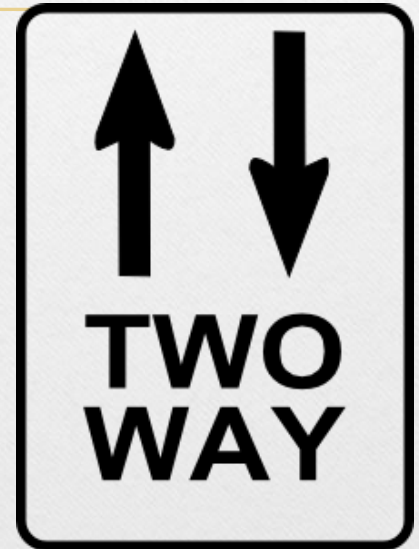
Complex aid for families
at risk (case
management, mediation,
psychological
assistance)



- Lithuania in 2019 gave asylum to 499 forced migrants. Mostly from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Tajikistan (in 2020 m. there are many asylum seekers from Belarus).
- Global and national tendencies are very important for Kaunas region and Jonava's municipality in particular, because in our district is Refugees reception center (established in 1996) .
- So, Jonava's local community have twenty years experience of “living together” with immigrants from different countries.

Two-way process

- **Social inclusion / Integration** is a difficult two-way process, that's why it's so important to prepare not only newcomers, but also to prepare local community.



Forced migrants in the two-way process

- According to the EU directive (2003/3/EB) **forced migrants** are declared as vulnerable group of migrants, with special needs.
- Migrants, who were faced military actions, repressions, violence, hunger, discrimination and other injuries, come to asylum country with **many psychological problems**: post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and related mental disorders, neurosis, phobias, high anxiety level, various personality-disorder (Bhugra D., 2004; Gojer J. 2014; Lacerof S., 2015).
- Arriving in an unfamiliar environment/ new country, forced migrants face new difficulties: adaptation in the foreign society, cultural, religious, economical and other challenges, employment difficulties and so on.

Local community in the two-way process

- **Local community** also face different problems of “living together” – cultural, religious, behavioral and other differences, intercultural communication difficulties.
- To solve such difficulties, to make this process successful - it is necessary to ensure both sides of integration.

Local community and integration

- Forced migrants come not just to abstract asylum country, they are coming to the specific municipality. So, **the role of the local community** is very important. It's important to help newcomers avoid marginalization and to become real members of the local community.
- In this context **local community – as an environment of social inclusion, development, self-realization and positive socialization – have important empowerment and educational resources.**
- The best empowerment of immigrants, their integration can be realized by **the participation** in the local community life. Particularly active as the community resource of personal integration practiced through **social participation.**

Good practice:

- *how the participation in the non-formal short-term social education program and social participation activities involve both groups of integration – local community and forced migrants???*

Characteristics of the participants:



- according to the two-way process of integration, it was selected two study groups:
- 1) representatives of the local community – ***students*** from KTU, participating in the program as volunteers (N=10)
- 2) ***forced migrants***, living in Jonava, Kaunas municipalities and participating in the program (N=10).
- Nationality characteristics of the participants – Lithuanians, Afghans, Ukrainians, Syrians, Chechen.

• ***First step - preparing education:*** KTU courses of “Multicultural education”, „Socio-educational Work with migrants“

• ***Second step – practical process of volunteering:*** Lithuanian Red Cross “Migrants’ day centers” in Kaunas, Jonava’s social services center.

• ***Third step – evaluation:*** Lithuanian Red Cross, Jonava social services center initiated empirical study analyzed ***student-volunteers’ reflections, about their job experience with refugees.*** So, the majority of respondents noted, that volunteering influenced their values revaluation, provisions’ change (both negative and positive), minimized some fears and ethnical stereotypes and improved their inter-cultural communication skills.

Student’s steps



Forced migrants' steps

- ***First step - preparing education:*** the short-term program of non-formal social education for multicultural communication skills.
- ***Second step – practical process of volunteering:*** in Jonava social services center providing care help to elderly and disabled Lithuanian people. Common activities for Jonava's social risk families and refugees.
- ***Third step – evaluation:*** these steps empower forced migrants to became more active and successful in the integration into a social life and labour market (taking part in the program they get new experience of intercultural communication, participate in social activities of Jonava's local community, and also have opportunity to work in social care area – it empowered 6 refugees (5 women, 1 men) to get new profession – assistant of social worker and to integrate in our labour market in such way).



Our steps of the social inclusion:

- Preparing both sides of the integration process – forced migrants and local community
- Using non-formal education forms
- Social activities and volunteering
- Common activities...





Thank you for the attention 😊

Comments and Questions are Welcome

