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# EU CAN

EUROPEAN COUNTER AND  
ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES  
NETWORK

01/01/2018 - 15/07/2019

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TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
GUADASSUAR, SPAIN





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## Agenda Transnational workshop

1. Conference "Unaccompanied foreign minors: the experiences of reception centre in mediation and intercultural communication"
2. The results of the research phase
3. Tools and guidelines to organize local workshops "From knowledge to empathy, from empathy to integration"
4. Concrete plan of actions
5. International Refugee Day - Movie projection



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# EU CAN

The EU CAN Network consists of local authorities, NGO's, trainers, social workers and CSO's committed to support integration and democratic participation.

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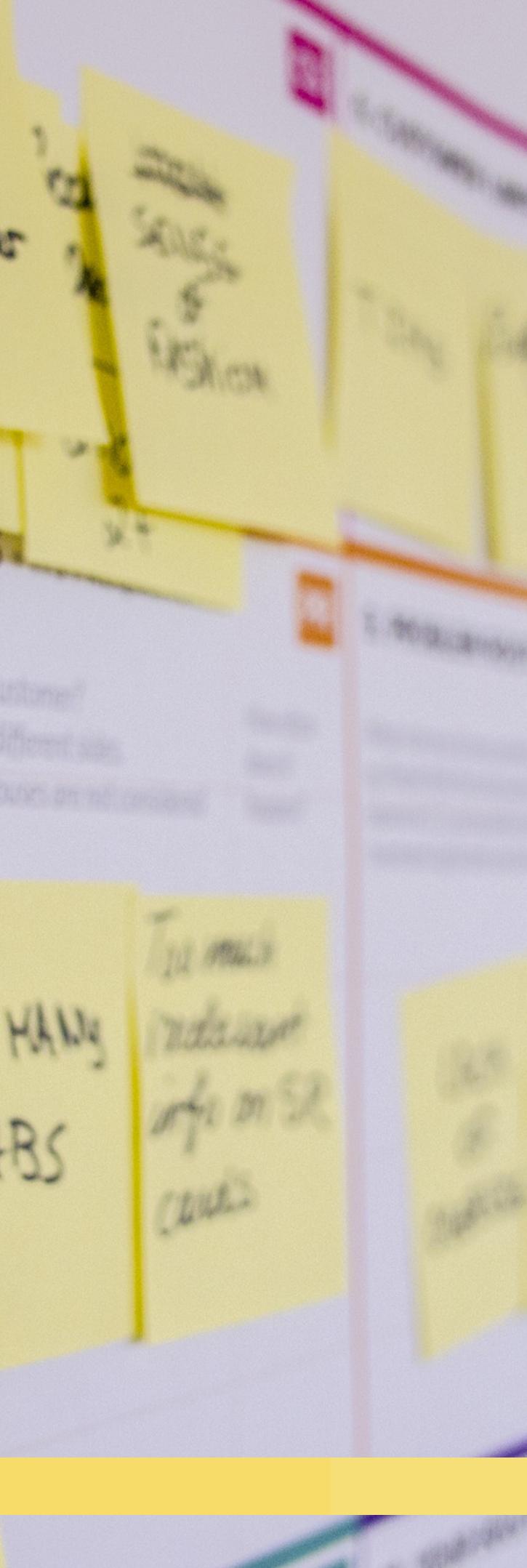
# EU CAN NETWORK



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- Municipio de Paredes (Portugal)  
WALK TOGETHER ASSOCIATION (Bulgaria)  
Asociatia Monomyths (Romania)  
PENTHESILEIA (Greece)  
Ajuntament de Guadassuar (Spain)  
Municipality of Demir Kapija (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)  
Bashkia Lezhe (Albania)  
Koinè Soc. Coop. Sociale (Italy)  
Alphabet Formation (Belgium)  
APPIS- Associação Paredes pela Inclusão Social (Portugal)  
ASOCIACIJA APKABINK EUROPA (Lithuania)  
Xano Channel asociación para el desarrollo comunitario (Spain)  
Comune di Viareggio (Italy)



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# TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Results of a research aiming at observing intergroup attitudes towards immigrant outgroups and the perception and construction of "self" and "they" by immigrants themselves.

Involving locals and non-EU foreign national currently living or staying in EU .

An useful action plan with monitoring tool included in order to implement the workshops "From knowledge to empathy, from empathy to integration".

Increase consciousness and perception of participants and public to the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict and persecution. (**Celebration of World refugees day**)

Discover how works a Spanish Refugee Reception Centres (**Study Visit**)



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# LOCAL WORKSHOPS

Dismantle and replace hateful narratives thus promoting democratic, intercultural engagement and civic participation of both citizens and non-EU foreign nationals.

Support communities to develop genuine/credible messages to counter radicalization, taking into consideration the local context and culture.

Building and spreading locally tailored counter-narratives thus promoting alternative role models.



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# TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR

Improve counter extremism and radicalism NGO tools

Develop capacity to create a learning environment where the social and youth workers is flexible, confident, engaging the young into the space for dialogue.

Improve confidence and ability of social and youth workers to act in such a way that 'connects' with young people by allowing honest, trusting, and through appropriate use of humour and role-modelling of expected behaviours.



# RESULTS RESEARCH PHASE



**Countries involved in the research:** Albania, Belgium, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Spain



**Research focused on:**  
General info about refugees in 9 European countries;  
Data about refugees integration processes;  
Perceptions of refugees, citizens, media & authorities.

# CHALLENGES FACED BY REFUGEES

## HOUSING

1. They can't close contracts for private housing if they don't have a job, bank account or other guarantee
2. The centers don't have the capacity to receive all who request accommodation

## LABOUR

1. Matching employment opportunities with skills and educational background

2. Language barriers
3. They are not allowed to work 6-12 months, without a transition between integration stage and accession to labour market

## **EDUCATION**

1. The minors have difficulties in subscribing to the public system
2. Lack of a validation system for education qualification

## **SOCIAL**

1. Migration is all too often seen as a threat, not an opportunity
2. Discrimination and prejudices

3. They don't stay long enough in a country to be integrated
4. Decrease their social status because are forced to do underqualified jobs
5. Locals and refugees don't interact to often.

## **SERVICES**

1. Coordinating with all sectors, from Social Service and local governments
2. "Migrants Counters" in all regional employment offices
3. Appeal before the Appeals Committees
4. Application for annulment before the Administrative Appeals Court
5. Transition between the 1 and 2 reception is delayed and for limited people.

# CITIZENS PERCEPTION ABOUT REFUGEES

**Positive:** Macedonia (first contact), Portugal, Spain (equal rights, refugees contribute to the development of the society)

**Neutral:** Lithuania, Portugal , Romania

**Negative:** Albania (jobs, cultural invasion), Italy, Macedonia (regarding authorities policies), Spain (take away jobs, they don't adapt, radical, commit crimes, Romania, Bulgaria (threat to national security)

**Very negative:** Belgium (terrorists, ignorants, extremists), Greece (criminals, illegal people, thieves, enemies of economic growth),

# MEDIA PERCEPTION ABOUT REFUGEES

**Positive:** Albania, Greece (solidarity messages), Macedonia (Iraqi refugee finds love with Macedonian border guard), Portugal (Portugal among countries with the greatest compassion for refugees )

**Neutral:** Lithuania (Who has already met a refugee in Lithuania?), Macedonia(The movement of migrants goes smoothly), Romania

# MEDIA PERCEPTION ABOUT REFUGEES

**Negative:** Greece (Where did the money go? How Greece fumbled the refugee crisis), Italy (Yes to the Atlantic Alliance but stop to illegal migrants), Lithuania (Investigation: Lithuanian opinion on refugees - radicals), Macedonia(Instead of churches, there will be minarets here), Bulgaria (China has a Great Wall, and we have a great fence with Turkey)

**Very negative:** Belgium (Belgium: major transit country for rejected asylum seekers), Spain (Police shield against Maghreb criminals)

# HATE SPEECH (CITIZENS)

The blacks invading us

Kick them back to the sea

Back into the sea and push them off, that's the trash from Africa and Syria

They pretend/fake to flee from wars, hunger and conflict

They bring crime to our country

Muslims go home, Lithuania is for Lithuanians

They give these people asylum and then they will still attack us?

And we are already beaten by fate

Why should we accept migrants if they only seek better living standard?

# HATE SPEECH (MEDIA)

Thieves

Rapist

People with no home and country, people who don't belong here

Assaults, violations, suspected terrorists

Migratory pressure

illegal migration

Health and the spread of rare and incurable diseases

a deterioration of the living conditions of the "Residents"

Unjustified focus on the nationality of migrants suspected of criminal activities and a general association of migration delinquency

# REFUGEES & THE COMMUNITY

**Positive:** Italy, Portugal (simple people, nice and welcome with open arms)

**Neutral:** Greece (Youngsters make their voices heard at talks), Lithuania

**Mixed feelings:** Belgium (They feel they are far away from the war but in a new country where they don't belong/they appreciate the support), Spain, Romania, Bulgaria (I can go to the mosque here, not problem. But no work here, nothing. I will go to France and study law. In three months, I'll learn French, no problem)

**Negative:** Macedonia (transit), Spain

# COMMUNITY & THE REFUGEES

**Positive:** Albania (offer empathy and housing to refugees), Macedonia (basic assistance, food, clothes), Portugal

**Neutral:** Lithuania, Romania

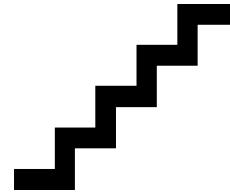
**Mixed feelings:** Italy (complete confusions between refugees/migrants /foreigners), Spain (xenophobia and welcome attitude)

**Negative:** Bulgaria (not following local laws and their habits raise concern to the Bulgarian society)

**"AS YOU GO ON IN LIFE, EMPATHY WILL BECOME HARDER, NOT EASIER. IN THE REAL WORLD, NO ONE IS FORCING YOU TO CARE. YOU'LL BE FREE TO LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH PEOPLE EXACTLY LIKE YOURSELF. FREE TO CONCERN YOURSELF ONLY WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR OWN LITTLE CIRCLE."**

**BARACK OBAMA**

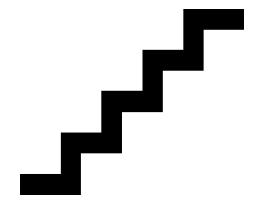
# BUILDING EMPATHY



Imagine you're a stranger in a strange land far from home. You're fleeing a brutal government responsible for the imprisonment, torture, and death of your family and friends. You've lost everything and traveled miles. You've risked it all to find a safe place.

You're in a new country, but there is no welcome. Instead, there is suspicion and hostility. People call you scum and have no sympathy. You're a refugee, but some people see you as a plague. The nameless faces in refugee camps are people like us. Yet, there is little empathy.

# EMPATHY LAB



To begin to really understand another human being, we first need to walk a mile in their shoes.



Stories for children



Human Library



Simulations  
Forced to Flee



Boardgame -  
Refugee Journeys



# FORCED TO FLEE

**Description:** Each group of students/young people/citizens represents a family. The objective is to set up your family for the best future possible post-conflict, which includes maintaining a steady supply of food, health and money cards.

**Learning Objective:** To transform thinking and inspire action around conflict, migration, and refugees

1h30 min



# HUMAN LIBRARY

**Description:** There are libraries popping up around the world where you can see the books breathe. You can watch the books blink, cry, laugh, and think. You can ask them any sort of question and get a real answer. It's what the books hope you'll do. People who volunteer to become "books" make their experiences open and available, usually on issues that people tend to have a difficult time discussing. "Readers" are encouraged to ask questions freely, and they'll get honest answers in return.



Syrian evening



Concerts



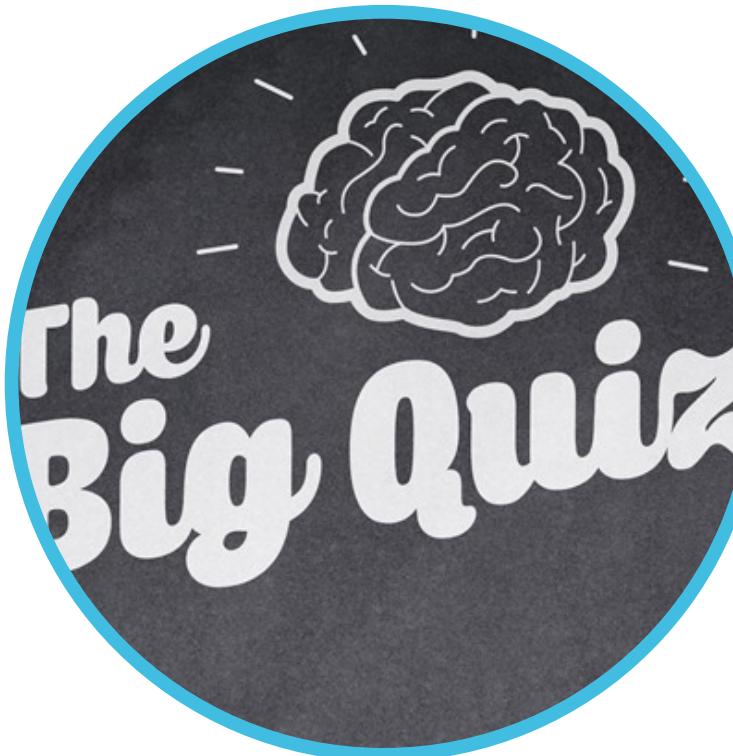
Visits at schools



Foto exhibitions



Movie projection



Quizz Nights



Living Exhibition



Photo Voice



# LIVING EXHIBITION

**Description:** In the live exhibition, public space becomes an open "gallery" where "exhibits" (initiators of action) come to life, interacting with "visitors" (community members) in order to convey a message of interest to the community. The live exhibition is a dynamic method that can be used when we intend to encourage positive attitudes in the community and / or behavioral changes

2-3h



# PHOTO VOICE

**Description:** PhotoVoice is a powerful way to send a strong message by presenting "live photos" by members of those marginalized, marginalized groups who do not have the power to determine the public agenda on their issues and the ability to mobilize for pursuing an interest common. ] The images used, as well as the associated words, are exposed locally, nationally and internationally by various means: photo exhibition, postcard posting, media, online exhibitions.

1 hour per week

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# LOTUS BLOSSOM

1. Strategic Partnerships
2. Community events
3. Non-formal methods and tools
4. Schools
5. Intercultural learning
6. Media
7. Youth work
8. Communication campaigns

# LOCAL WORKSHOP PLANNER



My top 3  
workshop ideas

Resources I need

Channels I have

Timeline

Partnerships to  
do

Deliverables