

28.6.2021

www.maxamif.eu

ASES (Association Social economy Slovenia)

Lucija Zavrtnik

lucija.zavrtnik@socialnaekonomija.si

Phone

Gorkega 34

2000 Maribor

CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY IN SLOVENIA

(Challenges, opportunities and labour market in Slovenia)

DDF Slovenia

On 17th June 2021, in the framework of the European project "MAX - Maximising Migrants' Contribution to Society". Association Social economy Slovenia organized the online Diversity Dialogue Forum with the aim of presenting many interesting initiatives on country level, personal, economical challenges and opportunities for newcomers in Slovenia.

The event titled "Creating a more inclusive society in Slovenia (challenges, opportunities and labor market in Slovenia)", took place online at 10am.

When presenting data on migration it is relevant to note the difference between foreign-born population and foreign citizens. Why does this matter for Slovenia? Mainly because more than half of those who were born abroad are nowadays citizens of Slovenia. According to Eurostat, 250.226 people residing in Slovenia in 2018 were born abroad and had moved to Slovenia at some point of their life. This means that foreign-born individuals represented 12.1% of total Slovene population in 2018. However, slightly more than half of them (54 %) acquired Slovene citizenship by naturalisation or by origin, meaning that actual foreign citizens was reduced then to a 5,9% of total population that year. The majority, that is 85 % of all foreign-born population living in Slovenia was born in one of the Western Balkan countries, mostly Bosnia and Herzegovina (43 % of all foreign-born population), followed by Croatia (18% of all foreign-born population), Serbia (10 % of all foreign-born population), North Macedonia and Kosovo (each of them 7 %).

The *first session of the 1st panel* (The migration landscape in Slovenia and integration of migrants to Slovenian labour market) should have been presented by Mr. Goran Lukič, who has informed us in the early morning that because an urgent internal issue he apologized for the non-participation and for the inconvenience. Our legal representative Mrs. Mirjana Ivanuša Bezjak presented in a few word Mr. Lukič's organization.

Mr. Lukic would have presented **“Migrants in today's multicultural world Integration into the labour market and society (substantive and analytical review on the situation in Slovenia and globally)”** as he is a Counselling office for workers - An organization dedicated to the advocacy, protection, promotion and development of workers', social and status rights of workers and other vulnerable groups.

We moved on to our *second performance from Panel 1* where Mr. Jure Gomac and Mrs. Asja Pehar Senekovič from Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, ZRC SAZU presented a very interesting point of view about **entrepreneurial skills as a tool for integrating migrants into the labour market.**

They exposed skills needed for the success of migrant entrepreneurs and talked about migrant entrepreneurship research in Ljubljana. In this research, they explained that in OECD countries, 12.7% of migrants and 12% of the domestic population enter entrepreneurial waters. In Ljubljana, 8% of self-employed Slovenes and 4% of self-employed foreigners. They also mentioned the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in integrating into society in Ljubljana and Maribor and migrant entrepreneurship courses in an asylum home and getting to know the labour market in Slovenia. In this topic they presented a 3D work ("dirty, dangerous and difficult"), non-recognition of education, precariousness, underpayment, undeclared work as the only way to survive, unrealized business ideas due to complicated bureaucratic procedures, obtaining permits, complications at the EU due to ignorance of the Slovenian language, problems by opening current accounts, there are no loans or support mechanisms... At the end we listened to a short explanation of a focus group with women with international protection Necessary support mechanisms for migrant entrepreneurs

The *third session from Panel 1* we listened to Mrs. Masa Rus where she introduced the entrepreneurial program PONI at the RRA Podravje where they develop the entrepreneurial idea of parties for (migrant) children with fairy tales and legends of Pohorje and Drava. Mrs. Rus as teacher as profession explained that the program is also interesting for migrant children who wants to feel more included in a new community. They designed a holiday care of children in the centre of Maribor, birthday celebration, children's animations at events dance animation and choreography, tourist tour around the centre of Maribor with mythological beings and table game fairy tale Maribor.

Then was time for our Panel 2 where we listened to a ****How social entrepreneurs**** can involve migrants*.

The *first session in the Panel 2*, Mr. Jose Morales from Peru presented his Coworking space Aurora in Murska Sobota. Aurora Coworking Murska Sobota offers comfortable shared space, a kitchenette, a meeting room, a high-speed internet connection, a laser printer, a projector, and of course a good espresso machine. Their space is member-managed and that means they do not have employed hosts or personnel. Each member has access to the space 24 hours a day. The main lesson was that we have to connect and be connected. To create a new spaces, new reality, more inclusive and social.

The *second and third presentation in the Panel 2* was performed by Miro Mihec (ASES). He informed us about the project - Yunus centre Slovenia and the European Business School of Social Economy. The common points of the project are ETHICAL, SOCIAL RESPONSIBLE AND SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATION with INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS. They represent ethical values horizontally in all sectors of the economy and society. They produce social impact (the impact of an organization on the people and environment that surrounds it - health, inclusion, socialization, values...). They meet almost all the goals of sustainable development of the United Nations 2030

The third presentation was about precarious work and social economy: the case of the Cooperative Responsible Creators.

In our *Panel 3*, we listen to three very interesting successful stories from newcomers. Good practices of newcomers' integration and success stories in cultural, economic and social level were presented by Mr. Luigi Jeremy Martin Mendez Cueva a singer from Peru, Intercultural mediator and entrepreneur Mrs. Astrite Humski from Albania and Eco farm Vodnjov Mrs. Julia Vodnjov from Russia.

The project is funded by the AMIF program of the European Union and includes 20 partners, 15 local organisations from 12 EU Member States as well as 5 partners at EU level.

The MAX project is a project funded by the AMIF programme of the European Union and that aims to improve the public image of migrants in Europe by changing the narrative around the immigration discourse and putting on the front the stories of real people.



The Diversity Dialogue Fora of Maribor is organised by ASES (Association Social economy Slovenia) in the framework of MAX – Maximising Migrants' contribution to society -, a project cofounded by the European Union's AMIF Action Grant (AMIF-2017-AG-INTE821672).

The content of this publication represents the view of the author(s) only and his/her/their responsibility. The EC does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.