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The main reason why I have joined the ENARO exchange programme was my interest in migration issues world wide and the varied approach to the reception of asylum seekers. I am convinced that by becoming acquainted with different working methods, sharing knowledge and experience with each other, we can all develop and improve our own skills and working practices. In addition to this we will be contributing to a uniform, professional and excellent reception system which hopefully will be implemented in all the countries involved.

Moldova

In the autumn of last year I was asked to join the programme and visited the Reception Centre in Moldova. It should be stressed that Moldova does not have a long history in the field of reception of asylum seekers which made my visit even more interesting and useful.

It was enlightening to be able to experience the “fresh vision” of the Moldavians on this matter and share my experience with them. I was delighted to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the employees and was impressed with their creativity in fulfilling their tasks.

Good practices

There were several examples of excellent practices that particularly drew my attention. I found the possibility for allowing the asylum seekers to work and have access to job counselling throughout the whole procedure, the most important one. Each asylum seeker receives all possible guidance and help in finding a job. Being employed allows an asylum seeker not only to remain independent but also to have a positive influence on his future activities such as integration or during the process of repatriation. This approach is definitely one to be recommended and promoted in my own country.

The structure of the centre and the very well implemented participation of the inhabitants in its maintenance are of great significance. The residents of the centre in Moldova feel at home at their centre. They work together, on a voluntary basis, to keep it clean and tidy; trying to make the surroundings they live in as pleasant as possible. The working methods and approach which help this to be realized are definitely to be recommended to others.

Challenges

The relatively new, but already well functioning reception system needs in my opinion a bit more investment. This investment concerns particularly the tools and equipment which the social workers currently have at their disposal. Professional training and courses would be beneficial and could have positive influence on the quality of social work offered and take it to a higher level.

There could be more attention paid to integration and repatriation issues; for example by establishing an active programme based on individual coaching and guidance. This will help to solve some structural problems the social workers and the developing system of reception in Moldova encounters at the moment.

ENARO-exchange

As I have said before, I found my visit to Moldova very useful. The opportunity of meeting my colleagues from other countries during the preparation programme, allowed me to gather knowledge about the ways of reception elsewhere, share experience and learn about different points of view and working methods. I was surprised by the quantity, degree of knowledge and the level of professionalism. Exchange programmes such as ENARO offers, gives us the possibility of working out a uniform policy regarding a reception system and reception conditions. It would be tremendous to make concrete use of our experience and findings and to see the “best practises” implemented where possible.

The idea of constructing a data bank of not only manuals and methods but also ideas, advice and solutions to the most regularly occurring problems alongside possibilities offered by practical support could be in my opinion of a great significance and should be highly recommended.