

## Lunch debate – 9th February 2012

The lunch took place in Rome at the Trattoria Moderna, a restaurant owned by a Romanian couple who migrated 10 years ago and is now living in Italy.

The lunch debate was opened by **Pierluca Ghibelli** – project coordinator- who welcomed and thanked the people for taking part to the debate.

Subsequently he introduced the participant:

**Anna Stanescu**, president of the cooperative Risvolti,

**Mihai Muntean**, secretary of the Romanian identity Party,

**Ruggero Signoretti**, president of the consortium of social cooperatives Nausicaa,

**Barbara Starace**, president of the cooperative Apriti Sesamo,

**Dana Mihalahe**, president of the Association Spririt Romanesc

**Ferdinando Firenze**, Connectin People soc.coop.soc

**Arianna Cascelli**, phd .....

**Chiara Maule**, Gruppo Cooperativo CGM

The moderator provided the guest with the general framework of the project that is embedded in a wider European strategy to enhance the participation of citizens to the democratic life. In addition to this Pierluca Gibelli summed up the conclusion of the second focus group in which the major obstacles to the participation of Romanian community to Italian democratic life were discussed.

In general the major identified difficulties were linked to prejudice of the hosting culture, the feeling of strong links with the motherland, the feelings of transitoriness with respect to the new country, the lack of information about civil rights and the bureaucratic difficulties related to the voting procedures in the country.

At this point he invited the presents, as representatives of associations and social cooperatives, to participate in the discussion of good practices that could bridge the existing gap. In particular participants were invited to think about the design of two training day to be activated in terms of people to train, themes of the seminars/workshops and timing.

Anna Stanescu- president of the Risvolti social cooperative – underlined that the issue is delicate particularly because people these days are more attracted by festivals and cultural happening rather than training seminars and therefore the targeted people should be well thought about.

Dana Mihalahe proposed the idea of directing the training days to cultural mediators and association representative which, for definition, are bridging figures between cultures. In her opinion training should therefore be integrated and be directed to different figures.

Mihai Muntean, suggested that all the elements of a aware training be selected and that is why it would probably be more effective to exit the experts. Actions should follow two different directions:

construction and information. Common people should be tackled and the best ways to inform should be studied as involving people is far from an easy task. Ethnic newspapers and magazine are a good mean but they must be for free. Dana Mihalache underlines that in this sense, television represent a more direct tool.

Ruggero Signoretti suggested ICT and social network to be seriously taken into account as powerful and quick means of communication. Moreover Romanians are well known for their very good professional technology institutes.

Mihai Muntean stressed the fact that, in addition to the difficulty of people involvement, the political aspect of the involvement we want to raise does not help and is often also impeded by the attitude of politicians at national levels both in Italy and Romania. He underlined that there have been cases of Romanian politicians coming to Italy to meet Italian politician and agree that they would have promoted them and brought votes in the Italian elections. The Ministry of the Interior should therefore pay attention to this kind of procedure as they discourage people seeing politics as a democratic and correct aspect of their lives.

He also underlines that youngers should be encouraged. Several young Romanians are born in Italy and therefore they grow up with an Italian/Romanian cultural identity and are educated to live in a European context. He stressed the fact that positive experience must be communicated and spread among the communities.

Anna Stanescu suggested that a good tool to inform citizens about their political rights could be represented by a well thought brochure with clear –summarized and self-explanatory information and should be available at public offices such as national CAF (Centro Assistenza Fiscale), associations, work placement offices, trade unions.

Ferdinando Firenze proposed the training days to be directed to qualified subjects (such as cultural mediators) and that one of the issues to be dealt with during the seminars should be social security – meaning under the table work, violence and workers exploiting. He also suggested that union traders could be involved in the training as they have high skills in involving people directly on the field and therefore are a good mean of information spreading.

Arianna Cascelli also stressed this position asserting that Romanian mediators are very interested in understanding and knowing trade unions mechanisms in every sector.

Dana Mihalache underlined that, together with work issue, another top theme that strongly interests Romanians (as every other culture) is family and children raising. Every parent is worried about children education and scholastic capacity and therefore these themes should also be taken into account.

Anna Stanescu sustained, backed from her own experience, that it would be very interesting to provide training on the social enterprises as a means to activate participation and entrepreneurship at a local level. Social enterprises provide a good tool both for people emancipation and integration.

While discussing about the previous considerations it has been observed that, a category that could be invited to the training days is represented by the clergymen who are in direct contact with people and community and are respected and trusted.

Following the discussion the hypotheses raised with respect to the two training days can be summed as follows:

Two training days will be organized.

The first day will be focused on the situation of Romanian citizens in Italy and the enhancement of their rights and participation to political life.

During the first day the following themes will be dealt with:

- Romanian community in Italy
- political participation
- civil rights
- tools to participate and get infos

It will target cultural mediators, associations representative and clergymen.

The second day will be focused on work situation of Romanian citizens, their rights and the importance of civil participation to daily work-life and the possibility to create an enterprise.

During the second day the following themes will be dealt with:

- work rights
- trade unions
- how to create an enterprise
- tools to sustain work

The second day of course is directed to cultural mediators, association representatives as well as trade unionists and potential social entrepreneurs.

The participants to the lunch debate will be directly involved in the tow days training that will take place ideally at the end of May in Rome.

A nice observation related to the lunch itself is that food provides a fundamental element of cultural knowledge and helps to create a nice environment for discussion and opinion sharing.





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