

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS

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ENG

Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences Comenius University



Theme:

**While we live our normal
lives**

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1 Editorial

The Helplessness of the European Asylum System

The refugee crisis on the European continent is taking a turn for the worst. There are no precise expectations. Refugees are penetrating every border on the way from the Middle East to Western European countries. Germany has made a step forward denouncing the applicability of the Dublin III Regulation. It has committed to accepting every refugee that is fleeing the situation in Syria. Germany is halfway ready. It has the economy, it has the empty buildings, and it sees its perspective for the future in handling the low birthrate swapped for grown up labor market ready people. Germany has no manpower to handle the number of refugees. It has no manpower that can be educated, trained fast enough to process and register the refugees. The EU has no determination to solve the question of refugees in a unanimous way. The EU has no effective asylum policy. It reacts ad hoc.

In 2010/2011 the world spoke of the refugee crisis in Turkey. Bordering Syria lead to the imminent influx of

refugees fleeing what today has officially been recognized as a war torn country. The European Union stood still and did not prepare itself for the situation of today while it maintained a critical attitude towards the handling of the refugees by the Turkish side.

In agreement with its migration policies, the asylum policy in the European Union new of only one strict regulation. The Dublin III Regulation. It forbade asylum seekers applying in a third country for asylum once they have been fingerprinted in a safe country. In the last 10 years the European Union has proclaimed that the countries extending the borders of the European Union, i.e. the candidate countries to the EU to be safe countries. Being a member state of the EU meant by default that the country is safe.

2015 was projected but not expected. The number of refugees that ended up in Turkey, found their way through mountains, sea, roads, railway tracks to the hopeful and inviting Western Europe. At the end of the day, it is only thousand kilometers away or less. Risking their lives

asylum seekers proceeded forward. The world stood still in the eyes of merciless killings happening in Syria, weapons were continuously being sold and life on the west coast could continue profiting from a war that left many homeless and threatened. A step closer, a history denied by the European countries, as in "migration does not happen" here, the rise of the influence of many conservative right oriented radical parties underlined the approach to unfold. The warnings of many young researchers dwelling into the topic of asylum policies and international migration were not enough a cause or ground for the political parties to build a backup plan, in case the "what if" happened.

This attitude found the European Union unprepared. And more than that divided and radicalized European Union fighting with the biggest economic crisis from times forgotten, left the issue of protecting people in need and their basic human rights to roam in the bordering spaces as they approached the "promised lands".

Zhivka Deleva, Ph.D.



2 Topic of the issue

While we live our normal lives

It's Christmas season. As the days of the Advent progress, bringing us joys such as Christmas markets, ice-skate rings, punch and many other things we get immersed in the spirit of cheer, love, giving and shopping. It's what "we" do, "we" Europeans. It's our favorite time of the year, time when everything in the world seems just a tad bit lighter, where your fellow man/women seem a bit closer.

In the past months aside our differences, even aside of whether or not we belong to the European Union, we've been discussing a lot about our European identity. Which to be fair it's quite strange, especially when not even a year ago we were focused on what differs us from the Ukrainians, Russians, Balkan people, Central and Western Europeans etc. But nowadays you cannot open a internet media outlet or social media without seeing the bold emphasis of what it is that makes us European.

Of course, we all know the answer to why is this happening. We're in the middle of the largest refugee/migration crisis that we've faced since the Second World War. With the only difference being that it is not the peoples of Europe who are escaping to preserve their unique and diverse way of life, but it is the peoples of the Middle East, Africa, Asia. And on top of everything we're facing a modern age invasion oriented force that claimed illegally and yet successfully large chunks of territory in the name of their perceived "purest" form of Islam. And to make things even more escalating and complicated this same force has declared that their first and foremost enemy is the way of life of the Western civilization i.e. our way of life.

Alongside with all of this, we're coming back to those people who

as was previously mentioned are migrating/fleeing to that same Europe from those same people. Bear in mind, this is not a speculation nor is it an assumption. No matter how we choose to perceive this situation, the facts are as they are. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) the United Nations (UN) and many other credible institutions ever since 2009 more than 4 million refugees/people have fled Syria. And there you have it, the word, the country on anyone's minds- Syria! There's been a conflict there ever since 2009 and yet, we Europeans have somehow acknowledged that just recently. The question is why? The answer blatantly simple- it affected us just a while ago. Alongside with the Syrians coming to our shores, we see scorns of Afghan, Iraqi, Nigerian, Congolese, Ethiopian and many other peoples arriving. And we are taken by surprise. Wait, these conflicts in these close but yet so far away countries is something that we've grown accustomed to see and feel a momentary sadness and yet an overall "it's just how the world is" stance. Of course, we're more civilized and

humane and progressive than they are. We'll take these poor folks into our countries, we will show them how true freedom feels and looks like. However considering the situation with this Islamic State (IS) and their attacks all around Europe and America, we should be careful if not to allow some of those radicals to come in and threaten those very freedoms. It's just logical. Right?

So we're faced with three crucial dilemmas: our way of life, the Islamic state and these refugees. What is our response? We welcome them, we judge the radicals among us for opposing this welcome, we face the troubles of accepting large quantities of these peoples in our countries, we realize that we "bit more than we can comfortable chew", we decide to be more strict, we decide to pass this problem along to other countries "their kind of countries", we protect our own.

However simplified, however rash and generalized this entire situation that is happening in our lands can be broken down to these simple stages. And the key motivation behind all of



this-fear. Fear that we will lose our way of life. Fearing that these radicals if we let them in will change the very fabric of our society-the European society.

This kind of generalization was used purposefully in this article. Why? Because it's the very reality that we're living in. It is what our leaders both political and spiritual are saying, what we're talking about while having dinner, cutting our hair, having that Christmas punch. The entire situation that is happening for a year now or for 7 years or for decades depending how comfortable we are to perceive it is being generalized like that. Even before and more so after the Paris 13th of November attacks we have more and more anti-Islamisation protests all around our progressive and democratic Europe. Why? Because we don't want that in our countries, we don't want that in our lives. And we are right, ultimately. Of course everything that the Islamic State stands for is something that we have eradicated ages ago.

But while we're justifiable right, we're doing something even more horrendous. We are, whether we like to admit it or not, putting that same radical badge on all of the refugees/peoples escaping that same Islamic State. We closed our borders, we de-



clared that we can't/won't receive any more economic migrants. We said that our collective safety is so precious that we won't risk some of those radicals coming in- "I mean look at what happened in Paris"!

So, while we're living in this confusion, while we're so afraid to lose our European way of life that we're actually sacrificing the very foundations upon which that way of life is built, we continue to enjoy our Christmas markets, we continue to promote love and compassion.

While on our borders, there are currently 2000 people whose number is rising that are stuck in the no-man's land between Greece and Macedo-

nia that are saying that they would rather be shot than go back. Why do they say that? Because they don't have anywhere else to go back to. Because they're escaping the same monsters that we're so afraid of. Because their return means certain death for them because they didn't join "Their" cause... They are so afraid of the other option that they're actually sewing up their lips on top of the hunger strikes and beyond the miserable conditions that they're living!

According to the UN the estimated number of all of the peoples looking for asylum in Europe is around 700.000. If we take into regard the total number of European Union citizens that constitutes around of less than 0.6 percent of the entire populous. The question is- Can they change our way of life even if we take them all? The logical answer is no. The reality speaks differently...

So, while we drink our punch and worry about our Christmas shopping list, we should ask ourselves- Are we really so European as we think we are? Because the history books will speak of these times as the biggest test not only for the European Union but for all of us. What do we want for them to say on the end?



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3 Country Focus

Slovak Development Assistance, Humanitarian Aid and recent challenges

About SlovakAid

Slovak republic is aware of the importance of combating the poverty and promoting sustainable development worldwide. Therefore it uses its foreign policy, more concretely the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic, in order to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals.

Slovak Republic, as an advanced and developed country, feels not only moral commitments for promoting a sustainable development, combating poverty and building a stable, peaceful, prosperous and equitable world. Thus via the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic, an intrinsic instrument of the Slovak foreign policy, the Slovak Republic is engaged in bilateral development assistance programs targeting the developing countries. Moreover Slovakia is engaged in multilateral assistance and humanitarian aid.

Slovakia has achieved a great progress as a donor country. The most significant changes occurred when Slovakia had become a member of various essential organizations such as the Organization for Economic and Cooperation and Development as well as the European Union. The year 2003 is of a great importance in a context of SlovakAid. The structure of development assistance provision achieved concrete shapes by establishing the institutional, legal and strategic framework.

Territorial priorities of the Slovak Official Development Assistance are found on a medium-term strategy – established by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The

division of the territorial priorities is: program countries (Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova), Project countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Ukraine), and a country with exceptional humanitarian and development needs (South Sudan).

Major goals of Slovak development assistance are established by Act No. 617/2207 Coll. on Official Development Assistance Program and the Millennium Development goals and are summarized in following steps:

- Reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries
- Promoting sustainable economic, social, and environmental development in developing countries
- Ensuring global peace and security, in particular by enhancing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and good governance in developing countries
- Promoting universal access to education in developing countries
- Improving the quality of basic healthcare services in developing countries
- Promoting economic cooperation with developing countries
- Raising public awareness of the developing countries' needs and

of the developmental assistance provided by Slovakia

Finances of the SlovakAid

Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation is a budgetary organization of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Relations and competencies between SAIDC and the Ministry are defined in the contract and are based on Government Resolution no. 1370/2002 / B1 on December 18, 2012 and pursuant to Act no. 523/2004.

From the last report (2013) SlovakAid was able to contribute with more than 3 000 000 Euro for ensuring the development.

Cooperation

SlovakAid, since its establishment, has been in a close cooperation with partners whose priority is the development aid provision. The mutual partnership consists of working mainly with Slovak Non-Governmental Development Organization Platform, United Nations Development Program, Canadian International Development Agency and Austrian Development Agency.

Humanitarian Aid

SlovakAid is aware certain situations such as natural disasters, man-made crises, famine, malnutrition

Official Development Assistance of SlovakAid (OSTOA Program)	Contracting	Allocation/ Use
Development Cooperation with the Program Countries		
Afghanistan	600 000	300 000
South Sudan	800 000	400 000
Kenya	1 200 000	537 240
Cooperation with priority countries through the experience sharing		
Western Balcan states	500 000	250 000
Eastern Partnership EU	500 000	250 000
Southern neighborhood EU (Tunisia)	300 000	150 000
Humanitarian aid		
Financial humanitarian aid	250 000	250 000

*(the second amount of money for the International Organization for Migration is provided by the Ministry of Inferior)

situations, where huge amount of people suffer. Thus it has strengthened its ties with different organizations and it assists either in material or logistical way. Through tremendous improvements in humanitarian aid, SlovakAid has shown its feelings of solidarity for people in need with a primary objective to provide an assistance and support, save lives, maintain human dignity, and alleviate suffering of people.

SlovakAid has been spreading help also in a humanitarian field. The system of humanitarian aid was administered by the Slovak Government in 2006 and the Official Development Assistance Act (Act No. 617/2007 Coll.). It is based on generally agreed principles of humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality. What is essential principle of humanitarian aid is the speed and spotting the places where the aid is needed the most.

Considering the assistance in technical, logistical means, and humanitarian material aid means, the support is provided by the Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. On the other hand the financial humanitarian aid is granted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. To make the aid better distributed and used SlovakAid cooperates with various international humanitarian organizations of the UN system, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization on Migration (IOM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and others. At the EU level

the aid is provided by ECHO - European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection.

Global challenges of Development policies and the contribution of the SlovakAid

Slovak Republic with its official development aid promotion stays focused on key dimensions of reaching the sustainable development, to be more specific economic, social and environmental within the context of security. Hence SlovakAid values its cooperation with the United Nations and the European Union in terms of promoting sustainable development by implementing new policies, enforcing the previous ones.

What needs to be highlighted is the fact that SlovakAid will definitely follow needs and requirements of the recipient countries. From the political point of view the attention will be paid to knowledge and experience of the process of development of Slovak Republic itself, while at the same time spreading the experience of various Non-Governmental Organizations, private and academic sector and international development organizations. On basis of an outstanding and prosperous cooperation of the Visegrad Four, SlovakAid is keen on accomplishing complementarity and synergy in cooperation with the partners of the group.

Slovak Republic will preside the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2016. Thus SlovakAid will use this opportunity in fully participation in implementing development policies within the

European Union. The Agenda for Change and cooperation in developing and shaping the European Union external policy instruments is one of the highest priorities of SlovakAid in the upcoming year.

As the financial crisis hit every single country in the world, even the shares and the financial aid for developing countries have been on a decline. Hence it is surprising that SlovakAid has still been on the same path and has been meeting the targets that were adopted at the international level. Furthermore, SlovakAid will improve its bilateral cooperation while paying attention to effectiveness and to the areas and forms where it can provide added value.

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Development Aid Spendings (€)	2013	2014	2015
official development aid - Bilateral	12 186 244	10 126 703	10 129 184
Official development aid- multilateral	52 424 212	48 965 961	58 394 839
United Nations	360 000	360 000	360 000
International Organization for Migration	5000 + 51 020	5000 + 51 020	5000 + 51 020
Office for the Humanitarian Affairs	5 000	5 000	5 000

Dufek, P., Smekal, H., et al. (2014). *Lidská práva v mezinárodní politice*. Praha: Wolters Kluwer, 448 pp., ISBN 978-80-7478-720-1

The team of authors, joined by Masaryk University in Brno, introduced a new publication dealing with human rights issues. Despite the over-rigorousness of theoretical literature in this area, this monograph puts some ambitious goals.

The first one is already clear to the readers from the contents register of the publication containing 16 separate chapters. The aim of the publication is to present a variety of topics: from philosophical (positivist) grounds of the issue through organizational and institutional side of the international law, up to the current as well as thorny issues such as transitive justice. Thematic content makes the book more than an actual publication and includes the issue that may attract many students of political science and law. In many parts the authors do not hesitate to present the lessons learned from human rights experience even with a certain amount of undiffident criticism, undoubtedly appreciated by the readers. This privilege of the publication presented can be observed primarily in the chapters devoted to the international human rights regimes, which focus on the functioning of international organizations and their instruments. Starting with the UN instruments, through the Council of Europe and the OSCE, the publication does not omit the tools of the EU bodies. Authors are not frugal with criticism (as for example in the context of the action of the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and former Yugoslavia). In many parts, however, they offer also proposals for eventual improvements.

The readers of the book will certainly

appreciate not only an interdisciplinary approach of the monograph, but also its practical side. As an example, the process for filing the applications to the European Court of Human Rights, which is described in detail here. They also introduce to the Central-European surrounding clarification of the African, Asian and American human rights systems, unusual to be all included in the curriculum. Therefore, this book is an excellent choice for political science students as supplementary reading. The privilege of this book is also its effort to link

practical knowledge of the operation of international law with a set of empirical research, not presented frequently in the field.

The disadvantage of publication is that within several chapters it is devoted exclusively to the Czech political environment, and human rights agenda. Even these chapters, however, can motivate the Slovak readers for the development of similar studies in the Slovak environment.

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EDIČNÍ ŘADA LIDSKÁ PRÁVA

Lidská práva v mezinárodní politice

PAVEL DUFEK
HUBERT SMEKAL
A KOLEKTIV

5 Human Rights News

Human rights – state of art and the future

Annual report on human rights in the EU, published as Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2014 was published in last weeks, by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency. The report is shorter while comparing to previous one, but the content of information is rich. In introduction and first paragraphs the report includes evaluation of new tools and mechanism for human rights evaluation, presented in previous report. The other chapters discuss equality and non-discrimination; racism, xenophobia and related intolerance; Roma inclusion; asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration; information society, data protection; rights of the child; and access to justice including the rights of victims of crime.

Developments in **equality and non-discrimination** in 2014 were marked by the EU's efforts to become more inclusive. Working actively to counter discrimination in all its forms and to foster equal treatment requires sustained efforts by all interested parties, so EU institutions worked closely with Member States and FRA to raise awareness on issues of discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, or to encourage recourse to redress mechanisms. A new regulation on structural and investment funds also came into force in the EU. If applied fully, this regulation can help greater social inclusion of those most vulnerable to discrimination and unequal treatment. This includes persons with disabilities, who would stand to gain most from the full and correct implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the only core international human rights convention to which the EU itself has acceded.

Evidence from 2014 shows that the cross-cutting principles of equality and non-discrimination set out in Articles 3 and 5 of the convention are increasingly driving implementation of the CRPD by both the EU and its Member States.

Barriers persist in implementing effectively European Union (EU) legislation that prohibits and penalises manifestations of **racism, xenophobia and ethnic discrimination**. The sixth year of the economic crisis and turbulent developments in the Middle East and North Africa are raising concerns and considerations for migration and integration policies in the EU. Meanwhile, Europeans are increasingly responsive to parties and movements with xenophobic, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim agendas. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and members of ethnic and religious minorities suffer manifestations of violent hatred and continuous discrimination in many areas of social life. Moreover, the increasing use of internet and social media proliferates some political rhetoric and racist hate speech.

EU Member States continued their efforts to improve **Roma integration** by implementing their national Roma integration strategies following the Council Recommendation of December 2013 on effective Roma integration measures. FRA supports these efforts by regularly collecting data and working with the Member States to develop monitoring methods that allow for efficient reporting on the situation of Roma in the Member States over time. At the same time, fundamental rights issues affecting Roma continued to make headlines, such as an incident of hate crime against a Roma teenager in France and evictions in Bulgaria and Greece. The European Commission initiated infringement proceedings against the Czech Re-

public concerning segregation in schooling. This emphasises the importance of the EU's efforts to support national strategies and action that address marginalisation and social exclusion, as well as racism and ethnic discrimination, as these are interlinked phenomena that mutually reinforce each other.

In area of issues connected to **asylum, borders, immigration and integration** the report confirms, that an estimated 3,280 persons died at sea in 2014 while attempting to reach a haven in Europe, and the number of those rescued or apprehended at sea quadrupled compared with 2013. The number of displaced persons worldwide reached Second World War levels in 2014. Many move on from where they first arrive, with Germany and Sweden together receiving almost half of the asylum applications submitted in the EU. Member States at the external borders are put under pressure to ensure that new arrivals are registered in Eurodac, the EU database set up to assist in determining which Member State is responsible for examining an asylum application under the Dublin Regulation. Migration is one of the 10 priorities of the new European Commission. The equitable participation of migrants and their descendants in society remains a major challenge in many countries. Xenophobia, extremism and racist violence against migrants and refugees persist. Many Member States have policies and measures in place, but there is little evidence that their impact on the ground is effectively monitored.

EU internal security concerns, including the threat of terrorist attacks, have affected the **data protection** debate, while mass surveillance and government secrecy have continued to be widely discussed. Examples of this shift in attention are

renewed calls for an EU directive on passenger name records (PNR) and the discussion of whether there is a need to collect and store considerable data on all air passengers. At the same time, privacy remained top of the agenda; the Court of Justice of the European Union annulled the Data Retention Directive, and, in the Google case, clarified important aspects of EU data protection law.

Europe and the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2014. Despite considerable progress in those 25 years, some old challenges remain and new ones have arisen. The latest data show that 27.6 % of children in Europe – more than 26 million – are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Many families with children have difficulties paying for their rent or mortgage, heating, school materials and even food. The **legal protection of child** victims of violence or

sexual abuse and children without parental care was significantly reinforced and relevant policies were developed. European Union (EU) Member States have, however, allocated insufficient resources to child protection services. The EU and its Member States are also establishing judicial safeguards for children involved in justice proceedings. Yet, their practical implementation in the day-to-day experiences of children at court remains unconvincing.

New strategic guidelines in the area of freedom, security and justice by the European Council placed increasing mutual trust, strengthening **the protection of victims** and reinforcing the rights of accused persons and suspects high on the EU policy agenda. Many EU Member States adopted new laws or reformed existing laws and policies in this area, while efforts continued at UN, Council of Europe and EU level to strengthen the rule of law,

judicial independence and the efficiency of justice systems, as cornerstones of a democratic society. The five-year transition period since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty came to an end, enabling the European Commission and the CJEU to fully assess the transposition by the Member States of police and criminal justice measures. The most comprehensive EU-wide and worldwide survey to date on women's experiences of violence revealed alarmingly high rates of violence against women and provided much-needed evidence to help Member States develop legal and policy responses to this issue.

In general evaluation, FRA in the report stated, that in five years of the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**, it is a well-recognised bill of rights that EU institutions draw upon extensively. The Charter has a limited scope of application in national contexts, so it is less used at national level. Still, Member States occasionally refer to it in the legislative process and it is sometimes also referred to in parliamentary debates. Its most prominent use is at the Court of Justice of the European Union, with ever more court decisions relying on the Charter. National courts also make references to the Charter but not always with much relevance for the outcome. Awareness of the Charter remains, nonetheless, limited. Member States' relevant policies hardly focus on increasing knowledge about it amongst practitioners or the general population.

Whole annual report of the EU Fundamental Right Agency is available online in English and French: http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-annual-report-2014_en.pdf

FRA provides authorisation for reproduction of annual report generally.

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6 Reports

Violence, Harassment and Rights of Workers in Sex Business

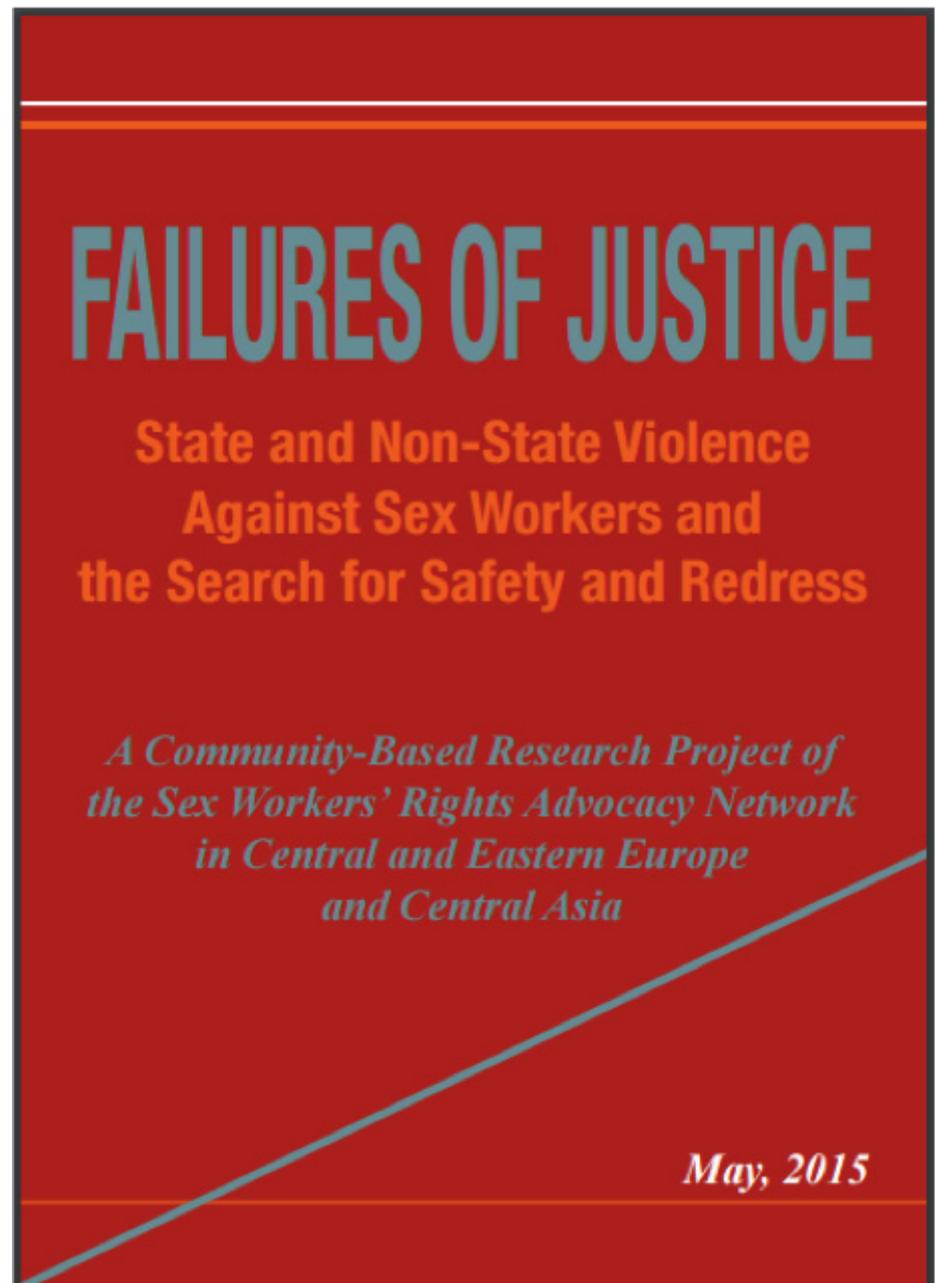
For the past years, the 17th December is dedicated to the victims of violence working in sex business. The reason for this international day first time recognized in 2003 was a criminal case in Seattle of mass murder of tens of people working in sex business. On 17th December also Bratislava became a place where these victims were honoured through the discussion *Christmas breakfast under red umbrella*. The event was organized by the non-profit organization - Civil organization Odysseus that establish the Red Umbrella program already in 2003. Christmas Breakfast under Red Umbrella got together number of participants from the academic environment, non-profit area, state bodies as well as those who actually work in the sex business. It was undertaken within the project *End of Violence, Time for Rights* whose aim is to raise the awareness about the issue of violence, to provide information and assistance to persons working in sex business as well as to police forces which come into contact with them.

The invitation was accepted also by the foundation *SWAN (Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network)* which brings together 18 central- and eastern-European organizations supporting the rights of sex workers. The condition for the foundation's existence is the participation of sex workers in their unique projects and thus emphasizing the permanent necessity to consult its activities with the target group. The main agenda of the foundation consist of advocacy and informative activities, in context of which the foundation organizes research projects. One of the new research in this area introduced at the Christmas Breakfast, was the report *Failures of Justice: State and Non-State Violence Against Sex*

Workers and the Search for Safety and Redress.

The research upon which the report is based was undertaken in 16 member state of SWAN including Slovakia. It consist of 320 deep half-structured interviews with women, men and transgender sex workers that were guided by the members of SWAN organization who also work in sex business. This fact was important when gaining the trust of research participants. It is rather qualitative research since the sample anticipated maximum of 20 partici-

pants from each country. Report includes also the legal framework that provided the ground for the research and in context of which it refers to international treaties and conventions such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Social and Economic Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women or the Charter of Fundamental Rights.



The results of the research are divided into several segments, however, the report is primarily focused on different forms of violence from the side of state and non-state actors – clients, police forces and third persons (persons providing the services to sex workers, whose activities may fall under the criminal act of pimping). Besides the violation of law from the side of these three groups, the report tackles also their rights which are violated as well very often. That was demonstrated by the example of three women living together and providing sex services in their flat. Despite the fact that Bulgaria has not adopted any laws criminalizing the provision of sex services, one of the women (the one whose name was on the lease contract) was prosecuted for pimping after a police raid was conducted in the flat.

The research shows that in all countries involved sex workers do experience significant harassment from the police officers, many times it can be defined as physical or sexual violence. In some of the former soviet countries the research participants talked about the *subbotnick* system as an institutionalized system, based upon which the sex workers have to provide free services also to police forces if they want to keep on working. It seems that almost in all countries it is common for the police to hold the person just upon a suspicion of the sex services provision. It is reasoned by the fact that those persons are transgender or the person is carrying condoms. Obscurity and ambiguity of laws also in countries where the provision of sex services is punishable is being used for the harassment by the police forces as well. The police profiling of sex workers does have the race aspect involved as well since in many countries it was the migrants and Roma people who had proved bigger troubles with police. The practices used on these persons are not compatible with the international neither the domestic law.

Therefore it is not surprising that many participants claimed they would not go to police if there were victim

of a criminal act, conducted either by the police, third persons or their personal partners. The fear from double victimization or from sanctions resulting from their wrongful acts is just too big. Many persons from the sex business do not report their partner because they are afraid of being reported by them. Other cases are the ones when the sex worker is afraid of being revealed before his/her family. According to many testimonies of persons that were subject of any form of police violence, the police officers threaten them with detention, further violence, reveal before family, removal of children or harm to children.

Despite the testimonies pointing out the violation of rights of sex workers in all 16 states, many of them had also positive experiences with state authorities like in special police program in Poland. They also positively evaluated the activities of separate and independent bodies focusing on investigation of police violence (i.e. ombudsmen and ombudswomen). The results showed that repressive laws or repressive behaviour of the police lead to deeper marginalization of persons from sex business into the area of invisibility which is much more dangerous for them. Negative experiences and harassment by the police pushes the men, women and transgender persons in the sex business down to places out of sight, to dark streets; it forces them to use the services of third persons who provide them protection, thus becoming more vulnerable. Also because of this, the end of the report emphasizes the necessity to adopt such state measures that would be consulted with the persons in sex business and their aim would be rather to eliminate the violation of the rights of sex workers according to international and national law than the nowhere-leading punishment.

The report is available under: www.swannet.org

Mrg. Veronika Valkovičová
PhD student, IESIR, FSES CU



Small Team FSES Rolled Olomouc!

After the historically first Model United Nations conference in Slovakia – Slovak MUN, which was organized also by the students of European studies program, the team of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences was sent to Olomouc for another National Model United Nations conference, organized by the American National Collegiate Conference Association which organized conferences in New York, Washington and each year somewhere else in Asia and Europe.

This year the team of six students was sent to Czech republic and was representing Croatia. The team consisted of second-year BA student Nastaran A. Motlagh, third-year BA students Branislav Višňanský and Viliam Ostatník, two first-year MA student Dominika Filinová and Damjan Spasovski, and final-year student Clarissa do Nascimento Tabosa. Students, or delegates as they are entitled during the negotiations, were divided into pairs and represented the Faculty on three different committees – General Assembly, UNESCO and ECOSOC. The pairs followed the principle of equality when each pair has one young lady and young man as well as one senior participant and one junior participant. As they all recalled, they built a strong team not only during the conference, but also outside it.

The participation on MUN events is beneficial not only for the Faculty, when building its international renomé, but also for the students who have to fight their shyness and find a leader in himself or herself. It is therefore quite decisive factor, in which committee the delegate is and how many opportunities s/he gets either on “speakers list” or during unmoderated caucus and informal negotiations about the final resolution. The smaller the committee is, the more the opportunities there are. This was proved also by Dominika and Viliam, who were keeping UN-

ESCO in permanent action and were co-creators of many resolutions.

Clarissa, already having graduated from several MUNs and NMUNs emphasized the high quality of all delegates. She claimed that they were probably the best she has seen during her study and that they were even more motivated than the delegates in New York in 2014 or in Rome 2014. The fact that NMUN format is different from “common” MUN format can be best assessed by Nasi, who has been participating on MUNs since her high school. She herself expected to be familiar with all the procedures, however, she states that NMUN is closer to the real UN negotiations and majority

of partnerships and agreements are achieved during informal meetings.

For our “newcomers” it was a perfect opportunity to use their theoretical knowledge about the UN functioning and the particular discussed topic into practice. But that does not mean they do not learn anything new. Quite the contrary, it is a great school full of new motivation that the study has its point and that while studying you can experience extraordinary events such as the MUNs and NMUNs. Braňo and Damjan would thus not refuse next chance to participate and they recommend to all students to apply and try to negotiate in practice.

This year was successful again when

the “squad” followed the achievements from last year Europe session in Rome. This time, Clarissa and Damjan were awarded the Best Position Paper prize and the whole delegation was awarded the Honorable Mention Delegation for their recognized leading skills and active engagement in the negotiations. Within the competitive environment of European and American delegation, our delegates have the right to be proud of themselves. The Faculty and the coordinators are proud as well and we hope that similar after-school activities will be supported also in the future.

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PhD student, IESIR, FSES CU*

Clarissa do Nascimento Tabosa



In Brussels about the Shared Economy and Future

Uber, Airbnb or Alibaba are companies with the values of tens of billions American dollars but do own nothing. Uber does not own any taxis and does not employ any drivers. Airbnb does not own realties; Alibaba does not own any goods. These successful giants provide interface which enables quick, effective and especially relatively cheap interactions. This relatively new phenomenon is called *sharing economy* or *on-demand economy* since it is an economic activity which is built upon the immediate provision of good and service and thus immediate demand satisfaction.

There is a lot of similar platforms, which can be called sharing economy much more than those already mentioned. Wikipedia, Coughsurfing, different freeware programs are better examples because they are non-profit and do not expect reciprocal behaviour. Economists, politicians and regulators around the world fight against Uber and Airbnb due to their bypassing of rules in the area of taxi service, or security of customers. These companies oppose

and point to the sophisticated evaluation system not only of drivers and hotels, but also customers. The evaluation system is very strict and when not fulfilling the average of four stars out of five, the active participation in the service may be stopped.

One of the critics of sharing economy, Andrew Keen, in his book *Internet is not the Answer* points to the problem of values. Uber, Whatsup, Facebook, Airbnb are giant economic monsters with the value of tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars, however, in practise there consist of handful of developers. He argues that sharing economy does not redistribute more wealth to everybody, but only to the privileged ones. In recent past, the bearers of technological progress were the concern such as Ford that provided job for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

A week after the terrorist attacks in Paris, me with my colleague Boris Valach, PhD student of European Studies, take part in the intensive three-day winter school on sharing economy – *From Uber to Amazon Mechanical Turk: non-traditional labor markets driven by technological and organizational change*. The winter school brought together PhD students, experts from the European Commission and European think-tanks, professor and researchers dealing with sharing economy. Not even the military zone and fourth level of threat that paralyzed the whole city of Brussels did not overshadowed great lectures and discussions about Uber and Airbnb, but also about the general role of Internet in public policy.

Right on the first lecture, the economist Drahekoupil noted that Uber, a platform which called up violent protest in the whole world is proba-

bly the most boring part of the story of sharing economy and that there are much more fascinating examples of sharing economy in the world. Another panelist, based on his calculations and models, illustrated the economic benefits or rather disadvantage of owning a car. Russian professor from the Manchester University emphasized that we are impoverishing our lives when getting rid of activities by shifting to application and platforms. Other lecture by researcher from Oxford noted that people providing services on on-demand platforms are in reality not like the nice profiles show. Many times, they are only intermediary person who acts like a producer, but the product is usually designed and produced by other person, often a family member. Thus new forms of organizations are emerging where trust is very important actor.

I presented a paper about the Uber functioning in Bratislava. I analysed its acceptance by the society, taxi drivers and competitive platform Hopin working on the similar principle (however, within the current legal framework) several years.

The final part of this winter school was Hackaton, where the participants working in pairs simulated the negotiations of actors in Mechanical Turk, Airbnb and innovative form which is trying to succeed market with 3D print. The goal was to solve the problems that are brought by these platforms.

The topic of sharing economy is a controversial one and the number of its critics is getting bigger. Companies such as Uber, Airbnb, Alibaba or Facebook are here and they are getting bigger every day. Therefore it is very important to start a serious debate also in Slovakia and I am very happy the Institute of public policy plans to organize the discussion on sharing economy in 2016.

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7 Conferences - events - festivals - studies

Human rights, human security and development

On 10 December 2015, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, an international conference focusing on human rights was taken for the fourth time at FSEV UK. This time the Conference was taken as an interactive workshop aimed at practical work on the perception of human rights, their implantation, evaluating existing problems and developing the solutions. The issue of individual contributions reflected the actual topic of human rights protection in the context of human security and development challenges of migration and the challenges of the globalized world.

The workshop welcome speech was done by the Dean of the Faculty, who addressed her opening words emphasizing importance of human rights as a central value which should be borne in mind by all the actors operating internationally and nationally. She highlighted the current challenges of the international development cooperation and human rights protection in conflicts. The subsequent working part was open by Mgr. Zuzana Fialová, PDCS representative, who is practically experienced in human rights protection issues, and thereby she could provide her reflection to research topics of the individual participants.

Relatively young staff presented their research contributions in human rights in an international perspective by establishing a basic structure of practical “Metaplans” while seeking solutions as protection against environmental injustice, conflict prevention (the doctrine of the responsibility to protect), the water availability in Central Asia needed to stabilize and protect the human rights, migration tools to solve the crisis and living conditions of Syrian refugees in Turkish camps, and child mal-treatment protection. Very rewarding contribution



and assessment was brought by prof. PhDr. Miroslav Kusý, PhD., a leading human rights expert not only in Slovakia, who was actively involved in the practical implementation of the workshop. His comment and appreciation contributed to an excellent atmosphere, working as well as individual. This was kept also during the subsequent informal meeting and lengthy debate, whereas the human rights do not end ...

Our thank for an active amazing workshop, possibility to present and discuss the contributions given goes to all the organizers of FSEV UK, to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for the financial support, and to Zuzka Fialová for her innovative, reflective approach that opened another dimension of human rights perception to us ... Thank you and we are looking forward to seeing you in a year, at the first jubilee of “our” Conference on Human Rights.

And in early reading of the contributions in the reviewed volume, friends!

Doc. JUDr. PhDr. Lucia Mokrá,
PhD.
FSEV UK

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