

European Year 2010: To Combat Racism and Social Exclusion

Diaconia ECCB is preparing two projects in the frame of the European Year to Combat Racism and Social Exclusion.

In the time of economic crisis, when unemployment of students and young graduates is rapidly increasing, the risk of social exclusion of this target group increases too. This factor is consequently raising the risk of illegal employment in unlawful activities such as prostitution, etc. Most of the students and young graduates are not prepared for such risks. At the same time the pedagogues are not equipped for the task of prevention misuse of young people. These are the main reasons Diaconia ECCB wants to contribute to the above described area.

1) The first project is called “No to Violence”. Its aim is to educate children and youth endangered by social exclusion in the area of prevention risks of trafficking in people and children exploited at work including prostitution. There are several goals of the project:

- ▶ To educate this target group to raise awareness of possible risks of trafficking in people
- ▶ To strengthen competence of the target group making decisions in difficult life situations when human rights are violated
- ▶ To equip them with the knowledge of their rights and obligations
- ▶ To inform them about techniques, knowledge and contacts to organizations where they can seek for help
- ▶ To train a team of expert lecturers in the program focused on prevention of trafficking in people
- ▶ To create thematic prevention programs about trafficking in people, its roots and to offer examples of good practice of combating it.

2) The second project is called Napolion and it aims to be a counterpart to the first one. It aims to develop social services for the people endangered by trafficking in people and work exploitation. It will be launched in four different regions of the Czech Republic as a reaction to the local needs. There will be launched or enlarged social services such as crisis intervention, social counseling, asylum shelter for young men from the target group, etc. These social services will be accompanied by educational programs for social workers involved in these services with the aim to prepare them how to face such problems and how to effectively help those who are at risk. Diaconia ECCB will cooperate in this field with well – known organization La Strada which has been focused on this area for long time already. La Strada will provide ECCB Diaconia workers not only with expert leadership and supervision but also with new working methods and security standards. The experiences gained through this project will be shared consequently with ECCB Diaconia workers from other regions in educational programs of Diaconia ECCB. But the overall benefit of this project will be the development of social services for the above described target group with the aim to prevention of social exclusion of a number of young people or their successful return on the labour market. This project is meant to continual and long lasting one.

Diaconia ECCB is presenting these two projects in the frame of the European structural funds. The success of their implementation, namely the scale of future activities as well as the number of possible beneficiaries depends on their acceptance. Nevertheless Diaconia ECCB is prepared to launch them in any case but without European support they will be implemented in smaller scale and gradual steps.