

Gladenbach Declaration 2008

We, students from Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Poland and Russia have worked together for the last week and have discussed problems and solutions concerning migration within Europe. For us it was important to work on questions dealing with the integration of migrants in our societies focusing on Human Rights, Education, Employment Policy, "Ghettoizing" and the "Brain Drain" problem. Having presented and discussed our ideas, suggestions and worries, we finally came up with this declaration expressing our expectations concerning the European Union's future policy on migration.

- A Human Rights**
- B Education**
- C Employment Policy**
- D Ghettoizing**
- E Brain Drain**

A

Integration of immigrants into any society should be in accordance with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights guaranteeing freedom, safety and equality in all parts of life.

B

We consider education an essential part of integration. We have a duty to teach young people to be tolerant and respectful of other people and other nationalities. Thereby it will be automatically passed on to future generations. Language classes need to be provided for all immigrants entering a country. Everything that can be done should be done to help immigrants obtain the best possible education.

Everybody should have the possibility to be informed about and to participate in cultural life.

On the other hand we see the need to install tolerance and respect towards the immigrants' values in the host population through education as well.

We believe promoting free time activities of immigrants and non-immigrants will support integration.

C

Immigrants represent an important pool of potential in Europe. Their businesses have a significant impact on EU economic growth. To make it easier for immigrants to get a job, it is important that governments set up job centres. To achieve tolerance and avoid discrimination in the workplace, intercultural dialogue should be promoted. Immigrants need to realize the importance of employment for integration.

An international co-ordinator should be accessible as an advocate for immigrants working in a company.

Special programs should be introduced to create equal opportunities to help women enter the workforce. Again, education is the key to lowering unemployment rates among immigrants. Without education – e.g. without knowing the language – it is very hard to get a job as an immigrant. They need

skills to be able to compete in the labour market. Both the private and the public sector should ensure that courses are provided. Immigrants should feel they can get a job if they want and that the host society isn't closed to them. Moreover, support for immigrants to make contact with the people of the host country would help them understand its laws and culture better.

D

We recognise that ghettoizing is a serious problem in many parts of the world. It is an important social issue in many European countries, especially France, Germany and the Netherlands. We also recognise that any solutions we have will take many years to come into effect and may not totally solve the problems.

Our aim is to ensure maximum contact between native people and immigrants. We need to ensure that social contact is developed and maintained in all areas of society.

Violence leaves a major scar on the lives of people living in urban ghettos. We believe that this is caused by a lack of opportunities. Young people in these ghettos are uneducated and have few social outlets. We wish to see that education in these areas is improved (see below) and that business and entertainment outlets (e.g. youth clubs, sports clubs) are opened. Community policing would be improved, with officers specifically designated to liaise with local community groups. We would also introduce "Proximity Police", being unarmed police officers who work in a specific area to encourage familiarity with the police services.

Improving education is the key to bettering ghetto areas. We need to ensure that immigrants have adequate fluency in the local language so they can integrate into the community. Therefore we shall provide intensive language classes in schools and in community areas, which would be state subsidised. We want after school facilities to be set up so that struggling students could be helped with difficult class work. This would also ensure that the work of native students is not disrupted.

Fitting in the local community is vital to ensure integration and to combat ghettoizing.

E

We believe the movement of highly educated people in high numbers from one European country to others causes a decline in the quality of life for such a country. We realize that a regulation of the free flow of labour forces interferes with human rights and therefore, we require further measures to be introduced in order to create equal living conditions in all member states and thereby helping the people stay in their home countries.

Conclusion:

We firmly believe that contact and dialogue between people in the member states and throughout Europe is the key to successful integration and therefore should be promoted at all levels.