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## Approaches for the integration of migrants – pretense and reality of a changing working environment

A seminar about “Approaches for the integration of migrants – pretense and reality of a changing working environment” took place on 12 and 13 February 2010 in Athens, Greece, co-organized by EZA, DAKE (Greece) and EFAL (Italy) under the title.

The importance of dealing with the issues of EU citizens’ inner-migration and migration of immigrants from third part countries to EU in an era of global financial and social crisis, appeared to be very significant not only for the necessity of revising our common European employment strategies but also for protecting our common Christian values against xenophobia and racism.

The seminar was attended by 56 participants deriving from Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Ireland, Luxemburg, Slovenia, Malta, Italy and Greece. Guests were coming from Moldavia and Switzerland.

The topic fields that were presented during the seminar where:

- A) The analytical definition of migration according to EU documents,
- B) The EU principal of “free movement of workers” in relation to
  - b1) EU’s migration policy,
  - b2) the workers mobility during economic crisis and
  - b3) the case study of “the Spanish migration policy and the implications to employment/ unemployment”,
- C) The “rights of workers in the enlarged EU and suggestions for the integration of migrants” in relation to
  - c1) the “blue card” and
  - c2) the “Vocational training – Life Long Learning” policy,
- D) The “EU’s ENLARGEMENT– advantages and disadvantages in relation to migration” which focused on
  - d1) the “EU Enlargement and Implications from migration: the Slovenian experience” and
  - d2) the “case of Turkish application for EU membership in relation to migration through and to EU”,
- E) The “Greek migration policy – implications from migration to the Greek economy and social cohesion– Suggestions on evolve the common European migration policy”,
- F) “Mediterranean sea - the gate to Europe” Experiences of migration to and through Mediterranean Countries. How migration changed their employment markets?
- G) the “European Parliament’s perspective” of migration in relation to economy and social changes.

During the Seminar, the participants attended very interesting speeches on the above mentioned topics from several speakers (MEPs, academicians, government officials, trade unionists) that fed the further discussion among them. In this point, it is necessary to mention that the participants (maybe for the first time in a seminar) had the opportunity to attend the presentation on a topic from the President of a Christian Democratic Party, as they attended the speech of Mr. Antonios Samaras (President of Nea Demokratia party) on the “Greek migration policy – implications from migration to the Greek economy and social cohesion – suggestions on evolving the common European migration policy”.

Furthermore, the Seminar because of the very important presentations had very fruitful results, which were produced as an amalgam from the speakers’ presentations and the participants’ quotes and discussions. The most significant was the need of re-organizing our common European migration policy in terms of establishing common rules for the acceptance and integration of migrants in combination with the strengthening of our existing European institutions as FRONTEX. This stand was accepted from all the participants as it was common belief that the EU member states that are afflicted the most from migration/ immigration flows are EU’s border countries and the countries with the weakest economies inside EU. According to this seminar

result, without revising EU's common migration strategy the problems to the economies and to the social cohesion of these member states (Mainly Mediterranean countries: Greece, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Cyprus, Italy, France) will effect to a future EU depression in total. Thus, principals of EU which was born from Christian values as the "peaceful cooperation among different nations", the "fight against gender-race discrimination and xenophobia" the "member-states collaboration for EU social and economic prosperity" might be at stake.

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