



outline for individual report of WS 2



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BEAMS: Breaking down European Attitudes towards Migrant/Minority Stereotypes

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THIS REPORT WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH PARTNER IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES IN WS 1 (SEE APPLICATION FORM)

Reports of WS 1 -2- 3 will be edited separately (as they refer to activities carried out in different times), but should also be considered 3 Chapters of a logically interlinked complete report of the project activities and results. For simplicity's sake let's say that WS 1 area report is the first and WS 2 area report is the second of a three-chapter full report of BEAMS.

Chapter 2:

Stereotypes, perception and discrimination

Part 1: General introduction: on the applied methods and basic information on “open meetings”

The Society Development Institute has been developing the framework of the open meetings based on the data collected and taking into consideration the interviews with the relevant actors.

The open meetings aimed to provoke the public and record grass-root opinions of different people, age, profession and etc.

The programme of the open meetings is based on following milestones:

- Information provided via the website
- Information provided via relevant organizations
- Information provided via outdoor posters
- Distributing leaflet – digital brochures about the project

Delivery of the programme of the open meeting:

- ☞ Choosing a facilitator of the programme
- ☞ Inviting participants from the target groups of stereotyping (foreigners and Roma representatives)
- ☞ Inviting interesting guests
- ☞ Placing the topics of stereotypes through horizontal and vertical perspective of the paradigm of social and economic stereotypes linked to the historical development of the Slovak society and its traditions
- ☞ Screening videos that have been already recorded
- ☞ Using some data from the questionnaires and public surveys provided by the BEAMS project

Type of meetings

- Geographically sensitive – organizing focus group and open meetings in Bratislava, in Kosice and in Banska Bystrica



Part 2: From production to perception:

In early September 16, we have arranged a two-hours focus group meeting in the city of Banska Bystrica. The meeting was held with the representatives of the European Commission, Youth Centres Organization and OCED NGO. We have discussed the issues of stereotypes. The participants provided information about the school activities focused on stereotyping. A major problem assessed is the lack of continuity in activities aimed to encourage general awareness on diversity in the society.

We have been informed that a new national project focused on youth at schools will partially tackle diversity and topics of stereotypes, however it will not ensure a follow-up activities.

There is a need on development of a product and a pilot project involving youths and children and giving them opportunity to express their opinions on a regular base beside any project opportunity.

On 3rd October, we have organized an open meeting in the city of Kosice that attracted representatives of the general public, teachers in Roma kindergarten, foreigners, their kids of international marriages, journalists and media experts.

The city of Kosice is mostly famous for the segregated community of Roma people who are considered as most problematic in Slovakia. Several grey concrete apartments stand clustered on the outskirts of Kosice, Slovakia, forming a community of their own. Unlike other apartment blocks in the city, however, this complex, known as Lunik IX, has no grass underfoot and no swings or slides for the children. Garbage lies in heaps around the place, and many of the buildings' windows are shattered.



Roma settlement in Krasna

Approximately 6,500 people live here. Sometimes three or four families share a two-bedroom apartment. Electricity is available only in the mornings and evenings, and heat and hot water are usually non-existent, but there's no shortage of alcoholism, gambling, usury, abuse, and incest. The unemployment rate is 98 per cent. Poverty and hopelessness pervade.

Although there is a special culture body of Ramathan theatre, the city of Kosice is not so much willing to host positive reflections of Roma people in the popular culture. The participants of the discussion, who are directly involved in the provision of education services to the Roma community mentioned that major problem has been created by the socio-economic system and

rotten positive discrimination policy in Slovakia enabling certain organization to provide one-off and non-sustainable activities providing non-solutions for the Roma population.

The migrants attending the open meeting explained that there is not sufficient information about their cultures, however they are not able personally to change the public opinion.

The meeting has been attended by the filmmaker and culture agent Mr Sorger, who did also commented on the promotion of stereotypes in the popular culture. He has tried a couple of time to document the traits of some minorities living in Kosice, such as Jewish population, and he was surprised by the fact that this minority is not willing to publically accept its presence. The media representatives mentioned that there is a lack of interest amongst media to present any positive news about Roma population, which creates a lot of tension and lack of interest amongst the creative business exploring or reflecting the topics above-mentioned so far.

Therefore the creative business is very much influenced by the mainstream popular culture outputs and does not propose a different angle of the topic, as well as it tries to bounce from the general view of the Roma population as presented in media.

Another open meeting has been held amongst the students of anthropology, October 9. Many of the students were also not aware of any breakthrough reflection of the minorities in the popular culture of Slovakia. Surprisingly many of the students have never been in contact with any of the minority. Amongst the students we have also representatives of national ethnic minorities and Roma population. The students were very active in commenting the issues of the minorities. According to the participants media are providing insufficient and false information and there is of course a greater interest in knowing better the invisible foreigners living amongst them.

The final open meeting on October 10th was participated by experts who provided provocative notion of the stereotypes of way of living and traditions in the Slovak society. It was very interesting discussing with young people how they do perceive the issues of diversity. Attendees discussed on the ways of softening the media language and changing the approach to minorities by stressing no longer on the ethnic origin of criminals or trespassers.

Part 3: From perception to attitudes

(6000 words max)

The open meetings drive main conclusion.

- minorities are part of the popular culture form negative viewpoint,
- there is a selective and not objective information proposed
- the culture of minorities should not be specifically promoted,
- the minorities do not need to present them as such in daily life,
- the minorities are not even willing to solve issues of racism and intolerance
- the minorities have been used to the intolerant behaviour
- the minorities are not enough promoted in the public space
- media are very selective and create negative connotations



- creative business is lacking decent research on the topics, thus these issues are not part of the production
- The existence of various programmes supporting the particular group of minorities is creating additional tensions as these kind of measures are not welcomed in a society and communities of low incomes. Usually segregated activities aimed at minorities bring an artificial promotion of the minority culture via financial incentives are not comparable with the general means for culture products available in the country.

Part 4: Main conclusions and recommendations

(2000 words max)

Summarize here the main findings and reactions of the meetings, provide some final conclusions on the issues that you detected as important in terms of fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Give some indications on critical points and suggestions to be addressed in awareness raising activities and pilot actions of WS 3.

- Initiate a continuous pilot actions
- Negotiate with media for regular publications
- Identify positive –driven popular culture agents
- Use video production to record good examples
- Disseminate good examples
- Filming during the pilot actions
- Producing videos and distribution online
- Develop digital newsletters with videos
- Initiate an action of self-promotion

