

The Council of Europe confronted with  
the refugees crisis  
the role and answer from education

Eurashe

Brussels 4 May 2016

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# 2015: 60,000,000 of refugees

- Mostly in sub saharian Africa
- A European crisis ?
- Refugees within Europe not a new story
  - French and the Russian Revolution
  - The Balkan wars and the 1920 treaties
  - 1956
  - Boat people
  - Yugoslavian Wars

# An organisation based on values

- Born in 1949, after the Second World War ( Holocaust/ crimes against civil/ displaced persons and refugees)
  - Democracy
  - Human Rights
  - Rule of Law
- Mostly a legal institution, through intergovernmental work
- **The European Cultural Convention ( 1954):**
  - Each Contracting Party shall, insofar as may be possible:
    - a encourage the study by its own nationals of the languages, history and civilisation of the other Contracting Parties and grant facilities to those Parties to promote such studies in its territory; and
    - b endeavour to promote the study of its language or languages, history and civilisation in the territory of the other Contracting Parties and grant facilities to the nationals of those Parties to pursue such studies in its territory.

# The European Convention of Human Rights

- Article 2 of the Protocol 1

## “ **Article 2 – Right to education** ”

No person shall be denied the right to education.”

An obligation for the public authorities, the interpretation is that this is true regardless the statut of the person

- The possibility to have an individual treatment of any case:
  - ! No possibility of collective deportation

# The Lisbon Recognition Convention

- **“Section VII – Recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation**

## **Article VII**

- Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to employment activities, even in cases in which the qualifications obtained in one of the Parties cannot be proven through documentary evidence.”

# Some elements of answers

- A Secretary General special adviser on the item
- Several messages from the Commissioner of Human rights:
  - “ Despite this unfavourable context, I sought to advocate a human rights approach vis-à-vis migrants. To this end, I examined allegations of pushbacks and ill-treatment at borders, access to international protection, reception conditions, treatment of vulnerable groups, as well as xenophobia towards the new arrivals.” The Commissioner stressed the need to develop safe legal passage options for migrants into Europe and the importance of creating effective integration policies for newcomers.” 18.04.2016

# The field of education

- The language of adult migrants: a specific focus put to the linguistic situations of adults and children migrants
  - Children policy:
    - 300.000 minors, non-accompanied children:
      - Obligation of education
      - Of family life
      - Of protection
      - ! Children missing/ sex abused/ human trafficking
- In Sofia , in May 2016 possibility to have a special action regarding this item

# Regarding recognition

- To guarantee exchange of information between the different stakeholders
- ENIC NARIC
- How is it possible to find an European Answer to an European challenge?
  - NOKUT passport
  - Swedish background document
  - EUA inter active card



# Difficulties and challenges

- Each story of refugee is different: to respect their readiness to enter in their qualifications recognition as recognition of qualifications is one of the first « integration » step in their new environment
- How to guarantee that refugees have access to the information where they are ?
  - Technically to have application for mobile phone more than for computer
- How procedures which are chronological can be started in parallel ?

# Difficulties and challenges

- The integration of Refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee like situation within the classrooms, the amphitheatres... How to deal with potential trauma?
- How to guarantee between the different stakeholders an exchange of good practises ?
- The necessity of a political back up: one of the most difficult issue