



Supporting vulnerable EU migrants through project work and beyond

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Vulnerable EU migrants

- Access to advice/information
- Precarious employment/housing
- Unemployment/homelessness
- Lack of documentation
- Not exercising treaty rights
- Victims of Crime/exploitation
- Criminal convictions
- Immigration enforcement

Barriers to accessing advice/information

- Language
- Cost
- Complexity
- Accessibility/availability
- Trust
- Misinformation

Vulnerable EU migrants: who are they?

- Homeless
- Unemployed
- Young People
- Disabled people
- Domestic violence victims
- Roma
- Third country nationals

Projects within the network: overview

- 1) Living Rights (EU project): 2015-2017 targeted vulnerable and recently-arrived EU migrants across the UK
- 2) PRE-Brexit (Trust for London): 2018-2020 targets vulnerable EU migrants in London
- 3) EULAMP (EU project): 2018-2020 targets vulnerable EU migrants from Latin American background, both before departure in Portugal and after arrival in London
- 4) Human-rights based approaches to working with vulnerable migrants (Baring Foundation): 2017-2018 targeted all vulnerable migrants
- 5) EU Citizens' Rights (European Commission contract): 2018 targets EU27 citizens in the UK

1) Living Rights Project: activities



Living Rights (EU project): 2015-2017 targeted vulnerable and re-arrived EU migrants across the UK

10 Partners: Law Centres + other organisations reaching EU citizens

Activities:

- Information events: 1300 attendees in 80 events nationwide
- Advice sessions: 2036 people advised
- Workshops for professionals: 28 workshops, 585 professionals reached
- Town Hall meetings: 6 meetings



1) Living Rights Project: lessons

What activities worked & how:

- High interest in information events
- BUT some vulnerable groups e.g. Roma were reluctant to sign attendance sheets (problem for reporting – instead can take photos from back of room)
- High take-up of advice sessions
- BUT vulnerable migrants often did not seek advice early, they were shy in approaching institutions and being identified (so Community Champions were helpful in reaching out)
- Interest in workshops for professionals not as much as expected

1) Living Rights Project: lessons & sustainability



Community Champions (total 34) were great help!

- They reached out in schools, churches
- Helped reach vulnerable groups especially those that don't seek advice themselves
- Tended to be middle-class rather than vulnerable workers themselves (no time!)
- So advantage of connecting different parts of a national community
- One of the CCs launched her own charity after project!

2) PRE-Brexit Project

PRE-Brexit (Trust for London): 2018-2020 targets vulnerable EU migrants in London

- Direct follow-up from Living Rights Project, similar activities
- Ongoing, London-only

3) EULAMP: Activities

EULAMP (EU project): 2018-2020 targets vulnerable EU migrants from Latin American background, both before departure in Portugal and after arrival in London

Partners: 2 Law Centres, one organisation working with Latin Americans, and one partner in Portugal

Activities:

- Information & knowledge exchange between countries and partners
- Pre-departure: information on UK system, English-language classes, booklet
- Post-arrival:
 - Information sessions
 - Advice sessions
 - Registering in EP elections –EU-LAs participating

3) EULAMP: Lessons so far

Opportunities:

- Novelty of model: pre-departure & post-departure
- Opportunity to learn about third-country nationals and specific issues they face
- Collaboration between LCs and IRMO organisation: mutual learning

Challenges:

- Target group too restrictive: have now included EU citizens of African backgrounds
- Again, as in Living Rights, newly-arrivals hard to reach. Majority of target now arrived 5 years ago

EU Projects: general lessons



Opportunities:

- Good stream of income – if continues

Challenges:

- Reporting is a challenge – e.g. for each meeting/event need to collect attendance sheets, feedback forms, agendas, perhaps photos
- Need to factor in reporting time in staff costs
- Need to make sure evidence is collected – otherwise payment withheld from EU
- Need to write project with some flexibility regarding target group and how likely they are to participate and to identify

4) Human-rights based approaches

Human-rights based approaches to working with vulnerable migrants (Baring Foundation): 2017-2018 targeted all vulnerable migrants

Activities:

- Training of LC staff and members of charities on how to use human-rights based approaches in working with vulnerable migrants
- Manual published – available free online!

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/lcn-s-work/human-rights-and-discrimination-project>

- Video material – work in progress

5) EU Citizens' Rights

EU citizens' rights
information service
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EU Citizens' Rights (European Commission contract): 2018 targets EU27 citizens in the UK

Project:

- Provides lawyers to 110 information events organised by local EU citizens' communities around the UK
- Lawyers from LCs deliver 2h presentation & Q&A on EU citizens' rights in the UK after Brexit
- Content: settled status applications and other EU citizens' rights, also info on EP elections
- Building a database of 500+ EU citizens' community organisations around the UK

5) EU Citizens' Rights

EU citizens' rights
information service
eurights.uk



Opportunities:

- Reaching out to communities of all national groups and understanding their specific characteristics better
- e.g. Spanish very active, German citizens quite integrated
- Project helps us understand the problems likely to be faced by vulnerable EU citizens in coming years
- A list of frequent and complex questions asked in sessions is put together

Challenges:

- Reaching beyond London – project specifically designed to grant more out-of-London sessions
- Reaching out to less active communities and to the most vulnerable
- Language barriers: project provides interpreting in 1 language per event
- Need to make sure simple language and take-home message
- Need for more in-depth advice help

5) EU Citizens' Rights

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Project helps us understand the problems likely to be faced by vulnerable EU citizens in coming years

- Some won't hear about Settled Status in time before application deadline (June 2021)
- Technology barrier: application on an app, not all may be able to access e.g. elderly
- Technology barrier no 2: passport scan through app but only on some phones... others need to go to library (accessibility issues?)
- How to explain all these to vulnerable and perhaps not literate migrants
- Can only help an applicant if OISC accredited...
- Evidence will be electronic only – what is likelihood that employers of vulnerable migrants will check their legal status in UK rather than employ on black market?
- Same problem with landlords – potential effects overcrowded accommodation, modern slavery

Working with Roma Support Group

- Lambeth Law Centre /Public Interest Law Unit
- Information sessions
- Outreach
- Roma champions
- Follow up
- Settled Status sessions