

# Living Together with Diverse Identities

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The British Council organized the Living Together International Summit – Equal opportunity and access in society 12.–14.3.2008 in London. There were many politicians, policy-makers, journalists, academics, and leaders in civil society from many European countries. In the opening plenary session Dr. Danilo Türk, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, expressed the intercultural dialogue as an important concept. Also employment and labour market participation is a key element to integration into a wider society.

Trevor Phillips, chair of the new Equality and Human Rights Commission, was asking how to live together? We need skill, people and immigration in most countries of Europe. People are not hiding origin and for example in the city of London 300 languages are spoken. Dr. Majlinda Bregu, the Minister of European Integration of the Albanian government, said that there exists emigration to Western world. Immigrants are vulnerable to new life style in the destination country. She pointed out that “immigrants are always wanted but never welcome.”

Dr. Dubravka Valić Nedeljković, a journalist and president of the Novi Sad School of Journalism,

Serbia, organized the workshop session of the representation of minority communities in the media. She stressed that nowadays the interaction is easier than ever before between people. It is easy to interact through “skype” to different parts of the world, and getting touch with relatives. She worried that people are not talking to neighbours in the living country: “lives are running parallel, but not interacting.” She said that there is the fear that we are deceiving ourselves, and interaction is smaller and smaller. Technology is changing contacts and the spaces of interaction are narrowing, not increasing.

Dubravka Valić Nedeljković introduced also a new idea of a tandem relationship. Tandem work basically means co-operation of professionals from different fields on a specific work and a specific output. In this case, for example, a minority representative or an expert and a journalist make together media-outputs. It has two good outcomes: first of all, the output is highly professional; secondly, a minority representative or an expert and a journalist provide each other with different skills using learning-by-doing method. This is a very good planned side-effect of the joint, tandem, work. Moreo-

ver, the relationship usually becomes more personal than purely professional, and leads to easier and more comfortable professional co-operation based on trust and understanding.

Dr. Phil. student Akira Murata, the Sussex Centre for Migration Research at the University of Sussex, England, was organizing the workshop session which dealt with the impact of remittances from diaspora communities on development. Remittances and capital flows to developing countries have increased from 100 billion US\$ in 2000 to 200 billion US\$ in 2006. Top recipients of remittances in 2006 have been next countries with over 20 billion US\$ each: India, China and Mexico. When we look at remittances share of GDP there are different countries: Moldova 32 % of GDP, Tonga about 27 % and Guyana 25 %. There has occurred a reduction in transaction costs in remittances, e.g. in USA-Mexico corridor: 26 US\$ in 1999 to 12 US\$ in 2004 to send 300 US\$. In remittance transfer there are still in use informal channels; for example in Uganda 80 % of remittances are coming through informal channels and only 20 % by formal channels.

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