

History of the Platform

Within the project "*Empowerment of Migrant Women at Risk of Exploitation, Trafficking & Enslavement*" co-financed by the European Commission and carried out between December 2014 and November 2016 thanks to the cooperation among Ban Ying Berlin, La Strada Czech Republic and LEFÖ-IBF Austria, new approaches have been developed in terms of starting the Platform.

The Platform attempts to bring together existing migrants' self-organized groups and projects that work for and with Berlin-based migrants. The goal of this Platform is to reinforce the networking among its members in order to better reach our target groups with counseling and support services.

All the organizations and projects which are part of the Platform have in common the active defence of (labour) rights of migrants and asylum seekers or people without valid permit of stay and often speak and act from their own experience as migrant or refugee.

In self-organized structures, that mostly work without any financial support, very often too little resources (time and money) are left to networking with others, to share information, to widen one's knowledge and to make demands on a broader political level.

In this context we decided to organize workshops and trainings with experts about topics significant for the members of the Platform, such as labour rights, *Asylpaket 1 and 2*, the specific legal situation of asylum seekers who entered Europe through Lampedusa as well as racism and discrimination as challenges for our counselling work.

Based on our multiple experiences in specific self-organized groups and projects, we developed together new info material such as, for example, a postcard that, alongside the demand for collective organization, also provides the contacts of the organizations involved and directs to our website. Additionally a short video was created which, through three characters with different residence permit and living situations, tries to illustrate problems and challenges of migrants and refugees who live in Germany.

We trust that in future we will succeed in bringing our demands for equal access and rights for every migrant living in Germany loud to a wider public.

Let's get informed! Let's get organized! (Labour) rights for everyone!