



THE EUROPEAN BORDERS OBSERVATORY PROJECT

The question of the European borders is more and more in the headlines (e.g. Schengen area today, the Southern border with Libya, Tunisia and Egypt yesterday; the Eastern one with Greece and Turkey a month ago; Canary Island 5 years ago, etc.). For years borders are one of the most important concerns of the European Union, haggling with neighboring countries. Unfortunately, migrants are often the terms of trade. Therefore, almost 10 years ago several European NGOs working on migration decided to begin a network (Migreurop) dedicated to borders and detention places for migrants in order to analyze and show the consequences of European migration policies in Europe and beyond. Quickly, other European and African NGOs joined the network. For two years now, with the support of EPIM, the Euro African network, Migreurop, launched the European borders observatory in order to improve the rights and situation of undocumented migrants arriving at Europe's borders. Migreurop's member organisations all contribute to, and use, the information collected by the Observatory to change national and European policy, to document and sensitize widely this unknown reality.

EPIM supports the project in funding missions on the field, documentations (an Atlas and reports), international campaigns and international conferences.

ADVANCEMENT ON THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO DETENTION CENTRE FOR MIGRANTS (international campaign)

While the network asks for the end of migrant's detention, it asks also for an unconditional access to detention centre for civil society and an independent monitoring body on national and European level of those places. In this regards, on the European level, Migreurop sensitizes MEPs and the right of access appears in two European Parliament's documents (A European Parliament Resolution in January 2009 on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU 2004-2008 and the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee reported on the right of access of civil society).

On the national level, Spanish NGOs-members of Migreurop ("Migreurop Spain"), worked really hard since the beginning of the campaign. At first, they got two changes in the 2009 Law: Access to "civil society" to detention centre and the introduction of a judge for the control of the detention (monitoring body) who controls the respect of detainee's fundamental rights. Unfortunately, there was no concrete definition of "civil society" in the law. So, Migreurop-Spain is now working on the project of the implementing legislation asking for a definition including NGOs. Despite, one local "victory" (January 2011) in Madrid, a local judge has decided that the 2009 law allows an unlimited access to NGOs for the Aluche-Madrid detention centre. It is the result of a complaint from 3 Spanish NGOs (Sos Racismo, Migreurop's member, was one of the complainant). It is a step forward.

NEW PRODUCTS TO DISSEMINATE: BETTER SENSITIZATION

Since 2009, with EPIM's support, we publish an annual report on the violation of human rights at borders which allow us to sensitize civil society (MEP's, NGOs, students...etc.). More than 4000 books have been disseminated in 3 languages and are available for free on our website. With EPIM fund, the network published an "Atlas of migrants In Europe: critical geography of the European policies". More than 3000 books have been disseminated to researchers, university, NGOs, MEPs...etc. EPIM helped us to organize our information in order to disseminate and sensitize more efficiently on our issue.

WIDER CAPACITY OF COMMUNICATION OF THE NETWORK

With new products disseminated and a stronger network, our positive media coverage raises a lot. Media, NGOs, MEPs and activists are more and more in demand of our products (i.e.: Atlas, annual reports). Moreover, some NGOs, MEPs and MP's ask to use our method of work (i.e.: the survey on detention centers is often used by other NGOs and MEPs when they visit these places).

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHEN

Through the EPIM fund, we have got broader international visibility. It allows us to meet new partners and to strengthen our network but also partnerships. Mission on the field, international meetings are strategic moments to meet new

partners and for our members to strengthen their relationships. EPIM empowers Migreurop to increase collaboration to achieve a specific policy change within the network but also with other NGOs and European networks.

EPIM & THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF ITS GRANTEES

More broadly, EPIM support has an impact on our Euro African network itself. Most of the time, NGOs are in a rush and not have the financial support to build capacity on certain subjects. Each six months for three years, EPIM organizes workshops on different items (networking, campaigning, communication, social media...etc.) which make easier for NGOs to take time to stop, think and learn. Moreover, EPIM supports a program within EPIM grantees called the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI). EPIM Grantees could get a fund if they built a joint project on several items (fundraising, peer to peer...etc.). Migreurop lead the JLI on fundraising. It has increased confidence and success in fundraising not only for the border observatory project but for the network and its members. This statement works also for EPIM workshops. Indeed, information and knowledge shared by EPIM, are, then, shared with our members.