



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON  
UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS



**PICUM EPIM Project:  
“Promoting Rights and Facilitating Justice for Undocumented Migrants”  
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS: 2008-2011**

Across Europe, PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, coordinates information exchange, disseminates good practices, promotes networking, and mainstreams undocumented migrants' concerns within migration and social policy debates. PICUM monitors and reports on the divergence between international and regional human rights instruments ratified by European countries, and the laws and practices existing at European or national level concerning migrants with an irregular status.

By researching undocumented migrants' access to basic social rights, spreading information on law and practice, and reporting on exploitation, PICUM has developed a centre of expertise to provide members, lobbyists, policy makers and others with knowledge, advice and support. The following are some examples of this approach, which has been strengthened thanks to funding from the NEF-EPIM program:

**Extensive volunteer network and in-depth analyses enable regular monitoring of human rights**

- More than 100 volunteers contribute on an on-going basis to PICUM's bi-monthly news bulletin, which traces policy developments within the EU, Council of Europe and UN while also promoting new projects and civil society partnerships throughout Europe. The news bulletin is available free of charge and disseminated widely to almost 6,000 individuals and organisations, including NGOs, EU policy makers, government officials and journalists. PICUM's annual report on the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants in Europe uncovers systematic violations of human rights on a large scale. Through these activities, PICUM provides effective support to NGOs, service providers, policy makers and others interested in protecting particularly vulnerable groups of migrants at local and regional levels.

**Framework for protecting vulnerable workers used extensively and reiterated by European Parliament**

- The findings of PICUM's report *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers* have huge relevance in the field and have led PICUM to receive invitations from numerous international organizations, governmental bodies, research institutes, and civil society organizations. This report presents detailed information obtained from NGOs, trade unions and other actors working with and advocating for undocumented workers in Europe and in the United States. PICUM has provided expert input to the OSCE regarding the transference of the strategy to Russia and held discussions with Migrant Forum in Asia who also expressed interest in mapping the "Ten Ways" within their region as well as translating the report into Korean. A Spanish translation of the report has been disseminated at civil society fora in Latin America and in Europe. PICUM's recommendations concerning the protection of undocumented migrant workers were echoed by the European Parliament in a resolution it adopted on 14 January 2009 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008, in the section on "Irregular Employment."

### **Pioneering approach on access to health care recognized by policy makers**

- PICUM's work on access to health care for undocumented migrants has supported national advocacy campaigns across Europe and gained praise from leading humanitarian organisations and medical journals such as "The Lancet". The multifaceted approach to the issue is currently being used as a model by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in their EU-wide project on the fundamental rights of irregular migrants which marks the first rights-based response by an EU institution to irregular migrants. In December 2010, PICUM joined together with two other EPIM grantees (European Women's Lobby and Médecins du Monde) and the European Anti-Poverty Network to organize a hearing in the European Parliament on access to health care for undocumented pregnant women and children, which had the support of several political groups. Following the hearing, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on "Reducing Health Inequalities in the EU" on 8 March 2011, in which it calls on Member States to tackle health inequalities in access to health care for undocumented migrants.

### **Major conference on children facilitates grassroots organizing and reporting to UN mechanisms**

- In January 2009, PICUM facilitated the largest ever European gathering of NGOs, service providers and policy makers working with undocumented children, and subsequently earned a seat on the EU Child Rights Action Group. At this event, PICUM promoted avenues through which grassroots organisations may engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms. Keynote addresses from a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and a representative of a collective complaint against the Dutch government submitted to the European Social Charter (Complaint 47/2008) provided guidance and encouragement for NGOs working in difficult national contexts to hold their governments accountable for on-going violations. The conference was an impetus for several grassroots organizations to engage with monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Less than two weeks after the conference took place, the Education Without Borders Network (RESF), an NGO from France, submitted a shadow report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the situation of undocumented children in France, drawing extensively on its five years of field experience to demonstrate through concrete cases the "disastrous consequences for foreign children of French immigration policy."

### **Ongoing campaign against "illegal" terminology sees shift in discourse**

- PICUM has led the campaign regarding the use of accurate and ethical terminology concerning migrants, prompting many major civil society networks, international organisations and policy makers to internalize PICUM's argument and use "irregular" or "undocumented" instead of "illegal" migrants or "illegal" migration. This shift in discourse, at both civil society and institutional level, has enabled the issue to become more mainstreamed into the work of these organizations and institutions.

Thanks to EPIM funding, PICUM has been able to continue to influence policy making processes on the EU, UN and national levels by engaging more directly with the development of policies and case law. PICUM hopes that future EPIM funding will enable the organization to continue doing this crucial work to ensure more recognition and respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants.