



ecre
European Council
on Refugees and Exiles



European Economic and Social Committee

SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION

Event organised by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the Council of Europe (CoE) with the support of the U.S. Mission to the European Union and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

12-13 September
Venue: EESC, Brussels

Day 1, Monday 12 September

13.20 – 14.00 Registration & Market place in the lobby

The market place will be in the foyer during the seminar. Participants are invited to bring their material or leaflets for the audience.

14.00 -14.30 Welcome and opening remarks

Representatives from the EESC, ECRE, the U.S. Mission to the European Union, and the CoE.

14.30 – 14.50 “Social innovation: the new cool for old school?”

Eric Young, Canada, founder of The Social Projects Studio and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Innovation at Ryerson University.

15.00 – 15.40 Plenary Session I: “Dignity Not Charity”

Four inspirational speakers with a refugee background will present their views on inclusion, and what is needed for people to become full actors in a society.
Moderator: Anne Bathily, ECRE

15.45 – 16.10 Coffee break

16.15 – 17.45 Plenary Session II: “Innovation for a welcoming culture”

Mutual acceptance from receiving societies, settled minorities and refugee communities is a prerequisite to successful inclusion. Different stakeholders (cities, civil society including citizens' group, refugees) will discuss the current challenges, what is done and where innovation is needed to foster social change.

Moderator: Lynda Ford, iGen Foundation Director, Australia

17.45 - 19.15 Pitch presentations

Organisations from around the globe will 'pitch' their inspiring tool, method or policy that has proven to be successful for social inclusion of refugees. Each participants will have 5 minutes. The session will be moderated by the EESC.

ECRE is a pan-European alliance of 90 NGOs protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons.

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19.15 - 20.30 Social event and Matchmaking Fair (1st part)

Day 2, Tuesday 13 September

9.00 - 10:30 Plenary Session III: “The added value of technology for refugee inclusion”

This session will discuss the role and the added value of technology for refugee inclusion. Speakers include representatives from Techfugees, a city from the network of Intercultural Cities of the CoE, technology companies, and civil society. Moderated by EESC.

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 - 13.00 Workshops

Participants will be able to select the workshops of their preference among the four provided. The workshops will cover the topics of **Housing, Access to Higher Education, Refugees Participation, From Solidarity to Political Change, Boldness vs. Stuckness. A Social Innovation Perspective.**

Each workshop will begin with two case studies, and followed by an in-depth discussion among participants. 15 minutes will be left for follow-up suggestions.

13.00 - 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 - 16.00 Plenary Session IV: Roundtable with private sector representatives

A number of representatives from different sectors of the economy have expressed their willingness to support the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into the labour market. Several representatives from different sectors will present their views and programs, followed by a discussion with civil society and city representatives on how to coordinate efforts to support this process.

16.00 - 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 - 17.30 Plenary session Wrap-up

17.30 – 18.30 Matchmaking Fair (2nd part)

During the Matchmaking sessions, participants will have the opportunity to express their interests, their needs and their skills. On pin boards or flipcharts, people willing to find collaborators will indicate who they are, what they can provide, and what they need. Based on the information provided during the first session, participants will be invited to join the table corresponding to their interests in the second session.

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