



REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY EUROPEAN WORKSHOP FOR THE THIRD BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE CHINA-EUROPA FORUM

The education of migrant children and its role in social integration (T14g) and communities of rural migrant workers (T23a)

The preparatory meeting was held in Madrid on 29th and 30th January 2010, and was coordinated by Cepaim together with EAPN-Spain and the European wing of the China-Europa Forum. It was organised under the auspices of the China-Europa Forum, a space for dialogue and exchange between the societies of Europe and China. The third biennial meeting of the Forum will be held in China in two stages, from the 7th to the 15th of July, 2010: the first stage will take the form of workshops and the second of plenary sessions.

Thirteen participants representing 6 European countries were present to take part in the discussions. A complete list can be found at the end of the report.

I) PARTNERS

1. Cepaim

Cepaim is a welcome centre guiding migrants on their path to citizenship. There are 21 centres in Spain, throughout Spain's autonomous communities ("comunidades"), whose activities include the support of migrants, their integration into local society and the workforce, intercultural mediation, diversity management in companies, family intervention, equality of opportunity between men and women, and even internal management. The programmes led by Cepaim take several forms: training courses, seminars, mediation, etc. Cepaim is both publicly and privately funded. The team is young and multicultural; Cepaim's network includes the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) whose activities have expanded considerably in recent years, humanitarian organisations, the commission of equality between women and men, as well as the urban immigration commission. Cepaim also maintains a dialogue with universities. Cepaim can rely on its successes in fostering social "responsibility", encouraging participation and independence, on its network and on its capacity for coordination.

Cepaim must however deal with certain difficulties such as the lack of residence documents for certain migrants, the economic crisis as well as social and institutional exclusion. Further information is available on the Cepaim website: www.cepaim.org.

2. The European Anti-Poverty Network

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is an independent network of organisations and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the member states of the European Union. EAPN's members are national networks of voluntary organisations and grassroots groups, as

well as European organisations primarily engaged in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. EAPN is composed of 25 national networks of organisations and groups actively fighting poverty in each of the European Union's member states. EAPN is one of the main partners of the European institutions in the European strategy to fight social exclusion. It seeks to make the fight against poverty and social exclusion a priority in all Community policies. EAPN carries out the following activities: analyses policies and programmes of the Community likely to affect groups facing poverty and social exclusion; formulates proposals for the Community institutions; maintains a highly informative website which has become the reference portal on poverty and social exclusion in Europe; establishes working groups and organises transnational seminars; supports partnerships amongst its members, and, finally, conducts training sessions that are open to members on networking and European policy.

Further information is available on the EAPN website: www.eapn.org.

II) GENERAL FRAMEWORK

1. Context and objectives

The China-Europa Forum is a space for discussion, dialogue and exchange between Europe and China. The first biennial meetings took place in 2005 in China to examine how modern Europe had been built. The second biennial meetings took place in Europe in June 2007, and the third will be held in China in July 2010. Since 2007 a range of workshops have been conducted; this year 50 of them will be held throughout China, and will come together in plenary sessions in Hong Kong. Two workshops on migrants will examine questions surrounding the education of migrant children and rural migrant labourers - two very important issues in contemporary Europe.

Céline Dumont and Bruno René-Bazin have been in contact with the European team of the Forum since a preparatory event at the second biennial meeting which was held in Sarrebruck in the autumn of 2008. Since then, the two workshops have developed and Céline, Bruno, and Isabel Eiriz met their Chinese partners in July 2009, during a meeting of the Chinese and European focal points in Paris.

The short-term goal of this meeting is to discuss ways of fashioning a European dialogue on the these matters with a view to conducting exchanges with their Chinese counterparts. The long-term objective is to determine how to give rise to a European consciousness and even a Sino-European taskforce.

2. Origin of the five topics on the agenda of the Madrid meeting

- The situation of migrants in Europe;
- Mobilisation of the main players in Europe in support of migrants;
- Promotion of the acceptance of migrants;
- “Migrant participation” methodology;
- Points in common between China and Europe.

Céline, Bruno, and Isabel met their Chinese partners for three days in July 2009, in Paris. The five topics on the Madrid agenda are the result of previous meetings and summarize the points raised most frequently during the meeting held in July 2009 with the Chinese counterparts.

III) ISSUES CONCERNING THE 5 THEMES

Regarding the workshop on the education of children of migrants, the goal will be to assess, before July, the situation in Europe in order to present a shared vision when entering into debate with the Chinese partners.

For the workshop on migrant workers, the definition of the term “migrant” is important. In Europe it refers essentially to international migration, whereas in China the word primarily designates migration within the country, external migration being more restricted and localised, as in the case of the arrival of African migrants in the south of the country. Migration in Europe and China is, therefore, not the same thing.

The question is then to determine how these respective experiences can be of benefit to each other: protection of the workers’ rights; access to rights between point of origin and point of arrival; the matter of unions seems to be crucial to both sides.

During the workshop meeting in China, it will be therefore of interest to explain how migration occurs and how migrants come to Europe; to talk about the problems faced by these groups and by the organisations that support them, about day-to-day experience, as well as measures which have worked and of those which have failed.

In Europe migration policies remain fundamentally in the hands of the member states. It will therefore be necessary to prepare national approaches. However, it will be interesting to study the influence of the European Union on the policies and practices of the countries of Europe, particularly the impact of the European directives that the states must adopt. The situation is different in China, though a two-tier structure is also present as there exists national policies which are adapted at local level.

1. Migrants in Europe: the current state of affairs

In the United Kingdom

- Summary of the commission’s report to the government:

1/3 of migrant workers arrived 10 years ago. These workers are often university graduates (approximately 5% are more qualified than British nationals but occupy positions for which they are over-qualified). The majority live in London, though this trend has been changing. The employment rate and nature of employment vary according to the origin of the migrants. Higher rates of pay are linked to a better command of the language, though there is a gap between the wages/salaries of migrants and those of British nationals.

- The Citizen’s Advisory Bureau report:

47 centres took part in a study conducted in rural areas. A certain number of problems have been raised regarding the protection of migrants’ rights and the discrimination of migrant workers by employers. There are in fact many false notions regarding migrants, often supported by the media, whose impact is frequently negative.

The report also underlines the fact that migrants’ earnings fall below the minimum wage, and that the police are not contacted in the event of an assault.

- Observations:

Migrants are however more visible today than ever before. The mobilisation and activity of Chinese migrants, while not especially high, is more and more organised. Recently, a Chinese community has emerged which organises public meetings and addresses the government in the manner of other communities, such as the Indian community.

- Situation of children of migrants and of migrant workers:

- The education of the children of migrants:

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, but retains a certain freedom of action over immigration control.

Children in detention: A number of official reports conducted by “Chief Inspectors” on the protection of children have raised some concerns regarding the experience of child asylum seekers. One of the reports investigated the well-being of children held with their families in detention centres. Temporary structures are used to keep children who have recently arrived or those who are to be repatriated with their families, as well as unaccompanied children asking for asylum, and whose interim care is left to the local authorities. Individuals can be held for hours and sometimes spend more than a day in inappropriate conditions. According to the report many children have been held for over 28 days.

Undocumented children: The detention of undocumented migrants, and their children, has become common practice in a number of European countries. The absence of possible avenues for the regularisation of young migrants not in possession of documents when they reach the age of 18 years, forces many to move underground. They must face an even greater risk: poverty and social exclusion. This absence of security and stability, as well as the fear of detention and deportation, has been identified by many NGOs as having an immense impact on the well-being of these vulnerable groups, and on their mental health and education. The children of migrants without documents have the right to an education, but once they have reached adulthood they may not proceed into higher education or the labour market.

Some effective measures: In the United Kingdom there are a number of educational initiatives and projects conducted by NGOs to support undocumented children through special initiatives, homework clubs, youth-orientated projects and activities, awareness raising initiatives, etc.

- Employment:

A report commissioned by the Home Office on the performance of immigrants in the United Kingdom in the labour market between 1979 and 2000 has made public a number of conclusions, some of which are outlined below:

A third of all migrant workers have arrived in the last ten years. The make-up of new arrivals in the second half of the century has changed considerably, with the most recent entrants coming mostly from within the European Union, from outside the Union, and with many migrants arriving very young. The migrant community in its entirety enjoys a high level of education. In 2000 there was a 5% higher rate of university graduates amongst migrants than amongst the British. These figures depend, however, on the country of origin. Most migrants are in the capital. Entrepreneurs are also largely concentrated in certain sectors. One in two of these migrant entrepreneurs is active in either distribution or the hotel

and catering businesses (compared with one in six of the white British population). Both the likelihood of finding employment and of enjoying a higher income are linked to a strong command of the English language. British people of an ethnic-minority background are still less likely to be employed or to be involved in the labour market than their white-skinned counterparts.

Hungary

- General Situation

Compared to other European countries, migration does not play an important role in Hungary. Its situation is similar to those of central and eastern Europe, and even the Scandinavian countries. For over 10 years migration patterns have been stabilising.

Before the transition at the end of the 1980s, Hungary had been witnessing a phenomenon of emigration. Immigration took place as well, but was motivated by personal reasons, concerned refugees from Greece or Chile, or, later, ethnic Magyars from Romania or the former Yugoslavia (“ethnic migrations”). After the 1990s, with the growth of a kind of migration prompted by family or economic reasons, the immigration of refugees ceased to predominate. Hungary’s situation began to bear a greater resemblance to those of other European nations.

Because of this immigration of refugees, Hungary’s policies on migration were based on humanitarian concerns. At the legislative level, a first law was enacted in 1994 and the infrastructure for managing immigration was developed during the process of accession into the EU. The policies are very strict and based on a selective system. Once the migrant has been integrated into the work force his situation is good, but it is nevertheless not easy to obtain a work permit.

- Statistics

Hungary has a population of approximately 10 million people of whom approximately 380 000 are the descendants of migrants and 216 000 have a residence permit valid for over three months. Total annual immigration numbers approximately 16 000 people.

A significant number of migrants are from European countries, including many people belonging to Hungarian communities in those countries, notably neighbouring states such as Russia, the Ukraine and Serbia. The number of Chinese immigrants remains the most significant despite the strength of the immigration from Europe.

In conclusion, immigrants from more than 175 countries are represented, around 40% of whom live in Budapest.

- Related observations

Migrants may be better educated than local Hungarians, but the number of educated children of migrants remains relatively low.

Spain

A “National Forum for the Social Integration of Immigrants” has been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Immigration. A report has been published in collaboration with various associations. This report has provided the basis for the Spanish strategy for integrating migrants.

The situation in Catalonia is different from that of rest of the country, with the periphery welcoming more migrants than the centre. However, the situation throughout Spain has changed greatly due to an exponential and very rapid increase in the numbers and migrants and their countries of origin. Currently many countries are represented, notably from Latin America, Morocco, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Thus in schools where children are from a variety of national backgrounds, it is not uncommon to see 20 or 25 different nationalities represented amongst the new arrivals throughout the school year. A pilot project has been conducted in one municipality: special courses of 6 months, carried out separately in order to make the process of integration easier afterwards. Migrants who register with local authorities benefit from free education and healthcare.

In Andalusia, a forum on migration has been established as part of the third Integrated Plan for Immigration. This forum is represented in public administration, NGOs, trade unions, and employers' organisations. Education for all, including the undocumented, is recognised by pressure groups that promote the right to education after the age of 16.

One of the most important elements currently affecting immigration in Andalusia is the unemployment rate which is approaching 25% and which is now giving rise to tensions between the migrant and the local population.

Estimated number of migrants in Andalusia:

Official permit holders:

2009	Total	Régimen General	Régimen Comunitario
TOTAL	4.791.232	2.562.032	2.229.200
ANDALUCÍA	597.243	258.587	338.656
Almería	134.865	69.917	64.948
Cádiz	40.720	16.174	24.546
Córdoba	24.515	9.274	15.241
Granada	64.596	27.318	37.278
Huelva	39.702	14.499	25.203
Jaén	21.211	12.741	8.470
Málaga	201.385	74.526	126.859
Sevilla	70.249	34.138	36.111

Number of official permit holders versus number of foreigners:

Andalucía	Número
MTI	597.243
Padrón	675.180
Diferencia	77.937

**MTI (Ministerio de Trabajo e Inmigración, Ministry of Labour and Immigration)*

Switzerland:

The Swiss Confederation has the distinction of having four national languages and of housing the headquarters of numerous international organisations.

Until the 19th century, Switzerland was a country of emigration. A workforce drawn from neighbouring countries was employed there under a system of employment quotas. There was a large number of seasonal workers.

From 1964 to 1990 Switzerland opened its doors to then communist countries. Afterwards the migratory flow began to grow more diverse. Today 1.5 million foreign nationals live in Switzerland, making up 22% of the population. This is a significant percentage in relation to the other countries of Europe. It remains however very difficult to obtain Swiss citizenship as the laws are very strict. There exist two statuses: permits B and C, and various residence permits. Migration is therefore very stratified which makes the construction of a minority consciousness difficult. Exclusion becomes complete when social assistance is denied to the asylum seekers.

A trend towards feminisation, the increased presence of children (family reunification), and labour migration of young people with low levels of education, most of them (84%) from Europe, can be observed. Asylum seekers make up only 5% of all cases.

The education of children of migrants varies from canton to canton. There are classes for newly arrived migrant children which show good results as in the Catalan model, and even remedial classes with linguistic support and courses in the language of origin (cf. The Pisa inquiry).

Swiss society prizes individualism and the rates of suicide and drug addiction are significant. In fact, certain immigrant communities are sometimes less isolated than the Swiss themselves.

In Italy

Immigration is a recent phenomenon in Italy, dating back approximately 30 years, and immigration policy has changed significantly over the course of the last 20 years. It is estimated that today 13% of the population are foreigners. Recently riots have broken out as a result of the treatment of new arrivals. The Prime Minister has declared that immigration is linked to crime and therefore must be controlled. This position has led to a policy in which the legalisation of migrants is based on the need to address labour shortfalls.

The most-represented nations are Romania, Albania, Morocco, and China (which accounts for 10 to 11% of the immigrant population, approximately 200 000 people of whom 40% or under the age of 18.

- Study of Chinese migrants in Barge and Bagnolo, near Turin.

The quarries of this region have drawn tremendous numbers of migrant labourers. In Barge and Bagnolo the arrival of Chinese immigrants, 80% of whom have come from Zhejiang, can be dated from the 1990s. Very few of these migrants are undocumented. Integration has been smooth on the professional front but remains problematic on the social one. Few children finish their studies due to lack of parental authority. These towns represent a special case as literature on the subject tends to concern Chinese immigration to urban rather than rural areas. Moreover, in this case Chinese are employed for the most part in Italian businesses and are not self-employed.

Most Chinese immigrants to Italy come from the regions of Hunan and Zhejiang. The nongovernmental organisation COSPE, founded in 1983, works with other organisations in Italy on education, language teaching and is also in direct contact with China on matters of immigration.

In France

France has always been a country of immigration. Although officially suspended since 1974, labour migration has in reality been partially sustained. Family reunification and the right to asylum have since then become more important. Migrants come especially from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, and there are approximately 200 000 Chinese immigrants.

- Labour Immigration Policy

In 2007 employers were forced to provide foreign workers' documents, a measure which led to a series of lay-offs. On 20th November of the same year, a law came into effect granting temporary permits to people from non-EU states to fill positions in certain highly skilled and understaffed professions. This immigration policy is leading to a "brain drain" in developing countries. Moreover, 6 to 7% of the immigrant population are in the construction, cleaning, clothing, and catering industries. This generally means non-qualified migrants who will have difficulties securing work permits.

- Recognition of Rights

The recognition of migrants' rights raises three specific issues: making political capital out of the migration question at election time, national sovereignty, and economic concerns.

A change can however be observed since, for the first time, 6 000 undocumented workers are today on strike and are also for the first time supported by union leaders and SMEs, who are advocating the legalisation of the workers' status.

It can be stated that French society has today moved in favour of supporting the regularisation of migrant workers.

- Migrant Children in France:

Special French-language courses are organised for new arrivals besides regular classes. Children are generally integrated smoothly, but parents are often undocumented and without either social security or the right to rent accommodation. Migrant schoolchildren often grow up to become undocumented adults. Even those who have successfully completed their secondary education cannot go to university.

Some more vocal elements within civil society, such as the parent- and educator-led Réseau Education Sans Frontières (Education Without Borders), support the principle that migrant children

should at the very least be allowed to register as students.

Since 2001, policies regarding the recognition of rights have become increasingly harsh. The abolition of the *carte scolaire* has led to the ghettoisation of educational institutions as parents no longer have to send their children to schools within a certain distance from home, allowing those with the requisite means to send their children to more prestigious institutions.

At the European level

A programme has been put in place in tandem with the European Space Agency. The CROCUS project will take place in several European countries with the goal of establishing a multilingual platform offering courses, locating mediators or interpreters for migrants online, and reuniting families through the use of satellite communication.

2. Action by the main players in European society in favour of migrants: governments, businesses, associations and individuals rallying to protect the rights of migrant workers.

Role of migrant associations and national associations, lobbying of politicians: how effective are civic associations at lobbying?

In Spain:

Immigrant associations have become key players themselves. There is support from local politicians linked to NGOs. However, trade unions don't always fulfil their role. Outside Catalonia, migrant associations are not as powerful. There are some movements which are trying to give migrants the right to vote in local elections. Andalusia Acoje fights for migrant rights in the legal domain. This is something new for the organisation, which previously only provided assistance to migrants.

In Switzerland:

There is no real NGO tradition but rather a reliance on charities. There are more and more financial constraints and the State has restricted access to associations for people who do not come from the region or canton in which the association is based. As a result, migrants feel they can no longer rely on their associations.

In Great Britain:

A large number of support projects have been developed in various parts of the country in the past, in response to the needs of migrant workers and in order to defend their rights. Many civic organisations, as well as Churches and religious organisations, have become very active in their support of migrants. The 'Strangers into Citizens' campaign which seeks to regularise undocumented migrants is led by the 'London Citizens' foundation, an alliance of civic organisations and religious groups. It is just one example of the real growth in support of and solidarity with migrants on the fringes of society. The development of the Scottish Migration Network in response to the exploitation and hardship encountered by certain migrants in Scotland is another example.

At the European Union level:

Individual, isolated associations may ease the consciences of the authorities but cannot be considered an effect source of support.

The significant increase in the number of nationalist political parties is a challenge for migrant associations. If the associations wish to exert some influence, they must act together. This strategy has been successful in western and southern Europe, but it is not developed in the east. The various associations should look to those who already enjoy official recognition from the European Commission in order to make themselves heard in the European Parliament.

The European Integration Forum was set up in 2009. It is an NGO which operates under the auspices of the European Commission, with points of contact and representatives in every member state. Amongst the platforms which deal with migration and which have consultation status, there are, for example: ENAP, The Migration Policy Group (a Brussels think tank), BICOM (for undocumented migrants), an anti-racism organisation. At the level of the European Economic and Social Committee, there is a link with the European Trade Union Confederation.

Migrant associations can also lobby national or local ministers through the Council.

3. How can we promote mutual acceptance between migrants and local populations?

This question has perhaps more relevance for China than Europe, considering Europe's long tradition of solidarity.

The issue of rights and duties has often been put forward as a key element in mutual acceptance. It is clear that only once rights are respected can we begin to talk about duties; when integration succeeds, one becomes aware of one's rights and duties.

A transnational qualitative research project into practical experiences in rural areas was carried out in various European countries between 2002 and 2007 and funded by the Directorate General for Education and Culture. The research investigated the public sphere, employment, housing, language skills, access to public services and intercultural mediation. The goal was to explain the 'win-win' situation which can exist between local rural communities (often consisting of elderly people who live alone and badly affected by depopulation) and communities of migrants (who live in families). Key recommendations were made about women and those living in isolation. The result of this research was a report detailing effective strategies in the seven countries examined.

Some proposals were put forward:

- need to work with the media;
- organising meetings between local people and migrants. On the one hand this enables a more effective response to the fears of local people, while providing them with a better idea of the migrants' situation. On the other, it gives migrants more understanding of the view of the host population. This is also an effective way of contacting the most withdrawn migrant communities (as was seen in some successful experiments in England). In Catalonia, these meetings took the form of workshops based around a simple activity, or football matches which helped to create links between the communities. However it is vital to ensure sufficient mixing: in Switzerland, football matches between immigrants and locals and 'intercultural days' were a fiasco.
- organising an open north-south debate in Europe.

4. The methodology of ‘migrant participation’

This is a process which involves migrants in thinking about their situation, making plans and carrying them out.

In Spain:

In Spain, and more specifically in Madrid, there is an association of migrants, for example, which takes part in the Forum on Migration. Another example is CEPAIM, which has developed a pilot participation programme with the gypsy population in one of the poorest areas of Madrid. The focus is on the specific issues raised by local inhabitants.

In France:

In Paris, associations of Chinese migrants are often associations of shopkeepers or are based on regional origins and resulted from the migrations of the 1970s. They take action mainly when there are attacks in their communities (in Chinese restaurants for example). As a result their work must be considered more reaction than participation. It is also noticeable that the third generation of North African immigrants no longer wish to join migrant associations as they no longer feel that they are migrants. This situation raises some key questions: what kind of associations? can we observe any regeneration at all?

In Switzerland:

The methodology of ‘migrant participation’ was developed in Switzerland by Appartenance. In the Vaud canton, the health authorities noticed that there was a higher number of abortions in the migrant community than among Swiss women. The issue was access to means of contraception suitable for migrant women. Considering migration in terms of each individual is a participatory process.

In the United Kingdom:

One interesting example is the Chinese Immigration Concerns Committee. It was developed in January 2008 to respond to the concerns of the Chinese community and to demand real change from policy makers. The threat of more hard-line immigration policy was seen as hostile and discriminatory by the Chinese community. Faced also with ever more frequent attacks on their businesses, members of the Chinese community were driven to become organised and active and to make themselves heard. In response to attacks on their families and family-run restaurants (the backbone of the Chinese economy), they rallied together to urge the government to change its immigration policy and its restrictions. They carried out research into their contribution to the British economy and obtained backing for their demands from a large panel of communities and civic societies. Their goal was to improve policy and strategies for immigration. They successfully implemented a platform for discussion with political decision-makers.

In Hungary:

In the case of Hungary, this question points to a problem: the absence of a central or coordinating association and the presence of ethnically diverse movements which all seek to defend the

interests of their own, specific community. There is thus no powerful movement to represent all migrants. Migrants often live in poor areas and their communities tend to be fragmented. UNHCR representation in Hungary is currently being analysed and evaluated.

The attitude in Spain is: “I live here, I vote here” while in France it is more: “I live here, I work here, I am staying here”.

Learning the language is crucial. Migrants can participate once they get support in this. Alongside the language of the host country, it is important for children to learn the language of their country of origin in order to preserve their culture.

5. Problems common to China and Europe.

When considering the situation in China, there are both numerous differences and some similarities with that of Europe:

- Fundamental differences:

Migration in China is mainly internal, related to the rural exodus. Mass migration is a relatively recent phenomenon which began in earnest after the economic reforms which began in the late 1970s.

- Similarities:

As in many European countries, the government plays a key role in migration: it encourages people to move or prevents them from doing so depending on its economic goals at the time. One method employed by the Chinese government to control migration from the country to the cities is the *hukou*, a system of registration set up in the 1950s which clearly separates rural and urban citizens and provides special privileges to the former while debarring the latter.

From the 1980s onwards, following the economic reforms, the system was relaxed, which enabled rural workers to move to the cities more easily. However, they still cannot obtain a permanent residence permit. Since their status is linked to their work (which is often on fixed-term contracts) their situation is vulnerable. They have few rights, especially as regards housing, education and health.

The *hukou* channels migrants into low-paid, dirty, physically exhausting jobs which the urban citizens avoid, such as building, factory work, waste disposal, catering or domestic service.

This system is reminiscent of the legal status of seasonal workers in Switzerland until 2002; migrant workers from neighbouring countries were allowed to come and work in sectors which required cheap labour (building sites, factories, restaurants, farms) on a fixed-term, nine-month contract. This status was extremely restrictive, insofar as migrants were unable to get a lease (and were thus housed in temporary shelters) and did not have the right to bring their families over or change employer during the period of their employment. During the 1960s, those who defied these rules and brought their children with them were obliged to hide them, or face their being repatriated or placed in an orphanage. It was only in the 1990s that the right to education was extended to migrant children.

- Housing:

In general, migrants live in the suburbs of the major cities where accommodation is cheaper, but in the main this means rundown, unhealthy buildings or even shacks. The lack of an urban *hukou* prevents them from finding better accommodation: unlike urban citizens, whose rent is subsidised,

migrants have to devote a considerable portion of their already low salaries to accommodation, sometimes as much as 50 per cent. Migrants who work in factories can stay in dormitories provided by their employer (the rent is deducted directly from their salary) but these are often overcrowded and the standards of living and hygiene are particularly low.

- Health:

Since migrants in the cities only have a temporary residence permit, they are not covered by the urban health system. They do not have the funds for private health insurance and are unable to pay directly for treatment, the cost of which has shot up exponentially over the last few years. Migrants are therefore one of the groups most at risk from sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS), avian flu and hepatitis.

- Education:

Even though Chinese law guarantees nine years of free compulsory education to every citizen, until 1996 the majority of migrant children were not admitted to public schools in the cities, because the right to education was linked to the place of official residence, i.e. their village of origin. Faced with the difficulties of guaranteeing education and healthcare to their children, parents were often obliged to leave them in their villages with family members or close friends. In 2005, 23 million children living in villages were separated from their parents.

In 1996, private schools began to be set up for migrant children. However, their qualifications were not always recognised by the State. Also, going from school to university is sometimes problematic, since children only have the right to attend a university in the region where they live according to their *hukou*.

- Protection of workers' rights:

The protection of migrant workers' rights is a major problem. A new 2007 law on the protection of workers (which came into force in 2008) has attempted to take into account the protection of migrant workers' rights. But in practice and especially at a local level, its application has not been easy.

In addition, migrants have no faith in trade unions, which are fairly often in collusion with the authorities and local businesses.

There is also a large movement of lawyers (there are currently 500 in prison who have lost their licence, which they must renew every year) which supports dispossessed workers and those who have lost their jobs. In Shenzhen, the authorities have appointed liaison officers and are trying to come to the aid of migrant workers, whose bosses have absconded with the company funds.

Recruitment of migrant workers in rural areas is through agencies, social networks and spontaneous applications. This is similar to the east-west migration in Europe.

- Discrimination:

As in many European countries with large populations of migrant workers, migrants in Chinese cities face more or less open hostility from the local inhabitants, who fear that the mass influx of rural workers might threaten their living standards.

- The role of women in immigration in China:

Women in the PRC have always moved around, but mainly from village to village, either to get

married or to follow their husbands when their work took them elsewhere. After the economic reforms, women began to move into the cities. They are often young (between 15 and 30) and leave their village in the hope of finding work and ensuring a better future for themselves and their families. It is still not uncommon for girls to go and work in order to pay for their brothers' education.

Women are generally employed in factories, the service sector, restaurants, beauty parlours, the entertainment and sex industries or as domestic workers.

One of the main reasons which motivate a woman to leave home is obviously financial, but it is not the only one. Sometimes they might wish to leave before they get married, to have a change of scene or to improve their skills and have more freedom when they return.

- Other points worthy of note:

Migration is individual, in other words only a few members of a family actually move and even when they do, they stay close to those who remain behind.

Local cultures are important in China, but are not necessarily an impediment to migration, especially as there is a tendency towards homogenisation in Chinese society.

III) THE NEXT STEPS

1. **Creation of a working group on migrants and definition of the participants' roles in the future.**

Everyone has indicated their preferences and their agenda for July. Maria Omodeo, Roberto Pecorale, and perhaps Elisabeth Allès, will already be in China in July.

Dossiers on the current situations and personal experiences are being prepared for Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland.

Nazek Ramadan wants to focus on workers' rights and will provide a summary of the situation in Great Britain. She has also highlighted the need for dialogue with governments and policy makers. On a slightly different note, Nazek has stressed the vital role of the coffee-break and less formal moments when we organise our workshops.

Andras Kovatz can give us the European framework and any development tendencies. He will also be able to speak about cultural mediation (given his experiences of living in a communist country).

Teresa Crespo will work with the other representatives from Spain to prepare a dossier on Spain, outlining regional differences with a special focus on the role of women and training.

Isabel Eiriz can concentrate on the training of non-professionals, health and the methodology between institutions and action groups. She will develop the concepts of community work, methodology of mediation and 'encounter and exchange forums' (the latter will be clarified). She also intends to describe her good and bad experiences, as well as some serious mistakes she has witnessed.

Isabel Eiriz and Maria Cardines will seek other possible partners for Switzerland. Maria Cardines will liaise with the Chinese partners.

Maria Omodeo will focus on women, schools and internal migration. She will get in touch with Nicoletta, from Rome, and integrate some southern Italian considerations (from Salerno, Naples etc).

Roberto Pecorale will work on education.

Elisabeth Allès will work on jobs and workers' rights with a special interest in the legal aspects: can we invite some Chinese legal practitioners to the workshop?

Céline Dumont will work on education and coordinate the work in this branch of the workshop. Together with Elisabeth Allès, she will draft a short dossier on the situation in France.

Bruno René-Bazin will coordinate the work on migrant workers.

2. Issues to discuss with the Chinese partners

1. How can we initiate and develop an effective dialogue with our Chinese partners?
2. How can European society organise itself with migrants and how can migrants themselves get organised?
3. On the subject of legislation and laws: what is the current situation (experiences of institutionalisation of society; autonomy of migrants' organisations; how can we set up forums for dialogue and meetings between migrants and the local population) and how can we try and change the status quo (lobbying)?
4. On the subject of equal rights: How can we best present our point of view to the Chinese counterpart? Why do migrants' associations support migrants? How can migrants get organised themselves? (The reduction of migrants' rights is linked to the reduction of the rights of nationals.)

IV) RECOMMENDATIONS

- Contextualise the issues arising from the two workshops in terms of what is currently happening at EU level (questions about the Spanish presidency among other things);
- Nominate a small committee to work on the current situation in Europe (the Return Directive and other directives which France appears to be developing: the Besson bill of March 2010 etc);
- Work with Migr'Europe;
- Terminology: no longer talking of 'fighting' or 'lobbying' governments but rather 'improving the situation of migrants'; no longer using the expression 'good practices' which includes a judgement, but instead talking about 'experiences', 'what worked well';
- There are various Chinese regions twinned with European regions: this is worthy of

consideration, since in Europe regions are often responsible for migration policy;

- Invite a representative from the Chinese government or an expert on the Chinese point of view;
- Invite representatives of Chinese associations based in Europe;
- Organise something around the workshop to enable a ‘real’ discussion during a trip or simply outside the meeting room.

V) CALENDAR

- Plenary session in Hong Kong: 12th-14th July 2010.
- Workshops: these will take place the previous week and the dates will be decided by the focal points (between the 8th and 11th).
- The Forum will support European trips for 5 people for each workshop, i.e. a total of 10 people for the two workshops (migrant workers and education). The Chinese partner can welcome up to 10 people per workshop (hence a total of 20 for the two workshops).
- Closure of the list of participants in May.

VI) SOME KEY WORDS

- “Europe as a fortress, Europe as a colander”
- “Encounter and exchange”
- The goal of solidarity is the acquisition of rights
- The right to vote at local level
- The important thing for us Europeans is not difference but diversity

VII) THINGS STILL TO DO

- Exchange commentaries and documents of European countries by mail;
- Finish the documents by May to ensure sufficient time for translation;
- Send any questions for the Chinese participants to Églantine and Alexandre who are collecting them;
- Pass on the list of contacts, networks, institutions and foundations which could complete the workshops and ensure funding beyond the 2010 biennial to Églantine and Alexandre.

List of Participants

Country	Name	Association	Details
Spain	Mikel Araguás	Acoge - Andalucía	<p>General Secretary of Andalucía Acoge.</p> <p>Andalucía Acoge is a non-profit, non-partisan religious federation officially created in 1991 to provide a more efficient and global response to the emerging phenomenon of immigration. It is made up of nine associations which work in 21 towns across Andalucía and Melilla.</p> <p>Andalucía Acoge attempts, in an organised and conscientious way, to put into practice an ideal of universal justice in a social context which is ever more culturally diverse. Behind this ideal lies a concept of humanity and society which considers first and foremost human dignity. This means we must manage to take into account the culture which each individual draws on without forgetting the unique character of each member of that society.</p> <p>We understand that immigration is one of the most important characteristics of 21st century society. With this in mind, it is vital to create this other world which we believe in.</p>
Spain	Rosalia Guntin	Consortio de Entidades Para la Acción Integral con Migrantes (CEPAIM)	Head of CEPAIM in Spain.

Spain	Teresa Crespo	Fundacio Fias	Represents the Fundacio Fias association (FCAS) which is a Catalan social action foundation which works to integrate the population (after problems caused by job loss and other factors). Also represents the Catalan branch of EAPN.
Spain	Graciela Malgesini	EAPN	Researcher on migrants in rural areas for EAPN.
France	Céline Dumont	CIMADE	Teacher and researcher in languages. Now retired, she works with migrants in Paris, at CIMADE, which supports welcoming foreigners to France. They employ a paid network of lawyers who carry out appeals for foreigners.
France	Elisabeth Allès	EHESS	Researcher into issues connected with China and more especially the Muslim minorities there. Head of the Centre of Modern and Contemporary Chinese Studies in France, and also an activist for undocumented migrants in France.
France	Bruno René-Bazin	CLARA	Head of the National Liaison Committee of Associations of the Support Network for Migrants (CLARA).
Hungary	Andras Kovatz	HAPN	Has worked for NGOs for 15 years and also carries out research into immigration policy for the relevant ministry in Hungary. He also represents the Hungarian branch of the European Anti Poverty Network.

Italy	Maria Omodeo	COSPE	Works for COSPE, an international NGO which has partners in more than 30 countries. There have been links with China since 1994 (also with the Chinese region from which the majority of Chinese immigrants in Italy come). The NGO works in Tuscany, particularly with the children of Chinese immigrants, the goal being to establish a link between what they learn at school and their roots (learning two languages). They also organise school exchanges for young people. They support Chinese migrant associations. There is an online platform for long-distance support (e.g. for translations). For more information, visit www.crocusproject.net .
Italy	Roberto Pecorale	The municipalities of Barge and Bagnolo in Piedmont	Teacher and researcher in Chinese. His work focuses on migrants and rural issues and he has also worked as a cultural mediator.
Switzerland	Isabelle Eiriz	APPARTENANCE	Social psychologist who has worked for the Appartenance association in Lausanne since 1994. The association is a meeting point and training centre and also offers psychotherapy (for those who have suffered traumatic wartime experiences). The association has a network of interpreters covering 50 languages.
United Kingdom	Nazek Ramadan	Migrant Voice	Has worked on immigration for 20 years. Founded the association Migrant Voice whose aim is to help migrants make their own voice heard.
Switzerland	Maria Cardines		Consultant in international cooperation for United Nations agencies. Also carries out research into migrants in China and Chinese migrants in Europe.

France	Inga Wachsman	Foundation for Human Progress	Head of the “Europe” programmes at the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress.
France	Eglantine Jastrabsky	China Europa Forum	European head of the China Europa Forum.
France	Alexandre Jutant	China Europa Forum	Assistant coordinator of the China Europa Forum; in charge of the coordination of the European networks.