

Library Service to Refugees and Immigrants

Organizing Committee for the support of Libraries
Instituto Cervantes. Goethe Institut
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Υπηρεσίες Βιβλιοθηκών
σε Πρόσφυγες
και Μετανάστες



Παρασκευή 25 Νοεμβρίου 2016
Goethe-Institut Athen (Ομήρου 14-16)
Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη της Ελλάδος (Πανεπιστημίου 32, Αθήνα)



Main issues to be covered

And a lot of questions...

- A brief description of the Social Library Foundation
- Refugees and immigrants: common aspects and main differences
- EU laws. IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto Toolkit
- Some figures... Some questions
- Current situation in Spain
- Some libraries experiences (in Spain)
- What can libraries do?

The Social Library Foundation

The **Social Library Foundation** is a nonprofit organization that began in June 2014.

The aim of the **Foundation** is to contribute to reducing social inequalities through:

- cooperation with public library projects aimed at the most vulnerable segments of society
- visualizing library social projects
- incentivate libraries to organize more social projects

Why the Foundation

Two concepts:

- The social role of public libraries
- The commitment with social reality



The beginning

- ❑ A Meeting (7 librarians) un January 2014
- ❑ Contacts with non profit sector
- ❑ Presentation: June 18th 2014



Strengths

- ❑ Board: made up of 11 members including librarians and professionals from the non-profit sector
- ❑ Volunteers: coming from libraries and non-profit sector
- ❑ Private 100%: does not accept grants or aid from public administration



First actions

- Web platform both in Spanish and Catalan (a few information in English)
- Facebook and Twitter
- Compilation of articles: Social role of public libraries
- Compilation of reports related with social situation in Spain
- ✓ **Annual prize:** “Public Library and Social Commitment” 3th. Ed.
- ✓ **“Knowledge map** of public library projects for combating social exclusion”. Supported by a grant from PL2020 Programme of the Reading and Writing Foundation

- Childhood
- Disabilities
- Drug addiction
- Elderly
- Ethnic minorities
- Immigration and refugees
- Mental health
- Penal institutions / offender reintegration
- Poverty
- Poverty Social and labor insertion
- Unemployment
- Violence and gender
- Youth and adolescence



Refugees and immigrants

“Europe will not survive without migrant.
Europe should not be so afraid of immigration: all great cultures
arose from forms of fusion.”

Günter Grass

Refugees and Immigrants

- ❑ In common...
- ❑ Main differences...



Refugees and Immigrants

- In common
- Both displaces
- Both often use the same routes and means of transport, using the services of criminal gangs traffickers.

Refugees and Immigrants

□ Main differences

An **Immigrant** is an individual who leaves one's country to settle in another.

Refugees are defined as persons, who move out of one's country due to restriction or danger to their lives.

Immigrant versus Refugee Comparison chart

Immigrant

Refugee

Definition

An immigrant is someone from a foreign country who relocates to live in another country. They may or may not be citizens.

Refugees move out of fear or necessity. For example, to flee persecution, or because their homes have been destroyed in a natural disaster.

Legal Status

Immigrants are subject to the laws of their adopted country. They may only come if they have work or a place to live.

Defined by United Nations
1951 Refugee Convention is the key legal document that forms the basis of our work. Signed by 144 State parties, it defines the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.

Reason of relocation

Immigrants are usually driven by economic factors, or they want to be close to family.

Refugees are forced to relocate for reasons such as fear of persecution due to war, religion or political opinion.

Resettlement

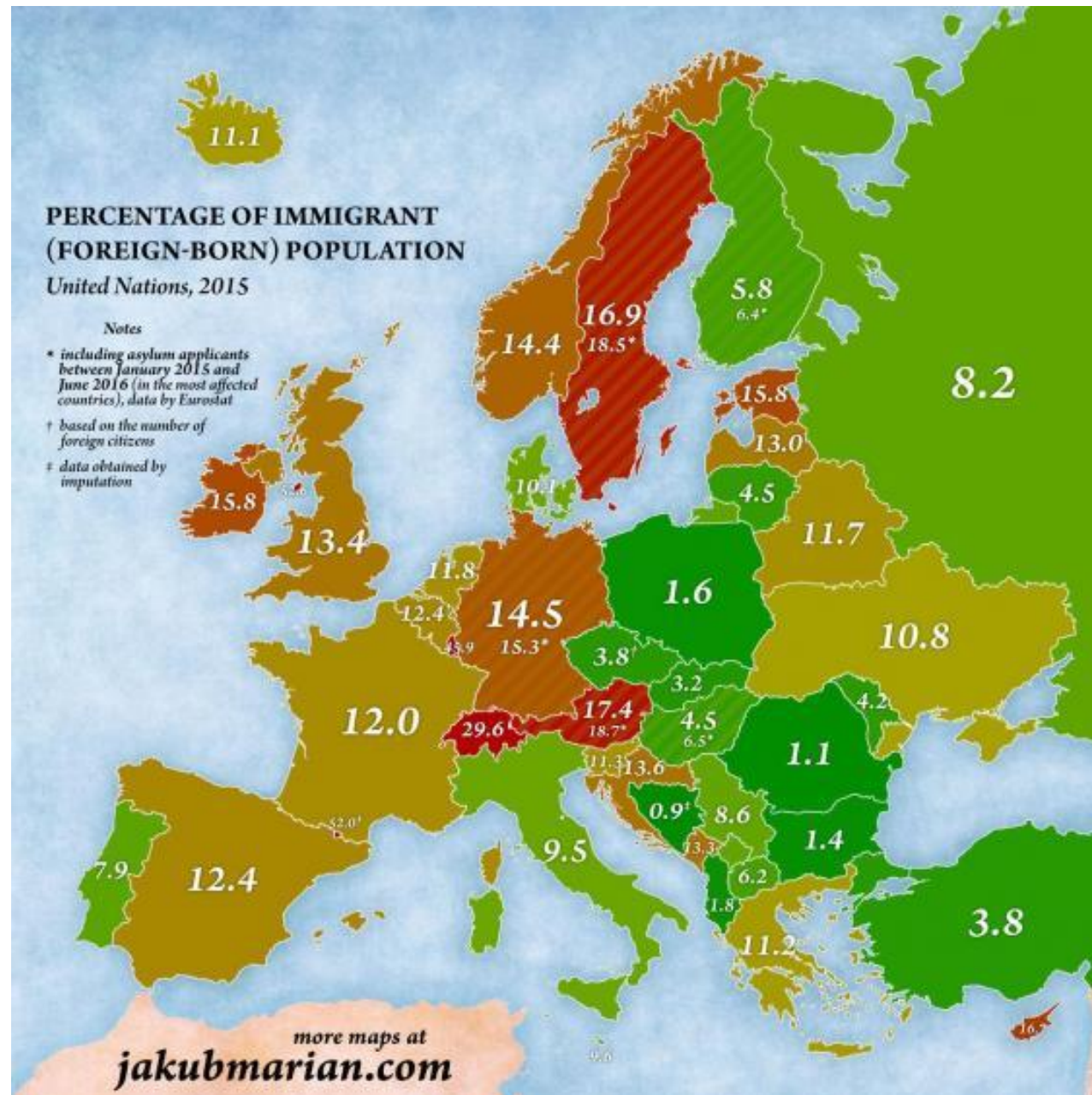
Immigrants can usually find a home in their new country.

From refugee camp to a third country. Usually cannot return to ones own country.

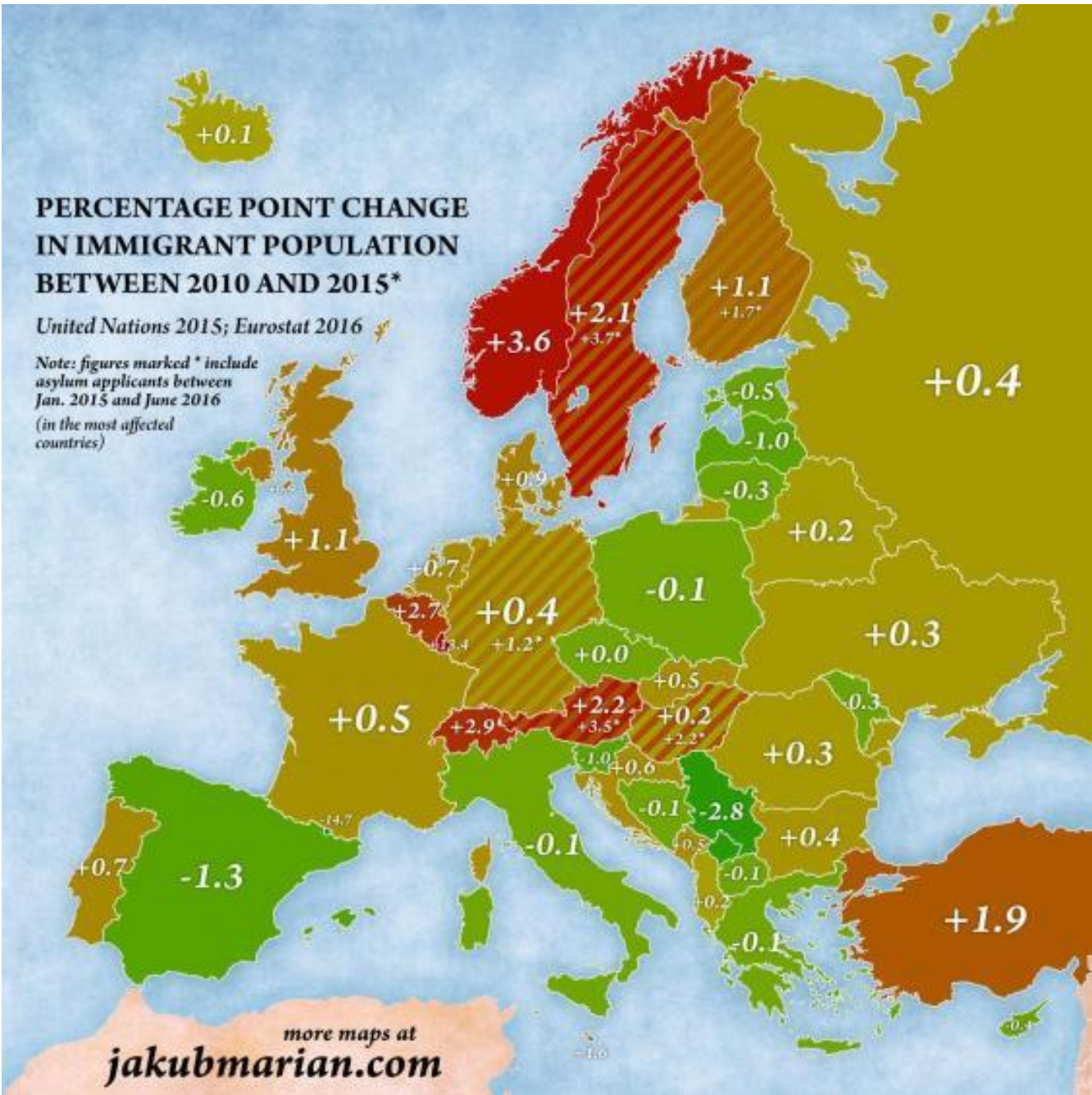
Migrants in EU



Migrants in EU

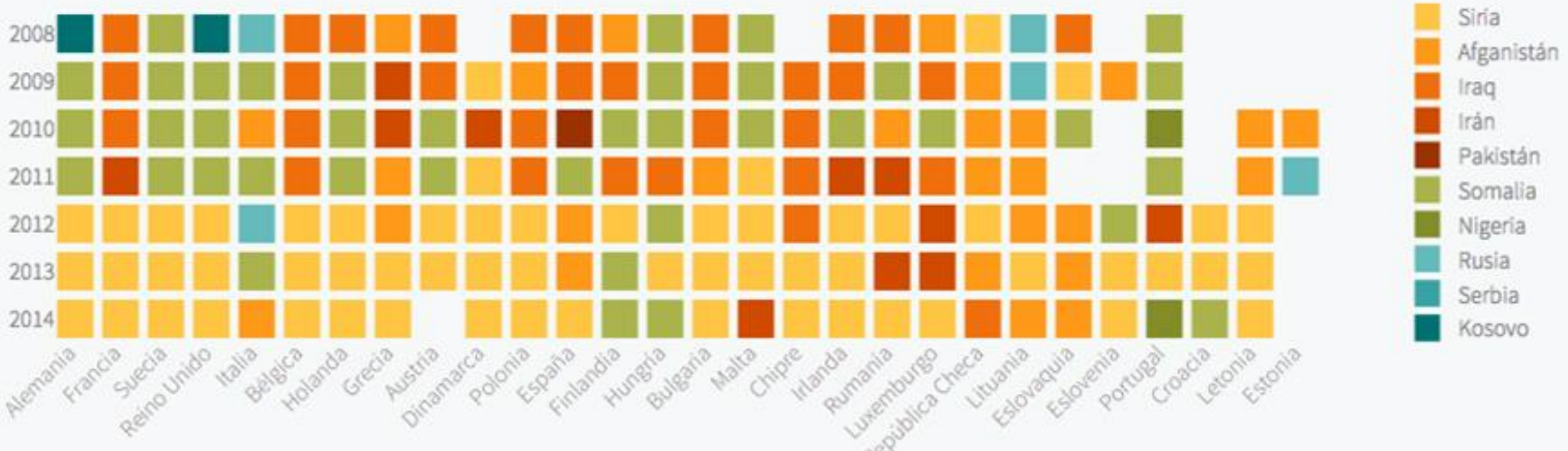


Migrants in EU



¿QUÉ NACIONALIDAD TIENE MAYOR PORCENTAJE DE SOLICITUDES ACEPTADAS?

POR PAÍS DE DESTINO AGRUPADO POR AÑO



Context: Refugees and Immigrants

- Population growth (and it is unstoppable)
- At the same time there is an economic stagnation.

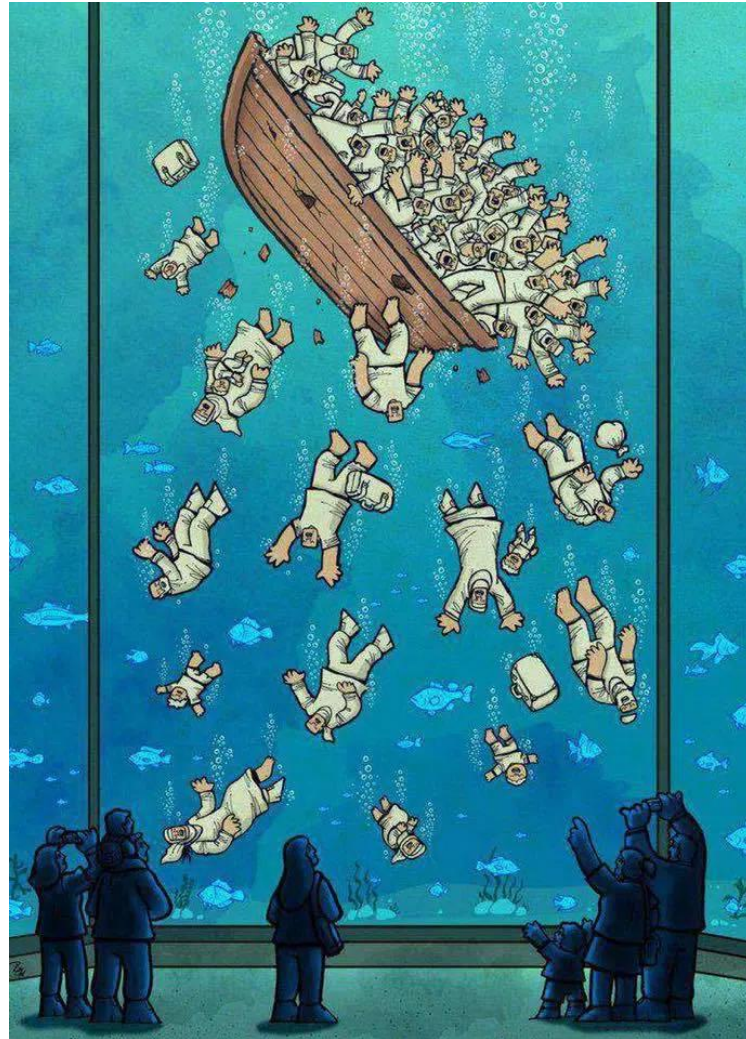
Context: Refugees and Immigrants

□ Population increase: 7.300 to 8.500 in 2030

- Sub-Saharan Africa population. In 2050 25% of the global population
- Nigeria will be the third most populated country
- **Environment problems:** first cause of migration in the world. Today more than 25 millions migrated because environmental issues (1 person/second). In 2050 years.. 200 millions
- Economic stagnation: Famine mass migrations
- But..... Africa is a rich continent

Europe? few answers to this situation

Why?



Europe? few answers to this situation

Why?

- Impotence
- Lack of vision
- Fear
- No assumption of their responsibilities
- After Berlin wall (1989) EU created a new wall: Schengen agreements (1990). Controls at the external borders. In 1999: retention camps in bordering countries (EU pays)
- More walls?: 175km between Hungary and Serbia; 19km in Ceuta Melilla in Spain, 30km between Bulgaria and Turkey...
- 18 March 2016 agreement between EU and Turkey: 6.000 millions euros

All those illegally arrived by sea to the Union (after 20 of March) would be interned in closed centers

Europe? few answers to this situation

As a result:

- Xenophobic and racist movements (pathologies of fear)
- Cultural and social clashes
- Globalization (trade exchanges) but also conflicts

What to do?

- Face reality: awareness of this reality. No increase fear.
- Values (solidarity)
- Agreements with sending countries
- Increase legal entries
- Document...to be able to circulate and to work around Europe
- A great plan for Africa!
- Stop wars!
-

EU laws

❑ **1951 Geneva Convention** (any comment regarding environmental refugees): *Asylum is granted to people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their own country and therefore in need of international protection. Asylum is a fundamental right; granting it is an international obligation.*

❑ **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000)**

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

- peace;
- security;
- sustainable development of the Earth;
- solidarity and mutual respect among peoples;
- free and fair trade;
- eradication of poverty;
- protection of human rights (in particular the rights of the child);
- development of international law (respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter).

IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto

The Multicultural Library – a gateway to a cultural diverse society in dialogue

Missions of multicultural library services

In a culturally diverse society focus should be on the following key missions, which relate to information, literacy, education and culture:

- promoting awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity and fostering cultural dialogue;
- encouraging linguistic diversity and respect for the mother tongue;
- facilitating the harmonious coexistence of several languages, including learning of several languages from an early age;
- safeguarding linguistic and cultural heritage and giving support to expression, creation and dissemination in all relevant languages;
- supporting the preservation of oral tradition and intangible cultural heritage;
- supporting inclusion and participation of persons and groups from all diverse cultural backgrounds;
- encouraging information literacy in the digital age, and the mastering of information and communication technologies;
- promoting linguistic diversity in cyberspace;
- encouraging universal access to cyberspace; supporting the exchange of knowledge and best practices with regard to cultural pluralism.

In October 2016

MEDEL statement in support of migrants and refugees



Some figures

In the world: more than 65 millions refugees.

Mainly from Syria (more than 5 millions)... Afganistan, Somalia, Sudan

- Europe: committed to relocate 182,000 (we are about 500 milions). 51% from Syria, 20% from Afganistan...
- So far around 8,000
- Germany: has promised 35,000 places for refugees Sweden, is the second country
- Greece... the country has been completely overwhelmed
- In Spain... So far 586 refugees (committed 19.219)

Some questions

A first question: Why so many refugees and migrants now?



Some questions

A first question: Why so many now?

Syria

Neighbouring countries restrict passage Syrian refugees: After the past four years, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been in exile in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, these countries have begun to impose restrictions on new admissions, overwhelmed with continuous input refugees.

Some questions

A first question: Why so many now?

- Libya: revolution of Feb. 2011 against Gaddafi. Today Libya is a failed state and jihadist branch.
- Somalia: 26 years of tireless civil war.
- Eritrea: one third of population in exile.
- South Sudan: stringing ethnic conflict and famine since the 60s, such as Nigeria and Boko Haram caliphate
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Iraq ...Afghanistan.

Some questions

A second question:

Why EU decided now to call all migrants (not refugees)?

Some questions

A third question: Where are European borders?

Some questions

A fourth question: Where are most of Syrian refugees?

Some questions

A fourth question: Where are most of Syrian refugees?

Syria

Turkey has hosted exiled 1.8 million (2.3% of the population)

Lebanon: 1.2 million (27,9 of the census)

Jordan to 630,000 (9.4%)

****Rich and very nearby countries like Saudi, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates do not have a single refugee.

Some figures

The real refugee crisis is in the Middle East, not in Europe.

EU. has **500 million inhabitants**. **1 million Syrian refugees** who entered its borders last year.

To put this in perspective: about **the same number of Syrian refugees** currently in Lebanon, a country of just 4.5 million.

Middle East and North Africa currently hosts around **4.8 million Syrian refugees** alone (not to mention Iraqi, Palestinian and many others).

- 6.6 million are internally displaced within Syria



Some figures in Spain

In Spain....

- Spanish people migrated to find work in the middle '60. Now again... around 300,000 young trained and formed have left the country since 2008 until 2011.
- Immigration started in 1990. So far about 5.000.000. It is going down.
 - Latino America (Ecuador)
 - Europe (Rumania, UK) Africa (Marocco)
 - China
- Refugees: 14.595 (2015) and 5.952 (2014)
- From Syria: only around 200 refugees. The Government is committed to hosting some 16,000 before the end of 2017

Words related with this situation

- ✓ Right to a decent life
- ✓ Dignity
- ✓ Human right



LIBRARIES CAN HELP

Some experiences in Spanish libraries

- Most experiences have started since 2002, with immigrants (nor refugees)
- Most related with cultural diversity, multicultural and integration.

- Solidarity cities** (oct. 2016) A network of cities Athens, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Berlín

Some experiencies in Spain

□ A recent experience... (Biblioteca comarcal de Blanes)

BIBLIOTECA COMARCAL DE BLANES | SETMANA UNESCO | Any Lluïl 2015 2016 | CONFERÈNCIA

21a Setmana de la Ciència

REFUGIATS: LA SITUACIÓ ACTUAL HI HA UNA SOLUCIÓ?

AMNISTIA INTERNACIONAL

divendres, 18 de novembre
a les 19h

Seguix-nos a @bibliablanes

Diputació de Girona | 2016

Passatge de Catalunya, 2 - 17300 Blanes (Girona) - 972 300 002 - www.blanes.cat/biblioteca

Some experiences in Spain (Immigrants)

❑ **Biblioteca Abierta.** Comunidad de Madrid

- ✓ *Acercar la cultura española a todos los inmigrantes así como proporcionar a todos los madrileños fondos bibliográficos en diferentes idiomas mediante la creación de los centros de interés cultural y multilingüístico.*
- ✓ *Proyecto de Inserción Laboral de Inmigrantes (Oct 2005-junio de 2006). Este proyecto tuvo lugar en ocho bibliotecas. Por primera vez se incorpora a las plantillas de las bibliotecas públicas la figura del “**mediador intercultural**” (40) que tiene, entre otras funciones, relacionarse con las comunidades de inmigrantes, mantener una colección suficiente y atractiva en su cultura de origen y realizar actividades culturales para difundirla.*
- ✓ *Conocer lo que se está haciendo en relación con las minorías sociales. Averiguar si las colecciones representan a dichas minorías. Saber si los edificios están convenientemente señalados y adaptados para estas minorías.*

Some experiences in Spain (immigrants)

❑ 4as Jornadas bibliotecarias de la Comunidad de Madrid (2004)

Servicios a inmigrantes y nuevos ciudadanos “para ayudarles a encontrar su camino en una sociedad diferente y darles acceso a los medios de comunicación de su cultura de origen”.

- ❑ **Madrid:** cursos de español a refugiados: cómo conseguir empleo, club de lectura fácil (para analfabetos funcionales o con muy baja comprensión lectora) y actividades organizadas con asociaciones de inmigrantes para dar a conocer su riqueza cultural (cuentacuentos, talleres).



Some experiences in Spain (Immigrants)

- ❑ **Barcelona.** Started around 20 years ago with Bosnian conflict. Refugees who expect to return once the conflict is over.

- ✓ A first consideration: cooperation with other cities, consulates, government agencies, NPOs
- ✓ Learn the host language: Catalan and Spanish.
Language exchange (couples)
- ✓ Resources and activities in different languages
- ✓ Specific plans designed for:
 - Chinese Community
 - Magreb (Arab Community)
 - People from Romania



Some experiences in Spain (Immigrants)

☐ **Nos movemos por África...en Barañain**

Desde hace diez años dedicamos una semana a la sensibilización sobre la situación de África, lo que incluye charlas, mesas redondas, tertulias, etc. El punto culminante es el mercadillo solidario (donde se venden libros de segunda mano, DVDs, y objetos de cerámica) cuya recaudación se dedica a proyectos de cooperación

☐ **Letras por la igualdad, Lecturas por la libertad.** *superar barreras sociales, educativas y culturales*

☐ **Biblioteca Foral:** *Club [#lecturafacil](#) con personas inmigrantes*

☐ **Biblioteca l'Hospitalet de Llobregat.** *Primeres Jornades Biblioteca pública i immigració: una eina per a la incorporació de la nova ciutadania (2008)*

Some experiences in Spain (Immigrants)

- ❑ Bibliotecas interculturales en Andalucía (2009). *Formación de la colección multicultural. Personal de apoyo. Señalización y difusión del servicio de biblioteca multicultural. Recursos de información: página web sobre recursos informativos para minorías étnicas, lingüísticas y culturales. Actividades culturales y de formación. Fondo circulante*

- ❑ Biblioteca de ERMUA:
 - ❑ *Biblioteca e integración: un espacio donde cabe todo el mundo*
 - ❑ *Taller de cuenta cuentos para inmigrantes*

What refugees need....

- Be housed
- Clothes
- Water
- Food
- Healthcare
- Education
- Therapeutic treatments
- Information on administrative procedure
- ...

be treated as human beings

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status.

(UNESCO Public Library Manifesto)



<http://fundacionbibliotecasocial.org/>

What libraries can do....

- Services for refugees?
- Services for all? How we can influence with values like dignity, solidarity, human rights...



IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto Toolkit

To give practical approaches on how libraries can apply the concepts in the manifesto.

- ✓ Implementation Kit (version December 2012)
- ✓ Community Analysis and Needs Assessment
- ✓ Developing a Mission Statement
- ✓ Decision Making Template
- ✓ Understanding the Manifesto: Workshop Handbook +PowerPoint Presentation
- ✓ Core Actions – Toolkit Checklist

IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto Toolkit

| CORE ACTION | A | B | C | D | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Develop culturally diverse and multilingual collections and services, including digital and multimedia resources. | | | | | |
| Allocate resources for the preservation of cultural expression and heritage, paying particular attention to oral, indigenous and intangible cultural heritage. | | | | | |
| Include programmes supporting user education, information literacy skills, newcomer resources, cultural heritage and cross-cultural dialogue as integral parts of the services. | | | | | |
| Provide access to library resources in appropriate languages through information organization and access systems. | | | | | |
| Develop marketing and outreach materials in appropriate media and languages to attract different groups to the library. | | | | | |

What libraries can do....

- 1) Simplifying library membership
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)



Main conclusions....

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)



Each Librarian, an Advocate!

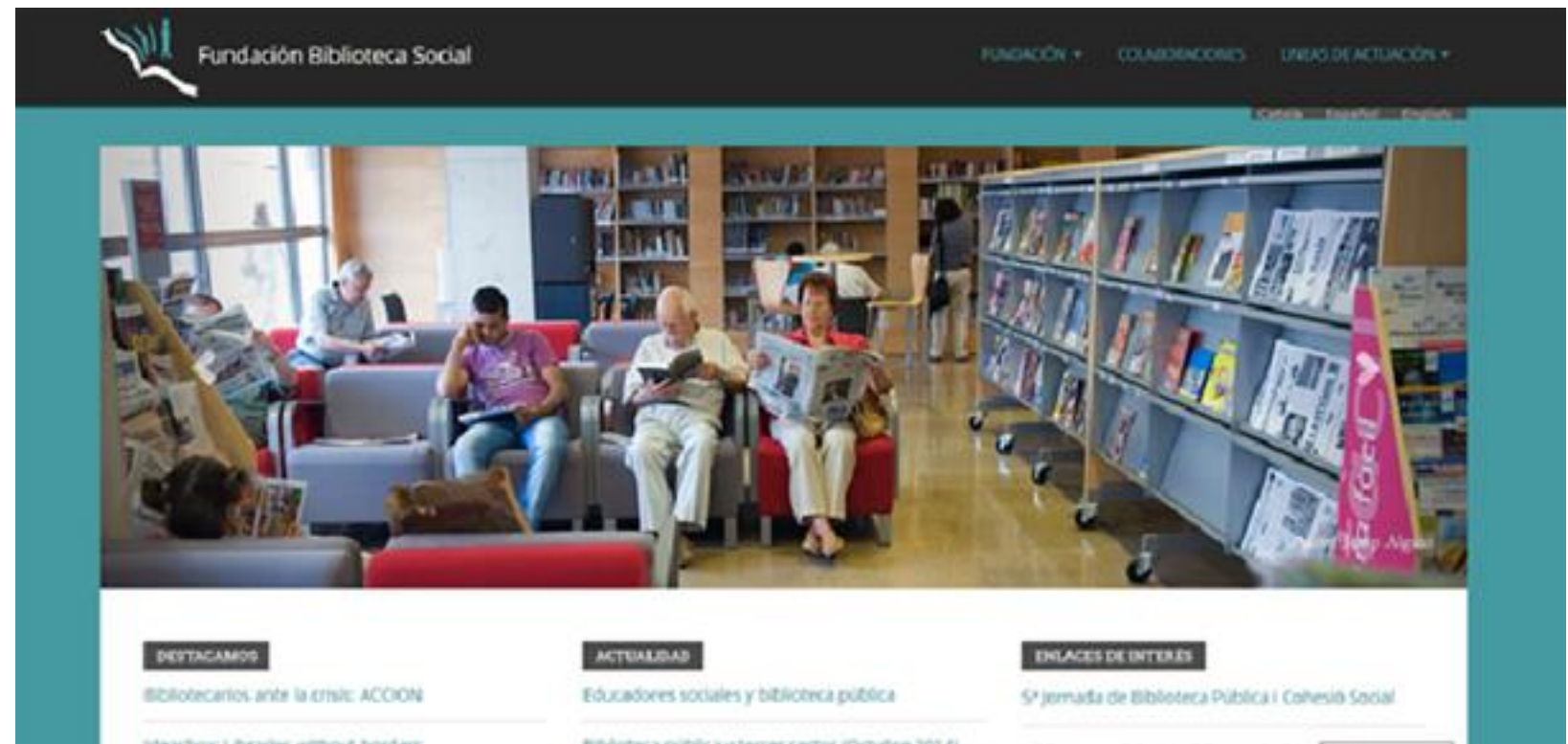
Loida Garcia-Febo (IFLA Governing Board)

**Many small people in small
places, doing small things can
change the world
(Eduardo Galeano)**

I want to thank:

- Instituto Cervantes en Atenas
- Goethe Institut Athen
- FESABID
- Ministry of Culture of Spain. Servicio “Pregunte”
- IFLA
- Library 2020
- EBLIDA. European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Association
 - ACNUR <http://www.eacnur.org/> ONU agency for refugees
 - EnRedSOS Refugiados
 - Accem.es
 - Migreurop
 - CEAR
 - OXFAM
 - MEDEL
 - Sami Nair, writer

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