

Dr. Karolis Žibas, Founder and Director of 'Diversity Development Group', main points raised in the panel discussion

1. If we want that relocation schemes would be effective in the long run, we have to discuss refugee integration policies in CEE. Since the beginning of so called refugee crisis, there were debates on numbers, but not on integration. Unfortunately, many countries in CEE are showing selective solidarity (for example, taking only Christian, but not Muslim refugees) or creating unfriendly refugee integration environments (for example, cutting integration benefits by 50 percent).
2. There is neither political solidarity at the EU level, nor political will at national level. Fortunately, we have strong motivation and will at the local level (nongovernmental sector). However, these efforts are not always coordinated effectively.
3. It seems that in the context of fragmented discussions on so called refugee crisis and political disunity, efforts at nongovernmental level are of the key importance. However, it is not enough for better refugee integration as we have to find the ways to make an impact on national (policy) level.