

## Methodology

The research is conducted within the project Empowering Communities in Europe, carried out by a consortium of non-governmental organizations in seven European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia. In each country, we organize three discussions.

### **FGIs [focus group interviews] within our project**

**Objectives:** to gain an in-depth insight into local people's reluctant attitudes towards migrants/refugees. Findings will be used for the research report. They may also be used to shape the content of the training and workshops conducted at the next stages of the project's implementation.

**3 FGIs** in each country:

- Towns for FGIs – not necessarily the towns in which the next stages of our project will be implemented. However, if your organization already knows the site of the project's implementation, it is recommended that at least one FGI takes place there. If at the next stages of the project's implementation, you are going to focus on only one site/town/city, you can organize all three FGIs there, provided that the town is big enough to ensure the unproblematic participants' recruitment.
- FGIs may be organized in towns with refugee centres / a significant population of refugees/migrants AND/OR in towns where there are no refugees/migrants, but you find them 'problematic' as far as the acceptance of migrants is concerned (e.g. people protest against establishing a refugee centre, or there are other signals of reluctance) – there are separate scenarios for FGIs of each kind; it is up to you to decide where you conduct the research.
- Each FGI: 5-7 people (6 ideally)
- Duration: between 1h 30 and 2h

## Selection criteria / composition of the group

### 1. Age: between 18 and 33

The age is defined in such a way to ensure the coherence of the cross-country research and because it is expected that the project will be implemented in cooperation with relatively young people. If for some reasons (specific ideas for the implementation of the project in your country, problems with recruitment) you think it is necessary to involve older participants, you may do so, provided that the age difference between the younger and the older participant of an FGI does not exceed 15 years. In such a case, please, explain the reasons for the modification in the methodological section of the country report.

### 2. Gender:

FGIs should be gender-balanced (ideally 3 men + 3 women). Each FGI composed of 5-6 people should involve at least two men and at least two women; the gender composition of an FGI with 7 participants should be 3 to 4.

If for some reasons (specific ideas for the implementation of the project in your country, problems with recruitment), you think it is worth to organize a gender-specific FGI (composed only of men, or only of women), you may organize one or two FGIs of this kind. Please, explain the reasons in the methodological section of the country report. Also, in such a case, please, ensure that the gender of the moderator is the same as the gender of the participants.

**3. Economic status:** all respondents should feel that their economic status is more or less the same as the economic status of the rest of the local population (long-term residents): slightly lower, the same, or slightly higher than the average (according to answers provided in the recruitment questionnaire).

4. As a rule, participants **should not know each other**. You can recruit them among local vendors, service providers, passersby, etc. Please, avoid the snowball sampling.

If you find it easier from the organizational point of view, you may organize FGI(s) with an affinity group. In such a case, all participants should know each other. They may be, e.g., class-mates (but remember that all should be 18 years old or more), members of a local sport club, or employees of the same company/working environment. However, there are three conditions for organizing the affinity group FGI:

- The participants should come from an environment with no migrants/refugees (e.g. from a class where there are no migrants/refugees, from a company where no migrants/refugees closely cooperate with the respondents).
- No hierarchical relationships (specific for the environment where the FGI is organized) should exist between the participants. E.g., if you organize the FGI in a company/working environment, none of the participants should hold a managerial post; if you organize the FGI in a sport club, none of the participants should be a coach.
- If you organize the FGI in a company/working environment, this cannot be a public office (municipality office, etc.).

**5. General opinion on the reception of refugees** – each FGI should involve:

- **at least two** participants who say ‘**no**’ – when answering the question: ‘Do you think [your country, e.g. Poland, Hungary] should receive refugees from countries of war and armed conflicts and let them settle?’

AND

- **at least two** participants who say ‘**there are some reasons to answer yes, and some reasons to answer no**’ – when answering the same question

The rest of participants can provide any answer to the question: ‘Do you think [your country, e.g. Poland, Hungary] should receive refugees from countries of war and armed conflicts and let them settle?’. However, if you decide to involve people who answered ‘yes’, there should be at least two of them.

6. Participants **should not be shy** in expressing their views – to minimize the risk they are shy, those who answer ‘I don’t know, I’m not particularly interested in the issue’ at the stage of recruitment should not be invited to FGI. If you decide to conduct an FGI in a class, you can minimize the risk by asking the class teacher for the recommendation of interviewees.

7. **Use the recruitment questionnaire** at the stage of recruitment.

## Recruitment questionnaire

1. Do you think ..... [insert the name of your country, e.g. Poland, Hungary] should receive refugees from countries of war and armed conflicts and let them settle?

a. Yes

b. No

c. It is difficult to say

>> Why?

c1. There are some reasons to answer yes, and some reasons to answer no

c2. I don't know, I'm not particularly interested in the issue

2. How would you assess your material status in comparison to the status of other people who live in your town? [In towns/areas with a refugee population, this question should read: How would you assess your material status in comparison to the status of other people of ..... [insert: Polish, Hungarian, etc.] origin who live in your town?]

a. It is much lower

b. It is slightly lower

c. It is the same

d. It is slightly higher

e. It is much higher

3. Age: .....

4. Gender: .....

**Information about FGIs [please, fill in for each FGI]**

Information about FGI moderator and setting	
Date:	Country:
Town/area:	Location of focus group: [e.g. a company, a school]
Number of participants:	Duration:
Name of moderator:	
Gender of moderator:	
Comments on the focus group, taking into account atmosphere, level of trust and openness, interruptions etc.:	
Information about FGI participants (based on recruitment questionnaires)	
Participant A	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:
Participant B	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:
Participant C	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:
Participant D	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:
Participant E	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:
Participant F	
General opinion on the reception of refugees:	
Material status:	
Age:	Gender:



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