

## **IMMIGRATION AND WORK: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**By: Maria-Gabriele Doublesin**

Work is an important value and source of identity. Earnings from work not only helps sustain the individual employee but also the family. One of the greatest assets we have is our ability to work. Immigrant workers play a large and important role in our economy and society. As academics, general practitioners, child-care providers, food preparation workers, home health care aides, and construction workers, to name just a few, migrant workers make up an increasingly important workforce providing services that many other gainfully employed individuals depend upon.

Many immigrant workers, however, are excluded from labour and safety protections that local employees and workers often take for granted. Either because they are disproportionately employed in positions that are exempt from many labour law protections, such as, for example, home health aides or domestic workers, or because they have no recourse when employers create unsafe work environments or do not pay wages as agreed; many work for less than the minimum wage and endure illegal employment practices. Moreover, while more highly qualified international professionals tend to find better-paid employment, immigrant workers with the same level of education tend to earn less, regardless of their legal status.

This interactive workshop seeks to explore together with the participants the above mentioned issues and aims to develop ideas for workable methods to foster inclusion and a successful cooperation. The workshop structure is comprised of a presentation part and an active part during which participants will be invited to form workgroups and work on relevant questions based on what was discussed. Each workgroup will choose their respective rapporteur who will report the outcome to all the participants during the discussion and conclusion session.

The workshop was designed and will be delivered by Maria-Gabriele Doublesin. Maria-Gabriele is a qualified inter-cultural community counsellor and public speaker on issues pertaining to diversity and cultural competence building and has extensive international experience in delivering seminars and training programs, such as in Egypt and the UK.

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**Date:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Time:** 16:00 – 18:00

**Venue:** Paragon Europe Office, Mosta

**16:00 – 16:15** Opening Remarks and introduction of the project by Mrs Helga Ellul, President of CORE Platform, and Ms Fjoralba Kodrasi from FOPSIM

**16:15 – 16:45** Presentation by Maria-Gabriele Doublesin on workforce diversity and social inclusion

**16:45 – 17:00** Coffee Break during which participants will choose their preferred workshop

**17:00 – 17:30** Workshop with the participants. Each working group will be addressing one of the following:

### **Group A**

Work is an important value and source of identity. Earnings from work not only helps sustain the individual but also the family.

1) What thoughts come up when reading these two statements and how are they related?

2) What are the challenges encountered at work and what opportunities are provided other than financial?

### **Group B**

As member of a diverse workforce what can be done and what could you do to achieve inclusion and job satisfaction?

### **Group C**

When people from different cultures interact, it is highly likely that misunderstandings arise not only because of shortcomings in the use of a shared language, but often from failing to recognise that we do not possess all the same implicit assumptions about what other are trying to communicate. Ideas about relationships, values and logic are not universal. They are uniquely moulded by culture and may be alien to others.

- 1) Is it possible to think like the other?
- 2) How accessible is a foreign perspective?
- 3) How can I help foster Intercultural dialogue and better understanding?

**17:30 – 18:00** Reporting and discussing the outcomes of the workshop

**18:00 – 18:05** Closing remarks

If interested in attending, kindly send your RSVP to **Matteo Privitelli** on  
[matteo.privitelli@core.org.mt](mailto:matteo.privitelli@core.org.mt) by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017