

Vragen debat migratie – uitwisselingsproject in Eeklo – vrijdag 24/02/2017

Can you give a description of how the procedure works to help people finding a job?

1. In your experience what is the most often mentioned issue or problem, when you are working with people with a migration background?
2. Many people find language important. Language should be a part of the integration proces and procedure to become a citizen? A lot of people have the impression that if someone can not speak the language of the country (in our case Dutch or Flemish) this is not OK. And you can not really speak about integration. Is this true?
 - What is the importance of speaking the language of the host country in finding a job?
 - What is the importance of speaking the language of the host country in finding a home or an apartment?
3. How is the relationship with keeping the right to speak the own foreign language? Can you only speak a foreign language at home or with friends or do we need to be more open and try to have some translators at work or in our government services?
For example if a large group of the citizens speak a North-African language, can you expect them to understand Dutch government forms? Do the government need to provide info or translators for this group of people?
4. Taalkabaal is a good practice of how you can help people learn to speak more fluently in Dutch. Are there other ways to improve the language of the host country? And when is the best time to start learning the language? In the period of the asylum procedure? After the person is accepted to stay? Before starting to work?

Work

5. The employment rate (activity rate) of people with a migration background is very low in Belgium? Also in Flanders? What is the reason for this? How is the situation in other countries
 - Is it a problem of discrimination? Or a language problem?
 - Are these people lacking the necessary skills?
6. People with a migration background should start working immediately after arriving in Belgium
 - Perception: it takes too long before this is the case, and not working = profiting of the social system in Belgium
7. If they cannot work yet because of the asylum procedure they should do 'volunteer jobs'
8. What would be the best a) giving a good formal education/ skills training first or b) on-the-job training directly in a company?
9. Are there best practices of how the VDAB helps to employ people with a migration background? In particular in Eeklo or in the region? (In de namiddag zullen we op bezoek gaan bij AZ Alma, Foré, Schoukens Training Centre)