

„Our Voices”: No human being should lose the awareness of his dignity. This in only way for a dialog to be possible.

On the 23th of April 2016 happened the 3rd meeting of the Our Voices project, financed by the European Commission. As usual now, the participants were splited into 3 groups, and had worked regarding to the Merging of Knowledge methodology. The first group was made of people experiencing different difficult situations. The second was with academics and the third with people “supporting”, mainly social workers and volunteers. The point of the meeting was to deepen the topic of the relation between the institution’s representatives and the people needing these institutions.

Before the meeting all the participants were asked to write a short text about a real and experienced interaction between a “client” and an institution’s representative. During the meeting they worked on one of these histories, happening in a shelter for homeless people addicted to alcohol. Participants first thought in peer groups. This history moved a lot Bogdan: *“I’ve heard that this history has nothing to do with me. But it has e bit, indeed. My conclusion for today is that I d like not to have spent all these years homeless. But I can’t have this time back. I’m happy about theses exchanges of experiences, here.*

After discussions in little groups and the participants could share their reflexions to the rest of the group. The academics made categories the issues they saw on the described situation: rules, organization of the place, relation, right to be informed. The discussion went through the question of choice, of people who have no choice but accept all the conditions, to be able to survive. Krystyna – a participant, underlined: *“First of all, No human being should lose the awareness of his dignity. This in only way for a dialog to be possible.”* After it was spoken about the rules, their sense, and the influence people who are submitted to them can have on them.

Thanks to the Merging of Knowledge methodology, people from very different backgrounds, could once again meet and look at their issue though another perspective each of them is used to. Marta, a participant form the group of people experiencing difficult situation, summed up the meeting this way: *“We are all human, equals, not regarding to who is a social worker, who is an academic, or who is like us – people living in all of that, so called poverty.”*