

CREATIVE NEGOTIATIONS: CONCEPTS AND PRACTICE OF INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CROATIA

SUMMARY

The term "integration" has a number of different meanings in the study of forced migration, race relations and ethnicity, development studies, and social policy. As the crisis of forced migration in Croatia continues, increasing emphasis is being placed on "integration" between refugees, displaced people and local communities. A number of projects now state this explicitly as one of their goals. This paper discusses these attempts and asks a number of questions:

1. is it possible to agree working definitions of "integration"?
2. is it possible to discuss "successes" and "failures" in terms of integration and begin to develop criteria for this discussion?
3. how can research into "integration" utilise action research and participatory frameworks?

The dilemmas which the paper raises are of importance for researchers and practitioners in social development project. The paper relates to work in progress, including the work of one Croatian NGO.