

## Final Conference in the European Parliament

### INTRODUCTION

The 26 of November was a typical cloudy day in Brussels. In front of the European Parliament at 3 in the afternoon a group of people is waiting to enter into the building. They are coming from different countries to attend the Final Conference of the VISTA Project. Among these people there is a group of women, they are refugees living in England.



We entered the European Parliament; we were very impressed and excited. Finally we arrived at the Meeting room where the Final Conference was going to be held.

First of all Fabrizio Boldrini gives the floor to Mrs. Kinga Göncz, member of the EU Parliament.

She welcomes us to “our common house in Brussels” and expresses her interest in the social dimension of the VISTA Project.

Then Mrs. Hélène Barry from EACEA made a presentation of the LLP program. She has been in permanent contact with Villa Montesca all along the project.

Fabrizio Boldrini and Maria Rita Bracchini presented the results of the project. They made a very passionate presentation expressing how they felt doing the project in these two last years. They thanked to all the partners for their efforts.

Then, each partner showed their video and explained how it was done and the relationship that was built among the protagonists.

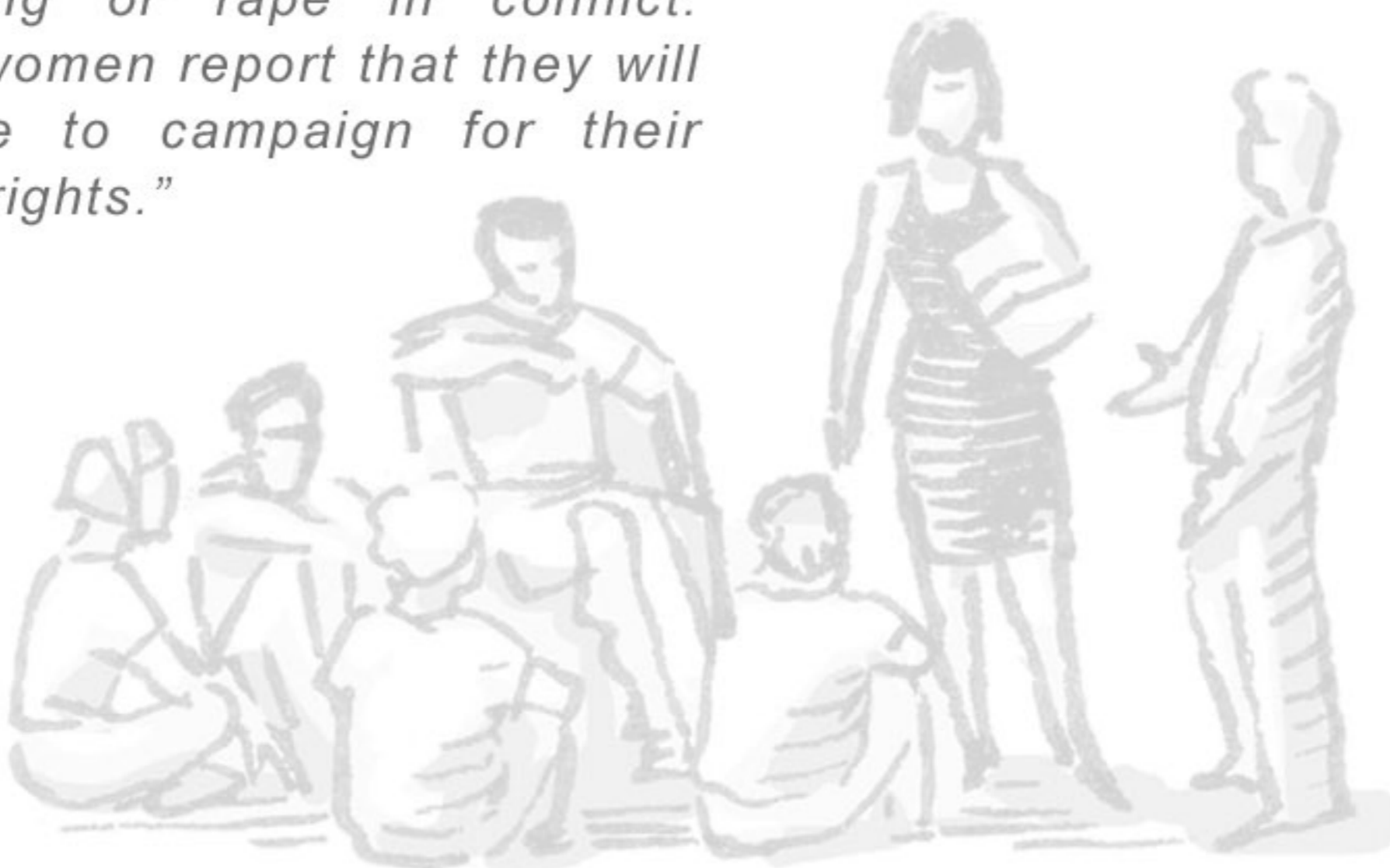
It was a great experience and at the end of the project we were very proud of the work done by the entire consortium; it was a celebration day for all of us.

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From de UK

*“HP-MOS had the opportunity to travel with two Women for Refugee Women in the UK, who participated in the participatory video workshop. The women had the opportunity to highlight their stories and reminded us of the many examples of women’s oppression that are still not properly recognised. They further stated that most of the women asylum seekers have been forced to seek refuge in the UK, most of whom are victims of serious human rights abuses such as trafficking or rape in conflict. These women report that they will continue to campaign for their human rights.”*



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### ITALY

We are very proud of the results of the VISTA project and also proud to have organized the final conference in the European Parliament. It was an important experience and a good way for the dissemination of the outcomes of the project.

We would like to thank all the VISTA project partners: a good project depends on a profitable co-operation among partners.

We just would like to give an overview of the results of the Vista project through the participants' eyes, posting some of their quotes during the living experience of the Participatory Video workshops.

"Participating in the project had an effect on me... now I am free to speak without fear."



"I would like to fight the "stigma" the Roma have and promote, through our dream, a better picture of the Roma community and with this experience I can say that I've realized my dream"

"I have watched the film and I think it is very powerful and we should really be very proud of ourselves and also keep fighting for the rights of women seeking asylum all over the world: we will start from here!"

"I'm so proud!!! The video we produced is a bridge between our generation and the new ones".

"People maybe know the stories about the men who left Turkey and came to Germany to find a job and a better life... but what about their wives who were left behind in Turkey and followed them years later? This project shows the letters we wrote, the difficulties we had to face, the hardship we had to fight and how difficult was our arrival in Germany!"

"I've learnt that through reflection on identity, organization and self-representation of subjects in audiovisual format we can see forgotten realities".

"I want everyone to see our movie, to see that disability is not inability but a form of diversity that should be understood and respected. But what does diversity mean? We all are so different from one another..."

"This experience is for those, like me, who do not feel they can have a voice and are marginalized in our society. It is always good when you are involved in things in which you feel you have an important role to play".

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### From Germany

*“When entering the European Parliament you find yourself in a noisy, busy beehive that makes your head spin. People are rushing in and out of hundreds of different rooms, you hear dozens of different tongues within your first 5 minutes in there. You feel suddenly very important and at the same time very unimportant.*

*We are having a conference here today, our project made it to the European Parliament – and how could we possibly be noticed here among all these important events? Conflicting thoughts. But then, sitting in the conference room and watching our films, listening to the project leaders and participants, all of that is not important anymore.*

*What matters is that we have all managed to complete what we had set our minds to: we produced six interesting and thought-provoking films, and hopefully we helped at least 80 people to find a way to express their opinions and feelings and to show them to the world.”*



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### From GREECE

*"It was very important for us that the final meeting was held in the European Parliament. It gave us the opportunity to visit this place and meet the people who work there. For us it was also important because we were able to inform Greek members of the Parliament about the project and get support and feedback from them about our action.*

*Everyone who worked for this final meeting did an excellent job, although it is not easy to guarantee the best possible outcome since it doesn't entirely depend on us. It would be better if we could show the results of the VISTA project also to others but it was important that we all had the final image of the project and that we interacted.*

*This meeting marked the end of the project. But we believe that it started new collaborations, brought new feedbacks and new perspectives. Now we feel more confident in using this method with our partners and we are looking for other ways to mobilize our community regarding people with disabilities and their daily life."*



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### From SPAIN

*“In the case of PATER, working with long-term unemployed using the Participatory Video has been a social intervention process which has attempted to transform beliefs and expectations of the participants in order to project this transformation to the rest of society. I've learned that through reflection on identity, organization and self-representation of subjects in audiovisual formats we can see realities that are forgotten. Equally or more important than the final product of a PV, is the process carried out.*

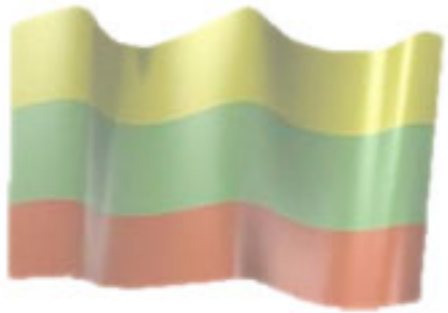
*The difficulties that sometimes the participants were in (lack of motivation, lack of understanding of the negotiation process, philosophical differences and resignation) caused the group to hardly be able to evolve as a whole. However, with the help of PV we managed to overcome this issue. A common goal enhances individual capabilities. Showing the daily life of an unemployed is a raw sample of a daily reality that should not be forgotten by society.*

*The experiences of each partner working with other collectives of people is similar to ours.*

*A resulting objective is the recognition by the community that there are still people with strong problems (labour market, disabilities, mobility, migration) which continue to set skewed goals and expectations.*

*It was intended that through Participatory Video, participants set up their own values of truth, relevance, significance and identity, from an internal perspective, regardless of their status as unemployed, marginalized, abused or disabled.”*

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### From LITHUANIA

*“First of all, we would like to thank the project coordinators Fabrizio and Maria Rita (Villa Montesca) for a great job they’ve done in organizing the final conference in Brussels, in the heart of the EU, in the Parliament.*

*We highly appreciated the chance to participate in the final conference in Brussels, because it gave us the opportunity to speak about problems of the Roma community at European level. The event gave rise to an inspiring presentation of the work we’ve done together. No doubt the Vista project was not only interesting, but necessary for all target groups.*

