**Intervju vid tiggande EU medborgares boplats (text, eng)**

[L] ***What do you think a Swedish person should understand about your situation, why is this happening?***

[G] I tell you what’s happening - people tend to take one after another, like sheep. For example, I use to know some guys, they went to France with 60E in their pocket (the plane ticket), they stayed 2 weeks there, whatever they have been doing, they came back home with 320E in their pockets. People see this and what do they think - “Let’s go there too, it’s better, we could find work, make some money”... one after another...



[L] ***How did you find this place and make it your home? Did you search a long time?***

[young man] We found it quite hard, but it’s a very good spot. We take this path through the forest and get out directly at the train station.

[woman] We live in these huts, what can we do...

[L] ***and in winter?***

[group] The same. Yes.

[woman] The rents are too expensive. How could we have that kind of money? We go and beg, the men search for work. They work as day laborers in constructions, pavements...

[L] ***How is it in comparison with Romania?***

[woman] It’s better. Don’t you know the situation in Romania? It has become a laughingstock, good for nothing. Some can manage, but 3 quarters of the Romanians are gone.

In Romania we lost our jobs, we have nowhere to go, no work. You cannot even find hourly work, you could at least work with digging the ground before, at least it was something.

[George] We stay here in winter too, what can we do. In Romania we have a house but we have no work, no social help, the minimum wage is 120E, I don’t think you can raise 3 kids, have a 5 persons family with 120E/month. So yes, here it is better, we collect cans. We survive! If any of us has a problem back home, we collect money together, we all help out, and we always send money home to our children, to our families.

[L] ***So all your children are in Romania?***

[G] Of course! You cannot come here with your kids and live in a hut. You struggle by yourself, you’re a grownup, but why put your children through this?. And anyway here the social workers will pick them up immediately. You cannot raise children under these conditions.

[L] ***Did you try to get help?***

[G] I went to T-Centralen to ask, handed in my ID-card, all my papers, filled in the papers, and they told me to wait for their call. It’s been 5 months since then... I applied also at the Solna immigration center, to get an address and work, I went there together with a woman from the Skanstull center, she spoke for me in Swedish, filled in her adress on the papers, and...nothing happened. No call. It’s difficult...

[G] Don't film me, I don’t want to spread rumors in Romania...you tube... Maybe somebody sent you? ... actually it would be good for somebody to help us, speak for us, at least to help some of us to go back home, or give us work...I see they give work to others, Arabians for example, Maroccans, they bring them to the social centers, give them homes, and us...they hear we’re Romanians - since we have an European visa and can come and leave whenever we want, they don’t give us any chance to get work. They’re very racists with us. Some Swedish people help us by giving us 0,5-1E, something to eat, but it’s helpless as long as the rest is leaving us aside, ignoring us.

(...) There’s a social center at Ropsten, if you go there to sleep, or usually I go there to take a shower, you ask if they have spare places, and even if they do, you have to wait to be picked up by a sort of a lottery system that I don’t understand. So they make me wait, even if I just want to take a shower, and you have to pay 1E anyway. In one day, maybe they have 7 free slots, but 50 people are waiting outside to be picked. They want to have as many people as possible lined up on the list, so they can ask for more funding, they’re using us, because I don’t see any change, all the time they tell you the same thing - that they only have 21 beds in the whole place... Anyway, a lot of social centers opened but when they hear us talking in Romanian, they waive their hands at us as if to tell us “you’re waiting for nothing”. It’s difficult to be Romanian. The truth is there were a lot of Romanians before us, that caused a lot of problems, and we are put in the same pot, because we’re Romanians too.

Do you think I enjoy living in these conditions? But now I have two children back home, I live in a social home there, don’t have anywhere else to go. The social home is 60E per month, then there’s food and I cannot manage, I manage better being here. I take a shower once a week  and go around all week, collecting bottles, I explore places, I beg. Sometimes I feel ashamed I do it, but I have no option really...when I’m thinking about my family.

If I would find a job, I would stop this at an instant, if they would promise me  4...5...600E,  but to have a place to live, to be able to come home in the evening, take a shower, to live like a human being.[...] I’ve been staying here during the winter too, making fire in a bucket. It’s been 5 years since I live like this.

[L] ***How did you end up in Sweden specifically?***

[G] First time I came here, I followed the promise of work from a contact. I only worked for 2 days for some englishmen, after that I remained on my own. I worked for 2 days, so I cannot say I didn’t get work...(laughs).

Once I met a young man in Bucharest, he graduated financial studies, finished 2 faculties, and he came to Sweden through an address, listened to some rumors about some social help..I told him “Listen to me, forget about this, you are better off back home, in Bucharest, considering your education and experience, you can find work there if you try”. He didn’t wanted to listen to me, telling me there is someone who promised him work. Later I met him another time, he had a big bag of cans, when I looked into it, only 20 were good. At one point I wanted to invite him to stay here in our huts with us, I searched for him but he was nowhere to be found...

A lot of us had work back home and lost our jobs. In Romania, if you want to get a place at ADP (City cleaners), the bribe is 100E. And a cleaner earns 150E/month, first month you have to work for free, you have a 3 months contract, meanwhile if they don’t like you, you are out. The ones who pay remain there, but these people have no families and afford to pay.

There was a social center at Zinkensdam. This guy (referring to a young man next to him) wants to go back home, he doesn’t have the money. I take him to the center and they tell him there are no more tickets... if you could help us and go with him, you can talk better than us. He can speak english but they still don’t pay attention to him.

[L] ***Can I leave you my phone number to help him with the tickets?***

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