



## **Intervention by Slovenia**

### **Informal thematic session:**

### **Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance**

**Geneva, 8-9 May 2017**

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the EUdelegation.

Slovenia is committed to human rights and to the respect of international law at home as well as in the conduct of its international relations. With respect to the treatment of migrants, we emphasize that human rights are universal, unalienable and indivisible.

Slovenia believes that the adoption of the New York declaration for refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016 represents an important step towards global migration management. We are especially pleased that the first informal thematic session is devoted to the human rights of all migrants. Special attention should be given to discussion on protection of vulnerable groups of migrants.

Slovenia views human rights education as an indispensable and essential element for efficient, strengthened and comprehensive protection and promotion of human rights. Good knowledge and understanding of human rights is of the utmost importance also when approaching migration.

In Slovenia education is ensured to all migrant children, regardless of their status. Children who are foreign citizens or stateless persons residing in Slovenia have the right to compulsory elementary education under the same conditions as nationals of the Republic of Slovenia. Migrant students are in the first two years of schooling entitled to additional technical assistance to learn the Slovenian language.

In agreement with parents of migrant students the teachers can adapt the methods and criteria for assessing their knowledge however the knowledge of migrant students can also be judged on the basis of the regular curriculum.

In order to promote the values of interculturalism and successfully integrate migrant children from other linguistic and cultural backgrounds to Slovenian education system, we provide our professional staff with adequate information and skills. Slovenian Ministry of Education also facilitates the teaching of mother tongues and cultures of migrant students.

Slovenia offers migrants a free program for initial integration that includes language learning and also introduction to Slovenian history, culture and legal system.