



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

2004 - ANNUAL REPORT

2004 Recipient of the distinguished Theodor-Heuss Medal in honour of PICUM's commitment to the strengthening of democracy and to an open and pluralistic society in which everyone's rights are fully respected

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Mission Statement

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe. The aim of PICUM is threefold:

- 1) To promote respect for the basic Social Rights of undocumented migrants
- 2) To promote regularization of undocumented migrants
- 3) To promote respect for human rights and humane treatment during the process of involuntary return of undocumented migrants

PICUM seeks to achieve this aim by:

- Gathering information on law and practice
- Developing a center of expertise with a view to providing the members of PICUM and other interested parties with expertise, advice and support.
- Strengthening networking between organizations dealing with undocumented migrants in Europe.
- Formulating recommendations for improving the legal and social position of these migrants, to be presented to the relevant authorities and to the public at large.

PICUM works to improve protection for undocumented migrant workers

In the first phase of its “Action Plan on the Protection of Undocumented Workers”, the Platform for International Cooperation for Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) focused on gathering information on undocumented migrant workers in Europe and in the United States and compiling examples of initiatives to protect them. The Action Plan focuses therefore on these two geographical regions in an effort to foster mutual learning in the area of protecting the rights of undocumented workers. Among the good practices selected, there are examples from trade unions, labour inspection, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as migrants’ and consumers’ organisations in many different European countries and in the United States. The final report will be released in mid 2005 and will inspire all actors involved with very concrete examples on how to live up to international labour standards.



PICUM urges greater attention to the right to housing

PICUM finalized its research on access to housing for undocumented migrants, which has been one of the main themes of PICUM’s research in 2003. Partners have been identified amongst NGOs and organizations working with the homeless, in order to make a general overview of current housing solutions used by undocumented migrants. The research was limited to six countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. The research revealed a general lack of information on the part of these migrants regarding their rights as tenants and a lack of awareness with policy makers. The report also indicates how in many countries communication between NGOs and homeless shelters and federations is insufficient and should be improved to increase the accessibility of undocumented migrants to night and long-term shelters. The findings of this first phase were compiled in a draft report, which was used as the basis for a workshop program PICUM organized in April.

The workshop aimed to bring together the experience of organizations working in different European countries, to elaborate the shortcomings in the housing policy for undocumented migrants, and to define what we as NGOs can do. The results of this workshop were included in PICUM’s report on the “Right to housing in six EU-countries”, which has been published on the PICUM website.

More and more organisations from throughout Europe join the PICUM network!

PICUM succeeded in considerably extending the scope of its work by including 4 more countries in its network. PICUM now works in

- Portugal (2004)
- Ireland (2004)
- Greece (2004)
- Hungary (2004)
- Belgium
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Spain
- France
- Italy
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Austria
- Switzerland

PICUM is a vital source of information on undocumented migrants

PICUM produces a monthly newsletter that focuses on news items and policy developments concerning the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in Europe. The newsletter also includes news items about undocumented migrants in the United States. One section is devoted to migrants who die while trying to enter the European Union or the United States. In addition, upcoming events and publications are listed.

The newsletter is sent to approximately 2500 subscribers and is available in English as well as six other languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German and Dutch. The translations are made possible due to a network of volunteer translators based throughout Europe. The newsletter is sent to our members, to international institutions (Council of Europe, European Economic and Social Council), to policy makers (European parliamentarians, European Commission, national policy makers), to research institutions, journalists, national and international NGOs and many local organisations.

PICUM's website (www.picum.org) is also regularly updated. It contains information on our activities and policy developments. It is also used by the secretariat to issues calls for cooperative actions and to announce new publications. The fact that many people respond to these announcements is clear proof that the website is visited regularly. An increasing number of people find out about PICUM and its activities through our website.

PICUM is committed to the “basics”: providing resources on social rights

The PICUM website contains a link on the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in Europe as well as in the United States. For each country included in the link, information is provided about undocumented migrants' fulfilment of the rights to shelter, to health care, to fair labour conditions, to organise, to education and training, to minimum subsistence, to family life, to physical and moral integrity and to legal aid.

To reach out more effectively to grassroots organizations working directly with undocumented migrants, PICUM made translations in several languages of the country information. It is now possible to consult the link to the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in France, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy in English as well as the official language of these countries. By making this information available in these languages, PICUM was able to receive more immediate feedback from organisations about laws and practices concerning basic social rights. PICUM intends to continually update this link and to make even more language versions available.

PICUM works to raise the awareness of European policy makers

PICUM is continuing its efforts to promote respect for the rights for undocumented migrants among policy makers as well. The issue of undocumented migrants is receiving a higher profile on the European agenda. PICUM has been devoting much of its efforts to raise these concerns in discussions on European integration policy. As a general observation, we see that there is an increasing interest and openness to social rights of undocumented migrants on the part of the European Commission in particular. Members of Parliament are likewise increasingly interested, as is the European Economic and Social Council.

Examples of policy work

The European Policy Centre and the King Baudouin Foundation in cooperation with the Migration Policy Group organised a Dialogue meeting in October on "The 2005–2010 EU Agenda on Asylum, Migration and Frontiers", during which PICUM gave a presentation on the importance of developing integration policies that include undocumented migrants.

PICUM received a personal invitation to attend the Dutch Presidency Conference on future European cooperation in the field of Asylum, Migration and Frontiers. PICUM was able to raise awareness regarding the living conditions of undocumented migrants in Europe.

PICUM considers it important to find allies at all levels and has therefore initiated relations for work at the level of the United Nations. PICUM visited the UN Special Rapporteur on Health, has provided much information to the Special Rapporteur on Migrants and has been introduced to the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM). On 25–26 November 2004, the GCIM organised a hearing in Budapest for the pan–European region to which PICUM was invited to present a paper on undocumented migrants in Europe. PICUM was able to urge greater attention to the plight of these migrants in Europe and to the matter of inadequate access to social services.

PICUM's expertise is increasingly recognized

PICUM continues to receive numerous requests for information and action from a wide range of sources, a clear indication of the increasing importance of issues related to undocumented migrants and of the need for PICUM's expertise. Similar trends as last year can be noted in respect to the kind of questions that are being asked and the sort of actors that are looking to PICUM for answers.



Local organizations consult PICUM mainly to obtain information on laws, procedures and organizations in other countries. PICUM is also contacted by organizations that begin to work with undocumented migrants and need information, organizations that want to include a 'European perspective' in their work and organizations that are researching information on European policy developments. PICUM was increasingly contacted by **researchers** and **journalists** for information in 2004. In addition to contacts with NGOs, researchers and journalists, PICUM is increasingly serving **undocumented migrants** themselves, who often have very specific questions concerning their irregular residence in a particular European country and the possibilities that exist for regularization. PICUM directs them to local NGOs that can respond to their questions and provide them with detailed information about the realities of that particular country.

Conference participation in 2004 included:

- Participation in a February panel discussion on migration for the Dutch organisation Mama Cash, which funds the makers of documentary films. The event took place during the 2004 documentary festival "Viewpoint."
- Presenting the concerns of undocumented workers in Europe at a seminar organised by the European Anti Poverty Network in Portugal on 29–30 April. The seminar topic was "The European Employment Strategy: A tool or a threat for social cohesion? "
- Keynote speaker in a forum focusing on irregular migration that paralleled a major consultation on "Migration and Asylum as Challenge to the Churches" from 10–12 May in Liebfrauenberg, France. The event was organised by the Protestant Churches at the Rhine (Germany, France, Switzerland and Netherlands) along with the Fellowship of Protestant Churches in Europe.
- An overview of the situation regarding access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe for a conference on Health Care for Immigrants in Andalucía. This event, in May of 2004, was sponsored by the Spanish association Fundación Progreso y Salud.
- In Doorn, the Netherlands, a presentation in September of last year to a working group meeting on the issue of undocumented workers, convened by the European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA).
- A September workshop on "Protecting Migrant Workers' Rights through Non-governmental Action", co-facilitated at the Ninth International Metropolis Conference on International Migration in Geneva.
- Participation in a panel on "Organising for migrant workers rights – bringing trade unions and community organisations together" at the October European Social Forum in London.
- Chairing a working group on the protection of undocumented workers in December for STEK, a Dutch church organisation, at a conference on undocumented migrants working in the Netherlands.
- Presenting at a study conference on access to health care for undocumented migrants on health care as a human right, along with an overview of the situation in various European countries. This presentation was given in December for the Belgian NGO "Medimmigrant."

Encouraging foundations to strengthen efforts on behalf of undocumented migrants

PICUM regards foundations as key players in civil society and has met with some successes in its relations with them. PICUM was invited to speak in May to the European Foundation Centre's General Assembly about undocumented migrant workers, and on the importance of the support of foundations for these issues. PICUM also participated as an in-house expert of the Migration Policy Institute to a meeting of American Foundations to explore new avenues for grantmaking in the fields of transnationalism, development and human rights. This meeting took place in New York in July. Finally, the Theodor-Heuss Foundation of Germany, that had earlier in the year awarded PICUM its medal for the organisation's commitment to democracy, organised a round table in October on the theme of "Undocumented Migrants as a Challenge for Society."

Volunteers are an essential component of PICUM's work

In recognition of the work done by our volunteer translators and interns, PICUM organised a thank-you brunch on December 18th, 2004, in Brussels. We were pleased to gather on this particular date – December 18th is International Migrants Day – for an event which we hope will become a yearly opportunity for those who contribute regularly to PICUM's work through translations or other tasks to meet and celebrate their successes.

Volunteer Contributors:

Bridget Anderson (Kalayaan, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom), Nicholas Bell (Forum Civique Européen), Marijke Bijl (OKIA, Netherlands), Norbert Cyrus (Polish Social Council, Germany), Anna Gallagher (Instituto de Derechos Humanos Pedro Arrupe, Spain), Antoine Math (Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales, France), Reyes Castillo (Asociación Comisión Católica Española de Migración), Josh Bernstein (National Immigration Law Center), Yongmi Schibel (Migration Policy Group), Paul Schoukens (European Institute for Social Security), Catelene Passchier (European Trade Union Confederation).

Volunteer Translators:

Ann Vyvey, Karlien Verstegen, Marjan Reynaert, Lynn Symoens, Katleen Maes, Marieke Vantieghem, Jora Verbeke, Mien de Graeve, Hans Fonteyn, Brita Pohl, Margret Müller, Yongmi Schibel, Fabian Küster, Valeska Huber, Anja Hartwig, Daniel Sorrosal, Juan Velasco, Isabel Cangas, Carmen Gonzalez, Cristina Borrega, Miguel Barrios, Aida Luz Arostegui, Patricia Abarca de la Fuente, Stéphanie Fonseca, Josiane Dawson, Christian Desert, Caroline Meulders, Emmanuelle Liessens, Caroline Glaude, Alexandra Kiil Nielsen, Hannah Thuijs, Mieke Vandenbussche, Lorenza Mola, Camilla Amati, Jeronimo Lemos de Freitas Filho, Isabel Allain, Mario Dias, Carine Nieuweling, Julio Victoria, Anita de Clerck, Anna Bolik, Annelieke Carlier, Bram Pauwels, Grzegorz Gajowniczek, Julieta Novoa, Julitta Iranek-Osmecka, Laura Miguel, Lidia Martins, Marian Garcia, Marian Polus, Mariona Crous, Joris Baeyens, Florence Delisse

PICUM Staff and Executive Committee

PICUM's **Staff** in 2004 consisted of Nele Verbruggen (Coordinator), Michele LeVoy (Researcher/Networker) and an administrative assistant. The latter position was held by Brita Pohl (01.01.2004 – 31.05.2004), Antoon Stessels (01.06.2004 – 31.08.2004) and Angela Gregg (01.09.2004 – present).

The organisation's **Executive Committee** met twice in Brussels (17 March and 22–23 October 2004). The following members served in 2004:

- Johan Wets, HIVA (Belgium) – Chair
- Didier Vanderslycke, Steunpunt Mensen Zonder Papieren (Belgium) – Vice-Chair
- Robin van Puyenbroek – treasurer
- Don Flynn, JCWI (United Kingdom): elected by the General Assembly (GA) of 2004
- Franck Düvell, Medinetz Bremen (Germany): elected by the GA of 2004
- Lisa Gagni, CESTIM (Italy): elected by the GA of 2004
- Carmelita Barnes, Samahan (Belgium): elected by the GA of 2004
- George Joseph, Caritas (Sweden): elected by the GA of 2004
- *Hildegard Grosse, BAG Asyl in der Kirche (Germany): until GA of 2004*
- *Dominique Van Huijstee, LOS (Netherlands): until GA of 2004*
- *Ralf Rothenbusch, Pax Christi (Germany): until GA of 2004*
- *Myriam Defeyter, December 18: until GA of 2004*

PICUM's **General Assembly** took place on 16 and 17 April 2004. Past activities were reviewed, and the remaining two years of the Long Range Plan were discussed. "Exposure" for the challenges of undocumented migration, as well as for PICUM as an organisation, were raised as important concerns. Questions regarding the definition of membership and fees were also addressed, and how to further involve members in the policy work of PICUM. A regulation was adopted concerning the attribution of seats in the enlarged Executive Committee to different regions, and a new committee was elected accordingly.

In January the PICUM staff organised a **Brainstorming Weekend** to which present and potential future board members were invited. The aim of the weekend was to reflect upon the policy work and the future development of the organisation.

Funding for PICUM's work

In 2004 PICUM received the generous financial support of Compagnia Di San Paolo, Fundação Luso-Americana, King Baudouin Foundation, the Network of European Foundations, Pro Asyl E.V., the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Haella Stichting, the Konferentie Nederlandse Religieuzen, Fondazione Cariplo, OEVER (Umbrella of Religious Congregations in Flanders) and an anonymous foundation. PICUM is grateful for the ongoing support of other individuals and organisations without which its work on behalf of undocumented migrants would not be possible.

Do you want to contribute to a humane policy of
respect of human rights
of undocumented migrants?

DONATE TO PICUM!

Your contribution means we can continue to fight the marginalisation and exploitation of undocumented migrants.

You are invited to donate to PICUM by transferring your singular or regular contribution to account number **001-3666785-67** (Fortisbank, Schepdaal (B), IBAN: BE93 001366678567). Please mention your name and address, and reference: "donation".

THANK YOU !

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PICUM vzw. ACCOUNTS 2004

Adopted by the General Assembly 8-9 April 2005

EXPENDITURE

	Services	752,41 €
601000	Transcriptions	752,41 €
	General Goods and services	35.617,56 €
611110	Costs for conferences	3.889,70 €
611120	Rental of office	1.876,44 €
611130	Rental of office equipment	1.333,79 €
611320	Maintenance of office	244,26 €
611340	Security	30,25 €
612300	Documentation	255,70 €
612400	Office supplies	1.406,64 €
612410	Printed materials	4.977,45 €
613200	Accountancy	2.468,03 €
613250	Seminars	1.428,42 €
613320	Computer and internet maintenance	1.491,60 €
613520	Insurances	143,37 €
614310	Staff and Excom travel expenses	9.839,68 €
614311	Third parties travel expenses	1.353,38 €
615100	Reception costs	235,98 €
615500	Gifts	229,69 €
616100	Postage	1.664,04 €
616200	Telecommunication costs	1.857,72 €
618000	Payroll administration (Securex)	891,42 €
	Labour costs	105.754,12 €
620000	Net wages	49.854,32 €
621000	Withholding taxes and social security contributions	53.308,99 €
623500	Insurance against accidents	2.037,90 €
623000	Other labour costs	552,91 €
	Other expenditures	246,83 €
658000	Administration cost of bank accounts	144,18 €
658100	Withholding taxes on interests	102,65 €
	TOTAL EXPENSES	142.370,92 €

INCOME

	Membership fees	1.957,59 €
741000	Membership fees	762,59 €
700100	Participation fees for G.A. & workshops	1.195,00 €
	EU project 2001 and 2002	
	Grants	170.149,67 €
742000	Grant Compagnia Di San Paolo, Torino (Network of European Foundations)	15.000,00 €
742000	Fundação Luso-Americana (Network of European Foundations)	18.965,21 €
742000	King Baudouin Foundation (Network of European Foundations)	10.000,00 €
742000	Grant Compagnia Di San Paolo, Torino	10.000,00 €
742000	Grant Foerderverein Pro Asyl E.V.	1.200,00 €
742000	Grant German Marshall Fund of the United States	19.000,00 €
742000	Grant Haella Stichting	3.000,00 €
742000	Grant Konferentie Nederlandse Religieuzen	20.000,00 €
742000	Grant Fondazione Cariplo, Milano	19.993,95 €
742000	Grants - Various	12.900,00 €
740000	Subsidy EC for BOS (final installment)	37.590,51 €
742000	Prize money Theodor-Heuss-Stiftung E.V.	2.500,00 €
	Other income	2.942,83 €
705000	Contributions	198,61 €
705100	Payments for PICUM expertise	50,00 €
751000	Interest	709,25 €
700000	Sale of publications	1.934,97 €
764000	Other exceptional earnings	50,00 €
	TOTAL	175.050,09 €
	Balance	32.679,17 €

Balance sheet as per 31.12.2004

Adopted by the General Assembly 8-9 April 2005

Assets				Liabilities			
233000	Computers	3.436,63					
233900	Depreciation computers		2.061,98		141000	Transferred loss	-5.314,63
240000	Office furniture	419,78					
240900	Depreciation office furniture		251,87				
		3.856,41	2.313,85				
	Fixed assets		1.542,56		439000	Various Loans	14.000,00
					439100	Loan Bond Zonder Naam **	37.500,00
300000	Publications	3.064,25			439600	Loan SMZP	5.000,00
			3.064,25		439600	Loan Medimmigrant	10.000,00
					439600	Loan Medimmigrant	10.000,00
400000	Debtors	1.272,81					
401000	Cheques to be banked	54,79					76.500,00
493200	Grants to be received	15.000,00					
			16.327,60				
550000	Current general account bank	13.187,61			444000	Outstanding invoices	376,18
551000	Current EU account bank	1.331,28			454000	Social Security	2.200,33
555000	Savings account	48.736,87			456000	Vacation money 2004	11.515,83
560000	Current account postal bank	253,47					14.092,34
576000	Foreign currencies cash	611,98					
577000	Petty cash	202,09					
579000	Electronic cash (Proton)	20,00					
			64.343,30				
	Floating assets		83.735,15				
	Total Assets			85.277,71		Total Liabilities	85.277,71

** This loan is repaid in three payments of €12500,00 over three years. The first repayment was due to be paid before 31 December 2004 but only occurred on 3 January 2005.

Valuation rules

Office equipment is valued at the purchase price less annual depreciation of 20%.

Publications are valued at the purchase price.

Foreign currencies have been valued based on the 31.12.2004 exchange rates.

Other debts and claims are valued at their nominal value.

Adjustments to the valuation rules

None

Additional information

None

Rights and obligations – immeasurable

None