

Central and Eastern European Distrust of Charitable Organisations: Finding Solutions to Increase Inclusivity and Outreach to CEE Nationals in the UK

Summary

The goal of this paper is to find out how Central and Eastern European (CEE) communities in the UK interact with charitable organisations, and how Europia can improve outreach to them and increase participation. Europia conducted primary research using surveys and interviews, in addition to utilising existing academic research to find the reasons behind the reluctance to use charitable organisations amongst CEE communities in Britain. We gathered opinions from people originating mostly from Poland, Lithuania and Romania – the largest CEE migrant communities in the UK. As a result, we found that the biggest barriers for charities to reach more members of CEE communities in the UK are:

1. Lack of financial transparency within the charities
2. Pride related to the cultural backgrounds of CEE migrants (not wanting to fit the stereotypes associated with being a CEE migrant)
3. Lack of knowledge about what is the role of charities in the UK, as well as a distrust of British institutions
4. Personal pride of CEE migrants (expectations held as economic migrants to be successful and live a better life).

In response to these issues, we suggest that charities should have a more collective approach whilst the UK government should be held accountable for the hostile situation CEE migrants now face. Knowledge acquired from interviews with CEE professionals working in the charity sector helped us to build a stronger strategy to work with CEE migrants based on active outreach. The strategy also involves suitable marketing with the increased use of targeted advertising through social media. Working with people recognised as leaders/role models in those communities is also recommended, to increase interaction through word-of-mouth and to help challenge negative portrayals of charities. We also suggest ways in which Europia can collaborate with CEE consulates to improve the process of informing newly arriving CEE migrants.

One of the biggest barriers to helping the wider CEE community is access to funding - with 1.3% of the charities in England and Wales receiving over 70% of all income generated by charities. We can challenge this through building networks with local businesses, schools and other contacts that can throw fundraising events, whilst utilising lobbying to change exclusionary funding patterns. This is a part of the larger task of making charities more open to support CEE communities in the UK, and trying to challenge existing misconceptions.

NOTE: Contact us directly for the full report.



Europia

St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre
2 Birchvale Close, Hulme
Manchester, UK, M15 5BJ

Contact us

0333 3058 570
support@europia.org.uk
europia.org.uk