



GMAJNA



Peace Institute  
Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies



**30 October 2025**

**Info Office, Ulica Vide Pregarčeve 11, 1000 Ljubljana**

**EMV-LII Issue Raising Meeting: Meeting Minutes**

**Theme:** Inclusion challenges in Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL)

**Participants:** 30, including guest Denis Striković (Ljubljana City Councillor), facilitators Katja Utroša (KDG) and Lana Zdravković (Peace Institute), translator M. S., and minute-taker Jošt Žagar (Infokolpa).

**Language:** Conducted in English with Arabic interpretation.

**Note:** Minutes are partly anonymised due to privacy concerns.

Katja gives an introduction in which she highlights the purpose of today's meeting. The meeting was organised to bring together representatives of the migrant community, mostly asylum seekers and refugees, with a representative of the local authorities. Katja explains which areas fall under local government responsibility (schools, health centres, public transport, etc.) and emphasises that the goal of the meeting is to formulate some meaningful proposals that the group can present to the guest and to other representatives of the local authorities in the municipality.

Denis explains his role in the municipality: he is a city councillor and a member of the Vesna – Green Party, he represents the opposition in the council, and serves on the Committee for International Relations and the Committee for the Environment. He points out that he has noticed an increased level of hate speech in Slovenia, particularly directed at Roma, the Albanian-speaking community, and Muslims.

A refugee takes the floor. He highlights the difficult situation of migrants, who are often forced to work long hours—10 hours a day or more. This is also true for him, as he works as a delivery driver. In order to support his family and pay rent, he works a great deal, which means he has no free time to spend with his children. Due to high rental costs, even though he lives in state housing, he is unable to save any money. He asks whether the municipality can help migrants and refugees access more affordable housing and whom he could contact if he wanted to start his own business in the city.

Denis responds that he understands and that the situation of migrants has always been difficult. Public housing is state/municipality-owned, and non-profit housing is intended for citizens, which is a matter of national legislation and beyond the authority of local government. He adds that municipal housing also exists, where one condition is five years of residence in the municipality (he is not entirely sure and will verify this), but demand is very high and the most recent allocation was done by lottery.

An asylum seeker speaks, saying he has been in Europe for nine years and has health problems. He asks how he can access medical care. Katja explains that there is a doctor at the asylum centre, but that treatment there is limited. Denis adds that there is also a pro bono clinic in Ljubljana.

Another asylum seeker says he came to Slovenia with his family. His family have Slovenian citizenship due to their ancestry. He explains that they are currently renting but will have to move out. Denis says they can apply for public housing because his family are Slovenian citizens. However, he notes that waiting lists are long (up to two years) and that the municipality may offer a smaller apartment than the family size would suggest, which they may accept or decline.

The asylum seeker also mentions that they would like to transfer his son to another school due to attention difficulties, but the school is far away and he does not know how he would get him there. There is no obvious solution, though public transport is an option.

A migrant worker raises the issue of migrant workers who pay high rents for poor-quality housing and work long hours, asking how the municipality could improve their situation. Denis replies that these are the same problems faced by citizens, though migrants may be even more vulnerable due to their position. He adds that the municipality is building public housing to help alleviate the housing shortage.

Another asylum seeker points out that there are no language courses for asylum seekers who work and are absent during the usual course hours. Denis says he will inquire at an adult education centre about the possibility of additional courses and notes that the municipality can fund activities such as language courses if there is a shortage.

Another asylum seeker asks whether the city council has any influence over the police, as he has been racially profiled several times during street checks. He also asks why the regulation restricting the movement of asylum seekers to a single municipality is still in force, as if it were still the COVID period. Denis replies that he himself has experienced racial profiling, but that policing and legislation fall under national rather than local authority.

Another asylum seeker raises the issue of access to sports facilities, noting that there are no sports activities for asylum seekers in the Asylum Home. Denis says this does not seem appropriate and that the state should enable access to additional activities.

Another asylum seeker says he is involved in graffiti art and asks where he could get involved. Denis mentions youth centres. Based on his own experience, another asylum seeker adds that there is not much work with migrants there, as they mainly work with children aged around 12–14. Denis says he will inquire with youth centres about possibilities for inclusion.

At the end, Lana thanks Denis for his visit. She says it is important to break the ice in cooperation with local authorities and that they will remain in contact with Denis regarding today's meeting.