

# Victor Hugo high school of Poitiers : the international migrations at the heart of the debate

On Friday, October 12th, 2018, Olivier Clochard, researcher to MIGRINTER, a laboratory of the CNRS ( NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH) , presented to the students of the high school Victor Hugo a conference on the international migrations. Also, two elected members of Mignaloux-Beauvoir showed the reception of migrants in their town. During this intervention , the researcher claims preconceived ideas about the importance of the migratory phenomenon.

## **A conference to awake the consciousnesses of the new generation**

Like other problems of society like climate change or the place of artificial intelligence, the migration problems are going to be handled by the new generation who was watching the conference this day. The new generation will have to find a solution aside growing of wealth between the countries of the North and the South if she wishes to halt the migration phenomenon and to permit an harmonious coexistence of humanity.

## **The migration explained to the young people.**

It's for didactic purpose that Olivier Clochard reminded to the students the definition of the word « migration ». We indicate by migration the crossing of a border and the stay of more than one year of a foreign person in a host country.

## **Researcher : a job with interpersonal relationship**

During all his research, Olivier Clochard studied the borders running across by the migrants on our continent. Calais, Charles de Gaulles airport, Cyprus island and Bulgaria were subject of his research. Olivier Clochard illustrated of example his action concrete for listen and try to help migrants thanks to his queries. For example in Cyprus island, Olivier Clochard met Mortevea, an Iranian who asked a protection from Cypriot government. But he kept cooped up four years in a detention center for undocumented persons, even if the usual maximum time cooping up is 18 months. The question of welcome conditions of foreigners is very old and each European country has different welcome practices, but this one of cooping up continue to exist. Mister Clochard also has the occasion to help asylum seeker to fill in correctly his file for be free this oppressive confinement .

## **Mignaloux: a dynamic city of welcome**

In 2016, the city hall of Mignaloux-Beauvoir took in 16 migrants. After the announce of the dismantling of the Calais « jungle », the small city next to Poitiers kept a part of hospital center Henri-Laborit for take in this migrants. An association who already take care of 3 welcome and advice center in the Vienne organised the migrant's welcome by giving interpreters and languages courses. About sixty inhabitants brought their help by teaching the french or giving clothes and absolutely essential products.

## **The invasion of the migrants, a preconceived idea has to fight(dispute)**

Olivier Clochard has undermined the prediction of Stephen Smith, Africa specialist, that migrants will invade Europe. Olivier Clochard stressed in his conference that this preconceived idea, put forward by some politicians and the media, was wrong. The migration phenomenon potentially concerns "only" 3% of the world

population. The association « Frontex » counted in 2015 two million migrants in europe, but this estimate is wrong because the same migrant may have been counted two or even three times. Anyway, with nearly 400 million inhabitants, and one of the world's fastest growing economies, we can think that the European continent is able to absorb this influx of population. According to a recent article from the World, the office french of immigration (OFI) considers in 2018 the number of asylum seekers in the course of authority has 110 000 approximately, far from figures in « millions » denounced by some media. The question of the quality of the reception (jingle of Calais) and the local help in home countries of migrants in order to avoid them crusades to Europe are the real questions central of the debate. Much more that knowing if they are too many to try their lucks to the european el dorado. A question of society that generation who was present this day will soon have has to manage.

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Olivier Clochard in front of the assembly of high school students

