

**Statement by ESTONIAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Working Session 10 on September 26, Warsaw HDIM ODIHR**

Estonian Institute of Human Rights would like to draw our attention to two points concerning national minorities and their specific rights that seem to need clarification at our forum. First, according to common understanding (as there is no rigid definition), not every migrant is entitled to constituting or belonging to national minority. Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and Arab communities residing in European cities, though of considerable size, don't conform to the legal standards of a national minority and thus, are not entitled to enjoy the corresponding rights. And this applies universally in the OSCE area, from Berlin and Baltic cities to Paris and Dublin.

The second point concerns segregation which some participants of our meeting have raised to the status of a specific human right. As a matter of fact, quite to the contrary, segregation itself violates a number of human rights, including equal opportunities, participation in civil and political life, cultural and economic rights etc. This concerns especially demands on segregation in education that Russia and several organizations financed by Russia promote.

Therefore, Estonian Institute of Human Rights declares clear and loud: Segregation is not a human right, to the contrary, it inevitably leads to major violation of human rights.