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The Role of Art Educator in Workshops with Refugees

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The aim of the presentation is to show the result of qualitative research about the role of art educator in workshops with refugees based on the project *Special Art Education* held by Department of Art at Faculty of Education at Masaryk University (2010–2013). This research project was focused on creative work with five selected socially disadvantaged groups of people (refugees, seniors from nursing home care, young people with behavioral problems from Children's Diagnostic Institute, Romani children and people with physical and mental disabilities).

According to still current European "migration crisis", we focus the core of presentation on the specifics of creative work with refugees. Presented outcomes are based on the long-term cooperation with the Administration of Refugee Centres of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and on the project mentioned above. Special emphasis is on the issue of meeting basic, psychological and self-fulfillment needs of refugees and on the role of art activities in process of dealing with the main pitfalls of the stay at the refugee facility. It may seem that art workshops are at the end of the list of refugees needs. But the eminent neurologist and psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, described a paradox in meeting human needs. He finds out that the fulfillment of higher human needs (e.g. aesthetic and spiritual) leads to better management of extreme situations during which the basic human needs are not being met. Also, we are going to show examples of approved and often appearing themes in workshops with refugees.