

# Microcamp Radio

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*Giving a microphone to refugees to make their voice heard over the borders and limits of camps*

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*Microcamp Radio is a radio workshop.* The aim is to create 45-minute, live radio programs by refugees, from refugee camps.

*Microcamp Radio* opens a space for dialogue, allowing refugees to express themselves and create something meaningful together. Their voices echo over the borders and limits of camps.

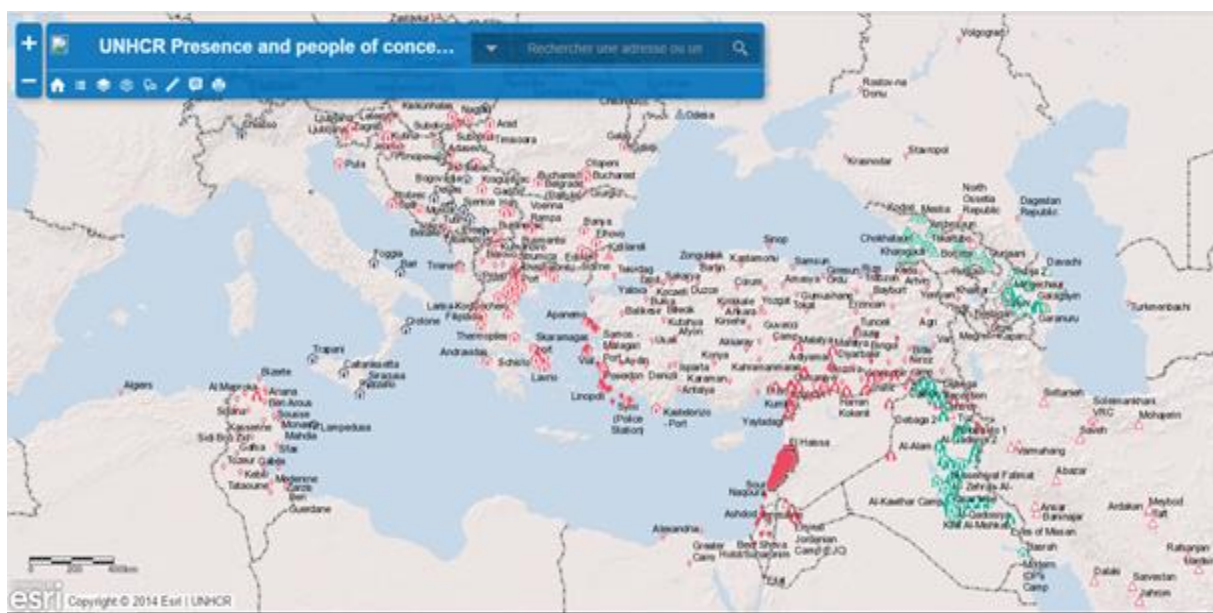
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We bring material and we train participants to create a radio broadcast. The program's topic will be issued from the informal discussion of participants. It can be about their background (migration, their country of origin), what is dear to them (family, cooking, music...) and their reflections on the outside world. The radio workshop is collaborative, enhances pacific discussions, puts migrants in the role of journalists and witnesses, and allows them to spend a moment away from the constraints of daily life in a camp.

## CREATING A RADIO SHOW AT THE HEART OF REALITY

An important number of refugees live temporarily in camps, whether that be camps with millions of people structured and managed by NGOs, UNHCR or the state, or smaller units and informal camps, as well as housing centres. The duration of stay in a camp, freedom of movement and size is variable.



<http://unhcr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=9559f672d4824ff8b4f54dd48ed420b3>

There are common aspects to life in a refugee camp. Possibility of communication with the outside world is inconstant and often limited to Internet and the radio. Information circulates badly and many refugees are often without news from their relatives. The future is uncertain, as refugees wait for the evolution of the conflict in their country of origin, or the examination of their asylum claim.

This long waiting period, cut out from the outside world, is harmful for refugees having lived through traumatic experiences. There are very few ways to escape this daily life.

The silence of authorities also brings about protests and riots, as well as depression and various psychological distresses.

## CREATING A RADIO SHOW TO MAKE THE CAMPS LIVE

Radio is a powerful media and is very much listened to in camps. Giving a microphone to a person represents a validation and valuing of what they are saying. A radio workshop in a refugee camp is an activity which opens up communication paths and enhances listening between people. It is giving the refugees a way of expressing themselves outside the limits of a camp and a way to be heard in their country and abroad. The refugees themselves will choose what they speak about and not be bound by certain set topics. It will be a precious source of practical information and at the same time, it aims to empower the refugees and give them a voice within their own lived experience.

## HOW?

We have already held this workshop a dozen times with the association Radio-Activity at the Theatre of the Cité Internationale of Paris and in housing centres with participants from different countries. We want to bring it to a refugee camp **because we are convinced of its relevance within these closed territories.**

It takes place for 4 hours with between 2 - 8 participants. A large amount of time is devoted to experimentation and we end with a 45-minute radio program broadcasted live. Participants are directors, animators and guests of their program.

The workshop is open to everyone. Social inclusion is encouraged. We also plan to organize the workshop with **women only**, because emigrant women's voices are more often in the shadows, especially within media, and more vulnerable on the road to exile.

Translators are present, so that the program can be done in many languages.

Participants are invited to choose the topic of the program according to their needs. Microcamp can be a space of testimony and witnessing or a free space of discussion on a topic like work, welcome, loneliness, the word of tomorrow, love, etc.

This workshop can be organized one or more times in every camp, according to the needs. It goes as follows.

15 minutes	Introduction of the workshop and participants. Utilisation of microphones.
30 minutes	Discussion about the topic of the broadcast
15 minutes	Utilisation of microphones. Everyone asks to tell a story in link with the topic. The interviewer has to do at least one relaunching.
15 minutes	Collective listening and feedback.

Break	
30 minutes	Division into three groups of two people. Each participant takes a microphone and goes to interview someone in the camp.
15 minutes	Collective listening and feedback.
20 minutes	Fabrication of the jingle of the program with voice, sound, music...
40 minutes	Elaboration of the plan of the program, last discussions around the topic and keys to speak well (pronunciation, repartition, efficiency of relaunches).
Break	
45 minutes	Program live broadcasted on the internet.
30 minutes	Feedback



## WHERE AND WITH WHO?

We start in **France** in June 2017. The first workshop takes place in Calais in partnership with the NGO Secours Catholique, and the second in a Housing Centre for Refugees.

We then go to **Georgia**, where camps host Internally Displaced People.

Then we travel to **Iraqi Kurdistan**, in Erbil and camps around.

This itinerary will be adjusted according to our contacts, and the amount of financing we get.

## OUR NEEDS

To organize the radio workshop, we need in every camp:

- One or more partners: NGOs and local structures working in refugee camps to facilitate the venue of project managers.
- One or many translators in English and the language of refugees.
- Privacy within the camp with table and chairs.
- Electricity.
- A secure internet connection.

## AND THEN?

We will have produced a live radio program broadcasted on the Internet, which can be listened to from the camp and everywhere else.

The programs will be archived and accessible for free on the Internet.

These interviews will then be able to be used for a documentary.

## PROJECT MANAGERS

*Antoine Lalanne-Desmet* Journalist at RFI and the RTS, in charge of the association Radio-Activity which organises radio programs with vulnerable people and a member of Stalingrad Connection, which is facilitated by migrants.

Examples of radio programs created by participants of the workshop:

[http://audioblog.arteradio.com/post/3077397/ 20 stalingrad connection 27 03 17/](http://audioblog.arteradio.com/post/3077397/20_stalingrad_connection_27_03_17/)  
<http://www.theatrede lacite.com/accueil/a-travers-les-murs>

*Cloé Chastel* Graduated of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) of Sciences Po in Masters of Human Rights and Humanitarian Action. Her specialisation is in migration and she has worked in Calais Refugee Camp with Doctors without Borders and in emergency housing centres in Paris.

Both of them have already organized the radio workshop, and both of them have a strong experience of socio-cultural project management, methods of participative animation, humanitarian contexts and intercultural awareness.

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