



This project is funded by
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INTEGRA

HOW CAN EU CITIES PREPARE BETTER FOR THE FUTURE

INTEGRA policy recommendations

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The EU's role in the integration of TCNs

- Integration was traditionally a prerogative of EU Member states. In recent years, we witness a dispersion of authority over the integration up-wards to the EU and down-wards to regions and cities.
- The EU Action Plan on the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (June 2016)
 - Framework for action to support Member States in the integration of 22 million non-EU nationals residing legally in the EU, 7 policy priorities
- Supporting integration through its funding schemes and instruments
 - Mainly through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
- Providing a space for networking and sharing good practices and information
 - European website on integration, Migration data portal, European Integration Network, European Migration Forum, Intercultural Cities, etc.
 - A new initiative of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) "Cities and Regions for Integration" (#Regions4Integration)

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Recommendations for the EU Institutions and Bodies

Evidence-based integration policy and strategy development

- Further streamline efforts at the EU level for data gathering and evidence-based policy making, monitoring and assessment
- Create new mechanisms aimed at improving the knowledge base for cities' integration policies
- Assist municipality authorities in developing integration indicators to monitor and evaluate integration levels of various groups of TCNs and creating long-term forecasts and strategies
- Make available comparable data sets on cities of similar size, with similar migrant populations or similar migration histories



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Recommendations for the EU Institutions and Bodies

Employment

- EU's assistance in the development of methods to help accept diversity and involve employers in the foreign workers integration
- Issue EU Directives allowing for more flexible ways of issuing and renewing residence permits

Social Inclusion and Participation

- Increase investments into projects and programmes on countering hate speech and preventing intersectional discrimination against TCNs
- Allocate funding for annual large-scale public information campaigns on migrant inclusion

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Recommendations for the EU Institutions and Bodies

Technical assistance and responsibility-sharing between the Member States

- Enhance cooperation and partnerships among local and regional authorities having little experience with the integration and those with well-developed integration policies through the development of funding instruments
- Allocate budget for scalable technical assistance projects in the area of integration between members of regional, national or EU associations and networks of local governments

Strengthening existing networks by actively reaching out to potential partners

- Actively reach out to actors and regions not yet involved into existing networks and increase their commitment in the area of integration



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Recommendations for the EU Institutions and Bodies

Developing and implementing a context-sensitive approach to migrant integration

- The EU should avoid a situation that its integration policies and recommendations benefit the needs of some EU member states only.
- Its policies should be more context-sensitive and flexible in capacity to respond to different challenges taking into account:
 - Differences in the composition of incoming foreign nationals, both regarding their countries of origins and residence status
 - Current levels of the development of integration policies
 - Public attitudes in the host societies



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Recommendations for the EU Institutions and Bodies

New funding instruments for the integration of TCNs in the 2021-27 Multiannual Financial Framework – the ESF+ and AMF Funds

- Set-up coordination mechanisms between the ESF + and the AMF to guarantee that no groups or fields of action are left out from the funding schemes and to avoid duplication of efforts
- Involve civil society organisations in the process of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the fund programmes. Design mechanisms for CSOs to participate as beneficiaries of funding but also in the funds administration
- Promote mainstreaming of the integration and ensure greater share of funds allocated to inclusion in the ESF+; earmark sufficient funds for the integration within the AMF



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Recommendations for Local and National Authorities

- **Multi-level governance** and including cities more actively in the assessment of national integration policies' impact & development of national-level priorities.
- Assisting local authorities in **developing integration indicators on city/regional level** to monitor and assess integration achievement of various groups of TCN in key areas (education, employment, social services, political and cultural participation, regional growth).
- Developing platforms with **shared resources and transferable practices on integration per thematic area** (e.g. employment, education) and city context (e.g. for metropolises, small cities, rural communities).
- **Engagement of stakeholders and citizens in leveraging public opinion and political support:** invite TCN to take part in consultations and working groups in drafting urban planning strategies, to enable direct communication between industry sectors and people of different ethnicities.



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Recommendations for Local and National Authorities

- **Support multi-country or multi-city national projects** for social innovations to improve connectedness, information, and inclusion of migrants in local communities.
- **Give cities priority access to sustainable smart technological solutions** as lack of financial resources to utilize digital instruments is a key obstacle to city administrations, in particular, small ones.
- Developing mechanisms at regional/national level **for Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to connect to immigrant talent** and aid integration in the local labor market.
- National and local governments should work together towards the **creation of common integration indicators at city level**, derived from comparative assessments on the impact of integration outcomes in cities (according to the city size, number of TCNs).



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Recommendations for EU Institutions

- Developing and implementing a **territorial approach to migrant integration**.
- In relation to priority five of the EU Action Plan, Active participation and social inclusion, **more funds should be invested in projects and programs** (e.g. training for city administrations/social workers/social services providers) **on fighting hate speech and preventing intersectional discrimination against TCNs**.
- Support **technical assistance and responsibility-sharing** between more and less experience Member States on the topic of integration.
- **New funding instruments for TCN in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the EU.**

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