

"Integration Exchange:  
On line integration services for third country nationals"

## Local mapping exercise

### Theme 3: Intercultural dialogue and participation of migrants

#### I. Introduction

The mapping exercise for theme 3 will have a strong focus on Peer Review Workshop 3. It will constitute the basis for debate and exchange on policy and practice in relation to intercultural dialogue and participation at local level. As you did for theme 2, you can take advantage of this exercise to early identify a case study for presentation during the next and final workshop. A case study is an interesting policy or practice example worth communicating to other partners in order to learn from each other.

The topics of intercultural dialogue and participation correspond to Common Basic Principle 7, 8 and 9. These are:

- *CBP 7: Frequent interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens is a fundamental mechanism for integration. Shared forums, intercultural dialogue, education about immigrants and immigrant cultures, and stimulating living conditions in urban environments enhance the interactions between immigrants and Member State citizens*
- *CBP 8: Promoting intercultural dialogue*
- *CBP 9: The participation of immigrants in the democratic process and in the formulation of integration policies and measures, especially at the local level, supports their integration*

As you requested during the last SGM in Lecce:

- we included some background information at EU level,
- in order to provide you with the local background information, the mapping reports need to be delivered in time. Then we will circulate you summaries of each mapping report as a preparation for the workshop.

#### II. Intercultural dialogue and participation in the European Union

The concepts of intercultural dialogue and participation are interlinked because of their constant and logical overlapping. The study prepared by the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts )<sup>1</sup> for the European Commission on the National Approaches to Intercultural Dialogue in Europe demonstrates that effective promotion of different cultures in the local environment enhances directly the participation of migrants and ethnic minorities in the **social** and **political life** and vice versa.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.interculturaldialogue.eu/web/index.php>



General integration policies and measures are high on the European Agenda since the Tampere Council (1999), but migrants' participation in the decision making process and intercultural dialogue were **not regulated nor promoted** in any particular way until the few last years on the International or European level. Nevertheless, the new era of globalisation, of continuous EU enlargement and high mobility of EU and non-EU citizens has pushed European Commission to consider Intercultural Dialogue as an efficient tool contributing to the effective governance of cultural diversity within European Societies.

The European parliament and the council of the European Union adopted the decision on the 18 December 2006 that the year 2008 shall be designated as the 'European Year of Intercultural Dialogue' to contribute to giving expression and a high profile to a sustained process of intercultural dialogue which will continue beyond that year. It states that intercultural dialogue contributes, among others, to respecting and promoting cultural diversity in Europe, to improving co-existence and encouraging active citizenship and to ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination within the EU<sup>2</sup>.

Some of the objectives of the year of Intercultural dialogue are:

- work to identify, share and give a visible European recognition to best practices in promoting intercultural dialogue throughout the EU, especially among young people and children,
- foster the role of education as an important medium for teaching about diversity, increase the understanding of other cultures and developing skills and best social practices, and highlight the central role of the media in promoting the principle of equality and mutual understanding,
- Contribute to exploring new approaches to intercultural dialogue involving cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders from different sectors.

In terms of measures and financial instruments, Intercultural dialogue became a priority in several parts of the EU's Education and Culture programmes since 2007, such as Lifelong Learning, Culture and Europe for Citizens programmes. It is also part of Youth in Action programme. These programmes have provided support for projects promoting intercultural dialogue in preparation of the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Intergovernmental organisations such as the Council of Europe, the OECD and UNESCO as well as NGOs and civil society platforms have also made ICD one of their priorities.

Intercultural dialogue (ICD) is not a specific legal category that is regulated by international, European or national law in the strict sense. It is argued, however, that ICD can only take place in an environment where a person is guaranteed safety and dignity, equality of opportunity and participation, where different views can be voiced openly without fear, where there are shared spaces for exchanges between different cultures to take place. From this point of view, there are indeed several international or European conventions, EU directives

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<sup>2</sup> decision No 1983/2006/EC of the European Parliament  
[http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/fileadmin/downloads/documents/240-officialdocuments/legal\\_basis/legal\\_basis\\_EN.pdf](http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/fileadmin/downloads/documents/240-officialdocuments/legal_basis/legal_basis_EN.pdf)



and national legal frameworks outlining basic human, civic, economic and social rights, upon which intercultural dialogue depends.

Specific articles of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000) are of particular importance to intercultural dialogue by addressing: equality (e.g. non-discrimination and cultural, religious and linguistic diversity); freedoms (e.g. freedom of expression, of thought, conscience and religion); and citizens rights (e.g. of movement and residence, to vote). Accompanying the EU Charter are several directives which address equality, two of which include: the Racial Equality Directive (2000)<sup>3</sup>, and the Employment Equality Directive (2000)<sup>4</sup>. These principles and rights are reaffirmed in the Commission's Social Agenda (2005), Culture Agenda (2007) as well as in the December 2007 EU Treaty of Lisbon.

### What the EU Common Basic Principles for integration say on intercultural dialogue and participation:

Intercultural dialogue is about:

- Making **spaces** available and providing for **activities** in which migrants and the host society can interact together in a positive way
- Developing **intercultural competence** in public and private services such as school personnel, educators, local authority employees, hospital staff, social workers and others. The active collaboration of migrants in society depends on their ability to access public and private institutions
- Stimulating **spaces for children and youth**

Participation of migrants in the democratic process is about:

- Building **migrants' associations** as sources of advice to newcomers
- Involving migrants' associations and organisations representing their interests in the **development and implementation of integration measures** has been shown to increase the value of such strategies
- Supporting advisory platforms at various levels for **consultation of third-country nationals**
- Promoting the participation of third country nationals in **local elections**. This includes voting, affiliation to political parties, participating in electoral campaigns, contacting politicians, writing letters to government representatives or becoming a candidate in an election. In this sense, minimizing obstacles to the use of voting rights (e.g. bureaucratic obstacles for acquiring naturalisation) is key.

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<sup>3</sup> COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/43/EC, June 2000.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/pdf/legisl/2000\\_43\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/legisl/2000_43_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/pdf/legisl/2000\\_78\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/legisl/2000_78_en.pdf)



### III. Mapping the state of participation of immigrants in the political and social processes and intercultural dialogue

Your mapping report should provide information on:

1. How is the concept of intercultural dialogue understood in your locality and how is it promoted

In Hungary the promotion of intercultural dialogue is unfortunately not of high priority on the political agenda. Since the proportion of migrants add up only to 1-2 per cent of the population – most of which are ethnic Hungarians – intercultural dialogue concerns only a rather small group. The largest minority is Roma (estimated between 3 and 7 per cent of the population).

2. What policy measures and actions exist for the promotion of common spaces and activities in which migrants and host society can interact

Intercultural dialogue does not appear on the level of policies. Institutions such as the Office of Immigration and Nationality provide information in several languages.

However, there are several civil initiatives existing especially on the field of intercultural events, such as concerts, exhibitions, films, etc. these events attract young people of Budapest in a great amount.

3. What policy measures and actions exist for the promotion of intercultural competences for public and private service providers

There are no such policy and official action.

4. What mechanisms have been developed to support migrants in creating their own associations?

There are no official mechanisms for creating migrants' associations. The same rules apply for establishing associations by migrants or by Hungarian citizens.

5. What policy measures and actions exist for promoting the involvement of migrants' associations in the development and implementation of integration measures?

At the Ministry of Education and Culture the migrant students working group (besides experts of education) includes representatives of migrants' associations as well.

6. What policies and actions exist for promoting the participation of third country nationals in local elections? These include actions for the acquisition of citizenship.



Persons of foreign nationality, including refugees are not entitled to participate in national elections. Refugees and persons with a settlement permit (with the two most permanent statuses) are entitled to take part in local elections.

Acquisition of citizenship is a rather long and bureaucratic process and takes at least 5 years. There is no policy or action promoting the participation of third country nationals in local elections. This may be explained by the small number of third country nationals in Hungary.

7. Who are the main actors involved in the promotion of participation mechanisms and intercultural dialogue and what challenges do they face in their work?

One of the main actors in this field is an NGO called Artemisszió Foundation ([www.artemisszio.hu](http://www.artemisszio.hu)). The goals of the Artemisszió Foundation are:

- to encourage continuous dialogue and interaction between culturally, ethnically and socially diverse groups and to foster their mutual understanding,
- to support the social integration of socially and culturally disadvantaged groups,
- to strengthen scientific and cultural relations internationally
- to develop and disseminate intercultural training courses, educational materials and methods

The mission of the Foundation is to provide an opportunity for the widest possible section of society to take part in activities that develop competencies that strengthen relations among people, improve communication and conflict-resolution skills, and contribute to the development of tolerance, mutual understanding and cooperation. It is a priority to include socially disadvantaged groups - the unemployed, people living in rural areas, the Roma and immigrants - to increase their equal opportunities and to fight social exclusion.

8. Please identify a case study in relation to one of the 6 questions above to be used during the Peer Review Workshop

In 2006 Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants launched a program called network of migrant associations with the participation of 22 organizations. Now that there is financial support of the program again, [www.halozat.info.hu](http://www.halozat.info.hu) has been launched - a website and a program strengthening the operation of and cooperation between migrants' association. *"Our aim is to establish a domestic network for organizations dealing with migrants and refugee issues in Hungary, to provide their efficient, coordinated cooperation on the long run, the training of their human resources and to help the social integration of refugees and other migrants."*

## Case studies structure



In order to ensure that people can exchange experience between different contexts it is important that the case studies are presented in a format that enables comparison.

Accordingly, the following format is proposed for the case study presentation but it is intended to be flexible so you can adapt it:

1. Provide a short socio-economic introduction which lays out the key context of the location/city/neighbourhood

In Hungary the promotion of intercultural dialogue is not of high priority on the political agenda. Since the proportion of migrants add up only to 1-2 per cent of the population – most of which are ethnic Hungarians – intercultural dialogue concerns only a rather small group.

2. What was the specific issue that the policy/programme/action/measure/project aimed to tackle?

The project aims to tackle the relative lack of cooperation between migrant associations and other helping organizations by creating an active network and effective cooperation of these organizations. The network will improve the performance of member organizations, organizational and individual representation of migrants' interests.

3. What objectives were identified?

- To strengthen the network of migrants' association
- To create a database and a website of the network
- To publish an information brochure

4. How was the delivery of these objectives organised - what actions were taken?

- **Network building:** Calling on every organization and informal community dealing with refugees and migrants and inform them about the network, registration of their aims and purposes, activities, programs and services. Maintaining continuous communication of assistant experts and organizing problem-oriented discussions. Informing the member organizations continuously of the amendments of legal regulation concerning the target group, domestic and international refugee- and migrant-related events, trainings and grant opportunities.
- **Database and webpage:** A jointly formed webpage about the services, member organizations, relevant legal regulations and background information. Maintenance and continuous updating of the webpage and database.



- **Information brochure:** The information brochure published in five languages and summarizes the services of the member organizations. It responds to the information-need of migrants arriving to Hungary, promotes their social integration as it contains all the relevant services they might need.

5. What Resources (Financial and Human) were required/available?

The project is funded by the National Civil Fund Program.

Staff: project manager, web designer.

The duration of the project is 11 months (July 2008 – May 2009).

The project in 2006 was funded by the National Civil Fund Program with 2 755 500 HUF (appr. 10 160 EUR).

6. What were the results achieved?

Currently there are 15 member organizations of the network.

The project in 2006 reached its aim: it created a formalized network of organizations working in Hungary in the field of migration and asylum issues. The network provides a basis for long-term, sustainable and more efficient cooperation of these organizations. This way they can help the social integration of their target groups (disadvantaged migrants and refugees) in a more efficient way. Communication and experience exchange between these organizations have strengthened therefore they have become more up-to-date. There were 25 participating organizations. The portal and the manual have made migrant-related information more transparent. Each organization became aware of the services provided by others. And finally the network provides an opportunity for stronger lobbying in policy making.

7. How were the results evaluated?

It is still an on-going project. Efficiency of the project will be evaluated by member organizations (evaluation of member organizations -questionnaires and at meetings.). Improvements will be made based on member's opinion.

8. What Indicators were used in measuring outcomes?

Number of member organizations, number of meetings, etc.

9. What were the three most important lessons learned?

It is still an on-going project.

The project in 2006 has proved to be absolutely necessary:



- there was a significant need for formal cooperation of organization in the field of migration and asylum issued.
- The network was found useful by the participants, information and communication between different organizations have become transparent.

10. Contact details of the project.

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Budapest, 1077 Jósika utca 2., Hungary  
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Project manager: Anna Medjesi  
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**Length of the report:** approximately 5 to 6 pages. But I leave it up to you if you would like to deepen more your report. Outline of the case study: approximately 1 to 2 pages.

**Calendar:** Mapping report for Theme 3 ready by **15 October 2008**.

