

Public Consultation on the integration and inclusion of migrants and people with a migrant background

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Introduction

As part of the priority of promoting our European way of life, the 2020 European Commission Work Programme announces an **Action Plan on integration and inclusion**. Through this specific consultation, the European Commission would like to hear your views on a key aspect of this – i.e. new actions that could be taken at EU level to promote the integration and social inclusion of migrants and EU citizens with a migrant background.

The integration and social inclusion of migrants is crucial not only to ensure the cohesion of our societies but also to address skills gaps, labour shortages, and to boost economic performance overall. Promoting social inclusion is also a key focus of the European Pillar of social Rights. EU policies need to develop to encourage social and economic inclusion for all vulnerable groups through social, education, labour market, health and equality policies, and the integration and social inclusion of migrants should play a key role in this respect.

Currently in the EU, too many migrants face challenges in terms of unemployment, lack of educational and training opportunities, and limited social interaction within their broader communities. EU nationals with a migrant background (e.g. foreign born or second generation migrants) often face similar challenges to third country nationals. To tackle these issues, there is a need to step up the work on integration and social inclusion at EU level. The EU should enhance the support provided to actors 'on the ground' with the aim of ensuring that meaningful opportunities are offered for all to participate in our society and economy.

The EU's competence on integration is set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. While the EU cannot harmonise laws and regulations in Member States related to integration, the EU may provide various incentives and forms of support for Member States to advance the integration of third country nationals legally residing on their territory. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union also sets out the EU's competence to support and complement activities of the Member States in combating social exclusion and poverty.

Through promoting mutual learning and the sharing of experience and best practices between EU countries, the EU can help countries with less experience learn from countries with more well-established integration and inclusion strategies. Furthermore, EU action can complement and strengthen actions put in place at national or local level by providing funding as well as a coordinating function across a broad range of stakeholders, levels of governance and policies. EU action on the integration should also ensure that the

social inclusion needs of third country nationals and EU citizens with a migrant background are addressed holistically by making linkages with relevant EU policies such as on skills, education, equality and anti-discrimination, and health.

Key documents setting out the scope for EU action on integration of migrants are the 2004 [Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy](#) with its 11 principles, including the respect for basic EU values, and the Commission's 2016 [Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals](#), which provides a comprehensive framework to support Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies and describes the concrete measures the Commission will implement in this regard.

If you wish to submit a more detailed contribution, you can upload a document (e.g. a position paper) at the end of the questionnaire.

About you

* Language of my contribution

English

* I am giving my contribution as

Other

* First name

José Luis

* Surname

BAZÁN

* Email (this won't be published)

jose Luis@comece.eu

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

COMECE (Commission of the Episcopales of the EU)

* Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

* Publication privacy settings

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Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

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Definition of integration

In the context of this consultation, the term migrants includes people born outside the European Union and residing in the EU and people with a migrant background.

1. Since 2004, the [Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU](#) define at EU level the founding principles of integration of migrants. What does it mean in your view for migrants and people with a migrant background to be successfully integrated and socially included?

Integration of migrants is an expression of solidarity that enhances social cohesion. It is the two-way process of dialogue, mutual adjustment and acceptance of each other and the creation of interpersonal relationships for mutual enrichment. It cannot be done without the involvement and consideration of the perceptions of both, newcomers and residents.

A successful integration is attained when four elements are offered since the arrival of migrants: first, a welcome that approaches migrants to the communities in order to gradually increase the sense of belonging from both sides; second, protection in terms of equal citizens' rights and duties and a feeling of not being discriminated, including the possibility of having their respective families reunited; third, promote their skills, capacities and knowledge (of local language, social habits and rules, etc.), to have better opportunities in terms of labour and education as well as their recognition as active members in the fabric of society; and, last, integration and social interaction at all levels with the host country nationals to a point when they no longer feel as strangers, but as full citizens, with bonds of friendship and, even, of family with locals.

2. What are in your view the main **challenges** for the successful integration and inclusion of migrants?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Lack of knowledge of the language(s) of the host country
- Difficulties in the recognition of migrants' qualifications and the validation of skills
- Difficulties in finding a job
- Discrimination against migrants, xenophobia and racism
- Difficulties in developing skills
- Limited access to quality health and social services and social protection
- Education systems not sufficiently inclusive
- Lack of access to (non-segregated) housing
- Limited meaningful interactions between immigrants and natives
- Negative portrayal of migrants in the media
- Insufficient involvement or capacity of local communities to integrate migrants
- Insufficient involvement of the private sector (i.e. employers, social enterprises) in the integration process
- Difficulties in getting access to public services (because of lack of information /knowledge or legal limitations)
- Complexities related to the legal status of (accompanying) family members
- Long asylum processes and difficulties obtaining legal status
- Other

* If other, please specify

Various factors may be mentioned, among them: a) the conditions of reception at arrival (housing, sanitary and medical support, accompaniment, etc.) and the reception centers are usually not adapted to welcome migrants and asylum-seekers and meet their needs. Integration starts from entry into the host country as it is the first contact with the European culture for most of them; b) the long waiting periods for family reunification and the limited consideration of members as 'close family'. In this regard, we welcome the proposed extension to parents and siblings in the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. It is essential that this proposal is maintained in the finally adopted EU Pact and recognized in practice in national systems; c) the lack of knowledge of the local language, citizens' duties, social habits and rules, that may provoke great difficulties for mutual understanding and interaction; in some cases, certain migrants may even reject the foundations and principles of the hosting culture as foreign to their mentality and vision (e.g., equality in all social dimensions between male and female; religious freedom and freedom of conscience for all and right to convert to another religion; a broad understanding of freedom of expression, including critics that may even impact some social groups); d) the reduced involvement of communities at local level, sometimes fruit of local narcissism or indifference, and the need, for example, to promote exchanges and contacts between local and migrant families; e) the general tendency to create ghettos of migrants by nationalities or ethnic background in certain neighborhoods and areas of cities, that frequently lead to parallel societies, isolation or socially excluded areas, where traffickers, scammers and other criminal groups take profit to abuse, exploit or swindle them; f) a certain perception that newcomers are better treated than locals may create also a difficult atmosphere and social environment for migrants' integration: in this regard, it is important that vulnerable local people are not left behind either. On the other hand, g) integration, as a two-way process, needs to consider equally the volunteers, personnel of non-governmental organizations or Churches and Faith-Based Organizations that are in the front of the reception chain. The criminalization of genuine humanitarian assistance, where merely residents respond to the needs of another human being, prevents the local community to accompany migrants into integration in society. We welcome the Commission's proposal to tackle this essential issue of the integration process in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and we emphasize its importance to become a reality. We consider important to give visibility and support to the initiatives and projects by Churches, religious communities and Faith-Based Organizations, as relevant actors on the ground working for migrants' integration.

3. Are there in your view areas where migrants and other groups in the society face similar challenges?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which one/s?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Education, including early childhood education and care
- Employment
- Vocational training
- Housing
- Health
- Participation in social and cultural life
- Social inclusion

Other

* If other, please specify

As migrants may face situations of vulnerability, they could share this condition with other social groups that are socially rejected, excluded or not accepted. This is the case, for example, of local Roma population in many EU member states, where they are unjustly considered as strangers with no links to the mainstream population, despite the fact that they are citizens and nationals of the country. For instance, unemployment, loneliness and access to housing are shared with other groups.

First, access to labour is usually a key issue for migrants, as in many cases, their families are in their countries of origin, and depend on their remittances. COVID-19 is increasing dramatically unemployment for local and migrant workers, and the number of people suffering mental health problems. Moreover, loneliness is an important dimension of migrants that have left their families behind in some cases for years, without contact with their children that grow up practically as orphans. Although in a different context, loneliness is also a worrying and sad reality for elderly people, especially in COVID-19 times, who are many occasions discarded from societies. Another important area is housing and the increasingly high prices. This is a problem affecting migrants, that many times have limited space with no privacy in shared apartments and rooms, but also for young people who want to study in certain countries with very low salaries (e.g., highly qualified jobs in Spain such as University researchers receive monthly salaries around 1.200 EUR).

Nonetheless, migrants in vulnerable situation may suffer additional constraints to overcome these challenges due to negative prejudices, limited knowledge of their rights and of the local language.

4. Which are in your view the key challenges that migrants share with other groups in society?

The key challenges are mainly concerned with social inclusion and acceptance. First, high rates of unemployment and precarious labour, especially in COVID-19 times. Second, lack of targeted support to facilitate their participation in civil society activities and social life. Third, access to education and training: special education and vocational training are not widely accessible, especially to disable persons, mentally ill or low-income families. Special centers adapted to these migrants and locals' needs very often ask for high fees or are non-existent. Access to higher education, often with high registration fees, is not always affordable for all. With the current situation, free access to education and training is vital to avoid losing an entire generation. In addition, educating in essential values such as the common human dignity of all persons and openness to diversity is key. Facilitating access to youth exchange programmes for non-formal education can improve integration, too. Promoting cultural diversity and exchanges among pupils, involving both citizen and migrant children, lead to better mutual understanding. Fourth, the lack of religious education and knowledge on religious and cultural diversity may create an environment that leads to stereotyping, discrimination, and even, intolerance.

5. Do you think that social inclusion measures targeting migrants could also benefit other groups in society?

- Yes
 No

If yes, could you give an example of a measure to support the social inclusion of migrants you are aware of that in your view could benefit also other groups in society?

Social inclusion needs accompaniment of professional personnel and begins with education in social diversity. For instance, intercultural and interreligious education, both in schools and at local level, support the recognition of one another and promote an integral view, intellectual clarity and inclusive solidarity. In general, the programs used by migration officers and experts can also target a wider audience, such as poor people without shelter living in the streets of Europe. A very concrete example is the Diversity Management Units in Madrid Municipal Police, with an office for complaints and investigation of possible hate crimes against migrants but also other marginalized groups such as homeless people. They carry out a register of intolerant and discriminatory actions and hate crimes that take place in the city in view of improving the programs and target measures for social cohesion.

6. Are there **specific groups** of migrants that in your view need **targeted support**?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which ones?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Women
- Children
- Unaccompanied minors
- Newly-arrived migrants
- Asylum seekers
- Migrants arriving to join their families through family reunification
- LGBTI migrants
- Migrants with disabilities
- Other

7. Should there be targeted measures envisaged to facilitate the integration of people in need of protection that are being relocated between Member States?

- Yes
- No

If yes, should private sponsors and local communities be for instance particularly involved?

The involvement of local communities and private sponsors will promote partnerships between residents and migrants educating in diversity and inclusion. It would be key to increase social cohesion and friendship, which creates awareness of the common responsibility of all members of a society to build a culture of

encounter. It can also facilitate access to the labour market and access to legal status. The main reason is that solutions are not about dropping social assistance programs from the top, but to walk a path together, to build communities, neighborhoods, cities and countries that, while preserving their cultural and religious identities, are open to differences and mutual enrichment, and know how to value them in the name of human brotherhood. Following this path, it will also reduce discrimination and improve the image and narrative of migrants. Many examples of programmes established by the Catholic Church have shown empirical proof of positive results. Nonetheless, these partnerships should never create dependency nor undermine individual rights.

Role of different actors in the integration process

8. In your view, how important is each of these stakeholders in the integration and inclusion process?

	Not important at all	Not important	Neutral	Important	Very important
International organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Regional authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Authorities managing the EU funds in EU countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil society organisations at local, national or European level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Employers' associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Migrants' organisations and diaspora	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Local communities and volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Employers and social enterprises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charities and foundations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Education and training institutions and providers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cultural and sport organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Employment Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

* If other, please specify

Churches and other faith-based organizations play a key role in the integration process, promoting dialogue and building up bridges between migrantes and the community

9. How can in your view local communities (e.g. neighbourhood initiatives, volunteers, etc.) contribute to the integration and inclusion process?

- Through putting in place initiatives to prepare the community for the arrival of migrants
- Through promoting meaningful exchanges among members of the community through various youth, cultural and sport activities etc.
- Through welcoming newcomers and supporting the process of settling in
- Through becoming ambassadors/mentors, helping migrants navigate the job market or learn the language
- Through fighting discrimination and xenophobia
- Other

* If other, please specify

Local communities have a central role to play. They are the reality in where migrants live and establish social relationships. This is the main reason why criminalization of genuine humanitarian assistance delivered by individual citizens or recognized humanitarian non-governmental organizations as well as Churches and religious communities and associations needs to end. For instance, good practices are: exchanging linguistic knowledge of the local language; providing information about legal status and orientation in socio-cultural environment by using their native languages; providing psychosocial and religious support to asylum seekers and migrants in situations of exclusion; promoting information campaigns to change the narratives and the negative image sometimes protracted of migrants; improving the educational system for adults and children, as well as aiding schools with courses, training and information; assisting and integrating unaccompanied minors; offering more information about the occupational opportunities also through supporting local entrepreneurs to build professionals; or, encouraging interreligious peace-building processes. For example, local Churches' programmes around Europe include Proyecto Ödos in Spain, Young Refugees in Centres in Munich and Nuremberg, Couloirs Humanitaires in France, Μαγιστορίες – Magistories in Greece or Rim - Rede Interinstitucional Para Migrantes in Portugal.

10. How important is it in your view to involve migrants and people with a migrant background in the design and implementation of integration and social inclusion measures?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

11. How should migrants be involved in your view?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Through occasional consultations
- Through structured and regular consultation processes
- Taking into account their needs when designing programmes/measures
- Co-designing with them integration measures and programmes that affect them
- Should not be involved
- Other

The role of the EU and priority areas for EU action

The EU's competence on integration is set out in Article 79(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Whilst the EU cannot harmonise laws and regulations in Member States related to integration, it can establish measures to provide incentives and support for Member States in promoting integration of third-country nationals residing legally in their territories.

12. Taking into account the role of the EU, on **which kind of support** should the EU focus its action in your view?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Supporting actions on the ground through EU funds
- Providing technical support and capacity building to national authorities and other key integration actors
- Encouraging the sharing of knowledge across EU countries and key integration actors
- Providing analysis and monitoring of integration policies and results
- Supporting better cooperation between all the different actors responsible for integration (e.g. EU, national and local authorities, civil and economic actors)
- Promoting a comprehensive approach to integration and the social inclusion of migrants across funding and policy areas
- Promoting common EU policies and measures on integration
- Raising awareness and highlighting positive stories on integration through campaigns and other communication tools
- Facilitating meaningful interactions between migrants and the host society
- Promoting partnerships and social innovation between public, private and civil society organisations
- Supporting language learning and multilingual communication
- Other

* If other, please specify

Recognizing fundamental stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, Churches and other faith-based organizations, in the integration process, and promoting dialogue and sharing of expertise with them.

13. In your view, which **actors** should the EU primarily support through **exchanges of practices and expertise and other practical tools**?

at most 3 choice(s)

- National authorities
- Regional authorities
- Local authorities
- Civil society organisations at local, national or European level
- Education and training institutions and providers
- Employers, employers' associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions
- Cultural and sport organisations
- Migrants' organisations and diaspora
- Local communities
- Other

* If other, please specify

Civil society organizations should include Churches and Faith-Based Organizations. They have proven to be the most involved in first reception measures and integration initiatives. For instance, in the first report analysis on the Catholic Church's support for integration in Europe, it was overwhelmingly recognized as one of the main actors with 7% of economic resources, 27% of vocational training courses and initiatives for professional inclusion and requalification of migrants, 18% of scholastic support, 70% of native language courses, 50% of grants for needy/deserving migrant students, 25% of health care, 14% of legal aid, 19% of emergency and basic assistance, 17% social aid and psychological support and 22% of specific initiatives for unaccompanied minors, came from the Catholic Church only. It is evident that the experience, engagement and expertise of Churches cannot be disregarded. Nonetheless, the exchange of tools with other public and private actors involved would be enriching for all and for the benefit of the integration of migrants' cause. For a complete qualitative and quantitative analysis of Church initiative, visit the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See, where compilations of initiatives can be found.

14. What should be in your view the **priority areas** of the EU work on integration and the social inclusion of migrants?

at most 5 choice(s)

- Education, including early childhood education and care
- Employment
-

Vocational training, lifelong learning and skills development

- Recognition of qualifications and validation of skills of migrants
- Housing
- Health
- Promoting participation through youth, culture and sport
- Social inclusion
- Fighting discrimination and prejudices
- Ensuring equal access to quality mainstream services
- Reducing education and spatial segregation
- Community building
- Pre-arrival/pre-departure measures (e.g. pre-departure language and job-related training and measures to prepare receiving communities for the arrival of migrants)
- Other

* If other, please specify

Health should include mental health and psychological support and supervision through the entire integration process. It should take into consideration especial needs and backgrounds. Also, support in accompanying programmes to provide migrants with the understanding and consciousness of what a democracy expects from any citizen, their responsibilities and duties, as well as their rights; and to help them to respect and accept basic principles and foundations of hosting societies. As migrants' integration has also failed in second (and even, third) generation, this gap should be addressed, too, having specific programmes for young citizens with migration background that may find difficulties to have a feeling of belonging to their country of birth or to their country of their parents (or grandparents).

15. How do you assess the **impact of EU funding** in the field of integration and social inclusion of migrants?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

16. Which are in your view **the fields** where **EU funding** can provide the most benefit to promote integration and inclusion?

at most 4 choice(s)

- Education, including early childhood education and care
- Employment

- Vocational training, lifelong learning and skills development
- Recognition of qualifications and validation of skills of migrants
- Housing
- Health
- Promoting participation through youth, culture and sport
- Social inclusion
- Fighting discrimination and prejudices
- Ensuring equal access to quality mainstream services
- Community building
- Reducing education and spatial segregation
- Pre-arrival/pre-departure measures (e.g. pre-departure language and job-related training and measures to prepare receiving communities for the arrival of migrants)
- Other

17. In your view, which **actors** should the EU support in priority through **EU funds**?

at most 3 choice(s)

- National authorities
- Local authorities
- Regional authorities
- Civil society organisations at local, national or European level
- Education and training institutions and providers
- Employers, employers' associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions
- Cultural and sport organisations
- Migrants' organisations and diaspora
- Local communities
- Other

18. Do you have any suggestions on how the use of EU funding for integration can be improved?

The Commission should urgently include migration integration in NextGenerationEU recovery plan. Integration needs a comprehensive approach that is de facto printed in every policy which is acquired competences of the EU. For instance, the 'New skills Agenda for Europe' should develop further the integration and inclusion strategy of third country nationals in the labour market, including second generation migrants. Moreover, EU funding for community and private sponsorships would allow to alleviate the costs of these sponsorships for local authorities.

Practical actions at EU level

19. Which concrete new actions would you recommend the EU put in place to promote integration and inclusion of migrants and people with a migrant background?

First, extending the exchange of best practices beyond the realm of labour market integration to include inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, and religious literacy programmes to combat wrong or distorted perceptions and ignorance. Second, recognizing the role of Churches and Faith-Based Organizations as actors of social cohesion, enhancing the civic and social participation of newcomers. Religion ought not to be perceived as a problem, but as part of the solution if integration and inclusion are to be successful. Third, actively involve Churches, religious communities and associations and other faith-based actors in the planned European Integration Network to ensure better stakeholder coordination, greater participation, and to counteract radicalization. Last, exploring the possibility of earmarked funding for projects run by Churches and Faith-Based Organizations for the inclusion of newcomers.

20. Do you know of an innovative practice to promote integration and inclusion in your city/region/country that in your opinion could benefit other EU countries?

Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue has helped all through the European countries to understand the other, promote tolerance and share the European values and identity. It brings mutual trust and enables exchange on common values. Moreover, the participation of non-governmental actors, including faith-based organisations, have proved to help migrants in all stages of integration: reception and administrative procedures, training and education including linguistic skills, legal counsel, accommodation and accompanying migrants into their social inclusion. It helps alleviate the work of local and regional authorities, especially in cases of large flows of migrants. When given more trust, recognition and funding to these organizations, there are more possibilities of increasing connections between education providers and the business sector. A more flexible access to the labour market from the earliest stage, would promote inclusion and autonomy of migrants. Establishing incentives for the hiring of migrant such as specific benefits and professional insertion contracts can improve their social inclusion. All around Europe, there are very innovative initiatives such as information campaigns to combat negative prejudices, for example, "I Get You" (nine countries), "Campaña 0,0 rumores" (Spain), or those involving students at school in nine countries across Europe (Change) and university level to accompany unaccompanied children (Projecte Rossinyol), or to learn from a similar experience as migrants in a sort of theme park that recreates their reality (Mugetatik Haratago). Education in values and hospitality is crucial. Other innovative practices are: Up Together (Belgium), Rifugiato A Casa Mia (Italy) or Communities of Hospitality (Malta). The commitment and involvement of local mass media and social media actions by active citizens is also important for the improvement of local perceptions regarding migrants.

21. How could you (or your organisation) contribute to possible new initiatives on the integration and social inclusion of migrants?

The COMECE (Commission of Catholic Episcopal Conferences in the European Union), in particular through its permanent Secretariat, is ready to continue contributing to the work and initiatives of the EU based on its vast expertise on the ground, and its accumulated knowledge in its 40 years of existence in Brussels, supporting the enhancement of social networks and providing information about good practices. Its mission is the search for a common good for all. Its dialogue with other Churches and Faith-Based Organizations is a

crucial point to build the culture of encounter at a transnational level that promotes solidarity and subsidiarity to other levels of society: national, regional and local. A culture of encounter is essential for a better understanding of migrants' culture and background, and helps to combat discrimination, xenophobia while promoting European values and identity based on solidarity.

Governance and cooperation

22. How important is it in your view to build partnerships between different stakeholders in the work on integration and social inclusion of migrants?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

23. How important is it in your view to have a strong cooperation between the EU, national and local level on integration and social inclusion of migrants?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

24. If you wish, please share examples of good practices of successful partnership /cooperation in the field of integration and social inclusion of migrants.

The report made by the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See in a cooperation agreement signed with Catholic University of Milan called « Report on the Pastoral Care of Migrants in Europe in 2017 » shows a first analysis of the work of the Church and its liked organizations to the promotion of integration and inclusion all over Europe. It compiles a set of good practices from the vast experience of the Catholic Church. Please find the link to the report here: https://migrants-refugees.va/documents/en/Report_Africa_2017_EN_LegalStampa.pdf

An example of a good practice is the legal clinics of private and public Universities, including Pontifical and Catholic universities. They encourage corporations (law firms, consultancies, enterprises, etc.) to fund social inclusion projects, offer their services and share their expertise. Educational sponsorships through Social Responsibility of corporations, public service and mentoring are also good examples of cooperation. Another example is the Caritas initiative of "Share the Journey", which campaigns with local communities to build stronger "cultures of encounter". On sponsorships, the Catholic Church in England and Wales and Caritas also offer a Community Sponsorship Scheme, a government-backed initiative, to include parish groups in the assistance of refugees. A joint cooperative initiative by Irish public authorities, UNHCR, Irish Refugee Council, the Irish Red Cross and the GSRI is the Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI), as an alternative resettlement programme that promotes integration from arrival. Other Private Sponsorship Programme

(PSP) is the Humanitarian Corridor (Belgian, France, Italy), started by the Catholic Community of Saint Egidio in 2015 through which several faith-based sponsoring organizations signed bilateral agreements (MoUs) with their respective governments, providing a loose procedural framework and maximum quota of refugees that can be brought in under humanitarian visas. Also, the full UK Community Sponsorship Programme, promoted also by Churches, is a strand of the government funded Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) within the UK Home Office. More examples can be found in the SHARE network, which is a ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission) platform of mutual exchange of practices around Europe to help expand local welcome and integration programmes, project which the Commission has previously funded through AMIF.

25. How important is it in your view to take into consideration the specific situation of migrant women, men and children in integration and inclusion policies?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

26. Could you suggest a good practice in integration and inclusion taking into account the specific needs of migrants in all their diversity (sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation)?

Good practices should be oriented to protect people in vulnerable situations, such as, for example, pregnant women, or victims of sexual abuse, families (e.g. “Encuentro Mujeres Migradas de Getxo”, in Spain), children, especially unaccompanied minors. Children need especial assistance, education, follow-up and integration mechanisms in school as promoted by Child Friendly Space at Reception Centre For Asylum Seekers (Croatia), “Pedro Arrupe” Integration House (Serbia) or integration through music such as Welcome Youth Project (France), “Proyecto in crescendo” (Spain) or “Schools of Peace” of Sant’Egidio Community, that helps academic inclusion for children with special needs. Don Bosco network in partnership with Eurochild and EU Alliance for Investing in Children also tackles and identifies especial needs for children and youth. To tackle specific needs related to religious minorities are, for example, Supporting Iraqi Christian Refugees in Jordan (England, Scotland, Wales), Cyprus Religious Track – RTCYPP (Cyprus) or “SALAM, La Merced Migraciones” (Spain), to advocate against religious discrimination. There are initiatives that target specific nationalities or ethnic groups to promote community hospitality such as “Fundación Ibn Battuta” (Spain) for Pakistani, Bangladesh and Moroccan migrants.

27. How important is it in your view that public services (e.g. schools, healthcare, employment services etc.) take into account the specific needs of migrants and people with a migrant background?

- Not important at all
- Not important
- Neutral
- Important

Very important

28. Do you have suggestions for actions that should be prioritised through social inclusion policies to remove barriers to migrants' participation in the labour market?

Cultural and linguistic barriers, as well as social prejudices are obstacles that need to be overcome for getting better outcomes in labour inclusion policies. The legal status as a regular migrant is key to enter labour market, with full rights and duties, and contribute to society, reducing the risks of labour exploitation and precarious work.

29. In your view, what should the EU do to ensure education policies are inclusive of the needs of migrants and people with a migrant background?

An important dimension of education is its orientation to the encounter of the other, to create communities. This can be done through different activities, including exchanges among individuals and families, showing a healthy openness marked by gratitude, solidarity and reciprocity, encouraging benevolent work and volunteering, as well as public service with migrants. At the same time, to preserve diversity and the fundamental rights of families and individuals, the right of parents (migrants and locals), to educate their children in accordance with their religious, philosophical or moral convictions should be recognized, respected and upheld by public authorities with the practical support of the EU. In addition, the knowledge of other cultures and new religious realities present in our European societies might help to understand migrants who share those cultures and religions. Also, vocational and technical training, in particular of low skill migrants, in new technologies and new types of work is a winning integration orientation.

30. Are specific measures needed to address the impact of discrimination on the integration of migrants as a whole, or specific groups such as LGBTI migrants, women, or children? If so, which ones?

Discrimination on the basis of religion is being increasingly identified across Europe, a phenomenon that also affects migrants. In this regard, it is of utmost importance to fully ensure religious freedom in all its dimensions (individual and collective; private and public; as well as institutional) to protect individuals and communities' identities and their open expression in society.

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Contact

Agnese.PAPADIA@ec.europa.eu

