



# European Network of Cities for Local Integration Policies for Migrants

## info sheet

*'Integration itself is not an automatism, even though it clearly has more to offer to newcomers in the long term than staying in closed and separated communities. It also seems to be the only logical option to secure a sustainable development of our cities.'*

Wolfgang Schuster,  
Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, at CLIP Network launch, 11 September 2006, Dublin.



In spring 2006, the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe, the City of Stuttgart and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions created a European network of Cities for Local Integration Policies for Migrants (CLIP). With this joint initiative the Foundation continues its longstanding activity in the field of social inclusion.

European cities and in particular the major cities with strong economies attract immigrants from all over the world. These cities already possess a rich experience of how to integrate a highly heterogeneous and culturally diverse population into the local community. They are also centres of competence in developing and implementing strategies for integration and improved participation of immigrants and ethnic minorities. However, simultaneously, cities and municipalities are also the units that have to pay the price for failing integration processes - even though they are not in the position to regulate immigration flows themselves and even though they depend on national and federal legislation in all immigration related issues. For this reason, cities and municipalities have a genuine interest in successful local integration practices.

European conferences on issues of integration usually have a very limited scope in terms of transferring best practice between cities or even of transferring information from local to national or European authorities (or the other way) as they are usually covering general or isolated topics and have no institutionalised follow up. This leads to the paradox situation that even though there are numerous conferences, seminars, and exchanges on the improvement of integration policy - the information presented there rarely reaches the practical level in the cities and municipalities.

## Objectives

The unique character of this network is the combination of an exchange between public administrations on the one hand and accompanying political action research on the other. The challenges described above can therefore be tackled by the new established network in an innovative way using a scientifically supported peer review process. Through structured sharing of experiences, the project aims to enable local authorities to learn from each other and to deliver a more effective integration policy for migrants. In addition the analyses will support the emerging European policy debate with innovative concepts of integration policy on the local level.

The operational objectives of CLIP are:

- Collecting and analysing innovative policies and their successful implementation at the local level
- Supporting the exchange of experience between cities and encouraging a learning process within the network of cities (benchmarking and peer review)
- Assessing the role of companies, social partners, religious organisations, NGOs and voluntary organisations at local level in supporting successful integration policies
- Providing objective assessment of current practice and initiatives and discussing their transferability

- Communicating good practice to other cities in Europe and developing guidelines for good practice to help cities to cope more effectively with the challenge of integrating migrants
- Supporting the further development of a European integration policy by communicating the policy-relevant experiences and outputs of the network to: European organisations of cities and local and regional authorities, the European and national organisations of the social partners, the Council of Europe and the various institutions of the European Union.

## How CLIP works

In its initial phase the network will consist of around 30 cities - both EU and non EU. The network will work with a scientific support group to examine how to improve policies and practices for the local integration of migrants. The method is based on case studies, which will be supplied in cooperation between the cities and the scientific support group. In this context, researchers will visit each participating city for a couple of days. The cities benefit from high quality case studies and regular exchange with the city network and the research network. The cities also benefit directly from the exchange of experience in organised mutual learning processes over a longer period of time. These case studies and the peer review process will provide the basis for the development of guidelines of good practice and policy.

## Scientific support group

The group is coordinated by Friedrich Heckmann and Wolfgang Bosswick, European Forum for Migration Studies at the University of Bamberg. Other members of the research team are Sarah Spencer, Centre on Migration Policy in Society at the University of Oxford, Rinus Penninx, Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam, Heinz Fassmann, Austrian Academy of the Sciences and Marco Martiniello, Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies, University of Liège. All five research centres are part of the Network of Excellence looking at International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE), which is sponsored by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme on scientific research.

## Topics

The network operates in a modular way. In each module one specific issue relevant to the integration of migrants on the local level will be discussed. The first two modules already taken up by the network are:

- Segregation, access to, quality and affordability of housing for migrants
- Diversity policy in cities as regards provision of social services, internal personnel policy of cities including access to employment for migrants; and anti-discrimination policies

Other topics may include:

- Inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue
- Supporting entrepreneurship of migrants
- Support for education for migrants from crèche and pre-school to third level education
- Access and quality of health care for migrants
- Cultural integration policies (language, religion, culture of country of origin, sports)
- Promotion of civic and political participation of migrants
- Situation of un-documented migrants
- Private security and violence in the community
- Local labour market policies including training and re-training for migrants

## Cities participating in the CLIP network

Amsterdam, Antwerp, Arnsberg, Athens, Deputación de Barcelona, Bratislava, Breda, Brescia, Budapest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt am Main, Istanbul, Izmir, Liège, Lisbon, Luxembourg, Marseille, Prague, Paris, Sefton, Sintra, Stuttgart, Terrassa, Turku, Vienna, Wolverhampton, Zagreb

## Outputs

Each module will produce a comparative report based on the case studies together with a set of policy recommendations. Guidelines for good practice will also be drawn up. Following the completion of each module 15-20 case studies will be added to a database of initiatives. All products will be available on the Foundation's website [www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu) and will assist users to locate information and evaluate results of different measures for integration.



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### Further information:

Information liaison officer: Teresa Renehan at [ter@eurofound.europa.eu](mailto:ter@eurofound.europa.eu)

### Publications:

Concept report 'Integration of immigrants: contribution of local and regional authorities'  
<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/publications/htmlfiles/ef0622.htm>

Local integration policies for migrants in Europe  
<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/publications/htmlfiles/ef0631.htm>