

Unlocking the Potential of Migrants in Europe: *From Isolation to Multi-level Integration*



Wednesday 2nd July 2014
NH Hotel du Grand Sablon
Brussels



Unlocking the Potential of Migrants in Europe: From Isolation to Multi-level Integration

Overview

Over the last few decades, international migration and globalisation have influenced the public policy agenda across Europe and the wider world. In Europe alone there has been a steady increase in the flow of resident immigrants. Eurostat figures suggest there were 33.3m foreign citizens resident in the EU-27 in 2011, representing 6.6% of the total population, with the majority (20.5m) being citizens of non-EU countries.

Immigration has an important role to play in addressing the EU's future challenges, such as demographic changes and labour shortage. Thus, the complexities of migration and integration, and its impact on the EU economy and on the public policy of individual Member States, need to be approached in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner.

The Commission's 2005 *Common Agenda for Integration* has helped to implement the *Common Basic Principles*, agreed in 2004, which underline the importance of a holistic approach to integration and assist EU States in formulating integration policies. EU policy here has been further framed by the 2009 *Stockholm Programme* and the *Europe 2020 Strategy*, where one of the headline targets is to raise the employment rate of 20-64 year olds in the EU to 75%. One of the means by which to do this is by better integrating legal migrants.

In July 2011, the Commission proposed a *European Agenda for the Integration of Non-EU Migrants*, focusing on action to increase economic, social, cultural and political participation by migrants and putting the emphasis on local action. This new agenda highlights challenges that need to be solved if the EU is to benefit fully from the potential offered by migration and the value of diversity.

Migrants actively contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of European societies. Their successful integration into society in the host country is key to maximising the opportunities of legal migration and making the most of the contributions that immigration can make to EU development. Member States should empower communities, NGOs and relevant agencies at national and regional level to promote and foster discussion and cultural exchange.

This timely international symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss the current challenges of migration and integration in Europe, and to reignite the debate about an EU-wide strategy to improve integration policies across Member States. The symposium offers a platform for the discussion of a better European regulatory framework, supports the exchange of ideas and encourages delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate whilst sharing best practices and lessons learnt.

“Migrants can make very powerful contributions to our societies. But these contributions can only be made if we are ready to recognize and use the potential of migration...”

- Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner, October 2013

“...Efforts should be focused on measures that provide the largest pay off, notably language and professional training, and on the most vulnerable groups, such as young migrants. International migration flows are essential for the effective functioning of our economies...”

- Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, June 2013

Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon,
Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the EU framework for legal migration and explore solutions for better integration of migrants at EU level
- ✓ Consider current challenges in integrating third-country nationals in host societies
- ✓ Explore possibilities for increasing cooperation between governments, local authorities and NGOs to promote social cohesion and diversity
- ✓ Discuss data collection of migration in the EU
- ✓ Exchange best practices to develop innovative projects at the local level

Who Should Attend?

- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Immigration Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Campaigning Organisations
- Private Sectors Employers
- Public Sector Employers
- Central Government Departments and Bodies
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizen's Advice
- EU Officials
- Housing Officials
- Children and Youth Services
- Social Services
- Local, Regional and National Authorities
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Governmental Departments and Agencies
- School Authorities and Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Workers and Employers Confederations
- Academics and Research Institutes
- Migration Organisations
- Legal Professionals
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
- Faith Groups
- Equality and Human Rights Practitioners
- NGOs

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Understanding the EU Framework for Legal Migration**
- Shaping Common EU Legal Migration Policy - Successes and Failures of EU Selection and Admission Systems
 - Developing the European Modules for Migrant Integration
 - Circular and Labour Migration - Facts and Figures
 - Current Challenges and Recent Developments in European Immigration Policy
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Economic and Social Integration of Non-EU Nationals**
- Examining the Legal Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals
 - Access to Education and Employment as Key Drivers of Integration
 - Ensuring and Protecting Basic Rights for Migrants in Host Societies - The Stockholm Programme and Action Plans
 - Combating Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia
 - Exchange of Best Practices at EU and National Levels
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Best Practice in Integrating Migrants at National and Local Levels**
- EU Instruments and Funds to Support Integration - Progress and Development in Promoting Diversity
 - Encouraging Local and Community-Level Initiatives Through Increased Intercultural Dialogue
 - The Role of Cities in Integrating Migrants
 - Improving Partnerships Between Local Authorities and Civil Society
 - Lessons Learnt from the CLIP Network
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Measuring Migration and Integration in Europe**
- Comparing Integration Policies and Monitoring Systems Across Europe
 - Collecting Better Data on Migration - Introducing the MIPEX Project
 - Assessing Social Cohesion and Integration of Migrants
 - Examples of Best Practices
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Symposium Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 2nd July 2014
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: NH Hotel du Grand Sablon,
Brussels



Speakers Include

- ✓ **Anna Ludwinek**, Living Conditions and Quality of Life (LCQL), EUROFOUND (confirmed)
- ✓ **Thomas Huddleston**, Programme Director on Migration and Integration, Migration Policy Group (confirmed)
- ✓ **Ana Feder**, Policy Advisor, Eurocities (confirmed)
- ✓ **Anna Platonova**, Regional Labour Migration/Migration and Development Specialist, Regional Office for the EEA, EU and NATO, International Organization for Migration (confirmed)

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Tackling Childhood Obesity in Europe through Prevention and Partnership
22nd April 2014
- ✓ *Women's Health and Well-being in Europe: Protecting Rights, Preventing Inequalities*
13th May 2014
- ✓ Employment and Social Inclusion in Europe: Developing Skills and Supporting Disadvantaged Groups
14th May 2014
- ✓ The 6th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2014
25th June 2014
- ✓ *Strengthening Data Protection Standards in Europe: Towards a Harmonised European Digital Market*
1st July 2014

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