

11 October 2010



## **NATURALISATION AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN**

**Seminar jointly organised by the European Commission and the OECD  
under the Belgian Presidency of the European Union**

**AUTOWORLD Museum, Parc du Cinquanteenaire 11, Brussels**

**14 and 15 October 2010**

**OBJECTIVES AND PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

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### **Objectives**

1. One important instrument of integration policy is the access to the host country nationality. The conditions under which access is granted vary widely across EU and OECD countries, and many countries have recently enhanced the role of naturalisation in the integration process through the development and extension of tools such as naturalisation tests and citizenship ceremonies.
2. An observation from recent OECD reviews on the labour market integration of immigrants and their children is that naturalised immigrants often tend to have better labour market outcomes than foreign-born foreigners, even after controlling for other factors such as education, country of origin, and length of stay. While there may be some positive selectivity in the decision to apply for citizenship – those who are better integrated tend to be more inclined to naturalise – improvements in labour market outcomes for those who became citizens are also observed in longitudinal studies following the same people over time. Little is known about the driving factors behind these processes. Two particularly important questions are whether or not having the nationality of the host country changes employer's attitudes towards persons of immigrant origin, and whether the obtaining of citizenship incites immigrants to invest more into host-country specific human capital.
3. The socio-economic implications of naturalisation are one area where there is still a lack of research, although this is now gradually changing, with new longitudinal data becoming available in some OECD countries. There are many different dimensions involved in naturalisation, including access to employment, especially public sector employment or regulated professions, impact on wages, and occupational mobility. Consideration also has to be given to the implications for broader social integration (language, housing, participation in elections, etc.) and the role of naturalisation in the overall integration policy mix.
4. The joint one and a half-day seminar of the European Commission and the OECD under the Belgian presidency of the European Union intends to take stock of the existing knowledge in this area and to share some new light on these issues, by contrasting the breath of different experiences and policy approaches in EU and OECD countries. It also builds on new research and novel data in the domain of the socio-economic implications of naturalisation. The issues involved concern adult migrants as well as the children of immigrants. It will be particularly beneficial in this domain to contrast the different experiences in terms of policy and outcomes in European and non-European OECD countries.

## Venue and organisation

5. The seminar will be held in Brussels at the Autoworld Museum (Parc du Cinquanteaire 11, Brussels) on 14 October 2010 and morning of 15 October.

6. The seminar will include four main sessions: The **Opening Session** starts with an overview of naturalisation policies and the links between naturalisation and the labour market outcomes of immigrants in **Session one**. **Session two** contrasts the different experiences from EU and OECD countries regarding the impact of naturalisation on immigrants' socio-economic integration. **Session three** looks at the links between naturalisation and broader social integration. **Session four** analyses the role of access to the host country nationality in the overall integration policy mix along with other instruments. **A roundtable discussion of Ministers and High Level Representatives** on the "strategic" aspects of naturalisation in the context of migration and integration policies concludes the seminar.

7. It is expected that about 180-200 people will attend the seminar. Participants will include policy makers and representatives of EU and OECD countries, leading experts in the field of citizenship law and on the impact of naturalisation on socio-economic outcomes, and representatives of the social partners and the civil society.

**OECD contacts for the seminar:** Jean-Pierre Garson, Head of the International Migration Division (IMD), [Jean-Pierre.Garson@oecd.org](mailto:Jean-Pierre.Garson@oecd.org); Thomas Liebig, Administrator, IMD, [Thomas.Liebig@oecd.org](mailto:Thomas.Liebig@oecd.org) and Sylviane Yvron, Assistant, [Sylviane.Yvron@oecd.org](mailto:Sylviane.Yvron@oecd.org)

**European Commission contact for the seminar:** Constantinos Fotakis, Co-ordinator on Migration, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, [Constantinos.Fotakis@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Constantinos.Fotakis@ec.europa.eu)



**SESSION 2. THE IMPACT OF NATURALISATION ON IMMIGRANTS' LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION – EXPERIENCES FROM EU AND OECD COUNTRIES**

- 11.45-12.45 **Chair: Elizabeth Ruddick** (Director-General, Research and Evaluation Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada)
- 11.45-12.15 Country experiences:
- Sweden:* Mattias Engdahl (University of Uppsala) DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)18
- France:* Mirna Safi (Sciences Po, Paris) and Denis Fougère (CNRS and Crest/INSEE)
- Germany and Switzerland:* Max Steinhardt (Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI) DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)20
- 12.15-12.45 General debate
- 12.45-14.15 Lunch**
- 14.15-14.45 Country experiences :
- United States and Canada:* Garnett Picot (Statistics Canada) DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)21
- United States and Norway:* Bernt Bratsberg (Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research, Norway) DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)22
- 14.45-15.15 General debate
- 15.15-15.45 Coffee break**

**SESSION 3. NATURALISATION AND SOCIAL COHESION**

- 15.45-17.30 Chair: Georg Fischer** (Director for Social Protection and Integration, European Commission)
- Roundtable discussion, followed by a general debate
- Participants :**
- Bernardo Sousa (Director, ACIDI, Portugal)  
Yvan Turcotte (Undersecretary, Ministry for Immigration and Cultural Communities, Quebec, Canada)  
Pieter Bevelander (University of Malmö) DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)23  
Philippe de Bruycker (Free University of Brussels)

17.30 End of Session 3

**18.00** *Cocktail hosted by the European Commission*

**19.15-22.30** *The Belgian Presidency of the European Union is hosting a visit of Museum Hergé in Louvain-la-Neuve and a dinner (by invitation)*

**Friday 15 October**

***SESSION 4. THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NATURALISATION POLICY AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATION POLICY MIX***

09.00-10.30 **Chair: Marta Cygan** (Director, Immigration and Asylum, DG Home Affairs, European Commission)

Round table discussion, followed by a general debate

**Participants :**

Altay Manço (Institut de Recherche, Formation et Action sur les Migrations, Brussels)	DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)24
Kees Groenendijk (University of Nijmegen, Netherlands)	DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)25
Janice Wykes (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australia)	DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)26
Chris Hedges (Home Office, United Kingdom)	DELSA/ELSA/MI(2010)19

**10.30-11.00** *Coffee break*

***CLOSING SESSION: NATURALISATION AND STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES***

11.00-12.30 **Chair: Melchior Wathelet** (State Secretary for Migration and Asylum Policy, Belgium)

*Questions:*

11.00-11.45 1) Is naturalisation a means to accelerate the integration process or a reward for having successfully reach its end?

11.45-12.30 2) Is facilitated access to citizenship a feasible way to attract and retain skilled migrants?

Anna Dalara (Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Security, Greece)  
Michel Aubouin (Director for Reception, Integration and Citizenship, Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Mutually Supportive Development, France)

Gloria de Pascual (Director, International Migration Programme, ILO)

Stefano Manservigi (Director General, Home Affairs DG, European Commission)

Xavier Prats Monné (Director for Employment, Lisbon Strategy and International Affairs, European Commission)

12.30-13.00 Closing remarks by John Martin (Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD)