



The Need for a Territorial Approach to Migrant Integration

The OECD launched the initiative “**The need for a territorial approach to migrant integration: the role of local authorities**” in partnership with the European Commission, to support local authorities’ efforts in receiving and integrating migrants and vulnerable migrant groups, including refugees.

“The local dimension is the core of both, the challenges and the solutions to address integration bottlenecks”
(Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2016).

This project will illustrate how local authorities identify, implement and assess sustainable local solutions for migrants’ integration through effective multilevel governance. In close dialogue with their citizens, civil society organisations and business, local authorities are the best placed to develop a favourable environment for integration, as they contribute to creating equal rights and opportunities in all areas of life: education, labour, housing, health, culture, etc. They are in charge of 40% of public spending and 60% of public investment on average in OECD countries. This study identifies good practices and lessons learned with regard mainstreaming integration into local development policies as well as co-ordination mechanisms with national or regional authorities.

This initiative **addresses local, national and supra-national decision-makers**, since it will identify the best incentives for the implementation of sustainable integration practices at the local level. A report, produced by end 2017, will distil evidence on migration integration at the territorial level through a two-pillar approach:

Pillar I: qualitative analysis of the governance mechanisms mobilised when integrating migration into local policy making, drawing best practices and lessons learned from nine European cities: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Paris, Rome, and Vienna, as well as examples from medium and small size cities (Altena, Germany). Each case study will share challenges and policy solutions to migrant, including vulnerable groups, providing evidence on multi-level governance mechanisms, identifying available funding and alignment with local needs as well as highlighting dialogue with citizens on integration issues and anchorage with local development priorities.

Pillar II: statistical analysis of migrant outcomes indicators and characteristics in regions and cities for a selection of OECD countries. Internationally comparable indicators of migrant outcomes and characteristics in regions and some metropolitan areas will be generated for a selection of OECD countries and linkages between migration and regional wellbeing indicators will be explored.

Migration is a local reality

- In 2016 a further 347,000 refugees and economic migrants arrived in Europe in addition to the over 1 million that had arrived in 2015, pressing on Europe’s external boundaries, particularly in Greece and Italy. According to the EASO, asylum applications increased by 90% over the course of the year 2015 in the EU28.
- Cities in OECD countries are usually the preferred destination of migrants. For instance, in 2016 50% of the population of the city of Vienna had a migrant background (City of Vienna Statistics).
- Through constructive dialogue with their citizens, entrepreneurs and NGOs operating in their areas, local authorities can promote comprehensive policy approaches to the integration of migrants, across all policy domains.

For more information and interest in participating in this project, please contact:

Regional Development Policy Division/CFE www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/migrantintegrationincities.htm
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What does the project offer and how?

A unique and optimal solution to address this complex issue does not exist. **A Checklist for migrant integration in cities** will be generated, based on the diagnosis of city policies cross-cutting questions for managing migrants and vulnerable migrants' integration and suggestions will be provided to address them. The checklist and examples of practices, once agreed to by the participating cities and partner institutions, will be disseminated through international organisations, national and subnational policy makers including towards the formulation of the Global Compacts on Migrants and on Refugees. The final report including the main results of the work will be discussed in November/ December 2017 and published in 2018.

The Preliminary Checklist features 12 Objectives for policymaking, gathered around 4 pillars

Block 1 Institutional and Financial Settings

Objective 1: Effectiveness of migrant integration policy through improved coordination across levels of government (multi-level governance) and implementation at the relevant scale.

Objective 2: Policy coherence in addressing multi-dimensional migrants needs at the local level.

Objective 3: Access to and effective use of financial resources that are adapted to local responsibilities for migrant integration.

Block 2 Time and Space keys for migrants and host communities to live together

Objective 4: Integration policies which takes *time* into account throughout migrant life and status evolution.

Objective 5: Engagement of local civil society to make *proximity* with migrants a reality.

Block 3 Capacity for policy formulation and implementation

Objective 6: Capacity and diversity of public service, particularly in key services receiving migrants and newcomers.

Objective 7: Cooperation with relevant stakeholders through transparent and effective contracts.

Objective 8: Assessment of integration results for migrants and benefits for host communities and their use in policy design.

Block 4 Sectoral policies related to migration

Objective 9: Matching of migrant talents with economic and jobs opportunities.

Objective 10: Access to adequate housing.

Objective 11: Social welfare measures aligned with migrant inclusion.

Objective 12: Education responses to address segregation and provide equitable path to professional growth.

Cities, rural communities, regions, national governments and international stakeholders, from OECD and elsewhere, are invited to share information and experiences regarding migrant integration and use the checklist tool

- Other cities interested in this subject are invited to contact and partner with the OECD to develop new specific OECD reviews of Migrant integration at the city level. The OECD will also accompany good practices implementation phases at the local level and through Dialogue among levels of government and multiple stakeholders.
- Regions can also engage in collaboration with the OECD in this matter especially to take into account the contribution of migration to regional development in rural areas and through appropriate rural-urban relationships.
- OECD reviews on multi-level governance of migrant reception and integration can also be proposed at the national level taking into account territorial disparities, needs and opportunities to implement appropriate incentives to adopt the OECD Check list of good practices and support policies coherence.

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