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

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 opportunitites, 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

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- ○ Croatian
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- ○ Other

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* Scope
- ○ International
- ○ Local
- ○ National
- ○ Regional

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

* Organisation size
- ○ Micro (1 to 9 employees)

- ○ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ○ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ○ Large (250 or more)

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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[                                                                    ]
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*Country of origin

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

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- Greece
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- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
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- Guernsey
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- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
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- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
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- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
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- Sudan
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- Cayman Islands
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- Chad
- Chile
- China
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- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
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- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
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* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

○ **Anonymous**

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

○ **Public**

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

☐ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions]

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?

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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

[   ]

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

[ ]

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

[ ]

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?

[ ]

If no, could you explain why not?

[ ]

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

*If other, please specify

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?

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	○	○	○	○	○
National authorities	○	○	○	○	○
Local authorities	○	○	○	○	○
Regional authorities	○	○	○	○	○
Authorities managing the EU funds in EU countries	○	○	○	○	○
Civil society organisations at local, national or European level	○	○	○	○	○

Employers' associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions	○	○	○	○	○
Migrants' organisations and diaspora	○	○	○	○	○
Local communities and volunteers	○	○	○	○	○
Employers and social enterprises	○	○	○	○	○
Charities and foundations	○	○	○	○	○
Education and training institutions and providers	○	○	○	○	○
Cultural and sport organisations	○	○	○	○	○
Public Employment Services	○	○	○	○	○
European institutions	○	○	○	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○

*If other, please specify

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

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

* If other, please specify

[   ]

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 parternships and social innovation between public, private and civil society organisations
- ☐ Supporting language learning and multilingual communication
- ☐ Other

* If other, please specify

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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

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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

[   ]

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

* If other, please specify

[   ]

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

* If other, please specify

[   ]

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

[   ]

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?

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?

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

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.

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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)?

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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?

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?

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?

If you wish to submit a more detailed contribution, please upload a document here.

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