



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

4th meeting of the European Migration Forum

Towards a more inclusive labour market for migrants: Seizing the potential by addressing the challenges

Brussels, 6-7 March 2018

Background & Main Objectives

The [European Migration Forum](#)¹, organised by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, is a platform for dialogue between civil society and European institutions on issues related to migration, asylum and the integration of third-country nationals. The aim of the Forum is to **enhance coordination and cooperation between key players involved in the multilevel European governance of migration**. It brings together European policy makers and civil society representatives to discuss and consult on key migration issues. The Forum aims to provide more information on the latest policy developments but also to gather information on how European policies are implemented at regional, local and grass-root levels; it should help to better understand the main challenges that civil society organisations and social partners face in the field and to identify ways to better support them in their efforts to address migrants' needs.

The 4th Forum meeting will take place on **6-7 March 2018 in Brussels**.

The **topic** of the 4th European Migration Forum was chosen following consultations with civil society representatives. Public consultations, both in the form of an event (held on the 3th of October) and via a written questionnaire, that were open to all organisations interested in the Forum, allowed organisations to give their input on the proposed topics. The contributions received seem to have converged towards the key issue of **Integrating Migrants in the Labour Market**. In a nutshell, the content of the meeting will include a discussion on obstacles and challenges to labour market integration for all migrants, as well as a reflection on solutions and good practices employed by civil society organisations, and local, regional and national level governments. Moreover, the event will also feature a session dedicated to discussing **access to EU funding**.

This call for expressions of interest aims to **select** for participation those organisations active in the field of migration whose expertise and contributions could bring an added value to the European debate on the topics mentioned above. A separate selection procedure is held for each meeting of the Forum.

Format of the event

As in previous years, the 4th meeting will be conducted using an interactive, **participatory approach**. The Forum will feature debates held in plenary, but the core of the event will consist of workshops, discussion islands and other opportunities to participate in the debate. This will maximize the opportunity for members of civil society organisations to interact with each other and with policy makers.

¹ The European Migration Forum employs a participatory approach, which entails the close involvement of civil society organisations in the preparation and organisation of meetings. Conclusions and summary reports from earlier meetings can be found under: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/sections-other-bodies/other/european-migration-forum/events>



While the organisers aim to provide participants with interpretation services in more languages, it is highly recommended that they have a good command of English or French.

Selection of participants

This call for expressions of interest is open to all civil society organisations that:

- are **legally based** in one of the EU Member States;
- **have experience** in the areas listed above, at EU/national/local level;
- are **able to raise awareness** of the issues mentioned above in their own constituency, national and European networks; and
- commit to actively **participate** in the meeting and contribute to the dissemination of the results of the Forum.

To apply, **please complete, no later than 11 December 2017, the application form on-line: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/european-migration-forum-4th-meeting/applications> including a scanned copy of the registration certificate of your organisation in your country.** Please note that late applications will not be considered.

The main selection criterion will consist of **proven relevance of the activities and expertise of the organisation to the topic of the meeting**. Moreover, the selection will be based on the need to ensure:

a) geographical balance

b) diversity of fields of expertise, activities and types of organisations.

A maximum of **120** organisations will be selected. Approximately 1/3 will be organisations active at EU level (umbrella organisations, EU networks, platforms, etc.) and 2/3 will be national, regional and local level organisations.

European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee are in charge of the selection procedure. The final list of participants will be approved by the Forum Bureau.

Once all applications have been reviewed, applicants will be notified accordingly in the week of 15 January 2018.

Next steps

After the selection procedure of the applications is completed, the selected organisations will receive an invitation to register for the event (including the programme and a link to the registration form).

***Please note that European Commission is in charge of organising the travel and accommodation arrangements for one representative per selected organisation, via its travel agent. The Commission will not be able to reimburse the costs of travel arrangements which were made directly by the participants.