



## EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum 25-27 March 2019, Glasgow WG Migration & Integration updates



### 1. Integrating Cities Conference - 7-8 November 2018, Milan

Migration is a fact in all of our cities, but how we react determines the rest. At the 8<sup>th</sup> Integrating Cities Conference, 180 delegates met in Milan to unlock the social and economic potential that migration holds. Politicians and representatives of cities and of the European Commission, as well as academia, NGOs and experts dealing with migration, used the two-day conference to put their heads together and find the most effective means to unite new and incumbent members of our communities. Read takeaways here: <http://bit.ly/2TQLAHi>  
The video from the conference is available online here: <http://bit.ly/2UPU58>.

### 2. WG migration and integration - 8-9 November, Milan

The WG met in Milan on 8-9 November, back to back with the Integrating Cities Conference. The meeting kickstarted with site visits for members, more than 45 city representatives. The first, focusing on labour market integration, brought the members to the Centre for Job Orientation and Placement (CELAV) of Milan, whose goal is to promote professional and socio-economic integration of migrants. The second group visited two reception centres to capture the Italian national model of CAS-Centres for Extraordinary Reception (first level of reception of asylum seekers) and SPRAR-Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (second level of reception focused on inclusion). The group discussed how these good practices could be transferred to other cities. Three cities, Gdansk, Leipzig and Thessaloniki received suggestions on how to develop action plans for better economic integration of migrants in their cities. Read the report here: <http://bit.ly/2ukZF0i> You can also watch a video from the study visit here: <http://bit.ly/2TI0X5z>

### 3. New EURO CITIES report: Cities and Migrants - 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

The Integrating Cities Report is a monitoring report published regularly by EURO CITIES. It is an assessment of cities' policies and practices on migrants' integration, with a complement of practices on four areas: cities as policy-makers; cities as service providers; cities as employers, and cities as buyers of goods and services.

The Cities and Migrants 3 report is based on the contributions of 22 signatory cities of the Integrating Cities Charter. The Charter sets out cities' commitments on the integration of migrants to provide equal opportunities and promote diversity. This 3<sup>rd</sup> edition highlights new trends on integration in major European cities with a special focus on developments following the refugee situation from 2015. Read the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2WeYDz0>

#### Urban partnership on integration of migrants and refugees

The European Commission in collaboration with EURO CITIES is organising the 2nd edition of the Urban Academy on the Integration of Migrants and Refugees. This will take place in Antwerp on 21-22 May. This year, the two themes of the Academy are **integration into the labour market** and **housing for migrant inclusion**. You can apply until **1 April** to present a case study from your city on which you would like to receive feedback during the academy. More info [here](#)

### 4. Action Plan on refugee labour market integration by OECD and UNHCR

On 15 October, the Action Plan 'Engaging with Employers in the Hiring of Refugees' was launched by the UNHCR, the OECD and the French Inter-ministerial Delegation for Reception and Integration of Refugees (DiAir). The Action Plan is composed of ten action areas identified as key to supporting the successful labour market integration of refugees. For each action area, the support that governments, civil society, employers and refugees can provide is highlighted. Read more [here](#).

## 5. Adoption of the UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees

On 10 December, following a two-year negotiation process, the [UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#) was adopted at UN Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech. The Compact puts forward 23 objectives that focus on the human rights of migrants. On 17 December, the UN General Assembly adopted the [UN Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#). Both Compacts outline the need to engage local authorities in national and international contexts given their key implementing role.

## 6. EP vote on AMIF 2021-2027

On 13 March, the European Parliament adopted its [report](#) on the Commission's proposal on the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for 2021-2027. The approved amendments are very favourable to cities. They provide for:

- mandatory partnership principle: local authorities will be consulted on national operational programmes
- a minimum of 5% (€200 million) of the thematic facility to be allocated to local and regional authorities
- emergency assistance funding will be accessible directly by local governments
- a new objective to ensure solidarity and fair responsibility sharing between member states
- a separate objective for the effective integration and social inclusion of migrants
- 10% of the thematic facility for integration

The Council is negotiating its position. Inter-institutional debate will start after EP elections.

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### WG priorities for 2019-2020:

1. Socio-economic integration of young migrants
2. Counselling and outreaching strategies for sustainable and dignified voluntary return of irregular migrants
3. Continuation of work on irregular migrants
4. Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering
5. Work on policy inputs for the new Commission on integration from local level
6. Working on a counter narrative on contribution of refugees and migrants
7. Foster the link with other levels of government
8. Intra-EU mobility of EU citizens with focus on the European elections
9. Work on transatlantic cooperation: continuation of dialogue with the city of New York and implementation of the Global Compact at local level

### Upcoming meetings and activities:

- **WG meeting in Toulouse, 8-10 April**  
After the official welcome by the Mayor of Toulouse, two parallel workshops on city policies for integration of children and young migrants will be organised. The meeting will also include visits of city services and projects for the socio-economic integration of young migrants. Wednesday 10 discussions will focus on how to build a guideline for city policies in the integration of young migrants.



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