

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME ON INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION (EPIM 2008-2011)

Introduction

Migrants' integration is critical for the future of Europe. Mindful of this, various European foundations have joined forces to foster civil society initiatives in this field. Since 2005, the European Programme on Integration and Migration, EPIM, has been actively working to strengthen the role played by NGOs active on migration and integration issues in advocating for a European agenda that benefits migrants and host communities. Already in its second phase, today EPIM is comprised of 12 European foundations who are investing approximately 3 million euro in various grants for up to three years to deal with issues of integration of migrants in Europe.

EPIM is an initiative of NEF, the Network of European Foundations and a joint venture of: The Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland), Barrow-Cadbury Trust (United Kingdom), Compagnia di San Paolo (Italy), European Cultural Foundation (Netherlands), Fondation Bernheim (Belgium), Freudenberg Stiftung (Germany), Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Portugal), Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (chariting foundation - United Kingdom), King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium), Oak Foundation (United Kingdom), Robert Bosch Stiftung (Germany), Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (United Kingdom).

Following the successful first phase of the programme (2005-2007), and building on the lessons learned, the second phase of EPIM (2008-2011) takes a broader perspective on the issue of integration and advocacy than previously. The awarding of grants is made according to specific criteria, with priority given to those projects which give close consideration to identified themes which are the consideration of undocumented migrants, listening to the voice of immigrants themselves, and recognising the role of the media to promote integration.

The NGO Partner Organisations include: Association Primo Levi (France), Institute for Race Relations (United Kingdom), Immigrant Council of Ireland (Ireland), European Network Against Racism (Belgium-EU), Greek Council for Refugees (Greece), Jesuit Refugee Service (Belgium-EU), Médecins du Monde (France-EU), COSPE-Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries (Italy), Legal Information Center For Human Rights (Estonia), Migreurop (France-EU), European Women Lobby (Belgium-EU), People in Need (Czech Republic-EU), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (Belgium-EU), Stichting Nidos (Netherlands), and the Migrants Resource Centre (United Kingdom).

Rationale

Identified as a major policy challenge for EU Member States, integration of migrants is one of the growing areas of interest for the EU. In spite of the increasing focus by governments on the importance of economic migration, linked directly to labour shortages and demographic trends in Europe, there is increasing evidence of xenophobia and racism in our societies. The European context is marked by a serious backlash in attitudes against immigration and a tendency by politicians to foster the 'fortress Europe' by multiplying legal obstacles for migration.

Europe, with its diverse and declining population, is undergoing fundamental changes as it positions itself in a globalised world. Keeping European societies open and inclusive is a formidable challenge requiring creative responses from engaged citizens.

Given reigning feelings of uncertainty, fear and insecurity in our societies, it is essential to combat these attitudes which act as hindrance to effective integration and invest in creating a positive discourse of integration and the opportunities represented by migrants for the future of Europe.

European Citizens' Consultations (ECC), a NEF programme providing citizens with an opportunity to shape the future of the EU agenda through participative panels, revealed that over 1800 citizens from 27 Member states consider the question of the integration of migrants as one of the top three concerns for the European Union.

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These same panels revealed widespread support for a pan-European response to immigration and integration issues, and for the EU to make greater use of tools such as development aid to tackle the root causes of migration.

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, the EU programme on “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows”, and several other initiatives such as the Integration Forum demonstrate that migration and integration attract the attention of the European Institutions. Nevertheless, there still exists a gap between intentions and effective support to constructive initiatives in migrants’ integration. This is where foundations can play a role, and EPIM will complement existing European Funds by focusing on a broad range of integration-related issues and by adopting a broad definition of ‘migrants’, including legally residing and undocumented migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

EPIM Mission and Strands of Activity

Within this European context, EPIM’s mission and main objective are based on two building blocks:

- To open up debate and encourage a broader commitment to the development of constructive integration policies at the EU level and to promote effective linkages between these policies and those of Member States at both the national, regional and local levels; and
- To engage the widest possible range of stakeholders in this process with a view also to embedding constructive integration policies and practices in other social and economic programmes.

As was the case in its first phase, EPIM will continue to reference the Common Basic Principles on Integration (CBPs)¹ as benchmarks guiding its grant making programme (although it will not be limited to the scope of the CBPs alone).

MISSION STATEMENT

EPIM seeks to improve the lives of regular and undocumented migrants through a three year grants programme. Funded organisations and projects strive to impact on constructive migration and integration policies nationally and locally, and inform policy at the European level.

EPIM STRANDS OF ACTIVITY:

As was the case in its first phase, EPIM will continue to refer to the Common Basic Principles on Integration (CBPs) as benchmarks guiding its grant making programme. Overall EPIM follows a Human Rights based approach to migrants’ integration.

1– Strategic grant making in 3 priority areas:

- Access to fundamental rights, services and justice for **undocumented migrants** because they represent one of the most vulnerable groups of migrants.
- Mainstreaming of **migrants’ voices** to involve them in developing and implementing policy as active participants in the governance process and/or public life and/or public realm.
- Strategic use of the **media** and communications to encourage integration. This area is twofold: work on the representation of the migrants in the media and participation of the migrants in the media (e.g. content produced by migrants). The overarching aim is to recognize the role of media in our societies with regard to portraying diversity issues, to fight discrimination in order to foster an environment in the host societies that facilitates integration.

2– Networking and capacity building of civil society organisations working in the migration and integration field.

¹ Adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council of November 2004 to underpin a European framework of integration of third country nationals and further developed in the EU Commission Communication on a “Common Agenda for Integration”.

3– Support advocacy and policy work of the grantees to influence public policy at the European level and in Member States so that the integration of migrants is better placed on the political agenda across Europe and a broader approach to migration and integration issues is upheld.

About EPIM first phase (2005-2007): facts and figures

As part of the first phase, 5 consultations were held in different countries during 2006 and early 2007. The first EPIM consultations were held in Portugal and Belgium on the themes of “European Union and Immigration” and “School success and integration of young migrants”. Other EPIM national consultations took place in the UK, Ireland, and in Germany for a joint Franco-German consultation. The total budget allocated for EPIM first phase (grants scheme and consultations programme) was 610.000 Euros.

The EPIM grants scheme was launched in March 2006. An independent Jury of experts reviewed the applications and selected six European-level and five national level grantees. A grantees’ workshop was organised in December 2006, followed by a concluding roundtable with policy makers on June 12th 2007 on the theme « towards a Common European Framework for Migration and Integration Policies: perspectives from European institutions and civil society organisations ». All 11 grantees produced a report and EPIM synthesised their recommendations into a final report («EPIM I Synthesis Report of the First Phase 2005 -2007» available on the EPIM website). Building on this report, and on the findings of a mapping exercise on the funding needs of European Civil Society Organisations in the field of immigrants’ integration, EPIM identified the areas of intervention for its second phase.

EPIM second phase (2008-2011):

1. Grants Programme

PRIORITY AREAS

EPIM strategic grant making focuses on the three following priority areas:

- Access to fundamental rights, services and justice for undocumented migrants;
- The involvement of the migrant’s voice in developing and implementing policy; and the role of the host community in encouraging and supporting integration;
- Strategic use of the media and communications to encourage integration.

Seven out of the fifteen projects selected by an independent jury focus on the first priority of defending the rights of **undocumented migrants** living in the EU. The importance of regulating migration is generally acknowledged – as is evident in the efforts of the EU and member states to reduce illegal migration as much as possible. However, the fact that so many undocumented migrants are currently residing and working in the EU cannot be denied. At present, limited attention is paid to problems of undocumented migrants, whether in policy instruments such as the Common Basic Principles on Integration or on the part of public funding mechanisms. So, the EPIM foundations have invited NGOs to explore policies and sustainable practices to ensure the effective protection of the undocumented migrants’ human rights.

The selected projects² in this strand include:

- the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) which seeks to strengthen the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants in Europe;
- the European Borders Observatory of Migreurop which will contribute to protect the rights of migrants at the EU borders;

² For more information about actual projects please refer to our website

- the Averroes Network of Médecins du Monde which aims at improving access to health care for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants;
- the Advocacy Network for People on Destitution (ANDES of the Jesuit Refugee Services – JRS Europe) which will highlight the situation of destitute forced migrants ;
- a project to tackle the specific problems of minors unaccompanied asylum seekers (Stichting Nidos, Netherlands);
- together with a national project in Greece (Greek Refugee Council) aiming to set up integration services for failed asylum seekers in Greece who consequently became undocumented;
- and another project in France (Association Primo Levi for the victims of torture) which intends to improve the care and assistance provided in France to undocumented migrants suffering from the effects of torture.

A second priority for the programme is the need to hear **the voices of immigrants themselves** in the debate on immigrant integration, and in the development of appropriate policies. While in some member states mechanisms for consulting with immigrant organisations are already in place, at European level the voice of immigrants is not heard. The foundations in EPIM want to enable organisations to involve immigrants as principal agents in the debates and policy development.

The five projects that deal with the promotion of immigrant voices include:

- an approach from Practice to Policy brought about by the European Network Against Racism (ENAR),
- the support to the “Alternative voices on integration” promoted by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR),
- the involvement of parents in education for integration (Immigrant Council of Ireland - ICI),
- the attention to women’s “equal voices” as stressed by the European Women’s Lobby (EWL),
- and a project to consider the views of the new migrants in Estonia (Legal Information Centre for Human Rights - LICHR).

The third priority area is the **media’s** role in immigrant integration which is recognised by the EPIM foundations as a crucial area in the field. Better representation in the media – addressing both the challenges and the opportunities connected with the presence of immigrants in the EU - would contribute considerably for a well-informed and constructive exchange of public opinion. It would also facilitate broader support for integration policies which are in everyone’s interest. As such, organisations were invited to develop projects engaging with different parts of the media.

Three out of the fifteen EPIM projects aim to ensure a balanced representation of immigrants in the media:

- People in Need (PIN - in the Czech Republic), and
- Migrant Resource Centre (MRC - in the UK), they both train media spokespersons from immigrant communities and help these communities developing media strategies, and
- Co-operation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE, Italy) which aims at creating an association of media professionals with ethnic minority background.

PARTNERSHIP

To be selected, applicants to EPIM grants have demonstrated that they meet the following partnership criteria:

- Organisations/projects working primarily at the European level must demonstrate that they will consult with and disseminate to organisations working at national level;

or

- Organisations/projects working primarily at the national level must demonstrate that they have and will strengthen links with similar groups in other member states; and/or that they are seeking to advocate effectively either independently or in conjunction with others across the EU or at the European Union level.

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GRANTS TIMELINE

Sept - December 2008	Grants' beginning
24-25 September 2008	First gathering of all grantees
10-11 June 2009	Second Workshop
23-24 September 2009	Third Workshop
16-17 March 2010	Fourth Workshop
Early 2010	Short grants conclude
March 2010	Second round of short grants (if funding allows)
22/23 September 2010	Fifth Workshop
8-9 November 2011	Final PR event (end of long term grants) with Policy Makers
Autumn 2011	Grants' conclusion
End 2011/January 2012	Final review and evaluation report

2. Capacity building

It is very important to EPIM that the organisations it supports have the appropriate skills to produce the best outcome for their projects. As part of the grants scheme, a capacity-building programme for EPIM grantees has been initiated and will be further refined according to grantees' needs. The approach is to have tailored organisational support. The launching of the capacity building strand took place at the end of September 2008, when the representatives of the 15 new projects, which will be supported during the upcoming 3 years through EPIM, met for a first capacity building workshop in Brussels.

Indeed, by dedicating a variable portion of the grant to support the core costs of each organisation, EPIM is already committing to build grantees' organisational capacity. On top of this, an additional capacity building programme will target the grantees capacity building needs.

As grant makers supporting a wide variety of NGOs, the members of EPIM often hear grantees commenting that they can't afford to travel, to learn new techniques or to explore different approaches. In order to address this, a set of collective thematic workshops curtailed on the grantees' needs has been offered to them. These workshops represent an opportunity for grantees to exchange on issues and develop joint strategies.

<u>Workshop Theme</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Advocacy	10/11 June 2009
Partnership, networking and cooperation at EU level	23/24 September 2009
Communication strategies with the media	16/17 March 2010 (end of short term grants)
Evaluation and Impact assessment of public campaigns and advocacy	22/23 September 2010
Final PR event with Policy makers	8/9 November 2011 (end of long term grants)

Furthermore, support to Joint Learning initiatives (such as NGO visits or exchanges, coaching, training or consultancy for groups of grantees in a specific area) seeks to provide an opportunity to develop knowledge and

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skills within and between the grantee organisations. Grantees have been invited to work together to develop and implement proposals for joint learning. Ultimately, this will lead to a strengthening not only of the projects, but also of the grantee organisations.

Joint Learning Theme

Fundraising skills

Media policies and practices for the promotion of diversity

Power Analysis, Peer Review and Toolkits methodologies

Participant Organisations

Migreurop, APL, ICI, LICHR

COSPE and PIN

ENAR, EWL, JRS, GRC, MRC, PICUM

In parallel, EPIM has already scheduled for all grantees:

- A regular Policy Update on the Integration and Migration fields at the EU level and EU agenda prepared by, EPC (European Policy Centre) a Brussels based think tank.
- A joint Newsletter on Integration/Migration Policy issues between EPIM and the Diversity Migration and Integration Interest Group (DMIIG) of the European Foundations Centre (EFC).
- Development of the EPIM system wide learning process through the set up of EPIM repository and knowledge sharing tools such as the website and the extranet.

3. Evaluation

A specific evaluation plan has been designed for the EPIM programme. Evaluation combines internal and external methodology: an external team of experts is working in conjunction with the EPIM Programme Manager and the Evaluation Committee. Evaluation will be formative, focusing on a mutual real time strategic learning process, and summative. It will also be conducted at three levels: the grantees level, the partnership one, and the overall impact of the programme.

Each project will be self-evaluated. The evaluation criteria focus on measuring the impact of the specific project but it should also show links to the broader objectives of EPIM by demonstrating specific contributions made to the wider framework.

4. EPIM Policy Work

EPIM policy work consists of supporting the grantees in their advocacy work through grant giving, capacity building and networking facilitation. EPIM as a consortium of foundations aims at sustaining a group of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in the migration and integration field. Therefore, EPIM's added value lies on enhancing the advocacy efforts of the grantees which stem from their evidence based approach.

Being a consortium of foundations EPIM's strengths are:

- The independent financial means and long term commitment to causes
- The recognized experience in supporting innovative advocacy techniques
- The diversity of the national backgrounds represented
- The capacity to create connections at the European level (convening role)
- The respectability of the foundations

EPIM can:

- Echo the voice of European NGOs and established networks at the EU level on salient migration and integration issues
- Reinforce the messages coming from the civil society

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- Build its policy legitimacy on lessons learnt through the grantees' practice
- Take advantage of the specialisation and of the networks of the grantees in their fields
- Facilitate the creation of synergies to strengthen their advocacy strategies at the national or European level