



**Partnership:** NEF is convinced that complex problems in the social arena can be solved more efficiently if projects are structured around a partnership. This principle guides EPIM in its relationships with grantees and partners.



Denise Charlton (ICI, Ireland, on the left) & Nazek Ramadan (MRC, UK) First EPIM Grantees Workshop, September 2008.

### Why EPIM ? The European context

The question of how best to integrate migrants is a central policy challenge faced by most countries in Europe, and is also high on the agenda of the EU.

Thousands of NGOs are also putting all their resources on the line to make immigrant integration work on a daily basis. These organisations are very close to the reality of immigrants and the host society, and are doing crucial work in preventing and easing tensions, signalling new problems and tendencies, and giving input for possible policy responses.

'EPIM' is the European Programme for Integration and Migration, initiated in 2005 by a group of foundations from different European countries. It aims to support NGOs and strengthen their role in advocating for policies that benefit both migrants and host communities.

Immigrant integration primarily takes place at the local level. All countries in Europe are however facing more or less similar challenges, and therefore EPIM strongly believes in the benefit of European policies and European cooperation in this regard. Funding is made available for organisations working at the European level, but equally for national NGOs wanting to engage in cooperation beyond the national borders.

### EPIM Mission

EPIM seeks to improve the lives of **regular** and **undocumented migrants**. EPIM intends to fund a range of initiatives within the areas of **integration**.

EPIM's main objectives are based on two building blocks:

- To open up debate and encourage 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 society in this process with a view also to embedding constructive integration policies and practices in other social and economic programmes.

### EPIM Strands of Activity

1– Strategic grant making in 3 priority areas:

- mainstreaming of migrants' voices,
- work with undocumented migrants, and
- with the media

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

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

*"Data and research is necessary and a lot is still missing. There is not enough focus to integrate organizations working with migrants and undocumented migrants in research.*

*There is a gap between the research at high level such as in universities and think tanks and the experience of migrant organizations on the ground. If the knowledge was channeled up it would affect EU policy at the level of integration through the employment market and looking at integrating workers in the labour market as many become undocumented whilst in employment for instance."*

*(Michelle Le Voy - PICUM, Belgium)  
EPIM grantee– first phase*



Network of European Foundations

EPIM is hosted by the  
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EPIM Second Phase (2008-2011), First Grantees Workshop, September 2008.

### About EPIM—first phase—facts and figures

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. 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 website). Budget spent for EPIM— first phase: 610.000 euros.

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 ».

As part of the first phase consultations were held in several 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.

### EPIM Partner Foundations

EPIM joint venture is composed of: The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, Compagnia di San Paolo, European Cultural Foundation, Freudenberg Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Foundation Bernheim, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Oak Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and King Baudouin Foundation.

### Joining EPIM

Participating in EPIM enables foundations to increase their effectiveness:

- by addressing integration needs of immigrants which are multi-dimensional and multi-layered;
- by tackling the European dimension of migration and integration issues;
- by sharing information on European policies and advocacy hooks among partners;
- by bridging gaps in services and provision that no one single organisation could fill;
- by empowering stakeholders and building strategic and operative capacity;
- by stimulating peer learning through sharing of expertise and experience;
- by promoting understanding of different organisational cultures and objectives.

EPIM constitutes also an opportunity to build cooperation between foundations active in this field and to give much greater European-wide visibility to their contribution.

Within the second phase of EPIM partner foundations yearly contributions vary between 25.000 and 200.000 EUR for a total budget of more than 3.000.000 EUR.

Opportunities to collaborate: EPIM remains an ongoing process inviting other funders to join the Steering Committee.

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