



CONFERENCE

Integration as a Two-Way Process in the EU?

Enhancing EU support to a process of mutual
accommodation between Migrants and the
Receiving Society with the EIF

6th July 2011
Jointly organized with the
European Economic and Social Committee and the
Committee of the Regions



PRESENTATION

Since 2002, the European Union has progressively developed a common policy on the integration of third country nationals, known as the 'EU Framework on integration'. Among its substantive components are:

The Common Basic Principles on Immigrants' Integration (CBPs), which intend to provide a European guide towards a common understanding of integration at EU level. The first CBP, designed to underpin and inspire the 11 other CBPs, defines integration as a "*dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States*". This represents a fundamental feature of the EU's policy approach to integration and one of its defining elements.

The European Integration Fund (EIF), a financial tool of €813 million for the period 2007-2013, which aims at supporting Member States' actions designed to put the CBPs into practice.

The EU is today at a crossroad for evaluating its input in national migrant integration strategies: it is currently defining the agenda for the second phase of its European Framework on Integration and it is also reviewing the overall EU budget and next post-2013 Multi-Annual Financial Framework in domains related to migration. The nature and impact of the allocation of the EIF provide evidence of the extent to which the two-way process, underpinning the EU Framework on integration has been implemented on the ground, or whether other processes have received priority.

This conference will examine the added value of the EU Framework on Integration by assessing the extent to which the EIF has so far served to support and develop national actions, programmes and projects putting into practice the European understanding of integration as a two-way process (CBP1). A report by S. Carrera and A. Faure Atger (CEPS) advocating for an improved use and oversight of European funding for the development of integration policies and activities in Member states will be presented. The report is informed by an understanding of a two-way approach to integration based on a partnership with civil society and migrant organisations, social partners, local and regional authorities (LRAs) as well as foundations in integration processes.

This event will contribute to identifying possible improvements in the current configurations and usage of the EIF and proposing activities for putting into practice a European approach of integration as a two-way process of mutual accommodation understood as a *multi-dimensional and multi-actor-network process of participation, interaction and understanding encompassing societies as a whole.*

08.30 – 9.00 REGISTRATION**9.00 – 10.30 THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FUND AND THE COMMON BASIC PRINCIPLES**

- **Welcome and Chair:** Sergio Carrera (CEPS)
- Anna Maria Darmanin (EESC), *The role of civil society and of the European Economic and Social Committee in integration*
- Anaïs Faure Atger (CEPS), *An assessment of the relationship between the EIF and the CBP*
- **Discussants:** Amandine Bach (EWL), Anne Bathily (ECRE), Ana Feder (Eurocities), (ENAR representative) and (Erlai member)

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break**10.45 – 12.15 THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FUND AND OF THE EU FRAMEWORK ON INTEGRATION**

- **Chair:** Debora Guidetti (NEF)
- Gerhard Stahl (CoR), *Funding integration at the local and regional level*
- Stefano Signore, (European Commission), *The future of funding for integration*
- Thomas Huddleston (Migration Policy Group) *EU incentives & support for national policies: added value and missing links*
- Sergio Carrera (CEPS), *Ways forward for the EU Framework on integration: policy and financial considerations*

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

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Date: 6th July 2011

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee, Room VM 3

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