



European Regional and Local Authorities
for the Integration of Migrants

EU Policy and Funding
for the Integration of Migrants
-
Conference II

13 - 14 March, 2008

[Info - Details](#)

Regione Emilia-Romagna
EU Liaison Office, Avenue de L'Yser 19, Brussels



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The ERLAIM Project

Supported by the INTI Preparatory Actions Programme 2005, the ERLAIM project aims to improve the design and implementation of regional and local integration strategies for third-country nationals.

Objectives of the Event

Emilia-Romagna, the Lead Partner, is hosting a two-day conference with the following objectives:

- I. To describe the preliminary results of the project
- II. To provide in-depth information to local and regional practitioners on current and future EU policy on immigration;
- III. To explore EU funding tools for the integration of migrants;
- IV. To network and discuss potential projects and partnerships with other representatives of regions from across the EU.

The event is divided into four parts, in-line with the above objectives. After each presentation there will be time for questions and answers and there will also be opportunities for discussion amongst participants and the speakers. In addition, participants are warmly invited to share their experiences with the audience. For more information, please see below for a description of each part of the conference.

I - The ERLAIM Project

A report on the current status of the project will be followed by a presentation of the preliminary results from the survey carried out by experts from the Universities of Bologna and Trento, in collaboration with the ERLAIM partners. This will provide an overview of the legislative framework in Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and the UK, in addition to information on local practices on civic participation and political rights, children, public-private partnerships, intercultural communication and the gender perspective.

This session also includes a practical example from the Berlin Senate of a potential evaluation methodology for the results of integration projects. The Berlin Senate distributes its own regional funding to local integration projects (managed by NGOs) and helps in distributing EU/national funds to local NGOs (European Refugee Fund) by rating the value of proposed projects.

The subsequent discussion amongst participants and speakers will be an interesting opportunity to exchange ideas on effective methods of evaluating integration projects.



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II - European Policy for Integration

This session will provide information on EU immigration policy, with speakers from the European Commission and the Council. In addition the Migration Policy Group will present information on the European Integration Website, which was developed in partnership with Unisys, Social Change Online and EUROCITIES. The aim of the website is to help improve the effectiveness of integration practitioners in the European Union by sharing successful strategies and supporting collaboration and cooperation.

III - Funding Opportunities

This section of the conference offers the opportunity to learn about the EU funding programmes that could support the integration of migrants, with the focus varying from women and children's protection to youth inclusion.

The objectives, priorities for 2007 and 2008, funding conditions and award criteria of the EU's Integration Fund will also be presented. Given that under the new Integration Fund, grants will be largely distributed by national agencies in each Member State, the aim here is to compare and identify good practices in distributing the funding. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in discussions, particularly to determine the extent to which it is felt that local/regional authorities are consulted in the process of distributing the Integration Fund.

IV - Networking

Here participants are invited to present their project ideas and search for potential partners. Project presentations should be sent to the conference organisers by 22nd February in order to be included for discussion on the day in one of the Working Groups -

1. Civic Participation and Political Rights
2. Children
3. Public-Private Partnership
4. Intercultural Communication
5. Gender Perspective
6. Other (to be confirmed)

The Working Group will be an opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions among workshop participants.



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Participants

The conference is aimed at policy-makers and practitioners who are concerned with the integration of migrants, for example representatives of local and regional authorities, associations and NGOs. Regional Representations are also invited to attend. All ERLAIM project partners will be present and available to answer any questions you may have.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to stakeholders whom you feel might be interested in attending the conference.

Practical information

Attendance at the conference is free of charge however participants must meet their own travel and accommodation expenses.

The working language will be English.

Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are interested in attending this conference, please reply as soon as possible, by completing the registration form before 15th February 2008.