

Promoting Migrant Integration for a Powerful, Diverse and Multicultural Europe



Thursday 14th September 2017

**Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels**



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Overview

International migration and globalisation have influenced the public policy agenda across Europe over recent decades. According to the 2016 Eurostat statistics, 20.7 million people with non-EU citizenship are residing in the European Union. Additionally, 16 million EU citizens live outside their country of origin in a different Member State. Migration movements are on the rise both within and from outside the European Union.

Migrants actively contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of European societies. The key to ensuring the best possible outcomes for both the migrants and the European Union is their successful integration into host countries. With a mandate to promote integration, the EU has put several measures in place. The most recent initiative is the Integration Action Plan, adopted in June 2016, designed to support the integration of third country nationals and providing a comprehensive framework to support the Member States in developing and strengthening their integration policies. The plan covers all areas relevant to integration, such as education and employment, access to social services, and active participation in the host societies. With the creation of a European Integration Network, the Integration Action Plan also aims to strengthen mutual learning among the Member States and the coordination between different actors at national, regional and local level.

Despite these efforts, integration is still widely perceived as a one-way process to be shouldered by the migrants, overlooking the responsibilities of the host societies. As long as migrants continue to be viewed as “threat” to Europe, the focus will remain economic rather than cultural and humane. If the cultural benefits and the enrichment that migrants bring to the host society remain undervalued, it will be challenging to ensure equal opportunities for migrants in Europe and to promote powerful, diverse, and multicultural societies. On a practical level, the recognition of foreign diplomas and certificates remains difficult, whilst discrimination and racism are widespread throughout the job market as well as across society.

This timely international symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss the current challenges of migration and integration in Europe and to reignite the debate over an EU-wide strategy to improve integration policies across the Member States. The symposium offers a platform for discussion on an improved European regulatory framework, supports the exchange of ideas and encourages delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate, whilst sharing best practices and lessons learnt.

“ To exclude groups of people because of their faith, this isn't worthy of the Free State in which we live. It isn't compatible with our essential values. And its humanly reprehensible, xenophobia, racism, extremism have no place here. We are fighting to ensure that they don't have a place elsewhere either.”

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany

January 2015

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the EU framework for migration and integration
- ✓ Explore solutions for better integration of migrants at the EU, national and local levels
- ✓ Consider ways to challenge the existing terminology addressing migrants
- ✓ Discuss migrants' access to education and job market in the host country
- ✓ Share best practice on ways to raise awareness about racism and discrimination in Europe
- ✓ Explore possibilities for increasing cooperation between governments, local authorities and NGOs to promote social cohesion and diversity
- ✓ Learn from successful interventions and projects
- ✓ Build strong partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the public and private sector

Who Should Attend?

- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Immigration Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Lawyers
- Campaigning Organisations
- Private Sectors Employers
- Public Sector Employers
- Central Government Departments and Bodies
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizens' Advice
- EU Officials
- Children and Youth Services
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Local, Regional and National Authorities
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- School Authorities and Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Workers and Employers Confederations
- Migration Organisations
- Faith Groups
- NGOs
- Academics and Researchers
- Third Sector Representatives
- HR Professionals
- Counseling Services
- Employment Agencies
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Professionals

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Understanding the EU Framework for Migrant Integration**
- Assessing the EU Integration Action Plan
 - Current Challenges and Recent Developments in the EU Immigration Policy
 - Measuring Integration – Introducing the MIPEX Project
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Debunking Myths and Challenging the Perception of Migrants in Europe**
- Shifting Perspectives: Celebrating Diversity rather than Focussing on Economic Benefits
 - Challenging the Terminology: How Terms like "Expats", "Refugees", and "Economic Migrants" Influence our Perception
 - The Role of the Media in Framing the Migration Debate
 - Actions to Combat Racism, Discrimination, and Xenophobia in Europe
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Facilitating Access to Education and Labour Market in Host Countries**
- Understanding the Key Role of Education in Developing Inclusive Societies
 - Facilitating the Recognition of Qualifications and Skills of Migrants: Fostering Accessible and Transparent Procedures
 - Vocational Training as Key for Integration
 - Enabling Equal Access to the Labour Market for Migrants
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Best Practice of Migrant Integration at Local Level**
- Improving Partnerships Between Local Authorities and Civil Society
 - Assessing the Role of the Host Community for Successful Integration
 - Brussels as an Example for an Intercultural and Diverse City
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

Date: Thursday 14th September 2017
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

Antoine Savary, Deputy Head of Unit, DG HOME, European Commission

Birgit Allerstorfer, Head of Department - Regional Competence Centers of Integration and Diversity - Process Facilitation on the Regional and Communal Level, Caritas for People in Need in Upper Austria

Forthcoming Events

Eliminating Energy Poverty Across Europe: Monitoring Progress for an Inclusive Energy Union
5th September 2017

Cross-border Healthcare in Europe: Promoting Patients' Rights and Boosting Cooperation
12th September 2017

Boosting the Electric Vehicle Market in Europe: Plugging the Sustainability Gap
19th September 2017

Rethinking the Urban Environment: The EU Transition Towards Smart Cities
28th September 2017

Updating the European Cyber Security Strategy: Partnerships for Prevention and Preparedness
3rd October 2017


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