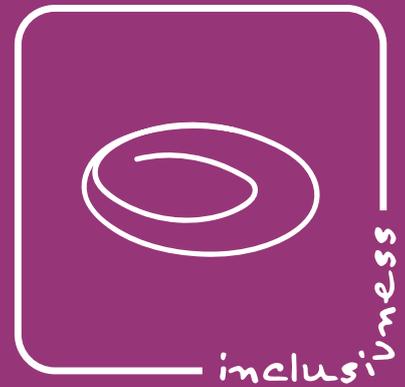




European Committee  
of the Regions



# Empowering regions and cities in migrant integration governance



28 March 2023

Programme



BRUSSELS INTERDISCIPLINARY  
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR  
MIGRATION & MINORITIES

## Conference

### Multilevel governance and migrant integration – How to foster effective cooperation and coordination among different levels of government?

Session co-organized with Eurac Research & Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM).

*Migrant integration is an increasingly important policy area for governments, but not for state governments alone. Integration is a typical case of multi-level governance. Local, regional, state, EU and international levels all have responsibilities. Moreover, immigrant integration is a cross-sectoral policy field. It is not just the task of the ministers formally responsible for immigration and immigrant integration, but also for those departments responsible for education, employment, social protection, housing and more. Whilst former and current humanitarian crises have shown the need for cooperation, we know relatively little on how coordination on immigrant integration actually works and which coordination is more efficient.*

#### *Questions to be addressed*

*How do governments cooperate across policy levels and across policy sectors? Does this cooperation run smoothly or sometimes conflictual?*

*What are the conditions for fruitful interactions?*

*Do governments cooperate regularly via institutionalized platforms, or is cooperation absent or informal?*

*And can EU actors like the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions foster effective interactions?*

10:00 - 10:20

#### Welcoming Remarks

**Christian Gsodam**, Head of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

**Assembly of European Regions (AER)**

**Suzanne Monkassa**, first Secretary General of the former European Migrants Forum

10:20 - 11:30

#### 1st debate: Intergovernmental relations on immigrant integration – Why to cooperate and how?

Moderator: **Omar Ba**, Bindusworks

**Ilke Adam**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities

**Verena Wisthaler**, Eurac Research, Institute for Minority Rights & Migrations&Diversities Research Group

**Tiziana Caponio**, Collegio Carlo Alberto & University of Turin

**Luca Barani**, Policy officer, Legal Pathways and Integration Unit Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), European Commission

#### *Questions to be addressed*

11:30 - 11:45

#### Coffee break

11:45 - 13:00

#### 2nd debate: Collaboration or Conflict? Sharing best practices and experiences from regions and cities

This session will focus on the lessons learned from concrete and successful forms of horizontal and vertical forms of coordination on migrant integration.

Chair: **Antje Grotheer** (DE/PES), Vice-President of Bremen State Parliament, Member of the CoR  
**Luca Critelli** (ITA), Director of the Department of Welfare, Autonomous Province of Bozen (ITA) [online]  
**Katharina Bamberg**, Coordinator Migration – Integration, Eurocities  
**Stefan Löwl** (DE/CSU), County Councilor, Dachau [online]  
**Lalynn Wadera**, City Councilor for Diversity, Education and Others, City of Leuven (BE)  
**Justine Panteļejeva** (LV/Greens), City Councilor in Riga, Member of the CoR

*Questions to be addressed*

## 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break

### Intercultural Regions and Cities: Embracing Diversity, Fostering Equal Opportunities

Session co-organised with the Assembly of European Regions (AER).

*The session will aim at addressing the current challenges of migrant integration in our regions and cities, and discuss the benefits of applying an intercultural approach to foster a sense of belonging.*

*The intercultural approach aims at harnessing the benefits of diversity as a central aspect of building more inclusive, prosperous and democratic societies. This requires an intercultural approach to integration and joined-up action across all levels of government and actors, based on the principles of equal opportunities, recognition of diversity, and positive interaction between people from different origins.*

*Regional and local authorities play a vital role in responding to the increasing diversity of our communities, delivering public policies and services that promote the inclusion of migrants and refugees, intercultural interaction and social cohesion.*

*The Assembly of European Regions has played a fundamental role in bringing the intercultural approach to the European regional integration, thanks to the establishment in 2019 of the [Intercultural Regions Network \(IRN\)](#), and the development and implementation of the AMIF-funded project [EU-Belong: Intercultural Integration of Migrants in Europe's Regions](#), which aims at improving the socio-economic inclusion of migrants at the regional level through the development of intercultural integration strategies. During this session, the main outcomes and policy tools developed by this European project so far will be presented.*

## 14:30 - 15:00 Opening Remarks

**AER representative** (tbc)

**Giuseppe Varacalli** (IT/Renew), Member of Gerace Municipal Council, Member of the CoR, and the CoR's rapporteur on Legal Migration: Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU

**Angelique Petrīts**, Policy officer, Legal Pathways and Integration Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

## 15:00 - 15:20 Introduction to the Intercultural Approach

*The intercultural approach as understood by the Council of Europe, and implemented by its Intercultural Cities Programme, aims at harnessing the benefits of diversity as a central aspect of building more inclusive, prosperous and democratic societies. This session will aim at presenting the intercultural approach and the benefits of applying its principles to foster a sense of belonging).*

**Giulia Bianchini**, Senior Project Officer, Intercultural Cities Programme, Council of Europe

## 15:20 - 16:00 Bringing interculturalism into regional policy-making

*Capacity-building session to support regions, their stakeholders, and other interested actors in fostering key intercultural competences that can be applied across several regional policies related to migrants' inclusion with the overall aim to improve the socioeconomic inclusion of migrants in European regions.*

*Presentation of good practices, tools, and processes available from the EU-BELONG project and the Intercultural Regions Network (IRN).*

## Part I

**Marzio Barbieri** and **Elisa Bottazzi**, Region of Emilia-Romagna (IT) - *Building capacity on the intercultural approach*

**Eunice Romero**, Director-General, Department Migration, Refugees, and Antiracism;  
Government of Catalonia (ES) - *Translating needs and challenges into policies*

16:00 - 16:15

## Coffee break

## Part II

16:15 - 17:15

**Charles Sweeney**, Social Inclusion Coordinator, Donegal County Council (IE) - *Multi-level and multi-stakeholder engagement*

**Daríá Terrádez**, Director-General, European Affairs; Generalitat Valenciana  
(ES) - *Implementing a regional intercultural strategy*

**Calin Rus**, Director, Intercultural Institute of Timisoara (RO) - *Implementing a regional intercultural strategy*

17:15 - 17:30

## Wrap up of results of the day: How can regions and cities be empowered?

**Anita Orav**, Policy Analyst, Citizens' Policies Unit, Directorate-General for  
Parliamentary Research Services, European Parliament

## Conclusions on behalf of the organisers

Registration link [here](#)

Interpretation in 4 languages: EN, PL, ES, IT



**European Committee  
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