



**PARTNERSHIP ON INTEGRATION:  
SUPPORTING CITIES REGIONS, AND RURAL AREAS IN MIGRANTS'  
INTEGRATION**

Acknowledging that integration happens in every village, city and region where migrants live, work, and go to school or to a sports club, and that local and regional authorities are in the frontline to provide integration and other services to newly arrived migrants as well as to support their inclusion;

Recognising that, while local authorities have put in place many successful and innovative practices for integration, they still face challenges in accessing funding, data and knowledge for their measures and programmes in the field of integration and inclusion, in particular in towns and rural areas;

Highlighting that empowering both migrants and host communities to actively engage in the integration process is essential to achieve sustainable and successful integration and that the European Commission will involve migrants in the design and implementation of integration policies through its Expert group on the views of migrants<sup>1</sup>;

**The European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions join forces in a new partnership to increase support to EU cities, regions and rural areas in their work on integration in their respective domains of competence.**

The partnership aims at achieving the following objectives:

- Building an open and regular dialogue between the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions and local and regional authorities on integration;

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<sup>1</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3734&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>

- Building capacity and promoting exchange of experiences for local and regional authorities in the field of integration;
- Improving evidence and data on integration at the local level.

The partnership was announced in the Commission action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027<sup>2</sup>, adopted by the European Commission on 24 November 2020, and subsequently in a joint press statement<sup>3</sup> on the occasion of the plenary of the European Committee of the Regions on 10 December 2020. The partnership will build on the well-established cooperation between the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions under the Cities and Regions for Integration initiative<sup>4</sup>, which was launched by the European Committee of the Regions in 2019. This provides a political platform for European mayors and regional leaders to share information and showcase positive examples of integration and social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

The partnership will support cities, regions and rural areas in the EU through the following main strands of work:

**Objective 1 - Building an open and regular dialogue between the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions and local and regional authorities on integration**

- Setting up a political roundtable between the Commission, the European Committee of the Regions and selected European cities and regions to meet yearly to discuss integration matters.
- Organising tailored public consultations for local and regional authorities on integration in partnership with territorial associations.
- Creating a forum of forefront regions to meet annually to map the territorial impact of migration and identify specific needs of the most affected local and regional authorities.

**Objective 2 - Building capacity and promoting exchange of experiences for local and regional authorities in the field of integration**

- Promoting peer learning and exchanges of experiences between local and regional authorities on different aspects of migrants' integration and community sponsorship (e.g. through workshops, online training materials, study visits, mentoring and exchange programmes).
- Expanding the Urban academy on integration<sup>5</sup> into a comprehensive capacity-building programme for policymakers<sup>6</sup> and practitioners from the local, regional and national levels in the field of integration.

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<sup>2</sup> COM(2020) 758 final, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/action\\_plan\\_on\\_integration\\_and\\_inclusion\\_2021-2027.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/action_plan_on_integration_and_inclusion_2021-2027.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/european-commission-committee-regions-partnership-integration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/european-commission-committee-regions-partnership-integration_en)

<sup>4</sup> See: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/cities-and-regions-for-integration.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/urban-academy>.

<sup>6</sup> For example, for the members of the [Young Elected Politicians Programme](#) (a network of politicians below 40 years of age holding a mandate at regional or local level in the EU), so as to promote a greater understanding of integration issues at local and regional level.

- Supporting campaigns for dissemination of good practices on integration policies of mayors with particular accomplishments in the field of integration<sup>7</sup>.

### **Objective 3 - Improving evidence and data on integration at the local level**

- Providing information on data and practices on integration at the local level on the European Website on Integration<sup>8</sup>.
- Promoting good examples of integration practices at local level.
- Drawing on the data collected by the European Committee of the Regions in the EU Annual Local and Regional Barometer<sup>9</sup>, in particular if the data maps out the territorial dimension of migration and integration, as well as on any other relevant data that is available from other sources and studies.

The European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions will meet regularly to take stock of the results achieved and plan possible further action.

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<sup>7</sup> For example, where such mayors are awarded the Paweł Adamowicz Award (planned in honour of Paweł Adamowicz by the European Committee of the Regions as a prize to be bestowed upon mayors deserving special recognition for their work in various policy areas, including but not only, integration of people with migrant background).

<sup>8</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/EURegionalBarometerDocs/4370-Barometer%20optimized.pdf>