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Strengthening actions and tools to meet integration challenges

Report to the 2008 Ministerial Conference on Integration

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1. INTRODUCTION

Integration of third-country nationals is one of the most important challenges that Europe has to address today as there can be no successful immigration policies without integration strategies¹. Integration is therefore a key part of the EU's comprehensive immigration policy. Clearly, integration policies need to take into account historical and cultural backgrounds and differing administrative systems. Successful integration policies must engage the local level where integration takes place. Exchanging good practice and promoting new approaches is important to ensure successful policies capable of adapting to changing circumstances. Since the adoption in 2005 of the **Common Agenda for Integration**² implementing the Common Basic Principles on integration (CBPs) established by the Council in 2004³, the EU is acting as a facilitator by providing common points of reference and promoting evaluation and comparative analysis for designing effective integration measures.

In June 2007, following an informal meeting of Ministers responsible for integration held in Potsdam under the German Presidency, **Council Conclusions on integration policies in the EU**⁴ stressed the need to consider approaches to integration that involve society as a whole and identified a number of priorities such as participation, diversity management and common indicators. The Council invited the Commission to report to the next **Ministerial Conference on Integration of 3/4 November 2008 in Vichy** under the French Presidency on what had been done, together with the National Contact Points on Integration (NCPs)⁵. This report provides an overview of the main activities to strengthen further integration policies according to the highlighted priorities.

More recent initiatives, which contribute to developing integration strategies in the EU, are also taken into account. The Communication **A Common Immigration Policy for Europe: Principles, actions and tools of June 2008**⁶ recognised that well managed immigration brings prosperity and recalled that a clear commitment from host society and immigrants alike is needed to realise the benefits of immigration. In this context, it presented a number of measures for enhancing integration at EU and national level, consolidating the Common Agenda and implementation of the CBPs. It highlighted the need to strengthen the mainstreaming approach, which is now an integral part of policy-making and implementation across a wide range of EU policies and funding⁷, including, among others, integration into the labour market, social inclusion and education. The up-coming **European Pact on Immigration** engages Member States to renew their commitment to managing immigration including reinforcing integration strategies. Immigrants should be granted rights comparable to EU citizens (such as access to education, employment, public and social services) and should be subject to equal obligations (such as respecting of the laws of the host country). Measures for acquiring the host country's language and access to employment should be

¹ EU integration policies target third-country nationals and, following a mainstreaming approach, develop synergies with other relevant EU policies addressing broader target groups

² COM/2005/389

³ Council Document 14615/04

⁴ Council Document 10504/07

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/integration/fsj_immigration_integration_en.htm

⁶ COM/2008/359

⁷ Third Annual Report COM/2007/512

strengthened. Civic programmes focusing on the host society's history, institutions and the common shared values of the EU should also be fostered.

As requested by Council Conclusions of June 2007 (point 9), this report highlights what has been done so far to consolidate the Common Agenda and implement the CBPs by developing approaches to integration that involve society as a whole, focusing on participation and citizenship, measures targeting the host society and the contribution of integration policies to the prevention of social alienation, as well as new instruments, such as common European modules for integration and common tools for evaluating integration policies. These instruments will contribute to further addressing in the future the integration aspects highlighted by the June 2008 Communication and the up-coming Ministerial Conference on Integration and the European Pact on Immigration. The report also covers very recent developments in employment, social inclusion and education as crucial elements of the participation of immigrants in European societies.

2. STRENGTHENING ACTIONS AND TOOLS TO MEET INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

2.1. Participation and citizenship

The EU should promote measures to encourage immigrants to commit to greater rights (such as access to education, employment, public and social services)⁸ and responsibilities (such as the respect of the laws of the host country) thereby fostering a genuine link with European societies. Initiatives on participation in local life have a growing impact on integration of immigrants and citizenship policies could affect their engagement in the host society. It has to be stressed that nationality falls within Member States' competence. However, without prejudice to the fact that the Member States alone remain competent in the area of nationality laws, there is a clear need to exchange information and work jointly to foster successful policy-making, as highlighted in Potsdam.

The CBPs and the Common Agenda stressed both that involving immigrants in the democratic process and in formulating integration policies, especially at the local level, supports their integration and encouraged Member States to put in place measures to foster this aspect. A chapter in the first edition of the Handbook on Integration stressed the key role of civic participation in the integration process and shed light on different initiatives across Europe⁹. In addition, the European Integration Fund Community Actions 2007 financed research looking into various forms of participation and drawing up recommendations on how to get immigrants more involved in civic and political life¹⁰. The nationality issue was also addressed in the Fifth Report on Citizenship of the Union¹¹ and a technical seminar financed by INTI Programme¹² was held in Paris in November 2007 focusing on 'The acquisition of nationality, citizenship and national identity' and taking into account EC acquis and national legal systems. As a follow-up, a chapter of the forthcoming third edition of the Handbook will

⁸ Member States must comply with fundamental rights, in particular children's rights, as general principles of law when implementing integration policies

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/integration/doc_immigration_integration_en.htm

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm#

¹¹ COM/2008/85

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/inti/funding_inti_en.htm

give examples of successful experiences raising immigrants' commitment to participate in the life of European societies.

Despite the various forms of participation and the variety of approaches to citizenship policies in place across the EU, results from the Migrant Integration Policy Index indicate that Member States score low on nationality and participation policies are still weak¹³.

Representation of immigrant communities, especially at the local level, through the establishment of platforms for consultation during the decision-making process on integration issues, and possibilities for immigrants, after an appropriate period of legal residence, to vote and stand as candidates in local elections¹⁴ are key to strengthening **participation in the democratic process** and fostering integration.

Furthermore, **citizenship could be seen as an element, among others, contributing to enhance solidarity and strengthen a sense of belonging to a society both among immigrants and the rest of the population.** In Member States, where access to nationality is a necessary precondition for citizenship, clear, precise and objective criteria for access to nationality are of fundamental importance. Administrative barriers such as high fees or lengthy processes could be streamlined, being decisions they are subject to judicial review and effective remedy in case of violation of rights. Integration conditions and measures foreseen by existing EC legislative instruments are monitored and evaluated to effectively shape them as supporting the integration process¹⁵.

2.2. Measures targeting the host society

Stressing the importance of involving society as a whole, integration is defined at EU level as a dynamic two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and citizens of Member States¹⁶. As Europe becomes increasingly diverse, measures targeting its societies are crucial to support understanding and co-existence between different cultural identities to ensure well-being. This is not possible without the full commitment of all members of society, as June 2007 Council Conclusions and June 2008 Communication highlighted.

At EU level numerous initiatives explore the issue of migration-related diversity and how to manage it. The INTI technical seminars 'Mass Media and Integration', Vienna, 6-7 November 2007, 'Awareness-raising and migrant empowerment', Athens, 31 March – 1 April 2008 and 'Dialogue Platforms', Dublin, 15-16 May 2008 enabled experts to share successful experiences and identify good practices to be presented in a chapter of the forthcoming third edition of the Handbook on Integration. At the local level, Integrating Cities conferences held in Rotterdam in October 2006 and in Milan in November 2007 established transnational cooperation between municipal stakeholders in the field of integration¹⁷ and the European Network Cities for Local Integration Policy CLIP was set up to share good practice on a wide range of integration-related issues including the role of local authorities¹⁸. The 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue launched many major initiatives at EU and national level

¹³ www.integrationindex.eu

¹⁴ As it is the case in some Member States, COM/2007/512

¹⁵ See also up-coming Report on the application of Directive 2003/86 on the right to family reunification

¹⁶ CBP 1

¹⁷ www.integratingcities.nl/ e www.integratingcities.it/

¹⁸ www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/populationandsociety/clip.htm

focusing also on migration-related issues to promote the sense of being together in diversity including a public debate focused on the impact of migration on intercultural dialogue (Brussels, 5 March 2008), three transnational projects tackling integration at local level and involving cooperation of stakeholders and numerous projects at national level addressing integration-related issues and intercultural dialogue¹⁹. Moreover, campaigns to raise awareness on immigration and to enhance the capacity of public institutions and the media to adequately reflect and manage migration-related diversity in society were launched with the financial support of Integration Fund Community Actions 2007. Up-coming instruments to further engage both immigrants and the host population in integration-related initiatives include, as foreseen by the Common Agenda in 2005, the launch of an integration website as one stop-shop for all stakeholders in Europe and the establishment of the European Integration Forum, in co-operation with the European Economic and Social Committee, to involve organised civil society at EU level in the integration debate.

Immigrants cannot be active participants in the day-to-day life of European societies if they are not given real opportunities to play a positive role. Ensuring that immigrants are welcomed for the contributions they make to our society and that they are encouraged to play a key part in it, is crucial to creating an inclusive community based on mutual respect and tolerance within the clear boundaries set by law and EU common values. This long-term challenge requires further efforts.

Improving the capacity of public institutions to adjust to migration-related diversity is crucial to **removing structural barriers against the empowerment of immigrants**. This can be best achieved by strengthening intercultural competences, as relating to key competences for life long learning²⁰, and facilitating access to public and private services, for example by creating one-stop-shops or providing information in different languages and promoting skills to access digital services.

At the same time, we need to take **measures targeting the host society and involving the media to foster understanding of immigration**. Interaction between immigrants and the host population, including volunteering or mentoring schemes and measures to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination²¹ are of key importance to enhance the mutual accommodation process. Awareness-raising activities including celebration days, festivals, events on migration and diversity, information campaigns and television and radio programmes addressing migration-related issues and media coverage of important get-together events, also contribute to this process.

¹⁹ www.dialogue2008.eu

²⁰ Which should be included in training and recruitment of officials, see Council Conclusions on Intercultural Competences of 21 May 2008 and Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2006

²¹ Many initiatives are in place at EU level including the on-going campaign 'For diversity. Against Discrimination', the national awareness-raising activities under the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination, a Commission inter-service group against racism and xenophobia, Directive 2000/43 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, Directive 2000/78 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, the Proposal for a Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation COM/2008/426 and the Communication Non-discrimination and equal opportunities: A renewed commitment COM/2008/420. See also http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/legis/legln_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/rights/discrimination/fsj_rights_discrim_en.htm

2.3. Prevention of social alienation

Social alienation, discrimination and isolation are certainly not linked exclusively to immigration. However, integration policies specifically targeted at third-country nationals could make an important contribution to the empowerment of immigrants, their active participation in the host society and to counteracting their marginalisation. In particular, the engagement of civil society to reach local communities and young people is crucial to avoid isolation.

Following Council Conclusions on integration of June 2007, a German led initiative is gathering together interested Member States to begin a regular exchange of experience on intercultural dialogue as an instrument for fostering integration in consultation with the NCPs. Sub-group meetings will be organised as workshops to discuss issues of common concern and at least one NCPs' meeting a year will be dedicated to this specific subject. Moreover, under the 2008 European Year on Intercultural Dialogue, a comprehensive study on Sharing Diversity – National approaches to intercultural dialogue in Europe²² already provides extensive information on the different national situations on the broad issue of intercultural dialogue. These initiatives contribute to the more specific work undertaken in the context of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment²³.

As stressed by June 2007 Council Conclusions, it is important to explore further how integration policies can help prevent social alienation by fostering immigrants' empowerment and putting the focus on the benefits that successful integration brings for host society and immigrants alike. A lack of a sense of belonging, especially among young people, could be linked to identity crisis and interact with other risk factors²⁴ that might in extreme cases lead to the rejection of the host society or to vulnerability to violence.

Intercultural and inter- and intra- religious dialogues are powerful instruments for fighting racism, xenophobia, discrimination²⁵ and isolation of immigrants. Analysis and exchange of experience on intercultural and inter- and intra- religious platforms and strategies supporting intercultural dialogue initiatives on a structured basis, including the creation of common spaces and activities at the local level, are key to fostering integration. A sustainable and cross-sector approach to intercultural dialogue needs to be developed to strengthen intercultural competences by supporting initiatives in education, culture, youth and audiovisual policies and enhancing the concept of intercultural dialogue in all other relevant policies. In particular, it is necessary to pay special attention to engage proactively with young people considering also the frequent use of new online social media²⁶.

2.4. Common European modules for integration

To promote successful strategies for integration policies, different aspects of the integration process were studied and various integration measures put into practice at EU and national

²² http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc537_en.htm

²³ These include the funding of four comparative studies, a report by the Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation (May 2008), a mapping of Member States' policies and a conference (October 2007) on the role of education in preventing radicalisation

²⁴ Such as exclusion from the labour market, poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. See also Renewed Social Agenda COM/2008/412

²⁵ See footnote 21

²⁶ ICT, Social Capital and Cultural Diversity www.jrc.es/publications/pub.cfm?id=1534

level²⁷. It is now necessary to identify in more detail the elements of success and failure of these initiatives and to capitalise on these valuable experiences to develop common European modules for migrant integration as requested by June 2007 Council Conclusions.

The integration process is characterised by various key dimensions identified in the eleven CBPs. The Common Agenda made suggestions to put them into practice providing a number of instruments, including financial programmes, to facilitate the process. The knowledge and experience gained through the successful process of elaborating, together with the NCPs, experts, practitioners and non-governmental stakeholders, three editions of the Handbook on Integration provide the primary foundation for these common modules. These are in fact a natural evolution of the Handbook exercise for the identification of good practice. The agreement on a number of different elements of integration measures, recognised as successful and suitable to form part of a specific integration module, will represent added value through systematising different national experiences on integration. The creation of common European modules will form an established but flexible point of reference that can be adapted to different contexts contributing to the successful design of integration programmes across Europe.

Common European modules will be the building blocks for comprehensive integration strategies covering the various aspects of the integration process. Different modules will focus on different aspects of the integration process according to the CBPs and will be a flexible tool at the disposal of policy makers and practitioners when designing specific integration programmes, including for newly arrived immigrants as mentioned in the June 2008 Communication. For example, to set up a language course for immigrants, the relevant module will give useful practical indications for the successful implementation of the courses such as the organisation of lessons in flexible hours or the possibility of child care for immigrants' parents, etc.

In particular, the first modules will start by addressing the key issues identified by the June 2008 Communication and the up-coming Ministerial Conference on Integration and the European Immigration Pact, including organisation of language courses for newly-arrived immigrants, organisation of civic courses on the host society's history, institutions and the common shared values of the EU, promotion of the participation of immigrants and other citizens in local life, establishment of effective school programmes for integration of immigrant pupils. The process of defining in detail their form and content will be carried out in consultation with experts, to provide for further technical discussion, and coordinated through the NCPs.

2.5. Evaluation of integration policies

To effectively shape policies and improve performance by learning from the highest standards, yardsticks relating to various aspects of integration are crucially needed. The Commission intends to design specific indicators for integration strategies to monitor and evaluate outcomes and deliverables of policies, rather than simple outputs, and provide for comparative analysis as indicated by June 2007 Council Conclusions and June 2008 Communication.

²⁷ COM/2007/512

Different instruments are currently in place for the development of common indexes. The first edition of the Handbook included a chapter on indicators which showed the importance of their use in public policy and integration programmes and the second edition explored the issue of planning and evaluating policies as a key element of integration governance. INTI projects such as the Migrant Integration Policy Index by British Council, Benchmarking Integration Governance in European Cities by Eurocities and Migrants' Integration Territorial Index by Idos selected methodologies to provide comparable information and ranking frameworks for integration policies. Moreover, the Annexes to the three Annual Reports on Migration and Integration²⁸ provided an overview of policy developments and helped to evaluate and strengthen integration measures. Developing indicators and evaluation methodologies for assessing progress, adjusting policies and facilitating co-ordinated comparative learning is also a priority of the European Integration Fund to be implemented by Member States. Therefore, national programmes would also provide possible indicators to assess integration strategies. In addition, Integration Fund Community Actions 2008 support the development and application of common statistical tools, methods and indicators for measuring policy developments.

A number of integration policy solutions accompanied by the development of tools for evaluation were implemented across Member States. **The capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate integration-related information should now be enhanced more systematically.** Common specific indicators for integration policies will be designed according to the CBPs in cooperation with the NCPs and other experts, ensuring coherence with other exercises at EU level²⁹. They could also provide the European Integration Forum with an opportunity to discuss integration measures at EU level to address possible shortfalls revealed by them. Results generated by these common integration indicators will be accessible through the up-coming integration website by making constantly available country fiches to ensure the up-to-date nature of the information that can be easily and timely revised to grasp the rapidly evolving policy developments.

3. EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EDUCATION AS KEY TO THE PARTICIPATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN EUROPEAN SOCIETIES

As underlined by the June 2008 Communication, immigrants should be given the chance to participate and develop their full potential. In order to make this happen special attention should be paid to promote measures to strengthen the integration of immigrants into the labour market, in the host society and in the educational systems.

It is generally recognised that **employment is a key part of the integration process** and is central to the participation of immigrants, to the contribution they make to the host society and to making such contribution visible³⁰. Facilitating access to the labour market is crucial for the empowerment of immigrants, especially women and young people. The recent Communication from the Commission on a 'Renewed Social Agenda: Opportunity, Access and Solidarity in 21st Century Europe'³¹ stressed that creating opportunities means ensuring

²⁸ COM/2004/508 and SEC/2006/892

²⁹ Such as the Open Method of Coordination in social protection and social inclusion and in education and training systems

³⁰ CBP 3

³¹ COM/2008/412

the chances for all to develop their own potential while respecting Europe's diversity, tackling both overt and indirect discrimination and fighting racism and xenophobia. The effective integration of immigrants into the labour market is also an important contribution to the Lisbon targets for jobs and growth. The European Employment Strategy³² provides initiatives that aim to upgrade and adapt migrant skills and qualifications. Within this context, the European Social Fund³³ foresees specific support to labour market integration³⁴.

However, as stressed also in the June 2008 Communication, integration of immigrants into the labour market remains a major challenge. The creation of businesses by ethnic minorities and migrants, especially women, should be fostered by recognising their special support needs within the existing structures³⁵. Easier recognition of diplomas³⁶ should be encouraged, as should anti-discrimination measures³⁷. In response to the 2008 Spring European Council request for a comprehensive assessment of future skills needs up to 2020, the new skills for new jobs initiative will provide information about training opportunities and location choices. In addition, the June 2008 Communication also put forward concrete proposals for enhancing the knowledge-based economy of Europe, advancing economic growth and meeting labour market requirements. These include developing immigration profiles, based on assessments of future skills requirements in Europe, that give an integrated vision of the immigration situation within each Member State at a given moment as well as preventing unemployment through education and training.

Migrants face a higher risk of poverty than the rest of the population and specific obstacles in accessing housing, health care and financial services. This situation, compounded by discrimination, is hampering their full participation in society. **Social inclusion and the effective access to social protection play an instrumental role in the successful integration of migrants.** The June 2008 Communication stressed the need to strengthen the mainstreaming approach of integration in all relevant policy areas including in the European Strategy for Social Inclusion³⁸. It also highlighted the need for non-discriminatory and effective access by legal immigrants to health care and social protection³⁹, as well as the effective application of EU law providing third-country nationals with the same treatment as EU nationals as regards the coordination of social security schemes across the EU⁴⁰. The

³² http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/index_en.htm

³³ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/

³⁴ Other initiatives include a High Level Advisory Group on Social Integration of Ethnic Minorities and their Full Participation in the Labour Market analysing labour market barriers and exchanging good practice, the Integrated Guidelines calling for Member States to consider immigrants' integration into EU labour markets (COM/2006/815), annual Joint Employment Reports monitoring the impact of national reform programmes (Council document 6706/07), an Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship Network and a study on good practice investigating how to overcome difficulties in setting up business (http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/migrant/index.htm), a chapter of the second edition of the Handbook on Integration addressing economic integration

³⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/migrant/index.htm

³⁶ As regards recognition of qualifications within the EU see

³⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/rec_qual/rec_qual_en.html

³⁸ Directive 2000/78 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation
³⁸ Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/the_process_en.htm

³⁹ Equal and fair access to health care and social protection for all are key objectives of the OMC on social inclusion and social protection

⁴⁰ Regulation 859/2003 extends the provisions of Regulation 1408/71 to third-country nationals who are legally residing in the EU and in a cross border situation. In July 2007, Commission adopted a proposal

social inclusion of migrants is an established key priority of EU social inclusion strategy. In this context, the Commission proposed focusing the 2010 thematic year of the strategy on the social aspects of migration.

Finally, as stressed again in the June 2008 Communication, **education and training provide tools for improving the level of successful attainments and contribute to establishing cultural bridges for a more cohesive society**. Comprehensive integration policies include education and training as fundamental elements in empowering immigrants to become active participants in society⁴¹. The European Council of 13-14 March 2008⁴² called on Member States to support the improvement of immigrants' achievement levels and the 2008 Joint Report on the implementation of the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme⁴³ stated that the educational challenges of immigrant pupils require further attention⁴⁴. Recently the Commission published the Green Paper on migration & mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems⁴⁵ exploring causes and identifying measures to address these educational challenges together with the stakeholders active in this area. The European Integration Fund also supports integration measures targeted at immigrant pupils.

Immigrant children and young people face specific challenges that need special attention. In particular, they tend to have poorer school results than other pupils⁴⁶, as highlighted by the Green Paper. Targeted language classes and tuition, initiatives promoting respect for diversity in the educational environment and support for teachers and parents are among the measures to be promoted to facilitate integration at school. The up-coming INTI technical seminar on Immigrant Youth, Education and the Labour Market (Lisbon, November 2008) will contribute to the on-going public debate launched by the Green Paper by bringing together experts to identify good practices for effective measures in this area which will be presented in a chapter of the forthcoming third edition of the Handbook for Integration.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Migration-related diversity is increasingly a characteristic of European societies and it is becoming essential for all immigrants and EU citizens to **benefit from the prosperity that well managed immigration brings**. As certain aspects of the integration process gain in importance, new challenges arise and need to be addressed effectively. The June 2008 Communication stressed that greater political commitment is needed in the context of the new common methodology for immigration governance. Cooperation at EU level should now go beyond the exchange of information and practice. The up-coming European Pact on Immigration and the imminent Ministerial Conference on Integration in Vichy will also provide a crucial contribution to shaping the agenda of future immigration policies in the EU including integration.

extending the provisions of Regulation 883/04, which will replace Regulation 1408/71, to third-country nationals who are legally residing in the EU and in a cross border situation, COM/2007/439

⁴¹ CBP 5

⁴² Council document 7652/1/08

⁴³ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

⁴⁴ Other initiatives at EU level to promote educational measures also for immigrants include the Lifelong Learning Programme (Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig) and the Youth support projects related to intercultural education, school integration of migrant pupils and social inclusion for disadvantaged youth. See COM/2008/423

⁴⁵ COM/2008/423

⁴⁶ PISA 2006, OECD

As highlighted, the issues of participation and citizenship, management of migration-related diversity and evaluation and monitoring of integration policies, all require immediate attention. Future concrete and ambitious strategies will focus on the **new integration priorities** identified by the June 2008 Communication and by the up-coming Ministerial Conference and the European Pact on Immigration. In particular, integration into the labour market, social inclusion and education will, together with language and civic courses, anti-discrimination, equal opportunities and diversity management, be the object of future initiatives further developing the mainstreaming approach which encompasses all integration-related policy areas at EU level.

As provided for in the Common Agenda, the **European Integration Forum** will soon bring together stakeholders from civil society to inform the policy-making process creating a venue where the voices of immigrants can be heard and researchers can share their analysis. The **website on integration** will also provide an EU-wide platform for networking on integration by establishing a documentation facility, a gathering point for good practice and an instrument for the direct exchange of information among stakeholders.

Moreover, in line with the call of the up-coming European Pact on Immigration, the Commission will put forward a proposal, in the context of the further development of the common immigration policy, to structure, monitor and evaluate integration policies to further facilitate the implementation of the CBPs and the improvement of integration strategies across Europe contributing to the final aim of creating a more inclusive and cohesive society.