

ONE-STOP SHOP

A NEW ANSWER FOR IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

JLS/2006/INTI/148

MINUTES OF THE THIRD TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP

- I. DATE:** Tuesday, 8 July 2008
- LOCATION:** Harnackhaus, Ihnestr. 16-19, 14195 Berlin, Humboldt-Saal, Germany
- ORGANISER:** Netzwerk Migration in Europa, e. V. – German Partner.
- II. PARTICIPANTS:**
- Catarina Reis Oliveira, ACIDI, I.P., Lisbon – Portugal, Project Coordinator
 - Maria Miguel Santos Silva, ACIDI, I.P., Lisbon – Portugal, Financial Coordinator
 - Ana Cristina Casas, ACIDI, I.P., Director of the National Immigrant Support Centre, Lisbon
 - Maria Abranches, International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Lisbon Mission, Portugal & Country Researcher for Portugal
 - André Costa Jorge, Jesuit Refugee Service, Portugal
 - Denise Charlton, Immigrant Council of Ireland, CEO
 - Ruth Evans, Immigrant Council of Ireland.
 - Gerard William Folan, Office for Integration, Dublin City Council, Ireland
 - Miguel Ángel Gil, Dirección General de Integración de los Inmigrantes, Madrid - Spain
 - Gloria Pérez Arredondo, Country Researcher for Spain



- María Luz Valdivia, ACOBE, Spain
- Glória Carroccio, Ministry of Labour, Health, Social Policies, Rome - Italy
- Triantafyllia Avramid, Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO), Athens – Greece
- Zoi Balomenou, IMEPO
- Theodoros Katsas, IMEPO
- Rainer Ohliger, Netzwerk Migration in Europa, e.V., Germany
- Sergey Lagodinsky, Jewish Community Berlin & German Advisory Committee
- Ulrich Raiser, Netzwerk Migration in Europa, e.V., Germany
- Didem Yüksel, Turkish Community, Germany
- Irmgard Rüther, Otto-Benecke Stiftung/ German Advisory Committee

III. MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1. Panel 1: State Actors in Immigrant Integration: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants
2. Panel 2: Non-State Actors in Immigrant Integration: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants
3. Concluding Discussion: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants

IV. MAIN OUTCOMES:

Panel 1: “State Actors in Immigrant Integration: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants” brought together three representatives from the partner countries (Theodoros Katsas/Hellenic Migration Policy Group, Athens; Gerry Folan/Office for Integration Dublin City Council and Miguel Angel Gil Leal/Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Madrid) plus one speaker and one moderator from Berlin (Ulrich Raiser, Network Migration in Europe, Berlin/Office of the Berlin Commissioner for Integration; Sergey Lagodinsky, Jewish Community Berlin/German One-Stop Shop Advisory Committee) who are involved with immigrant integration in Berlin.



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Moderation: **Sergey Lagodinsky** (Jewish Community Berlin/German INTI Advisory Committee)

Gerry Folan (Office for Integration Dublin City Council) portrayed the cohesive integration and empowerment strategy “Towards Integration: A City Framework” for immigrants which is currently implemented by the Dublin City Council. Within the context of division of labour between the Irish State and the city of Dublin, immigration and immigration control fall under national jurisdiction and authority whereas questions of integration are mainly handled on the local and city level. Dublin, a rather young city of immigration, follows a model of diversity in its integration programme. Basic principles are equality, prevention of racism and exclusion, interculturalism, human rights and combating poverty. Its goal is “to encourage all the partners and stakeholders at the city level, in particular public service providers, to take ownership of integration”.

Ulrich Raiser (Network Migration in Europe, Berlin/Office of the Berlin Commissioner for Integration) outlined Berlin’s public integration policy which is based on the 2007 concept “Fostering Diversity, Strengthening Cohesion: The Berlin Concept for Integration”. This concept is a landmark in the city’s integration policy for three reasons. First, it was drafted in a collective effort by the city’s Commissioner for Integration and Migration, the city’s administration and numerous immigrant NGOs. Second, it formulated concise political and administrative goals and measures to reach these goals in a given timeframe. Third, it implemented a monitoring system which allows the measuring and evaluation of the status of immigrant integration in Berlin.

Miguel Ángel Gil (Dirección General de Integración de los Inmigrantes, Spain) gave a nuanced report on official Spanish immigration and integration policy. A special emphasis was put on the activities of the Labour and Immigration Ministry and its General Direction for Integration and Immigration. The Ministry follows an inclusive policy when it comes to



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incorporating immigrants and immigrant organisations, though cooperation has not yet reached a formal level of advocacy. The Spanish integration policy is faced by the fact that the country only turned into a new receiving country within the last 15 to 20 years. Immigrant NGOs and lobbies are still in the process of emerging and consolidating.

Panel 2: “Non-State Actors in Immigrant Integration: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants” provided three local European perspectives from non-state actors and practitioners who are involved in the daily management of integration in Spain, Germany and Portugal (María Luz Valdivia, ACOBE, Madrid; Alev Deniz, Neighbourhood Management, Berlin; André Costa Jorge, Jesuit Refugee Service, Lisbon). The second panel “Non-State Actors of Immigrant Integration: Perspectives on Cooperation and Partnerships in Europe” shifted the focus from the level of public policy measures to practices of immigrant NGOs.

María Luz Valdivia (Asociación de Cooperación Bolivia España/ACOBÉ, Madrid) provided a detailed summary of ACOBE’s work which is dedicated to fostering better integration of Bolivian immigrants in Spain. The presentation gave a vivid example of how community based work can be translated into successful integration. However, it also showed the limits of community approaches.

Alev Deniz (Neighborhood Management, Berlin) illustrated the case of one of Berlin’s districts in which special integration measures for immigrants (Neighbourhood Management) are implemented. These publicly funded measures also operate on the level of community, though not on an ethnic basis, but on the social level of neighbourhood. The project is closely integrated into the city’s general integration policy, though formally independent.



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André Costa Jorge (Jesuit Refugee Service, Lisbon) outlined the impact a global organization, the Jesuit Refugee Service, can exercise in specific local contexts. He portrayed the work of the Refugee Service within the Lisbon context, where has become an important actor to communicate the interest of refugees to city and state officials.

Concluding Discussion: Partnerships between NGOs and Government actors in providing services to migrants

Moderation: **Rainer Ohliger** (Network Migration in Europe, Berlin)

In conclusion both panels showed the potentials closer cooperation between state and non-state actors can have for coherent and successful integration policies and practices in Europe. However, it also demonstrated that such cooperation is often shaped by asymmetric power relations. Moreover, a cooperative model is not yet implemented throughout the landscape of Europe's integration policies. Often state and non-state actors still operate in two separate spheres.