



## Immigrants & Integration Is for many just a mirage?

### Memorandum of Understanding

**Given that** the European Agenda for Integration of Third-Country Nationals states that effective integration:

*can only be realised in partnership between the whole range of stakeholders such as the European institutions, Member States and national regional and local actors;*

*requires supportive measures to ensure an effective integration process of migrants and refugees, based on an integrated approach;*

*needs an European framework for the exchange of Good Practices among the various governance levels, as well as creating incentives promoting good local and regional models,*

**Given that** each EU country developed different approaches to the integration process of migrant and refugees, based on their different histories, politics and culture's models, which led to different degrees of integration;

**Considering that** it was therefore possible to ascertain how the integration processes have mostly favoured a structural dimension (substantially linked to the welfare system) that did not allow the adequate development of spaces and channels of dialogue to counteract the rise of conflicts that could undermine social cohesion;

**Considering** the difficult inclusion of the Second/Third generations in many cultural and social contexts, which brought a spread of radicalizations towards more problematic sense of belonging, and, on the other hand, a revival of more xenophobic sentiments;

**Considering that** this calls for more widespread interventions that engage all actors *involved*, immigrants and natives, institutions and citizens, in a solidarity project capable of including effectively the persons who *live* on the same territory and who contribute to its development;

**Considering that** the exchange of experiences between different countries can help to develop and share innovative and relevant elements from which synthesise common models to enhance the integration process and satisfy the rights and basic needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population,

**Considering that** the positive results from the meetings carried out within the AMIF Project "Immigrants and Integration. Is for many just a miracle?" made it possible to obtain deeper knowledge regarding the integration processes in the EU countries participating at the project, and to identify tested and transferable Models related to it;

**Considering that** it was thus possible to identify, select and systematize some Best Practices activated in regional and local integration processes and define, on their basis, socially inclusive and transferable Models;

**Considering that** the Models of the Best Practices selected and unanimously approved by the partners refer to key elements of the inclusion/reception processes, as:

- involvement of the new citizens in the designing and coproducing of the welfare system,
- promotion of an intercultural/interreligious dialogue as an instrument of territorial governance,
- training of migrants to self-entrepreneurship,
- creation of small social enterprises for refugees and asylum seekers' employment,
- rules and procedures for the promotion of humanitarian corridors

### **the Signatory Bodies pledge to**

- Continue to share experiences and information among the partners, specifically regarding the possible activation of one or more Best Practice Models in its own territory. For this purpose **the Project website (<http://jimmigrationintegration.eu/j>) will remain active** beyond the conclusion of the project;
- Create and disseminate a **newsletter** through which the Network of public and private social actors can share information and news about matters related to the integration processes of each country and innovative solutions undertaken to solve the problem;
- Work to ensure that each one of the Subscribers in its own territory may reinforce and strengthen the Network of public and private social actors that will encourage the activation of the selected Best Practice Models as a positive response to the questions posed by the integration processes and by the continuous flux of refugees and asylum seekers;
- Create the conditions, through meetings and specific actions, so that the Network exercise a specific influence on local institutions and associations **to promote the spreading of the Best Practices** stimulating mainstreaming actions that will lead to the creation of a system of innovative approaches to overcome welfare difficulties;
- Entrust the promotion and management of the Network to a **Coordination group** with the task of producing a draft organizational structure aimed at activating a service network among its members for disseminating knowledge of the problematics regarding the processes of immigration and integration and the possible actions to defeat poverty and marginalization, and consequently to give substance to the process of integration and social cohesion.

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