



Workshop on a blueprint for multilevel governance for co-ordinated integration policies in Cyprus

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It is often said that the European way of life is an inclusive one. Effective integration and inclusion policies are key to welcoming people into local communities, and to the long-term well-being of our societies and the stability of our economies. If we want to help our societies and economies thrive, we need to support everyone who is part of society, with integration being both a right and a duty for all.

Multilevel governance is increasingly seen as an important approach for effective intercultural integration because integration is, by its nature, a responsibility of all governmental levels and requires interdepartmental co-ordination at each level of government, as well as effective partnerships with non-governmental organisations. The role that cities and regions are playing in migrant integration also needs to be acknowledged by introducing mechanisms for a bottom-up transfer of knowledge, expertise, and decision-making. This approach is outlined in the Council of Europe Recommendation on multilevel policies and governance for intercultural integration ([CM/Rec\(2022\)10](#)).

The “[Building structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus](#)” project, implemented by the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe and the European Commission’s Directorate General for Structural Reform Support, in partnership with the Civil Registry and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, prepared a [study on elements of multilevel governance of intercultural integration across Europe and their applicability to the Republic of Cyprus](#). This study formed the basis for the blueprint for a multilevel coordination mechanism for integration policy in Cyprus which will be presented at this workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss this approach and explore ways to strengthen local authorities, civil society and NGO cooperation with the State’s competent authorities. In the framework of this discussion, social practices and intercultural aspects of social integration will be looked at with examples provided from other EU countries.

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Draft programme	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration and welcome coffee
9.30 – 9.50	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Thorsten Afflerbach, <i>Head of the Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Programmes Division, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Ioannis Hadjiyiannis, <i>Head of Unit 01 – Horizontal Policies, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support, European Commission</i></p>
9.50 – 10.00	<p>Introduction</p> <p>N.N., Ministry of Interior</p>
10.00– 10:30	<p>Intercultural integration – the case of Cyprus</p> <p>Michalis Beys, <i>Chair of the Advisory Group on Integration of Migrants</i></p>
10.30 – 10.50	<p>Importance of a multilevel governance approach to intercultural integration in Europe</p> <p>Peter Kariuki, <i>Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration of Migrants (ADI-INT), and Senior Specialist at the Ministry of Justice of Finland, Department of Democracy and Public Law, and Secretary-general of the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO)</i></p>
10.50 - 11.05	Coffee Break
11.05-11.15	<p>Regional intercultural networks in Cyprus – actions at the local level</p> <p>Doris Christodoulou, <i>“Building structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus” Co-ordinator of the Larnaka region intercultural network, Citizens in Power</i></p>
11.15 – 11.45	<p>Presentation of a blue-print for a multilevel coordination mechanism for integration policy in Cyprus</p> <p>Nenad Bogdanovic, <i>National Coordinator of the Project “Building structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus”</i></p>
11.45 – 12.15	<p>Moderated discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Georgios Thoma, <i>Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior</i></p>
12.15 – 12.30	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p>Michalis Beys, <i>Chair of the Advisory Group on Integration of Migrants</i></p>
12.30 – 13.00	Light lunch

Interpretation: English/Greek