



## Intercultural integration at the local level in Cyprus

22 May 2023

Lefkara Municipality Conference Centre

The Law on Municipalities of 2022 (N. 52(I)/2022), article 43.2.C.VII states that the responsibilities of municipalities in the field of social welfare and social cohesion include the “planning and implementation or participation in programs and actions for the integration of migrants and refugees in the social, economic and cultural life of the local community.”

This seminar will look at the impact of this new article through an intercultural lens. A proactive approach to intercultural integration at the local level can contribute to an increase in trust and social cohesion. Adopting an intercultural approach to policy-making can help communities to view diversity as a resource rather than a problem. By extension intercultural policies can help prevent a fragmented society and conflict, while increasing policy effectiveness and making municipalities more attractive for people and investors alike.

Five Regional Intercultural Networks (Famagusta, Larnaka, Limassol, Nicosia and Paphos) have been created to empower and give a voice to local authorities and civil society to be part of the integration policy development process in Cyprus. The seminar will look at the actions proposed by the networks and provide an opportunity for discussions on the next steps and the future local level input into a national integration strategy.

Cities from the intercultural cities network will talk about the challenges they faced and the rewards they have gained in developing intercultural integration policies.

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<b>PROGRAMME</b>	
<b>9.00 – 9.30</b>	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
<b>9.30 – 10.00</b>	<p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <p><b>Andreas Vyras</b>, President of the Union of Municipalities, Mayor of Larnaka</p> <p><b>Sofoklis Sofokleous</b>, Mayor of Lefkara</p> <p><b>Maria Adamidou</b>, Director, Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior</p>
<b>10.00 – 11.00</b>	<p><i>Moderated discussion – Local authorities, social inclusion and migration: next steps</i></p> <p><i>What is the role of local authorities on social inclusion under the new Municipalities Law with a focus on migrants’ integration?</i></p> <p><b>Andreas Vyras</b>, President of the Union of Municipalities, Mayor of Larnaka</p> <p><b>Andros Karayiannis</b>, Mayor of Deryneia</p> <p><b>Photoula Hadjipapa</b>, Mayor of Lakatamia</p> <p><b>Eleni Loukaidou</b>, Municipal Councillor of Nicosia</p> <p><b>Andreas Kitromilides</b>, President of Union of Cyprus Communities</p> <p><b>Kleanthis Karamanides</b>, Deputy Mayor of Ypsonas</p> <p><b>Marinos Lamprou</b>, Mayor of Pegeia</p> <p><b>Questions and answers session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Michael Beys</b>, Civil Registry and Migration Department</p>
<b>11.00 - 11.20</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.20 – 12.40</b>	<p><i>Case studies of intercultural integration at the local level</i></p> <p><b>Bradford, United Kingdom</b>, Barry Cusack, Project Officer</p> <p><b>Reggio Emilia, Italy</b>, Marwa Mahmoud, President of the Commission Equality, Human Rights and International Relations</p> <p><b>Limassol, Cyprus</b>, Neophytos Charalambides, Deputy Mayor</p> <p><b>Lublin, Poland</b>, Anna Szadkowska-Ciężka, Deputy Director, Participation Office</p> <p><i>Questions and answers</i></p>
<b>12.40 – 13.00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

<p><b>13.00 – 13.45</b></p>	<p><b><i>Overview of “Building structures for intercultural integration at the local level” and the regional intercultural networks’ action plans</i></b></p> <p><b>Nichola Howson</b>, Senior Project Officer, Building structures for intercultural integration at the local level, Council of Europe</p> <p><b><i>From the local level to the national level – multilevel governance for intercultural integration policy in Cyprus</i></b></p> <p><b>Nenad Bogdanovic</b>, National coordinator, Building structures for intercultural integration at the local level</p> <p><b>Open discussion</b></p>
<p><b>13.45 - 14.00</b></p>	<p><b><i>Concluding remarks</i></b></p> <p><b>Michael Beys</b>, Chair of the Advisory Group on Integration of Migrants</p>
<p><b>14.00</b></p>	<p><b>Light lunch</b></p>

English/Greek interpretation will be provided