



MULTILEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE FOR INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION

The Council of Europe aims to bring its member States closer together. As societies become more diverse, this goal can be achieved by working together on equality, integration, and managing diversity.

The Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)10 aims to guide public authorities at all levels in shaping more inclusive, cohesive, and prosperous societies by leveraging the benefits of diversity. It provides member States with guidance to address the challenges related to migration, diversity, and social inclusion. It underscores the importance of viewing diversity and human mobility as opportunities for societal development and prosperity, rather than as issues to be managed.

Member States are encouraged to adopt holistic, strategic approaches that consider the potential of diversity, ensure equality, encourage active citizenship, and foster meaningful interaction across diverse groups.

**Council of Europe
policy framework**

**Multilevel policies and governance
for intercultural integration**

Anti-discrimination

MULTILEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE FOR INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION



The recommendation

■ Provides **guidance** for local, regional and national levels of government on how to achieve **successful intercultural integration and inclusion of migrants**. This guidance is also relevant for other stakeholders.

■ Describes the intercultural integration approach as a set of policies targeting **society as a whole**, which:

- ▶ help society to **benefit from the potential of diversity** and manage its complexities;
- ▶ create the conditions necessary to ensure **equal opportunities for migrants to integrate** into the legal, social, economic and cultural contexts in their country of residence.

■ Defines the mutually reinforcing goals of intercultural integration as:

- ▶ promoting and ensuring **equality and dignity for all** members of society;
- ▶ building **mutual respect, dialogue and trust** between all members of society;
- ▶ fostering a **common, pluralistic sense of belonging** through valuing diversity and providing space for meaningful interaction between people across their different socio-cultural backgrounds, and;
- ▶ facilitating **active citizenship and participation** on an equal footing in society.

■ Calls for **strategic and coherent policies at all levels of government to recognise the potential of diversity** and **address the inequalities** faced by migrants and persons with migrant background.

■ Recognises the **holistic and comprehensive approach to intercultural integration** by ensuring that not only migrants but society as a whole contribute to an inclusive society.

■ Highlights that the intercultural integration model may also be **relevant for other groups and individuals** of different backgrounds.

What governments should do

■ Implement **legislative measures that apply the intercultural integration approach to policies in all fields that cover the local, regional and national levels**, and the interaction and coordination between them, ensuring a comprehensive approach to inclusivity and preventing discrimination.

■ Promote the understanding of the **four principles of intercultural integration**:

- ▶ ensuring **equality**; by carrying out anti-discrimination audits and action plans to eliminate discrimination in the provision of public services, and by providing clear rules for obtaining permanent residence and naturalisation;
- ▶ valuing **diversity** by, tackling hate speech, promoting multilingualism and encouraging a balanced portrayal of diversity in the media;
- ▶ fostering **meaningful interaction** by preventing spatial segregation and promoting intercultural competencies in education, sport, the private sector and healthcare, among others;
- ▶ facilitating **active citizenship and participation** by making special efforts to empower marginalised, socially excluded and persons in situations of vulnerability and measures for and actively encouraging participation in all fields of public life.

■ Establish a **coherent strategy across national, regional, and local levels** to ensure effective policy implementation, building also partnerships with civil society, local institutions, and the private sector.

■ **Build capacity** to support institutions and civil society organisations in the development, implementation, and assessment of the intercultural integration approach.

■ Establish a **solid multilevel governance framework for intercultural integration** that is based on partnerships and coordination between local, regional and national levels of government, as well as other stakeholders and civil society organisations.

■ Encourage governments across all levels to **set up participatory mechanisms** that enable the general public to engage in policy and decision-making processes.

■ **Sharing and reviewing experiences** of all levels of government with international counterparts to improve practices in the integration of migrants.

■ Ensure that **representatives of migrants and of persons from various socio-cultural origins, are systematically involved at all levels**, especially in the co-design of national, regional and local intercultural integration strategies.

More on the recommendation and the Council of Europe's work on intercultural inclusion:



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