DESK RESEARCH

Dear Colleagues,

we are happy to start the first step of the EMILL Project, a desk analysis on Practices of Integration of Third-Country Citizens at Local and Regional Level.

The following questionnaire envisages on the one hand, the Draft European Modules on Integration published by DG Home Affairs - European Commission in July 2011, recalling similar tools appointed by the Committee of Regions in the Survey on Practices of Integration of Third-Country Citizens at Local and Regional Level in the European Union. On the other hand, the questionnaire expresses the research experiences carried out by Ismu Foundation on the issue.

The main objective of the assignment is to collect and analyze information on policies and projects implemented by Local and Regional Authorities in EMILL partners countries, in order to develop a methodology for the monitoring and the benchmarking of integration practices.

Indeed, emphasis shall be set on the European Modules on migrant integration; namely, "Introductory and Language and Courses" and "Strong Commitment of the Receiving Society".
More precisely, each partner is asked to find information on 4 different practices[1]: 2 regarding language course, 2 regarding access to services (one of these should concern health assistance).

Please, refer to the proposed questionnaire, structured as follows, to overcome the task:

- ✓ Part 1: The local context. Integration policies pursued by national and regional authorities
- ✓ Part 2: Factsheet on integration practices and projects in cities and regions

With the view to the first EMILL meeting that will be held in Milan on the 19th October 2012, we would very much appreciate your inputs to the desk research. If you have any questions about the content of the questionnaire, please contact **Daniela Carrillo:** d.carrillo@ismu.org ; **Guia Gilardoni** g.gilardoni@ismu.org., or **Marina D'Odorico** m.dodorico@ismu.org - tel. 0039 2 678779279;

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[1] The practices can be referred to projects conducted by non-institutional organizations

Part 1: the local context – Integration policies pursued by local and regional authorities

Reference Territory:
- National level [BE; IR; PT; SK]
- Regional level [IT (Lombardia, Campania, Umbria); DE (Hessen); ES (Tenerife)]

Question 1.1
How many Third Country migrants are there in your city/region and what percentage of the total population do they represent? *Please, specify date and source* - Number - Percentage of overall population

Question 1.2
Demographic composition of migrant population legally present *Please, all tables should be excel compatible* - Distribution for Gender & Age *(age intervals: [0-4]; [5-9]; [10-14]; …; [75 and over])* - Citizenship (indicate the first 10) - Seniority of presence *(according to the following intervals: [0]; [1-2]; [3-4]; [5-9]; [10-14];[>15])* - Reasons of Residence permits - Education level *(% of : illiterates; Primary educational level; Secondary educational level; Tertiary educational level)* - Activity position *(% of : workers, employees, unemployed persons, inactive)* - Marriage Status

Question 1.3
Legislative and institutional framework regarding the <u>entering</u> of Third Country Nationals *Please, fill max 20 lines* A number of separate legislative pieces as well administrative schemes deal with matters concerning the entry of third country nationals (non-EU nationals) in Ireland. Non-EU nationals may enter Ireland for the purpose of employment if they hold an employment permit or for the purpose of studying if they hold a student visa. This however does not apply to certain groups who hold residency permissions, known as "Stamp 4" in Ireland. The main groups belonging here are refugees and their family members, those who received permission to remain (mostly on humanitarian grounds) and those holding long term residency status (former employment permit holders.) There is also a significant group of non-EU nationals, around 16,000 people, who were granted permission to stay in Ireland as parents of Irish citizens. The reason for this is the change in citizenship law according to which the "jus soli" principle was longer applicable in Ireland from 2004. Previously those born in Ireland were granted citizenship automatically and their parents were permitted to stay in Ireland as a result. In 2011 ECJ arrived at a significant decision which resulted in Member States re-considering

granting permission to stay to non-EU parents of Member States citizens. Ireland swiftly adopted an administrative scheme through which around 1,100 non-EU parents received permission to stay in Ireland and a further 800 have their application pending.

In pursuit of a European Directive, non-EU family members of EU nationals can also enter and stay in Ireland.

Question 1.4

Legislative and institutional framework regarding the <u>staying</u> of Third Country Nationals

Please, fill max 10 lines for each aspect

- ▪ *Access to school and University*

Every child can access primary and second level schools without restrictions. However, children of student visa holders are required to study in private second level schools.

Non-EU nationals may need a student visa to study at third level institutions unless they hold a residency permission (known as "Stamp 4"). This includes various groups of people, see list above.

There are varying level of fees depending on the status of non-EU nationals. Refugees and their family members, people who were granted permission to remain on humanitarian grounds or as family members of EU citizens may qualify for free fees. All other non-EU groups pay fees, the level of which depends on the length of time they have spent in Ireland. In general, if they or their parents were tax residents for three years, they can qualify for lower EU fees.

- ▪ *Access to labour market (seasonal employment, self employment, …)*

As noted above, non-EU nationals need an **employment permit** unless they hold a residency permit (known as "Stamp 4). The employment permit system is vacancy driven. Either the employer or the employee can apply for a permit.

Documentary evidence has to be provided on the job offer and relevant qualifications and work experience. The two most common types of permits are Green Card permit and Work Permit.

A Green Card is issued in occupations with an annual salary above €60,000 and for selected occupations with an annual salary between €30,000 and €60,000. Work permits can also be issued for positions with an annual salary between €30,000 and €60,000 if they are not on the list of ineligible occupations.

The Work Permit system aims to fill labour shortages while the Green Card system is set up to fill skill shortages.

With the economic downturn, the number of occupations ineligible for work permit increased. Green card offers more favourable entitlements such as immediate family reunification and qualification for long term residency after two years .

Non-EU nationals need permission from the Department of Justice & Equality to set up their business unless they hold a residency permit (known as "Stamp 4").

Applicant for the new **Start-Up Entrepreneur Programme** need to demonstrate financial backing of €75,000 through business angels, venture capital providers or a financial institution regulated by the Financial Regulator.

Personal funding transferred to the State or a grant from a relevant State agency would also be acceptable.

Unlike with the previous scheme, applicants will not be required to produce employment in this developmental stage of the business. The scheme targets high-potential start-ups which have the potential to introduce goods and services to the international market and create employment and capable of creating 10 jobs at a later stage.

Applicants for the **Business Permission** scheme need to provide evidence of at least a €300,000 investment and employment of two EU nationals. Joint investments can be accepted. The scheme offers opportunity for those who want to start business in retail, catering and personal services that normally do not qualify under the Start-Up Entrepreneurial Programme.

- ▪ *Citizenship and Right to vote*

Citizenship process:

If a person wishes to become an Irish citizen through naturalisation, they must:
- Be 18 years or older (or married if under the age of 18) or
- Be a minor born in the State (from 1 January 2005) and
- Be of good character - the Garda Síochána (Ireland's national police) will be asked to provide a report about their background. Any criminal record or ongoing proceedings will be taken into consideration by the Minister for Justice and Law Reform in deciding whether or not to grant naturalisation.
- Have had a period of 1 year's continuous reckonable residence in the State immediately before the date of your application for naturalisation and, during the 8 years preceding that have had a total reckonable residence in the State amounting to 4 years. (Altogether the person must have 5 years' reckonable residence out of the last 9 years - see section below on calculating reckonable residence.)
- Intend in good faith to continue to reside in the State after naturalisation
- Make a declaration of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the State (see below for the point in the process at which this is required).

Normally, the applicant is expected to support themselves and their dependants while living in Ireland. However, this is not explicitly mentioned and the precise meaning of that implied condition seems to be rather unclear.[2]

Voting rights:
- ▪ All residents can vote on local election after having lived in Ireland for six months.
- ▪ EU citizens can vote in EU elections (if they have de-registered in their countries of origin).
- ▪ Irish and UK citizens can vote in national election.
- ▪ Irish citizens can vote in referendum.

- ▪ *Cultural Mediation*

Cultural mediation was used in health service occasionally but it was not introduced in a systematic way. Due to budgetary constraint it is unlikely that it would be adopted in the near future.

Question 1.5

What sort of measures does your city/region have in place to promote Introductory an language courses for Third Country Nationals? (see Module 1)

Please, indicate if and how the following aspects are covered separately for legislation indication (a), and normal practice (b)

Fill max 10 lines for each item

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[2] For more detailed information, see www.inis.gov.ie

- *Pedagogic Schemes for Language Tuition*

    English as a second language (ESOL) is provided by the Vocational Education Committees (State-funded local bodies) as part of the adult literacy service.

    In practice classes are held in further and adult education institutions. In 2010, 11,500 participants availed of tuition free of charge.

    VECs also provide English language tuition under the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI). In 2010 over 1,500 participations availed of this. This is a scheme that provides social welfare support through a form of training allowance for unemployed who wish to raise their educational level.

    The National Adult Refugee Programme was introduced in 2009 which includes provision of English language classes through a number of VECs across the country for people who were granted refugee status, but other non-EU national with residency permits (known as Stamp 4) holders are also accepted (www.adultrefugee.ie). [3]

    This programme also teaches additional skills for accessing the workplace, as well as Irish social and cultural knowledge. In 2010 there were over 800 participants on the Adult Refugee Programme. Its length was reduced from 12 months to 6 months recently.

    A voluntary programme providing English classes to migrants is the 'Fáilte Isteach' project which involves older people volunteering their time to teach conversational English to new migrants from all over the world.

    Fáilte Isteach has recently expanded bringing the total number of branches in the country to forty five and a presence in eighteen counties by end 2011. Fáilte Isteach, which receives some financial support from the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, now has a team of three full-time staff and one part-time, all of whom support a group of 440 volunteers who are offering a service to 1,150 migrant students from 61 countries every week. [4]

- *Introductory Courses*

    a) The aforementioned Adult Refugee Programme is the only statutory introductory course in Ireland. Some non-governmental organisation piloted their own programmes but they did not continue

- *Incentive Structure*

    a) Jobseekers are expected to participate in training if they are unsuccessful in their job applications. Therefore, those without a job and with low level of English are likely to be required to attend English classes. It is however more a practice than an official explicit policy. In Ireland residency permits do not depend on passing a language test.

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[3] In summer of 2008, the Government announced that it was transferring responsibility for the provision of English language programmes for refugees to the Vocational Educational Committee (VEC) sector from Integrate Ireland Language Training (IILT).

[4] http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/F9260D02AAD30AD180257576003DB18F.

- *Evaluation and quality assessment*
    a) There is no independent evaluation provided by the state. Individual donors and foundation will ask for evaluation which will not be available publically from those programmes run by Non Governmental Organistions.

- *Other*

    As mentioned above, a number of non-governmental organisations produced resources can be classified as introductory or orientation type of measures. The **Living in Ireland** is an easy-to-use, multi-purpose resource created by **Crosscare Migrant Project**. It provides general information on rights in five languages and explores culture, language, history, society, and political participation in Ireland.

    The Republic of Ireland - A Beginners Guide to Society, Culture & Politics' was compiled by Dr. Elaine Byrne, journalist, consultant and political analyst, as part of a collaborative project between four local authority areas of South Dublin and the New Community Partnership. The publication marks the beginning of a series of workshops that will take place in the greater Dublin area which will give an overview of the political, historical, social, and cultural frameworks of Irish society.

    'Find Your Way' is a directory and map of essential statutory and non-statutory services for migrants in five languages': English, French, Polish, Russian and Mandarin Chinese. It has been made available both in printed form and online. A map was also attached to the information booklet. The Directory of key services for Dublin city centre is primarily aimed at linking migrants with available and relevant services to help ease their transition and integration within Irish life and society.

Question 1.6

What sort of measures does your city/region have in place to promote a strong commitment by the receiving society within ensuring equal access to public services? *(see Module 2, Component 2)*

Please, indicate if and how the following aspects are covered separately for legislation indication (a), and normal practice (b)

Fill max 10 lines for each item

- *Intercultural and sector specific trainings for employees of service providers*
    a) The Equal Status Act 2000 came into force on the 25th October 2000. It was amended by the Equality Act 2004 on the 19th July 2004. The Acts relate to discrimination based on the following **9 grounds**: Gender, Marital Status, Family Status, Age, Race, Religion, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Membership of the Traveller community.
    The Acts apply to people who:

    1. Buy and sell a wide variety of goods,
    2. Use or provide a wide range of services,
    3. Obtain or dispose of accommodation,
    4. Attend at, or are in charge of, educational establishments,
    5. There are separate provisions on discriminatory clubs.

    b) The Health Service Executive has provided intercultural training for hospital staff although

that discontinued; the Garda Siochána (Irish Police Forde) has trained ethnic liaison officers as part of its Community Garda service; new trainee teacher may do some module on inter-culturalism but in-service training for existing teachers has been rare.

- *Mainstreamed Services: action plans on integration*
    a) Three government publications, The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007-2016) adopted some action targeting the immigrant population. The National Action Plan Against Racism (2005-2008) had chapters on integration. It also prescribed that local authorities would develop their own anti-racism and diversity strategies. Migration Nation (2008), published by the Minister of Justice was a political statement on integration and diversity, has encouraged initiatives for integration planning, specifically at the local level, i.e.: at City and County Council levels. There is no national Integration Plan or Strategy.

    By the end of 2012, 26 out of Ireland's 34 Local Authorities will have engaged in Local Integration Strategies. One city has already published its second Integration Strategy (Galway), and both Cork City and Limerick County and City are currently engaged in writing their second strategies.

- *Information and services through one-stop-shops*
    a) & b) The Citizens Information Centres, which are nationally funded by the State but locally run, provide both online and face-to-face information services, particularly in cities and towns of large populations, providing extensive information on all community services. FLAC provides free legal assistance. A large number of the clients of CIC's are non-Irish nationals.

    Many Non-Governmental Organisations throughout the country provide Information and Advocacy and in some cases legal services for Immigrants, covering a broad range of topics relating to their immigrant status, social welfare difficulties, family reunification and citizenship application assistance. The information work was largely funded by the States and was affected by recent cut backs.

- *Other*
    a) ……….
    ……
    ……
    b)……
    ……
    ……

Question 1.7

What sort of measures does your city/region have in place to improve the public perception of migration and migrants? (see Module 2 , Component 4)

Please, indicate if and how the following aspects are covered, separately for legislation indication (a) and normal practice (b)

Fill max 10 lines for each item

- *Guidance to and training of professionals working with migrants*

    a) There is no legal requirement to provide guidance and training of professional on working with migrants. However the Employment Equality Act outlaws discrimination and prejudice in employment on the grounds of, amongst other, religion, nationality and race.

    b) Training by and large is delivered as part of the intercultural training, mainly in the health sector and to some extent for ethnic liaison officers in the Garda (Irish Police Force).The health sector tried to incorporate some element on migrant specific issues into their intercultural training e.g. some health conditions and problems associated with the migrant population (FGM).

    Recent research by National University of Galway and funded by the Health Service Executive established the main components of a future guidance resource for General Practitioners as that latter group did not receive training.

    As part of the local integration plan activities, some measures included training of service providers working with migrants as well as establishing structured forms of engaging with the migrant communities. To sum it up, training and guidance for professionals working with immigrants is not comprehensive and it is notably absent in education and employment support

Intercultural meetings

    a) After the publication of Migration Nation in 2008, a Ministerial Council on Integration, a consultative forum with immigrants, was established.

    However, Ministerial Councils were held only once in each of four regions in October/November 2010, followed by a change of government which to date has not resumed the Councils.

    Migration Nation also spoke about a standing Commission on Integration, and a Task Force to establish future policy needs. Neither of these initiatives has happened. Ireland had a Minister of State for Integration in the previous government, but this post was discontinued in 2010.

    b) Many local areas (cities and counties) have established Intercultural Forums and interagency groups to raise issues pertinent to immigrants and to build local integration. The Health Service Executive has been funding Cairde, an NGO, which runs an ethnic minority health forum.

    Many of the local area forums have gone on to develop integration strategies, as well as strong community groupings that have held extensive Intercultural Festivals.

Surveys

    a) The Central Statistic Office carries out Census every five years and the Labour Force Survey (known as the Quarterly Household National Survey) every three months. These surveys's record the nationality of respondents and allows for comparison. Equally, the European Survey on Income and Living Conditions and Programme for International

Student Assessment survey (OECD) records nationality groups of respondents.
The Annual Integration Monitor Reports utilise data gained from those survey to establish key indicators of integration as agreed by EU leaders in Zaragoza in 2010, such as unemployment rate, poverty rate, home ownership, highest educational attainment and student performance.
The Annual Integration Monitors are financed by The Integration Centre, a non-governmental organisation.

Regrettably, there are no large scale attitudinal survey on attitudes and behaviours of migrants. There was one large-scale research project by University College Dublin and Immigrant Council of Ireland that looked at the lived experience of 400 immigrants in four main nationality groups in 2008. (Lithuanians, Indians, Chinese and Nigerians).

b) The Integration Centre held extensive consultation across Ireland in various local authority areas.

▪ Other
a) …….
………
………
b)……
………
………

Question 1.8

Does your country, region or city organize any consultations in the framework of the general integration policy?

- ▪ Yes [X]
- ▪ No []

If Yes – please provide examples
Only on a local level as part of the integration planning that has happened in 26 of the 34 local government structures in Ireland. There are no national or regional consultations.

Question 1.9

Indicate the importance for your city or region of different ways to promote the integration of Third Country Nationals

Please, rank the following factors by order of priority, from 1 (lowest priority) to 5 (highest priority) giving reasons of your marks (fill max 10 lines for each item)

- ▪ Employment schemes   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

Dublin is the economic centre of Ireland providing more than 40% of the countries GNP. It is also the European IT headquarters of many multinational companies such as Facebook, eBay, Google and Oracle where many non Irish nationals work.

- ▪ Educational and training   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]

Dublin is an important city for third level education and home to the three biggest Universities. Trinity College in particularly has a good school that carries out research into integration in Ireland.

■ Housing   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]

Housing policy in Dublin city is not very focused on active integration. Housing allocation for social cases is only allocated on the basis of need and the nationality, religion or race of the applicant is not taken into account.

■ Health services   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]

The health service is Ireland is centrally run and therefore no one area or region is any better or any worse for health services than the other. However this year the first module on social medicine which includes classes on "migrant health needs" will be taught to trainee General Practitioners by the North Dublin General Practitioner Training Programme. This program is one of 13 in Ireland organised around geographic boundaries.

■ Social welfare measures   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]

There are no specific targeting of migrants in Dublin in relation to social welfare measures.

■ Promoting migrants' culture   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

All four local governments in Dublin County; Dublin City Council, Dun Laoighaire Council, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council have undertaken Integration Plans and are highly active in organising their own events and initiatives to promote migrant culture.

■ Language training   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]

There is no specific targeting of migrants in relation to language training.

■ Other, please specify (Organising forums for community reps and services
……………………………………………………) [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

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Question 1.10

Which of the dimensions of integration do local policies mostly refer to?

Please, rank from 1 (least developed) to 5 (most developed)

■ Legal/political measures   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
■ Socio-economic measures   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5
■ Cultural measures   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
■ Other, please specify (Policing……………………………………………………)   [1] [2] [3]
[4] [5]

Question 1.11

What are the main challenges to integration faced by Third Country Nationals in your country/region?

Please, rank the following factors by order of priority, from 1 (lowest priority) to 5 (highest priority) separately for "newly arrived migrants" and "long term residents"

■ **Newly arrived migrants**
a) Difficult finding a job   [1] [2] [3] [4] **[5]**
b) Poor educational qualifications   **[1]** [2] [3] [4] [5]
c) Language barriers   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]
d) Housing and community facilities   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]
e) Difficulties accessing public services   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
f) Other, please specify (security of status   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

■ **Long term residents**
a) Difficult finding a job   [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
b) Poor educational qualifications   **[1]** [2] [3] [4] [5]
c) Language barriers   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]

d)	Housing and community facilities	[1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
e)	Difficulties accessing public services	[1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]
f)	Other, please specify (Difficulty regarding status of family members)	[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

Question 1.12

What are the main challenges faced by your country/region in dealing with integration of Third Country Nationals in your country/region?

Please, rank the following factors by order of priority, from 1 (lowest priority) to 5 (highest priority), separately for "newly arrived migrants" and "long term residents"

- **Newly arrived migrants**

a)	Lack of resources	[1] [2] [3] [4] **[5]**
b)	Lack of specialist know-how	[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
c)	Not enough political support	[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
d)	Housing and community facilities	[1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
e)	Lack coordination among relevant services	[1] [2] [3] [4] **[5]**

f) Other, please specify (lack of recognition of the need for introductory measures)
[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

- **Long term residents**

a)	Lack of resources	[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]
b)	Lack of specialist know-how	[1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]
c)	Not enough political support	[1] [2] [3] [4] **[5]**
d)	Housing and community facilities	[1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
e)	Lack coordination among relevant services	[1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

f) Other, please specify (Recession was used a rationale for cutting important local authority structures that have engaged in the field of social inclusion of migrant groups……………………………………………) [1] [2] [3] **[4]** [5]

Question 1.13

What sort of assistance is provided to Third Country National migrants in the access to public services?

Please, fill max 10 lines for each service

- *Education*

   A key support for migrant children in Irish schools is the provision of English language tuition. Most of this support is delivered through specialised 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL) teachers, on the basis of the number of newcomer students.[5] Since March 2009, 'the level of EAL support will generally be reduced to a maximum of two teachers per school, as was the case before 2007' (Circular 0015/2009). While a reduction of 500 teachers were planned between 2010 and 2013, in 2011 double that figure, 250 language support teachers were removed on the basis that growing primary student population required transferring teachers to mainstream positions.

   Regarding introductory measures, the Department of Education produced a number of information booklet on different languages. Those booklets which are available online are

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5 Schools with fewer than 14 students receive a grant towards tuition; schools with 14-30 pupils one extra teacher; students with 31-90 pupils' two extra teachers. Schools with more than 90 students requiring English-language tuition need to make a special application to the DES (Circular 0015/2009).

however not promoted widely in schools. Schools themselves may put in place some information session or produced some information materials themselves. There is no policy on introductory measures in schools.

A 2010 survey of 442 teachers in secondary and further education institutions found that 91% of teachers/principals said that interpretation services are not adequate in their school. In addition, Almost two fifths of respondents do not have a policy on anti-racism and the promotion of interculturalism.[6]

There is no specific support in third level.

- *Employment*

Ireland's National Employment Service (NES) consists of 2 strands: Employment Services operated by FÁS, the National Training and Employment Authority, and the Local Employment Service (LES) which operates mainly through Local Area Partnership Companies on contract from FÁS.[7]

EEA nationals and Non EEA nationals who hold a residency permit (Stamp 4 registration certificates) have full access to these services. Employment permit holders and non-EEA students are not entitled to use these supports (other than the freely accessible online services such as the vacancies database[8]) and instead may avail of the services of private recruitment agencies.

Non-governmental and voluntary organisations may assist immigrants with their job search by providing employment support courses and referring them to agencies and websites. One highly regarded initiative is the EPIC - Employment for People from Immigrant Communities, which is financially supported by Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (part of the Department of Justice). It provides a 6 week classroom based training on Pre-Employment topics. Career guidance and individual assistance applying for jobs and training are provided. An important limitation of the programme that is offered for those living in the Greater Dublin area. People need to be an EU citizen or hold a residency permit (Stamp 4).

The National Qualification Authority of Ireland (NQAI) offers an online International Qualifications Database for holders of foreign qualifications and employers which lists certain foreign qualifications and provides advice regarding the comparability of the qualification to those that can be gained in Ireland.

The Qualification Recognition service, also developed by the NQAI, facilitates the recognition process as each foreign qualification is compared to an Irish qualification. Individuals whose qualifications is not regulated or listed in the NQAI database may apply to the NQAI to have their qualification recognised.

- *Health service*

In Ireland there is universal access to public health care, though costs may apply, for example for GP services. Medical card holders (supplied by the Department of Social Protection) may access certain public health services free of charge in Ireland. Entitlement to medical cards is means tested regardless of nationality.

The Health Service Executive National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007 – 2012 (NIHS) was developed during 2007 and formally launched in 2008. The HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012 provides a framework within which the health and care needs of people from diverse cultures and ethnic

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[6] Behaviour & Attitude (2010), Racism, Interculturalism, and Resources for Minority Ethnic Students, Dublin: Teachers Union Ireland, Equality Council

[7] On 27th July 2011 Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn T.D. announced that under section 37 of the Social Welfare and Pensions Bill 2010, FÁS will be disbanded and ultimately replaced by a new education and training programme including the establishment of SOLAS.

[8] http://www.fas.ie/en/Job+Seeker/Home/default.htm

backgrounds are addressed, while staff are supported in delivering responsive, culturally competent services. HSE funded employing interpreters in hospitals although relevant resources were cut recently.

The HSE also developed an Emergency Multilingual Aid to assist health service providers in their initial engagements with non-English speaking patients, prior to the arrival of an interpreter. It contains a welcome sheet; a language identification card for staff; guidelines for staff about how to use and access interpreters; and phrasebooks in English and 20 other languages, containing both staff and patient-led questions. The HSE also funded intercultural training workshops which were delivered in many hospitals.

- ▪ *Housing*

Local authorities in Ireland are the main provider of social housing for people who need housing and cannot afford to buy their own homes. Local authority housing is allocated according to housing need, and rents are based on ability to pay.

Rent supplement is available for those in private rented accommodation who cannot afford to meet their housing costs. Both benefits are subject to a means test and applicants must satisfy the habitual residence condition (evidence their link to the country) and qualify as eligible for social housing support.

To be eligible for social housing support, a person in general must have a long-term right to reside in the State: such as long term residency holders and non-EU family members of EU nationals. A non-EEA national who has been granted Refugee, Programme Refugee, or Subsidiary Protection status is eligible to be considered for social housing support, from the date of granting of such status, on the same basis as an Irish citizen.

- ▪ *Other*

The Irish Police Service, Garda Siochána, appointed Ethnic Liaison Officers across Ireland. Those officers were given the task of liaising with ethic minority communities (those different from mainstream cultures; i.e. migrant communities). However, in practice there are significant challenges as those officers do need to fulfil other tasks, too, and the relationship between them and ethnic communities may not be established in a structured manner.

Question 1.14

How effectively do policies carried out in your country/region with regard to the integration of Third Country Nationals address the challenges you have identified above?

Please, rank the effectiveness of different policies from 1 (not effectively at all) to 5 (very effectively indeed)

- ▪ Legal/political measures   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
- ▪ Socio-economic measures   [1] **[2]** [3] [4] [5]
- ▪ Cultural measures   [1] [2] **[3]** [4] [5]

What information is available to support your assessment?
MIPEX study gives a poor mark on long-term residency and family reunion in Ireland.
Ireland also receives low scores on labour market mobility due to the fact that special services e.g. language support, while mainstream services do not take all the tasks fulfilled by the specialist services. Employment support and educational grants are only available for a certain groups of non-EU nationals.

The Annual Integration Monitor 2011 showed that the unemployment gap is widening between Irish and non-Irish nationals although the gap is not as big between non-EU nationals and Irish nationals as between EU nationals and Irish nationals. However, this may be linked to the fact that the activity rate is lower among non-EU nationals.

On the positive side, citizenship process has improved and voting rights are progressive. Furthermore, a

number of local authorities have taken important step by setting up intercultural groups and forums and develop intercultural/anti-racism plans initially which were followed later by integration plans in a number of local authority areas. It is regrettable that current changes in local authority structures and lack of leadership at the government level may result in some of the good work being eroded.

While many positive steps can be listed regarding cultural integration, such as the occurrence of many festivals and dialogue groups it is also important to underline the occurrence of racism. While there is growing evidence of its occurrence, particularly, in disadvantaged areas, the response from the State and its agencies, such as the Garda (Irish Police force), has been to a large extent piecemeal and ineffective.

Explain what would be needed to help tackle the challenges more effectively
- Introduce statutory permanent residency status for non-EU nationals as well as right to family reunion.
- Review current language provision and halt any cuts until proper assessment takes place. Ensure that conversion courses and work placement opportunities are available for professional migrants
- Provide clear mandate to a government agency as well as local authorities to implement social inclusion and integration measures.
- Introduce racism a crime in Ireland and develop a mechanism for the Garda (Irish Police force) which allows for tracking and responding to racism effectively.

Use this space for any other comments on integration policies in your city or region
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Part 2: Factsheet on integration practices and projects in cities and regions

With reference either to sharing methods and instruments used for the monitoring and evaluation of integration practices and/or interventions, either to the operational levels covered by the project, the following analysis are suggested.

Collect (if possible on electronic support) and make available <u>two different kind of materials</u>:

Material – A
Good Practices **Evaluation Systems** concerning project's interest fields *(i.e.: formalized devices made of integrated instruments, tools, procedures, use indications, reference framework, …. : "evaluation systems" can have the form of models, guidelines, manuals, short-guides or other)*   These systems: ✓   must be dated after 2002; ✓   may have been both "on-the-field" tested (and therefore implemented) *or* designed without being tested or applied; ✓   may have been produced by both public and private organizations; ✓   may be in ordinary use or remained at a prototypical state; ✓   may have been officially published or "grey materials" (i.e. unpublished). In general, we consider *Good Practices Evaluation Systems* those systems which are **explicitly** defined and labeled in this way: the number of such a system to be collected by each Partner depends on the specific context situation.
Material – B
4 cases (having the form of 4 short reports) of **interventions** (or services or activities) and respective **monitoring or analysis reports** (the presence of both reports is compulsory). Monitoring or analysis reports should be chosen using the following criteria: ✓ dated after 2005; ✓ able to give evidence either to the main and qualifying processes and to the final/short term results of the intervention; ✓ based upon strong and scientifically sound data collection and analysis methods and techniques.