



## 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<sup>1</sup>: 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](mailto:d.carrillo@ismu.org) ; **Guia Gilardoni** [g.gilardoni@ismu.org](mailto:g.gilardoni@ismu.org)., or **Marina D’Odorico** [m.dodorico@ismu.org](mailto:m.dodorico@ismu.org) - tel. 0039 2 678779279;

Milan, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

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<sup>1</sup> 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*

- **25 794** (as of **June 30, 2012**, according to the Statistical overview of legal and illegal migration in the Slovak republic in 2012. Available at [http://www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/rocnky/rok\\_2012/2012\\_I\\_polrok%20\\_UHCP-SK-REV.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/rocnky/rok_2012/2012_I_polrok%20_UHCP-SK-REV.pdf))
- **0,47 %** (own calculation based on the 2011 Population Census, available at <http://portal.statistics.sk/files/tab-1.pdf>)

### Question 1.2

**Demographic composition of migrant population legally present**

*Please, all tables should be excel compatible*

Age distribution of third country nationals (2010)			
TOTAL	24,069		
Age group	Number of third country nationals	Age group	Number of third country nationals
0-4	600	45- 49	1,932
5 to 9	715	50- 54	1,388
10 to 14	787	55- 59	969
15-19	1,052	60- 64	680
20- 24	2,601	65- 69	397
25- 29	3,544	70- 74	267
30- 34	3,278	75- 79	173
35- 39	2,999	80- 84	87
40- 44	2,522	85	78

Gender and Age distribution as of December 31, 2010					
	0 to 4	5 to 19	20 to 54	55 and above	Total
<b>Women</b>	544	2047	15829	3860	22280
<b>Men</b>	527	2144	31239	5698	39608
<b>Total</b>					<b>61888*</b>

*\*the number includes also EU/EEA citizens*

Citizenship as of June 30, 2012	
Ukraine	6370
Serbia	4436
Russia	2331
Vietnam	2118
China	1857
South Korea	1654
USA	894
Macedonia	581
Croatia	487
Turkey	361

- Seniority of presence - *unavailable*
- Reasons of Residence permits

Types of residence permits				
	Temporary	Permanent	Tolerated	Total
Third country nationals	15199	10305	290	25794
EU/EEA	18	42835	85	42938
<b>Total</b>				<b>68732</b>

- Education level – *unavailable*
- Activity position - *unavailable*
- Marriage Status - *unavailable*

**Question 1.3**

**Legislative and institutional framework regarding the entering of Third Country Nationals**

Alien Residence Act (No. 404/2011 Coll.) entered into force on January 1, 2012. The Act stipulates conditions of entering the territory of the Slovak Republic and obligations of EU nationals as well as third country nationals. Provisions of Para 5 and 6 of the Act lay down rules of crossing the external borders. Para 6- When crossing the external border third country nationals must prove they has sufficient financial resources to cover their stay in Slovakia. According to the Decree of the Interior Ministry No. 499/2011 of December 15, 2011 it is 56 € per person/day (accommodation – 30 €, breakfast – 4 €, lunch – 7.50 €, dinner – 7.50 €, misc – 7 €).

Section 3 stipulates granting Schegen and national visa.

Para 15 – National Visa is granted for minimum 3 months and maximum 1 year.

Para 17 – third country nationals apply for the national visa at the nearest Slovak Republic’s embassy. Along with the application they are required to submit valid passport, color photography, a document confirming purpose of the stay in Slovakia, document confirming existing health insurance, and other documents. If requested, applicant is obliged to attend an interview in person.<sup>2</sup> The embassy issues its decision within 30 days from lodging the application. Prior to its decision the embassy requests an official standpoint of the Interior Ministry in each individual application.

<sup>2</sup> This is particularly problematic for applicants coming from countries in which Slovakia does not have an embassy. They are therefore required to travel long-distance and expend considerable resources just to apply for visa.

In terms of institutional framework regarding entering third country nationals it is the Bureau of Border and Alien Police (under the Interior Ministry) and its departments of Alien Police that secure all issues pertaining to allowing third country nationals into the country and issuing residence permits. Slovak Republic's embassies, on the other hand, issue and national visa after receiving the Interior Ministry's standpoint in each individual case.

#### Question 1.4

##### Legislative and institutional framework regarding the staying of Third Country Nationals

Section 3 of the Alien Residence Act defines several types of temporary residence permit (hereinafter as TRP is issued by Departments of Alien Police.

**Temporary residence permit** is bound to a single purpose: business conduct, employment, studies, specific activity<sup>3</sup>, research and development, family reunification, fulfillment of services duties by civilian component of armed forces. TRP can also be granted to Slovaks living in abroad diasporas, or to a person with a long-term residence in an EU member state. So called blue card<sup>4</sup> is also deemed a TRP (Para 37 of the Alien Residence Act) which can be granted to third country nationals with high qualification.

Permanent residence permit is issued first for 5 years (Para 43) and later can be issued for an unlimited period of time (Para 47). TRP for the purposes of employment is only granted based on a valid work permit issued by Labour Office (subsidiary institution of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family) for maximum 2 years.

**Permanent residence permit** – is granted for either 5 years or for an unlimited period of time conditional upon several criteria: clean criminal registry, applicant must not suffer from an illness endangering public health, secured accommodation (for a 5- year residence) and financial resources totaling 12-times the amount of subsistence minimum (currently 2 334.96 EUR). Permanent residence permit can be granted to an applicant who has had a permanent residence permit in Slovakia at least for 4 years prior to filing the application.

*Please, fill max 10 lines for each aspect*

##### ▪ **Access to school and University**

Education of third country nationals is rather complex topic and includes education of children, of adults, language courses and recognition of diplomas and professional qualification.

**Education of children** - foreigners have the same rights as citizens of the Slovak Republic and compulsory education (lasting 10 years, usually from the age of 6 to 16) applies to children of foreigners, too.

Education of children of foreigners is regulated by Para 146 of the Schooling Act (Law No. 245/2008) which stipulates that children of foreigners are educated under the same conditions as children of citizens of the Slovak Republic. The Schooling Act further instructs schools to provide Slovak language courses to children and methodological support to teachers which falls into competence of the Education Ministry. In the school year 2011/2012 there were 1012 pupils with foreign citizenship in Slovak elementary schools (0.25%)

**Access to University Education** - in the academic year the number of foreigners studying at public universities reached 3804 (2.9%). Citizens of certain non-EU countries are entitled to study at public universities in Slovakia free of charge (Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldavia, Serbia, Ukraine and Belarus). However, they must be enrolled in a full-time program and must not exceed the standard length

<sup>3</sup> Para 25: Specific activity is defined as lecturing, arts, sports, internship, activity framed within programmes of the Slovak Republic or the EU, fulfilment of Slovakia's commitment based on international treaty, provision of health care, volunteering, or activities of a journalist accredited in the Slovak Republic.

<sup>4</sup> Blue card is a specific type of temporary residence permit intended to attract high skilled immigrants.

of full-time studies (usually 5 years). Other third country nationals might be required to pay tuition fees even if they do not exceed the standard length of studies.<sup>5</sup> Language courses are provided within the so called zero grade and secured by the Institute of Language and Academic Preparation for Foreign Students.

**Recognition of diplomas and professional qualification** – foreigners can have their acquired education validated by the Centre for Diploma Recognition, a subsidy organization of the Education Ministry.<sup>6</sup> Regarding university education the Education Ministry assesses university diplomas acquired abroad and issues a decision whether such diploma is equivalent to the Slovak one.<sup>7</sup> Slovakia has several bilateral agreements according to which diplomas from respective countries are recognized automatically. Only one of the countries is the so called third country – Croatia. Legislative framework for recognizing professional qualifications is anchored in the Law No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities and Law No. 293/2007 Coll. on Recognition of Professional Qualification. If content of the foreign study program does not correspond fully with its Slovak equivalent the Ministry can require the applicant to take an additional exam. In order to have their diplomas validated foreigners are required to submit formal application, original or a notarized copy of the diploma and a notarized copy of subjects and exams taken at the foreign university.

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

Third country nationals are allowed to enter labour market conditional upon obtaining a **work permit for a specific job** issued by a Labour Office.<sup>8</sup> The work permit is a precondition for granting a temporary residence permit for the purposes of employment. Therefore, if the third country national suddenly loses his job temporary residence permit becomes invalid as well. Employment of third country nationals is regulated by Law No. 5/2004 on Employment Services, Law No. 404/2011 on the Alien Residence, Law No. 311/2001 Labour Code, Law No. 365/2004 Anti-discrimination Act and Law No. 82/2005 on Illegal Work.

**Business conduct (or trade license)** – third country nationals who apply for a temporary residence permit for the purposes of business conduct must fulfill the following conditions: submit a document entitling him to conduct business in Slovakia (for instance, in the case of a natural person it is a trade license) and prove he has sufficient financial resources to cover both his residence (2278 EUR if the residence exceeds 12 months) and his business separately. If the foreigner acts as a natural person (i.e. holds a trade license) the financial resources to cover his business must total 3797 EUR. If the foreigner acts as a legal person (on behalf of a company) required financial resources must total 18 983 EUR. Therefore, if a third country national intends to conduct a business in Slovakia as a natural person he must have at least 6075 EUR (2278+3797) at the time of applying for the residence permit. Third country nationals conducting business in Slovakia are subject to the same legislature as Slovak citizens. The only difference is that foreigners must prove in their tax return forms that their business is not loss-making since loss-making might be a reason for not renewing foreigner's residence permit.

▪ **Citizenship and Right to vote**

Citizenship can be granted to third country nationals if they meet several conditions: permanent uninterrupted residence in Slovakia for at least 8 years prior to the application, clean criminal record (this includes sanction of deportation, launched procedure on administrative deportation, criminal prosecution, extradition procedure, procedure to issue a European arrest warrant and procedure to revoke asylum).<sup>9</sup> An applicant must pass a language exam (Para 8) which is, however, rather subjective as no official guidelines are given and the applicant's performance is only assessed by a committee comprising three members. The 2007 amendment introduced a new obligation to comply with provisions of legal rules that regulate residence of foreigners on the territory of the Slovak Republic as well as those that govern public

<sup>5</sup> <http://mic.iom.sk/sk/socialne-veci/vzdelavanie/60-vysoke-skoly-na-slovensku-vzdelavanie-cudzincov.html>

<sup>6</sup> Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic No. 207/1993 Coll. of September 7, 1993 detailing equality of diplomas and on conditions of recognition of diplomas issued by foreign elementary and high schools.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.minedu.sk/posudenie-studia-v-zahranici-pre-zdravotne-poistovne-socialnu-poistovnu-zamestnavatelov-a-i/>

<sup>8</sup> Some third country national do not need a work permit, e.g. subsidiary protection beneficiaries ...

<sup>9</sup> Para 7 of the Citizenship Act No. 40/1993

health insurance, social security system, old age pension scheme, taxes, contributions, fees, employing foreigners and other obligations ensuing from the legal order of the Slovak Republic.<sup>10</sup> According to MIPEX III Slovakia ranks among countries with the strictest conditions for granting citizenship to immigrants.<sup>11</sup> Interior Ministry is in charge of assessing application for Slovak citizenship although applications are submitted to District Offices, diplomatic missions or consular offices. Furthermore, the district office requests relevant Police department to issue its standpoint regarding each application (Para 8 section 9)

**Right to vote** – third country nationals with a permanent resident permit can vote and be elected, however, only in the regional and municipal elections. Fundamental legal rules governing this field include: Law No. 333/2004 Coll. on Parliamentary Elections, Law No. 346/1990 Coll. on Municipal Elections, Law No. 303/2001 Coll. on Regional Elections and Law No. 46/1999 Coll. on Presidential Elections.

- Cultural Mediation

N/A

### 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*

- **Pedagogic Schemes for Language Tuition**

a) Language tuition is to be provided for children of foreigners (Para 146 of the Schooling Act). The key actor in this respect is the Regional School Authority who can provide financial resources to schools to organize language courses for children of foreigners (Law No. 596/2003, Para 10, section 17). However, an independent research indicated that the said provisions are rarely implemented.<sup>12</sup> Language tuition for third country nationals who come to Slovakia to study at the university is provided by the Institute of Language and Academic Preparation for Foreign Students. The said measures, however, pertain only to children and students. No formalized courses are in place for adult third country nationals, not even for the purposes of citizenship language exam. The Concept of Integration of Foreigners, nevertheless, recognizes language courses for adult foreigners as crucial for successful integration.

b) Language courses are mainly provided by private language schools and are rather costly for most third country nationals. Large corporations tend to cover such language courses for their top management employees but for regular migrants courses are financially unavailable. Apart from language schools there is an online language course in place which is free of charge ([www.slovakie.eu](http://www.slovakie.eu)) and available to large groups of migrants. It is, however, designed only for A1 and A2 levels although it has been intended to expand it to B1 and B2 levels. Migration Information Centre IOM also runs courses of Slovak language for foreigners both in Bratislava and Košice (25 lessons).

<sup>10</sup> Gallová Kriglerová, E., Kadlečíková, J. (2012). Acquiring Slovak Citizenship by Naturalization: A Case Study. In Jarmila Lajčáková (Ed.), *Minority Policy in Slovakia. Annual Report*. Bratislava: CVEK, pp. 73 – 90.

<sup>11</sup> Available at <http://www.mipex.eu/slovakia>

<sup>12</sup> Gažovičová, T. (2011). *Vzdelávanie detí cudzincov na Slovensku. Potreby a riešenia*. Bratislava: CVEK, Nadácia Milana Šimečku.

▪ **Introductory Courses**

a) N/A

b) N/A, supplied mainly by NGOs only to specific groups of third country nationals (subsidiary protection beneficiaries, asylum seekers or recognized refugees). The courses, however, take an informal form as no guidelines or common curriculums have been developed. It is often argued that such introductory courses form integral parts of the language tuition.

▪ **Incentive Structure**

a) N/A

b) N/A

▪ **Evaluation and quality assessment**

a) currently the Concept of Integration of Foreigners (fundamental policy document, adopted in 2009, although it is not legally binding) is being updated based on two previous evaluation reports and on consultations of a group of experts (Interdepartmental Committee for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners - MEKOMIC). Other than this there is no systematic monitoring or evaluation of integration policies.

b) Integration policies are mainly evaluated via independent research projects (mainly funded by EIF), such as CVEK and SGI's Testing Integration Policy Indicators, CVEK and Milan Šimečka Foundation's Education of Children of Foreigners. However, when evaluating integration policies one faces the crucial problem of data unavailability. As the said SGI's project indicated most data on migrants are either unavailable whatsoever (such as housing, education level, drop-out rates, employment performance, etc.) or databases of various institutions are incompatible and thus existing data are not comparable.

▪ **Other**

a)

b)

**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) One of the measures of the Concept of Integration of Foreigners calls for more attention paid to intercultural education and dialogue. More attention should also be paid to intercultural training of public officials working directly with migrants. The task falls into competence of Labour Ministry in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, Culture Ministry, Education Ministry and NGOs. However, there is no systemic approach to this issue, apart from introducing multicultural education as a cross-cutting theme in elementary schools.

b) As in many other areas, NGOs substitute the state's role in providing intercultural trainings to public officials, too. IOM in cooperation with Milan Šimečka Foundation ran a series of intercultural trainings for public officials working directly with migrants. Furthermore, Milan

Šimečka Foundation in cooperation with CVEK runs already a second round of trainings for teachers with respect to educating children of foreigners. In 2011 – 2012 CVEK established cooperation with 4 municipalities with the aim to build local stakeholders' capacities in promoting foreigners' integration. The project resulted in a local strategy of integration being adopted as an official municipality document in the town of Martin.

- Mainstreamed Services: action plans on integration
  - a) The Concept of Integration of Foreigners is the only document that covers integration of foreigners as a multisectoral topic and calls for more intensive mainstreaming of the issue. Nevertheless, it has not led to the development of more specific and contextualized action plans (e.g. on the level of individual ministerial sectors or municipalities)
  - b)N/A
- Information and services through one-stop-shops
  - a) N/A
  - b)The initiative closest to a one-stop-shop concept is the Migration Information Centre run by IOM Bratislava and Košice. The Centre provides migrants with information on various aspects of life in Slovakia (work, study, health care, social security, residence permits etc.). Its services are available in person, online or by phone. However, they do not provide migrants with any personal assistance.
- 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) One of the measures of the Concept of Integration of Foreigners calls for more attention paid to intercultural education and dialogue. More attention should also be paid to intercultural training of public officials working directly with migrants. The task falls into competence of Labour Ministry in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, Culture Ministry, Education Ministry and NGOs. However, there is no systemic approach to this issue, apart from introducing multicultural education as a cross-cutting theme in elementary schools.
  - b) As in many other areas, NGOs substitute the state's role in providing intercultural trainings to public officials, too. IOM in cooperation with Milan Šimečka Foundation ran a series of intercultural trainings for public officials working directly with migrants. Furthermore, Milan Šimečka Foundation in cooperation with CVEK runs already a second round of trainings for teachers with respect to educating children of foreigners. In 2011 – 2012 CVEK established cooperation with 4 municipalities with the aim to build local stakeholders' capacities in promoting foreigners' integration. The project resulted in a local strategy of integration being adopted as an official municipality document in the town of Martin.



- Intercultural meetings
  - a) N/A
  - b) Recently, IOM introduced the concept of Families Next Door in Slovakia trying to bring together Slovak and foreign families for a Sunday lunch. The project aims to facilitate intercultural communication and break stereotypes.
  
- Surveys
  - a) .....
  - .....
  - .....
  - b) In 2009 IOM conducted a large scale quantitative and qualitative survey of the public's attitudes towards migration and migrants. However, such surveys are rather rare and conducted mainly by independent institutions (NGOS) and funded predominantly by EIF.
  
- 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*

In 2007 an Interdepartmental Committee for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners was established at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MEKOMIC) which is responsible for updating migration and integration policy of the Slovak Republic. MEKOMIC consults its actions with representatives of Afghans, Vietnamese, Africans, Chinese, Russians and Ukrainians. All of the said nationalities have a respective formalized community (e.g. an NGO) whose delegate represents them at MEKOMIC meetings.

**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]

Economic self-sufficiency is crucial for successful integration of foreigners. Economic dimension of migration is also the dominant aspects of new Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic. Slovakia's migration policy primary aim is to encourage immigration of highly skilled migrants and reduce immigration of low skilled ones. All temporary residence permits are bound to a certain purpose (e.g. study, trade, employment). Regarding employment all third country nationals with a temporary residence permit for the purposes of employment must be indeed employed otherwise their residence permit expires. It seems

that Slovakia's aim in this respect is to avoid having more unemployed persons in its territory since it is unable to tackle growing unemployment.

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

Slovakia's primary aim is to attract migrants with higher qualification but thus not provide much education opportunities for migrants with low educational status. There is a lack of language courses available to wide population of foreigners. Training and further education of adult foreigners is underestimated in the legislation and left to the competence of NGOs to a large extent. Legislation only regulates education of children of foreigners although there are considerable shortcomings in their implementation on the ground.

▪ Housing [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

There is no strategy of securing adequate housing for migrants in place even though the Concept of Integration of Foreigners spells this out as one of the priority areas. The argument of relevant authorities often is that migrants must not receive any preferential treatment otherwise it would qualify as positive discrimination.

▪ Health services [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

Migrants with valid permanent or temporary residence permit (for the purposes of employment, studies or business) or other special categories of foreigners (refugees, unaccompanied minors or detained foreigners) are entitled to public health insurance. They are therefore entitled to the same rights as Slovak citizens in terms of health care provision. However, the practice has shown that foreigners encounter numerous barriers in accessing health care, e.g. language barriers, prejudice, lack of information on available health care facilities, or lack of information on the part of health care providers etc. Such problems are not addressed systematically but rather through individual NGO initiatives or foreigners' social networks.

▪ Social welfare measures [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

Basic instruments of social welfare pertaining to foreigners include social insurance, social assistance and social welfare support. Third country nationals who are employed or conduct business in Slovakia (i.e. they have a valid temporary residence permit) and their family members can enjoy the same rights in terms of social insurance as Slovak citizens. However, foreigners who are entitled to social welfare benefits participate in the social system far less than Slovak citizens, which is thought to be caused by lack of information. Some social benefits (e.g. financial compensation of a severe disability) are, however, provided only to EU/EEA citizens with a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic. Third country nationals are entitled to such assistance only based on an international agreement of their country of origin and the Slovak Republic. Another category of third country nationals entitled to such assistance is recognized refugees or subsidiary protection beneficiaries. So is the case with provision of social services (e.g. social care) and material needs benefits.

▪ Promoting migrants' culture [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

According to the former Interior Minister Slovakia welcomes migrants preferentially from culturally close third countries. Migrants in general are to be treated as guests and are to assimilate completely to the Slovak society. This is in contrast to the official position of the Concept of Integration of Foreigner that promotes integration as a mutual adaptation. Be it as it may, the state's position in the matters of promoting cultural diversity is in practice rather reserved.

▪ Language training [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

Although language proficiency is deemed crucial in the Concept of Foreigners' Integration, the state provides very little opportunities for migrants to improve their language skills. Quality language courses are provided for foreign university students but not for high school students or elementary school pupils of with language needs. Language training is mainly left up to migrants themselves even though most language courses are provided by private schools. Their rather high tuition fees which make them

unaffordable to a large proportion of migrant population.

- Other, please specify (.....) [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

#### 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 (.....) [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 (.....) [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 (.....) [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] <b>5</b>
d) Housing and community facilities	[1] [2] <b>3</b> [4] [5]
e) Lack coordination among relevant services	[1] [2] [3] [4] <b>5</b>
f) Other, please specify (.....)	[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
<b>▪ Long term residents</b>	
a) Lack of resources	[1] [2] [3] <b>4</b> [5]
b) Lack of specialist know-how	[1] <b>2</b> [3] [4] [5]
c) Not enough political support	[1] [2] [3] [4] <b>5</b>
d) Housing and community facilities	[1] <b>2</b> [3] [4] [5]
e) Lack coordination among relevant services	[1] [2] [3] [4] <b>5</b>
f) Other, please specify (.....)	[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**

Consultations and advice provided by Migration Information Centre run by IOM. They provide information on how to access education both for children and adults.

**▪ Employment**

Consultations and advice provided by Migration Information Centre run by IOM. MIC consultants provide assistance with all formal requirements related to accessing the labour market or starting a business. Local Labour Offices can also be helpful in the process of acquiring work permits.

**▪ Health service**

N/A

**▪ Housing**

N/A

**▪ Other**

N/A

**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?**

See questions 1.3 to 1.13 above.

**Explain what would be needed to help tackle the challenges more effectively**

Slovakia still considers immigration and integration of foreigners a marginal issue arguing the country has

more urgent matters to tackle (e.g. unemployment). Consequently, there is very little political will to responsibly address issues pertaining to immigration. Usually, political discussions are limited to the matters of national security or a cultural threat that immigrants allegedly bring to the country. Immigration and integration policy is therefore not mainstreamed sufficiently and is only subject of separate policy document that are often not coordinated with other legal and policy documents. Activities of state institutions pertaining to immigration and integration of foreigners are often limited to an obligatory minimum required by international law that is binding for Slovakia. Even though there exists a basic policy framework, the Concept of Integration of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic, the document is not legally binding, does not allocate any resources to individual actors of integration and no specific action plans have been developed. The Concept can be considered a good stepping stone but must be taken further. Conceptually (or philosophically) Slovakia should waive the security discourse that frames immigration only as a threat and reframe it to a balanced view of immigration (weigh negatives as well as positives). So far, it has been mainly securitization principle that lies behind all major legal rules governing immigration (e.g. Alien Residence Act, Citizenship Act) which makes integration harder for regular migrants.

**Use this space for any other comments on integration policies in your city or region**

## 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 two different kind of materials:

### 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.