
CITIES GROW

More than ever in the context of the refugee crisis, European city leaders and decision makers need pragmatic, relevant and practical advice to address migrant integration challenges and develop effective migrant integration strategies to help reap on the potential of immigration.

The CITIES-GROW (“Integration of migrants through economic activity in cities”) project will be coordinated by EURO CITIES (the network of major cities in Europe) with the support of **Migration Policy Group, Migration Work-CIC and Migration Policy Institute**, and will involve the active participation of 16 major cities in Europe:

Athens, Barcelona, Birmingham, Brighton & Hove, Dresden, Gdansk, Ghent, Helsinki, Lisbon, Munich, Nantes, Nicosia, Riga, Rotterdam, Tampere, Utrecht

CITIES-GROW will be a continuation of the ImpleMentoring project (HOME/2011/EIFX/CA/1969) and will be built on the mentoring methodology which it successfully developed, tested and improved. This project built on the experience and success of other previous EIF funded EURO CITIES local integration projects (MIXITIES, DIVE and INTI-Cities) by shifting the focus from peer reviews and standard-setting towards **policy implementation and concrete actions**.

Cities faced with common challenges are paired up. One is a **mentoring city**; sharing experience and offering independent support and reflection to the **implementing city** which wants to raise standards and carry out changes. Both parties benefit. Mentors not only help their implementing partners to bring about desired improvements, but also learn from this dialogue.

CITIES-GROW will similarly be based on pairings of cities within a city-to-city mentoring relationship and will address implementation gaps of the EURO CITIES [Integrating Cities Charter](#) commitments by providing **catered advice and peer-support to cities**.

This proposal addresses the need to exchange know-how, expertise and good practices between cities at transnational level on how to best **implement concrete local actions** to successfully integrate third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection

It will respond to the **second priority** of the [AMIF call for proposal](#) (facilitate the access to work and foster integration in the work place) from the angle of local authorities.

It addresses the **4 specific objectives of the call under priority 2** and aims at developing **4 new mentoring schemes** on the following themes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Matching buyers and suppliers: access to public and private contracts for immigrant entrepreneurs (facilitated by the Migration Policy Group)B. Engaging with businesses local job agencies and local educational institutions to promote job-skills match for employment of youth with migrant background (Facilitated by MigrationWork)C. Services to promote and support migrant entrepreneurs (Facilitated by Migration Policy Institute)D. Anti-discrimination strategies on the local job market (facilitated by the Migration Policy Group) |
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The key objective of the project is to ensure **transferability of results and long-term policy and practice impact in cities through city-to-city mentoring**. We see a mentoring visit as a catalyst for change and as a **unique opportunity** for cities to benefit from expertise, targeted advice and recommendations by peers.



The main deliverables of the project will include:

- **8 local implementation strategies (action plans)** drafted in a collaborative manner (EUROCITIES, expert partners, partner cities, EUROCITIES Migration & Integration working group) and approved and endorsed by the administrative and political levels in each city. Their impact will be felt well beyond the project timeframe.
- **4 new Integrating Cities Toolkits**, using the European Modules on Integration as frame of reference, complementing the existing corpus of work developed within the “Integrating Cities” process. The 7 existing toolkits developed within MIXITIES and ImpleMentoring provide a description of 134 good practices by 34 cities in 17 European countries. The toolkits translate commitments from the Integrating Cities Charter into concrete recommendations and will be piloted during the mentoring schemes and finalised at the end of the project.
- **8 Infographics** illustrating each mentoring scheme in each thematic area. These tools are and more successful than reports to illustrate the reality of the work done at city level within the project, disseminate good practices and foster engagement of other cities and NGOs in integration work. As an outcome of the ImpleMentoring project they have been used by cities as a tool to demonstrate the added-value of engaging in city to city learning within a EU funded project.
- **4 videos** showcasing good practices, will make the project’s learnings transferable and provide practical illustration on policy implementation, context-based adaptation into city roadmaps defining objectives and actions, and allocating resources leading to policy implementation.
- The **Integrating Cities Conference VIII** organised in (tbc) will be held towards the middle of the project under the auspices of the city of (tbc) in 2018. This conference will allow important multi-level dialogue among EU and local representatives, and provide and interim report on actions already undertaken under CITIES-GroW.

The 16 Cities involved in the project will be part of a **mentoring scheme**, either as a mentor or as an implementing (learning) city. Each thematic mentoring scheme will be supported and facilitated by one expert partner organisation with a proven track record of expertise in its individual theme.

	Thematic Cluster A: Matching buyers and suppliers: access to public and private contracts for immigrant entrepreneurs (MPG)	Thematic Cluster B: Engaging with businesses and local educational institutions (MW)	Thematic Cluster C : Services to support migrant entrepreneurs (MPI)	Thematic Cluster D: Anti-discrimination strategies on the local job market (MPG).
Mentor	Birmingham	Barcelona	Rotterdam	Utrecht
Implementing	Lisbon	Riga	Tampere	Dresden
Mentor	Nantes	Munich	Helsinki	Brighton
Implementing	Ghent	Athens	Nicosia	Gdansk