



KOMMISSIONEN FOR DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABER

Bruxelles, den 11.9.2007
KOM(2007) 512 endelig

**MEDDELELSE FRA KOMMISSIONEN TIL RÅDET, EUROPA-PARLAMENTET,
DET ØKONOMISKE OG SOCIALE UDVALG OG REGIONSUDVALGET**

Tredje årsrapport om indvandring og integration

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1. INDLEDNING

I årsrapporterne¹ om indvandring og integration analyseres de foranstaltninger, der er truffet vedrørende indrejse og integration af tredjelandstatsborgere på nationalt plan og EU-plan. Rapporterne giver et overblik over den politiske udvikling og bidrager til at evaluere og styrke integrationsforanstaltningerne.

I det forgangne år er integrationsdebatten blevet yderligere intensiveret både på EU-plan og på nationalt plan. Et stigende antal medlemsstater gennemfører nye integrationspolitikker og tilpasser strategier, der bygger på tidligere erfaring.

Den tredje årsrapport beskriver udviklingen frem til juni 2007². Bilaget "Oversigt over integrationspolitikken i EU-27", der er udarbejdet i samarbejde med de nationale kontaktpunkter for integration³, dækker 2005 og første halvdel af 2006.

2. INDVANDRERBEFOLKNINGEN I EU

I januar 2006 var der omkring 18,5 mio. tredjelandstatsborgere med bopæl i EU, dvs. 3,8 % af den samlede befolkning på næsten 493 mio.⁴. Indvandring er fortsat en hovedfaktor i EU's demografiske vækst, og de fleste medlemsstater oplever en positiv nettoindvandring⁵. Nettoindvandringen, der i 1990'erne typisk lå på mellem 0,5 og 1 mio. om året, er steget til omkring 1,5 til 2 mio. siden 2002.

Indrejsegrundene kan være meget forskellige fra medlemsstat til medlemsstat. Familiesammenføringen er betydelig i nogle lande, som f.eks. Østrig, Frankrig og Sverige, mens andre medlemsstater, som f.eks. Irland, Spanien, Portugal og Det Forenede Kongerige havde en høj andel af arbejdsrelateret indvandring⁶. Der blev gennemført omfattende regulariseringer i Spanien, mens Frankrig, Tyskland og Nederlandene valgte at gennemføre begrænsede regulariseringer for specifikke indvandrergrupper.

Den mest talrige gruppe tredjelandstatsborgere i EU kommer fra Tyrkiet (2,3 mio.), Marokko (1,7 mio.), Albanien (0,8 mio.) og Algeriet (0,6 mio.). I nogle medlemsstater, som f.eks. Frankrig, Sverige, Nederlandene og Det Forenede Kongerige, er antallet af udenlandsk fødte borgere højere end antallet af tredjelandstatsborgere, da mange indvandrere har opnået statsborgerskab i værtslandet.

3. UDVIKLING AF EN FÆLLES INDVANDRINGSPOLITIK OG EU-RAMMER FOR INTEGRATION AF TREDJELANDSSTATSBORGERE

Integration af tredjelandstatsborgere er en proces, der indebærer gensidig imødekommenhed hos både værtslande og indvandrere, og det er en væsentlig faktor for at udnytte fordelene ved

¹ Den første årsrapport KOM(2004) 508 blev offentliggjort i juli 2004 og den anden SEK(2006) 892 i juni 2006.

² Rapporten tager højde for Rådets konklusioner fra juni 2007, Rådets dokument 10267/07.

³ Kommissionen oprettede netværket af nationale kontaktpunkter som en opfølgning på Rådets (RIA) konklusioner fra oktober 2002.

⁴ Kilde: Eurostat. Selv om Rumænien og Bulgarien tiltrådte EU i 2007 betragtes disse landes statsborgere i dette skøn som EU-borgere.

⁵ Bortset fra Estland, Letland, Litauen, Polen og Nederlandene. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, population and social conditions, 1/2006.

⁶ International Migration Outlook, årsrapport 2006 OECD.

indvandring fuldt ud. Som foreslået i meddelelsen om "den samlede migrationsstrategi efter det første år: mod en europæisk helhedspolitik for migration"⁷ skal **forbindelsen mellem indvandringspolitikkerne og integrationsstrategierne** til stadighed styrkes.

En konsolidering af de retlige rammer for tredjelandstatsborgeres indrejse og ophold har afgørende betydning for udviklingen af en sammenhængende EU-tilgang til integration. Der findes allerede lovgivningsmæssige instrumenter vedrørende familiesammenføring, status som fastboende udlænding og anerkendelse af tredjelandstatsborgere eller statsløse som personer, der behøver international beskyttelse⁸. Disse instrumenter anerkender rettigheder, der afhængig af det relevante lovgivningsinstrument kan være adgang til beskæftigelse og uddannelse og til ligebehandling⁹. EU's lovgivning om forbud mod diskrimination støtter disse retlige rammer¹⁰.

Som anført i politikplanen for lovlig migration¹¹ vil Kommissionen fremlægge et forslag til et generelt rammedirektiv med grundlæggende rettigheder for indvandrede arbejdstagere i EU og et forslag til direktiv om betingelserne for højtuddannede indvandreres indrejse og ophold¹².

Personer, der er omfattet af international beskyttelse, kræver skræddersyede integrationsforanstaltninger på grund af deres særlige situation. Dette aspekt vil indgå i den debat, der indledes med grønbogen om det fremtidige fælles europæiske asylsystem¹³.

3.1 EU-rammer for integration af tredjelandstatsborgere

I 2004 vedtog Det Europæiske Råd **Haag-programmet** til styrkelse af frihed, sikkerhed og retfærdighed¹⁴. Programmet understreger nødvendigheden af en bedre samordning af de nationale integrationspolitikker og EU-aktiviteter baseret på fælles grundprincipper.

Rådet vedtog **Fælles grundprincipper for politikken for integration af indvandrere i Den Europæiske Union**¹⁵, og i september 2005 fremlagde Kommissionen **En fælles dagsorden for integration**, der skaber rammerne for integration af tredjelandstatsborgere i Den Europæiske Union¹⁶. Hjørnestejnene i disse rammer er forslag til konkrete foranstaltninger, som skal omsætte de fælles grundprincipper i praksis både på nationalt plan og på EU-plan¹⁷.

⁷ KOM(2006) 735.

⁸ Rådets direktiv 2003/86 om ret til familiesammenføring, Rådets direktiv 2003/109 om tredjelandstatsborgeres status som fastboende udlænding og Rådets direktiv 2004/83 om fastsættelse af minimumsstandarder for anerkendelse af tredjelandstatsborgere eller statsløse som flygtninge eller som personer, der af anden grund behøver international beskyttelse, og indholdet af en sådan beskyttelse. Der er vedtaget et forslag om at udvide dets anvendelsesområde til at omfatte personer under international beskyttelse, KOM(2007) 298.

⁹ En undersøgelse af overensstemmelsen mellem nationale foranstaltninger til gennemførelse af asyl- og indvandringsdirektiverne vil foreligge i 2008.

¹⁰ ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/legis/legln_en.htm

¹¹ KOM(2005) 669.

¹² Kommissionen vil også fremsætte forslag om sæsonarbejdere og lønnede praktikanter i 2008 og for virksomhedsinternt udstationerede medarbejdere i 2009.

¹³ KOM(2007) 301.

¹⁴ Rådets dokument 16054/04.

¹⁵ Rådets dokument 14615/04.

¹⁶ KOM(2005) 389.

¹⁷ Europa-Parlamentet, Det Europæiske Økonomiske og Sociale Udvalg og Regionsudvalget hilste udviklingen af en EU-ramme for integration velkommen i deres respektive udtalelser.

Endvidere indeholder den fælles dagsorden støttemekanismer på EU-plan, som skal fremme udviklingen af en egentlig europæisk tilgang til integration gennem samarbejde og udveksling af god praksis.

Rådets konklusioner om den fælles agenda støttede de væsentligste retningslinjer og understregede behovet for yderligere at styrke en fælles tilgang til integrationspolitikker og integrationsforanstaltninger¹⁸.

Alle medlemsstater deltager nu aktivt i **netværket af nationale kontaktpunkter**. Det er blevet en effektiv mekanisme til at udveksle oplysninger og prioritere områder, og det spiller en vigtig rolle for at sikre, at indsatsen på nationalt plan og EU-plan støtter hinanden.

Håndbøger om integration for beslutningstagere og praktikere¹⁹, der er udarbejdet i samarbejde med de nationale kontaktpunkter sammen med regionale/lokale myndigheder og ikke-statslige organisationer, sikrer udveksling af oplysninger og god praksis. Den første udgave af håndbogen (2004) omfattede introduktionskurser for nyankomne indvandrere og anerkendte flygtninge, aktivt medborgerskab og integrationsindikatorer. Den **anden udgave** (2007) fokuserer på andre nøgleområder udviklet i de fælles grundprincipper: mainstreaming og integrationsinfrastruktur, undersøgelse af de mekanismer, der bruges til at gennemføre succesrige integrationsstrategier på alle politikområder; boliger i bymiljøer og økonomisk integration og udveksling af erfaringer på disse områder. Der er planlagt en tredje udgave i 2009.

Som nævnt i Haag-programmet er Kommissionen i gang med at udvikle et bredt tilgængeligt **websted**, der skal fremme udvekslingen af erfaringer og oplysninger om integration. Det bliver operationelt i 2008.

Som nævnt i Haag-programmet er det afgørende for udviklingen af en effektiv integrationspolitik at have en samlet strategi, der inddrager de relevante parter på alle niveauer. Det var derfor et vigtigt skridt, da der med konferencen **Integrating Cities** i Rotterdam i oktober 2006²⁰ blev indledt en transnational samarbejdsproces på lokalt niveau mellem offentlige myndigheder, private virksomheder, civilsamfundet og indvandrerorganisationer. Det er ligeledes planlagt at oprette et **Europæisk integrationsforum**, der skal samle aktørerne på integrationsområdet på EU-niveau. Paraplyorganisationer på EU-niveau, som har medlemmer i en række medlemsstater, vil udveksle erfaringer og udarbejde anbefalinger, der vil blive offentliggjort på webstedet for integration.

Som en fortsættelse af den politiske debat, der blev indledt på den første ministerkonference for integration i Groningen i 2004, blev der afholdt et **uformelt møde mellem EU's integrationsministre** i Potsdam i maj 2007. **Rådets konklusioner om en styrkelse af integrationspolitikkerne i EU ved at fremme konceptet "forenet i mangfoldighed"** blev vedtaget i juni 2007 som en opfølgning af denne begivenhed.

3.2 Mainstreaming af integrationsindsatsen

¹⁸ Rådets dokument 14390/05.

¹⁹ ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/integration/doc_immigration_integration_en.htm

²⁰ Den næste begivenhed vil blive organiseret af Eurocities-netværket i Milano i efteråret 2007.

Med udgangspunkt i EU's integrationsrammer støttet af de fælles grundprincipper og som en opfølgning på de forslag til konkrete tiltag på EU-niveau, der blev fremsat i den fælles dagsorden, har Kommissionen udviklet en mere sammenhængende tilgang til integration. Mainstreaming af integrationsindsatsen bliver en integreret del af politikudformningen og gennemførelsen på en række EU-politikområder.

Med henblik på at indarbejde indvandring, herunder integrationsmål, i Kommissionens initiativer blev der oprettet en **kommisærgruppe om migrationsspørgsmål**, der dækker alle relaterede politikområder²¹.

Beskæftigelse er et nøgleelement i integrationsprocessen, og en effektiv integration af indvandrere på arbejdsmarkedet bidrager positivt til at opnå Lissabonmålene for vækst og jobskabelse. I relation til den europæiske beskæftigelsesstrategi opfordrer de nye integrerede retningslinjer medlemsstaterne til at gøre en indsats for at få flere indvandrere i arbejde²². Kommissionen overvåger virkningen af de nationale reformprogrammer med årlige fælles beskæftigelsesrapporter og opfordrer medlemsstaterne til at gøre integration af indvandrere på arbejdsmarkedet til et mere klart formuleret element i beskæftigelsespolitikken²³. Der er oprettet en gruppe på højt niveau om social integration af etniske mindretal og deres fulde deltagelse på arbejdsmarkedet med henblik på at analysere hindringer for adgang til arbejdsmarkedet og udveksle god praksis.

Indvandrere udgør et betydeligt potentiale af **iværksættere** i EU. Deres virksomheder har stor betydning for den økonomiske vækst i EU. Der er oprettet et iværksætternetværk for etniske minoriteter for at udveksle oplysninger og takle vanskeligheder i forbindelse med virksomhedsetablering. Der vil blive offentliggjort en undersøgelse af god praksis på dette område, og der er planlagt en konference til foråret 2008²⁴.

Den kulturelle dimensions betydning for integration anerkendes i stadig højere grad, og **interkulturel dialog**, herunder dialog mellem og inden for forskellige trosretninger, er blevet et vigtigt instrument for en vellykket integration og en modvægt mod racisme og ekstremisme. Det europæiske år for interkulturel dialog 2008 vil i høj grad bidrage til at styrke aktiviteterne på dette område.

Fremme af **grundlæggende rettigheder, principper om ikke-forskelsbehandling og lige muligheder** for alle spiller en afgørende rolle på integrationsområdet. En tværfaglig gruppe mod racisme og fremmedhad koordinerer Kommissionens politikker, og agenturet for grundlæggende rettigheder leverer ekspertise på dette område²⁵. Indsatsen for at takle de strukturelle hindringer, indvandrerne møder, styrkes som led i "Det europæiske år for lige muligheder for alle 2007" og sætter gang i en omfattende debat om fordelene ved mangfoldighed²⁶. Da **kvinder** udgør størstedelen af indvandrerbefolkningen i EU²⁷ afspejles deres særlige behov i stigende grad i mekanismerne til integration af kønsaspektet, som f.eks. køreplanen for ligestilling mellem mænd og kvinder 2006-2010²⁸.

²¹ ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/frattini/doc/2006/pr_30_08_06_en.pdf

²² KOM(2006) 815.

²³ Rådets dokument 6706/07.

²⁴ ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/ethnic.htm

²⁵ eumc.europa.eu/eumc/index.php

²⁶ ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm

²⁷ UN Population Division, Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision

²⁸ ec.europa.eu/employment_social/gender_equality/gender_mainstreaming/general_overview_en.html

Kommissionen styrkede integrationsaspektet i **politikkerne for social integration og social beskyttelse** inden for rammerne af fælles EU-mål, som medlemsstaterne omsætter til nationale/regionale politikker på basis af nationale rapporter om strategier for social beskyttelse og social integration. Overvågningsprocessen for disse politikker bidrager til at styrke integrationsforanstaltninger, der kan fjerne stadig eksisterende kløfter mellem indvandrere og andre borgere²⁹. I Kommissionen står en tværfaglig gruppe for byudvikling og koordinerer **den bymæssige dimension** i fællesskabspolitikkerne³⁰, og andre bymæssige initiativer (som f.eks. det europæiske netværk af byer vedrørende lokal integrationspolitik (CLIP), der koordineres af Det Europæiske Institut til Forbedring af Leve- og Arbejdsvilkårene), er blevet iværksat for at udveksle god praksis på en række integrationsrelaterede områder. Navnlig lægges der vægt på udsatte gruppers behov for at nedbringe ulighederne inden for rammerne af Fællesskabets handlingsprogram for **folkesundhed** (2003-2008)³¹.

Uddannelse er af afgørende betydning for at give indvandrerne mulighed for at blive mere aktive deltagere i samfundet. Integration fremmes gennem uddannelsesinitiativer, som f.eks. uddannelsesprogrammet 2010³². Da indvandrerbørn og unge med indvandrerbaggrund generelt opnår dårligere resultater end andre elever³³, vil en kommende meddelelse fra Kommissionen undesøge grundene dertil og foreslå foranstaltninger, der kan takle disse uddannelsesmæssige udfordringer. Integration er en spontan proces, navnlig for **børn**. At takle integrationsudfordringerne på et meget tidligt stadium er afgørende for et vellykket resultat, og EU-strategien for børns rettigheder³⁴ tager højde for denne gruppes potentiale. Endvidere vil den strukturerede dialog på EU-niveau i relation til **ungdomspolitikker** som en opfølgning af den europæiske ungdomspagt³⁵ bidrage til at tage højde for denne målgruppes særlige behov, idet den fokuserer på social og erhvervsmæssig integration af unge mennesker i 2007 og på interkulturel dialog i 2008.

3.3 EU's finansielle instrumenter

EU støtter medlemsstaternes integrationspolitikker gennem en række finansielle instrumenter. Siden 2003 har Kommissionen medfinansieret transnationale integrationsprojekter, der fremmer samarbejdet mellem medlemsstater, regionale/lokale myndigheder og andre aktører i henhold til de forberedende foranstaltninger under **INTI**³⁶.

I rammeprogrammet solidaritet og forvaltning af migrationsstrømme 2007-2013 vil Den **Europæiske Fond for Integration af Tredjelandstatsborgere** støtte de integrationsudfordringer, som EU står overfor. Programmet sigter på at skabe en ny form for solidaritet for at fremme medlemsstaternes bestræbelser på at sætte indvandrere i stand til at opfylde betingelserne for ophold og lette deres integration. Programmet vil også hjælpe

²⁹ 2007 Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st06/st06694.en07.pdf

³⁰ The urban dimension in Community policies (2007-2013)', ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/urban/index_en.htm#down

³¹ ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm

³² ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

³³ PISA 2006, OECD.

³⁴ KOM(2006) 367.

³⁵ KOM(2005) 206.

³⁶ ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/inti/funding_inti_en.htm

medlemsstaterne med at udveksle bedste praksis og dermed styrke samarbejdet på EU-niveau³⁷.

Den Europæiske Flygtningefond støtter skræddersyede integrationsforanstaltninger for personer, der kan omfattes af fonden, herunder flygtninge og personer, der er under subsidiær beskyttelse, hvis ophold i EU er varigt og stabilt. I rammeprogrammet solidaritet og forvaltning af migrationsstrømme 2008-2013 vil den nye Europæiske Flygtningefond, der starter i 2008, fortsat finansiere disse målrettede projekter³⁸.

Inden for rammerne af **Den Europæiske Socialfond (ESF)** tilbød fællesskabsinitiativet **EQUAL** en række former for innovativ god praksis for at forebygge og bekæmpe diskrimination af indvandrere på arbejdsmarkedet³⁹. Flere indvandrere på arbejdsmarkedet og dermed en styrkelse af deres sociale integration er en specifik prioritet for den nye ESF for 2007-2013⁴⁰. Det nye **PROGRESS**-program 2007-2013 vil også støtte gennemførelsen af principperne om forbud mod diskrimination og ligestilling mellem kønnene.

Regionale politikinstrumenter behandler også migration og integration, navnlig i byområder. Navnlig har **fællesskabsinitiativet URBAN II** haft stærkt fokus på social integration i udsatte byområder⁴¹, og **URBACT**-programmet til udveksling af erfaringer om bymæssig udvikling tager højde for særlige udfordringer i relation til den mangfoldighed, som de europæiske byer oplever. Denne tilgang vil fortsætte med **URBACT II**-programmet 2007-2013⁴².

4. TENDENSER I DE NATIONALE INTEGRATIONSPOLITIKKER⁴³

Integration af tredjelandsstatsborgere har været genstand for en debat med fokus på diskrimination og kulturelle og religiøse forskelligheder. I nogle tilfælde har dramatiske begivenheder været med til at påvirke borgernes opfattelse af indvandring. Mange medlemsstater har fastsat ny prioriteter og revideret deres politikker. Mange aspekter i medlemsstaternes integrationspolitikker er kodificeret i de fælles grundprincipper, og de afspejles i forskelligt omfang i deres integrationsstrategier.

De fælles grundprincipper 1: medlemsstaterne vedtager en række foranstaltninger for at fremme integrationen som en tovejsproces. At omsætte dette princip til praksis på en meningsfuld måde er imidlertid en langsigtet udfordring, der kræver en yderligere indsats. Strukturelle initiativer rettet mod værtsbefolkningen for at styrke dens evne til at tilpasse sig mangfoldighed er stadig underrepræsenteret i de nationale strategier.

De fælles grundprincipper 2: grundlæggende værdier, som f.eks. frihed, demokrati, retsstatsprincip og overholdelse af menneskerettigheder og grundlæggende frihedsrettigheder er vigtige elementer i nye politikker. En række medlemsstater har indført foranstaltninger for at formidle viden om grundlæggende værdier i form af samfundsorientering.

³⁷ ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm

³⁸ ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm

³⁹ ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equal/index_en.cfm

⁴⁰ ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/2007-2013_en.html

⁴¹ ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/urban2/index_en.htm

⁴² urbact.eu/towards-urbact-2.html

⁴³ Dette afsnit bygger på medlemsstaternes svar på et spørgeskema fra Kommissionen. Se bilaget "Summary Report on Integration Policies in the EU-27".

De fælles grundprincipper 3: integration af indvandrere på arbejdsmarkedet er en hovedudfordring for de nationale integrationspolitikker. Der gennemføres i stadig højere grad foranstaltninger til at styrke dette aspekt, herunder forebyggelse af arbejdsløshed gennem uddannelse, mere effektive systemer til anerkendelse af kvalifikationer, bekæmpelse af forskelsbehandling på arbejdspladsen og fremme af indvandrerkvinders beskæftigelse.

De fælles grundprincipper 4: de fleste medlemsstater betragter et grundlæggende kendskab til værtslandets sprog som en nødvendig forudsætning for integration. Mange lande fokuserer deres integrationsstrategier på introduktionsprogrammer, herunder (nogle gange obligatoriske) sprogkurser og samfundsorientering for nyankomne. Et stigende antal medlemsstater gør kurserne mere fleksible og målretter dem mod specifikke behov. Kun få medlemsstater foretager dybdegående evalueringer af disse aktiviteter.

De fælles grundprincipper 5: i en samlet integrationspolitik indgår uddannelse som et grundlæggende element i integrationsprocessen. Medlemsstaternes indsats fokuserer på målrettet sprogundervisning og undervisning for at lette integrationen i skolen. Mange initiativer tager sigte på at fremme respekten for mangfoldighed i uddannelsesmiljøet og støtte lærerne. Indvandrerbørn og unge står imidlertid over for særlige udfordringer, der kræver yderligere handling.

De fælles grundprincipper 6: Selv om et stigende antal medlemsstater udvikler tjenesteudbydernes mulighed for at betjene indvandrere, er det forskelligt, hvor stor vægt de lægger på dette aspekt. I nogle medlemsstater lanceres der initiativer vedrørende lige adgang til offentlige institutioner, herunder foranstaltninger mod forskelsbehandling og oplysningskampagner. At udvikle samarbejdet mellem statslige aktører og engagerede virksomhederne i debatter om integration er foranstaltninger, der først er ved at dukke op.

De fælles grundprincipper 7: betydningen af samspillet i hverdagen og lokale aktiviteters afgørende rolle, understreges af de fleste medlemsstater, selv om det er meget forskelligt, i hvilken grad sådanne aktiviteter indarbejdes i integrationsstrategierne. Foranstaltninger til fremme af samspillet mellem indvandrere og værtslandet, herunder oprettelse af fælles fora, er stadig begrænsede.

De fælles grundprincipper 8: medlemsstaternes lovgivning garanterer respekt for alle religioner og fastslår princippet om forbud mod forskelsbehandling på grund af religion. Betydningen af dialog mellem og inden for de forskellige trosretninger som et led i bredere interkulturelle initiativer er almindelig anerkendt, men foranstaltninger til at styrke dette aspekt er ofte tilfældige reaktioner på løbende begivenheder. I nogle medlemsstater begynder en sådan dialog at blive fremmet på mere struktureret basis.

De fælles grundprincipper 9: indvandrerdeltagelse i den demokratiske proces anses i stadig højere grad som afgørende for en vellykket integration. I stadig flere tilfælde inddrages indvandrerrepræsentanter i udarbejdelsen/gennemførelsen af integrationspolitikker. Der er navnlig en stigende interesse for aktivt medborgerskab og naturaliseringsprocesser som en vej til at styrke mulighederne for en større deltagelse i værtslandet. Et ret begrænset antal medlemsstater giver tredjelandsstatsborgere mulighed for at stemme ved lokalvalg.

De fælles grundprincipper 10: de fleste medlemsstater har styrket deres mulighed for mainstreaming af integrationspolitikker på alle relevante politikområder, samtidig med at de udvikler målrettede foranstaltninger. En effektiv informationsudveksling, koordinering med alle myndighedsniveauer og aktører og tilstrækkelig vægt på mainstreaming af ligestilling

mellem mænd og kvinder og på de særlige behov hos unge migranter og migrantbørn udgør stadig store udfordringer.

De fælles grundprincipper 11: medlemsstaterne er i stadig højere grad opmærksomme på nødvendigheden af at styrke mulighederne for at indsamle, analysere og formidle integrationsrelaterede oplysninger, herunder kønsopdelte statistikker på en mere systematisk måde. Mere detaljerede oplysninger bidrager til at undgå forvirring og gør indvandrerens bidrag til værtslandets udvikling mere synlig. Der skal gøres yderligere fremskridt med at overvåge og evaluere integrationspolitikker og programmer og identificere specifikke indikatorer.

5. KONKLUSION

Rådets konklusioner fra juni 2007 udgør et nyt skridt i styringen af EU's integrationsdagsorden. Konklusionerne understreger nødvendigheden af at finde tilgange til integration, der involverer hele samfundet, og erkender, at interkulturel dialog er et vigtigt instrument til at skabe integration.

For yderligere at udvikle de EU-rammer, der bygger på de fælles grundprincipper og den fælles dagsorden, vil Kommissionen fremsætte nye initiativer. De nationale kontaktpunkter vil spille en vigtig rolle i denne proces.

Kommissionen vil undersøge forskellige opfattelser af **deltagelse og medborgerskab** og deres indflydelse på integrationsprocessen. Diskussionsplatforme, der involverer aktører og indvandrerrepræsentanter, vil blive fremmet på alle niveauer.

Kommissionen vil også undersøge merværdien af **fælles europæiske moduler for integration af indvandrere** baseret på eksisterende god praksis for at udvikle retningslinjer for forskellige aspekter af integrationsprocessen (introduktionskurser, fremme af indvandreres og andre borgeres deltagelse i det lokale liv osv.).

Mediernes indflydelse på den offentlige debat anerkendes bredt, idet de bidrager til at **rejse opmærksomhed om** emnet, afklare misforståelser og få de stadigt mere mangfoldige samfund i gang med en grundig debat. Kommissionen vil med udgangspunkt i en nylig analyse⁴⁴ undersøge, hvordan det kan sikres, at den betydning, indvandrerne har for den samfundsmæssige udvikling, den økonomiske vækst og den kulturelle mangfoldighed kommer til offentlighedens kendskab og anderkendes i bredere omfang.

Kommissionen vil også undersøge, hvordan integrationsprocesser kan bidrage mere aktivt til at **forebygge social fremmedgørelse og diskrimination af indvandrere** navnlig med fokus på ungdommen og forvaltning af mangfoldighed for at undgå ekstreme tilfælde af social udstødelse i værtslandet.

Der er behov for målestokke for forskellige aspekter af integration for effektivt at kunne udforme politikker og forbedre indsatsen med udgangspunkt i de højeste standarder. Kommissionen vil undersøge, hvordan man yderligere kan fremme udviklingen af **fælles indikatorer og indekser**, som medlemsstaterne kan bruge til at evaluere integrationsprogrammer og opstille benchmarks for sammenlignende analyser.

⁴⁴ Migration and public perception, BEPA 2006.

Endelig vil Kommissionen undersøge mulighederne for at **omforme årsrapporten om indvandring og integration**, så den bliver et ajourført instrument for en sammenlignende analyse af udviklingen inden for integrationspolitikker. Den vil indeholde et **nyt koncept**, der giver et mere omfattende informations- og overvågningsværktøj. Endvidere vil Kommissionen fortsat overvåge gennemførelsen af den relevante EU-lovgivning og dens virkning på integrationen af tredjelandsstatsborgere.

Annex (for information)

Summary Report on Integration Policies in the EU-27

This Summary Report has been drafted on the basis of a questionnaire completed by the National Contact Points on Integration⁴⁵. The questionnaire refers to third-country nationals who are legally residing in the Member States, both newly-arrived and long-established immigrants and refugees.

The aim of the questionnaire was to gather specific information concerning various dimensions of the integration process in the Member States for the calendar year 2005 and the first half of 2006. The Report is structured along the lines of the Common Basic Principles on integration (CBPs) and in keeping with the Common Agenda for Integration.

The CBPs and the Common Agenda are well known by those directly involved in integration policies at national level. Measures aiming at disseminating them further to a wider group of policy-makers and to civil society are undertaken. In **Bulgaria** and in the **Slovak Republic** they are discussed and presented to the broader public. They are increasingly mentioned in official declarations and political statements. Some Member States, such as **Austria**, the **Czech Republic**, **Denmark** and **Spain**, refer to the CBPs on a regular basis when dealing with immigration and integration issues. In the **Czech Republic** and **Greece**, the CBPs enriched the debate leading to the adoption of new legislation. They are also explicitly incorporated in some Member States' programmes. In the **Spanish** Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration, a full text version of the CBPs is reproduced and reference is made to the Common Agenda for Integration. In the consultations held with stakeholders about the content of the Strategic Plan, extensive information was given on integration initiatives taken at the EU level. In **Ireland**, the CBPs continue to inform the policy making process and all projects submitted for funding from a recently announced Immigrant Integration Fund are required to reflect the CBPs.

1. 'Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States'

In the **Czech Republic** and **Greece**, this principle is part of, respectively, the 'Updated Concept of Immigrant Integration' and the new 'Integrated Action Plan'. In **Slovenia**, a 'Unit for cultural rights of minorities and for the development of cultural diversity' was established within the Ministry of Culture to support the better understanding and co-existence of different cultural identities. In **Belgium**, the French and Flemish Communities set up programmes for intercultural communication and awareness-raising on the rights of foreigners targeting both the host society and immigrants. In **Denmark**, a fund supports local projects such as the 'Copenhagen Day of Dialogue' including intercultural activities and debates. For the 'Danish Constitution Day', a competition for young people, focused on subjects of democracy and integration and widely covered by the media, is prepared. The **Swedish** government declared the year 2006 the Swedish Year of Multiculturalism' to promote opportunities for all to participate in cultural life and to create co-operation between various cultural traditions. In **Luxembourg**, the 'Neighbours' Festival', the 'Festival of migrations, cultures and citizenship' and other multicultural initiatives are organised to promote integration. In **Finland**, immigrants who obtain Finnish nationality are invited to the 'Theme

⁴⁵ Replies have been received from all Member States except Cyprus and Malta

day of nationality' in the city of Turku. A 'Multicultural personality of the year' and a 'New resident of Turku of the year' are elected. In **The Netherlands**, primary and secondary schools are encouraged to organise initiatives for the promotion of civic citizenship and integration. Within the new **Irish** National Action Plan against Racism 'Planning for Diversity', local partnership companies support anti-discrimination and integration initiatives. In the **Slovak Republic**, the new 'Action Plan to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance' was adopted. Measures involving the media to promote understanding of immigration are undertaken actively in **Belgium, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom**. In **Latvia**, the 'International Tolerance Day' was organised in collaboration with the media. In **Lithuania**, a new version of the 'Code of Ethics of Journalists and Publishers' was approved to shape understanding of diversity. In **Portugal**, many initiatives are carried out to manage cultural diversity including television and radio programmes, such as the 'Week of Cultural Diversity'. In the **United Kingdom**, the 'Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society' strategy and the 'Community Cohesion Toolkit' focusing on the role of the media are among the measures launched to foster a sense of common belonging.

2. 'Integration implies respect for the basic values of the European Union'

A number of Member States, including **Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg** and **The Netherlands** refer to the basic values of the European Union in introductory programmes for newly-arrived third-country nationals. Some countries increasingly promote EU basic values through broader initiatives. In **Belgium**, a 'Committee of Seven Wise Men' elaborated on basic values and presented its recommendations to the Flemish government to harmonise civic integration courses. The French Community supports educational programmes targeting school teachers and students. Interdisciplinary citizenship courses will be included in the curriculum of all mandatory educational programmes. In **France**, the concept of integration includes a strong political and civic dimension reflecting common republican values which are discussed by the 'High Council of Integration.' In **Lithuania**, civic orientation and integration courses on the host society's culture and history are organised for people granted asylum. In **Luxembourg**, compulsory civic education courses are provided to those applying for nationality. In **Bulgaria**, a project 'Civic education – road to Europe' is organised targeting young people. **Sweden** set up initiatives to raise awareness on basic values including a new 'National Action for Human Rights', as well as a specific programme to combat violence and oppression in the name of honour. In **The Netherlands**, a declaration of 'Solidarity with The Netherlands', covering respect for common values, is pronounced during naturalisation ceremonies.

3. 'Employment is a key part of the integration process and is central to the participation of immigrants, to the contributions immigrants make to the host society, and to making such contributions visible'

The contribution of immigrants to the economic growth and development of the host society is increasingly recognised, as underlined by **Greece, Italy** and **Spain**. To facilitate the labour market integration of immigrants the **Czech Republic** has planned a simplification of bureaucracy and the possibility to reside legally while looking for a job. In **Spain**, a new system 'Catalogue of Labour Shortages in Specific Occupations' has been set up to identify shortages and to allow for a swift processing of residence and working permits. **Portugal** established 'Offices of Employment and Entrepreneurial Support for Immigrants' within the 'National Immigrant Support Centres', and it launched an advertising campaign 'Immigrant

Portugal, Tolerant Portugal'. In **Poland**, a number of labour market integration measures are carried out by the Intercultural Centre for Vocational Adaptation and the Work Club of the Polish Humanitarian Organisation. In the **Slovak Republic**, the process of assessment of qualifications and skills and the access to vocational training has been simplified. A specific web-site has been created to advertise vacancies and provide information to employers. The **Danish** government concluded a political agreement 'A new change for everyone' on access to jobs and education, including new financial incentives to municipalities and obligations for local authorities to provide job offers. In **Ireland**, publications such as the 'Know before you go' booklet including information on finding employment for newly-arrived immigrants and the 'Employment Rights Information Booklet' are available in multiple languages. The 'Employment for Parents of Irish Born Children Programme' promotes the employment of third-country national parents of an Irish born child and the study 'An Exploration of Local Strategies for the Integration of Migrant Workers and their Families' was carried out. In **France**, a group of big enterprises drafted a 'Diversity Charter', which is now being signed by many other employers, to commit themselves to create an intercultural environment among their staff. The **Finnish** Ministry of Trade and Industry established a working group to reinforce immigrant entrepreneurship through networking, interaction, education and training, development of advisory services and information. In **The Netherlands**, an action plan was adopted to further develop immigrant entrepreneurship and a monitoring system against discrimination at the work place is being set up. A 'Diversity Unit' was established by the **Belgian** federal government to fight against discrimination at work and to promote equality. The Flemish Community organises individual labour market insertion programmes for newly-arrived third-country nationals as part of introductory programmes. In **Greece**, interventions in favour of unemployed immigrant women are a priority. In **Sweden**, the employment office for immigrants created a special team to provide support before and during the initial period in a new job. **Austria** promotes employment of immigrants in the public sector. In the **United Kingdom**, within certain industry sectors, language teachers and integration experts are available to develop schemes for labour market integration of immigrants.

4. 'Basic knowledge of the host society's language, history, and institutions is indispensable to integration; enabling immigrants to acquire this basic knowledge is essential to successful integration'

In most of the Member States, including **Austria**, the **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **Germany**, **Greece**, **Italy**, **Latvia**, **Luxembourg**, **Portugal** and **Sweden**, information material and welcome packages in various languages are available for newly-arrived third-country nationals. Introduction programmes are established in most Member States and they are compulsory in some countries, i.e. **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Denmark**, **France**, **Germany**, **Greece** and **The Netherlands**. In **Austria**, immigrants have to sign an Integration Agreement and to follow German language training in order to receive a residence permit. The City of Vienna provides special cheap courses for young and long-term immigrants. In **Denmark**, an examination on Danish society, history and culture has to be taken to obtain Danish citizenship and a basic civic test will also be introduced for some categories of immigrants. In the **United Kingdom**, the 'Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship' syllabus to prepare for the citizenship test was published. In **Portugal**, the 'Portugal Welcomes You' programme provides language and introductory citizenship courses for newly-arrived third-country nationals. In **France**, knowledge of the French language, values and institutions is a pre-condition to acquire a long-term residence permit. Language courses, including an examination and a certificate, are compulsory depending on the level of knowledge and they are free of charge for newly-arrived third-country nationals. They are organised in a flexible

way according to different needs and child care is available during classes. In **Germany**, language classes are compulsory depending on the level of knowledge and integration courses provide orientation and basic knowledge of German institutions. In **Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania** and the **United Kingdom** a personal integration plan is drafted for every refugee. **Italy** and **Spain** foresee introduction courses with a focus on vocational training in their territories, as well as in the immigrants' countries of origin. **The Netherlands** organises compulsory pre-departure examinations on language and civic orientation for immigrants, with the exclusion of refugees and asylum seekers, to be taken in the country of origin. In **Ireland**, citizens' information centres are located in every town and cultural orientation programmes and information leaflets are also available. Stakeholders were involved in the organisation of language courses to provide an effective service. In **Luxembourg**, a pilot project for language classes in French and Luxembourgish 'Cours Inlux' has proved to be very successful and will be renewed. In **Poland**, a web-site was set up after consultation with refugees, in order to provide them with the most useful information and a newspaper addressing immigrants is drafted with their contribution.

5. 'Efforts in education are critical to preparing immigrants, and particularly their descendants, to be more successful and more active participants in society'

In **Austria**, intercultural teaching and learning are principles of federal law, implemented by providing training and support to teachers and promoting anti-discrimination activities in all schools. In **Finland**, municipalities are granted an increased State subsidy to support young immigrants speaking other languages and teaching in their mother tongue is available. The general school programme includes teaching on foreign cultures. In **Spain**, half of the 'State Fund for Reception, Integration and Education' is used by schools to develop reception programmes for newly-arrived young immigrants and their families, to provide teaching support during an initial period and to hire intercultural mediators. Teaching exchange programmes with third countries and a movie 'Settlers' on interculturality at school are examples of initiatives undertaken. In **Belgium**, the French Community develops courses in the language and culture of origin of immigrants and courses promoting openness towards other cultures. In all parts of the country, reception programmes, bridging classes and language courses are organised to facilitate the introduction of newly-arrived young third-country nationals. In **Bulgaria**, the national programme for the development of education and training foresees specific measures targeted at children speaking another language. Data and research on performance at school are analysed. In **Estonia**, relevant resources are allocated to train teachers of Estonian as a second language and for bilingual education. In **Romania**, free courses of Romanian are available for adults and training for teachers is organised to address better the need of students. **Finland** and **Hungary** provide classes in various languages as preparatory courses for the integration of immigrant children into the general education system. **Greece** organises reception and tutorial classes to ease the integration into schools and other measures are set up to ease enrolment and to support families. In **Luxembourg**, a reception unit for young immigrants who arrive in the course of the school year was created and intercultural mediators and special staff are available to help with language difficulties. In **Portugal**, the 'Choices Program' aims at preventing low level of achievements and early school-leaving and the 'Between Cultures Secretariat' promotes intercultural education within the wider educational system by training of teachers. Classes of Portuguese as a second language are available in schools. In the **United Kingdom**, within the framework of the 'Aiming High' strategy, funding and guidance materials are provided to local authorities and school boards in order to address the needs of immigrant children and youth. In **The Netherlands**, schools and local authorities organise meetings at least once a

year to avoid segregation and to promote integration. In **Poland**, training for teachers is available and a conference was organised on measures tackling language difficulties of immigrant children. A kindergarten project 'Children of the World' addresses integration challenges at an early stage with the interaction of children of different origins through arts and games. In **Ireland**, the 'Department of Education and Science' established a steering committee to co-ordinate responses to the educational needs of newly-arrived young immigrants and to put in place a system of language support for non-English speakers. New 'Guidelines on Intercultural Education in Primary School' are published to support teachers and school management in developing a more inclusive classroom environment. In **Sweden**, a specific curriculum for learning Swedish as a second language exists and the 'Higher Education Act' requires higher education institutions to promote actively recruitment of immigrants. In **France**, language tuition and introductory courses are available at school. Recent measures focus on the participation in preparatory courses for university studies and on the smooth transition into the labour market.

6. 'Access for immigrants to institutions, as well as to public and private goods and services, on a basis equal to national citizens and in a non-discriminatory way is a critical foundation for better integration'

In **Italy**, access to social services for immigrants is eased by mediatory services. Legal advice, information and orientation desks are available at the local level. In **Lithuania**, access to public offices is facilitated by interpretation services and information in other languages. In **Austria**, special multi-language information desks are available for various services. The User Panel of the **Danish** Immigration Service is set up to bring together the Danish Immigration Service and immigrant's representatives. In **Poland**, training is organised for people working with refugees and a centre provides information on legislation and available services within public institutions. In **Sweden**, all government agencies have to adopt action plans to take into account cultural diversity in recruitment procedures and a system with de-personalised applications for jobs will be tested. In **The Netherlands**, an anti-discrimination project within the structures of the government is launched. In **Finland**, the Ministry of Labour produced a 'Handbook on equality data' containing good anti-discrimination practices. In the **Czech Republic**, multicultural education and improvement of language skills of public administration staff is an increasing priority. **Bulgaria** implements a training project to teach social assistants to work in multiethnic environments. In **Romania**, public services may employ interpreters and cultural mediators and train their staff to ease the access of immigrants to services. In the **Slovak Republic**, training for the staff of labour, social and family affairs offices is available, as well as consulting and mediatory services. In **Hungary**, desk officers of family support centres and social and labour offices participate in training on integration issues. In **Latvia**, a 'Centre of trust' is being built for third-country nationals as a contact point with the institutions. In **Ireland**, the newly established 'Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service' acts as a one-stop-shop providing a single access point to services. Interpretation support, anti-racism and intercultural training is available for service providers. Government Departments and State Agencies provide information, in multiple languages, on the rights and entitlements of access to a wide range of public services. In **Portugal**, national and local immigrant support centres are one-stop-shops set up for the delivery of services with the involvement of socio-cultural mediators. An 'SOS Service for Immigrants' and a simultaneous translation service provide help and information in various languages with the assistance of socio-cultural mediators. Within the pilot project 'Strategic Upgrade of National Refugee Integration Services' (SUNRISE), in the **United Kingdom** a personal caseworker provides information and advice to facilitate access to services.

7. ‘Frequent interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens is a fundamental mechanism for integration. Shared forums, intercultural dialogue, education about immigrants and immigrant cultures, and stimulating living conditions in urban environments enhance the interactions between immigrants and Member State citizens’

Some Member States, such as **Greece** and **Italy**, stress in particular the role of cultural mediators, as well as of volunteering and third sector organisations facilitating the interaction between immigrants and the host society. In **Austria**, a special department for integration and diversity matters forms a point of co-operation between immigrants' organisations, non-governmental organisations and the City of Vienna. In **Ireland**, local community groups are funded to provide day-to-day support and to promote participation of newly-arrived third-country nationals in local community life. In **Bulgaria**, the 'Sports Vacation Programme' promotes tolerant inter-ethnic relations. In **Estonia**, an employment exchange programme between different regions of the country is developed to promote interaction. In **Denmark**, the participation of immigrants in volunteering organisations is promoted. In **Lithuania**, a web-site for various minorities' organisations is created to reach a broader public. In **Luxembourg**, a pilot project to organise entertainment workshops for the interaction of national citizens with immigrants has been successful and will be repeated in many towns. In **The Netherlands**, many projects in the context of the 'Broad Initiative for Social Cohesion' have been launched including the 'Not beside but with each other' campaign to avoid segregation. A major project to collect examples of co-operation among young people of different cultures is broadly covered by the media. In the **United Kingdom**, measures to engage together more closely immigrants and the host population include an action plan on intercultural dialogue, a government 'Respect Task Force' and the cohesion guidance 'Leading Cohesive Communities – a guide for leaders and chief executives'.

8. ‘The practice of diverse cultures and religions is guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights and must be safeguarded, unless practices conflict with other inviolable European rights or with national law’

Denmark set up various initiatives fostering intercultural dialogue and stressing religious diversity, including dialogue meetings between the Danish Prime Minister and the Minister for Integration and various ethnic minority organisations. **Germany** organised a federal level conference to launch a long-term dialogue process with representatives of Muslim communities. In **Finland**, a working group on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue was established within the 'Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations'. It acts as a permanent forum for discussion and exchange of information between religious communities and national authorities to increase mutual understanding. In **Italy**, a 'Council for Italian Islam' was set up to support the central government in gaining an insight on problems faced by Muslim communities and to establish a permanent dialogue. In **Latvia**, an anti-discrimination project 'Information campaign against Islamophobia' is being implemented and an on-line encyclopaedia on religious diversity and postcards on inter-religious dialogue have been prepared. In **Luxembourg**, a public conference is organised every year by an inter-religious group representing all major faiths. In **Sweden**, the Minister responsible for religious affairs holds regular meetings with representatives of different religious communities aimed at reinforcing mutual understanding and trust. In **The Netherlands**, training for spiritual leaders is organised by Muslims' organisations and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry for Immigration and Integration.

9. 'The participation of immigrants in the democratic process and in the formulation of integration policies and measures, especially at the local level, supports their integration'

In **Belgium**, the **Czech Republic**, **Finland**, **Hungary**, **Ireland**, **Lithuania**, **Luxembourg**, **Portugal**, the **Slovak Republic**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, **Sweden** and soon in **Greece**, third-country nationals are, in principle, entitled to vote in local elections. However, legislative frameworks regulating political participation vary widely. In most of these countries, such voting rights are linked to the length of regular stay or are only recognised to specific categories of third-country nationals. In other Member States, they are only granted to citizens of third countries with which specific bilateral arrangements exist. In **Luxembourg**, awareness-raising campaigns will be organised to inform immigrants about their voting rights at the local level and a proposal has been presented to extend the competences of municipal advisory councils for foreigners ('Commissions communales consultatives') to favour their participation in public life. In **Belgium**, the Walloon and Brussels Capital governments encouraged third-country nationals to register to vote in local elections. Cities and communities with a high concentration of minorities are obliged by the Flemish government to facilitate their participation in local policies through special consultative councils and activities of the 'Forum for Ethnic Minorities'. In a growing number of countries, specific support for immigrant women organisations is provided. The **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **Estonia**, **Greece**, **Italy**, **Portugal** and **Spain** involve immigrants' representatives, as well as other civil society actors and different stakeholders, in the elaboration and/or implementation of integration policies. In **Portugal**, the Consultation Council for Immigration Affairs (COCAI), consisting of five immigrants communities, plays an important role in drawing immigration policies. A 'Council for Ethnic Minorities' has been established in **Denmark** to advise the Ministry of Integration and integration councils are active at the local level. In **Spain**, the 'Forum for the Integration of Immigrants', a three-tiered consultative body created by the government, involving immigrants' associations, social partners, non-governmental organisations and public administration, was renewed with enlarged composition and competences. Its consultation has become mandatory for any legal or practical initiative in the field of integration at national level. In **France**, the 'National Council for the Integration of Immigrant Population', including representatives of immigrants' associations, has been re-established and is regularly consulted by the Ministry in charge. In **Ireland**, funding is provided to immigrants' organisations to promote their participation in the democratic process. Irish partnership companies also facilitate the establishment of local level forums which enhance dialogue and interaction between relevant service providers, representatives of the community and voluntary sector and representatives of immigrants' communities. In **Italy**, a 'Council dealing with third-country nationals and their families' will be established at national level and 'Immigration Territorial Councils' are set up at local level. In **Sweden**, government funding has been made available to create a network of elected representatives from municipalities and County Councils to promote an intercultural environment. In the **United Kingdom**, a 'Commission on Integration and Cohesion' has been set up, involving various stakeholders, to elaborate practical steps in order to make local communities more cohesive and integrated.

10. 'Mainstreaming integration policies and measures in all relevant policy portfolios and levels of government and public services is an important consideration in public-policy formation and implementation'

In the **Czech Republic**, all relevant Ministries apply integration mainstreaming in the development of departmental policies and legislation. In the French Community of **Belgium**,

all Ministers commit themselves to undertake concrete actions to promote cultural pluralism and mutual comprehension. In **Finland**, an integration advisory board was established to co-ordinate activities of various Ministries. 'The Integration Act' was amended so that measures focusing on public general services take into account the needs of immigrants. In **Greece**, an inter-ministerial committee, supported by a special committee involving experts, was established by the Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation to improve the level of co-operation and co-ordination on integration. In **Romania**, inter-institutional co-operation is developed by co-ordination meetings organised with representatives of various governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations. **Ireland** established the 'Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service' to bring together the various strands of government activity. Within these revised structures, a new 'Integration Unit' is being established to promote and co-ordinate all social and organisational measures. **France** strengthens efforts in terms of public services and social measures in the areas where immigrants are more present.

11. 'Developing clear goals, indicators and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to adjust policy, evaluate progress on integration and to make the exchange of information more effective'

In **Denmark**, a study on integration indicators is under way and benchmarking of integration efforts at municipal level is published every year by the Minister of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs to identify best practices. The **Swedish** 'Integration Board' monitors the situation and progress of integration policies, analysing various aspects of Swedish society and producing yearly reports to assist decision-making in this field. In **Portugal**, the 'Immigration Observatory' carries out research to support the development of integration policy. In **Romania**, comprehensive research on the situation of persons granted protection, including the analysis of many integration aspects, has been carried out. Its policy recommendations will be used for drafting future measures. **Germany** and **Estonia** selected external contractors to evaluate their integration programmes in order to inform future policy-making and enable adjustments for more effective policy outcomes. In **Estonia**, a public opinion survey was also carried out. In **Ireland**, all State funding initiatives on integration have clear performance indicators. Procedures are in place to monitor the implementation of funded projects and to inform developing integration policy. In the **Czech Republic**, within the 'Commission for the Integration of foreigners' one of the working groups deals also with the setting up of integration indicators.