



— CECODHAS —

EUROPEAN SOCIAL HOUSING  
OBSERVATORY

**SOCIAL HOUSING AND INTEGRATION OF  
IMMIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

# Exchange

TOOLS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS



**Special Edition**  
**Autumn 2007**  
English

# Foreword



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Tensions, discrimination and social unrest resulting from segregation, inadequate housing and social exclusion of immigrants in European cities have made the need to re-think integration policies and practices clear. As crucial players in the integration process, CECODHAS members called for a review of current policies and trends across Europe from the perspective of social housing suppliers.

In partnership with the CECODHAS Observatory, the CECODHAS sub-group on integration of immigrants presents this edition of the EXCHANGE as a tool to help member organizations understand this rapidly changing reality and reflect on the best approaches and tools to better fulfill their potential to foster integration and social inclusion.

The report includes an overview of the state-of-the-art of research and policy trends in the field of integration of immigrants; A country by country review which outlines the extent to which the role of housing policy is reflected in national regulatory frameworks; Examples of housing and urban initiatives aimed at improving integration along with recommendations of criteria to guide the selection of good practice. Also included is a reference list of European initiatives and organizations engaged with the issue of integration of immigrants.

The publication of this report coincides with a follow-up seminar in Barcelona organized by the sub-group, which brings together practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to reflect on best practices in the field of integration and social housing.

The recommendations and case studies of good practices laid out in this report will be presented and discussed at the seminar, alongside the perspectives of other key actors involved in housing and integration of immigrants' policy and practice including the CLIP network of local authorities and the European Commission.

We hope that this report serves as a useful point of reference to support future activities of our members in fostering integration.

Claire Roumet, Secretary General

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# I Introduction

## Background

Social housing organisations accommodate large numbers of immigrants and ethnic minority groups in most European countries. For this reason they are at the frontline in the implementation of integration policies and programmes. Through its sub-group on integration of immigrants, CECODHAS working group on social policies has identified the need to understand the main problems facing tenants and social housing providers in the effort to contribute to greater integration. Furthermore, this requires an understanding of the legal and policy frameworks determining the integration of immigrants both at national and at European level, as well as of the main debates shaping these frameworks across Europe. Within this remit, the European Social Housing Observatory is contributing to the work of this sub-group through the present report.

## Aims

The aim of this document is to support the work of the CECODHAS sub-group on integration of immigrants by providing the conceptual and methodological tools to understand the main debates and policy frameworks that determine the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities across Europe. Ultimately, it is expected that this report will provide a set of criteria for the sub-group to select good practices in the field. The report is structured in three main chapters:

**1) A review of the main conceptual and policy debates on integration of immigrants**, which are crucial to understanding the current policy developments in this field;

**2) An overview of the national legal and policy frameworks for the integration of immigrants and their links to housing policies** in the 15 “old” EU member states, with an emphasis on identifying links with housing issues and policies. This overview is by no means exhaustive; its purpose is to identify the main features of the national regulatory frameworks determining the prospects for the integration of immigrants, with a focus on its interactions with housing policies.

**3) Guidelines for identifying good practice in the field.** It is expected that the recommendations for the selection of good practice will help the sub-group to carry out their practical exercise. In addition, the report includes a number of **examples of concrete projects** aimed at improving the integration of immigrants through urban and/or housing interventions and a **selection of networks and initiatives** in the field of integration of immigrants.

## Methods

This document draws on existing research. The main sources are three recently published reports which analyse the relationship between immigrants and ethnic minorities and their access to adequate housing.

The three main reports we will refer to in this document are:

*1) “Policy Measures to Ensure Access to Decent Housing for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities”* (December 2004), commissioned by the Joint Centre for Scottish Housing Research (JCSHR) describes and analyses policy measures to ensure access to decent housing for ethnic minorities and (legal) immigrants. This is a case study

# I. Concepts and debates

with a sample of five countries from the EU-15 (Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden, and UK), two countries from the EU-10 (Hungary and Slovenia), and one candidate country (Romania).

2) *"Migrants, Minorities and Housing: Exclusion, Discrimination and Anti-Discrimination in 15 Member States of the European Union"*, published in December 2005 by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), is a comparative investigation of housing, discrimination, and racism across the EU-15. The report is based upon the 2003 national reports from the EUMC's RAXEN National Focal Points for individual countries.

3) *"Social Integration of immigrants: contribution of local and regional authorities"*, a concept paper written by Wolfgang Bosswick and Friedrich Heckman for the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound). This paper, published in 2006, provides a framework for implementing a project involving cooperation between local and regional actors in the area of integration policy at the local level.

## I. CONCEPTS AND DEBATES

In this section we review the main concepts and definitions discussed in the literature and policy debates on immigration and integration. We begin with a brief discussion of the concepts of assimilation, integration and multiculturalism and place them in the context of other key concepts in current policy debates, such as segregation, social exclusion, marginalisation, stigmatisation, ethnic hierarchy etc., which are relevant to understand the links between integration and housing.

## Models of integration

The concept of integration is closely related to the idea of the immigrants' "inclusion" into the host society. At the origin of the theoretical elaboration of these concepts was the assumption that the inclusion of immigrants was part of a "cycle" whereby the immigrant became progressively included in the host society. This idea was formulated through a number of 'models' of integration (Wirth 1928; Duncan 1933; Park 1950). Common to all of these models, was the concept of assimilation. *Assimilation* is often understood as a one-way process, in which immigrants, or ethnic minorities<sup>1</sup>, give up their values and culture and adapt completely into an established, generally larger community (that is for immigrants the society they have migrated to). The assimilation process can be voluntary or forced upon a group. In some cases it is, nevertheless, impossible for an ethnic minority to choose assimilation (i.e. African-Americans in the US) (Hylland Eriksen 1998). Assimilation has though become associated with suppression and ethnocentrism, moreover even with physical violence, and in its extremes with genocide. (Municio 2001)

The idea of *integration*, on the other hand, refers to a two-way process (Wolfgang & Heckman). This means that integration is not only the outcome of immigrants' actions. The host society must also learn how to adopt rather than merely bringing immigrants or ethnic groups into the majority society. The integration process depends not only upon acceptations of values (cultural, religious etc) but is not least a question of redistribution of social, economical, and political resources to disadvantaged immigrants and ethnic minorities (Fraser 1997).

<sup>1</sup> For a discussion about the distinction between "immigrants" and "ethnic minorities" see Will Kymlicka 1998.

However, the “two-way”-definition of integration often stands in obvious contrast to the understanding of the concept reflected in programmes and practices of integration policies (Municio 2001). Even if some countries are identified with the integration approach, that approach doesn’t necessarily influence policy. Integration policies are often designed in a top-down manner, in which the elite and experts from the majority society assume certain measures (Bosswick & Heckmann 2005). To assert that integration is a two-way process, is in this sense, almost a myth. It is interesting to note how the expression “*integration of immigrants*” speaks for itself.

The discussions about integration and assimilation are connected to the concept of multiculturalism, or the multicultural society. Multiculturalism represents a rejection of policies or public pressures calling for assimilation (ibid.). The multicultural society presents a philosophy, or a (vague) theory stressing recognition and tolerance for cultural differences within a country. It is also used as a descriptive term for societies that have different distinct cultural groups, often as a result of contemporary immigration. The concept is furthermore incorporated into official policies in several countries, emphasising the unique characteristics of different cultures. (Kymlicka 1998) There have been criticisms of the multicultural society from a variety of perspectives. Criticism of multiculturalism in general argues that the danger of pursuing multicultural policies is that integration and/or assimilation can be held back (Ibid). These critics are arguing for the need of common identification (through common language, culture, religion

etc), if the stability of the society is to last (Bosswick & Heckmann 2005).

### Concepts and Policies

Migration as well as integration legislation and policies reflect different conceptualisations arising from official assimilation, integration and multiculturalism. Researchers have grouped and analysed how the discourses and policy styles differ noticeably between the EU Member States. No country falls completely into one, or another, of the assimilation and multiculturalism models, and the countries’ responses to the models have varied from time to time. Yet it is possible to distinguish some main trends.

For example, France used to be, and still is, described as the prototype of the assimilation approach, while the UK has broadly adopted the multicultural policy (Phillips 2006; United Kingdom: Migration Country Report 2005). The latter policy was practised in the Netherlands until the end of the last decade (Netherlands: Migration Country Report 2005). However, since 2003 the trend towards assimilation has gained energy in several EU Member States (Bosswick & Heckmann 2005). In recent years there has been an intensive debate in the UK over multiculturalism and social inclusion. As a consequence of the July 7 bombings 2005 of London’s public transport system the Conservative opposition called on the Labour government to review its “obsolete” policy of multiculturalism. (United Kingdom: Migration Country Report 2005)

In The Netherlands at the beginning of this decade the far-right politician Pim Fortuyn was the centre of controversy

for his criticisms of multiculturalism and views on Islam. The murder of Fortuyn (2002) and of the filmmaker Theo van Gogh (2004) intensified the debate and the rejection of multiculturalism even more in the country. Recent integration policies now emphasise history, Dutch language and Dutch customs, as well as women's and gay rights. (Netherlands: Migration Country Report 2005)

In Germany a new immigration law gives both the right and obligation for newly arrived, and for migrants who are already in the country, to participate in "integration" courses (Germany: Migration Country Report 2005).

In the late 1990s a lively debate started to grow in Denmark, based on the thoughts that integration has failed, and immigrants have become a threat to the welfare system. The most current debate appears, though, to focus on reducing the number of immigrants. (Denmark: Migration Country Report 2005). However it is worth noting that this more restrictive approach to immigration is in no way unique to the Danish case but shows a gradual shift across the EU in the political discourse (and consequently, policies) where the focus lies on labour migration to fill skills shortages, what has been called the "managed migration" approach (European Commission 2005a).

### **Ethnic hierarchies in housing**

Poor housing conditions are experienced by a wide range of migrant groups of all legal statuses (immigrants, undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees) across all EU Member States. Yet, within the

countries there is also clear evidence of differences between migration and ethnic minority groups. Indeed, some groups or individuals are more exposed than others. (JCSHR 2004)

Immigrants and ethnic minorities' access to housing is, as we will discuss further in the paper, related to a number of factors. Research shows that racial discrimination plays an important role in the disproportionate housing exclusion experienced by immigrants and ethnic minorities (JCSHR 2004; EUMC 2005). There is both an ethnic/racialised and a socioeconomic dimension in access to housing. Even though these two factors often correlate it is important to bear in mind that racism exists regardless of economic status and can't be reduced to a class analysis (Essed 1991; see also EUMC 2005).

Swedish researchers have brought up the dimension of ethnic hierarchies in housing. It is shown how discrimination helps to create a 'hierarchy' regarding access to housing among different groups in Sweden, with Swedish-born (most likely white) on the top, closely followed by people born in Western countries, and people born in West Asia and Africa at the very lowest scale of the ladder (Swedish National Report 2003). The position in the hierarchy has an independent effect in relation to other explanatory factors, like for example income level and the extent of time spent in the host society (Molina & de los Reyes 2002). Evidences of similar variation exist in other European countries (EUMC 2005). Research from Sweden and the UK prove that the same discriminating pattern is found in other areas of the society as well, for example in the labour market (Neergaard 2003).

Molina describes the mechanisms behind *racialisation* processes and the way these processes shape and define ethnic hierarchies in housing (Molina 1997; Molina 2005). Indeed, the fact that not only immigrants, but even children of immigrants, face discrimination and continued exclusion from the housing market (JCSHR 2004) indicate that the inequality in housing isn't something that automatically will be solved by the extent of time. The JCSHR- and the EUMC-reports speak of the need of a long term perspective to overcome the obstacles that the children of foreign born parents experience in access to appropriate housing (ibid; EUMC 2005).

Access to decent housing cuts not only across ethnic and class lines but is also gender related. In fact, studies have shown that housing is not gender neutral (Ostendorf & Droogleever Fortuijn 2006). Moreover, the JCSHR-report brings up the gender aspect and underlines how female refugees and asylum seekers can face specific vulnerability in the housing (JCSHR 2004).

It is also important to emphasize how undocumented immigrants are a particularly exposed group in the housing market. Due to their illegal status and to the uncertainty of their income, undocumented immigrants are living under extraordinarily insecure circumstances. It is worth noting that, despite their different legal status, both asylum seekers and refugees<sup>2</sup> face in many ways similar difficulties as undocumented migrants do in relation to housing. (PICUM 2004) We will briefly come back to the subject of undocumented migrants, asylum seekers and refugees' situations in the housing market further on in the paper.

### **Ethnic segregation**

Most of the European countries have segregated areas (Musterd & Murie 2006). In France, Sweden and the UK - for example, "similar circumstances exist for migration and ethnic minority groups in relation to a high concentration in the metropolitan regions and areas of high housing demand (Paris, London and Stockholm), and of segregation of those groups in the poorer quality parts of the public/social housing and not for profit sectors" (JCSHR 2004:24). These socially segregated areas, and the people living in these neighbourhoods are subject to stigmatisation and marginalisation processes, taking both ethnic and socioeconomic dimensions (EUMC 2004; Palomares & Simon 2006; Dahlstedt 2006).

The concept of segregation can be translated as 'separation of unity'. Ethnicity and class are two factors that are usually highlighted when discussing the origins of separate living spaces. In its most extreme form a differentiation along those lines implies an absence of interaction between the ethnic groups or classes that are separated in space. However the concept segregation entails the indication of a social distance between the groups or classes that are spatially separated. (Musterd & Murie 2006)

It can be noted that not all of the literature considers segregation as a problem per se, "only insofar as segregation is causing integration-related problems", as the CLIP-network expresses it, for example. (CLIP Network 2006; see also EUMC 2005:64) Research shows that concentration of immigrants or ethnic minorities in a certain neighbourhood can be an indication of an involuntary

<sup>2</sup> For a clarification of the terms "asylum seeker" and "refugee" see Phillips 2005.

segregation process as well as of solidarity between immigrants (JCSHR 2004). Segregation can, in other words, arise from voluntary, as well as from involuntary action. "In either case, segregation places spatial barriers on housing opportunities already limited by other factors". The JCSHR-report states moreover that: "When segregation results in stigmatisation, people become trapped in more deprived areas. Hence, some of the reasons why so many immigrants move to and remain in the so-called deprived areas, despite the fact that a great share of them does not like it there are local shortage of housing and the individual households' lack of resources and contacts". (Ibid:38)

Problems of segregation are in no sense a new phenomenon but some argue that in the past two decades they have become more severe in many metropolitan areas (Ostendorf & Droogleever Fortuijn 2006; Musterd & Murie 2006; European Forum for Migration Studies 2006). Even in those countries with a large social housing sector such as France and the UK segregation of immigrants and ethnic minorities is "widespread and chronic". It can be pointed out that this segregation can have both positive and negative aspects "but is a product of the housing system which has to be recognised within a more general process of social exclusion" (COMPLETE REFERENCE). Negative effects of segregation, discussed in the studies, are - for example - a damaging impact on opportunities in education, labour market and income. On the other hand it is also argued that segregation can provide basic minimal resources for social and political mobility (Kesteloot, Murie & Mustard 2006; CLIP Network 2006). Positive effects of segregation could in

this sense for example be "good social embedding within minority groups, availability of local social networks and their support, and the opportunities for an ethnic economy" (CLIP Network 2006).

### Social exclusion

Social exclusion could be described as one of the mechanisms behind segregation. The social exclusion concept has been gaining place both in the social science debate and in the political rhetoric of the EU (Musterd et al 2006; European Communities 1992). The manner in which the concept has been used differs though greatly across national borders. Despite the multidimensionality of the concept, social exclusion is mainly regarded as something that should be reduced and, although it is not an issue that is reserved to the metropolitan areas, there is a common concern about social exclusion in urban regions. (Ostendorf & Droogleever Fortuijn 2006) The common denominator for the different approaches to the concept is that it is often intertwined with nearby concepts such as poverty, inequality, redistribution, rights, discrimination and the underclass.

*"Social exclusion implies being cut off from relevant sections of society; this includes, for example, being in a position where social networks are weak and the risk of becoming socially isolated is serious; or it may be related to a situation in which individuals have lost their connection with important institutions in society (including the health system, public housing and the school system"*

(Musterd & Murie 2006:7).

The quote above implies that the excluded group or individual is

deprived of the chance to make use of the opportunities presented to her or him. Hence there is a connection both to social rights and participation as well as to material deprivation. Another definition is "deprivation of social rights and of access to public sphere, and thus, respectively, of social citizenship" (Roche & van Berkel 1997). This definition views inclusion as something the individuals is refused or denied as opposed to something she or he has failed to achieve. This latter definition explicitly emphasizes the impact of surrounding conditions and existing structures in the society. However, according to both definitions the concept of social exclusion could be interpreted as encompassing the consequences of segregation. Moreover social exclusion is by definition always involuntary, while, as discussed earlier, segregation can (for instance) arise from a voluntary action.

There is a close connection between the essence of social exclusion and of marginalisation. Marginalisation could be understood as a process on the margin of being socially and economically rooted in society and being excluded. (Young 2005) A marginalised group refers to various groups that are outside of the "mainstream". Those individuals or groups being marginalised and excluded often lack a voice in the society and are underrepresented in institutions determining a person's socioeconomic and political life. (Ibid; Eriksen 1998)

Some people are more subject to marginalisation than others. There is a tendency towards some groups in society being pointed out and reproduced as a stigma. Hence marginalisation is inseparable from stigmatisation. (Young 2005) Stigmatisation associates geographic

areas, groups, individuals and institutions with negative qualities and social problems, with for example criminality, physical uncertainty and drug addictions. Segregated areas with high concentration of socially excluded immigrants and ethnic minorities tend with this logic to be characterized as "ghettos", "slum areas" etc. (Palomares & Simon 2006; Dahlstedt 2000) Politicians, authorities and the public opinion have identified the problems of these areas with the inhabitants. It can be noticed how this "blame the victim" attitude, i.e. the marginalized and stigmatized themselves are being blamed for their marginalized position. (Storper 2005; Swedish National Report 2003; Denmark: Migration Country Report 2005).

Although the term ghetto is being used occasionally in the European political discourse, most researchers tend to agree on that the term should be avoided since in no European city an extent of segregation amounting to ghetto-like situations may be found as it has been discussed in the US context. (Palomares and Simon 2006:120; CLIP Project 2006)

### **Area based policies and social mixing**

Today the question of social or ethnic mixing is evidently present in the debate about segregation and social exclusion. Different countries have, as will be discussed below, developed different approaches to population mixing and in some countries the explicit desire to achieve mixing is strong. (EUMC 2005; JCSHR 2004) Another issue at the heart of debate is what could be more useful: universal policies aimed generally at disadvantaged groups or specific policies targeted to migrants and ethnic minorities? (JCSHR 2004; CLIP

## II. The legal and policy framework

Network 2006) Since the late 1980s the tendency has been towards a gradual shift to area-based approaches in national and local housing policies. This is reflected in an enormous volume of area based policies and selective integration programmes which have been developed over the past decades in several of the EU Member States (Musterd & Murie 2005).

### II. THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The following is a summary of the key findings of our review on the legal and policy framework on immigration and integration and its links with housing policies and/or measures:

#### 2.1. Main trends in the legal and policy frameworks on immigration and integration of immigrants.

From our review, it is possible to identify two (contradictory) tendencies at work concerning the legal provisions for immigration and integration in the EU Member States. On the one hand, countries such as the UK, Germany and France, for example, are *strengthening their anti-discriminatory and anti-racist legislation* concerned with improving<sup>3</sup> immigrant and ethnic minority groups' living situations, including housing conditions. On the other hand, the same countries are adopting *stricter immigration laws* and legal provisions. (EUMC; van Dijk) These more limited immigration policies are especially addressed to non-Western and non EU citizen nationals (European Commission 2005b). According to Kymlicka, the commitment to ensuring a common language has been a constant feature of the history of immigration and

integration policies (Kymlicka 1998). This is also reflected across the EU states where immigrant groups have usually been encouraged to learn the language(s) of the majority population in the country they have immigrated to (Bosswick & Heckmann 2005). Although the focus on the need of a common language is not a new statement, the current trend is that the demand on immigrants to *learn the language and the culture of their host society* has intensified. The recently approved policies in the Netherlands and Germany are, as mentioned above, examples of this.

It is worth noting that the stricter and more selective entry procedures for immigrants, principally aimed at enhancing the EU Member States' economies, are in several countries also regulated by *quota systems* with regard to labour migrants. These quota systems often exclude low-skilled occupations. For example, the German legislation introduced in 2000 a "green card" system to help satisfy the demand for highly qualified information technology experts. In contrast with the American green card, which allows for permanent residency, the German version limits residency to a maximum of five years. (Germany: Migration Country Report 2005). It is worth noting the contradiction of this short-term approach with the longer-term aim of integration<sup>4</sup>. In Portugal the term "quota" is not mentioned in the Immigration Law (2003), but the quota principle is used. In connection to that law a new kind a work visa, for scientific and research activities, has been created with the goal of keeping scientists and highly skilled people in Portugal. (Portugal: Migration Country Report 2005) Denmark legislation can serve as another example of how the *managing*

<sup>3</sup> However it should be kept in mind that at the same time general national or local policies and programs "sometimes become the terrain on which new forms of discrimination and exclusion are created". (EUMC 2005:7; van Dijk)

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, if an immigrant is expected to "integrate" into the host society, the process of learning the local language and culture and of building local relationships (especially when it involves children) requires a longer term horizon of stay, which a 5 year maximum renders very difficult, if not impossible.

*economic migration approach* is being established. Denmark has a policy of no immigration from third country nationals, but there are some exceptions to the rule. A residence permit is granted if “essential” employment or business considerations make it appropriate. This is often only possible if the applicant has a job offer and fills a skill shortage. (Denmark: Migration Country Report 2005) Some EU Member States have also put in to practice a demand of a certain degree of *solvency*. For example, according to the Austrian Naturalisation Act (1998) the immigrant has to prove that she or he is economically self-sufficient, i.e. not in need of social assistance. (Austrian: Migration Country Report 2005)

## **2.2. Lack of data and on links between integration and housing policies**

Overall, we found that despite the extensive information available on immigration and integration policies, it is *very difficult to find explicit links between these policies and housing policies* or measures – or even with a housing dimension of the issues dealt with. We should, however, bear in mind that there is a number of ongoing research projects on housing and migrant integration aiming to deliver new evidence on these links, although the final results of these studies have not been submitted at the time of writing this report. However, the main sources we present in this review do give some useful insights so far.

To start with, the EUMC report presents the findings of the comparative study of housing, discrimination and racism across the ‘old’ EU member states (National Focal Point in each country and national

housing reports.) The national reports show a *widespread incidence of unfair and discriminatory practices* affecting housing markets, social rented housing allocation, or access to finance and other support. There are limitations in data for all countries (with significant differences between countries) which are collectively so great that the extent of housing disadvantage and of negative discrimination cannot readily be expressed in any comparative statistical ways. Nonetheless, there is recurrence of key mechanisms (such as denial of accommodation by private property owners), and characteristic outcomes (such as limited choice for minorities, heavy dependence on social renting where this can be obtained, or poor quality accommodation). Special categories who deserve urgent attention are the asylum seekers, Roma and other travelling people so diversity amongst minority communities is an important issue. There is also an important overlap between the ethnicity and the minority status on the one hand, and the socio-economic position on the other hand. However many immigrants and minorities do have something in common – experiences of *marginalisation* in the labour and housing markets and exclusion from other core institutions in the society which gives a person opportunities to have a real impact on ones life (Bosswick & Heckmann 2005; JCSHR 2004). A crucial observation is the urgent need for better quality data on housing discrimination.

On the other hand, the JCSHR-report shows that for the most part immigrants and ethnic minority households have the same housing needs as other groups in society. It is difficult to relate specific housing needs to cultural norms. Particular

needs of immigrants may, though, rise from the nature of the migration process. *Needs may be understood in relation to the phases in the migration process* and in relation to the *legal statuses* and rights given to the immigrants in the host society. (JCSHR 2004) The racism and discrimination immigrants and ethnic minorities face in housing is another factor that also creates specific needs of these groups (EUMC 2005). Those obstacles are, however, of structural character and caused by the society as a whole, through behaviour and attitudes of institutions and individuals in the majority society (Essed 1991). Anti-racist policies are being developed in respect to housing in most Member States. The EU directive 2000/43 offers every EU citizen a common minimum level of legal protection against discrimination and this legislation (that the countries must adopt) encompasses, as mentioned earlier, the housing market as well as other crucial parts of the society. This anti-racist legislation that has come in to force in the housing sector (as well as other areas) is a key integration issue that is being developed in each of the Member States (EUMC 2005).

Despite the anti-racist policies integration policies are in general poorly developed in respect to housing. Moreover, there is little knowledge among policy-makers and a lack of data in some countries on the particular housing needs of immigrants. (JCSHR 2004) This is remarkable given that housing could be identified as a key dimension in the integration process (Phillips 2006).

### 2.3 . Models of integration

Migration in to the EU Member States is reflecting various histories, traditions

and institutional arrangements.

Different interpretations of integration result from these diverse histories of immigration among the Member States and they are reflecting different rights in relation to housing. This is expressed in different levels of state control over the migrant settlement process and varying degrees of housing market choices both for newly arrived immigrants and for those who have been living in the country during a long time. According to Phillips (2006), Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Germany are examples of countries that “broadly conceptualise refugee integration in terms of *assimilation* and dispersal, pursuing policies designed to minimise cultural differences and promote ethnic desegregation, often at the expense of housing choices. On the other hand, the assimilation approach of France implies that housing integration is interpreted in terms of a class issue, “with little explicit reference to ethnicity”. Meanwhile the UK has broadly adopted a *multicultural approach* to integration and housing policies, reflected in government guidelines for promoting ethnic diversity in housing and widening minority ethnic housing choices. (Phillips 2006) Portugal, which is increasingly facing immigration and integration challenges is, on the other hand, an example of a country *lacking policies* aimed at improving access to housing for immigrants and for ethnic minorities – and this in the context of a private sector dominated market. According to the EUMC report, Greece is another example of a country that stands out for not engaging with ethnic inequalities in housing at all. (EUMC 2003) It should be borne in mind, however, that although some countries are identified with one specific philosophy towards integration that

stresses an assimilation of different cultures and others are based on recognition of different cultures both the assimilation and the multi-cultural approach can influence policies at the same time and there is, as the JCSHR-report states, “a recognition of change in approach in some countries as immigration experience and policy response has developed” (JCSHR-report 2004).

#### 2.4. Housing policies and integration

A first finding from our review is that, in most cases, *‘immigrant housing policies’ do not exist* as such, but are rather *‘subsumed’ in general housing policies*. The way in which housing policy is used to promote integration varies considerably across Member States. For example, at the one extreme – Sweden’s housing policy is “driven by the aim of breaking down segregation and achieving social integration”. At the other extreme are countries like Portugal, where there seems to be little attempt to achieve social mix. However, it must be kept in mind that in many countries the rhetoric of achieving integration through housing policies is greater than the reality. (EUMC 2005:89)

#### Discrimination

There is substantial evidence of persistent discrimination against minorities in the housing field, but in some countries numbers of reported cases are very low. In the EUMC-report, the following typology is proposed<sup>5</sup>:

- *Direct discrimination*: Could be defined as “where disadvantaged treatment of a minority person or household occurs compared to normal treatment of indigenous

citizens” (EUMC:67). The studies state that there is a wide range of forms of direct discrimination by different actors in the housing market. Evidence shows, for example, that “hidden” maximum quotas to limit and restrict the concentration of immigrant families on housing estates are being in place. Germany, Finland and Denmark are mentioned as examples of countries using such quotas. (EUMC 2005)

- *Indirect discrimination*: Occurs where “regular or normal housing practices, requirements and conditions adversely impact on exclusion of minority households” (EUMC:67). This kind of discrimination takes, just like the previous form, many various expressions and is widespread. Research prove that there are many forms of generally imposed criteria used in the allocation of social housing which have been shown to result in limited access for, and exclusion of, migrants and ethnic minorities in the housing market. For instance, in previous allocations of social housing in the Netherlands “the common use of length of residence, length of time on waiting list, or age, had been identified as discriminatory mechanisms which had impacted minorities” (ibid:71).

- *Structural discrimination*: Refers to rules, norms, attitudes and behaviour in institutions and other societal structures that represent obstacles to certain people in achieving the same rights and opportunities that are available to the majority population (ENAR 2006). More specific in the context of housing structural discrimination could be described

<sup>5</sup>We should though bear in mind that the boundaries between the typologies are not always clear cut and that the three forms of discrimination can overlap.

as “where disadvantage in some aspect of material conditions or policy context for minority groups impact on housing choices and opportunities” (EUMC:67). Economic shortages, lack of information and lack of other recourses are examples of mechanisms that can constitute forms of structural discrimination. Besides socio-economic structures, policy and regulatory contexts may also unequally impact on immigrants’ accommodation opportunities. The EUMC-reports declare that in several Member States the poor fit between the stock of social housing and the needs of larger immigration/ minority families is a barrier to finding adequate housing. Also citizenship and migration policies produce a variety of legal categories which can have the effects of preventing access to housing. We will come back to the role of immigration status under the section “Links between social housing and immigrants”.

### **Mixed communities debate**

While, on the one hand, there is a concern about the social exclusion of minorities (key solutions are in this discourse seen as “enhancing choices or empowerment and facilitating movement to better districts”), on the other hand, there is a concern about ethnic clustering itself, as a potential threat to the majority of society. For the latter issue the goal of integration is equated to assimilation, and official integration policies may in this case mean “dispersal, settlement quotas or control of choices”. (EUMC 2005:17) In Belgium, for instance, there has been for years a public discussion on

whether neighbourhoods with large concentrations of ethnic minorities and immigrants have some advantages as compared to neighbourhoods with a broader social mix. (EUMC 2005) Here, as in several other countries, doubts are cast in relation to the precise association between dispersal and integration. The EUMC-report suggests three ways of looking at integration, corresponding to Phillips reasoning referred to earlier on:

- Integration as assimilation and dispersal (e.g. Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Germany). In these cases the governments have mainly designed policies aimed to minimise cultural differences and promote ethnic de-segregation.
- Integration as social diversity (e.g. UK – multi-cultural policy). The UK integration model aims to respond to cultural diversity through its housing policy as widening minority ethnic housing choices. Local government and social housing organisations are obliged to develop housing strategies which promote race equality and good practices include, for example, migrant’s and minority ethnic group’s participation in the housing policy development process. Some contradictions, however, are worth noting. Critics emphasise, for example, that the housing sector’s race equality and cultural diversity agenda is inconsistent with principles underlying dispersal policies for asylum seekers and settlement control for Roma (Phillips 2006; EUMC 2005).
- Integration as class-based (e.g. France, Sweden etc). In France, as mentioned earlier, integration is mainly discussed in terms of a class issue. Similarly in Sweden,

which has a wide range of policies intended to tackle housing segregation, but this is primarily conceptualised in relation to socio-economic segregation.

In several countries the “social-mix” goals are explicit and research shows that in some cases, as discussed above, “hidden” quotas are being used. However, according to the EUMC report, there is no solid evidence in any of the national housing reports that could justify seeing involuntary spatial mixing as an appropriate route towards social integration. (EUMC 2005:101) The criticism raised against public policies focusing on social mixing by housing allocation seems mainly to be of two kinds. Firstly, data shows that mixing strategies such as quota policies can be discriminatory and restrict immigrants and minority ethnic housing choices (ibid). Secondly, it is argued that if better mixed population is an important objective all parts of the city should be targeted and not only those areas where socially excluded immigrants or ethnic minorities are overrepresented (JCSHR 2004).

Indeed, detractors of social mix in this debate highlight that enforced social mix might prevent the formation of support networks among disadvantaged people such as the poor, newly arrived immigrants and ethnic communities. However, although “there is considerable social capital in ghetto areas, (...) the assets obtainable though it seldom allow participants to rise above their poverty...” (Portes and Landolt 1996: 20). In practical terms, social mix is difficult to achieve, and social housing providers often face the difficulties of trying to introduce social mix into already established communities with a shared identity. Nonetheless,

supporters of social mix argue that the creation of large and dense social housing areas should be avoided in order to prevent stigmatization (Dandolova 2003). Furthermore, “peer group pressures and networks, which are seen as particularly important in the context of education and employment opportunities, have clear links to neighbourhood and the concentration of exclusion, if not specifically to housing”. (Kleinmann and Whitehead 1999; Social Exclusion Unit 2001, cited in Whitehead 2002: 67). Therefore, we can conclude that, while preserving the value of strong ties between established communities, a cohesive society needs to foster the values of tolerance and respect for diversity. In order to devise the best strategies to achieve this, there is a need for more empirical evidence on what types of social mix works and under which conditions (for example, when is ‘mix of tenure’ a possible answer?). There are currently a number of ongoing research initiatives on the subject<sup>6</sup>, whose results should be discussed by all relevant stakeholders – residents, social housing providers, academics, policymakers, etc.

#### *Targeted/universalistic approaches:*

The objectives for the housing policies have varied through the years in several of the EU Member States. Particularly those countries with a longer history of immigration and a strong state role in housing policy and provision (e.g. France, Sweden and the UK) have gone through different phases of targeted vis-à-vis universalistic immigration housing policies. For example, French immigration policy has gone through three major post-war phases. The first phase was characterised by a policy not concerned with the housing of

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, Joseph Rowntree Foundation at [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk).

immigrants (before 1956), the second by a specific immigration housing policy (1956–1989) while the third, and present policy, is characterised by treating immigrants as part of the socially excluded population rather than using specifically targeted measures. (JCSHR 2004)

It is worth noting that targeted or selective integration programs have been subject to wide criticism. The general criticism voiced is that area-focussed policies do not solve underlying structural key issues; they cannot influence institutions and structures outside the targeted residential area. It is argued that action at neighbourhood level is not the appropriate level to solve problems of social exclusion founded in economic and political inequalities, structural discrimination etc. (Kesteloot, Murie, Musterd 2006; JCSHR 2004; EUMC 2005) Some authors also emphasize the risk of a “blame the victim”-attitude constituted in area-based approaches. The EUMC report describes it in following words: “...a focus on an area may build on assumptions that this is where the key problems are to be found, implying that the answers lie in changing the behaviour or lifestyle of poor people, or dispersing minorities, rather than in improving institutional performance or reducing racist harassment and discrimination” (EUMC 2005:113).

## **2.5. Links between social housing and immigrants**

Migrant and minority ethnic households in some states are relatively dependent on social housing, generally because of their low incomes (e.g. Denmark). One overall conclusion, drawn by the comparative analysis in the JCSHR- report, is that the

housing situation of immigrants and ethnic minorities is least bad in those countries with a “significant” public or social rented sector (e.g. France, Sweden and the UK) and worst in those countries where the sector is small (e.g. Belgium, Spain) or has lately been privatised (e.g. Hungary, Romania and Slovenia) (JCSHR 2004:41) The implications vary between countries, depending on how well the sector is resourced, how far it is seen as marginalized and stigmatized, and how far access to the most favoured dwellings is differentiated by ethnicity and racist practices.

As noted earlier, undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees stand out as having a particularly disadvantaged position in relation to housing access, quality choice, settlement option etc across the Member States (PICUM 2004; EUMC 2005). The role of immigration status is generally significant in access to social housing and other housing related welfare provisions. (EUMC 2005)

In many countries undocumented immigrants are excluded from all sorts of social benefits (like accesses to social housing) and their undocumented position makes it often impossible to reclaim any rights against the landlord. Although undocumented immigrants could in some countries (e.g. Belgium) take judicial actions towards landlords, “few do so fearing repercussions they may face due to their illegal status in Europe”. (Picum 2004)

Although asylum seekers and refugees tend to face similar obstacles as the ones faced by undocumented immigrants (i.e. uncertainty of income and fear of being exposed) their immigration status usually gives them

<sup>7</sup> It should be noted that undocumented migrants are not included in the study.

certain legal protection and some (limited) access to welfare benefits. Asylum seekers sometimes benefit from publicly funded housing that undocumented immigrants don't have official access to. (PICUM 2004) The main picture is though that immigration policies related to asylum receptions often create difficulties of access to housing. According to the JCSHR- report some of the worst<sup>7</sup> housing conditions is experienced by asylum seekers outside official reception centres coping in the free market, and by some Roma communities, for example in Spain. (JCSHR 2004)

For refugees the situation seems to be somewhat different, as refugee status generally implies official recognition by the receiving country (EUMC 2005). In the UK, for instance, asylum seekers are neither entitled to permanent housing nor to full social benefits and neither do they have permission to work. Meanwhile, people granted refugee status move in to a different legal position in terms of their welfare entitlements; they have the right to work, to claim benefits and to apply for social housing (Phillips 2006). Austria illustrates another example of how legal status has a bearing upon each group's entitlement to housing (inclusive other welfare benefits). In Austria an immigrant must have been granted citizenship (which the person is entitled to by naturalisation after having lived legally in the country for ten years) before she or he can rent social housing. For refugees there is, however, a special provision, stating that they may be granted citizenship after four years living in the country. As of that moment they are eligible for social housing. (PICUM 2004)

## **2.6. The European level: The impact of EU directives on housing**

Lastly, it is interesting to have a look at the emerging European framework on immigration and integration. Overall, ethnic discrimination in housing has not been an area of major concern across the EU Member States. The work against discrimination in other areas of society is more developed, for example, in the labour market. (JCSHR 2004) This is in spite of research clearly showing that discrimination is an essential barrier to access to housing for immigrants and ethnic minorities. There is, however, progress across Europe in the development of legislation which deal with the topic of discrimination in housing. (JCSHR 2004; EUMC 2005)

In 2000 the European Community adopted two EU directives on equal treatment (2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC). The so-called EU Race Equality Directive (2000/43: EC) prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination and applies to a wide range of spheres in society, including housing. The purpose of the EU directives is to improve the anti-discrimination legislation all over EU, yet it is each country's responsibility to combat discrimination and implement the directives in its legal framework. The "old" Member States were due to have transposed the directives into national laws by the end 2003 while the "new" member states were given until 2004 to fulfil the transposition. However, this process has not been uniformly applied in the countries. The EUMC-report tells that prior to the directives; many countries had not introduced anti-discrimination legislation in housing. The report states that "these directives are likely to have far-reaching consequences for discriminatory practices as well

## III. Practices and examples

as national debates" in the field of housing (EUMC 2005:75).

The JCSHR-report seems to take a less positive standpoint than the EUMC-report. The conclusion the JCSHR draws is that while the countries studied in the report have an anti-discrimination legislation, "the method of implementation of this legislation varies and the effectiveness of enforcement is often in question./.../. Our analysis/.../remains one of the need to improve implementation of the existing legislation in the sphere of housing" (JCSHR 2004:79).

Research indicates that the Race Equal Directive has influenced the legislation in housing issues in most of the Member States. Some countries have, nevertheless, gone further than others with the implementation. The EUMC report refers, for example, to Germany as having failed in transferring the directives into national law. The German legislation has (so far) not passed a ban of discrimination in the allocation of housing, in response to "massive protests" by lobbying groups such as homeowners' associations (EUMC:76). Belgium is an example of a country that has been more progressive. Belgian laws are referred to as going even further than the directives (ibid). Overall, regarding the impact of the Race Equality Directive's on the housing sector, the JCSHR-report concludes that given that the existing legislation is relatively new in all countries, time will be needed to measure the effectiveness of action in the field of housing. The JCSHR-report states that: "the concern is that the structures and guidance for monitoring the effectiveness of action in the housing field are either inadequate or lacking" (JCSHR 2004:84).

### III. PRACTICES AND EXAMPLES

This chapter is structured in three sections, namely: 1) Guidelines to identify and assess good practice (on the basis of the above review of concepts and policies); 2) A number of concrete examples of projects aimed at improving the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities through housing; and 3) a scoreboard of networks and initiatives in the field of integration of immigrants in the European Union.

#### 3.1. Guidelines for identifying and assessing good practice

It is beyond the aim of this paper to present an overview of so called good practice cases. However, from the precedent chapters we can highlight a number of key aspects to consider when assessing the merits of particular initiatives and projects aimed at the improvement of the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities from the perspective of social housing. But first of all, it is worth bearing in mind that *demonstrating good practice is not straightforward*. The evidence we have reviewed for this report is very clear on the difficulty to establish good practice in the field of integration of immigrants and ethnic minority populations (JCSHR 2004; EUMC 2005; Kesteloot, Murie, Musterd 2006; CLIP Network 2006). Indeed, what is good practice often depends on national conditions (EUMC 2005). Furthermore, we would like highlight that, as underlined by the JSCHR-report, in an area such as the housing situation of immigrants within the EU Member States, "where service provision in some countries is embryonic or only weakly developed,

the application of a model of good practice is problematic. In those situations the provision of basic services for the first time can not be defined as good practice but does represent a significant improvement in addressing social problems and can lead to significant changes in the opportunities or choices faced by individuals" (JSCHR 2004:104).

### **3.1.1. Need for clear criteria, indicators and evaluation of good practice.**

Initiatives and changes in practices aiming to reduce social exclusion in housing are described at length in the national reports and (sometimes) referred to as examples of good practices. We believe, however, that a weakness concerning this kind of local integration projects is that criteria and indicators for "good practice" are often poorly defined. In fact, it is not always possible to distinguish answers to crucial questions such as: "Best" practise for whom and of what? Another general point made is the lack of consistent evaluation of best practice over time. Reliable evaluation processes can be a way to avoid reproducing failures of social inclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities in housing.

The EUMC groups the broad range of initiatives and projects mentioned in the country reports into four main categories:

- (1) Campaigns, information, advice services, counselling and mentoring,
- (2) Initiatives aimed at reducing neighbourhood disputes, managing or controlling specific behavioural problems or fostering interactions,

- (3) Creating targeted housing provision, or promoting access to appropriate forms of housing or finance,
- (4) Housing renewal, regeneration and relocation projects.

Is worth mentioning, however, that both the EUMC and the JSCHR-reports propose certain criteria for the selection of positive initiatives or practices. These guidelines are yet not applied on specific projects. According to the CLIP-network draft agenda their comprehensive research programmes will include naming of "good practises" and exchange of experiences concerning integration and housing policies on structural, institutional and agency level. Those research results are still to be followed up in the development of CLIP's work.

*Recommendation: Each assessment of good practice should clearly establish from the start:*

- What does the project aim to achieve?
- In what way is this project going to help the integration of immigrants or ethnic minorities?
- How is progress going to be measured?
- How often is this evaluation going to take place?
- Are representatives from amongst immigrants and ethnic minorities involved in the consultation process in all phases, including the design of objectives and means to assess progress?

### **3.1.2. Integration should be understood as a two-way process.**

This means that integration is not only the outcome of the actions of immigrants' and of people from ethnic

minority, but it requires the majority population to participate in the process of integration on an equal footing. The two-way process approach should be reflected in programmes and influence housing practices and housing policies. In practice, in order to be considered 'good practice', this two-way approach should be demonstrable by the project or case in question, notably by including the active participation of not only immigrants but also by members of the host community. Good practice on integration through housing requires two-way communication between politicians, policy-makers practitioners (e.g. housing providers) and housing consumers (immigrants and ethnic minority groups) in a bottom-up manner is crucial. This means avoiding both a paternalistic approach and the endorsement of policies that claim to be progressive but actually damage the interests of immigrants and ethnic minority households.

*Recommendation: Projects are to include the voice of the immigrants in the assessment of good practice.*

- **Counselling and dialogue:** The sort of initiatives barely building on counselling and dialog between different stakeholders have very limited effects on increasing equality and to really improve the living conditions for immigrant and ethnic minorities.
- **Users' perspective:** According to the EUMC report, from immigrant and minority ethnic perspectives, key concerns are: "... an emphasis on enlarged choice rather than compulsion; construction or renovation focussing on the specific wishes of particular groups; affordability; and autonomy and empowerment" (EUMC 2005:114).

### **3.1.3. Racism and discrimination should be systematically prevented.**

Racism is a major barrier to integration. Research shows that racist and discriminatory practices are widespread in housing. Therefore anti-discrimination work is an essential part of the integration process. A main conclusion to draw from this fact is that every housing practice and housing policy has to be tested and evaluated to make sure it does not reproduce racist behaviour. It should be noted that what should be tested and evaluated are the racist behaviours and practices, not the immigrants and ethnic minorities (avoid "blame the victim" attitude). In addition, awareness-raising plays a central role both in challenging racism and in drawing attention to behaviours, opportunities and rights.

#### *Recommendations:*

- **Prevention mechanisms:** The evaluation of a project as 'good practice' should check if there are any mechanisms in place for the prevention of racism and/or of discrimination, and if they are effectively implemented and enforced.
- **Constant awareness-raising:** Good practice means constant awareness-raising about direct or indirect racist and discriminatory behaviour.
- **Early detection of Institutional racism:** Racist and discrimination practices should be detected not just at the level of individuals, but also at institutional level ( see previous chapter).

### **3.1.4. Segregation and social mix: need for a case-by-case approach**

Some authors underline that the

problem is not segregation per se, but rather its consequences; segregated areas and the people living there are often socially excluded and tend to be subject to marginalization and stigmatisation. There is indeed limited empirical evidence for positive independent effects from spatial mixing. At the same time, however, we have seen that in some cases specific measures should be taken in order to prevent the concentration of certain ethnic groups, especially where there are high levels of deprivation and these groups are at risk of becoming isolated from labour markets and from wider opportunities for social integration.

#### *Recommendations:*

- **Case-by-case approach:** Projects implementing social mix should be assessed on their own merit. This should include an understanding of the point of departure (i.e. diagnose of the original problem, for example, a highly stigmatised community, where its residents face social exclusion and marginalisation) and of the objectives for change.
- **Early residents' involvement:** When implementing social mix, the early involvement of existing residents is advisable, with a view to building common ground on the need for change. In this way, it is expected that local residents will feel empowered through being taken into account in the process.
- **Flexibility:** Communities change over time. The highly dynamic nature of urban areas with a high turnover of residents allows for formerly physically and socially depressed neighbourhoods to become populated by new social and or ethnic groups, as well as

the exodus of older or socially mobile residents. Hence, longer-term housing and regeneration programmes should take a flexible approach when implementing social mix.

#### **3.1.5. Awareness on the limits of area-based initiatives**

As we have seen in our review, targeted or selective integration programs have been subject of wide criticism. Detractors of area-based policies argue that they do not solve underlying structural key issues as they cannot influence institutions and structures outside the targeted residential area. In this view, action at neighbourhood level is not enough to solve problems of social exclusion founded in economic and political inequalities, and of structural discrimination. Thus, the limits of this type of intervention should be borne in mind when establishing the objectives of a specific intervention at neighbourhood or local level. Furthermore, local initiatives should have clear objectives and aimed at being inscribed in more structural programmes or policies so as to generate a multiplier effect.

#### *Recommendations:*

- **Structural embedding of local programmes:** Locally-based projects should be designed taking into account the broader institutional and policy framework of the concerned area, and seek to link up to broader (structural) objectives for the improvement of immigrants and ethnic minority's integration possibilities.
- **Partnerships and synergies:** Local institutional partners should be involved from the

beginning (i.e. local authorities, government agencies operating at neighbourhood level, schools, health centres, recruitment agencies, local businesses, grassroots organisations, etc.) so as to create partnerships and generate synergies.

### **3.2. Putting principles into practice: Case studies of good practice**

The following are four concrete examples of projects aimed at improving the integration of immigrants carried out by social housing providers in four different European countries, namely: Spain, Italy and France. Each case was chosen to highlight one particular aspect of the guidelines to select good practice in this field, as presented above.

#### **CASE 1: Clear criteria and indicators:**

*“Urban and social intervention in a quarter with high influx of immigrants” (Spain)*

The town Manlleu has 20 148 inhabitants (January 2007), including 21% of immigrants from 50 different countries, mostly from Maghreb. This high rate of immigrants is concentrated in the area of Erm, where they represent 50% of the population and even 80% in collective buildings. In order to enable a better integration in their neighbourhood and to struggle against stigmatisation, the local authority has presented a project of urban renewal within the legal framework of Regional Neighbourhood Law. The project was adopted in December 2004. This project aimed at improving economic, social and urban conditions in this area by means of urban development with a social dimension.

This initiative should reconnect this area to the whole town of Manlleu in order to improve social and spatial cohesion for all residents. Two strategic guidelines have been adopted to enable this operation: an urban development plan and a coexistence plan including actions in the fields of housing, collective infrastructure, public areas and social and economic development. Housing is one of the essential fields of this project and requires efficient implications of the different owners, associations and residents. Hence, three actions have been developed in this framework: demolition-reconstruction of the building Can Garcia, including re-housing in other area or in new quality buildings with introduction of social mix; rehabilitation of common areas and finally the involvement of residents' associations to improve integration.

#### **CASE 2: Integration, a two way process:**

*“Auto-construction in partnership: Experimental plan in Lombardy region” (Italy)*

The auto-construction in partnership is a process of organised construction including actors such as the future owners or renters of constructed buildings. The idea is that these actors acquire certain social values during the realisation of these housing projects and a technical and professional training in order to allow them a better economic and social integration. The organisation Alisei acquired an efficient knowledge in the development of professional and social insertion initiatives by means of housing construction by their future residents. Alisei has developed “partnership methodology” for these integration projects towards multi-

ethnic groups of 15-20 people who are expected to become constructors directed by professionals.

A specific program of auto-construction has been implemented in the Lombardy region in partnership with Alisei and also with public/private co-operation. This program has been integrated into the regional plan of social housing in 2004 in order to benefit of financial assistance. Aler Milano became the co-ordinator of this experience between public authorities, social actors, as well as partly project sponsor. The implementation of this type of partnership has enabled several low-cost constructions since 2006.

#### CASE 3: Fight against discrimination:

*“Preventing discrimination and securing equal access to housing for immigrants” (France)*

In France, 30% of immigrant households live in social housing Hlm. This is why the expectations of these groups are big concerning social housing in terms of fighting discrimination and improving access to housing.

The “Union Sociale pour l’Habitat” has lead several actions in order to provide a better integration of immigrants. Some of them at a professional level with salaries’ training, such as Equal project; some other at an institutional level by means of the adoption of a convention with the help of the “Upper Authority of Struggling against Discrimination and for the Equality” (HALDE).

The project EQUAL, co-financed by European funds is aimed at preventing discrimination related to ethnic origin by means training of staff of social housing organisations. This is carried

out in three steps: preliminary study, conception and achievements of training in relation to the management of distressed areas with multicultural residents, and access to housing for immigrants.

The convention signed with the HALDE implements a partnership with the social housing sector in order to prevent discrimination. Different axes of collaboration have been established: reinforcement of awareness and information of Hlm organisations about mechanisms of discrimination and improvement of practices. This convention (which is subject to be renewed) should be assessed in order to measure the impacts.

### **3.3. Examples of urban / housing projects aimed at improving the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities**

The following table presents a short selection of examples of housing and/or urban-related projects aimed at improving the integration of immigrants and/or ethnic minorities. These initiatives are not to be taken as ‘best practice’, but rather as examples to assess critically and extract lessons for future projects. We recommend this is done by bearing in mind the considerations laid out in our previous point.

### 3.3. Examples of urban / housing projects aimed at improving the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities

<b>Project title, location and duration</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Aim/Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Link to the project, contact information</b>
Bullring Birmingham Bullring Jobs Hub, Birmingham in the UK, 2004-2006.	The initiative is part of REGENERA, a thematic network within the URBACT community Initiative. The project is part-financed by the European Union.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build a stronger connection with employers to provide recruitment and training service.</li> <li>- Provide local jobs for local people.</li> <li>- Develop, design &amp; deliver relevant training support packages for jobseekers and employers.</li> </ul>	The Bullring Jobs Hub is described as a project that successfully captured a large proportion of jobs for local unemployed and disadvantaged people, 2.604 jobs filled through the actions of the Bullring Hub. According to the URBACT website it is the first example of a citywide positive action employment project of this scale. The evaluation of the project shows that central coordination worked well for employers, but less so for job seekers. Learning point of that - In the future Hubs management responsibility for clients will remain with the origination or local intermediary.	<a href="http://urbact.eu/en/regenera/index/">http://urbact.eu/en/regenera/index/</a>
Training youth workers, Dublin Ireland, 2003-2006.	The project is a part of the Udiex-Alep action learning exchange programme. funded by the EU URBACT Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To raise the quality of provision of youth work in Dublin.</li> <li>-To set standards for best practice in youth work.</li> <li>-To meet requirements for professional recognition for youth workers.</li> <li>-To ensure that all young people receive a service which supports their development and participation.</li> </ul>	The project has, among other things, developed a guide of youth work and arranged training (Bachelors degree via an Institute of Technology) for youth workers, looking for a good balance of practical and theoretical training.	<a href="http://www.comune.venezia.it/ineuropaenelmondo/urbact/dublin_ws1_children.htm">http://www.comune.venezia.it/ineuropaenelmondo/urbact/dublin_ws1_children.htm</a>  <b>Contact persons:</b> anne.meehan@cdysb.cdvec.ie sharon.kelly@urbanbl.ie

<b>Project title, location and duration</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Aim/Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Link to the project, contact information</b>
Maatwerk Amsterdam and NV Werk, Amsterdam in Holland, 2004-ongoing?	The project is a part of the Udiex-Alep action learning exchange programme. funded by the EU URBACT Programme.	These two case studies are examples of innovative temporary job creation programmes that have operated in high unemployment areas and have delivered goods and services of benefit to low income communities. The Maatwerk Amsterdam and NV Werk are two independent 'not for profit' companies established by the Amsterdam municipality.	Participants are employed by NV Werk but located with a diverse range of project sponsors who deliver services of social value in the non-profit sector. They included security and safety teams, teachers aides and a wide range of projects in child care, social services, youth services, health services, sports, and so on. NV Werk assigns each participant a case manager who helps with barrier reduction, such as arranging childcare, and job placement and retention. Maatwerk Amsterdam sees primary role is to use subsidised work experience to improve individual human capital and help participants to get regular jobs. Most of its participants are young unemployed people, many of whom are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The company operates a diverse range of projects, some with the private sector, which provide real workplace discipline, support with both basic and hard skills, and the support of workplace supervisors and an individual case manager.	General information, background description and evaluation of the project – conclusions and recommendations: <a href="http://www.comune.venezia.it/ineuropaenelmondo/urbact/workshop3.htm#top">http://www.comune.venezia.it/ineuropaenelmondo/urbact/workshop3.htm#top</a>  Homepage of the company "NV Werk": <a href="http://www.nvwerk.nl">http://www.nvwerk.nl</a>  Homepage of the company "Maatwerk Amsterdam": <a href="http://www.maatwerk.amsterdam.nl">www.maatwerk.amsterdam.nl</a>
Rotterdam – Delfshaven – MentorRaad, Rotterdam in Holland, 2004-2006.	The project is part of ECO-FIN-NET, a URBACT network on local economy in	The projects aims at developing new ways of fostering local economy	The MentorRaad is a coaching oriented project and deliver besides this also	<a href="http://urbact.eu/newsimages/30095/Final%20Report%20ECO-FIN-NET%20Final.pdf">http://urbact.eu/newsimages/30095/Final Report ECO-FIN-NET Final.pdf</a>

<b>Project title, location and duration</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Aim/Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Link to the project, contact information</b>
	disadvantaged neighborhoods. The project is part-financed by the European Union.	in disadvantaged neighborhoods by innovative financial measures, especially for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs).	network support in urban areas. According to the URBACT website the MentorRaad is a good example of a project delivering a sort of service which is adaptable to specific (policy) needs. It therewith can benefit from subsidy by various local districts for each particular policy goals, like mentoring service only for start ups, ethnic SMEs and so on. This makes the relevance for each political decision-making and financing body larger and therewith more sustainable.	<a href="http://urbact.eu/newsimages/30095/Final_Report_ECO-FIN-NET_Final.pdf">http://urbact.eu/newsimages/30095/Final_Report_ECO-FIN-NET_Final.pdf</a> www.coid.nl Contact person: delevie@werlkinwest.nl
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants		At PICUM's website under the section: "Access to housing for undocumented migrants" you will find a link "Good practices regarding housing for undocumented migrants". Currently the link is under construction.		<a href="http://www.picum.org">http://www.picum.org</a>
A project on equal rights and possibilities in the housing market. The project is coordinated by the Swedish authority: Ombudsmannen against ethnic discrimination (DO), 2006-2007.	Following eleven Swedish housing companies area involved in the initiative: AB Svenska bostäder, Stockholm Örebro bostäder AB, Örebro Eskilstuna kommunfastigheter AB, Eskilstuna	DO is examining how the eleven housing companies are working to prevent ethnic and religious discrimination among there employees.	The initiative is a part of a bigger project to prevent ethnic discrimination in the housing market. The results of the project will be presented in a research report at the end of 2007.	<a href="http://www.do.se">http://www.do.se</a> Contact person: John Stauffer: john.stauffer@do.se Phone (direct) +46 8 508 887 22

<b><i>Project title, location and duration</i></b>	<b><i>Participants</i></b>	<b><i>Aim/Objective</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Link to the project, contact information</i></b>
	AB Stockholmshem, Stockholm  Göteborgs stads bostadsaktiebolag, Göteborg  Huge fastigheter AB, Huddinge  Familjebostäder i Göteborg AB, Göteborg  Uppsalahem AB, Uppsala  AB Gavlegårdarna, Gävle  Fastighetsaktiebolag LE Lundberg, Norrköping  MKB fastighets aktiebolag, Malmö			

### 3.4. Scoreboard of networks and initiatives on integration of immigrants in the EU

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Type of initiative</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Aims/Objectives</b>	<b>More Info</b>
Cities for Local Integration Policy of Migrants (CLIP)	European network; combination of an exchange between public administrations on the one hand and accompanying political action research on the other	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, the City of Stuttgart and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; Stuttgart, Frankfurt a. M., Arnsberg, Amsterdam, The Hague, Athens, Istanbul, Izmir, Vienna, Paris, Rome, Liege, Sofia, Zagreb, Copenhagen, Lyon, Mulhouse, Dublin, Brescia, Luxembourg, Barcelona, Bucharest, Malmö, Sefton, and Luton.	Case studies on the integration situation in the participating cities are prepared by the research network which also supports the practitioners in preparing regular reports to be discussed with peers and researchers in regular conferences and also between such conferences. In this context, researchers will visit each participating cities for a couple of days..	Seeks to create an inventory of European practices in local integration policy which enables cities to benchmark their own approaches against the practice and strategies of other cities in Europe;  Cities participating in the network can also expect to exert some influence on national and European policy making	<a href="http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Er-lai/Presentation.htm">http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Er-lai/Presentation.htm</a>
European Regional and Local Authorities on Asylum and Immigration (ERLAI)	a Brussels-based network of regional and local representatives focusing on asylum and immigration	20 regions and local authorities from 6 EU member states	share good practice from the regions and liaise with the EU institutions on legislative developments and funding opportunities	To ensure that members are fully briefed on the EU agenda and that proper account is taken of the local and regional dimension in European policy development; to promote awareness of good policy and practice in other regions and local authorities; to explore possibilities for joint projects and facilitate funding bids	<a href="http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Er-lai/Presentation.htm">http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Er-lai/Presentation.htm</a>

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European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) see also CARITAS	A pan-European network of refugee-assisting non-governmental organisations dealing with policy development & research	An umbrella organisation of 80 refugee-assisting agencies in 30 countries	Concerned with the needs of all individuals who seek refuge and protection within Europe; its work ranges from immediate reactions to governmental and inter-governmental policy to longer-term research and discussion projects. It is "action oriented", aiming always to make specific recommendations	Promote the protection and integration of refugees in Europe based on the values of human dignity, human rights, and an ethic of solidarity; aims to demonstrate that the needs of refugees and the interests of European host states are not mutually exclusive, but can be realised simultaneously through policies which are principled as well as pragmatic. It is firmly based on international human rights and refugee law.	<a href="http://www.ecre.org/">http://www.ecre.org/</a>
REGENERA	A transeuropean network of exchange of experience on urban regeneration	Fourteen European cities from 9 countries	Over a period of three years (2004–2006) the network will work on the integrated approach to urban regeneration under the three themes of physical regeneration, social mixity and accessibility; 12 conferences, exchange of officers; scientific committee of three renowned European experts will support and structure the work of REGENERA and elaborate a written and scientific funded outcome of the exchange	Social inclusion via urban regeneration projects (affordable housing for disadvantaged groups, particularly immigrants)	<a href="http://www.urbact.org/regenera">http://www.urbact.org/regenera</a>

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Type of initiative</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Aims/Objectives</b>	<b>More Info</b>
INTI	A European Union (EU) funding programme for preparatory actions promoting the integration in the EU member states of people who are not citizens of the EU	Projects must be submitted by at least five legal persons registered in the 25 Member States, the applicant will be the lead partner	Strand A – Support of networks, exchange of information and best practices  Strand B – Information and dialogue  Strand C – Improved knowledge of integration issues  Strand D – Support for innovative projects	Promote dialogue with civil society, develop integration models, seek out and evaluate best practices in the integration field and set up networks at European level	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/inti/funding_inti_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/inti/funding_inti_en.htm</a>
CARITAS Europe: NGO Network of Integration Focal Points	coordinated by the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) in liaison with Caritas Europa. Established in June 2005, the network is supported by the European Commission (INTI preparatory Actions 2004) until August 2006.	over 33 non-governmental organisations in 23 countries, working in both the refugee- and migration field	– Caritas Europa (2004) <b>Integration – a process involving all</b>  – ECRE (2005) <b>The Way Forward – Towards the Integration of Refugees in Europe</b>  – Migration, a journey into poverty?“ 3rd Report on Poverty in Europe	Advocate for better integration policies and practices for refugees and migrants in Europe; Formulate recommendations and action points for integration of refugees and migrants based on the experiences of NGOs and refugees/migrants themselves; Act as a counter-part in civil society to the National Contact Points for Integration established by the European Commission in 2003; Monitor and respond to the implementation of government's actions on integration in the light of the Common Basic Principles on Integration; Share experiences of good practice in the field of integration of refugees and migrants	<a href="http://www.caritas-europa.org/code/EN/migr.asp?Page=432#2">http://www.caritas-europa.org/code/EN/migr.asp?Page=432#2</a>

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The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)	"Independent" body of the European Union established by Council Regulation EC 1035/97.	The very core of the EUMC's activities is the European Information Network on Racism and Xenophobia (RAXEN). It is designed to collect data and information at national as well as at the European level. This is accomplished via 25 National Focal Points, contracted by the EUMC to collect, coordinate and disseminate national and EU information in close cooperation with the EUMC.	In addition to establishing networks and collecting existing data, the EUMC initiates research projects to study and analyse the extent, causes and consequences of the phenomena and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, as well as examining examples of good practice in dealing with them. Over the last years, the EUMC has initiated and financed several research projects and published a number of reports, studies and discussion papers (for example the Annual Report 2003/2004 on housing and the report: Migrants, Minorities and Housing, 2005).	The primary task of the EUMC is to provide the European Community and its Member States with "objective, reliable and comparable information and data" on racism, xenophobia, islamophobia and anti-Semitism at the European level in order to help the EU and its Member States to establish measures or formulate courses actions against racism and xenophobia.	<a href="http://eumc.europa.eu">http://eumc.europa.eu</a>
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Foundation project: Labour market mobility and access to social rights for migrants.	Concept paper: Social Integration of Immigrants – Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities. <b>Two coming studies:</b> The first one will focus on integration policies and migration history in the EU. The second will provide examples of integration measures on local level within the Members States.	Composed by Bosswick, Wolfgang & Heckmann, Friedrich, European Forum for Migration Studies (EFMS) at the University of Bamberg, Germany.	The paper first analyses the meaning of the term 'integration' and locates it in the context of other concepts prominent in the discourse on immigrant integration.	The concept paper is intended to create the framework for implementing a proposed project, involving cooperation between local and regional actors in the area of integration policy at the local level.	<a href="http://eurofound.europa.eu/publications/html-files/ef0622.htm">http://eurofound.europa.eu/publications/html-files/ef0622.htm</a>  <a href="http://eurofound.europa.eu">http://eurofound.europa.eu</a>

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European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Research project: Quality of life in Europe.	Report: First European Quality of Life Survey – Social Dimensions of Housing.	Coposed by Domanski, Henryk; Ostrowska, Antonina; Przybysz, Dariusz; Romaniuk, Agata.	The report reveals important differences in housing conditions across European countries, in particular, the basic divide running between the 'old' EU15 Member States and the 10 new Member States, along with Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. It finds that, in addition to living space and standard of accommodation, quality of life is largely dependent on factors such as personal safety, proximity to local infrastructure and the quality of the environment such as clear water, clean air and green areas.	The report explores quality of life in the context of housing conditions.	<a href="http://eu-rofound.europa.eu/publications/html-files/ef0594.htm">http://eu-rofound.europa.eu/publications/html-files/ef0594.htm</a>  <a href="http://eu-rofound.europa.eu">http://eu-rofound.europa.eu</a>
The European Network Against Racism (ENAR)	ENAR is a network of European NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states. Its establishment was a major outcome of the 1997 European Year Against Racism.	ENAR has some 600 member and associated organisations throughout Europe.	<p>The network is determined to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act against the discrimination and exclusion of people of different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.</li> <li>- Eliminate racist elements in Europe's migration policies, and</li> <li>- Celebrate cultural, ethnic and racial diversity.</li> </ul>	ENAR aims to fight racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals, and to link local/regional/national initiatives with European initiatives. ENAR's vision is of a world free from racism.	<a href="http://www.enar-eu.org/en/">http://www.enar-eu.org/en/</a>

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Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	<p>PICUM runs projects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access to housing for undocumented migrants.</li> <li>-Access to health care for undocumented migrants.</li> <li>-Protection of undocumented workers.</li> </ul>	<p>PICUM is supported by ordinary and affiliated members in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Serbia, Ireland, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives of international organizations.</p>	<p>PICUM seeks to achieve its aim by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gathering information on law and practice regarding social rights, detention and deportation of irregular immigrants.</li> <li>- Developing a centre of expertise in these fields with a view to providing the members of PICUM and other interested parties with expertise, advice and support.</li> <li>- Strengthening networking between organisations dealing with undocumented migrants in Europe.</li> <li>- Formulating recommendations for improving the legal and social position of undocumented immigrants, in accordance with the national constitutions and international treaties.</li> </ul>	<p>PICUM aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.picum.org/">http://www.picum.org/</a></p>
European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)	<p>The approach of the ERRC involves, in particular, strategic litigation, international advocacy, research and policy development, and human rights training of Romani activists. Since its establishment the ERRC has endeavoured to</p>	<p>Romani organisations and Romani individuals throughout Europe contribute time and expertise to the ERRC. The ERRC is a co-operating member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human</p>	<p>The ERRC acts to combat racism and discrimination against Roma and to empower Roma to their own defence by engaging in activities which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring the human rights situation of Roma in Europe.</li> </ul>	<p>ERRC is an international public interest law organisation engaging in a range of activities aimed at combating anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.errc.org">http://www.errc.org</a></p>

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	give Roma the tools necessary to combat discrimination and win equal access to housing, government, education, employment, health care and public services.	Rights and has consultative status with the Council of Europe as well as with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publishing information and news.</li> <li>- Legal defence: providing and supporting legal services.</li> <li>- Legal research: building strategies, based on analyses of existing law and legal services.;</li> <li>- Conducting seminars aimed at the dissemination of information concerning Roma rights and the promotion of change-oriented litigation and law reform.</li> <li>- Advocating Roma rights in domestic and international governmental and non-governmental settings.</li> <li>- Maintaining a documentation centre of Roma-related, human rights and legal material;</li> <li>- Offering scholarships and stipends to Romani students of law and public administration.</li> </ul>	PICUM aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe.	<a href="http://www.picum.org/">http://www.picum.org/</a>
Anti-discrimination contacts database	Contacts database for the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination.	The database is managed by GOPA-Cartermill on behalf of the European Commission – Unit for anti-discrimination and relations with civil society.	Users can find out more about developments in the field of non-discrimination at EU level, including news of funding opportunities, new publications, events and activities.	The database has the aim of facilitating communication and information flow between stakeholders in the fight against discrimination.	<a href="http://www.nondiscrimination-eu.info">http://www.nondiscrimination-eu.info</a>

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Fundamental Rights and Anti-Discrimination Working Group (FRAND), the Social Platform.					<a href="http://www.socialplatform.org">http://www.socialplatform.org</a>
Peer Review Programme (Community action programme to combat social exclusion 2002–2006).	The peer review programme is a voluntary mutual learning process involving the scrutiny of specific policies, programmes or institutional arrangements presented as good practice in the various National Action plans.	Peer Review meetings will involve: Representatives from Member States, one “independents social inclusion expert” from each participation country, European Commission officials and representatives of NGOs.	The programme consists of a series of peer review sessions, in which the experience of the host country is confronted with the comments and critical analysis of peer countries.	The aim of the programme is to encourage the dissemination of good practice across Member States by assessing the effectiveness of key policies or institutions. It can serve as a useful tool to Member States to help them in the design and implementation of more effective policies. It should also contribute to the dialogue with stakeholders such as social partners and NGOs and where appropriate, people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.	<a href="http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.net">www.peer-review-social-inclusion.net</a>
The European Migration Network (EMN)	A European Union-wide network of National Contact Points (NCPs) working under the responsibility of the European Commission (DG Justice, Freedom and Security) and in close co-operation with the co-ordination team of the EMN.	The national contact points are designated by the Member States after an extensive exchange of views with the national governments on the role and structure of the network. Currently (November 2006), fourteen contact points are carrying out the tasks of gathering, regularly updating and	The members of the EMN draw together, analyse and exchange regularly data and information on specific topics in the fields of migration and asylum at Member State level. The assembled information is introduced into the EMN information system. Currently, the members of the network document information on:	The objective of the EMN is to provide the Community, its Member States, and in the longer term the public, with objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation at the European and Member State levels.	<a href="http://www.european-migration-network.org/">http://www.european-migration-network.org/</a>

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		and analysing information and data on migration and asylum in the individual Member States. The aim is to set up a network of NCPs, consisting of all 25 European Member States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recent and current publications on migration and asylum;</li> <li>- Legislation and case law and specifically the implementation of EU legislation at national level;</li> <li>- Contact details of relevant stakeholders, researchers and organisations active in the fields;</li> <li>- Other information sources that provide EMN relevant documents.</li> </ul>		
Anti-discrimination and relations with civil society	The European Commission's website on non-discrimination in the European Union.	The site is managed by the Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.	Users can find out more about European non-discrimination legislation, activities supported under the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination and access the latest news and publications.	The site provides information on all aspects of EU action – both laws and policies – to combat discrimination.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm</a>
EUROCITIES	EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities	The network brings together the local government of more than 120 large cities in over 30 European countries.	The network is active across a wide range of policy areas including integration of migrants and ethnic minorities. For example, in October 2006 EUROCITIES arranged a conference, "Integrating cities", in Rotterdam. The follow-up conference will be held next year (2007) in Milan, co-hosted by the city of Milan and EUROCITIES.	EUROCITIES aims at achieving a European context where cities can be inclusive, prosperous, creative and sustainable, with democratic and effective governance, and where all citizens can be provided with opportunities for participation in all aspects of urban life – including political, cultural, social and economic aspects.	<a href="http://www.eurocities.org">http://www.eurocities.org</a>

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European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	ECRE is a pan-European network of refugee-assisting non-governmental organisations with an office based in Brussels and one in London.	ECRE is an umbrella organisation of 80 refugee-assisting agencies in 30 countries. The member agencies are based throughout Europe and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECRE responds to EU initiatives and to governmental initiatives at EU level. Through their pro-active policy work and research, they encourage new thinking on refugees and asylum in Europe.</li> <li>- ECRE strengthen contact between refugee-assisting non-governmental organisations in Europe through networking.</li> <li>- ECRE work to develop the institutional capacity of refugee-assisting non-governmental organisations across Europe.</li> </ul>	ECRE promote the protection and integration of asylum-seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons based on values of human dignity, human rights and an ethic of solidarity.	<a href="http://www.ecre.org">http://www.ecre.org</a>
European Federation of National Organisations Working with Homeless (FEANTSA)	European non-governmental organisation based in Brussels.	The some 100 member organisations of FEANTSA come from 30 European countries, including all 25 Member States of the European Union. FEANTSA receives financial support from the European Commission for the implementation of its activities. FEANTSA works closely with the EU institutions, and has consultative status at the Council of Europe and at the United Nations.	<p>Housing, or rather the lack of housing is obviously a central aspect of the struggle to reduce and prevent homelessness. FEANTSA has an expert group dedicated to housing, which cooperates with, among others, CECODHAS.</p> <p>The expert group focuses on the shortcomings of the housing market, the housing needs of homeless people, and the role that social housing should play in addressing homelessness.</p>	FEANTSA seeks to advance t the right of every person to live in dignity and promote the right of all people to have a secure, adequate and affordable place to live.	<a href="http://www.feantsa.org">http://www.feantsa.org</a>

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European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN)	EAPN is a network of NGOs and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union.	EAPN is a network of 21 national networks of voluntary organisations and grassroots groups throughout Europe. EAPN has consultative status with the Council of Europe, and is a founding member of the Platform of European Social NGOs. EAPN is financially supported by the European Commission.	Among other things, EAPN lobbies for the integration of the fight against poverty and social exclusion into all Community policies, ranging from Structural Funds and employment policies through to economic and monetary policies. EAPN also produces a range of materials on poverty, social inclusion, employment, social protection, the Structural Funds, the future of Europe, etc.	Core objectives: - To put the fight against poverty and social exclusion on the political agenda of the European Union; - To promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion; - To lobby for and with people and groups facing poverty and social exclusion.  EAPN includes the objectives of gender equality and anti-racism in all its areas of work.	<a href="http://www.eapn.org">http://www.eapn.org</a>
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	IOM is an inter-governmental IOM promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants	IOM has among its participants 118 member states, a further 20 states holding "observer status" and offices in over 100 countries (inclusive Belgium, Brussels). Over 40 NGOs hold "observer status" with the Organization.	IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management: - Migration and development - Facilitating migration - Regulating migration - Forced migration. IOM activities cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration	IOM aims to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.	<a href="http://www.iom.int">http://www.iom.int</a>

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Type of initiative</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Aims/Objectives</b>	<b>More Info</b>
Migration Policy Group (MPG)	MPG is a small organisation with an international team (12 people) based in Brussels.	MPG engages with stakeholders from all sectors of society; legal experts, governments, politicians, business, independents agencies the EU, lobbyists, academics, NGOs and policy experts.	MPG focuses on three core policy areas: - Diversity and Integration - Equality and Anti-discrimination - Migration and Mobility	MPG is committed to policy development on migration and anti-discrimination, with the aim of generating innovative and effective responses to the challenges and opportunities of migration and diversity.	<a href="http://www.migpolgroup.com">http://www.migpolgroup.com</a>
Title of the study: "Policy Measures to Ensure Access to Decent Housing for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities".	A study on housing policies in eight European countries (Belgium, France, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK), implemented 2004-2005.	Commissioned by the DG Employment and Social Affaires. The study employed research teams from each country and the report has been published by the coordination Joint Centre for Scottish Housing Research.	The study deals with the housing situation of migrants and ethnic minorities, especially Sinti and Roma, it focuses on the national and EU level, dealing with the local level only peripherally.	The study aimed at evaluating policies and policy measures in the eight countries and represented concluding recommendations for housing policies.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/employment-social/social_inclusion/docs/decenthousing_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/employment-social/social_inclusion/docs/decenthousing_en.pdf</a>
Title of the study: Housing Conditions of Immigrant Populations in the Aquitaine Region.	A study, carried out by URPACT-Aquitaine (association for housing and development - Aquitaine region, France), 2002-2006		The study deals with the implementation of a new integration policy and the housing policy concerning immigrant populations in the Aquitaine region. It focuses on two main questions: does access to housing for immigrants represent a specific problem? What are the objective discrimination criteria linked to financial resources and family composition?	The aims of the study is to reveal the main trends regarding the housing conditions of immigrant populations at regional and departmental level; analyze the residential situations of three areas (Saint-Michel, old district in the centre of Bordeaux, Ouses-Bois, social housing area in Pau, the rural area of Lot-et-Garonne) in order to define the social characteristics of foreign households.	<a href="http://www.eukn.org/eukn/themes/Urban_Policy/Housing/Housing_policy/housing-conditions-aquitaine_1066.htm">http://www.eukn.org/eukn/themes/Urban_Policy/Housing/Housing_policy/housing-conditions-aquitaine_1066.htm</a>

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European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)	ENHR is a network on housing research assembling researchers and practitioner.	Currently ENHR has some 1000 individual members and nearly 100 institutional members, representing every country in Europe.	Two working groups are specialised on the issues of housing and migration: "Migration, Residential Mobility and Housing Policy" and "Housing and Ethnic Groups".	The purpose of the ENHR working groups is to further research on particular topics of housing research.	<a href="http://www.enhr.ibf.uu.se/wg.html">http://www.enhr.ibf.uu.se/wg.html</a>
Urban Diversity and Inclusion (Udiex-Alep)	Udiex-Alep is an action learning exchange programme (running from 2003 until 2006).	The program which is funded by the EU URBACT Programme is a network of 24 EU partners and 3 partners from new member states.	The program is identifying good practices in combating social exclusion in urban environments and developing a learning network to exchange and disseminate good practices in Europe.	Udiex-Alep aims at developing trans-national experiences of exchange between the actors, cities and partners of the programmes URBAN I, II, and Urban Pilot Projects.	<a href="http://urbact.eu/home">http://urbact.eu/home</a>
The EU and Roma.	European Commission's website on the Roma.	The site is managed by the Anti-discrimination Unit in Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, on behalf of the Inter-Service Group on Roma.	Users can access a range of information on the different policies, programmes and initiatives of the EU to promote social inclusion and combat discrimination against Roma.	The site aims to provide information on the EU's activities in support of the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller community across Europe.	<a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/roma">www.ec.europa.eu/roma</a>

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## APPENDIX

### Summaries of legal and policy frameworks on immigration, integration and housing by country (15 Old EU member states)

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<sup>8</sup> Data collection closed in March 2006.

## AUSTRIA

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>-1992 Aliens Act.</p> <p>-1993 Residence Act.</p> <p>-1997 Aliens Act.</p> <p>Permanent immigration regulated by the use of a Quota system.</p> <p>Foreigners Bill passed in July 2002.</p> <p>The Austrian Alien legislation regulates labour immigration and long-term residence in combination with the aliens employment act of 1975 (double quota &amp; double permit system).</p> <p>2005, the Austrian parliament passed a comprehensive legislative reform in order to implement five EU directives.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>2005 Aliens law package.</p>	<p>Recent immigration policy characterized, first and foremost, by ambivalence.</p> <p>Exceptionally high levels of immigration, first part of the 1990s, met with policy proposals of "zero immigration":</p> <p>-Aliens Act 1997. This has led to a large backlog of applications for family reunification dating back to the period prior to 1998. In contrast, immigrants who arrived after 1998 are freely allowed to bring in their family members.</p> <p>Reduction of the waiting period.</p> <p>Individual Bundesländer (federal states) to conclude treaties with neighbouring countries.</p> <p>The official line continues to be that Austria is not a traditional country of immigration.</p>	<p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>Naturalization Act 1998.</p> <p>"Integration courses":</p> <p>-Although the 2002 Aliens Act is already in force, no "integration courses" are offered yet,</p> <p>The 'integration package 2002', which came into effect in 2003, is mentioned as an important step towards the harmonisation of laws.</p>	<p>Integration having 'assimilated' to the 'Austrian way of life'.</p> <p>The integration debate is characterised by inconsistencies.</p> <p>Integration is only partly reflected in legislation.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>Aliens Law 2002</p> <p>Between 2003 and 2005, the integration debate in Austria focused on the perceived failures of integration.</p> <p>City of Vienna, department of diversity and integration.</p>	<p>In most Austrian communities, third country citizens are also excluded from access to apartments paid for by tax monies.</p> <p>2000, a provincial law for Vienna.</p> <p>Public funds for housing promotion were and still are fed by a certain share of income and corporation tax as well as repayments for the public loans.</p> <p>Public grants are not restricted to the rental sector but also go to owner occupied dwellings as well as homeowners.</p> <p>The amended Equal Treatment Act &amp; the expanded Equal Treatment Commission &amp; Ombudsman.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>-Austrian National Action Plan for Social Housing.</p>	<p>Housing policy in Austria is a product of interaction between a wide range of actors</p> <p>The housing sector is subsidised in three ways.</p> <p>Migrant and minority ethnic groups have limited access to specific housing types, sectors and subsidies.</p> <p>'Third country nationals' face discrimination and pay relatively high housing costs.</p> <p>Good practices: around counselling, advice or allied services, and inter-ethnic projects.</p> <p>The new equality law came in force in 2004 and related agencies were established in 2005.</p>

## BELGIUM

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Law 15/12/1980 concerning the entry into the country, the settlement and the removal of foreigners.</p> <p>Belgium still today has no quota system with regard to labour immigration.</p> <p>The Minister for the Interior is a supporter of creating a European legal framework with regard to legal immigration, particularly labour immigration, in order to meet the labour-market needs of each member state.</p>	<p>The new government formed after the elections in June 1999 organized a campaign for legalization. This was included in a "new" immigration policy whose main features were outlined in a government declaration in 1999 and passed on December 22, 1999:</p> <p>-The first phase of the legalization campaign lasted three weeks. Starting January 10, 2000, candidates for legalization submitted their application forms to authorities in their town of residence</p>	<p>In December 1980, the law on the entrance, residence, settlement, and return of foreigners, which is still in force, was passed unanimously.</p> <p>1981, law to curb racism.</p> <p>The government in 1984 introduced the new Nationality Code, reforming the one from 1932, which established the principle of jus soli and simplified the procedure for naturalization.</p> <p>The legal framework concerning integration remains that based on the Decree of 4 July 1996 of the Walloon Region and the Decision of the Walloon government of 6 March 1997 concerning the integration of aliens and people of foreign origin.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>-Law of 20 January 2003.</p> <p>-Law of 25 February 2003.</p> <p>-Law of 15 February 1993.</p>	<p>Mid-1980s, the government began to develop policies to encourage immigrants to settle in Belgium and to foster their inclusion in society.</p> <p>Three distinct periods, fixed by the introduction of respective laws in 1980, 1984 and 1989, characterize the new focus on integration:</p> <p>-1989 the Royal Commissioner for the Policy on Immigrants.</p> <p>In the 1990s, the Center for Equal Opportunities and the Fight Against Racism was created and entrusted with the task of fighting all forms of racial discrimination (see: in the police force).</p>	<p>After the reforms of 1980 the Regions have responsibility for area-specific matters.</p> <p>From a strictly constitutional point of view, housing policy falls under the authority of the regions. In practice, however, important matters relevant for a housing policy have remained federal.</p> <p>Flemish housing act 1997.</p> <p>Discrimination in the area of housing continues to be a problem.</p> <p>The Constitutional Court has judged that new anti-discrimination law should be extended to 'all possible differences in treatment that are not objectively and reasonably justified'. This legislation condemns both direct and indirect discrimination and introduces new civil law procedures.</p>	<p>Little effort has been made to develop the rented sector in general and the social rented sector in particular.</p> <p>The regions took some housing policy initiatives during the 1990s.</p> <p>In 1994 access to decent housing became a constitutional right.</p> <p>In terms of housing outcomes those migrants, who are legally in Belgium, have equal access to all governmental schemes.</p> <p>Those migrants who arrive illegally in Belgium have no housing rights.</p> <p>New regulations under existing legislation came into force in October 2004 in the Walloon region of Belgium affecting shelter, temporary accommodation and support services.</p> <p>Discussion on whether concentration-neighbourhoods have some advantages compared to neighbourhoods with a broader social mix.</p>

## DENMARK

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>The legislation is founded on the Aliens Act amended many times and consolidated during decades till 2004.</p> <p>Quota refugee or/UN refugee.</p> <p>July 2005, the arrangement has been changed, and the quota can be applied more flexibly. This means that within a three-year period, immigration authorities can use fewer or more placements, as required.</p>	<p>Particular attention on refugees</p> <p>New policy on Aliens 2002 based on three main principles.</p> <p>The government has focused on making a case against increasing the immigration intake.</p> <p>Immigration is generally discussed in terms of asylum granted to refugees and family reunification.</p> <p>‘Welfare tourism’.</p> <p>Policy of no immigration from third country nationals.</p> <p>Initiatives have been developed to combat ‘illegal workers’. ‘Eastworkers’.</p> <p>Country quotas are set, used to determine municipal quotas.</p> <p>Government’s strategy against ghettoisation.</p> <p>Quotas on foreigners in the housing sector are prohibited in by a court decision in 1991.</p>	<p>Consolidation of the Act on Integration of Aliens in Denmark (Integration Act).</p> <p>Labour market reform, a new Act on Danish Courses and the Integration Act reform.</p> <p>Government set up the Group of Ministers on Improved Integration in January 2003. ‘The Government’s Vision and Strategies for Improved Integration’, the report of the Group of Ministers, places three central issues on the agenda of the integration policy for the coming years.</p> <p>The Integration Act not only dictates where refugees must settle in Denmark (using a quota-system), but ensures that individuals remain in the same municipality for a three-year introduction programme.</p>	<p>Education and familiarity with the Danish language.</p> <p>Based on the integration plan ‘A new chance for everybody’, the Government will enhance its current integration efforts through several new initiatives intended to boost education and employment among immigrants and their descendants, counter ghettoisation in vulnerable neighbourhoods and prevent and combat crime.</p>	<p>Rent legislation: Ministry of Social Affairs. Furthermore the Rent Act governs rent legislation.</p> <p>The Ministry for Economic and Business Affairs: not-for-profit housing.</p> <p>In general it is the central government and the municipalities who are responsible for the social housing.</p> <p>A major reform of local government in Denmark will have significant impact on the funding and responsibility of hostels.</p> <p>Three year ‘right-to-buy’ experiment.</p> <p>Sale of municipal housing by the Municipality of Copenhagen.</p> <p>The government has a strategy against ghettoisation.</p> <p>Act of Ethnic Equal Treatment, (EU Directive 2000/43).</p> <p>2003, Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment</p>	<p>The national objectives for the integration are put into practice through a variety of initiatives.</p> <p>Danish Urban Regeneration Programme.</p> <p>-Seven projects commenced in 1997, and in 2001 five new projects were initiated. The 12 projects are located throughout Denmark, primarily in large cities (Copenhagen).</p> <p>Individuals are directly discriminated against in the housing field.</p> <p>Little evidence of strong governmental commitment to developing anti-discrimination policy.</p> <p>Has used social housing interventions to achieve greater social mixing.</p>

## FINLAND

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Aliens Act 2004: -New system with a residence permit for an employed person issued in two stages.</p> <p>Discrimination Act, which entered into force 2004, obliges public authorities to draw up an equality plan regarding their activities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour issued general recommendations for the content of the plans in September 2004, and equality plans must be completed by the end of 2005.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior: The overall responsibility for implementing immigration policy and developing immigration and nationality legislation rests with the.</p> <p>The guidelines and decisions on immigration policy are prepared in cooperation with other authorities dealing with immigration matters, such as the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.</p>	<p>Law on integration of migrants and reception of asylum seekers n° 493/1999 of April the 9th 1999 is the basic text.</p> <p>Integration of refugees and other immigrants is enacted in the Integration Act.</p> <p>The municipality compiles an integration programme.</p> <p>Individual integration plan.</p>	<p>Decree on integration of migrants and reception of asylum seekers n° 511/1999 of April the 22nd 1999.</p> <p>A Government report to Parliament on the implementation of the Integration Act was given in 2002, and Parliament gave its response to the report in 2003.</p> <p>Parliament also finds it necessary to strengthen the role of the municipalities in the integration work.</p> <p>254 municipalities have drawn up an integration programme. Including the youth, assistance.</p>	<p>The authority responsible for the distribution of refugees to the different municipalities in Finland is the Ministry of Labour and, on district level, the Employment and Economic Development Centres, all of which have a special employee responsible for migration and refugee matters.</p> <p>The municipalities are responsible for the settlement of refugees. When accepting refugees the municipalities are obliged to provide accommodation.</p> <p>Over supply of expensive, larger-size dwellings in Helsinki, the specific need is for small rental dwellings.</p> <p>No special legislative provision for dealing with discrimination in housing, other than the Non-Discrimination Act and no specific monitoring system designed to cover racism in housing.</p> <p>EUMC</p>	<p>The municipalities and companies owned by municipalities own most of the state-subsidised rental housing.</p> <p>Non-profit housing companies also play an important role as investors in social rental housing.</p> <p>State housing loan and the interest subsidy loan. .</p> <p>Housing falls under the social security system, which is residence based.</p> <p>The housing conditions of Roma are poor.</p> <p>Discrimination is noted in allocating municipal housing.</p> <p>No official 'diversity policy' in housing, but "various government policy documents encourage the even spatial distribution of refugees and immigrants in social housing, so as to prevent marginalization.</p>

## FRANCE

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>According to the Decision n° 2003-484 DC Prime Minister presents every year to the parliament a report on the integration:</p> <p>-Regular immigrants must obtain a residence permit or a certificate of domicile (released only under demonstration of the real integration in society).</p>	<p>Immigrates has been welcomed above all by their original cultural community. This has permitted to safeguard, for a certain period their identity before negotiating a new one with the welcoming society.</p> <p>The immigration legislation has always got the consensus from all governments.</p> <p>Anyway the legislation has been modified many times until the last promulgation in November 2003.</p> <p>The Report of Activities, drawn up in 2000 by the "Direction des populations et migrations" (DPM), from the Employment and Solidarity Ministry, speaks about a new tendency promoting immigration.</p> <p>The minister of the Interior, Nicolas Sarkozy, affirmed the Government position "ni immigration zéro, ni ouverture totale des frontières".</p>	<p>Integration: Whole of historical traditions and political and administrative practices which characterize a welcome and integration policy of immigrants in a specific society.</p> <p>Prototype of the assimilation model.</p> <p>"Integration contract" upon arrival if immigrants wish to obtain a residence card.</p> <p>The objective is to promote the flowering of multiculturalism in the society. (The Article L117-1 of the Code de l'action sociale et des familles).</p> <p>The Hight Council announces that it needs to develop 3 stages: first the welcome of immigrants; second the integration and third the fight against discriminations.</p>	<p>The mixity, defined as the cohabitation of social groups with different characteristics over the territory.</p> <p>FNARS has developed employment initiatives for homeless people.</p> <p>Government wants "to revitalize the model of French integration".</p> <p>Integration is most commonly discussed in relation to social class integration, with little explicit reference to ethnicity.</p>	<p>Major mechanism for housing lower income group is subsidised provisions by state sponsored organization. Supply, quality and affordability are under direct policy control. Immigrant housing policy has focused on dilution of immigrant housing policy within a global policy of housing people in difficulties. Act of December 2000 requiring a minimum level of public sector housing in every community above a certain size. Social intermixing &amp; racial discrimination are at the heart of the new housing policies. The Social Modernisation Act (2002; article 158). Policy measures to ensure access to decent housing for migrants. Housing policies directed towards foreign and immigrant populations were practically non-existent. The Plan on Social Cohesion 2004.</p>	<p>Since 1994 associations have received the standard amount of benefit granted for accommodation that is available to persons living in a precarious situation.</p> <p>ASH (Aide sociale à l'hébergement).</p> <p>The use of overnight stays in hotels has also become a common 'solution'.</p> <p>In the big cities, crisis managers have been looking for beds in cheap hotels.</p> <p>Discriminatory practices have been evidenced convincingly.</p> <p>Integration strategies include schemes for tackling the physical and social deprivation associated with neighbourhoods where many of the poorest migrant and minority ethnic families live.</p>

## GERMANY

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>In 2000, Germany introduced a "green card" system.</p> <p>A process of policy review began in 2001:</p> <p>Agreed on an immigration law, which took effect in 2005.</p> <p>Germany intends to introduce a quota system into its new aliens act, but over a period of at least ten years, the long time period being a consequence of continuing high unemployment.</p>	<p>Its central message was "Germany needs immigrants".</p> <p>2003, Act to Control and Restrict Immigration and to Regulate the Residence and Integration of EU citizens and Foreigners (Immigration Act):</p> <p>Making it easier to admit skilled immigrants to the German labour market as the needs arise.</p> <p>The proposed legislation will put in place a new legal framework which will provide flexibility in shaping the labour market of the future to support and promote Germany's economic development and growth.</p> <p>The new procedures for granting residence and work permits, allowing family reunion and dealing with asylum are modelled on the recommendations and agreements adopted by the EU Council JHA Ministers.</p>	<p>It remains to be seen if the new immigration law will help attract highly qualified migrants to Germany - one of the main goals of the legislation from the beginning.</p> <p>Immigrants to Germany are required to learn German.</p>	<p>The Federal Government's integration policy is based on the principle of offering more support for integration efforts while making requirements stricter:</p> <p>-Knowledge of the German language.</p> <p>In 2000, the government appointed a commission to work out proposals for an immigration and integration policy:</p> <p>-In July 2001, the commission presented a report titled "Structuring Immigration, Fostering Integration."</p>	<p>In the field of housing the Bundesländer together with municipalities are the main financing bodies (with a wide scope of regulatory powers), but subsidies by the national state play an important role as well.</p> <p>For the implementation of laws and public social administration the municipalities are the most important bodies.</p> <p>The 'local state' is responsible for administering and financing social assistance in Germany.</p> <p>Länder-level (überörtliche Träger der Sozialhilfe) have to carry social assistance costs.</p> <p>2002, new Federal Housing Act became law and replaced the 2nd Housing Construction Act.</p>	<p>After a short revival of new construction of social housing in the first half of the 1990s there has been a constant reduction of funding for new social housing from 1995 onwards.</p> <p>In recent years the state has taken up a completely new role in housing policy in the East (and in some West German cities as well): A programme was initiated by national government:</p> <p>-Stadtumbau Ost</p> <p>-Stadtumbau.</p> <p>-Cases of direct discrimination are reported. Some researchers indicate that migrants sometimes have to pay higher rents for a flat of the same or even lower quality than Germans.</p>

## GREECE

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Law 3386/2005 on "Entry, Residence and Integration of Third-Country Nationals in Greece" replaced the previously applicable law 2910/2001.</p> <p>In August 2005, the Greek Parliament adopted a new immigration bill:</p> <p>This bill has been criticized for continuing to ignore the majority of the country's illegal migrant population and effectively hinders approximately 70% of these immigrants from obtaining residence permits. The Greek Minister of Interior has reacted to these criticisms by noting that the necessary changes will be made if gaps or problems surface during the law's implementation.</p>	<p>The first regularization program to handle recent illegal migration was introduced as late as 1997 with Presidential Decrees 358/1997 and 359/1997. These aimed at the implementation of Act 1975/1991 on the "entry-exit, residence, employment, expulsion of foreigners and procedure for the recognition of the status of refugee for foreigners".</p> <p>-Unregistered immigrants, "white card" temporary residence permit.</p> <p>- "Green card" work and residence permit.</p> <p>In 2001, the government passed Act 2910/2001 on "the admission and residence of foreigners in Greece and the acquisition of Greek nationality through naturalization."</p>	<p>In 2001, the government issued a three-year programme: the Action Plan for the Social Integration of Immigrants (for the period 2002-2005). This Plan includes measures for their inclusion in the labour market, their access to health services and overall a series of measures promoting cultural dialogue and combating xenophobia and racism within Greek society. Unfortunately, many of the provisions of this programme remain on paper.</p>	<p>Greece's integration policy was designed and announced by the government in 2002 in its Action Plan (2003-2006). The Action Plan covers different measures in six main areas: information, labour market, culture, education and language, health services and temporary housing:</p> <p>-However, the implementation of the plan has yet to begin.</p> <p>-Two of the reasons for the non-implementation of the plan appear to include pressure on the state budget to complete the nation's preparations for the Olympic Games, as well as the long, politically sensitive period before the national elections of March 7, 2004.</p>	<p>There is no statutory obligation of local or central government to provide suitable accommodation and support to such people in need.</p> <p>On the contrary statutory practices aim at shifting housing responsibilities to poor families and NGOs without adequate funding.</p> <p>Social housing provision is minimal and does not even target homeless people.</p> <p>The growing awareness and concern about homelessness in recent years has however led to the creation of various methods to address homelessness, including a limited number of specialised services.</p>	<p>Homelessness in Greece has only recently been understood to be a social problem, mostly by NGOs.</p> <p>Homelessness, however, has clearly escalated in the last few years due, to a great extent, to the influx of a large number of immigrants from neighbouring countries (Eastern Europe).</p> <p>Lack of reliable official data on housing and homelessness in Greece.</p> <p>There are distinctive problems facing migrant and minority ethnic groups which are predominantly (especially the Roma – direct discrimination) living in low quality dwellings.</p> <p>Greece stands out for not engaging with ethnic inequalities and discrimination in housing at all. This apparently reflects the view that housing is essentially a private rather than a state matter.</p>

## IRELAND

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>A Supreme Court judgment in 2003 removed the automatic right to permanent residence for non-national parents of Irish-born children.</p> <p>“Citizenship referendum” to eliminate an Irish-born child’s automatic right to citizenship when the parents are not Irish nationals:</p> <p>–The public overwhelmingly passed this referendum in June 2004.</p> <p>–Labor immigration policies make an important distinction between persons from within and outside the European Economic Area.</p> <p>The Employment Permits Bill 2003. marked the beginning of a more interventionist work permit system.</p> <p>Number of laws aimed at combating illegal immigration. Restricted.</p>	<p>With regard to labor immigration, Ireland has maintained policies that are among the most liberal in Europe.</p> <p>After five years of significant immigration and fairly ad hoc immigration policymaking, the Irish government seems to be in the process of formulating a more comprehensive and managed approach. While it remains to be seen how policies will develop in the next few years, the government appears to favor a “skills-based” policy that increases the restrictions on the employment of workers from outside the enlarged EU, especially in low-skilled occupations.</p> <p>Some argue that Ireland needs a permanent immigration program that could be used for both “direct entry” for newcomers, and for securing permanent residency status for migrant workers already employed on temporary work permits.</p>	<p>Policy to date has been piecemeal and has left it largely to the market to determine de facto immigration criteria in individual cases. Changes introduced in 2000 saw a shift from work permits to work visas, but only in the case of a limited number of specific sectors where skill shortages were known to exist. In the meantime, there has been a significant rise in short-term work permits of one year or less, mainly for less skilled labour. One has to wonder how the distinction between work visas for the well-educated, high-skilled migrant, and work permits for the less fortunate, can be justified. Coordination at governmental level is poor as yet.</p>	<p>Accompanying measures; integration, return and co-operation with third countries.</p> <p>A comprehensive integration policy encompasses a number of different strands from integration in the workplace or place of study, to integration in the community and access to public services.</p> <p>The Employment Equality Act, 1998 prohibits discrimination in relation to employment on nine distinct grounds.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>–Employment Equality Act.</p> <p>–Equality Act 1998.–The</p> <p>–Equal Status Act, 2000.</p> <p>Two new agencies, the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations and the Equality Authority.</p>	<p>–The policy document A Plan for Social Housing, published in 1991, reviewed how social housing was delivered and opened up a new range of opportunities to supplement the local authority housing programme in meeting social housing needs:</p> <p>–Rental Subsidy Scheme.</p> <p>Housing has also been included in the National Development Plan.</p> <p>The Government’s Integrated Strategy on Homelessness was launched in 2000.</p> <p>Local authorities have responsibility for the provision of accommodation for homeless persons.</p> <p>The key legislative framework for promoting anti-discriminatory practice in housing is the Equality legislation, including the incorporation of the EU Directives.</p>	<p>Irish housing policy is strongly dualist in character, with separate cost rental and profit rental sectors.</p> <p>The number of homeless households has stabilized in recent years.</p> <p>National Action Plan Against Racism launched in January 2005 contains important commitments to housing.</p> <p>Direct discrimination; problems result from difference between policy and implementation.</p>

## ITALY

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>-Testo Unico 286/98.</p> <p>-Law Bossi-Fini, 2002.</p> <p>Italian legislation provides that immigration has to be regulated by quotas:</p> <p>-Once every three years the government drafts a programmatic document in collaboration with local agencies and national associations.</p> <p>-The choices contained in the programmatic document together with the skilled labour demand coming from the production market, give birth to a Government provision, called Decreto</p> <p>Flussi (Decree Flows) which appears once a year. Year by year, quotas fix the maximum number of extra-communitarians and neo-communitarians that can entry in Italy for reasons concerning seasonal, subordinate or autonomous work.</p>	<p>Year 2005 the foreigners regularly settled on the territory were 2.800.000. From Europe 1.289.000, from Africa 647.000, from Asia 472.000, from America 314.000, from Oceania or stateless 7.000.</p> <p>The 10% of them comes in Italy through the sea, the 15% cross the frontiers and the remaining entered with a regular visa document, but stayed over the expiration.</p>	<p>The first regularization wave was in 1986 and 1987 thanking to the first Italian law on immigration.</p> <p>The second flow was in 1990, put into effect by the "Martelli law".</p> <p>Other regularizatinis took place after 1996 and 1998 (Turco-Napolitano law) until 2002 when the most important wave was in application of the "Bossi-Fini law" with the Decree-Law n° 195.</p>	<p>The Law Bossi-Fini is aimed at improving the immigrates flows discipline, at contrasting the illegal immigration, and finally at getting the emersion of the irregular work.</p> <p>Some indicators of integration could be represented by the rising percentage of marriages between Italian men and foreign women.</p>	<p>The Testo Unico 286/98 establishes that regions, together with municipalities and commons provides welcome centres in which immigrates can receive basic assistance (housing).</p> <p>The Art. 40 establishes that regularly settled foreigner can accede to social housing.</p> <p>-Foreigner getting the residence permit or regularly settled, registered to placement lists or regularly working have right to accede to social housing.</p> <p>Employers offer flats and bed-seats to their workers.</p> <p>Legal provisions:</p> <p>-Law 286/98, which regulates the location and the granting of building for housing.</p> <p>-National legislation in 1998, Immigration Act. Reporting indicates regional laws violating national quality legislation, and constituting significant barriers in relation to improving the conditions of Roma 'transit camps'.</p>	<p>Opportunities for foreign citizens, established by law have been helpful but not adequate to the quantity of demands.</p> <p>Stiffness in the rent house market by which the public building housing has become the only channel for lower class to getting a house in location.</p> <p>Immigrates live in a heavier reality because, to the lack of public lodging and to the shortage of new private lodging to rent at low cost.</p> <p>Direct discrimination exists but also indirect. In Milan, accruing points for Italian citizenship was found to be an unlawful practice in the allocation of public low rent housing.</p> <p>Local authorities may also seek to exclude through their control of land and available sites.</p>

## LUXEMBURG

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
Amended law, of March 1972 is the basic text, concerning the entry and residence of foreigners, the medical control of foreigners as well as the employment of foreign workers.	<p>The regularization took place according to the provisions of the amended law of 1972 concerning: the entry and the stay of foreigners; the medical assistance; the employment of foreign labor force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The procedure of regularization was an administrative one, basing itself on criteria fixed by the government.</li> <li>Following the parliamentary debate on "sans papier" of March 2001, the government decided to put into force the regularization of certain foreigner categories irregularly established on the territory of the Grand Duchy:</li> <li>-It was an action "one-shot", a single measure aiming at regularizing the situation of irregulars.</li> <li>-The procedure contained two distinct actions: a work regularisation and another one for humanitarian reasons.</li> </ul>	<p>The other important instrument is the; Act on integration of foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and social action to the benefit of foreigners.</p>	<p>In 1993 Luxembourg approved an Integration of Aliens Law, which set up co-ordinated programmes to facilitate social, economic and cultural adaptation of foreigners.</p> <p>The proportion of foreigners in Luxembourg is far greater than in any other country in the EU and the country has three official languages.</p> <p>Major emphasis has been put on developing a programme for integration of foreign children based on the principles of common education, trilingualism and equal opportunity.</p>	<p>The key legislation for housing is the law (modified on 25 February 1979) dealing with housing subsidies.</p> <p>This law promotes access to housing for people of low to medium incomes as well as for families and helps facilitate home-ownership.</p> <p>Decree of 2004 aimed at favouring social mixing.</p>	<p>Since 1999, the government has been working with local authorities to put into place housing policies that will help to meet the growing demands of a growing population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In 2000, following these initial policies, the government launched an Action Programme on Housing whose primary aim is to increase and improve access to housing (renting and ownership).</li> <li>-Unfortunately, many of the measures focus primarily on ownership and neglect the need of a rent accommodation.</li> <li>-Data sources are extremely scarce, but it is clear that it is very difficult for poorer immigrants to find decent affordable housing due to an extremely expensive rent sector. There may be refusal to provide mortgages to low income applicants or those in social rented housing.</li> </ul>

## THE NETHERLANDS

IMMIGRATION		INTEGRATION		HOUSING AND INTEGRATION	
Legislation	Policies	Legislation	Policies	Legislation	Policies
<p>The basic legislation lies in the 1965.</p> <p>Totally renewed Aliens Law was adopted and came into force in April 2001:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The law concerns both aliens and refugees.</li> <li>-Does not solve all the problems surrounding immigration, but it helps to make matters more manageable.</li> <li>-Clearer rules and shorter procedures speed up decisions on applications for residence permits while maintaining high standards.</li> <li>-Each application must be dealt with separately.</li> <li>-Each applicant must be given the chance to tell his own story.</li> <li>-Each applicant who is turned down must know for a fact that his application has been carefully considered.</li> </ul>	<p>Executives measures have been adopted: Decree of 23 November 2000, and the Regulation of 18 December 2000.</p> <p>The Netherlands has in accordance with the European Employment Strategy set specific national targets concerning integration.</p> <p>Specific labour market policy is aiming at halving the difference between the unemployment rate of ethnic minorities and persons who are of Dutch origin, which amounts to reducing unemployment of ethnic minorities to 10%.</p>	<p>The government began to develop and implement policies aimed at the immigrant population under the heading of "minority policy" in the 1980s.</p> <p>From the 1990s the notion of integration became central.</p> <p>During the early 1990s, multiculturalism emerged as the preferred policy approach.</p> <p>By the end of the 1990s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-What is multiculturalism?</li> <li>- Does it work?</li> <li>-Discussion and comparison of the Netherlands to other EU states, the US, and Australia.</li> </ul>	<p>Work on policies and laws that were already in the pipeline have continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-These include more stringent testing and penalties for immigrants on Dutch language and culture once they are in the country, and measures to ensure a person learns some Dutch in the home country before receiving a visa that leads to a residence permit.</li> </ul> <p>A new law approved by the lower chamber of parliament in April 2005 would amend the 2000 Aliens Act by introducing language and culture testing prior to the granting of an entry visa for residence purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It is awaiting passage in the upper chamber of parliament, where there is concern that the changes would be discriminatory and thus unconstitutional.</li> <li>-The proposed language and culture test. is evidently focused at immigrants from countries such as Morocco and Turkey.</li> </ul>	<p>A recent interdepartmental study of the shelter and support services to socially vulnerable people concluded that the provision of information is inadequate and that people are staying in the facilities too long:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More government funding and the capacity of services for homeless youth are to be expanded.</li> </ul> <p>Direct discrimination exists.</p> <p>There is support for compulsory distribution policies that are discriminatory, and that practices persist in housing access that work indirectly against minorities.</p> <p>Useful good practice instances referred to include assisting movement into better areas.</p>	<p>The housing policy has reduced government support to tenants.</p> <p>In addition, cutbacks to the social security system will limit people's entitlement to invalidity or unemployment benefit.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to adjust the level of national assistance payments.</p> <p>Pursues a policy of d-segregation within its 'Big City' urban renewal programme.</p> <p>The view is that an emphasis on changing disadvantaged areas by focusing on them is misplaced, and that less expensive buildings should be constructed in better districts. it is reported that Amsterdam has invested money in purchasing houses in 'up-market' districts. people with low incomes apparently can purchase them for small amounts.</p>

## PORTUGAL

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
Amended law, of March 1972 is the basic text, concerning the entry and residence of foreigners, the medical control of foreigners as well as the employment of foreign workers.	<p>The regularization took place according to the provisions of the amended law of 1972 concerning: the entry and the stay of foreigners; the medical assistance; the employment of foreign labor force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The procedure of regularization was an administrative one, basing itself on criteria fixed by the government.</li> </ul> <p>Following the parliamentary debate on "sans papier" of March 2001, the government decided to put into force the regularization of certain foreigner categories irregularly established on the territory of the Grand Duchy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It was an action "one-shot", a single measure aiming at regularizing the situation of irregulars.</li> <li>-The procedure contained two distinct actions: a work regularisation and another one for humanitarian reasons.</li> </ul>	The other important instrument is the; Act on integration of foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and social action to the benefit of foreigners.	<p>In 1993 Luxembourg approved an Integration of Aliens Law, which set up co-ordinated programmes to facilitate social, economic and cultural adaptation of foreigners.</p> <p>The proportion of foreigners in Luxembourg is far greater than in any other country in the EU and the country has three official languages.</p> <p>Major emphasis has been put on developing a programme for integration of foreign children based on the principles of common education, trilingualism and equal opportunity.</p>	<p>The key legislation for housing is the law (modified on 25 February 1979) dealing with housing subsidies.</p> <p>This law promotes access to housing for people of low to medium incomes as well as for families and helps facilitate home-ownership.</p> <p>Decree of 2004 aimed at favouring social mixing.</p>	<p>Since 1999, the government has been working with local authorities to put into place housing policies that will help to meet the growing demands of a growing population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In 2000, following these initial policies, the government launched an Action Programme on Housing whose primary aim is to increase and improve access to housing (renting and ownership).</li> <li>-Unfortunately, many of the measures focus primarily on ownership and neglect the need of a rent accommodation.</li> <li>-Data sources are extremely scarce, but it is clear that it is very difficult for poorer immigrants to find decent affordable housing due to an extremely expensive rent sector. There may be refusal to provide mortgages to low income applicants or those in social rented housing.</li> </ul>

## SPAIN

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>The 1985 legislation where restrictive toward immigration and extremely weak with regard to immigrant rights.</p> <p>A 1996 amendment to the 1985 law had a set of subjective rights:</p> <p>-It strengthened the power of the regional governments to protect the rights of immigrant minors and formally established a quote system for temporary workers.</p> <p>The amendment established a permanent resident category and formally included family reunification within its framework.</p>	<p>The harsh policies introduced under the 1985 law left large numbers of immigrants without the proper documentation to reside and work in Spain:</p> <p>-As a result, the government launched a regularization program that ultimately had little impact, given the distrust that had developed between the government and immigrants due to the 1985 legislation.</p> <p>-Subsequent extraordinary regularization processes were initiated in 1991.</p> <p>-Additional regularization programs have taken place in 1996, 2000, and 2001 to compensate for ineffective and restrictive admissions policies.</p> <p>In 2002, the quota system was reformed. The government is required to establish annual quotas for foreign workers:</p> <p>-The government only hires foreign workers from their countries of origin and through bilateral agreement.</p> <p>-Undocumented immigrants can no longer use this channel to seek work</p>	<p>The Law on the Rights and Freedoms of Foreigners in Spain and their Integration (Law 4/2000) took force in 2000:</p> <p>-Marked the transition from a policies focused on controlling immigration flows to policies that looked more broadly at immigration and integration.</p> <p>-The law addressed access and control measures.</p> <p>-The law was the starting point for the emergence of the Global Programme to Regulate and Coordinate Foreign Residents' Affairs and Immigration.</p> <p>- "Plan Greco", a multiyear initiative designed to address the key area of integration of foreign residents and their families as active contributors to the growth of Spain.</p>	<p>"General Office for Migration" dependent on the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in 1993:</p> <p>-The aim was to transfer the management of migratory policies from the hands of the police to another body, which could deal more effectively with the complex demands which immigration presented in Spanish society.</p> <p>"Interministerial Plan for the Integration of Immigrants", approved in 1994:</p> <p>- Emphasis placed firmly on control in migratory policies.</p> <p>-System of entry quotas.</p> <p>The entire burden of immigration falls firmly on their shoulders and it is taken for granted that Spanish society remains as it is.</p>	<p>The National Housing Plan (2002 to 2005) mainly provides the conditions for and distribution of funds and credit.</p> <p>Wide regional disparities in housing policies.</p> <p>The responsibility for housing policy is primarily delegated to the regional tiers of government.</p> <p>The overall governance context is allied to an approach to housing that encourages home ownership.</p> <p>Spanish law provides for equality of access for "resident foreigners" to the public system of housing support, although this does not extend to "irregular foreign migrants".</p>	<p>Absence or lack of central government responsibility or competence in housing policy means that implementation of the Common Objective to improve access to housing for vulnerable groups relies on indirect influence rather than direct control.</p> <p>An integrated approach is required to assure access to housing for immigrants and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Main legal provisions:</p> <p>-The integral plan for removing shanty towns in Andalusia (1997).</p> <p>-The Third Andalusian Plan.</p> <p>Policy measures to ensure access to decent housing for migrants and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Cases of direct and indirect discrimination.</p> <p>Examples of good practice.</p>

## SWEDEN

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>Persons who come from countries outside the EU/EEA are required to have a work permit in order to work in Sweden:</p> <p>-Before a work permit is granted, an examination assessing the need of the Swedish labour market is conducted.</p> <p>-For those working for a period longer than three months, a residence permit is also required.</p> <p>Legal provisions:</p> <p>-Aliens law is regulated in the Aliens Act no. 529 of 1989. It has been amended numerous times.</p> <p>-Implementing rules have been laid down in the Ordinance no. 547 of 1989).</p> <p>-Passport Act no. 302 of 1978 and The Act to Counteract Ethnic Discrimination no. 134 of 1994.</p>	<p>Swedish migration policy has three objectives:</p> <p>-To safeguard the right of asylum in Sweden and internationally.</p> <p>-To maintain regulated immigration to Sweden.</p> <p>-To enhance harmonisation of asylum and migration policy in the EU.</p>	<p>In Sweden the Government decided in 1997 to focus more on integration and the policy is built on mainstreaming.</p> <p>The point of departure is equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for everybody and integration permeates all policy areas and should be implemented in the everyday operations of all sectors of society.</p> <p>A new Act prohibiting discrimination comes into force on July 2003:</p> <p>The prohibition of discrimination related to ethnic origin, religion or other belief, sexual orientation or disability etc applies among others to services and housing.</p>	<p>The objectives of the integration policy are:</p> <p>-Equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of ethnic and cultural background; a community based on diversity; and a society characterised by mutual respect for differences.</p> <p>Efforts to counteract ethnic discrimination and to promote ethnic diversity in working life will be intensified.</p> <p>Forms and methods for evaluation of non-Swedish professional competence will be developed.</p> <p>A clearer focus will be made on the fact that integration is a process on both individual and societal levels.</p> <p>Equal employment opportunities for immigrants are to be promoted within the framework of the general labour market policy.</p>	<p>For many decades Sweden provided large state subsidies and exercised considerable central and local state control over housing production and allocation.</p> <p>Sudden withdrawal of central state involvement in housing in the early and mid-1990s marked a rather dramatic policy turn.</p> <p>The right-wing government, start of its pledged 'system shift', 1991-1993.</p> <p>Next, the housing subsidies were rapidly cut from 1996 onward by a Social-Democratic government.</p> <p>New, anti-discrimination legislation has specifically included housing.</p> <p>EUMC</p>	<p>Although Sweden seems to have well-established proactive outlooks on improving fair treatment an "ethic hierarchy" exists.</p> <p>Housing policies have focused on alleviating housing segregation, while "ethnic discrimination in housing has not been an area of major concern for the authorities so far".</p> <p>Landlords, cooperative associations, housing brokers, stockbrokers and private agencies were all reported as discriminating actors, with landlords constituting half of the reported cases.</p> <p>Sweden housing policy is driven by the aim of breaking down segregation and achieving social integration, although this is constructed in socio-economic rather than migrant and minority ethnic terms.</p>

## UNITED KINGDOM

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>		<b>INTEGRATION</b>		<b>HOUSING AND INTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>	<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Policies</b>
<p>There are two types of Entry Clearance – Visas and Entry Certificates:</p> <p>– There are historical reasons for this.</p> <p>Since 1993, the UK Government has passed five major pieces of legislation on immigration and asylum in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2004. These were attempts to manage increasingly large and complex flows of people into the UK, particularly through the asylum channel.</p>	<p>In February 2005, the UK government published its five-year strategy entitled “Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain”.</p> <p>Ahead of the May 2005 general election, the strategy had several aims:</p> <p>–To restore public confidence in the government’s handling of the asylum and immigration system.</p> <p>–To set out the current system.</p> <p>–To put forward plans for future management.</p>	<p>Since the 1950s, tension between non-white immigrants and natives has periodically erupted (riots).</p> <p>Rising concerns about white and minority ethnic and religious groups leading segregated lives.</p> <p>The government strategy “Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society,” launched in January 2005, lays out the most recent thinking on creating equal opportunities for ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The government is taking steps to challenge racially motivated crime and to protect faith communities, including proposed legislation on religious hate crime and discrimination to supplement existing race discrimination laws.</p>	<p>The policy of the United Kingdom Government is that there must be equality of educational opportunity for all children. (The Government’s White Paper on education)</p> <p>Often the issues surrounding minority ethnic groups are couched in the language of “problems” or “difficulties”.</p> <p>The Government is seeking to create a society based on social inclusion in which all groups have the opportunity to play a full role, enjoy their rights and fulfil their responsibilities. It is totally opposed to racism, stereotyping and low expectations.</p>	<p>Great Britain is a country with a sizable social/ public housing sector and well developed and integrated housing policies.</p> <p>Control over the public sector housing stock is gradually been transferred from local authorities to housing associations and government has introduced guidance, regulatory procedures and ethnic monitoring to ensure equality of access.</p> <p>Policy measures to ensure access to decent housing for migrants and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The social rented sector is subject to extensive guidance, performance measurement, and control, so that overt racist practices are now hard to find. But racist hostilities persist.</p>	<p>Local housing strategies: guidance to local authorities emphasized the need for them to take account of the needs of people from minority ethnic communities in drawing up their housing strategies.</p> <p>Housing allocation policies include the CRE Code of Practice in Rented Housing, the National Housing Inspection system as a means of examining performance and change; the Housing Corporation Black and Ethnic Minority Housing Policy.</p> <p>Local government and social housing organizations are statutorily obliged to develop housing strategies which promote race equality and respond to the diverse social and cultural needs and preferences of migrant and minority ethnic groups</p>





The Observatory is the research branch of CECODHAS. Its main aim is to identify and analyse key trends and research needs in the field of housing and social housing at European level. Its role is to support policy work for the delivery of social housing by providing strategic and evidence-based analysis in the field.

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CECODHAS Exchange is published by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of Cecodhas, but are those of its contributors. The Cecodhas Exchange Team would like to thank all the contributors to this edition and welcome stories on issues of social housing in Europe.

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