

**INTEGRATION OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN  
EUROPEAN CAPITALS**

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# INTEGRATION OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS

## I - INTRODUCTION

This document gathers significant information on the policy for integrating the foreign immigrant population in European capitals, gathered via a questionnaire (sent out in July, 2003), aimed at achieving an awareness of the characteristics, difficulties and problems within each city, along with the series of initiatives developed by each city in response to the challenge of integrating the immigrant population.

For the purposes of this report, integration policy will be understood to mean the activities designed by the State that establish the entry and leaving conditions, and residence and work permits for foreigners, along with the series of rights to which this population has access, and the development of social and social integration policies.

All integration policies are founded on 3 pillars:

- The first pillar is made up of the regulations that indicate how many people can immigrate and are referred to as “wave control”. This function is usually a responsibility of the respective Governments of each state.
- The second pillar is made up of the series of measures set in motion by the administrations to prevent the marginalisation of the immigrant within the society wherein they are received, and to promote the coexistence and integration of all citizens.
- Complementary measures are usually added to these two pillars, amongst which we can highlight the cooperation for the development of immigrants’ countries of origin, which contributes to “wave control at point of origin” by attempting to decrease disadvantageous conditions that drive immigrants to move to another country.

The approach of the programs hoping to respond to the new requirements arising from the arrival or presence of a foreign population at local level, reaches the obvious boundary of the respective national legislations. However, the cities also need to find formulae for local management, not only to deal with the difficulties of integrating immigrants, but also to face new urban problems, especially those linked to the social and territorial dualisation of our cities at the beginning of the third millennium.

Differences exist between cities as a result of a greater or lesser migratory tradition and by the configuration of the waves of new citizens, which will be analysed in the following sections.

### **METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED:**

This report has been produced based on information received from the following 20 capital cities:

- Amsterdam.
- Athens
- Berlin
- Brussels
- Budapest
- Copenhagen
- Dublin
- Stockholm
- Helsinki
- Lisbon
- London
- Ljubljana
- Luxembourg
- Madrid
- Paris
- Riga
- Rome
- \*Tallinn
- Warsaw
- Vienna

The questionnaire sent to the cities is structured into different sections:

1. Basic data: territory, city, country, organisation and contact.
2. Socio-demographic characteristics: population of foreign origin, percentage of immigrant population with regard to the overall population of the city, immigrant population by gender and age, main countries of origin of the immigrant population.
3. Main difficulties in the process of integrating the immigrant population: reception, education, integration in the job market/employment, health, leisure and free time, accommodation/housing, religion.
4. Main activities carried out by the city to attend the immigrant population: reception, education, health, integration in the job

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\*As this was received outside the deadline, it has been impossible to include the analysis of this data in this report

- market/employment, leisure and free time, accommodation/housing, religion.
5. Programs/projects developed by the city which might be highlighted as “examples of good practice”.
  6. International cooperation programs/projects with developing countries.
  7. Future projects.
  8. Specific comments on the immigration originating from the countries soon to enlarge the European Union.

The answers to and the feedback from the questionnaires have been disparate, although, in general, they have permitted the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information of great interest to the objectives of the current report.

This report involves an analysis of the migration situation in the different European capitals, along with the difficulties and changes that have been noted in recent years. An overall analysis of the main data gathered from the cities is presented, grouped according to the sections of the questionnaire.

In addition, the activities carried out in each city to achieve integration objectives are highlighted and the main thoughts and analysis with regard to the policies put into effect by the European capitals are gathered together.

This document does not hope to be exhaustive, let alone of statistical worth, given that it is a report that merely gathers a sample of the migration situation in the main European cities and the programs set in motion by local bodies in order to improve coexistence.

## **II - SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION.**

According to the information gathered, we can assert, that as a result of globalisation and the economic and industrial development of the European Union, in conjunction with social phenomena such as the ageing of the population and the need for labour force, the pressure of migration is increasing in all European capitals, and this phenomena is intensified, above all, in the southern European capitals.

Thus the high percentages of foreign citizens is maintained in cities with a history of migration, such as **Luxembourg** (59.15%), **Amsterdam** (47%) and **London** with 27% or **Paris** with 14.4%, and the number of immigrants in capitals such as **Madrid** (12.75%), **Dublin** (8.4%), **Rome** (6.6%) or **Lisbon** (6.27%) increases.

The majority of the cities have not returned data on certain aspects, which are difficult to verify, such as an estimate of the number of immigrants not in lawful situation, or the approximate number of unregistered foreigners.

Analysing other demographic aspects such as **gender** or **age**, we can point out that, with regards to the first, the majority of the cities report that the imbalance observed in past decades in favour of men within the foreign population as a whole, has tended to diminish, and, when it comes to gender, levels of men and women are now similar.

The number of foreigners under 16 years of age is a sign that immigrants are settling in a city, with a view to staying, and that the migration process is beginning to become “normal” in certain cities.

In this respect, we can highlight data from cities with a long tradition of migration, where the percentage of minors is high, as is the case in **Amsterdam** (20%), **Luxembourg** (23.7%) or **Berlin** (18%).

In other European capitals, where the migration phenomenon is more recent, the percentage is low. Such is the case of **Madrid** (14.4%), **Rome** (between 13.5% and 11.8%) or **Riga** (between 1 and 2%)

The presence of foreign children in some capitals, such as Madrid, Lisbon or Rome, will grow in the near future, bearing in mind, above all, that immigrant children from countries with a greater tradition of emigration exceed the number of children in families originally from industrialised countries.

The presence of minors as a significant part of the population will be noted in some cities, and will have important repercussions on health and the school environment, as we shall see.

In general, the composition of the immigrant population according to nationality varies in each destination country, and is dependent upon the migratory tradition within the country, the nature, scope and coverage of the networks established by previously established foreign communities, the employment opportunities offered at the destination, the geographical proximity between the country of origin and the destination country, and certain determining factors such as historical and cultural links with former colonies and protectorates.

Thus, **Lisbon** reports the main countries of origin as being: Cape Verde (27.3%), Angola (12.9%), Guinea (10.3%) and Brazil (8.2%); **Amsterdam** underlines: Surinam (21%), and the Former Dutch West Indies (6%); Madrid highlights, as the most common countries of origin: Ecuador (34%), Colombia (11%) and Peru (5.6%).

The economic and political developments over the last decade, and most notably the movements in central and eastern Europe, have given rise to new migratory waves, thereby increasing the diversity of the countries of origin. Moreover, this data shows that certain countries of origin, which until now did not represent sources of emigration of any importance, are beginning to acquire this importance.

Thus, the city of **Berlin** cites, as countries of origin of its immigrant population, the countries that formerly constituted Yugoslavia (13.7%), Poland (6.7%) and countries that were part of the former Soviet Union (5.7%).

**Stockholm** points to the importance of immigrants from Poland (4%), whilst **Vienna** underlines the immigration from the countries that formerly constituted Yugoslavia (15%) and eastern European countries (11%).

In general, in all European capitals, the proportion of citizens from outside the Union has increased.

In northern European cities, immigration from neighbouring countries has decreased whilst immigrants of other nationalities have increased: Pakistanis, Vietnamese, Iranians, Iraqis and Turks.

These trends are present in cities such as **Berlin, Stockholm, Vienna and Budapest**.

When considering the topic of immigration in European cities, it is worth underlining that the capitals of southern European countries (**Madrid, Lisbon and Rome**), which from the end of World War II to the 80's exported labour force to other countries, have now inverted this trend and have become prime targets of immigration.

The economic growth experienced by these countries and their proximity with Africa makes them attractive places for settling, as shown by the percentage of immigrant population in **Madrid** (12.75%), **Rome** (6.6%) and **Lisbon** (6.27%).

These southern European capitals share common characteristics that are worth pointing out:

- A considerable number of immigrants from Africa, Latin America and Asia.
- They also receive many immigrants from the group made up of Europe and North America.

These two types of immigration wave differ considerably. The first group is made up of immigrants seeking work; low qualified labour force, often in non-

lawful situation. In contrast, the other group is mainly a result of the retirement of Europeans who move to cities with a better climate.

In general, a considerable increase in certain groups of immigrants that were not present in the past has been noted in European cities.

The settlements of Maghrebs (**Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco**), Turks and former Yugoslavians have changed in recent years.

Whilst **Paris** has traditionally been the destination city for citizens from the **Maghreb**, and although the Algerians continue to settle there, **Moroccans** and **Tunisians** are arriving in other capitals of the European Union.

Though they have been present in **Brussels** and **Amsterdam** for many years, these groups are increasing their number of destination countries and now represent large groups in **Rome, Berlin and Madrid**.

**Turkish** immigrants, whose largest settlement is in **Berlin**, now represent significant percentages in cities such as **Amsterdam, Brussels or Copenhagen**.

On the other hand, colonies of nationals from the **countries that formerly constituted Yugoslavia** are present, above all, in **Rome, Vienna, Budapest, Berlin and Luxembourg**.

A series of changes that transform immigration in Europe, and which were present during the 90's, have been observed, such as the ever-increasing number of asylum seekers.

This is backed up by the data presented by **Berlin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Vienna and Luxembourg**.

### **III - MAIN DIFFICULTIES IN THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATING THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION.**

The integration policy set in motion at local level by the different European cities is conditioned to a large extent by the respective national legislation, by the European agreements recently adopted in this area, and by the responsibilities given to local administrations with regard to foreigners and immigration.

The vast majority of cities have no responsibilities when it comes to determining the criteria that regulate immigration waves at national level or granting residence or work permits. In spite of this, they bear witness to the constant arrival of foreigners who will form a part of the city and who need to coexist, in equality, with the indigenous citizens. Moreover, some immigrants

present difficulties of a special nature, such as asylum seekers or those who find themselves in unlawful situation, lacking recognition of a series of rights that protect the resident citizen.

#### **A) RECEPTION:**

Some of the northern European cities have pointed out that difficulties exist, above all, with the reception of asylum seekers, as a result of the long waiting period before the admission of the request.

This is the case of **Amsterdam, Brussels and London**, capitals that highlight the increase in the number of indigents in the city as a result of the greater numbers of asylum seekers who lack public assistance and the inefficiency of the systems aimed at aiding those requesting refuge.

In contrast, other cities report no particular difficulties due to the smooth running of the public reception services. This is the case of **Warsaw, Helsinki, Luxembourg and Berlin**.

The majority of cities point to the newly arrived immigrant's lack of understanding of the language in the destination country as an initial obstacle in accessing any public service.

#### **B) EDUCATION:**

In all cities, the school environment makes the migration situation and its current trends visible.

The basic issue and the main difficulty pointed out by the majority of cities involves managing, within the school setting, the great diversity present in the existing pupil population, and at the same time, responding to the special educational needs of many pupils and promoting their academic success.

Many cities highlight that in some centres there is an excessive concentration of foreign pupils. The incorporation of immigrant children into the school is also commonly pointed out as a problematic area: the quality level of the centre decreases, the indigenous population often rejects immigrant pupils and the teaching centre tends to become a "ghetto".

**Amsterdam** reports that in the last 10 years a certain amount of segregation has occurred between the immigrant and indigenous populations. As a result, people in this city talk about "black schools and white schools". In the "black schools", the majority of children come from ethnic backgrounds other than Dutch. Minors of Turkish or Moroccan origin display a greater degree of absenteeism and dropping-out of school, a situation that is also reported in other capitals.

**Brussels** highlights the lack of communication between teachers and parents as an additional difficulty, resulting from the lack of knowledge of the local language and cultural codes and referents in the city where they are received.

Ignorance of the language in general is pointed out as an obstacle to equal education in the majority of cities: **Lisbon, Warsaw, Helsinki, London and Stockholm.**

To sum up, we can state that, whilst all European capitals admit the children of immigrants in public schools within the city, as a result of obligatory education for all minors, they present more difficulties with regard to integration due to ignorance of the language and cultural codes and referents. In addition, foreign minors present higher levels of failure at school and absenteeism.

### **C) HEALTH:**

On a general level, cities, wherein the national health system automatically integrates immigrant citizens, report no particular problems in this area. Such is the case in **Berlin, Warsaw, Amsterdam o Madrid**, where access to the public health network via registration is guaranteed for all the immigrant population, regardless of whether or not they are in lawful situation.

**London** presents a more problematic panorama, reporting difficulties in three main areas: difficulty with access to medical assistance, the health staff's lack of awareness of the health rights of the foreign population and health problems that are derived from the two previous points.

**Amsterdam** points out a greater infant mortality rate in the Turkish and Moroccan population, a situation that worries local health authorities.

**Helsinki** indicates that more mental health services are required to attend refugees.

Some cities, such as **Madrid**, report that the educational level and understanding of the language influence the level of health of the foreign population and have a bearing on the adoption of preventative measures and care, access to and use of services and the accident rate in the workplace.

### **D) INTEGRATION IN THE JOB MARKET/ EMPLOYMENT:**

There is no doubt that, in all European cities, employment constitutes one of the keys with regard to the integration of the immigrant population.

According to their reports, a significant number of capitals affirm that the immigrant workers are employed in specific areas, which, in general, are characterised by poorer working conditions. These employment “niches” are normally rejected by indigenous workers.

In many current societies, prejudices are on the increase due to a fear of a mass incorporation of immigrants in the job market and the subsequent fear that foreign workers may come to represent a threat to gaining jobs that initially were aimed at the native population.

Many countries have resolved the problem by establishing annual quotas of immigrant intake, bearing in mind the local employment situation, thereby avoiding, where possible, competition with the indigenous population. In this respect, the city of **Vienna** reports that the number of non-Community workers can never be greater than 8% of the labour force in Austria.

In any event, the majority of cities coincide in pointing out that immigrants in unlawful situation are subject to abuse and exploitation, and suffer precarious employment, economic and personal conditions.

A common aspect pointed out in many questionnaires involves the higher levels of unemployment in the immigrant population in comparison with the native population. Ignorance of the language, membership of a different culture and lower levels of professional qualification contribute to hamper the foreign population’s integration in the job market.

#### **E) ACCOMODATION/HOUSING:**

Currently, housing, apart from offering protection and privacy, represents the space in which the necessary conditions for dealing with normal, everyday life are developed.

The type of housing and even the area of the city in which a person lives, are linked to the idea of “social status”. Forums of all types are raising the alarm with regard to the terrible consequences that might be produced by a lack of decent and adequate housing for immigrant workers. The concentration of immigrants in certain areas accentuates the visibility of the immigrant in the city, as a result of both the numerical growth and the places symbolically associated with this growth.

All of the cities that were consulted coincide in affirming that immigrants, along with other population groups, encounter the greatest difficulties when it comes to finding decent accommodation.

In this respect, **Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Warsaw, Stockholm, London, Paris, Madrid and Rome** state that immigrants are normally concentrated in specific areas of the city.

The accelerated growth of the foreign population, along with the limited number of dwellings available to a large proportion of this population, results in excessive occupation, with a number of people sharing a single residence that sometimes reaches levels of overcrowding.

A difficulty pointed out by the majority of cities involves the existence of abusive overcharging in relation to rental properties. This gives rise to the possibility of subletting and overcrowding in apartments, as prices are too high. We should also underline owners' distrust as a result of the risk of subletting, and prejudice and fears when it comes to renting to foreigners.

The most deteriorated housing is normally located in the city centres. This type of accommodation is normally very small and is frequently rejected by natives due to its failure to meet adequate habitable conditions.

These problems mean that without programs put into effect by Local Administration, the immigrant population's access to housing is difficult. The lack of social housing is reported on a general level, even though some capitals, such as **Amsterdam**, have pointed out that segregation within their city remains within reasonable limits as a result of the intervention of public policy, thereby avoiding the formation of "ghettos" in certain urban areas.

#### **F) LEISURE AND FREE TIME:**

In general, few remarks were made on this topic in the questionnaires returned by the cities. The majority coincide in pointing out that a large proportion of the immigrant population have insufficient economic means with which to carry out leisure activities, or when they can afford to, they spend this money in other areas.

Certain southern European cities highlight the trend within the foreign population of coming together in clubs and associations, which does not aid integration.

The city of **Madrid** underlines the phenomenon, observed over recent years, involving groups of immigrants (mainly Ecuadoreans, Peruvians and Colombians) using parks and public areas as meeting points and places for playing games and sports on public holidays. These meetings, no doubt

encouraged by the capital's benevolent atmosphere, occur within the framework of the human need for contact and communication, but tend to provoke conflicts with native citizens who go to the parks and public recreation areas for the same reasons.

### **G) RELIGION:**

The majority of capitals report cultural, ideological and religious diversity amongst the immigrant population within their territory. In most cases, religion is practiced with complete freedom in the city within a climate of tolerance in the respective areas of worship, which, on occasions are provided by the local administration.

In this respect, **Madrid, Luxembourg, Warsaw and Amsterdam** report no conflict in relation to religion, whilst **Brussels** reports a tendency towards radicalisation and the freedom to form part of a religious, ideological or philosophical school of thought is being used as an instrument for the specific demands of a single community.

### **H) OTHER AREAS:**

Under this last heading within the problematic aspects of integrating immigrant citizens, some cities have pointed to specific phenomena that occur within their territory.

Thus, **London** highlights the existence of problems and conflicts of a public nature, motivated by an increase in xenophobic and racist attitudes within the population, along with the criminal behaviour of foreign groups aimed at their peers.

**Dublin** points to the confusion produced by the administrative diffusion of public services, as many bodies have responsibility in migration matters without the adequate functional coordination.

**Rome** reports different situations that arise within this city and contribute to making the integration of the foreign population more difficult: the lack of procedures for the political representation of the population from third countries in local government institutions, insufficient experience with the models of territorial integration, and the tendency to turn foreign cultures into a show, with no serious cultural exchange programs.

## **IV – MAIN ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE CITIES/CITY HALLS IN THE SERVICE OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION.**

For more than a decade, European cities have become increasingly convinced that, without adequate integration policies aimed at the immigrant population, in the long term, problems of conflict and public order cannot be avoided.

Integration models usually vary from city to city, but they are all put into effect in the same strategic environments of coexistence and integration within the city: districts, schools, housing and the workplace.

In this report, we have tried to analyse and extract the testimony of the cities, the structural conditions, and the initiatives that have been set in motion by the respective local administrations in order to successfully face the challenge of integration.

### **A) RECEPTION:**

The majority of European capitals have local mechanisms that benefit initial encounter services: information, guidance and administrative support.

Many of these programs include teaching of the local language, the support of translators or interpreters in case of total ignorance of the language, legal guidance and the possibility of providing accommodation and maintenance for those who are most vulnerable.

In addition, some cities, such as **Rome and Madrid**, are supported in these activities by intercultural mediators.

### **B) EDUCATION:**

Schools represent a key area for the integration of all citizens in the destination society. It is not without good reason that free universal compulsory schooling is considered to provide a place to educate and socialise new citizens.

The big problem faced by many cities involves responding to the great challenge of diversity. This leads some cities to devise different strategies in order to meet the special educational requirements of their foreign pupils.

**Amsterdam** reports that schooling is compulsory for all children and that the schools are financed by the Administration in accordance with the number of pupils. There is a fixed budget for each child, but this economic amount is doubled in the case of foreign minors as a result of the greater amount of time that is dedicated and the teaching resources that immigrant children require.

**Brussels** points out that the city's political decision makers are very concerned with obtaining more economic resources that will allow the quality of education to be improved.

All of the cities coincide in pointing out that schools include special support programs for the intensive teaching of the local language to recently arrived foreign minors.

The heterogeneity of the situations means that a different strategy is needed in each case and it is important to bear in mind that where there is an educational deficiency, this is not necessarily linked to linguistic differences or to a foreign origin.

Faced with the concern of rising rates of dropping-out and failure at school amongst immigrant minors, the vast majority of cities have created special programs within schooling.

In this respect, we can point out that **Vienna** has a juvenile education centre where young people, unable to obtain it in standard centres, can obtain the basic education certificate. The centre also helps them to gain access to the job market. The educational guidance office for immigrants advises pupils, parents and teachers. The "Integration Fund", located in the same city, attempts to improve access to the learning of a trade for those young people who are threatened by social marginalisation.

However, the educational activity in multicultural contexts goes much further than the school setting. Adult training centres, programs aimed at the teaching of the local language and cultural seminars represent key factors within integration via education.

### **C) HEALTH:**

The majority of the cities do not have direct responsibilities when it comes to health. However, many of them report that, through specific initiatives, they have aided the prevention of illnesses and improved healthcare within the immigrant population.

In this respect, **Rome** highlights its interest in creating a favourable climate amongst new residents via the intervention of intercultural mediators within the health services, who have been specially trained for this purpose.

**London** has set a "Safe and Sound" project in motion to study the impact of housing conditions on the health of asylum seekers.

**Stockholm** has a similar project, aimed at improving medical attention for this sector of the population, as is the case in **Ljubljana**, where a program for attending foreign citizens in unlawful situation has been set in motion.

**Amsterdam** underlines its special programs, aimed at professionals within the health sector, with a view to improving the attention of, and communication with patients with different religious and cultural backgrounds.

The municipality of **Madrid** plays a fundamental role in citizens' access to the public health network via registration in the Municipal Register.

#### **D) INTEGRATION IN THE JOB MARKET/ EMPLOYMENT:**

The incidence of unemployment and shortage of professional qualifications is greater in some segments of the foreign population, and for this reason all the capitals report that they have set up training programs, language-learning programs and programs aimed at proving job-seeking skills.

**Vienna and Lisbon** have put the EQUAL program into effect, which is financed by European funds and aimed at fighting discrimination and inequality within the workplace.

**London** conducts weekly programs in the London Development Agency (LDA).

**Amsterdam** reports on the creation of guidance centres aimed at businessmen and women from ethnic minorities.

**Copenhagen** underlines that its program for receiving immigrant population is centred on integration in the job market.

#### **E) ACCOMODATION/HOUSING:**

A large number of European cities have drawn up programs that aim to improve conditions in deteriorated areas with a high percentage of immigrant population. Through the identification of economic and social problems, they have tried to inject economic resources into these areas. Programs of this nature have been set in motion in **Brussels** and **Madrid**.

Whilst the majority of local bodies do not have direct responsibility for this area, as is the case in **Budapest**, the vast majority of capitals have set up measures and services relating to the housing offer, aimed at the most vulnerable sections of the population. The immigrant population enjoys the same access to these measures and services as the native population. **Luxembourg, Lisbon, Helsinki** and **Madrid** detail programs of this type.

The initiative in **Vienna** can be highlighted as original. In recent years, the city has put 9 Inter-ethnic housing programs into effect, that include 600 apartments (these programs involve providing housing to Austrians and immigrants in the same proportion).

In response to the need for temporary accommodation, that is frequent amongst the newly arrived foreign population, the City Halls usually have access to “reception centres” or Hostels that offer maintenance and social services on a temporary level.

Some cities have planned the payment of rental properties for the most underprivileged foreign citizens. This measure has been adopted by **Berlin, Helsinki** and **Copenhagen**.

#### **F) LEISURE AND FREE TIME:**

The majority of the activities designed by the capitals in this area are of a marked intercultural character, aimed at aiding positive interaction between native citizens and new arrivals.

The activities vary from city to city, but they all focus on the discovery of the richness of other cultures, and on different types of artistic expression, and they also provide spaces for reflection, leisure and celebration.

As an example, we can point to the “ROOT & ROUTES” association in the city of **Amsterdam**, which organises activities to highlight the cultural traditions of the different nationalities present within the city.

Similar activities are carried out in **Helsinki**, in the city’s International Cultural Centre.

**Brussels** reports on setting numerous initiatives in motion to liven up public areas and to make these measures accessible to the largest possible number of inhabitants. It is worth mentioning the literary encounters with foreign authors that took place in the city's public libraries.

**Berlin's** "Culture Workshop" is original. This centre was created as an integrational approach to culture, starting its work with a network and participation in the multicultural framework of the city. In this politically independent atmosphere activities such as the annual Carnival of Cultures, the "World in Motion" dance festival, and the "Vital Music" competition are put into effect

### **G) RELIGION:**

All cities attempt to prevent religious differences from adversely affecting peaceful coexistence, and thereby integration.

Whilst no city reports serious disorder or conflict of a religious nature, some cities favour diverse religious practices by assigning municipally owned buildings to this end.

Many cities point out that local government does not intervene in religious matters.

In contrast, it is worth pointing out that the city of **Rome** develops activities to heighten awareness, spread ideas, and bring religions together in schools. In addition, a "Municipal Religions Council" exists involving the participation of 14 different creeds. Its functions are mainly focused on activities of a civil nature.

## **V – PROGRAMS/PROYECTOS DEVELOPED BY THE CITIES WHICH MIGHT BE HIGHLIGHTED AS EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE.**

In this section, the main examples of good practice presented by the cities have been gathered. The section is made up of projects and approaches that are innovative and promising.

Projects aimed at guaranteeing the social participation of the immigrant population favour the right to vote of the non-Community population, whilst projects that hope to promote integration in the job market are more common in northern European cities: **Brussels, Paris, Luxembourg and Stockholm.**

Given that the vast majority of immigrants tend to settle in large cities and are forming a significant part of the population, local authorities are, in general, more in favour of their participation in national government. As cities are bound to respect the national legislation, which is generally restrictive with regards to political participation, the municipalities have looked for alternatives with the aim of allowing non-nationalised immigrants to express themselves (indirectly) in the local political setting.

This has led many cities to create “Consultative Councils”.

In this respect we can highlight **Brussels**’ experience with the “Brussels Council of foreign origin” or the “Consultative Council for Foreigners”; the “Citizens Council of non-Community Parisians” in **Paris** and the campaign to promote registration in the electoral census in **Luxembourg**.

By contrast, southern cities, such as **Madrid, Rome** or **Lisbon**, highlight initiatives aimed at favouring aspects linked to interculturality, the fight against discrimination and the resolution of problems of a legal nature and with regards to reception.

Amongst these, we might highlight Rome’s experiences with the “Observatory of the multiethnic nature of Roman society”, aimed at the study of the attitudes of the Italian population towards immigrants. It is an instrument that allows local policy in this area to be planned.

“The scientific observatory of discrimination in municipal services” or the Program of intercultural information for municipal personnel, are other initiatives set in motion by the Italian capital.

In the same vein, it is worth mentioning **Madrid’s** experience with the “Intercultural Social Mediation Service”, designed to overcome the immigrant population’s difficulties in accessing public resources, and as an instrument for the resolution of conflicts in the local setting.

Finally, **Lisbon** has an “URBACT” program, which consists of sharing experiences to develop new methodologies in the integration process, and a “DROM” project that is of an educational nature, allowing qualified professionals to contact schools in order to soften the impact made by children from immigrant families.

## **VI – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

As the third foundation pillar of European policies, attention must be drawn to Development Cooperation programs.

Earlier, we cited the importance of considering the contribution made to the development of less advanced countries as an element that influences the migratory pressure. This aid contributes to the improvement of the motives that produce migratory phenomena: the poverty and chronic inequality suffered in countries that drive population out.

To this end, numerous bilateral agreements between countries of origin and destination countries exist, along with the common policy of the European Union brought to fruition in the European Funds for official development aid, aimed at transferring resources, not merely of a monetary nature, but also technological resources, training and infrastructure resources, to less developed countries.

In addition, the vast majority of cities have budget programs, larger or smaller in size, aimed at financing cooperation programs managed by the different NGO's, and direct cooperation programs with the municipalities in developing countries.

Normally, the aid provided by each city is aimed at the countries of origin of the largest ethnic groups in the capital, or a country with which the city maintains strong cultural and historic bonds due to its status as a former colony or protectorate.

Thus, **Amsterdam** sends cooperation funds to Surinam, Morocco, the former Dutch West Indies, Turkey and Ghana; **Lisbon** sends funds to Cape Verde, Mozambique, Guinea and Angola; **Brussels** sends funds to the city of Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **Madrid** (which allocates 0.7% of its budget to this Program) sends funds to Latin America, the Maghreb and equatorial Africa.

Within the framework of these actions, aimed at international solidarity, the areas that are most commonly dealt with involve education and basic literacy, professional training, city planning, public health, water treatment, the provision of basic needs, the promotion of women and services for minors.

## **VII – FUTURE PROJECTS**

The vast majority of the European municipalities that were consulted coincided in affirming that the phenomenon of immigration, existing to a greater or lesser degree in all of them, will continue to grow and contribute to the transformation of the demographic profiles of the cities.

Projects aimed at the recognition of, and respect for intercultural values will be maintained, along with measures aimed at the cultural enrichment of the cities, the discovery of different artistic expression, bringing old and new residents together and the prevention of conflicts between ethnic groups.

In the near future, local bodies are studying the possibility of maintaining and increasing all those programs that contribute to a reduction of the disadvantages and differences within the immigrant population. These will include measures that respond to the initial needs of new citizens, facilitate access to adequate housing, prevent urban deterioration, guarantee integrated education and promote programs for integration in the job market without discrimination.

A large proportion of the capital cities highlight the full participation of the immigrant population in city life as an important challenge.

Participation is considered to be the key to integration, which explains the interest in involving foreigners in the running of the city. This is the vision of the future held in **Paris** and **Luxembourg** and other northern European cities that point to the design of projects aimed at the acquisition of new formulae for representation and involvement in decision-making and management of public programs at local level.

Apart from the trends that have been cited, many capitals see participation in European networks as a priority in the immediate future, wherein projects aimed at the foreign population will be drawn up.

We can highlight **Berlin**, and the “POLIS ASYL” project, which includes the participation of the main European local authorities and the “European Asylum Observatory”, of which **Berlin** is a member, along with **London** and **Rome**.

In the same vein, it is worth drawing attention to social projects, financed by Dutch funds, which include the participation of cities such as **Warsaw** and **Budapest**.

## **VIII – SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE IMMIGRATION ORIGINATING FROM THE COUNTRIES SOON TO ENLARGE THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

Many European capitals have reported a significant increase, in recent years, in the number of citizens from those countries that will form a part of the European Union in the near future.

It is to be hoped that, in this respect, the greater liberty of movement of these new citizens guaranteed by European regulations, will increase and accentuate this trend.

Whilst this not an area in which local administration has direct responsibility, some municipalities have planned specific measures to respond to this situation: **London** reports that the government of the United Kingdom has decided to provide new citizens from these countries with free access to the job market upon their entry into the European Union.

**Amsterdam** reports that the Dutch government has planned to create cooperation links with these countries, and **Berlin** states that it views the enlargement of the European Union with satisfaction.

Similarly, other European capitals state that they are anxious to participate in the intense exchange with citizens from the new member states.