Integration of Third Country Nationals

Newsletter

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Facilitating the Integration of Third Country Nationals in Malta

On the 17th June 2015 IOM held the final conference “Facilitating the Integration of Third Country Nationals in Malta” at Hotel Phoenicia. The conference concluded the activities implemented by IOM in the field of socio-economic integration of Third Country Nationals living in Malta.

The conference brought together representatives from the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC) and Identity Malta, Cultural Mediators and Third Country National living in Malta. The discussions focused on the challenges in the integration process with a specific focus on the employment of third country nationals. The aim of the event was to formulate a way forward with key local stakeholders. The Conference is an activity within a project supported by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals aiming to facilitate the socio-economic integration of third country nationals by providing a comprehensive induction programme to living in Malta.

In her welcome speech Dr Martine Cassar, IOM’s Officer in Charge emphasized the importance of integration of Third Country Nationals in the Maltese society. IOM has been working on integration projects since 2011 in Malta and the closure of this project, among others, comes into at an opportune time when substantial changes are taking place on the integration policies within the Maltese context. She also highlighted the importance of this conference where the needs of the government as well as those of the target group are interfaced with the aim of solutions to be found and for possible new developments to feed into the next projects. Ms Iva Antoncic presented the pilot project, implemented by IOM Malta, which aimed to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Third Country Nationals by training cultural mediators and providing orientation sessions on various aspects of life in Malta. Ms Maja Brown Blagojevic and Ms Johanna Eicken shared their experience implementing the training of trainers and the cultural orientation sessions for non EU citizens in Malta. They emphasized the most commonly
expressed challenges by Third Country Nationals are prolonged procedures in family reunification, qualification recognitions, and discrimination in the housing sector and poor working conditions.

The Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties was represented by Mr Silvan Agius, Policy Coordinator on the area of Human Rights, who spoke about the national migrant integration strategy, currently developed by the Maltese government. Mr Joseph Mizzi represented Identity Malta and spoke about the national legal framework and the procedures of issuing the single permit as regards residence and work. Ms Mariella Giuliano, HR Consultant presented on the activities in the field of employment of Third Country Nationals in Malta and Mr David Cutajar, CEO, People & Co Ltd elaborated on the reasons why the recruitment of Non-EU nationals is important to the Maltese economy and international standing.

*The activities are part of the project ‘Supporting Third Country Nationals’ Integration through Their Awareness on the Maltese Legal and Social Contexts’, co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.*

**Online Training for public service providers on intercultural competence**

In June 2015 IOM Malta published the online training for public service providers in the field of intercultural competence. The online training is based on the in-person trainings that took place during April and May and were delivered to public service providers in Malta. IOM Malta based the online training on the materials developed by an interdisciplinary group of trainers who discussed the importance of enhanced intercultural skills in light of changing migration processes in Malta.

The online training was developed as part of an IF integration project objective of the project ‘Mainstreaming a common model of intercultural competence for integration process of TCNs’ with the objective to increase the quality of services to Third Country Nationals (TCNs) living in Malta through strengthened intercultural knowledge and capacity of public service providers, with
a focus on intercultural communication competencies. Equal access to public services is an indicator to measure migrant integration as it is a key factor for successful integration. Strengthening the performance of public service providers in Malta with regard to intercultural and diversity management is essential to ensure accessibility and effective delivery of these services.

The online training can be accessed [here](#).

*The activities are part of the project ‘Mainstreaming a common model of intercultural competence for integration process of TCNs’, co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.*

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**Research Paper: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children**

The research is part of the project ‘Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children’ supported by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals and the Maltese Ministry for Social Dialogue, Civil Liberties and Consumer Affairs.

This report is divided into three parts. Part A sets out an analysis of the legal framework for family migration and the integration of family members in Malta. The legal framework discusses mechanisms for family re-unification and family members’ access to various social services (education, the labour market, social benefits, long-term residency, and citizenship). Under Maltese law, entry into Malta and access to services are based on the status of the family member who sponsored the reunification. TCN family members of EU citizens who sponsor reunification enjoy more advantageous rights than those who are sponsored by TCNs residing in Malta. Such advantages include eligibility for family reunification and better access to the labour market, social services, and residency for people who are legally considered to be family members. These conditions have created many areas for improvement from both the Maltese government and civil society to better facilitate the integration of family members and to preserve the family unit for migrants.
Part B presents the results of interviews with 55 migrants in Malta on the basis of family reunification about their experiences with integration in Malta. The survey was divided into eight sections: employment; education; health; family life; access to information; discrimination and equal rights; life satisfaction and social benefits; and political and civic participation. Respondents were encouraged to include additional information and comments which they thought were relevant. 45 face-to-face interviews were carried out by SOS Malta and teachers of St. Paul’s Bay Primary School who were engaged in the research with the assistance of the Maltese Ministry for Education and Employment. We also uploaded the same questionnaire on the Internet where it was taken on by 15 respondents. Overall, the answers vary from one respondent to another. Some respondents are very satisfied and content with their life in Malta, however a significant number of respondents feel rejected by the society and experience difficulties when trying to find a job or navigating through various public services.

Part C presents a number of practices from seven EU member states that could support the integration of family members in Malta. These practices were selected partly in response to the challenges identified through the interviews presented in part B above. The selected member states are Germany, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK, whilst the identified practices include legislative measures regarding access to family reunification as well as measures relating to employment and self-employment, education, social support and political empowerment.

The paper is available here.

The activities are part of the project ‘Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children’, co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.

Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children

IOM Malta organised a two-day international conference on the integration of migrant families, which took place at Hotel Excelsior in Floriana, Malta on 28th and 29th May 2015. The aim of the conference was to present and discuss the research study on different aspects of integration of family members of Third Country Nationals in Malta. The conference discussed good practices
from other EU Member states which can be recommended for further development within the Maltese context. During the event experts from Malta and other European countries presented research reports covering different aspects of integration with a special focus on immigrant families, spouses and children.

Representatives from the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC), Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity (MFSS), Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security (MHAS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry for Gozo, Local Councils, employers and workers associations, international organizations, diplomatic representations, academia and NGOs were invited to attend the conference.

The Conference was an activity within the framework of the project “Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children” funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals aiming to support the Maltese stakeholders in fostering the socio-economic integration of migrants from non-EU countries who come to Malta through non-asylum channels, with a specific focus on migrant families. The project looked at integration challenges migrant families and especially children are experiencing in Malta, in order to formulate recommendations for long-term solutions.

The activities are part of the project ‘Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children’, co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.

The projects and activities mentioned on this newsletter are co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.
Visit IOM's website to stay informed about current research, events and trainings regarding the integration of Third Country Nationals in Malta and to participate in our forums and discussions.

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