Training of Trainers for public service providers on intercultural competence

In April 2015 IOM Malta implemented six training sessions for public service providers in the field of intercultural competence. The trainings were hosted by the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

The trainings were delivered by expert trainer Rossella Celmi from IOM Rome and local experts Dr Ruth Farrugia of the President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, Ms Marika Podda Connor and Dr Roseanne Cuschieri. IOM Malta brought together an interdisciplinary group of trainees who discussed the importance of enhanced intercultural skills in light of changing migration processes in Malta. The participants expressed that the training has provided them with a better insight into a migrant’s life and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a migrant in different EU countries, while also
equipping them with more knowledge on the terminology, human rights aspects and the necessity for intercultural competence of teachers, health professionals and front liners in Malta.

The objective of the project is 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 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.

Civic Orientation Sessions for Third Country Nationals in Malta

On the 5th and 6th of March 2015 IOM held three-day Civic Orientation Session in the field of socio-economic integration of Third Country Nationals living in Malta. The training focused on different areas of work, education and practical aspects of living in Malta relevant to Third Country Nationals.
The sessions provided practical information on Maltese traditions and customs, different areas of work, education and practical aspects of living in Malta relevant to Third Country Nationals.

The civic orientation sessions are going to be repeated on the 19th, 20th and 21st May 2015 and on 1st, 2nd and 3rd June 2015 on the Blue Door Institute (212 Old Bakery Street, St Andrea’s Scots Church) in Valletta. For more information on the agenda and for the application form please see here.

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.

Pan-European Conference: Integration of Immigrant Spouses and Children

IOM Malta is organising a two-day international conference on the integration of migrant families, which will take place in Floriana, Malta on 28th and 29th May 2015. The aim of the conference is to present and discuss the research study on different aspects of integration of family members of Third Country Nationals in Malta. The conference will discuss good practices from other EU Member states which can be recommended for further development within the Maltese context.

The Conference is an activity within a project 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 looks at integration challenges migrant families and especially children are experiencing in Malta, in order to formulate recommendations for long-term solutions.

For more information and for the registration form please see here.

Migrant Women Association in Malta

The Migrant Women Association in Malta is a group of women, who moved to Malta for different reasons and have set out to help fellow female migrants who may be feeling lost and vulnerable. The women all come from different backgrounds but have a common aim: “We are here for all migrants who are female, no matter where they are coming from, how they came to Malta and why they are here”, says Umayma Elamin Amer, one of the women behind the new non-profit association. Mrs Elamin Amer, who heads the association, is flanked by deputy president Dounia Borg. The association is so far supported by women from Libya, Hungary, Germany, Morocco, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Malta.

The aim of the Migrant Women Association is to promote their voice within the Maltese society while helping the Maltese community to understand how diverse migrants are. It is
important for a migrant woman to become competitive within the job market and be financially stable so she can contribute to the development of the community in which she now lives, and it is important to improve her skills and abilities to be suited to the labour market. “Settling down within a new community is daunting to some but migrant women need to realise that integration also depends on their willingness to integrate”, she says. Migrant women need to keep in mind that if they want the community to know them, they have to first introduce themselves and get to know the community. Most women, who left their hometown for the first time, will encounter many barriers and for this reason the network will be especially targeting vulnerable women. This new association hopes to be able to break down the barriers for the migrant community and build trust, so that they could then tackle delicate issues like genital mutilation and domestic violence. “There is a strong migrant community in Malta and we need to pave the way to minimize the cultural clash. Peace is the way to overcome cultural and religious differences”, Mrs Elamin Amer says.

The association’s first initiative is called “Say Hello”. Its aim is to introduce migrants to the Maltese community without prejudice and familiarize migrants with the Maltese culture.

For more information see the Facebook page ‘Say Hello Initiative’ or send an email to migrantwomenmalta@gmail.com.
St Margaret College Boys Verdala Queen's Young Leaders express their attitude towards TCNs in Malta

St. Margaret College Verdala Queen’s Young Leaders students: Naim Lagana, Shaun Darmanin, Hydrick Camilleri, Alexander Attard, Neil Gulia, George Lee Falzon, Thomas Camilleri and Bradley Fenech with their teacher Mr Martin Azzopardi sdc expressing their attitude towards TCNs in Malta.

The Verdala Queen’s Young Leaders of St. Margaret College, inspired by Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II’s life and speeches, is a group of students which aspires to promote awareness and positive values amongst their classmates. The Verdala Queen’s Young Leaders Group has shared the feedback received from its students on Third Country Nationals and migrants in the Maltese society.

The following moving quotes reflect the students’ attitudes towards Third Country Nationals and immigrants:

“The life of Third Country Nationals and immigrants is as precious as ours and so we should do our very best to support these people,” by student Hydrick Camilleri;

“Though the native country from where our Third Country Nationals and immigrants derive did not offer them enough security it does not mean that we should close our eyes too. We can do
lots to offer these people a better future but we need more full support and help from the European Union,” by student Neil Gulia;

“Before we pass any judgment or criticism towards Third Country Nationals residing in Malta we need to wear their shoes and fully understand their sufferings and situation. This attitude needs to be reciprocal,” by student George Lee Falzon;

“I always dream of a world where people can live together withstanding all their differences and we can achieve this goal if we practice three words: Love, Tolerance and Respect,” by student Thomas Camilleri;

“Having Third Country Nationals amongst us is a great opportunity to share customs and traditions without losing our own national traditions and beliefs,” by student Alexander Attard;

“With Third Country Nationals residing in Malta we are in a position to offer them more sense of justice in a democratic country while sharing with them the beauty and joy of our beliefs, traditions and culture,” by student Bradley Fenech.

Written by Shaun Darmanin, Student at St. Margaret College Boys Secondary, Verdala, Cospicua, Malta.

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**Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)**

The People for Change Foundation and their partners the Migration Policy Group and the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, published the findings of the 4th Edition of the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) for Malta.

The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is a unique tool which measures policies to integrate migrants in all EU Member States, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. 168 policy indicators, covering 8 policy areas, have been developed to create a rich, multi-dimensional picture of migrants’ opportunities to participate in society across 38 countries. The methodology is discussed in further detail [here](#).

MIPEX finds that Malta’s policies can be slightly unfavourable for integration, scoring only 40/100 and ranking 33rd out of 38 countries. The findings show that immigrants in Malta do not yet benefit from a comprehensive integration policy in all areas of Maltese society. Ongoing plans
for a more comprehensive equality law and policy can provide sanctions and incentives for Maltese citizens and immigrants to treat each other equally in many areas of life. These principles of equal treatment are critically important and missing from Malta’s other integration policies. Ordinary non-EU residents are less likely to reunite with family, become long-term residents with equal rights, and become citizens in Malta than in almost any other MIPEX country. Delaying family reunion also delays the integration of these families and their sponsor. By delaying long-term residence, non-EU citizens are denied the equal rights and opportunities that they could use to improve their integration in many areas of life. These restrictions have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable, such as Malta’s beneficiaries of international protection, women, youth, the elderly and the ill.

Malta’s integration policies can be redesigned from an integration perspective, based on evidence of their impact and the current needs in communities. Equal opportunities will also be the driving goal behind new measures to raise education outcomes for immigrant pupils and the democratic participation of long-settled immigrant communities, in order to avoid social segregation. MIPEX has and can be further used by Maltese stakeholders in the preparation of Malta’s National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020, under the lead of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

The national results are available here.  

Source: MIPEX and the People for Change Foundation

Public Consultation: Mind D Gap - Together we can make a difference

The Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC) has embarked on a project entitled Mind D Gap: Together we can make a difference (IF 2013-17). Its aim is to support efforts that enable third country nationals (TCNs) of diverse national, economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration within Maltese society. The project is intended to shape and inform the National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020, which is expected to be launched later on during 2015.
The purpose of the consultation is to provide individuals and organisations alike with an opportunity to comment on the National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015 - 2020. The public consultation can be accessed here.

_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](http://integration-iom.com) 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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