



**“New Citizens for Europe:  
Demographic Change and Impacts  
on Urban Policy Fields”**

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- EURO CITIES
- EURO CITIES' work with migration & integration
- Cities' concern with migration, integration and demography
- Making migration work - Cities contribution to integration (“EURO CITIES Contribution to good governance...”)
- Making migration work - Cities recommendations to other governance levels
- Concluding remarks



## What is EURO CITIES?

- EURO CITIES is the network of large European cities
  - Established in 1986,
  - 120 members [from European Union, Norway, Iceland, Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States (NIS)].
  - Represents more than 100 million people
  - Work is done through 6 thematic fora and some 50 working groups

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## EUROCITIES and migration

- Migration is of central concern to cities
- Social Affairs Forum
  - Working group on Migration
    - "EUROCITIES contribution to good governance concerning the integration of immigrants and the reception of asylum seekers"
    - "Immigration and integration at the local level; political recommendations to national governments and the EU institutions"
    - "EUROCITIES response to the green paper on economic migration"

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## EUROCITIES and Migration: why are cities so concerned with migration?

- Migration of central concern to cities
  - Migrants -documented as well as undocumented- live in cities!
  - Limited competences and resources
  - Cities are affected as:
    - Service providers
    - Responsible for social cohesion
    - Politically accountable
  - Migration and demographic change
    - Unused resources
      - Immigrants overrepresented in unemployment statistics
      - Women
      - Young people in education

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## The role of cities

- Immigration and asylum policy is the affair for national governments
- Implementation of legislation is delegated to national bodies
- Reception, settlement and integration falls upon the local authorities

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## Challenges facing cities

- New challenges in the management of urban society
- Limitations of the welfare institutions
- Social policies and provisions strengthened
- Resources must be increased
- National policies to order and limit the entry for people
- Exclusion of local authorities from the development of policies in immigration and asylum
- Growing number of undocumented immigrants refused residence and refused asylum claimants who stay in the cities

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## Migration to cities - Integration is key!

- Holistic, multidimensional strategies covering various policy areas

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- "EUROCITIES contribution to good governance concerning the integration of immigrants and the reception of asylum seekers"



Concerning integration:

Three main issues:

- The integration of newcomers who obtain permission to settle
- Immigrants and asylum seekers who are refused permission
- The position of established ethnic minorities



## EUROCITIES contribution to good governance...

- Integration:
  - A policy perspective to be an organised set of activities on the part of local public and private entities and on the part of newcomers - a process jointly performed.

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## "EUROCITIES contribution to good governance..."

- Based on common principles
  - Immigration is a common phenomenon
  - Rights of asylum and obligations concerning protection
  - Immigration is enriching and positive as well as a sometimes challenging process to adapt to
  - Integration is a two-sided response
  - To act in fairness and equity
  - To prevent and combat racist behaviour
  - To always preserve and promote the common and basic values of democracy, gender equality, equal rights, social cohesion, respect for cultural diversity, and participation as the basis to construct and strengthen our societies
  - To take measures against the dissemination of misleading information

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## Cities requests other governance levels

- National Governments
  - Recognise key role of cities
    - Dialogue, consultation; use expertise and experience
    - Provide adequate resources and competences
- European Institutions
  - Recognise key role of cities
    - Consultation framework at European level with cities
    - Immigration and asylum policies must not be treated separately from integration policies

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## Concluding remarks

- Integration strategies essential contribution to challenges posed by demographic change
- All stakeholders must work together to improve integration-cities play key role
- Improved co-operation and dialogue between governance levels essential to ensure sustainable solutions and efficient implementation

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