



## EUROPEAN WEB SITE ON INTEGRATION

### SPECIAL FEATURE 2012/01 IMMIGRANT VOLUNTEERING

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#### What is a Special Feature?

Special Features are designed to make the link between current news on integration and EWSI content. In doing so, they help to:

- Put what is heard in the news on integration into a wider and deeper perspective;
- Bring back balance to the often unbalanced portrayal of integration in the news;
- Guide users through the maze of EWSI content by acting as a 'content vade mecum'.

#### How was this topic chosen?

Choosing this topic was inspired by the 2011 European Year for Volunteering.

#### Introduction

In recent years there has been a growing focus on the volunteering activities of immigrants in the EU. At EU level, this is illustrated by the following developments (non-exhaustive list):

- The European Agenda for Integration, adopted in July 2011, states that *"integration policies should create favourable conditions for migrants' economic, social, cultural and political participation to realise the potential of migration."* The Agenda refers to *"Outreach programmes and work placements [which] can help to build capacity within migrant organisations and encourage and support the participation of these organisations at the local level, such as school boards, housing administration etc."*
- The Common Agenda for Integration, adopted in 2005, refers to the need to provide immigrants with *"opportunities for voluntary work"* (under the Common Basic Principle n°7) and to *"support volunteer and internship schemes"* (under the Common Basic Principle n°9) in order to adapt organisation to intercultural reality.
- The legal basis establishing the European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals states that the Fund should support actions that *"increase third-country nationals' civic participation and their role as active citizens by facilitating their participation in mainstream (volunteer) organisations or by supporting the development and implementation at local or regional level of special volunteering programs, internship schemes and capacity building designed thereto"*.
- The three editions of the 'Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners' make numerous references to immigrant volunteering. In particular, the third edition states that the concepts of awareness-raising and migrant empowerment *"bring about frequent interaction among all residents as volunteers, through access to mainstream institutions"*.
- The European modules for migrant integration, which are currently under preparation by the Commission, will include a module specifically related to the *"active participation of immigrants in all aspects of collective life"*.
- The 2008 report by the European Parliament on the role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion states that *"volunteers who travel abroad to volunteer contribute significantly to intercultural dialogue and understanding as do immigrants who"*



*volunteer in their "new" community".*

- Finally, the ex-ante evaluation of the 2011 European Year for Volunteering states that *"volunteering makes an important contribution to social inclusion at the local level. This applies in particular for the integration of migrants. Integration, as a two-way-process of mutual accommodation between the migrants and host society, needs tools and instruments that bring people together and that allow them to work on common projects. Volunteering can contribute to tackling this challenge and help integrating migrants into host communities"*.

The positive effects of volunteering have been highlighted by a number of studies conducted by European civil society organisations. For example, the final report of the INVOLVE project on the integration of third-country nationals through volunteering, states that *"volunteering...is an essential component of what the European Commission called the Common Basic Principles of Integration"* and went on to show how volunteering contributes to integration by:

- Fostering exchange between the migrants and the host community;
- Making the contributions of immigrants visible to the host society;
- Contributing to the employability of migrants through learning necessary skills;
- Educating immigrants through non-formal and informal learning opportunities;
- Helping immigrants to acquire basic knowledge of the host society's language, history and institutions from voluntary organisations;
- Promoting frequent interaction between immigrants and citizens of the host country;
- Encouraging immigrants to share knowledge of their own culture and country, thereby increasing the host populations' knowledge of and openness towards other cultures.

As the INVOLVE project points out, immigrant volunteering can be both an instrument for and indicator of integration. Many EU Member States have recognised the potential of volunteering as an instrument for integration and, as a consequence, have endeavoured to introduce measures to promote immigrant volunteering.

Some Member States have recognised the concept of volunteering as an indicator of integration. In recent years the UK and Denmark for instance have sought to use volunteering as a measure of the 'integration potential' of individual immigrants by formalising its role in the legal naturalisation and/or permanent residency procedures.

In 2008 the UK Government published the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill which provided that applicants for citizenship or permanent residency could speed up their application by submitting evidence of 'active citizenship' activities that they had voluntarily undertaken<sup>1</sup>.

In 2010 the Danish government introduced a points system, whereby applicants have to gain 100 points to qualify for permanent residency. 15 points can be gained by *"having shown yourself to be an active citizen in Denmark by serving on a board or through active membership of other organisations for at least 12 months"*<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See also the UK Government Green Paper *Path to Citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system* (published February 2008). The proposals have since been abandoned.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/nr/exeres/ff9f88af-7948-4dcc-8a20-47362cbfdedc.htm> and <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=132120>. These proposals could be reviewed by the new government.



This raises two questions:

- If one way to assess the integration potential of immigrants is by looking at their volunteering activities, what standard of volunteering should be applied to equal treatment across the board?
- What are the potential consequences of formalising volunteering as a legal criterion to be taken into account when deciding immigrants' citizenship and/or residency rights?

### **A standard for voluntary action?**

If volunteering is to be used in assessing the integration potential of immigrants, it is necessary to apply an objective standard against which all individuals can be evaluated. This is to ensure that the principle of equal treatment is respected. However, in the same spirit and because volunteers tend to operate within organisations – be they public, private or non-profit – and not on their own, organisations should also have a standard to refer to when working with immigrant volunteers.

Standards should therefore be provided for (1) the organisations that provide volunteering opportunities to migrants; and (2) the authority that assesses the individual immigrants who take up these volunteering opportunities in order to evaluate how active they are as citizens.

A standard on volunteering for organisations could be inspired by benchmarks such as the UK Investing in Volunteers quality standard, with a stronger focus on immigrant volunteers. It could cover the following areas:

- Mapping opportunities for volunteering
- Commitment and leadership of the organisation providing volunteering opportunities
- Adequate resources and capacities for managing increasing numbers of volunteers
- Recruitment, training, appraisal and retention of volunteers
- Recognition of volunteers' contributions to the activities of the organisation
- Monitoring and evaluating the use of volunteers

Standards for individual immigrants who take up volunteering opportunities do not exist, as far as the EWSI team is aware. In the case of the Danish points system, migrants' active citizenship can be documented by the organisation in which they volunteer. The eligibility of organisations is evaluated on a case-by-case basis but in order to ensure quality, *"activities must enhance the individual's democratic development and integration into Danish society"*.

In formulating such a standard, the following considerations and potential correlated consequences deserve reflection:

#### Which activities constitute "volunteering"?

How is volunteering actually defined? In the INVOLVE project, the following definition was used: *"Volunteering refers to all different forms in which citizens do unpaid activities for others based on their free will and serving the general interests of society. Volunteering encompasses 'volunteer action' (comprising informal volunteering and volunteering in an organised context), 'voluntary action' (work done in an organised context for mainstream or migrant organisations) and 'voluntary service' meaning fulltime and short term voluntary work (normally not more than one year), often specifically targeted at young persons."*



The Danish points system, on the other hand, privileges formal volunteering, i.e. within an organisation, although this may change following the arrival of the new government in power. The UK 2008 Bill went further by specifically encouraging immigrants to volunteer within “*mainstream*” voluntary organisations.

Given that informal volunteering also plays a role in the integration process, questions arise therefore on how to record, measure and verify informal volunteering activities. In East Africa diaspora cultures, for instance, the act of helping pupils to do their homework or doing home visits to the sick in their networks is not seen as a voluntary activity but as normal social behaviour. To what extent would these informal activities be taken into account?

#### Should some volunteering activities be valued more than others?

Are there volunteering activities that help to produce better integration results than others? Should these activities be valued more than others? For example, the UK Government’s 2008 Green Paper, *Path to Citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system*, specifically encouraged immigrant volunteering within “*mainstream*” voluntary organisations.

In this perspective, how would volunteer activities within immigrant organisations and similar self-help groups be taken into account? This also relates to the need to avoid disillusionment among immigrants that already contribute to life in society by providing support to disadvantaged members of their community.

#### Prescribed number of hours spent volunteering

In order to set a standard of volunteering, it is necessary to prescribe the amount of time spent in volunteering activities. This leads to the question of how much time spent volunteering it is reasonable to ask of immigrants and how often. In turn, this raises the question of how individual situations are considered since some immigrants may be less able than others to take up volunteering opportunities due to disabilities, long working hours, childcare responsibilities, healthcare of relatives, etc.

#### Access to voluntary activities

Some of the studies on immigrant volunteering have highlighted that one of the main barriers is the lack of access to and information about volunteering opportunities. Therefore, a standard for immigrant voluntary action should look into the need for more information about volunteering opportunities and for more efforts to ensure volunteer places with volunteering organisations.

### **Conclusion**

Volunteering is undoubtedly an instrument in support of integration policies.

Volunteering may be used as an indicator of the ‘integration potential’ of immigrants, assessing the extent to which they are ‘active citizens’. In order to ensure that all individuals are treated equally and objectively, standards need to be agreed by stakeholders and followed rigorously by the assessing authority and by the organisations offering volunteering opportunities.

Any prescription in the standards will have consequences on organisations and individuals. These need to be carefully studied.



## Relevant items on the European Web Site on Integration

### Documents

| COUNTRY | NAME   | LINK  |
|---------|--|---|
| DK      | Voluntary work on integration and participation in athletic- and civic organizations                                     | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23340">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23340</a> |
| DK      | Active citizenship in Denmark  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23337">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23337</a> |
| EU-wide | The role of voluntary activities in social policy - Council Conclusions  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23368">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23368</a> |
| EU-wide | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country nationals in volunteering as a means of better integration – Final Project Report | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1282">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1282</a>   |
|         | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - AUSTRIA               | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21400">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21400</a> |
| NL      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - NETHERLANDS           | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1433">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1433</a>   |
| UK      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - ENGLAND               | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1431">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1431</a>   |
| DE      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - GERMANY               | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21398">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21398</a> |
| FR      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - FRANCE                | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1283">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1283</a>   |
| ES      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - SPAIN                 | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1284">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1284</a>   |
| HU      | INVOLVE – Involvement of third country national in volunteering as a means of better integration - HUNGARY               | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21390">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21390</a> |
| EU-wide | Asylum Seekers and Volunteering in Europe: a transnational report based on experiences in Hungary, France and England    | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7107">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7107</a>   |
| CH      | Engage to Change: Should Citizenship be Earned Through Compulsory Volunteering?  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=15037">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=15037</a> |
| EU-wide | Promoting Immigrants' Democratic Participation and Integration   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=19984">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=19984</a> |
| EU-wide | Models of Integration Through Religion, Activation, Cultural Learning and Exchanges                                      | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=16860">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=16860</a> |
| EU-wide | The Potential of migrant and Refugee Community Organisations to Influence Policy   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=8235">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=8235</a>   |
| EU-wide | Gendered Active Civic Participation: The Experience of Chinese Immigrants in Europe                                      | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=6941">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=6941</a>   |
| EU-wide | Motivation for Civic Participation of Immigrants: the Role of Personal Resources, Social Identities and Personal Traits  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4789">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4789</a>   |
| AU      | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4789">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4789</a>   |



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|-----------|--|---|
|           | Austria  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21487">cfm?ID_ITEMS=21487</a>  |
| <b>BE</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Belgium        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4746">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4746</a>   |
| <b>CY</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Cyprus         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21490">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21490</a> |
| <b>CZ</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Czech Republic | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4747">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4747</a>   |
| <b>DK</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Denmark        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4748">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4748</a>   |
| <b>EE</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Estonia        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4750">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4750</a>   |
| <b>FI</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Finland        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4751">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4751</a>   |
| <b>FR</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in France         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4752">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4752</a>   |
| <b>DE</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Germany        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4753">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4753</a>   |
| <b>GR</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Greece         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4754">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4754</a>   |
| <b>HU</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Hungary        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4755">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4755</a>   |
| <b>EI</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Ireland        | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4756">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4756</a>   |
| <b>IT</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Italy          | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4757">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4757</a>   |
| <b>LV</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Latvia         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4758">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4758</a>   |
| <b>LT</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Lithuania      | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1262">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=1262</a>   |
| <b>LU</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Luxembourg     | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4759">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4759</a>   |
| <b>MA</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Malta          | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4760">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4760</a>   |
| <b>NL</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Netherlands    | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4761">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4761</a>   |
| <b>PL</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Poland         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4762">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4762</a>   |
| <b>PR</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Portugal       | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4763">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4763</a>   |
| <b>SK</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Slovakia       | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21489">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21489</a> |
| <b>SL</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Slovenia       | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4764">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4764</a>   |
| <b>ES</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Spain          | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4765">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4765</a>   |
| <b>SE</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Sweden         | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4766">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4766</a>   |
| <b>UK</b> | Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in UK             | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4767">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/resources/detail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4767</a>   |

Links

| COUNTRY | NAME                               | LINK  |
|---------|------------------------------------|---|
| UK      | The Volunteering Road for Migrants | <a href="http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/migration-">http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/migration-</a> |



|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| PL      | Omnes Gentes International Volunteer                       | <a href="http://pulse/2011/volunteering-road-migrants">pulse/2011/volunteering-road-migrants</a><br><a href="http://integracja.lublin.pl/index.php?module=Default&amp;action=ContentController&amp;sectionId=48">http://integracja.lublin.pl/index.php?module=Default&amp;action=ContentController&amp;sectionId=48</a> |
| DE      | Network of Migrant Organisations in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | <a href="http://www.migranet-mv.de/">http://www.migranet-mv.de/</a>   |
| PL      | Intercultural Volunteering - Międzynarodowy Wolontariat    | <a href="http://www.miedzykulturowa.org.pl/cms/miedzykulturowy-wolontariat.html">http://www.miedzykulturowa.org.pl/cms/miedzykulturowy-wolontariat.html</a>   |
| GR      | Medical and Social Welfare Volunteers Center in Rethymno   | <a href="http://www.ethiatreio.com/">http://www.ethiatreio.com/</a>   |
| UK      | The Other Side of the Coin                                 | <a href="http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2011/05/other-side-coin">http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/2011/05/other-side-coin</a>   |
| EU-wide | Project "jointly involved"                                 | <a href="http://www.gemeinsam-engagiert.net/">http://www.gemeinsam-engagiert.net/</a>   |

## News

| COUNTRY | NAME   | LINK  |
|---------|--|---|
| EU-wide | Foreign students and volunteers and long-term migrants - two Commission reports published today                                  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23236">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23236</a> |
| EU-wide | Foreign students, school pupils, trainees and volunteers cannot fully exploit the advantages of travelling and staying in the EU | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23237">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=23237</a> |
| DK      | "Foreigners need points to get permit"   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12792">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12792</a> |
| DK      | "Minister seeks tighter residency rules"   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12061">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12061</a> |
| DK      | Denmark: "6,000 demonstrate against immigration laws"  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=17645">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=17645</a> |
| DK      | Denmark toughens immigration policy  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=16998">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=16998</a> |
| RO      | Romania: LADO Cluj rewards TCN volunteers  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21684">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=21684</a> |
| UK      | Scouting and Mosaic piece together plan for more Muslim Scout volunteers   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=13789">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=13789</a> |
| UK      | Migrant and Refugee Community Forum and Migrants Rights Network survey on volunteering and 'earned citizenship'                  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12078">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=12078</a> |
| EU-wide | 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=8671">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=8671</a>   |

## Integration Practices

| COUNTRY | NAME   | LINK  |
|---------|--|---|
| PL      | Active and Competent - Migrants in Civil Society - Aktywni i kompetentni. Migranci w społeczeństwie obywatelskim | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=19552">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=19552</a> |
| NL      | Full Colour Voluntary Work Centres   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4634">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=4634</a>   |
| NL      | Training immigrant ambassadors - Bridge builders between organisations and difficult to reach population groups  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7560">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7560</a>   |
| NL      | We are the neighbourhood - Young people active in their own neighbourhood  | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7601">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7601</a>   |



|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| <b>NL</b> | Have a heart for each other - Youth counseling by volunteers in the neighbourhood                             | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7574">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7574</a> |
| <b>DE</b> | Integration Scouts for Immigrants   | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=3748">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=3748</a> |
| <b>NL</b> | Living together, caring together - Demand-based provision of services for Turkish and Moroccan voluntary aids | <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7559">http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/practice/details.cfm?ID_ITEMS=7559</a> |



## **Statistics on immigrant volunteering**

### *Statistics at EU level*

Statistics for volunteering are collected and compiled by Eurostat and published regularly in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions in Europe (known as SILC). However, data is not disaggregated by nationality or ethnic origin.

A relevant extract of the most recent SILC is provided below:

**Table 10.1:** Participation in various types of informal activities during the last year, % of population per country, 2006

|    | Helping others | Participation in (activities of)  |                           |   |                     |                          |                               | Total: activity in any of these |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|    |                | political parties or trade unions | professional associations | churches or other religious organisations | recreational groups | charitable organisations | other groups or organisations |                                 |
| BE | 13.5           | :                                 | 7.2                       | :   | 32.9                | 7.1                      | 7.9                           | 44.5**                          |
| CZ | 4.5            | 2.5                               | 6.6                       | 5.9                                       | 21.8                | 3.3                      | 3.2                           | 32.4                            |
| DK | :              | 12.8                              | 12.0                      | 11.3                                      | 33.7                | 11.8                     | 7.7                           | :                               |
| DE | 35.6           | 6.4                               | 3.1                       | 15.4                                      | 21.3                | 5.9                      | 16.4                          | 53.9                            |
| EE | 31.2           | 3.7                               | 3.7                       | 5.3                                       | 14.6                | 2.3                      | 1.1                           | 44.9                            |
| IE | 24.2           | 4.1                               | 7.7                       | 48.2                                      | 35.7                | 23.7                     | 7.8                           | 70.6                            |
| EL | 19.0           | 5.1                               | 6.0                       | 29.2                                      | 8.2                 | 3.3                      | 5.6                           | 50.4                            |
| ES | 44.9           | 3.7                               | 4.4                       | 17.5                                      | 13.8                | 11.2                     | 7.0                           | 63.9                            |
| FR | 17.4           | 2.7                               | 1.0                       | 1.4                                       | 23.2                | 1.5                      | 10.9                          | 41.0                            |
| IT | 24.8           | 4.0                               | 4.7                       | 19.1                                      | 10.4                | 7.1                      | 4.8                           | 46.1                            |
| CY | 67.0           | 8.3                               | 10.3                      | 87.3                                      | 29.8                | 15.5                     | 3.2                           | 95.5                            |
| LV | 34.4           | 7.0                               | 3.8                       | 8.9                                       | 3.9                 | 2.0                      | 4.9                           | 43.4                            |
| LT | 14.0           | 2.0                               | 1.7                       | 21.0                                      | 6.7                 | 1.8                      | 2.6                           | 36.5                            |
| LU | 36.9           | 4.7                               | 11.6                      | 33.9                                      | 35.4                | 17.0                     | 8.8                           | 70.4                            |
| HU | 11.1           | 3.2                               | 2.7                       | 3.5                                       | 5.8                 | 1.6                      | 6.3                           | 21.3                            |
| NL | 54.8           | 4.3                               | 11.6                      | 44.5                                      | 46.8                | 32.8                     | 21.1                          | 87.8                            |
| AT | 30.9           | 5.6                               | 3.7                       | 13.6                                      | 22.9                | 6.6                      | 2.4                           | 52.8                            |
| PL | 51.5           | 3.7                               | 3.4                       | 68.7                                      | 5.9                 | 3.2                      | 1.7                           | 83.9                            |
| PT | 28.5           | 2.8                               | 3.3                       | 43.0                                      | 11.2                | 5.1                      | 2.3                           | 61.7                            |
| SI | 70.7           | 5.3                               | 12.2                      | 22.7                                      | 19.9                | 12.0                     | 23.0                          | 84.5                            |
| SK | 31.7           | 7.3                               | 3.4                       | 35.9                                      | 19.5                | 8.1                      | 13.9                          | 64.1                            |
| FI | 39.1           | 11.1                              | 8.4                       | 15.8                                      | 38.4                | 12.9                     | 17.6                          | 72.1                            |
| SE | 36.3           | 8.9                               | 9.8                       | 19.6                                      | 37.1                | 11.7                     | 24.6                          | 71.3                            |
| UK | .*             | 2.4                               | 4.6                       | 10.6                                      | 35.2                | 8.4                      | 3.0                           | .*                              |

Source: EU-SILC Users' database.

### *Statistics in Member States*

The information provided below for Member States have been extracted from the national reports produced in the framework of the INVOLVE project.

#### **Austria**



Primary research with older migrants (aged above 50) suggests that there is a high potential for volunteering amongst migrants: between 64% and 82% state that volunteering is important for them, nearly 50% would get involved if asked or if they had the opportunity. When asked about voluntary engagement, migrants tend to report neighbourhood help as main activity (nearly 33% do so), which contributes to the fact that migrant volunteering might be under-reported as generally an “organised setting” is deemed to be an element for a volunteer activity excluding spontaneous neighbourly help out. Research suggests as well that migrant volunteering happens to a great extent in migrant organisations – there is a big potential to open mainstream volunteering to migrant volunteers.

## England

Generally speaking, there is a sound infrastructure for volunteering in the UK. Yet, there is no separate policy aimed at facilitating volunteering by immigrants. In the “Compact” agreement, however, Government and the voluntary and community sector agree to tackle discrimination, to ensure that volunteering is open to all. In the UK, 26.4 million people volunteer informally and 17.9 million people volunteer formally, contributing together in 2003 3.8 billion hours of voluntary work. Home Office research suggests that British born people are more likely to be volunteering (informally or formally) than those born abroad. Two studies found that between 22 and 29% of refugees and asylum seekers had volunteered in the UK –those with higher qualifications being more likely to volunteer. There are a growing number of reports exploring volunteering by refugees and asylum seekers but no research has been identified which focuses on volunteering by other new immigrants and third-country nationals in general. Existing research indicates that volunteering by people from black and minority ethnic communities and by refugees and asylum seekers is likely to be informal, and therefore under-reported. They tend not to see their activities as volunteering, but rather as ‘doing what comes naturally’. Based on this, it is likely that many third-country nationals do volunteer in England and make a very valuable contribution.

## Hungary

The 2005 Law on Public Interest Volunteer Activities legally recognises volunteers and their activities and allows for them to sign a bilateral contract with their organisations setting out the obligations and rights of the contracting parties. It is interesting to note that non-EEA citizens are specifically named in this law. It opens the possibility for foreigners to volunteer irrespective of their status and nationality. Migrant volunteering is, thus, theoretically possible, the legal and policy environment is friendly and positive towards it – but the lack of knowledge and awareness of these possibilities both among immigrants and volunteer organisations still hinder further exploitation of these possibilities. The Hungarian INVOLVE partners carried out small-scale action research. During the research, 29 NGOs either dealing with immigrant or refugee related issues or working with volunteers were contacted (including the National Volunteer Centre).

- Only one organisation reported having refugee volunteers. 5 organisations work with foreigners from Western Europe and the US (mostly students). All other organisations that answered the research question (18 out of 29) do not work with foreign volunteers.
- 10 of these latter organisations stated, however, that they had not thought about this possibility and were enthusiastic about developing strategies to involve migrant volunteers. This is evidence that raising awareness about migrant volunteering still is a major challenge in Hungary.

## The Netherlands



|             |             | Volunteering % | Informal help% |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Netherlands | Migrants    | 22             | 76             |
|             | Native-born | 43             | 65             |

Volunteering is highly valued in the Netherlands: around 4 million people (around 25%) volunteer on a regular basis. Research conducted over the past decade (predominantly at local level) indicates, however, that migrant volunteers still tend to be underrepresented in mainstream voluntary organisations in spite of various efforts to promote inclusion. They are nevertheless actively participating in society: 76% of immigrants were involved in giving informal help compared to 65% of the native-born Dutch population. The research showed that second generation of immigrants was even more active (80%) than the first generation (74%). The total participation rate of foreign-born immigrants, thus, does not differ from the native-born population, provided the definition of voluntary action takes into account informal help to others and taking care of the extended family. The focus of migrant voluntary action, however, is geared towards close friends, family members and neighbours. In addition, there is a range of thriving associations in immigrant communities.

### France

The number of volunteers in France has risen from 7.9 million in 1990 (19% of the French population over 18 years old) to 13 million in 2003 (28%). Little is known about the number of immigrant volunteers.

### Germany

Research shows that migrants volunteer mostly within their own communities and networks and less in German or volunteer organisations. Migrant organisations are perceived to play an important role when it comes to identity building, to the creation of bonding social capital, the advocacy of migrant rights and the bridging between migrants and the host society. In this respect, research also revealed the integrative potential of effective, professionally led migrant organisations. Migrant groups that set up effective organisational structures to lobby for their interests tend to be more integrated into the host societies than groups with a lower organisational capacity. Attitudes towards volunteering differ between the migrant population and Germans: As in other countries volunteering is generally defined in Germany as an activity done in a more or less organised and formal context.

However, migrants tend to volunteer informally. Eg there is no wording in Turkish that would reflect the notion of volunteering as Western societies tend to define it. The notion of “gönüllü” comes closest and means “do something with your heart”.

The 2001 report on the state of the art on migrants’ volunteering by INBAS-Sozialforschung (commissioned by the German Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) summarised for the first time research studies in Germany on the issue of migrant volunteering. In the framework of the 2002-2003 MEMVOL project that was initiated by INBAS-Sozialforschung action research on good practice was combined with a collection of research findings on migrant volunteering in five EU Member States.

In 2004 the national survey on volunteering of Turkish migrants (on behalf of the German Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) was carried out by the Foundation Centre for Studies on Turkey (Stiftung Zentrum für Türkeistudien) in addition to the second national survey on volunteering. This study shows that 64% of the Turkish population is already active in associations, organisations



and informal initiatives (a level comparable to the 70% of Germans active). However, only 10% engage in volunteering (compared to 33% of Germans). The higher their level of education and the longer they have stayed in Germany the more likely they are to volunteer. Interestingly, 50% of the interviewees state that they would be interested in volunteering if asked or if they had the opportunity to do so – a huge potential to be tapped into. 35% of the active Turks are involved in both mainstream and migrant organisations, 40% only in Turkish organisations, 16% only in German mainstream organisations, and 9% in international organisations.

## **Spain**

Volunteering in Spain has also only quite recently received comprehensive and structured attention by government. This interest led to the development of several Plans on Volunteering in the 1990s. However there is no data available in Spain on immigrants volunteering – the link between volunteering and integration of immigrants has not yet been established. The Third State Plan on Volunteering (2005-2008) at a national level has not mentioned immigrants as a target for promoting volunteering.