

Activities Report 2017/2018

Migration
Policy
Group

Inform
Mobilise
Innovate

Contents

Message from the Director	02
Vision, mission and values	03
Programs in 2017/2018	04
Zoom in on six projects	06
Providing independent information	08
Harnessing democratic participation	10
Building a community of change agents	12
Spreading the expertise	14
Board, staff and support	16
Research publications	18
MPG Projects on the web	19
Find us	21

Message from the Director

Isabelle Chopin

I have the great pleasure to present to you the Migration Policy Group's Activities Report for 2017-2018.

Our work for inclusive societies throughout these two years was full of both challenges and opportunities. As we continued to grow and build on our achievements of the past 24 years, we also adapted to an environment where the role of think-and-do tanks is more important than ever.

This report summarises our efforts and impact during 2017-2018, particularly in harnessing democratic participation, building a community of change agents and providing independent and accurate information to a diverse range of stakeholders. By highlighting a number of our flagship projects, we sought to provide practical examples of the ways MPG mobilises, innovates and informs in order to fulfil our mission.

The report also elaborates on our upgraded communications strategy, enabling us to reach new stakeholders and uphold a digital presence which corresponds to the tremendous successes of the organisation in the field.

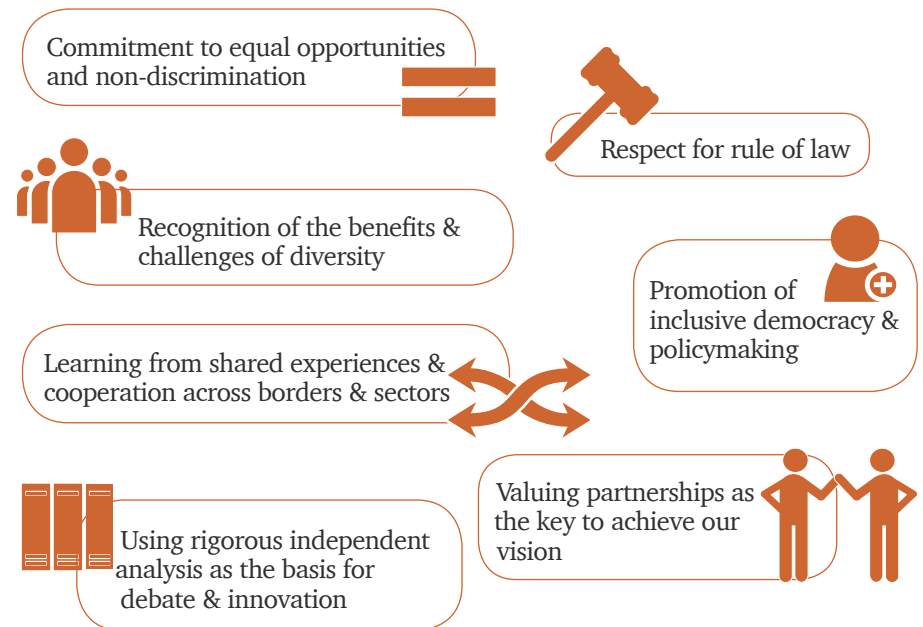
Finally, we cannot do the work that we do without our multicultural staff, partners, board and funders. With their ongoing support and contributions based on a commitment to our shared values, MPG is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead to promote just, open and inclusive societies.

Our vision is a world where everyone fully participates and contributes to an inclusive society and public life. People of all backgrounds must have and should know and use their rights to equal treatment, equal opportunities and safe and orderly migration.

Our mission is to connect people to the best facts, comparative analyses, training, pilot projects and advice, so that stakeholders, policy makers and legislators can improve their practices, policies and legislation. Four primary activities employing multi-dimensional methodologies articulate our purpose:

- 1 Gathering, analysing and sharing information
- 2 Creating opportunities for dialogue and mutual learning
- 3 Engaging stakeholders in policy debate
- 4 Establishing, inspiring and managing expert networks

Our values spans our activities:



Programs in 2017/2018

We inform

We gather, analyse and share independent, reliable **information** and research to governments, lawmakers and civil society to improve legislation, policies and practices.

The Migrant Integration Policy Index is a unique tool to compare and evaluate governments' integration policies in all EU Member States and several non-EU countries.

The European Web Site on Integration is the most comprehensive information website on migrant integration in the EU. It features legal and policy developments, good practices, funding opportunities and analytical articles.

The European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination is a network providing independent information to the European Commission and public on the transposition and implementation of EU non-discrimination law and gender equality law across 35 countries.

Cross-Migration is a comprehensive database of peer-reviewed research on migration to facilitate systematic knowledge accumulation in the field of migration studies.

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism measures refugee integration policies in 14 EU Member States and establishes a framework for evidence-based policy-making.

The Migration News Sheet is an information portal publishing concise and analytical articles covering major developments in the fields of migration and asylum.

We mobilise

We engage citizens and stakeholders in policy debates through campaigns, trainings and networks to promote and **mobilise** active citizenship and build a community of change-agents in Europe.

E-MORE provides a mobile app to report hate speech online and offers a detailed overview and analysis of the occurrences of hate speech online across a number of EU Member States.

Vote Brussels is a voter registration campaign targeting EU citizens in Brussels to foster the inclusion of EU mobile citizens in civic and political life.

SIRIUS 2.0 is the MPG-led network that brings together educational stakeholders to support inclusive policy development and facilitate the integration of children and young people with migration background in education.

We Are a Welcoming Europe is the first European Citizens' Initiative on migration. The petition tool engaged citizens across Europe to change the EU's migration policies and reclaim our right to help migrants and refugees.

The Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum - ReSOMA is a platform to mobilise European researchers, experts and key stakeholders in migration, asylum and integration and facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

We innovate

We create opportunities for mutual learning to help stakeholders adapt to hostile environments and transfer **innovative** practices to a variety of locations and sectors.

The Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue is a partnership that trains and connects immigrant and refugee leaders in the US and Europe to enable them to organise and build alliances with other civil society movements.

Intercultural Cities Index is a critical instrument to assess whether the intercultural integration approach leads to a better quality of life in diverse cities.

Cities Grow provides practical and relevant advice to cities and municipal leaders in Europe on how to address migrant integration challenges and develop effective integration and anti-discrimination strategies.

The EU Urban Agenda is a multilevel partnership gathering stakeholders to develop recommendations for integration indicators on the urban-regional level, as well as tools and good practice transfer in integration monitoring among European cities.

The Migrant Entrepreneurship Growth Agenda - MEGA is a multi-stakeholder MPG-led partnership that helps cities, regions and national actors to strengthen policies that support businesses with an international background.

Zoom in on six projects

Amongst all of our projects in 2017-2018, we chose to highlight two programs for each thematic focus to exemplify how MPG's ability to inform, mobilise and innovate enables it to fulfil its mission.

Under the thematic focus on **information**, the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination and the Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum show how we inform and communicate accurate data to a wide range of stakeholders in order to promote and provide evidence-based policies.

Under the second thematic focus on **mobilisation**, the VoteBrussels campaign and "We Are a Welcoming Europe" European Citizens' Initiative offer a glance at how we mobilise and campaign to reinforce democratic participation on inclusive policies at European and national levels.

And under the thematic focus on **innovation**, the Migrant Entrepreneurship Growth Agenda and the Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue demonstrate how we innovate by facilitating multi-level stakeholder dialogue and coalition-building to improve policy and practice.

I
N
F
O
R
M

M
O
B
I
L
I
S
E

I
N
N
O
V
A
T
E

Providing independent and reliable information to diverse stakeholders

To provide evidence-based research and independent information, we conduct extensive desk research, comparative policy research and analysis, and develop indicators, benchmarks and survey design. Our high-profile publications include the bi-annual European Equality Law Review, the Migration News Sheet and annual Comparative Analysis of Non-Discrimination Law.

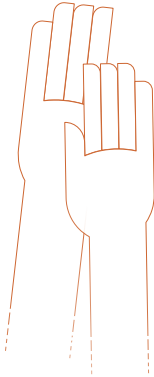
ReSOMA
European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination



Harnessing democratic participation

Building on two successful decades of experience and research on political participation, we have been piloting our own campaigns to directly engage mobile & diverse citizens as future voters.

VoteBrussels
We are a Welcoming Europe - European Citizens Initiative



Building a community of change agents

To develop innovative solutions to key challenges, we invest in lasting change by providing opportunities for mutual learning and coalition building to engage stakeholders in improving policy and practice.

MEGA
Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue



Providing independent and reliable information to diverse stakeholders

In 2017, MPG contributed to the development of the **Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum-ReSOMA** networking platform for stakeholders and researchers to engage in the EU migration, integration and asylum policy debate. The Research Social Platform under the EU's Horizon 2020 programme is fully in line with MPG's identity as a think-and-do-tank.

MPG uses its expertise and networks to mobilise the main research and stakeholder networks on asylum, migration and integration to inform current EU policy debates. ReSOMA focuses on identifying key policy gaps that need to be addressed and set on the policy agenda and gather evidence. Together with migration researchers and stakeholders, MPG identifies and challenges the most common policy perceptions and trade-offs that currently underpin policy-making by producing policy briefs on topics that could reshape the EU's migration policies and by creating new opportunities for consultation between civil society and actors from European institutions.

To provide evidence-based research and independent information, we conduct extensive desk research, comparative policy research and analysis, and develop indicators, benchmarks and survey design. Our high-profile publications include the bi-annual European Equality Law Review, the Migration News Sheet and annual Comparative Analysis of Non-Discrimination Law.

In 2017-2018, MPG continued to contribute to the long-standing **European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination**, which provides independent information to the European Commission and public on the transposition and implementation of EU non-discrimination law and gender equality law in all 28 Member States, EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the accession candidate countries (North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). The network provides comprehensive annual country reports on gender equality and non-discrimination law, thematic reports on specific anti-discrimination or gender equality issues, reports on the latest legal and policy developments, and comparative analyses. The information the MPG provides to the network helps the European Commission ensure compliance and potentially issue infringement proceedings on EU anti-discrimination law.

865
experts

64
publications

35 countries

78 publications
per year

85 legal
experts

1k⁺⁺
subscribers

Harnessing democratic participation

Brussels is the most cosmopolitan city in the democratic world, with one third of its inhabitants being foreign citizens. Although non-Belgians can vote in local elections, Belgium has one of the lowest voter participation rates in Europe. MPG took part in a research-action project called FAIREU to create **VoteBrussels**—a voter registration campaign for the Brussels local elections in October 2018. To do so, MPG conducted focus groups among EU citizens, trained more than 100 volunteers to act as “mobilisers” and coordinated these volunteers to inform nearly 3,000 EU citizens at 80 events. The campaign also secured significant attention through viral social media content and all major Belgian and expat media, with over 15 references, including Politico.

Thanks to the volunteers’ digital and offline efforts, the number of non-Belgian voters in Brussels doubled to reach 49,406 in just 5 months: an increase of 24% compared to the 2012 local elections. Moreover, based on MPG’s recommendations from local focus groups and international best practices, most Brussels authorities developed and simplified their registration procedures, messages and outreach.

80 events in 5 months
100 volunteers trained
3000 citizens informed



Registered non-Belgian voters

x 2

Building on two successful decades of experience and research on political participation, we have been piloting our own campaigns to directly engage mobile & diverse citizens as future voters.

With a conviction that promoting active citizenship also necessitates joint campaigning and European coalitions around a common message, MPG also launched “**We Are a Welcoming Europe**”, the first European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) on migration. More than 200 EU and national NGOs across 18 European member states and dozens of activists joined the coalition to engage the public in migration debates and policies. MPG’s central team built and coordinated the coalitions across Europe and developed multimedia communications in a decentralised campaign.

200 organisations
18 countries
1st ECI on migration

The Initiative’s European-wide online and offline campaigning has put the campaign’s policy demands on the EU’s agenda. The Initiative’s demand to decriminalise humanitarian assistance was supported by a European Parliament resolution in July 2018 demanding guidelines for member states to prevent humanitarian assistance from being criminalised. Moreover, the campaign’s demand for funding additional resettlement opportunities through community sponsorship and humanitarian visas was met by a European Parliament resolution requesting a European Commission legislative proposal to establish a European Humanitarian Visa by March 2019. Finally, the campaign’s demand for greater access to justice was addressed by the European Commission’s June 2018 proposal to fund complaints and redress mechanisms for irregular migrants facing exploitation.

Building a community of change agents

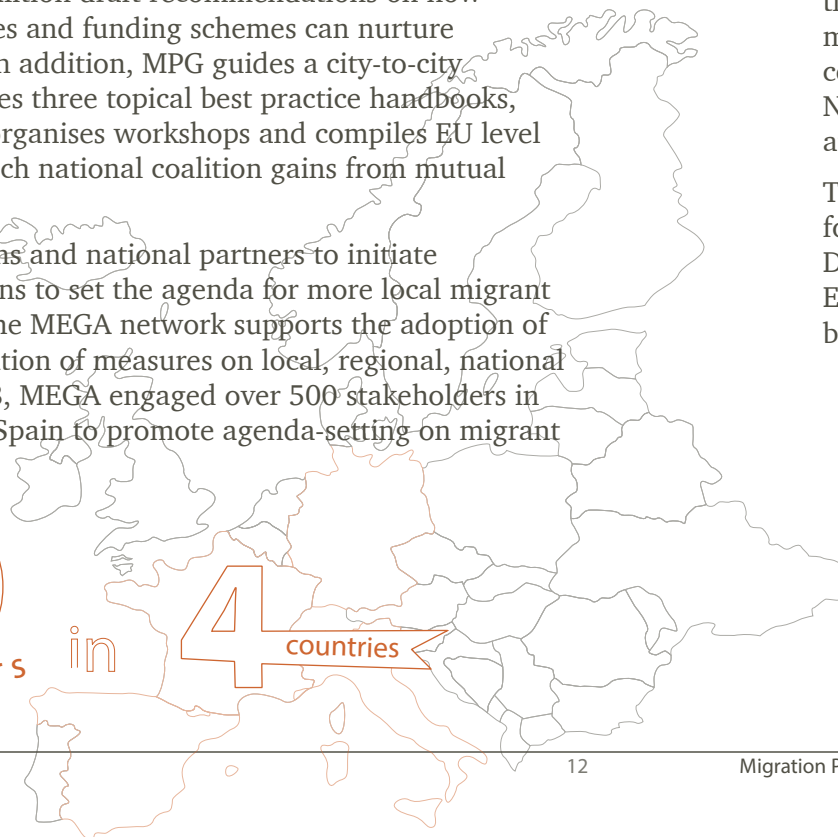
In response to the 2015/16 peak in asylum arrivals, the MPG-led **Migrant Entrepreneurship Growth Agenda - MEGA** is the latest in MPG's long-term commitment to put migrant entrepreneurship on the agenda of major businesses and local authorities. Coordinated by MPG, the Migrant Entrepreneurship Growth Agenda is a joint action brought forward by a consortium of local/regional authorities, chambers of commerce, development agencies, migrant entrepreneurs' networks and research-based practitioners to help cities, regions and national actors strengthen policies that support businesses with an international background and build coalitions on migrant entrepreneurship. The members of the national coalition draft recommendations on how national and regional policies and funding schemes can nurture migrant entrepreneurship. In addition, MPG guides a city-to-city peer review process, produces three topical best practice handbooks, convenes expert webinars, organises workshops and compiles EU level recommendations so that each national coalition gains from mutual benchmarking and learning.

By encouraging cities, regions and national partners to initiate sustainable national coalitions to set the agenda for more local migrant entrepreneurship support, the MEGA network supports the adoption of policies and the implementation of measures on local, regional, national and EU levels. In 2017-2018, MEGA engaged over 500 stakeholders in Germany, France, Italy and Spain to promote agenda-setting on migrant entrepreneurship.

500
stakeholders

in

4
countries



To develop innovative solutions to key challenges, we invest in lasting change by providing opportunities for mutual learning and coalition building to engage stakeholders in improving policy and practice.

As immigrants and refugees around the world face an unprecedented attack on their rights and solidarity, it has become critical to empower immigrants in the debates on migration in Europe. While there are many great networks, platforms and coalitions on immigrant rights, there is a lack of a powerful transnational network of migrant and refugee leaders working together to influence public opinion, debates and policies. For these reasons, MPG worked with partners to launch the **Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue**, a network that trains and connects immigrant and refugee leaders in the US and Europe to enable them to organise and build alliances with other civil society movements. The training is organised around five tracks on core skills and strategies: Community Organising, Community Navigators, Alliance Building, Citizenship & Electoral campaigns, and Strategic Communication.

The first Summit of the Network was held in 2017 in Hamburg for 30 leaders, and the second training took place in 2018 in Dublin, attracting migrant and refugee leaders living in Europe and European and US trainers to harness migrant leadership and the building of migrant-led movements across Europe.



76 participants

50 nationalities



Spreading the expertise

MPG continues to enjoy and enhance its reputation as a trusted broker and apolitical player in developing policy on the European level. Yet in order to expand on its strengths and adapt in a changing migration sector and a highly competitive online media landscape, strategic communications have become a priority for MPG.

MPG started 2018 with a new communications coordinator and a staff retreat to collectively build a strategic communications plan. To these ends, our communications efforts sought to reinforce external communications that present the organisation's successes in the field and expand outreach to new stakeholders.

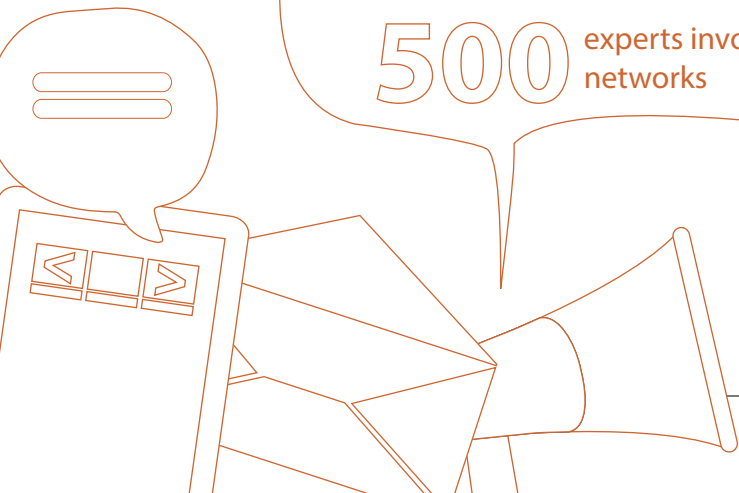
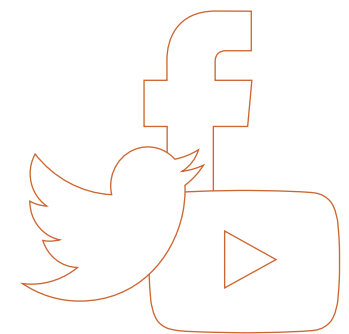
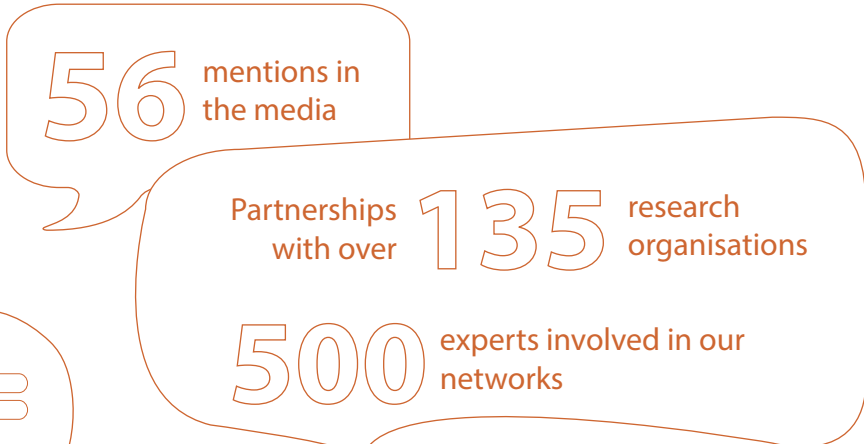
With over 20 years of experience in migration, anti-discrimination and integration issues, we are well known among core stakeholders at the EU and international levels.

We revamped our website and developed it with a simple design and new categories on what MPG does to exhibit MPG's range of work and ensure a user-friendly journey. To strategically communicate to new target audiences, our messages were carefully crafted according to the new strategy.

We continued our social media efforts. To engage with users and grow our audience, we focused on social media dissemination (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) and participation in online conversations. MPG's Facebook page has reached 5,643 likes and has 9,982 followers on Twitter. Moreover, MPG developed and shared 7 videos via social media in 2018 and promoted them to mobilise a broader base.

We continued to grow our listserv and adapted to GDPR. Currently, MPG has more than 10,000 subscribers in segmented listservs for different audiences.

We continued to participate at events to disseminate MPG's work and network.



Board, staff & support

2017/2018

Board

Ilze Brands Kehris, Chairperson

Ms Brands Kehris is the Chairperson of the Board of MPG. She is presently Senior Research Fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights at Lund University and member of the UN Human Rights Committee (mandate period 2017-2020).

Carmen Claudín

Ms Claudín is a Senior Research Fellow Associate at CIDOB, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, where she has been the Director of Research since 1998 and previously Deputy Director from September 1999.

Walter Schmid

Mr Schmid is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Lucerne (Switzerland). From 2003 until 2016, he was Dean of the department of Social Work.

Roeland Vereecken, Treasurer

Mr Vereecken is a corporate finance and M&A professional at Vandelanotte since October 2015. Prior to that, he was active as a legal manager at Mazars Legal Services where he consulted companies, associations and NGOs on all legal aspects of their activities.

Management & support team

Isabelle Chopin	Director
Thomas Huddleston	Research Director
Salima Hassan	Office Manager

Staff

Jules Bejot	Campaign Coordinator
Claire Chevrier	Campaign Coordinator
Carmine Conte	Legal Policy Analyst
Catharina Germaine	Legal Policy Analyst
Monica Li	Content Editor
Paola Mikaba	Content Strategist
Giacomo Solano	Statistical and Policy Analyst
Hind Sharif	Communications & Community Coordinator
Alexander Wolffhardt	Policy Analyst
Aldo Xhani	Project and Financial Manager

We thank former staff members Edith Chambrier, Antonio Cruz, Anne Linde-Joki, Vicki McKenna, Judit Tanczos, Marion Tomsett.

Foundation support

European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)
Heinrich Böll Foundation
Open Society Foundations (OSF)
Social Change Initiative



Research publications 2017/2018

Cities as providers of services to migrant populations
Comparative analysis of non-discrimination law in Europe 2017 & 2018
Combatting Disability Discrimination and Realising Equality: A comparison of the UNCRPD and EU Equality and Non-Discrimination Law
Cross-Cutting Analysis of Data Collected Using the eMORE Webapp in 9 EU Countries
Crackdown on NGOs assisting refugees and other migrants
EU return policy
Equality bodies making a difference
European equality law review 2017/1 & 2
European equality law review 2018/1 & 2
Impossibility and hardship of family reunion for beneficiaries of international protection
Lost in transition? The European standards behind refugee integration
Migration-related conditionality in EU external funding
New asylum recast may undermine the EU's greatest impact on refugee integration
Religious clothing and symbols in employment
Responsibility sharing in asylum policy
Safe third countries concept in EU asylum policy
SIRIUS Watch - Role of non-formal education in migrant children inclusion: links with schools
Social inclusion of the undocumented migrants
Sustaining mainstreaming of immigrant integration

MPG projects on the web

Cities Grow	www.integratingcities.eu
Cross-Migration	www.crossmigration.eu
European network of legal experts in gender equality & non-discrimination	www.equalitylaw.eu
European Web Site on Integration	https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration
Migrant Entrepreneurship Growth Agenda	www.migrant-entrepreneurship.eu
Migrant Integration Policy Index	www.mipex.eu
Migration News Sheet	www.migrationnewsheet.eu
National Integration Evaluation Mechanism	www.forintegration.eu
Research Social Platform on Migration & Asylum	www.resoma.eu
We Are a Welcoming Europe	www.weareawelcomingeurope.eu

Migration Policy Group

205 Rue Belliard, Box 1
1040 Brussels, Belgium

+32 2 230 59 30

info@migpolgroup.com

www.migpolgroup.com

@MigPolGroup on Twitter

@MigrationPolicyGroup on Facebook





The Migration Policy Group is an independent think-and-do tank based in Brussels with over two decades of action to support open and inclusive societies.

MPG's purpose is rooted in its ability to inspire networks to provide evidence-based projects, research and campaigns in the areas of integration, migration and anti-discrimination. Working with partners across Europe and beyond, MPG maintains durable relationships with diverse stakeholders and is a recognised advisor to international organisations and national governments.

Since MPG's establishment in 1995, we have played a pivotal role in shaping European migration, integration and anti-discrimination laws and policies. Through innovative research methodologies, European-wide networks and in-house expertise, MPG sets agendas and drives change at the EU level.

Migration Policy Group

205 Rue Belliard, Box 1
1040 Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 230 59 30
info@migpolgroup.com
www.migpolgroup.com