



Urban Agenda - Inclusion of Migrants & Refugees

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Objective of the Public Feedback

In order to realise the full potential of the European Union and deliver on its strategic objectives, the Urban Agenda for the EU strives to involve Urban Authorities in achieving Better Regulation, Better Funding and Better Knowledge.

Established with the 'Pact of Amsterdam' of May 2016, the Urban Agenda for the EU is a new working method to ensure maximum utilisation of the growth potential of cities and to successfully tackle social challenges. It aims to promote cooperation between Member States, Cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders, in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe.

As stated in the Pact of Amsterdam, Thematic Partnerships are the key delivery vehicle towards realising the goals of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Pact of Amsterdam lists 12 Priority Themes for the Urban Agenda for the EU. On each Theme a Partnership has been formed.

Four Partnerships were set up in the first half of 2016 and have now developed draft Action Plans. These are: Inclusion of Migrants and refugees (coordinated by the City of Amsterdam and DG HOME); Air Quality (coordinated by The Netherlands); Urban Poverty (coordinated by France and Belgium) and Housing (coordinated by Slovakia and the city of Vienna).

The goal of the **Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees** is for cities to be able to influence European legislation, funding and knowledge sharing. With more influence on these three themes, cities would be able to deal much more efficiently with challenges concerning integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees.

The Partnership focuses on the mid- and long-term view of integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees. It has identified the following topics that need to be addressed in order to ensure successful integration and inclusion: Reception and interaction with the local community, Housing, Work, Education and the cross cutting issue of vulnerable groups.

This Public Feedback is part of a process to evaluate the actions and recommendations developed by the Partnership “Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees”. The Action Plan would greatly benefit from the insights of relevant stakeholders, who have the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of actions and recommendations to be implemented in the future.

The results of the online Public Feedback will be taken into consideration by the members of the Partnership on Urban Poverty for the preparation of the final version of the Action Plan, which will be presented to the DG meeting on urban matters (DGs responsible for urban matters in their Member States, the European Commission, the CoR, CEMR and EURO CITIES) taking place on 26 October 2017.

The individual contributions to this Public Feedback will not be published on the Internet. At the beginning of the questionnaire, you will be able to choose between providing your personal details or submitting your contribution anonymously.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COLLABORATION!

Target group(s)

Contributions are sought from individuals and national authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, social partners and civil society, academic institutions, financial institutions, international organisations, EU Institutions and Agencies, based in EU Member States or third countries.

Period of the online Public Feedback

From 10/07/2017 to 22/08/2017

How to submit your feedback

You can contribute to this Public Feedback by filling out the online questionnaire, available hereafter. You may find it useful to refer to the background documents which are published alongside this consultation.

Individual contributions to this Public Feedback will not be published on the Internet. Answers to the online questionnaire will be taken into account by the Partnership as input to a revised version of the Action Plan, which will be published on Futurium before the end of 2017.

Replies may preferably be submitted in English.

Reference documents and websites

1. [Background Paper to the Public Feedback to the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees](#)
2. [Pact of Amsterdam](#)
3. [Futurium – section dedicated to the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees](#)

Disclaimer

The information and views contained in the online Public Feedback are those of the Partnership and do not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained therein. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the content and the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Contact details

Secretariat of the Urban Agenda, Communication team

E-mail: UA.communication@ecorys.com

* 1. Are you responding as an individual:

- Yes
- No

* 2. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation:

- Yes
- No

* 2.a. Are you a public, private or non-governmental organisation?

- Public
- Private
- NGO
- Other

* Please specify

EuroHealthNet

* 2.b. In which country is your organisation based?

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
-

- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

3. Name, surname and position of the respondent (this information will be kept strictly confidential)

Cristina Chiotan, Policy Senior Coordinator

4. Name of the institution (if applicable - this information will be kept strictly confidential)

EuroHealthNet

5. Email ((this information will be kept strictly confidential)

c.chiotan@eurohealthnet.eu

THEME 1 : Better Funding

The Urban Agenda will contribute to identifying, supporting, integrating, and improving traditional, innovative and user-friendly sources of funding for Urban Areas at the relevant institutional level, including from European structural and investment funds (ESIF) in view of achieving effective implementation of interventions in Urban Areas. The Urban Agenda for the EU will not create new or increased EU funding aimed at higher allocations for Urban Authorities. However, it will draw from and convey lessons learned on how to improve funding opportunities for Urban Authorities across all EU policies and instruments, including Cohesion Policy.

The actions presented below have been prepared by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees and aim to address the Better funding theme.

[DRAFT ACTION 1 - Establishment of Financial Blending Facilities for cities and SMEs](#)

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 1 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the lack of easy direct access for cities/SMEs/social impact funds to EU funding targeting refugee integration, in particular the AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund).

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
* To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

This action's aim is beyond our scope and expertise. We therefore will not be able to respond to many of the questions. However for some questions we would like to highlight the importance of including the health perspective of migrants and refugees, their needs and potential strategies to addressing those health needs.

Presentation of ACTION 1

The **objective** of this action is to establish one or several blending facilities, which combine the delivery of grants from EU funding with loan financing provided by the EIB. A potential implementation could be the creation of a blending facility between the AMIF grant resources and the EIB loan resources.

Foreseen **activities** include:

- The preparation of draft concept papers for one or several blending facilities;
- Interviews with cities, MS and financial institutions;
- The elaboration of proposals for the necessary regulatory changes to EU regulations;
- The negotiation of the facility related documentation.

The implementation of this action is expected to lead to the provision to cities/social impact funds of a direct access to additional funding for migration/integration-related investments. It will also lead to an increase in the possibilities for SMEs to receive a loan from financial institutions for migration/refugee-related investments.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly Yes
- Partially Yes
- No
- I don't know

2.a. Please justify briefly your choice

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

DRAFT ACTION 2 - Establishment of Financial Blending Facilities for microfinance

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 2 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the barriers which newly arrived or settled migrants face when they attempt to start a business in their host locality (e.g. hurdles in access to funding, lack of familiarity with administrative and legal requirements, legal restrictions).

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
* To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

Actions that support and facilitate social and labour market integration of migrants, including developing local businesses that include participation to the tax system and access to health and social services are important ways of addressing health inequalities and combating poverty and social exclusion while supporting diversity and participation in local communities.

Presentation of ACTION 2

The **objective** of this action is to strengthen the accessibility and provision of business development services, as part of microloan packages. To do so, this action aims to promote and make better use of the EIF microfinancing possibilities.

Foreseen **activities** include the potential implementation of a pilot programme which could introduce embedded grants into the EaSI (European Commission's Programme for Employment and Social innovation) guarantee product. Grants of EUR 400 per micro-borrower would be paid to financial intermediaries who lend to migrants and refugees and combine the microloan with business development services.

The implementation of this action is expected to help micro-enterprises of refugees and migrants in accessing business development services.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

2.a. Please justify briefly your choice

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

[DRAFT ACTION 3 - Reduce regulatory and practical barriers for cities and local authorities and promote tools to guarantee a better access to EU integration funding](#)

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 3 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the issue of the problematic access for cities to ESIF or AMIF funding. Cities in general do not have direct or sufficient access to integration funding as this funding is channelled through regional managing authorities or central governments.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
*To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.a. Please justify briefly your scoring

One of the difficulties in accessing ESI Funds has been that processes of applying for and administering projects and programmes are complex, cumbersome and require specialised knowledge. This has enabled certain sectors that have developed this expertise to benefit over others and it has discouraged others, including new actors, from (re)-applying. Making funding easier accessible can ensure a larger spectrum of applications, including new and relevant actors like public health authorities at local and regional level.

Presentation of ACTION 3

The **objective** of this action is to provide guaranteed city access to EU integration funding, namely by reflecting on the regulatory and by developing solutions for the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

Foreseen **activities** include:

- Issuing a practical guide on the use of EU funds in supporting cities' effort for inclusion of migrants and refugees;
- Analysing obstacles/barriers towards EU funding and best practices; Meeting with relevant stakeholders;
- Drafting recommendation for the post 2020 EU funding regulation;
- Steering towards a new post 2020 regulation for a single fund for EU Migrant Integration Measures;
- Drafting a communication strategy.

The implementation of this action is expected to lead to the elaboration of a recommendation paper to be put forward by April 2018.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

2.a. Please justify briefly your choice

The accessibility of EU integration funding for the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework is crucial for supporting cities in combating social exclusion of migrants while ensuring access to health and social services. This measure is highly important for addressing health and social inequalities between EU regions and cities, therefore the practical guide, the recommendation of funding post 2020 or the single fund for EU Migrant Integration Measures should integrate health and access to health services, together with criteria for ensuring health and social protection, and actions to support active inclusion and labour market participation.

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

3.a. If yes, which other actions would you propose? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

Could you identify other bottlenecks to be tackled with more urgency than the abovementioned ones?
Please elaborate

Would you like to be kept informed on the developments of this theme and on the activities of the Partnership?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate your email address

c.chiotan@eurohealthnet.eu

THEME 2 : Better Regulation

Drawing on the general principles of better regulation, EU legislation should be designed so that it achieves the objectives at minimum cost without imposing unnecessary legislative burdens. In this sense the Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the Better Regulation theme. The Urban Agenda for the EU will not initiate new regulation, but will be regarded as an informal contribution to the design of future and revision of existing EU regulation, in order for it to better reflect urban needs, practices and responsibilities.

The action presented below has been prepared by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees and aims to address the Better regulation theme.

DRAFT ACTION 4 - Protection and reinforcement of the rights of children with a migrant background from a multilevel perspective

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 4 to be addressed

This action aims at ensuring the reinforcement of the rights of migrant children, namely tackling the issues of:

- Lack of appropriate protection of the unaccompanied minors (UAM);
- School segregation, in the form of concentration of migrant children in schools

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
* To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

It is important that the action recognises the need to endorse the rights of migrant children and include access to health care and social protection for all migrant children, including those coming from families of undocumented migrants. Although the phenomenon of undocumented migrants is less discussed and recognised at political level, the numbers of undocumented migrants are

increasing and the lack of a legal status lead to no access to healthcare services and social protection for them, their families and children (Fundamental Rights Agency Report, 2011, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2012/migrants-irregular-situation-access-healthcare-10-european-union-member-states>).

In most member states, the healthcare entitlements are mainly covering emergency care. This could lead to high costs for the healthcare systems due to limited access to medication and care, disease prevention or health promotion programmes (<http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/healthcare-entitlements>).

Presentation of ACTION 4

The **objective** of this action is to focus on:

- Generating better regulation with respect to UAMs;
- Achieving inclusive education for children with migrant background.

Foreseen **activities** include:

- The elaboration of recommendations on the reform of the Common EU Asylum System with regards to the impacts on UAMs from the perspective of EU cities;
- The implementation of a pilot action in two cities and the development of methodological guidance on addressing educational segregation, potentially leading to local level policy recommendations and the adoption of legal amendments at the local level.

The implementation of this action is expected to lead to a better protection of UAM rights and to improve the level of inclusion of migrant children in the education system at the local level.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

2.a. Please justify briefly your choice

The action taken is important for reducing inequalities in the early development of physical and emotional health and cognitive linguistic and social skills. It provides the opportunity for integration, for example, to avoid later loss of productivity and exclusion in the labour market of young people from migrant families. The methodological guidance and legal amendments proposed by this action should include criteria for ensuring high quality maternity services, parenting programmes, childcare and early years education. Outreach activities including health and social mediators should be ensured to secure the take-up by children from disadvantaged and migrant families. This action could help address inequalities in access and quality of services between regions and cities and could guide the development of services that respond to the needs of young children and build their resilience and well-being.

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

3.a. If yes, which other actions would you propose? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
 No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

The Marmot review final report: Fair society, healthy lives, available here: (http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/economics/20100222_marmotreport/en/).

Could you identify other bottlenecks to be tackled with more urgency than the abovementioned ones?
Please elaborate

Would you like to be kept informed on the developments of this theme and on the activities of the Partnership?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please indicate your email address

c.chiotan@eurohealthnet.eu

THEME 3 : Better Knowledge

The Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to enhancing the knowledge base on urban issues and the exchange of best practices and knowledge. Reliable data is important for evidence-based urban policy making as well as for providing tailor-made solutions to major challenges. Initiatives taken in this context will be in accordance with the relevant EU legislation on data protection, the better use of public sector information and the promotion of big, linked and open data.

The actions presented below have been prepared by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees and aim to address the Better knowledge theme.

DRAFT ACTION 5 - Establish a peer to peer academy on migrant and refugee integration for policy makers

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 5 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the lack of the necessary expertise and capacity of local authorities to address quickly and effectively integration related challenges.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
*To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

This action is important for addressing the inequalities in capacities and skills for, e.g. accessing and using existing EU funds to address timely and effectively migrant and integration related issues. Opportunities need to be created for public health and local authorities to build expertise to address social determinants of health and health inequalities, including capacities of administrators and public health professionals to monitor health inequalities, incorporate health equity in the design and implementation of programmes and maximise the health equity impact of initiatives taken within and beyond their sectors (http://www.health-inequalities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Final_EA_Regional_SF_Review_Report1.pdf).

Presentation of ACTION 5

The **objective** of this action is to systematically share experience and best practice on integration across Europe, in order to enhance the capacity of local authorities to develop successful integration policies.

Foreseen **activities** include:

- The assessment of the needs and feasibility in setting up the academy, via the consultation of relevant stakeholders.
- The implementation and evaluation of a pilot action, consisting of 2-3 training modules, with around 10 participants per module.

The implementation of this action is expected to lead to the establishment of an academy for policy makers at the local level, which would serve as a platform for trainings and sharing of successful experience as well as a network of peers.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

2.a. Please justify briefly your choice

The academy should include lessons on accessing the EU funds and addressing health and social inequalities and should be aimed at local policymakers of various sectors.

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

3.a. If yes, which other actions would you propose? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

DRAFT ACTION 6 - European Migrant Advisory Board

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 6 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the failure in including migrant and refugees in the design and implementation of integration and inclusion policies. Policy is made for migrant and refugees but not with them.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
* To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

Presentation of ACTION 6

The **objective** of this action is to include migrants and refugees in the process of finding solutions to the obstacles to integration and inclusion. The implementation of this action is expected to lead to the launch of the European Migrant Advisory Board, to be officially installed in October 2017. The Board will comprise migrants and former refugees and will offer advice to the Partnership for their involvement in the development and launch of inclusion policies.

Foreseen **activities** include:

- The selection of the members of the Advisory Board and the elaboration of its organisational structure;
- The design of the program for the Advisory Board;
- The design of a monitoring and evaluation system;
- The collection of cases on which advice can be provided;
- The elaboration of a communication and marketing strategy.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

3.a. If yes, which other actions would you propose? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

Could you identify other bottlenecks to be tackled with more urgency than the abovementioned ones? Please elaborate

DRAFT ACTION 7 - Urban indicators - Facilitating evidence based integration policies in cities

Presentation of BOTTLENECK 7 to be addressed

This action aims at tackling the issue of the uneven availability of statistics on integration at a local level as well as the lack of a well-established transfer of knowledge among cities on evidence-based policy making on integration.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent you find this issue crucial and why?

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	1 - Weakest	2 - Weak	3 - Regular	4 - Strong	5 - Strongest	N /A
* To what extent you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.a. Please briefly justify your score

Availability of statistics on integration at local level is important to support the development of evidence-based, targeted, and cost-efficient policies and interventions for better integration, to address health inequalities and the social determinants of health. Comparability and transferability of data in relation to health between EU countries and regions is important. Moreover, health and social indicators should be in line with the key targets under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030.

Presentation of ACTION 7

The **objective** of this action is to improve the statistical base regarding integration- on urban/regional level and to enhance the transfer of knowledge among European cities on evidence-based integration policy making .

Foreseen **activities** include:

- A review process within a Working Group bringing together cities and EU-level stakeholders.
- A state of play-analysis of current activities leading to an assessment of needs and gaps.
- The implementation of a feasibility test by Eurostat to depict immigrant integration indicators on infra-state level, based on the Labour Force Survey tables.
- The elaboration of a report on the exploitation of various cross-country sample surveys for integration data on urban level.
- The mapping of good practices of evidence-based integration policy-making in European cities.
- The publication of an options report, containing Working Group recommendations on the way forward.

The implementation of this action is expected to lead to:

- The broadening of the European wide knowledge base on migrant integration at urban/regional level.
- The elaboration of a European toolbox for evidence-based local integration policies.

*2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I don't know

*3. According to your experience, do you believe that the bottleneck presented above could be better tackled through other action(s)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

3.a. If yes, which other actions would you propose? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation

*4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

Could you identify other bottlenecks to be tackled with more urgency than the abovementioned ones? Please elaborate

Would you like to be kept informed on the developments of this theme and on the activities of the Partnership?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate your email address

c.chiotan@eurohealthnet.eu

Contact

UA.communication@ecorys.com
