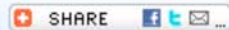


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Cultural Diversity and Integration of Immigrants in the European Union



Towards a Common EU Immigration Policy

Immigration is an international phenomenon that affects all Member States of the European Union. EU Heads of State have recognized that a common approach is necessary to manage migration and they have decided to harmonize national legislation on immigration to regulate migration flows in line with the needs of the economy and the ability of the EU to absorb and integrate new immigrants.



The integration of third-country nationals in EU Member States is one of the greatest challenges facing the common immigration policy and a key element in promoting economic and social cohesion within the EU. In view of the projected decline in the working-age population of the EU after 2010, increased migratory flows will be needed to meet the future needs of the EU labor market. The European Commission's first annual report on migration and integration in Europe, presented in July 2004, states that improved access to the labor market, better language skills and education will be essential conditions for the successful integration of migrants. The EU has taken several actions to promote the integration of migrants into their host societies, including the exchange of information and good practice on integration through the National Contact Points for integration, the revision of employment guidelines calling for better integration of immigrants in the job market and the harmonization of the collection of data and statistics on immigration. The EU has also put in place a legal framework to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia, which can seriously impede the integration process. The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in Vienna provides the EU with objective, reliable and comparable information and data on racism, xenophobia, islamophobia and anti-Semitism at the European level in order to help the EU and its Member States to establish measures or formulate courses of action against racism and xenophobia.

Furthermore, intercultural dialogue is an important dimension in many EU policy areas including immigration. Intercultural dialogue is an important instrument for citizens and all those living in the European Union to manage the increasingly open, diverse and complex societies and galvanize them. The Commission has proposed to declare 2008 the "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue."

Key EU Links:

- Directorate General for [Freedom, Justice and Security](#):
 - [Towards a common European Union immigration policy](#)
 - [Integration of Third-Country Nationals \(INTI\)](#): INTI is a European Union funding program for preparatory actions

promoting the integration into the EU Member States of people who are not citizens of the EU. Its aim is also to promote dialogue with civil society, develop integration models, seek out and evaluate best practices in the integration field and set up networks at European level.

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- [EU Fundamental Rights Agency \(FRA\)](#) [Formerly European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)]
- [EU Languages Portal](#)
- [Languages in the EU](#)
- [FRONTEX](#) - EU Border Security Agency
- [European Asylum Support Office](#), February 18, 2009
- [EU Focus: The EU and Immigration: Opportunities and Challenges](#)  (en español )
- [EU Insight: The EU & the Fight Against Human Trafficking](#) 
- [EU Insight: The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue — Together in Diversity](#) 
- EU [Border Management System](#); [Details](#); [FRONTEX](#); [European Border Surveillance System \(EUROSUR\)](#); [Schengen](#)

EU Member State Links:

To find out more about the EU Member States' integration policies, please visit:

- [Denmark](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Sweden](#)
- [United Kingdom](#)

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