



**Cities and Regions  
for Integration**  
Regions getting results



## DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

### Migrant and Refugee Integration in Small Territories: A Win-Win Opportunity

European Week of Regions and Cities, 10 October, 11:30 – 13:00

Building CoR - VMA building, Room VMA 3, Rue Van Maerlant, 1040 Brussels

**Interpretation:** from and into EN, FR, ES and from DE, IT, NL

#### Background

Place matters when it comes to migrant and refugee location and integration. According to the OECD, emergency reception facilities are mostly lacking in large cities while only 11% of the small and medium, regional towns indicated this as a concern. In addition, some rural areas consider that migrants could be an answer to their population ageing challenge and/or limited attractiveness of their job markets.

The seminar is the second in a series of events for local policy-makers, experts, financing institutions, donors, and civil society representatives to discuss how to support the integration of migrants in Europe. It is part of the *Cities and regions for integration initiative*, launched on 10 April by the CoR President Lambertz.

#### Objective

The workshop will discuss **how small and medium size territories contribute to the sustainable integration of migrants and refugees, with a focus on two main challenges – the integration of migrants and refugees on the labour market of such territories and the migrants' and refugees' access to key infrastructure and services.**

The objectives of the session will be to share knowledge and experience on the actions, needs and expectations of small and medium sized cities regarding integration of migrants and refugees; investigate how sustainable migrant integration could become a factor for regional development; discuss the European Funds' role in supporting more effective integration policies in Europe; and develop a community of practice on the integration of migrants and refugees in small and medium sized cities.

#### Participants

- Public authorities: European regions; Small and medium sized cities; Member States; Associations of subnational governments; the EU
- Businesses
- NGOs and migrant representatives
- Banks and donors
- Any other participants to the EWRC.

**Format & Key topics:** Workshop, Davos-style (10 minute intervention/speaker, followed by questions and conclusions). The speakers should engage with one / two of the following topics while providing





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very brief data on the challenge (e.g. number of migrants/refugees; existing demographics and challenges):

- [General Topic] How do small and medium size territories contribute to the sustainable integration of migrants and refugees?
- How do policy makers / civil societies in these regions integrate migrants and refugees on the local / regional labour market? What has been the role / contribution of the private sector?
- What made the solutions identified for labour market integration work on the short/medium/long term? What would be needed to have these solutions turn sustainable?
- In case of infrastructure / access to services gap, how were these addressed? What could be done better in the future to ensure local infrastructure and services are planned for and developed sustainably?

**Theme:** The Future of the EU and the roles of the Regions and Cities

**Partners:** CEB (leading partner for the event); European Committee of the Regions, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCDE)

## AGENDA

11:30 – 11:35: Opening, Tomáš BOČEK, CEB Vice-Governor

11:35 – 12:35: Moderator: Petra HUECK, Director, International Catholic Migrant Commission Europe

Speakers:

1. Claire CHARBIT, Head of Unit, Territorial Dialogues and Migration Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
2. Guillaume CROS, Vice-President of the Regional Council, Region of Occitanie, France
3. Miguel MOTAS GUZMÁN, Regional Minister for Employment, Investigation and Universities, Region of Murcia, Spain
4. Andros KARAYIANNIS, Mayor of Deryneia, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Cyprus
5. Angelo MORETTI, Caritas Benevento, Italy
6. Klaas MOLENAAR, Em. professor (fellow), Financial Inclusion and New Entrepreneurship, Haagse Hogeschool

12:35 – 12:55: Q&A

12:55 – 13:00: Closing Note, Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, President of the European Committee of the Regions

13:00 – 14:00: Networking lunch (on premises)

