

## A SOCIAL PLATFORM FACT SHEET

**MIGRATION - CIVIL DIALOGUE**

Strengthen the EU institutions consultative process with, and by, migrants and their civil society associations

**This fact sheet outlines Social Platform's position on migration in relation to civil dialogue. It is based on Social Platform's position paper on migration, which includes the human rights concerns of regular and irregular migrants, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.**

Participation in public and political life is an important element to integration. However, migrants are particularly under-represented and they often feel isolated and alienated from the host society. They are either not authorised to vote in local elections or do not have access to information about their rights and how they can participate in the political debates and democratic life. Naturalisation and citizenship rights on the other hand foster the political participation of migrants.

Migrant associations and civil society organisations, including migrant women's organisations, have a key role to play in contributing to the European migration and integration policy debate. This dialogue is essential to fight against mutual stereotypes, to show diversity as enriching rather than threatening and to contribute to social cohesion. NGOs also play a key role in helping to change attitudes towards migrants by providing a platform for dialogue, opportunities and access.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU INSTITUTIONS****Legislative measures:**

- Ensure that existing consultative structures at the EU level such as the European Integration Forum have their agenda systematically linked to current and emerging policy challenges.
- Strengthen the partnership principle in the future Asylum and Migration Fund (2014-20) by making it mandatory for relevant state authorities and bodies to include civil society organisations and migrant organisations in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the multi-annual programmes.
- Review and reduce the co-financing requirements and develop pre-financing schemes both for European and national-level projects, in particular for project partnerships including migrants' organisations, as funding from governments and foundations has been cut in the context of the economic crisis. Initiatives for, and by, migrants, including migrant women's organisations, should be supported with specific funding lines and measures should be taken to increase the access to EU funding to migrants' organisations.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

### Legislative measures:

- Implement the [Council of Europe Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level](#), monitor it and share best practices.

### Non-legislative measures:

- Encourage and incentivise local and regional authorities to support and cooperate closely with migrants and their civil society organisations, as well as with social service providers who work to foster social cohesion and the integration of migrants.

**For more information on our position and other fact sheets on migration (including Human Rights, Social Inclusion, Employment and Services of General Interest) visit [www.socialplatform.org/migration](http://www.socialplatform.org/migration)**