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• EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM
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• CENTRE EUROPÉEN
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• AFFILIÉ AUX NATIONS UNIES

Policy of the EU towards integration and xenophobia

**ICSW Expert Meeting, Bratislava,
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Dilek Çınar

First Action Programme in favour of Migrant Workers

Main objective of the first Action Programme submitted by the EC to the Council in **1974**:

➤ *progressive elimination of all discrimination against migrant workers from third countries to achieve equality of treatment with Community workers*

Specific recommendations:

- vocational and linguistic training for migrant workers
- special assistance to children of migrant workers
- all migrants should be granted „... *at the latest by 1980* ...“
full participation in local elections
- fight against illegal immigration & trafficking
- co-ordination of national migration policies

Recent trends in the EU-15

- growing scepticism about „multicultural“ accommodation policies
- increasing emphasis on
 - socio-economic integration of immigrants
 - improvement of language skills
 - knowledge of/commitment to „basic values“ of the host society
- specific „target“ groups:
newly arrived immigrants, „second“ generation, women
- (partly) compulsory integration programmes

Objectives and reference points of the EU approach

Background

- agreement at the Tampere Council (1999) on the need for a „more vigorous“ integration policy with the aim of granting third country nationals (TCNs) „rights and obligations comparable to those of EU citizens“

Objective

- establishment of a more coherent „European“ framework in order to create a level-playing field between Member States in addressing integration issues and to ensure „fair treatment“ of TCNs

Reference points

- existing national legislation and policies
- international conventions
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Definition of Integration (1)

- the synthesis report on national integration policies prepared by the European Commission (EC) concludes that
 - (1) „ ... *no Member State has a uniform definition of integration ...*“
 - (2) in most countries there are *no instruments to measure integration* or an „*established standard for successful integration*“
- According to the synthesis report important factors associated with „integration“ by the Member States include:

respect for fundamental democratic values; right to maintain own cultural identity; rights & obligations comparable to those of EU citizens; active participation in all aspects of life on an equal footing; being self-supportive (NL); becoming a citizen (UK & A)

Definition of Integration (2)

➤ The EC suggests in its Communication on immigration, integration and employment that integration should be understood as

„ ... a two-way process based on mutual rights and corresponding obligations of legally resident TCNs and the host society. This implies on the one hand that it is the responsibility of the host society to ensure that the formal rights of immigrants are in place in such a way that the individual has the possibility of participating in economic, social, cultural and civil life and on the other, that immigrants respect the fundamental norms and values of the host society and participate actively in the integration process, without having to relinquish their own identity“.
(COM (2003) 336 final, p. 18).

Barriers to „successful“ integration – the viewpoint of the Member States

According to a survey conducted by the EC as the basis of the national synthesis report on national integration policies the majority of the EU-15 consider the following factors as barriers to integration:

- lack of sufficient language skills
- lack of education or formal skills
- Assessment / approval of immigrants qualifications
- unemployment
- racism and discrimination (response by Finland)
- religion (response by Austria)

Source: First Annual Report on Migration and Integration, COM (2004) 508 final

The Legal and Policy Framework of the EU (1)

- 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam (Title IV; Art. 13)
- 1999 European Council meeting in Tampere
- 2000 Adoption of two Anti-Discrimination Directives under Art. 13
- 2000 Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination (2001 to 2006)
- 2000 Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- 2003 Communication on Immigration, Integration and Employment
- 2003 Directive on the Right to Family Reunification for TCNs
- 2003 Directive on the Status of Long-Term Resident TCNs
- 2004 First Annual Report on Migration and Integration

The Legal and Policy Framework of the EU (2)

Personal scope:

- legally resident long-term immigrants / refugees / persons enjoying temporary protection (i.e. asylum seekers not included)

Holistic approach:

- economic and social aspects
- cultural and religious diversity
- political rights and participation
- citizenship
(national citizenship, EU citizenship, civic citizenship)

Anti-Discrimination Directives 2000

(1) „Racial“ and Ethnic Origin

➤ protection against direct and indirect discrimination in public and private sectors with regard to

- access to employment, conditions of recruitment and promotion
- vocational training
- membership in workers' or employers' organisations
- social protection (incl. social security & health care)
- education
- goods and services available to public including housing

(2) Religion or Belief, Disability, Age, Sexual Orientation

➤ *protection against direct and indirect discrimination in the field of employment and occupation*

Directive on the Rights of Long-Term Resident TCNs 2003

- right to settlement – protection from expulsion
- right to education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications
- freedom of association
- right to social security, social assistance and protection
- access to goods and services available to the public
- freedom of movement (incl. family reunification)