



Participation and co-creation for refugee and migrant integration in the EU

SHARE Network webinar (15 December 2020, 10-12h CET)

CONCEPT NOTE

The [SHARE Network](#) webinar '[Participation and co-creation for refugee and migrant integration in the EU](#)' is held at the conclusion of an important year for refugee and migrant integration in the EU. A series of new commitments and initiatives at EU level during 2020 together provide a renewed basis for EU actions and support for integration during the forthcoming 2021-27 budgetary period.

A new [EU Action Plan on Integration & Inclusion for 2021-27](#), first announced in the [new Pact on Migration & Asylum](#), was published by the European Commission in November 2020. The plan was preceded by a [12-week public consultation on migrant integration and inclusion](#), and a first meeting of the newly established [EC Expert Group on the Views of Migrants in the Field of Migration, Asylum & Integration](#). This new policy framework is launched as the current 2014-20 budgetary period draws to a close, and the process of agreeing, planning and programming EU funds to support integration¹ is underway at EU and national level.

Read '[Building Welcome from the Ground Up](#)', the SHARE Network's contribution to the 2020 public consultation on the new Action Plan on Integration & Inclusion.

1. Participation in EU integration policy & funding

EU policy has advocated participatory approaches in the context of integration since 2004, when the [Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration](#) highlighted the individual integration benefits of migrant participation '*in the democratic process and in the formulation of integration policies and measures, especially at the local level*'.²

The new 2021-27 Action Plan for Integration & Inclusion:

- Highlights how migrant participation in consultative and decision-making processes contributes to effective integration policies and programmes that reflect real needs.
- Promotes multi-stakeholder cooperation for integration that involves migrants, refugees and host communities alongside other actors, especially at local level.
- Commits EU financing for the capacity-building of national, regional and local authorities to involve migrants and migrant organisations in decision-making processes.
- Recommends Member States involve migrants and migrant organisations in the 'design, implementation and evaluation' of all (both EU and non-EU funded) integration and inclusion policies and programmes.

1 Primarily the proposed Asylum & Migration Fund and European Social Fund Plus, and also including the European Regional Development Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and others

2 Common Basic Principle 9

In terms of EU funds to support refugee and migrant integration, civil society organisations, UNHCR and others [continue to advocate for the 'rich experience and knowledge' of refugees and migrants to be perceived as a 'useful resource in the programming of EU dedicated money'](#), at EU and national level.

2. Participation & the SHARE Network

In many EU countries, participatory and co-creation approaches involving citizens are implemented in sectors such as social services, healthcare and urban development. Although there is a developing body of EU good practice in implementing them with refugees, migrants and host communities in the context of integration, these actors are not consistently included as stakeholders and partners when developing the actions and policies that affect them.

Since 2012, the SHARE Network has worked to facilitate refugee participation across the network's activities and partnerships.³ As other networks, SHARE is now seeking to mainstream participation more consistently throughout its governance, activities and advocacy.

SHARE has identified [territorial approaches for refugee integration](#) as a potential best practice to guide the involvement of smaller and rural communities in receiving refugees and migrants. Further developing this approach, including with reference to practices developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be the main area of work for the SHARE Network during 2021-23. For 2020 SHARE has undertaken a renewed mapping of practices, stakeholders and networks, via an online survey and dedicated research - [follow the link](#) to submit your response to the survey by December 18. Participatory and co-creation approaches can support territorial approaches, by ensuring stronger cooperation frameworks that meaningfully engage integration actors and stakeholders across a specific territory - in particular refugees, migrants and host communities.

in 2020-23, SHARE is therefore implementing a new programme of work to:

- Promote and support co-creation approaches for integration and inclusion across the SHARE Network, through training, capacity-building, and the creation of tools and resources.
- Advocate for the inclusion of participatory approaches for integration and inclusion in relevant EU policy and funding instruments, and in the implementation of EU funds at national level.
- Develop and pilot participatory and co-creation approaches for refugee and migrant integration and inclusion, in partnership with actors in smaller and rural territories.

3. The SHARE Network webinar

The SHARE Network webinar *'Participation and co-creation for refugee and migrant integration in the EU'* is the first step in a SHARE programme of work in this area during 2021-23. The webinar will:

- Share good practices and lessons learned in implementing participatory and co-creation approaches for refugee and migrant integration in the EU.
- Explore participants' experiences of implementing participatory and co-creation approaches.
- Develop key considerations for implementing participatory and co-creation approaches with refugees and migrants.

The outcomes and conclusions of the webinar will be published by the SHARE Network in early 2021, together with the outcomes of SHARE research and mapping on integration responses to COVID 19, and provide a basis for SHARE activities and advocacy in this area during 2021-23.

4. Webinar information

The webinar will be held via Zoom on 15 December 2020 (10-12h CET), with simultaneous FR-EN-FR interpretation. The full webinar agenda can be accessed [here](#), and registration is [available until Wednesday December 9](#).

For more information on the webinar or the SHARE Network, please contact Marika Carlucci at ICMC Europe (carlucci@icmc.net).

What is SHARE?

The [SHARE Network](#) is a platform for regional and local actors across the EU working on refugee and migrant protection, welcome and integration.

Established in 2012 and led by ICMC Europe, SHARE has to date engaged more than 4,000 stakeholders in training, capacity-building, research and advocacy, with a recent focus on building the integration capacity of smaller and rural communities, and promoting [territorial approaches to welcome and integration](#).

³ See for example the [SHARE Resettlement Ambassador programme](#) and SHARE training and capacity-building activities implemented via [partnerships with refugee and migrant-led organisations](#)