



European Web Site on Integration

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PORTAL FOR INFORMATION ON INTEGRATION

BRIEFING April 2008

The aim of the European Web Site on Integration is to help improve the effectiveness of integration policies and practices in the European Union by sharing successful strategies and supporting collaboration and cooperation.

The Site is intended as a tool for people working in the field of integration, both in non-government and government organisations.

Background

The integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the Member States of the European Union (EU) has gained increasing importance on the European agenda in recent years.

The Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU, adopted by the European Council in November 2004, called for the development of a Web Site on Integration. In that same month the Groningen Ministerial Conference on Integration invited the Commission, in close cooperation with the National Contact Points on Integration, to establish a public-private partnership to create and maintain an integration Web Site.

The European Commission's Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security has commissioned Unisys, in partnership with the Migration Policy Group, Social Change Online and EUROCITIES, to develop the Site.

Supporting Integration in the EU

The Web Site will provide a "one-stop-shop" for information and good practices to support the integration of immigrants in all Member States.

The Web Site will cover all dimensions of integration and gather information from a wide variety of stakeholders. It has been designed for use by national, regional and local authorities, by civil society organisations, and by practitioners in local organisations.

The aim is also to develop the Site as an EU-wide platform for networking on integration, through exchange about policy and practice.

Wide stakeholder consultation

Consultation with stakeholders has been a key part of the development of the Web Site. The project has focused on working with European Institutions and with network organisations that have the remit and the means to communicate with practitioner groups in Member States. These include:

- European Institutions: Commission Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security and other DGs relevant to integration, including Social Affairs and Employment, Education, Enterprise, Health; the European Parliament, the Council, European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- National Governments, represented by the National Contact Points on Integration
- International organisations (e.g. IOM, ILO)
- Regional and Local Government organisations
- EU civil society: civil society networks, academics and experts, business networks, social partners.

Useful content for the Web Site

Stakeholders consulted for the project have said they want a Site with information that is useful for practitioners.

The Site will include:

1. A broad range of information and documents relevant to immigrant integration

- Official, up-to-date EU information
All new Directives, Regulations and official documents from EU institutions

will appear on the Web Site, along with policy documents, statistics and other information.

The Site will also include material that makes the case for integration, demonstrating that integration can be successful and improving the situation of immigrants.

- *National legislation, policy papers and impact assessments from Member States*
- *Documents from civil society organisations and research centres/academia*
- *Documents from international organisations*
- *Case studies of integration practices*

The Web Site will have at its centre a wide selection of case studies of integration practice. Case studies will be drawn from European and national projects, local authorities and civil society organisations. The case studies are collected by using a common template, so they can be easily compared.

- *News*

EU and other relevant media releases will be made available through the Web Site in the original language(s) of publication.

A regular email bulletin will draw attention to useful background material and case studies pertinent to current events. Special editions of the bulletin will be produced to cover important developments relating to integration, such as new EU Directives, or relevant incidents in Member States.

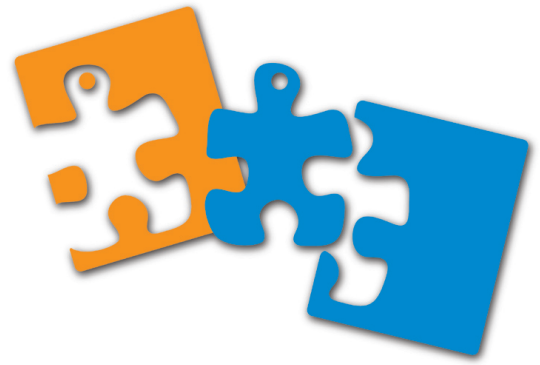
- *Information on integration stakeholders*

This will range from basic information about organisations working in the area of integration and a listing of people registered with the Site who wish to have their details shared.

2. Information on funding opportunities for integration practitioners

Stakeholder consultation showed that up-to-date information on funding opportunities is an important requirement for potential Site users.

The Web Site will bring together information about the variety of European Commission funding opportunities available to practitioners, as well as promote funding programmes run by Member States and by private foundations. The Web Site's email newsletter will carry alerts about deadlines wherever possible.



To assist practitioners with the task of finding partners for integration projects, information will be provided about organisations working in the area of integration.

3. Multi-lingual content

Information and documents will appear on the Web Site in the original language of publication. The basic structure of the Web Site and the static information will appear in three languages: English, French and German.

Documents submitted by Contributors will be in the language in which the content is uploaded: this can be in any EU official language. Users will be invited to provide some dynamic content (e.g. summary information or news-items) in English.

4. Opportunities to contribute

The Web Site is designed as a collaborative tool for practitioners. It will provide opportunities for users to interact with other users and locate other practitioners with similar interests. It will include:

Opportunities throughout to submit content for publishing on the Web Site. Criteria for publishing will be clear and visible and submitted content will be validated according to agreed criteria. Contributors will be acknowledged by email, on the Site and in an annual report. Regular contributors will be profiled in the email newsletter.

A moderated online forum. The forum will provide email digests of posts so subscribers can scan what's been added and quickly decide whether to respond.

5. Country information sheets

The Web Site will also feature country information sheets containing an overview of key information for all EU Member States. These will be updated on a regular basis.

6. An Events Calendar

The calendar will list conferences, workshops and seminars of interest. Users will be encouraged to submit their events information to the Site.

7. A powerful search engine.

8. Thematic structure.

Information on the Web Site will be organised around six key themes:

- *Active Citizenship* (residence and work permits, civic citizenship, naturalisation, political participation, volunteering and third-sector, consultation, mediation and dialogue platforms, civic education)
- *Economic Participation* (employment, recognition of qualifications and skills assessment, vocational training and career development, workforce diversity and capacity-building, self-employment and entrepreneurship, supplier diversity)
- *Social Cohesion* (housing and urban development, social inclusion, social protection, health, other services)
- *Education and culture* (school education, out-of-school education including life-long learning and distance education, language competencies, E-learning, intercultural dialogue including interreligious dialogue, cultural activities and diversity)
- *Anti-discrimination and equality* (anti-discrimination at work, anti-discrimination in service provision, access to justice, equal opportunities, positive action)
- *Tools and Techniques* (benchmarking, indicators, evaluations and impact assessments, mainstreaming, infrastructure, media, awareness-raising)

Measuring success of the Web Site

The success of the project will be measured by:

- Web Site registrations of organisations in different target areas: civil society groups, local government, European institutions and Member State agencies.
- Levels of participation in collaborative areas of the Site and number of visitors.
- The breadth of relevant information and document collection available on the Web Site, especially case studies.

For more information

Email us at integrationwebsite@unisis.com

Please send us your stories of integration!

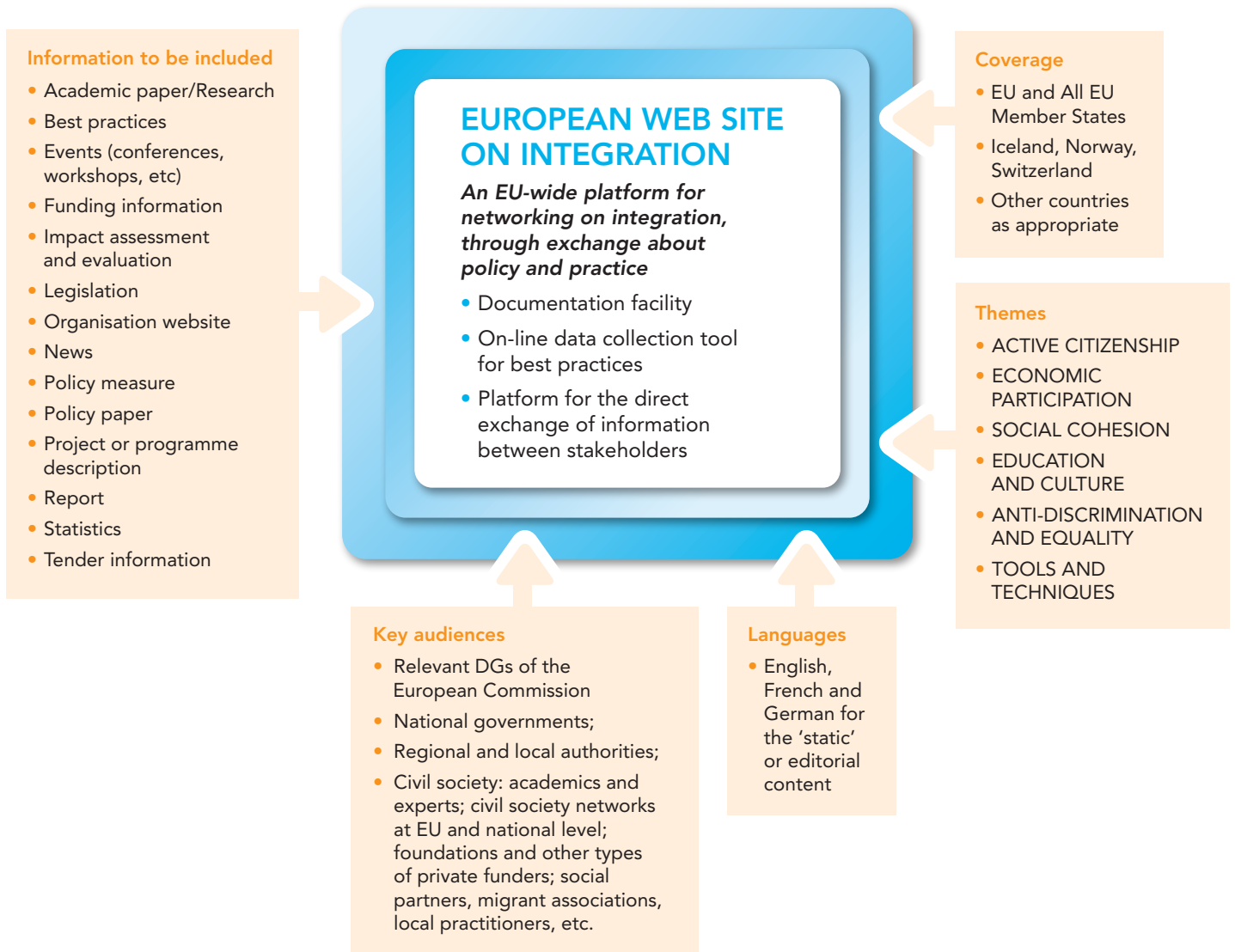
The project is looking for reports and documents of all kinds that relate to integration.

Most importantly, examples of good practice are sought. We are looking for projects at all levels, local, regional and national. Please provide case material in English and use the special template available at www.migpolgroup.com/news/3979.html for collecting examples of integration practice.



To submit documents or stories, simply email them integrationwebsite@unisis.com

PROJECT OVERVIEW



The aim of the Site is to help improve the effectiveness of integration practitioners in the European Union