

**Institut Européen
d'Administration Publique –Centre Européen des Régions (IEAP-CER)**

**European Institute
of Public Administration –European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR)**

Barcelona, December 2007

**Subject: Programme on the Multilevel Governance of Immigration Policy in Europe
Module I: Immigration policy in Europe. What can we do, when and how? A regional
and local authorities' approach**

Dear Sir / Madam,

The European Institute of Public Administration – European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR) is pleased to announce that in the framework of the **Programme on the Multilevel Governance of Immigration Policy in Europe**, it is organising the first Module: "*Immigration policy in Europe. What can we do, when and how? A regional and local authorities' approach*", that will take place on 1-2 March 2007 in Barcelona (ES).

Throughout 2007, two more Modules will be developed the objective of which is to deal with the following issues. Module II will deal with "*The governance of immigration policy in EU Member States. A comparative approach*", and Module III will cover "*Regional and local experiences in immigration policy. Best practices, lights and shadows*". More modules are expected to be organised in the future.

In the enclosed documents, you can find more detailed information about the programme as well as the programme, objectives, target group, general information and the registration form of Module I. The participation fee is **€ 650** for Module I, but, if you wish, through the same registration form you can also register for the three Modules with a special fee of **€1750** for all of them.

We would be most grateful if you could circulate this information among any other persons who may be interested in this seminar.

Further and up-to-date information on this programme can also be found on EIPA's web site: <http://www.eipa.eu>.

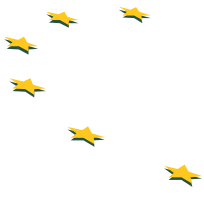
For any further information on the practical organisation of the Programme, please contact Ms Natalia Doménech (tel.: +34/93 567 23 89; fax: +34/93 567 23 56; e-mail: n.domenech@eipa-ecr.com), who will provide you with any details you may require. Should you have any question regarding the content of the Programme, do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Barcelona.

Yours faithfully,

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE REGIONS

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Programme on the Multilevel Governance of Immigration Policy in Europe

Module I

IMMIGRATION POLICY IN EUROPE WHAT CAN WE DO, WHEN AND HOW? A regional and local authorities' approach

Barcelona, 1-2 March 2007

organised by:

the European Institute of Public Administration –
European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR), Barcelona

with the collaboration of



Generalitat de Catalunya
Escola d'Administració Pública
de Catalunya

INTRODUCTION

Introductory remarks:

Immigration has become a topic of rising interest to all governments in Europe. Over the past ten years, the phenomenon has assumed proportions and a complexity that has urged those responsible to either set in motion new policies or rethink existing policies. All EU Member States are affected by international migration flows, particularly since the mid-1990s. The EU is definitely facing a challenge in this field. Immigration is increasing, through family reunification, labour immigration, asylum seekers and refugees. The issue is complex as are the policy and legal instruments to be designed to deal with it, both because many political, social and economic issues are affected by immigration and because of the complex and varied decision-making processes and institutions involved in every aspect of this policy at EU level.

Since the mid-1990s, Member States have agreed that immigration by third-country nationals is an issue to be addressed on a Europe-wide scale. The legal basis was provided by the Treaty of Amsterdam, in which immigration policy is recognised as a full Community responsibility (Art. 63). At the European Council meeting held in Tampere in October 1999, under the Finnish Presidency, it was agreed to develop a common immigration policy at EU level. This policy would be given the appropriate institutional and decision-making framework as well as legislative instruments and enforcement capacity at EU level. Now, seven years later, the EU has developed a framework for this policy called the Hague Programme, covering what was agreed in Tampere. The Hague Programme identifies 10 key areas for priority action in the field of freedom, security and justice in the EU.

The recent conclusions of the informal meeting of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in Tampere on 22-23 September 2006, under the Finnish Presidency, focus on the need to prioritise actions in the area of migration management, better prevention of illegal immigration, the need for a common European asylum system, more efficient border controls and increased solidarity among Member States.

Regional and local interests in this field

Regional and local authorities are stakeholders in this policy since they hold competences – either regulatory or executive – in policy areas affected by immigration. However, the scope and nature of regional and local competences in this field are diverse. Almost every Member State has its own system of decentralisation towards regional and local authorities, and it moreover concerns evolving systems. Regarding the degree of decision-making power, the different countries could be roughly divided as follows: those where regions hold legislative powers and those where regions and local authorities hold executive powers. However, the issue concerns not only the degree of decision-making power of a regional or a local authority, but also the specific fields of competence in which this power can be used.

Regional and local authorities are affected by immigration in mainly two areas: a first stage, when initial reception services have to be provided (i.e. health care, communication in native languages and accommodation) and a second stage, which involves integration into civil society (i.e. access to goods, services and channels of civic participation, vocational training, access to housing, education, health and social services, and political participation rights).

Furthermore, other immigration-related challenges with a direct impact on local and regional authorities can be identified as well. These are, among others: labour market integration, the employment potential of the native population, education and language skills, housing and other urban issues, health and social issues, social and cultural environment issues, immigrant crime and specific migrants groups (e.g. unaccompanied children). All these can be related to the fields of political and legislative competence of regional and local authorities.

The European Institute of Public Administration - European Centre for the Regions in Barcelona is starting a practice-oriented training programme on these issues.

An initial set of actions will consist of three Modules. All Modules are coherent units but each will provide a complementary approach to the subject.

- Module I: Immigration policy in Europe. What can we do, when and how? A regional and local authorities' approach (1-2 March 2007);
- Module II: The governance of immigration policy in EU Member States. A comparative approach (28-29 June 2007);
- Module III: Regional and local experiences in immigration policy. Best practices, lights and shadows (25-26 October 2007).

Objectives:

The goal of this programme is to offer a comprehensive approach to the systems and actions governing the issue of immigration from a regional and local authorities' perspective. In addition, it will offer an unmatched opportunity to meet key policy makers and policy analysts in this field as well as colleagues from other governments dealing with these issues.

Target group:

This programme series is addressed primarily to policy makers and policy advisers in the field of immigration policy – and related topics – from regional and local authorities in Europe. However, it is also open to representatives from other levels of government who are responsible for these matters and to experts interested in this policy area.

Method:

The programme series is designed to be informative as well as practice-oriented. It will provide policy-making tools and an opportunity to exchange experiences.

Project Leader:

Mercè Kirchner Baliu, Lecturer at EIPA-ECR Barcelona; specialised in immigration policy and in the role of regional and local authorities in EU policy making.

Registration and practical information:

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PROGRAMME
MODULE I:
IMMIGRATION POLICY IN EUROPE
WHAT CAN WE DO, WHEN AND HOW?
A regional and local authorities' approach

The goal of this Module is to provide experts of regional and local authorities with the necessary tools to follow and influence policy making on immigration in the EU arena. The purpose is to identify who is responsible for what and when, so that a regional or local policy officer in charge of immigration policy can follow, advise on and influence policy in which his/her administration is a stakeholder. To this end, a detailed overview will be provided of the framework of competences, institutions and decision making involved in this policy at the EU institutional level. Furthermore, other tools will be presented such as networks of experts and of regional and local governments in the field of immigration operating in the European arena.

Thursday 1 March

- 09.00 **Registration and distribution of documentation**
- 09.30 **Welcome**
Eduard Sánchez Monjo, Director, European Institute of Public Administration - European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR)
- 09.45 **Introduction to the goals, methodology and agenda of the programme**
Mercè Kirchner Baliu, Lecturer and Project leader, EIPA-ECR
- 10.00 **Immigration policy in Europe: also an issue for regional and local authorities. What can we do and when?**
Mercè Kirchner Baliu
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **2007, the year ahead: policy initiatives and legislative proposals**
Jordi García Martínez, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission, Brussels
- 12.30 **Framework of competences and decision-making processes at EU level. What issues are communitarised and what issues are intergovernmental? Who is involved and when?**
Cristina Castagnoli, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels
- 13.30 Lunch
- 15.30 **Getting 25 parties to agree on a “common” policy? Lights and shadows in the process towards the communitarisation of immigration policy**
European Council – Finnish Presidency
- 16.30 Break
- 16.45 **Workshops:**
Exchange of local and regional experiences on
1. information flows on policy and legislative initiatives;
2. actions taken in the framework of these initiatives.
- 18.00 End of the first day

Friday 2 March

- 09.30 **An overview of the Committee of the Regions' opinions and research on immigration policy**
Committee of the Regions
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 **Experts networks at EU level as key sources of information and policy analysis**
Jan Niessen, Director, Migration Policy Group, Brussels (invited)
- 12.00 **Information and communication tools and lobbying in the EU arena in the field of immigration**
Chiara Rossetti, ERLAI Network Co-ordinator (European Regional and Local Authorities on Asylum and Immigration), Brussels
- 13.00 **Close and evaluation of the seminar**
- 14.00 Lunch
- 15.30 Walk / sight-seeing tour and end of the seminar

MODULE II: GOVERNANCE OF IMMIGRATION POLICY IN EU MEMBER STATES. A COMPARATIVE APPROACH (28-29 June 2007)

The goal of this module is to learn about, exchange experiences and evaluate advantages and disadvantages of different governance systems in Member States in the field of immigration. Key topics in the management of immigration will be addressed (institutional framework, budget, statistics, human resources, etc.) and the way in which different Member States are addressing them will be examined.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- The institutional framework and fields of competence of national, regional and local governments;
- The relations of Member States with EU institutions in the field of immigration and integration;
- Budget planning and financial resources. How to plan for contingencies;
- Statistics at national, regional and local level. Common definitions and sources of data;
- Human resources specialised in immigration and integration services at different levels of government;
- Security and control. National and local police. Specific training and skills;
- Workshops.

MODULE III: REGIONAL AND LOCAL EXPERIENCES ON IMMIGRATION POLICY. BEST PRACTICES, LIGHTS AND SHADOWS (25-26 October 2007)

The goal of this module is to address the specific issues that a regional and local government has to deal with regarding their immigrant population. This module will be a good opportunity to present and exchange experiences and best practices in different policies and in the services provided by regional and local authorities. The topics will include the different stages of immigrant accommodation in a hosting society, i.e. both the definition and provision of initial reception services (i.e. health care, communication in native languages and accommodation) and the actual integration based on the principles of equal opportunities and treatment (access to goods and services, civic rights and duties, participation channels, vocational training, access to housing, education, health and social services, and political participation rights).

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Transposition of EU law and application by regional and local authorities;
- Definition of labour market needs and regional participation in the determination of contingents;
- Education services for all. Managing language and cultural diversity. Providing the appropriate human resources;
- Social services. Specific needs. Intercultural mediation;
- Health. Specific needs. Intercultural mediation;
- Participation in public life. Rights and duties of immigrants;
- Campaigns and media. How public opinion is informed and develops.
- Workshops.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Programme on the Multilevel Governance of Immigration Policy in Europe
Module I:
Immigration policy in Europe. What can we do, when and how?
A regional and local authorities' approach

Seminar venue

Auditorium (Ground floor)
Catalan School of Public Administration (EAPC)
C/Girona, 20
ES-08010 Barcelona

Working language

English, Spanish and/or French, (only two of them) depending on the language chosen by enough participants in the registration form. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided throughout this two-day seminar.

Fee

The participation fee is **€ 650** and includes documentation, 2 lunches, 2 coffee breaks and a certificate of attendance. If the registration is for the three modules, there will be a special fee of **€ 1750** for all of them. Accommodation and travel costs are at the expenses of the participants or their administration.

Payment before 19 February is a condition for participation. Please indicate the method of payment on the registration form. For cancellations received after 19 February we will have to charge an administration fee of € 150 unless an alternative participant is nominated.

Deadline for registration: 19 February 2007

Hotel reservations

The EIPA-ECR will be pleased to make reservations for you at those hotels in Barcelona (limited rooms) close to the venue of the seminar:

Hotel Europark***

(Aragó 325, Tel.: 93 457 92 05, www.nnhotels.com)

€ 90 Double room for single use, € 105 Double room, € 10 optional breakfast buffet

Hotel Soho*** (sup.) – inaugurated in September 2006

(Gran Via 389, Tel. 93 552 96 10, www.nnhotels.com)

€ 110 Double room for single use, € 120 Double room, breakfast buffet included

Hotel Catalonia Berna****

(Roger de Lluria, 60, Tel.: 93 272 00 50, www.hoteles-catalonia.com)

€ 130 Double room for single use, € 160 Double room, breakfast buffet included

7% VAT not included in any case.

Should you wish to make use of this possibility, please indicate the name of the hotel and the dates of arrival and departure on the registration form. Payment is to be made directly and personally to the hotel on checking out. **Please note that if you register after the closing date, hotel reservations cannot be guaranteed.**

Information and Registration

Natalia Doménech, Programme Organiser

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You can also submit the online registration form which can be found on EIPA's web site: <http://www.eipa.eu>

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be sent to participants on receipt of the completed registration form and after the 19 February 2007.