

## ERLAIM Project

### European Regional and Local Authorities for the Integration of Migrants

Project leader: Regione Emilia-Romagna

#### Partners

1. Nicosia Municipality (CY)
2. Beauftragte des Senats von Berlin für Integration und Migration (DE)
3. Junta de Andalusia - Consejería de Gobernación DG Pol. Migratorias (ES)
4. Diputació de Barcelona - Service "Diversity and Citizenship Pol." (ES)
5. Fundación Comunidad Valenciana - Región Europea (ES)
6. Nomarchiaki Aftodiikisi Ileias (GR)
7. Slovenian Business and Research Association (SL)
8. Yorkshire and Humber European Office (UK)

#### Associated partners:

1. Lower Saxony (DE)
2. Generalitat de Catalunya (ES)
3. Fomento Exterior de Extremadura (ES)
4. RegioEuropa (GR)
5. Province of L'Aquila (IT)
6. Municipality of Milano (IT)
7. Regione Siciliana - Presidenza Ufficio di Bruxelles (IT)
8. Ostsam Regional Development Council (S)
9. East of England Brussels Office (UK)
10. Kent County Council (UK)
11. Greater London Authority (UK)
12. Association of London Government (UK)
13. Greater Manchester Brussels Office (UK)
14. Merseyside Brussels Office (UK)
15. Scottish Executive EU Office (UK)

Duration: 18 months (08/12/06 - 07/06/08)

Total budget: 330.000 Euro

Grant requested from the program: 230.000 Euro (69.70%)

## Summary

The ERLAIM project aims at improving the quality of the action of regional and local stakeholders when participating in the design and implementation of policies concerning the integration of third country nationals. On the basis of ERLAI's experience - an already existing Brussels based informal network of regions, cities and local authorities from 6 EU Member States, active since October 2003 and engaged in asylum and immigration issues - the project intends to promote a wider transnational partnership representing a platform for dialogue on integration of migrants between European institutions, public authorities at all levels and representatives of civil society and migrant associations.

The project's activities will be carried out through the pro-active participation of 1 applicant plus 8 partners coming from 7 different EU Member States, already working on issues concerning immigration and asylum, and having the proper skills and expertise. Helped by experts, they will be engaged in a comparative analysis of the actual EU legal framework (responsibility and competences of local, regional and national actors involved in the decision-making process concerning the integration of migrants) and collection of regional/local integration strategies and projects (focusing on the main themes of citizenship, participation and political rights, intercultural communication and cultural mediator, minors and children, women and the gender perspective, public/private partnerships providing services to immigrants). The identification and study of best practices (policies, programmes and projects of particular interest) will be evaluated during the workshops and added into a database, which will be made widely available.

The organisation of 6 targeted workshops (in the Member States of the partners) and 2 conferences in Brussels will increase the awareness of the stakeholders at all levels on European and national/regional/local policies related to the integration of migrants, as to advocate policy changes where necessary and exchange good strategies/policies. In this context, the proper functioning of the network - as the most appropriate tool to facilitate better information flow from/to the EU institutions - will be of fundamental importance. the organisation of networking sessions aimed at assisting the practitioners in identifying European opportunities referring to the integration of migrants and related issues will be an asset.

The partners will carry out the dissemination of the project's outputs and results through regular information and communication activities (website, newsletters, brochures, posters, leaflets, press conferences), the interaction with other networks and a final international conference.

The results of the ERLAIM project are the following ones: a valuable contribution to the public debate at European level; increased regional and local awareness towards European policy on integration of migrants and related funding opportunities; increased consideration of the local and regional dimension at European level, with reference to the developments in European policies towards the integration of third country nationals; collection and dissemination of good policies and expertise in the integration of migrants field; networking as the best way to unify the regional and local stakeholders involved in immigration.