

External Network Encounter

26 January 2021, 10.00 to 11.00 CET

PARTICIPANTS

REGIONS

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REGIN PROJECT TECHNICAL PARTNERS

MPG

Carmine CONTE, Legal Policy Analyst

INSTRATEGIES

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Riccardo VICINANZA, Intern Inter-Mediterranean Commission

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Brief overview of the REGIN Project

Presented by Claire Street, CPMR Project and Policy Officer

[Link to the Power Point Presentation](#)

The REGIN project has been running for one year and this meeting was the occasion to provide the CPMR Migration Task Force and Associated Partners with information on some initial results and progress of the project activities.

As a reminder, Ms Street presented a brief overview of the project.

In 2018, and thanks to advocacy work led by the CPMR to secure direct funding for regional authorities, the European Commission launched a specific call targeted at networks of regional and local authorities under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

CPMR took advantage of the call to submit the project proposal “REGIN - Regions for Migrant and Refugee Integration”, in line with its policy work to promote and strengthen the role of regions in their actions to foster the integration and socio-economic inclusion of migrants.

CPMR leads the consortium which consists of **six of its member regions**: Azores (PT), Campania and Puglia (IT), Catalonia and Murcia (ES), Skåne (SE); and three technical partners: Instrategies, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) and MPG (Migration Policy Group).

REGIN aims to build an External Network based on the CPMR’s membership and Migration Task Force, as well as six associated partners, to guarantee the transfer, capitalisation and dissemination of the project results.

REGIN’s main goals and actions are:

- **To build a regional network on migrant integration** to share knowledge, experiences and common tools and create dialogue at EU level among relevant institutions and stakeholders.
- **To develop indicators** to measure **outcomes** (i.e. statistics related to the integration state of the population) and **policy performance (known as “MIPEx-R”)** inspired by the existing national [MIPEx](#), which can help regional authorities to identify strengths and weaknesses and orient policies to focus on areas where there may be room for improvement. MIPEx-R results will also help to support policy messages by gaining better recognition and understanding of regional competences and the areas where targeted support is needed.
- **To create a toolkit for regions** through capacity building for regional stakeholders as well as training for regional staff.
- **To develop innovative integration actions.** Based on the MIPEx-R results and stakeholder capacity building, partner regions will be implementing innovative integration pilot actions. In addition, Skåne Region is in the process of completing an **advanced testbed on health equity and social inclusion**. A specific event could be organised soon to present this action in more detail.

- **To develop an Integration Lab**, designed as a mutual learning tool to share regional practices through a **database and interactive map** to be launched in the summer 2021. This activity will include the collection and analysis of practices based on a common evaluation framework and looking in particular at lessons learnt from challenges and aiming towards innovation.

MIPEX-R (Migrant Integration Policy Regional Index) key preliminary findings

Presented by Carmine Conte, Legal Policy Analyst, MPG

[Link to the Power Point Presentation](#)

Note: this is an overview of **initial findings** of the indicators applied in the six pilot regions. A more in-depth analysis will be made of the data and results, and a comparative report will be produced by the end of year.

Currently there exist several indicator-based projects to analyse integration data at national and local level, but **there lacks a common evidence-based framework for policy evaluation at regional level**, despite the crucial role regions have in migrant integration. REGIN aims to address this gap by identifying respective strengths, weaknesses, best practices and challenges in order to stimulate policy debate using evidence-based knowledge and foster mutual learning.

METHODOLOGY

REGIN applies a standardised questionnaire which is completed by independent experts (2 per region) to ensure a valid and robust evaluation and thus comparability. MPG and CIDOB analyse the questionnaires *a posteriori*, following the MIPEX assessment method based on a 0-100 scoring system scale. Each indicator is formulated as a question relating to a specific element of the migrant and refugee integration system.

The score attributed captures the extent to which such element meets the normative standards employed, where a score of 100 means the standard is fully met and 0 means the standard is fully unmet.

MIPEX-R is organised according to different analytical axes:

Governance

- **actions or policy-outputs**, meaning policymaker's statements of what it intends to do or not do with regard to regulation of international migration;
- **actors**: set of single/collective, state/non-state and public/private actors involved in the regulation of migrant integration, distributed over the various levels of governance; and **relations**: formal links and relationships among actors involved in the governance of migrant and refugee integration;
- **resources**: in-cash and in-kind means and assets dedicated to the regulation of migration and refugee integration;

Policy cycle

- **formulation**: the early stage of decision-making process;
- **policy-output**: the formal issuing of the action/measure;
- **implementation**: the phase in which the action/measure is put into practice;
- **evaluation**: the phase of control and assessment of the action/measures implemented.

The final REGIN set of indicators has been created and contains:

- **61 Regional policy indicators (MIPEX-R)**
- **55 Regional outcome indicators**

The analysis also looked at formally recognised **competences of the regions**.

Specific targets of the analysis are third country nationals (TCNs) and beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs), but some questions also take into account asylum seekers and migrants in an irregular situation.

KEY FINDINGS ON COMPETENCES

In terms of competences, there is strong variation across Spanish Regions but not so for Italian Regions.

Regions such as Campania and Puglia in Italy and Murcia in Spain have only **shared legislative competences** with the central government in labour, education, health, housing, culture, and social security and assistance. Catalonia (Spain) and Azores (Portugal), given their special status as Autonomous Regions, enjoy also some **exclusive competence** in the areas of housing, health, language and culture. Skåne has **implementing powers** rather than legislative powers.

In the areas of adult/vocational education and training, economic and business support and housing, most Regions dispose of their **own budget** and funding measures either under public or private law, except Skåne.

Regions have **EU funds** at their own disposal on refugee and migrant integration and EU funds can also be accessed in collaboration with central government.

KEY FINDINGS ON POLICY CYCLE

Catalonia and Skåne perform best in the four stages of the policy cycle indicators. Murcia has the lowest score.

Overall, regions do **better on implementation**, than on formulation and the policy outputs. This may be due to the fact they have stronger links with local communities and stronger powers when it comes to implementing policies in comparison with national level actors that usually score lower on implementation. In contrast, very low scores apply to evaluation.

Regarding **policy output**, **Catalonia** has the highest score (69/100) and is the only region to have adopted a **comprehensive TCNs' and BIPs' integration strategy**.

Skåne scores very high (81/100) on **implementation** since it involves a diverse range of actors and stakeholders in the **development and implementation process** of the integration strategy and migrant integration measures.

Most regions score quite low on **evaluation**. The highest score (67/100) is for **Catalonia**, which is the only region that has a systematic/regular evaluation and monitoring mechanism process in force for both TCNs and BIPs integration. In other Regions, there is no evaluation at all, or it is carried out only occasionally or on an *ad hoc* basis.

KEY FINDINGS ON GOVERNANCE

Aggregate scores show that Regions perform better when it comes to **providing support for local authorities and NGOs** for migrant integration, than to involving migrants and other stakeholders in the decision-making process and enacting policies and regulations.

This general trend is reflected in Murcia, Campania, Puglia and Skåne. Only in Catalonia and Azores do indicators on actors and relations show that in these regions, migrants can better voice their concerns and advise the regional policy-makers on integration matters. Again, there is strong variation across Spain and less variation across Italy.

KEY FINDINGS ON THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (TCNs) AND BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (BIPs)

As a general trend, policies and governance for the **integration of TCNs are better results than for BIPs**, except for Puglia where there is a better result for refugees.

The results are quite balanced between the two categories in every Region, except Azores. The strong variation may be due to the fact that there is a low number of refugees in the Azores and therefore less interest in this Region to invest in their integration. In general, there are quantitatively more TCNs than BIPs in all the Regions analysed.

OVERALL SCORES

Catalonia, Skåne, Azores and Puglia perform better on integration, while Campania and Murcia are below the average score. Again, scores vary widely in Spain while in Italy they are quite similar.

Strengths are the implementation of strategies and policy actions (all the actors/stakeholders that are involved in the implementation of the integration strategy / migrant integration measures), the resources (the means the region provide for NGOs/associations, local authorities on carrying out projects in the field of migrant integration) and the integration of TCNs.

Weakness are the formulation and evaluation of policies, the lack of actions specially targeted at BIPs.

MPG and CIDOB will continue their work with an analysis of the outcome indicators to see how they may interact with the policy indicators, and which are the factors that could influence regions in a certain country to have high or low scores.

To provide more comparative analysis within countries, REGIN indicators are being applied to several other Regions: one in Portugal, one in Sweden and two in Germany to study the case of a federal state.

NOTE TO THE EXTERNAL NETWORK

The REGIN project has a capacity to cover the analysis of several other regions, if they are able to contribute financially (cost of hiring of 2 regional experts).

Interested regions can contact CPMR for more information (claire.street@crpm.org; nidaa.botmi@crpm.org)

Consult the [OUTCOME AND MIPEX-R INDICATORS - DATASETS](#)

Consult the [OUTCOME AND MIPEX-R INDICATORS - METHODOLOGICAL NOTE](#)

Regional toolkit for integration and inclusion

Presented by Gemma Pinyol, Head of Migration Policies and Diversity, Instrategies

[Link to the Power Point presentation](#)

The regional toolkit consists in developing a set of instruments and tools that regions can use beyond the REGIN project itself to promote and foster integration and inclusion.

The two main components of the toolkit are:

- *An integration action at regional level*

The first stage is for the regions to carry out a **mapping of stakeholders**: what is important to note is not the number of stakeholders but the diversity in type of actors and fields of action related to migrant integration and inclusion (e.g. not only NGOs but also the private sector, trade unions, etc). An analysis of mapped stakeholders was made for each region giving some hints to include more voices by identifying stakeholders that are not always directly involved in integration as such but can be linked in some way.

Once the stakeholders are identified, the regions carry out **stakeholders' capacity building activities** based on a SWOT (Strengths - Weaknesses - Opportunities - Threats) analysis and MIPEX-R results, to discuss and identify opportunities and needs in the region and develop ideas for a pilot integration action to be implemented over approximately 9 months, with a potential to scale up.

The first stakeholders' capacity building sessions have taken place or are being organised. The COVID situation has forced us to change the methodology and to hold the sessions online. Events already held in Catalonia and Puglia last December had a good level of participation of stakeholders and already some ideas were put forward to develop an **integration action**.

A second round of capacity building sessions will be held later this year in the framework of the project, with a view to assessing the integration action and its sustainability.

- *Training for regional staff*

The training module, which consists of four sessions, is designed as a general framework that can be developed to adapt to regional realities. It allows regional staff working in the delivery of different public services to migrants and refugees to **upgrade their knowledge, awareness and skills on integration, inclusion, interculturality and diversity management**. Training guidelines are in English, but there is the possibility to enrich the tool by uploading translated materials and videos.

NOTE TO THE EXTERNAL NETWORK

The tools mentioned are shared on the REGIN website. Do not hesitate to use them in your own region.

Consult the [CAPACITY BUILDING GUIDELINES](#)

Consult the [TRAINING MODULE](#)

Integration Lab: evaluation framework, collection of practices, database and mapping

Presented by Nidaa Botmi, REGIN Project Officer

[Link to the Power Point presentation](#)

The Integration Lab's main aim is to **identify, monitor and evaluate practices** on migrants' and refugees' integration at regional level, **focusing on the lessons learnt and potential for replicability**.

What will differentiate the Integration Lab from other projects gathering examples of integration actions or the European Website on Integration, is:

- Firstly, the focus on the **regions' contribution and added value in the practice** (directly or indirectly by supporting social actors);
- Secondly, its aim to go beyond collecting just "good practices" but also those where challenges were faced and elements had to be adjusted to adapt, since what is interesting in these cases is the **learning process and knowledge exchange**.

As a first stage, we carried out desk research that has helped us to develop **evaluation framework guidelines and a matrix**. The evaluation framework is based on criteria used by the OECD: Relevance / Effectiveness / Efficiency / Impact / Sustainability, while the **matrix** represents a series of key questions to evaluate how the action corresponds to each criterion.

In order to collect practices, we have developed a template to provide descriptive information on each practice that will be accompanied by a **survey questionnaire** that takes into account the evaluation criteria. The questionnaire is currently undergoing a **pilot test** where REGIN partner regions are applying it to one practice. The template and questionnaire will then be circulated widely among the CPMR's network of members and associated partners.

Information will also be extracted from the [CPMR mapping](#) that was developed with the contribution of the Migration Task Force members.

External research experts will be carrying out the **analysis of the different practices collected**, and a selection (target of 60 practices) will be included in a **database with a search filter**, that will allow users to choose criteria to find relevant examples.

Linked to the database will be an **interactive map** which will also provide access to the REGIN indicators website. The database and map will be developed by the summer 2021 and will allow Regions to **showcase their own practices, compare them with other practices led in similar contexts or on similar topics, identify expertise and foster networking**.

NOTE TO THE EXTERNAL NETWORK

We will shortly be inviting members of the CPMR Migration Task Force and associated partners to participate in the collection of practices through the template and questionnaire.

Available soon on the website: EVALUATION FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES AND MATRIX

SUMMING UP

The CPMR will continue to keep the Task Force and Associated Partners updated on the progress of the REGIN project and encourages them to follow the project activities through the website (<https://reginproject.eu/>) and Twitter [@REGINProject](https://twitter.com/REGINProject), as well as to adopt and disseminate the tools that are being developed within their own activities on migrant integration and inclusion.

Annex 1 - Agenda for the meeting

This External Network Encounter meeting is organised by the CPMR in the context of the Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration - [REGIN](#) - project.

REGIN was created to mainstream migrant and refugee integration within social cohesion policies at regional level, by building a common framework to facilitate, guide and improve the performance of regions through innovative tools.

This meeting aims to present to members of the CPMR Task Force on Migration the initial findings on **policy and outcome indicators** in the six pilot regions (Azores, Campania, Catalonia, Murcia, Puglia, Skåne), and elements of the **Regional Toolkit** and **Integration Lab** already developed.

It will be also an opportunity to present areas for collaboration within the CPMR network and how regions can benefit from the project results.

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome and brief reminder of the project aims and objectives, by Claire Street, CPMR

10.10 - 10.25 Indicators Dataset/MIPEX-R (Migrant Integration Policy Regional Index) by Carmine Conte, MPG

- A tool to provide ready-to-use evidence on policy, policy perceptions and policy options on migration, asylum, and integration at the EU level
- Presentation of results in the 6 pilot regions

10.25 - 10.40 Regional toolkit. Presentation by Gemma Pinyol, Instrategies

- Stakeholder mapping and capacity building. Preliminary recommendations and outcomes
- Training to improve regional performance. Short presentation of training modules

10.40 - 10.55 Learning from each other - The “Integration Lab”. Presentation by Nidaa Botmi, CPMR

- Evaluation framework and matrix
- Upcoming survey for the collection of practices
- Database and mapping

10.55-11.00 Summing up

Annex 2 – Picture of the participants in the REGIN External Network Encounter

