

## External Network Encounter

21 October 2021, 15.45-17.00 CET

### PARTICIPANTS

#### REGIONS

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<b>CATALONIA (ES)</b>	Soukaina EL YAZIDI, EU Policy Unit Marlen NIUBÓ EDELER, Senior Immigration Officer Màriam LUTFI ROYO, Policy Officer for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Project Coordinator of the Shababuna EU Project
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<b>LISBON &amp; TAGUS VALLEY (PT)</b>	Tiago CRUZ, Head of Cooperation Unit
<b>NAVARRA (ES)</b>	Leire RODRIGUEZ, Head of European Projects, General Directorate for Migration Policies Patricia RUIZ, Director General Migration Policies
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#### REGIN PROJECT TECHNICAL PARTNERS

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#### REGIN PROJECT ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

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## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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## CPMR GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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Maria TERSMETTE, Communications Assistant  
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Leila GIANETTO, Research Consultant to CPMR

## Brief overview of the REGIN Project

*Presented by Claire Street, CPMR Project and Policy Officer*

The REGIN Project was created to **mainstream migrant and refugee inclusion within social cohesion policies at regional level**. 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). The project consists in creating a **common framework for regional authorities** to be able to **improve their policies and actions on migrant and refugee integration**, developing specific indicators that can be used to measure policy performance and outcomes for the benefit of migrants, refugees and the host communities.

More precisely, REGIN seeks to improve the design and planning of migrant integration policies and actions at regional level, through the development of **indicators that help regions assess performance** and through tools such as **capacity building and training for regional staff**. The project also builds on **capitalisation and dissemination activities** working with partners beyond the project consortium.

Each partner region has been developing **integration actions** based on the use of the REGIN tools and a specific action was led by **Skåne on health equity and social inclusion**. The **collection and promotion of regional integration practices** represents another REGIN tool as the Integration Lab, a database and map for mutual learning.

To get to know better the regional representatives participating in the event, **three survey questions were asked to the participants**. The results are shown in the image on the right.



## Promoting the multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder approach in the framework of the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion

*Presented by Angelique Petrits, Policy Officer, DG HOME - European Commission - [Link to the Power Point presentation](#)*



The New EU Action Plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027 draws upon lessons learnt from the 2016 Action Plan, notably with a **larger scope** including people with migrant background and a stronger focus on women and host society. Its main principles are **inclusion for all**, **mainstreaming gender and anti-discrimination** as priorities, support at all stages of integration, especially **early integration** with pre-arrival measures when possible and **targeted support** where needed. It is recognised that there are **large discrepancies between EU Member States (MS)**, as well as regarding regional competences.

It focuses on **4 main sectoral areas of actions** representing interconnected policy areas:

- **Education and training:** EU MS are encouraged to allow more migrant children in **early childhood education and care** and to enable teachers to be better equipped to manage multicultural and multilingual classrooms. **Qualifications** acquired in non-EU countries should be recognised faster and more easily and **comprehensive language training and civic orientation programmes** provided to newcomers;
- **Employment and skills:** EU MS are encouraged to **reinforce anti-discrimination measures in the recruitment process and workplace**, to give more support to migrant entrepreneurs and to allow more migrant women to participate in the labour market. **Assessment of migrants' skills** should be more effective and faster ([EU skills profile tool for third country nationals](#)) and more migrants participate in **high-quality vocational education and training**;
- **Health:** EU MS are encouraged to provide **equal access to regular health care services, including mental health services** and make sure migrants are informed about their rights and provide access to interpretation. **Specific challenges faced by migrant women, including prenatal and post-natal healthcare for mothers**, should be fully considered. Health care workers should receive **training on diversity management** and the needs of specific groups;
- **Housing:** EU MS are encouraged to facilitate migrants' **access to adequate and affordable housing** and to provide adapted and **autonomous housing solutions** as early as possible for refugees and asylum seekers and enable a smooth transition to independent living for beneficiaries of international protection. It is also important to ensure an **integrated approach and coordinate housing policies** with policies on access to employment, education, health care and social services.

Another component of the Action Plan reflects the idea of **maximising EU added value through multi-stakeholder partnerships**, that is to communicate and cooperate between cities, regions, national governments, employers, civil society, host communities as well as social and economic partners. The European Commission (EC) has a special [partnership with the European Committee of the Regions on migrant integration](#) at subnational level and supports a comprehensive capacity building programme called the [Urban Academy on integration](#).

In the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, [access to funding](#) will be facilitated for national programmes under shared management and webinars and an **updated toolkit on the**

use of EU funds for integration for 2021-2027 will be shared to support local and regional authorities. One of the priorities of the AMIF call for proposals in 2020 focused on **developing and implementing local integration strategies**, and this priority is likely to be renewed in the upcoming AMIF call.

The EC also seeks to enhance the use of digital tools for integration and inclusion, through supporting EU MS in assessing **digital integration services** and projects on improving **digital skills** among migrants. It also encourages the purchase of **digital equipment** and e-learning applications and platforms for schools ([Digital Education Action Plan](#)), as well as through a new **EU e-government action plan** promoting human-centric digital public services and engagement of migrants in the creation and delivery of digital public services.

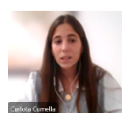
The Action Plan also calls for **fostering participation and encounters with the host society**, through involving migrants and migrant organisations in decision-making processes with the example of the EC that set up an [expert group on the views of migrants in the field of migration, asylum and integration](#): an idea behind EU-funded projects and EU-led initiatives is that both migrants and Europeans have to integrate into the new Europe.

To **monitor progress towards an evidence-based integration and inclusion**, a new Eurobarometer on integration will be launched. Moreover, an **interactive tool** to illustrate an analysis of progress and common challenges based on common statistical indicators, will be published on the [European Website on Integration](#) and a mid-term review is planned in 2024. The EC is exploring with Member States the development of a **joint 'scoreboard' of integration policies** and will regularly assess research outputs and results on integration dynamics and propose policy options for policy making.

## Overview of REGIN indicators

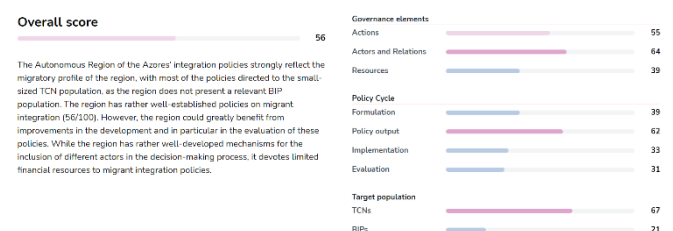
Presented by Carlota Cumella de Montserrat, CIDOB Researcher - [Link to the Power Point presentation](#)

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 and challenges** in order to stimulate policy debate using **evidence-based knowledge and foster mutual learning**.



Regional Profile: Região Autónoma dos Açores (Azores), Portugal

MIPEX-R score: 56



REGIN applies **standardised questionnaires** which are 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:

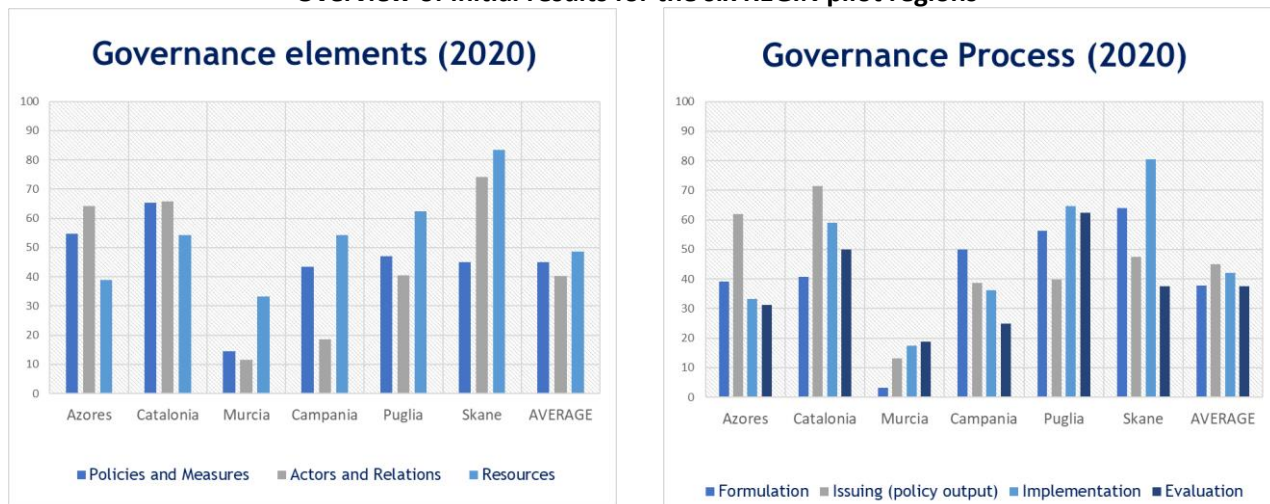
### ➤ Governance

- **actions or policy-outputs**, meaning policymakers' statements of what they intend to do or not do regarding 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.

Overview of initial results for the six REGIN pilot regions

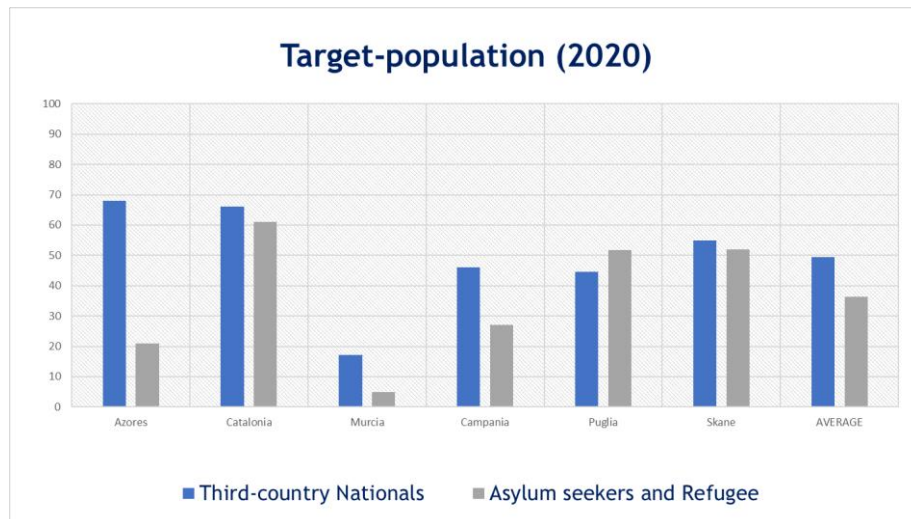


Regarding the policy cycle: overall, pilot regions do **better on implementation**, than on formulation and the policy outputs. This may be due to the fact they have **stronger links with local communities and stronger powers when it comes to implementing policies** in comparison with national level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

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



As a general trend, policies and governance for the integration of third country nationals in general obtain better results than the specific ones for beneficiaries of international protection, except for Puglia where there is a better result for refugees (see table below).



An overview of the different results for the six REGIN pilot regions will soon be published on the [REGIN](#) and the [MIPLEX](#) websites.

## Enlarging the scope of MIPLEX-R - Testimony of a voluntary region taking part in the REGIN indicators

*Presented by Leire Rodríguez, Navarra Region*



The Region of Navarra is located in the North of Spain and has an overall population of 661,000 inhabitants, with 16.3% of foreign-born people (including people who were naturalised). In recent years, there has been a **moderate increase of migration movements** to the region: these migration movements were beneficial to the region as the balance of population would be negative without them.

In September 2019, the Government of Navarra created a **General Directorate for Migration Policies**, to provide a dignified welcome to all newcomers, regardless of their origin, gender identity or reason for migration. In 2020, Navarra joined the MIPLEX-R analysis to get a **better overview of the region's strengths and weaknesses and to improve its services**, notably intercultural mediation services, reception services for women and young people, legal advice, as well as through awareness raising on racism and trainings for professionals. Through an overview of the current situation in Navarra, the regional authority discovered it has a **strong institutional structure and a wide network of stakeholders**.

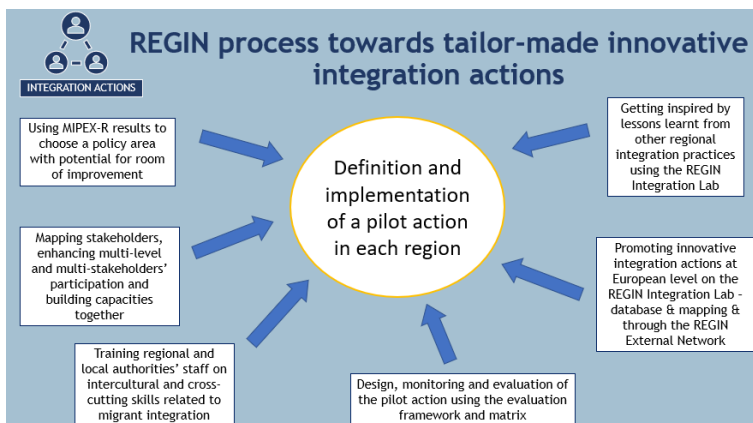
Since 2021, the regional authority has set up a **comprehensive welcome plan**, a **family reunification service**, a **care programme for young migrants without family support and community sponsorship programme**. Moreover, it introduced a **strategy on intercultural coexistence and a plan to combat racism**. The region works with different forums, associations of migrant communities. It has deployed an **awareness campaign** on the whole territory called [Esenciales](#) giving visibility to migrants. Thanks to Navarra's involvement in the REGIN Project, the region plans to share practices and expand networking and its participation in projects with other European regions.

## Using the REGIN toolkit & adapting it to regional contexts with concrete examples from REGIN pilot regions

Presented by Nidaa Botmi, REGIN Project Officer, Marlen Niubó Edeler, Catalonia Region and André Santos, Azores Region - [Link to the Power Point presentation](#)

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

Using **guidelines for stakeholders' mapping** developed by Instrategies, partner regions identified and mapped diverse stakeholders that play, or could play, an important role in migrant integration and inclusion. Relevant stakeholders have experience, competences, or commitment to the matter, representing a wide range of actors at different level of governance. This activity creates a **supporting foundation** and ensures the **effectiveness and sustainability** of the integration actions to be implemented in the regions. REGIN regional partners have for example mapped sport clubs or universities as stakeholders, that were not previously included in the integration process and this illustrates an added value of the project, as the **regions have increased their outreach to relevant actors within their territory**.



With the preliminary results of MIPEX-R (Regional indicators of integration), Instrategies together with each regional partner **identified in which area or policy dimension there is room for improvement** regarding migrant integration. This first identification of opportunities helped to guide the development of integration actions. It also served to **better frame and adapt the training and capacity building sessions**.

Each region holds two capacity-building sessions, based on the [REGIN Stakeholders' Capacity Building Guidelines](#). The first session is aimed at **identifying and defining an action in an area of intervention** in the region, using the results from the REGIN indicators. During the second session, stakeholders are invited to **discuss and reflect upon the sustainability of the action** that is being implemented in each region. Therefore, the capacity building activities will **increase the capacity of stakeholders and involve them in the development of the integration action**.

Furthermore, each participating region holds training sessions for their regional staff. The sessions are based on the [REGIN Training Guidelines for Regional Staff](#). The sessions' objective is to **upgrade and maximise staff competencies, knowledge, skills and attitude concerning migrant and refugee integration and inclusion**, with the aim of addressing performance gaps on the matter in all sectors of public administration. Both capacity building and training guidelines can be **tailored to each region's specific situation and can be adapted to be used by local authorities**.

Thanks to the REGIN tools, regions were supported by a common framework to develop an **innovative integration action** (except Skåne that works on a specific testbed on health equity and social inclusion). These actions were decided by regional authorities with the support of their regional stakeholders.

For example, thanks to the results from the REGIN indicators, [Catalonia Region](#) decided to focus on **education and access to labour market**: it has organised capacity building sessions with stakeholders from both fields and thought of other long-term initiatives.

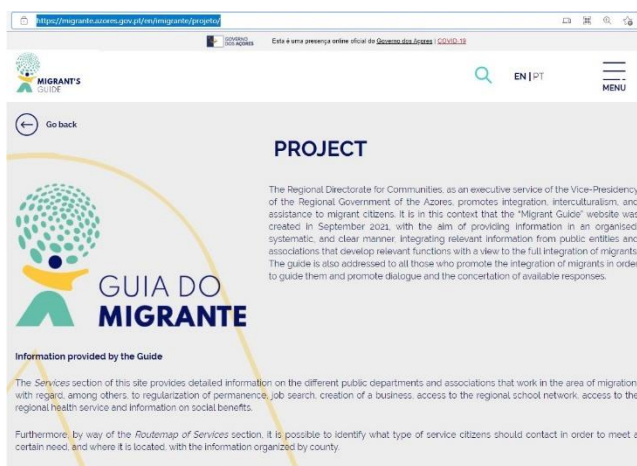
The integration action developed corresponds to a **training** outside academic year in 5 different high schools for young people of 14-15 years old with a migrant background to **increase their future opportunities** and to reduce school dropout. The action **received positive feedback** from schools, teachers, social workers and the young people involved.



Catalonia also adapted the REGIN Training guidelines to **focus on interculturality** and received good feedback from local authorities trained.

Another partner region is [the Azores](#), a 600 km strip in the North Atlantic situated 1600 km away from European mainland and formed by 9 islands. The specificity of the Azores is that **immigration is a new reality that emerged from the 21<sup>st</sup> century**: before that, there were constant emigration movements until the 1980s. In 2020, for a total population of 237,000 inhabitants, there were 49,000 migrants living in the region;

During the stakeholders' mapping and capacity building activities, the region gathered social actors, public entities and civil society organisations: thanks to the Stakeholders' mapping guidelines and advice from the REGIN technical partner Instrategies, **the Azores went thinking beyond its usual partners and involved the University that revealed itself as a very relevant and creative stakeholder.**



Together with its regional stakeholders, it was decided to **create a website, mobile app and printed document as a welcome guide** to inform migrants of changes in legislation and registration deadlines, through notifications and summarised information with links to the welcome guide, and a possibility to fill-in forms and ask questions.

The region also developed a partnership with local actors, with the aim to conduct **trainings on cultural diversity towards teachers and health professionals.**

By using the REGIN toolkit, the Azores managed to change its perspective towards a **more objective and comprehensive approach** promoting an enhanced participation of local authorities.



Other examples of pilot actions from participating regions are the following:

- [Campania Region](#)'s idea for a pilot action is to look at **migration, rural development and the prevention of depopulation**.
- The [Region of Murcia](#) is developing a regional **strategic plan on migrant integration and inclusion, through a multi-stakeholder approach**. A special Commission on social cohesion has been set up as part of the "Regional Forum for Immigration", a regional participation body. The idea would be to develop mainstreaming and networking through an advertising campaign, which can bring new funding opportunities, as well as enhance employability policy and sustainability. Murcia Region is also planning to boost a **regional campaign on anti-discrimination**.
- [Puglia Region](#) **identified** alphabetisation and communication in the schooling microsystem, that is to say on how students from foreign families are coping with the burden of being an "intermediary" between school and family. The region is looking at ways to **reduce the communication gaps between schools and families**, as well as to **overcome the digital divide** which has come to the fore with the COVID-19 situation where foreign families are less favoured in terms of access to digital tools.
- The specific work led by [Skåne Region](#) correspond to the testing of innovative actions on health equity and social inclusion within an existing systemic effort and method development, by setting-up a local supportive platform / environment / network for integration. In 2021, work is continuing through the **evaluation phase**. There has been positive feedback from health communicators who participated in the programme, other stakeholders and the participants themselves. The action has confirmed the **importance of the mental health focus**, even more so during the COVID pandemic. The new set up involving municipal and national level partners has been tested and all parties now want to find ways to move forward. In addition, it was highlighted the **importance of deepening collaboration between regional partners** to learn from each other, especially experiences on **participatory approach to strategic planning and sustainability**.

## Integration Lab database and map - Analysis of practices from a learning perspective

*Presented by Nidaa Botmi, REGIN Project Officer and Leila Giannetto, Research Consultant*  
- [Link to the Power Point presentation](#)



🏠 Civic and Health Communication for Newly Arrived Migrants

Information updated in October 2021

Region / Country  
Skåne (Scania), Sweden 🇸🇪

Keywords  
civic orientation, healthcare, social inclusion, empowerment

Region's role  
Coordination role, Donor / Managing funding and programmes

Sectoral Policy Areas  
Health  
Implementation status  
On-going

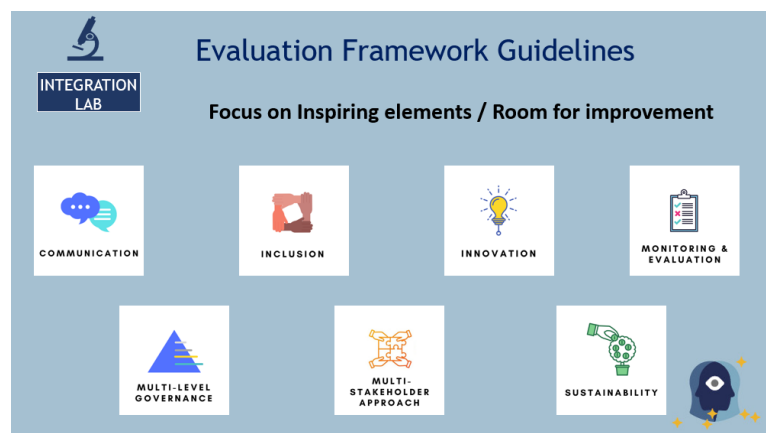
The [REGIN Integration Lab map and database](#), soon to be published online, is designed to be a **mutual learning tool to share experiences on migrant integration at regional level**, highlighting for each practice the **inspiring elements, room for improvement and tips for transferability**.

From initial desk research, it was noted that there are many examples of integration practices at local level (cities and municipalities) but not as many at regional level. Another challenge reflected when analysing migrant integration at regional and local levels is **the lack of monitoring & evaluation tools, as well as the lack of standards or benchmark** in this field. Therefore, the intention behind the Integration Lab is to help fill this gap.

The focus is to **gather information and collect regional practices** to emphasise the regions' contribution (directly or indirectly through social actors) in developing and implementing migrants' integration actions and policies. CPMR, in coordination with research partners from the University of Salento in Puglia Region, drafted [guidelines for the evaluation framework](#), that are based on the OECD's criteria of Relevance / Effectiveness / Efficiency / Impact/ Sustainability, as well as an [evaluation matrix](#) that represent a series of key questions to evaluate how the action corresponds to each criteria.

Through its evaluation framework, the REGIN database and mapping focuses on **inspiring elements and room for improvement** on the following aspects:

- Communication
- Inclusion
- Innovation
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Multi-level governance
- Multi-stakeholder approach
- Sustainability



The approach is therefore to not only focus on good and innovative practices, but to also collect information from regions that have faced challenges, tried practices that have not produced expected results to understand what could be the factors that could have hindered the action. The idea is to **learn from each other not only about what works but also what doesn't work**.

[Template](#) and [survey questionnaire](#) were created and disseminated through the CPMR network, associated partners and other contacts to **collect a wide diversity of examples and experiences**. Regions and their stakeholders can share examples of successful practices, as well as practices where they have faced challenges. The template and survey questionnaire are available in **English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Swedish**.

Through the Integration Lab and related evaluation framework guidelines, regions and other actors will benefit from:

- **Improving design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of integration actions** within their region / adapting the evaluation framework collaborating with other regional stakeholders;
- **Mutual learning** between regions based on both successful and less successful practices;
- **Showcasing of regional integration actions, networking and identifying expertise** in specific areas.

## Annex 1 - Agenda for the meeting

### External Network Encounter

21 October 2021 (on-line) - 15.45 - 17.00 CET - Meeting in English

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 provide an area of exchange for pilot regions to share their experience of REGIN tools and hear from other regions regarding opportunities for collaboration and how they can benefit and capitalise on the project results.

It will be also an opportunity to present the Integration Lab database.

- 15.45 - 15.50**    **Welcome and brief reminder of the project aims and objectives**, by Claire Street, Policy and Project Officer, CPMR
  
- 15.50 - 16.00**    **Promoting the multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder approach in the framework of the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion**, by Angelique Petrils, Policy Officer, DG HOME C.2. Legal Pathways and Integration
  
- 16.00 - 16.15**    **Enlarging the scope of MIPEX-R (Migrant Integration Policy Regional Index)**
  - Overview of REGIN indicators by Carlota Cumella, CIDOB
  - Testimony of a voluntary region taking part in the REGIN indicators, Leire Rodríguez, European Projects and Cooperation Bureau, Navarre Government
  
- 16.15 - 16.40**    **Using the REGIN toolkit**
  - Outlining the process, Nidaa Botmi, REGIN Project Officer, CPMR
  - Adapting to regional contexts with concrete examples from REGIN pilot regions: Marlen Niubó Edeler, Government of Catalonia and André de Santos, Government of Azores

**16.40 - 16.55** Integration Lab database and map, Analysis of practices from a learning perspective, by Nidaa Botmi, REGIN Project Officer / Leila Giannetto, Research Consultant

**16.55 - 17.00** Summing up

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

