



Building the Foundations for Inclusion: What Does the Future Hold for Immigrant Integration in Europe?

14.30 – 18.30, 25 January 2019
Residence Palace, 155 rue de la Loi, Brussels, Belgium

Concept Note and Draft Agenda

Europe is still feeling the ripple effects of the migration crisis, from insufficient housing to pressures on schools and teachers. But as governments scramble to paper over the cracks of overstretched public services and manage day-to-day pressures, they must also prepare for the challenges of the future, whether labour market disruption, population ageing or another possible migration crisis. The integration challenges of the future could potentially be more seismic and leave lasting scars on labour markets, liberal democratic values, welfare state institutions, and communities themselves. How well Europe can weather the integration challenges of tomorrow will depend on the institutions and systems built today.

In the past few years alone, the context for integration has dramatically shifted. Instead of supporting newcomers into a society that is itself cohesive, countries face the challenge of integrating people into a society that is dealing with multiple schisms—from widening inequality to political fragmentation—and little consensus on the role of diversity within it. Rising anxiety about immigration and the unprecedented success of nativist and populist parties have poisoned the well of integration policymaking, making it hard to build (and fund) public services that can support populations with increasingly diverse and complex needs. Flashpoints have emerged over cultural practices and other social tensions, while recent protests have united anti-immigrant groups with people who feel left behind by rising inequality. Looking ahead, this sense of outrage is likely to balloon further as the costs of supporting ageing populations grow, social and cultural change escalates, and jobs are destabilised by automation and digitisation.

This meeting will take a fresh look at the most pressing integration challenges of today—and consider how to plan for those around the corner. It will examine how we can build a sense of togetherness in a state of flux and identify opportunities for building consensus over integration issues. It will explore the economic and social trends around the corner, from digitisation to the rise of the platform economy, and consider how these might help or hinder integration. And it will examine how integration policymaking itself has been transformed in an age of populism, and where it could benefit from an injection of creative new ideas to expand the policymaking 'toolkit'. The meeting concludes a programme of work undertaken by MPI Europe's Integration Futures Working Group, funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, which aims to set a new agenda for integration policy in Europe and create platform for long-term strategic thinking on integration.

Draft Agenda

14:00 – 14:30 **Arrival and coffee**

14:30 – 14:45 **Welcoming remarks: The case for integration futures**

- **Meghan Benton**, *Assistant Director, International Programme, MPI*
- **Raphaela Schweiger**, *Senior Project Manager, Topic Area Society, Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH*

14:45– 15:30 **Session I: A new migration reality: How can we build common ground in a state of flux?**

Chaotic and unpredictable spontaneous large-scale migration to Europe in the past few years has deepened anxiety about social change and rising cultural and religious diversity and, in turn, boosted support for populist and anti-establishment parties. Against such a backdrop, politicians on all sides have struggled to articulate a sense of common identity without succumbing to simplistic narratives around migration.

- How can governments promote and maintain common values in a state of flux? What degree of cultural integration can be reasonably expected of immigrants by receiving communities—and on what timeline? What is the best way of communicating these expectations while being sensitive to pluralism?
- What are the most promising communications strategies—based on evidence instead of intuition—that work to explain policy decisions or help reduce social divides?
- How can political leaders make the case for prioritising integration without fuelling a sense of unfairness among groups that feel left behind?

Speakers:

Aliyyah Ahad, *Associate Policy Analyst, MPI Europe*

Elizabeth Collett, *Special Adviser to the Director General, International Organization for Migration; and Director, MPI Europe (on a leave of absence)*

Tim Dixon, *Co-founder, More in Common*

Doug Saunders, *Author; International Affairs Columnist, The Globe and Mail*

15:30 – 16:30 **Session II: The future of integration: How can we ensure that everyone can thrive in changing labour markets?**

Governments across Europe are grappling with how to support migrants and refugees in increasingly unstable and knowledge-intensive labour markets. But looking ahead, these challenges could become more pronounced. Labour market disruption could affect the skills, sectors, and structure of jobs themselves. Population ageing will dramatically constrain public sector spending. Today's labour market entrants—whether young people or migrants—will have to learn to thrive in periods of rapid social, economic, technological, and demographic change.

- Can newcomers capitalise on growing non-traditional pathways to economic success or will they be at risk of losing out if many jobs are digitised and automated? What are the most promising approaches to economic and social inclusion, such as self-employment, crowd work or even volunteering, especially for women and other vulnerable groups?
- How can we ensure that the rise of gig jobs and the platform economy does not entrench exploitation? Can social protection programmes be updated to a changing world of work?
- How can schools and universities help young people of all backgrounds build the resilience they need to succeed in future labour markets?

Speakers:

Meghan Benton, Assistant Director, International Programme, MPI

Julie Bodson, Duo for a Job, Belgium

Pia Buhl Girolami, Specialist Director, Department of Integration, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Norway

Rachel Marangozov, Research Associate, Institute for Employment Studies; and Director, MigrationWork

Ben Mason, Project Lead, "Digital Routes to Integration", betterplace lab

16:30 – 16:45 Break

**16:45 – 17:45 Session III: Integration policymaking in a time of populism:
How can we broaden and deepen the integration toolbox?**

As policymakers working on integration issues come under increased media and political scrutiny, their jobs have become vastly more complex. They need new skills and tools to manage relationships (within and outside of government), absorb and synthesise information, and collaborate with new actors interested in supporting integration.

- What are the smartest new ideas for addressing some of today's thorniest integration challenges? Which promising innovations could integration policymakers import from other policy portfolios?
- What skills and tools do policymakers and others working on these issues need to deliver the best results? What institutions and systems do we need to build to withstand the migration pressures of the future?
- Which public, private, and civil society actors need to be at the table, and how should governments manage these complex relationships and ensure accountability?

Speakers:

Laura Corrado, Head of Unit, Unit B.1 – Legal Migration and Integration, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Honey Deihimi, Head of Division, Cabinet of the Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, Germany

David Manicom, Assistant Deputy Minister for Settlement and Integration, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Eleftherios Papagiannakis, Vice Mayor for Migrants, Refugees and Municipal Decentralisation, Athens

Marco Zappalorto, Chief Executive, Nesta Italia

17:45 – 18:30 Reception

In cooperation with

