



EMN NCP HR

ROUNDTABLE: Challenges of Integration in the Republic of Croatia

Concept note & agenda

Context and aims:

One of the main pillars in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum is supporting effective integration policies. The integration of migrants and their families is a key part of the broader EU agenda to promote social inclusion.

As part of the priority on promoting the European way of life, the Commissions' key actions are adoption of a comprehensive Action Plan on integration and inclusion for 2021-2027 which was presented on 24 November 2020, and represents a strong framework to strengthen and step up integration and inclusion policies across the EU, thus contributing to the broader social inclusion agenda, drawing also on other relevant strategies and actions in the field of education, culture, employment, non-discrimination and equality.

Integration measures should ensure that all individuals who have a right to stay in the EU can fully take part in our societies; and in order to do so, it has to act as two-way process, putting emphasis on importance of host societies, roles and synergies of all relevant actors, but also on migrants who have to take leading role and an active effort to become integrated.

Any approach should take into account that different groups of migrants have specific challenges and needs, and therefore policies should be adapted to the needs of a diverse society. Tailor-made measures are needed because newly arrived migrants often face a number of challenges when integrating into European societies, depending on how they arrived, their skills level, language knowledge and their background. Also, the integration process differs, for example, between men and women. The integration of women into society is more complex and longer lasting than men.

In the Republic of Croatia, vast majority of integration measures and projects are aimed at persons who have been granted international protection, having in mind their particular vulnerability so as to provide assistance and protection so they can more easily overcome their difficult situation during the refugee, humanitarian crisis that has affected not only EU member states, but also our country. Government of Croatia adopted in 2017 the Action plan for integration of persons who have been granted international protection for the period from 2017 to 2019, and currently is in the process of adopting a new Action Plan of integration of persons who have been granted international protection for the period 2020 to 2022.

Regarding the integration of persons with approved international protection in the Croatian society, different projects were carried out or are currently underway.

At the same time, the Republic of Croatia actively participates in the European resettlement program for third-country nationals or stateless persons who meet the conditions for international protection, as a form of solidarity and provides care for the above categories. Based on the decisions of the Government of the Republic of Croatia from 2015 and 2017, it has so far received 251 persons who have been granted international protection. According to the Government decision from 2019, the Republic of Croatia committed to receive 150 third-country nationals or stateless persons more under the resettlement scheme or on grounds of participating in other forms of solidarity with European Union Member States. With this in mind, integration projects were directly related also to the Croatian participation in the European resettlement program.

The integration of the resettled persons poses some challenges, for example, the willingness of the resettled person to integrate in the Croatian society. The Republic of Croatia has so far been mainly a transitional rather than a final destination for refugees so future projects plan to examine the attitudes of persons granted international protection towards their readiness and desire for integration and acceptance of inclusion in Croatian society.

In times of increased migration, the issue of integration is becoming even more important, which is why a proactive approach is needed as well as

the promotion of dialogue on this issue. Integration is a long and complex two-way process that depends on partnership and cooperation between all stakeholders in the process. The roundtable will provide an opportunity for such a dialogue addressing the effectiveness of different projects on integration of resettled persons implemented in Croatia and experiences of different stakeholders included in the process, thus providing a chance to discuss the integration policies and approaches in Croatia in general.

Agenda

10:00-10:05	<p>Welcome speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ivana PERLIC GLAMOČAK, Project Assistant, EMN NCP HR
10:05-10:35	<p>Panel 1: Integration policy framework: EU and Croatian Framework</p> <p>Integration is a long and complex two-way process that depends on partnership and cooperation between all stakeholders in the process. In times of increased migration, the presentation of a comprehensive Commission Action Plan on integration and inclusion for 2021-2027 on 24 November 2020 is more than timely. At the same time, due to the complexity of integration process more could be done in order to successfully integrate persons into the whole society. The proposal of new Action Plan of integration of persons who have been granted international protection for the period 2021 to 2023 of the Republic of Croatia should have an active role to address problems occurred in the integration process as well as to implement lessons learned for previous action plan.</p> <p>Opening remarks and moderator: Anita DAKIC, Ministry of the Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agnes PAPADIA, Policy Officer, Unit C2 - Legal Pathways and integration, DG HOME, European Commission – Action Plan on integration and inclusion for 2021-2027 - Olivera JOVANOVIĆ, Expert Advisor, Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia – presentation of new Action plan for integration of persons who have been granted international protection 2021-2023 / lessons learned from previous action plan <p>Q&A</p>
10:35-10:40	Break

10:40-11:40	<p>Panel 2: Integration of persons under international protection who arrived in the Republic of Croatia through resettlement programs: experiences of stakeholders and challenges</p> <p>The integration of the resettled persons poses different challenges, for example, the willingness of the resettled person to integrate in the Croatian society. Presentation of different stakeholders involved in the process of integration of the resettled person in the Republic of Croatia should give an overview of the challenges and provide opportunity to discuss integration policies in Croatia in general.</p> <p>Opening remarks and moderator: Anita DAKIC, Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>Presentations of project implementers – experiences and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ivan PITESA, Head of the IOM Croatia Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Dijana DAPIC, Integration Associate, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) - Nejra KADIC MESKIC, CEO, Center for the Culture of Dialogue (CCD) <p>Presentation of other stakeholders in the process – experience and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Darko TOT, Head of Sector for Joint Affairs and Programs, Directorate for Support and Improvement of the Education System, Ministry of Science and Education - Patricija KEZELE, Head of EURES and International Mediation in Employment Department, Croatian Employment Service <p>Q&A</p>
11:40-11:45	Break
11:45-12:25	<p>Panel 3: Integration into Croatian society of persons granted international protection</p> <p>Integration measures should put emphasis on importance of host societies, roles and synergies of all relevant actors, but also on migrants who have to take leading role and an active effort to become integrated.</p> <p>The support of the local community is of great importance for the successful integration so it is important to hear their opinion. At the same time, pros and cons of a project or a system are always best presented by the people who use some kind of service. Presentation of two people who have successfully integrated into Croatian society will give us a valuable insight in the process of integration in the Republic of Croatia.</p>

	<p>Opening remarks and moderator: Anita DAKIC, Ministry of the Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andreja NAVIJALIC, Deputy Mayor, City of Karlovac - Issam Delwan - Inayatullah Jiskani <p>Q&A</p>
12:25-12:30	<p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita DAKIC, Ministry of the Interior - short video presentation on successful integration made by CCD

Format: e-Roundtable