

Autumn Academy 2016



## Strategic approaches to Migrant Integration in Europe

St Anne's College, Oxford, 5th – 9th September 2016

The Autumn Academy was a symposium for senior public officials, NGO leaders and foundations from across Europe, held in the tranquil environment of St. Anne's College Oxford. It provided a unique opportunity for those responsible for developing and implementing re-settlement and integration related policies at EU, national and local level to share their knowledge, expertise and ideas; to consider the implications of the latest research evidence and analysis; to reflect on strategic policy and practice options; and to strengthen their networks through the opportunities for engagement the symposium will provide.

Starting with an overview of recent drivers and trends in migration to Europe and the economic, political and security contexts in which it is taking place, the symposium explored, over four intense days of discussion and reflection, the policy challenges posed. Taking a moment to consider what is meant by 'integration' and what the goals of policy might be, it covered the key questions being addressed from EU to community level: including responsibility for and optimal means of refugee resettlement; recognising the causes of negative public attitudes and how they can be addressed; how the stigma of radicalisation can be avoided in neighbourhoods experiencing the greatest exclusion; and what Europe can learn from differing approaches adopted in North America, including 'Welcoming Cities' in the US and Canada's private sponsorship model for refugees.

Participants, contributed to the agenda as respondents, panel speakers and session chairs. They dined together with speakers each evening in Oxford colleges and restaurants reflecting Oxford's own diverse heritage. A guided walking tour of Oxford was arranged early in the week to introduce participants to the history of the city and, among other opportunities to relax, the participants punted on the River Cherwell before a barbeque dinner at the boathouse restaurant.

The symposium was organised by the **Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity**, the knowledge-exchange arm of the **Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)** at the **University of Oxford**. Funding was provided by **The Social Change Initiative** ([www.thesocialchangeinitiative.org](http://www.thesocialchangeinitiative.org)), supported by **Atlantic Philanthropies**, as a programme within its own Migrant Learning Exchange initiative. Participation was by invitation only and the only cost to participants was of travel to Oxford.

## Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September

5:00pm: *Tea*

5:30pm – 7:30pm: *Opening session*

- **Welcome / opening remarks**

**Sarah Spencer**, Director, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford

- **Migration to Europe: drivers, trends and future scenarios**

Chair: **Bridget Anderson**, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford

**Hein de Haas**, Professor, Migration and Development, UvA Amsterdam

*Discussion*

- **Implications for a city in the front line**

**Lefteris Papagiannakis**, Vice Mayor on Migrant and Refugee Affairs, City of Athens

*Discussion*

7:30pm: *Session closes*

8:00pm: **Dinner at St Anne's College** (*symposium venue*)

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

9:00am – 1:00pm: **Turbulent times**

Chair: **Ramon Sanahuja**, City of Barcelona

- **Geo-political instability, economic recession and security fears: implications for integration of past and future migrants**

**Joaquín Arango**, Professor of Sociology, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

*Discussion*

- **Violent Micro-Processes, Security Measures and Social Cohesion**

**Johan Leman**, President, FOYER Minorities Centre, Molenbeek, Brussels

*Discussion*

*11:00am – 11:30am: morning refreshment break*

- **Public attitudes towards migrants and support for the far right**

**Robert Ford**, Professor of Politics, University of Manchester

*Discussion*

*1:00pm – 2:00pm: Lunch*

*2:00pm – 5.30pm: **Integration – what is it and what is the goal?***

Chair: **Henrik Thomassen**, Ministry of Immigration and Integration, Denmark

- **Understanding ‘integration’: the significance of evolving European models at national and local level**

**Christophe Bertossi**, Director, Center for Migrations and Citizenship, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (Ifri), Paris

*Discussion*

*3:15pm – 3:45pm: afternoon refreshment break*

- **Why chose to go ‘intercultural’?**

**Irena Guidikova**, Head of Division, World Forum for Democracy, Intercultural Cities Programme, Council of Europe

**Ramon Sanahuja**, Director of Immigration and Interculturality, City of Barcelona

*Discussion*

*5:30pm: Session closes*

*5:45pm – 7:15pm: **Guided walking tour of old Oxford***

*7:30pm: **Dinner at Balliol College***

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

9:00am – 1.00pm: **Integration policies at the national level**

Chair: **Liz Collett**, MPI Europe

- **Recent trends in national integration policies and their significance**

**Thomas Huddleston**, Policy Analyst, MIPEX report, Migration Policy Group, Brussels

*Discussion*

10:30am – 11:00am: *morning refreshment break*

- **National policies: challenges and opportunities**

**Ylva Johansson**, Minister for Employment and Integration, Sweden

*Discussion*

**Pedro Calado**, High Commissioner for Migration, Portugal

*Discussion*

1:00pm – 2:00pm: *Lunch*

2:00pm – 5.15pm: **Focus on refugees**

Chair: **Michael Diedring**, European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)

- **Resettlement of refugees and responsibility for asylum seekers: making it work**

**Alex Betts**, Director, Refugee Study Centre, University of Oxford

*Discussion*

**Wolfgang Müller**, Managing Director, German Federal Employment Agency

*Discussion*

3:45pm – 4:00pm: *short afternoon refreshment break*

- **Private sponsorship of refugees – a Canadian approach**

**Sharon Chomyn**, Canadian High Commission, London

Respondent: **Catherine Woollard**, Secretary General, ECRE

*Discussion*

5:15pm: *Session closes*

6:00pm – 7:00pm: [Punting on the River Cherwell](#), an Oxford pastime

7:30pm: **BBQ dinner at [Cherwell Boathouse](#)**

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September

9:00am – 1:00pm: **Integration policy at the local level**

Chair: Professor **Michael Keith**, COMPAS; Oxford Future Of Cities programme.

- **Cities as incubators of integration**

**Sonia Wehsely**, Executive City Councillor for Public Health, Social Affairs and Generations of the City of Vienna – presented by **Natascha Strobl**, Press officer, City of Vienna

**Anu Riila**, Chair, Eurocities Migration and Integration Working Group, and City of Helsinki

*Discussion*

10.45am – 11:15am: *morning refreshment break*

- **Welcoming Cities – innovation from the US**

**Monica Fuentes**, Director, Washington, D.C. Office, Welcoming America

- **Panel response: Could this approach work in Europe?** **Arjen Verweij**, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands; **Anu Riila**, Chair, Eurocities Migration and Integration Working Group, and City of Helsinki

*Discussion*

1:00pm – 2:00pm: Lunch

2:00pm – 3.30pm: **Civil society experience at the local level**

Chair: **Avila Kilmurray**, SCI; former Director, Community Foundation, Northern Ireland

**Petra Hueck**, Director, International Catholic Migration Commission, Europe

**Sabir Zazai**, Director, Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre

*Discussion*

3:30pm – 4:00pm: *afternoon refreshment break*

4:00pm – 5.30pm: **Funding civil society to foster integration: what should be our priorities?**

Chair: **Padraic Quirk**, Social Change Initiative

**Panel of participants from funders: Jake Lee**, Unbound Philanthropy; **Otilie Bälz**, Robert Bosch Foundation; **Michael Diedring**, EPIM and **Andreas Hieronymus** (Open Society)

*Discussion*

5:30pm: *Session closes*

7:00pm: Dinner at [Al-Shami Lebanese restaurant](#)

## **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

9:00am – 11:15am: **Policy at European level**

Chair: **Nassia Ioannou**, Ministry of Interior, Greece

- **Strategic options for European agendas**

**Claude Moraes MEP**, Chair, Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee, European Parliament

*Discussion*

- **The Commission's new Action Plan on integration: context, key elements and implementation**

**Laura Corrado**, Head of Legal Migration and Integration, DG Migration and Home Affairs

- **Labour market integration and social inclusion**

**Manuela Geleng**, Head of the Taskforce "Refugees", DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

*Discussion*

*11:00am – 11:15am: short refreshment break*

*11:15am – 12:45pm: **Next steps - vision and the art of the possible***

Chair: **Sarah Spencer**, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, COMPAS, Oxford

Panel-led, all participants' discussion on implications of the week's debates for policy agendas at local, national and EU level

Panel: **Gabriele de Giorgi**, Chief of Political Staff to the Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Italy; **Brian Killoran**, CEO, Immigrant Council of Ireland; and **Izabela Hrynek**, Advisor to Minister of the Interior, Poland.

*Discussion*

*12:45pm: Closing remarks*

*1:00pm – 2:00pm: Lunch*

**2:00pm: Departure from Oxford. Transport will be provided to Heathrow Airport, including one stop at Oxford Rail Station.**

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**For more information please contact**

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