



The Future of Immigrant Integration in Europe: Mainstreaming Approaches for Inclusion

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About MPI Europe

MPI is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit, think tank dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide.

MPI Europe established in 2011

- Extends the work of MPI within Europe
- Focus on all aspects of immigration to, and in, Europe

Links authoritative research and practical policy design for the benefit of governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders.

Promotes the development of well-governed and comprehensive immigration systems capable of addressing the economic, social and security challenges of the twenty-first century.

Outline

1. Immigrant integration at a crossroads today
2. “Mainstreaming”: why – what – how
3. Ways forward: opportunities and challenges

I. Immigrant integration at a crossroads today

- Early 2000s: rise of traditional immigrant integration policies in mainland Europe
- Since 2010: from targeted policies and siloed departments to a more “mainstreamed” approach
- Changing socio-political context

II. Mainstreaming: why – what – how

- Changing demographics: superdiversity
- Austerity and budget cuts
- Sense of failed (one-size-fits-all) integration measures
- Avoiding stigmatisation and prioritisation

II. Mainstreaming: why – what – how

- Mainstreaming through discourse, governance and concrete policies
- Sharing immigrant integration priorities and responsibilities
- Beyond remedial or add-on policies: structurally reforming or adapting mainstream policies for a diverse population

III. Ways forward: opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

- Whole-of-government approach
- Addressing needs, not background
- Avoiding stigmatisation or prioritisation
- Using funds effectively

Challenges

- Mainstreaming is not a goal in itself, but a method
- Mainstreamed approach is not absolute: balance between targeted and generic
- Assuming (final) responsibility and ownership

Further questions

1. When are mainstream policies insufficient to address specific needs? When is a targeted approach needed?
2. How to ensure *really* shared responsibility?
3. How to identify and address needs effectively?
4. How to evaluate what works?

For more information

The Future of Immigrant Integration in Europe: Mainstreaming Approaches for Inclusion

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/future-immigrant-integration-europe-mainstreaming-approaches-inclusion>

UK Report: Advancing outcomes for all minorities:
Experiences of mainstreaming immigrant
integration policy in the United Kingdom,
by Sundas Ali and Ben Gidley coming out soon

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