



20th June 2017

A new social media campaign for the World Refugee Day

All In for Integration – new social media campaign #AllInForIntegration for the World Refugee Day has been launched

Today, on the World Refugee Day, the organisations working together on the international research project NIEM have begun a social media campaign #AllInForIntegration in order to draw public attention to the need for a more efficient and effective integration policy that better addresses the needs of refugees.

Using the hashtag #AllInForIntegration, activists and researchers supporting the campaign have been posting pictures of themselves holding a white card with the #AllInForIntegration slogan on it.

In Germany, female refugees from Syria, for the first time in their lives, learn how to ride a bicycle, which gives them the sense of dignity and independence. Children of the refugees living in Greece attend IT and coding courses. Refugees from Afghanistan integrate with the Swedish society by playing cricket. In Poland, refugees from conflict regions run a multicultural diner which is, at the same time, a place of social dialogue.

As numerous examples show, integration of refugees in the European Union member states may take place in different ways, bringing more or less lasting effects.

However, in the light of the challenges facing the common European asylum policy and the limited integration-related action in some EU member states, integration would not be possible without the hundreds of non-governmental organisations, public institutions, local communities and private entities involved in grassroots efforts to prevent social marginalisation of refugees.



Therefore today, on the World Refugee Day, civil society organisations and academic centres from 15 European Union member states implementing the NIEM project wish to emphasise even stronger the role of the European community in facilitating the smooth transition of refugees into a new life and in helping them find their own place in the European reality. They state with emphasis: Integration of refugees is a task that we all face – we must all get involved!

“As Eurostat data shows, in 2015 more than one million foreigners applied for refugee status in the European Union. Over 300 thousand applications were approved. However, getting the asylum in the country of destination is only the beginning and not the end of the road to normal and dignified life,” says Justyna Seges Frelak, Head of the Migration Policy Programme at the Institute of Public Affairs, involved in the NIEM project on the Polish side.

The moment of obtaining the refugee status (and sometimes the launch of the procedure itself) marks the beginning of a more or less lengthy process of adaptation of refugees to life in a new reality, which mainly means meeting the everyday needs and acquiring skills necessary to embark on independent life in European Union countries.

Another migration policy researcher at the Institute of Public Affairs, Karolina Grot, believes that effective integration policy cannot be pursued without cooperation between the refugee community and various entities responsible for implementing public policies.

“It is too often the case that we shift the burden of responsibility for the success of the integration process solely to refugees, by introducing numerous requirements and putting up various barriers. We keep forgetting that effective integration is a two-way process that requires mutual understanding and continuous dialogue,” says Karolina Grot.



The #AllInForIntegration campaign in the social media is also expected to draw the attention of the public to the NIEM research project, implemented since 2016.

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM) is a six-years long transnational project which aims to prepare key actors in the integration field in 15 EU member states to better face the current challenges and improve the integration outcomes of beneficiaries of international protection.

„We want to find out about the possibilities regarding access to citizenship, education, healthcare, labour market or political life that are provided by individual EU member states. However, first of all we wish to check how these issues impact the level of adaptation of refugees in a given society,” agree Justyna Seges Frelak and Karolina Grot – analysts of the Institute of Public Affairs responsible for the implementation of the project.

NIEM partner organisations and involved institutions:

Institute of Public Affairs (Poland) - leading partner, the Bulgarian Council on Refugees and Migrants, Association Multi Kulti Collective (Bulgaria), ANTIGONE Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence (Greece), People in Need (Czech Republic), France Terre d'Asile (France), Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants (Hungary), Providus (Latvia) - Diversity Development Group (Lithuania), Peace Institute (Slovenia), CIDOB (Spain), The Foundation for an Open Society, Association Center for Public Innovation (Romania), ISMU Foundation (Italy), Maastricht University (the Netherlands), Centro de Estudos Sociais, University of Coimbra (Portugal), Malmö University (Sweden), Warsaw University (Poland), Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, UNHCR Representation in Poland, UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe, Migration Policy Group.

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism. Monitoring and improving the integration of international protection beneficiaries is co-founded by the National Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.



More information about the social campaign:

<https://twibbon.com/freecampaigns> [a link will be provided on Monday, 19th June]

More information about the NIEM project: www.forintegration.eu

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Notes for editors:

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM) is a six-years long transnational project which aims to prepare key actors in the integration field in 15 EU Member States to better face the current challenges and improve the integration outcomes of beneficiaries of international protection. Conflict situations tend to last longer and it takes currently on average 17 years, before refugees fleeing civil wars may eventually have a chance to return to their home country. Hence, the long-term integration of newly arrived beneficiaries of international protection is without alternative and presents an immediate challenge for European societies.

NIEM will establish a mechanism for a biennial, comprehensive evaluation of the integration of beneficiaries of international protection to provide evidence on gaps in integration standards, identify promising practices and evaluate the effects of legislative and policy changes.

NIEM is developed against the background of the changing legal environment on international protection both at national and European levels, induced by the high numbers of new arrivals in the recent years. The project endeavours to provide evidence on some of the most burning discussions concerning these changes: Are EU standards on integration of beneficiaries of international protection well implemented? How are they impacting integration policies? Are policies aimed at beneficiaries of international protection having an impact on successful integration? What are the challenges and good practices, and which policy gaps need to be addressed?

NIEM is led by IPA, the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. MPG, the Migration Policy Group, is the coordinating research partner responsible for elaboration and further development of the NIEM indicators and the comprehensive comparative reports. Other strategic partners are the UNHCR Representation in Poland and UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, the Polish Ministries of Interior and Administration and of Family, Labour and Social Policy, and the University of Warsaw.