

The Partners

The **International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO)** is the consortium leader in charge of the implementation of the EU-funded EU-MIA project.

The consortium research partners are:
the **Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)** at the University of Oxford and the **International and European Forum of Migration Research (FIERI)**.



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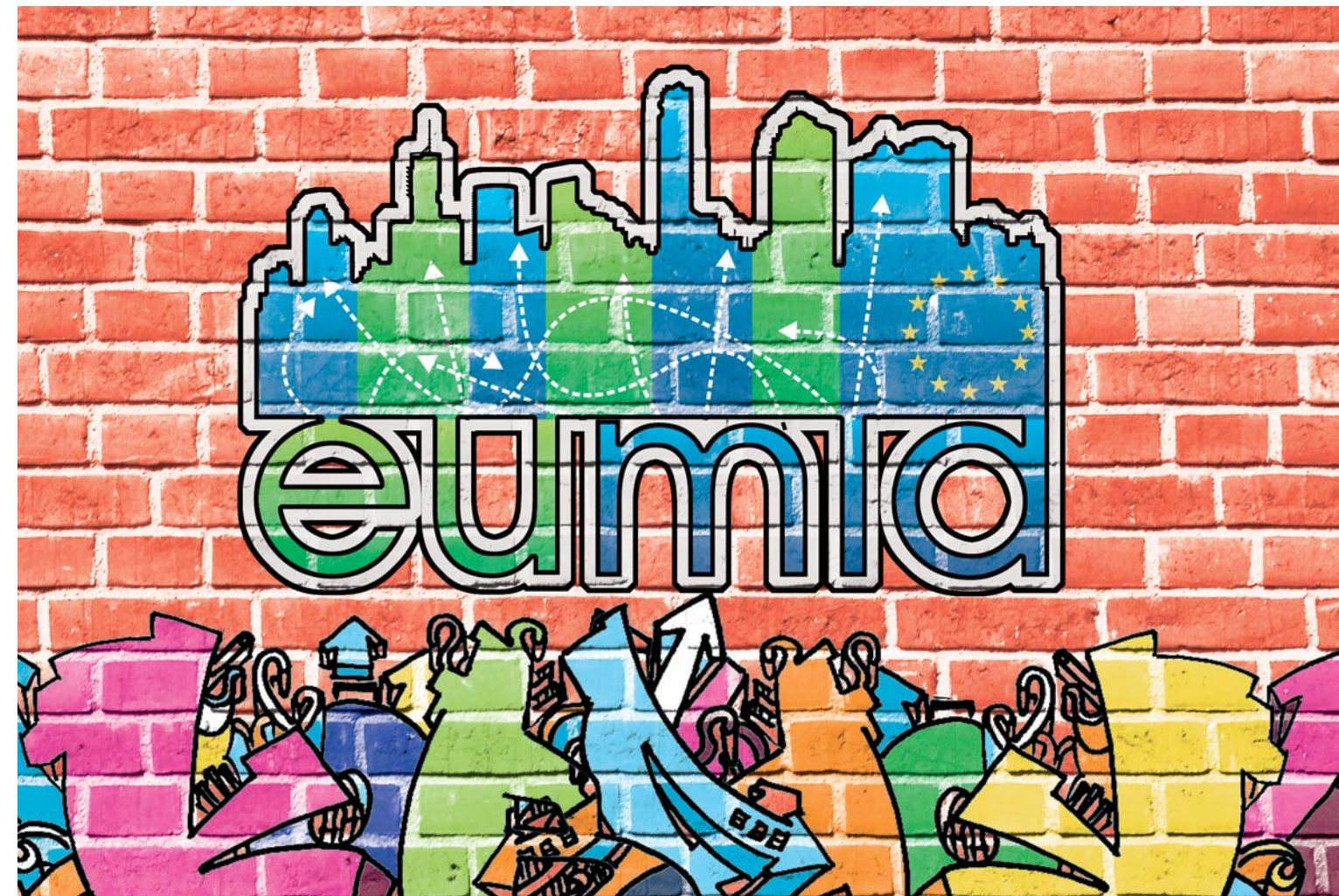
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Design Luca Fiore – Printed by the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, Italy

Made of paper awarded the European Union Eco-label,  reg.nr FR/011/002, supplied by International Paper.



European Migrant Integration Academy (EU-MIA)

An integrated research and cooperative learning project to reinforce integration capacities in European cities.



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the EU. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union



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There are clear and tangible signs that migrant integration policies are entering a phase of major restructuring and financial restriction due to growing budgetary constraints. Immigration to the EU is slowing down, but not stopping: in 2009, 2 million new residence permits were granted in the 27 member states. Demographic trends in the medium term look set to continue producing new integration challenges.

Immigration in Europe is an essentially urban phenomenon. Research evidence and practical policy experience show that integration processes and challenges occur primarily in urban settings and in specific neighbourhoods within cities. In recent years local level policies regarding immigrant integration and social cohesion have become increasingly central.

Activism on migrant integration in European cities has produced a wealth of practical experience and knowledge. Work around consolidating and sharing good practice has been less common. Given the current economic climate, growing budgetary constraints further increase the need for city-to-city synergies. Over the last few years, often thanks to EU support, different policy-oriented networking initiatives targeting local integration authorities have been launched. These have provided an excellent showcase for interesting local policy experience. However, few have been able to trigger concrete processes of policy improvement or induce sustainable policy transfer. There is now a need to build on this

knowledge and these networks in order to begin to deliver structured training initiatives.

EU-MIA (European Migrant Integration Academy) is a research-based co-operative learning and training initiative targeting and directly involving public officials and other local stakeholders responsible for the development and implementation of local level integration policies in selected European cities.

Recognising that European cities already have a rich and diverse experience in this field, EU-MIA aims to draw up innovative training tools from a range of experiences. This will be done by carefully designing research methods in co-operation with selected cities and other stakeholders. The materials produced will form the basis of a training course - 'The European Migrant Integration Academy', to be held in Turin in late 2013.

This project deliberately uses the concept of "functioning practices" (rather than "good" or "best practices") as a way of emphasizing that the effectiveness of integration (like most other policy) measures is strongly related to specific national and local contexts. Careful reflection on the transferability of issues and strategies will be fundamental for any successful research, networking and training endeavour in this field.

What we aim to do

EU-MIA, aims to **establish dynamic and operational connections between researchers, practitioners and training institutions** thereby structurally innovating in the way in which local integration policies are generated and implemented in the EU. Our objectives are to:

- Increase the systematic sharing of knowledge on key features of local integration policies in European cities on the basis of rigorously researched criteria for selecting "functioning practices"
- Widely spread practical knowledge on successful integration measures and practices, utilising and extending existing evidence and networks which will in turn help sustain a European-wide community of reflexive practice on integration
- Improve the capacity of key actors in the field of integration at city and neighbourhood levels through training-related activities.
- Reinforce and expand multi-stakeholder and multi-level European networks that share innovative experiences and knowledge on migrant integration in urban contexts

How we will do it

- **Background Research:** We will create, using existing contacts and network, a repertoire of potentially promising European "functioning practices" in the field of integration at city and neighbourhood level

- **Fieldwork missions:** Ten field visits will be carried out in the selected cities, these will include: in-depth interviews with local stakeholders (e.g. policymakers, project managers, partners and beneficiaries, public and private stakeholders etc.) and the production of short videos about each selected "functioning practice" to be included in the training kits for the Academy
- **Training Academy:** We will also develop a cooperative learning kit based on the research component of this project. This will form the basis of the Migrant Integration Academy. The Academy will be structured into three phases (blended approach):
 - **Pre-training phase** (online phase): with a targeted diffusion of training materials on EU-MIA online platform
 - **Face-to Face** and mutual learning forum for targeted stakeholders (residential phase in Turin for a duration of ten days) using an action-oriented, highly participative approach and methods including: lectures and discussions, case studies, open space debate, role play exercises, study visit and group work
 - **Follow-up phase** (online phase): with a wider sharing of training tools and networking using the EU-MIA online platform