

## Conference

### Migration and Cultural Integration in Europe

**Time:** 11 December 2013, 12.00 noon – 5.45 pm  
**Place:** Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU,  
rue Belliard 60-62, 1040 Brussels  
**Organisation:** ifa (*Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*)  
**Registration:** until 4 December 2013 to Marcel Berlinghoff ([Berlinghoff@ifa.de](mailto:Berlinghoff@ifa.de))

In European societies shaped by immigration, the everyday integration of migrants takes place in civic, socio-economic, and cultural dimensions. While there is evidence for a harmonisation of civic and socio-economic integration policies in Europe, the cultural dimension is still shaped by national concepts and perceptions of integration.

The cultural integration of migrants, and its link to the question of identity, is most often treated politically as a matter of language skills and religion. To understand the processes and problems of everyday life in Europe's multicultural societies today, other aspects that shape the host societies' perception towards newcomers and hence their opportunities for integration have to be included in the picture as well.

#### Key Questions

What do we mean when we talk about the cultural integration of migrants? Which competing concepts for the integration of migrants or minorities exist in different parts of Europe? Is cultural integration only a matter of language and religion? How can cultural institutes contribute to the integration of migrants? Should action be taken in the host country or in the country of origin?

#### Conference

The conference brings together researchers and practitioners, so that they may share on each other various perspectives on the cultural integration of migrants. The aim thereby is to contribute both to a broader understanding of cultural integration and of the causes and consequences of national divergences in this field. It brings together professionals dealing with the integration of migrants and provides them with good-practice examples. Furthermore it will provide a forum for EUNIC's cultural institutes to discuss the potential, challenges and pitfalls of a common European strategy on the cultural integration of migrants.

#### Moderator

**Nkechi Madubuko**, Journalist and Sociologist

## Order of the day

- 12.00 noon**                      **Registration and snack**
- 1.00 pm**                            **Welcome remarks**
- Johannes Jung**, Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU  
**Ronald Grätz**, Secretary General, ifa  
**Charles Etienne Lagasse**, President, EUNIC
- 1.20 pm**                            **Introduction**  
**Marcel Berlinghoff**, ifa-research programme “Culture and Foreign Policy”
- 1.30 pm**                            **Keynote**  
**Christian Joppke**, Chair in General Sociology, University of Bern, Switzerland
- 2.00 pm**                            **Discussion I**  
**New Perspectives on the Cultural Integration of Migrants**
- Sarah Cooke O'Dowd**, Policy Analyst at Migration Policy Group and Communications Manager for SIRIUS, Brussels, Belgium  
**Larisa Inic**, Coordinator of the Intercultural Cities Programme in Subotica, Serbia  
**Ricard Zapata-Barrero**, Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration (GRITIM), Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona, Spain
- Key questions:**
- How does the understanding of integration of migrants vary throughout Europe?
  - What are the outcomes of different national strategies on cultural integration?
  - Which factor is decisive for the cultural integration of migrants: national policies on cultural integration, measures adopted at the local level, or even the character traits of individual migrants?
  - What role does language education play in cultural integration, and how can bilingualism be helpful?
  - In which way do aspects such as ethnicity, class, age, gender, education, or residence status matter for the cultural integration of migrants?
- 3.30 pm**                            **Coffee Break**

4.00 pm

**Discussion II**

**Cultural Institutes and the Cultural Integration of Migrants**

**Martin Eichtinger**, Ambassador, Director General of Cultural Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs

**Alexander Kruckenfellner**, Project Leader Language and Integration Programme, Goethe Institute Munich, Germany

**Costanza Menzinger**, Coordinator of the language programme PLIDA, Società Dante Alighieri, Rome, Italy

**Key questions:**

- How do cultural institutes promote the cultural integration of migrants?
- Who should be addressed? Particular immigrant groups, the mainstream society of the host country, or rather potential immigrants in their countries of origin?
- Should we aim at common standards in European cultural integration policy? Or are diverse approaches to cultural integration more promising?
- Which role could EUNIC play in this endeavour?

5.30 pm

**Concluding remarks**

Anika Rembe, EUNIC-President 2014

5.45 pm

**End**