

The Launch of the Project “Cities and Inclusive Strategies”

PRESS RELEASE, 14 September 2017

In September 2017, the Association for Integration and Migration ([SIMI](#)) launched an extensive and ambitious project called [Cities and Inclusive Strategies](#), which responds to the public administration demand to evaluate the projects and tools aimed at supporting the integration of migrants in the Czech Republic, to map out the groups of migrants whose needs have been neglected and to propose innovative solutions to streamline the integration process. As Pavla Hradečná, the SIMI's Programme Director, puts it: *"Although more attention has been paid to local integration in recent years, there is no comprehensive overview of impacts of the tools used so far, and moreover, some groups of migrants remain unnoticed. We believe that the project is exceptional in that it will provide an assessment of the current situation of all groups of migrants at the local level, analyse the effectiveness of the projects implemented, and provide valuable foreign (not only) experience of practices that have proven successful and have an upscaling potential."*

The main goal is to set up such integration policies that would better reflect the real needs of migrants, would be based on clear visions and created within the cooperation of all stakeholders. As Marie Jelínková from the Centre for Social and Economic Strategies of Charles University puts it: *"Based on the research and evaluation of the situation in the Czech Republic and similar information from abroad, the project will, in collaboration with key stakeholders, provide clear information on what works well in the field of migrant integration, and how and based on what criteria to make decisions when, for example, targeting the grant calls. It will also offer strategies on how to proceed in situations the regions or cities/municipalities may find themselves in, be it either an unexpected influx of applicants for international protection, or a sudden increase of the number of foreign workers, or the existence of undesirable segregated migrant communities."*

The planned project outputs include an **introductory evaluation report**, which will map out the current integration procedures and tools for all migrant groups in the Czech Republic. The project will also generate a **handbook of tools** to show how and in what areas of migrant integration at local level to set goals, what tools to use to achieve them and how to make evaluation. It will also contribute to more effective and efficient spending of public funds in the field of migrant integration, as well as in the field of assistance provided to people at risk of social exclusion. Another output will be an **online database of integration projects**, which will include examples of good practices from the Czech Republic as well as from abroad. The project will also generate policy papers and expert articles, summary reports and system analyses related to migrant integration in the Prague, Liberec and South Moravian regions. Conferences, round-table discussions, expert meetings and seminars will be organised, as well as study visits abroad for the representatives of the participating regions.

The project is implemented with the [support of the European Social Fund, Operational Programme for Employment](#), as part of the [call 124 aiming to support the innovation environment](#). The project is implemented by the SIMI team as well as by experts from the [Centre for Social and Economic Strategies at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University \(CESES\)](#), who were at the start of the project, and by experts from the [Multicultural Centre Prague](#). Other partners include the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic and selected regions: The Capital City of Prague, Liberec Region and South Moravian Region.

Project contact persons:

- Simona Kalíková (Project Coordinator): kalikova@migrace.com
- Pavla Hradečná (Project Supervisor): hradecna@migrace.com
- Marie Jelínková (Evaluator): marie.jelinkova@fsv.cuni.cz