



CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE IN FASHIONING GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND THEMATIC INDICATORS

Migrant Integration Policy Index 2015 (MIPEX 2015)

The most comprehensive, reliable and useful for indicators to measure equal rights and opportunities for immigrants in policy and now in practice

MIPEX is a unique online tool to monitor integration policies and their effectiveness in 38 developed democracies: all EU countries, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.

Through its latest project, MIPEX has progressed towards the goal to establish human rights indicators for migrants, at least for the area of integration. As recommended by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, MIPEX monitors the human rights situation of migrants by breaking down these rights into specific policies and then monitoring their implementation and outcomes. MIPEX's 167 'policy indicators' in 8 policy areas indicate where immigrants have major opportunities and obstacles to participate in many areas of life. The MIPEX indicators are arguably the most comprehensive, reliable and used indicators on integration policies. The website (www.mipex.eu) presents user-friendly data and tracks all of these uses by governments, international institutions, media and advocates who use the data to identify strengths and weaknesses and design proposals based on trends, standards and best practices. MIPEX's latest project goes even further to measure the implementation and effectiveness of these rights enshrined in law and policy. The new 'beneficiaries' and 'outcomes' indicators indicate the number and type of immigrants who could benefit from these rights and whether immigrants are accessing and benefiting from these rights.

REFORMING MIGRANT LABOUR EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Pilot and evaluate reforms so that general and targeted policies can better improve employment rates and quality for immigrants

Integration policies are continuously changing, yet few countries robustly evaluate their impact. Pilots, experiments and causal evaluations are necessary for more ambitious and cost effective policies.

- The need for more ambitious and effective integration policies is clear. For example, in the average European country, only 1/3 of working age non-EU citizens, especially women and the low-educated, are not in employment, education or training.
- The MIPEX 2014 data on policies in the major developed democracies show that newcomers looking for a job or new degree cannot count on the help of the social safety net or strong targeted programmes to recognise their skills and diplomas or orient them to mainstream services. Policies still create many legal and practical obstacles to access effective general policies, while targeted support may be too new and small to those in need.
- Just 17% of working-age non-EU citizen men and women in Europe were recently enrolled in education or training in 2011/2, while only around 1/3 of those unemployed received any unemployment benefit.
- Very few people experiencing racial, ethnic or religious discrimination in Europe are reporting these cases. Anti-discrimination laws are still very new and the public is generally uninformed of their rights in countries with weak laws and equality bodies.
- No golden rule exists about which programmes work best for immigrants. Evaluations and research suggest that employment outcomes tend to be better for immigrants who get legal access to the labour market, a formal recognition of their foreign degrees or a new domestic degree, domestic work experience, country-specific vocational training and work-specific based language training. Unfortunately, few governments (almost all in Northern Europe) robustly evaluate their general or targeted policies for their effects on immigrants. More indirectly, research using MIPEX suggests that facilitating naturalisation, a secure residence and a secure family life may have positive effects on boosting labour market integration for certain immigrants.

This note is a contribution to the civil society debate at the GFMD based on the papers, country profiles and international results of the "Integration Policies: Who Benefits?" project and the MIPEX network, coordinated by the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG).