



Press Release

Funding available for NGOs working on immigrant integration in Europe Launch of new 'EPIM'-call for proposals

BRUSSELS (23 January 2008) – In recognition of the important role non-governmental organisations are playing with regards to immigrant integration, European foundations commit to fund organisations working in this field.

The question of how best to integrate migrants is a central policy challenge faced by each Member State throughout the European Union, and continues to be one of the priority areas of concern for the EU. Thousands of NGOs are also putting all their resources on the line to make immigrant integration work on a daily basis. These organisations are very close to the reality of immigrants and the host society, and are doing crucial work in preventing and easing tensions, signalling new problems and tendencies, and giving input for possible policy responses.

'EPIM' is the European Programme for Integration and Migration, initiated in 2005 by a group of key-foundations from different European countries. It aims to support these NGOs and strengthen their role in advocating for policies that benefit both migrants and host communities.

Immigrant integration primarily takes place at the local level. All countries in Europe are however facing more or less equal challenges, and therefore EPIM strongly believes in the benefit of European policies and European cooperation in this regard. Funding is made available for organisations working at the European level, but equally for national NGOs wanting to engage in cooperation beyond the national borders.

EPIM especially invites NGOs enabling the involvement of migrant voices in policy development, focusing on the specific role of host communities, and/or working on the promotion of rights of undocumented migrants, a target group that is indeed too often disregarded. NGOs are also invited to pay particular attention to strategic use of the media and communication in all their work.

EPIM is a joint venture of: The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, Compagnia di San Paolo, European Cultural Foundation, Freudenberg Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Fondation Berhneim, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Oak Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and King Baudouin Foundation.

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- Deadline for application is Friday 7 March, noon.