

REGIN PROJECT

# Final publication



REGIN

REGIONS FOR MIGRANTS  
AND REFUGEES INTEGRATION

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# Executive Summary

During past two years, migration and integration have been high on the agenda at European level. In relation to the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), the European Commission (EC) published its new [Action Plan on the Integration and Inclusion for 2021-2024](#). The key role played by regional and local authorities in migrant and refugee integration is highlighted in this plan and is an important step in recognising their needs and contributions.

This recent acknowledgment of the crucial role regions have in migrant integration and inclusion may explain why, before 2020, most projects and initiatives related to these matters only looked at the national and/or local levels, often occulting the multi-level governance challenges and opportunities that are widely spread in this field.

Aware of this particular issue thanks to the work led by its Migration Task Force since 2015, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) has advocated for several years for **supporting regional authorities with improving their policy and outcome performance on the ground, for the benefit of both newcomers and host communities**, taking into account the wide variety of territories and the variation of regional competences throughout Europe.

As project leader, the CPMR gathered a consortium of 6 of its member regions – Azores (PT), Campania (IT), Catalonia (ES), Murcia (ES), Puglia (IT) and Skåne (SE) and 3 technical partners – the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Instrategies and the Migration Policy Group (MPG) **to develop, test, implement and evaluate tools and pilot actions to strengthen the capacities of regional authorities to promote the reception, integration, participation and inclusion of migrants and refugees**.

Thanks to funding received from the **European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**, the **Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration – REGIN Project** was able to come to life in February 2020, for a period of 27 months. Nevertheless, since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has required the REGIN Project Partners to adapt some of their activities, making use of digital tools for outreach and coordination activities.

Despite these challenges, after two years of implementation, the REGIN Project is proud to present the results of its work that provides **evidence-based tools to assist regional policy-makers and practitioners in the planning, implementation and assessment of their policies and actions to promote migrant and refugee inclusion**.

The project's key messages revolve around the following statements:

- REGIN further promotes the vital role European regions and their partners at subnational level play in addressing specific integration challenges and opportunities.
- ▶ **By building a network of regions cooperating on migrant integration within the European Union (EU) and beyond, the project provides a common sharing and learning platform: every regional integration practice can lead to lessons learnt that are valuable to all.**
- One of the main challenges in implementing an effective integration policy is to make sure that it intersects well with other major social policy areas, including employment and labour market inclusion, access to education, health, housing and equal opportunities to name a few.
- ▶ **Through the use of indicators, the project aims to improve integration policies and outcomes, taking into account regional competences and multi-level governance challenges and opportunities, through evidence-based research and a comparative approach.**
- Integration is a two-way process, working best when both migrants and refugees as well as those welcoming them have a good understanding of each other's expectations, needs and cultural differences.
- ▶ **The project provides a toolkit for regions that facilitates mutual adaptation between newly arrived people and host societies, through multi-lateral stakeholder engagement, capacity building, training and outreach.**
- Given the EU-wide importance of migrant integration and inclusion and the geographic coverage of the project:
- ▶ **the REGIN tools were developed to be adaptable and relevant to other European regions.**

This report provides an **overview of the different tools, activities and findings resulting from the REGIN Project**, through the following sequence:

- a presentation of the EU context, the REGIN objectives and the REGIN Project Partners ([Section 1 – Introduction](#));
- the process related to the development and analysis of indicators to assess integration policies and outcomes at regional level ([Section 2 – REGIN Indicators](#));
- the design and implementation of an innovative toolkit for regional staff and practitioners, used to create and implement regional pilot integration actions ([Section 3 – Regional Toolkit](#));
- the description and main findings of the test-bed on health equity and social inclusion led in Skåne Region ([Section 4 – Skåne Testbed on Health & Inclusion](#));
- the production of a database and map of regional integration practices, structured by an evaluation framework ([Section 5 – REGIN Integration Lab](#));
- the building of an External Network through regular transregional exchanges between newer and more experienced regions, to identify and disseminate lessons learnt amongst key stakeholders and capitalise on the project findings ([Section 6 – Promotion of REGIN & Building the External Network](#));
- a summary of key findings and policy recommendations to decision makers at different levels of governance ([Section 7 – Conclusion & Key Recommendations](#));
- a [repository of project deliverables](#) in Annex.



# Introduction

- ◆ EU CONTEXT
- ◆ ABOUT REGIN
- ◆ REGIN PROJECT PARTNERS

## INTRODUCTION

# EU context

The new [Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#), published by the European Commission on 24 November 2020, reinforces the importance of **regional authorities as crucial actors, as most social inclusion measures are conducted at subnational level and are key to fostering exchanges, mutual understanding and trust.**

According to a [report](#) published by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in 2020, one of the main challenges related to migrant integration policies in Europe is “the lack of coordination between different levels of government, between different types of actors (schools, universities, NGOs and volunteers, etc.), and between different policy areas (education, housing, health)”<sup>1</sup>.

This issue was also noted by the [National Integration Evaluation Mechanism - NIEM](#), that focuses on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection: “Coordinated multistakeholder strategies are equally rare in the housing, employment, vocational training, health, social security and education domains”<sup>2</sup>. Addressing this **lack of coordination between policy areas and territorial actors represents an overarching need throughout the EU.**

Migrants and refugees in Europe participate in different ways in a territory’s social, economic and civic life, similarly to already settled local populations. It is important to consider that migrant and refugee populations are composed of different gender, age, ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, and encounter different obstacles regarding access to fundamental rights/services. Regional and local authorities enjoy the advantage of **being close to their population and have first-hand knowledge of the challenges and needs of their residents.**

It is therefore important to take into account the **territorial dimension of migration and integration**. Due to the variety of regional competences related to these topics across the EU, **the regional dimension has so far been understudied and there was a lack of instruments and tools** that analyse and help regional governments to improve their public intervention. Although European Member States often set national integration policy frameworks, in many contexts, regional and local authorities are able to be flexible in how they apply national policy and develop their own integration approaches.

<sup>1</sup> British Institute of International and Comparative Law / European Committee of the Regions (2020), *Integration of migrants in middle and small cities and in rural areas in Europe*, p.39, available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d28ace91-85d2-11ea-bf12-01aa75ed71a1>

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Wolffhardt, Carmine Conte and Thomas Huddleston / NIEM (2019), *The European benchmark for refugee integration – A comparative analysis of the National Integration Evaluation Mechanism – NIEM - in 14 EU countries – Baseline report*, p.13, available at: <http://www.forintegration.eu/pl/pub>

# About REGIN

The [\*Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration – REGIN Project\*](#) was set up by a consortium of partners to address one of the priorities identified by the European Commission, in its [\*2018 Work Programme\*](#) in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which is to put in place **local and regional networks for the integration of third-country nationals**.

Regional authorities, like local authorities, have formal and soft competences to deliver a range of public services linked to migrant integration and inclusion (e.g. education and training, health and welfare, labour, housing, etc.). Nevertheless, when dealing with migration issues, regional and local governments are often confronted with several challenges, such as the lack of human and financial resources, and a political and societal environment not always favourable to migrant integration. With this Fund, the EU proves it is **essential to support regional and local governments so they can rise to the challenges and opportunities of migrant and refugee integration and contribute to building inclusive and cohesive societies**.

Moreover, due to the large number of arrivals of migrants and refugees in the last few years, many public authorities at subnational level are facing new issues related to the different areas of integration: education, housing, health or integration in the labour market, for the first time, with no or little prior experience and knowledge in the field.

For example, for smaller municipalities located in remote areas, often without significant refugee and migrant populations, **regional authorities can play an important role through supporting the development of integration practices and achieving economies of scale in service delivery across several localities**.

Giving these regional and local authorities the possibility to benefit from the knowledge and practices developed by more experienced subnational public authorities is valuable. For instance, the project builds on previous work carried out by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), such as its [\*Interactive Migration Mapping\*](#), which highlights the skills, needs and innovative experiences of member regions on issues related to migration and asylum.

To achieve long-term impact, given the geographic coverage of the project and considering the variation of regional competences and multi-level governance challenges and opportunities across Europe, the REGIN Project's objectives are the following:

- Improving the design, planning, monitoring and evaluation of regional integration actions;
- Identifying inclusion and integration policy and outcome indicators at regional level;
- Developing a set of tools to facilitate regional performance on promoting and strengthening migrant and refugee integration;
- Mutual learning, dialogue and cooperation in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation integration practices and initiatives between regional authorities and their stakeholders.

The main aim is to **advance robustness, accuracy and reliability of the regional authorities' capabilities to promote migrant and refugee integration and inclusion, as well as to enhance cooperation and knowledge-sharing among them**.


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The Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration - REGIN Project aims to mainstream migrant and refugee integration within social cohesion policies at regional level, by building a common framework to facilitate, guide and improve the performance of regions through innovative tools.



*REGIN Indicators*



*Regional Toolkit*



*Integration Actions*



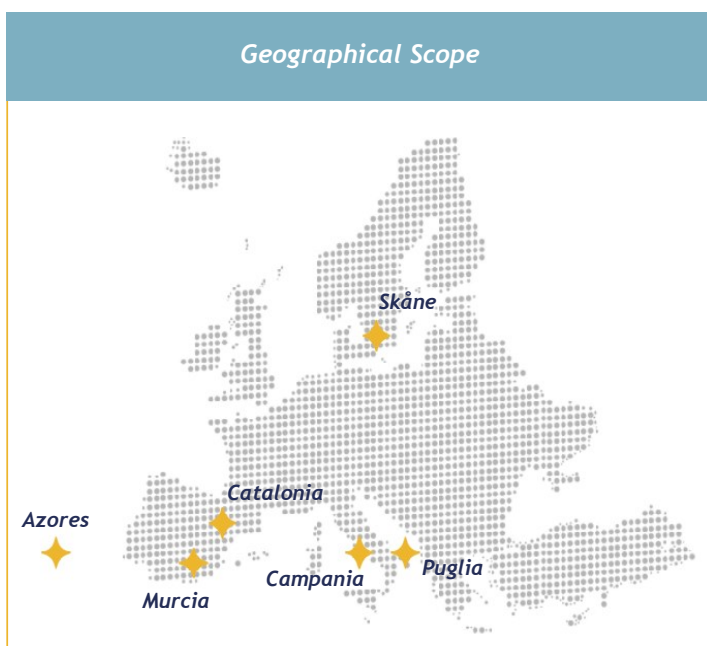
*Case study on health and inclusion*



*Integration Lab - Database and Map*



*Building an external network*



Duration	Budget
February 2020- April 2022	EUR 1 808 281.81 (90% co-funded by the European Union)



## INTRODUCTION

# REGIN Project Partners

### REGIN PROJECT COORDINATOR

As **Coordinator of the REGIN Project**, the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(CPMR\)](#) ensured the overall management of the project in line with the agreed work plan, deliverables schedule and donor requirements. It defined the activities, roles and responsibilities of the co-beneficiaries and was responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project activities and results, as well as reporting and donor liaison. It also coordinated all communication, dissemination and capitalisation activities of the project through its own members' network and beyond, as well as the development of the Integration Lab Database and Map of regional integration practices, to highlight the learning process of developing actions and instruments to promote inclusion and integration in European regions.



### REGIN TECHNICAL PARTNERS

In collaboration with the Migration Policy Group (MPG), Instrategies and Catalonia Region, the [Barcelona Centre for International Affairs \(CIDOB\)](#) developed the set of indicators designed to measure the effectiveness of integration policies and outcomes at regional level. They supported the REGIN regional partners in the organisation of regional experts' meetings. They were also involved in the drafting of policy briefs and reports and hosted a capitalisation seminar with the Spanish regions involved in the MIPEX-R analysis.



[Instrategies](#) coordinated the development of the Regional Toolkit for fostering integration and inclusion. This includes stakeholders' mapping guidelines, training for regional staff and stakeholders' capacity building. Instrategies also supported the REGIN regional partners in the design and implementation of their pilot integration actions. Moreover, it contributed to the development and analysis of outcome indicators and to some of the communication and dissemination activities in collaboration with the CPMR.



In collaboration with CIDOB, Instrategies and Catalonia Region, [MPG](#) developed the set of indicators designed to measure the effectiveness of integration policies and outcomes at regional level. They supported the REGIN regional partners in the organisation of regional experts' meetings. They were also involved in the drafting of policy briefs, reports, a practical guide/handbook, and the organisation of a webinar on MIPEX-R.



### REGIN REGIONAL PARTNERS

#### AZORES

As one of the six regional partners, [the Autonomous Region of Azores](#) tested the tools and instruments developed under REGIN.



#### The Azores' regional profile

##### Região Autónoma dos Açores (Azores), Portugal

NUTS Code: PT20

Non-EU nationals over 15: No data

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: 6% (2020)

Young people Not In Education, Employme...: 17.2% (2020)

NEET - female non-EU nationals: No data

Urban - rural typology: Intermediate region

Overall population: 242,350 inhabitants

Unemployment rate - overall population: 6% (2020)

Unemployment rate - female non-EU natio... : No data

NEET - non-EU nationals: No data

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 36.7 % (2019)



#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)

Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)

## Overview of the Azores' competences and policy context

The specificity of the Autonomous Region of the Azores is that immigration is a new reality that emerged there from the 21st century. Its integration policies strongly reflect the migratory profile of the region, with most of them directed to its small-sized population of third country nationals, as the region does not present a large population of beneficiaries of international protection. The region has rather well-established policies on migrant integration. Nevertheless, the region could greatly benefit from improvements in the development and in the evaluation of these policies. While the region has rather well-developed mechanisms for the inclusion of different actors in the decision-making process, it devotes limited financial resources to migrant integration policies.

## CAMPANIA

As one of the six regional partners, [Campania](#) tested the tools and instruments developed under REGIN.



### Campania's regional profile

#### Campania, Italy

NUTS Code: ITF3

Non-EU nationals over 15: 152,200 Inhabitants

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: 16.6 % (2020)

Young people Not In Education, Employme...: 28% (2020)

NEET - female non-EU nationals: 54.8% (2020)

Urban - rural typology: Intermediate region

Overall population: 5,800,000 Inhabitants

Unemployment rate - overall population: 17.9 % (2020)

Unemployment rate - female non-EU natio... : 20.8% (2020)

NEET - non-EU nationals: 40.3% (2020)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 49.7 % (2019)

#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)

Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)



## Overview of Campania's competences and policy context

Campania presents halfway favourable integration policies and exercises shared competences on multiple key areas for the integration of third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection, including health, labour and education. The region does not have a structured integration strategy but provides a wide variety of targeted integration policies. Policies are better developed for the small but sizeable population of third country nationals, approximately 3% of the regional population than for the population of beneficiaries of international protection (0.4% of the regional population). The region is relatively strong on the formulation of policies and on the allocation of resources to integration.

## CATALONIA

As one of the six regional partners, [Catalonia](#) tested the tools and instruments developed under REGIN. In collaboration with CIDOB and MPG, Catalonia also coordinated the work on indicators with the other regional partners.



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Igualtat i Feminismes  
**Secretaria d'Igualtats**

### Catalonia's regional profile

#### Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalonia), Spain

NUTS Code: ES51

Non-EU nationals over 15: 734,500 Inhabitants

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: 25.4% (2020)

Young people Not In Education, Employme...: 17% (2020)

NEET - female non-EU nationals: 30.8% (2020)

Urban - rural typology: Intermediate region

Overall population: 7,730,000 Inhabitants

Unemployment rate - overall population: 10% (2020)

Unemployment rate - female non-EU natio... : 29% (2020)

NEET - non-EU nationals: 31.4% (2020)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 18.8 % (2019)

#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)

Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)



## Overview of Catalonia's competences and policy context

Catalonia exercises shared competences on multiple key policy areas for the integration of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection, including health, education and labour. The region presents a coordinated and overarching integration strategy. The regional integration strategy mainly addresses third country nationals, which approximately corresponds to 11% of the regional population. The reception and integration of beneficiaries of international protection is addressed as a dedicated subarea within the general integration strategy. The region engages with multiple stakeholders in the governance process and the regional administrative structure includes units that are specifically dedicated to the integration and inclusion of third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection.

## MURCIA

As one of the six regional partners, [Murcia](#) tested the tools and instruments developed under REGIN.



### Murcia regional profile

#### Región de Murcia (Murcia), Spain

NUTS Code: ES62

Non-EU nationals over 15: 153,900 inhabitants

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: 23.6% (2020)

Young people Not In Education, Employme...: 12.4% (2020)

NEET - female non-EU nationals: 19.9% (2020)

Urban - rural typology: Predominantly urban region

Overall population: 1,510,000 inhabitants

Unemployment rate - overall population: 14.1% (2020)

Unemployment rate - female non-EU natio... : 29.4% (2020)

NEET - non-EU nationals: 20% (2020)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 31.9 % (2019)



#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)

Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)

## Overview of Murcia's competences and policy context

The region of Murcia presents generally underdeveloped integration policies. Murcia exercises shared competences on a number of key areas for the integration of third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection, such as health and education. The region lacks an overarching and coordinated migration strategy, yet it provides few non-systematic measures on integration with varying degrees of development. Although generally unfavourable for both analysed categories, policies are slightly better developed for its sizeable population of third country nationals, which approximately corresponds to 12% of the total regional population, than for beneficiaries of international protection.

## PUGLIA

As one of the six regional partners, [Puglia](#) tested the instruments developed under REGIN. Puglia Region – through the support of University of Salento and Consorzio nazionale per l'innovazione sociale (NOVA) – contributed to the analysis of regional practices integration, as part of the REGIN Integration Lab activities led by CPMR.



REGIONE PUGLIA

### Puglia's regional profile

#### Apulia (Puglia), Italy

NUTS Code: ITF4

Non-EU nationals over 15: 71,600 inhabitants (2021)

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: 20.3% (2020)

Young people Not In Education, Employme...: 22.7% (2020)

NEET - female non-EU nationals: 43.2% (2020)

Urban - rural typology: Predominantly urban region

Overall population: 4,010,000 inhabitants (2021)

Unemployment rate - overall population: 13.3% (2020)

Unemployment rate - female non-EU natio... : 28.5% (2020)

NEET - non-EU nationals: 38.3% (2020)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 37.4 % (2019)



#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)

Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)

## Overview of Puglia's competences and policy context

The region of Puglia presents halfway developed integration policies and shared competences on many policy areas affecting integration of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection (e.g., labour, education and health). Puglia's population of third country nationals, which represent only 2% of the regional population, benefits from a coordinated integration strategy, comprising of a variety of targeted actions. However, the small but sizeable population of beneficiaries of international protection does not benefit from a specific integration strategy or body, rather it is addressed as part of the broader strategy. Contrary to other REGIN regional partners, Puglia obtains better integration results for beneficiaries of international protection than for the overall population of third country nationals. The region is particularly strong in the allocation of resources to integration, and it is rather advanced in the implementation and evaluation of its policies.

## SKÅNE

As well as contributing to the REGIN tools and instruments, [Partnership Skåne](#) conducted a testbed in collaboration with its partner NGOs as part of its ongoing method development regarding health equity and social inclusion. The test-bed consisted of an advisory service providing holistic support to newly arrived people and a support scheme tailored to individual needs to achieve integration, psychosocial support and empowerment.



Partnership Skåne



Länsstyrelsen  
Skåne

## Skåne's regional profile

### Skåne (Scania), Sweden

NUTS Code: SE224

Non-EU nationals over 15: No data

Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals: No data

NEET - non-EU nationals: No data

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: No data

Overall population: 1,400,000 inhabitants

Unemployment rate - overall population: No data

Unemployment rate - female non-EU nationals: No data

NEET - female non-EU nationals: No data

Urban - rural typology: Intermediate region



#### Sources

European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population)

Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)

## Overview of Skåne's competences and policy context

The region of Skåne presents quite developed integration policies spanning on its multiple areas of competence, which include health, labour and education. The region does not present an overarching and coordinated integration strategy but provides numerous targeted measures towards third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection. The degree of development of integration policies is roughly equivalent for Skåne's populations of third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection, which respectively correspond to approximately 15% and 8% of the regional population. Skåne's competences are shared with the national government and are mostly related to the implementation of policies, where regional practices are particularly developed. The region has a permanent body dedicated to migrant and refugee integration, which frequently interacts with stakeholders (e.g., regional and national administrative bodies, NGOs and labour organisations) in the formulation and implementation of policies. Additionally, the region is particularly strong in the allocation of resources to integration.

# 2

## REGIN Indicators

- ◆ METHODOLOGY
- ◆ SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
- ◆ RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAYS FORWARD

While the measurement of migrant and refugee integration has been traditionally carried out at the national level, and to some extent the local level, the regional level has remained broadly unexplored. As part of the REGIN Project, MPG and CIDOB adapted the national [Migrant Integration Policy Index - MIPEX](#) framework to the regional level as **MIPEX-Regions (MIPEX-R)**.

**MIPEX-R** is a unique tool that developed specific indicators to assess integration policy outputs and outcomes, **moving beyond the nation-state paradigm towards a more subnational focus** upon migrant and refugee integration. These REGIN Indicators represent a **common evidence-based framework for policy evaluation at regional level**.

This innovative set of regional indicators based on standardised questionnaires was tested in the **six partner regions of the project**: Azores (PT), Campania (IT), Catalonia (ES), Murcia (ES), Puglia (IT) and Skåne (SE).

The preliminary results are gathered in a **two-fold dataset**: the regional migrant integration policies dataset “MIPEX-R” and the “regional outcome dataset”, together with a [methodological note](#).

This dataset represented the basis from which to carry out a **comparative analysis of the six partner regions**, as well as to **provide inputs for stimulating policy debates in each region** with the aim to:

1. showcase evidence-based knowledge to foster migrant integration;
2. refine the use of indicators for integration-policy evaluation;
3. pinpoint the contribution of regional actors in the integration process;
4. promote the capacity for mutual learning between regions in the EU.

Following discussions with regional experts and stakeholders, these preliminary results were gathered in [regional policy briefs](#), illustrating a **rich and multi-dimensional picture of migrant and refugee integration at regional level**.

Together with the REGIN pilot regions, **scope was extended to include additional regions from 7 European countries** (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden). The **25 regions** that took part in the MIPEX-R analysis per country are the following (see map below):

- Austria: Vienna, Voralberg, Tyrol;
- Belgium: Flanders, Wallonia;
- Germany: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Bavaria, Berlin;
- Italy: Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Puglia, Veneto, Trento, South Tyrol;
- Portugal: the Azores, Lisbon;
- Spain: Catalonia, Murcia, Navarra, Basque Country, Valencia, Melilla;
- Sweden: Skåne, Västra Götaland.



A report with comparative MIPEX-R results for the 25 participating regions will be published in March 2022.

# Methodology

## 1. IDENTIFYING THE ROLE OF THE REGIONS BASED ON EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

The development of REGIN indicators started with **desk research** aimed at defining the role regional authorities play in the field of migrant integration. This first stage of research focused on **identifying competences, policies, resources and relations with other relevant stakeholders** in the field of integration. These findings allowed the researchers to fix the scope of the indicators to be developed.

## 2. BUILDING REGIN INDICATORS ON EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

The REGIN Indicators were inspired by European and international normative standards and other existing indicators, such as the Migrant Integration Policy Index - MIPEX, the National Integration Evaluation Mechanism - NIEM, the Intercultural Cities Index - ICC and the Zaragoza Indicators.

The initial sets of indicators were complemented by ad hoc measures developed to capture elements and aspects related to the regions' role in migrant and refugee integration that indicators provided by literature do not cover. A review procedure was carried out with regional partners and experts to guarantee that **indicators are clearly worded, policy-relevant, and sustainable for future updating**.

By means of this process, the final REGIN sets of indicators were created: the **Regional Policy Indicators (MIPEX-R)**, made of **61 indicators**, and the **Regional Outcome Indicators**, including **55 indicators**.



### 3. CONCEPTUAL GROUNDS AND ANALYTICAL DIMENSIONS

The REGIN Indicators were also adjusted according to the MIPEX level of analysis, which is organised along four analytical axes:

- **governance elements** (actions, actors & relations, and resources);
- **policy cycle** (formulation, policy output, implementation and evaluation);
- **target groups** (third country nationals - TCNs, and beneficiaries of international protection - BIPs);
- **area of integration policies** (including labour, education, health, housing, language, culture, religion and social security and assistance).

The first axis captures the **complexity of the governance of migrant and refugee integration** and its core analytical elements.

The second axis refers to the **multidimensionality of the policy cycle**: from when a political matter is acknowledged, to the moment in which the action chosen to face such problem is put into practice and, later on, evaluated.

The REGIN Indicators identify **four stages of policy-making**:

1. the early stage of decision-making and policy discussion (i.e.: formulation);
2. the formal issuing of the action/measure (i.e.: policy output);
3. the phase in which the action/measure is put into practice (i.e.: implementation);
4. the phase of control and assessment of the action/measures implemented (i.e.: evaluation).

The third analytical dimension captures the **key policy areas** of integration and inclusion: REGIN Indicators focus on areas that are **covered by regional competences**. The selection of key areas includes labour, education, health,

housing, language, culture, religion and social security and assistance.

A last axis of analysis captures **variation of integration outcomes and trends of the migrant and refugee populations**.

### 4. FILLING IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE, REVISION, SCORING AND AGGREGATION SCHEME

The Policy and Outcome Indicators questionnaires were completed by regional experts with the participation of partner regions.

CIDOB and MPG's central research staff checked the experts' responses to ensure questions were answered in a consistent manner and carried out the **evaluation based on a 0-100 scoring system**, where a score of 100 means the standard is fully met and 0 means the standard is fully unmet.

The score captures the extent to which each element meets the normative standards employed. Indicators are then aggregated to allow comparison between the

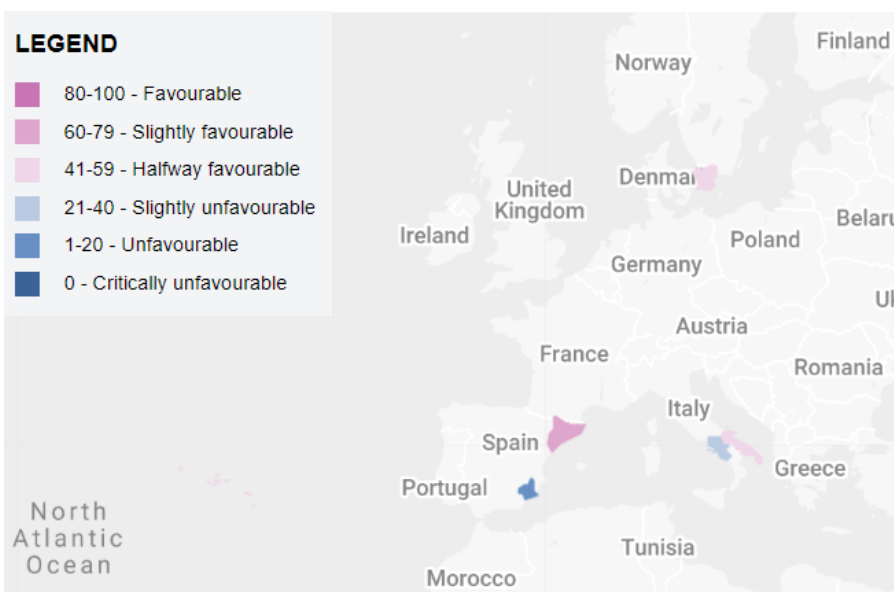
different analytical dimensions and for an evaluation of the extent to which the regional system ensures successful integration of migrants and refugees.

### 5. DATA VISUALISATION

The MIPEX-R webpage - <https://r.mipex.eu/> - went live on 30 November 2021: it is an **on-line, user-friendly tool** hosted on [www.mipex.eu](http://www.mipex.eu). As a REGIN Project tool, it was built as an integrated and interconnected platform together with the [REGIN Integration Lab](#).

On the webpage, results for REGIN policy and outcome indicators for the six REGIN project partners (Azores, Campania, Catalonia, Murcia, Puglia and Skåne) are available related to the policy cycle, governance and integration measures for both target groups.

The regional profile pages present an overall score for each region and sections that detail **migration and integration trends in the region as well as the region's competences**.



# Summary of findings

Regarding **regional competences**: regions such as Campania, Puglia and Murcia in Italy and Spain have only **shared legislative competences with the central government** in labour, education, health, housing, culture, and social security and assistance. Catalonia (Spain) and Azores (Portugal), given their special status as Autonomous Regions, also enjoy some **exclusive competence** in the areas of housing, health, language and culture. Skåne has **implementing powers** rather than legislative powers.

Regarding the **policy cycle**: overall, pilot regions do **better on implementation**, than on formulation and the policy outputs. This may be due to the fact they have **stronger links with local communities and stronger powers when it comes to implementing policies** in comparison with national level actors that usually score lower on implementation.

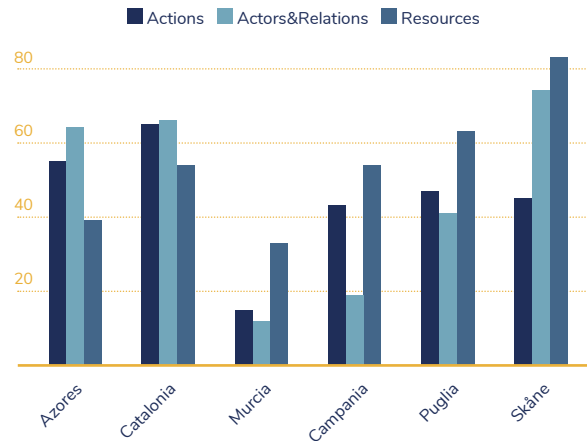
Regarding **policy output**: **Catalonia** has the highest score (71/100) and is the only region to have adopted a **comprehensive migrant and refugee integration strategy**. **Skåne** scores very high (81/100) on **implementation** since it involves a diverse range of actors and stakeholders in the development and **implementation process** of the integration strategy and migrant integration measures.

Most regions score quite low on **evaluation**. The highest score (63/100) is for **Puglia**. Catalonia is the only region that has a **systematic/regular evaluation and monitoring mechanism** process in force for both third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection. In other Regions, there is no evaluation at all, or it is carried out only occasionally or on an ad hoc basis.

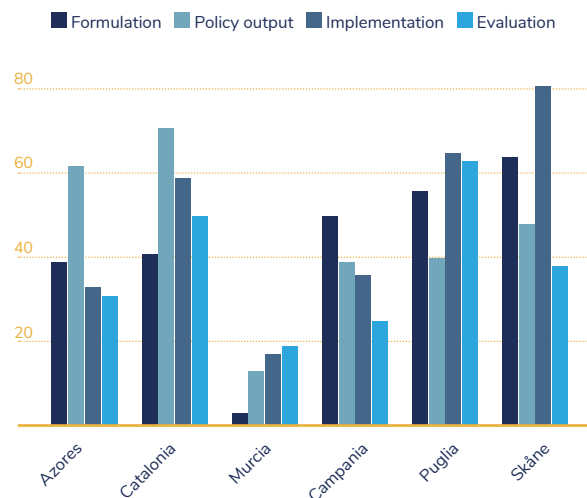
Regarding **governance**: aggregated scores show that partner regions perform better when it comes to **providing support for local authorities and NGOs for migrant integration**, than involving migrants and other stakeholders in the decision-making process and enacting policies and regulations.

As a general trend, policies and governance for the **integration of third country nationals in general obtain better results than the specific ones for beneficiaries of international protection**, except for Puglia where there is a better result for refugees (see 'Target group' graph on the right). The results are quite balanced between the two target groups in every Region, except Azores. The strong variation may be due to the fact that there is a low number of refugees in the Azores.

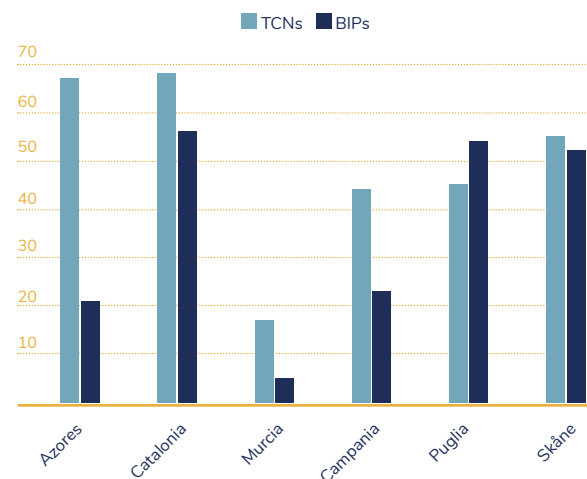
## Governance elements



## Policy cycle



## Target Group



## REGIN INDICATORS

# Recommendations and ways forward

## Recommendations to regional authorities

- Increase the support that regions provide to local authorities as regards the field of migrant integration;
- Coordinate regular and systematic representation and consultation of migrants and NGOs in the policy decision-making process;
- Adopt comprehensive migrant and refugee integration strategy which includes a wide set of elements such as rationales, goals, actions, budget and coordination structure;
- Elaborate a clear framework to implement, monitor and evaluate an integrated integration strategy;
- Define precise indicators to measure progress in the achievements of the objectives set by the strategy;
- Promote long-term and sustainable funds and in-kind support for local actors that support integration of migrants and refugees;
- Promote campaigns and raise awareness on the positive contribution of migration and diversity to society;
- Increase the cooperation with other regions and jointly formulate and develop measures.

## Way forward - Enlarging the scope of MIPEX-R

### How did Navarra Region benefit from its participation in the MIPEX-R analysis?

In 2020, Navarra joined the MIPEX-R analysis to get a **better overview of the region's strengths and weaknesses and to improve its services**, notably intercultural mediation services, reception services for women and young people, legal advice, and through awareness raising on racism and trainings for professionals.

Thanks to MIPEX-R, the regional authority was reinforced in the idea that it has a **strong institutional structure and a wide network of stakeholders**.

Since 2021, the regional authority has set up a **comprehensive welcome plan, a family reunification service and a community sponsorship programme**. It introduced a **strategy on intercultural coexistence and a plan to combat racism**. It has deployed an **awareness campaign** on the whole territory called **Esenciales** giving **visibility to migrants**. As a follow-up to Navarra's involvement in the REGIN Project, the region plans to share practices and expand networking and its participation in projects with other European regions.

To have a wider transregional comparative analysis, regional authorities around Europe are encouraged to get in touch with the REGIN Project at [reginproject@crpm.org](mailto:reginproject@crpm.org) to find out more and learn how they can join the MIPEX-R analysis.

## Way forward – General Policy Brief, Practical Guide/Handbook and MIPEX-R Webinar

- **General Policy Brief**  
A short paper will be drafted by MPG and published in April 2022 to **present the MIPEX-R findings to stakeholders and policy makers in an easy-to-understand fashion**, linked to EU Action Plan on Integration and other EU strategies.
- **Step-by-step Practical Guide/Handbook**  
This tool in the form of a practical checklist with step-by-step questions will be developed and disseminated by MPG in April 2022 to allow regional authorities, policymakers and other stakeholders to **conduct a self-assessment of regional policies**.
- **MIPEX-R Webinar**  
In the spring 2022, MPG will organise of an **online webinar to present the main results of MIPEX-R**.

# Regional Toolkit

- ◆ DESCRIPTION OF THE REGIN TOOLS
- ◆ PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOOLS IN THE PILOT REGIONS
- ◆ OVERVIEW OF THE PILOT INTEGRATION ACTIONS
- ◆ LESSONS LEARNT AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

# Description of the REGIN Tools

REGIN proposes an innovative toolkit for regional authorities to enhance integration and inclusion within their territories. The tools include guidelines to map relevant actors in the integration path, guidelines for capacity building of these key stakeholders and tailored training for regional staff to support them in strengthening integration services.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS? - THE REGIN STAKEHOLDERS' MAPPING GUIDELINES

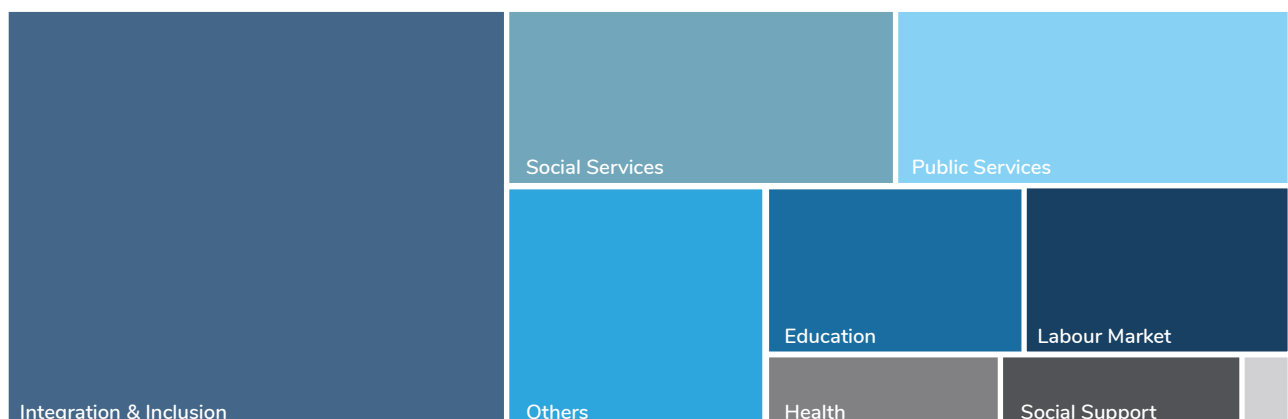
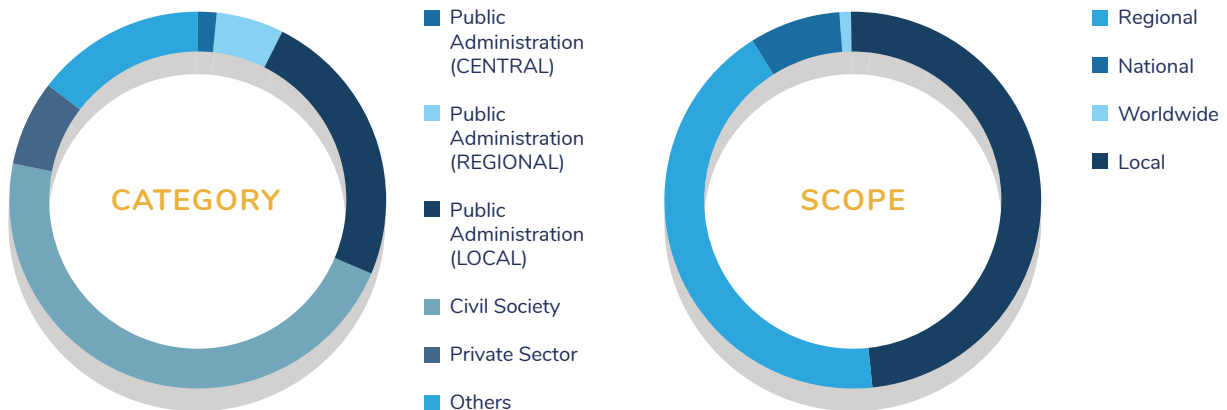
The first tool provided by Instrategies to regions as part of the REGIN toolkit is a document presenting guidelines to **map diverse actors that play, or could play, an important role in integration and inclusion.**

As they are cross-cutting and multi-dimensional matters, it is important to identify actors as diverse as possible through different levels of governance.

Relevant stakeholders can be from the private or public sector, and represent different scopes and areas of work. In the mapping results of REGIN partners, there is a **clear dominance of the local and regional actors**, which goes in line with the project's objectives.

For instance, REGIN regional partners mapped sports clubs or universities as stakeholders, that were not previously included in the integration process at regional level: this illustrates an added value of the project, as the **regions have increased their outreach to relevant stakeholders within their territory.**

## The distribution of the stakeholders listed from the six partner regions



## HOW TO INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL INTEGRATION ACTION? – THE REGIN STAKEHOLDERS' CAPACITY BUILDING GUIDELINES

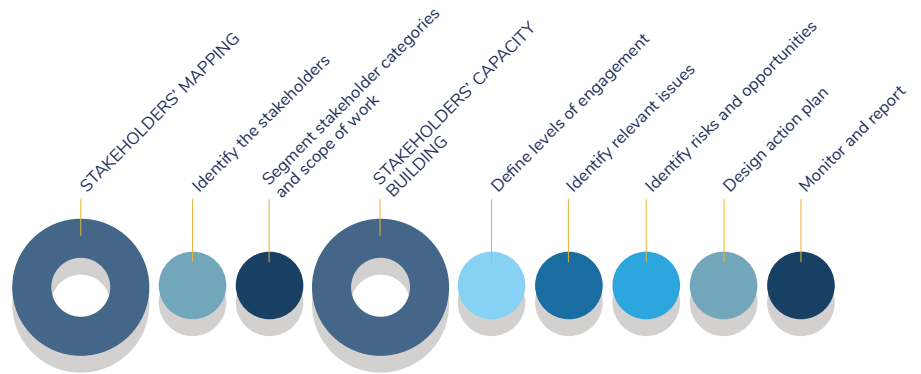
Following the stakeholders' mapping, strategies and the REGIN pilot regions designed, planned and facilitated capacity-building activities for a diverse range of regional actors based on [Stakeholders' Capacity Building Guidelines](#).

REGIN applied a **systematic approach to capacity building** so regional authorities can:

- guarantee that all stakeholders are operating from a common knowledge base;
- provide stakeholders with knowledge and skills to engage with migrant and refugee integration;
- ensure that stakeholders are providing correct and accurate information to their constituencies;
- combat misperceptions that stakeholders may have on migrant integration;
- foster a sense of collective ownership and enhance the capacity of regions to work together with regional stakeholders.

## HOW TO IMPROVE REGIONAL STAFF KNOWLEDGE ON INTEGRATION, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT? - THE REGIN TRAINING GUIDELINES

The [REGIN Training Guidelines](#) for regional staff were designed as a general framework that can be adapted to regional realities. They allow staff working in the delivery of different public services to migrants and refugees to **upgrade their knowledge, awareness and skills on integration, inclusion and diversity management**.



The topics of the different modules are the following:

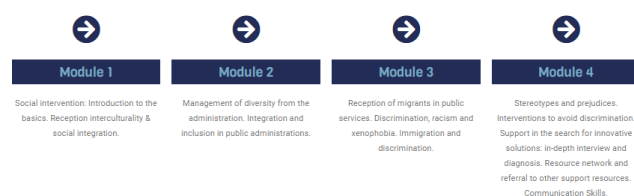
- Module 0 – General information
- Module 1 - Social intervention: Introduction to the basics. Reception interculturality & social integration
- Module 2 - Management of diversity in the administration. Integration and inclusion in public administrations
- Module 3 - Reception of migrants in public services. Discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Immigration and discrimination
- Module 4 - Stereotypes. Interventions to avoid discrimination. Support in the search for innovative solutions: in-depth interview and

diagnosis. Referral to other support resources.

For each module, further information can be found on the webpage regarding the workload (duration of the training session), on the contents, the trainer(s)/ facilitator(s) profile(s), the needed resources, the structure of the session, the methodology, good practice in Europe and an example of a practical exercise, as well as links to additional materials following the structure of the session. An [evaluation form](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) have been integrated and presentations are also [available for download](#) in a specific section of the webpage.



There are four independent modules that add up to a total of 4 hours of training. Let's go!



# Practical implementation of the tools in the pilot regions

Applying the **guidelines for stakeholders' mapping** developed by Instrategies, partner regions identified diverse stakeholders that play an important role in their territories. This activity created strong foundation and ensured the **effectiveness and sustainability** of the integration actions implemented in the regions.

Using the preliminary results of the RGIN Indicators, Instrategies together with each partner regions **identified in which area or policy dimension there is room for improvement** regarding migrant integration. This first identification of opportunities helped to guide the development of integration actions. It also served to **better frame and adapt the training and capacity-building sessions**.



## REGIN process towards tailor-made innovative integration actions

Using **MIPEX-R results** to choose a policy area with potential room for improvement

Promoting innovative integration actions at European level on the RGIN Integration Lab Database & through the **REGIN External Network**

**Mapping stakeholders**, enhancing multi-level and multi-stakeholders' participation and building capacities together

**DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT ACTION IN EACH REGION**

Getting inspired by lessons learnt from other regional integration practices using the **REGIN Integration Lab**

**Training** regional and local authorities' staff on cross-cutting skills related to migrant integration

Design monitoring and evaluation of the pilot action using the **REGIN evaluation framework and matrix**

### SESSION 1

Area of intervention  
Definition of the action  
Role of stakeholders  
WHAT, WHY, WHO

### SESSION 2

Development of the action  
Assesment of the action  
Assesment of stakeholders  
HOW, WHEN, WHERE

Each partner region held two capacity-building sessions, based on the [REGIN Stakeholders' Capacity Building Guidelines](#). The first session was aimed at **identifying and defining an action in an area of intervention** in the region, using the results from the RGIN Indicators. During the second session, stakeholders were invited to **discuss and reflect upon the sustainability of the action** implemented in the region.

Furthermore, participating regions organised training sessions for their regional staff. These sessions were based on the [REGIN Training Guidelines for Regional Staff](#). Both capacity building and training guidelines were **tailored to each region's specific**

**situation** and can be **adapted to be used by other regional and local authorities** (see below [section 'Lessons learnt and practical recommendations'](#) for concrete examples).

Thanks to the RGIN tools, regions were supported by a **common framework to develop an innovative integration action** (except Skåne that worked on a specific testbed on health equity and social inclusion – see [Section 4](#)). These actions were decided by regional authorities with the support of their regional stakeholders. A **catalogue presenting the RGIN pilot actions will be published in March 2022**: the below section provides an overview of these actions.

# Overview of the pilot integration actions



## THE AZORES – WELCOME GUIDE AND PROMOTION OF INTERCULTURALITY

Policy Area(s)/Topic(s)

Access to information and interculturality

Objective(s)

To enhance collaboration between different relevant regional departments (social affairs, health, housing...) to ensure a **harmonised approach and smooth communication on migrant and refugee matters**, as well as to facilitate exchanges between newcomers and host society

Target group(s)

Newcomers and receiving communities as part of the welcome guide and intercultural fair; health professionals and teachers as part of the training

Activities

- Publication of **welcome guide** for migrants, as a website, mobile app and printed guide and wide dissemination of the guide through the involvement of local authorities within the region (e.g.: **promotional video**);
- **Sectoral/thematic trainings** on integration and inclusion for the different regional departments through an **intercultural approach**;
- Organisation of an **intercultural fair** (music, gastronomy and crafts) on the occasion of International Migrants Day in December 2021.



## PUGLIA – STUDY ON MIGRANT YOUTH AS CULTURAL BROKERS, A FOCUS ON FAMILY-SCHOOL INTERACTION

Policy Area(s)/Topic(s)

Acculturation processes, migrant youth well-being

Objective(s)

To reduce the communication gaps between schools and migrant families

Target group(s)

Migrant families (parents and children) and schoolteachers

Activities

- Conducting in-depth interviews with young migrants, their parents and teachers to gain information about culture brokering, how these practices relate to acculturation processes, psychosocial adjustment and wellbeing of migrant youth, as well as family-school communication and parents-children relationships;
- Research study on **literacy and communication in the schooling microsystem**, and on suggestions to **overcome the digital divide** which has come to the fore with the COVID-19 situation where foreign families are less favoured in terms of access to digital tools.



## CATALONIA - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ON IT PROGRAMMING/ROBOTICS

Policy Area(s)/Topic(s)	Access to higher education and labour market inclusion
Objective(s)	To improve education and employment prospects of children with a migrant background and prevent school drop-out
Target group(s)	Children and youth with a migrant background, aged 13-15 years in compulsory secondary education
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five <b>technical extracurricular activities</b> on skills most demanded in the current labour market, i.e.: robotics and programming;</li> <li><b>Psychosocial support</b> provided, focusing on soft skills (communication, teamwork, and self-perception).</li> </ul>



## MURCIA - REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON MIGRANT INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION, THROUGH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

Policy Area(s)/Topic(s)	Policy planning, participation and anti-discrimination
Objective(s)	To elaborate a common structure to formulate proposals for EU funding (especially ESF+), paying specific attention to participation, networking and awareness-raising actions
Target group(s)	Regional stakeholders, including migrant and refugee communities
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting-up of a special <b>Commission on social cohesion</b> as part of the "Regional Forum for Immigration";</li> <li>Development of a roadmap for the prioritisation of policies and actions related to integration and inclusion, as well as a joint proposal to the regional programme for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), highlighting the importance of using the funds available to address regional needs;</li> <li>Boosting a regional campaign on anti-discrimination.</li> </ul>



## CAMPANIA – SYNERGIES WITH THE COM.IN.4.0 PROJECT ON INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS' COMMUNITIES IN SMALL VILLAGES OF INNER RURAL AREAS

Policy Area(s)/Topic(s)	Combatting depopulation and improving migrant inclusion in rural areas
Objective(s)	To connect migrant integration regional policy to the wider socio-economic regional programmes and to create <b>models of cooperation</b> among migrants and local communities in rural areas
Target group(s)	Migrants and local communities in rural areas
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring the process of the <b>COM.IN.4.0 project</b> through the use and adaptation of the REGIN tools;</li> <li>Drafting of transferability guidelines focusing on the integration action process.</li> </ul>

# Lessons learnt and practical recommendations

Stakeholders' capacity building sessions have proven very successful in **engaging a wide variety of regional actors in the design and implementation of the pilot actions**. The challenge is perhaps how to maintain the sustainability of these interactions with those that are not directly involved in the pilot action. Some partner regions used the opportunity to look beyond the REGIN action in terms of **more longer-term strategic reflections**, for example discussing the **need to centralise and/or improve public and private actors' coordination**.

**Trainings for regional staff often needed to be adapted to the specific regional authority's context**. For example, Catalonia adapted the REGIN Training Guidelines to focus on interculturality. Since regional staff were not always the most directly concerned, other stakeholders, especially **staff from local authorities**, have also participated since they have more day-to-day direct contact with migrants and refugees.

The use of **concrete case studies related to the region** can help overcome a too theoretical approach (see examples below). It is possible to **extend the trainings and adapt them to other stakeholders**. This had in fact been one of the objectives for **transferability of the tool**: to enrich the basic modules.

## How did the regions adapt the REGIN tools? - The Azores example

During the stakeholders' mapping, the need to explore the **strengthening of relations with local authorities** was identified in the Azores.

Through capacity building activities, the Azores gathered regional and local social actors, public entities and civil society organisations: thanks to advice given by technical partner InStrategies, the Azores went thinking beyond its usual partners and involved the University that revealed itself as a very relevant and creative stakeholder.

As part of its integration action, the region also developed a **partnership with local actors**, with the aim of conducting trainings on cultural diversity towards teachers and health professionals.

Using the REGIN toolkit, the Azores managed to change its perspective towards a **more comprehensive approach promoting an enhanced participation of local authorities and other relevant actors**.



## How did the regions adapt the REGIN tools? - The Campania example

As part of its training to staff from regional and local authorities, Campania decided to focus on **interculturality and integration aspects in the Cilento area**, to provide a concrete case to the participants.

This decision was based on the region's decision to orient its stakeholders' capacity building session and pilot action with a focus on migrant populations living in Cilento municipalities and the **need**

**to curb the depopulation phenomenon affecting this area.** Trainers presented the territorial, geographical and socio-demographic characteristics of Cilento as an area with low population density.

It was also highlighted that **most migrants arriving in Cilento come from rural areas and their integration in local agriculture** could prove beneficial to the sector.

Key learnings from the REGIN process are that integration and inclusion cannot be fostered in a unidirectional sense, as they imply mutual commitment of the local community and newcomers, thus **recognising cultural diversity as a collective resource.**

Such premises shed light on key margins of improvement, summarised as follows:

- **More voices and interaction** expressing the need to foster a multi-stakeholder and multi-level dialogue in defining the processes of integration and inclusion. In other words, to identify stakeholders who play a crucial role in living together, moving beyond (without excluding) the more traditional interlocutors in the integration and inclusion fields;
- **More community** promotes the strengthening of inclusive communities whose sense of belonging does not arise from the homogeneity of its members, but rather from respect for their diversity and uniqueness;
- **More engagement**, which refers to the willingness to give greater visibility to the existing experiences and actions fostering integration, promoting a local network's consolidation between the key regional stakeholders.



**MORE VOICES  
AND INTERACTION**



**MORE COMMUNITY**



**MORE ENGAGEMENT**

# 4

## Skåne Testbed on Health & Inclusion

- ◆ DESCRIPTION OF ACTION
- ◆ SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
- ◆ LESSONS LEARNT AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

# Description of action



Partnership Skåne

Skåne Region has had a unique role within the RGIN Project, having already developed an integration and inclusion action, which encompasses a **test-bed on health and integration**.

The test-bed provided **group and individualised support to newly arrived families**. The model is based on a regional collaboration platform called [Partnership Skåne](#), and it has been further developed and tested as part of the RGIN Project.

Partnership Skåne brings together the County Administrative Board, Region Skåne, Public Employment Service, municipalities, universities and civil society organisations.

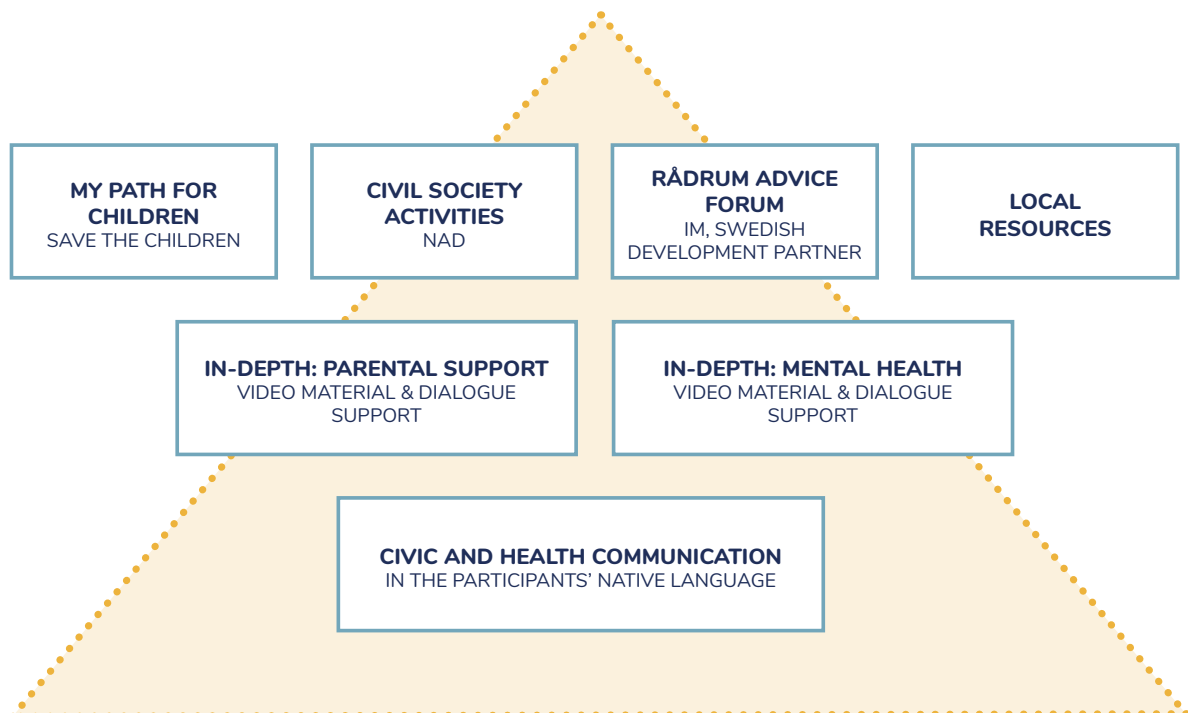
The core part of this test-bed is building a **supportive environment for newly arrived people** in the municipalities of Malmö and Eslöv. With a special focus on **mental health, well-being and parenting**, Partnership Skåne developed a free counselling service, a **training programme on health communication** and peer-to-peer support groups, facilitated by professional Civic and Health Communicators who share the same language and migration background with the participants.

**Method development: in depth dialogue on mental health and parenting**

Within the pilot project, Civic and Health communicators held group discussion circles for

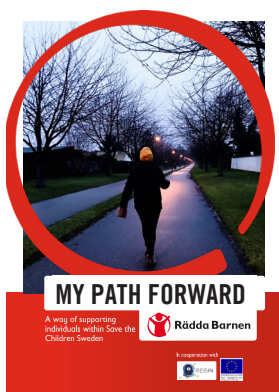
participants focusing on **addressing the psycho-social stress associated with the migration process** that many experience. An important topic as part of this is also **parenting as a newcomer in Sweden**. Linked to the discussion circles, participants have received **individual support through local resources within civil society, the municipality and, in some cases, primary health care**.

[The Swedish Development Partner / Individuell Människohjälp – IM](#), [Save the Children Sweden / Rädda Barnen](#) and [Network – Activity – Participation \(NAD\)](#) have provided individual support through previously developed methods. The Public Employment Service has been a key partner in the collaboration.





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© Rädda Barnen-Save the Children



© Partnership Skåne



© MILSA educational platform

The three methods previously developed by civil society organisations and used as part of the test-bed were:

### RådRum

RådRum, run by IM, offers **voluntary-based, free, impartial and confidential counselling** for newly arrived migrants and refugees. Normally two counsellors attend each visitor; one native and one with a migration background. A wide variety of issues are discussed, and support is given on how to proceed. The social interaction is about **trust and handling personal problems**, as well as about providing an opportunity for intercultural social interaction and practice of some simple Swedish. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see article [RådRum in the times of COVID-19](#)), part of the training of volunteers working on the testbed has been adapted to the digital format and counselling has been delivered as a remote service through digital platforms.

### My Path

'MyPath' provides support to families to improve their situation using individual meetings. Through My Path, individuals have been linked to relevant institutions such as health care centres, municipality's parent training programs and insurance agencies. In collaboration with Save the Children Sweden, the '[My Path forward](#)' guide was produced focusing on **support to newly-arrived parents and children**.

This publication, produced as part of the REGIN project by Save the Children Sweden in collaboration with Partnership Skåne, presents the methodology for providing a **facilitated approach and supporting environment** that can accompany the individual and fill voids where the public sector offerings do not match the needs of the individual.

### Network – Activity – Participation (NAD)

The Network – Activity – Participation (NAD) initiative has been developed since 2013, as part of Partnership Skåne, to explore **new methods on how civil society and the public sector can work together for the establishment of a newly arrived person**. NAD offers information on the Swedish association system and customised study visits. They also **match individuals to civil society activities and associations**, based primarily on interest but also the need for language training, health, and networks.

Skåne Region has also worked on **strengthening the links with its regional stakeholders** through the REGIN Stakeholders' Capacity Building Events held in January and August 2021. The sessions focused on presenting a **newly tested program of multi-level trans-sectorial collaboration to provide a supportive environment for migrants on mental health and parenting**.

The events gathered **120 people representing municipalities, civil society organisations, regional organisations and other actors** and served to inspire participating actors to build on the work that has been carried out and reflect upon its sustainability.

Furthermore, on 12-13 April 2021, the region led a conference on Civic & Health Communication for Sustainable Integration hosted by MILSA educational platform, the Skåne County Administrative Board and boards of the other Swedish counties. The collaborative partners in REGIN presented the concept and experiences from the testbed carried out in two workshops. **Nearly 600 participants from different sectors and from different parts of Sweden, as well as from several countries**, attended the conference. A [short film](#), both in Swedish and English, was also produced and published on the web page of Partnership Skåne.

## SKÅNE TESTBED ON HEALTH &amp; INCLUSION

# Summary of findings

In the REGIN pilot, the model for cross-cutting collaboration with local partners has proven to be an effective tool for multi-level collaboration resulting in improved health and participation.

The testbed was evaluated by Uppsala University: the evaluation highlighted the potential to promote and strengthen many personal resources that are important for those who experience migration-related stress. These include **health knowledge, mental health literacy, self-assessed mental and physical health, and social contacts**.

Moreover, results indicate that to fulfil this potential, it is needed to link relevant complementary activities and support. For instance, there was a partial perception from participants that some activities linked to Swedish associations and civil society were too theoretical. Pandemic restrictions may have contributed to unmet expectations.

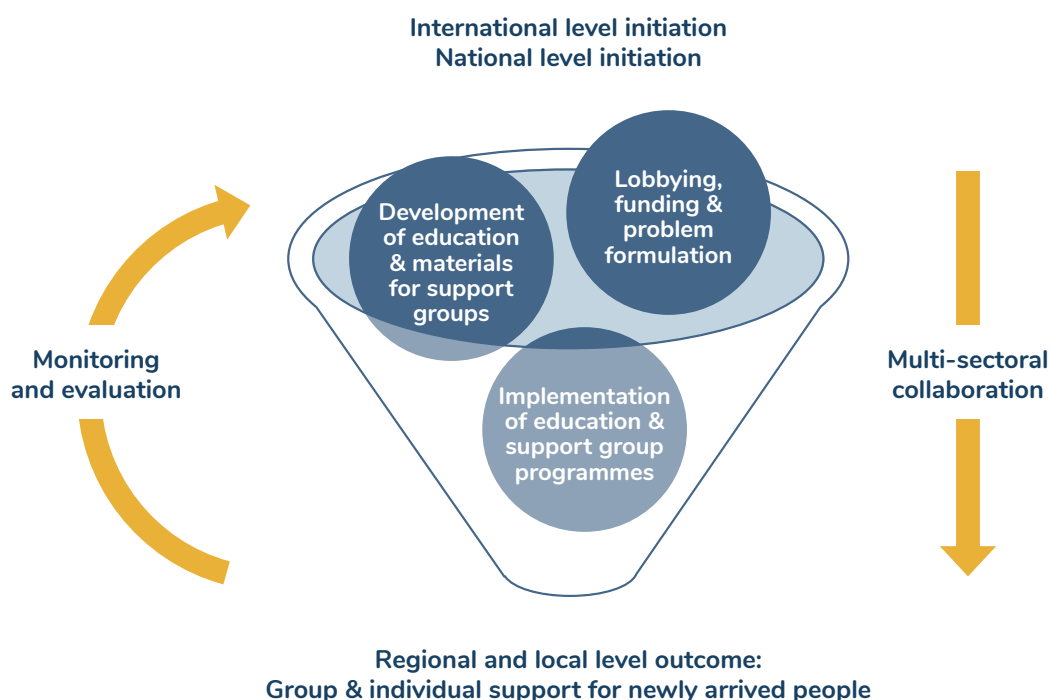
It is therefore vital to offer clear preparatory information to potential participants, which is adapted to the specific design of participant recruitment.

Findings indicate that the project's focus on local supportive environments is perceived positively by participants and participating organisations, and that participants have gained **new knowledge, perspectives, health habits and social contacts**.

The results from the focus groups and interviews show that the participants are very pleased with the content of the programme. They found the information and tools useful and applicable in their daily lives. The **support from the Civic and Health communicators** who led the group has been reflected upon as a key factor for the positive experience of the programme by many of the respondents. The **combination of dialogue based on the material and individual support** has also been highlighted as very helpful.

A sense of trust and security that enables openness has been established by a respectful and committed leadership style from experienced communicators and partners from civil society. Nevertheless, some of the participants feel that they have not been able to open up as much as they would have liked, for example due to **cultural stigma surrounding mental ill-health**.

One cross-cutting result is that **multi-level governance capacity-building efforts**, aimed at promoting health equity and social inclusion, enhance a support structure that targets not only separate relevant organisations but also the system as a whole. The **multi-sectoral and multi-level collaboration** spans from the below figure's top level, via lobbying, funding and problem formulation, the co-creation of methods and materials, to the running of the testbeds. Both national and international level actions resulted in initiatives that required multi-sectoral implementation.



# Lessons learnt and practical recommendations

## Cooperation with academia for a continuous feedback loop

Continuous evaluation with parallel local testbeds has enabled a **development and redirection that is based on feedback from various sources**. With this continuous and parallel research process, Partnership Skåne is able to see what the target group needs from their support group leaders, and how best to equip communicators to fulfill these needs. In other words, to inform these professionals in a manner that is supported by research will eventually benefit the target group.

## Promoting mental health literacy to prevent social stigma

Challenges and issues related to recruitment, dissemination of information and activity running are influenced by a **mental health social stigma**. To prevent these challenges and to further promote the health of programme participants, it is advisable to actively work with mental health literacy (MHL). MHL components like **knowledge about mental health, the mental health care system and other sources of support, as well as cultural perspectives on mental health,**

have emerged as significant. Partnership Skåne applies this lesson learned into action by strengthening the modules connected to MHL.

## Planning for long-term health promoting processes

The importance of having a long-term perspective was mentioned by all testbed representatives. Whether there is a short project timeframe or not, it is advisable to prioritise **building conditions that encourage continued or new activities and engagement for programme participants**.

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In the Malmö and Lund testbeds, this has been done in different ways, for instance:

1) the support group is designed for 10-12 weeks and aims to motivate, inform and equip its participants to further engage in joint activities which promote their psychosocial and mental health and overall well-being;

2) the Malmö testbed included civil society activities that enabled the continuation of individual support with the 'My Path' method, becoming a volunteer in RådRum, or engaging in an association.

Further pilot actions have been and will be implemented in different locations in Sweden.

These initiatives show how **methods for creating inclusive and supportive environments can be used in a flexible way with different circumstances.**

## LOOKING BACK AT THE TESTBED

REFLECTIONS BY ZIAD JOMAA



Creating comprehensive supportive environments involves all different kinds of operators. In our case, for example, public entities were involved, such as the Employment Service and regional administration, different departments of local municipalities and several NGOs. The process included identifying gaps in the communication lines, sometimes between different departments of the same organisation, sometimes between organisations.

Multilevel, multi-sectoral collaboration is often challenging, and requires adjustments, effort and sometimes new thinking from all parties. All in all, good planning is crucial: identifying the key organisations, key units and key persons early in the process and involving them in the planning as soon as possible. Authorities and NGOs alike must have good communication and willingness to adjust programmes and plans.

Looking back, all parties of the testbed agree that it was worth the effort! New networks were established, and old ones were deepened, alternative ways of identifying and solving challenges were identified. We all agree that good work will continue.

### Ziad Jomaa

CHIEF OF UNIT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF  
SKÅNE, COORDINATOR OF REGIN TEST-BED OPERATIONS

# 5 REGIN Integration Lab

◆ EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

◆ INTEGRATION LAB DATABASE & MAP

REGIN Integration Lab - Introductory page

ENTER DATABASE

## About

Through its Integration Lab, the [REGIN Project](#) is showcasing examples of **migrant integration practices in which regional authorities are involved**, either directly (e.g. leader, active partner, coordinating role...) or indirectly (e.g. support, funding, advisory role...).

## Get Involved

Would like to **submit examples** to the REGIN Integration Lab?

Please fill-in our [template](#)

# Evaluation framework

One of the main challenges reflected when designing and implementing migrant and refugee integration actions at subnational level is the **lack of monitoring & evaluation tools, as well as the lack of standards or benchmark** in this field. From initial desk research, it was also noted that a wide variety of examples of migrant integration practices at local level (cities and municipalities) are often showcased, but not as many at regional level.

REGIN has therefore developed a series of tools to fill these gaps. To build an evaluation framework, a **selection of existing practices was analysed to determine to what extent they help overcome barriers to migrant integration**. This initial analysis helped to understand factors that have led to less successful or failed practices, generally those that did not adopt a holistic, multi-level and multi-sectorial approach. In contrast, we see that more **innovative practices are those aiming to go beyond conventional segmented actions**.

CPMR, with support from research partners of the University of Salento in Puglia Region and an external expert in the field, drafted the [REGIN Evaluation Framework Guidelines](#), that are based on the following evaluation criteria developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD:

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Sustainability

As part of the guidelines, the [Evaluation Matrix](#) represents a series of issues to analyse how an integration practice responds to each criterion: regional integration practices can only be evaluated in relation to specific populations in a particular context and within a particular timeframe. Therefore, **the Evaluation Matrix presents a broad set of questions and an indication of what to look for, with a view to measuring the rate of progress of the action** in relation to each criterion.

A [glossary](#) was also included in the guidelines to facilitate the exchange of relevant information, towards the development of the REGIN Integration Lab Database & Map and related tools.

# Integration Lab Database & Map

The [REGIN Integration Lab Database & Map](#) is an on-line, user-friendly tool hosted on the REGIN Project website. It is built as an integrated and interconnected platform together with the [MIPEX-R webpage](#).

The REGIN Integration Lab is a **mutual learning tool to share experiences on migrant integration at regional level**, with a focus on tips for transferability, challenges faced and lessons learnt. The database's aim to emphasise the **regions' contribution, either directly or indirectly** through other social actors.

As an tool developed within a transnational project, the REGIN Integration Lab focuses on categorising and analysing regional practices in order to **extract the processes that can be transferable to other regions to solve common problems**, taking into account the diversity of regional competences and contexts throughout Europe.

In order to collect examples of practices, a [Template](#) and a [Survey Questionnaire](#) were created and disseminated through the CPMR network, REGIN Associated Partners and other contacts to collect **diverse examples and experiences**. The template and survey questionnaire are available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Swedish.

The survey questionnaire follows the structure of the Evaluation Framework Guidelines. Considering the differences among European regions and that integration is a contextualised process, a **pilot test of the survey questionnaire** was conducted through examples of practices submitted by the REGIN regional partners.

The REGIN approach is to not only focus on good and innovative practices, but to also collect information from **regions that have faced challenges or tried practices that have not produced expected results**, to understand what could be the factors that could have hindered the action. The idea is to learn from each other not only about what works but also what does not work, **considering limiting factors and areas where there is room for improvement**.

In line with the REGIN Evaluation Guidelines, the REGIN Integration Lab database focuses on **inspiring elements and room for improvement** on the following aspects:



On the Integration Lab Database, the section called **'Tips for Transferability'** highlights the potentially replicable elements of the analysed integration practice and gives indications on how these elements can be extended to other target groups and how the sustainability of their implementation can be ensured.

From a learning perspective, this section also contains **a reflection on the potential issues that can be encountered when transferring these elements in a different territory**. The tips for transferability are based on the following questions:

- Which aspect(s)/activitie(s)/processe(s) are potentially replicable?
- How can this/these be potentially extended to other target groups?
- How to ensure its/their sustainability?
- What are the potential issues that can be encountered when transferring this/these aspect(s)/activitie(s)/processe(s) somewhere else?

The database provides the possibility to use a **simple search tool**, as well as to use **multi-search criteria filters by country, region, regional authority's role and sectoral policy area**.

The regional information panel shows a **link to the region's website** and a **link to the MIPEX-R results** when available, thanks to the interrelation between the REGIN Integration Lab and the MIPEX-R webpage. This section also showcases relevant statistical data when available (see picture below – example for Puglia Region).

Through the Integration Lab and related Evaluation Framework Guidelines, participating regions and other actors benefit from:

- **Improving the design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of integration actions** within their region / adapting the evaluation framework collaborating with other regional stakeholders;
- **Mutual learning** between regions based on both successful and less successful practices;
- **Showcasing of regional integration actions, networking and identifying expertise** in specific areas.

Filter the results  
have a better perspective

Country

Select one or more countries  
☐ Italy (2)

Region

Select one or more regions  
☒ Apulia (Puglia) (2)

Regional Authority's Role

Select one or more regional authority's roles  
☐ Coordination role (1)  
☐ Implementing / Technical partner (1)  
☐ Interregional cooperation (1)

Sectoral Policy Areas

Select one or more policy areas  
☐ Culture (1)  
☐ Diversity management (1)  
☐ Employment (1)  
☐ Housing (1)

**Apulia (Puglia), Italy**  
SEE REGION WEBSITE | SEE MIPEX-R RESULTS

**NUTS Code:** ITF4  
**Non-EU nationals over 15:** 71,600 inhabitants (2021)  
**Unemployment rate - non-EU nationals:** 20.3% (2020)  
**Young people Not in Education, Employment...:** 22.7% (2020)  
**NEET - female non-EU nationals:** 43.2% (2020)  
**Urban - rural typology:** Predominantly urban region

**Sources**  
European Commission, DG REGIO Urban Data Platform Plus (population; people at risk of poverty or exclusion)  
Eurostat (unemployment rates, NEET)  
Eurostat Regions and Cities Illustrated (Urban-rural typology)

**Overall population:** 4,010,000 inhabitants (2021)  
**Unemployment rate - overall population:** 13.3% (2020)  
**Unemployment rate - female non-EU nationals:** 28.5% (2020)  
**NEET - non-EU nationals:** 38.3% (2020)  
**People at risk of poverty or social exclusion:** 37.4 % (2019)

Search here...

2 results found in 3ms

Order by Country v

Practice List:

La Puglia Non Tratta - Insieme Per Le Vittime

Apulia (Puglia), Italy

Sectoral Policy Areas  
Housing, Employment

Keywords

Region's role  
Coordination role

Implementation status  
On-going

Puglia Integra Project

Apulia (Puglia), Italy

Sectoral Policy Areas  
Culture, Diversity management

Keywords  
social inclusion, participation and active citizenship, migrants' associations

Region's role  
Implementing / Technical partner, Interregional cooperation

Implementation status  
Completed

Inspiring elements

Room for Improvement



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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEL SALENTINO



REGIONE PUGLIA



REGIN



CPIM  
CRPM

# Promotion of REGIN & Building the External Network

- ◆ DISSEMINATION BEYOND THE PROJECT CONSORTIUM
- ◆ CAPITALISATION, SYNERGIES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

REGIN PROJECT  
Regions for Migrants and Refugees Integration

## PROMOTION OF REGIN &amp; BUILDING THE EXTERNAL NETWORK

# Dissemination beyond the project consortium

Through strong partnerships in participating regions and beyond, the REGIN Project facilitated **transregional exchanges between newer and more experienced regions** in the integration of migrants and refugees. The project set up a network of regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, that **regularly cooperate and share knowledge, leading to a common approach regarding migrant integration policies and practices**.

Communications activities, dissemination events and promotion through other channels, such as the [European Web Site on Integration \(EWSI\)](#), also permitted to share the project's findings to a wider audience.

## REGIN COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS AND DISSEMINATION MEETINGS

The [REGIN Project multi-lingual website](#) gathers all important and useful information regarding the project. **Available in Catalan, English, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish**, the website is regularly updated with relevant resources for all regions, interested persons and stakeholders.

With around 500 followers and more than 650 newsletter subscribers, the [REGIN Project Twitter page](#) and the [regular project newsletters](#) represented other efficient communication tools used to disseminate project's activities and findings.

**REGIN: Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration**  
@REGINProject

REGIN - An innovative project working with [#regions](#) to enhance migrant & refugee integration, coordinated by [@CPMR\\_Europe](#) [#migrationEU](#) [#Regions4Integration](#)

[reginproject@crpm.org](#) [reginproject.eu](#) Joined February 2020

Organised in each participating region, the [REGIN dissemination meetings](#) were a key instrument to **inform, exchange and capitalise on the REGIN project**, providing links and common ground to regional stakeholders from public administrations, the private sector, migrants' associations and refugees' support organisations, civil society organisations, academia and other integration-related actors.

## PROMOTION OF REGIN & BUILDING THE EXTERNAL NETWORK

### REGIN ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

As part of the project, **6 Associated Partners** also contributed to the dissemination and capitalisation of REGIN tools and findings, offering ideas for potential synergies and wider outreach of the project in Europe and beyond.

The REGIN Associated Partners are:

- the [Centre for Social Innovation](#) (Cyprus)
- the [Migration Institute of Finland](#)
- [MedCities](#)
- [COPPEM](#) (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities)
- the [International Centre for Black Sea Studies](#) (IcBSS)
- and L'Oriental Region (Morocco).



Standing Committee for  
Euromediterranean  
partnership of the Local and  
Regional Authorities



International  
Centre for Black  
Sea Studies



Conseil Régional  
de l'Oriental  
(Morocco)



Center for Social  
Innovation  
(Cyprus)

### REGIN EXTERNAL NETWORK ENCOUNTERS / CPMR MIGRATION TASK FORCE MEETINGS

As Project Coordinator, the CPMR disseminated the REGIN tools and results through its membership. The CPMR represents more than 150 regions from 24 states in Europe and beyond. **REGIN External Network Encounters** were organised and provided an occasion to share the work-in-progress and outcomes of the REGIN project to other regions participating in meetings of the [CPMR Migration Task Force](#), that regularly gathers a group of around 40 CPMR members active on migration and integration matters.

## Join the conversation



**We want to hear from you**

**#migrationEU**

© European Commission

On 15 September 2020, the CPMR represented the REGIN Project at a **consultation meeting with the European Commission and other networks of regional and local authorities**. The [CPMR Migration Task Force submission](#) to the European Commission on the Action Plan on integration and inclusion for 2021-2027 consultation mentions the **added value of the REGIN Project as a transnational initiative** for evidence-based policy-making and setting a common framework for the effective design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of regional actions on integration and inclusion.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGION THROUGH THE CITIES AND REGIONS FOR INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS INITIATIVE [#REGIONS4INTEGRATION](#)

One of the main channels that was used to present the project and spread information widely is the European Committee of the Regions' initiative called "[Cities and Regions for Integration of Migrants](#)", which works towards presenting a **stronger narrative of solidarity between regions and countering disinformation in the field of integration**. It provides an opportunity to exchange with other networks of regional and local authorities: Catalonia, Murcia and Skåne - 3 of the 6 REGIN regional partners – are also actively involved in this initiative.



© European Committee of the Regions

In the framework of the new [partnership on integration](#) between the European Committee of the Regions and DG HOME of the European Commission, the REGIN Project collaborated in the organisation of the [Online Workshop for Local and Regional Authorities: Setting Up a Local Integration Strategy](#), focusing on stakeholder Involvement and ownership.

During this workshop that was held on 18 June 2021, our project partner **Instrategies** presented the [REGIN Regional Toolkit](#). **REGIN regional partners from Catalonia and Murcia** participated in different break-out sessions – one of them being moderated by CPMR – and exchanged their experiences with 30 other local and regional representatives.

## BEYOND THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT - THE UN MIGRATION NETWORK HUB

The REGIN Project was featured in the **Migration Network Hub of the United Nations (UN) Network on Migration** as a [good example](#) within the theme 'Inclusion and social cohesion' related to Objective 16 of the Global Compact on Migration: the UN Migration Network Hub is a **knowledge sharing platform with information and key resources on migration topics**. The REGIN Project being showcased on this global platform proves its relevance and underlines its innovative elements, that can also be inspiring for actors outside Europe.



© UN Migration Network Hub

# Capitalisation, synergies and future opportunities

## SPANISH CAPITALISATION SEMINAR



© CIDOB

CIDOB invited the Spanish Regions that have participated in the MIPEX-R analysis and other relevant stakeholders on 26 January 2022. This meeting is considered a national pilot to be promoted for replication in the coming years in Spain and in other EU countries.

In the first part of the meeting, results of the RGIN indicators in the Spanish regions were presented: a [publication by CIDOB](#) with **comparative results for 6 Spanish regions** (the Basque Country, Catalonia, Melilla, Murcia, Navarra and Valencia) is available in Spanish. Then, participants discussed how MIPEX-R could be adjusted to specific needs and contexts of the regions. In the second part, **regional representatives presented examples of practices inspired by their participation in the RGIN Project and discussed possible ways for future collaborations.**

## SYNERGIES WITH OTHER EUROPEAN PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The European Committee of the Regions/European Commission DG HOME Partnership on integration – foreseen in the European Commission's new [Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#) – builds on the existing [Cities and Regions for Integration initiative](#), launched in 2019, of which the CPMR is an associated partner. It is a clear sign that the EU institutions recognise the **important role of regional and local authorities in integration and inclusion and wish to give them a greater voice at the European level.** This new partnership represents a great opportunity to promote the results of the RGIN Project by:

- Sharing among other regional and local authorities the [training modules](#) for regional authority staff, [stakeholders' capacity building guidelines](#) and the [evaluation framework guidelines](#);
- Enriching the exchange of know-how and experience in the field through the **REGIN Integration Lab**, a [database and mapping of innovative practices](#);
- Contributing to Objective 3 of the partnership “improving evidence and data on integration at local level” with the policy and outcome indicators based on the [MIPEX-R methodology](#) currently being applied in 25 regions.

The CPMR and the RGIN Project are looking forward to making the most of this new channel to contribute to the European policy debate and share experiences and knowledge in the field of migrant and refugee integration at the regional level. Furthermore, the publication by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of an updated [Toolkit on the use of EU funds for the integration of people with a migrant background](#) and the prospects of the new AMIF call for proposals on integration and inclusion at regional and local level under the [2021-2022 Work Programme](#) also promise to provide for new opportunities to capitalise on the RGIN Project results.

Regarding **synergies with other European initiatives**, REGIN Project partners have been involved in a series of projects and programmes, for instance:



Cartagena, one of the seven city partners of the **European Pact for Integration - EPI Project**, participated in the first stakeholders' capacity building session, organised online on 18 March 2021 by the General Directorate of Social Services and Relations with the Third Sector of the Region of Murcia, in the framework of the REGIN Project. The EPI Project aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of existing pro-migrant inclusion approaches in local strategies.

The **synergy between these two AMIF-funded projects - REGIN focusing on the regional level and EPI on local level** - represented an opportunity to collaborate and capitalise on the enriching and relevant exchanges and good practices between Murcia Region and the City of Cartagena. In the framework of the collaboration with EPI Project, Murcia Region also took part in a Focus Group organised by the Local Development and Employment Agency of Cartagena on 22 June 2020, in the context of one of EPI's activities regarding migration integration in the Region.

On 28 October 2021, partners from **Puglia Region** took part in a **workshop on design for inclusion services** organised by the [Include-EU Project](#), led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). They exchanged with other regional actors on Puglia's pilot action, that consists of a **study on literacy and communication in the schooling microsystem**, to reduce the communication gaps between schools and families, as well as to **overcome the digital divide** which has come to the fore with the COVID-19 situation where foreign families are less favoured in terms of access to digital tools.



**Catalonia and Murcia Regions** - as well as other CPMR member regions that took part in some REGIN activities, such as the Basque Country, Emilia Romagna, Navarra, Valencia and Västara-Götaland – are members of the [Intercultural Regions Network](#), based on the experience at local level of the **Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme**. REGIN was therefore able to benefit from their perspective of **intercultural integration at the regional level**.

Moreover, the REGIN Project was invited to present its activities at a meeting of the [Urban Agenda Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees](#) on 14 December 2021. It was an occasion to **discuss the transferability of REGIN tools and to exchange on common topics of interest** - such as access to health/mental health care, children in migration and art and culture – that are priority themes of the [Urban Agenda's Partnership Action Plan 2021-2022](#) covered by some of the REGIN pilot actions.





# Conclusions & Key Recommendations

REGIN attempted to fill some existing gaps by exploring to what extent EU and national policies require regional action and experience. Following a complementary approach through innovative evidence-based research and concrete actions, the project has established a **common framework for integration and inclusion, based on regional indicators and tools that support policy and action design, implementation and evaluation, as well as training and capacity building initiatives.**

Acknowledging the vital role European regions play in this field, the project has strengthened the **preparedness of receiving communities by addressing these multi-level governance challenges and opportunities**, with respect to integration prospects through **multi-lateral stakeholder engagement and outreach.**

Making a **shift from the nation-state paradigm towards a more subnational focus upon migrant integration**, the REGIN Indicators ([Section 2](#)) contribute to:

- Give regional integration policies a higher profile;
- Clarify the respective competences of national and regional authorities;
- Enable two levels of comparisons:
  - > Comparison between different regions in Europe;
  - > Comparison of policies within one Member State;
- Demonstrate what regions are doing in fields that fall partially or entirely within the regional mandate.

**Integration is a transversal issue** that requires the engagement of all actors. Therefore, participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including migrants and refugees themselves, is crucial. **Securing the buy-in of all regional stakeholders is also critical to ensuring programme sustainability** and represents one of the main goals of the stakeholders' capacity building as part of the Regional Toolkit ([Section 3](#)).

Integration works best when newcomers and receiving communities have a **good mutual understanding of expectations, cultural differences and practices.** It is therefore important for host communities to receive targeted training to adequately support integration and inclusion process. Working together with stakeholders while reinforcing horizontal and vertical coordination, regional authorities have the potential to enhance rights-based integration outcomes.

Given the EU-wide importance of the issue and the project's geographic coverage, **the REGIN tools are**

**adaptable and relevant to other European regions.** Findings from the REGIN pilot integration actions and the Skåne Testbed on Health & Inclusion ([Section 4](#)) confirm that regions have a **key pivotal role in vertical coordination** between EU, Member State level and local level and in **horizontal coordination**, as a catalyst to pool resources, avoid duplicating efforts and ensure a whole-of-community approach.

Regions are often working with their own limited resources to deal with migration issues in their territories. The REGIN Integration Lab ([Section 5](#)) illustrates the **regions' versatility and willingness to contribute to common challenges and efforts.** Examples featured on the Integration Lab Database and Map show that:

- Most regions see the social and economic inclusion **of migrants and refugees as an integral part of their regional development strategy** and have integration programmes and instruments, either targeted at migrants and refugees or where they are included in wider inclusion policies, to **address the multi-dimensional aspects of integration.**
- Regional authorities have an **overall vision of the specificities and needs of their territory.** Migrant populations are generally concentrated in bigger towns and cities, which have more experience and resources for dealing with integration issues, and smaller towns and rural areas often need extra support. Regional authorities can adapt their actions and practices accordingly.
- Regional authorities can adopt action plans to set up facilities, implement reception measures and **provide services that are essential to the integration of migrants and refugees and the promotion of their rights**, especially in areas such as education, housing, social support, help with finding employment, training, intercultural mediation, language courses, financing micro-projects or information campaigns.
- Regional authorities **federate, coordinate and support relevant stakeholders within their territory** to provide effective action (local authorities, NGOs, faith-based organisations, diaspora associations, research bodies, private sector) to **pool resources, avoid duplicating efforts and ensure a coherent cross-cutting and whole-of-community approach.**

Regional governments should therefore be considered as **fully-fledged stakeholders in the design and implementation of integration policies and measures** taken at EU and national levels.

Beyond its six pilot regions, REGIN has been fostering **knowledge-sharing at the wider European level** ([Section 6 - Promotion of REGIN & Building the External Network](#)), drawing on lessons learnt and aiming towards innovation and a common positive narrative on migration.

For instance, REGIN has contributed to global and European initiatives towards “inclusion for all” driven by the EU Action Plan on Integration & Inclusion 2021-2027 and “leaving no one behind” carried by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The project’s remit and findings also resonate with several objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.

Perspectives for building capacities of regional authorities and strengthening the multi-level governance, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach exist, and **future support is needed, especially to boost monitoring and evaluation of regional and local policies and practices**, where main gaps still exist.

As a result, the REGIN Project addresses the following key recommendations:

#### > To the European Commission:

- to promote long term, directly accessible, coordinated, complementary and sustainable approaches to structural funding;
- to take on board in this regard the concerns of access to funding by the more developed regions which have lower allocations under the structural investment funds but are receiving the highest number of migrants;
- to support the development of institutionalised multi-stakeholder platforms at regional level, as well as more opportunities for interregional cooperation;
- to mainstream migrant integration and inclusion into other EU policy areas that correspond to regional competences (for example, employment, health or education);
- to plan programmes and support for initiatives to boost cooperation, knowledge sharing and transfer and further develop the EU evidence

base at regional level;

- to continue efforts to foster positive fact-based language and narrative around migration to counter disinformation, discrimination, xenophobia and promote interculturality;

#### > To the EU institutions and Member States:

- to show a better understanding of the role of Regions in all areas in which they have formal competences or where their action is needed or can provide added value in achieving EU and national objectives;
- In this regard, to support the extension of the pilot MIPEX-R analysis developed as part of REGIN in all EU countries, to address the need for quality data gathering and knowledge sharing at regional scale;
- to target resources on the ground according to territorial needs;
- to assist regional staff dealing working on social inclusion to build their capacity in diversity management linked to the delivery of services;

#### > To the EU Member States:

- to engage their Regions in national strategies, plans, reports and programmes in areas where they are directly concerned, reinforcing the multi-level governance approach;
- to promote dialogue and knowledge-sharing among Regions and ensure they are heard when migrant integration is addressed at national level;

#### > To regional governments:

- to recognise the multi-level and cross-cutting nature of migrant integration when designing, planning, implementing and monitoring regional policies and programmes;
- to develop a common approach to diversity management across regional services;
- to identify and collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the participation of migrants and refugees and looking beyond the usual contacts on migrant integration, to foster more participatory and innovative approaches;
- to build sustainable partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of integration actions in the region;
- to develop and put in place evaluation mechanisms to monitor integration outcomes;
- to promote the link between physical/mental health and well-being and successful inclusion;
- to learn lessons from the COVID-19 health crisis on adapting regional and local outreach activities and implications for the longer term, e.g. mainstreaming innovative digital solutions.

# Annex – Repository of project deliverables

## REGIN INDICATORS/POLICY BRIEFS

- [DATASETS](#)
- [METHODOLOGICAL NOTE](#)
- [MIPEX-R WEBPAGE – R.MIPEX.EU](#)
- [REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFS](#)
- FINAL RESULTS – MIPEX-R ANALYSIS FOR THE 25 PARTICIPATING REGIONS – available in March 2022
- GENERAL POLICY BRIEF – available in April 2022
- PRACTICAL GUIDE/HANDBOOK - available in April 2022

## REGIONAL TOOLKIT

- [STAKEHOLDERS' CAPACITY BUILDING GUIDELINES](#)
- [TRAINING GUIDELINES](#)
- [EVALUATION FRAMEWORK GUIDELINES](#)
- [INTEGRATION LAB DATABASE & MAP – INTEGRATION-LAB.REGINPROJECT.EU](#)

## REPORTS

- [MY PATH FORWARD](#)
- CATALOGUE OF REGIN PILOT INTEGRATION ACTIONS – available in March 2022

## COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

- [PROJECT WEBSITE – REGINPROJECT.EU](#)
- PROJECT BROCHURE
  - > [Catalan version](#)
  - > [English version](#)
  - > [French version](#)
  - > [Italian version](#)
  - > [Portuguese version](#)
  - > [Spanish version](#)
  - > [Swedish version](#)
- [REGIN PROJECT NEWSLETTER 1 – JULY 2020](#)
- [REGIN PROJECT NEWSLETTER 2 – JANUARY 2021](#)
- [REGIN PROJECT NEWSLETTER 3 – APRIL 2021](#)
- [REGIN PROJECT NEWSLETTER 4 – DECEMBER 2021](#)
- REGIN PROJECT NEWSLETTER 5 – available in March 2022
- [REGIN HIGHLIGHTS – FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION](#)

## MINUTES - DISSEMINATION MEETING/EXTERNAL ENCOUNTERS

- [MINUTES – REGIN DISSEMINATION MEETINGS \(NOVEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021\)](#)
- MINUTES - REGIN DISSEMINATION MEETINGS (AUGUST 2021 – MARCH 2022)  
available in March 2022
- REPORT - REGIN DISSEMINATION MEETINGS - available in March 2022
- [MINUTES OF THE FIRST EXTERNAL NETWORK ENCOUNTER HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020](#)
- [MINUTES OF THE SECOND EXTERNAL NETWORK ENCOUNTER HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2021](#)
- [MINUTES OF THE THIRD EXTERNAL NETWORK ENCOUNTER HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2021](#)
- MINUTES OF THE FOURTH EXTERNAL NETWORK ENCOUNTER HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2022, in the region  
available in March 2022



[www.reginproject.eu](http://www.reginproject.eu)