

Letter of Support

The best policies for the integration of migrants are not an enigma. Migrants need opportunities to participate in the life of their country of residence fully, without fear of discrimination. They also need clear legal pathways to full national citizenship. As European populations become more diverse, each country needs to constantly re-think the meaning of citizenship to find new ways of living together in a welcoming society. Many of us have worked to translate these statements into a robust framework of high standards, developed through European cooperation on integration. Time and time again, our governments have committed us to put these principles into practice by raising the standards of our national laws and policies on migrant integration.

Until now, however, it has been a challenge to monitor whether governments have been living up to these promises across Europe. The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) reveals the 'good intentions gap' between best practice and real policies by providing clear, concise and comparable data. We welcome MIPEX as a tool that brings the power of benchmarking to integration policy. We look forward to learning the 2006 results and launching a debate on integration policies across Europe, where myths are challenged with the facts and low expectations with high standards of best practice.

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