

ODIHR's Work on Migrant Integration



What do we do?

ODIHR supports participating States (pSs) across the OSCE region in promoting the meaningful integration of migrants and refugees into host societies. By fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration between governments, local authorities, civil society and international organizations, ODIHR helps ensure that migration management and integration policies are effective, inclusive and human rights-compliant, contributing to stronger social cohesion and sustainable security.

Why is integration important?

Migrant and refugee integration is an important factor in promoting secure, resilient and cohesive societies. Effective integration helps prevent social exclusion, reduce tensions and strengthen trust and resilience within communities, while ensuring that migrants and refugees can exercise their rights and freedoms while contributing to society.

How do we work?

ODIHR is uniquely positioned to support national, regional and local authorities on migration and refugee

integration. Drawing on its extensive expertise, strong relationships with state authorities, civil society and human rights defenders, and long-standing partnerships with international organizations, alongside strong co-ordination with OSCE field operations, ODIHR supports participating States by:

- **Identifying good practices** and gaps in integration policies and practice, including by facilitating the exchange of good integration practices among participating States through platforms and training, developing peer networks and fostering the exchange of experiences among civil society organizations and national institutions;
- **Reviewing legal integration frameworks**, at the request of state authorities and OSCE field operations, to assess compliance with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments; and
- **Providing training, tailored guidelines and recommendations** to state actors and civil society on migrant integration, and supporting national and local authorities in designing and implementing sustainable integration policies in line with human rights.

Key OSCE commitments:

- **Budapest 1994:** Reaffirms participating States' commitments to take measures against racist attacks against migrant workers and their families, encouraging states to make such actions part of integration policy and promote the integration of migrant workers.
- **Maastricht Decision No. 4/03:** Undertakes to combat discrimination against migrant workers and to facilitate their integration in host societies.
- **Ljubljana Decision No. 2/05:** Reaffirms commitments on migration, and acknowledges that successful integration policies, including respect for cultural and religious diversity and protection of human rights, promote stability and cohesion within societies.
- **Ljubljana Decision No. 10/05:** Calls for addressing migration and integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity, as part of broader OSCE efforts to promote tolerance, mutual respect and human rights.
- **Brussels 2006:** Encourages OSCE institutions to continue work on migration and integration in all three dimensions, including promoting integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity.
- **Madrid Decision No. 10/07:** Calls on participating States to protect migrants, national minorities, stateless individuals and refugees from racism, xenophobia and discrimination, and strengthen national integration strategies, with active engagement by migrants.

Examples of integration training led by ODIHR:

- Training on good practices in migrant and refugee integration, Ukraine (2021), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2024), Moldova (2024), Armenia (2025, 2026)
- Training courses as part of the Inter-Agency Academy on the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Baltic cities (2025–2026)
- Ten training courses delivered as part of the Inter-Agency Academy on the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Polish Cities (2022–2024)

COMPASS

In April 2025, ODIHR launched COMPASS: Comprehensive Assistance for Migration Policies in the OSCE Region. This almost four-year project aims to strengthen migration management and integration frameworks across the OSCE region, promoting social cohesion, protecting migrant rights and addressing emerging challenges in migration and border management. COMPASS delivers context-specific solutions and fosters collaboration to promote sustainable and human rights-compliant migration and integration policies.

COMPASS aims to:

1. **Strengthen integration and social cohesion** through training and guidance on how to enhance migrant and refugee integration, counter xenophobia and foster more resilient and cohesive societies.
2. **Promote human rights-compliant border management** by training authorities and human rights defenders.
3. **Address emerging migration challenges** by equipping state officials and civil society with tools and strategies to help them adapt to the changing dynamics of migration, such as climate change and new technology.

All ODIHR resources on migration are available at:
<https://odihr.osce.org/odihr/536181>



Key ODIHR resources on integration



Shaping Balanced Political Discourse and Constructive Narratives on Migration: Guidance and Good Practice from the OSCE Region



Good Practices in Migrant Integration: Trainee's Manual



Good Practices in Migrant Integration: Trainer's Manual



Local Authorities' Migrant Integration Guide



Good practices in integration of migrants in line with OSCE commitments and international standards



Migrant political participation: a review of policies and integration results in the OSCE region



Local and central government co-ordination on the process of migrant integration: good practices from selected OSCE participating States



Local government and migrant integration in line with OSCE commitments and international standards: A review of good practices



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