

GIVE

Grassroots Integration through Voluntary Experiences

Implementing Agency:	International Organization for Migration
Project Countries:	Austria, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands
Time Frame:	18 months
Starting Date:	01 December 2012

In the current climate of economic recession in Europe, racism and xenophobia are real threats to social cohesion and migrant integration. Community civic spirit is an important building block which promotes integration when communities have a participatory inclusive approach. Through the GIVE project migrant volunteering can be promoted and facilitated at a local community level and thus can promote integration at the most local grassroots level via building inclusive neighbourhood.

According to the volunteer expert agencies and key integration NGOs, migrants mainly volunteer within a fairly narrow framework, often within their own diaspora. The GIVE project will establish and strengthen mechanisms for engaging migrants in community volunteering in project participating countries through a range of activities, including awareness raising, information provision, training and sensitization both amongst potential migrant participants, volunteer hosting organisations, and Migrant Led Organisations as well as NGOs.

The overall objective of GIVE is to enhance immigrant participation in aspects of collective life, and to support the creation of inclusive neighbourhoods and bottom up initiatives for local participation. The programme will also contribute to enhanced public perception of migration and diversity through a public awareness campaign.

As one outcome during the project implementation, a toolkit with additional support activities will be developed and piloted in the four countries implementing the project, being Austria, Great Britain, Ireland, and the Netherlands. The project toolkit and final project website will then be disseminated and made accessible on an EU wide basis to share the key findings and prompt replicated as well as adapted approaches.

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