

Concept Note

European Fund for the Integration of 3rd Country Nationals

Call Ref: HOME/2012-2013/CFP/EIFX/CA

Name & address of lead organisation:

Law Centres Network, 2nd Floor, 64 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3QR

Title of the Proposed Project: The “Migrants on Board” Project

***Potential Funder: European Commission Directorate-General Home Affairs.
Directorate B: Immigration & Asylum.***

Context / background:

The high level of migration by 3rd – Country nationals into countries across the European Union is well documented. The process and mechanisms for dealing with migrants in each receiving EU country varies significantly. The European Commission has developed a strategic plan (European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals), to address some of the problems faced by migrants in Europe and facilitate the integration of migrants in the receiving countries.

Rationale for the Proposed Project:

- *This project is targeting specific migrants in each participating country reflecting the most excluded or most vulnerable group of 3rd country migrants in each country.*
- *Migrants lack of awareness of their rights in the receiving country which often leads to feelings of exclusion, powerlessness and lack of participation in all spheres of life.*
- *Public concern over lack of integration of migrants*

- *Migrants are known to be least likely to access public services because they feel they are unfairly treated by public bodies e.g. law enforcement for example.*
- *Low participation or lack of engagement with political processes and discourse amongst 3rd-country migrants has exacerbated the feeling of isolation amongst this group of migrants.*

Project Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of “Migrants on Board” project is to work with specific 3rd country migrants in each country and their representing agencies, to reduce social exclusion within this group, increase their economic and political participation as well as promote better engagement with other communities, through a mixture of initiatives and activities led by the migrants themselves as well as the project partners.

Specific Project objectives:

- 1. Up-skill frontline workers within 3rd country migrant agencies with advocacy skills through training so they are better able to negotiate more effectively with local, regional government and other public departments, on issues that impact upon their client group.*
- 2. Enable migrants to participate in processes involved in the formulation of local and regional policies. The “Migrants on Board” project will achieve this by formalising and facilitating existing loose network of migrant support agencies so that migrant issues are better co-ordinated and articulated to inform policy makers and service providers*
- 3. Provide signposting / referral support to legal services so that strategic issues affecting large numbers of migrants may be resolved through the law where appropriate.*
- 4. Promote social cohesion through effective mediation, bringing representatives of migrant communities and other parties together to debate, resolve or settle misunderstandings or points of disagreement e.g. the Police - implementation of stop and search policy is known to disproportionately target 3rd country nationals, especially ‘different looking’ migrants. The result has been migrants feeling excluded and mistreated.*

5. *Provide training and support to migrant agencies on how to identify discriminatory practices in employment and service delivery and what actions to take to redress the situation without necessarily resorting to litigation.*

Project Activities

- *Establishment of a forum / network of agencies that work with migrants so that a more strategic and better co-ordinated approach may be devised for resolving issues at local and regional level. Quarterly meetings will be held for exchange of information and ideas and discussions on policies e.t.c. as well as devise plans or formulate strategies to resolve issues affecting the group.*
- *Training, seminars and workshops on rights of migrants at work and in accessing services.*
- *Forum for public engagement with law enforcement and other public services to discuss issues that arise or resolve group complaints.*
- *Provide a platform for political engagement with local and national politicians to encourage and improve migrants' participation in the political process. e.g. a Question time style sessions with politicians.*
- *Provide a forum for migrants to engage with businesses and service providers so that the business potential available to businesses within migrant communities may be explored and exploited for the mutual benefits of all the parties.*

Expected Results

Project will contribute to the better integration of migrants by combating discrimination, promoting social and economic participation, empowerment of migrant communities to take a lead on issues that affect them.

- *Migrants will feel better able to navigate the system of public services through an understanding of processes and procedures*

- *Public service and government departments will have a recognised and formal body to engage with for the discussion of issues specifically concerned with 3rd country migrants as opposed to other migrant groups.*
- *An understanding of their rights will empower migrants to constructively challenge unfair treatment when it happens to them in employment and when accessing services.*
- *Migrants will become ‘included’ through the opportunity to feed into policies that affect their day to day lives;*
- *Migrants will have a much clearer understanding of how the political system can work to their advantage as individuals and as a group. They will therefore be more confident and willing to engage with politics and take part in political activities discussions.*
- *Politicians will become aware of the issues that concern 3rd country migrants and feed this knowledge into policy at national and European level.*

Innovation: How different it is from other or earlier projects?

This project is different from other projects because it adopts a bottom-up approach in recognition of the fact that for any integration measure to work, the migrants themselves must take ownership of the processes involved and not feel they are being dictated to by others. To this end, the project activities will mostly be led by representatives from within the beneficiaries and the agencies who support migrants on a daily basis. The aim is to bring migrants “on board” in their respective receiving countries.

The project is also innovative because it combines different approaches to migrant integration. The will employ both conciliatory, and community cohesion approaches to building relationships between communities, but also, refer migrant agencies to use the law where this would be the most appropriate method to achieve a solution.

Organizational Background, including the expertise and experience.

The Law Centres Network is the parent body for 53 Law Centres in the UK including England, Wales and Scotland. We represent Law Centres at all levels of government

and in national forums. We collect and share information, lobby and campaign to influence public policy in the interest of our clients and communities.

Law Centres are high quality legal resources for their local communities, and we work to have their role and impact recognised nationally. We also champion the Law Centre model of free and independent legal advice and representation targeted at those most in need.

12. Budget Estimate: €400,000 (Euros min).

Role of partners:

- Each partner is to contribute 10% of its budget as match funding.
- Each partner is responsible for the planning and implementation of the project activities in their respective country
- Each partner is responsible for monitoring, recording and reporting on their part of the project.
- Each partner will conduct the project activities in line with the European Commission's guidelines and requirements.

Law Centres network as lead partner will co-ordinate all reports and liaise with the European Commission on issues relating to the project.

13. Contact Information for lead NGO:

Flora Williams

Equality & Diversity Manager

Law Centres Network

2nd Floor, 64 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3QR

[Tel:++44 02- 7749 9185 \(Direct line\)](tel:+442077499185) or [+44 02 7749 9120 \(General line\)](tel:+442077499120)

Mobile: +44 0759 0050 898

flora@lawcentres.org.uk

www.lawcentres.org.uk