Workshop: “The European Integration Fund: progress to date and future developments”
Working group A
Overview of presentation

- EIF background and summary
- Challenges and Barriers
- Recommendations
- Role of Forum
European Integration Fund - background

- Nadège Monnot – summary of EIF
- clarification of mechanisms, instruments and processes – particularly the different nature and *modus operandi* of national and community-level actions
Challenges and Barriers

- **Access**
  - to information – in particular for organizations working on the ground
  - to funds – some smaller organizations excluded from the process altogether in Member States

- **Co-funding requirements**
  - Inability and/or reticence of national governments to provide public funds as match funding

- **Definitions and terminology:**
  - Target groups – legally-residing TCNs
  - Terms such as ‘innovation’
Challenges and Barriers

- **Timing**
  - time between call and deadline of application and implementation

- **Fragmentation**
  - Among funding mechanisms
  - lack of coordination among national implementing bodies, even within a country (different ministries)
  - Priorities defined by Member States do not always reflect reality and needs on the ground
  - some national actions do not seem to embody the spirit or priorities of the Fund
Recommendations - Content

- Thematic Priorities for Community Actions 2010:
  - Migrant women (as actors rather than beneficiaries) – could look at objectives such as violence, education, health
  - Tackling discrimination and racism
  - Integration in the workplace and education of employers
  - Capacity-building for policy-makers
Recommendations – Form Community Actions

- Disseminate information about the Fund to organizations working on the ground.
- Positive action for migrant organizations to access Community level funds – for example by reducing co-funding requirement.
- Leave sufficient time between call for proposals and deadline for applications and implementation.
Recommendations – Form National Actions

- Review eligibility criteria (for example organizations that receive public funding) to access the integration Fund
- Set one framework definition for beneficiaries so Member States cannot narrow down in national implementation strategies
- Review implementation modalities – oblige Member States to release call for proposals within certain time period
Recommendations – Form

- Facilitate grassroots and migrants organizations to voice suggestions and provide input to policy priorities so that these are more aligned to realities on the ground (diminish political and implementation gap)
- Monitor and evaluate implementation
  - Review – percentage of fund that goes to migrant organizations and analysis of obstacles
Role for the Forum

- How can the Forum help address the information gap or act as an information platform to disseminate knowledge about mechanisms such as the Integration Fund?
- How can the Forum help address the gap between policy and implementation/practice of integration and help channel the voices of migrants and migrant organizations into EU integration policy and mechanisms?
- How can the Forum contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the Integration Fund – development of indicators?
- How can the Forum contribute to the setting of priorities and structure of the European Integration Fund in its next phase of funding – beyond 2013?