



## ROUNDTABLE 4

### The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027

*Fundamental rights of migrants as a cross-cutting theme, central to all subthemes*

14.00 – 15.30 on 28 November (DAY 1)

#### Objective and running of the roundtable

The objectives of the roundtable are to look at key challenges and future priorities for integration policies, as well as how civil society organisations can constructively contribute to them.

The roundtable will start with a presentation on the main trends identified in the implementation of the **Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion** (“the Action Plan”) and the key issues remaining in the four main areas of actions (education, labour market integration, health, housing), as well as the novelties introduced in the **Qualification Regulation** regarding integration of beneficiaries of international protection (e.g. access to adapted education for children, strengthened employment-related rights, equal access to healthcare, support to move to autonomous housing).

The break-out sessions will then focus on the role of civil society organisations in the implementation of integration policies as well as current and future priorities for integration policy.

#### Indicative list of questions to steer discussions during the break-out sessions:

##### General questions:

- What are the main challenges you see currently for the development and implementation of integration policies, as well as in your area of work in particular?
- Which priorities should be at the centre of future migrant integration policies beyond the current Action Plan?

##### Specific questions:

- What should be the priorities in the areas of education, labour market integration, healthcare and housing and what role could civil society actors and the local and regional authorities play on those priorities?

- What specific challenges and opportunities do you see in the changes brought about by the Qualification Regulation concerning the integration of beneficiaries of international protection? What role can civil society organisations, and local and regional authorities play in tackling these aspects?
- What can be improved in your cooperation with other stakeholders (civil society organisations, public authorities at local, regional, and national level, social and economic partners, international organisations, the European Commission) to achieve better results and more impact on integration?

Participants are encouraged to share good practices related to these questions.

### **Policy development/links to documents**

With more than 27 million non-EU nationals regularly living and working in the EU in 2023, and 3 million residence permits being delivered to non-EU nationals every year on average since 2021, integration and inclusion are critical for ensuring social cohesion and promoting a dynamic economy that works for all. The Action Plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027 ('the Action Plan'), adopted in November 2020, is one of the first initiatives taken by the Commission as part of the 2020 Communication on the Pact on Migration and Asylum ('the Pact'). The Pact emphasises that a successful integration and inclusion policy is an essential part of a well-managed and effective migration and asylum policy, contributing to sustainable and durable solutions. In particular, the [Qualification Regulation](#) strengthens and harmonises the content of international protection as regards to the rights and obligations of the beneficiaries of international protection.

The Action Plan proposes more than 60 concrete actions to support Member States and other relevant stakeholders in overcoming integration-related challenges for migrants and EU citizens with a migrant background. The Action Plan specifies that the Commission will conduct a mid-term review to assess implementation progress. Work on the mid-term review is still ongoing, it will identify existing good practices, remaining challenges and actions where further work is needed in the area of migrants' integration.

Detailed information on the various initiatives and projects implementing the Action Plan (in the four main sectors while taking into account the relevant horizontal aspects, for example multistakeholder partnership) can be found on the [European Website on Integration](#).

The Qualification Regulation replaces the Qualification Directive. It incorporates the Geneva Convention into EU law and aims to ensure that Member States apply common criteria to qualify persons as beneficiaries of international protection. The Qualification Regulation further harmonises and clarifies the rights of beneficiaries of international protection, providing Member States with new opportunities to optimise and promote their integration into the host society. The effective and swift access to these rights is of paramount importance to avoid overloading reception systems and enhance the ability of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection to act autonomously. In order to enhance the effective exercise by beneficiaries of international protection of the rights and benefits, it is necessary to facilitate their access to integration-related rights, in particular as regards employment, employment-related educational opportunities and vocational training, and access to recognition procedures for foreign diploma, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications.

## More information

- [Why integration matters for the EU | European Website on Integration \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Pact on Migration and Asylum legislative files in a nutshell - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)