Conference
Migration and Cultural Integration in Europe

Time: 11 December 2013, 12.00 noon – 5.45 pm
Place: Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU, rue Belliard 60-62, 1040 Brussels
Organisation: ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

In European societies shaped by immigration, the everyday integration of migrants takes place in civic, socio-economic, and cultural dimensions. While there is evidence for a harmonisation of civic and socio-economic integration policies in Europe, the cultural dimension is still shaped by national concepts and perceptions of integration.

The cultural integration of migrants, and its link to the question of identity, is most often treated politically as a matter of language skills and religion. To understand the processes and problems of everyday life in Europe’s multicultural societies today, other aspects that shape the host societies’ perception towards newcomers and hence their opportunities for integration have to be included in the picture as well.

Key Questions
What do we mean when we talk about the cultural integration of migrants? Which competing concepts for the integration of migrants or minorities exist in different parts of Europe? Is cultural integration only a matter of language and religion? How can cultural institutes contribute to the integration of migrants? Should action be taken in the host country or in the country of origin?

Conference
The conference brings together researchers and practitioners, so that they may share on each other various perspectives on the cultural integration of migrants. The aim thereby is to contribute both to a broader understanding of cultural integration and of the causes and consequences of national divergences in this field. It brings together professionals dealing with the integration of migrants and provides them with good-practice examples. Furthermore it will provide a forum for EUNIC’s cultural institutes to discuss the potential, challenges and pitfalls of a common European strategy on the cultural integration of migrants.

Moderator
Nkechinyere Madubuko, Journalist and Sociologist
Order of the day

12.00 noon  Registration and snack

1.00 pm  Welcome remarks

  Johannes Jung, Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU
  Ronald Grätz, Secretary General, ifa
  Charles-Etienne Lagasse, President, EUNIC

1.20 pm  Introduction
  Marcel Berlinghoff, ifa Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy”

1.30 pm  Keynote
  Christian Joppke, Chair in General Sociology, University of Bern, Switzerland

2.00 pm  Discussion I
  New Perspectives on the Cultural Integration of Migrants

  Sarah Cooke O’Dowd, Policy Analyst at Migration Policy Group and Communications Manager for SIRIUS, Brussels, Belgium
  Larisa Inić, Coordinator of the Intercultural Cities Programme in Subotica, Serbia
  Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration (GRITIM), Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona, Spain

Key questions:

  - How does the understanding of integration of migrants vary throughout Europe?
  - What are the outcomes of different national strategies on cultural integration?
  - Which factor is decisive for the cultural integration of migrants: national policies on cultural integration, measures adopted at the local level, or even the character traits of individual migrants?
  - What role does language education play in cultural integration, and how can bilingualism be helpful?
  - In which way do aspects such as ethnicity, class, age, gender, education, or residence status matter for the cultural integration of migrants?

3.30 pm  Coffee Break
Discussion II
Cultural Institutes and the Cultural Integration of Migrants

Martin Eichtinger, Ambassador, Director General of Cultural Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs
Alexander Kruckenfellner, Project Leader Language and Integration Programme, Goethe-Institut Munich, Germany
Costanza Menzinger, Coordinator of the language programme PLIDA, Società Dante Alighieri, Rome, Italy

Key questions:
- How do cultural institutes promote the cultural integration of migrants?
- Who should be addressed? Particular immigrant groups, the mainstream society of the host country, or rather potential immigrants in their countries of origin?
- Should we aim at common standards in European cultural integration policy? Or are diverse approaches to cultural integration more promising?
- Which role could EUNIC play in this endeavour?

Concluding remarks
Annika Rembe, EUNIC-President 2014

End
Speakers

Marcel Berlinghoff is an expert in the ifa Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy” and organiser of the conference on behalf of ifa. He studied political science and history at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Heidelberg University, where he did his PhD on the history of European migration policy in the ‘guestworker’ era. He has been working for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on sustainable migration programmes and is a member of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at Osnabrück University, where he is doing research on humanitarian refugee programmes.

Sarah Cooke O’Dowd is the communications manager of the SIRIUS European Policy Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background, a project funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission (2012-2014). Sarah Cooke O’Dowd was content manager of the European Web Site on Integration in the Integration and Diversity programme of the Migration Policy Group. Furthermore she worked in Barcelona at the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (GRITIM-UPF) and the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB). She holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from the Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internationals (IBEI) and a Bachelor of Arts in European Studies from Trinity College Dublin.

Martin Eichtinger, Ambassador, has been the Director General for Cultural Policy at the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs since 2010. Martin Eichtinger did postgraduate studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna/Italy and in Paris. He joined the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1986 and served as personal secretary to the Foreign Minister. His diplomatic assignments included Mexico and Washington, D.C., where he headed the Austrian Press and Information Service from 1992 to 1999. Between 1999 and 2007, he was Chief of Cabinet of the Austrian Special Representative for Payments to Former Forced and Slave Labourers of the Nazi Regime, Director for International Affairs at the Austrian Federation of Industry, a manager at a private-sector company, and Chief of Staff and later Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Austrian Ambassador to Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

Ronald Grätz is the Secretary General of the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen). He worked as Division Director for German Language at the UNESCO scheme Colégio Benjamin Constant in São Paulo, of which he was also Deputy Director. In 1993, he qualified as a reader at the Goethe-Institut in Munich, Cairo and Göttingen and worked as consultant for pedagogical support and as a teacher with the Goethe-Institut in Barcelona from 1994 to 1998. From 2002 to 2005, Ronald Grätz was a consultant for new media and the director of local programme activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the Goethe-Institut in Moscow. Before assuming his current role at ifa, he was Director of the Goethe-Institut in Portugal.
Larisa Inić is a cultural coordinator at the Mayor’s Cabinet in Subotica in charge of the Intercultural Cities (ICC) programme and the European Capital of Culture candidacy. Previously, Larisa Inić worked as a journalist for a number of influential media organisations, was responsible for organising many cultural events, co-ordinated the “Hearts in Harmony Festival” in Novi Sad and handled public relations for the Cantat Novi Sad. She was a correspondent for B92, Beta News Agency, ANEM and many other media organisations, she was one of the founders of REKOM, a board member of the Independent Journalists’ Association of Vojvodina, a leader of the student protests in 1996/97 in Subotica, and organised many protests during the Milosevic regime, in addition to panels, conferences, and round tables in connection with her activism in the human-rights and anti-war movements. She is the author of the sold-out book „Sex and The Province”, which focuses on issues of women’s rights in the Balkans, and was written to appeal to a wide audience.

Christian Joppke holds a chair in sociology at the University of Bern, Switzerland. He received a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989. He previously taught at the University of Southern California, the European University Institute in Florence, the University of British Columbia (Vancouver), the Jacobs University Bremen, and the American University of Paris. He has also held research fellowships at Georgetown University and the Russell Sage Foundation, New York. His most recent books are “Legal Integration of Islam: A Transatlantic Comparison” (with John Torpey) (Harvard University Press 2013), “Citizenship and Immigration” (Polity 2010), and “Veil: Mirror of Identity” (Polity 2009).

Johannes Jung has been Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union and Head of Department VI of the Ministry of State of Baden-Württemberg since 2012. He studied Political Science, Public Law, European Law and Sociology and holds a Master’s Degree in Political Science with a focus on International Relations from Heidelberg University. He worked from 2010 to 2012 as a Senior Advisor at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants in Munich, with a focus on the European Union and energy infrastructure. From 2005 to 2009 he was a member of the German Bundestag for the Social Democratic Party (representing a district in the city of Karlsruhe). In the Bundestag he was a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, a member of the Board of Enquiry on the German Secret Service, a deputy member of the Committee on Affairs of the European Union, and the Rapporteur for EU-Enlargement, EU-Neighbourhood-Policy and the Western Balkans.

Alexander Kruckenfellner is Project Leader of “Language and Inclusion” at the Goethe-Institut’s headquarter in Munich. From 2008 to 2012 he was Language Director at the Goethe-Institut in Montevideo, Uruguay. Kruckenfellner uses a reflective approach in his work, which has as its key thematic areas mobility, interculturality and individual preparation for migration, along with the exploration of migration and integration processes and their social and cultural impacts.

Charles-Etienne Lagasse has been Inspector General of Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) since 2009. He is a professor of Belgian and European constitutional law and Bases of the Law at the Institut supérieur de formation sociale et de communication (ISFSC) in Brussels, ICHEC Brussels Management School and the Brussels School of Journalism and Communication (IHECS). Among his recent publications on Europe is “Les institutions européennes après le Traité de Lisbonne”, (2010) Erasme. Prior to working for WBI, he was Deputy President of Télé-Brussels. Charles-Etienne Lagasse is President of EUNIC for the year 2013.
Nkechinyere Madubuko is a sociologist and television journalist who is of Nigerian descent and was born in Germany. She studied sociology, media and psychology at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. She did her PhD on “Acculturative Stress of migrants” at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. She has been working as a presenter at ZDF (one of Germany’s two national public television stations) and for a German sports television channel for 15 years. Since 2001 Nkechi Madubuko has also been an editor at 3sat, the cultural channel of ZDF in Mainz, Germany. As a host and presenter at conferences, she focusses on the topics of German/African relations and on migration and intercultural issues.

Costanza Menzinger works for PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) at the Società Dante Alighieri Headquarters in Rome. Within PLIDA she is responsible for the training of the examiners for the Italian language certificate PLIDA. She graduated in Modern Languages at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”. She obtained a postgraduate teaching qualification in English at the SSIS Lazio (Scuola di Specializzazione per l’Insegnamento Secondario) and she is now pursuing her studies in Venice towards a PhD in the Science of Language at the Università Ca’ Foscari. She gained extensive experience in teaching Italian and English, designing courses at all levels, at several institutions and universities (University of Rome La Sapienza, LUSPIO, Libera Università degli Studi S. Pio V) and in the field of secondary education. She is the author of “Passaporto per l’Italia”, an Italian language course-book for adult immigrants, and co-author of “Formare nei Paesi di origine per integrare in Italia”, a volume on the Italian language courses held by the Società Dante Alighieri in immigrants’ countries of origin before they depart for Italy. Her areas of interest are in Italian-language assessment, Italian and European certifications and second-language learning.

Annika Rembe is Director-General of the Swedish Institute (SI). Annika Rembe’s professional background is in the law, and she holds a Master of Law from the University of Stockholm. Prior to her assignment at SI she was Commissioner-General of the Swedish Committee for Sweden’s participation in Expo 2010 in Shanghai. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Swedish Trade and Invest Council, Business Sweden, a member of the Board of the Association Swedes Abroad, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Swedish-American Foundation. Annika Rembe is Vice President of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) and will be the president of EUNIC in 2014.

Ricard Zapata-Barrero is a Full Professor at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. He works on applied political theory and qualitative methods. His main lines of research deal with contemporary issues of liberal democracy in contexts of diversity, especially the relationship between democracy, citizenship and immigration. He is Director of GRITIM-UPF (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration) and the Master’s Programme on immigration management at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. He is a participant in several European projects, among others, INTERACT and DIVPOL. He currently directs a project on Diversity, Municipalities and Immigration, and on monitoring xenophobic political discourses. He founded the Intercultural Cities Network in Spain, in his capacity as an expert at the Council of Europe’s intercultural cities programme. He is also a member of several government advisory boards, and a regular contributor to media and policy debates.
Organisation
The ifa (*Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*) is engaged worldwide in promoting dialogue among civil societies, in the mediation of foreign cultural policy information and in artistic exchange. It promotes and funds cultural, artistic and arts exchanges through a programme of exhibitions, meetings, dialogues and conferences. It contributes to maintaining peace through civil conflict resolution work, and it fosters cultural diversity by supporting cultural minorities. As a centre of competence for foreign cultural and educational policy, ifa works to bridge practice with scientific research and media. Within the framework of ifa’s Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy” researchers examine current issues related to Germany’s foreign cultural and educational policy.