



## **How can we improve the refugee integration policies? The biggest research project in the EU dedicated to answering the question on how to better integrate refugees announces the official launch of its "Forintegration.eu" website**

**What is the eligibility criteria for refugees to acquire citizenship in individual EU states? What is the average wait time for a child to be accepted into a school, from the moment of filing the request for asylum in Poland or in Italy? What are the rules and attitudes in different European countries regarding the refugees access to the job market? From now, news stories, facts and research results related to the different aspects of the state and the complexity of the European integration polices towards refugees will be systematically published on a new "Forintegration.eu" web portal.**

"Forintegration.eu" website is primarily a comprehensive source of information about the refugee integration policies in Europe and will be the key way of presenting research results prepared within the framework of the National Integration Evaluation Mechanism - NIEM, which is the biggest research project in Europe dedicated to the refugees integration.

The NIEM project initiated in 2016 aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the integration process of refugees in fifteen European states including France, Spain, Bulgaria, Sweden, Slovenia and Hungary.

For the next six years, analysts from three European academic institutions and several leading non-governmental organisations will create a complex evaluation of the current refugee and asylum seeker integration policy. The new "Forintegration.eu" web portal will collect all related information and essential data and keep them in one place.

- For Europe, integrating refugees is the next big challenge – admits Justyna Segeš Frelak, the Head of the Migration Policy Program at the Institute of Public Affairs. - It is a challenge because we haven't developed common European integration policy standards towards refugees. In addition, we face an ongoing lack of knowledge about which refugee integration legal instruments enable asylum seekers to effectively integrate into the European societies and which ones slow down the whole integration process.



"Forintegration.eu" web portal was designed to fill the knowledge gaps. Anna Piřat, the website editor and the migration policy analyst at the Institute of Public Affairs hopes that the website will become the biggest and the most credible source of facts and figures related to the refugee integration in the EU.

The web portal will benefit from the rich output of the NIEM project and the diverse research experience of the whole consortium involved in the project implementation.

- We believe that by providing the unique statistical data, comprehensive scientific reports and essential information and features, this new site will offer the European community better understanding of the refugee integration mechanisms in the EU - adds Anna Piřat.

This newly launched website also offers quick and easy access to various reports from meetings, conferences and other events organised within the framework of the NIEM project. In addition, the website has a section with updated information about forthcoming events related to the subject of refugee integration in various EU countries.

The website is available in English and some parts will be also available in local languages.

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism. Monitoring and improving the integration of international protection beneficiaries is co-founded by the National Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

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**Notes for editors:**

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM) is a six-years long transnational project which aims to prepare key actors in the integration field in 15 EU Member States to better face the current challenges and improve the integration outcomes of beneficiaries of international protection. Conflict situations tend to last longer and it takes currently on average 17 years, before refugees fleeing civil wars may eventually have a chance to return to their home country. Hence,



the long-term integration of newly arrived beneficiaries of international protection is without alternative and presents an immediate challenge for European societies.

NIEM will establish a mechanism for a biennial, comprehensive evaluation of the integration of beneficiaries of international protection to provide evidence on gaps in integration standards, identify promising practices and evaluate the effects of legislative and policy changes.

NIEM is developed against the background of the changing legal environment on international protection both at national and European levels, induced by the high numbers of new arrivals in the recent years. The project endeavours to provide evidence on some of the most burning discussions concerning these changes: Are EU standards on integration of beneficiaries of international protection well implemented? How are they impacting integration policies? Are policies aimed at beneficiaries of international protection having an impact on successful integration? What are the challenges and good practices, and which policy gaps need to be addressed?

NIEM is led by IPA, the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. MPG, the Migration Policy Group, is the coordinating research partner responsible for elaboration and further development of the NIEM indicators and the comprehensive comparative reports. Other strategic partners are the UNHCR Representation in Poland and UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, the Polish Ministries of Interior and Administration and of Family, Labour and Social Policy, and the University of Warsaw.