

December 2019 - January 2020



IOM focal points on migrant integration at the pilot Strategic Workshop on Inclusion and Social Cohesion in Rome, Italy on Sept 5 – 6

### About the DISC Initiative and Digest

Last year, we have embarked on the launch of the **IOM’s Joint Global Initiative on Diversity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion (DISC Initiative)** - a flexible, demand-led and multi-year initiative - which aims to elevate IOM’s capacity and programming to support Member States and relevant partners in the areas of social cohesion, migrant integration and inclusion. The DISC Initiative also serves as a platform to share, learn, develop and implement innovative strategies and interventions across IOM networks.

This edition of the DISC digest is the first of a series of updates covering IOM programming in the areas of migrant integration and training, inclusion and social cohesion, as well as relevant publications and articles globally.

- For the highlights of DISC activities in 2019: click [here](#) or download the [DISC Infosheet](#)
- For more information: visit [LHD IMT SharePoint](#)

### Featured IOM Projects

**Focus: IOM Projects that facilitate social mixing between migrants and host communities**

- IOM Egypt’s [Safarni Programme](#) takes migrant children on an imaginary journey to a new country, through simulated travel experiences and intercultural workshops, where they get to meet children from other cultural backgrounds and are introduced to the local language, food, games, dances and songs.
- IOM Greece’s [Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection \(HELIOS\)](#) organizes sensitization activities which include media campaigns and exchange occasions between migrants and host communities, highlighting the value of the cultural diversity diversity and integration of migrants in the Greek society.
- IOM RO Brussels (regional project) [COMMIT](#) implements pilot mentorship schemes where a local mentor jointly designs and implements with a newcomer a support plan for 12 months, while working towards building their self-reliance, gaining familiarity with their host communities and reducing their dependency on reception actors.

### DISC Flash Updates

- A global pilot assessment of the [Global Migration Film Festival \(GMFF\)](#) in partnership with GMDAC and MCD is now underway with the participation of close to 50 IOM missions worldwide.
- DISC supported the development of a Training Guidebook for Local Authorities and the roll out of [five Pilot Trainings](#) on local policy planning and implementation on migrant integration from October to December 2019 with UK local authorities.
- DISC collaborates with IOM RO Vienna in developing a **Guidance Note on “Intergroup Contact”** for project managers and staff dealing with projects and interventions designed for improving social relations between migrants and receiving communities.
- Summary Report at the workshop on [“Promoting Good Relations: Enhancing IOM’s social cohesion programming”](#) in Geneva is now out: read [here](#).
- DISC will soon implement a project with IOM Brazil, Dominican Republic and Peru to **pilot and develop a common measurement tool** to assess and support successful migrant integration in LAC.
- In 2019, DISC convened a total of 9 global workshops and trainings, benefiting over 200 IOM staff and other stakeholders.

### New and Upcoming IOM Projects

- IOM Brazil’s [“Economic Integration of Vulnerable Nationals from Venezuela Program”](#) funded by USAID to facilitate access to formal employment and income-generating opportunities through vocational and business training and language courses.
  - IOM South Africa’s [Enhancing Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion](#) and intergroup conflict between townships through socio-cultural activities (football matches, exhibitions, gastronomic and arts events) and community dialogues in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe, funded by IDF.
- Contact [disc@iom.int](mailto:disc@iom.int) if you would like your project to be featured!
- Interested to check newly uploaded IOM projects on PRIMA? Click [here](#) and type the following under “Reporting Area”:  
 1025 # Migrant Integration; 1026 # Migrant Training and Orientation; 1027 # Social and Community Cohesion.

Check out the Integration Projects Database [here](#)



### IOM Events

Want to advertise your event in your mission/office? This is the space for you! Contact us at [disc@iom.int](mailto:disc@iom.int).



### Relevant Publications

- **[World Migration Report Chapter 6 - Migration, inclusion and social cohesion: Challenges, recent developments and opportunities \(IOM\)](#)**. This chapter introduces the notions of migrants' inclusion and social cohesion and examines inclusion outcomes and obstacles in policy and practice. While recognizing that no one-size-fits-all approach to inclusion exists, this chapter underlines the potential of holistic and inclusive policies to foster migrants' inclusion and social cohesion.
- **[Cultural Orientation Insights \(International Rescue Committee – IRC\)](#)**. Under the European Resettlement and Integration Technical Assistance (EURITA) project, this guidance document on Pre-departure Orientation (PDO) to provides an overview of what PDO is, how it can be implemented, and which content should be considered.
- **[World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World \(UNDESA\)](#)**. The report also underscores how gender, along with ethnicity, race, place of residence and socioeconomic status, continue to shape the chances people have in life. Technological change, migration, urbanization can be harnessed for a more equitable and sustainable world, or they can be left to further divide us.
- **[Multidimensional measure of immigrant integration \(Immigration Policy Lab\)](#)**. As scientific progress in the study of immigrant integration has been hampered by the lack of a common measure of integration, the IPL introduces the Integration Index as a pragmatic and multidimensional measure of immigrant integration which can be used across countries, over time, and across different immigrant groups.
- **[Indicators of Integration framework 2019 \(UKHO\)](#)**. The UK indicators framework provides practical ways to design more effective strategies, monitor services and evaluate integration interventions at the local level.



### Events You Should Know

- On 18 December 2019, the **[International Migrants Day](#)** was commemorated with a focus on “*social cohesion*,” in recognition not just of migrants, but of the host communities they interact and build relations with. Read IOM Director General’s statement [here](#).
- On 16 January 2020 in Paris (France), OECD organized the **[High-level Policy Forum on Building a Whole-of-Society Approach to Emerging Migration and Integration Challenges](#)** which served as an avenue to engage in a conversation about various migration integration topics with ministers, senior officials and a wide range of stakeholders and showcase innovative projects.
- On 20-24 January 2020 in Quito (Ecuador), the Government of the Republic of Ecuador hosted the **[Twelfth Global Forum on Migration and Development \(GFMD\) Summit](#)** where a Member States-led roundtable on [migrants’ financial and economic inclusion](#) took place. The session served as a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to share practices and policies on facilitating migrant inclusion, in line with the commitments laid out in the GCM, and relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- On 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi (UAE), UN-Habitat organized the **[World Urban Forum with a focus on Migration and The Open City: The Role of Culture in Enabling Inclusive Societies](#)**. This event serves as the foremost international gathering for exchanging views and experiences on sustainable urbanization.
- On 26 February 2020 in Geneva (Switzerland), UNESCO in cooperation with UNHCR and OHCHR will host the **[Art Lab Design Thinking Jam](#)** where participants will develop a prototype tool to enable humanitarian and development operators to better integrate art and culture into their work. This helps them appreciate diversity and relevance of inclusive artistic approaches in building resilience among victims of discrimination and marginalization.



#### Contacts

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