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Policy Brief #2

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Fostering Constructive Intercultural Dialogue for Migrant and Refugee Youth

Who is this aimed at

- **European countries youth organizations, policy makers, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and EU institutions**, focusing on fostering constructive intercultural dialogue to enhance the integration and empowerment of migrant youth within host communities

Key messages

- Underscores **the essential role of constructive intercultural dialogue in enhancing the integration and social cohesion** of migrant and refugee youth in Europe.
- Advocates for a **multi-stakeholder approach**, involving youth organizations, policymakers, educational institutions, and civil society to collaboratively address integration challenges.
- Highlights **the necessity of incorporating intercultural education into school curricula** to foster inclusive educational environments that celebrate diversity.
- Emphasizes **the importance of community-based programs and EU-funded initiatives** that support migrant youth through training, workshops, and cultural exchanges.
- **Key recommendations include** strengthening institutional support for dialogue, improving coordination among EU Member States, and creating inclusive environments that empower young immigrants to engage in civic life.

Policy options

- **National strategies and policies:** Countries are encouraged to incorporate intercultural dialogue into their national strategies on migration and youth integration
- **Educational initiatives:** Integrating intercultural education into school curricula and creating inclusive educational environments that reflect and celebrate diversity
- **Community-based programs:** Implementing EU-funded initiatives and local projects to support migrant youth integration through workshops, training, and cultural exchange events
- **Intercultural mediators:** Developing intercultural mediator roles to facilitate communication between migrants and authorities, addressing the unique needs of migrant youth
- **European identity building:** Participating in EU-funded initiatives that bring together young people from different backgrounds to engage in intercultural dialogue and develop a shared sense of European identity



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Executive Summary

This policy brief addresses the critical need to foster constructive intercultural dialogue to support the integration of young migrants and refugees across Europe. Drawing on the experience and knowledge of project partners in Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Romania and France, and the contributions of external organisations to this work, it highlights common challenges and proposes specific recommendations for successful integration. The report underlines the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach involving youth organisations, policy makers, educational institutions and civil society. Key recommendations include the incorporation of intercultural education into curricula, the implementation of EU programmes, the development of intercultural mediation functions and participation in EU-funded initiatives promoting a shared European identity. By strengthening institutional support, improving coordination between EU Member States and creating inclusive environments, the report aims to empower young immigrants to participate actively in civic life and develop a sense of belonging to their new communities. These efforts are crucial to improving social cohesion and mutual understanding in increasingly diverse European societies.

Introduction

This policy brief is a specific contribution of the MyCOMM project, an EU funded Erasmus+ project that unites youth organizations and civil society stakeholders in five EU countries (Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Romania, France), as well as EU umbrella level organizations for youth and migrant advocacy. A direct contribution to the capacity building of youth organizations in the EU, this policy brief aims to highlight common challenges, as observed by the partners, and propose targeted recommendations to foster the successful integration of migrant youth across Europe in diverse contexts

This policy brief specifically draws from the insights and contributions of the project partners, based on their work and experience.
It also integrates feedback from project events with other European youth organizations.

Project' Partners and their field of action with youth:

- The Rural Hub (Ireland): They specialise in creating innovative educational materials and digital resources for marginalised groups such as rural communities, NEETs, older people, migrants and creative sector entrepreneurs. They focus on e-learning tools to address training needs, skills gaps and alternative approaches to education, working with European partners to develop interactive online resources such as video lectures, escape rooms and WebQuest challenges.
- Group for European Integration GIE (Romania): NGO dedicated to supporting Romania's integration into the European Union through educational, cultural and socio-economic activities. Its objectives include promoting democratic values and conducting research on



European integration. GIE also promotes cooperation with other organisations and creates media content to disseminate EU values and human rights.

- Association APEDV REGARDONS (France): Organisation dedicated to defending the rights and interests of families with disabled children. They provide support, advice and advocacy to parents, assist children in their development and education and promote their integration into society and the workplace. The organisation also supports young adults and works to ensure their social inclusion.
- Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology CARDET (Cyprus): An organisation focused on creating long-term impact through purposeful action in education, digital learning and skills development. They empower individuals and communities by partnering with diverse stakeholders such as public agencies, youth organisations and private companies, with a focus on youth rights and inclusion. It develops youth-led initiatives, skills development programmes and policy advocacy campaigns to amplify youth voices and promote inclusive societies where young people can thrive.
- OBREAL (Spain): International network focusing on improving cooperation in higher education between Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean. They work on projects that promote academic exchange, research collaboration and education policy development. It aims to strengthen partnerships between universities and institutions to address global challenges and improve educational outcomes through strategic partnerships and capacity building initiatives.
- Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (France): It is a refugee-led network created by, with and for refugees to strengthen the voices of individual refugees and refugee-serving organisations in Europe. Through training and advocacy, it promotes the rights and agency of young refugees and supports them in developing their skills to enhance their meaningful participation in society.
- Cyprus Youth Clubs Organization KOKEN (Cyprus): It is the largest NGO in Cyprus dedicated to the development and coordination of youth clubs. Founded in 2008, its mission is to promote volunteerism, participation, education and social interaction among young people. It aims to empower young people through active citizenship, social and environmental awareness and participation in group activities. It works with various stakeholders to design and implement initiatives that support youth development, guided by the principles of democracy, integrity and transparency.
- Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes JEF (Belgium): Political youth NGO working for a democratic European federation guaranteeing peace, the rule of law and human rights. Founded in 1972, it has more than 10,000 members in 37 countries and promotes European citizenship and further EU integration. JEF Europe supports a federal model based on subsidiarity and rejects a centralised superstate. It engages in political advocacy, campaigns, training and dialogue to raise public awareness of European issues and to encourage young people's participation in building a fairer, more sustainable and integrated Europe.



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Context of the Problem

Across Europe, the need for constructive intercultural dialogue between immigrant and refugee youth has become increasingly important due to the continent's growing diversity. Almost all countries have recognized this necessity and implemented comprehensive strategies to address it. But the reality today is that young migrants and refugees still face challenges in adapting to new cultural environments and participating fully in civic life. These challenges can lead to social barriers, lack of cohesion and limited participation of migrant and refugee youth in their host communities.

If adequate intercultural dialogue does not take place in migrant and refugee host communities, then:

- Barriers may persist between young immigrants and host communities
- Social cohesion may be compromised
- Lack of understanding of the trauma experienced and also of sensitive women's health care.
- Young migrants and refugees may find it difficult to participate actively in civic life.
- There may be a lack of mutual understanding and respect between different cultural groups.

Addressing these issues by exploring approaches, policies and initiatives implemented in Europe will foster intercultural dialogue and promote the integration of young migrants in their host societies. This report aims to identify the right approach to this intercultural dialogue and to propose concrete recommendations for the integration of migrants and refugees in their host communities.

This policy brief examines how the need for constructive intercultural dialogue for migrant youth is featured in different parts of Europe, including MyCOMM project partners and members of organisations from different parts of Europe who have participated in MyCOMM project actions and have provided feedback and experience.

Intercultural Dialogue Approach

Intercultural dialogue for migrant and refugee youth is approached in different ways in different European countries. The different opinions, the results of the discussions and the experiences of different migrant and refugee youth organisations lead to the following strategies and actions:

1. National Strategies and Policies:

- Countries like Romania have incorporated intercultural dialogue into their national strategies on migration¹, recognizing it as essential for social cohesion and migrant youth well-being. In Spain, a

¹ <https://igi.mai.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/National-Strategy-on-Immigration-2021-%E2%80%93-2024.pdf>



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model framework for a National Intercultural Integration Strategy² has been promoted to manage diversity as an opportunity. The Migrant Integration Strategy (MIS)³ 2017-2021 in Ireland established a comprehensive framework to promote integration, focusing on equal opportunities, combating discrimination, and intercultural dialogue, while the National Youth Strategy (NYS)⁴ 2015-2020 aimed to increase engagement, wellbeing, and inclusion of migrant youth aged 10-24 years old. Both strategies emphasized the importance of intercultural dialogue and understanding, advocating for inclusive practices in schools, youth programmes, and community organizations to support the integration of diverse youth populations.

- The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027⁵ develops dialogues with policy makers and stakeholders around the themes identified by the Youth Council. Those related to Youth Objective 3 (Inclusive Societies) promote intercultural dialogue and from there the results are fed into the EU Youth Strategy under the umbrella of the EU Council.
- The European Commission has sent a communication to the rest of the EU's political institutions calling for an Action Plan for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals⁶, with a series of measures to promote intercultural dialogue in its own Erasmus+ programme, in the development of manuals and resources for professionals, and in the launch of other types of projects to promote it.

2. Educational Initiatives:

- France's educational policies and intercultural programs aim to create inclusive school environments that reflect the diversity of the student population and promote respect for different cultural backgrounds by emphasizing secularism and republican values as foundational principles. The education system incorporates intercultural education into curricula, providing language support for non-native French speakers and training teachers in intercultural competencies. Additionally, schools implement anti-discrimination initiatives and organize cultural exchange activities to celebrate diversity and foster understanding among students. These efforts collectively strive to build a more inclusive educational landscape where all students can thrive, while also addressing challenges in fully realizing these policies across different regions⁷. This approach is aligned with the European Commission's focus on integrating migrant backgrounds into education systems, recognizing the pivotal role of schools in fostering mutual understanding and reducing discrimination.
- The Intercultural Education Strategy⁸ (IES) 2010-2015, although concluded, continues to influence Irish schools and youth organizations by emphasizing intercultural education and dialogue as

²https://www.inclusion.gob.es/oberaxe/ficheros/documentos/MarcoEstrategicoCiudadaniaInclusionContraRacismoxenofobia_REV.pdf

³<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/983af-migrant-integration-strategy/>

⁴<https://www.youth.ie/documents/national-youth-strategy-2015-2020/>

⁵https://youth.europa.eu/strategy_en

⁶https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/integration/action-plan-integration-and-inclusion_en

⁷https://ihaverights.pixel-online.org/files/reports/FR_Report.pdf

⁸https://pdst.ie/sites/default/files/Intercultural_education_strategy.pdf



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essential components of inclusive education. The strategy encouraged schools to adopt curricula that value cultural diversity and foster mutual respect, providing resources to help teachers facilitate constructive dialogue in classrooms. Many schools have since implemented practices such as intercultural days and cultural interchange programs, allowing migrant youth to share their experiences and engage with peers. Additionally, the Yellow Flag Programme⁹, established by the Irish Traveller Movement, promotes intercultural understanding by creating welcoming environments through events and workshops that celebrate diversity and provide safe spaces for migrant youth to share their stories, thereby helping to break down prejudices and enhance mutual understanding among students of different backgrounds.

- Spain has several strategies¹⁰, methodologies¹¹ and proposals¹² to promote cultural inclusion in the education system, highlighting the implementation of inclusive methodologies that prioritize respect for diversity and the celebration of different cultural backgrounds within schools. For instance, educational policies encourage the integration of intercultural education into the curriculum, facilitating activities that promote cultural exchange and engagement among students from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, initiatives such as workshops, collaborative projects, and community involvement are designed to create welcoming environments where all students can share their experiences and learn from one another. By emphasizing the importance of dialogue and mutual respect, Spain's educational framework aims to cultivate a sense of belonging for migrant and refugee youth, ultimately contributing to social cohesion and a more inclusive society.
- Romania is actively promoting educational initiatives for intercultural dialogue through various policy frameworks and programs aimed at fostering inclusive environments for migrant youth. The National Strategy on Migration¹³ (2021-2024) emphasizes the importance of intercultural dialogue for social cohesion and the well-being of migrant youth, recognizing the need for language support and regular interactions with public service institutions. Additionally, the "Migrant in Romania" initiative¹⁴ provides resources for intercultural dialogue, including educational seminars and cultural mediation in cities with significant migrant populations. These efforts are complemented by language classes and cultural orientation programs within the educational system, aimed at helping both migrant and native students understand diverse cultures. Despite these advancements, challenges remain in ensuring equal access to resources, particularly in rural areas, highlighting the need for ongoing efforts to bridge gaps and enhance support for all migrant and refugee youth in Romania.
- There is a significant and silent gap in culturally sensitive health care for women¹⁵ that should be addressed within educational initiatives and intercultural dialogue policies in Europe, particularly in relation to migrant and refugee youth. The need for such healthcare arises from the unique

⁹ <https://itmtrav.ie/our-work/education/the-yellow-flag-programme/>

¹⁰ <https://redined.educacion.gob.es/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11162/259163/Claves.pdf?sequence=1>

¹¹ <https://www.cocemfe.es/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/guia-metodologias-enfoques-inclusivos-educacion.pdf>

¹² <https://aulainterultural.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/60PROPUESTAS.pdf>

¹³ https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/news/romania-new-national-strategy-immigration-overlooks-integration-issues_en

¹⁴ <https://www.intercultural.ro/en/migrant-in-romania/>

¹⁵ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpe/article/PIIS2666-7762\(23\)00224-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpe/article/PIIS2666-7762(23)00224-7/fulltext)



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challenges faced by these populations, including cultural differences, language barriers and specific health needs that may not be adequately recognised or addressed by existing healthcare systems. Incorporating culturally sensitive approaches into educational initiatives can help raise awareness among health care providers of the specific needs of migrant and refugee women and foster an environment in which they feel safe and understood. In addition, integrating discussions about women's health into intercultural dialogue strategies can increase understanding and respect for different cultural practices and beliefs about health. This can lead to improved access to appropriate health services for migrant and refugee women and empower them to advocate for their health needs.

3. Community-Based Programs:

- EU-funded initiatives like the "Us&Them" project¹⁶ (lead in Romania but impacting in other parts or Europe) support migrant youth integration through workshops, training, and cultural exchange events. These community-based programs provide platforms for migrant youth to engage directly with the host population, develop personal connections, and learn about the importance of civic duties within a European framework. The project incorporates CEPAIM foundation activities that expose young people from diverse backgrounds to concepts of European citizenship, tolerance, and active participation in democratic processes, thereby fostering a shared sense of belonging and intercultural understanding.
- Organizations like CEPAIM Foundation, through the 'Intercultural Community' programme¹⁷, promotes processes of intercultural coexistence and social cohesion in different parts of Spain through a community intervention focused on awareness, participation, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue in neighbourhoods or areas of high diversity.
- There is an urgent need to develop community-based programmes focused on support and therapy for migrants and refugees in Europe, as these populations often face unique challenges such as trauma from displacement and barriers to accessing mental health services¹⁸. Such programmes can provide tailored support, including counselling services, peer support groups and culturally sensitive therapy options, and foster a safe environment where migrants and refugees feel understood. Integrating these initiatives into educational frameworks can enhance intercultural dialogue, raise awareness of mental health issues and reduce stigma. Ultimately, the development of community-based support systems is essential to improving the mental health of migrants and refugees, facilitating their integration into society, and promoting social cohesion among Europe's diverse populations.

¹⁶ <https://us-and-them.eu/>

¹⁷ <https://www.cepaim.org/areas-actuacion/interculturalidad-y-desarrollo-comunitario/comunidad-intercultural-programa-de-promocion-de-la-convivencia-comunitaria-intercultural-en-barrios-o-zonas-de-alta-diversidad-2023/>

¹⁸ https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/library-document/mental-health-refugees-and-migrants-risk-and-protective-factors-and-access-care_en



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4. Intercultural Mediators:

- Romania has developed strategy calls for the development of intercultural mediator roles, which aim to create a direct line of communication between migrants and authorities. These mediators facilitate dialogue that respects cultural differences and addresses the unique needs of migrant youth, particularly in areas such as education, social inclusion, and access to services.
- Different countries in Europe are actively implementing intercultural mediator roles to support migrant and refugee youth. In Ireland, initiatives like the Migrant Integration Strategy¹⁹ and local council programs²⁰ utilize intercultural mediators to facilitate communication between migrant youth and the broader community, promoting dialogue and understanding. Romania has emphasized the role of intercultural mediators in its National Strategy on Migration²¹, aiming to improve communication between migrants and authorities while providing language support and resources for integration. The "Migrant in Romania" initiative²² further supports this by offering educational seminars and cultural mediation in cities with significant migrant populations, through the "Network of -intercultural Mediators". In Spain, intercultural mediation is integrated into socio-educational frameworks²³ that foster meaningful interactions between local and migrant youth, emphasizing dialogue as a means to promote social cohesion. Overall, these countries recognize the importance of intercultural mediators in enhancing integration efforts and facilitating constructive dialogue for migrant youth.
- The project 'Intercultural Attention and Mediation'²⁴ of the ACCEM association worked on the one hand, to promote interculturality and the acceptance of diversity in the social environment. On the other hand, it was proposed to favour contact and coexistence between immigrants and the society of five Spanish cities in the bidirectional process of integration. It focused especially on educational and health centres but was open to all those areas in which social mediation is a necessary tool for intervention.

5. European Identity Building:

- Many countries participate in EU-funded initiatives that bring together young people from different backgrounds to engage in intercultural dialogue and develop a shared sense of European identity. These projects often include cross-border exchanges and collaborative activities that enable migrant youth to connect with their peers, explore common challenges, and build a stronger sense of belonging within the European community.

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/983af-migrant-integration-strategy/>

²⁰ <https://immigrantcouncil.ie/local-migrant-integration-index/key-findings/local-migrant-integration-strategy>

²¹ <https://igi.mai.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/National-Strategy-on-Immigration-2021-%E2%80%93-2024.pdf>

²² <https://www.intercultural.ro/en/migrant-in-romania/>

²³ https://www.inclusion.gob.es/oberaxe/ficheros/documentos/Marco_modelo_integracion_acc.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.accem.es/programa-atencion-mediacion-intercultural/>



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- The construction of the European identity is based on the acceptance and integration of diversity and this fact is part of the basis of the European legal order. The European Union (EU) considers cultural diversity as one of its fundamental values, and this is enshrined in its founding treaties. The Treaty on European Union²⁵ (TEU), in the third paragraph of Article 3, states that ‘The Union shall respect the richness of its cultural diversity...’ and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Article 167, first paragraph, states that ‘The Union shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity’; and in the first paragraph of Article 165, highlighting the role of education in this area, it states that ‘The Union shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity’. Finally, in the same vein, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU) states in its Preamble that ‘The Union contributes to upholding and promoting these common values while respecting the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe’; and, in Article 22, it specifies that ‘The Union respects cultural, religious and linguistic diversity’. Cultural diversity is thus conceived as a value of the Union, worthy of respect and promotion.

6. Youth Involvement:

- Efforts are being made in all European countries to involve migrant youth organizations in policy-making processes and program planning to ensure their perspectives are incorporated.
- "Dialogue with Youth"²⁶ is a European Union initiative that promotes the participation of young people in political, social, economic and cultural development at all territorial levels, from local to European, and encourages debate between young people and decision-makers on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies that have an impact on young people, including migrants and refugees.

Overall, the approach to intercultural dialogue in Europe appears to be multifaceted, encompassing education systems, community initiatives, institutional support, European identity building and youth involvement, all aimed at fostering mutual understanding and empowering young immigrants to participate actively in their host societies.

²⁵ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/the-parliament-and-the-treaties/maastricht-treaty>

²⁶ https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/euyouthdialogue_en



Recommendations & Practical Framework for its Implementation

Based on the ideas contained in the views and experiences of the country organisations involved in developing the content of this paper, the following recommendations are proposed to address the policy gaps and discrimination faced by young migrants and refugees, with examples of activities and actions to facilitate the practical implementation of the recommendations:

1. Strengthen Institutional Support	
RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONABLE BY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Government Policies: Countries should incorporate intercultural dialogue into national migration strategies, as seen in Romania and Ireland, where such frameworks recognize its importance for social cohesion and well-being of youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Comprehensive Policies: Governments should create or revise national migration policies to explicitly include intercultural dialogue as a key component, as suggested by the European Commission. This can involve drafting policy documents that outline specific goals, strategies, and metrics for success.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Funding for Programs: Allocate resources to support community initiatives that connect immigrant youth with local populations, ensuring these programs are sustainable and impactful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Funding Mechanisms: Set up dedicated funding streams for community organizations that facilitate intercultural dialogue initiatives. This could include grants or subsidies aimed at projects that connect migrant youth with local communities.

2. Integrating Intercultural Education	
RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONABLE BY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Development: Schools should integrate intercultural education into their curricula, promoting respect for diversity and cultural backgrounds. This includes training teachers in intercultural competencies and providing language support for non-native speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Enhancement: Schools should revise their curricula to incorporate modules on intercultural education, including training materials for teachers. Culturally sensitive approaches should also be incorporated in specific areas (specific needs in health care for migrant and refugee women). This could involve collaboration with educational experts to create resources that reflect diverse cultural perspectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Cultural Exchange: Educational institutions can implement activities such as intercultural days and cultural exchange programs to foster understanding among students from diverse backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize Cultural Exchange Programs: Implement regular intercultural days or exchange programs where students share their cultural backgrounds through presentations, food fairs, and art exhibitions, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding.



3. Community-Based Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONABLE BY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Mental Health Programs: Develop community-based programs that focus on mental health support tailored for migrants and refugees, addressing unique challenges such as trauma from displacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Mental Health Support Programs: Encourage the development of community mental health initiatives specifically designed for migrant youth, offering counselling and peer support groups that are culturally sensitive and accessible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Civic Engagement: Initiatives like the "Us&Them" project can help migrant youth engage with civic duties, fostering a sense of belonging and active participation in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Civic Engagement Workshops: Organize workshops that educate migrant youth about civic responsibilities and rights within their host countries, encouraging them to participate in local governance and community service.

4. Utilizing Intercultural Mediators

RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONABLE BY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Mediator Roles: Countries should develop roles for intercultural mediators to facilitate communication between migrant youth and authorities. These mediators can help address the specific needs of young migrants in areas such as education and social services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Intercultural Mediators: Establish training programs for intercultural mediators focusing on effective communication skills, cultural sensitivity, and conflict resolution techniques. This would prepare them to serve as effective liaisons between migrant youth and local authorities. • Implement Mediation Services in Schools: Introduce mediation services within educational institutions where intercultural mediators can assist in resolving conflicts and promoting understanding among students from different backgrounds.

5. Building European Identity

RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONABLE BY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Cross-Border Initiatives: Encourage EU-funded projects that bring together young people from different backgrounds to engage in intercultural dialogue, helping them develop a shared sense of European identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate Cross-Border Youth Exchanges: Promote EU-funded projects that allow youth from different member states to participate in exchange programs, where they can collaborate on community projects and engage in dialogue about shared values.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate Cultural Diversity: Initiatives should emphasize the importance of cultural diversity as a fundamental value of the EU, reinforcing the idea that diversity enriches society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Cultural Diversity through Events: Organize annual events that celebrate the cultural diversity of Europe, such as festivals or competitions that highlight the contributions of various cultures to European society.



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By taking these actionable steps across various sectors—government, education, community organizations, and civil society—countries can create a more inclusive environment that supports the integration of migrant and refugee youth while fostering constructive intercultural dialogue.

Conclusion

Fostering constructive intercultural dialogue is crucial for the successful integration of migrant and refugee youth in Europe. This policy brief highlights the importance of a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach to address the challenges faced by young immigrants and create inclusive societies.

By implementing the recommended strategies, such as incorporating intercultural education into school curricula, developing community-based programs, and utilizing intercultural mediators, European countries can significantly improve the integration process. These efforts will not only benefit migrant youth but also contribute to the overall social cohesion and cultural richness of host communities.

The success of these initiatives relies on strong institutional support, improved coordination among EU Member States, and sustained funding for targeted programs. By creating environments that celebrate diversity and promote active civic participation, we can empower young immigrants to develop a sense of belonging and contribute positively to their new communities.

As Europe continues to navigate the complexities of migration and integration, the implementation of these policy recommendations will be instrumental in building more inclusive, understanding, and harmonious societies. The future of Europe depends on our ability to embrace diversity and foster meaningful intercultural dialogue, particularly among its youth.

Annexes: Existing Policies on Migration



<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/policy-documents>



<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/policy-issues/migration.html>



https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/Migration-Policy_EN.pdf



<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/policy-briefs>



<https://www.enar-eu.org/>

General Policy Paper No. 6 : Migration and Diversity: A Rights-Based Approach to Migration



<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/>

Eurydice Reports

Integrating Students from Migrant Backgrounds into Schools in Europe: National Policies and Measures:

<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/integrating-students-migrant-backgrounds-schools-europe-national-policies-and-measures>



<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/discover/resources/etuce-report-integration-migrants-and-refugees?prefLang=es>

Report: Promoting the effective integration of migrants and refugees in education



Migrant and Refugee
Youth Communication
and advocacy for equity
and inclusion



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