



COSLA

STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Migration Matters Scotland Launch Event 4th June 2015



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Co-financed by the European Fund for the
Integration of Third Country Nationals



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Migration Matters Scotland Project Overview



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Migration Matters Scotland

- Funded by the European Commission's European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals
- Particular focus on the integration of non-EU nationals
- Project runs from December 2013 to June 2015



Key Aims of the Project

- To better understand the needs of migrants and the needs of public service bodies that design and deliver services for them;
- To support migrants to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies about them; and
- To build the capacity of local authorities and their partners to implement and monitor integration strategies for migrants



Key Outputs

- A new interactive migration policy toolkit – much more on that later!
- Bespoke census analysis from the National Records of Scotland – more on that later too!
- An online database of policy and research papers – launched in February and now containing over 170 entries
- Analysis and recommendations based on engagement work with migrants in four pilot areas – the focus of this presentation



What We Did

- Key strands to our engagement activities
 - Initial interviews with council officers
 - Group discussions with migrants
 - Officer / migrant engagement event
 - Reporting back to the pilot councils



What We Found: Key Themes

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Health and Leisure
- Social Connections



Housing

- Challenges for migrants
 - Availability of suitable housing
 - Negotiating 'the system'
 - 'Competing' with the local population
- Addressing the challenges
 - Web-based multi-language advice
 - Information sharing initiatives



Education

- Challenges for migrants
 - Access to ESOL
 - Cost
 - Availability
 - Timing
 - Location
- Addressing the challenges
 - Designing classes that fit around work and family commitments
 - Considering community-led learning options



Employment

- Challenges for migrants
 - Finding jobs commensurate with their skills
 - Transferability of qualifications
 - English language requirements
 - Lack of practical assistance
- Addressing the challenges
 - Support from migrant organisations
 - Support from employers
 - Promoting volunteering, mentoring and shadowing opportunities



Health and Leisure

- Challenges for migrants
 - Expectations regarding healthcare provision
 - Language support when accessing healthcare
 - Disconnect between needs and provision
- Addressing the challenges
 - Designing culturally sensitive services
 - Promotion of range of services and facilities
 - Educating front line staff



Social Connections

- Challenges for migrants
 - Geography
 - Opportunities for interaction
- Addressing the challenges
 - Creating opportunities for interaction with the local population
 - Crucial role for the 3rd sector, churches, etc.



Some Draft Recommendations

- Recognise the importance of local political leadership and senior officer involvement in supporting integration and addressing challenges for migrants (but don't forget the crucial role of frontline staff either)
- Get to know the make up of your local migrant population – and why migrants are staying in your area – and plan services accordingly
- Recognise that migrants are not a homogenous group and should not be treated as such
- Engage with and listen to your migrant communities and explain to them what it is that you can or cannot do for them
- Recognise the crucial role played by third sector community organisations in filling gaps in service provision and supporting integration, and support them accordingly



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Discussion



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