

Cities and Migration

Have you ever wondered what role cities can play to ensure social inclusion, greater equality, access to services and opportunities for migrants? But also how migrants shape cities and contribute to their development? Here it is mapped out for you, in a concise and easy-to-read manner! We have included some additional interesting reads via the links below. Scroll down and happy reading!



Migration in the 21st century is an urban phenomenon. People from all over the world are migrating to the city in search of better opportunities in work, education, health and services.

55%
of the world
population lives in cities.

It is projected to go up to
68%
by 2050.

2/3
of the
foreign-born
population
live in mostly
metropolitans
regions

Approximately
**1/5 international
migrants**
are estimated to live in just
20 cities

Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires,
Chicago, Hong Kong SAR, China, London,
Los Angeles, Madrid, Moscow, New York,
Paris, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore,
Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Vienna and
Washington DC



THIS INFO SERIES 'CITIES & MIGRATION' WAS CREATED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF IOM'S EQUALCITY PROJECT

While rapid human mobility can be a challenge, it also brings substantial opportunities for cities and migrants alike.



Migrants are a source of
innovation and drive of
(economic) development



Migrants can bring new
skills and new perspectives
to workplaces



Migrants contribute to
social cohesion and
community well-
being, by building
bridges, sharing of
information and
acting as mediators in
intercultural
exchanges

Diaspora can bring
transnational economic
assets, i.e. trade and transfer
of goods and knowledge



Migrants bring opportunities
to tackle demographic and
labour market challenges



The Sustainable
Development Goals
recognize that the
inclusion of vulnerable
groups in cities is
essential for sustainable
urbanization.



The Global Compact for Migration
commits to the implementation
of strong integration policies and
recognizes that fully integrated
and empowered migrants can
contribute to prosperity.

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Moving to a new city and community presents its own unique set of opportunities and challenges.

For migrants, this experience can exacerbate feelings of isolation and insecurity.

It is important for frontline workers and the host society to be well equipped to assist migrants in all areas of their integration process.

Trained frontline workers can reduce barriers migrants face to access services.



Who are these frontline workers?

Medical staff, social workers, law enforcement, educators, migrant organizations, employment & housing services, civil society organizations, etc.

Local authorities, even when not directly tasked with migrant integration, can do a lot to assist in this process.

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How can cities promote migrant integration ?

Institutional

- Provide targeted measures to facilitate integration: language courses, civic orientation, arrival information
- Coordinate integration services
- Make services accessible to migrants: train frontline staff, provide multilingual information
- Ensure equal access to public goods and services:
 - education
 - health care
 - housing
 - transport
 - employment
 - entrepreneurship
 - social care
 - legal support

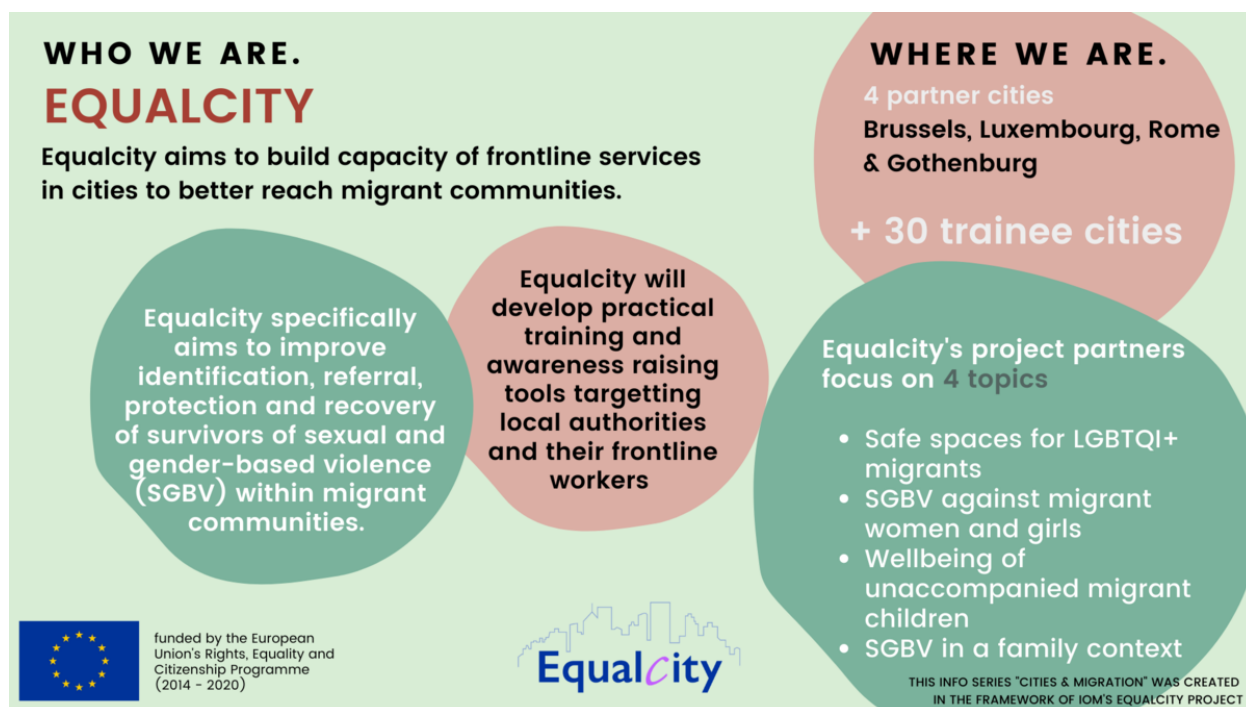


Community

- Provide migrants with information on their rights, on available services
- Equip migrants with skills (for ex.: language)
- Promote good community relations: inform the host community on how to deal with and benefit from changes in their community.
- Combat intolerance and discrimination
- Create enabling environments for newcomers and locals alike



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Read more



- Migration Data Portal, Urbanization and migration
- OSCE, Local Authorities' Migrant Integration Guide
- IOM, Migrants & Cities in the SDG Agenda
- OCDE, The integration of migrants in OECD regions
- IOM, World Migration Report 2015: Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility
- IOM, Conference on Migrants and Cities
- Equalcity : <https://belgium.iom.int/equalcity>