Online Meeting of the CPMR Migration Task Force
26 January 2021

Note: This meeting was preceded by an External Network Encounter of the REGIN Project led by the CPMR and co-financed by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Minutes of this session are available HERE

Participants

REGIONS
ATTICA (GR) Dimitra POULANTZA, Representative
BASQUE COUNTRY (ES) Amaia BELOKI, Brussels Delegation
Sara GASCO
CAMPANIA (IT) Veronica VITOLO, Intern
CANARY ISLANDS (ES) Eva FARIÑA ESPINOSA, Policy Advisor
Irina BETANCOR ALMEIDA, Junior Policy Advisor, EU Delegation in Brussels
Cristina DOMINGUEZ BEAUTEILL, Legal Advisor on European Affairs
CATALONIA (ES) Xavier ALONSO, Senior EU Policy Officer
Nuria BEDOS, Senior Policy Officer
Maria DELGADO, EU policy unit
Marlen NIUBÓ EDELER, Senior Immigration Officer
LISBON & TAGUS Tiago CRUZ, Head of Cooperation Unit
VALLEY (PT) Carla SANCHO, Project officer
MAYOTTE (FR) Basma ALI MAHAMOUD, European Partnerships Officer
Cyrielle CUIRASSIER, Representative
MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN (DE) Reem Alabali-RADOVAN, Integration Commissioner, Ministry for Social Affairs, Integration and Gender Equality
Anika JÄGER, Secretary of the Integration Commissioner
NAVARRA (ES) Baltasar MARTOS SÁEZ
NOORD-HOLLAND (NL) Wim STOOKER, EU Representative
OCCITANIE (FR) Jordane SALDUCCI, Policy Officer
PÄIJÄT-HÄME Jenni KORJUS, Service counsellor, Regional Integration Service Point Alipi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name and Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SKÅNE (SE)</td>
<td>Annika ANNERBY JANSSON, President and Rapporteur on migration issues to the CPMR Political Bureau Anne-Maria IKONEN, Partnership Skåne Maria LINDBOM, Senior Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHKODER (AL)</td>
<td>Edita SHOSHI, General Secretary of Council of Shkoder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALENCIA (ES)</td>
<td>Maria Jose LOPEZ, Daria TERRADEZ, DG for EU Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (SE)</td>
<td>Brigitta ADOLFSSON, Vice Chair CPMR North Sea Commission Smart Region Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGIN PROJECT TECHNICAL PARTNERS**

- **MPG**: Carmine CONTE, Legal Policy Analyst
- **INSTRATEGIES**: Gemma PINYOL, Head of Migration Policies and Diversity, Instrategies

**REGIN PROJECT ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

- **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES**: Georgia CHANTZI, Research and Policy Development Manager
- **MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF FINLAND**: Elli HEIKKILÄ, Research Director

**CPMR GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

- Davide STRANGIS, Executive Director for EU Programmes, Partnerships & Geographical Commissions
- Claire STREET, Project and Policy Officer in charge of the Task Force
- Nidaa BOTMI, REGIN Project Officer
- Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) Executive Secretary
- Elodie NUNES, Executive Secretary, CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission
- Ana CANOMANUEL, Communication & Marketing Officer
- Anna RIZZO, Intern Climate and Energy Policy
- Riccardo VICINANZA, Intern Inter-Mediterranean Commission
SUMMARY OF DEBATES

1. Welcome and introduction

*Presented by Annika Annerby Jansson, President of Region Skåne, Chair of the Task Force*

The Chair welcomed two members of the **Cabinet of Ylva Johnasson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs**, to exchange with our member Regions: **Ms Alexandra Cupsan**, responsible for the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and **Ms Gosia Pearson**, responsible for Migration Management Support.

She introduced them to CPMR’s work on migration since the Task Force was set up in 2015.

She expressed satisfaction at positive developments

- increasing recognition of the important role of regional authorities in migrant integration and inclusion and strengthened dialogue between CPMR and DG HOME
- new partnership on integration to support cities and regions that was launched on 10 Dec between the Committee of the Regions and DG HOME to which CPMR hopes to contribute
- political agreement on AMIF 2021-2027 reached in December with 5% of the thematic facility targeted to regional and local authorities.

However some concerns remain:

- lack of solidarity at MS level and difficult negotiations on the Pact. Any delay in measures to remedy the current failing EU asylum system impact regions.
- Regions want the EC to facilitate multi-level governance and dialogue with member states, which need to engage their Regions in the national strategies, plans, reports and programmes on migration management that are proposed in the Pact.
- calculation of allocations under Cohesion policy which take into account migration with additional funds for regions receiving third country nationals, but with no guarantee these will be earmarked for migration actions.
- No clearly visible role for regions in the external dimension of EU migration policies and the scope for funding under the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI),

2. The new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. State of play of negotiations and the Regional Dimension of the Pact

*Presented by Ms Alexandra Cupsan, member of cabinet responsible for Irregular Migration and Return Policy*

**Ms Cupsan** provided an overview of the Pact and state of play of negotiations. She pointed out that Commissioner Johansson has acknowledged and stressed the important role of regions, which are providing a pragmatic reply to needs on the ground. She also noted that regions are facing the realities of migration flows particularly the regions of first entry.
SUMMARY OF DEBATES

3. Contributions from CPMR Member Regions: challenges, needs on the ground, actions and solutions

- **The importance of a functioning system for distributing information to migrants in a crisis situation; health and civic communication**

  *Presented by Annika Annerby Jansson, President of Region Skåne, Chair of the Task Force*

  Region Skåne’s work on Civic & Health Communication is supported by a highly efficient well-functioning system built up over the years. This has proven to be a crucial factor in ensuring information can be distributed to migrants in the current crisis situation of Covid-19 that is affecting migrant and refugee populations particularly badly.

- **Regional solidarity and issues related to the Pact**

  *Presented by Mikael Anton, Director of EU Affairs, Basque Government*

  Mr Anton stressed in particular the importance of solidarity and explained the concept of the SHARE proposal supported by numerous Spanish and French regions for the voluntary relocation at the regional level of refugees, unaccompanied children or vulnerable migrants in an irregular situation on the basis of transparent criteria. As a sign of this solidarity the Basque Government had taken part in sponsorship initiative in partnership with the Spanish Government, hosting refugee families from Jordan who are now successfully integrated.

- **Multi-level governance in migrant management**

  *Presented by Jenni Korjus, Service Counsellor, Regional Integration Service Point, Päijät-Häme Region*

  [LINK TO PRESENTATION]

  Ms Korjus explained the multi-level governance approach to migrant integration, where the regional government coordinates a five-year integration programme for the whole region with the collaboration of 12 local authorities and covering 5 development areas. As a best practice an integration point was set up in 2014 using ESF funding and now is permanently funded as a one-stop-shop for migrants to access relevant services.

- **Dealing with unaccompanied children, Eva Fariña Espinosa, European Affairs Dept., Canary Islands Government**

  *Presented by Eva Fariña Espinosa, European Affairs Dept., Canary Islands Government*

  The Canary Islands has been in the spotlight in 2020 with an unprecedented number of irregular arrivals in the territory. Ms Fariña Espinosa described the critical humanitarian situation in the islands, especially in dealing with the reception of a large number of unaccompanied children. Regional resources are saturated, and the Region is feeling extremely alone without the necessary support. It demands a specific programme and budget to provide concrete responses and guarantee rights of children.
SUMMARY OF DEBATES

- **Reactions and Comments**

  *Ms Gosia Pearson, member of cabinet responsible for Migration Management Support*

  **Ms Pearson** provided some information on the new Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 published last November and in which regional authorities are mentioned as key actors. She informed also that the Commission will be organising toolkits and webinars to create awareness about how the funding instruments under the 2021-27 programming period (AMIF, ESF+, ERDF), can be used for migrant integration.

4. **Summing up**

  *by Annika Annerby Jansson, President of Region Skåne, Chair of the Task Force*

  The Chair summed up by indicated that the CPMR will continue to follow closely the developments at EU level on the Pact negotiations as well as legislative proposals on funding instruments.

  She hoped to be able to have the pleasure to welcome the Commissioner on the occasion of one of our future meetings to exchange with CPMR regional politicians.