

MIPEX - Regions

This paper first explains what the Migrant integration Policy Index (MIPEX) consists on and what is requires for national MIPEX assessments and then it explores the project of adapting MIPEX to regions.

What is MIPEX?

The Migration Policy Group (MPG) and CIDOB, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, are currently leading the project “Integration policies: Who benefits? The development and use of indicators in integration debates” that started in November 2013 and finished in June 2015. The project, co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, builds on and expands the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) in the 28 member states of the European Union. This fourth edition of MIPEX includes 38 countries and provides an overview of integration policies across a broad range of differing environments. More than 100 national-level organisations, including think-tanks, non-governmental organisations, foundations, universities, research institutes and equality bodies and individual researchers are affiliated with MIPEX.

Using 167 policy indicators, analysing eight policy areas, MIPEX creates a rich, multi-dimensional picture of migrants’ opportunities to participate in society by assessing governments’ commitment to integration. The new policy strand on health was added in partnership with the COST/ADAPT research network and the International Organisation for Migration.

MIPEX promotes transparency by increasing public knowledge and visibility of national policies, changes and international trends. The project stimulates debate on government objectives, progress and results. It also inspires integration actors to collect further evidence of how legal integration can work to promote societal integration in practice. It establishes the extent to which all residents are legally entitled to equal rights and responsibilities as well as to any support that addresses their specific needs to make equal opportunities a reality.

The key research outputs were an interactive website building on the successful MIPEX website and an E-book presenting all the data through easy-to-use country profiles, analysis and databases. This data was calculated separately for every country and for each of the policy areas.

MIPEX assessments of national policies

MIPEX measures to what extent laws and policies create the conditions for immigrants to fully participate in the life of their country of residence. Equal opportunities and responsibilities for immigrants are assessed in many key areas for integration: the labour market, family reunion, political participation, education, health, long-term residence, access to nationality, and anti-discrimination law. By including a country in the MIPEX, its policies can be easily analysed and compared to these principles of equal treatment, to policies in other countries, to regional and global averages, and, eventually, to themselves over time. Governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as academics can request the MPG and CIDOB to make a MIPEX assessment of individual countries.

Certain procedures must be followed for certification as a MIPEX certified assessment and incorporation of the assessment into the MIPEX website. The procedure is set out in a partnership agreement between MPG, CIDOB and the organisation requesting the assessment.

Partnership Agreement

This agreement normally contains the following provisions:

- The partner demonstrates that their mandate and past activities are related to equal treatment and immigrant integration.
- MPG /CIDOB conduct a quick feasibility study to assess whether the country's framework on legal immigration and the rule of law are compatible with the MIPEX's policy indicators.
- CIDOB/MPG and the partner identify national experts who must be independent from government and knowledgeable about the relevant national policies and

law, also preferably experienced in international or comparative legal/policy research on these topics.

- CIDOB/MPG coordinate the research at international level in order to assist the experts, certify the assessment for quality control purposes, and conduct the comparative analysis, and write up the results, always in consultation with the partner.
- The partner translates the results into the national language.
- The partner and CIDOB/MPG present the results of the assessment at a national roundtable of invited governmental and non-governmental actors.
- CIDOB/MPG publish the results on the MIPEX website.

Research

The national experts either fulfil the role of the first correspondent or peer reviewer. There are six roles to fill: correspondent and peer reviewer for the main strands (foreigners' law), a pair for anti-discrimination law, and a pair for migrant education policies. Depending on whether experts have knowledge of one or more areas, the number of experts needed to fill these roles may be as high as 6 or as low as 2.

- The correspondents receive the questionnaire from CIDOB/MPG and answer it based on their knowledge of law and policy. They tick the appropriate option that corresponds to their country's policies and provide references in a Comments Box to the relevant legal/policy documents, which justify their choice of option. The amount of work corresponds to approximately five days total (three for the main strands, one for anti-discrimination, one for education)
- CIDOB/MPG receive the completed questionnaire and makes a first quality control of the clarity and consistency of the correspondents' interpretation of the questions. CIDOB/MPG then send any questions for clarification and the correspondent makes any revisions to their completed questionnaire.
- The peer reviewer then receives the completed questionnaire from CIDOB/MPG and anonymously checks the answers provided by the first correspondent. If they disagree, they must tick another Box and provide a justification with further references in a Comments Box. The amount of work per

peer reviewer is estimated at four days total (two for the main strands, one for anti-discrimination, one for education).

- CIDOB/MPG receive the peer reviewed questionnaire and provides a second quality control of the clarity and consistency of interpretation.
- CIDOB/MPG communicate bilaterally with the experts and reconciles any differences of interpretation based on the references provided.
- CIDOB/MPG input the finalised questionnaire into the MIPEX database and conducts the comparative analysis.

Publication and debate

Because MIPEX is a user-friendly and easily accessible tool, its results have been cited and used extensively for comparison and evaluation by political scientists and sociologists as well as advocates and policymakers.

- CIDOB/MPG deliver the results through a web-based database and a PDF, including official MIPEX graphics, maps, charts and a country profile text. The partner comments on the draft analysis and contributes additional contextual data to the country profile.
- The partner disseminates the results and leads any strategic development with CIDOB/MPG on a possible launch event or press outreach. They also relay news of any media, policy, and academic use of the results in the country. The amount of work for the remaining responsibilities is as desired by the partner.

MIPEX assessments of regional policies

Generally speaking the same principles apply to MIPEX assessments of regions. However, the scope of a regional MIPEX assessment needs to be established first. MIPEX has currently eight policy fields or strands. We have to establish which policy fields are normally within the exclusive mandate of the national government (citizenship or long-term residence) and which ones are shared responsibilities (education and health). We then have to establish whether the share of the regional mandate is significant enough to warrant an international comparison. In addition, we should explore to what extent national policies require regional action for their implementation (for example citizenship campaigns, delivery of residence permits, naturalisation procedures, anti-discrimination and equality policies). This will lead to the drawing up of a regional policy specific questionnaire of around 20 questions with three policy options.

To have rich insight it would be necessary to involve different regions from two or three different countries, and wherever possible different regions from the same country thus giving the questionnaire enough body (and relevance) and making it fit for international comparison. The questionnaire can be tested in a few regions. MPG and CIDOB select independent researchers who will carry out the research in accordance with the well-established MIPEX method. The results are presented in a similar way as the national MIPEX research results. This includes situating the region in the national context (explaining competence issues), and a regional profile with regional outcomes. It will be published at a special section of the [MIPEX website](#) and can be published in an e-book or printed. The results are discussed at a Round Table.