

The **MIRACLE project** develops models of integration between migrants and host society through religious and cultural learning and exchange as well as activation and strengthening of migrant participation.

It encourages a process of integration, which involves and changes both newly arrived and hosting society.

In a pilot project, it looks at the possibilities of Christian churches and communities playing a decisive role in integration and explores transferability of existing models into a faith-based context: It adapts existing methodology and recommendations of secular platforms on integration (e.g. the WINACT "Winning Migrants as Active Members" method, developed under the GRUNDTVIG programme, which aims at winning active members for political parties and trade unions by targeted recruitment and organizational change) and tests their use in a religious context.

The MIRACLE project is developed as a pilot project on religion serving integration of migrants.

In a first step, it explores how models of migrant participation which were developed in a secular setting, can be used - if adapted - through a series of workshops on activation and cultural mediation among those Christian churches in Europe which are being challenged and transformed by migration.

The project will develop in four stages:

Participants: Churches and Christian communities in 5-6 countries (stage1-4), other faith-based groups (e.g. Muslim and Jewish), political actors, NGOs (stage 4).

Stage 1: Initial workshop: introducing and reviewing existing methods of migrants' activation, participation and mutual integration in church and Christian communities (2 ½ days, 40 participants: 5-6 from each participating countries + 10 others).

Stage 2: national workshops: testing and modifying existing methodology on migrants activation/participation and role of cultural mediators (25 participants, with professional trainers) - > formulation of results for methods, formulation of agenda for change for own organizations. 3 - day workshop with 2 days of training and 1 day of space for discussing migrants involvement in churches in respective country.

Stage 3: 2 regional workshops (e.g. 1 Mediterranean Europe, 1 Northern European): testing models, exchanging experiences, modifying them (each around 20 participants, 5-6 per country), one interregional workshop in cooperation with one sending region (Africa, tbc).

Stage 4: Closing Workshop: involving the inter-faith and secular context: presentation of results and discussion of transferability in a multi-faith context (closing conference app. 60 participants)

Alongside the project: A series of interviews with migrants who are activists in their religious community in the project about good and bad practice of their participation (applying the POLITIS project research methodology).

Envisaged results include a guide: explaining methodology of integration through religious and cultural learning and outlining examples from interviews with active migrants.