

**3rd Meeting in Portsmouth/United Kingdom
(15/09/2014 – 19/09/2014)**

**Leonardo da Vinci Partnership Project
Education Schemes as an Integration Tool – A European Comparison (ESIT)**

Relationship with institutions

The immigrants can be divided in four main categories:

- (1) immigrants from EU, who mainly have the same rights and possibilities as UK citizens;
- (2) immigrants who arrive visa (countries outside EU), who mainly does not have rights and access to state benefits and guaranties, they can access the services by private companies and NGOs/ charities;
- (3) illegal immigrants who do not rights to access any state benefits or guaranties, they do receive support and assistance from NGOs/charities;
- (4) asylum seekers who receive all possible assistance from states as are considered as UK citizen until their status is decided.

	Housing / accommodation	Language support *	Education / training	Employment	Health care, Social services, family
EU (residents)	YES (the same as for UK nationals) *	YES (free language courses) *	YES (the same as for UK nationals)	YES (the same as for UK nationals)	YES (the same as for UK nationals, with EU Heath card) Family - YES
VISA	NO (before arrival they have to provide accommodation details)	NO (private courses)	NO (private education and training)	YES (but they have to apply to appropriate TIER visa and provide employment details before arrival)	YES (students & employed receive as UK nationals, tourists have to pay) Family – only with separate VISA
Illegal immigrants	NO (third and private sector helps)	NO (third and private sector helps)	NO	NO (third and private sector helps)	NO (third and private sector helps) Family – NO
Asylum seekers	YES (all rights to all benefits and accommodation upon arrival)	YES (check language level, if required provide the language training)	YES (check knowledge level, if required provide with additional training)	POSSIBLE (if Secretary of State grants permission; necessity to apply)	YES (all rights and benefits as UK nationals) Family – YES (spouse and children until age of 18)

Recognition of foreign certificates is done by UK NARIC, which is done in specific cases and rather seldom. NARIC tends to lower the foreign degree by one level.

In the recent years, the provision for all the above mentioned areas is divided between the following **types of organisations**:

- 1) state institutions (national, regional and local),
- 2) the private service providers (e.g. housing associations, language schools, private universities, private employment companies, etc.) and
- 3) third sector organisations (NGOs, charities (food banks), communities, etc.)

The main method of the involved organisations is **the individual approach** to each separate case – by assessing the needs and possibilities (individual sessions, meeting at home, talking to relatives, etc.). In order to assess it, initially all sessions take place with external translator in case the person does not possess sufficient English language skills.

The funding in these areas mainly is from 4 sources: (1) Government funding (national and local) through grants and official policy funding; (2) Regional funding from EU mainly ESF projects; (3) Lottery funding (private sector organisation); (4) Philanthropy – corporate and private donations.

The involvement of communities

Although the involvement of communities is not required by UK law, it is a general practice according to **good practices guidelines**. The main area is **decision making** in various levels, but in particular with local authorities. Once registered, the communities will be asked (however, the extent of activities and involvement depends on the initiative of community itself) to participate in the meeting regarding the relevant topic. The impact on actual decision making by communities is rare.

The communities and other similar organisations can register as Community Interest Company (CIC) or as Registered Charity.

Their funding comes from (1) government funding (mainly through grants). Previously government provided these services, but in the recent years it concedes the funding to private and third sector organisations. It is due to economic crisis (actually costs less to government), also due to paradigm change (Cameron's idea of "Big Society" and letting the communities to decide what is needed and how to resolve it.). (2) EU funding through projects and grants; (3) Private funding; (4) Philanthropy – corporate and private donations.

The main problems in UK in the area of immigration

- The right to family (Art.8) is often neglected for the sake of common good, which causes a lot of personal sufferings.
- Free language courses and other free education, training services can be low quality. It is difficult to find suitable trainers and funding.
- Social services – bureaucracy and slow processes, as well lack of empathy from social service workers, it is not always an individual approach to each separate case.
- The economic crisis – cut of all types of benefits (elderly, disabled and single young people suffer the most), the rise of cost for social services above inflation and income level (e.g., social housing). The benefit dependency.
- The increase of criminality and social disobedience.
- Medical tourism (persons from Asia).
- In the education – often migrant children because of lower language skills are put in smaller classes. It has an impact on their integration.
- Discrimination still exists, but there are severe laws and procedures for that. It is considered a serious matter.
- Negative media coverage and far-right activities create false stereotypes and negative attitude towards immigrants.

List of websites:

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UK NARIC - <http://ecctis.co.uk/naric/>

UK Border Agency Immigration Rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-rules>

UK Border Agency Asylum Support: <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/overview>

Housing in Portsmouth: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/housing-and-council-tax/housing/looking-for-a-home.aspx>

Council housing and housing associations in UK: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing/council-housing-association>

Government Funding Programmes:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/government/government-funding-programmes>

Community Empowerment Foundation: <http://cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/previous-programmes/the-national-empowerment-partnership-nep>

About Community Interest Companies: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-regulator-of-community-interest-companies>

Community Interest Company Association: <http://www.cicassociation.org.uk/about/what-is-a-cic>

About Registered Charities: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/>

Big Society Speech by David Cameron: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/big-society-speech>

The Economist article about the Big Society:

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/blighty/2013/08/big-society>

UK Public Opinion Towards Immigration:

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/uk-public-opinion-toward-immigration-overall-attitudes-and-level-concern>