



Minorities and Migration

Cooperation for Integration

Date: Thursday 31 May 2018 | Time: 10 am – 4 pm
Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels, Belgium

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31 May 2018

The large migration flows in Europe have changed our reality. Integration is a two-way process, where everybody involved has to adapt to the habits and values of others. There are a lot of challenges but also wonderful opportunities.

We want to highlight the important theme of integration – specifically migrants integrating in a minority language. The citizens of language minorities often have a good appreciation for other minorities. They know that attitudes, understanding and collaboration are key words. It is all about people meeting and sharing their daily life. How can we help to build a more tolerant society? What actions are there to take?

There are many voices in integration policies and views as to when an individual has become integrated. What is actually meant by integration? In Finland, integration is measured primarily in terms of labour policy measures, while indicators at EU level, as well as the national and local level, also take up other aspects such as participation, mutual trust, social relations, security, and stability. How could these aspects be promoted? It is said that integration involves two or several processes, but very little focus has been on how people who are already living in the country become integrated.

The seminar provides an arena for constructive and inspiring discussion between European policy makers and people working with language minority issues throughout Europe. A number of distinguished speakers will share their research and best practices.

Welcome to Brussels in May!

Svenska kulturfonden – Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland

**Feel free to share the invitation within your networks.
Registrations by 7 May on <http://registration.kulturfonden.fi>**

Participation is free of charge (including meals).



09.30 **REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE**

10.00 **OPENING WORDS**

Mr Leif Jakobsson

Director, Svenska kulturfonden

10.15 **AN INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGY**

Ms Kristina Cunningham

Senior Advisor, EU Commission, DG Education and Culture, Training, Skills and Multilingualism

10.30 **GROWING UP IN BETWEEN THE BOXES**

Mr Navid Modiri

Author, artist, lecturer

Based on his own life, Modiri talks about integration, escape and alienation – but also about the power of language in connecting people. It is a story about the difficulty of adapting to a new country, about finding a home, and about escape in a broader sense: maybe we are all running away from something?

11.15 **IDENTITY-BUILDING AND MULTILINGUALISM UNDER CONDITIONS OF COMPLEX DIVERSITY**

Mr Peter A. Kraus

Prof. Dr, Augsburg University, Germany

11.45 **QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS**

12.15 **LUNCH AT THE HOTEL RESTAURANT**

13.15 **INTEGRATION INTO WHAT?**

Observations from an overview of integration projects in Swedish-speaking Finland

Ms Linda Bäckman

Dr, Migration Institute of Finland

TEACHING WELSH TO IMMIGRANTS:

Platform to an inclusive Welsh citizenship

Ms Gwennan Higham

Dr, Swansea University, Wales

ASSIMILATION VS. INCLUSION:

An Anti-Oppressive Perspective on Social Inclusion in Integration Programs

Mr Tobias Pöttsch

PhD. Researcher, Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism, Swedish School of Social Science, Finland

14.15 **AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAK**

14.45 **CASE STORIES – LIVE AND ON FILM**

Inspiring stories with happy endings, examples of successful projects, inclusive actions and interesting initiatives on integration in minority languages.

Mr Marc Guevara Claramunt

Social Area Officer, Plataforma per la Llengua, a NGO for the Catalan language.

Mr Mikel Irujo

Delegate of the Government of Navarre in Brussels, Member of the Committee of the Regions.

Mr Sebastian Seehauser

Dott. Group chairman of the Südtiroler Volkspartei and member of the City Council in Bolzano/Bozen.

Five personal stories on film about integration in terms of participation, mutual trust, social relations, security and stability. About people meeting and sharing their daily life.

Film photographer: www.ninanordstrom.fi

16.00 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr Leif Jakobsson

Director, Svenska kulturfonden

Moderator

Mr Johan Häggman

Multilingualism Consultant

Finland – a bilingual country

Finland has two national languages, Finnish and Swedish. Of the total population of five million, 5,4 % are native Swedish-speakers. Both linguistic groups have equal legal status in the constitutional act of the country. The Swedish-speaking minority group has the right to education and a wide range of public services in their native language. The majority of the Swedish-speakers live in the coastal areas of Finland.

Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland

Svenska kulturfonden (Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland) was established in 1908, at a time in history when the right of the Swedish-speaking people in Finland to use their own language and have their own culture was threatened.

The Foundation consists of nearly 500 individual funds. We annually contribute around 35 million to support and strengthen the culture and education of the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland. We award grants to institutions, associations and individuals. We initiate larger projects, organize conferences for key groups and we encourage social cohesion through third sector associations and international activities.

Today, we play a bridging role in a bilingual society and we aim to enhance the understanding of the value of living in a country with two national languages.

www.kulturfonden.fi



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