



## **For-In (Fostering refugee and immigrant integration/For Integration)**

*(Nordic-Baltic project on Integration at the local level)*

During the past 10 years, Baltic Countries have continuously improved integration policies by developing specific national level programmes and action plans. The mission of the project – to strengthen these existing initiatives further and apply experience and knowledge of the Nordic Countries. Such synergy would benefit not only local authorities and civil society, but also refugee and immigrant communities as well other integration actors.

### **The project has the following aims:**

- Facilitate country specific intersectional cooperation mechanisms to reinforce local level reception/integration capacities and the development of local level integration action planning (especially, in the context of rapidly increased arrivals).
- Develop regional networks of integration practitioners to further facilitate knowledge exchange and ensure that key holistic integration principles are in place.
- Facilitate pro-active engagement of refugees and immigrants in the co-design and co-implementation of goals and actions concerning programmes which support their integration.
- Look at existing local level practises to address Covid-19 Pandemic related consequences to refugee and immigrant communities.

The above-mentioned objectives set **three pillars to strengthen cooperation and develop partnerships:**

<b>Country specific cooperation</b>	<b>Pan-Baltic cooperation</b>	<b>Nordic-Baltic cooperation</b>
to develop local level tools and cross-fertilize existing integration practices considering specific local level contexts.	to facilitate cooperation on integration between the Baltic countries.	to develop regional network of integration practitioners and twinning cities.

### **Milestones of the project:**

- Local authorities, civil society and other integration actors are capacitated to address local level integration challenges and opportunities
- Intersectional cooperation mechanisms and regional networks of integration practitioners are developed and in place
- Refugees and immigrants are proactively engaged in the co-design and co-implementation of integration programmes



**Activities of the project and timeline:**

28 January 2022	<b>Kick-off online stakeholders meeting</b>
2-3 May 2022	<b>Kick-off conference in Vilnius</b>
27 May 2022	<b>A web conference on best integration practises in the Baltic and Nordic countries</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> THEMATIC AREA: Local level integration planning: coordination and partnerships</b>	
September 2022	<b>A study visit for representatives of selected Baltic municipalities:</b> to learn how integration programmes for refugees and immigrants are developed and implemented at the local level
October 2022	<b>Country specific seminars</b> as follow up of study visits
November 2022	<b>Pan-Baltic knowledge exchange initiative</b> between selected Baltic municipalities and NGOs on selected integration matters
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> THEMATIC AREA: Sustainable and democratic cities: engaging local immigrant and refugee communities, creating inclusive cities for all residents</b>	
January-February 2023	<b>A study visit for representatives of immigrant and refugee communities, immigrant and refugee activists as well as NGOs and CSOs from the Baltic Countries:</b> to learn to what it takes to improve and maintain participation of immigrants and refugees within the structures of local governments, both from the perspective of municipality representatives as well as immigrants and refugees themselves.
March-May 2023	<b>Mapping and training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mapping of existing (in)formal immigrant and refugees' communities, organisations or associations.</li> <li>● Trainings of immigrant and refugee activists within these communities regarding participation in policy planning.</li> <li>● Training of municipal representatives regarding the involvement of immigrants and refugees in policy planning.</li> </ul>
March - May 2023	<b>Country specific seminars</b> as follow up of study visits
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> THEMATIC AREA: Data collection and evidence-based policy making: towards an informed provision of services</b>	
September-October 2023	<b>Study visit:</b> to enhance the data-driven policy-making capacities of representatives of national and local authorities as well as researchers
October-November 2023	<b>Country specific seminars</b> as follow up of study visits
July-December 2023	<b>Twinning Cities initiatives</b> on the development of local integration capacities and further cooperation
November-December 2023	<b>Closing conference in Tallinn</b>



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