



## Local Integration Charter and Action Plan



## Local Integration Charter

### Preamble

#### 1. Background

Our country is open, dynamic, and a member of the European Union. From a colony we have become a country that due to its economic successes, workers from every corner of the world are coming to work here and to live along with their families, while at the same time contributing to further development. Against this background, in 2017, the Government adopted the first national "Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan, vision 2020". This Local Integration Charter is a tool for Local Councils to support each other in order to respond to the integration needs within the increasingly diverse communities by means of the action plan.

#### 2. Principles

- Utilisation of inclusive discourse and the promotion of diversity
- Fostering a climate and opportunities for dialogue at a local level
- Organising events that will bring together different communities
- Promoting the involvement of migrant communities in the work of this entity
- Committing to attending and participating in the meetings of the Charter and Implementation of the Action Plan
- Voluntary participation in integration and anti-racism projects

#### 3. Objective

The integration of the individuals and communities at the local level as a basis for integration at national and EU level.

#### 4. Accession

The accession to the Charter and implementation of the Action Plan occurs by means of a letter addressed to the Head of the Intercultural and Anti-Racism Unit in the Human Rights Directorate (HRD) within the Ministry for Equality, Research and Innovation (MFER).

#### 5. Monitoring

The Local Councils' Association (LCA) appoints a committee, which includes a representative from the HRD, so that the accession leads to a close collaboration in the implementation of the Action Plan.

#### 6. Recognition

A participatory recognition shall be given to the Local Councils that are actively implementing all measures of the Action Plan.



## Action Plan

(i) The dedicated Councilor with the responsibility of social integration acts as a focal point in the implementation of this Local Integration Charter and other aspects of integration. This Councilor and the Community Integration Officer of the HRD shall work closely together.

(ii) A mapping exercise shall be carried out continuously (e.g. by means of mailing shot or other models) so that the Council will have a better picture of the situation, even if it is not the complete reality of the locality. A database shall be set up (with the consent of the residents concerned) with a list of all migrant residents in order to facilitate communication. The HRD, the migrant communities and other parties can contribute if the Council so requests.

**Within 6 months**

(iii) A meeting between the Local Council and invited residents shall be held, dedicated to integration in order to propose ulterior measures which can be carried out in the locality. The members of the Forum for Intercultural Affairs (migrant communities) shall be invited. This meeting shall ideally be held twice a year.

**Within 4 – 8 months**

(iv) *Jum il-Lokalità* or another major activity shall be held with the theme of integration (e.g. cultural and/or sport activities, etc).

**Within 6 – 10 months**

(v) Through the collaboration between Local Councils, HRD and migrant communities, important awareness campaigns (such as domestic waste disposal, street gatherings, etc) shall be held and important information translated to the relevant main languages.

**As required**

(vi) Information and registration for the I BELONG courses (Maltese, English and Cultural Orientation courses, offered by HRD, free of charge) shall also be provided from the Local Councils' premises.

**Within 5 – 12 months**

(vii) To address situations of tension related to social cohesion in the locality, the Council and the HRD and leaders of the concerned migrant communities should meet with other relevant government agencies (such as the Police Force) to establish a constructive dialogue.

**As required**

(viii) Local Councils shall explore various opportunities to obtain funds for local integration measures. The HRD may be asked to help in the process.

**As required**



## Addendum

1.1 Through the implementation of the Local Integration Charter and Action Plan and this Addendum, the HRD, the Local Councils' Association (hereinafter referred to as 'LCA') and Local Councils will foster a climate of respect for multiculturalism and diversity, as a prerequisite for a society that is based on the respect, protection and promotion of human rights of all individuals and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, in particular race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief.

1.2 The HRD, the LCA and Local Councils will take the necessary measures to ensure that, in the implementation of the Local Integration Charter and Action Plan and this Addendum, all initiatives and activities respect and promote the principle of equality and non-discrimination, in particular race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief.

1.3 The HRD, the LCA and Local Councils will also encourage local clubs, including band clubs and sports clubs, as well as other institutions to contribute to the promotion of multiculturalism and diversity, anti-racism and respect for religion or belief.

1.4 The HRD, the LCA and Local Councils will strengthen their collaboration in the fields of multiculturalism and intercultural inclusion through the Project 'Equality for All in Malta' (hereinafter referred to as 'EQUALITY4ALLMT'), which aims at addressing the issue of underreporting of cases of discrimination on the grounds of race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief as well as to promote multiculturalism and its benefits to the Maltese society.

1.5 Through 'EQUALITY4ALLMT', training sessions will be developed and delivered to members of minorities, who may include victims of discrimination based on race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief, to empower them to enjoy their rights and the new legal remedies. In this regard, the LCA and Local Councils will assist the HRD in identifying potential participants to attend and participate during the training sessions.

1.6 'EQUALITY4ALLMT' will also serve to raise awareness on EU Directives, existing and new national legislation related to discrimination based on race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief. To this end, the HRD, LCA and Local Councils will collaborate as they deem necessary. The HRD will also assist the LCA and Local Councils in their initiatives promoting multiculturalism and intercultural inclusion.

1.7 HRD will also develop an outreach model targeting the grassroots, with the cooperation of the LCA and Local Councils, to bring them on board in the fight against discrimination based on race and/or ethnic origin and religion or belief. In this regard, the HRD will brief the LCA and Local Councils on 'EQUALITY4ALLMT', human rights, equality and non-discrimination during Regional (Local) Councils meetings as well as ad-hoc webinar meetings with local mayors and councillors. The said meetings may also be used to exchange views and share best practices, which will inevitably strengthen the outreach model.

Signed on 6 October 2021:

  
Mr Alexander Tortell  
Head of Intercultural and Anti-Racism Unit  
Human Rights Directorate

  
Mr Mario Fava  
President  
Local Councils' Association