

Introduction to “What two-way integration needs are Cultural Mediators responding to?”

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Human Rights Directorate

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Working definition of integration

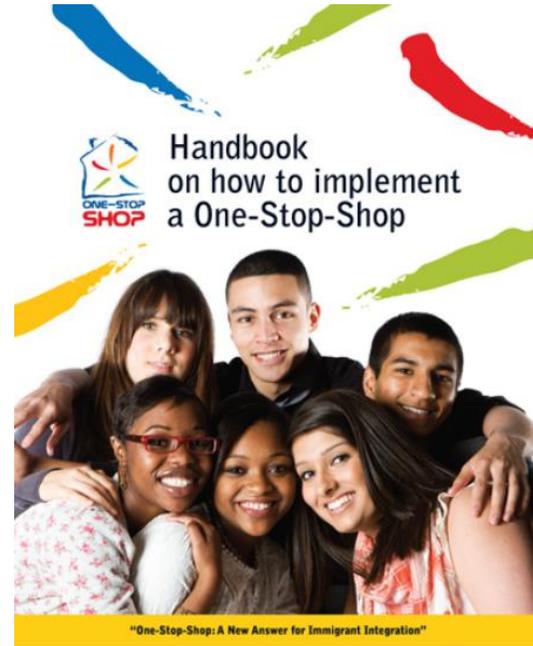
- ▶ Integration is a long-term, two-way process (that is, a process requiring adaptation from both Maltese as well as migrants), involving positive change in both individuals and host communities, which leads to cohesive, diverse communities

Inspiration from the EU's *Common Basic Principles*

Where does a Cultural Mediator fit in?

At national level, facilitating accessibility -
“Access for immigrants to institutions, as well as to public and private goods and services, on a basis equal to national citizens and in a non-discriminatory way is a critical foundation for better integration” (CBP, 6)

At local level, bringing people together -
“Frequent interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens is a fundamental mechanism for integration. Shared forums, inter-cultural dialogue, education about immigrants and immigrant cultures, and stimulating living conditions in urban environments enhance the interactions between immigrants and Member State citizens” (CBP, 7)



GOVERNADO DE ESPAÑA
Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros

acidi
Asociación para el Desarrollo y la Integración de las Personas Inmigrantes, S.L.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL
JUSTICE FREEDOM AND SECURITY

National Immigrant Support Centres (Portugal)

- ▶ One-Stop-Shop Strategy
- ▶ = a holistic strategy of mainstreaming the provision of immigration services, facilitating the integration process.
- ▶ Innovative + controversial (= making the provision of immigration services a mainstream service), but mostly successful practice
- ▶ Central role of cultural mediators in:
 - ❑ reducing access barriers and distrust in Government services, and
 - ❑ to treat everyone not the same, but equally, and
 - ❑ addressing the problem of service dispersion (which is one of the reasons why immigrants have a lack of information concerning rights, duties and procedures). The cultural mediator becomes a point of unity (= identity)

What else do Cultural Mediators contribute to?

Moving away slightly from service-delivery focus, cultural mediators also contribute to:

1. Promoting the inclusion of citizens from different social, religious and cultural origins, in equality of circumstances
2. Promoting intercultural dialogue by stimulating respect and deeper mutual knowledge of cultural diversity and social inclusion
3. Cooperating in the prevention and resolution of socio-cultural conflicts and in the definition of social intervention strategies

How do we bring, train, and retain Cultural Mediators in the system?

Intercultural competence in immigrant service provision can be achieved through training or recruitment. These two complementary strategies in building up interculturally competent staff should be an ongoing priority rather than a once-off effort

Ideally, migrant communities themselves should be the ground from where cultural mediators emerge, and to whom training can then be provided.

Support to migrant communities. Cooperatives (?)

The issue of the representativeness of a team of cultural mediators

Sustainability of the employment of cultural mediators



Cultural Mediators in Health Care Training Programme

The Migrant Health Liaison Office within the Primary HealthCare will be organising the next 'Cultural Mediators in Health Care' training programme in collaboration with the Migrant Learners Unit within the Education Department.

Language barriers pose significant challenges to providing effective and high quality services. Teachers working at the Migrant Learners Unit will be better equipped to identify health problems amongst children coming from a different background when assisted by cultural mediators who are trained in health care. This 20 hr training programme was developed to enable participants to become competent cultural mediators.

For more information please contact :

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Deadline for registration: 16th July 2019

JULY TRAINING 2019

Tuesday 23rd

09.30hrs-13.30hrs

Wednesday 24th

09.30hrs-13.30hrs

Thursday 25th

09.30hrs-13.30hrs

Friday 26th

09.30hrs-13.30hrs

Tuesday 30th

09.30hrs-13.30hrs

VENUE

MCVS, 181 Melita Str,
Valletta



Integration = Belonging (2017)

Measure 7: Pool of trained cultural mediators to be deployed as required in public services

Trained cultural mediators, both of local as well as of migrant origin, assist professionals and clients to overcome language, cultural and other barriers, and thereby facilitate integration

Owner: Coordinated by IU, training by UoM

Timeline: Throughout

Measure n.7

L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty of Education

Department
of Inclusion &
Access to Learning



Starting October 2020

Diploma in Education for Cultural Mediation

2 Year Course
Part-time Evening

Interested candidates are to send
an email to doreen.zahra@um.edu.mt
or call on 2340 3751

