



**ACCESS CITY REVIEW**

**Municipal District Prague 14,**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**



This project is carried out with  
funding from the European Union



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)  
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)



## INTRODUCTION TO ACCESS

Active Citizenship: Enhancing Political Participation of Migrant Youth' (ACCESS) project aimed to empower migrant youth to become politically active citizens on a local, national and EU-level. In the context of this project, political participation of youth does not only imply to formal participation, which is traditionally associated to the narrow form of participating, but consists of a more comprehensive approach engaging youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies which concern them.

Active participation entails taking part in youth parliaments, initiating events, actively advocating issues to decision-makers, and civic involvement which develops the youth's sense of belongingness and sets the foundation for further involvement in the society. Throughout the project, migrant youth are encouraged to go for more non-institutionalized ways of expressing opinions and initiating activities which are not examined enough in the current institutionalized structures of youth participation.

Through the Peer Review process, the project evaluates current policies and practices in the municipality and provides concrete advice and tools for authorities in involving youth in the planning, implementing and monitoring of questions concerning them. In the context of this study, the project will develop an online self-assessment tool to serve the purpose of knowledge-sharing of innovative ways for migrant youth to engage in local policy-making. The Online Self-Assessment Tool allows the user to evaluate their own practises and gain valuable feedback on good practises identified in the peer review findings.

This multi-stakeholder project was co-funded by the European Commission and implemented 2013-2015 in close cooperation with organizations and institutional partners in the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Romania, and Spain.

## PEER REVIEW

The Peer Review is a methodology which gives an opportunity for shared learning and multi-methodological assessment on practices and evaluates policies based on a set of objectives. This multi-methodological approach allows peers to distinguish individual qualities and shortcomings, and provide comprehensive recommendations for improvement.

The Peer Review allows for a deepening of the learning experience and enhanced knowledge-sharing, and an opportunity for self-improvement and self-evaluation. It also offers a platform for discussions between practitioners and other relevant stakeholders who partake in the reviews. The review process opens up new perspectives and ways of working, and creates discussion. Furthermore, involved peers will reflect the practises to those in their own working environment, thus increasing knowledge across countries. The reviewing peers evaluate practises and policies as an external authority, which enables a critical and valid evaluation for the host organisation.

The reviewed organization gets comprehensive feedback on practises and policies. It will provide them with realistic and practical measures that can serve as foundation for future improvement on areas which need to be developed.

## ACCESS PEER REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The Peer Review was developed and tailored for ACCESS project objectives and partner countries need. The aim of the peer review was to increase partnering municipalities' awareness of the benefits and limitations of their practices, programmes and policies of involving migrant youth in decision-making processes, and as a result, enable municipalities to work towards more profound ways of engaging migrant youth. The peer review methodology covers five key factors, complying broad set of ideals concerning active participation of migrant youth.

The five key factors are:

- 1) Participation
- 2) Impact
- 3) Motivation, trust and belonging
- 4) Capability and knowledge
- 5) Strategy

Ideals in this instant reflect to the objectives of the project and serve as indicators in the analysis. The peer review teams consist of municipal partners and migrant youth involved in each project countries. The combination of peers was selected based on their familiarity

on youth participation and thus brought their own perspective and expertise into the discussion.

The methodology included a large variety of interviews with 20 internal and external stakeholders from the partner country. The teams of 8 peers in the three day review visit conducted the interviews, produced analyses based of each interview, and analysed and discussed their findings to draw a joint conclusion about the reviewed municipality. In addition, the project thematic youth groups analyzed and commented on the findings, and provided further suggestions on how take actions on the suggested recommendation in their cities.

In the initial phase, reviewed municipalities carried out an extensive desk review and compiled factual materials on young residents and migrants in the municipality as well as on the existing participation structures. This information, together with the list of interviewees, was presented in the Municipal Background Material circulated among the evaluators prior to the review.

As part of the Peer Review, in each city peer advisors organized an “excursion” for the visitors, showing them various parts of the city and places central for young people living in that area. The planning and implementing of these tours was organized by peer advisors and thematic youth teams in that particular city.

#### ACCESS – Peer Review Schedule:

- 1) 20.-22.10.2014 in the City of Helsinki, Finland.
- 2) 26.-28.11.2014 in the City of Barcelona, Spain.
- 3) 15.-17.12.2014 in the City of Marseille, France.
- 4) 14.-17.01.2015 in the City Cluj Napoca, Romania.
- 5) 09.-11.02.2015 in the Municipality District 14, Prague, Czech Republic.

In the context of this review, a case study was analysed. Here, a case study means a process, which had actually taken place, had a beginning and an end, a process in which some young persons with migrant backgrounds were actively involved and in which could be seen as an example of political participation, keeping in mind all forms of political participation.

Cross-nationality of the study throughout the process created new networks for exchanging ideas and offered the participants immense potential to uncover new and innovative approaches. This Peer Review Report is intended for project municipalities to improve and further develop their practices based on the recommendations given.

Building upon the peer review findings, an Online Self-Assessment Tool will provide a concrete working tool for municipalities, and it incorporates best practices that may be replicated in different municipalities across Europe.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT PRAGUE 14 - PEER REVIEW

The City of Prague has about 1.24 million inhabitants on which 13 per cents are Third-Country-Nationals. In district Prague 14 migrants accounts for 13.2 per cent of the total population of 45 974 inhabitants of the district. The largest groups of Third-Country-Nationals are Ukraine, Slovakia, Russia, Vietnam and China. The youth population from 15-25-years-old youth in district Prague 14 is estimated at around 6 407 inhabitant, which is around 13.9 per cents from the total population.

The peer review focused on evaluating the district Prague 14 existing structures and practises for youth, and particularly for migrant youth participation.

District Prague 14 has various channels of listening youth in place. Youngster forum aims to allow youth attending elementary, secondary school and high school to engage in decision-making by attending discussions. In addition, Youngster City Assembly creates opportunities to discuss and raise their concerns to municipality representatives. They also submit proposals to be discussed at Prague 14 City Assembly meetings.

Peer Review in Prague was conducted in 9.-11.02.2015 by the following Peer Review Group:

- Théophile ARNAUD, Peer Advisor, France
- Daniela CERVINSCHI, Peer Advisor, Romania
- Carles CUNILL, Barcelona City Council, Spain
- Zarah IGO, Peer Advisor, France
- Adrian RAULEA, City of Cluj-Napoca
- Bruna SANTOS, Peer Advisor, Spain
- Mervi SMAHL-LAURIKAINEN, City of Helsinki, Finland
- Rebekah TEGENE, Peer Advisor, Finland

The Peer Review Group conducted 19 interviews with internal and external stakeholders of Municipal District Prague 14. This report presents comprehensive analysis of peers' observations, findings and conclusion of the review in Municipal District Prague 14. In addition, local ACCESS youth teams elaborated the findings and gave concrete suggestion for future improvement. The Peer Review Programme is attached in Annex A.

## STRENGTHS AND GOOD PRACTICES OF PRAGUE 14

### PARTICIPATION

In the municipal district, Prague 14 has its own Youth Council, which co-operates and gets support from the municipality officers and politicians. In addition, there are youth parliaments and forums in place for youth to participate.

There is a Youth Assembly, which aims to create opportunities for youth to discuss and raise their concerns and to mediate communication between youth representatives and the municipality. The Youth Assemblies are organized in schools, districts, city and national levels, and they function transparently and their information is accessible online.

Youth Forum is targeted exclusively for children attending elementary, secondary and high school. Unlike with the Healthy city forum, the Youth Forum youngsters choose their own thematic areas they want to discuss. In Prague 14, the Youth Council participates in youth forums to actively raise youth issues and concerns. In the forums there are also workshops and lectures arranged for youth. In addition, they organize walks in the neighbourhoods to know the area better and in order to raise the profile of the youth council and to meet and discuss with local youth.

Prague 14 is actively involving youth to participate through people's forum, community coordinators and volunteering activities. The City Hall organizes round-table discussions twice a year for residents and youth. Furthermore, the City Council organizes meetings with residents to provide information on topical plans, procedures and decisions made by the municipality. Prague 14 provides information online and there residents can comment on issues that are not working in the neighbourhoods.

Prague districts and social departments organize regular meetings together with the Town Hall representatives, the civic society and residents. One of these is the Healthy City Forum which is organized for all residents to raise concerns and issues they wish the municipality to address. Topics identified in public discussion are evaluated through questionnaires online and in a printed magazine distributed in Prague 14.

The municipality and various NGOs offer integration activities for newcomers by, and they provide information and orientation activities both online and offline for migrants. In addition, Integration Centre Prague, an organization supported by the City hall, organizes various activities as well. There are also several migrant periodicals which are regularly published and which contain information on upcoming events, life in Prague and leisure activities.

Prague 14 has youth parliaments, forums and public discussions in place for youth to participate. The youth have a special round table in public discussions where they can raise their concerns. Issues suggested by youth are periodically verified by public and later addressed by the municipality. Migrant youth are involved in NGOs activities and they advocate issues important to them both in the society and in their own communities.

## **IMPACT**

The Trash Initiative was an initiative by a group of students from the Youth Parliament, where they proposed a map which showed the locations where trash bins were missing in Prague 14. Through this initiative, the youth got the attention of the City Hall to increase trash bins around the municipal district. Youth Assemblies are heard and their initiatives are adequately put into practice by the City Hall.

The City Hall is willing to consult residents and youth on topical matters. Youth have a special round table in public discussions to raise their concerns. Issues suggested by youth are periodically verified by public and later addressed by the municipality. Prague 14 has a systematic and transparent way to process citizens' initiatives, which are also accessible online and on the City Hall information wall. Youth are also informed of what has been discussed and decided by the municipality. Youth and the Youth Parliament were satisfied by the results of their Trash Initiative, which was adequately taken forward by the City Hall.

## **MOTIVATION AND INCLUSION**

Youth in Prague can participate equally in all activities organized by the City Hall regardless of their background. The involvement of migrants in political decision-making process is possible through active participation in platforms, forums and local NGOs.

The municipality is committed to providing support for unregistered youth groups to organize events by a mutual agreement to cover the costs of such events. The City Hall supports integration of vulnerable youth through identifying the needs and providing support through anthropologies observing street culture.

The City Hall organizes round-table discussions for residents and youth twice a year. Prague 14 organizes meetings with residents which have good connection with the wider community living in the neighbourhoods. Politicians listen to and take the residents ideas and complaints seriously and process them systematically.

Two politicians are given a responsibility to attend each Youth Council meeting and activities. This allows direct dialogue and support for the youth to formulate initiatives and proposals. The Mayor and politicians in Prague 14 are willing and committed to involve and listen to youth in decision-making processes. Prague 14 organizes meetings with residents which have good connections with the wider community living in the neighbourhoods. Politicians listen to and take the residents ideas and complaints seriously and process them

systematically. There are several migrant periodicals which are regularly published and which contain information on upcoming events, life in Prague and leisure activities. Institutional support for NGO initiatives is important as it assures quality, sustainability, and allows results in integration activities. NGOs are actively promoting new innovative integration activities for migrants in Prague. Prague 14 supports NGOs which work closely with migrant communities. They offer grants, premises and other immaterial support for those NGOs working closely with migrant communities. There is a social services department that deals with both native and migrant communities. There is well-functioning co-operation between migrant organizations, NGOs and the Town Hall. The Integration Centre Prague is a good example from Prague City Hall to promote the coexistence between migrants and the society. Youth in Prague can participate equally in all activities organized by the City Hall regardless of their background.

### **CAPABILITY AND KNOWLEDGE**

Schools promote multiculturalism and use their influence in preventing bad attitudes towards migrants. Schools also encourage and provide space for youth to participate. Youth Assemblies simulations in schools are a way to educate students in participating. There are 16 Houses of Children and Youth Centers which are places for the youth to get support, education, and they act as places for youth to meet and spend there their leisure time.

In Prague there are 3 Information Centres for Youth (ICY) which provide information, courses and events, and offer free use of an audio and video cutting room and a design studio. The Integration Centre Prague among other NGOs provides counselling in labour issues and laws. There are language courses organized by Integration Centre Prague among other NGOs for migrants. The Integration Centre Prague organises a platform for migrants where they can give information to migrants and to listen migrants' needs and communicate those concerns to municipal officers. There are various information materials created in order to create awareness within migrant communities. Prague 14 social services department organizes training for public officers on how to communicate with migrants.

### **STRATEGY**

In the municipal level, there is a strategy for Integration and an action plan for its implementation. Municipality of Prague provides resources, spaces, subsidies and grants for NGOs to create innovative integration projects, which can be applied through different subsidy and funding schemes. The Integration strategy was an initiative by the ministry level, and the City Council is involved in the implementation of integration projects. The municipality reviews its action plan every 2 years. The municipality creates a medium-term action plan on social services in co-operation with service providers and residents through working-groups. The strategy is developed together with residents, including migrants, who have taken part in the process. The municipality annually creates an "Action Plan of the Concept of the City of Prague for the Integration of foreigners", which contains concrete activities and recommendations for the next year.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRAGUE 14

### **PARTICIPATION**

Peer Reviewers evaluated that there is a significant lack of information on different ways to participate locally, among youngsters and especially among migrant youth. It was apparent that there is not enough mechanisms to enhance political participation of migrant youth, nor specific channels to promote migrants participation locally.

Reviewers recommended that migrant youth should be encouraged and offered information on how to participate in youth activities organized by Prague 14. In addition, the municipality should explore means for Youth Council to access schools, in order to inform about their activities and increase their connection with young residents in the municipality. Schools Assemblies should be also organized for young adult and not only children. Reviewers also suggested that Prague 14 should explore the possibility to include participatory budgeting for youth to engage directly in decision-making processes locally.

ACCESS youth teams commented the findings by stating that, youth often lack interest and knowledge of civic and political participation. Youth lack of knowledge is largely a result of unsuitable communication and channels used by officials. Communication targeting youth is formal, uninteresting and not easily understandable which creates unrealized barriers for youth to get information. Lack of interest in political participation is country wide phenomena and not tight to ones migrant background.

### **IMPACT**

Political and civic participation is not familiar with the majority youth residents and especially among migrant youth. Based on the evaluations, the City of Prague gathers information raised by residents, however, they do not actively analyse and address issues raised by the residents. At the local level, there is no systematic way of monitoring and evaluating the existing participation systems such as the Youth Council. Reviewers recommended to develop monitoring and evaluation systems to identify how youth and Youth Council's inputs are processed in Prague 14.

ACCESS youth teams evaluated the findings by stating that there are multiple reasons why youth and especially migrant youth are reluctant to get involved in in political and civic activities. Absence among youth can be a result of language barrier, low self-esteem, and fear of new environment.

## **MOTIVATION AND INCLUSION**

School Assembly is exclusive for youngsters in primary school and it does not effectively involve youth in high school. Politicians and municipal officers at the City of Prague are not interested enough in the opinions raised by young residents. Youth feel that their initiatives and opinions are not appreciated by the older residents. Migrant youth faces racism and xenophobic treatment by the locals. In addition, it was noted that non-EU residents do not enjoy full political rights, as they are lacking formal political rights at local level.

Recommendation was to improve youth access for political information and allow different ways for migrant youth to engage in local decision-making processes of Prague 14. Social workers should promote and provide further information on activities offered by the municipality and local NGOs for migrant communities. There is a need to raise awareness about ongoing youth initiatives and activities, through various channels targeted to older residents. Prague 14 should facilitate dialogue between older and younger generation and build bridges through joint-activities. There is a need for increasing communication about Youth Assembly and its activities through social-media. There is a need to improve residents' perception and discrimination of migrants as well as revise policies preventing non-EU residents to vote and be elected in local elections.

ACCESS youth teams disagreed with the results and notes that there are variety of cultural and social projects offered at all levels of the municipality, however, the focus should be on increasing the quality than quantity of projects. Moreover, means for disseminating information on ongoing activities through traditional channels and online-media should be revised, in order to better address youth. Municipality's presence in social-media is essential when promoting youth participation and especially activities of Youth Assembly. Although, municipal officers are interested in the views of young residents and take them seriously, there is still lack of structures to support dialog with youth and decision-makers. Youth teams strongly recommends the municipality to allow non-EU residents to vote and be elected in local elections.

## **CAPABILITY AND KNOWLEDGE**

Many young residents in Prague 14 does not know about Youth Council and how it works, neither it is allowed to promote its activities at local schools. There is not enough training offered by City of Prague for municipal officials and politicians to better communicate and engage with migrant youth. Training could be co-designed with NGO's that have extensive experience in engaging with migrants youth locally. It was recommended that the municipality officials should share their good experiences from the Youth Council, wider across Czech Republic.

ACCESS youth teams commented that migrant youth interest to participate in recreational activities may depend largely on migrants' reasons for residing in Prague. Municipality district of Prague 14 disseminates information of services and activities offered, through online channels in various languages. Although, it is important to offer information online, there is still a need for other channels, for those living in less privileged areas where computer-illiteracy is high. Youth teams highlighted the importance for compulsory intercultural training for municipal officers and politicians. Spreading the information of good experiences for youth participation across Czech Republic is supported, however, primary objective should be to introduce Youth Council's activities at local level, schools and in youth events around Prague.

## **STRATEGY**

There were no special initiatives or programmes targeted to youth or migrant youth in particular. It was also analysed that the strategy of Prague 14, does not pay attention to gender differences.

Reviewers suggested the municipality to improve residents' knowledge about their rights and responsibilities and develop transparent ways for youth to engage in political decision-making processes. Youth council should have a yearly budget allocated for their activities. Prague 14 should integrate gender equality in its strategy, services and activities offered by the municipality.

ACCESS youth teams argued that there are multiple measures at local and national level, to support and include migrant youth into society. However, the reason for low participation rate in activities reflects to youth having less time to participate outside of school. Other reasons may also affect low participation rate of migrant youth such as, lack of appropriate spaces and inappropriate methods for political engagement. Youth are unaware of their rights and possibilities to get involved locally. To tackle this, youth teams suggest for the municipality to include political and civic education in school's curriculum.

# Programme

# Annex A

	Day 1				Day 2				Day 3
					<b>8.00 travel to the City Hall in Prague 14 premises</b>				
09:00 – 10:00	Programme starts in the House for Minorities at <b>12.30</b>				9 Interview Radek VONDRA (POL)	10 Interview Zuzana PTÁČKOVÁ (CAS) + Interpretation	11 Interview Zora STRAKOVÁ (OFC) + interpretation	12 Interview Břetislav VODÁK (POL) + interpretation	Working on comparative analysis (pairs)  <b>09:00 – 11:00</b>
10:00 – 11:00					Writing notes and analysis				
11:00 – 12:00					13 Interview Lucie Daňková (YNG) + interpretation	14 Interview Pavlna GEORGE (OFC)	15 Interview Jakub RESUTÍK (YNG) + interpretation	16 Interview Anca COVRIGOVÁ (NGO)	Team working on conclusions, feedback  <b>11:00 – 14:00</b>
12:00 – 13:00					Writing notes and analysis				
13:00 – 14:00	Introduction, methodology and last arrangements				Lunch and bus takes us back to House for Minorities				Return Travel <b>14:00</b>
14:00 – 15:00	1 Interview Monika HILLEBRANDOVÁ (NGO) + interpretation	2 Interview Marie SILNÁ (YNG)	3 Interview Helena Dluhošová (CAS / OFC)	4 Interview Jakub Štědroň (MCO / NGO)	17 Interview	18 Interview Irena KOLMANOVÁ (POL) + interpretation	19 Interview František BRADÁČ (CAS)	20 Interview Ivana BAŇACKÁ (NGO)	
15:00 – 16:00	Writing notes and analysis				Writing notes and analysis				
16:00 – 17:00	5 Interview Pavla JENKOVÁ (NGO)	6 Interview Jan FRÜHBAUER - (NGO)	7 Interview Hana MARKOVÁ (NGO)	8 Interview Thao Thu TRANOVÁ (YNG)	Group discussion and joint reflection time				
17:00 – 18:00	Writing notes and analysis								
18:00 – 19:00	Group discussion and joint reflection time				<i>Excursion with the host peer advisors study visit: Youth gathering from 19.00 joint dinner self-payers</i>				

❖ **Finland**

❖ **Romania**

❖ **France**

❖ **Spain**

- A. Young persons (YNG) active / passive
- B. Persons involved with Youth Council (YCL)
- C. Persons involved with case (CAS)
- D. Youth Organisations (NGO)

- E. Migrant NGOs / communities (MCO)
- F. Politicians (POL)
- G. Municipal officers (OFC)