

Chapter 4. Block 3 Enabling conditions

Objective 6: Build-up capacity and diversity in civil service, particularly in the key services that receive migrants and newcomers

Among the 30 proposals that the city drafted to reduce inequality (Gothenburg, 2014^[3]) many deal with the capacity development of the City itself, particularly in terms of capacity to interact, and establish public dialogue around inequality issues. Improving the knowledge of public servants about the rights and status of migrants is one of the priorities highlighted by civil society organisations. For instance, NGOs felt that rights-based access could sometimes be problematic due to the lack of knowledge about migrants' status of public services (see section 2.2.2).

Objective 7: Strengthen cooperation with relevant stakeholders through transparent and effective contracts

According to information collected during the focus group held by the OECD with several NGOs operating in Gothenburg (15 March 2017) there is no structured cooperation framework with associations involved in receiving new arrivals, but it is something that the city wants to develop and the Central Management group is tasked with this issue (see section 2.1.2.4.).

In general, civil society organisations can apply for several municipal funds for integration-related activities through different departments and local districts. For instance, the boards in charge of culture and sport offer support for groups that organise cultural and sport activities respectively. Migrant organisations are often funded through local districts.

The Committee for allocation of social welfare, responsible for issues related to social affairs, manages a fund for activities related to social welfare, and disability that all NGOs can apply for. However there is no specific call for application for integration projects. The fund is geared towards NGOs working in the following priority areas: supporting people in need of support based on their social situation, on social violence, oppression; increasing participation in social affairs; promoting public health; supporting disabled people, creating jobs for people in social distress, etc., (Additional information provided by the City Executive Office, 23 May 2017).

Furthermore, the Social Resource Management Board is responsible for a structured cooperation model with NGOs, named *IDEKOM*. This is a platform for exchanging ideas between the municipality and representatives of what is labelled the “social economy”, composed of non-governmental organisations and private sector entities working in the municipality on socioeconomic issues, including migration.

Another type of structured and long-term cooperation is “Ideational Public Partnership” (IOP). This is a public-volunteer partnership between non for profit entities (i.e. NGOs) and public services (i.e. municipalities). According to NGOs interviewed (OECD

interviews 15 March 2017) this model of partnership allows municipalities to sign umbrella agreements with NGOs avoiding a lengthy procurement process and choosing more flexibly the partners it wants to work with. Under this umbrella agreement, specific agreements can be made for occasional activities. For example, the agreements between the municipality and associations delivering accommodation for unaccompanied minors were signed using an IOP. Those agreements were made in 2016 and run until 2019. Also with regard to activities related to labour market integration, the Labour and Adult Education Administration recently started to co-operate with NGOs using the Ideational Public Partnership format, to implement long-term projects to support vulnerable groups entering the labour market (Additional information provided by the City Executive Office, 23 May 2017). Another example of an IOP partnership is the agreement between SOS Children's villages and the municipality that focuses on ways to empower unaccompanied refugee children, between 15 and 21 years of age.

Despite the existence of such umbrella agreements, NGOs participating in OECD interviews, reported being penalised by segmented funding mechanisms that target migrant groups. Funding is often disbursed by different municipal agencies/departments, undermining the ability of NGOs to support migrants throughout their lives as they obtain funding for very specific categories of beneficiaries. Additionally, in the view of some NGOs, outsourcing some services such as psychological support or language classes to third parties would generate efficiency gains as some of these services are more expensive when provided by the municipality than by NGOs. While the funding from municipal authorities is provided for specific periods and groups, NGOs are still able to provide services over time and maintain their expertise due to other un-earmarked financial resources (e.g. charities, faith-based funding, etc.) that allow them to continue providing services to all vulnerable groups.

Also the region of Vastra Gotaland can provide funding for activities in the area of integration directly to NGOs and refugee organisations. For instance, the region funded the Support Group (see section 2.2.2.) first through Save the Children and then directly.

Objective 8: Intensify assessment of integration results for migrants and host communities, and their use for evidence-based policy making

The governmental agency Statistics Sweden (SBC) compiles and publishes statistical data used for monitoring integration (UNHCR, 2014). Statistics focus on individuals born outside Sweden and those with parents born outside. This statistic does not distinguish for refugees. Statistical data related to several indicators are presented by geographic origin, gender and age, and can be analysed at the national, regional and municipal level, including urban areas identified as having widespread socio-economic exclusion.

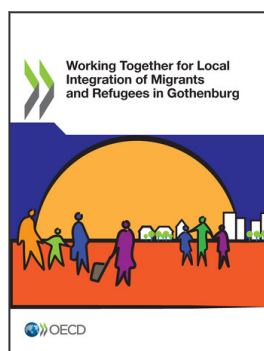
STATIV is another database produced by SCB and records immigration status and includes reasons for immigration; therefore, it can be useful to track refugees. Moreover, the Ministry of Employment conducts quantitative analysis and qualitative studies to assess different integration areas, also this statistic does not distinguish for refugees.

All County Administrative Boards have prepared, since 2012, an annual report¹ on the settlement and introduction programmes for newly arrived refugees. The report is based on a survey to all municipalities in the county, and contains questions about the local and regional co-operation and co-ordination, capacity and willingness to receive new arrivals and unaccompanied children, and the quality of reception and introduction activities.

The city of Gothenburg established systems that monitor inequalities in living conditions and health between different groups and different districts in the city. Among the proposals for reducing inequality in Gothenburg, the city wants to strengthen its capacity in terms of operational evaluation, facilitating analysis and measurement (Gothenburg, 2014^[3]). Particularly, the city aims to measure the consequences of inequality, in terms of health and living conditions, in order to take them into account in the organisation's existing analysis and follow up system. At the moment, no system is in place to monitor specifically the integration outcomes of new migrants or refugees in the city. According to the municipality however, evaluations on different aspects relevant to integration are made continuously. One example is the fact that newly arrived adults receive information and societal orientation in their mother tongue, which is the result of previous evaluations and experiences. (Additional information provided by the City Executive Office, 9 May 2017).

Note

¹ <http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/jonkoping/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/publikationer/2017/2017-16-Mottagande-och-etablering-av-nyanlanda.pdf>



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