Annex B. Overview of integration concepts and regulations at national and city level

Regarding the history of migrant integration as elaborated on by the representatives of the city of Vienna in the OECD questionnaire, the city established a “Migrants Fund” (Zuwanderer-Fonds) in 1971 with the aim of supporting both internal and international labour migrants (from the former Yugoslavia and Turkey) by *inter alia* providing cheap housing for their first year of stay.

Following the growing influx of migrants due to the break-up of Yugoslavia and the geopolitical changes in Europe since 1989, the city of Vienna decided to establish an institution targeted directly at the integration of international migrants. In 1992, the “Funds for Integration”, was founded as one of the first urban institutions in Europe dedicated to the integration of migrants. The Fund was governed by the mayor of Vienna, and included representatives of both the governing and opposition parties. It soon became a major actor in the field of integration by providing migration-related counselling with regard to legal and social issues, language courses, programmes for children to prepare for school and special programmes in the field of healthcare.

In 1996, the integration agenda moved to a higher political level, and an Executive City Councillor for Integration was appointed. Given the growing relevance of migration in the political debates, the city decided to dissolve the Funds for Integration in 2004 and to establish the Municipal Department for Integration and Diversity (MA 17), which took over the duties of the Funds for Integration and incorporated most of its staff.

With the foundation of MA 17, integration and diversity issues were embedded into the regular city administration. The decision to install a stand-alone municipal department solely dealing with integration and diversity represents a paradigm shift with diversity being a central issue seen as a benefit for the city and this mainstreaming approach generally aiming at the entire Vienna population.