



NEWS REPORT

Date: 01 December 2011
Expert: Manuel Malheiros
Title: EIPA (European Institute of Public Administration) handed over the European Public Sector Award 2011
Country: Portugal
Context
Issue at stake: ACIDI first prize in the theme Opening Up the Public Sector Through Collaborative Governance
Ground of discrimination: Race/ethnic origin
Source: ACIDI and EIPA websites links?
Field: All fields (social protection, housing, education, health, access to goods and justice)
Legislative provisions:

Content

Circumstances of the case: EIPA handed over the European Public Sector Award 2011 to a project submitted by the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI) The Portuguese project carried by ACIDI “Civil Society Involvement in the Welcoming and Integration of Immigrants – The Case of Portugal”, submitted by the Portuguese High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue /the Portuguese Equality Body), received the first prize in the theme Opening Up the Public Sector Through Collaborative Governance.

This project is dedicated to the cause of social integration through collaborative and open governance. This project recognizes the key role of civil society, and particularly migrant associations, in the issue of migrants integration. It also aims to make migrants part of the solution rather than the problem, by sharing responsibility and encouraging them to participate in the creation, implementation and evaluation of public policies in the area of migrants integration. One of the examples of this is through the creation of one-stop-shops, called ‘National Centres for Immigration Support’. The use of National Centres for Immigration Support (CNAI - Centros Nacionais de Apoio ao Imigrante) brings together under the same roof a number of

services related to immigration. They bring together and cooperate within the same space with the Ministry of the Interior through the Aliens and Borders Service, Ministry of Social Security, Ministry of Employment through the Working Conditions Authority, the Ministries of Health and Education and the Ministry of Justice through the Central Registry Office. CNAI also provides a consultative and cooperative process for working with migrants such as support offices for family reunification, legal advice, social support, health, housing, employment and access to goods.

This initiative also includes what is referred to as a 'Choices Programme' (Programa Escolhas), which largely aims to reinforce the local community's role in the promotion of equal opportunities and social cohesion for migrant children and youth. Several initiatives within this project have been benefiting from various EU supportive actions, including the European Social Fund namely courses of Portuguese language to migrants, support in several ACIDI publications and projects which aim the promotion of an intercultural society in Portugal based on non discrimination and equality for all.

This award recognizes the best and most innovative performers in European public administration. With the EPSA 2011 (European Public Service) award, EIPA aims to bring together the most innovative and efficient performers from all levels of public administration in a fair and open competition between five projects.

Since its creation, ACIDI has assured the participation and collaboration of representative migrant associations, social partners and State Services in the definition and assessment of policies on migrant's integration and on the prevention of exclusion and discrimination.

ACIDI as the Portuguese Equality Body fights against discrimination (especially among migrants) through positive actions and the creation of conditions to ease their life. This prize is the recognition of their work on this area.

ACIDI website:

<http://www.acidi.gov.pt/noticias/visualizar-noticia/4ec4fb01b8500/acidi-vence-premio-europeu-de-boas-praticas->

EIPA website:

<http://www.eipa.nl/>