

## **Updated Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals**



Updated in cooperation with the Prague City Hall, Integration Centre Prague o.p.s., cooperating organizations and institutions<sup>1</sup> in the period from October 2016 to December 2017.

The update of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals was coordinated within the project by the Integration Centre Prague (AMIF/1/02 and AMIF/10/03) with the financial support of the national program of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the budget of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.



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<sup>1</sup> List of all cooperating organizations and institutions in Annex No. 1: Overview of organizations and institutions working together on the update of the Prague policy.

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## List of abbreviations used

**FP PCR** – Foreign Police Service – Police of the Czech Republic  
**CVVM** – Public Opinion Research Centre of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
**CSU** – Czech Statistical Office  
**EEA** – European Economic Area  
**EIF** – European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals  
**EU** – European Union  
**FZŠ** – Faculty primary school  
**ICP** – Integration Centre Prague, o. p. s.  
**KŘ HMP – PCR** – Regional Directorate of the City of Prague – Police of the Czech Republic  
**MD** – Prague municipal district  
**PCH** – Prague City Hall  
**MC** – Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic  
**MLD** – Ministry for Local Development of the Czech Republic  
**MIT** – Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic  
**MLSA** – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic  
**MŠ** – preschool  
**MEYS** – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic  
**MI** – Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic  
**MH** – Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic  
**NGO** – non-governmental organization  
**NIFE** – National Institute of Further Education  
**DAMP MI** – Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic  
**OP LZZ** – Human Resources and Employment Operational Program  
**OPPPR** – Operational Program Prague – field of growth Czech Republic  
**PCR** – Police of the Czech Republic  
**APR MD** – Advisory Platform of Representatives for the municipal districts of Prague 1–22, Prague – Libuš and representatives of Prague City Hall in the integration of foreign nationals  
**PP OŠ** – Platform of representatives of education departments of municipal districts of Prague 1 – 22 and Prague – Libuš and PCH  
**PPP** – Educational and psychological counselling  
**PR** – Public relations  
**RAP** – Regional Advisory Platform  
**RVP PV** – Framework education program for preschool education  
**SLDB** – Census of population, houses and apartments  
**LO** – Labour Office of the Czech Republic – Regional Branch for the City of Prague  
**ZŠ** – primary school

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# Foreword

## Jan Wolf

- City Councilman, Prague

Prague has taken a long journey since its first policy for the integration of foreign nationals was approved in 2014. Thanks to the systematic work leading to the achievement of the objectives set out in this strategic document, it was possible to set up a system of integration of foreign nationals in Prague and to strengthen the cultural diversity of our capital, which today, like any modern European city, cultivates and develops the opportunities that migration from different countries brings. The extensive analysis which the City of Prague ordered confirmed that Prague is heading in the right direction as regards the integration of foreign nationals.

But time brings new challenges and Prague must move further in its integration policy. For this reason, this updated policy has been created and a wide range of experts from the area have contributed to this work, all of whom deserve a big round of applause. The new policy determines the ways in which Prague will move forward as regards the integration of foreign nationals over the next four years.

Our primary objective in this regard is to ensure that Prague is a pleasant place to live for everyone, whether they hail from the majority society or are foreign nationals, of course in accordance with the cultural and social tradition. I believe that, thanks to this updated policy, this goal can be successfully achieved and Prague will continue to proudly uphold the motto "Prague for All".

## Mgr. Ondřej Mirovský, M.EM

- Chairman of the Committee of the Prague City Assembly for the Integration of Foreign Nationals

Prague has been a historical crossroads of cultures, nationalities and languages since the Middle Ages, and it is necessary to build on this fact and continue to open Prague up to the world. Thanks to the active integration policy embodied in the strategic documents of the City of Prague, including the policy of the Prague City Hall for the integration of foreign nationals, newly arrived foreign nationals can succeed in integrating into society without any problems. We can say that the majority society in Prague lives peacefully alongside foreign nationals, who have the opportunity here to develop their own cultural identity while contributing to the further enrichment of our capital.

However, we should not rest on our laurels but continue to ensure that Prague's integration policy evolves to keep up with new facts and challenges. One of these challenges is, for example, the involvement of Prague in international programs aimed at supporting the integration of foreign nationals at the local level. I believe that this updated policy is a guarantee that the policy for the integration of foreign nationals in Prague will continue to develop dynamically and will further ensure friendly coexistence between Czechs and migrants with all the positive aspects that this brings.

## Introduction

Prague is an attractive place to live for more and more migrants<sup>2</sup> from all corners of the world. Migration itself can be not only an economic benefit but also a cultural enrichment of the city and its diversity. At the same time, however, it is a challenge for the coexistence of all citizens.

The experience of Western European cities that have been engaged in integration policy for a long time clearly indicates the need to focus as much as possible on the local level. Local integration policy presupposes the active involvement and coordinated cooperation of all actors – municipalities, municipal districts, non-profit organizations, state institutions, as well as migrants themselves and their associations, and other inhabitants of the city.

At present, Prague is seeking ways to exploit the potential of migration, to improve the living conditions of migrants and, last but not least, to promote friendly coexistence among all the city's inhabitants.

The Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals is the result of the joint work of dozens of representatives of Prague City Hall, municipal districts, state and non-profit organizations and migrants. The policy defines four key integration priorities and relevant recommendations on how to achieve them in the most effective way. Specific steps for implementing the priorities will be defined in the following years in the Action Plans of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals, which will be newly compiled for a two-year period. The policy and action plans arising from it will be updated to respond adequately to the new situation, if needed (e.g. due to legislative changes or other events requiring a new wording of these strategic documents).

In addition to a set of recommended activities, this policy includes a list of actors who should be involved in their implementation. A prerequisite for this policy is the active participation and cooperation of policymakers, practitioners and residents of the city, including migrants. It reacts flexibly to identify problems and responds to the needs of the city's population. For some of the proposed recommendations, sufficient financial support is needed, but for many, only better coordination and mutual cooperation are required. The area of integration of migrants is an important priority of the City of Prague, which is also supported by the updated Strategic Plan of the City of Prague.<sup>3</sup>

The Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals proposes the direction for Prague's integration policy in the years to come. This policy is intended to contribute to Prague's development as a dynamic and modern metropolis, as a common home and a pleasant place to live for both Czechs and foreign nationals, regardless of their origin, and who can proudly uphold the motto "Prague for All".

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<sup>2</sup> In the following, the terms "foreign national" and "migrant" are used synonymously and are not differentiated for the purposes of this Policy.

<sup>3</sup> The updated Strategic Plan of the City of Prague 2016 is available online here:

[http://www.iprpraha.cz/uploads/assets/dokumenty/ssp/SP/STRATEGICKY\\_PLAN\\_HLAVNIHO\\_MESTA\\_PRAHY\\_AKTUALIZACE\\_2016.pdf](http://www.iprpraha.cz/uploads/assets/dokumenty/ssp/SP/STRATEGICKY_PLAN_HLAVNIHO_MESTA_PRAHY_AKTUALIZACE_2016.pdf).

# Starting points for the implementation of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals

Western European cities have long been engaged in the integration of migrants and in the creation of relevant policy materials. In 2012, Prague joined these cities, began working systematically on these types of documents, and since 2014 has its own Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals<sup>4</sup>.

This first part of the policy is described in the following chapters in the current national and Prague contexts of integration of migrants, the introduction of the first Prague policy for the integration of foreign nationals, the reasons for its updating as well as the key actors in the integration of migrants in the City of Prague, including the Integration Centre Prague benevolent association, which it has established.

## 1. Integration of migrants in the Czech Republic

### 1.1. Migrants in the Czech Republic

According to the Analysis of the Structure of the Population of Foreign Nationals<sup>5</sup> (the "analysis"<sup>6</sup>), which focused on the period until 2015 and which was prepared for the Ministry of the Interior as part of the update of the National Integration Policy – Mutual Respect, **266,855 third-country nationals** resided in the Czech Republic as of 31 July 2015 (58.2% of the total number of 458,710 foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic).

The analysis found that the number of third-country nationals legally residing in the Czech Republic has risen steadily (their share in the total population of the Czech Republic reached 2.5% at the time of the analysis). Since 2004, these numbers have almost doubled and only declined slightly in the second half of 2009 (by 0.2%) in connection with the economic crisis. At the time of the analysis it was also possible to observe the trend of increase in the number of EU citizens relative to foreign nationals from third countries living in the Czech Republic (as at 31 December 2015 there were 195,499<sup>7</sup> EU citizens<sup>8</sup> residing in the Czech Republic according to the Statistical Office).

The most numerous groups of foreign nationals from third countries have not changed for a long time. Among the most represented third-country nationals in 2015 were citizens of Ukraine (104,558), Vietnam (56,665) and Russia (34,787). These three nationalities accounted for almost three-quarters of the target group of integration. The United States (6,292), Mongolia (5,813), China (5,655), Kazakhstan (5,146), Moldavia (5,039), Belarus (4,765) and Serbia (2,652) followed well behind.

Among foreign nationals from third countries were clearly dominated by people of working age 15–64 (83%). However, the group of minors, especially compulsory school age children (21,000) and pre-school children (15,000), was also significant.

As at 30 June 2015, a total of 74,818 foreign nationals from third countries who worked as employees in the Czech Republic were registered. Compared to 2009, the number of foreign workers from third countries decreased by 18.14%.

<sup>4</sup> The Policy is available for download online here (as at 3 May 2017): [http://www.praha.eu/public/1e/ad/85/2181317\\_660642\\_Koncepce\\_HMP\\_pro\\_oblast\\_integrace\\_cizincu.pdf](http://www.praha.eu/public/1e/ad/85/2181317_660642_Koncepce_HMP_pro_oblast_integrace_cizincu.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Updated "Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect" a Procedure for the Implementation of Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016, p. 1 – 2 (chapter 1).

<sup>6</sup> The analysis was aimed at third-country nationals who are legally resident in the Czech Republic (on the basis of a permanent residence permit or a residence permit exceeding 90 days, a long-term residence permit and a temporary residence permit). This analysis does not include citizens of the European Union / European Economic Area and Switzerland, applicants for international protection or persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection. The data of this analysis was based on the National Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect.

<sup>7</sup> Source: CSU – T14 Foreign nationals by residence, sex and citizenship as at 31 December 2015: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci/cizinci-v-cr-vcetne-azylantu>.

<sup>8</sup> Source: CSU – T14 Foreign nationals by residence, sex and citizenship as at 31 December 2015: [https://www.czso.cz/documents/11292/27914491/1612\\_c01t14.pdf/4bbedd77-c239-48cd-bf5a-7a43f6dbf71b?version=1.0](https://www.czso.cz/documents/11292/27914491/1612_c01t14.pdf/4bbedd77-c239-48cd-bf5a-7a43f6dbf71b?version=1.0).



Foreign national entrepreneurs from third countries doing business in the Czech Republic were dominated by Vietnamese citizens (23,964 people). The second most represented group was Ukrainian nationals (23,639 persons), followed by Russians (1,967 persons). Although the representation of women among foreign national entrepreneurs from third countries (19,872) was low at just 34.2%, a slight upward trend was noted compared to the year 2011 (33.5%).

Current data from the Czech Ministry of the Interior indicate that as at 30 June 2017, 509,963 foreign nationals with registered residence permits (including citizens of the EU, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) were residing in the Czech Republic with 278,280 registered permanent residents and 231,683 with temporary residence permits. The largest number of migrants from third countries were citizens of Ukraine (112,956), Vietnam (59,163) and Russia (36,298)<sup>9</sup>. According to data from the CSU, there were 288,247 foreign nationals from third countries and 208,166 EU citizens in the Czech Republic as of 31 December 2016<sup>10</sup>.

## 1.2. National integration policy

The topic of the integration of foreign nationals has been addressed at the government level since 1999. This year, on the basis of Government Resolution of the Czech Republic No. 689 dated 7 July 1999, 15 basic principles of the policy for the integration of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic were stipulated.

The first Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic was adopted by Resolution No. 1266 of the Government of the Czech Republic dated 11 December 2000. The policy reflected both international documents and national legislation concerning individual areas of migrant integration and addressed issues of competence and responsibility of the relevant ministries.

Since its foundation, the Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals has been built on the principle of cooperation and shared responsibility of a number of ministries (MI, MLSA, MEYS, MIT, MH, MLD and MC) and other partners, notably non-governmental non-profit organizations, migrant organizations themselves, and the academic community. Later cooperation was extended to regional and local self-government as well as other subjects.

Direct responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the national policy is borne by the Ministry of the Interior. The national policy was last updated by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 18 January 2016 No. 26 on the updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect and on the Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016. Every year a *Report on the Implementation of the Policy* is submitted to the government and at the same time the *Procedure for the Implementation of the Policy* for the following year.

Most recently the government adopted Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 9 January 2017 No. 11 to the Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect<sup>11</sup>. The Report on the Implementation of the National Policy is part of the ***Report on the Situation in the Field of Migration and Integration in the Czech Republic***.

The target group of migrant integration provided under the national policy is third-country nationals (i.e. non-EU countries, EEA countries and Switzerland) who are legally resident in the Czech Republic and who are not applicants for international protection<sup>12</sup>. However, the Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals is newly extended to the target group of international protection holders (i.e. persons who have been granted asylum or supplementary protection). The target group of integration is also the majority society, since integration is a two-way process. In exceptional cases, EU citizens may also be included in the target group if this is necessary to resolve their critical personal situation.

<sup>9</sup> Source: MI, Information services/statistics: <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/cizinci-s-povolenym-pobytem.aspx>.

<sup>10</sup> Source: CSU - T14 Foreign nationals by residence category, gender and citizenship as at 31 December 2016: [https://www.czso.cz/documents/11292/27914491/1612\\_c01t14.pdf/4bbedd77-c239-48cd-bf5a-7a43f6dbf71b?version=1.0](https://www.czso.cz/documents/11292/27914491/1612_c01t14.pdf/4bbedd77-c239-48cd-bf5a-7a43f6dbf71b?version=1.0).

<sup>11</sup> Can be downloaded here: <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/integrace.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> The integration of these persons is ensured by specific measures of the State Integration Program.

The policy also defines the four main priorities of migrant integration<sup>13</sup>:

- 1.) Knowledge of the Czech language on the part of migrants (focused on child and adult migrants)
- 2.) Economic self-sufficiency
- 3.) Orientation in society on the part of the migrant
- 4.) Relations between migrants and the majority society and between communities

The policy also considers as crucial the principle of the gradual acquisition of migrants' rights in connection with the gradual acquisition of higher residence status in the Czech Republic.

The National Policy sets out a framework for a national policy on the integration of migrants and proposes a set of measures for all actors in the process so that migrants truly feel at home in the Czech Republic – assuming that migrants themselves are actively involved in the integration process.

*However, it is necessary to emphasize that the government's resolutions are not legally binding documents, and are rather strategic materials for the City of Prague in the form of policy recommendations and an operational framework. In its resolution, however, the government calls for cooperation in the implementation of the National Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals.*

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<sup>13</sup> The Priorities and Policies are also available for download and can be viewed here: <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/integrace.aspx>.

## 2. Integration of migrants in Prague

### 2.1. General characteristics of Prague

Prague is the capital city of the Czech Republic and, according to the Act on the Capital City of Prague<sup>14</sup>, is also a statutory city. Prague is the largest city in the Czech Republic – it covers an area of 496 km<sup>2</sup> and has a total population of 1,267,449 (data valid as at 31 December 2015<sup>15</sup>). The City of Prague is administered by the Prague City Assembly, Prague City Council and the Prague City Hall.

Prague is a centre of political, economic and cultural events, the seat of parliament, government, central state authorities and educational institutions. Thanks to its rich history and many important sights, it is rightly considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. For the performance of state administration, Prague is divided into 22 administrative districts and, in terms of local government, is divided into 57 autonomous municipal districts with their own elected bodies. Individual municipal districts are completely inhomogeneous and differ in both composition and population, the social and economic status of their inhabitants, and public infrastructure.

### 2.2. Migrants in Prague

As at 31 March 2017, a total of **503,464 foreign nationals** (citizens of third countries and EU citizens) with temporary or permanent residence were registered in the Czech Republic, of which **187,629 were foreign nationals living in Prague**<sup>16</sup>. According to statistics of the Ministry of the Interior, most migrants living in the Czech Republic come from third countries; however, given that EU/EEA citizens have a simplified reporting obligation<sup>17</sup>, the figures reflected in the statistics are not exact.

The share of migrants in Prague in the total number of migrants in the Czech Republic has been around 37% for a long time. This ratio has not changed in the last five years.

**Tab. 1: Foreign nationals in the Czech Republic and in Prague in selected years from 1996–2016**<sup>18</sup>

Cohesion area, region, district	1996	2006	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Czech Republic	199,152	321,456	434,153	435,946	439,189	449,367	464,670	493,441
Prague (NUTS2)	61,203	103,482	160,783	162,715	161,006	166,332	171,408	184,264
Other Czech Rep.	137,949	217,974	273,370	273,231	278,183	283,035	293,262	309,177
<b>share in Prague</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>

Source: CSU

Since 2000 the total number of migrants living in the Czech Republic as well as in Prague (indicated in blue in the graph) has been steadily rising. At present, 188,829 foreign nationals live in Prague (data as of 31 May 2017), which is 14.7% of the total Prague population.

<sup>14</sup> Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on the Capital City of Prague, as amended.

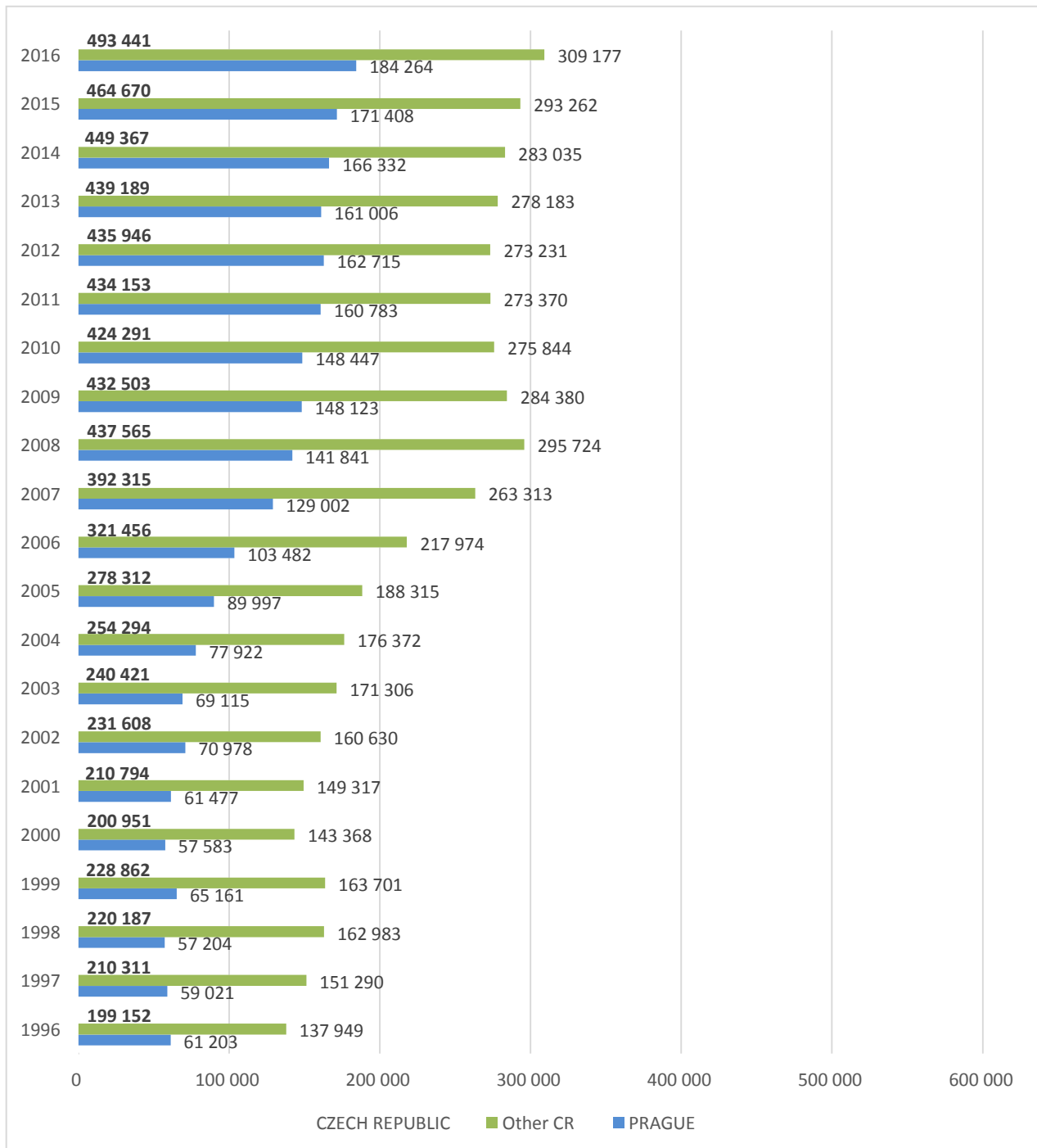
<sup>15</sup> Source: CSU, Statistical Yearbook of the Capital City of Prague 2016.

<sup>16</sup> Source: MI, Information service/statistics: <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/cizinci-s-povolenympobytem.aspx?q=Y2hudW09MQ%3d%3d>. Statistical outputs processed by the ICP.

<sup>17</sup> Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Section 93, para. 2).

<sup>18</sup> Source: [https://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci/4-ciz\\_pocet\\_cizincu#cr](https://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci/4-ciz_pocet_cizincu#cr).

**Tab. 2: Number of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic, Prague and other areas of the Czech Republic 1996 – 2016 (not including asylum seekers)**



Source: CSU

The number of foreign nationals from third countries in municipal districts of Prague varies, as does the percentage of foreign nationals in the total population. Long-term, the largest numbers of foreign nationals live in Prague 4, then in Prague 10, 5, 3 and 6, where the number exceeds 13,000 people.

However, if the share of foreign nationals in the total population of the municipal district is counted, the municipal districts with the largest share of foreign nationals are Prague-Libuš (31%), Prague 2 (21.17%), Prague 18 (18.71%), Prague 1 (17.89%) and Prague 9 (17.61%).

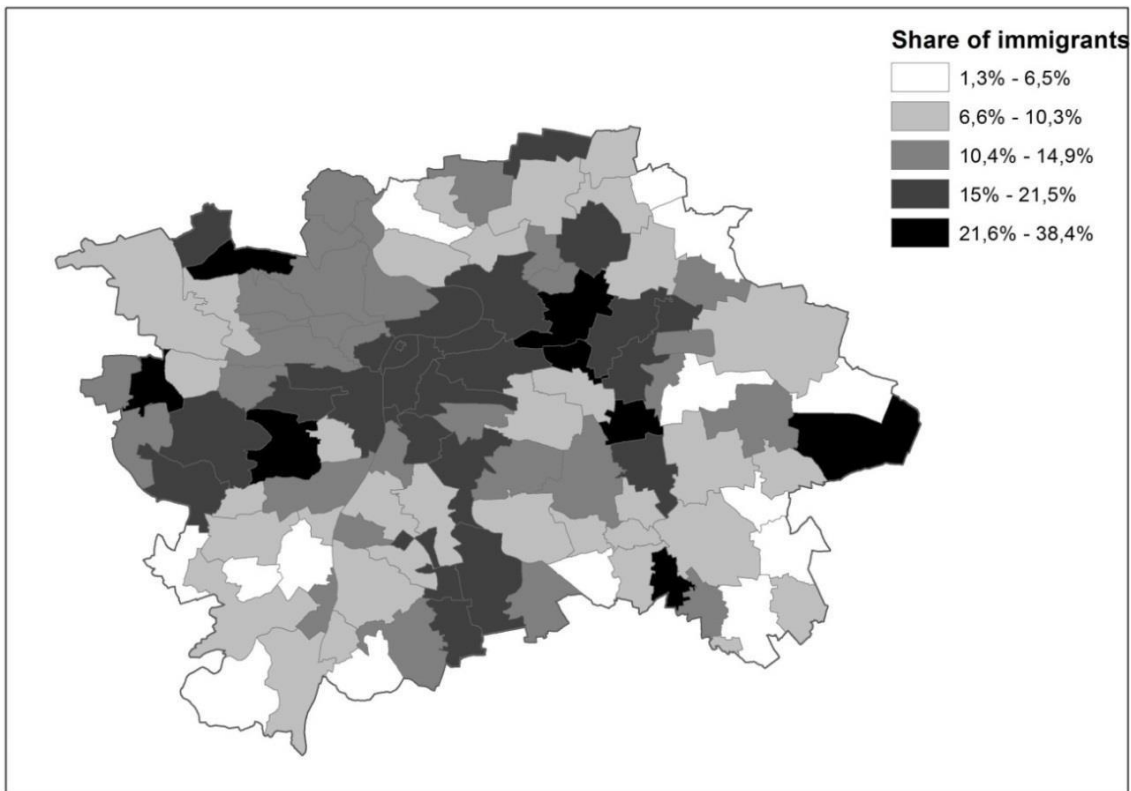
On the contrary, the least foreign nationals are in Prague 19, 21 and 16. Among municipal districts with the smallest share of foreign nationals are Prague 21, 20 and 12, where less than 8% of the population is made up of foreign nationals:

**Tab. 3: Informative number of migrants with residence in urban areas as at 1 January 2017**

Municipal district	Total number of inhabitants	Total number of foreign nationals	Share of foreign nationals in the population
Prague 1	29 767	5 326	17.89%
Prague 2	49 741	10 529	21.17%
Prague 3	75 583	13 154	17.40%
Prague 4	131 347	16 255	12.38%
Prague 5	86 871	14 361	16.53%
Prague 6	105 028	13 185	12.55%
Prague 7	44 517	6 903	15.51%
Prague 8	107 022	11 774	11%
Prague 9	57 321	10 095	17.61%
Prague 10	111 790	14 451	12.93%
Prague 11	78 829	8 139	10.32%
Prague 12	56 438	4 870	8.63%
Prague 13	62 624	10 030	16.02%
Prague 14	46 794	6 679	14.27%
Prague 15	33 595	3 767	11.21%
Prague 16	8 529	868	10.18%
Prague 17	24 797	2 421	9.76%
Prague 18	19 175	3 588	18.71%
Prague 19	7 026	663	9.44%
Prague 20	15 320	1 174	7.66%
Prague 21	10 842	807	7.44%
Prague 22	10 826	1 350	12.47%
Prague Libuš	10 024	1 819	18.15%
<b>Prague total</b>	<b>1 183 806</b>	<b>162 208</b>	<b>13.70%</b>

Source: Statistics of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, as at 1 January 2017

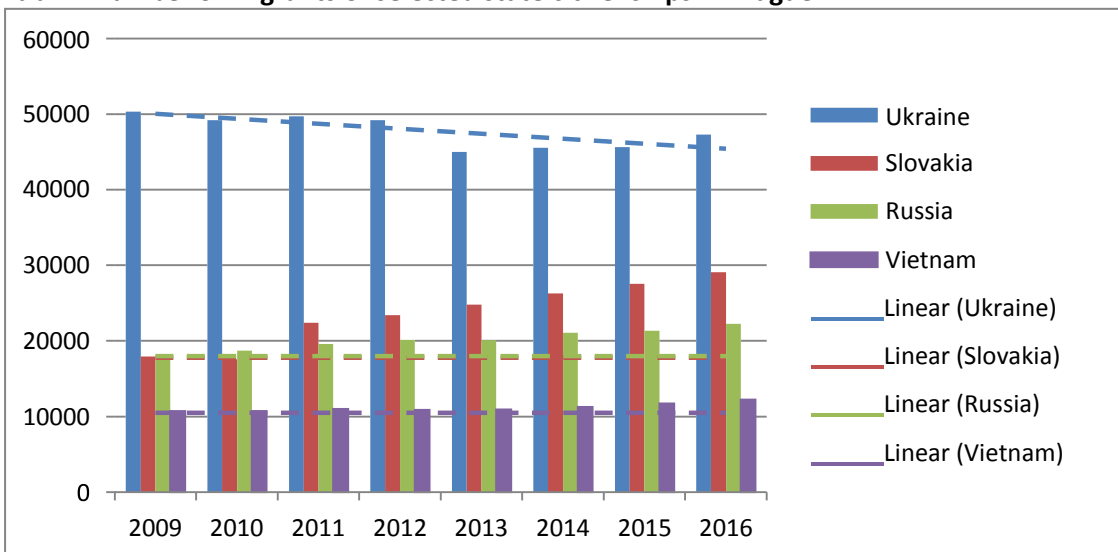
A more detailed overview of the proportion of foreign nationals in the total population of municipal districts is provided by a map from CSU sources:



Source: CSU

In terms of composition by citizenship, most citizens of Ukraine live in Prague, followed by citizens of Slovakia, Russia and Vietnam. The number of migrants from Ukraine has been declining slightly in the long run; on the other hand, the number of citizens of Slovakia and Russia is slightly rising. The numbers of Vietnamese citizens are stable in the long-term.

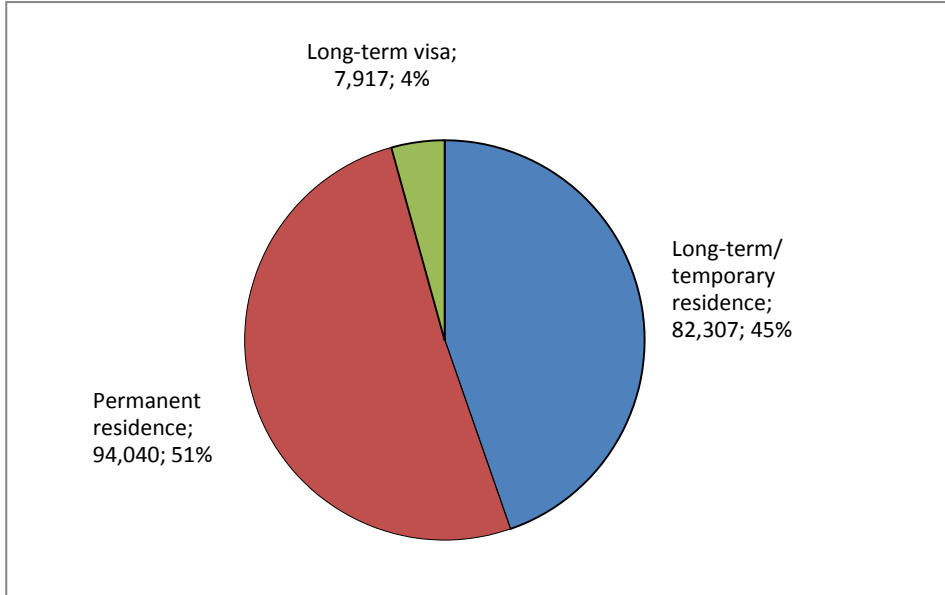
**Tab. 4: Number of migrants of selected state citizenships in Prague**



Source: CSU, for 2016

In terms of residence in the Czech Republic, more than half of migrants living in Prague have permanent residence, meaning that (with a few exceptions) they have the same rights and obligations as Czech citizens. The majority of other migrants have long-term or temporary residence:

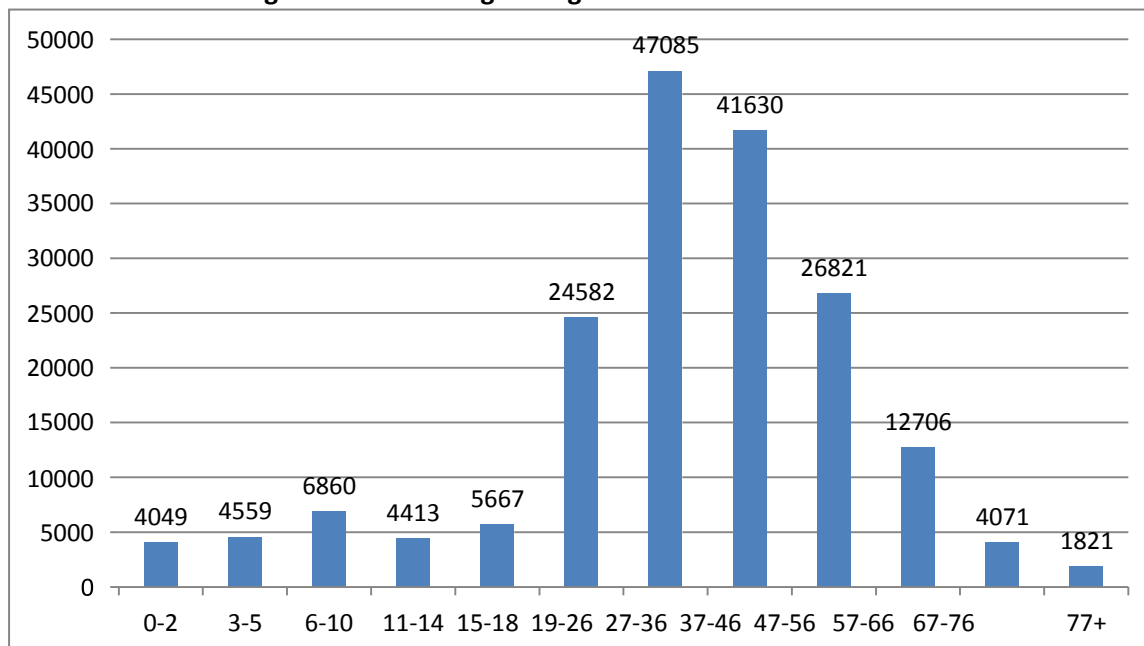
**Tab. 5: Residence categories as at 31 December 2016 (not including asylum seekers)**



Source: CSU, for 2016

As far as the age structure of foreign nationals living in the capital is concerned, the most frequent is the age group from 27 to 36, i.e. people of working age. On the contrary, the smallest number of foreign nationals is in the categories of retirement age of 67 and above.

**Tab. 6: Number of migrants in similar age categories**

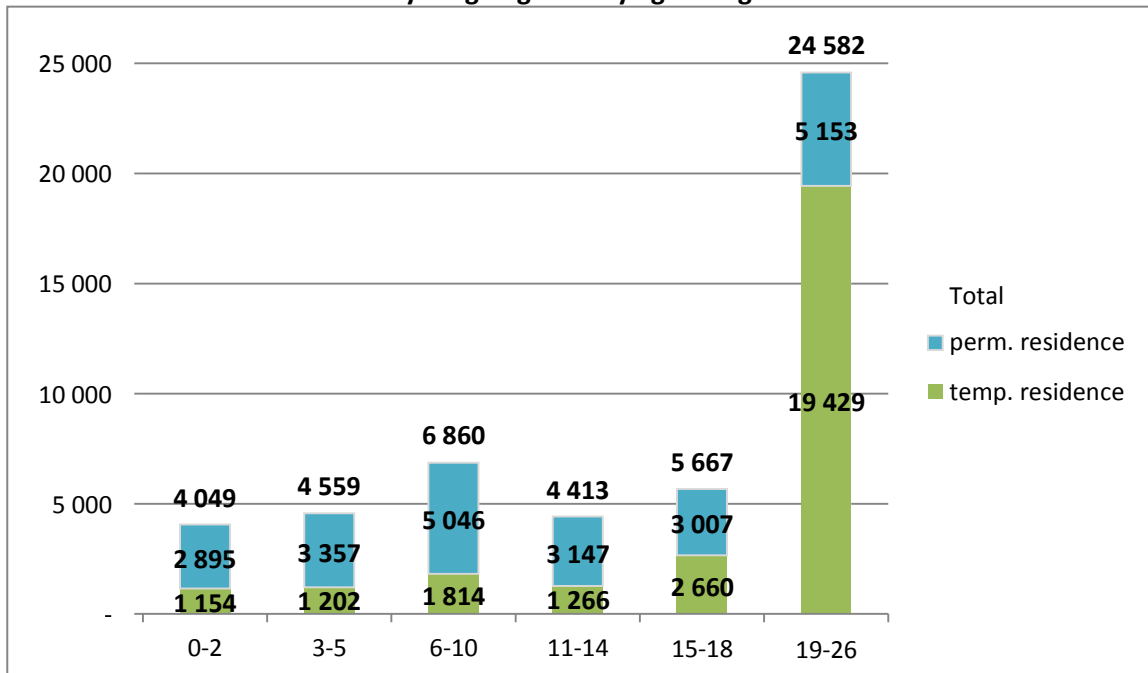


Source: CSU, for 2016

The most numerous group of underage migrant children consists of the age group of 6 to 10 years, and the graph below shows how many children and at what age they attend primary school in Prague. Interestingly, children under the age of 18 are predominantly permanent residents. For the 19–26 age

group the situation is the opposite, as a relatively large number of young foreign students are studying in Prague.

**Tab. 7: Numbers of children and young migrants by age categories**



Source: CSU, for 2016.

As can be seen from the above data, as regards the number of foreign nationals Prague can be ranked among modern multicultural cities. Migrants choose Prague as a new home, bringing new ideas to the city, as well as new challenges. The current policy is one of the means to respond to and support the development of a "Prague for All".

It should be noted, however, that the majority society often does not take an approach that we might call friendly. Analysis of the current situation in the field of integration of foreign nationals, which is part of the Government's Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect, shows that in some localities with higher concentrations of long-term migrants, negative attitudes of the population groups towards specific groups of foreign nationals are manifested in verbal expressions or protest rallies. At the same time, the policy draws attention to the risks of xenophobia, racism and extremism brought about by the migratory reality of recent years. The aim of the integration policy is to deepen the system of communication with the general public on issues of migration and integration, to consistently face xenophobic tendencies in society and to actively counteract the manifestations of hatred towards migrants<sup>19</sup>.

### 2.3. Analysis of the position of migrants in Prague

The analysis of the status of migrants in Prague was one of the five priorities of the first Prague policy for the integration of foreign nationals. This analysis is the first comprehensive data source for migrants in Prague and is therefore an important basis for setting priorities and measures for the future. The main objective of the expert analysis was to obtain a comprehensive description of the overall situation of migrants in Prague.

<sup>19</sup> See Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect, p. 8-9.



The analysis also focused on a description of migrant interactions with the majority society, the participation of migrants in the public life of the city (e.g. their active participation in civic and community activities), identification of current/acute needs, the problems migrants face and, last but not least, integration.

The analysis confirmed that the current measures for the integration of migrants in Prague are set correctly, but of course there is room for further development. In addition to specific findings, it has shown the need for long-term monitoring of key information on the social situation of migrants and the need to support and implement further research at both the city hall and municipal district levels to provide more detailed information on the various areas of migrant integration (including EU citizens). Further analytical outputs reflecting the situation of migrants at the local level as well as the various specifics of the individual groups of migrants will contribute to the identification of the missing information and the reflection of the existing experience in the area of integration, which will further enable more effective targeting of integration measures within the City of Prague as well as at the level of individual municipal districts.

Specific recommendations of the analysis of the Policy of the City of Prague are as follows:

- carry out independent specific research only of migrants who themselves or through their children have experience with the Czech school system and especially with schools in Prague;
- increase the availability and coverage of Czech language courses reflecting not only the varying levels of knowledge of the Czech language among migrants but also the specific requirements for language competencies in areas where migrants feel the greatest deficit;
- focus on enhancing the linguistic and intercultural competencies of officials who encounter migrants in the course of their professional work;
- support the services of community interpreters and intercultural workers;
- increase the awareness of foreign nationals on issues related to their residence in Prague through up-to-date and accessible information (e.g. via websites);
- support activities and platforms aimed at meeting and getting the majority society acquainted with migrants;
- regularly repeat research aimed at analysing the position of all long-term migrants in Prague (including EU citizens) and support the implementation of other local or thematic research.

It follows from the abovementioned recommendations that analytical surveys focused generally on the situation of migrants as well as on specific aspects of their lives in Prague or within sub-locations of Prague should continue to be part of the policy for the integration of foreign nationals and hence integration activities in Prague and cooperating organizations. According to the experts' recommendations, the independent Analysis of the Status of Migrants in the City of Prague should be repeated regularly every four to five years in order to continuously monitor trends and developments in the integration of migrants in Prague. The implemented studies will serve as a basis for further updating the policy for the integration of foreign nationals and for targeting the policy more accurately.

### 3. Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals

The Prague policy formulates priorities of the City of Prague in the field of integration of migrants. It sets out basic principles of work, objectives and measures and manages strategic decisions, creating suitable conditions for the mutual coexistence of the city's inhabitants, but also in the distribution of funds. The Prague policy is anchored by the interest of the City of Prague to develop activities related to the topic of integration of migrants.

The policy builds on a national policy that defines the objectives of the integration policy and activities related to the national as well as the local level according to the following vision:

"The task of the integration policy is to create the conditions for their integration into society, to encourage and support their active participation, to guarantee respect for their rights, to protect against discrimination, to create conditions for harmonious coexistence in society. The readiness and willingness of the majority society to accept foreign nationals and participate in the integration process is an important element of the integration process. On the part of foreign nationals – individual responsibility, initiative and willingness to participate in society, knowledge of rights, fulfilment of duties and compliance with the laws of the Czech Republic, respect for the values of their adopted country and the European Union is required. The aim of the integration policy is to promote integration as a process that leads to the smooth and mutually beneficial coexistence of foreign nationals and the majority population, to build a sense of belonging and co-responsibility for coexistence and the building of an interdependent and communicating society. Integration of foreign nationals is the key to maintaining social cohesion, for its economic, social and cultural development."<sup>20</sup>

The goals of the Prague policy are also derived from the national policy, but are adapted to the specifics of the city:

- improving and maintaining a coordinated system of cooperation of all entities operating in Prague in the field of integration of migrants in order to work effectively with migrants and especially their easier integration into the majority society;
- providing financial resources for the implementation of integration activities within Prague through effective financing by the City of Prague;
- promoting friendly coexistence between migrants and the majority society and supporting neighbourhood activities;
- strengthening the cultural openness of public institutions in Prague;
- supporting the development of new and existing services and activities for migrants;
- increasing the awareness of the professional and lay public about the integration of migrants and their involvement in the integration process;
- involvement of migrants in the public life of Prague and their activation to participate in the development of civil society;
- systematic support for educational activities for both children and adult migrants;
- strengthening the awareness of migrants about their rights and obligations and the services they may have access to in Prague;
- long-term support and funding of the ICP and its activities by the City of Prague;
- shaping the image of Prague so that it is perceived by the general public as a city for all.

The target group of the Prague policy is also based on the national policy and is therefore primarily targeted at third-country foreign nationals residing long-term and legally in the Czech Republic, but it does not exclude any categories of migrants (regardless of country of origin or type of residence) and their

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<sup>20</sup> Updated "Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect" and Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016, p. 17.

recommendations apply to all migrants, but also to the professional and non-professional public. Even EU citizens, who are usually not included in the policy materials, are not neglected; but they are not a target group of integration activities (their financial support from European funds is limited or does not exist at all). From the point of view of integration, it is often a no less important target group than third-country migrants, as EU citizens also face some of the same problems in integrating into Czech society as foreign nationals from third countries, especially in issues related to knowledge of the Czech language and general orientation in society.

The target group also includes state, local governmental and non-profit organizations/institutions involved in the integration of migrants into Czech society and other organizations relevant to the integration of migrants (e.g. hospitals, social care organizations, cultural and leisure time organizations, etc.).

### 3.1. Creation of the first Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals

Until 2012, Prague lacked any policy work on the integration of this large group of the city's inhabitants into the majority society. Based on the need to ensure the effective and coordinated integration of migrants into the city, Prague expressed an active effort to set up the Integration Centre Prague.

The Integration Centre Prague o.p.s. (ICP) was founded by the City of Prague on 14 March 2012 and thus became the eleventh functioning integration centre in the Czech Republic. With the establishment and operation of this centre, the City of Prague is fulfilling the National Policy, which continues to support the functioning of integration centres (Centre for the Support of Integration of Foreign Nationals)<sup>21</sup>. The ICP has the role of an information and community centre and is an implementer, initiator and coordinator of integration measures within Prague. The ICP provides free services to third-country nationals (outside the EU) but also operates in the city as a coordinator of integration activities at the local level. As part of this coordination function, the ICP organizes the Regional Advisory Platform.

The Regional Advisory Platform (RAP) is a place of regular meetings of actors in the field of integration of migrants in Prague. It brings together members of the Prague City Hall, individual municipal districts, NGOs, migrant associations, state institutions, schools and educational institutions and international organizations.

Since September 2012, RAP members have actively participated in the creation of the primary document "Priority Plan for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the City of Prague for 2014–2016", approved in March 2013. In November 2013, the ICP and the Multicultural Centre Prague, o.s. organized a *Strategic Integration Workshop*, which was a means for finalizing the Prague policy with the help of all stakeholders. The materials from the strategic workshop were subsequently incorporated into the final version of the Prague policy.

The first Prague policy was approved for 2014–2017 and set five priorities for the integration of migrants in the city of Prague:

- Analysis of the position of migrants in Prague
- Financing the integration of foreign nationals in Prague
- Information
- Education
- Migrants' access to social and follow-up services

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<sup>21</sup> Updated "Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – Mutual Respect" and Procedure for the Implementation of Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016, p. 10.

The Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals was officially approved by the decision of the City Council of Prague 40/17 of 19 June 2014. Following this policy, action plans were drawn up and issued regularly, setting out specific activities within the proposed measures of the individual priorities for the period of one calendar year.

### 3.2. Update of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals

Since the autumn of 2016, intensive work has begun on the update of the first Prague policy for the next period, i.e. for the years 2018–2021. The Prague City Hall, in cooperation with the ICP, initiated a workshop for this purpose involving a total of 52 participants, representing 35<sup>22</sup> organizations and institutions from the public and non-profit sectors. The workshop was attended by the migrants themselves, whose view on the first Prague policy and its updated form is irreplaceable. The participants of the workshop were divided into working groups, in which they assessed the first Prague policy as a whole, pondered and debated whether this policy still fulfils its function and responds to the needs of Prague and the migrants living there.

Based on the outputs from the workshop, processed Analyses of the position of migrants in Prague and on the basis of the revision of all the priorities of the first Prague policy, this update of the policy for the integration of foreign nationals was prepared.

The updated Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals maintains three areas as separate priorities – Information, Migrant Access to Social and Follow-up Services and Education. The area of Coexistence of the Majority Society and Migrants is newly classified as a separate priority. Two priorities of the original Prague policy – Analysis of the position of migrants in Prague and Financing the Integration of Migrants in the City of Prague continue to be part of the implementation of the City of Prague Integration Policy, but not as separate priorities. The implementation of further research is specified within the individual priority measures of the updated policy, and a repeat of the general analysis of the status of migrants implemented in 2017 will take place again in 4–5 years, due to the possibility to follow trends and current data in individual areas. The continuation of the systemic financing of the integration of migrants is a prerequisite for the effective fulfilment of the priorities of the policy for the integration of foreign nationals described in the introduction of the second part of this policy, which is the basis for follow-up action plans for the integration of migrants in Prague.

A draft of the updated Prague policy was submitted to the Prague City Assembly for the integration of foreign nationals, which was later commented on. After incorporating all the comments, the final form of the document, which you are now holding in your hands, was created.

### 3.3. Anchoring and effectiveness

The Prague policy is discussed by the Committee of the City of Prague for the integration of foreign nationals, is subsequently submitted to the Prague City Assembly and the Municipal Government of the City of Prague for approval. The Prague policy is valid from the date of its approval by all components. The Prague City Hall is responsible for coordinating the fulfilment of the policy and the implementation of activities arising from it, via departments of national minorities and foreign nationals – Department of the Office of the Director of the City Hall, as well as via its departments and through cooperation with the city districts, relevant ministerial departments, the ICP, NGOs and other subjects. It thus becomes the guarantor of numerous integration activities arising from the Prague policy. As the implementation of the Prague policy is not mandatory or even enforceable (there is not enough legal support in this regard), high demands are placed on everyone involved in implementing it.

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<sup>22</sup> You can find a list of all cooperating institutions and organizations in Annex No. 1.

### 3.4. Implementation in practice and evaluation

The Prague policy is developed for the period 2018–2021. The **Action Plan of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals for 2018–2019** will be presented to the Prague City Assembly by the end of February 2018. The action plan for the next two-year period will be submitted to the Prague City Assembly by 31 December 2019. The Action Plan is an indispensable tool for the implementation of the Prague policy, which sets the priorities of this policy with respect to the implementation period and will continue to be prepared for the next two years. The action plans guarantee that the Prague policy is sustainable and up-to-date, clearly define and concretely elaborate the proposed measures outlined in the individual sub-activities. The numbering of priorities and measures outlined in the Action Plan will be based on an agreed policy. Each sub-activity will include a description, the target group, the guarantor(s), the cooperating body(ies), the deadline, the financial demands, the financial security options and the measurable indicators.

The **Report on the Fulfilment of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals and its Action Plan** will be submitted to the Prague City Assembly always as at 31 January (starting in January 2018). The report will always assess the implementation of the action plan in the past year and the fulfilment of the Prague policy on the part of the various actors involved in the integration of migrants.

The report and the action plan are presented and elaborated by the National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section – the Department of the Director of the City Council. The Prague City Hall will monitor the fulfilment of the objectives through a staff member of the National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section of the Office of the Director of the City Council, which ensures the integration of foreign nationals, and implement the measures set out in the policies, in close cooperation with the individual entities whom the measures concern.

### 3.5. "Prague for All"

The City of Prague is publicly announcing the motto "Prague for All", which aims to point to the importance of integrating migrants into the public life of the city. As part of this motto, it refers to the active drive to create decent living conditions for migrants living in Prague and support the involvement of all important and responsible entities in the integration process. Migrants are not only a source of economic prosperity but also a cultural and social enrichment for the city.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities of key subjects

The City of Prague acts independently to ensure its policies in relation to the integration of migrants. Like in other regions, in the City of Prague the extent of involvement in migrant integration is a decision of the region and the extent of the measures is therefore in its full competence. The National Policy defines conditions for the regions for their implementation, offers methodological support and coordinates the integration of migrants. By actively participating in the implementation of the national policy, the region can influence the situation in its territory, can set the priorities that it believes are needed and thus set up a system of measures that have a direct impact on the life of the given locality.

The key policy decisions of the City of Prague in relation to the integration of migrants are fully at the discretion of the decisions of the Prague City Assembly and Prague City Hall. The role of the City of Prague is, in particular, to provide support for measures aimed at the integration of migrants and promoting their harmonious coexistence, including at the level of individual municipal districts. When designing strategic measures, account must always be taken of the fact that integration is a two-way process involving both migrants and the majority society.

### 4.1. Cooperation of the City of Prague in the area of integration of migrants

The City of Prague cooperates in the integration of migrants with many state and non-profit entities. Most of these actors collaborated on the creation of the Prague policy (see Annex No. 1) and will continue to be responsible for the cooperation in its implementation and fulfilment. The cooperation scheme of the City of Prague with other actors in the integration of foreign nationals is part of Annex No. 2.

#### 1. Departments of the Prague City Hall

Department of the Office of the Director of the City Hall – National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section  
 Department of Health, Welfare and Prevention  
 Department of Education and Youth  
 Department of Sport and Leisure  
 Department of Culture and Tourism  
 Marketing and Communication Department  
 Crisis Management Department

#### 2. Municipal districts of Prague 1–22 and Prague – Libuš

Regular meetings are organized as part of the Advisory Platforms for representatives of municipal districts and the Prague City Hall in the area of the integration of foreign nationals.

#### 3. Organizations established by the City of Prague

Integration Centre Prague, o.p.s.

#### 4. NGOs focusing on the integration of migrants in Prague

See Annex No. 6

#### 5. International organizations operating in Prague

See Annex No. 7

#### 6. State institutions

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic  
 Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic  
 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic  
 Regional Directorate of the City of Prague – Police of the Czech Republic

## 7. Academic sphere

Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
 Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs  
 National Institute for Further Education  
 Selected universities

## 8. International overlap of cooperation

Development of cooperation at the level of European cities and involvement in programs and projects focusing on integration and migration.

## 4.2. Prague City Hall

Within the Prague City Hall, the Migrant Integration Program is entrusted to the National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section – Department of the Office of the Director of the City Hall of Prague. Within the framework of this department, the agenda of the integration of foreign nationals is entrusted to an employee – specialist in the integration of foreign nationals.

This employee focuses mainly on the coordination of activities in the area and is a specialized professional. Inclusion of the area of integration of migrants (as well as of national minorities) within the Department of the Office of the Director of the City Hall of Prague enables the coordination and fulfilment of activities within the priorities of the policy, which are very heterogeneous in the area of integration of migrants (e.g. education, social and cultural spheres, communication strategies and information, housing and many others).

In order to fulfil the implementation of measures relating to the integration of migrants, there is a great need for cooperation between the departments of the Prague City Hall, in particular the Department of Education and Youth, the Department of Health, Welfare and Prevention, the Department of Sport and Leisure, the Department of Culture and Tourism, and the Crisis Management Department. Furthermore, cooperation with the ICP, which the City of Prague established for comprehensive and systematic work in the field of integration of migrants, as well as other organizations founded or established by the City of Prague. The Prague City Hall cooperates with NGOs, institutions and other subjects involved in the integration of migrants.

## 4.3. Committee of the Prague City Assembly for the integration of foreign nationals

The Committee is the advisory and initiative body of the Prague City Assembly. The National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section is responsible for the technical and administrative aspects of preparing the Committee's deliberations. The members of the Committee are the staff of the individual departments of the Prague City Hall (Department of Health, Welfare and Prevention, Department of Education and Youth), representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic – the Asylum and Migration Policy Department and in particular external experts, who are simultaneously representatives of NGOs dealing with the integration of migrants<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> In connection with the development of the migration situation in 2015, the Director of the Prague City Hall appointed a Working Group Director of the Prague City Hall on the topic of migration (the group was managed by the Crisis Management Department), which focused on dealing with emergencies and related measures that are tied to the arrival of more migrants. This group was abolished in November 2016 due to the stabilization of the migration situation. The group may be renewed if the situation gets worse.

#### 4.4. Regional advisory platform

Together with the launch of the ICP, a Regional Advisory Platform (RAP) was set up for representatives of all relevant stakeholders dealing with the integration of migrants in Prague. These are representatives of the ICP, Prague City Hall, Prague 1–22 and Prague – Libuš, state institutions (Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, etc.), NGOs, migrant communities and academic institutions. This platform facilitates the necessary cooperation of the various integration actors in order to provide a comprehensive approach and systematically elaborate specific proposals and measures in the field.

The RAP is a very important space for sharing information across the various integration actors, and provides scope for discussing topical issues, sharing experiences and new information. It is also a place where new possibilities and principles of working with migrants are discussed.

#### 4.5. Advisory platform for representatives of municipal districts and Prague City Hall for the integration of foreign nationals

For the performance of state administration, the City of Prague has been divided into 22 administrative districts since 2001. From the point of view of local government it consists of 57 autonomous municipal districts with their own elected bodies. Each municipal district has its own specificities, which originate from whether it is a central part of Prague or, on the contrary, a suburban area. The composition of the population and its social status, the total population density, as well as the level of infrastructure are all important aspects for ensuring work on the integration of migrants at the local level.

In connection with the launch of the RAP, an advisory platform was set up consisting exclusively of representatives of the administrative districts of Prague 1–22<sup>24</sup> and Prague – Libuš, which within the framework of their work were delegated to the respective city council for the possibility of cooperation and communication with the Prague City Hall in the field of integration of foreign nationals. This platform is coordinated by the Prague City Hall in cooperation with the ICP and is closely linked to the activities of the RAP.

It is a place where representatives of the municipal districts of Prague 1–22 and Prague – Libuš and Prague City Hall meet. The activities of the platform are specially focused on the regular securing of mutual information between workers of the municipal districts and Prague City Hall, sharing of experiences and examples of best practices in the given area.

Platform members are regularly informed about significant measures, activities and actions related to the integration of migrants. The platform participates in the preparation of policy materials and their commenting. The City of Prague also recommends to individual municipal districts which Prague Policy measures to implement.

#### 4.6. Platform of representatives of education departments in municipal districts

In the course of 2016, the Platform of Representatives of the Department of Education of the Municipal districts, Prague 1 – 22 and Prague – Libuš, and the Prague City Hall started working under the coordination of the Department of Education and Youth of the Prague City Hall in cooperation with the National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section. The platform focuses specifically on the education of children and pupils with a different mother tongue, migrant children and pupils. The platform is an important source of information on the needs of the municipal district in the given area, providing incentives for the possibility

<sup>24</sup> Administrative district means one of the 22 administrative districts with a broader delegated mandate. In this document we refer to municipal districts, by which we understand the administrative districts of Prague 1–22. Prague – Libuš has been added to these municipal districts within the advisory platforms, which has been successful with the integration of migrants for several years, e.g. within municipal projects.



of formulating goals on the topic. At the same time, it provides a place to share relevant up-to-date information on the education of children and pupils with a different mother tongue. These include, for example, new legislative changes, support services and financing methods. The Platform is a space for more detailed professional discussion on the issue.

## 4.7. Other actors in the field of integration of migrants

### **Municipal districts of Prague 1–22 and Prague – Libuš**

Many integration activities of a local nature could not exist in Prague without the active interest of the municipal districts themselves. Some have been involved in this area for many years and have a well-developed system of diverse integration activities not only for migrant education but also for cultural events related to the integration and life of migrants in Prague, which are aimed mainly at representatives from the broader public. The sources for these integration measures are obtained almost exclusively through so-called municipal projects to support the integration of foreign nationals at the local level (Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic) as well as from grants from the Prague City Hall. In both cases, it is necessary to co-finance some of the costs from local budgets, which is why political support for integration measures at the local level is very important.

In each municipal district office there should ideally be a coordinator appointed to coordinate integration activities in the municipal district. Ideally, this is a coordinator / specialist / reference officer for the integration of foreign nationals, who is a specially appointed employee for the agenda. The crucial role of this employee is primarily in mediating communication among the various actors involved in the integration of migrants in the given locality; these may be the departments themselves at the municipal district offices, schools, non-profit organizations, migrant associations, but also various authorities. He or she is a key worker for cooperation with the Prague City Hall, regularly participates in the Advisory Platform of the representatives of the municipal district and the Prague City Hall in the field of integration of foreign nationals, and at the same time in the RAP, and has an overview of integration and migration issues at the local level and beyond.

### **Non-governmental organizations**

There is strong potential in Prague for a number of different NGOs, which have long been involved in the implementation of integration activities. An earlier problem was the lower degree of interconnection of projects by different NGOs. Based on the establishment of a broader cooperation among NGOs, a Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants in the Czech Republic was established<sup>25</sup>, which brings together 18 Czech NGOs (17 NGOs as members and one NGO as an observer). The consortium focuses on promoting migrants' rights, analysing migration policy, and encouraging discussion on its potential changes, while raising public awareness about the situation of migrants in the Czech and European context.

Thanks to the NGO network, migrants are assisted in a wide range of activities to help them integrate successfully. These include social and legal counselling, Czech language courses, help with labour market participation, working with children and youth, helping migrant women, helping migrants through intercultural work, etc. Collaboration and communication between NGOs, the Prague City Hall and the ICP is supported by the existence of the RAP, but also by direct communication of individual departments of the Prague City Hall with NGOs.

NGOs receive financial support, in particular through financial support from the state budget, through subsidies from individual departments of ministries, from European funds, the City of Prague and municipal districts and other sources. An overview of NGOs working in the field of integration of migrants in Prague can be found in Annex No. 6.

### **Migrant associations and representatives of migrant communities**

Some active migrant associations play an important role in integration, if we perceive them as a two-

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<sup>25</sup> See [www.konsorcium-nno.cz](http://www.konsorcium-nno.cz).

way process, as they are engaged in organizing a wide range of cultural activities. They often deal with activities that carry an integrative aspect, such as awareness-raising activities aimed at the general public (lectures, guided tours in the SAPA area, neighbouring events for Czechs and migrants, joint cooking, etc.). One of the main goals of migrant associations is also to help improve the image and perception of their own culture by the majority society. It also seeks to create conditions for mutual understanding and convergence with the majority society.

By supporting these entities, greater emancipation and participation of migrants in society can be achieved. It is therefore necessary to cooperate with, support and include these actors in the decision-making, advisory and policy processes that take place in the field of integration. The City of Prague is fully aware that it is important to include not only migrant associations but also migrants as individuals in decision-making on matters concerning the integration of migrants. Greater involvement of migrants is necessary precisely because they themselves have gone through the integration process and because they come directly from the environment of the community. They are best able to understand the needs of other migrants and can more easily identify and define what further steps would help them to integrate more easily into the life of Prague.

The first step in the right direction and a good example of such an effort is the openness of the Regional Advisory Platform, to which migrants, whether representing an association or themselves, can join as members. Another positive example is the open process of creating and updating the Prague policy, in which migrants also actively participated.

### **International organizations**

International Organizations (IOs) operating in the field of migration in the City of Prague, but also nationwide, are another important player in the local policy focused on the integration of migrants. International organizations have many years of experience in this field, and often they are the ones that bring experience from abroad to the Czech environment. For an overview of cooperating IOs, see Annex No. 7.

### **Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and other ministries**

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic ensures the coordination of individual ministries and other entities involved in the implementation of the national policy. For this reason, Prague and the ICP have core cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior. The Integration Policy of the City of Prague is therefore implemented in accordance with the integration policy of the state, which also links other ministries (MLSA, MEYS, etc.).

### **Czech regions**

In past years, the City of Prague has always addressed and will continue to address representatives of other regional offices of the Czech Republic to exchange experiences and information on the integration of migrants at the regional level. If the situation so requires, the National Minorities and Foreign Nationals Section – Department of the Office of the Director of the City Hall, cooperates with the staff of the regional authorities.

At the same time, these departments address regional authorities to engage in conferences, seminars and other platforms for mutual cooperation or information on migrant integration, if there is such an opportunity.

Broader cooperation, exchange of experiences and networking across the Czech Republic is necessary and is therefore generally supported by the Prague policy. However, deeper collaboration does not work automatically. It is important to support and motivate all actors in the field of integration to take a greater interest in various forms of cooperation and in sharing experiences across the regions throughout the Czech Republic.

### **International cooperation**

In the case of migration and integration, communication and cooperation at the international level is also very important. For the next period, the City of Prague will focus its attention in this direction. One of the ways of exchanging experiences in the area of migrant integration is the regular implementation of an international conference (the first conference was implemented in 2017 and its main guarantor was the

International Organization for Migration). Attention is also paid to direct communication with and connection to the municipality of European cities, advisory platforms within the EU, etc. At the same time, Prague could be a source of inspiration for other Central and Eastern European cities.

## 5. Integration Centre Prague, o.p.s.

The ICP is an established non-profit organization offering a wide range of services not only for migrants. It was founded by the City of Prague and at the beginning of its creation it chose the motto "Prague for All". This motto refers to the idea that Prague, as a metropolitan European city, must purposefully integrate migrants among the inhabitants of the majority society and at the same time promote their friendly coexistence in the city.

The ICP is therefore a helping hand for clients not to feel like foreign nationals but as residents of our city and to participate in a common life. It acts as a mediator of mutual understanding and understanding of migrants and the majority society.

### 5.1. Creation of the ICP

The establishment of the ICP was approved by the Decision of the Prague City Assembly No. 1599 of 25 October 2011, which was subsequently approved by Resolution of the Prague City Assembly No. 10/70 of 4 November 2011. The ICP was established as a benevolent association on 14 March 2012 for the purpose of implementing and coordinating integration activities at the local level in Prague. The ICP has a close relationship with its founder, the City of Prague, with which it continues to deepen cooperation and ties. The City of Prague partly finances its operations.

### 5.2. Services of the ICP

#### **The ICP provides the following services for migrants:**

- social counselling;
- legal advice;
- accompaniment to the authorities, assistance and interpretation by intercultural workers in negotiations;
- fieldwork in the natural environment of migrants or where they associate and work;
- Czech language courses for children and adults;
- courses in socio-cultural orientation;
- free access to information (internet, PC, foreign language library);
- providing space for own activities or meetings;
- volunteering opportunities;
- participation or cooperation in cultural and community activities.

#### **The ICP provides the following services for the expert public:**

- assistance and professional support when dealing with migrants;
- use of intercultural workers to communicate with migrants;
- offer of participation in educational seminars on migration and integration of migrants, familiarization with international experience;
- RAP membership;
- offer of participation or cooperation in cultural and community activities;
- presentation of ICP services at offices, institutions, schools, etc.;
- the possibility to take part in internships at the ICP.

#### **The ICP provides the following services for the majority society:**

- participation in cultural and community activities through which the public has the opportunity to learn about the cultures of migrants living here and to promote their positive relationship to migrants;
- engaging in ICP activities on a volunteer basis;

- providing information on its activities, function and, last but not least, on the integration and situation of foreign nationals living in Prague.

### 5.3. Project "Integration Centre Prague"

Since its inception, the ICP has been implementing a major project called "Integration Centre Prague", which is currently funded by the National Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Program and the budget of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

In view of the conditions of ICP funding through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the target group of ICP clients is limited to migrants from third countries (non-EU / EEA countries) and those granted international protection. The target group therefore does not include applicants for international protection or EU citizens.

Four partner NGOs contribute to the main ICP project: InBáze, z.s., Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, z.s., Poradna pro integraci, z.ú. and Sdružení pro integraci a migraci, o.p.s. Partner NGOs provide professional social and legal counselling within the project.

In addition to professional social and legal counselling services, important activities of the ICP include intercultural work, fieldwork, Czech language courses, socio-cultural orientation courses, an information campaign and, last but not least, an information centre headquartered in the centre of Prague.

The ICP also cooperates closely with four partner municipal districts, i.e. Prague 4, 12, 13 and 14, which provide facilities for ICP branches. Furthermore, the ICP successfully collaborates in the field of integration of migrants, develops integration activities and participates in the organization of cultural and community activities, which greatly contribute to the friendly coexistence between migrants and their Czech neighbours in the municipal districts. The ICP also cooperates in a similar way with other municipal districts that are interested in integrating foreign nationals into their territory.

### 5.4. Other projects

The ICP is committed to supplementing the main project with follow-up services and activities in the area of migrant integration in the City of Prague. It is also possible to implement other projects that arise from the challenges and are financed by the Prague City Hall and the OAMP grant schemes. The ICP is actively involved in municipal projects to promote local integration, which are created and implemented by the municipal districts, and in cooperation with them they carry out individual activities in their areas.

Thanks to these projects, the ICP has succeeded in organizing, for example, an information campaign targeting the majority society entitled "Mezi svými", expand the range of services offered by intercultural workers, or support individual communities by offering the opportunity to obtain financing for their own small project under the slogan "Your Ideas".

## Priorities of the City of Prague for the integration of migrants

This second part of the policy describes both systematic financing as a condition for fulfilling the priorities of the integration policy of foreign nationals in the City of Prague, as well as the four main priorities of the updated policy.

The Prague policy continues to focus on the priorities of **Information, Education, Migrant Access to Social and Follow-up Services**. All these priorities respond to the current situation and are complemented by new recommendations and measures. The Prague Policy now newly includes the **Coexistence of Majority Society and Migrants** priority. The inclusion of this new priority in the policy is partly a response to the situation regarding the deterioration of the perception of migrants by Czech society, especially in connection with the so-called migration crisis. Through the various measures and recommendations contained in this policy, the City of Prague expresses its interest and effort to contribute actively to the harmonious coexistence of the majority and migrants in its territory.

As was already mentioned above in this policy, one of the priorities of the original policy – Analysis of the status of migrants in the territory of the City of Prague – was already completed in 2017. However, based on expert advice, an analysis of the status of migrants will be carried out regularly every 4–5 years in order to identify the necessary current data and to keep track of the developments in the monitored areas. Regular repetition of analysis and implementation of partial thematic or locally targeted research is crucial to the correct setting of other policy materials, including the update of the Prague Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals. In the updated policy, the analysis of migrants is no longer mentioned as a separate priority, but its regular implementation in the given time interval is calculated. Suggestions for support or direct implementation of partial research in various areas of integration are then disaggregated as part of the individual priorities of the policy and follow-up action plans.

A separate priority of the original policy was the financing of the integration of foreign nationals in the City of Prague. The currently set up grant scheme of the Prague City Hall and the financing of the activities implemented within the Policy of the City of Prague Action Plan for Integration of Foreign Nationals is functional and is a necessary prerequisite for fulfilling the priorities of integration. As well as regular analytical activity, the financing of integration measures in the updated policy is understood not as a separate priority area but as an integral part and a prerequisite for effective fulfilment of the set policy priorities of the Integration Policy of the City of Prague.

The scheme of financial support of the City of Prague is described in the following chapter – Systematic financing of the policy for the integration of foreign nationals in the City of Prague. These and the following chapters devoted to the individual priorities of the policy present the content of the follow-up action plans.

# 1. Systematic financing of the policy for the integration of migrants in the City of Prague

The City of Prague allocates funds from its budget each year directly to the area of integration of migrants. It supports the activities of migrant associations and organizations working in the field of integration of migrants in the City of Prague, through the grant procedure "Programs of support of activities of integration of foreign nationals in the City of Prague" announced regularly since 2006<sup>26</sup>. In addition, funds are provided to support the ICP's work, the projects of individual municipal districts and its own projects organized directly by the City of Prague for experts and the public (e.g. conferences, seminars, thematic exhibitions). The support of activities (sub-tasks) that arise from the Policy of the City of Prague Action Plan for the Integration of Foreign Nationals is significant. Going forward, funds from the City of Prague dedicated to the integration of migrants should increase proportionally to the needs and the projects of the bodies that achieve good results and support the integration of migrants into the Czech majority society may be supported.

Migration integration activities are funded by the City of Prague also through grant management<sup>27</sup> of other workplaces of the Prague City Hall. These are grants to support social services, educational activities, leisure time activities for children and youth and preventive measures related to the area of safety. Other funds in the given area (outside the budget of the City of Prague) can be drawn from EU funds, through individual ministries or other sources (e.g. foundations, private donors).

**The existing functional scheme for financing the integration of migrants in the City of Prague has been retained. The integration policy will be funded through the following system:**

## 1.1. Grant management specially focused on integration of foreign nationals

### Measures:

- continue to ensure effective financial support to migrant associations and migrant integration organizations through the City of Prague grant procedure specially focused directly on the area of integration of migrants "Programs of support for activities of integration of foreign nationals in the City of Prague" (**PCH**),
- target grant management programs in the area of integration of foreign nationals in order to respond to current developments in the given area, based on the recommendations of the Committee of the Prague City Assembly for the integration of foreign nationals (**PCH, Committee of the Prague City Assembly for the integration of foreign nationals**).

## 1.2. Financing of the Integration Centre Prague o.p.s.

### Measures:

- to ensure financial support for the operation and activities of the ICP by the City of Prague – this is mainly about ensuring the basic operation of the organization (**PCH**);
- to ensure financial support for the ICP in the form of a grant to co-finance projects for which the ICP has received support from EU funds, the state budget or other programs to support the integration of migrants – projects that are in line with the objectives of the Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals (**PCH**);
- to ensure financial support for the provision of intercultural work services for migrants in the City of Prague (**PCH**);
- if necessary, provide a direct subsidy from the budget of the City of Prague to ensure the operation and activities of the ICP (**PCH**);

<sup>26</sup> An overview of financial support from the budget of the City of Prague is provided in Annex No. 3: Summary of financial support from the City of Prague budget in recent years as part of the grant procedure "Programs of support for activities of integration of foreign nationals in the territory of the City of Prague".

<sup>27</sup> These grants are not specifically intended for the integration of migrants but may also be requested by organizations whose target group is migrants.

- if necessary, ensure support on the part of the City of Prague for the ICP in the form of a non-interest-bearing loan to cover the bridging period before the ICP receives the final payment of the project supported by EU funds (e.g. AMIF).

### 1.3. Project financing

#### Measures:

- continue to focus on implementing its own projects in the field of migrant integration and at the same time provide funding for their implementation (**PCH**);
- within its own activities, will continue to support projects based on mutual cooperation between individual actors, work on integration of migrants, ethnic minorities, respect for human rights and intercultural education (**PCH, ICP, RAP, educational institutions, NGOs, MD**).

### 1.4. Financing at the local level

#### Measures:

- to cooperate with the municipal districts in the preparation of their own projects focusing on the integration of migrants (**PCH, MD, Advisory Platform of Representatives of municipal districts and PCH for the integration of foreign nationals, ICP**);
- to support the municipal district project by means of a special subsidy (outside the framework of the grant procedure) if the current situation in the given municipal district requires an immediate solution (**PCH, MD**);
- continue to ensure the possibility of submitting a grant application under the grant procedure for the integration of foreign nationals in the municipal district – "Programs to support the integration of migrants in the City of Prague" (**PCH, Advisory Platform of Representatives of municipal districts and PCH for the integration of foreign nationals, ICP**).



## 2. Priority: Awareness

Awareness is the key factor not only in the process of adapting migrants (i.e. citizens of the EU and third countries) to the new environment, but also in adapting the majority society and public and private organizations to the increasing number of migrants living in Prague, which is naturally the most attractive city for foreign nationals arriving in the Czech Republic. The correctness, availability and sharing of up-to-date information on the integration of foreign nationals are key factors in raising awareness among all relevant migrant integration actors, both migrants themselves, as well as the majority society, non-profit, public and commercial sectors. Necessary to meet this priority is also the networking of key stakeholders at the local and international level (advisory platforms, community planning, conferences, international networks) to share and disseminate relevant information among all participants in the integration process.

### 2.1 Awareness of the majority society

In connection with the creation of friendly coexistence between the majority society and the community of foreign nationals it is necessary to support integration and awareness-raising activities among the majority society in order to inform them about migrants living here and about the meaning and objectives of integration policy. It is also important to present migrant cultures and to inform the public about the economic and social benefits of migration in the current globalized world in order to reduce the risk of xenophobic, racist and stereotyped thinking and behaviour by members of the majority society. Migration and integration are a sensitive issue and it is therefore desirable to inform the public about this issue in general and about the meaning and objectives of integration policy. The objective is to give an objective picture of the situation of migrants living here and to support their positive and non-stereotypical perception by the majority society. As a means to inform the Czech public already existing means of communication supplemented by the information web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) and other one-off or systematic PR and information activities of institutional actors of integration aimed at the general public will be used. Support should be given to the implementation of information and media events targeted at the public, including via video clips for online channels and television, audio clips for radio broadcasts or public spaces where migrant groups living here would be represented, presenting the **objective** aspects of migration and integration and integration policy objectives.

#### Proposed measures:

- raising public awareness via the web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) (PCH);
- use of other available means of communication suitable for informing the majority society about the life and integration of migrants living in Prague (**PCH, ICP, RAP, NGO, MD**);
- support for the implementation of awareness raising events, including information and media events for the public (**ICP, NGO, MD, PCH, RAP**).

### 2.2. Awareness of migrants

Based on experience from RAP and APR MD it is necessary to increase the awareness of migrants about their rights and responsibilities, the general orientation in society, including the functioning of the City of Prague, municipal districts, NGOs, state administration bodies and other institutions. It is also necessary to provide information about the possibilities of using the services provided by these institutions to migrants (counselling, language courses and socio-cultural orientation, interpreting and intercultural work, etc.). The aim is to make foreign nationals more independent, to eliminate crisis situations resulting from ignorance and thereby simplify the integration process.

Informing migrants about issues related to residence, education, health, employment, leisure time and

current events in Prague is key to their integration, with the Prague web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) and the Prager mobile application playing essential roles. In addition, updates, press and other distribution of the guide for migrants "At Home in Prague" will be provided. Information on migrants will continue to be provided through field work and the distribution of information materials through other communication channels.

#### Key communication tools:

- information web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz);
- Prager mobile application;
- leaflets, websites and printed periodicals (including migrant), publications PCH, MD, NGO, ICP;
- field work and other activities by the ICP and other NGOs;
- bulletins/town hall newspapers MD;
- boards placed in PCH and MD offices, Foreign Police, DAMP MI and other public institutions;
- cultural, community and other events;
- promotion of NGOs and ICP services in means of transport;
- media (television, radio, social networks, YouTube) with an emphasis on shows related to migration/integration.

Awareness of practical aspects of life in Prague should also be connected with the information on the possibilities of foreign nationals' involvement in public life through civic or political participation<sup>28</sup>.

#### Proposed measures:

- regular update and printing of the guide for migrants about the City of Prague "At Home in Prague" (**PCH, ICP**);
- informing migrants through the web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) and the Prager application (**PCH, ICP, NGO, MD**);
- informing migrant associations on the possibilities of engaging in grant procedures by the Prague City Hall, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, municipal districts and other subjects financing activities focused on the integration of migrants (**PCH, ICP, NGO including migrant associations, MD**);
- support for information, PR, and community events to increase the awareness of migrants about the various aspects of their integration into society (**PCH, ICP, NGO, MD, RAP**);
- informing migrants about the practical aspects of their lives in the Czech Republic and in Prague and on the possibilities of their further participation in public events, e.g. through information materials and publishing activities (**PCH, ICP, NGO, MD**);
- support and use of fieldwork as an effective tool for targeted information for migrants (**PCH, ICP, NGO, MD**).

### 2.3. Information web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) and other distribution of informational material

The Prague information web portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) has a key role to play in fulfilling the priority of information, which serves as a source of information for foreign nationals as well as professionals and the public. A database of institutional actors on the integration of foreign nationals from the public and non-profit sectors will be available on the web, as well as other information and up-to-date data and documents serving to share experiences of integration of foreign nationals as well as to provide information about current developments in the integration of foreign nationals in Prague. The information on the website must be kept up-to-date in cooperation with specialists in the integration of foreign

<sup>28</sup> A survey carried out as part of a study on civic and political participation has shown that there is an interest in civic and political participation among foreign nationals and it is worthwhile to support it. For more see Redlová, P. (ed.), 2012, *Veřejná a politická participace cizinců*, Prague

nationals at the Prague City Hall and other organizations and groups involved in integration. The site itself will be further developed systematically to meet the objectives of current information for all target groups of migrant integration. In addition to the [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) web portal, other thematically targeted and Prague-wide distribution of printed and digital materials and updates of these materials will be supported.

**Proposed measures:**

- continuous financial and technical support of the information portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) in Czech and in various language versions (English, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese) (**PCH**);
- development of the [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) web portal in terms of the structure of information and technical development as needed to increase the awareness of the target groups, including the majority society (**PCH**);
- regular updating of the information published on the [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz) web portal, provided by experts on the given topics from all relevant areas of integration of foreign nationals, in individual language versions – implementation in cooperation with a specialist on the integration of foreign nationals at the Prague City Hall; emphasis will be placed on the correctness of the information both in terms of language and content (**PCH, ICP, RAP, MD, NGO, foreign nationals**);
- provision of thematically targeted and Prague-wide distribution of both printed and digital materials (**PCH, ICP, NGO, MD, RAP**).

## 2.4. Local collaboration and awareness of institutional actors in integration

By increasing the awareness of civil servants, local government, health and education facilities, as well as elected representatives on migration, integration and intercultural communication, communication between public administration and migrants will be streamlined so as to reduce the risk of misunderstandings arising from cultural differences and facilitating mutual understanding for the specific needs of migrants. The condition for increasing the awareness of the public administration and other experts about the needs and situation of the migrants themselves is the gathering of information through field work, implementation and active participation in research activities focused on the integration of migrants and support of other means of collecting data on migrants living in Prague.

A key role in sharing information between migrant integration actors at the city level (PCH, MD and the institutions which they administer, NGOs, migrants organizations and associations) as well as other activities aimed at networking and coordination of these actors, e.g. through roundtables, conferences, etc. The information portal [www.prahametropolevsech.cz](http://www.prahametropolevsech.cz), where updated information materials and other important information and data will be collected on individual areas of integration of migrants, is crucial for the better coordination of all subjects involved in the integration of migrants in Prague. It is also necessary to inform public institutions about the ways in which migrants are involved and the benefits that these institutions and migrants themselves bring about. In order to facilitate mutual sharing of information and interconnection between local actors in the public, non-profit and commercial sectors, there is a need to continue to support the regular organization of advisory platforms (RAP, APR MD, Platform of representatives of education departments of municipal districts) and other activities to facilitate communication and coordination of migrant integration actors and will also support their active involvement in the integration process. Support for the dissemination of information between the various stakeholders involved must be a priority of a long-term nature, the information circuits and the means of transmission of information must be constantly updated.

The Committee of the Prague City Assembly, which will continue to meet at least five times a year, has an irreplaceable role as regards reflecting upon and further development of integration policy in the field of integration of foreign nationals and informing the institutional actors in Prague.

**Proposed measures:**

- regular meetings of the Committee of the Prague City Assembly for the integration of foreign nationals (at least 5x per year) **(PCH)**;
- support the regular and long-term implementation of advisory platforms (RAP a APR MD) to ensure the interconnection and coordination among actors involved in the integration of migrants at the local level **(PCH, ICP, NGO, MD)**;
- supporting the implementation of other activities to inform migrants in the form of conferences, roundtables, workshops and active involvement and cooperation in the context of research activities carried out by NGOs, research institutions or international organizations **(PCH, ICP, MD)**.

## 2.5. International cooperation in the area of migrant integration

For the City of Prague as a European metropolis with its own strategy for the integration of migrants defined by this policy, it is important to provide space for sharing international experience in the integration of migrants and to use this knowledge to include further updates integrating foreign nationals. It is therefore desirable to implement an international conference in Prague on the integration of migrants repeatedly at regular intervals (every 2–3 years). The City of Prague will also actively seek participation in international programs and projects aimed at sharing information and experience on the integration of migrants (e.g. Eurocities, Intercultural Cities Programme). With its past experience and strategies of migrant integration embodied in this updated policy, as part of international cooperation Prague can be an example for other European cities that do not have such experience with this agenda. Within the proposed measures, an English translation of the text of the updated policy has also been prepared as an effective tool for the transfer of know-how to other international partners.

**Proposed measures:**

- the regular holding of an international conference on migrant integration to exchange experience between national and international actors in this field at regular intervals – at least once every 2–3 years **(PCH, ICP, NGO, MD)**;
- establish and maintain active cooperation (e.g. by organizing various meetings in the form of workshops, roundtables) with other European cities and involving the City of Prague in the international program/project in order to further develop the integration policy of migrants at the level of the City of Prague **(PCH, MD, ICP, NGO)**;
- translation of the updated Migrant Integration Policy of the City of Prague into English **(PCH)**.

### 3. Priority: Access of migrants to social and follow-up services

One of the basic principles for the successful integration of migrants into mainstream society and, at the same time, an important aspect for a full life, is equal access to social and follow-up services. The City of Prague has an extensive network of social and follow-up services, so it is necessary to support the availability of these services for this target group as well.

Among the most numerous groups of recipients of social and follow-up services are seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, but also people who for various reasons live on the margins of society. For this reason, it is also important not to forget about the most vulnerable people among migrant groups.

The City of Prague has incorporated the issue of the availability of social and follow-up services for migrants in the strategic document Medium-term Plan for the Development of Social Services in the City of Prague for the Period 2016–2018 (approved as Annex No. 1 to the Resolution of the Prague City Assembly No. 12/7 of 17 December 2015). In connection with the previous Migrant Integration Policy of the City of Prague "Prague for All" and the abovementioned document, the policy was successfully interconnected with this theme and the common goal must continue to be taken into account.

In connection with the anchoring in Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, this priority must be divided into a chapter on registered social services according to the abovementioned law and services which this law does not define and are designated as follow-up services.

#### 3.1. Social services

There are a number of social service providers in the City of Prague who focus directly on migrants as their main target group of users. However, most other providers of social services do not explicitly mention migrants in the supported target groups, although they may become users of such services for a different reason. In some cases, social service providers discriminate against migrant applications for service provision. This behaviour is usually caused by ignorance of the Social Services Act, which clearly states that migrants with permanent residence in the Czech Republic should have the same access to social services as citizens of the Czech Republic and EU/EEA. Social services and care allowances are provided under the conditions set out in Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services<sup>29</sup>:

- a person who has been declared a permanent resident of the Czech Republic;
- a person who has been granted asylum;
- a citizen and family member of a citizen of a Member State of the European Union;
- a foreign national holding a long-term residence permit for more than 3 months.

Selected types of social services (shelters, contact centres, dormitories, field programs) are also provided to persons legally residing in the Czech Republic. Any person is entitled to the free provision of basic social counselling on the possibilities of resolving an unfavourable social situation or its prevention. In many of the countries of origin of migrants, there is no network of social services as in the Czech Republic, or they assume a very different form. It is necessary, on the one hand, to inform migrants about the network of services that can help those from another socio-cultural environment not only to accelerate their integration in Czech society but also to improve the quality of life in the new environment.

On the other hand, it is necessary to ensure that the people providing these services are properly informed about the provision of social services to migrants, provided that their unfavourable social situation can be addressed through the service.

Nevertheless, ignorance of the law is not the only reason why migrant clients are rejected. Migrants often are prevented from entering the service by a language barrier. It should be noted, however, that these situations are becoming less frequent in light of the past activities of intercultural workers and community interpreters.

Changes in the settings of the social service system require specific data. Necessary information should

<sup>29</sup> Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services.

be provided by the analysis of the use of social services by migrants, following up on the first, general analysis of the status of migrants in Prague presented in autumn 2017.

There is an extensive network of social service providers in Prague that generally are able to cover the demand, but due to demographic development, in particular the expected aging of the population, including migrant populations, housing services will not be sufficient in the future.

**Proposed measures:**

- training of social workers and raising awareness about the target group of migrants (*PCH, ICP, NGO*);
- raising awareness of migrants about the network of social services provided in Prague (*ICP, NGO, PCH, MD*);
- monitoring the preparedness of contributory organizations on the part of Prague (or municipal districts) on the capacity of the target group of migrants for housing services (*PCH, MD*);
- mapping the use of social and follow-up services by migrants (*ICP, NGO, PCH, MD*);
- support for the availability of housing services (e.g. homes for the elderly, day care centres, asylum homes) (*PCH, MD*);
- increasing intercultural skills and knowledge of the residency legislation on the part of public administration officials dealing with social issues (*PCH, MD, NGO, ICP*).

### 3.2. Follow-up services

Follow-up services are aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants into Czech society, promoting coexistence and generally improving the social situation of migrants. However, they are not a social service under the Social Services Act and therefore are given a separate chapter.

These services help to break down language and socio-cultural barriers between the majority society and migrants and contribute to effective communication in the intercultural environment. The services include intercultural work, community interpreting and intercultural mediation and share similar starting points, objectives and situations. They help to eliminate the need for non-professional intermediary services for migrants (i.e. those outside the structure of authorities and NGOs) that migrants often use due to ignorance of the environment and that often can lead to their exploitation.

In particular, the implementation of follow-up services can be presented, for example, as accompaniment to and interpretation at, e.g. authorities, police, social and health facilities, educational institutions, etc. Workers can also translate materials/documents/forms that mediate communication between the majority society and migrants. They also provide assistance in conjunction with social workers, job counsellors and other professionals. Analyses of the position of migrants have shown that migrants are interested in these services.

In addition to these activities and services, however, it is necessary to remove the barriers between the majority society and migrants and to facilitate the integration of migrants at the basic level by preventing the creation of closed communities. The Prague policy aims here to establish communication with foreign nationals directly on the ground, community cooperation and, last but not least, housing policy. These areas of the policy are identified as key to preventing the emergence of closed communities of migrants.

**Proposed measures:**

- ensure the stable financing of follow-up services, e.g. by supporting the work of intercultural workers at the Integration Centre Prague (*PCH, MD, ICP*);
- professional assessment of the work of intercultural workers (*ICP, MD, PCH, NGO*);
- promote and implement follow-up services for use in public administration and other relevant institutions, such as interpreting at authorities, police, social and healthcare facilities, educational institutions, etc. (*PCH, MD, ICP, NGO*);
- prevent the emergence of closed communities of migrants (*MD, PCH*).

## 4. Priority: Education

Education is one of the basic prerequisites for successfully completing the integration process. In this respect, priority is attached to the national migrant integration policy. The education available to newcomers is a way to overcome the linguistic and cultural barriers between them and the majority society. By acquiring a common language and recognizing the cultural aspects of everyday life, social cohesion is strengthened, increasing the potential for employment and equal opportunities. A policy of educational services that reflects the educational needs of migrants is also a means for migrants to achieve economic stability.

From a legislative point of view, the right to education is embedded in transnational and international documents<sup>30</sup> and the area of migrant education is regulated in more detail by national legislation<sup>31</sup>. Migrants are also affected by the amendment to Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (Education Act), which introduces compulsory attendance in the last year of kindergarten (for children ages 5–6 years, i.e. prior to commencing primary school). Preschool education is compulsory and free of charge from September 2017.

The educational needs of adult migrants and the educational needs of migrant children and pupils need to be addressed in a specific way. While education for children and pupils can be derived from and based on the legislative standards that regulate this area, adult education is an area where there is insufficient systemic support. This applies not only to language training, but also to training for employment (e.g. minimum retraining courses for migrants).

To successfully meet the education priority it is important to connect key actors at all levels (PCH, municipal districts, schools and educational institutions, migrants of various age categories), including communication with state administration institutions (e.g. MEYS, NÚV, NIFE, etc.). There are also various sources of funding in education. Schools and organizations conducting educational activities for migrant children and pupils or pedagogical staff can use state subsidy programs (e.g. municipal projects to support the integration of migrants at the local level – Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic) as well as funds from grants of the City of Prague for the integration of migrants.

An important support for mediating communication between the families of migrant children and pupils and the schools they attend is community interpreters and intercultural workers. They help to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers and facilitate mutual understanding in difficult communication situations (for more information, see Chapter 2.2 Follow-up services).

Integration measures to support the education of migrants reflect specific educational needs given by the age of migrants, and also include the support of educators, as educating people from a linguistically different environment requires specific skills. In the case of adult migrants, the aim for the next period is to support the gradual development of a Czech education system that reflects the educational needs of migrants and ensures the availability of basic and advanced level language courses as well as professional language courses. Within the policy, the measures are formulated into three chapters: education of migrant children, adult migrant education, and increasing the intercultural and professional competencies of pedagogical staff.

### 4.1. Educating the children of migrants

<sup>30</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26), the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Article 33), the Convention on the Status of Refugees (Article 22), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Article 5).

<sup>31</sup> Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (Education Act) (Section 20, Section 108), Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum (Section 70), Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No. 48/2005 Coll., on basic education and some requirements for the fulfilment of compulsory schooling, which regulates education in classes for language preparation, Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No. 348/2008 Coll., on teaching and examining knowledge of Czech language for the purpose of obtaining a permit for permanent residence in the Czech Republic, Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No. 27/2016 Coll., on the education of pupils with special educational needs and gifted pupils, Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment (retraining courses).

If a migrant child/pupil is residing in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days, he/she is subject to compulsory school attendance. Based on the amendment to the Education Act, compulsory pre-primary education is introduced with effect from September 2017<sup>32</sup>, in which the group of migrant children is also included.

As with adult migrants, ensuring the educational needs of migrant children is a prerequisite for easier integration into Czech society and, above all, their future ability to find a job and a place in society. The support for the implementation of Czech language courses for children, pupils and students with a different mother tongue outlined in this policy is also in line with the Regional Action Plan for Education in the City of Prague<sup>33</sup>.

### **Education of pre-school children of migrants**

Irrespective of the introduction of compulsory pre-school education, migrant children are already regularly attending kindergartens. Kindergartens often encounter problems with the integration of migrant children into education, addressing in particular the language barrier in communicating with children, but often also communicating with parents. The operation of normal kindergartens, however, makes it possible for a large population of children to use the services. These facilities are required to comply with the Framework Educational Program for Preschool Education, have qualified staff and are affordable for families with average earnings. Assuming the further education of pedagogical staff and finding resources for the involvement of migrant children and adapting pedagogical work in certain respects to their specific educational needs, a regular kindergarten can be considered as an integration tool with great potential.

### **Education of migrant pupils**

An estimated 7,700<sup>34</sup> migrant pupils are currently being educated at primary schools in Prague. In recent years, the education of pupils with a different mother tongue has become an issue with which most schools have gained some experience. Educating pupils with a different mother tongue is gradually becoming a common reality that schools are contending with to varying degrees of success.

As mentioned above, migrant pupils are subject to compulsory schooling. Asylum seekers and people with supplementary protection are eligible for language training under the State Integration Program. In order to work with pupils from so-called third countries, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports sets grant programs. Primary schools often lack funds, material and staff to teach migrant pupils. Many schools are not prepared to teach newcomers without knowledge of the Czech language and only begin to address the problem when the pupil enrolls. These pupils do not have any language training before entering the primary school, and the language barrier is strongly reflected in how they adapt to the new environment. For migrant pupils, this is a significant obstacle to learning, which is reflected in the education process, and often also makes communication with their parents difficult.

Major problem areas include the evaluation of these pupils, the effective teaching of Czech as a second language, the use of balancing measures (balancing/individual plans, support of the teacher's assistant, teaching materials, etc.), working with the climate of the class, etc.

In this area, it is advisable to encourage greater awareness about available grant programs and to encourage schools to develop skills to work with migrant pupils. In addition to supporting the further education of teachers in this field, it is also important to support schools in cooperation with other institutions and organizations.

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<sup>32</sup> Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (Education Act) (Section 34a (1)).

<sup>33</sup> Regional Action Plan for Education in the City of Prague – project registration number: CZ.02.3.68/0.0/0.0/15\_002/0000289. (see sub-goal 6.3.: "Improve the availability of courses of teaching Czech as a foreign language for children, pupils and students with a different mother tongue according to the needs of the region, and also to implement them.").

<sup>34</sup> Number of foreign pupils according to statistical data contained in the initial reports of primary schools as at 31 March 2017.



### Education of migrant secondary school pupils and students

The education of migrants after the completion of compulsory schooling is not regulated by a special regulation. The branches of secondary education and higher education institutions are open to all migrants legally residing in the Czech Republic without exception based on the results of the admission procedure. Substantial change may lead to the introduction of uniform admission tests in the coming years.

Those interested in enrolling in secondary education are expected to have knowledge of the Czech language. The teaching of Czech as a second language does not receive special attention in secondary schools. Problems arise when a migrant pupil does not properly learn the Czech language at primary school or is a newly arrived pupil who has no command of the Czech language at all. This migrant then has little chance of successfully completing secondary school education and thus continuing to study at university. In many cases, secondary education also requires knowledge of Czech terminology related to a specific field of study (i.e. the focus of the school), which common language courses do not cover.

Language education for young people at secondary and higher education institutions is only guaranteed for asylum seekers and persons enjoying complementary protection under the State Integration Program. Other migrants in this age group basically lack any support.

#### Proposed measures:

- support pre-school children with the aim of reducing the language barrier before entering primary school and increasing adaptation to the Czech school environment as well as the system of teaching (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- promote intensive language preparation of migrant children at primary schools (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- support the language training of migrant pupils during transition / entry into secondary school and during secondary school studies (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- regular transmission of information especially for migrant children and pupils and their parents, schools and educational facilities, founders and NGOs (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- use existing tools to promote communication between schools, parents and children and pupils migrants (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- provide free tutoring in the Czech language and other subjects during the school year as well as holidays according to the needs of children and pupils of migrants (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- methodological support for the establishers of schools and educational facilities, their vocational training and guidance to ensure better quality education of migrant pupils (**PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities**);
- provide free preparation for the integration of migrant pupils into primary education (**PCH, schools and educational facilities**);
- continuous acquisition of up-to-date data on the status of migrant education at Prague schools (**PCH, teaching and educational facilities, MD, NIFE, NUV, platform of representatives of municipal district school unions**);
- coordinate the education agenda of pupils with a different mother tongue at the level of the Department of Education and Youth of the Prague City Hall (**PCH**).

## 4.2. Educating adult migrants

Adult migrant education is a very important component in their integration into Czech society, and both the national policy and this Prague policy respond to the need for high-quality, local and accessible education for migrants living in Prague.

Adult migrant education is provided mainly by NGOs and Migrant Integration Support Centres, i.e. ICPs, offering courses in Czech language, socio-cultural orientation and vocational training. However, these courses often do not run continuously and are dependent on subsidies from the state budget or European

funding.

Migrants also lack a range of advanced courses in the Czech language and courses focusing on professional Czech language needed for work and other courses aimed at promoting friendly coexistence and the development of civil society.

The aim of the Prague policy is to support the emergence of an education system that uses the capacities and experience of the providers of language, professional or socio-cultural education and at the same time ensure the availability of these courses (in terms of location and time) and their continuity.

**Proposed measures:**

- support for local and accessible language training for migrants living in Prague (*PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities*);
- support for low-threshold education, socio-cultural orientation courses (*PCH, ICP, NGO, MD*);
- support for professional education and extending the range of retraining courses according to the needs of migrants in the context of the labour market (*PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities, LO*).

### 4.3. Increasing the intercultural and professional competencies of pedagogical staff

Teacher support is an indispensable pro-integration measure. Working with children, pupils and parents whose mother tongue is not Czech requires special skills and competencies whose acquisition and development should be supported in the long term.

Teachers fundamentally influence how young migrants will perceive Czech society. In the case of teachers who have insufficient knowledge of how to work with this group of children and pupils, it is not possible to expect a positive approach on the part of migrant pupils towards the majority society and a sense of acceptance and security. It is necessary to support educators in developing skills that will enable them to overcome the linguistic and cultural barriers that stand between them and migrant pupils. Pedagogical staff must be trained not only how to approach migrant pupils but also in fostering the development of a positive relationship between Czech pupils and their migrant classmates in order to create a friendly atmosphere within the school community. Promoting the personal development of teachers is an area where sufficient time and funds need to be invested.

As migrant children and pupils cannot study the Czech language in the same way as children and pupils whose mother tongue is Czech, it is necessary to constantly prepare for this specific activity. Another topic of education is the use of the principles of so-called inclusive education.

**Proposed measures:**

- support for pedagogical staff in the acquisition of competencies for teaching children and pupils of migrants and children and pupils with a different mother tongue – especially in the acquisition of competences in teaching Czech as a second language, in the principles of inclusive pedagogy, in the training of teachers' assistants and their use in working with migrant children and pupils (*PCH, MD, NGO, ICP, schools and educational facilities, other educational institutions*);
- encouraging the sharing of experiences and good practices at the local and international level (*PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, schools and educational facilities*);
- promoting the acquisition of skills in the planning and implementation of the process of integration of newly arrived migrant pupils (*PCH, MD, ICP, RAP, NGO, teaching and educational facilities*).

## 5. Priority: Coexistence of the majority society and migrants

Taking into account the current social climate in relation to the area of migration across the country and also taking into account the fact that the integration of migrants is predominantly at the local level, Prague currently considers maximum support for friendly coexistence among all the inhabitants of the city to be crucial. As the city with the highest concentration of migrants, Prague enjoys cultural diversity on the one hand, but on the other hand migrants create a new social situation which can sometimes cause fear or misunderstanding due to linguistic and cultural differences as well as prejudices within the local community. The experience of other European cities is best exemplified by such integration measures that facilitate participation and support for everyone in the community – both for migrants and for members of the majority society.

Especially from the point of view of migrants, integration should be intertwined with all the components of their lives and not just limited to language learning, searching for housing or finding a job. In addition, according to the principle of the two-way process of integration that governs this policy, migrants cannot only be expected to fulfil their obligations and respect local rules, but also need to be offered the same opportunities as other residents of the city to actively contribute to its development and its communities. In particular, this means active involvement on the part of migrants in creating and maintaining real interpersonal contacts through their own civic initiatives, social, cultural or sporting activities, but also through their participation in governance in their localities.

Integration cannot be achieved, however, without the active involvement of the majority society, both institutional and interpersonal. It is positively evaluated that non-profit organizations, sports clubs, youth organizations and cultural organizations in Prague regularly carry out various integration activities either directly for migrants or, together with their involvement, actively create an environment for mutual interactions with the majority population of the city. However, there are a number of instruments and methods that have not yet been used to further develop intercultural dialogue and diversity across Prague, especially as regards the mainstreaming of integration elements into the ordinary activities of the whole spectrum of public or private entities. The focus of the measures in this priority is therefore concentrated in an environment where everyone can naturally meet, such as libraries, museums, galleries or other cultural institutions, sports facilities, leisure centres, community centres, etc. In addition, the development of informal links between migrants and members of the majority society through volunteering, which by its very nature helps to facilitate the establishment of mutual contacts and the joint formation of local companies, is promoted.

Equally important is the promotion of awareness-raising about civil society among all inhabitants of Prague (without distinction) by local self-government as well as their involvement in public administration processes. In particular, sufficient awareness of the functioning of civil society, as well as creating opportunities for civic engagement, is a prerequisite for greater motivation of individuals to become active in local society. From the point of view of migrant integration, it is therefore particularly desirable to support their active involvement in public affairs, for example through their participation in various platforms, civic groups, public debates or other institutionally backed processes that have a potential impact on migrants' lives in Prague. The participation of migrants in local decision-making processes will thus strengthen the sharing of similar interests and values with other residents, such as good neighbourly relations, city safety, quality of the environment, clean streets, accessible parking, enough places for children in schools, etc.

Last but not least, it is desirable to develop the cultural openness of public institutions with jurisdiction in Prague. This means the introduction of special tools to strengthen the intercultural competencies of the staff of public institutions and to adopt positive attitudes towards cultural diversity. In the long run, this could be a targeted strategy of the City of Prague, as has happened recently in a number of other European cities.

Supporting interactions with the majority society is provably facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding, as it enhances migrants' self-esteem in a new environment and helps them to better understand local standards and values.

For the majority society, the feeling of natural coexistence increases, and it is easier to form a friendly

attitude towards diversity. Non-conflictual cohabitation undoubtedly promotes social cohesion and also acts as a means of prevention against xenophobia, radicalization, segregation or the social exclusion of certain groups of people, which are the challenges that the City of Prague must be properly prepared to face.

## 5.1. Support for intercultural dialogue in Prague

In order to ensure good relations between members of the majority society and foreign nationals, especially at the local level in Prague, there is a need to create opportunities for informal interactions. This is achievable primarily through cultural, social or sporting activities, or any intercultural, open and non-conflictual interaction at the community level. Non-profit organizations, sports clubs, youth and cultural organizations in Prague are already actively engaging migrants in their activities or organizing diverse, intercultural events with a focus on the general public. However, there are a number of untapped instruments or methods to further develop intercultural dialogue and diversity in these structures, especially as regards the mainstreaming of integration elements into the normal activities of these entities. Sport, for example, is a particularly suitable area for connecting the majority with foreign nationals, as it naturally creates a climate of cohesion, in which easier acceptance of the cultural diversity of Prague is fostered. It is desirable to bring migrants closer to home even outside the metropolis, and in particular to obtain information on these actions from available sources as well as in languages other than Czech. It is also important to prevent manifestations of xenophobic and extremist behaviour towards migrants in cooperation with relevant actors<sup>35</sup>.

### Proposed measures:

- support for natural integration (mainstreaming) of intercultural elements into public events **(PCH, MD, NGO, ICP)**;
- implementation of intercultural community actions at the level of urban areas to initiate familiarization of members of the majority society and migrants where they live, including the involvement of local schools **(PCH, MD, ICP, NGO, educational facilities)**;
- support for the intercultural openness of movement and sports clubs and events in Prague **(PCH, MD, NGO, DDM and other leisure time facilities in Prague)**;
- promotion of activities leading to prevention of xenophobic behaviour and extremist manifestations in society **(PCH, MD, ICP, NGO, PCR, Municipal Police)**.

## 5.2. Support for volunteering in relation to migrant integration

Volunteering is an activity carried out by active and responsible citizens who are interested in what is happening in the world around them and are engaged in activities of general interest regardless of direct financial benefit. By its very nature, volunteering helps to shape a tolerant and open society, which among other things respects the principles of sustainable development and cultural differences. From the point of view of integration in Prague, volunteering is also an easy way to involve all Prague residents without distinction, whether directly in integration activities aimed at supporting migrants or in any other form of interaction at the community level. Volunteering naturally contributes to the development of intercultural cooperation in the city based on the principles of equal access, mutual respect and understanding. It is important to promote both an accredited form of volunteering that has a clear policy and limitations, as well as informal volunteering based on engagement and interest, without the need for any formal structure.

In addition, it is necessary to consider mechanisms for mainstreaming the area of integration of migrants into established volunteer platforms or to raise awareness of the meaning and possibilities of volunteering in the field of migrant integration in the majority society. It is worth considering the

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<sup>35</sup> In accordance with the Crime Prevention Policy of the City of Prague for 2017–2021, p. 25.

development of a so-called "buddy system", as known from college campuses, and in educational facilities of all types, starting from the 2nd level of primary school.

**Proposed measures:**

- support and development of volunteering activities within non-profit organizations active in the field of migrant integration (*PCH, MD, NGO, ICP*);
- support for informal volunteer activities such as family and community centres, other public organizations, including youth organizations (*PCH, MD, NGO, ICP*);
- support for the volunteering activities of migrants and migrant associations directed towards the majority population of Prague (*PCH, MD, NGO, ICP, migrant associations*).

### 5.3. Support for intercultural openness of public institutions

In order to develop and maintain diversity in Prague and the preservation of social cohesion among all inhabitants of the city, this policy expresses support for the intercultural openness of public institutions, both for communication with migrants residing in the city and for the implementation of activities promoting the good coexistence of the majority society and migrants. First of all, it is about strengthening the competencies of employees of the Prague municipal districts, but also of other public institutions that come into frequent contact with migrants. The long-term goal is to create new specialized positions or extend the scope for some existing professions such as migrant integration coordinators, whereas these positions can be filled by migrants or people with migration experience. However, in the context of the recommendations of the analysis of the status of migrants in Prague, it is desirable to support the increase of the intercultural and linguistic competences of existing workers coming into contact with migrants.

Within the framework of the activities of cultural, educational and social institutions (theatres, schools, museums, cinemas, libraries, etc.), it is appropriate to strengthen their capacities or resources and tools for the creation and implementation of events of a community character aimed at intercultural encounters and mutual learning. The institutions themselves can perform in part the function of open intercultural or shared spaces for a wide spectrum of the Prague public. Since the police play a crucial role in the area of coexistence, the policy also envisages its involvement in the process of integration of migrants in Prague.

**Proposed measures:**

- strengthening the intercultural competencies of staff of public institutions and local authorities such as libraries, museums, theatres and other cultural institutions, municipal district offices, municipal police, health facilities, etc. (*PCH, MD, ICP, NGO*);
- increasing the linguistic competencies of the employees of the local authorities in the City of Prague, at least for English (*PCH, MD, public institutions*);
- support and develop the openness and accessibility of public institutions (libraries, cultural institutions, community centres, etc.) as interculturally shared spaces (*PCH, MD, ICP, NGO, public institutions*);
- mapping and creating practical tools (e.g. handbooks, information materials, etc.) for the staff of public institutions on intercultural competencies, intercultural dialogue, active involvement of migrants in political, social, cultural and sports life in Prague, as well as work with youth and migrant volunteer work (*PCH, MD, ICP, NGO, public institutions*);
- involvement of the municipal police in awareness-raising activities in the field of migrant integration, e.g. lectures in libraries focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, or the role of the police in the city (*MD, Municipal Police, NGO*);
- ensuring at least one member of the Committee of the Prague City Council for the integration of migrants with a knowledge of the integration of foreign nationals and at the same time support the participation of migrants in consultative bodies at the level of individual municipal districts (*PCH, MD*).

## Conclusion

The updated Policy of the City of Prague on Integration of Migrants follows up on the original policy approved by the City of Prague in 2014, which formulated the priorities of the Migration Integration Policy within Prague for 2014–2017. The update of this strategic document formulates the priorities and main measures of the integration policy for migrants in the City of Prague for the next period of 2018–2021. Some priorities of the initial policy (e.g. analysis of the position of migrants in Prague, international conferences on integration of migrants, setting up the system of financing integration activities in Prague) have already been successfully set up or implemented, remain part of the policy, but not as a separate priority area. The funding system is seen as an integral condition for the implementation of migrant integration policy, while other analytical activities in the area are developed within the individual priorities. This updated policy also sets out the direction in which individual priorities and follow-up measures are to be taken in response to the measures already implemented and to the emerging needs in the field of migrant integration.

Every year, the effectiveness of the Prague policy in the so-called Report on the Implementation of the Policy of the City of Prague will be evaluated in the field of integration of migrants, mainly on the basis of a reflection on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Prague Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals, which is newly formulated for the two-year period 2018–2019 and which sets out a comprehensive set of measures to meet the priorities of the policy for the given calendar years. An update of the Action Plan for the next period 2020–2021 will be prepared in 2019.

In the course of 2020, preparations will be made for a further update of the Prague policy for the integration of foreign nationals, which should be effective as of 1 January 2022. All the actors involved in the integration of migrants, including the migrants themselves and, of course, experts from the public and non-profit sectors will again be involved. As stated in the introduction, the policy and the action plan will be reworded if necessary (e.g. in response to new legislation in the area of Czech integration policy or depending on the occurrence of unexpected crisis situations) so that these strategic documents respond adequately to the new situation.

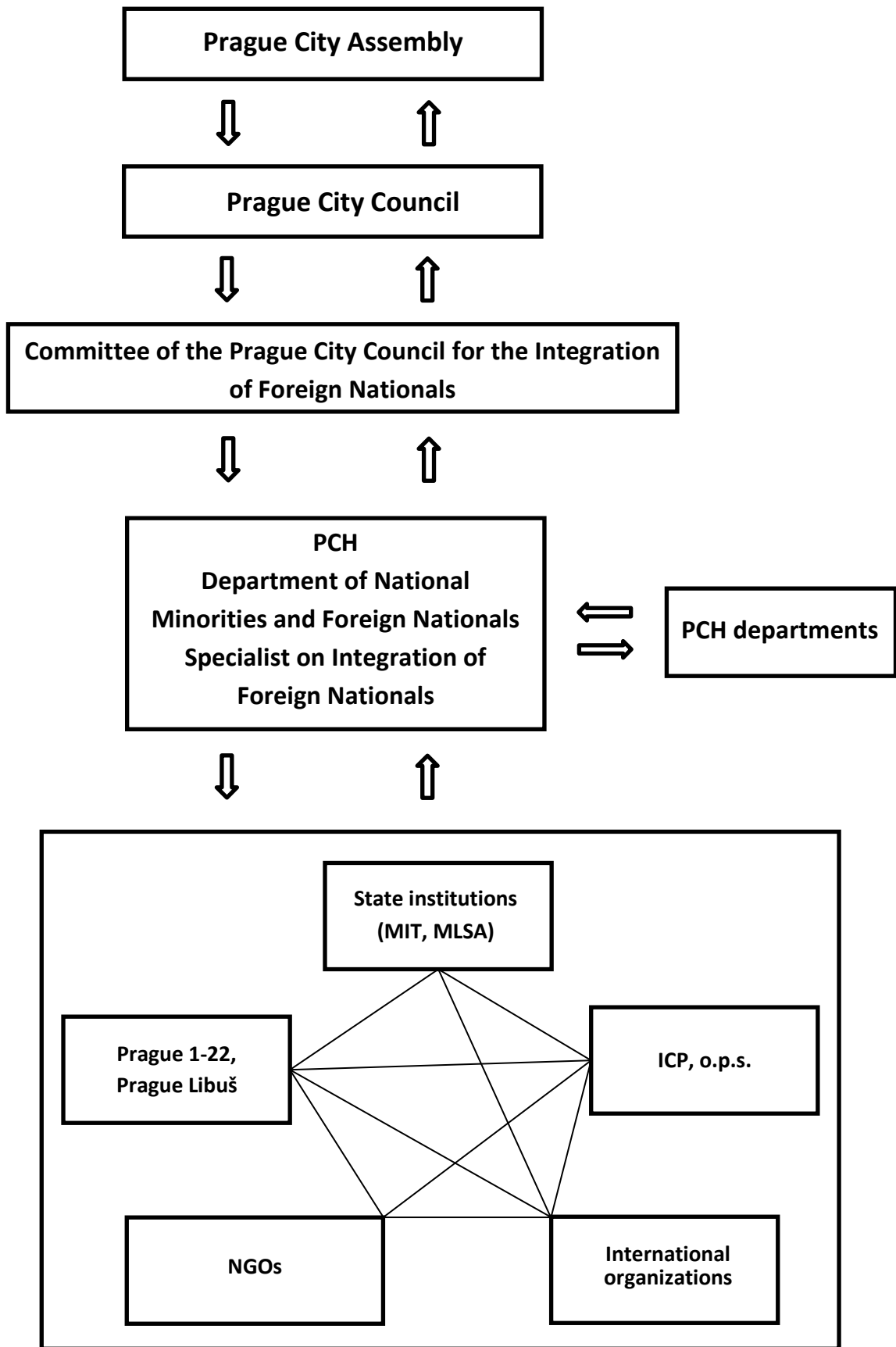
The Policy of the City of Prague for the Integration of Foreign Nationals remains a living document responding to the needs of all actors in the integration process. The primary objective of this strategic document is still to ensure that all Prague residents live together and happily in the capital city of the Czech Republic, and that Prague is a culturally open European city that is truly a "city for all".

## Annexes

### Annex No. 1: Overview of organizations and institutions working together to update the Prague policy

Name of organization/institution
Prague City Hall
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
General Directorate of the Czech Labour Office
Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v.v.i.
Research Institute of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, u.v.j.
Fond dalšího vzdělávání, p.o.
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 2
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 3
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 4
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 7
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 9
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 12
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 13
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 14
Office of the Municipal District of Prague 17
Office of the Municipal District of Prague Libuš
Primary School, Prague 4, Jižní IV. 1750/10
Integration Centre Prague, o.p.s.
META, o.p.s. – Association for Opportunities of Young Migrants
Slovo 21, z.s.
Youth Included, z.s.
Sdružení pro integraci a migraci, o.p.s. (Association for Integration and Migration)
Asociace pro interkulturní práci, z.s. (Association for Intercultural Work)
InBáze, z.s.
Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, z. s. (Organization for Assistance to Refugees)
Center for Integration of Foreign nationals o.p.s.
Charita České republiky (Caritas Czech Republic)
Konsorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty v ČR, z.s. (Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants in the Czech Republic)
Nová škola, o.p.s.
Viet Up
Poradna pro integraci, z.ú.
Multikulturní centrum Praha, z.s.
People in Need
INFO-DRÁČEK, z.s.
Iraqi Forum in the Czech Republic

Annex No. 2: Cooperation scheme of the City of Prague with other actors in the integration of migrants





**Annex No. 3: Overview of financial support from the budget of the City of Prague in recent years as part of the grant procedure "Programs to support the integration of migrants in the City of Prague" and overview of financing of the operation of the Integration Centre Prague o.p.s. by the City of Prague in 2012 – 2017**

**Overview of financial support from the budget of the City of Prague in recent years as part of the grant procedure "Programs to support the integration of migrants in the City of Prague":**

Year	Program No. 1 approved amount (amount drawn)	Program No. 2 approved amount (amount drawn)	Total approved (total drawn)
2013	560 000 (525 000)	60 000 (60 000)	620 000 (585 000)
2014	608 000 (573 000)	90 000 (90 000)	698 000 (663 000)
2015	840 000 (805 000)	20 000 (20 000)	860 000 (825 000)
2016	2 015 000 (1 950 000)	20 000 (20 000)	2 035 000 (1 970 000)
2017	2 660 000 (2 660 000)	200 000 (200 000)	2 860 000 (2 860 000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 683 000 (6 513 000)</b>	<b>390 000 (390 000)</b>	<b>7 073 000 (6 903 000)</b>

**Overview of financing of the operation of the Integration Centre Prague o.p.s. by the City of Prague in 2012 – 2017<sup>36</sup>:**

Year	Purpose of financial support	Allocated financial support	Actually drawn financing support <sup>37</sup>
2012	Provision of grant to co-finance the "Integration Centre Prague I" project supported as part of the EIF.	2 904 058	2 904 058
2013	Provision of grant to co-finance the "Integration Centre Prague II" project supported as part of the EIF.	3 749 603	3 749 603
2014	Provision of grant to co-finance the "Integration Centre Prague IV" project supported as part of the EIF.	4 076 159	4 076 159
	Provision of a gift to cover costs that are not eligible under the EIF and other subsidy titles.	1 032 790	1 032 790
2015	Provision of grant to co-finance the "Integration Centre Prague IV" project supported as part of the EIF.	613 982	593 768
	Provision of gifts for the basic operation and activities of ICP o.p.s. for July and August 2015, before the AMIF program is launched.	1 754 760	240 045
	Provision of a planned one-year gift (2015-2016).	1 032 790	1 032 790
2016	Provision of gifts – operating costs not deductible within AMIF.	1 441 010	1 441 010
	Provision of gifts – operating costs not deductible within AMIF.	558 000	558 000
	Financial gift to ensure the operation of the Integration Centre Prague o.p.s. – costs not deductible within AMIF	1 386 000	1 386 000
	Co-financing of the Prague for All project (information campaign).	334 576	334 576
	Operating costs – one-year gift.	1 001 160	1 001 160
	Operating costs – multi-year gift.	2 331 468	86 000
2017	Grants for the provision of intercultural work to clients in Prague.	999 950	999 950
	Provision of grant for basic operations – operating costs not deductible within AMIF.	3 880 880	995 000
	Co-financing of the Prague for All II project. Also support on the part of the MI.	434 325	434 325
	Co-financing of the <i>Společně čelíme výzvám</i> (Facing Challenges Together) project. Also support on the part of the Czech-German Future Fund.	88 050	88 050
<b>Total</b>		<b>27 619 561</b>	<b>20 953 284</b>

<sup>36</sup> The registered capital of the Integration Centre Prague, o.p.s. upon its establishment by the City of Prague is CZK 1,500,000.

<sup>37</sup> Valid as at 30 November 2017.

**Annex No. 4: Overview of the amount of subsidies to the municipal districts of Prague from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic within the framework of the grant title "Projects of municipalities to support the integration of foreign nationals at the local level".**

**Municipal district projects for the integration of migrants 2015:**

Applicant	Ministry of the Interior subsidy	Applicant's contribution	Total amount
Prague 3	785 645 CZK	157 500 CZK	943 145 CZK
Prague 4	292 500 CZK	32 500 CZK	325 000 CZK
Prague 7	76 581 CZK	8 509 CZK	85 090 CZK
Prague 9	250 000 CZK	505 000 CZK	755 000 CZK
Prague 12	747 720 CZK	110 080 CZK	857 800 CZK
Prague 13	1 232 300 CZK	141 500 CZK	1 373 800 CZK
Prague 14	846 855 CZK	94 095 CZK	940 950 CZK
Prague-Libuš	2 286 000 CZK	254 000 CZK	2 540 000 CZK
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 517 601 CZK</b>	<b>1 303 184 CZK</b>	<b>7 820 785 CZK</b>

**Municipal district projects for the integration of migrants 2016:**

Applicant	Ministry of the Interior subsidy	Applicant's contribution	Total amount
Prague 10	268 200 CZK	29 800 CZK	298 000 CZK
Prague 11	775 417 CZK	86 158 CZK	861 575 CZK
Prague 12	2 496 285 CZK	277 365 CZK	2 773 650 CZK
Prague 13	1 094 100 CZK	142 000 CZK	1 236 100 CZK
Prague 14	931 500 CZK	103 500 CZK	1 035 000 CZK
Prague 17	225 000 CZK	25 020 CZK	250 020 CZK
Prague 3	655 625 CZK	208 451 CZK	864 076 CZK
Prague 4	442 800 CZK	49 200 CZK	492 000 CZK
Prague 5	562 725 CZK	62 525 CZK	625 250 CZK
Prague 7	524 790 CZK	58 310 CZK	583 100 CZK
Prague 9	250 000 CZK	550 000 CZK	800 000 CZK
Prague-Libuš	3 338 721 CZK	370 969 CZK	3 709 690 CZK
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 565 163 CZK</b>	<b>1 963 298 CZK</b>	<b>13 528 461 CZK</b>

**Municipal district projects for the integration of migrants 2017:**

Applicant	Ministry of the Interior subsidy	Applicant's contribution	Total amount
Prague 11	986 458 CZK	109 606 CZK	1 096 064 CZK
Prague 12	1 896 615 CZK	210 735 CZK	2 107 350 CZK
Prague 13	1 046 600 CZK	150 000 CZK	1 196 600 CZK
Prague 14	1 035 000 CZK	115 000 CZK	1 150 000 CZK
Prague 17	224 125 CZK	26 625 CZK	250 750 CZK
Prague 3	853 820 CZK	247 451 CZK	1 101 271 CZK
Prague 4	1 122 327 CZK	124 704 CZK	1 247 031 CZK
Prague 5	665 775 CZK	84 715 CZK	750 490 CZK
Prague 7	762 597 CZK	84 733 CZK	847 330 CZK

Prague 9	250 000 CZK	600 000 CZK	850 000 CZK
Prague-Libuš	2 871 000 CZK	319 000 CZK	3 190 000 CZK
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 714 317 CZK</b>	<b>2 072 569 CZK</b>	<b>13 786 886 CZK</b>

*Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic*

## **Annex No. 5: Summary of integration activities implemented by municipal districts in the City of Prague within the framework of municipal projects for 2017**

### **Prague 3 – Integration of migrants 2017**

The project includes courses in Czech language and Czech culture for foreign nationals (low-threshold, closed, writing courses), cultural and social events for families with children from among migrants and the majority society, support for kindergartens and primary schools, support for the integration of migrant children within the Šnečci Domu Centre for Preschool Children in Prague 3 – Ulita, local information campaign, courses of socio-cultural orientation and the organization of a national conference of statutory towns on municipal projects.

### **Prague 4 – We live in Prague 4 together 2017**

Within the framework of the project holiday courses for children and Czech-language courses for adult foreign nationals will be implemented, as well as tutoring of Czech children at kindergartens and primary schools, school events focused on introducing Czech culture and migrant cultures, teacher education, integration workshops at schools, translation of documents for the trade licence department of the Municipal Office for Prague 4 and for schools established by the Municipal District of Prague 4, and the Kaleidoscope multicultural festival in order to facilitate communication between foreign nationals and the abovementioned institutions.

### **Prague 5 – Supporting educational activities for the integration of migrants in Prague 5 in 2017**

The objectives of the project include support for children, pupils and teachers (tutoring of children at kindergartens and primary schools, holiday courses in Czech, workshops at the kindergarten, education of teachers) and activities for children and parents.

### **Prague 7 – Supporting the integration of migrants in Prague 7 in 2017**

The project consists of five partial subprojects: regular Czech language teaching at primary and secondary schools during the school year, intensive two-week courses for Czech children before the start of the new school year, publication of the foreign section of *HOBULET* magazine, the We Live Here Together project (Czech language courses and socio-cultural orientation for foreign nationals) and the provision of a fieldworker from the Municipal District Office for the Vietnamese community.

### **Prague 9 – Colourful Prague 9 2017**

The multicultural festival Colourful Nine (B9) in Podviní Park in Vysočany will be supported in the form of a subsidy. This is the 13th year. The festival features around 35 ethnic minorities through traditional music, dance, fine arts, workshops and food tastings. The festival is an opportunity for minorities to meet and introduce their culture to the majority society. B9 provides space for self-presentation by national minorities, migrants and individual collective identities.

### **Prague 11 – Integration of migrants in Prague 11**

The project consists of three sub-projects focusing on the teaching of Czech for children in kindergartens and primary schools; the "Give Me a Hand" project, which includes various out-of-school activities for children (such as a suburban camp, integration theatre or architectural walks and stops); and a free-time ring for kids called "Foreigners are friends".

### **Prague 12 – Support for the integration of migrants in Prague 12 – 2017**

The project will ensure the language education of children and pupils of migrants in primary and secondary schools established by the Municipal District of Prague 12, individual support of children and their extracurricular activities (weekend and holiday excursions, group meetings, etc.), training and methodological support of teachers for the organization of Czech language classes, a project called "*Modřanská charta*" will be implemented to promote mutual coexistence and knowledge of children's rights from the point of view of migrants and the ZE MĚ MY festival, Czech language courses will be organized for adult foreign nationals, the website of the Office will be updated and interpretation will be supported.

### **Prague 13 – Common address – Prague 13**

The project includes 13 sub-activities that are directly aimed at the target group of migrants from third countries and citizens of Prague 13 in general. The structure of the project is made up of four priorities: education, awareness, leisure and regional cooperation. The "Education" priority builds on cooperation with a number of kindergartens and primary schools, where language preparation of migrant pupils and tutoring (including holiday courses in Czech at primary schools, etc.) takes place. There are workshops in several kindergartens. Teachers from these schools are also educated. Adult migrants are offered low-threshold courses in Czech and socio-cultural orientation courses. The "leisure time" of Prague 13 migrants and citizens is supported by the activities of DDM Stodůlka and the Rozmanitý svět leisure club. A cultural and community event entitled "We are not strangers..." will be implemented. Informational leaflets are published in various language versions and the website of Prague 13 is updated. "Regional cooperation" takes place through two meetings of the Working Group on Integration of Migrants in Prague 13.

### **Prague 14 – Integration of migrants in Prague 14 – 2017**

A number of primary schools, kindergartens and NGOs are directly involved in the project within a total of 13 sub-projects. The individual projects focus mainly on the support of Czech language and culture teaching for children and adult foreign nationals, multicultural education and activities to improve relations between migrants and the majority society, the provision of adequate leisure time, support of information and self-sufficiency of migrants in Czech society and removing integration barriers.

### **Prague 17 – Together in 17**

The project focuses mainly on raising mutual awareness with the help of intercultural workers, supporting regional cooperation, anti-prejudice workshops for children and courses on intercultural differences such as prevention of extremism and xenophobia, educating teachers, improving education and orientation in the new environment and engaging the inhabitants of Prague 17 without distinction of nationality into leisure time activities.

### **Prague-Libuš – Support for the integration of migrants in Prague-Libuš in 2017**

The project focuses mainly on the area of education (ensuring Czech language teaching through teacher assistants in primary schools and kindergartens, provision of interpreting services when acclimatizing migrant pupils at the beginning of the school year, logopedic therapy for children with a different mother tongue directly in kindergarten within the framework of teaching, offering a preparatory course for migrant children and children with a different mother tongue just before the beginning of the school year and a summer intensive course for children before joining the kindergarten, providing intensive Czech language teaching for children with a different mother tongue, which would allow children in primary schools to quickly catch up and start regular school even if they come to the Czech Republic at an older age), improving the coexistence between foreign nationals and the majority society through individuals and by teaching the Czech language to adults and preventing xenophobia in society and social exclusion of migrants.

## Annex No. 6: Overview of NGOs dealing with the integration of migrants in Prague

Name of organization	Year established	Description of main activities provided in Prague
<b>Centrum pro integraci cizinců, o.p.s. (CIC)</b> (Centre for the Integration of Foreign Nationals)	2003	CIC provides ambulatory and field professional social and work counselling, social rehabilitation services, educational programs and volunteering activities for long-term and permanent residents in the Czech Republic. In addition to information and assistance services, it offers mainly Czech for foreign nationals, mentoring and so-called open clubs, in which both Czechs and foreign nationals participate voluntarily at the local level. CIC operates primarily in Prague, Central Bohemia and the Liberec region. It focuses not only on helping migrants, but also on working with the Czech public.
<b>Poradna pro integraci, z.ú. (PPI) (Counselling Centre for Integration)</b>	1997	The objective of PPI is to help migrants integrate into ordinary life in Czech society, find housing, work or school; to live a happy life in the Czech Republic. PPI provides social and legal counselling, counselling on family and child education, job counselling, tutoring of children, teaching of Czech language for all age groups, school counselling, family communication assistance, and other services.
<b>Poradna pro občanství/občanská a lidská práva, z.s. (Counselling Centre for Citizenship / Civil and Human Rights)</b>	1999	PPO is a group founded by a group of lawyers and social workers in 1999. In legal programs, we have been systematically focusing on the legislative practice of adopting new laws affecting civil and human rights and their subsequent application practice. We prepare comments and opinions on national government documents, for the bodies of international treaties (UN, Council of Europe) and the European Union (European Committee, Fundamental Rights Agency). We provide free legal counselling and legal representation to our clients, especially in the areas of promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination, respect for family life (children's rights) and in cases of protection of human dignity.
<b>INFO-DRÁČEK, z.s.</b>	2009	The INFO-DRÁČEK Association arose from the need to communicate basic information about life in this country to Vietnamese people living in the Czech Republic in a simple and comprehensible form. One of the main goals of the association is to help bridge communication barriers for all ages, and through various activities to help the Vietnamese population integrate fully into Czech society. An important task of the association is mutual understanding of cultures, thinking and way of life, life habits, access to various life situations. The Vietnamese communities living in the Czech Republic are opening up to Czech societies, which can be observed especially among the growing Vietnamese who are more inclined towards European values. In the framework of its activities, the Association also seeks to make Vietnamese people more visible, to involve the Czech part of our society in these activities and to build mutual understanding between two different cultures.
<b>In IUSTITIA, o.p.s.</b>	2009	In IUSTITIA was founded as a legal organization that is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic to broadly deal with hate violence. The theme of hate violence brings to public awareness, professional discourse and political debate. The organization consistently promotes the principles of democratic rule of law, including equality of all people in dignity and rights. For the benefit of their clients, victims of hate violence, they exercise the right to court and other legal protection.
<b>Sdružení pro integraci a migraci, o.p.s. (Association for Integration and Migration)</b>	1992	SIMI is a human rights NGO that has been defending the rights of migrants and refugees in the Czech Republic since 1992. It supports them mainly through legal, social and psychosocial counselling. SIMI also works with the general public to develop tolerance, combat xenophobia and racism.
<b>La Strada Česká republika, o.p.s.</b>	1998	La Strada Česká republika, o.p.s. works in the field of dealing with the issue of trafficking in human beings. It is the only specialized organization within the Czech Republic dedicated exclusively to providing assistance to trafficked and exploited persons. The organization's goal is to contribute to the elimination of human trafficking and exploitation and to provide support and protection for exploited and trafficked persons and those at risk of exploitation and trafficking. It provides the target group with social services (professional social counselling, legal counselling, asylum housing, etc.), deals with prevention and education (prevention at schools, further education of the professional public on trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation) and through advocacy and lobbying activities seeks systemic legislative changes to prevent human trafficking and exploitation and to protect the rights and interests of the target group.
<b>Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, z.s. (Organization for the Aid of Refugees)</b>	1991	OPU is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that has been offering help since 1991 to refugees and migrants from third countries who find themselves in a difficult life situation. It has offices in several cities throughout the Czech Republic where it provides legal and social counselling to migrants and educational activities for the public.

<b>InBáze, z.s.</b>	2006	The mission of the InBáze, z.s. community centre is to help migrants in difficult life situations and to create an open and safe space for mutual understanding of people of different cultures. Since 2006, InBáze has been a place open for migrants seeking and building their new home in the Czech Republic and all others who already have one here. InBáze organizes the traditional RefuFest multicultural festival every year.
<b>META, o.p.s. - Association for opportunities of young migrants</b>	2004	The mission of META, o.p.s. – Association for opportunities of young migrants is to actively contribute to setting up and improving conditions that promote equal opportunities for migrants, especially in the field of education, which is one of the conditions for successful integration into society.
<b>People in Need, o.p.s.</b>	1999	People in Need (PiN) implements the Variants training program, which provides information and methodological support, training courses, didactic materials, professional consultations and assistance to schools and educators in the fields of inclusive education, intercultural education and global development education. In these areas, the PiN organizations are also pushing for systemic changes that contribute to an inclusive and responsive education system that responds to the challenges of today's world. Within the Migration program, which is part of Variants, PiN teaches journalists, journalism students and migrants to contribute to objectively informing foreign media and breaking down stereotypes. The goal of the Migration program is to achieve more balanced and resource-rich media coverage of the topic. The Czech public often lacks information on the successful integration of migrants in the Czech Republic and abroad and on how this goal can be achieved. This is why PiN is trying to bring new knowledge through its own analytical work. Through a number of other activities, it wants to raise awareness and motivate the media to pay more attention to the topic, thus contributing to better coexistence between migrants and the majority society.
<b>Poradna pro migranty a uprchlíky - Středisko Migrace Arcidiecézní charita Praha (Migration and Refugee Counselling Centre – Migration Centre Archdiocesan Charity Prague)</b>	1995	The Migration Centre aims to provide comprehensive services to migrants with different types of residence in Prague and Central Bohemia. It focuses mainly on the integration of migrants, the provision of one-time and field social and legal counselling, assistance at DAMP MI offices and other offices, and provision of interpreting and translation services. It provides help to migrants in need.
<b>Multikulturní centrum Praha, z.s. (Multicultural Centre Prague)</b>	1999	The Multicultural Centre Prague is a civic association that is interested in issues related to the coexistence of people from different cultures in the Czech Republic and other parts of the world. Since its inception in 1999, we have been constantly expanding our offer of educational, cultural and information activities. For children, students, teachers, librarians and the general public, we are preparing workshops, courses, international seminars, discussions, film and literary evenings, migration websites or multicultural librarianship. For those interested in multicultural topics, the public library is open.
<b>Slovo 21, z.s.</b>	1999	Slovo 21 is an NGO that started operating in Prague in 1999. Czechs, Roma and representatives of various continents work here. Our work can be divided into two main branches: activities to support Roma and those that focus on foreigners. Besides the World Roma Festival Khamoro, we started organizing an International Summer School for Roma youth from Europe and we founded the Roma women's group Manushe. Over the course of time, however, we have started to focus on foreigners who have found their new home in the Czech Republic. In 2003, we released the first issue of a bulletin called Word for Foreigners, and in the following year we launched a large project called Family from Next Door, which along with Khamoro is one of our most famous projects and has spread beyond the Czech Republic.
<b>Nová škola, o.p.s.</b>	1999	Nová škola (New School) is an NGO that promotes the inclusive education of minorities, migrants or otherwise socially or culturally disadvantaged children and young people. The organization is responsible for the introduction of Roma pedagogical assistants in elementary schools and continues to support assistants through accredited courses and projects. It strives for a conceptual solution to issues related to inclusive education and is a member of ČOSIV (Czech Society for Inclusive Education).

### Annex No. 7: Overview of cooperating international non-profit organizations

Name of organization	Year established	Description of main activities provided in Prague
<b>International Organization for Migration</b>	1997	<p>IOM is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva. It was established in 1951 and currently has 151 member states and 100 observers. IOM employs approximately 7,000 staff in 3,000 projects. The International Organization for Migration has been operating in the Czech Republic since 1998 on the basis of a contract signed between IOM and the Czech Republic on 15 October 1997. IOM has been operating in the Czech Republic since 1998 and its main activities are under the following headings: voluntary returns and reintegration, migration and development, labour migration, prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, capacity building in migration management, integration of migrants in the Czech Republic.</p>
<b>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</b>	1992	<p>The UNHCR Office in Prague was opened in 1992 in connection with the accession of the Czech Republic to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The main objective of the UNHCR in the Czech Republic is to support efforts to build a comprehensive, sustainable and independent asylum system, allowing the examination of applications for international protection in accordance with internationally recognized standards and international law. It does so through its own programs in the field of legal advice and awareness-raising activities, as well as through the programs of NGOs supported by the UNHCR. The Prague office is part of the UNHCR regional representation in Budapest.</p>