

# Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners

## PRAGUE, A METROPOLIS FOR ALL

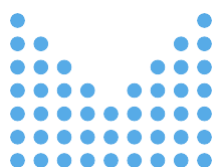


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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

CIF (CIC)	Centre for Integration of Foreigners (Centrum pro integraci cizinců, o. p. s.)
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
TG	target groups
CR	Czech Republic
PC	Prague City
ICP	Integration Centre Prague (Integrační centrum Praha o. p. s.)
ICW	inter-cultural work
INTEGRA	Integrated Community, Probation and Prison Services Radicalisation Prevention Approach Project
IPD (IPR)	Prague Institute of Planning and Development (Institut plánování a rozvoje hlavního města Prahy)
DOT Commission	Prague City Council Commission for Issuing Grants in the Field of National Minorities and Integration of Foreigners
IF Commission	Prague City Council Commission for Integration of Foreigners
Di	District
PCH	Prague City Hall
MoLSA (MPSV)	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí České republiky)
KG	kindergarten
MoEYS (MŠMT)	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic (Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy České republiky)
MoI CR (MV ČR)	Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (Ministerstvo vnitra České republiky)
NMF (NMC)	Division for National Minorities and Foreigners at Prague City Hall
NGO	non-governmental organisation
DMT	different mother tongue
MMD PCH (OMM MHMP)	Media and Marketing Department at Prague City Hall (Odbor médií a marketingu Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
OP PGP (OP PPR)	Operational Programme Prague - Growth Pole (Operační program Praha - Pól růstu)
OAR (OPU)	Organization for Aid to Refugees (Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, z. s.)
PER PCH (PER MHMP)	Personnel Department at Prague City Hall (Odbor personální Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
APRD (PPMČ)	Advisory Platform for Representatives of Districts of Prague 1 - 22, Prague - Libuš and Prague City Hall on Integration of Foreigners (Poradní platforma zástupců městských částí Praha 1 - 22, Praha - Libuš a Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy k oblasti integrace cizinců)
APED (PPOŠ)	Advisory Platform for Representatives of Education Departments on Education of Children and Pupils with a Different Mother Tongue (Poradní platforma zástupců odborů školství k tématu vzdělávání dětí a žáků s odlišným mateřským jazykem)
PMD PCH (PRI MHMP)	Project Management Department at Prague City Hall (Odbor projektového řízení Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
PCC (RHMP)	Prague City Council (Rada hlavního města Praha)
BUD PCH (ROZ MHMP)	Budget Department at Prague City Hall (Odbor rozpočtu Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
RAP	regional advisory platform
AIMI	Association for Integration and Migration (Sdružení pro integraci a migraci, o. p. s.)
SMART	criteria for determining aims in project management: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound
EYS PCH (SML MHMP)	Department of Education, Youth and Sport at Prague City Hall (Odbor školství, mládeže a sportu Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
SS	secondary school
SI CAS (SOÚ AV ČR)	Sociology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Sociologický ústav Akademie věd České republiky, v.v.i.)
SOA PCH (SOV MHMP)	Department of Social Affairs at Prague City Hall (Odbor sociálních věcí Magistrátu hlavního města Prahy)
SWOT	strategic analysis method: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
DO	District office
RILS (VÚPS)	Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs (Výzkumný ústav práce a sociálních věcí, veřejná výzkumná instituce, v.v.i.)
PCA	Prague City Assembly
PS	primary school

# INTRODUCTOR

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**MgA. Hana Třeštková,**  
**Prague City councillor**

During the strategic period of 2018-2021 the Prague City integration policy moved forward in a relatively fundamental way across all the priorities and aims set out in the last policy. Actively and over the long term, Prague is supporting the districts in the development of their own integration policy, because we are aware that an active approach to integration at the local level is quite crucial. In the field of the integration of foreigners, Prague has become an active partner for other cities in the international Eurocities network, thanks to close cooperation with Integration Centre Prague and other participants from the non-profit sector we have markedly moved forward also in greater openness from city hall and the organisations we have established regarding foreigners and generally regarding persons with migration experience. Thanks to cooperation with the Sociology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences we created a tool for monitoring the situation of pupils with a different mother tongue at primary schools, so that in the future we can support districts and schools themselves when educating such children in a targeted fashion and efficiently.

The integration of foreigners is, however, a long-term and live process, so there are many challenges and tasks in front of us that have to be dealt with in the upcoming strategic period. What is most important is to continue to harmonise city strategies, so that the solution of questions related to the constantly rising population of foreigners becomes a natural part of all relevant work. This will obviously not happen without active strengthening and increases in the powers of PCH departments, as well as those of organisations established by the city. It is important that, as Prague City, we continue to support and develop peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding between foreigners and the majority society.

Attempts to ensure that the cultural and nationality diversity of Prague's population remains a source of further enrichment and development in the capital are one of the central motifs of our vision for the upcoming strategic period - the vision of Prague as a metropolis for all.

**Mgr. Ondřej Mirovský, M.EM**  
**Chairman of the Prague City Commission for Integration of Foreigners**

I am happy that you have just opened the updated Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners, which will familiarise you with Prague's priorities in this area. Over the long term, Prague is successful concerning the integration of foreigners, as we are following on from the history of the city, where various nations and many religious beliefs have met and mixed since time immemorial. We are therefore fully prepared and open to help all new arrivals with the integration process, which is key for successful integration into a new environment.

I hope that the policy will be a functional guide for those that contribute to the integration of foreigners through their everyday work and I trust that, thanks to this document, Prague will continue on this successful path, which it set out on for the integration of foreigners eight years ago.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Today, foreigners are approximately a fifth of the population of the City of Prague, and almost a third of all foreigners in the whole Czech Republic live here. Migration of foreigners to the city brings undeniable advantages, but the almost permanently growing number of foreigners that we have been witness to since the revolution in 1989 brings certain risks, which need to be actively prevented. This Policy's priorities therefore focus not only on the further use and development of the potential of foreign migration, but also on prevention and dealing with risk factors that are related to this phenomenon.

One of the key long-term aims and needs in relation to the foreign population living in Prague is strategic mainstreaming, i.e. cross-sectional coverage of "work with foreigners" across the relevant city strategies and the related need to strengthen the capacities of workers at the relevant departments and organisations at PCH for work with foreigners. These efforts clearly correspond with trends that have previously been applied in other European cities with larger populations of foreigners, where various departments naturally pay attention, as a part of their ordinary work, to the situation of foreigners and a division or department authorised to directly handle the integration of foreigners performs a support and coordination role for other city departments or organisations.

The Policy naturally focuses also on further availability of public services and, in general, through PC organisations for foreigners, on increasing the powers of workers in public and social services and increasing foreigners' awareness about available services and organisations in the areas of education, culture, free time, etc. The Policy should deal with not only the question of social cohesion, but also the issue of preventing sociopathic phenomena resulting from insufficient awareness of foreigners and the unavailability of services to which they are entitled under the law.

In relation to districts, the Policy primarily has a recommending and support role. Prague stipulates as its aim methodological and financial support for development of integration at the local level and improving the awareness of political representatives, as well as district departments and organisations about the situation concerning migration and integration and sharing examples of good practice in the integration policy of districts. The Policy

also focuses on the development of mechanisms for more direct involvement of foreigners in implementation and planning integration measures, because the voice of this target group's representatives is irreplaceable for the correct setting and assessment of individual measures. In general, one of the Policy's aims is strengthening mutual inter-sector cooperation between participants who share an interest in the foreigner issue and it is therefore desirable to ensure not only that everybody is kept informed, but also to develop new forms of cooperation that can support Prague's activities concerning the integration of foreigners.

The Policy naturally confirms that Prague will continue to develop good practice concerning education, for both children and young people. It will continue to systemise support for schools, as well as children and parents, as a part of primary and pre-primary education, where it will be necessary to adapt to a new system of language preparation launched in 2021 by the MoEYS. In relation to secondary schools that are established directly by PC and that are a preliminary condition for appropriate professional success, it is quite necessary to prevent foreigners or young people with a DMT having problems in schools often consisting only of the language barrier, which can be overcome and thereby ensure quality conditions for further success in society. The Policy will therefore more intensively focus on the area of secondary education and the saturation of the needs of schools and actual students with a DMT.

One of the central aims of the Policy is support for tolerant coexistence of the majority society and foreigners. With regard to the often negative, or even defensive public discourse in relation to foreigners and migration, it is necessary that in this area Prague actively communicates with the general public and develops the awareness of the majority and, through an open social debate about migration and integration, strengthens social cohesion and mutual support in a more nationally and religiously diversified society in Prague City.

The Policy is in accordance with the government's Updated Policy for Integration of Foreigners 2016 - In Mutual Respect. A detailed breakdown, including a timetable for the performance of activities in the individual measures and financial demands, will be part of related two-year action plans.

## INTRO

*“Prague maintains its social cohesion and is a city that brings people of all generations, nationalities and social groups together...”*

Being a city that brings people together. This is one of the five most important properties that the authors of the Prague City Strategic Plan described in their vision of their home in 2030. For Prague to become a place where people live together, not next to each other. To be a metropolis for all.

The attractiveness of Prague as a place for living is shown by the growing number of people that have decided to settle in Prague. People from the Czech Republic and those from abroad. This attractiveness is confirmed by various comparisons of cities from the whole world, in which Prague finishes in the higher positions.

The rising number of people from various countries, from various cultures and speaking different languages brings a number of challenges. The rising challenges require a conceptual approach, so cooperation between the city, non-profit organisations and partner institutions in the state administration led, in 2013, to the birth of Prague City's Policy for Integration of Foreigners.

The result is the vision described in **five interlinked strategic aims** describing what we would like Prague to be like and what sort of Prague we need, if all of us are to live well in it. At the time of the next update, we would therefore like to live in a city where the following is true:

- » **Prague has a systemic approach to implementation and development of an integration policy.** A coordinated approach is essential for success. The institutions and authorities responsible for implementation need to know what they can and should do, have the resources for it and high-quality information necessary to make decisions.
- » **Prague, its authorities and organisations are open and accessible to all Prague citizens and are actively linked to other participants.** Integration is a multilateral process and these parties have to get involved for it to be successful. For this, institutions need support in terms of competences, the chance to learn from others and other parties need the opportunity to get actively involved.
- » **Prague ensures the availability of social and public services for all its residents.** Service providers need capacities for communication with their clients also in other languages and to have feedback for their clients' needs, so they can flexibly respond to them. And clients have to know what support they can make use of.
- » **Prague ensures a fully fledged and equal approach to education for all its citizens.** The same as service availability is key for adult integration, inclusive education is essential for the integration of children. As the number of children and pupils from a different environment rises, the demands on schools and their founders will also rise. And they need support for capacities and skills to deal with such a challenge.
- » **Prague openly declares its vision Prague - A Metropolis for All and actively develops social cohesion.** So that Prague is one living community, it is necessary to prevent prejudices on the one part and being closed in own communities on the other part. For this, it is necessary to support the development of a civic society and to communicate shared values.



## 1

## DOCUMENT STRUCTURE AND TERMS USED

The following document presents Prague the way we would like to have it in the near future. It also indicates the path that we have decided to take so that we achieve this vision. The vision is summarised in three sentences on the following page. The next chapter contains the context we operated in when creating the updated Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners. It includes strategic documents we follow on from and an outline of the data sources we work with. The context is followed by a short description of the updating process, including the participants involved. The main text only states the most important or most interesting data that we used when creating the Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners. The following text, nevertheless, reflects only a small part of the work that dozens of people from various organisations and institutions did together so that this document could come into being. The list of institutions and organisations whose representatives contributed to preparation is stated in the annex.

The individual priorities are broken down in the next five chapters. Every priority is first briefly presented and a list of the strategic aims that are to be achieved in the relevant area is described. It is followed by a list of the most important strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and participants in integration in Prague that helped with decisions on what to focus as a part of the priority.

Every priority is then broken down into sub-areas with its own sub-aims, proposed measures to achieve the sub-aims and the owners of measures that will implement them. Action plans will follow on from the measures.

The document used a number of abbreviations that are explained in the relevant section, but some terms deserve their own explanation. In the text, the Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners is most frequently referred to just as the Policy. Prague City, i.e. the entities defined in Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on Prague City, and including, for example, the assembly, the Council and City Hall, is referred to just as “Prague” for the simplicity and the smoothness of the text. Meaning not just a geographic designation (“foreigners living in Prague”), but also a group of entities with their own subjectivity, interests and abilities to act (“Prague developed”, “Prague has”). In tables where there is less space and the concentration of abbreviations is higher, the group of these entities is referred to by the abbreviation “PC”, as it is in places where it is necessary to emphasise that it is an abbreviation for the phrase “Prague City” or there is a contrast with the districts. In official names there is sometimes the abbreviation “Prague C” in accordance with the original text. For the sake of simplicity, the generic masculine is used, although we always take everybody into account regardless of sex, unless specified otherwise. The terms “foreigner” and “migrant” are used here as synonyms.





## VISION

*Prague in 2027*

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In 2027, Prague City is an open and progressive 21st century metropolis that reflects and satisfies the needs and interests of all its residents without any differences. Through its integration policy Prague focuses not only on migrants and through its equal approach it is a city of free and natural, lived diversity.

Thanks to its diversity and openness, Prague prospers and is a high-quality place to live for all Prague residents.



## CONTEXT

### Starting Points for PC Policy

#### Strategic Documents

The Czech Republic, in its [Migration Policy Strategy](#) has undertaken to ensure citizens peaceful coexistence with foreigners and, thanks to effective integration, to prevent the arising of negative social phenomena. This should be achieved by maintaining and developing a proactive integration policy at the national, regional and local level. At the regional and local level, PCH plays a role for the achievement of the aims that the strategy sets out. Aims such as support for the integration of foreigners with respect to their dignity or ensuring sufficient awareness of foreigners and the public about questions concerning migration, refugees and the integration of foreigners.

Another strategic document valid for the whole of the Czech Republic from which integrated efforts are set out for Prague is the updated [Policy for Integration of Foreigners - In Mutual Respect](#). According to it, the task of the integration policy is to create conditions for foreigners so that they can integrate into society and bring about and support their active participation. In addition, the expected education of the majority should be focused on getting to know the life of foreigners, the culture and customs of their countries of origin. In the context of Prague they are both reflected in the *Coexistence* priority in the Policy.

Whereas the national policy for Integration of Foreigners emphasises the involvement of civic society and state institutions at the national, regional and local levels, the Prague Policy adds an international level in the *Multilateral Cooperation* priority. Cooperation with foreign partners helps the transmission of good experience from those that face similar challenges and have already found a functional solution. In addition, many problems have a multinational character and it is more efficient to coordinate their solution with partners abroad.

The national integration policy assumes diversified financing of integration, the building of capacities of the state administration and increases in inter-cultural skills of workers with involved organisations. It also works with intervention based, inter alia, on data, as an analysis of the lives of individual communities, housing segregation, the position of female migrants in society, barriers to integration and integration indicators. The strengthening of capacities, diversification of resources and policies based on data and evidence are integrated by the Prague Policy into one cross-sectional priority, *Institutional Facilities and Infrastructure*.

Support for education in inter-cultural competences for effective communication between foreigners and the majority is reflected in the priorities *Education* and *Services for Migrants*.

Here, the aim is, on the one hand, to improve the preparedness of service providers and educational facilities to deal effectively with clients (language and inter-cultural competences, facilities, capacities) and, on the other hand, to increase the capacities of clients to make use of these services (awareness, available advice, ability to make oneself understood in Czech).

Prague, as the region with the highest number and share of foreigners in the population, naturally deals with coexistence with foreigners and their integration in its own policy materials. In 2000, a comprehensive programme document formulating ideas about future economic, social and spatial development of the city was created: [Prague City Strategic Plan](#). From the start, the strategic plan's vision was and still is social cohesion in the city. Whether it is through strengthening education as a tool of integration, support for social integration through the development of community life or better involvement in the labour market and strengthening of services that foreigners make use of. The strategic plan is updated every eight years and the Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners has already arisen in synergy with the Strategic Plan and its updates.

In relation to the currently valid version of the Strategic Plan (2016 update) the Policy responds to one of its strategic directions (a Cohesive and Healthy Metropolis), as it deals with it, together with the action plans, i.e. subordinate strategic documents, with the aim of integrating foreigners' children and adult foreigners through education, institutionally supporting services for foreigners and involving the majority in the integration process. In the field of the strategic aim of regional cohesion, the Policy should help through multilateral cooperation and learning from positive and negative experience from other countries that will prevent the arising of segregated and separated localities.

With regard to the fact that the aims in the integration of foreigners in Prague are linked to policies in various areas, this topic is reflected from various viewpoints and to various extents in a number of other strategic Prague City documents. The area of education of foreigners and children and pupils with a DMT and the relevant measures correspond closely to the [Long-term Plan for Education and Development of the Education System in Prague City 2020-2024](#). Measures in the field of availability of social services for foreigners and identification of the needs of this target group are linked to the [Medium-term Plan for Development of Social Services in the Area of PC for 2019-2021](#). Measures to support mutual coexistence of the majority, national minorities and foreigners, and prevention of xenophobic behaviour also respond to the needs expressed in the [Prague City Policy for Crime Prevention for 2017 to 2021](#).

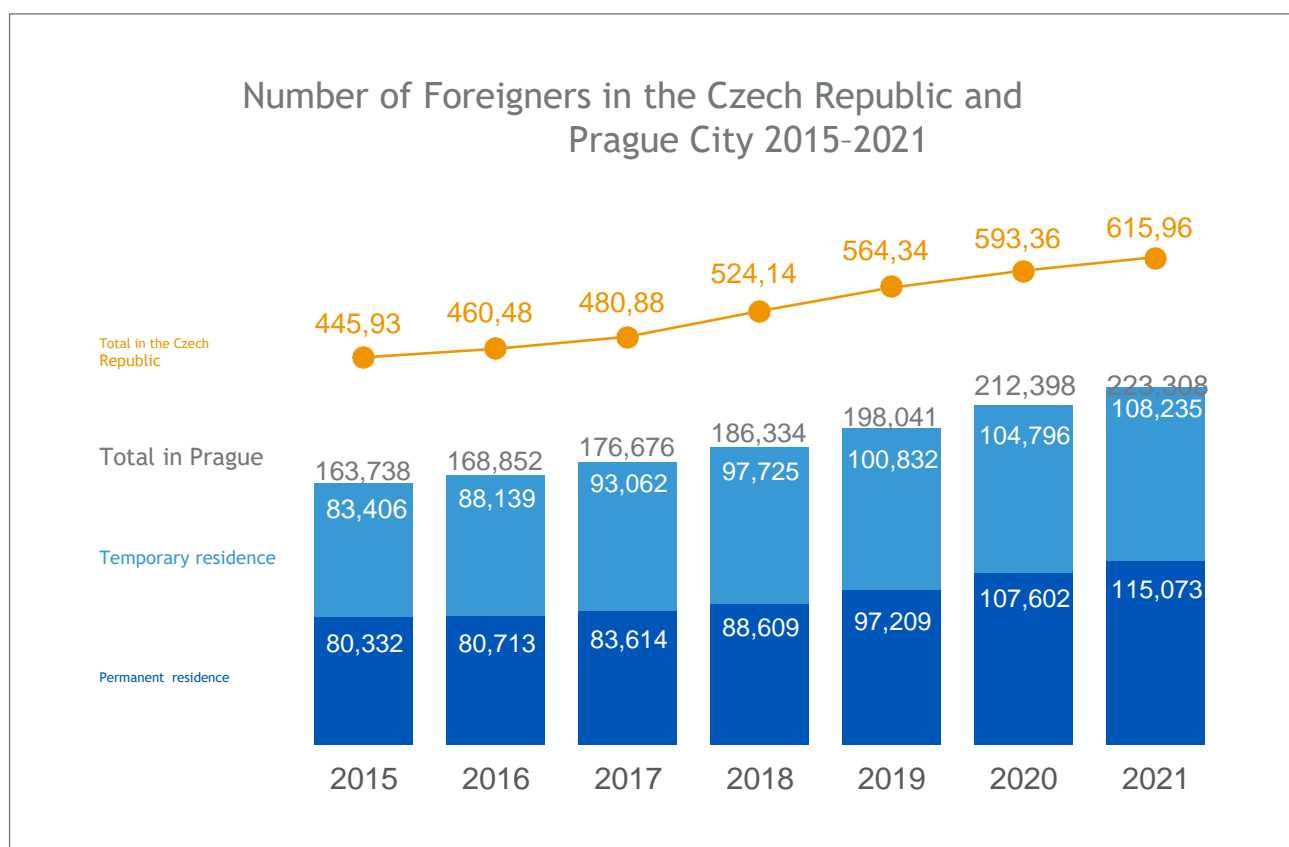
## Foreigners in Prague

### Demographics

The selection of the priorities for the Policy is based not only on the fact that national strategies are focused on them, but primarily on the situation in Prague itself. Over the long term, more than a third of all foreigners living in the Czech Republic are concentrated in Prague, where they form almost 16% of the population. Therefore, every sixth resident of Prague is a foreigner.

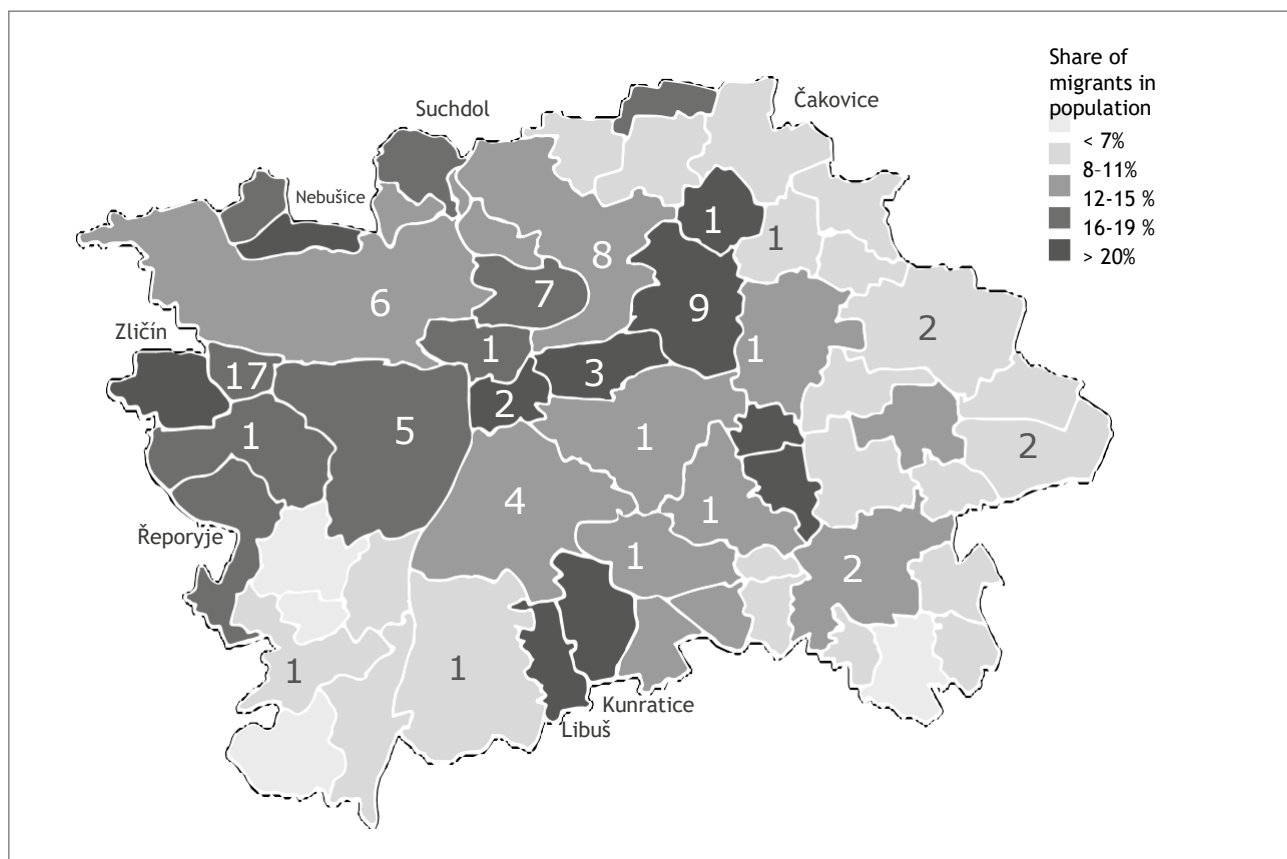
Although 16% may not seem that many, in absolute terms it is a high number. At the time the Policy is updated, over 223,000 foreigners live in Prague. In addition, this 16% is not spread equally around Prague and different districts bear different-sized burdens related to barriers to services so that all residents can use them. At least five districts have a share of foreign residents exceeding one fifth and in Prague -  
- Nebušice it is one third.

The situation is complicated by the fact that none of the nationalities in Prague or the individual districts clearly predominates. The most foreigners living in Prague come from Ukraine (26%), Slovakia (15%), Russia (12%) and Vietnam (6%). The others came to Prague from various countries in the world and no other nationality comprises a large group. On the one hand, it can be said that at the current time there are no closed and geographically concentrated communities, **although in some locations the concentrations of certain nationalities are markedly rising (e.g. District of Prague 13, District of Prague 14)**. On the other hand, workers of institutions and public services have to deal with varied situations resulting from the fact that a foreigner living in Prague could be from anywhere. It is not sufficient to focus on one group, but services have to be adapted in such a manner that they are available to all regardless of origin.



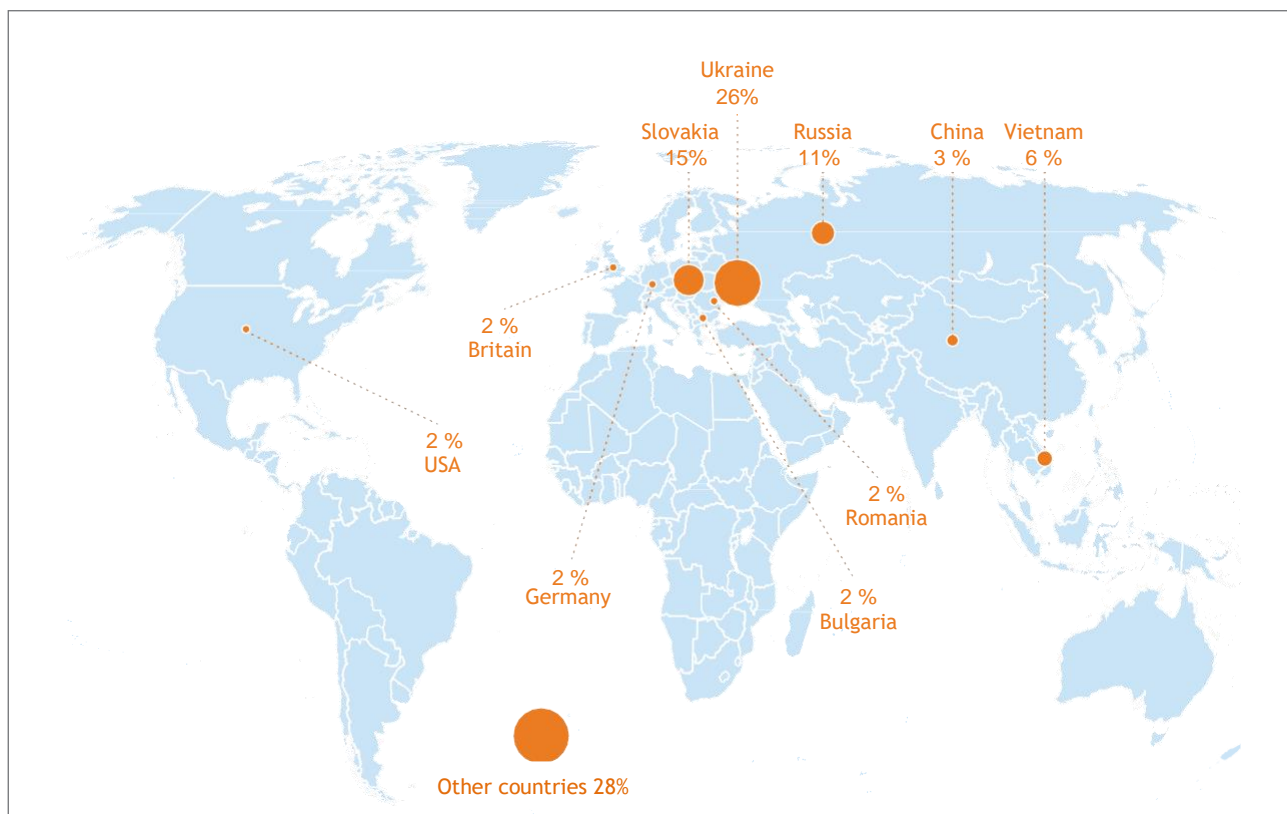
**Infographic 1:** Trends in Number of Foreigners in Prague and the Czech Republic

Source: Ministry of the Interior, [www.mvcr.cz/clanek/informativni-pocty-obyvatel-v-obcich.aspx](http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/informativni-pocty-obyvatel-v-obcich.aspx), the data relate to 1 January of the relevant year



**Infographic 2: Districts by share of foreigners in Prague**

Source: Ministry of the Interior, [www.mvcr.cz/clanek/informativni-pocty-obyvatel-v-obcich.aspx](http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/informativni-pocty-obyvatel-v-obcich.aspx), Foreigners' Police Directorate, 2020, Number of Foreigners with Registered Residence as of 1 January 2020; Prepared by Sdružení pro integraci a migraci, o. p. s., 2020



**Infographic 3: Most frequent groups of foreigners in Prague by citizenship**

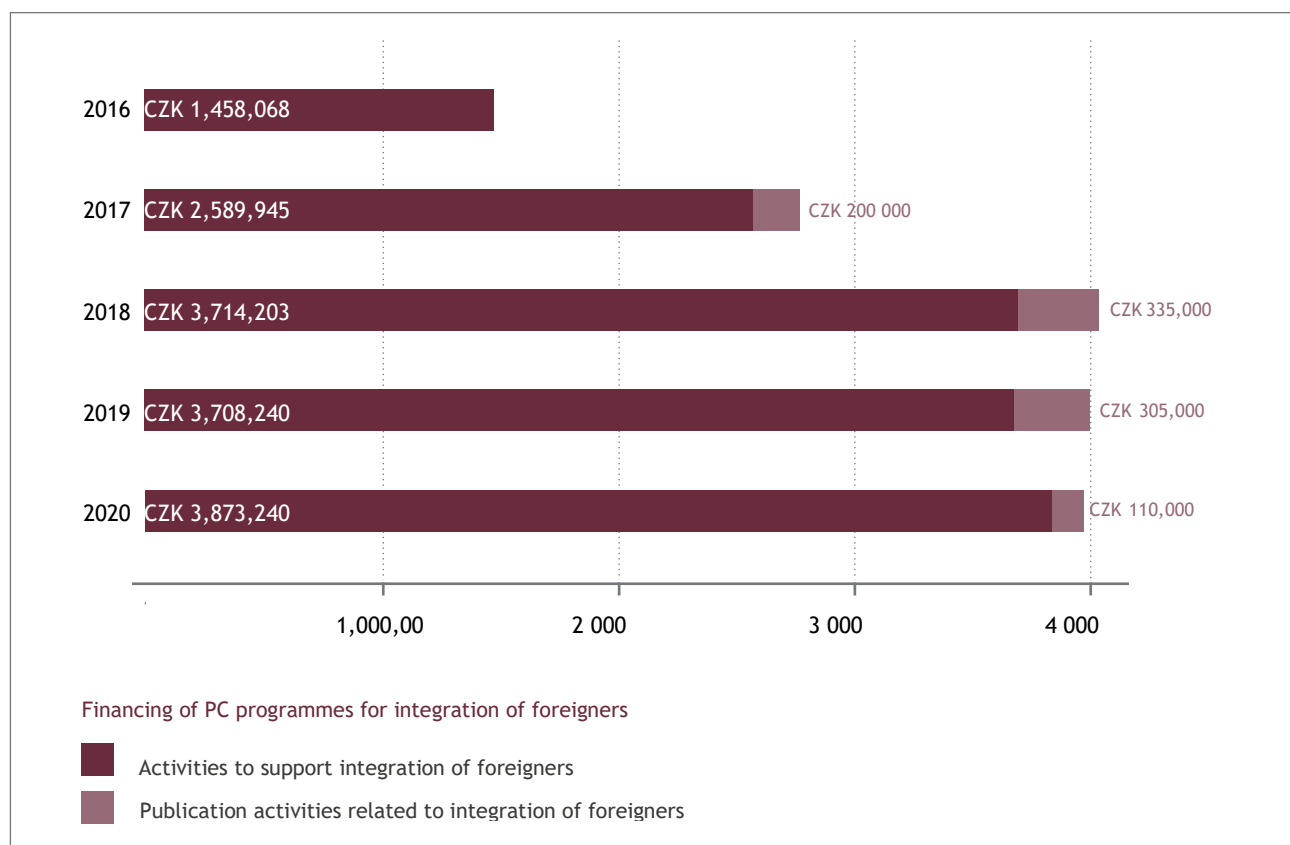
## Financing Integration

Creating an environment for the smooth and effective integration of foreigners is a financially expensive matter. A holistic approach to integration requires, inter alia, available courses in Czech, support for schools for integration of children and pupils, building and maintaining the capacities of public institutions in such a manner that their services can be used by everybody, regardless of origin, and support for community life. The main sources of financing include programmes of the Ministry of the Interior, which is nationally responsible for the integration of foreigners. In 2014-2020 the main sources of financing include European funds. Of those focused on the issue of integration they are the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Fund for Internal Security. Integration, support for community life and education are also among the areas supported by the European Social Fund, which co-financed three operational programmes in the Czech Republic: OP Employment, Research Development and Education, and OP Prague - Growth Pole. The OP PGP, which PCH created and managed, was one of the most important contributors to Prague's integration policy. In 2022, however, the last projects paid for from this programme will end and the OP PGP will not have a successor. Looking for an appropriate substitute for these funds is therefore one of the main challenges for the following period.

Every year, Prague allocates funds focused on supporting the target group of foreigners, in the budget of the Department for Education, Youth and Sport and the Department of Social Affairs. The largest amount (totalling CZK 11 m to 12 m) is allocated in the budget for the integration of foreigners, where the budget includes funds to support integration through a programme entitled **Programme to Support Activities for Integration of Foreigners in Prague City**, which comprises two parts in accordance with its focus:

1. Activities to support the integration of foreigners in Prague City - cultural, social and education activities, language preparation and community work,
2. Publication activities related to integration of foreigners in Prague City.

In 2016-2020 around CZK 15.5 m was spent on the first part and around CZK 970,000 was spent on the second part. A budget of CZK 4 m is expected for both parts in 2022.

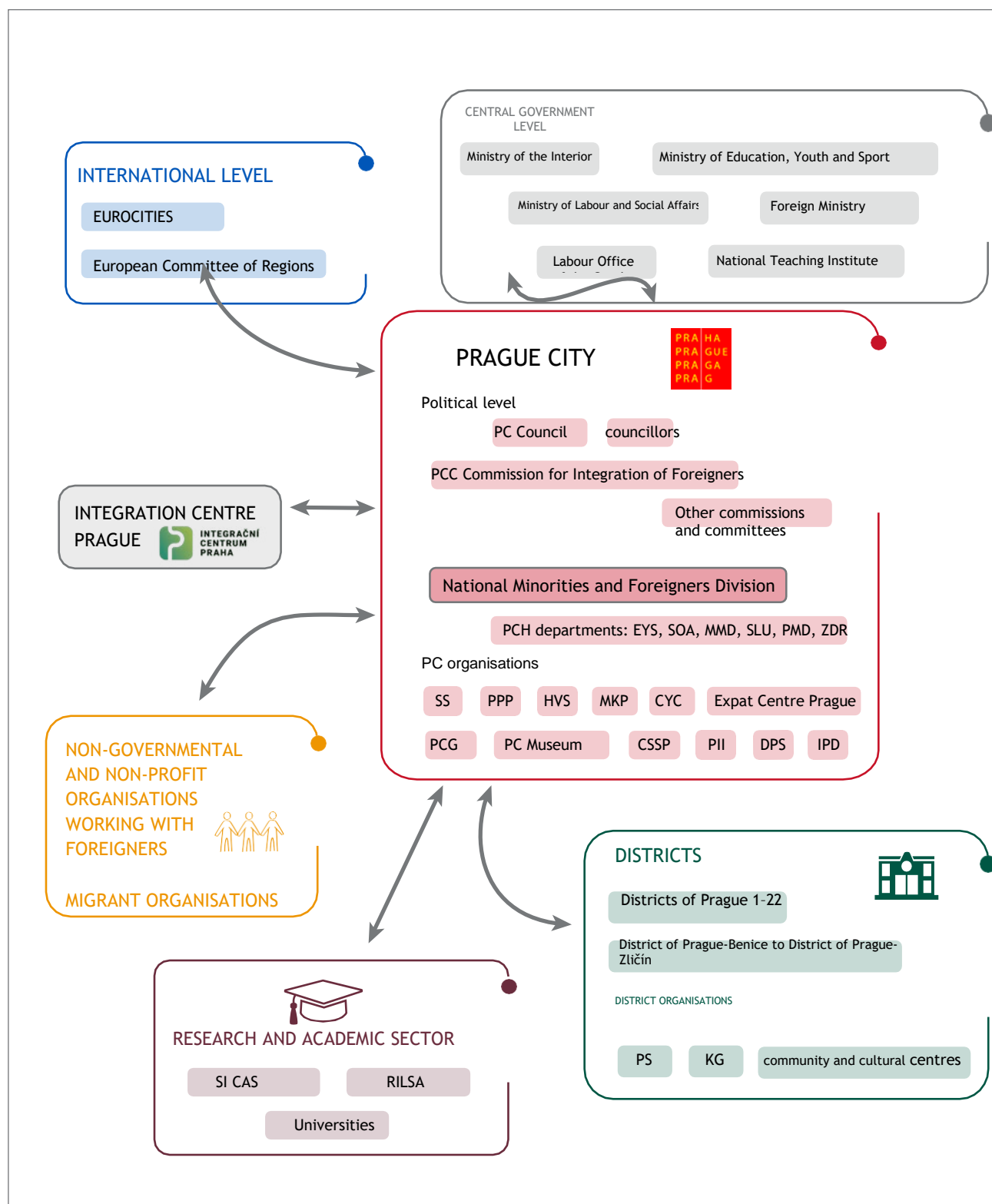


Infographic 4: Trends in financing of PC subsidy programmes for integration of foreigners (2016-2020), source: PCH

## Participants in Integration and Cooperation between Them

Behind every statistic about migration there are individuals and families that are starting a new life in another place. Central and local government bodies, together with local partners in the form of non-profit organisations and research and educational institutions, play a key role in the integration of such new arrivals. And multilateral cooperation between these participants is necessary so that

integration happens where the people are: at their workplaces, in their residences and districts, in the schools to which they send their children and in the public space where they spend their free time. For this purpose, in recent years Prague has developed good cooperation between the interested parties, which, however, requires further deepening and expansion.

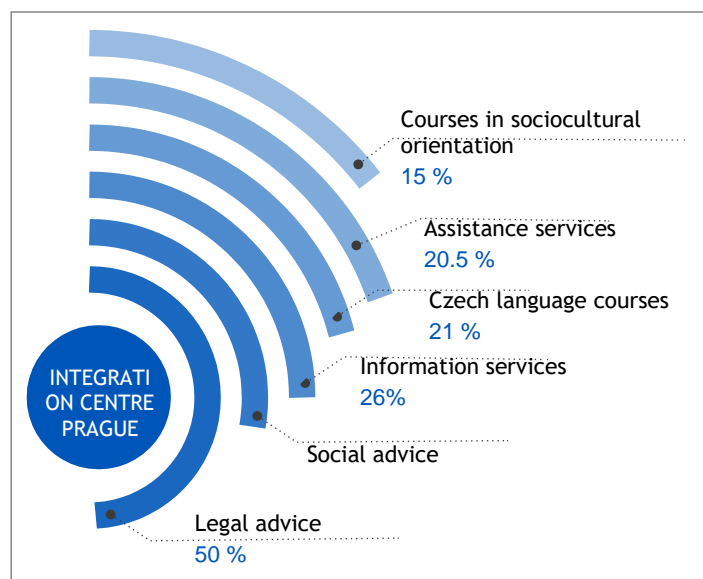


Infographic 5: Cooperation between PC and other participants involved in the integration of foreigners

## Services for Foreigners

In previous years the network of specialised social and legal advice services for foreigners in Prague grew more dense. At the current time there are 21 providers of social services focused on foreigners that provide 32 social advice and prevention services. Most of these providers are non-governmental non-profit organisations. These services are provided through street work, as day services or residentially. For example, between 2012 and 2020 ICP provided its services to more than 22,500 clients. Cooperation between the individual districts and PCH is also improving.

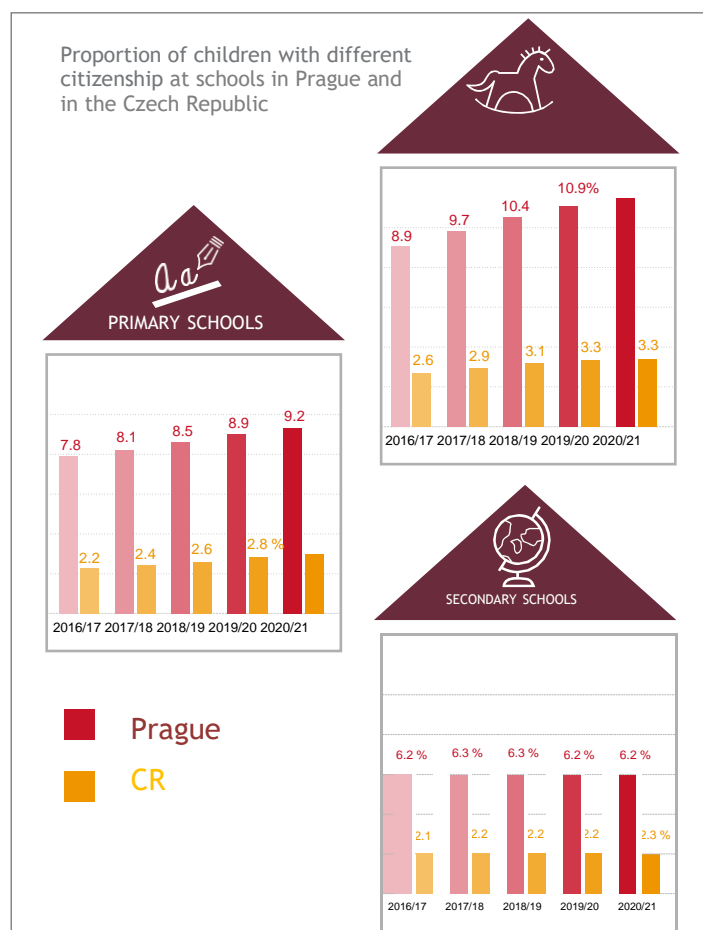
Providers' experience indicates that they can see rising demand for their services, which they are not always able to satisfy for capacity reasons. Experience with the structure of demand from foreigners indicates their poor orientation in the institutional assistance environment and problems related to the language and cultural barrier. The experience of providers and other participants is a crucial source of information, but here we lack systemic mapping of target groups' needs and the capacities of service providers and other institutions with which foreigners come into contact. **Infographic 6:** Use of ICP services by foreigners



## Education

The gradual change to the nationality mix of Prague's population is clearly visible if we look at schools. The lowest share of foreign pupils in Prague is at secondary schools (over 6%), at primary schools the share is over 9% and in kindergartens over 11% of children were foreigners in 2020/2021. According to research<sup>1</sup> over 90% of Prague kindergartens are attended by at least one child with a different mother tongue (not necessarily with foreign nationality) and in two thirds of such schools it is five or more children. This places higher demands on staff in the organisation during the day and on communication with children and their parents. And 85% of teachers at kindergartens would welcome personnel and methodological support for the organisation of education in a collective where there is a child with a different mother tongue.<sup>2</sup>

Children that go to kindergarten now will be in primary schools in a couple of years' time. And around half pupils with a different mother tongue in primary schools require intensive or, at least, medium-level support.<sup>3</sup> However, 60% of primary schools in Prague do not have an inclusion coordinator and 70% of schools do not have a specialist teacher for teaching Czech as a second language. The presence of children and pupils with a different mother tongue concerns the majority of schools and there are material differences and variability both between schools and in different years at the same school. Diversity in nationality and the number of arriving children and pupils bring with them pressure for a systemic solution. The current system responds ex-post, i.e. findings of need occur late. In the past period, for the purpose of mapping this area, Prague developed cooperation with, for example, SI CAS as a part of the School as an Integration Partner project, but with regard to the complex nature of this area it will obviously continue with the future development of obtaining and assessing the necessary data.



**Infographic 7:** Proportion of children with different citizenship at schools

<sup>1</sup> Survey by MoEYS in which representatives of 173 Prague kindergartens participated, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Research by the Sociology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences School as an Integration Partner, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Research by the Sociology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences School as an Integration Partner, 2021.



## Life of Foreigners in Prague

Based on demographic data, we have an idea of how many foreigners live in Prague and in accordance with their age structure it is possible to roughly estimate what their needs are or will be in the field of education, for example. We also know that most foreigners in Prague are of productive age and are economically active. For this reason it is possible to deduce that in ordinary life they come into contact with various central and local government institutions, the labour market, healthcare, education, etc. To perform their duties and exercise their rights foreigners need to know communicative Czech, but this alone is not a sufficient condition.

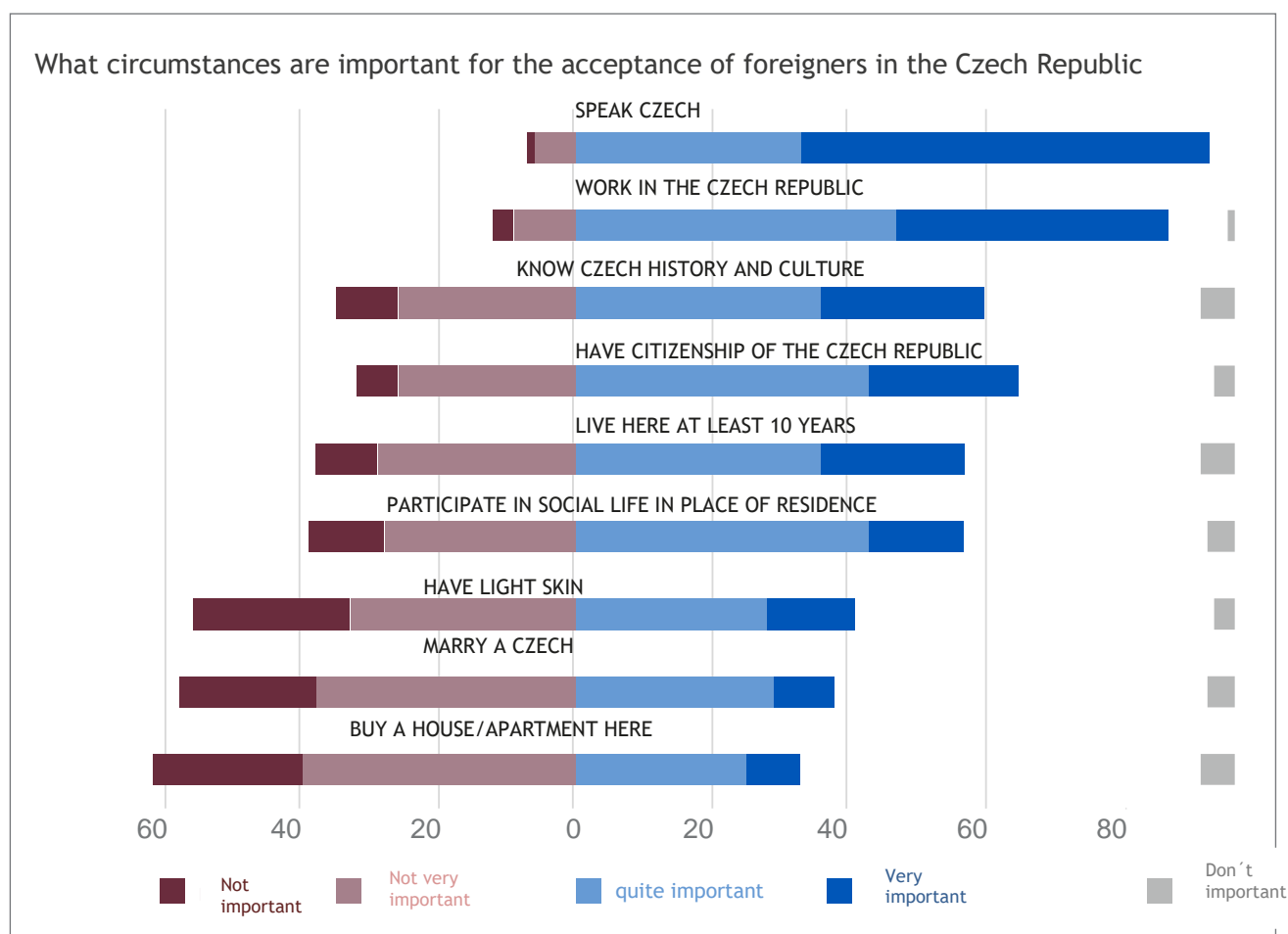
In addition to Czech, foreigners need to be able to orient themselves in the complicated network of their rights and duties. And on the other hand providers of public services have to have the capacities for contacts with foreigners and the necessary skills and knowledge. Inefficiency in the provision of services not only negatively impacts foreigners themselves, but if there are misunderstandings or errors, dealing with the consequences is again up to the service provider and uses up the capacity they so need.

Good knowledge of Czech supports integration also in other aspects.

The most important circumstance for the acceptance of a foreigner from the viewpoint of the Czech public is the ability to speak Czech. Other factors for successful integration include having a job in the Czech Republic, knowing Czech history or culture and participating in social life in the place of residence, for which knowledge of the local language is key.

Surveys conducted among foreigners living in Prague show the difficulties of trying to become a fully fledged part of the community of Prague residents. Whereas in rankings assessing infrastructure, public transport or the cost of living Prague has high ratings, the attitudes of local residents to foreigners can be characterised as cool to hostile according to the assessments.<sup>4</sup> The attitudes of Czechs in general show that a majority of Czechs regard foreigners as a cause of an increase in criminality and as a health risk.<sup>5</sup> A larger part of Czechs think that there are too many foreigners in the Czech Republic.<sup>6</sup>

The life of foreigners in Prague, their problems and barriers to integration were the subject of several studies, most of which are, however, quite old now.<sup>7</sup> The planning, implementation and assessment of an evidence-based policy will require the updating of the necessary analytical source documents in the field of services and coexistence with foreigners and expanding the knowledge base to include areas that have not yet been covered at all.



Infographic 8: Circumstances Important for Acceptance of Foreigners, source: Centre for Public Opinion Research

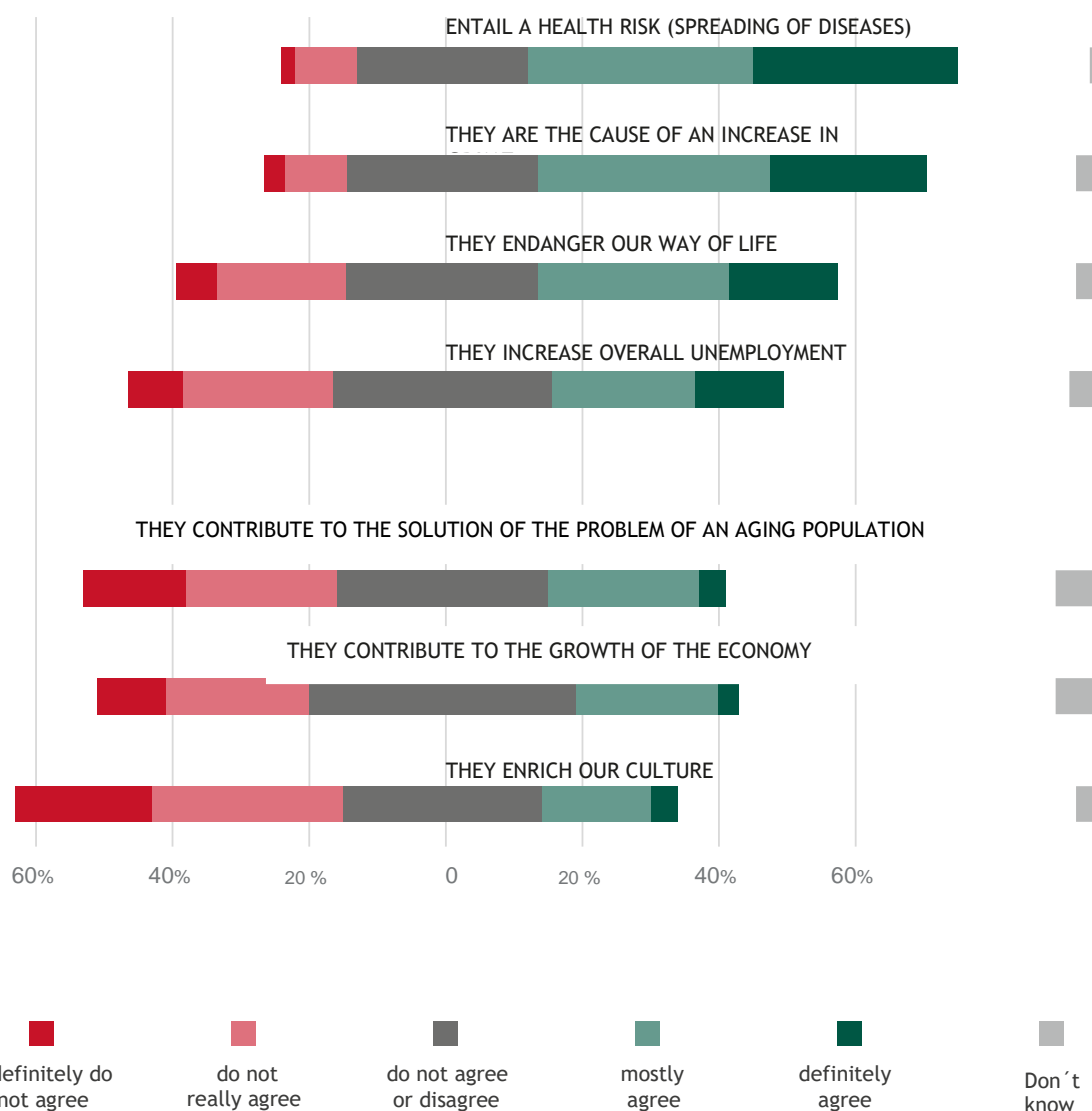
<sup>4</sup> InterNations: Expat City Ranking 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Centre for Public Opinion Research of the Sociology Institute CAS, Attitudes of Czech Public to Foreigners, March 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Centre for Public Opinion Research of the Sociology Institute CAS, Public's Opinion on Settlement of Foreigners in Czech Republic, March 2020.

<sup>7</sup> For example: Leontiyeva, Y., Mikešová, R., Tollarová, B.: *Prague Residents with a Foreign Passport. Results of Research Concerning Foreigners from Countries Outside EU Living in Czech Metropolis*. Prague 2018: Sociology Institute CAS, [www.soc.cas.cz/publikace/prazane-s-cizim-pasem](http://www.soc.cas.cz/publikace/prazane-s-cizim-pasem) or Trbola R., Rákoczyová, M. (eds.): *Selected Aspects of Life of Foreigners in Czech Republic*. Prague 2010: RILSA, [www.cizinci.cz/documents/551336/568661/Vybrane\\_aspekty.pdf/8c1a7675-1b71-7711-8056-59ea6df95ed2](http://www.cizinci.cz/documents/551336/568661/Vybrane_aspekty.pdf/8c1a7675-1b71-7711-8056-59ea6df95ed2).

## Opinions on Foreigners Living Long



**Infographic 9:** Opinions on Foreigners, *source: Centre for Public Opinion Research*

## 4

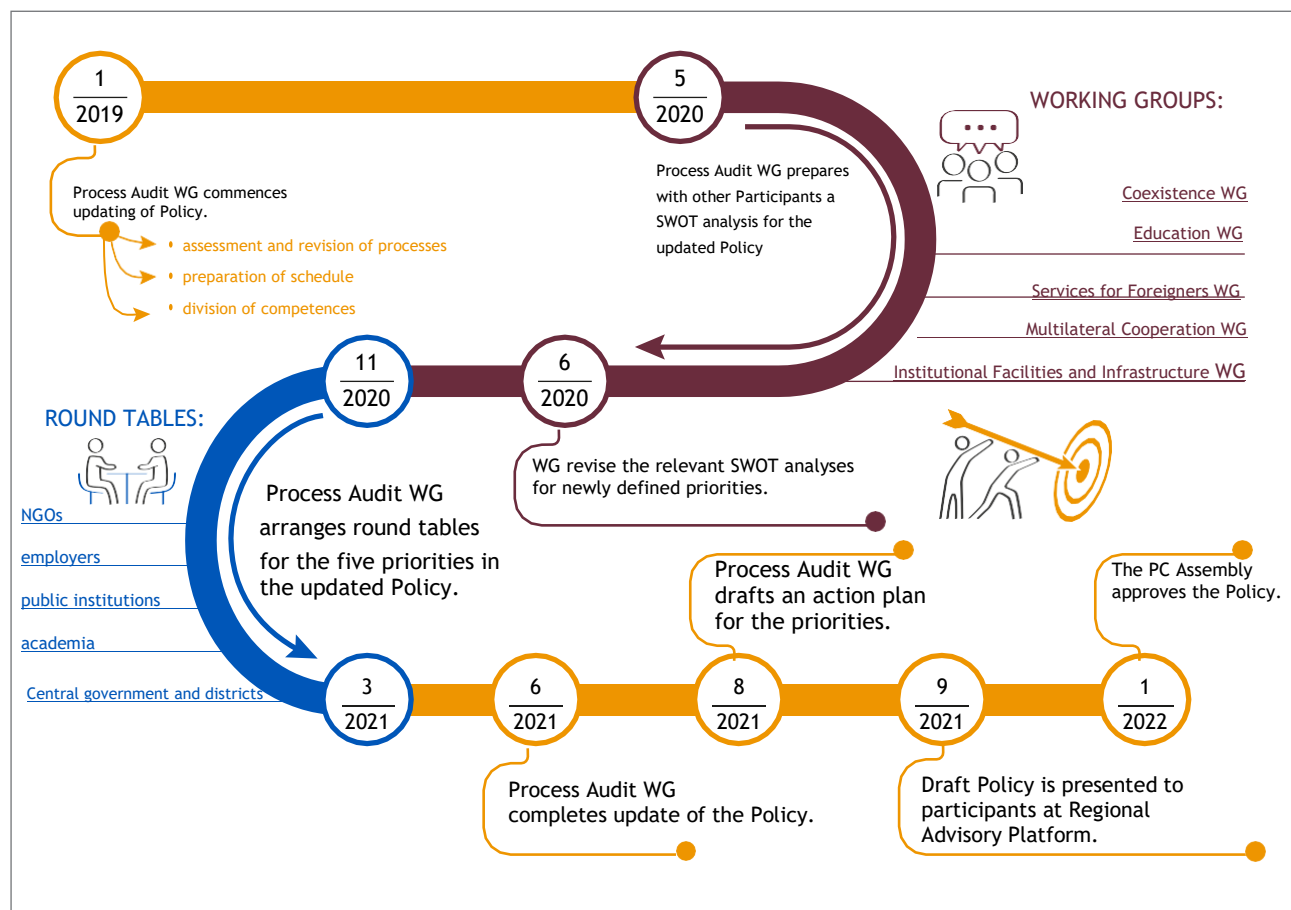
## POLICY UPDATING PROCESS

The current version of the Policy is the second update of the Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners. In 2012, its creation was handled by the newly established Integration Centre Prague together with the office for national minorities and integration of foreigners. The first Policy and its updates arose through participation, with the help of representatives of central and local government, NGOs, migrant associations, school and educational facilities, international organisations and academia. Regular meetings between the participants concerning the integration of migrants are held on the Regional Advisory Platform. Over 70 persons representing 54 organisations in the public, non-profit and private sector contributed to the creation of the current update.

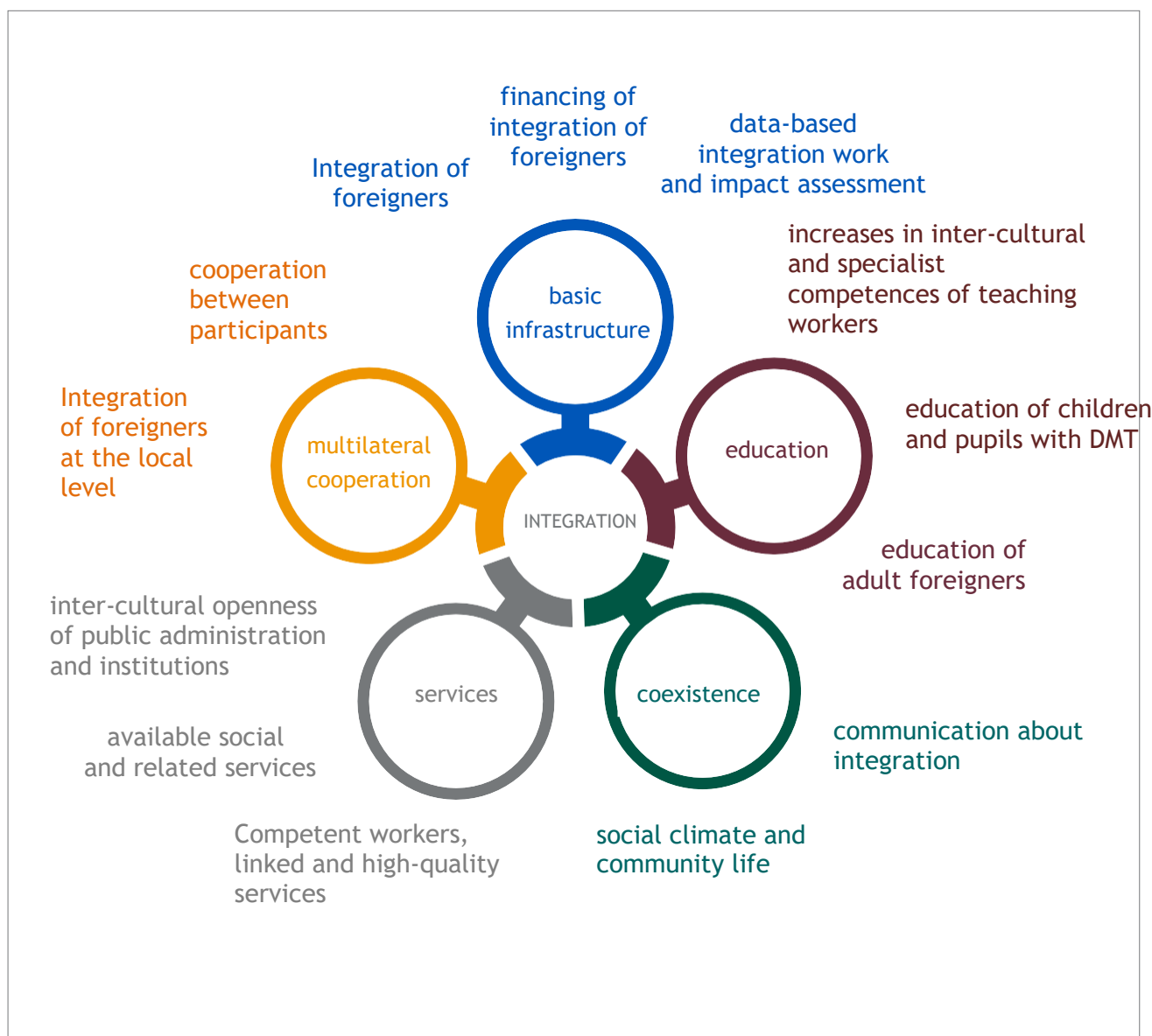
Multilateral cooperation and mutual respect, which are necessary for successful integration, are therefore reflected through the participation of many participants in the preparation of the Policy, as well as in its aims and implementation

The Policy is therefore not only a document, but a living community sharing the same vision and determination to implement this vision.

The same as the first update to the Policy, this was focused on assessing the achievement of the set aims, assessing whether the previous priorities are still relevant or selecting new priorities based on current ones and estimates of future needs. The second update of the Policy was also more focused on responses than in the previous case. For this purpose, a Process Audit working group was established and in it the participants reviewed processes, the timetable for the progress of work and the division of competences in such a manner that the result could be an evidence-based update to the Policy with SMART aims and with an evaluation of the results achieved. The result is five strategic aims and the priorities they generate, each of them supported by a SWOT analysis.



Infographic 10: Process for updating the Prague City Policy for Integration of Foreigners



Infographic 11: Priorities map

# PRIORITY 1:

## INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

*“An integration policy based on stable financing, data, systematic assessment and mainstreaming at the strategic, political and administrative-coordination level is one of the key conditions for implementing the Prague - A Metropolis for All vision”*

### ABOUT THE PRIORITY INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

At the end of the strategic period 2018-2021 in the field of the integration of foreigners, Prague has stabilised institutional facilities at the strategic, political, administrative and coordination levels. Every year, it allocates in its budget funds for the realisation of a local integration policy that is based on updated strategic documents for the integration of foreigners (Policy and Action Plan). At the political level, the work is supported by the responsible councillor and the Prague City Council Commission for Integration of Foreigners. At the administration and coordination level, the realisation of the work is arranged by the division of national minorities and foreigners in close cooperation with Integration Centre Prague and other participants, -

and in cooperation with academia and the non-profit sector and the districts in some areas Prague developed mechanisms for more efficient assessment of integration measures.

This priority, which is newly formulated for the strategic period 2022-2027, partially follows on from the priority Systemic Financing of Foreigner Integration Policy in Prague as a part of the Policy 2018-2021 and expands it to include the development of strategic mainstreaming of the integration of foreigners, which should be based on the principle of a data-based policy, as a condition for effective targeting and financing of the integration policy.

#### STRATEGIC AIMS

#### PRIORITY INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Prague has a systemic approach to implementation and development of an integration policy.

- » Thanks to the **mainstreamed coverage** of their needs across city strategies, foreigners are a natural target group of all the relevant city policies.
- » **Political bodies** of the city are familiarised in ongoing fashion with current events in migration and integration, and support the necessary adaptation of the relevant city strategies.
- » Every year, Prague allocates **appropriate funds** for the effective achievement of its strategic aims and visions as a part of its integration policy and related work and realises projects also with the support of external funds.
- » Prague has the corresponding **administrative personnel capacities** across all important departments necessary for the efficient handling of foreigner integration work.
- » City **strategies are based on data** and assessment of the impacts of public policies on foreigners, public sector organisations and other groups of Prague residents.
- » Thanks to active cooperation with academia, Prague has developed **stable tools for evaluation of integration policy**.

1 In the division, the work is handled by the manager of the relevant division and a foreigner integration specialist.

## PRIORITY 1: INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### S

#### strengths

- » Long-term experience with the creation and implementation of strategies
- » Strong internal PC infrastructure related directly to integration
- » Stable financing of integration of foreigners from the PC budget
- » Integration Centre Prague, as a strong strategic partner for PC concerning the integration of foreigners
- » Analysis of the position of migrants as a tool for long-term monitoring of the situation

### W

#### weaknesses

- » Insufficient personnel capacity of PCH for dealing with foreigner issues
- » Insufficient degree of financing of foreigner integration work with regard to the size of the foreign population of Prague
- » Lack of balance in ensuring work on the integration of foreigners in various districts and limited powers of PC regarding districts
- » Low degree of linkage in PC strategic documents in the targeting of foreigners
- » Reserves in systemic evaluation of integration measures and in the use of available data related to foreigners

### O

#### opportunities

- » Support from PC political representatives on the topic of integration
- » Will to work across PCH units in relation to foreigner integration work
- » External funds for financing integration projects
- » Potential of PC organisations for the development of integration of foreigners and openness for cooperation
- » Interest of academia and research organisations in the issue of foreigner integration

### T

#### threats

- » End of OP PGP and uncertainty in financing of integration from central government and European budget
- » Political changes leading to the marginalisation of integration work
- » Non-systemic anchoring of support for integration of foreigners in public sector organisations
- » Increase in socially-negative phenomena in Prague as a consequence of long-term lack of security for coverage of foreigners' needs

## PRIORITY SUB-AREAS

### A Integration of Foreigners as Mainstreamed Work

At the **strategic level**, the Policy 2018-2021 set aims and measures that were part of other strategic areas that partially overlapped into the competences of other PCH departments, primarily the social affairs and education, youth and sport departments. At this level successful implementation of the Policy 2018-2021, however, ran into the problem of a lack of linkage between the Policy and other relevant strategic documents for Prague. **Ensuring the appropriate response to the needs of all people in Prague without a difference across the relevant PC strategies is therefore one of the central strategic aims set in this priority.**

**At the political level** the area of integration of foreigners is handled by a member of the PCC, the PCC Commission for Integration of Foreigners is well-established. In cooperation with the NMF division, the IF Commission supported an increase in awareness of other political and administrative bodies in PC about the migrant population in Prague, to ensure their support and cooperation.

In this area there are still barriers that prevent systemic development of (not only) integration policy. **One of the key tasks for this strategic period is the wider use of the potential of the IF Commission as a partner for the NMF division when obtaining support from other political participants.**

**At the administrative and coordination level**, we have managed to develop cooperation between the NMF division and other PCH departments (primarily EYS, MMD, SLU). The development of systemic inter-departmental cooperation with other PCH departments or organisations (primarily in the social area) has, however, run into a lack of personnel capacity across all the involved units, including the NMF division. **The number of foreigners living in Prague will undoubtedly continue to rise also in future years and it is therefore necessary to ensure not only strengthening of personnel capacities at the NMF division, but also others with PCH departments closest to foreigner integration (SOA, EYS).**

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Integration of Foreigners as Mainstreamed Work**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
1. Strengthening of the administrative capacities of the NMF division for the development of integration of foreigners as mainstreamed work in PC policies	1.I	Ensure the strengthening of the administrative capacities of the NMF division for the purpose of effectively meeting the aims and implementing the measures set by strategic PC documents for the integration of foreigners.	NMF division + PER PCH
2. Reflecting the situation of foreigners and needs of PC and district organisations that work with foreigners in PC strategic documents	2.I	Assess the inclusion of the target group of foreigners in strategic PC/district documents and reflect the long-term interests and needs of PC/districts in relation to the migrant population in current and newly-drafted strategic PC/district documents.	NMF division + academic organisations, consortium of NGOs
3. Cooperation between the NMF division, PCH departments and PC organisations significant from the viewpoint of the population of migrants in PC	3.I	Increase the awareness and administrative capacity of PCH departments and PC organisations, primarily in the areas of education, social services, culture, leisure time and healthcare.	NMF division + PCH departments, ICP
4. PCC Commission for Integration of Foreigners as a partner of the NMF division in strategic development of the integration policy and its harmony with other PC strategies	4.I	Strengthen the awareness of PC Council, the relevant PCC commissions and PCA committees about the current situation related to the foreigner population in PC and the needs for strategic development of the relevant PC policies.	NMF division + IF Commission, PC Council, PCA committees and PCC commissions
	4.II	Hold regular meetings of the IF Commission and involve it in the systemic development of integration policy in the area of PC.	NMF division + IF Commission



## B Financing of Integration of Foreigners

Every year, Prague allocates funds for the integration of foreigners as a part of its own budget and thereby ensures the performance of activities in the Action Plan. In the strategic period 2022-2027 we continue to assume a subsidy programme targeted on NGOs and districts and their integration activities, as well as stable financial support for ICP, as a key city partner for the integration of foreigners. For the implementation of integration activities it is possible to use other PC programme subsidies, e.g. in social or educational areas. As these programmes often do not sufficiently reflect specific needs related to the foreigner population, **the setting of long-term complementarity of Prague's subsidy programmes is one of the aims in integration policy financing at the current time.**

From the viewpoint of additional financial support from Prague, a quite unprecedented role was played in 2018-2021 by OP PGP (in particular for the education of children with a DMT), but it was terminated without a replacement in the previous strategic period. Prague will have to respond through a partial increase of its own costs for the realisation of the necessary measures<sup>2</sup> and an increase in efforts to arrange other external funds from national and international sources. **An important aim that is a condition for the effective performance of other activities not only in this priority is therefore the arrangement of adequate funds for the effective implementation of the integration policy.**

### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Financing Integration of Foreigners**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
5. Financing PC activities to ensure effective achievement of priorities of PC integration policy	5.I	Ensure allocation of funds necessary for effective implementation of own activities by PC resulting from Action Plan for PC Policy for Integration of Foreigners.	NMF division + BUD PCH
	5.II	Implement own projects or participate in projects with support from external funds from the national or supranational level.	NMF division + PMD PCH
6. Financing of projects focused on work with foreigners through PC programme subsidies	6.I	Ensure regular announcement of the PC subsidy programme focused on supporting projects operated by districts, NGOs and other relevant participants in the integration of foreigners.	NMF division + DOT Commission, IF advisory platforms
	6.II	Support projects focused on working with foreigners also for organisations not working directly in the integration of foreigners through the relevant PC subsidy programmes.	PCH departments + NMF division
	6.II	Arrange mutual complementarity of PC subsidy programmes in accordance with the current situation and needs of target groups in a relevant area.	NMF division + PCH departments, IF Commission, IF advisory platforms
7. Financing of Integration Centre Prague (ICP) as a key PC partner in the integration of foreigners	7.I	Arrange financial support for ICP from the PC budget for the purpose of arranging the operation of the organisation and stable provision of services to foreigners in PC and for the purpose of financing ICP projects - e.g. inter-cultural work in public institutions.	NMF division + ICP
	7.II	Arrange financial support for ICP through a subsidy for co-financing ICP projects supported from external sources from the national or international level.	NMF division + ICP
8. Financing of districts or NGOs in a situation requiring intervention by PC as a part of a specific area/target group of foreigners	8.I	Support district and NGO projects through individual subsidies in the event that the current situation in a location or from the viewpoint of target group's needs requires intervention by PC.	NMF division + relevant district, NGOs

<sup>2</sup> This concerns, for example, financial support for ICP as a key partner in the implementation of PC's integration policy, the financing of NGO and district projects through the IF Subsidy Programme and, in 2021, also co-financing of the project Prague - A Metropolis for All 2021 supported by the Ministry of the Interior CR as a part of the subsidy programme Municipality Projects for Integration of Foreigners at Local Level.

<sup>3</sup> The ability to increase PC's own budgetary costs will understandably greatly depend on trends in public budgets with regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## C Data-based Integration Policy and Impact Assessment

In PC's strategic documents for the integration of foreigners, emphasis is always placed on active cooperation with research institutions and the use of analytical data as a source document for the further effective targeting of individual integration measures. Thanks to current cooperation on research projects (e.g. an Analysis of the Position of Migrants in Prague City), Prague developed its own mechanisms for more effective assessment of a subsidy programme for the integration of foreigners and the ongoing monitoring of the needs of schools as a part of the education of pupils with a DMT in the primary education system.

At the current time, Prague lacks a more thorough system for evaluating integration policy or the use of available administrative data usable for the monitoring of long-term trends related to the integration of foreigners. In the current strategic period, the aim is therefore not only **to continue to realise, in cooperation with research and non-profit organisations, its own research projects**, including the repetition of a general Analysis of the Position of Migrants in Prague City, but also to **set up a system for monitoring other usable data as the bases for assessing the impacts and evaluation of integration policy**.

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Data-based Integration Policy and Impact Assessment**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
9. Systemic creation and gathering of data for the purpose of assessing PC policies and measures related to the target groups of integration	9.I	Set up a system for gathering and processing available data (including administrative data) and assessing the impacts of PC policies and measures primarily with regard to the realisation of the PC Policy Action Plan for Integration of Foreigners and the setting up of PC subsidy programmes.	NMF division + IPD, research organisations
	9.II	Repeat the Analysis of Position of Migrants in Prague City and realise other research activities targeted on specific areas related to the target groups of foreigner integration (migrants, the majority, professional public).	NMF division + SI CAS research organisations
10. Information for foreigner integration system participants about PC's needs resulting from the assessment of public policy measures	10.I	Inform system participants in migrant integration not only at the PC level of the results of PC's analytical, evaluation and monitoring activities with regard to PC's needs related to the foreigner integration target groups.	NMF division + IF Commission, research organisations (researchers)

# PRIORITY 2:

## MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

*“Creating a functional, active and inter-culturally open network of participants fundamentally helps integration at the local level and helps both foreigners and residents from the ranks of the majority feel good in Prague.”*

### ABOUT THE PRIORITY MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Cooperation and work together by all the interested parties is incredibly important and influences not only the integration of foreigners into the Czech environment, but also mutual coexistence of all Prague residents. In previous strategic periods Prague focused on the roles and responsibilities of key entities and the methods of cooperation between all the relevant participants. Nevertheless, now the priority of multilateral cooperation for the strategic period 2022-2027 is newly formulated as a separate unit.

The integration of foreigners in Prague is a multilateral process that requires active involvement and coordination between all the participants - PC, the districts, non-profit organisations, academic and government institutions, foreigners themselves and

their institutions, as well as other Prague residents. What is key is the implementation of integration measures at the local level and arranging cooperation at the level of districts. No less important is arranging mutual support between the involved participants and their methodological management serving to increase their inter-cultural openness.

A fundamental role in cooperation, networking and sharing information between participants that are involved in the integration of foreigners at the level of PC, as well as districts, is currently played by advisory platforms: Regional advisory platform - RAP, Advisory Platform of Representatives of Districts of Prague 1-22, Prague-Libuš and PCH on Integration of Foreigners - APRD and Platform of Representatives of Education Departments in Districts and PCH on Education of Children and Pupils with Different Mother Tongue - APED.

#### STRATEGIC AIMS

#### PRIORITY MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Prague, its offices and organisations are actively connected to other participants, they are open and accessible to all Prague residents.

- » Not only through stable advisory platforms with PCH and district departments, Prague actively involves PC and district organisations, civic society and its organisations, participants from academia and foreigners in the creation and implementation of the integration policy.
- » Foreigners themselves systematically contribute to the implementation and development of the integration policy and Prague, together with other important participants, comprises a stable coalition across the sectors for the purpose of systemic development of the integration policy in Prague and the Czech Republic.
- » Prague is an active participant in international networks, where it participates in international projects and makes effective use of the option of methodological support offered by such international networks.
- » Prague supports the further development of integration at the level of districts and ensures, in cooperation with a wide network of institutional participants, appropriate support and awareness not only for its residents, but also for all relevant PC and district organisations that come into contact with foreigners.

## PRIORITY 2: MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

### S

#### strengths

- » Existing platforms of participants in integration at the PC level for bilateral sharing of information, networking and coordination - RAP, APRD, APED
- » Large number of reputable NGOs that are open to cooperation and are able to flexibly respond to current needs
- » Existing positions of integration specialists/coordinators at some districts
- » Analyses of the situation of foreigners in some districts

### W

#### weaknesses

- » Large differences in involvement of districts in integration, passivity of some districts
- » Work by integration specialist/coordinator in a district is mostly aggregated with other work and often not properly anchored
- » Insufficient involvement and powers of various relevant participants (e.g. employers, Labour Office, politicians, healthcare facilities, healthcare specialists)
- » Low involvement of foreigners in public administration process

### O

#### opportunities

- » Large quantity of active foreigners in the city, use of their potential and support for their activities
- » Opportunities for foreigners to get involved in existing structures and processes (e.g. non-profit organisations, public institutions, in street and community work)
- » Networking and development of local partnerships of entities involved in integration activities

### T

#### threats

- » Low motivation and involvement of migrant associations
- » Progressive segregation of foreigners in some locations accompanied by the departure of the Czech majority
- » Changing political leadership at districts and therefore also perception of the integration of foreigners, risk of discontinuity in established activities

## PRIORITY SUB-AREAS

### A Cooperation between Participants in Foreigner Integration

Cooperation between all involved participants is key for the setup of a functional system for the integration of foreigners in Prague. What is fundamental for understanding the integration process and the correct setting of measures in this area is to include foreigners themselves in advisory and decision-making activities. At the current time there are **advisory platforms** (RAP, APRD, APED) that provide various participants with space for networking, passing on information and know-how, as well as for identifying any problems and looking for possible solutions. The priority is not only support for these platforms, but also the creation of the **widest possible network of cooperating participants**. This is related to active approaches to new relevant participants from the professional public and who are **foreigners themselves**, and their involvement in existing structures.

Exchanging experience and information is also enabled as a part of **other activities**, for example through round tables, conferences, working groups, etc. Support for the handover of information between individual involved groups in integration must be a long-term priority.

For Prague, as a European metropolis with its own foreigner integration strategy, what is important is to provide space for the **national and international sharing of experience** in this area. It is therefore important to follow on from current experience (e.g. as a part of the projects INTEGRA, Cities and Inclusive Strategies or in the EUROCITIES network) and also to develop cooperation and partnerships with other Czech and European cities and regions.

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area [Cooperation between Participants in Foreigner Integration](#)

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
11. The development of systemic cooperation between current participants in integration and the involvement of other participants important from the integration viewpoint	11.I	Support for regular and long-term realisation of advisory platforms (RAP, APRD, APED) to ensure connection and coordination between participants in foreigner integration at the local level.	NMF division, ICP, EYS PCH + NGOs, districts
	11.II	Active approaches to new relevant participants and their involvement in advisory platforms and other activities to support networking, bilateral handover of information and passing on experience (e.g. city organisations, research and healthcare, employers).	NMF division, ICP + other participants involved in integration
	11.III	Support for the realisation of additional activities for keeping each other informed and passing on experience by participants in foreigner integration (e.g. platforms, round tables, conferences).	NMF division, ICP + NGOs, districts, other participants involved in integration
	11.IV	Development of partnership and active cooperation with other Czech and European cities in foreigner integration.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, national and international networks
12. Systemic involvement of foreigners in process of creating and implementing PC's integration policy	12.I	Active approaches to new participants who are foreigners (migrant associations, active citizens) and their involvement in advisory platforms and other activities to support the exchange of information and passing on experience.	NMF division, ICP + migrant organisations
	12.II	Development of systemic involvement of foreigners in PC structures concerning the integration of foreigners, in particular in the Prague City Council Commission for Integration of Foreigners.	NMF division, ICP + migrant organisations, IF Commission

## B Integration of Foreigners at the Local Level

The activity of districts is key for the integration of foreigners in Prague and many integration activities of a local character would not exist or develop without the interest of districts themselves. It is desirable to continue to support the anchoring of work at the level of districts, based on an **analysis of the situation of foreigners** at the district level. Districts that have marked experience in this area can pass on their know-how and, together with ICP and PC, provide **methodology support** to the others.

Thanks to their activities and projects (realised, for example, with support from PC and Mol CR subsidy programmes) districts can have a marked influence on the integration of foreigners into Czech society and events at the local level, including **support for coexistence between the majority and foreigners**. It is important to ensure that **foreigners are well informed** about their options, perceive a common interest with their new home and feel themselves to be Prague inhabitants, as well as residents of a certain district or location.

For effective development of work on foreigner integration at the local level, it is very desirable to **ensure** at least the basic **personnel capacity** at a district office and support the **integration of foreigner integration work as a mainstreamed topic** across the relevant departments at a district office. The long-term aim is the existence of specialised positions at all district offices governing areas with a larger percentage of foreigners or the inclusion of integration work in an existing position at a district office for the purpose of ensuring coordination of foreigner integration work at the local level. It is also desirable that individual district offices work with each other, pass on their experience and make use of opportunities for networking. In relation to support for specialised positions at district offices and development of cooperation between districts, Prague will primarily have a methodological and informative role.

### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area Integration of Foreigners at Local Level

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
13. Anchoring and further development of foreigner integration work at district offices	13.I	Support for analyses of migrants' situation at local level for the purpose of correct setup of measures.	NMF division, ICP + districts, research organisations
	13.II	Support for realisation of integration activities for foreigners and majority from districts in foreigner integration at local level.	NMF division, ICP, NGOs + districts
	13.III	Strengthening the awareness of foreigners about the functioning of local administration and life in districts by district offices (websites, leaflets in office building).	Districts + NMF division, ICP, NGOs
	13.IV	Support for increases in personnel capacities for the relevant departments at district offices for work on foreigner integration, including putting inter-cultural workers in district office structures.	NMF division, ICP + districts, NGOs
	13.V	Support for foreigner integration work as a mainstreamed topic across the relevant departments at district offices.	NMF division, ICP + districts
14. Interdepartmental cooperation at district offices and cooperation between district offices in Prague	14.I	Support for interdepartmental cooperation at district offices in foreigner integration (e.g. "foreigners" work groups, cooperation on community planning)	NMF division, ICP + districts, NGOs
	14.II	Strengthening of cooperation between administrative districts and districts, primarily in the level of awareness of foreigner integration, monitoring TG and opportunities for joint activities.	division + districts, ICP
	14.III	Strengthening cooperation between district offices and the creation of opportunities for networking and passing on experience (e.g. working groups, cooperation on analyses).	division + districts, ICP, NGOs

# PRIORITY 3:

## SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

*“Foreigner integration is supported by a network of high-quality and available social and related services that are based on the specialist competences of providers and on cooperation between them.”*

### ABOUT THE PRIORITY SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

The priority Services for Foreigners, the same as in the previous period, is focused on systemic support for the availability of social and related services to foreigners. It follows on from previous work and develops it with an accent on interdisciplinary cooperation between participants, links between services and an analysis and assessment of their provision.

At the end of the strategic period 2018-2021, Prague has a wide-ranging network of social services. Its territory contains a number of providers of social and related services specialising in foreigners. Thanks to many years of efforts in foreigner integration, very good coverage through specialised services was arranged in social and legal advice for foreigners. Cooperation between districts and PC is gradually deepening in the coordination and planning of services from public administration. Prague supports the provision and development of related services, in particular inter-cultural work. Prague also operates an informational website with information for foreigners that can be used for informing foreigners and professionals about services provided.

According to the [Register of Social Service Providers operated by the MoLSA](#), in Prague the needs of target groups of immigrants and asylum seekers are handled by a total of 21 providers, which operate 32 social services, in particular specialist social advice, social activation services for families with children and social rehabilitation.

Some of the services are directly aimed at foreigners, the other registered social services are, in accordance with the nature of the social situation dealt with (e.g. medically disadvantaged), provided to all clients and therefore to foreigners.

Related services are not defined by the Act on Social Services and are not subject to a duty to be registered in the central register of social service providers. In general, they are services supporting communication and reductions in sociocultural barriers between foreigners and representatives of the majority. These services include, in particular, community interpreting and inter-cultural work, which consists, for example, of accompanying and interpreting for foreigners when dealing with the authorities, the police, in healthcare facilities and educational institutions. Another type of related services is community services and contacting and informing foreigners on the ground.

The priority Services for Foreigners newly includes work on inter-cultural openness of public administration and institutions. Support for inter-cultural openness leads to foreigners being able to make use of all public administration services and to these services and their workers being prepared in terms of competences and methodologies for work with foreigners.



## STRATEGIC AIMS

## PRIORITY SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

Prague systemically supports the provision and availability of social and related services for foreigners and develops inter-cultural openness of public institutions.

- » Prague supports the availability of social and related services for all needy target groups, including foreigners living in Prague. The services are locally available, have sufficient capacities, are relevant to target groups' needs and can be provided to the target group of foreigners in specialist and methodology terms.
- » As cross-sectional work, foreigner integration is gradually integrated into the work done by social departments at PCH and in the districts, which helps to mainstream foreigner integration. The NMC division is the coordinator of foreigner integration work, it closely cooperates with the SOA PCH and supports it in its work with foreigners.
- » Cooperation between both the relevant PCH departments and between PCH departments and districts, as well as between service providers is systemic and problem-free thanks to its high-quality setup.
- » Provision and use of social and related services is monitored, analysed and assessed. Assessment serves as a base for the setup of short-term and long-term aims and for improvements in the availability and quality of services.
- » Prague allocates funds or obtains finance from suitable subsidy schemes for the provision of related services for foreigners, to support inter-cultural openness of institutions and for assessment of the availability of services, their quality and searches for innovations and improvement options.
- » Thanks to ongoing training, the personnel at the relevant PC and district departments and organisations has inter-cultural and other specific competences for work with foreigners.
- » The availability of public administration and public institution services for foreigners is increased by support for their inter-cultural openness.
- » All the necessary services are arranged in Prague, are provided with sufficient capacities and in a sufficient quality, the service network is interlinked and monitoring of its use and availability takes place. If there are areas that are insufficiently covered by relevant services, they are analytically well described and there is a plan to cover existing services, or the relevant steps are being taken.

## PRIORITY 3: SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

### S

#### strengths

- » Wide range of specialist services for foreigners (primarily NGOs)
- » PCH supports related services, primarily inter-cultural work
- » Ease of use of website with information for foreigners
- » Cooperation between districts and PCH
- » Very good networking of services in Prague City for social and legal advice

### W

#### weaknesses

- » Lack of knowledge of the integration system by foreigners and insufficient awareness about free services
- » Insufficient awareness of foreigners in relation to health, safety, discrimination and the labour market
- » Spread-out nature and difficult availability of information for foreigners, in particular for persons with a lower level of computer literacy; limited range of language versions
- » Insufficient awareness about NGO and district services and lack of links between services; foreigners make use of the services of self-governing authorities only to a very small extent, often due to lack of knowledge of their services
- » Inter-cultural work does not function as a permanent service at offices, there is no professional specialisation (e.g. for healthcare)
- » The labour market is primarily an area for central government institutions, PCH's role is marginal, legislation places clear emphasis on employers, the state administration has minimal powers

### O

#### opportunities

- » Regular mapping of barriers to target groups and their removal
- » Development of services for specific groups (e.g. senior citizens, mothers with children)
- » Development of services for citizens for EU countries
- » Use of information potential of adaptation-integration courses
- » Use of information potential of local self-government
- » Cultural and community centres - option of linking with services for foreigners
- » Socialisation programmes for foreigners on maternity and parental leave - linking of language and inter-cultural skills

### T

#### threat

- » Insufficient awareness of foreigners about their rights and duties, insufficient knowledge of language - limited access to services, risk of abuse
- » Insufficient infrastructure for certain services (e.g. for senior citizens, concerning domestic abuse, mental health)
- » The lack of readiness of the system for changes to foreigners' needs (e.g. in the event of an economic recession some foreigners could fall into risk groups, e.g. homelessness)
- » Unresolved housing issues: illegal accommodation facilities, lack of housing and risk of homelessness, threat of discrimination
- » Insufficient state regulation of work agencies and related threat of exploitation

## PRIORITY SUB-AREAS

### A Available Social and Related Services

A significant task for the development of the whole priority is obtaining an overview of the provision and availability of services for foreigners. In addition to **mapping and analysis of the needs of foreigners and providers in the field of social and related services**, an analysis of availability and use of services by foreigners, a long-term method of monitoring the provision of services and their evaluation should be set up in the future. It should provide an overview of both the services provided, the links between services and cooperation between the relevant participants. During assessment and further planning of the provision and development of services, analyses and monitoring will be used.

Over the long-term, related services prove to be important and often irreplaceable for the real availability of social services. Therefore, their support continues to be an important part of Prague's integration strategy, where the central point will be **support for the availability of inter-cultural workers' services**.

Service availability will be supported by **informing foreigners** about social and related services, the inter-cultural openness of institutions and other sources of information for foreigners, such as courses in sociocultural skills and adaptation-integration courses. In addition to foreigners, information about related services will be focused also on public administration institutions, such as healthcare facilities that ordinarily encounter foreigners in their work.

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Available Social and Related Services**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
15. Mapping of needs and monitoring of provision of social and related services to foreigners	15.I	Analysis of needs of foreigners and providers in social and related services for foreigners.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	15.II	Analysis of the availability of social and related services for foreigners; mapping existing services, their availability, including links between them, identification of missing services or non-existing cooperation or links.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	15.III	Monitoring of the provision of social and related services - setup and use of continuous monitoring of availability and use of social and related services for foreigners. Evaluation of social and related services provided. Specialist assessment of quality of related services provided.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
16. Support for availability of social and related services for foreigners	16.I	Support for the provision of services by inter-cultural workers/community translators with a sufficient capacity and support for the establishment of inter-cultural worker positions in organisations.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	16.II	Support for provision of on-the-ground and community services for foreigners.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
17. Information about services	17.I	Information for foreigners about social and related services provided in Prague through current and newly-developed information channels.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	17.II	Information for foreigners about courses in sociocultural skills, adaptation and integration courses and institutional support for foreigner integration.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	17.III	Systemic promotion of related services as a part of social work, in public administration and in other relevant institutions (authorities, police, healthcare facilities, educational facilities).	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers

## B Inter-cultural Openness of Public Administration and Institutions

The increased cultural diversity of Prague residents is felt by public institutions, which more and more come into contact with foreigners, which requires more competences than were previously necessary. It is therefore desirable to **increase the inter-cultural competences of workers in public institutions**, such as districts, cultural institutions, educational, healthcare and leisure facilities, city police, etc. In addition, it is important to provide such institutions with **methodological support for work with foreigners** and to support the introduction of tools strengthening their inter-cultural openness.

This will make communication between public institutions and foreigners more efficient, so that there is a reduction in the risk of misunderstandings resulting from cultural differences or language barriers and facilitation of mutual understanding of the specific needs of foreigners, as well as professionals. The strengthening of inter-cultural competences of workers at public institutions can support the building of a positive approach of workers regarding cultural diversity in Prague.

Sub-aims and proposed measures in sub-area **Inter-cultural Openness of Public Administration and Institutions**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
18. Support for inter-cultural openness of public administration and institutions	18.I	Strengthening of basic knowledge in the area of foreigner integration and specifics of working with foreigners and increases in inter-cultural competences for workers in public administration and other institutions (e.g. libraries, museums, theatres and other cultural institutions, district offices, healthcare facilities, city police).	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, affected institutions
	18.II	Creation and distribution of practical tools (e.g. manuals, information materials) for workers in public administration and public institutions (e.g. libraries, museums, theatres and other cultural institutions, district offices, city police, healthcare facilities) and mapping of existing tools.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, affected institutions
	18.III	Methodological support for the development of inter-cultural openness of the public administration and public institutions (e.g. district offices, libraries, cultural institutions, community centres).	NMF division + districts, ICP, NGOs, affected institutions

## C Competent Workers, Linked and High-quality Services

High-quality services are based on educated and competent workers and interdisciplinary cooperation and linking of services. Support will therefore be focused on the education of workers, support for interdisciplinary cooperation and methodological support for the interlinking of services.

The education of workers will focus on **increases in specialist competences** of workers in social services working with foreigners. In this area of related services, specialist education will be directed to the inter-cultural workers themselves, street and community workers.

When dealing with the comprehensive situation of foreigners, it is important that service providers work well together.

There will therefore be support for the methodological setup of links between social and related services (ICW, interpreting) and their implementation in selected facilities. **Interdisciplinary cooperation** will be directed towards the integration of foreigners in unspecialised social services, so that they can be provided to foreigners as well.

Providers of social and related services that are allowance organisations and NGOs will **be regularly consulted about the situation in the area of their provision and availability**. In the event of a need, they will create ad hoc platforms to deal with problems arising or with a focus on selected topics. In cooperation with SOA PCH there will be an analysis of the situation and identification of the topics for solution by SOA and strategic documents under this department.

### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area Competent Workers, Linked and High-Quality Services

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
19. Increases in inter-cultural and specialist competences of service workers	19.I	Increases in the competences of social service professionals in the field of work with foreigners.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	19.II	Increases in specialist competences of inter-cultural workers and community interpreters, street and community workers, specialist workers providing other services.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
20. Methodological support for quality and interdisciplinary cooperation between services	20.I	Methodological, organisation and financial support for organisations during the development of new services and programmes.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	20.II	Support for interdisciplinary cooperation during the provision of services and methodological setup of links between individual services.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	20.III	Support for implementation of related services in selected facilities.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts, providers
	20.IV	Support for regular consultations and development of cooperation between providers of social services from the ranks of PC and district allowance organisations and NGOs with PC and district representatives. Creation of ad hoc platforms.	NMF division + SOA PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts, providers

# PRIORITY 4: EDUCATION

*“High-quality education of foreigners of all age categories and thorough methodological preparation of teaching workers is the foundation stone of their successful and fully-fledged involvement in Czech society.”*

## ABOUT THE PRIORITY EDUCATION

High-quality education for foreigners, both children and adults, is one of the most important factors in successful integration into Czech society. Prague City stably provides support for the education of foreigners, whereas in the Policy it is one of the traditional priorities. Prague allocates funds directly from its budget every year, during the last strategic period (2018-2021) financing was realised also through the OP PGP.

PC support for education is directed straight to schools, it also takes place through the financing of projects and selected activities by other participants active in the area of education in Prague

- for example districts, NGOs. Thanks to financing by PC, there are primarily language courses for children and pupils with a DMT and also for adult foreigners, methodological support for teachers and sharing of good experience through other activities.

Work on foreigner education is handled by EYS PCH in close cooperation with NMF PCH. An advisory platform comprising representatives of education departments at individual districts and experts involved in education and integration meets regularly to plan procedures, share information and hold discussions regarding the situation in the area of foreigner education.

### STRATEGIC AIMS

### PRIORITY EDUCATION

Prague ensures a fully-fledged and equal approach to education for all its citizens.

- » In cooperation with districts, Prague ensures a fully-fledged and equal approach to the education of children and pupils with a DMT at the level of kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools.
- » Kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools have appropriate support and capacities for high-quality education of children and pupils with a DMT and their integration in the life of a school and class collective.
- » In Prague there is a sufficient range of available Czech language courses at various language levels for various age groups (i.e. for adults and children), including low-threshold courses.
- » For adult foreigners there are courses in sociocultural orientation, as well as, for example, educational courses with a focus on a profession or something else, facilitating orientation in the Czech institutional environment, Czech culture and Czech society.
- » In cooperation with other participants, Prague ensures appropriate qualifications for its teaching workers at all school levels.
- » After the setup of the new system for support for the language education for foreigners in kindergartens and primary schools through the new MoEYS Decree No. 271/2021 Coll., valid from 1 September 2021, Prague's aim is to stabilise this system and perfect it so that it becomes an ordinary part of the process of educating children and pupils with a DMT as a part of morning lessons.

## PRIORITY 4: EDUCATION

### S

#### strengths

- » Prague's position compared to the region - large network of schools and other alternative offers of education
- » Current range of high-quality free Czech courses for foreigners
- » Existing mechanisms for supporting the education of children and pupils with a DMT and anchoring work at EYS PCH
- » The activities of some teachers and schools as an example of good practice
- » Wide range of leisure-time activities (not only for children) that are in the form of informal education and support low-threshold teaching of Czech and natural integration

### W

#### weaknesses

- » Insufficient effectiveness in information for schools and parents - schools are not much used as a partner for handing over information to parents; low awareness held by headteachers and parents of children with a DMT
- » Reserves in support for pupils with a DMT upon transition from primary school to secondary school and related insufficient support at secondary school
- » Insufficient capacity in Czech as a second language courses and lack of specialist language courses (e.g. healthcare, social affairs)
- » Lack of systemic and across-the-board support for pupils with a DMT across schools
- » Insufficient methodological support for Czech as a second language courses and their financing (lack of systemic support across the board)
- » Insufficient cooperation between school, PPP and parents of children with a DMT

### O

#### opportunities

- » Use of schools as a partner - awareness of parents, activation of whole family, creation of communities around schools; cooperation with inter-cultural workers
- » Further development of support for secondary school pupils and prevention of dropping out
- » New state system of supporting language preparation in kindergartens and primary schools - option of further development and increase in effectiveness
- » Development of methodological support and education of teachers systemically (greater links between participants - NTI, NGOs, e.g. as a part of KAP, ŠIKK, etc.)
- » Handover of good practice to schools from abroad, networking at conferences
- » Involvement of whole civil society in education (not only NGOs), in area of informal education of children and adults

### T

#### threat

- » End of financial support from OP PGP (risk of end of intensive teaching of Czech as a second language, etc.) - general dependence on project financing
- » School failure and related threat of pathological phenomena in behaviour and risk of exclusion. Repeated failure of children and pupils with DMT because of insufficient language support
- » Insufficient systemic support for education of children and pupils with a DMT (links and consistency; the problem is often dealt with late; long waiting times, e.g. for PPP)
- » Low numbers of pupils with a DMT at secondary schools - high drop-out rates, the distribution of schools is always the same (schools that provide support and schools that do not)



## PRIORITY SUB-AREAS

### A Education of Children and Pupils with a DMT

High-quality **education of children and pupils with a DMT** is a condition for their successful integration into Czech society, where the basic condition is primarily coping with Czech language at the communication and academic level. In 2018-2021, there was an increase in language preparation at kindergartens and primary schools in the form of teaching of Czech as a second language (CSL), in particular thanks to financing from OP PGP and the PC budget. PC, through the Language School of the Capital City of Prague with Accreditation for State Language Examinations, supports pupils with a DMT over the long term with their language preparations for their school-leaving examination.

The Policy's aim is to achieve **high-quality language preparation and support available to every child and pupil with a DMT** receiving an education in Prague schools that will be provided at all levels of schools for the entire time of children's attendance, both in curricular form and outside it. In order to improve adaptation processes, provide mental support for children during social integration and remove of barriers, it is no less important for there to be support for natural learning for children during **informal educational activities**.

During the education of children and pupils with a DMT, what is fundamental is efficient communication between the school and parents. Important support for the brokering of communication between the families of children and pupils with a DMT and schools is performed by community interpreters and inter-cultural workers, who help overcome the cultural and language barrier and facilitate understanding in the case of situations that are demanding in terms of communication. Together with non-profit organisations and the NTI CR, PC arranges not only assistance services, but also translations of school documents into various languages.

In order to ensure high-quality education of children and pupils with a DMT, it is necessary to **obtain current data** in ongoing fashion about the state of education of children and pupils with a DMT in Prague schools, make them available to the relevant participants and take them into account when creating measures. Another thing that is fundamental is **methodological support for founders of schools and educational facilities**, as well as participants active outside education in their **coordination activities**, and awareness about specialist facilities.

#### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area Education of Children and Pupils with a DMT

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
21. Arranging language preparation and support	21.I	Development of support for children in kindergartens for the entire period of their attendance with the aim of reducing language barriers before they go to primary school and increasing adaptation to the Czech educational environment and system of teaching with special emphasis of coping with their transition to primary schools.	EYS PCH + NMF division, ICP, NGOs
	21.II	Support for intensive language preparation of pupils with a DMT at primary schools, including pupils with zero knowledge of the language: ensuring language support and creation of a framework with differentiation between three levels of need for support, coordination, sharing information and monitoring.	EYS PCH + NMF division, districts
	21.III	More intensive arrangement of afternoon courses in Czech as a second language and additional teaching of other subjects during the school year and the holidays in accordance the needs of pupils with a DMT (intensive classes, support for additional teaching).	EYS PCH + NMF division, ICP, NGOs
	21.IV	Setup of support for language preparation of pupils with a DMT when transitioning to/entering secondary school and during studies at secondary school (support for the teaching of Czech as a second language at a language school).	EYS PCH + NMF division, SSs, NGOs
22. Informal education for children	22.I	Removal of barriers in informal education (leisure-time activities) of children and pupils with a DMT, support for attractive forms of activities and motivation of children and pupils with a DMT to get involved in leisure-time activities.	EYS PCH, NMF division + CYC, MKP, NGOs
23. Bilateral cooperation and communication between school and family	23.I	Targeting of districts' support on the use of existing tools supporting communication between schools, parents and children/pupils with a DMT and more information inside multilingual communities through the PC subsidy programme.	EYS PCH, NMF division + districts, NTI CR

24. Continuous methodology support, support for systemic coordination and policy	24.I	Strengthening of coordination of work on education of children and pupils with a DMT at the level of the PCH education and youth department and at the level of districts, improvement in inter-departmental cooperation not only as a part of PCH and the continuity of education of children and pupils with a DMT.	EYS PCH + NMF division, districts
	24.II	Methodology support for founders of schools and educational facilities, their specialist education and management to ensure better-quality education of children and pupils with a DMT, support for communication between schools and their founders and support for districts in their coordination role.	EYS PCH + APED, districts, NTI CR, NGOs, ICP, schools and educational facilities
	24.III	Obtaining current data in ongoing fashion about the state of education of children and pupils with a DMT at Prague schools, making them available to the relevant participants and taking them into account when creating measures.	EYS PCH + NMF division, schools and educational facilities, NTI CR

## B Education of Adult Foreigners

Education of adult foreigners concerning the language, sociocultural orientation and specialist education fundamental for their successful integration into Czech society.

Thanks to subsidy support from PC and other donors (e.g. Mol CR) in 2018-2021 there were language courses for adult foreigners at various language levels, as well as activities focused on ensuring low-threshold education, courses in sociocultural orientation and activities leading to support for professional education of adult foreigners.

The aim is support for educational activities that will systematically cover all areas needed for the integration of adult foreigners into society and for their full integration into the labour market: from **language education** at all levels to **courses in sociocultural orientation** and professional education. No less important is the **awareness** of adult foreigners of educational activities that are accessible to them in terms of time and place, as well as affordable.

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Education of Adult Foreigners**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
25. Systemic and continuous adult education	25.I	Development of leisure-time language education available in local and time terms, including education on specialist language.	NMF division + Expat Centre Prague, ICP, NGOs
	25.II	Support for low-threshold education, courses in sociocultural orientation, support for professional education and meetings at the level of community groups.	NMF division + Expat Centre Prague, ICP, NGOs
26. Strengthening of awareness about the education of adult foreigners	26.I	Development of awareness about the options for education inside foreign-language communities.	NMF division + Expat Centre Prague, NGOs (primarily migrant organisations)

## C Increases in Inter-cultural and Specialist Competences of Teaching Workers

**Increases in inter-cultural and specialist competences of workers involved in foreigner education** are a basic condition for the successful integration of children and pupils with a DMT and adult foreigners into Czech society and for the creation of suitable conditions for the positive acceptance of foreigners by the majority.

In 2018-2021, one of the priorities was strengthening the awareness of schools about options for education of teaching workers, which was ensured, inter alia, through APED. As a part of the PC subsidy programme for the integration of foreigners, NGO projects were repeatedly realised and projects were also realised as a part of support from OP PGP focused on development of teaching Czech as a foreign language. Throughout the period 2018-2021, the realisation of courses for teaching assistants for children and pupils with a DMT was realised.

The aim in this area is further **development of methodological support** for all persons participating in the education of children and pupils with a DMT in terms of both their integration with regard to the currently-valid legislative situation and teaching methods in accordance with the principles of inclusive teaching.

An integral part is **increasing awareness** of the current situation in the field of education of children and adults with a DMT (e.g. legislative changes) for workers in the management of schools of all tiers and the setup of wider cooperation enabling the sharing of experience and deepening of knowledge (inter-disciplinary, nationally and internationally).

Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area **Increases in Inter-cultural and Specialist Competences of Teaching Workers**

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
27. Development of methodological support for teachers	27.I	Across-the-board systemic methodological support and arranging of education not only for teaching workers at a school when acquiring skills in the field of integration of children and pupils with a DMT into education, a class collective and school environment.	EYS PCH + NMF division, NTI CR, NGOs, educational institutions
	27.II	Education for obtaining qualification as teacher of Czech as a second language and subsequent methodological support for teachers of Czech as a second language.	EYS PCH + NMF division, NGOs, educational institutions
28. Strengthening of awareness	28.I	Setup of systemic and coordinated support for management teams at schools in all tiers by increasing awareness of the legislative situation and events in the education of children and pupils with a DMT at all tiers of schools, about the specifics of support at the relevant tier of schools and about the opportunities for financing.	EYS PCH + NMF division, NTI CR, educational institutions
29. Wider cooperation	29.I	Support for sharing of experience and good practice at local and international level.	EYS PCH + NMF division, NTI CR, educational institutions
	29.II	Interdisciplinary cooperation with other institutions from academia and research (e.g. universities, further vocational colleges - research into the topic, psychology, linguistics, SI CAS).	EYS PCH + NMF division, educational and research institutions

# PRIORITY 5: COEXISTENCE

*“Prague is very proud of its multicultural history and present, openly communicates with all city residents and supports society-wide inter-cultural dialogue as a key element of development of a cohesive and tolerant society.”*

## ABOUT THE PRIORITY COEXISTENCE

Prague is a modern, multi-cultural city whose population has large cultural and social diversity. This fact brings a number of positives, as well as new social situations and challenges from the viewpoint of coexistence of all city residents, who could sometimes be worried of the unknown or misunderstandings resulting from language and cultural differences. Experience from other European cities shows that what works best is integration measures that facilitate participation and support for everybody in society, i.e. including new arrivals and long-term residents, foreigners and the majority.

In an attempt to support the development of an open and cohesive society in the city, in the strategic period 2018-2021 Prague therefore included for the first time in its Policy for Integration of Foreigners and the related action plans also a separate priority entitled Coexistence of Majority Society and Migrants. By creating this new priority Prague also responded in part to the worsened perception of foreigners by Czech society, which occurred, in particular, in connection with the migration crisis deepening after 2015. The priority included three sub-areas, focused on supporting inter-cultural dialogue, supporting volunteering as an expanded form of civic involvement in Prague and the development of inter-cultural openness of public institutions and district offices.

For the period 2022-2027 there was a greater restructuring of priorities and sub-aims across the whole Policy, including the structure and content of the Coexistence priority. On the one hand, newly-proposed measures in this priority demonstrate Prague's ambition that the further development of the foreigner integration policy at the city level will continue with greater emphasis on communication of the integration issue regarding all city residents and using a wide range of available media and means of communication. On the other hand, it is important to reflect the needs of various groups of city residents from the viewpoint of retaining a favourable climate as a part of diverse society in the city. In addition, it is a good idea to support the development and use of the positive benefit of diversity as a part of neighbourhood, cultural and social life, and it is necessary to think about prevention and solution of any negative phenomena that diversity of the environment necessarily brings. Inter-cultural openness of institutions has become part of another priority, targeted on social and related services for foreigners.

Overall, the measures in this priority are aimed at supporting integration as a process that leads to problem-free and mutually-beneficial coexistence of foreigners and the majority, the building of awareness of cohesion and co-responsibility together and the building of an interlinked and communicating society.

## STRATEGIC AIMS

## PRIORITY COEXISTENCE

Prague openly declares its vision Prague - A Metropolis for All  
and actively develops social cohesion.

- » Based on the communication strategy worked out, over the long-term Prague is developing an inclusive social discourse, in cooperation with other participants realising an informational and educational campaign aimed at all Prague residents or specific groups of residents, including foreigners, making effective use of and linking its communication channels and dealing with xenophobic moods and disinformation related to migration and integration.
- » Prague systematically supports and, using the mainstreaming principle, develops social and cultural events of a local character that are a natural place for meetings and involvement of Prague residents from the ranks of the majority and foreigners living in the relevant location and support their tolerant coexistence.
- » Prague supports the development of civic society, as it informs and educates foreigners about the options for civic participation, develops volunteer activities and the means of direct support and communication between the majority and foreigners.
- » Prague is ready for extraordinary situations related, inter alia, to migration that could endanger the social climate or a specific group. It has for the solution of crisis situations the appropriate organisational and methodological tools that it is ready to activate and use, if needed.
- » Thanks to the aforementioned measures, Prague residents accept diversity as a natural part of their everyday life in a modern, open city.

## PRIORITY 5: COEXISTENCE

### S

#### strengths

- » Prague has a wide spectrum of participants that pay attention to the topic of integration
- » Wide range of cultural, leisure-time and special-interest events and activities with an integration character
- » The majority population of Prague has experience with foreigners, better understands diversity in society and as a part of the migrant community. This facilitates communication about migration and the implementation of integration measures/activities

### W

#### weaknesses

- » Lack of readiness of institutions: insufficient inter-cultural competences, insufficient knowledge of the foreigner issue and awareness about foreigner integration
- » Ineffective work with the majority. It is primarily the non-profit sector that is active, but encounters negative perceptions from the majority
- » Insufficient awareness of the majority about foreigner integration
- » Weak interest of PC citizens in the topic of integration

### O

#### opportunities

- » Cooperation with media during communication on integration
- » Use of social networks and influencers, as well as digital communication platforms in general
- » Openness towards cooperation on the part of organisations established by PC
- » Education and increases in awareness of participants in foreigner integration in inter-cultural competences
- » Use of the potential of foreigners, as volunteers
- » Positive use of potential of society-wide crisis situations (activation of districts, associations, volunteers)

### T

#### threat

- » Sharpening of relations between the majority and foreigners: negative public attitudes, increases in discrimination on the part of the majority, closure and feeling of exclusion increasing probability of radicalisation on part of foreigners
- » Economic situation endangering the social climate and spreading of negative attitudes about foreigners
- » Ongoing offensive discourse about foreigners in the Czech Republic

## PRIORITY SUB-AREAS

### A Communication about Integration

The topic of migration and integration of migrants started to resonate in Czech society and the media primarily after 2015 in connection with the Europe-wide migration crisis, which unfortunately had and still has negative connotations. Discussions of potential immigration into the country are accompanied by fear of the unknown and also lack facts and expert perspectives. On the contrary, public debate about integration hardly takes place at the society-wide level, outside professional circles it has barely made it into the public consciousness and there is still a lack of awareness about the issue. This state provides plenty of room for the spreading of disinformation and alarming news, which contributes to the creation of conflicts and tensions in society and therefore endangers its cohesion.

Prague is aware of the importance of its role as a self-governing entity and the related task of dealing well with communication of the topic of foreigner integration as a part of the local receiving society. It therefore sets as one of its aims informing the media and the public about its activities focused on support for the integration of foreigners and specific measures realised leading to the successful integration of foreigners into the city's life.

For this purpose, Prague primarily aims to draft its own **communication strategy on migration and integration**, as well as to support its own capacities and the capacities of districts and other participants in their information and education activities. Based on the communications strategy created, there will then be selection or creation of suitably chosen communication tools that enable the city and other participants to openly and systematically communicate with all the city's residents and to support society-wide inter-cultural dialogue.

A key tool of this type is the information web portal [www.metropolevsech.eu](http://www.metropolevsech.eu), the development of which will continue to be important. Updated information materials and other important information and data about individual areas of foreigner integration in Prague are gathered here. Thanks to its four foreign language versions, the portal provides better awareness also to the vast majority of foreigners living in the city. At the same time, in the proposed measures in this priority it ensures that tried-and-tested city communication tools are maintained, both online and in printed form.

No less important is **support for increases in awareness about integration** and its realisation at the local level for all Prague residents on the local authority's part. Correctness, availability and sharing of current information about the issue of foreigner integration are key factors not only for the process of foreigner adaptation to the new environment, but also for adaptation of the majority society and public and private organisations to the growing number of foreigners living in the city. It is therefore very important to support the creation of suitable information tools, the realisation of education events of various types and to develop cooperation with regional media, so that thanks to them foreigners get the necessary current information concerning life in the city and the majority has access to an objective picture of migration and foreigners living in Prague.

#### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area Communication about Integration

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
30. Presentation of the city as the main participant in local integration	30.I	Development and implementation of a communication strategy concerning foreigner integration with the involvement of a wide range of relevant entities, including PC political representatives.	NMF division + MMD PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts
	30.II	Development of PCH's capacities for the promotion of activities by PC and other participants in integration in Prague and for the creation of the necessary communication tools.	NMF division + MMD PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts
	30.III	Development of an information website at <a href="http://www.metropolevsech.eu">www.metropolevsech.eu</a> and its Facebook page, as key communication means for the city regarding the integration target groups.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts
31. Communication with the majority	31.I	Support for realisation of education activities and the use of available communication means suitable for informing the majority about the life and integration of foreigners living in Prague.	PCH division + MMD PCH, ICP, NGOs, districts
	31.II	Support for active cooperation with regional media for the purpose of making the integration of foreigners more visible and creating an objective image of migration and foreigners living in PC.	NMF division + MMD PCH, regional media, ICP, NGOs, districts
32. Awareness of foreigners and their orientation in the	32.I	Support for the creation and regular updating of information materials for foreigners by participants in integration.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs



city	32.II	Support for realisation of education activities increasing the awareness of foreigners about various aspects of their integration into society.	NMF division + ICP, NGOs, districts
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## B Social Climate and Community Life

With regard to the recent worsening of the tense social climate in relation to migration in the whole country and also with regard to the fact that integration of foreigners takes place primarily at the local level, Prague regards it as of fundamental importance to provide maximum support for friendly coexistence between all city residents.

Primarily from foreigners' viewpoints, integration should be in every element of their lives. It is important to offer them the same opportunities as are offered to other residents and to actively contribute to the development of the city and its society. This concerns, in particular, the active participation of foreigners in the creation and maintenance of actual contacts between people through their own civic initiatives or their easy access to an open range of activities of all types in the city. Integration, however, will not happen without the active involvement of majority society, so, in particular at the neighbourhood level, it is necessary to create opportunities for informal interactions. This is realisable primarily through cultural, social and leisure activities. Also through any inter-culturally open interactions at the neighbourhood level. Support for interaction with the majority demonstrably facilitates dialogue and mutual understanding, because in the case of foreigners it fosters a feeling of coexistence in the new environment and helps better understanding of local standards and values.

In the majority it increases the feeling of natural coexistence and more easily creates a friendly attitude to diversity.

PC therefore, over the long term, supports districts, non-profit organisations and organisations established by the city in the field of culture and leisure time for active involvement of foreigners in their activities or the arrangement of various inter-culturally themed events with a focus on the general public. In addition to this, PC plans to continue to support the development of informal links between foreigners and members of the majority through volunteering, which essentially helps easier making of contacts and common creation of local societies.

Non-conflicting coexistence of all city residents not only helps social cohesion, but also has a preventative effect against xenophobia, radicalisation, segregation and social exclusion of some groups of residents, which are challenges that Prague has to be prepared for. In addition, there are important specific steps focused on preventing such expressions regarding foreigners and the creation of a plan for any extraordinary events that could significantly influence coexistence of residents in the capital.

### Sub-aims and proposed measures in the sub-area Social Climate and Community Life

Sub-aims	Code	Proposed measures	Guarantor + cooperation
33. Support for local communities with an integration angle.	33.I	Support for the realisation of cultural, community and leisure activities with a focus on integration, including activities without emphasis on integration, but including inter-cultural elements (i.e. mainstreaming of integration).	PCH division + NGOs, districts, ICP
	33.II	Support for and development of volunteer activities, mentoring and other forms of civic/community participation in relation to integration and direct involvement of foreigners.	PCH division + NGOs, ICP, districts
34. Prevention of undesirable phenomena in PC's diversified society.	34.I	Support for activities leading to the resolution to situations related to public order and the common public interest, including the prevention of xenophobic behaviour and extremist expressions in society.	PCH division + SEC PCH, NGOs, ICP
	34.II	Realisation of extraordinary measures in response to unexpected situations in Prague with a potential impact on foreigner integration (economic crisis, natural disasters, increase in migration, epidemic, etc.).	NMF division + PCH departments, districts, NGOs, ICP

## ANNEX:

### LIST OF ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS COOPERATING ON UPDATING OF THE PRAGUE POLICY

Agency for Migration and Adaptation AMIGA, z.s.

ALLIANCE-BENIN EN RÉPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague

Centre for Integration of Foreigners

CzechInvest - Investment and Business Development

Agency

People in Need

Dignity Restoring Hope, z.s.

Prague City Children and Youth Centre

Modřany Children and Youth Centre

Expat Centre Prague

Faculty Kindergarten at Charles University Teaching Faculty

Czech Chamber of Commerce

Hotel School, Prague 10, Vršovická 43

Caritas Czech Republic

In IUSTITA, o.p.s.

InBáze, z.s.

Prague Institute of Planning and Development

Integration Centre Prague

International Organization for Migration

Language School of the Capital City of Prague with Accreditation for State Language Examinations

KITAP, z.s.

Consortium of Non-governmental Organisations Working with Migrants in the Czech Republic (Konsorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty v ČR, z.s.)

Prague City Hall

Brno City Hall

Čtyřlístek Kindergarten, Prague 13

City Library in Prague

META, o.p.s.: Society for Opportunities for Young Migrants

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

National Teaching Institute of the Czech Republic

New School (Nová Škola, o.p.s.)

Organization for Aid to Refugees

Teaching and Psychology Advice Centre for Prague 1, 2 and 4 Petyovský & Partners s.r.o.

Association for Integration and Migration

Sociology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences

DOKTOR ČECHOV Association of Doctors with Foreign Education

Secondary Vocational School for Logistics Services

Charles University

Office of the District of Prague 3

Office of the District of Prague 4

Office of the District of Prague 5

Office of the District of Prague 7

Office of the District of Prague 9

Office of the District of Prague 11

Office of the District of Prague 12

Office of the District of Prague 13

Office of the District of Prague 14

Office of the District of Prague Libuš

Viet Up, z.s.

Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs

Campanus Primary School

Marjánka Primary School

Professor Švejcar Primary School in Prague 12

Prague City Hall  
Mariánské náměstí 2, Prague 1,  
110 01  
[www.praha.eu](http://www.praha.eu)

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