



Introduction to the project „Strengthening Integration Dialogue Platforms”

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Objectives of Project

- Overall - to strengthen the usage of common spaces and activities in which immigrants (incl. third country nationals) interact with the host societies of countries of the Baltic Sea region
- Specific:
 - to map the existing forms of dialogue platforms on integration in partner countries
 - to pilot dialogue platforms
 - to develop guidelines
 - to equip future organisers of dialogue platforms with necessary skills to hold a successful dialogue event



Final Beneficiaries

- immigrant associations and other civil society organisations that focus on migration and integration of immigrants
- local governments
- state institutions (ministries, state agencies, incl. organisations working with refugees and asylum seeking and law-enforcement agencies)
- media channels
- educational institutions
- private companies
- religious confessions



Partnership

- Lead Partner (1): Estonian Advice Centre (Estonia)
- Partners:
 2. Ida-Virumaa Integration Centre (Estonia)
 3. Latvian Centre for Human Rights (Latvia)
 4. Municipality of Södertälje (Sweden)



Concept

What is dialogue:

- a form of exchange of views:
 - spontaneous on a personal level
 - situated, formalised, and institutionalised as a platform
- dialogue platform – a civic space in which to develop shared understanding and trust on a specific problem and find common ground for working together to solve it



Dialogue: various definitions

- processes to improve the accuracy of decision making and/or assist in the community's acceptance of decisions
- creating jointly meaning and shared understanding' through conversation
- a way to deal constructively with conflicts: „As long as you're talking, you can't be shooting“



Common features

- Deliberation – careful consideration of evidence, social interaction, discussion and debate, consideration of a range of views, and the opportunity to re-evaluate initial positions.
- Inclusion – involvement of a diverse range of individuals and groups, including previously excluded groups who are not represented in the normal stakeholder discussions



Types by objective: way 1

- transmitting information – unidirectional, just informing the other side
- consultation - bi-directional, where the consulted party frames the issue
- active participation - based on a partnership in which citizens, stakeholders, experts and/or politicians actively engage in (policy) debate



Types by objective: way 2

- positional - parties articulate their respective views, merely require acknowledgement
- human-relations – to achieve mutual acknowledgement and increased respect by each party for the other
- activist - to identify common ground and to explore how to contain their dispute through joint action
- problem-solving - to systematically work through the substance of their differences



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Types by status

Dialogue platforms can be institutionalised or ad hoc (project) based

- Institutionalised dialogue platforms:
 - a) Official state-established forums to discuss issues between state/local government and ethnic minorities
 - b) Civil society initiative-based forums, often consisting of representatives of NGOs/minorities/private bodies mainly
- Ad hoc based dialogue platforms – e.g. grant-schemes for supporting dialogues



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Online resources and additional information

**Project web site:
sidp.abikeskused.ee**



THANK YOU!

