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SUMMARY OF EMN AD-HOC QUERY 2023.53

Young people with migratory background and associative realities

Requested by EMN Italy on 12 December 2023

1 Introduction and context

In Italy, an organization called CoNNGI - National Coordination of New Italian Generations ¹ was established with the aim of promoting and enhancing the Italian plurality of the New Generations. Its main purpose is to promote a new approach towards inclusion and participation policies, which takes the real needs of the new generations into greater consideration, by creating and consolidating stable relationships with national and international institutions and organizations.

The path leading to the establishment of CoNNGI, started in 2014 with a public call issued by the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies through the Migrant Integration Portal.

The public call launched the "Direct Line with Second Generations" initiative, which was joined by more than thirty associations of young people with migratory backgrounds. In 2016, these associations decided to embark on a new phase by establishing the CoNNGI (which became a Social Promotion Association in 2017), as a representative entity of Italian plurality in the institutional and inter-institutional, national and international tables.

CoNNGI's main objectives include:

- Promotion of the social empowerment of young people with a migratory background, in terms of their participation in the public debate on policies that directly affect them and the opportunity to express their needs and to propose solutions.
- Raising civic responsibility awareness among young people and encouraging their active participation in the life of society as well as their conscious adherence to shared values.

¹ Coordinamento Nazionale Nuove Generazioni Italiane

- Birth/Implementation of a collaboration network between third sector actors operating in Italy and in Europe to facilitate and promote young people's engagement, identify issues, and experiment possible and related solutions.

The following questions aim to gather information on similar experiences in the different EU Member States, with the objective of investigating how stable relations with institutions and organizations at national and international levels are realized, promoting and valuing the diversity of new generations.

2 Questions posed to Member States of the EMN network and replies

In more detail, Member States were asked, through the Ad Hoc Query tool:

- 1- Are there associations similarly to CoNNGI in your Member State that specifically represent new generations with migratory backgrounds? YES/NO.**
- 2- If you answer YES to Q.1, please describe.**
- 3- If you answer YES to Q.1, are these associations (regardless of the presence of a coordinating body) involved or consulted in public decision-making processes at national level regarding migration-related issues? If YES, please indicate how they are consulted.**
- 4- If your answer YES to Q.1, is there a national register for registering this type of associations? If YES, please explain indicating if it is compulsory or not to do so.**

In general, **21 Member States replied to the AHQ** (AT, BE, CY, CZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, DE, HU, LT, LV, LU, NL, PT, PV, SK, SE, SI, RS, UA). Only 1 Member States (BE) reported the existence of associations, although not at the national level, that represent certain groups of new generations with migratory background.

2.1 EXISTENCE ON NATIONAL TERRITORY OF ASSOCIATIONS SIMILAR TO CoNNGI THAT REPRESENT THE NEW GENERATIONS WITH MIGRATORY BACKGROUND

No Member State reported the existence on State territory of a national entity/association specifically dedicated to the new generations with migratory background that is similar to CoNNGI from the organisational and operational point of view.

However, only 1 Member State reported the existence of local associations that represent certain groups of the new generations with migratory background.

In **Belgium**, the LEVL association, which is active in the Dutch language zone of Belgium, includes among its goals the promotion of collaboration with the Flemish government in building an inclusive society in which second and/or third generation migrants can have equal opportunities and be represented proportionally in all sectors of life and policy.

It is noted, for the sake of completeness, that the existence of migrant associations (not specifically dedicated to the new generations with migratory background) aimed at the integration of young people and children was reported by 7 Member States (AT, DE, ES, FI, FR, PT and SE).

In **Austria**, as an example, the association "*Neue Österreichische Organisationen*" (New Austrian Organisations) is a national network of organisations, independent from the political, ideological and religious point of view, that are active in the field of integration with the aim of jointly promoting the integration and equal participation of migrants in Austria. This association, in representing people of diverse origins, cultural backgrounds and religious affiliations, offers an exchange platform to enable the cooperation and development of the expertise of the various actors involved in integration. **Germany** also indicated the existence of organisations for children and young people not specifically dedicated to the new generations with migratory background. These organisations are brought together at the federal level in the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR). The federal government also supports other national associations dedicated to children and young people, including the so-called MJSOs, associations made up of and managed directly by young migrants. **Finland, Spain, Sweden and Portugal** reported the existence of various migrant associations concerned with the political and civil integration of children and young people of diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious origins.

In **France**, numerous actors from the associative sector as well as public schemes have carried out actions in order to facilitate access to citizenship of young people with a migratory background.

2.2 INVOLVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING THE NEW GENERATIONS WITH MIGRATORY BACKGROUND IN THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Belgium – which is the only member State to have reported the existence of associations representing the new generations with migratory background – provided clarification regarding the involvement of these associations in the decision-making process concerning questions of migration policy.

More specifically, the associations in Belgium can influence the decision-making process at the regional and municipal levels. As regards educational skills, for example, the LEVL association is consulted through policy recommendations to the Flemish government, parliament and educational institutions. Moreover, LEVL participates in the meetings of the Flemish Council for Education and, more specifically, takes part in the Commission for Diversity and Equal Opportunities in Education, the Council for Elementary Education and is a member of the Advisory Committee on Growth. LEVL is also active in various regional Councils against racism and discrimination and takes part in local initiatives, collaborating with municipal directors and administrations. By way of example, it is noted that the association has stipulated various working agreements with citizens' initiatives and with the Flemish Agency for Integration and Inclusion, promoting equal opportunities, social empowerment and civic responsibility.

The Member States (AT, DE, ES, FI, FR, PT and SE) that reported the existence of migrant associations aimed at promoting the integration of young people and children (even if not specifically dedicated to the new generations with migratory background) also provided interesting contributions on the impact of the associations on the public decision-making process on migration matters.

In **Austria**, the point of contact for organisations and associations in the field of integration is the ÖIF (Austrian Integration Fund)², an independent fund of the Austrian

² The ÖIF acts as a nationwide provider of integration services and an integration hub, with 9 integration centres in provincial capitals and numerous mobile consultancy centres in the provinces.

Republic and a key partner of the federal government that cooperates in the promotion of integration.

This Fund is also a member of the "Advisory Committee on Integration"³, the purpose of which is the promotion of a continuous, across-the-board network of expertise, coordination and agreement in decision-making processes, as well as the exchange of knowledge among the key actors in the field of integration.

In **France**, the associations involved in these initiatives are not specifically consulted when national migration policies are in development. However, associations can express their views when certain administrative decisions are subject to prior public consultation.

In **Germany**, the representatives of the Young Migrants' Organisations (MJSO) and the New German Organisations (NDO) support federal policy on young people through representation in the Federal Youth Council and the Advisory Council on Youth Policies of the Federal Ministry for the Family, the Elderly, Women and Youth.

In **Spain**, the "Forum for the Social Integration of Migrants" (consultative body for migrant integration of the Spanish government established to foster structured dialogue between immigrant groups and the government) established a temporary and exceptional working group for producing an ad-hoc inform on the social inclusion of children of immigrants in Spain. In this working group participated young migrants' associations or associations in which young migrants are represented.

In **Sweden**, the possibility is laid down for civil society, together with other interested parties such as governmental organisations, to provide opinions in formulating draft laws. In the field of asylum, dialogue with civic society is also conducted through meetings of the Asylum Forum, held once or twice a year and presided over by the Minister or the Secretary of State responsible for migration. Moreover, the Swedish government organises regular meetings with civil society organisations that are in direct contact with migrants for the purpose of gathering feedback, ideas and perspectives from civil society organisations that operate in the integration sector.

In **Portugal**, the migrant associations, including those dedicated to children and young people, can be elected or appointed to take part in the Migration Council, that is, the consultation, support and participation body, in the definition of the major lines of action and the decision-making process of the governing Council. In this way, the associations are involved and consulted and take part in the legislative processes concerning immigration.

2.3 REGISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS ON A NATIONAL REGISTER

No Member State, with the exception of Austria and Finland, reported the existence of a national register in which all the associations had to be registered. However, Austria and Finland made clear that there was no separate register for associations concerned with migration issues.

Portugal, on the other hand, reported that the entity responsible for recognising the representativeness of all the associations is the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA). The associations that apply must meet all the following prerequisites for the purposes of performing the role of representation: (a) they have published articles of association; (b) they have regularly elected corporate bodies; (c) they are registered on the National Register of Legal Persons; (d) their aim or corporate purpose

³ A body made up of representatives of the Federal government, the provinces, the association of municipalities and cities, social partners, the Federation of Austrian Industries and non-profit organisations.

includes the promotion of the specific rights and interests of immigrants; (e) they develop activities that demonstrate the actual promotion of the specific rights and interests of immigrants.