



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Ethical rules of presenting information on the topics of migration and integration

Requested by SK EMN NCP on 16th March 2016

Integration

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Croatia](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Norway](#)
(23 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

Within its Integration Policy, the Slovak Republic aims to adopt and create informal ethical rules of presenting information on the topics of migration and integration.

The basic assumption of the ethical rules is to strengthen the awareness of the society in order to promote positive perception of foreigners in the Slovak Republic and to highlight their economic and social contribution to the society. These rules should target e.g. employees working in the media sector, public institutions or private companies. Such a strategy shall lead to positive communication on the topic, help to create cultural attitudes of tolerant and pluralist society and have potential impact on eliminating ethnic prejudices, negative sentiments or stereotypes.

Questions

1. Does your (Member) State have any ethical rules of presenting information on the topics of migration and integration?
2. If yes, is it part of an integration policy, another strategic document or is it a separate document? Please provide a link to the text, preferably in English.
If no, is your (Member) State preparing similar measures?

Responses

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.2. No. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.
	Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Belgium does not have as such a document compiling ethical rules for presenting information on the topics of migration and integration. Nevertheless the (regional and federal) actors working on migration and integration refer to the following elements in this context:

			<p>a) A positive attitude towards migration and integration are explicitly mentioned and/or promoted through regional government agreements:</p> <p>The Flemish Government Coalition Agreement 2014-2019 stresses that ““The Flemish society has radically transformed in recent decades as a result of migration and internationalization. Increasing diversity in our society is a reality that we approach with a positive attitude. This means that we invite everyone to shape a Flemish society, a shared future, with his or her individuality as equal citizens and based on equal rights and equal obligations. This also means that we will focus on what connects us and that we will combat all forms of discrimination based on origin.”</p> <p>The Walloon Statement for Regional Policy 2014-2019 also states that the government will pay attention to the harmonious integration of newcomers, their ability to develop a sense of belonging and to become full citizens. Further the government affirms that it will conduct an active cross-cutting policy to enable all citizens to exercise their rights and build the means to live together with respect for each other’s. “Every person deserves a place in the society, regardless of the sex, origin, nationality, sexual orientation, handicap, religious belief or philosophical conviction, gender, etc.”</p> <p>The Brussels Capital government agreement 2014-2019 underlines that “The government, through policies inter alia in the field of employment and accommodation, and through relations with local authorities, will work towards a constant goal of achieving social and cultural mixing.”</p> <p>b) The legislation on the integration of foreigners provides for the respect of the law of 8 December 1992 relating to the protection of privacy with regard to the processing of personal data. Draft decrees and rulings are submitted to the advice of the Commission for the protection of the privacy.</p> <p>c) The staff working in organizations responsible for migration and integration are bound by ethical codes or charters internally elaborated and guaranteed. Such ethical rules can be attached to the working regulations and they are also to be applied in the communication towards the external public. Respect, tolerance, openness to diversity and rejection of all forms of discrimination are some of the values promoted in these codes or charters.</p> <p>d) The communication experts working in organizations responsible for migration and integration may also have identified key principles in this field. For example, Myria, the Federal Migration Centre, underlines that communication must be: 1) mission-based (pursuing clear targets/goals), 2) rights-based (ensuring the respect of fundamental rights), 3) tools-based (well-resourced) and evidence-based (relying on facts and on good</p>
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			<p>knowledge). This last point is key and stakeholders stress the need to present accurate information on the topics of migration and integration.</p> <p>e) Some organizations working in the field of migration and integration have also worked on terminology and its ethical impacts. For example Myria, the Federal Migration Centre, has developed a “migration dictionary” including definitions of a series of terms in the field of migration and integration. This aims to avoid the use of terms such as “illegal person” that reinforce negative messages.</p> <p>f) Unia, the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities, has also worked with medias to develop recommendations in this field that were published in 1994. A new working group is set up in 2016 and consultations are taking place with media/journalists councils.</p> <p>2. Please see above for further information and documents' references.</p> <p>Please find useful links below:</p> <p>a) Flemish Government Coalition Agreement 2014-2019 : http://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/publicaties/detail/het-regeerakkoord-van-de-vlaamse-regering-2014-2019</p> <p>Walloon Statement for Regional Policy 2014-2019: http://gouvernement.wallonie.be/d-claration-de-politique-regionale-2014-2019-oser-innover-rassembleur</p> <p>Brussels Capital government agreement 2014-2019: http://www.parlbruparl.irisnet.be/2014/07/declaration-de-politique-generale-du-gouvernement/</p> <p>e) “migration dictionary”: http://www.myria.be/fr/myriapolis/dossiers-thematiques/dico-de-la-migration</p>
	Croatia	Yes	1. No. 2. No.
	Czech Republic	Yes	1. NO

			2. N/A
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. As a starting point, Finnish legislation guarantees freedom of expression for all citizens and the media alike. However, the Finnish Criminal Code penalizes, for instance, defamation or agitation against an ethnic group. Apart from legislation, the ethical rules regarding presenting information on migration and integration are derived from the government programme, guidelines for responsible immigration dialogue (ETNO) and journalistic guidelines.</p> <p>The Strategic Programme of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government, published 29 May 2015, states that "The Government will encourage open debate about migration policy but will not tolerate racism. We will promote a tolerant and humane national discussion culture". The government programme is a binding guideline for all national, regional and municipal authorities. Furthermore, the government appoints The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO), which works under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and consists of representatives of different ministries, political parties, regional authorities and immigrant organizations. In 2012, ETNO released a 7-point guideline "Theses of responsible immigration dialogue", which lays down the principles for a constructive dialogue that does not violate basic human rights. This year, ETNO aims to promote a dignified culture of dialogue.</p> <p>Publishers and journalists have their own journalistic guidelines and a self-regulating committee, the Council for Mass Media (CMM) that upholds good professional practice and defends the freedom of speech and publication. Public institutions and many private companies have their own set of ethical rules that respect the principles of non-discrimination and equality. However, the public debate about the issues of migration and integration, especially the debate online, is polarized and often does not adhere to any ethical rules.</p>

	France	Yes	<p>1. No, No, France has not adopted any ethical rules of presenting information on the topics of migration and integration. However there are existing laws to prevent and condemn discriminations. The “origin” of the person is the first reason recognized by the law on discriminations (under art 225-1 Code Pénal).</p> <p>2. No, France has not planned to introduce similar measures.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. There are no codified special rules for information on the topics of migration and integration. There is, of course, the general ethical press code to follow. In addition, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugee’s press office strives to ensure that the portrayal of individuals within the communication work regarding these topics is fair and that in particular asylum seekers are not recognizably portrayed unless they agree to.</p> <p>2. see above</p>
	Greece	Yes	<p>1. The Ministry of Interior & Administrative Reform (Social Integration Division) within the framework of Annual Programme 2008 of Greece under the European Fund for the Integration of third country nationals (EIF) implemented in 2010 two (2) Workshops to sensitize journalists to address phenomena of racism and xenophobia. The main purpose of the action was to sensitize journalists in the direction of a multilevel intervention and to help the main media actors to promote a positive image of immigrants and their contribution to the Greek society with a view to address phenomena of racism and xenophobia.</p> <p>The results of that action were the implementation of 1 workshop in Athens and 1 in Thessaloniki and the distribution of 250 folders of relative informative material to the employees working in the media sector who participated to the above mentioned workshops.</p> <p>Prior to the implementation of the aforementioned action under the EIF, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Greece has published an ethical code for journalists.</p> <p>Currently, governments’ formal spokesperson on migration and refugee issues is a journalist (Mr. Georgios Kiristis).</p> <p>Finally, the national television and radio network broadcast news in Arabic language for refugees five (5) times per day (3 via tv and 2 via radio).</p>

			<p>2. As it was mentioned before, the implemented Workshops were a part of an action implemented within the framework of EIF and consequently there is not a link to any relevant text in English. Regarding IOMs ethical code for journalists, you can contact their Athens office via the following e-mail address: iomathens@iom.int For more information concerning news in Arabic language for refugees, you can contact the competent network via the following e-mail addresses: info@ert.gr, programtv@ert.gr, gdera@ert.gr Finally, it should be mentioned that Greece is currently facing increased inflows of refugees and migrants and an ongoing economic recession, which (both) have triggered xenophobia and racism in the Greek society that hamper the smooth integration of migrants/refugees with a different cultural background and tolerance towards culture diversity seems to fade out. In this framework the challenges in the field of migration/integration are big as well as urgent and Greek authorities are preparing measures with a view to promote positive perception of migrants and refugees and combat racism and xenophobia phenomena as well to avoid disorder and social unrest in the Greek society.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. At a government level there is no official document concerning ethical rules for presenting information on the topics of migration and integration.</p> <p>However, it is worth mentioning that in 2008 the Charter of Rome was adopted on the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Italian National Council of the Journalists' Association (CNOG) and the Italian National Press Federation (FNSI), with contributions of representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Office against Racial Discrimination at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and academia. The aim of the Charter was to provide journalists with guidelines helping them provide balanced and exhaustive information about asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants, adopting terminology that reflects national and international law and avoiding spreading inaccurate, simplified or distorted information that may engender unwarranted apprehension. Moreover, the Charter provides for seminars and training courses for journalists on the topics of immigration and asylum, and the establishment of an independent monitoring centre, which – working with universities, research institutes and stakeholders – will monitor developments in media coverage of asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants.</p> <p>2. At present, the Italian State does not appear to be working on ethical rules for presenting information on the topics of immigration and integration.</p>

	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. No, Lithuania does not have such rules.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. No. Nevertheless, the authorities regularly monitor and emphasize the role and the positive contributions of migrations and their added value to Luxembourg.</p> <p>2. No.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The Netherlands did not develop specific rules and legislation regarding the presentation of information on the topic of migration. Yet of course general rules and legislation with regard to presentation of information do also apply to the presentation of information on this topic. The Ministry and the asylum agencies do for example not provide information on individual cases to protect the privacy of the persons involved.</p> <p>2. N/a</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. There are no strategic documents in Poland establishing rules of presentation of information about migrants and they are not being prepared.</p> <p>2. Information published by the administration are prepared in accordance with current legal situation (when concerning legalization of stay and employment in Poland and rights of employees, regardless of their citizenship). Information are prepared according to PR best practice and journalistic ethical code. It must be also underlined that all civil servants shall apply the civil service ethical code in their work which applies to preparation of information for external users.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. No. However, there is a manual designed for technicians in order to provide them a set of references and examples of good practices to support their work when conceiving and implementing integration and interculturalism projects. We must underline that this guide, published in 2011, not only is out of date, but also the</p>

			<p>responsible organization (High Commission for Migrations) was given new additional competences and its work goes further than before. The manual is available on http://www.acm.gov.pt/documents/10181/41781/manual_net+%28%29_claii.pdf/a4e41597-2701-41ab-b321-9647823cdb40 . Recently, the V National Plan to Equality “ Gender, Citizenship and Non-discrimination 2014-2017 was established (available on https://www.cig.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/V_PL_IGUALD_GENERO.pdf) , being transversal to all public administration domains.</p> <p>2. No. So far Portugal isn’t preparing similar measures.</p>
	Slovak Republic	No	<p>This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. YES.</p> <p>2. It is a part of general rules considering all employees working in public institutions. Not specific document for area of migration and asylum has been adopted yet.</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p>1. The action has been carried out through awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>2. The action has been carried out through awareness-raising activities among which:</p> <p>-the OBERAXE carried out in 2008 a project in collaboration with the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, whose main result was the “Practical Guide for professionals in the media: media treatment of migration”. This Guide is still valid for the mass media.</p> <p>http://explotacion.mtin.gob.es/oberaxe/documentacion_descargaFichero?bibliotecaDatoId=50</p> <p>-in the field of private companies, in 2014, the OBERAXE, concluded two major projects for the workplace “Guide to management of diversity in professional environments”</p> <p>http://explotacion.mtin.gob.es/oberaxe/inicio_descargaFichero?bibliotecaDatoId=210</p>

			<p>-more specifically to the small and medium size enterprises “Guide to management of diversity in small and medium enterprises”.</p> <p>http://explotacion.mtin.gob.es/oberaxe/inicio_descargaFichero?bibliotecaDatoId=4055</p> <p>Moreover, the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality in the field of professional training for officials in the Public Administration, has drawn up the “Training Manual for transverse application of the principle of Equality and non-discrimination in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.</p> <p>https://www.msssi.gob.es/ssi/igualdadOportunidades/noDiscriminacion/documentos/Manual_ingles_invertir_igualdad.pdf</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. No
	United Kingdom	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not specifically, but we welcome skilled migrants by building an immigration system that works in the national interest, by attracting the brightest and the best to study in our world-class universities and work in skilled jobs. 2. N/A
	Norway	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes/No. Norway generally aims to behave in an ethical manner, not least of all when it comes to issues related to interaction with our environment and those in it. There are all kinds of guidelines promoting ethical behavior. That said, there are no specific guidelines/rules aimed primarily at migration issues or integration issues 2. The guidelines we have included here are not part of an integration policy, but represent overall ethical guidelines for government staff as well as a code of ethics for the press. All links/documents are in English. Please note there is a Press Council where complaints of journalistic violations of ethics can be lodged.

Norwegian Central Government Communications Policy <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/central-government-communication-policy/id582088/> This document is not intended as a manual in communication work. Hence, there is no referral to specific target groups for government communication.

Norwegian Press Code of Ethics <http://presse.no/pfu/etiske-regler/vaer-varsom-plakaten/vvpl-engelsk/>

European Media Governance (book, see section on Norway), by Terzis, 2007
<https://books.google.no/books?id=68nbtqst-CsC>

Ex. of complaint to Press Complaints Council in Norway <http://journalisten.no/2015/12/decision-norwegian-press-complaints-commission-raise-fury-among-poles>

OTHER COMMENTS:

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has been very conscious about how we actually communicate with the public when they contact us, or when they send in applications. In this connection, we have worked out principals for external communication (2015 – 2018) which are revised on a regular basis. These include the following major points:

- Any external communication measures should contribute to achieving the UDIs overall goals.
- Communications should follow the central government principals (see link above) and contribute to openness, participation, and user orientation and a holistic approach,
- Case officers are responsible for communicating clearly with the applicant.
- UDI aims to have an open communication in a visible and transparent and accessible government agency.

Openness:

UDI communicates priorities and challenges in an open and honest manner.

Visible:

			<p>UDI plays an active role in political debates in order to increase the understanding for the work we do. We take initiative to meeting with the public, applicants and anyone interested in the field of immigration.</p>
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Accessible:

Facts and information are accessible to our users as well as to the general public. Information we provide is easy to understand and we make every effort to make it easy for the public to contact us. Especially for users who want to send in an application, or who have delivered an application, it is our goal to make their application process clear and understandable. We aim for transparency.