



Immigrant Associations

**A crucial contribution for the
edification of an intercultural society**

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acime

Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e Minorias Étnicas





ACIME

High Commission for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities (ACIME)

- A governmental interdepartmental body
- Under the Ministry of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers





ACIME

Mission:

- To promote the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities in the Portuguese society;
- To assure the participation and collaboration (...) in the definition of policies for social integration and against social exclusion;
- To follow up the application of the legal instruments to prevent and prohibit discrimination on the exercise of rights





Immigrant Associations (IA)

ACIME recognizes the 'representativeness' of immigrants and their descendants:

- Be formally constituted as a NGO
- To inscribe in its social denomination the promotion of the specific rights and interests of immigrants
- to develop activities that prove a real promotion of the specific rights and interests of immigrants





Immigrant Associations (IA)

Nowadays there are:

- 99 IA recognized
- Over 50 IA have their process of recognition started





ACIME policy towards IA

- Take part in every initiative
- Are represented in the Consultative Council for Immigration Affairs
- Cabinet for IA technical support (capacity building and empowerment)
- Financial support for activities





The integration process

Building intercultural societies





To be part of...

The need for everyone to:

- share with others (places, moments, activities...)
- contribute to the society
- recognize himself in the society and its institutions (common values)
- Feel himself valorized by the society
- have voice/to be able to influence





Immigrant Associations

A crucial contribution





IA make it possible! Towards immigrants

- **Organizing moments of gathering and social activities**
- **Valorising the culture of the country of origin**
- **Informing immigrants about legislation (rights and duties)**
- **Informing local/regional/national authorities about legislation or procedure gaps**

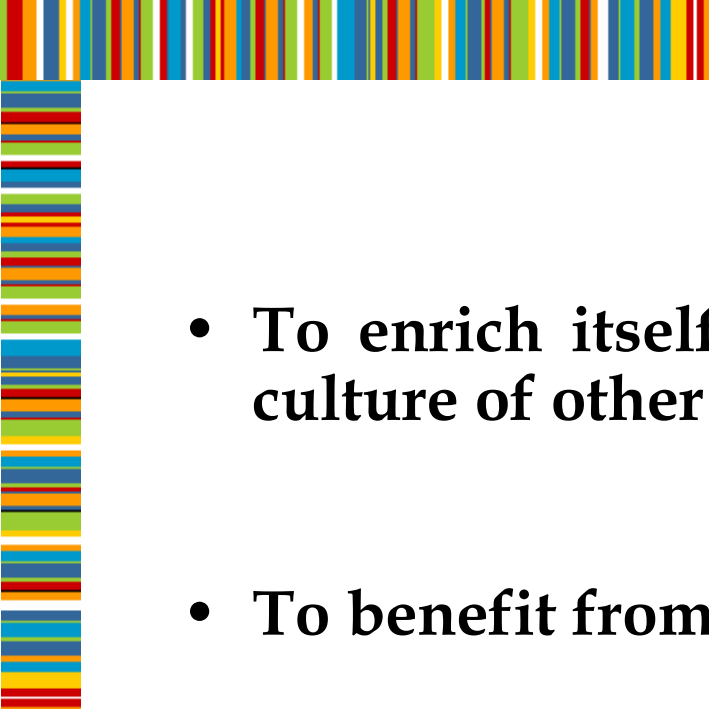




IA make it possible! Towards immigrants

- **Enabling immigrants to participate actively in the community**
- **Giving immigrants voice in society**
- **Facilitating the link with the country of origin**





IA make it possible! For the society

- To enrich itself through deeper knowledge of the culture of other countries
- To benefit from IA activities
- To know immigrant's needs and difficulties for the implementation of better and accurate measures
- To have a facilitated contact with the countries of origin





Important remarks

- IA are different from each other
- IA are independent
- IA can apply to financial support as all other NGO may do
- No paternalist attitude towards IA
- One should promote immigrant's participation in civil society (not only through IA)
- IA should be open to all citizens

