Immigrant Associations

A crucial contribution for the edification of an intercultural society

11º International Metropolis Conference
Lisbon, 5th October 2006

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 ‘representativness’ of immigrants and their descendents:

- 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