

Instructions for filling in and processing the integration platform

The integration platform brings together the activities of organisations and communities that support integration.

It would be desirable for the platforms to be filled in together with other organisations and authorities in joint meetings. This is of great benefit in bringing about closer cooperation and joint planning, particularly at the local level. An organisation can also make a compilation of just its own integration activities.

The empty space in the middle of the integration platform template is filled with the various activities of the organisation(s) that support integration. The integration platform is available as both a PowerPoint file and an A3-sized poster, which can be ordered at <http://www.punaisenristinkauppa.fi>. The integration platform is available in Finnish, Swedish and English.

At the bottom of the integration platform, there are three dimensions of the integration process, and activities are written down according to whether they are primarily

1. activity types for early integration
2. activities that immigrants participate in as active actors
3. equal activities open to everyone

Many activities can be located in several places on the template.

1. Activity types for early integration:

- Activity types that provide support for early integration
- E.g. mother and child clubs, language-learning clubs and other language activities, everyday support, various forms of friend visitor activities
- In these activities, it is common for the organisation to plan and provide the activities and for immigrants to usually be in the role of a participant

2. Immigrants participate in the activities as active actors:

- Activity types carried out by representatives of both the native population and immigrants
- E.g. international clubs, youth clubs, peer activities, leading groups, guidance roles
- One of the motives for the activities and groups is 'multiculturalism,' and they aim to increase the interaction of immigrants with the native population or immigrant actors and/or increase the (cultural) interaction and mutual understanding of the groups.
- Planning is often in the hands of the native population, but the activities are led by immigrants as well

3. Equal activities open to everyone:

- Activity types that are part of the core activities of the organisation or other body and in which the actors are equals to each other in their role (group participant, group leader, peer instructor, board member, communications manager)
- E.g. youth group instructor, box collector, event manager, support person, cooking club leader, football club player, organisation secretary...

National level

Describe the activities supporting integration in three stages, taking into account the progress of the processes (early integration activities, immigrants as actors and equal activities). The most important thing is to get a description of the core activities of the organisation, but you can also write down prominent ongoing projects.

If volunteering is not a thing in your organisation, write down e.g. the materials, guides and training or guidance activities provided by your organisation (where in the process they best fit). The contents of advocacy work can also be written down; on behalf of which target groups you are advocating.

Distribute your organisation's national level integration platform to the district or regional level and ask it/them to fill a regional, realistic and concrete integration platform with their own operators.

To consider: what kind of agreements and exchange of information are needed on a national level between organisations and authorities?

Regional level

Describe the activities supporting integration in three stages, taking into account the progress of the processes (early integration activities, immigrants as actors and equal activities) based on the regional approaches or activity types that are used in your area.

- In the case of a national organisation: Is there something being done in the regions that is not being done in the national activities? Are all the same things being done in the regions that have been described nationally?
- In the case of a regional organisation: Does an activity focus especially on e.g. traditions or regional specificity?

To consider: what kind of agreements and exchange of information are needed on a regional level between organisations and authorities?

Local level

Describe the activities supporting integration in three stages, taking into account the progress of the processes (early integration activities, immigrants as actors and equal activities) based on the local approaches or activity types that are used in your municipality. All organisations whose activities are open to all are added to the local integration platform. The organisation does not need to be particularly 'multicultural.' All hobby organisations, religious actors and other bodies who also welcome immigrants to take part in their core activities are gathered on the platform.

To consider: what kind of agreements and exchange of information are needed on a local level between organisations and authorities?

Finished integration platform on display

If your organisation fills in the integration platform template manually e.g. in a workshop, it is a good idea to scan it so that it can be shared.

The integration platform can be used in your operating environment to describe activities and explore which issues require further development or action. Organisations' joint workshops highlight the strengths and weaknesses of activities supporting integration and can improve and increase integration activities e.g. by planning together and sharing tasks or by organising joint events and training sessions.

An important application for the integration platform is cooperation with the authorities. The platform can be filled in together with the authorities. At the same time, it is a good idea to agree on the monitoring of the activities, the resources required for the activities and the regular flow of up-to-date information on the activities in both directions.

The larger than usual number of asylum seekers in 2015–2016 made organisations come together to think about how to coordinate the cooperation related to receiving the asylum seekers and their integration process and how to scale the operations. The integration platform was one of the solutions created.

More information: <https://rednet.punainenristi.fi/kototarjotin>