**Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)1**

**of the Committee of Ministers to member states**

**on interaction between migrants and receiving societies**

**(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 January 2011**

**at the 1103rd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued, in particular, through common action in the fields of migration, integration and community relations;

Recognising the important contribution of migrants to the social and economic development of the member states of the Council of Europe and the need to enable them to develop and make full use of their potential, knowledge and skills for the benefit of themselves and the societies in which they live;

Recalling that integration is an interactive process based upon mutual willingness to adapt of both migrants and the receiving society;

Considering that the development of policies to improve the interaction between migrants and receiving societies and the participation of migrants and persons of immigrant background in civil society is critical to successful integration;

Emphasising the need to encourage migrants and receiving societies to undertake common activities in favour of the local community and the development of civil society;

Recalling the undertaking in the Final Declaration of the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Migration (Kyiv, 4-5 September 2008) to enhance social cohesion by improving the integration of migrants and persons of immigrant background and the reintegration of migrants who return to their countries of origin, in particular, by promoting interaction and dialogue between migrants and receiving societies;

Acknowledging the particular difficulties in the successful implementation of policies to promote and support interaction and dialogue between migrants and receiving societies and wishing to give member states further guidance in this area;

Reminding member states of the need to take further steps to reinforce social cohesion and the integration of migrants and through this facilitate their full civil, social, cultural and political participation in the communities in which they live,

Recommends that, with a view to going beyond the simple tolerance of difference, achieving wider recognition of migrants’ human dignity and building a sense of their belonging to the receiving society, member states should take all necessary actions to facilitate diverse and positive interactions between migrants and receiving societies and, in particular, those set out below:

1. create diverse and improved opportunities for public interaction;

2. improve skills for interaction among participants;

3 develop improved processes to support and promote positive interactions, including generating wider involvement and providing training for those involved in promoting and enabling this work;

4 promote recognition of migrants’ positive contributions;

5. empower migrants’ participation (and define clearly what they are participating in);

6. consider how existing policies can promote or inhibit interaction while providing flexible, tailored services;

7. ensure that policy makers and practitioners recognise and respect the complexity of diversity when seeking to enable migrants’ involvement in wider society, especially when involving them in developing policies, services and interventions;

8. develop policies which make the most of the potential arising from the multiple aspects and/or dimensions of everyone’s identity, and which allow for these to change and adapt over time;

9. build stronger networks across diverse groups based on multiple connections and affiliations, both for the public and for practitioners;

Recommends, furthermore, that for the purposes of developing policies to implement the aforementioned actions, member states should draw upon the guidance and methodology set out in the Council of Europe policy document “Building migrants’ belonging through positive interactions: a guide for policy-makers and practitioners”.1

Concerning the communication of this recommendation and its follow-up,

Member states are encouraged to translate the present recommendation into their official language(s) so as to ensure that relevant actors fully understand its implications. Member states should, in any event, draw its principles to the attention of the public and private bodies concerned in their respective countries, via the appropriate national channels;

Member states are also encouraged to define indicators making it possible to measure compliance with the principles of the present recommendation and application of its provisions.