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SUCCESS STORIES

National Initiative in Portugal: Programa Juntos por Todos

An ongoing national-scale success story resulting from the partnership between the High Commissioner for Migrations (Alto Comissariado para as Migrações, ACM) and the Public Security Police (Polícia de Segurança Pública, PSP)

Scope and main objectives

The Together for Everyone Program is a result of a partnership protocol between the **High Commissioner for Migrations and the National Command of Public Security Police** established at the beginning of June 2016. It's a program of action and double impact, with the High Commissioner for Migrations and the National Command of Public Security Police reinforcing their skills, knowledge and relational capital in multicultural communities.

This Training Program is based on the principles of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Its main objectives is the promotion of interculturalism and conflict prevention in more vulnerable multicultural communities. It specifically targets immigrant and gypsies and its specific objectives include i) the training of police officers attached to proximity policing patrols in the fields of integration and management of cultural diversity; ii) the training of the High Commissioner for Migrations' staff and technicians in the fields of PSP assignment, organization and intervention, and on the issues of crime and action by security forces.

Consequently, the Program reflects the humanistic values adopted by Portugal's modern police force, and makes strategic choices supported on the principles of proximity policing. It also complements the Police's anti-crime strand with a very clear priority on prevention, the detection of problems in the communities it serves, and an approach to solve its causes.

In a privileged position, the Police is meant to ensure that security becomes a key element in the prevention and mediation of conflicts, regarding the specificities and the diversity of immigrant and gypsy communities. The technicians of the High Commissioner for Migrations are also familiar with proximity policing procedures. In short, this program aims to generate a fundamental synergy in order to ensure that diversity in planning for security of stigmatized populations, because of their identities as immigrants and gypsies.

Administration of the pilot project

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the relationships with the High Commissioner for Migrations, both in terms of training and in terms of counselling, within the context of the

interactions that the Public Security Police promotes with the many communities it serves. This program builds on capacity building and interaction on both sides to make this relationship work better. At this level, context is provided by the Strategic Plan for Migration 2015-2020 approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 12-B/2015 March 20, which aims to seek multi-vector responses in the promotion of a modern migration policy.

In the context of promoting the social inclusion of children and young people from the most vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds, particularly the descendants of immigrants and ethnic minorities, the Programa Escolhas (a Youth Inclusion Program) has been indicated as a good practice to be followed by this project. It was created in 2001 by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 4/2001, from the 9th of January, and subsequently renewed again by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 60/2004 from the 30th of April, by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 80/2006 from the 26th of June, by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 63/2009 from the 23rd of July, by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers nº 68/2012 from the 9th of August 2012. The last Resolution of the Council of Ministers nº 101/2015 from the 23rd of December renewed the Programa Escolhas for the period from 2015 to 2018.

On the other hand, and aware of the serious difficulties of integration and marginalization of the gypsy communities and that interculturalism constitutes a fundamental axis for the development of the contemporary communities, the National Strategy for the Integration of the Gypsy communities 2013-2020, was approved by the Resolution Council of Ministers no. 25/2013, from 27th of March. It seeks to address the needs and challenges faced by these communities with a view to their integration.

Together, these plans support the implementation of the Together for Everyone Program. With Immigrant and gypsy communities as target groups, the trainers came both from the PSP and the ACM; namely PSP agents and High Commissioner for Migrations' technicians. However, these were at the same time trainees, as well as other groups such as children and young people derived from the most vulnerable contexts within the local consortia of the Programa Escolhas.

It was estimated that around 1000 agents of proximity policing would receive training in the areas of integration and management of cultural diversity. In 2017 following the protocol established with the Public Security Police in July 2016, there is information that at least 45 actions were carried, directed to 857 officers and agents of proximity policing throughout the national territory.

Findings and conclusions

Unfortunately, there are still no publications on the findings and conclusions of the "Juntos por Todos" (Together for Everyone) protocol.

We are in talks to interview members of MAI (the Ministry of the Internal Administration), the ACM or the PSP in order to know more about the learning program and the results of the actions promoted.