

Refugee Integration Evaluation Tool

Helping Governments measure impact of integration policies

The development of a refugee integration evaluation tool is part of a necessary strategy shift for protection in Europe where Integration is the most common durable solution for refugees.

There is a tendency among EU Member States as well UNHCR to focus primarily on four articles of the Convention (Articles 1, 31, 32, 33) i.e. on definitions who is a refugee or not, protection against non-refoulement and expulsion. In contrast, some 30 Articles cover nearly all aspects of the life of a refugee and try to regulate issues which should enable a refugee to re-start a new life in the country of asylum – in other words Integration.



**Strategic
shift towards
integration**

Integration policies by far more difficult to design than asylum system

While the process of refugee status determination in its legal and social aspects usually involves one or two ministries of a Government, integration is a multidimensional complex process. It necessitates actions from numerous ministries, different levels state administration all the way down to municipalities and from a large variety of non governmental stakeholders such as NGOs, employers, trade unions, schools, education providers of language and vocational skills, health care providers, the banking system, landlords and many others. Therefore it has been very difficult to evaluate the impact and the cost effectiveness of integration measures so far.

Integration Evaluation Tool comprises over 200 Indicators

The Migration Policy Group, a Brussels based think tank, in close collaboration with the Regional Representation developed a comprehensive Integration Evaluation Tool. The tool will help create a data base with over 200 indicators requiring inputs from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders alike.

The indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, are grouped under four headings:

Qualitative and quantitative indicators

- 16 indicators on general considerations (impact of reception conditions on integration, mainstreaming of refugees into general policies, ...)
- 75 indicators on legal integration (residency rights, family reunification, ...)
- 84 Socio-economic indicators (housing, employment, health, ...)
- 46 socio cultural indicators (language learning, participation, ...)

The tool covers every aspect of refugee life, from the use of skills and qualification in their current employment or school enrolment of children to more administrative issues such as government budgets for cultural orientation.

Experts from many fields fill simple Internet based forms

No one person has all the types and areas of expertise to answer. In each country UNHCR needs to identify persons with different areas of expertise (i.e. naturalisation, employment, health,...) and different types of expertise (i.e. legal, policy, financial, research, ...). Legal experts, policy analysts, financial officers for state and non-state actors, project evaluators and researchers will cooperate on the project.

The evaluation tool will be available online and each expert will have access to those parts that match his/her expertise. So, in spite of the proportions of the database, the task per individual expert is not going to be overwhelming. Once all data have been entered, a peer review will be carried out to consolidate the information and objectify results.

	Country X - 2010	Country X - 2012
EMPLOYMENT		
Labour market access - recognised refugees	3	3
Labour market access - subsidiary protection	1	1
Labour market access - resettled refugees	3	3
Procedure to recognise qualifications	2	3
Identification as vulnerable group in labour legislation	3	3

18 months for the pilot

Provided commitment from all Governments involved and sufficient resources, piloting the evaluation across the Central European region will take some 18 months. Once established, however, regular follow-up surveys are expected to be considerably faster.

What can be obtained through the integration evaluation tool

The European Commission in its Common Agenda on Integration outlined what steps Member States can take to gather the data needed to implement Common Basic Principle 11¹. The indicators in this tool have been chosen in accordance with policy goals needed to achieve a Common European Asylum System. Thus the tools will help governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and UNHCR to establish both what data are needed and whether policies achieve these goals.

¹ 11. Developing clear goals, indicators and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to adjust policy, evaluate progress on integration and to make the exchange of information more effective.

