

Proposals and some practices in order to prevent and solve problems arising from individuals of different religions and cultures

Prof. Dr. Zafer Ayvaz
Editor of Environmental Journal
"Ekoloji"



### Immigrants' assimilation and integration

Assimilation is mostly a one-way absorption process.

Whereas integration is a process of providing immigrants with equal chances to access opportunities available to native-born.



It reflects that receiving societies accept them, and provide them with equal rights to express their behaviors along with the native-born, while preserving of their differences.

### Integration in EU countries

- The willingness of immigrants to integrate is not enough.
- The duty of the receiving societies is to accomplish a work of accepting and integrating them.
- Integration has been a priority in EU countries, supported at EU level through different concrete measures included in the European Commission's Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals.
- The faster migrants are integrated, the better they do and the more they contribute to their host economies.



### Dimensions of Integration Process

- The integration process has the legal/political, the socioeconomic and the cultural/religious dimensions
- Legal/political dimension relates to governmental issues while socioeconomic dimension is related both governmental and communal.
- In this presentation, it will be discussed social and cultural/religious dimension, which concern both host societies and immigrants.



### **Cultural and Social Integration**

- Immigration integration policy in the EU recommends actions, such as
  - shared forums,
  - inter-cultural dialogue and
  - education about immigrant cultures,
- which enhance
  - interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens and
  - promote mutual understanding.



### Arts and culture

- Commission's Handbook on Integration highlights the role of <u>arts and culture</u> in giving a voice to migrants and refugees.
- The Commission recommended <u>EU financial</u> <u>support</u> to cultural diversity projects through arts and culture.
- There is an urgent need to find strategies allowing the refugees to be included in European societies while preserving their cultural roots and identity.



### Culture as a factor for helping refugees

- It is focused on culture as a factor in helping refugees
  - to recover from trauma,
  - develop their skills, and
  - feel empowered,
  - as well as contributing to conflict resolution and prevention, and
  - mutual understanding





### Tolerance

- Migration is a huge asset and a challenge within Europe.
- The key to mastering this challenge would be tolerance, and one task of the cultural institutes is to promote tolerance in the entire society.
- Integration is an <u>ongoing</u>
   <u>process</u> rather than a final
   destination, focusing not only
   on immigrants themselves but
   also on the responsibilities of
   the receiving societies and
   state authorities.



# Activities regarding integration done by host societies

# Governmental and international activities

- Lisbon Treaty that came into force in December of 2009 and articulated the European initiatives to support the policies of Member States in the area of immigrant integration.
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants



# Committees, programs

- The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Council of Europe, The Intercultural cities program
- KNOMAD, the Global
   Knowledge Partnership on
   Migration and Development,
   is a brain trust for the global
   migration community.
- ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) is Germany's oldest intermediary organization for international cultural relation.









### **Projects**

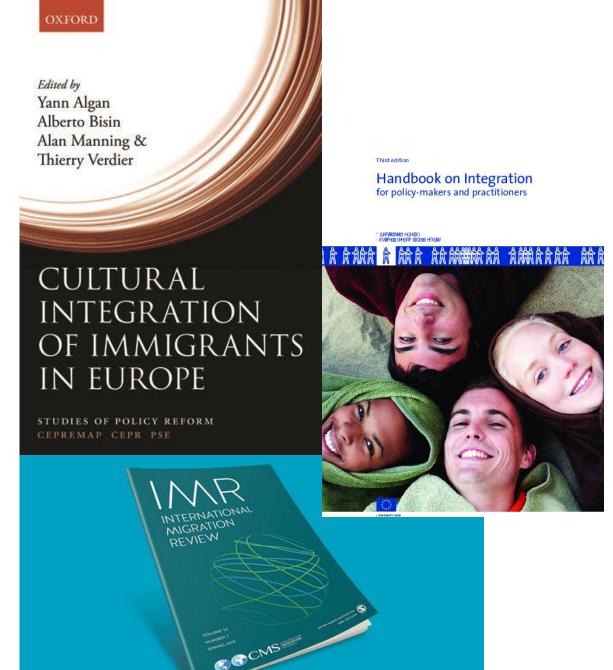
- Causes and Consequences of Socio-Cultural Integration Processes among New Immigrants in Europe. Georg-August-Universität, Germany
- Night spaces: Migration, Culture and Integration in Europe (NITE) for supporting community wellbeing and better integration. Project Partners: Netherlands; UK; Germany; Denmark; Ireland.





## Books and journals

- Cultural Integration of Immigrants in Europe
- Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners by European Commission.
- International
   Migration Review is an interdisciplinary journal



#### **Research Centers**

- Migration Policy Centre
- The European Policy Centre
- The University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society
- The Migration Policy Institute's National Centre on Immigrant Integration Policy
- The Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at Osnabrück University
- The Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona.
- The master's programme in Migration Studies at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.













#### Websites

- Good practices in EU
- Migration Data Portal
- European Migration
   Law is a unique
   website which
   offers easy and
   rapid access to EU
   law, case laws and
   news in the fields of
   asylum, immigration
   and free movement
   of people.







# Financial supports

- The European
   Commission's
   Asylum,
   Migration and
   Integration Fund
- Europe for CitizensProgramme
- The Creative Europe Programme





# Europe for Citizens Programme



Platforms, councils, consulting offices, forums, working groups, networks, and NGOs

- European Union National Institutes for Culture
- Migration Policy Group
- Network Migration in Europe
- European Migration Network
- The European
   Migration Forum









NETWORK MIGRATION IN EUROPE

Platforms, councils, consulting offices, forums, working groups, networks, and NGOs

- The Human Rights League
- Human Rights
   Defenders
- The Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration
- Eurocities working group on migration and integration
- International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network





The Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration





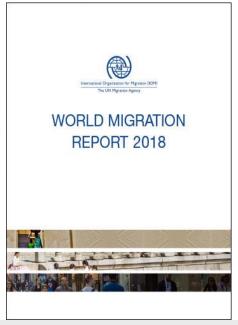


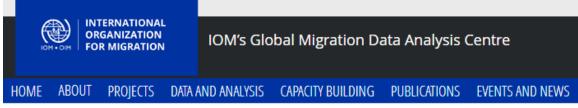
# Indexes, indicators and reports

- Eurostat
- The Migrant Integration Policy Index
- The Migration Governance Indicators
- IOM's 2013
   World Migration
   Report









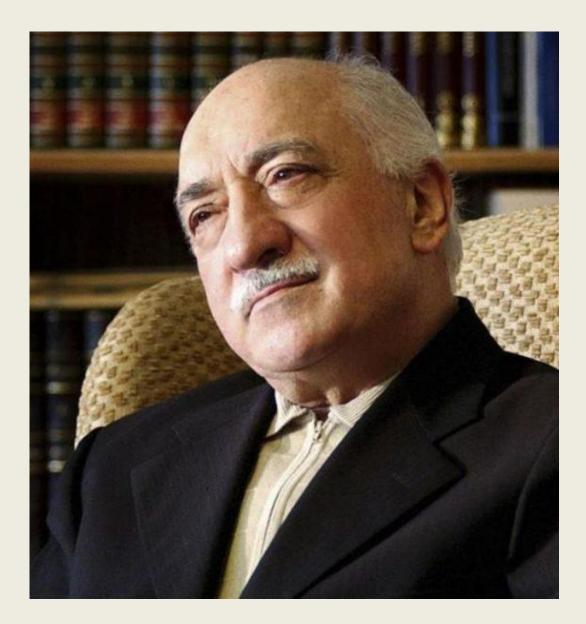
MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

# Activities Regarding Integration done by Guest Societies

The Gulen Movement as an example in Europe and worldwide

## Activities regarding cultural integration done by Gulen Movement

- Fethullah Gulen is a Turkish Muslim scholar, opinion leader and peace advocate.
- He is one of the world's most influential Muslim scholars, the inspiration behind a major transnational civil society movement.
- According to Gulen, dialogue is not just about overcoming problems of our globalizing world but is necessitated by our very humanity and his Islamic faith.



### <u>Dialogue</u> <u>initiatives</u>

- It was in the early 1990s that he began particularly advocating the need for dialogue initiatives and organizations.
- He visited religious and ethnic leaders such as:
  - the Patriarch of the Turkish Orthodox community,
  - the Patriarch of the Turkish Armenian community,
  - the Chief Rabbi of the Turkish Jewish community,
  - leaders of the Turkish Alevi community,
  - Pope John Paul II and,
  - the Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel.





# Gulen inspired dialogue initiatives and projects worldwide

- The

   International
   Festival of
   Language &
   Culture
- Charter
   schools and
   cultural
   centers





## Forum Dialog, Berlin/Germany

- Interreligious, Interfaith, and Christian-Muslim Summer Schools
- Project Human Rights and Religion
- Project House of One: Jews, Christians and Muslims came together in Berlin.





DREI RELIGIONEN. EIN HAUS.

#### **Concerts, Festivals**

Turquoise Harmony, South Africa organized

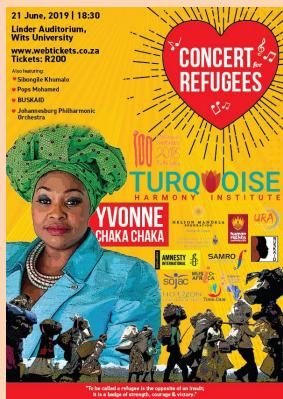
- Dialogue and Friendship Dinners
- A Concert for Refugees

Dialogu Nams, Latvia organized Latvian Language Festival

Balturka, Lithonia organized Poetic Umbrella (*Under the umbrella of Lithuanian language and culture*)









#### **The Netherlands**

- Platform INS initiated Project «Art of Living Together»
- Dialogue
   Haaglanden
   initiated Projects
   like:
  - Nobody is Alone
  - Youth is the Future
  - Islamic Foster
     Parents Wanted





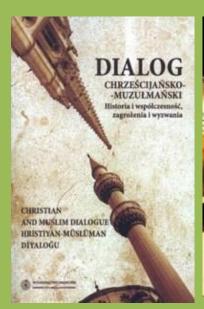






## **Dunaj Institut Dialogu Warsaw/Poland**

- Books (Dialogue, Dialogue of Civilization Muslim Education: A pedagogical Vision of Fethullah Gulen)
- Workshops (Turkish Kitchen, Ebru Art, Music: Learning to play "ney")
- Dialogue Conversations
- Seminars on communication without violence
- Cultural meeting: Evening of Ukranian Culture
- Conferences (Pesach -Universal Freedom Festival, CC Crisis&Outcomes of COP24)
- Roundtable: Why dialogue?







## **Dunaj Institut Dialogu Warsaw/Poland**

- Planting trees
- The International Festival of Language & Culture (IFLC)
- Dinners ( Christmas dinners, Iftar dinners in Ramadan, Dinner at Festival of Sacrifices)
- Luncheon meetings
- Social Evenings
- Picnics
- Visits to the orphanage
- Dunaj football cup
- Carrier talks
- Meetings (with neighbors, with Mayor)
- Islam Day in the Catholic Church
- Movie nights
- Language Olympiads





# Lilia Platforma Kobiet Warsaw, Poland



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

What can be done against air pollution?





### **Conclusions**

- A quote of the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead who was the President of EC between 1977 and 1981, well explains integration process:
  - I do not regard [integration] as meaning the loss, by immigrants, of their own national characteristics and culture.
  - I do not think that we need in this country a 'melting pot', which will turn everybody out in a common mould, as one of a series of carbon copies of someone's misplaced vision of the stereotyped Englishman...
  - I define integration, therefore, not a flattening process of assimilation but as equal opportunity, accompanied by cultural diversity, in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance.

### **Conclusions**

- There is consensus that the notion of integration entails a multi-dimensional and multi-actor process of participation, interaction and understanding, encompassing societies as a whole.
- Love, tolerance, dialog, relief, humility, self-devotion, and to create common spaces for meeting and working together in socially beneficial works are essentials for creating sustainable integration of immigrants.
- The Gulen Movement plays important role in this regard.

## Thanks for your attention

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