

Dear Sir/Madam

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the MIPEX Regions Project (MIPEX-R).

Currently CIDOB, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, together with the Migration Policy Group (MPG) are leading the fourth edition of the Migrant Integration Policy Index project (www.mipex.eu) in all European Members States and other participating countries. MIPEX analyzes and compares the effectiveness of migrant integration policies at the State level in the European Union. The objective of this index is to study up to eight policy areas, such as education, health care, labour market, or family reunification.

Throughout the different editions of MIPEX we have come to realise that many integration policy areas are not comparable at state level as they are competencies of regional or local level structures. In this context, we are considering the possibility of applying MIPEX to a few regions in Europe by adapting the methodology and evaluation criteria to the regional level. We believe that MIPEX-R is an excellent opportunity to highlight the particular role of sub-state levels and to put them at the forefront of integration policies monitoring. Since MIPEX-R would allow the analysis and comparison of integration policies among these levels and it would increase the visibility of regional policies and stimulate debates on objectives, progress and results. Furthermore it would lead to the creation of instruments to improve policy outcomes.

At this moment we are organizing the first meeting with the regional independent experts that will be take place in Barcelona in June or July. We are therefore inviting you participate in this first phase of MIPEX-R, whereupon we want to study the viability of this project. Phase 1 is the explorative research phase, which aims to conclude if there are comparable region-specific integration policies. If the outcomes of phase 1 are positive, as we suspect, and we find that integration policies that are competencies of regional level administrations are comparable we would then proceed to the continuation of the project. Concerning funding for the next phases of the research, we would like to launch conversations with the Commission in order to ask them for their support. However, we believe that this support will not be available until we have finished phase 1, that is to say, until we can assure that there are region-specific comparable policies to analyze and that a minimum number of regions have committed to the project.

Please note that at this Phase 1 the Catalan Government will cover the costs of CIDOB – MPG personnel, catering, conference room and services of the Brainstorming meeting. And each region will have to take care of their own expenses: five days research by their two regional independent experts and their travel and accommodation costs for the Brainstorming meeting in Barcelona. You can find more details in the power point.

Please find attached the PowerPoint presentation with all the information on the project (objectives, phases, preliminary budget, etc).

We remain at your disposal for any questions you might have. Also if you need more time to take a decision please let us know.

Yours sincerely,