



**INTERREG III B CADSES
Neighbourhood Programme
(2000-2006)**

Measure 1.4 Spatial impact of immigration

The impact of immigration on territories characterised by the presence of historical national and European minorities

In recent decades, most member states of the European Union have experienced a marked increase in the number of Third Country Nationals residing on their territory. Most of them have settled with varying degrees of permanence in countries other than their countries of origin. Due to this situation, the governments and the other public authorities must deal with the task of integrating such foreign residents into the community in which they live.

The question is to point out and verify the impact of the immigration flow, and its consequent stabilisations, in territories characterised by the presence of historical minorities which are recognised at national and European level. These social and cultural contexts have fragile equilibriums where the society composed by more than one population was progressively defined on specific cultural, linguistic, economic and legal patterns. The substantial flow of populations coming from other territorial contexts tends to change the pre-existent balance, thus questioning the social relations between the different groups, and therefore the living together social pact itself.

The multicultural and multi-linguistic variety of some European regions highlights the fact that the foreign population settled on their territories, constitutes what could be considered a “new minority”, a sort of group flanking the ones already existing in processes of social emersion and affirmation of their diversity and in the legal recognition about their cultural difference raised from the migrant experience. The elements of cohesion of this “new minority” group are often not to be found in the linguistic identity, since there are in fact many languages on the same territory. Elements of cohesion are rather linked to the common personal experience and story of migration.

In order to integrate immigrants, to develop social cohesion and a culture of living together in a territory profoundly multicultural and multi-linguistic, it would be desirable to define clearly a framework of right and duties, so that the minority of immigrants will be recognised not just as useful labour force and economic resource, but will gain full membership of the communities in which they live.

Therefore, in order to accommodate apparently conflicting claims between historical minorities and the new groups originating from immigration, it is necessary to focus on the consequences of immigration upon the hosting country. In light of the EU motto “Unity in Diversity”, integration and respect for diversity regards no longer solely the historical minorities on the territory. Rather, this view has to be adapted and enlarged to a new Europe, which is characterised by the constant movement of people. In particular, the idea refers to the contents of the Aja Programme (December 2004) which intends to realise a common migration policy, defining integration as progress which runs in two directions: regarding, that is, both the Third Country Nationals who settle legally and the hosting community itself. Moreover, it seems particularly important to adopt a common approach to the management of economic migration exposed in the Green Paper, presented by the Commission in January 2005. In fact, the search for employment is one of the main pushes toward migration.

Moreover, both anti-discrimination policies and dialogue between cultures are promoted, taking into consideration instruments and best practices written in the Manual of Integration presented in November 2004.



The present project idea is to realise a strong cooperation between regions presenting similar characteristics, mostly in terms of the co-presence of native minorities and a new flow of immigrants (as for instance Thrace in Greece, Carinthia in Austria, Transylvania in Romania, Vojvodina in Serbia, Istria and Dalmatia in Croatia, the Region of Pririn in Bulgaria, etc.) in order to propose possible coordinated and actions with the aim to find win-win solutions and limit the negative impact of immigration on such fragile communities and to promote social cohesion and constructive relationships between hosting countries and countries of origin.

Some information about South Tyrol

In particular, the region of South Tyrol is characterised by the presence of ethnic and linguistic minorities protected by the autonomy of the Province: established since 1948 by constitutional law, with the new statute of 1972 primary and secondary competences were assigned to both Provinces of Trento and Bolzano which compose the Region of Trentino-South Tyrol with autonomous statute¹.

With the 14th general census of the population and of the houses in the Province of Bolzano in 2001, the national institute of statistics (ISTAT), in collaboration with the provincial institute of statistics (ASTAT) has pointed out the following composition of the south Tyrolean population.

Table 1 shows data taken from the determination of the three linguistic groups in the Province of Bolzano and refers to 428.691 valid declarations on a population included in the census of 460.635².

Tab. 1 – Declarations of belonging and of aggregation pro linguistic group – Census of the population 2001

<i>LINGUISTIC GROUPS</i>	<i>Declarations of belonging</i>	<i>of Declarations of aggregation</i>	<i>Total of valid declarations</i>	<i>Composition % pro linguistic group</i>
Italian	110.206	3.288	113.494	26,47
German	290.774	5.687	294.461	69,15
Ladin	18.124	612	18.736	4,37
Total	419.104	9.587	428.691	100,00

In recent decades, South Tyrol's natural characteristics of multilingualism and multiculturalism are considerably increased, due to the higher number of immigrants from abroad: the Dossier Caritas 2002 points out how from 1991 to 2001 there was an increase of 197% among the number of immigrants, switching from 9.316 residents to 18.411.

The analysis of the composition about the presence of immigrants in the Province of Bolzano shows a multiethnic situation composed of more than hundred different citizenships.

¹ Decree of the President of the Republic 31 august 1972. nr. 670, Approval of the consolidating act about the constitutional laws concerning the autonomous statute of Trentino-South Tyrol, G.U. 20 November 1972, nr. 301.

² The ASTAT data are based on 445.234 declaration envelopes where 428.691 were valid, while the white and invalid were 13.030. Envelopes without declarations were 3.513; referring to the 460.635 unities censused the difference of 9.893 is due to "immigrants declared resident, to people with usual stay, but temporarily absent on the date of the census who were not able to give their declarations, and to people who didn't want to give their declaration about the belonging to one of the three linguistic groups". ASTAT Census of population 2001. Determination of the number referring to the three linguistic groups of the Province of Bolzano, nr. 17, august 2002, page 5.



Tab. 2 – PROVINCE OF BOLZANO. First 5 nationalities of immigrants extra-UE: residence permits pointed out at the end of the year (2002-2003)

	2003	
	<i>Bolzano</i>	<i>Italy</i>
Total	7.713	571.020
Albania	2.553	233.616
Morocco	1.656	227.940
Serbia-M	1.388	45.302
Pakistan	1.164	30.506
Macedonia	952	33.656

Proposal of actions

In order to realise an analysis of the impact of immigration on territories characterised by the presence of historical national and European minorities, the provincial Observatory on Immigration of Bolzano, proposes three system actions and three hypothesis of research-action.

System actions are intended to produce outstanding reports able to influence local policies on migration. Those instruments will be realised through the creation of a common platform between the different project partners, which is able to induce exchanges of experiences, best practices and common procedures with the aim of action-models able to solve the problems regarding the relation between foreign citizens and the local communities.

Those instruments are:

- observatory regarding migration flows;
- antidiscrimination and discrimination monitoring centre;
- interactive online system.

Through the observatory of migration flows we intend to achieve:

- in depth and constant acknowledgements regarding the modalities of cultural, social and economical integration of principal migrant communities settled on the territory in order to update and review policies on this complex phenomenon.
- The creation and maintenance of information flows which will collect and elaborate data coming from the network of the social, health, educational and labour services and which will work closely with a multiple sensors and local, national and international sources able to reconstruct the different dimensions of the phenomenon, its evolution, the potential and the difficulties of the different populations on the single territorial contexts.
- highlighting and evaluating results regarding the social integration policies of foreign migrants and the single operational experiences realised on the territory.



Through the antidiscrimination and discrimination monitoring centre we intend to achieve:

- monitoring discrimination as foreseen by article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty and from recent EU directives; informing and training public and private operators in order to promote a culture of equal opportunities and full citizenship for everybody;
- assisting victims of discrimination in terms of direct or indirect protection.

Regarding an interactive network system we intend to create:

- a web site where instruments to work worldwide are available and where the interaction of different subjects is stimulated
- an archive where relevant documents are available to all participants
- a network of monitoring and operational groups present in the different territories and activity sectors, which will provide fast information and opinions on the tendencies and on the themes relevant to the project.

The three hypotheses of research-action constitute the practical output of the system actions and are linked to researches on topics concerned with the following areas:

- investigations on the good and bad practices registered in different contexts on the management of relations between pre-existent minorities and majorities, deepened in the two following researches
- report on seasonal employment / permanent employment and its impact on the pre-existent population.

The analysis of such a report will be about:

- the typology of seasonal employment
- from the seasonal to permanent stay
- equilibrium between the coexistence of foreign seasonal workers, permanent foreigners, foreigners who settled down and national minorities
- analysis of the migration flow exchange and of antidiscrimination policies: impact on the territory of migration flow in both the country of origin and country of destination, equilibrium of coexistence and development.

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