

# Conference News

EIGHTH  
INTERNATIONAL  
METROPOLIS  
CONFERENCE

Gaining from Migration

Vienna 2003

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## A Competition for Brains

“Migration policy has to be linked to labour policy to achieve social welfare” was the core theme of session 2.1. What do the various organisations such as the EU, NAFTA and ASEAN do to meet the challenges migration poses?

“Europe has changed from an emigration to an immigration region”, says migration researcher Rainer Münz. Up to the 1950s, more people left than came to live here, and until the beginning of the 1990s there was still emigration from Southern Europe. This only changed after the accession to the EU of Spain, Portugal and Greece in 1986. Judging from demographic studies, this means that also the new accession countries in Eastern Europe will become countries of immigration. “Surveys indicate a potential for four to five million migrants in Eastern Europe”, considers Rainer Münz.

However, Gudrun Biffl of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research in Austria sees “an increased mobility of capital and less movement of persons in Europe.” The reason might be that “people don’t move when wage differences are small”, as Don DeVoretz of the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver put it. As he explained, there are business travel cards be-

tween Canada and the United States. Still, the Canadians don’t want to leave their country, because there is not enough incentive for them to do so. “When they are married and have kids, moving is too much trouble”, explains Don DeVoretz.

That’s also how Irina Lipowa, the Polish ambassador to Austria, sees it.

“In Western Europe, there’s a fear of large-scale migration from Poland”, she says. “But many Poles and people of Polish descent move back to Poland now as they have better opportunities there – and it’s mostly the best qualified to do so.” Poland does encourage the young people to go abroad for a while to gain experience. But the

people feel so close to their country that they want to come back. “If they really want to emigrate, they are mostly interested in going to the USA as they have better career opportunities there and find less xenophobia”, she explains.

And this could pose a problem for Europe in future. “Except for the time of the war in ex-Yugoslavia, there was no major inflow of migrants into the EU.” As most migrants still see the United States as the best option when they want to emigrate, there will be a “competition for the recruitment of highly qualified people between the EU, the USA and Asia”, says Ron Skeldon of the University of Sussex in Brighton. As Asia incorporates some of the largest economies in the world (such as India, China or Japan), we can also see a shift from countries of emigration to countries of immigration there. “While they do not encourage permanent settlement, they still all agree that they have to work against trafficking and human smuggling which are on the increase in Asia”, says Ron Skeldon.



## Today's Keynote Speakers



Patterns of governance in migration and integration policies – Defining roles for public & civil society actors  
**Virginie Guiraudon**,  
Research Fellow

at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)

Virginie Guiraudon is a research fellow at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Lille, France. She holds a PhD in Government from Harvard University, where she focused on the evolution of the rights granted to foreigners in France, Germany and the Netherlands since 1974. She has been a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence as well as visiting fellow at Princeton University and the University of Nijmegen. Her current research analyses the delegation of migration control functions to local, private or transnational actors.

Civil society actors have always played an active role in helping refugees and

immigrants to integrate into their new societies. They deal with the needs of individuals and have a significant capacity to deliver settlement services as well as to lobby and speak out on behalf of vulnerable populations. Virginie Guiraudon will highlight national differences in the role distribution between state and NGOs in the light of governance and the efforts to create public-private partnerships in the provision of services to newcomers and refugees.



Migration policy development on a regional scale – The emergence of multi-level governance in asylum, migration & integration

**António Vitorino**,  
EU Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, Brussels

Born in Lisbon (Portugal), António Vitorino earned his Master in Law and Political

Science at Lisbon Law School. Before becoming European Commissioner with responsibility for justice and home affairs in September 1999, he was a law professor, a judge, Secretary of State of the Macao Government, Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee.

What are the opportunities regional policy harmonisation can offer with regard to immigration, asylum and integration? António Vitorino will reflect on the prospects of a common European migration and asylum policy. Latest developments on the EU level include efforts to achieve harmonised asylum systems as well as the attempt to create common rules for family reunification, access to employment, permanent residence and social rights for third-country nationals comparable to those of Union citizens.

### Daily Programme

Multilevel Governance of Migration and Diversity

9:00–10:45 Session 3.1

11:15–13:00 Session 3.2

14:30–18:00 Workshops

Changes in the Programme

Session 3.2: Ute Vogt (Secretary of State/German Ministry of Interior) represents Otto Schily, Gervais Appave (IOM) represents Brunson Mc Kinley. Alex Rondos (Greek Government) will also attend the session.

### Social Event

Evening reception at the “MAK” (Austrian Museum of Applied Arts) 20.00–

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## What are the advantages of diversity for cities around the world?



**Aftab Hladikova,**  
Charles University  
Prague (Czech  
Republic)

There are several aspects of diversity: language, religion, culture, ethnicity. But

instead of emphasizing the differences let us celebrate similarities to achieve social cohesion.



**Adolphe Lawson,**  
Södertörns högskola  
(Sweden)

The advantages of diversity depend on the policy. We need consistency on all levels, bottom-up and top-down, locally, nationwide and worldwide to make it work.



**Guro Fjellanger,**  
Centre for Combating  
Ethnic Discrimination  
(Norway)

Cities can gain a lot of every human being if people are not put into boxes, but

helped to fulfil their own dreams and put their resources into use.



**Renato Graziano  
Battistella,**  
Scalabrini International  
Migration Institute  
(Italy)

Diversity is good, if it is understood as a possibility

for everyone to contribute. It does not mean everything has the same value. Diversity does not mean: anything goes!



**Douglas Durst,**  
Faculty of Social Work  
(Canada)

Diversity is very important for the EU, but in Canada we are limited in trade and migration by agreements

with our neighbour. Still, we have a long tradition of promoting the expression of cultural diversity.

# ZARA – Counselling for victims and witnesses of racism

Racist discrimination means that a person is disadvantaged in whatever way on grounds of skin colour, language, appearance, religion, nationality or origin. (Racism Report 2002, ZARA)

ZARA, an abbreviation of the German expression for "civilian courage and anti-racism work", was founded in 1999 and counsels persons who have experienced or witnessed racist attacks, insults or discrimination. It offers advice, legal counselling, help and information free of charge in Vienna. ZARA also publishes the only annual report on racism in Austria.

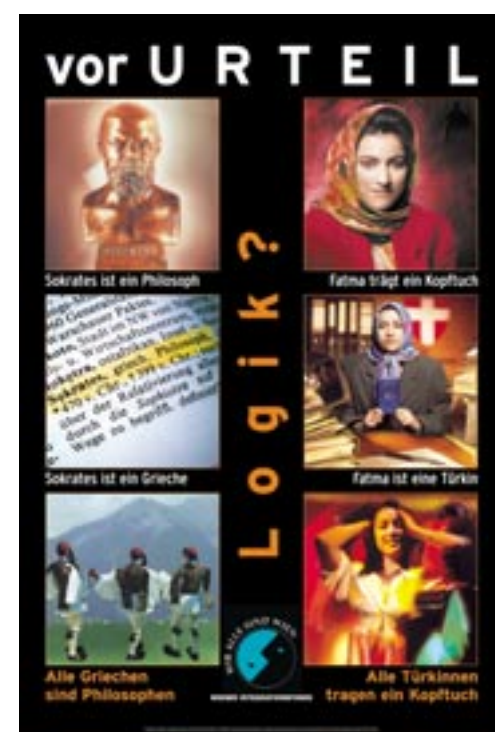
Austria ranks in the bottom part of Europe regarding anti-discrimination laws. Simultaneously, a shift from verbal attacks to physical attacks on foreigners has been observed in the 2001–2003 period. Together with voluntary workers, two lawyers and one social worker at the counselling centre take care of the increasing number of clients, although the situation with respect to federal legislation is still unsatisfactory (already 433 cases in 2003). ZARA tries to change the situation by lobbying for a general anti-discrimination law and an independent ombuds-person for cases of discrimination.

319 people made use of ZARA's services in 2002. 32% of the cases were directly affected, 59% were witnesses and 9% asked for information. Every single case is docu-

mented and categorised according to where the incident occurred. The spectrum ranges from general obstacles, verbal abuse and graffiti on house-walls to physical attacks on persons looking for work or housing, in bars, pubs or shops, in contact with public authorities, the police or private citizens, in public space and also in the media. For more details, the English report can be downloaded from the ZARA homepage.

Since September 2002, ZARA has been taking part in the EU-funded project "Equal Opportunities at Work" (EQUAL-programme), which helps businesses to develop strategies for fruitful internal multiethnic co-operation and to combat discrimination. It makes companies fit for providing equal opportunities and helps them to benefit from the diversity of their employees. Up to ten companies take part in the pilot phase by setting up a "code of conduct" binding on all staff members in order to receive a seal of approval for companies without racism. Within the project, another organisation (comparable to ZARA) has been set up in Linz (Upper Austria).

ZARA tries to increase awareness for



the issue by offering trainings, courses and lectures about law, civilian courage and discrimination.

[www.zara.or.at](http://www.zara.or.at)

## Racism under scrutiny

European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia

European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia  
Observatoire Européen des Phénomènes Racistes et Xénophobes  
Europäische Stelle zur Beobachtung von Rassismus und Fremdenfeindlichkeit



The primary objective of the EUMC is to provide the Community and its Member States with objective, reliable and comparable data at the European level on the phenomena of racism, islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Europe in order to help the EU and its Member States to establish measures or formulate courses within their respective spheres of competence. The very core of the EUMC's activities is the European Information Network on Racism and Xenophobia (RAXEN). It is designed to collect data and information at both the national and the European level.



Photo: Verein Integrationshaus Wien

ing racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in each Member State. Since 1995 they have collected data from various areas, such as the labour market, legislation, education, acts of racist violence and housing.

Headquartered in Vienna, it is an independent body of the European Union established by Council Regulation (EC) 1035/97. The origins of the EUMC go back to June 1994 when the Corfu European Council proposed the establishment of a consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia, also known as the Kahn Commission after its chairman, Jean Kahn. In June 1995, the Cannes European Council called on the Kahn Commission, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, to consider the feasibility of a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. The Centre started its activities in July 1998. It currently has 25 staff members.

The activities of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia are published in its Annual Report 2002. It will soon be available in all the official languages of the European Union. [www.eumc.at](http://www.eumc.at)

## Facts

Work/Housing/Young people

**EQUAL opportunities** Equality of treatment in the labour market is the overall objective of the EU programme EQUAL. The focus of one initiative is on university graduates who want to have their studies recognised in Austria. Measures to recognise professional skills leading to equal treatment of migrants in the labour market are developed and tested. For the initiative "Equal Opportunities at Work" see the ZARA article in this issue.

**Living together** 9 inter-ethnic social housing projects have so far been implemented in Vienna (5 more are under way). Dwellings were distributed equally among migrants and Austrians. Information about the availability of subsidised co-operative housing for non-Austrians was spread via Austrian foreign-language papers, increasing the quota to 20%. Since 2001, migrants are also granted housing allowances. Irrespective of citizenship, access to "emergency flats" (in social housing) is granted now e.g. to victims of speculation or violence.

**New perspectives for young people** Since 1998, inter-face has been offering various culture and new-media projects for kids with a migrant background. In 2000, over 1,000 youngsters took part in 42 intercultural projects (UN "best practice" award). In another project, high-school dropouts are offered help at education centres. They can catch up on their school-leaving certificate, participate in job orientation training or find support to obtain a proper apprenticeship or further school education. Pre-school training for migrants is offered as well.

The EUMC studies the extent and development of the phenomena and manifestations of racism and xenophobia on the basis of the data collected and analyses their causes, consequences and effects. It is also the task of the EUMC to work out strategies to combat racism and xenophobia and to highlight and disseminate examples of good practice regarding the integration of migrants and ethnic and religious minority groups in the EU Member States. This will be accomplished via 15 National Focal Points contracted by the EUMC to collect, co-ordinate and disseminate national and EU-related information in close co-operation with the EUMC.

RAXEN is a new relational database established by the EUMC and mainly collated via the European Information Network on Racism and Xenophobia. It contains information about organisations, their activities and events, publications and audiovisual media in the field of combating and research-

### Useful Links

- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) [www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/cerd.htm](http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/cerd.htm)
- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) [www.coe.int/T/E/human\\_rights/Ecri/1-ECRI/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/Ecri/1-ECRI/)
- European Network against Racism (ENAR) [www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)
- World Conference against Racism (WCAR) [www.un.org/WCAR](http://www.un.org/WCAR)