I - Context

1. This conclusions paper relates to the results of a survey carried out by the CPMR General Secretariat of its member regions in the scope of the activity of the Social Inclusion of Immigrants working group. The results were received between November 2009 and February 2010.

2. Seven regions replied to the questionnaire, a fairly low rate compared to the number of CPMR member regions. The geographical distribution of the responses was unbalanced: three Spanish regions, (Basque Country, Canaries and Catalonia), two UK regions (Angus in Scotland and Hampshire), one Swedish region (Skåne) and one Portuguese region (Azores).

3. The responses received highlighted the wide diversity in regional situations in particular with regards to the following aspects:

   - Percentage of immigrant population in relation to the total regional population: the Spanish regions of Catalonia and Canaries as well as Skåne have high percentages of between around 14% and 17%, Hampshire between 6% and 9%, the regions of Basque Country and Angus reach 6% and in the Azores the rate does not go above 3%;

   - Countries of origin: the principal influx towards the Spanish regions comes from Latin America and North Africa; the influx which head for Skåne tend to come from Eastern European countries and Iraq; in Angus the influx predominantly comes from central European countries of the EU – Poland, Romania and Bulgaria; Hampshire presents a much more complex and diverse mosaic with an influx from almost all over (Europe, Africa, South Asia, North America). Factors such as job opportunities, closeness in terms of culture, language, conditions for welcoming refugees and networks between communities are at the root of the distribution of the influx of immigrants between the territories ;

   - The main sectors of activity which employ immigrants are often the building trade and service industries with low added value, as well as agriculture, fisheries, industry, tourism and health sectors.

   - The low levels of qualification of the majority of immigrants, however there are also groups with a medium level of education, and even a high level such as in Skåne for example.

   - Institutional responsibility in the area of immigration is also diverse and reflects the differences in the administrative organisation of each member state; the regional and local levels play an important role in Spain. In other cases, the national and local levels have a more important role.
4. In the majority of cases, the influx of immigrants are relatively young, both men and women who, despite the differences previously mentioned, are faced with the same kind of problems, in particular:
   - Unemployment (low level of qualification, language difficulties and cultural differences are often at the root of unemployment problems);
   - Housing;
   - Language;
   - Access to services;
   - Illegal work and exploitation.

A small number of immigrants succeed in creating their own jobs, but the situation varies with the insertion contexts, existing aid, and the type of community. In the Basque Country, around 11% of immigrants work for themselves; this situation occurs more often with Chinese, Pakistani and Senegalese communities.

These various problems are at the origin of situations of poverty and exclusion which are specifically expressed according to the different territories. In all regions, public authorities have established aid mechanisms for the inclusion of immigrants and action is carried out within society to develop a positive perception with regard to these communities. The replies to the questionnaire demonstrate that there are shared feelings within the communities. In some cases, immigration is considered as an opportunity to develop host territories, in other cases it is regarded with caution. The enterprise sector is rather positive in that respect, the contribution from migrant workers is not negligible. In other sectors of the community, the positions expressed with regards to immigration are less favourable.

II- Policies, instruments and support measures

5. The diversity and the complexity of the problems demand political responses which are specific to each context. However, the replies to the questionnaire have highlighted the persistence of some political guidelines which are common to all regions which emphasises:
   - The cross-cutting and integrated approach of the replies in the areas of education and training, employment, housing, language, access to services etc;
   - The enhancement of multi-culture as a society-enriching dimension; inter-cultural dialogue within schools becomes an important condition for the creation of multi-cultural and inclusive societies;
   - The promotion of a favourable public perception of immigrant communities;
   - Access to micro-credit to stimulate the introduction of economic initiatives by the members of the immigrant communities followed by both personal and business support in the early phases of existence;
   - The monitoring of the immigrant communities’ integration process.

6. In this respect, diversity in support measures was highlighted such as:
   - Micro-credit and support services for the creation of self employment in the Basque Country, Skåne and Hampshire;
   - Immigration watchdogs in the Basque Country and Canaries;
   - Services to support immigrants in accessing existing social services in Hampshire, the Basque Country, Catalonia, Angus... (more or less everywhere, but using different formulas);
   - Strategic plans and forums for the inclusion of immigrants in the Basque Country, Canaries and Catalonia;
- Education and training projects for young people and adults in all regions but via different methods. The importance of inter-cultural work within schools is highlighted by the Azores and Hampshire;
- Multi-discipline projects for the inclusion of immigrants in the Canaries;
- Access to the labour market, recognition of qualifications, working with enterprises in order to create paths to professional integration for immigrants in Catalonia;
- Language training in host countries (several);
- The setting up of specific legislation for the integration of immigrants in the Basque Country and Canaries.

7. For all these different types of support measures, the ESF is renowned everywhere as an essential tool. National budgets (at different levels) do not have the necessary means to meet the strategies and projects for the social inclusion of immigrants, some examples of which were cited in the previous point. However, some criticisms of the functioning of the ESF were put forward, especially with regard to: the minimum threshold for ESF projects is too high for rural regions whose projects remain small scale (Angus), the need to concentrate more funding to target projects for the social inclusion of immigrants (Hampshire) or the interest in opening up the ESF to fund other types of immigrant support measures (Canaries).

III. Exchange of Experiences

8. With regard to the areas which the regions would like to address to strengthen their own experiences, the following points were emphasised:
   - Setting up partnerships, creating networks between organisations, the governance of systems of players and policies to foster the social inclusion of immigrants (Basque Country, Hampshire);
   - Enhancing immigrants’ skills with regard to their employability (Skåne);
   - Strategies to foster the employment of immigrants (Skåne, Basque Country);
   - Funding of projects led by immigrants (Basque Country).

9. Concerning the subjects, the regions who replied to the questionnaire are willing to discuss with other regions on the following issues:
   - Strategies and projects to promote the integration of immigrant communities with local communities (Angus, Skåne, Canaries);
   - Access to services for immigrant communities (Angus, Hampshire);
   - Cohesion policy and inclusion of immigrants (Basque Country);
   - Integration of immigrant children and the role of schools – how to support their activities (Hampshire);
   - Housing (Skåne).

10. All regions showed their willingness to participate in exchange programmes, seminars, visits and to welcome visitors to the region to further develop a specific issue.

The table in the Appendix, including the replies received from the regions to the questionnaire, completes this conclusions paper.
## I. Regional Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Kinds of Immigrants</th>
<th>Main social inclusion problems</th>
<th>Main sectors of activity</th>
<th>Administrative responsibility</th>
<th>How is immigration seen by regional society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Azores</td>
<td>2.6% of the region’s total population mainly from USA, Brasil, Cape Vert, Germany and Ukrainia; Mainly male, and between 15 to 45 years old</td>
<td>Unemployment and informal work; housing; legalisation.</td>
<td>Construction and cleaning.</td>
<td>National and regional levels</td>
<td>Opportunity for the development of the region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Angus</td>
<td>6% of the region’s total population mainly from Poland, Bulgaria, Romania</td>
<td>Language and housing.</td>
<td>Agriculture, fisheries, packaging, chicken factory.</td>
<td>Local level</td>
<td>Social problems (in the eyes of social community), opportunity for development (in the eyes of businesses/local authorities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Basque Country</td>
<td>6.1% of the total population of the region mainly from Romania, Colombia, Morocco, Bolivia; Balance between male and female, low and medium level of education, great majority of people aged between 15 and 40 years old. Immigration is still increasing.</td>
<td>Non-accompanied minors; poverty; illegal work; unemployment increasing (unemployment rate for immigrants 10% mainly in services, construction and industry; total unemployment rate in Basque Country 6%) language, housing problems, education (school ghettos)</td>
<td>Construction, industry, fisheries, temporary works in agriculture and low added value services. 11% of immigrants work for themselves (self-employment is much higher for Chinese, Pakistani and Senegalese).</td>
<td>Regional and local levels</td>
<td>Both, social problem difficult to manage but there isn’t a xenophobic political discourse nor negative perception of immigration. Immigration is also seen as a big challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Canaries</td>
<td>13.6% of region’s total population mainly from Latin America (Colombia, Cuba, Venezuela, Argentina), Africa (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal) and Asia (China and India); Balance between male/female, majority of people aged between 25 - 60 years old. Immigration is decreasing in consequence of the crisis.</td>
<td>Unemployment and consequently, exclusion and marginality.</td>
<td>Hospitality (hotels &amp; catering) construction, services.</td>
<td>Regional and local levels</td>
<td>Mainly as an opportunity for development. There is a positive evolution in this matter as a consequence of the initiatives taken by the regional authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Catalonia</td>
<td>16% of the total population of the region mainly from Morocco, Romania, Ecuador and Bolivia; Immigration is decreasing as a consequence of the crisis.</td>
<td>Unemployment (the unemployment rate of immigrants is 30% mainly from Morocco and South America, male and with primary studies), housing, low level of education, language.</td>
<td>Construction and services</td>
<td>Regional Level</td>
<td>Immigration is not seen as a problem by regional society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6. Hampshire

Between 6.3% and 9.1% from very diverse origins mainly Western Europe, South and Eastern Africa, Far east, South Asia, North America; More female (52%), mainly between 15-65 years old. Language skills; lack of qualification recognition and training, housing conditions, social segregation, tensions between previous and new migration wages, exploitation, racism, education and poor access to services. Hospitality (hotels & catering); care work, agriculture, retail, construction. National and local levels, regional level has no specific powers in the area of social inclusion of immigrants. There are mixed views on this point.

- Language skills; lack of qualification recognition and training, housing conditions, social segregation, tensions between previous and new migration wages, exploitation, racism, education and poor access to services.
- Hospitality (hotels & catering); care work, agriculture, retail, construction.
- National and local levels, regional level has no specific powers in the area of social inclusion of immigrants.

### 7. Skåne

16.9% from Denmark, ex-Yugoslavia countries, Iraq and Poland; Balance between male and women, mainly 15-40 years old and high and medium level of education. Unemployment and segregated housing.

National and local levels. It has different sides and implications. If it succeeds - good effects for society (namely competent people in the labour market). If it fails, can create hostile feelings in society and may cost economic resources.

### 2. Policies and Best Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Policies and tools</th>
<th>Best Practices</th>
<th>The role of ESF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Azores</td>
<td>Various activities contributing to intercultural knowledge as a way to fight intolerance, racism and xenophobia. Training in intercultural dialogue in regional schools.</td>
<td>ESF is useful to respond to the social inclusion of immigrants. It finances a lot of activities aiming the social inclusion of immigrants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Angus</td>
<td>The provision of ESL and the outreach services provided by Volunteer Centre Angus for migrant workers.</td>
<td>The ESF does not play an important role because the minimum annual threshold for ESF projects is very large for rural and for small scale (but relevant) interventions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Basque Country</td>
<td>At a regional level transversally promoting public policies to support the integration of immigrants. At provincial and local levels promoting the creation of associations among immigrants and socio-educational programmes. Micro-credits to fund self-employment projects for immigrants. Forum for the integration and social participation of immigrants in Basque Country; Immigration Watchdog; Centre for the coordination of social initiatives in mediation and intercultural convivence under the initiative and support of the Directorate of Immigration of the Basque Country.</td>
<td>Transversal coordination and monitoring concerning immigration of the following systems: provision of social, legal and language services, housing aid, medical healthcare, education, training, employment…provided by the Directorate of Immigration. Regional laws concerning subventions to projects in the field of immigration, intercultural education and local integration of immigrants.</td>
<td>ESF plays a positive role for social inclusion of immigrants, for instance supporting a project in the fisheries and agriculture sectors to promote training, employment and social inclusion of immigrant workers and their families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 4. Canaries
Strategic plan for Citizenship and Inclusion sets the guidelines concerning immigration. This plan is the framework for regional plans with the financial support of a fund for inclusion of immigrants. The Forum Canario for immigration. Financial support to projects submitted by local authorities and NGOs in the field of social inclusion of immigrants.

Red Cross, multi-disciplinary project in favour of social inclusion of immigrants. Movimento por la Paz training Project by television. Project Isla Abierta in cooperation with the Immigration watchdog. Other projects at local level.

Yes, but it is necessary to adapt the fund to support other relevant measures such as monitoring and assistance to the projects.

## 5. Catalonia

Access to the labour market by regrouped families, training for skills in agreement with local companies, qualification recognition.

Yes, ESF is important; however there could be more money available for a wider range of activities more targeted towards migrant populations. (For instance to fund ESOL activities).

## 6. Hampshire
Black and minority ethnic community officers help communities to access services (accessing funding, organisation of cultural events, training…). Nurseries and schools are encouraged to admit children of immigrants; they learn English through learning everything that everyone else learns. English for speakers in other languages (ESOL) and vocational training for adult immigrants.

Yes, ESF is important; however there could be more money available for a wider range of activities more targeted towards migrant populations. (For instance to fund ESOL activities).

## 7. Skåne
Homework, help to immigrants, PAL-projects; Help to start businesses. Education, language.

Yes, ESF supported the start of activities towards immigrants, public authorities have restrained budgets.

### 3. Exchange of Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Kind of experiences to get from other regions</th>
<th>Kind of experiences region can share with other regions</th>
<th>Participation in a programme of exchange of experiences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Azores</td>
<td>Strategies to involve immigrants in community activities and environmental issues, to diffuse information, to assist them in accessing services.</td>
<td>Yes, much can be learned and transferred from successful initiatives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Angus</td>
<td>To access the best information and practice concerning development of partnerships, interregional networks of cooperation, fundraising, education and employment of immigrants, training, design of common policies…</td>
<td>There is a lack of knowledge that links immigration patterns with cohesion policies. The idea would be to develop a longitudinal research relating past and present migration trends in Europe and different cohesion policies developed by different countries and regions to identify which elements have contributed to generate cohesion in contexts with important migrations.</td>
<td>Yes, Basque Country is building a partnership with Catalonia, Amsterdam and Veneto Laboro to undertake a project as mentioned in the previous point.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Catalonia</td>
<td>Best practices considering the interests of Catalonia.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, the region is available to participate in any seminar or meeting that can benefit others as well as the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hampshire</td>
<td>Experiences of how agencies collaborate to improve the social cohesion of immigrants and therefore develop community cohesion.</td>
<td>The support offered to schools to help integrate immigrant children. The work of community development officers.</td>
<td>Yes, the region is available to host participants interested to learn more about working with immigrants in schools. The region is available to participate in seminars and visits to learn more about cooperation between the different stakeholders involved in the social inclusion of immigrants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Skåne</td>
<td>How to help immigrants to enter the labour market and become employed. How to take advantage of their different competencies and how to increase the employability of immigrants.</td>
<td>Inclusion of immigrants in public life. Housing.</td>
<td>Yes, to increase knowledge in the field of social inclusion of immigrants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>