



## Civil society involvement in the welcoming and integration of immigrants – the case of Portugal: EPSA2011250

*Submitted by Alto Comissariado para a Imigracao e Dialogo Intercultural*



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# Strengths of the Project (I)



- This programme is a remarkable success story of joined-up governance in the sensitive domain of integration of immigrants. Bringing together public administrations and immigrants associations and creating a juridical framework to secure the cooperation is an **innovative** act in the field of migration policy.
- The proper handling of immigration issues is a key issue of high **public concern** in all Member States of the EU, and especially in Portugal as it is receiving a very high number of immigrants.
- The **sustainability** of the programme is guaranteed by law, the strong commitment of the State and by the degree of involvement of immigrants' associations. There is a legal framework for immigrant integration and cooperation with immigrants associations.



## Strengths of the Project (II)



- The **Impact** is high as Portugal has been rated as one of the most successful countries in immigrants integration policy.
- The Immigration Policy of Portugal has been **internationally acknowledged** in several international reports and rankings, most notably MIPEX and the United Nations.
- **Empowering** the associations to empower the community itself. Use and involvement of cultural/social mediators with similar experiences in this programme.
- It seems to be very likely that this approach can be **implemented** in other countries. Establishing collaboration by law and providing fixed resources to assure a functioning integration process is a good model to perform migration policy.