

When looking at the routes to citizenship followed in different countries, it appears that they cannot always comply with their designed intentions. Where foreigners feel as “second-class” citizens or semi-citizens, this has an obvious impact on the very idea of citizenship.

The aim of this project is to investigate whether it still makes sense talking about citizenship, whether it is in the interest of a state to acquire new citizens or whether it is in the interest of migrants that citizenship must be conceived. In this framework, symbolic and administrative procedures to achieve citizenship, as well as language and cultural tests aimed at proving the applicant’s fitness, are not analysed as instruments to facilitate a process taken for granted but rather as useful means to reconsider the concept of citizenship, bearing in mind the idea of a freely willed membership.

By combining theory-led with field research which involved migrant representatives, migrants naturalised and non-naturalised as well as national stakeholders and politicians, our project launches a common approach, at the European level, towards naturalisation procedures. In particular, we examine to what extent naturalisation procedures can help define national identity and promote integration

Alongside this, different elements of existing procedures, such as various tests and symbolic steps, are investigated in their rationale and impact in relation to those targeted for naturalisation

Furthermore, we explore how and to what extent intercultural and participative aspects can be incorporated into the logic of citizenship and naturalisation procedures.

“Be naturalised - or become a citizen?” was initiated in September 2007 for an 18-month duration. The project is co-funded by the European Commission, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, in the framework of the INTI-Programme. Partners are: CJD Eutin (Christian Youth Village, Germany) IPRS (Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research, Italy), GERME at Brussels University (Study Group on Ethnicity, Racism, Migration and Exclusion/Free University of Brussels, Belgium), ACIDI (High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, Portugal), CEIFO at Stockholm University (Centre for Research in International Migration and Ethnic Relations/ Stockholm University, Sweden).

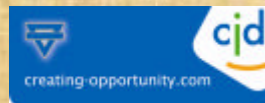
“Be naturalised - or become a citizen?”

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Exploring Naturalisation Models and Opportunities

Brussels 13th March 2009



Psychoanalytic Institute
for Social Research



Conference venue:

Maison de l'Union des anciens étudiants
de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles
Campus de la Plaine - Bd du Triomphe -
1050 Bruxelles

“Be naturalised - or become a citizen?”

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Conference Programme

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To register and for venue information please contact:

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9:30	Opening speech <i>Marie-Claire Foblets</i> Interculturalism, Migration and Minority Research Centre (IMMRC), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium	13:00	Lunch break
10:00	The EU integration framework <i>Giulia Henry</i> Immigration and Integration Unit of DG Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission	14:00	General discussion with participants on present and future of naturalisation procedures moderated by <i>Annelies Wiesner / Raffaele Bracalenti</i>
10:30	Structure and aim of the project “Be Naturalised” (Project presentation part I) <i>Member of the project team</i>	16:00	End of conference
11:00	Main findings and output of the project “Be Naturalised” (Project presentation part II) <i>Member of the project team</i>		
11:30	Coffee break		
11:45	Questions and discussion		

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