

European Competence Centre for Social Innovation:  
ESF+ Community of Practice on Employment, Education and Skills

**Plenary session 2025**  
**Co-developing the Community of Practice on**  
**Migrant Integration Journey: Past to Future**  
Summary report

4 March 2025, online



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## Overview

### 1.1. Objectives

The first plenary session under the Work Programme 2025 **provided a descriptive summary of the journey of the Community of Practice on Migrant Integration (CoP MI)** from the start to the present.

After sharing the analysis of the co-evaluation survey, it explored lessons learned, member engagement, and the future of the CoP as defined by the WP 2025. The plenary also aimed to illustrate the co-development survey and other data collected from members and used to formulate the WP 2025.

The specific objectives were:

- a. To ensure that everyone present, and members more generally, have access to the same level of information, by giving back to the community. Sharing survey results fosters collaboration and future contributions;
- b. To provide space to clarify the WP 2025, and to express willingness to take part at different levels of activity.

### 1.2. Target group

The event was open to members of the ESF+ CoP MI.

### 1.3. Number of participants

The plenary session was attended by 21 participants.

### 1.4. Geographical and typology spread

Participants registered from the following 14 Member States: AT, BE, CZ, DE, ES, IE, IT, FR, GR, HU, HR, LT, PL, PT.

In terms of affiliation, participants included representatives of various organisations, such as ESF+ Managing Authorities (15), line ministries (1), implementing organisations (2), intermediate bodies (5), representatives of NGOs (2), non-profit organisations (7), EC representatives (4), and other stakeholders (5).

## Main findings

### 2.1. Key outcomes

Neringa Poškutė, Head of the European Competence Centre, delivered the opening remarks.

Aurélien Mornon Afonso, from DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, reminded the audience that on February 11, the Commission published a Communication titled “**The Road to the next Multiannual Financial Framework**”. It outlines the need for a new approach for a modern EU budget. A **public consultation** was launched in parallel allowing stakeholders and citizens to have their say on the future EU budget and the policies it should support. It is open until May 7<sup>1</sup>.

The content focused on:

- revisiting 2023-24, sharing the results of the co-evaluation survey and the expansion so far,
- sharing the analysis of the co-development survey and the lessons learned,
- interview with the new chair of the CoP, Amira Bieber,
- poll on the preferred level of participation,
- reiterating the impacts and benefits of the CoP to then summarise the proposal for the WP 2025.
- The poll on preferred level of participation was answered by 14 of the event participants. Those who wish to share a practice, organise a workshop/be a speaker at an event, or write an article will be contacted about potential collaboration topics and scheduling of their active contribution. Members who wish to join a working group will be invited to the online meeting in May 2025.

1 [Shaping the future of the EU together](#)



## 2.2. Further participant engagement and feedback during the event

This event also served the purpose to **introduce the new – and first – CoP MI chair**, Amira Bieber, who was already a member of the CoP. This, of course, is worth a special mention as it is clear proof that any event attendee willing to get more involved can be engaged in different ways, which is also why an interview format was chosen for the CoP to get to know her better. During the interview, Amira mentioned that she saw her role as a ‘chain between the members’ to bridge a more effective articulation between the members, the EC and the ESFA, as well as to disseminate the work of the CoP MI in other fora outside the ESF.

In the final session of the event, other participants had the opportunity to give unstructured feedback. Examples of the wishes that emerged included a **wish for joint application funding and/or programming between members**, **awareness raising to circulate more reliable news**, and further networking.

Two CoP members engaged in debates, and a total of 14 responded to the online poll.

### Impact

Being asked during and immediately after the event to confirm dates and channels for attending future events is a testament to the relevance of the content delivered. Hopefully, some of the participants who expressed a wish for further engagement will get involved in 2025.

## Lessons learned

### 3.1. What went well and areas of improvement

- The event fulfilled its purpose of providing feedback on the analysis and incorporation of data offered by participants in 2024 and presenting the team in its current composition. In line with the regular practice of this CoP, the current engagement wishes were assessed as planned through an online poll.
- Slowly but surely, the events of this CoP have consistently engaged different people as speakers or facilitators, which is considered a measure of success and sustainability.
- Aspects of the event that were successful should be identified, along with a discussion of the practices or strategies that contributed to these successes.
- Any challenges or issues encountered should be highlighted, with suggestions for improvements for future events based on these experiences.

Unfortunately, the MS Teams Word Cloud tool did not allow us to access the names of participants who volunteered to further engage on a topic for writing or sharing at an event, and therefore participants are invited to contact us via email.

Based on the responses to the event feedback survey, participants appreciated the transparent approach to sharing the COP MI journey, including lessons learned, as well as the opportunity to gain a good understanding of the current Work Programme.

## Next steps

### 4.1. Follow-up actions

- The core team renews its interest in **reaching out to those countries that are not currently represented on the CoP MI** by approaching the EC desk officers to ask for support in disseminating the CoP MI outreach.
- Alongside the repetition of this investment, it is the team's intention, with the help of the chair, to brainstorm with the Comms team at the ESFA to find ways to expand the reach of the messages.
- Experts will also reconnect with event participants whose emails were provided and who expressed interest in engaging at levels other than assisting with events, such as writing an article, showcasing practices, or contributing as a speaker / workshop facilitator, etc.
- All event participants and CoP MI members will be contacted about an upcoming Working Group kick-off in May 2025.
- Collect and analyse feedback from participants:
  - Outline any actions to be taken as a result of the event.
  - Include plans to address feedback or continue engagement with participants.

## Annexes

**Annex 1:** [Event agenda](#)

**Annex 2:** [Slides presented, including findings from the analysis of CoP MI member surveys](#)

