



Dear Madam/Sir,

We are delighted to invite you to participate to the Urban Academy on the Integration of migrants and refugees, which will take place in Brussels starting in the evening of 16, 17 and 18 April 2018.

The Urban Academy on Integration is an initiative developed under the framework of the Urban Agenda Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees¹, which brings together cities, Member States and the European Commission to jointly develop and put in place actions to foster the integration of migrants and refugees.

The Academy has the objective to support learning and sharing of experiences between practitioners and policy makers working on integration at the local, regional and national level. It will also provide the opportunity to create networks of peers working on similar integration issues across Europe, which can provide advice and support beyond the Academy itself. The Academy will be a European strategic learning environment for policy-professionals. It will be facilitated and organised as a mix of experts' inputs as well as peer exchanges on individual policy-dilemma's and professional challenges between the participants. Much space will be dedicated to discuss and try to find together innovative solutions for the challenges participants face in their city, region or country in the field of integration.

The two thematic strands of the event are "Education as a key tool for integration" and "Working effectively with the civil society", expanded upon in the background paper attached. A draft programme, which we are in the process of finalising, is also attached to this letter. These themes have been selected through a survey conducted among European cities on integration-related challenges faced.

Participants should work at strategic or policy level especially in one of the following fields:

- education issues with an integration/migration dimension or
- working with civil society organizations on integration.

Each participant should prepare a case from their own professional environment on which they would like to receive feedback. This can be a policy-dilemma, a new policy or project that has to be started, a specific challenge in society they are facing.

If you are interested in participating to this two-day training, you are invited to apply by returning by e-mail to HOME-EIN@ec.europa.eu the completed form attached by 20 February 2018.

Please note that travel costs, accommodation and meals will be provided for the selected participants. However, depending on the number of applications, we may have to make a selection. This will be based on criteria such as geographical spread, gender-balance as well as the assessment of the issue on which you would like to receive feedback.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/inclusion-of-migrants-and-refugees>

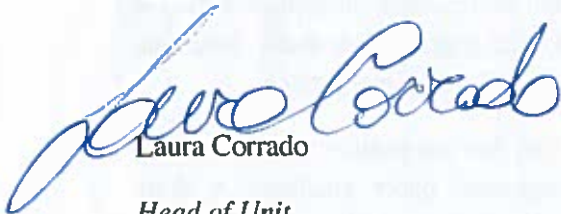
Your participation will be confirmed early March, when also the practicalities of travel and stay will be taken care of. The working language of the event will be English. Interpretation from and into other languages will not be provided.

Should you require any further information, please send us your queries at the following e-mail address: HOME-EIN@ec.europa.eu

We are much looking forward to receiving your applications and to working with you in this exciting new initiative.

On behalf of the Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees,

Yours faithfully,



Laura Corrado

*Head of Unit
Legal Migration and Integration
European Commission (DG Home)*



Harro Homan

*Director
Public Affairs
City of Amsterdam*