

GIRONA SAT

**PILOT
POLICY
REPORT**

1: Contents discussed and the positions taken by the actors involved

All meetings held had the same structure: the CAS members participating explained project Departs' objectives and structure and presented their ideas regarding the issues of registration in the municipal census, which are developed in depth in the Advocacy Plan. The CAS members gave details of real life situations in which migrants were not allowed to register in such census, either due to lack of documents, to lack of housing, to lack of a stable job or due to language restrictions. These examples were supported by the results of the questionnaire developed by ASOCOLGI, which revealed that around 25% of the migrants who answered the questionnaire had problems registering in the municipal census.

In all meetings, the CAS discourse was similar and structured as practiced throughout WP3 and mentoring sessions of WP4. Nevertheless, the type of dialogue established did not necessarily seem like a negotiation, most of the times, but more an awareness raising meeting in which migrants tried to sensitize policy makers and other autochthonous citizens clearly in a different social position to their real life problems concerning the municipal register, which leads to less access to certain rights that are only guaranteed to people who are registered (education, health, etc.). As mentioned in the development of each session, the lack of social leverage between the CAS and other citizens and policy makers lead to a sense that such encounters did not necessarily have the characteristics of a negotiation process in which both parts discuss certain interests which are relevant to both parts.

Regarding the interlocutors, most of them in positions of political power and decision, they did not contradict the migrants' perspectives nor tried to discredit the group in any way. On the contrary, they expressed interest in knowing more about the situation they were facing and the suggestions they were making. They recognize that the existing legislation regarding the registration in the municipal census is correct but that it may not be completely applied from the part of municipal servants, leading to the exclusions mentioned by the migrants.

Nevertheless, resistances were found regarding the acknowledgment of the existence of racism in public institutions and sometimes there seemed to exist some discredit regarding the experiences of migrants. CAS members explained experiences of racism that go beyond the existing legislation regarding the registration in the municipal census and expressed that the change that is needed has to do not only with the changing in protocols and procedures but also regarding the behaviour and attitudes of municipal workers.

2: strengths and weaknesses to ensure the effective implementation of inclusion policies

Identifying the strengths of Inclusion Policies

Drawing from the operational experience and endeavours undertaken by the Girona CAS, we can pinpoint the following strength of Inclusion Policies:

1. The creation of spaces for debate initiated by migrant communities serves as an essential intermission for raising awareness, replete with tangible real-world illustrations that are frequently beyond access for policymakers. It facilitates the exchange of experiences, the consolidation of a shared narrative, and the recognition of the experiences of migrants in the city.
2. The collection of pertinent evidence by the CAS, including tangible real-life experiences and the development of an online questionnaire, bolsters the assertions made by migrants and offers unequivocal backing to the subjects they wish to bring to the discussion.
3. Forming alliances within civil society and other prominent stakeholders in society holds significance in that it disseminates the demands of migrants and expands the collective understanding of their concerns.

Identifying the weaknesses of Inclusion Policies

Drawing from the operational experience and endeavours undertaken by the Girona CAS, we can pinpoint the following weaknesses:

1. In many instances, there is a discernible absence of genuine dedication on the part of policymakers to authentically incorporate the voices and viewpoints of the migrant population. The interactions that transpire often resemble awareness-raising endeavours rather than a negotiation process, thereby revealing a conspicuous power imbalance between migrants and policymakers.
2. As per the statements of policymakers, their limited availability to engage directly with the citizenry results in a pronounced gap between the tangible challenges encountered by migrant communities and the policy makers' comprehension of the social dynamics surrounding migration.
3. The absence of representation of migrant communities in political institutions further exacerbates the disconnect from the specific needs of these communities. Consequently, it widens the gap between those who hold political authority and those who possess limited access to it.
4. The phenomenon commonly referred to as bureaucratic red tape also constitutes, even at a micro-level, a hindrance to the inclusion of migrant's voices.

The administrative procedures required to access and effectively influence public policy prove to be intricate and necessitate specific conditions that are often beyond the knowledge or fulfilment capacity of the majority of migrants.

5. Finally, the fact that, usually, policy makers and politicians are not necessarily part of the social fabric but rather perpetuate a class perspective which often is also associated with special interest groups, contributes to the hardship of migrant populations being able to breakthrough this political glass-ceiling. It is common that historical political groups have the resources and connections to shape policies and legislation in their particular favour and of their own groups of interest, distancing themselves from the access that migrant populations might have to policy making and influence.



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