

## EPDF Policy Talks at the European Parliament “Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Migrant Inclusion: an Interreligious Perspective”

Location: Brussels, Belgium  
Venue: European Parliament, Room no. 6Q1, 6th floor  
Date: 3 December 2024 – 11h00 – 13h00  
Working language: English  
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The growing polarizations in Europe, intensified by the diversity brought by refugees and migrants, demand a whole-of-society approach to foster mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, and shared prosperity. As the European Union’s leaders set priorities for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the International Dialogue Centre - KAICIID seeks to underscore the urgent need to address refugee and migrant inclusion from an interreligious perspective, providing a platform for reflection on this critical issue. The Centre recognizes the essential role of religious leaders and faith-based organizations in building the emotional and spiritual foundations necessary for fostering inclusive and welcoming communities where everyone feels a sense of belonging. To this end, KAICIID sees it as its responsibility to bridge the efforts of religious leaders, policymakers, and secular organizations, promoting dialogue and partnership in support of effective integration.

Hosted at the European Parliament, the Policy Talk ‘*Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Migrant Integration: an Interreligious Perspective*’ intends to explore the pivotal role religious leaders and actors can play in addressing the multiple challenges posed migrant integration, amid current demographic and urbanization trends. In an interactive setting, religious and secular stakeholders will discuss key policy insights that KAICIID developed<sup>1</sup> in the framework of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) - a KAICIID Europe-wide platform which fosters collaboration between policymakers, faith leaders, and experts to enhance social cohesion in Europe, supported by the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The event will provide an opportunity to collect policy insights followed by focused inputs from relevant stakeholders and a roundtable where participants will share their respective viewpoints and experiences.

The working language will be English.

Thanks to its distinct constituency and dual governance structure – gathering states and religious leaders – the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) is uniquely placed to provide an inclusive platform to convene religious leaders, policymakers, civil society and experts. The organisation aims to end the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict, while fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an effective tool to promote social justice, peace and reconciliation.

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<sup>1</sup> See the EPDF documents: [The Role of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Enhancing Social Cohesion in European Cities](#) (2022) and [Cities Fostering Belonging: Bolstering the Participation of Young Refugees and Migrants](#) (2023).

### 3 December 2024 – h. 11:00 – 13:00 - Room no. 6Q1, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

Coffee and refreshments will be served inside the room during the meeting

Time	Session	Description
11:00-11:15	<i>Opening: Welcome and introduction</i>	<p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Lidia Pereira</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Almeida-Ribeiro</b>, Deputy Secretary General, KAICIID</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vincent Depaigne</b>, Coordinator for the dialogue between the European Commission and churches, religious associations or communities as well as philosophical and non-confessional organisations</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Teresa Albano</b>, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, KAICIID</p>
11:15-11:30	<i>Input presentation</i>	<p>Supporting often traumatised and vulnerable refugees and migrants from hugely diverse backgrounds in a sensitive and positive way, whilst also showing consideration and respect for the concerns of local communities, and the challenging social, economic and political environments they live in, requires a holistic response that can be better achieved by a range of stakeholders working closely together – multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs). The experiences analysed in the policy paper suggest ways towards harnessing the untapped potential of engaging religious leaders and actors towards inclusive and cohesive communities.</p> <p>Input speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Mark Owen</b>, Director, University's Centre for Religion, Reconciliation and Peace, Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Anita Vella</b>, Head of Unit, Directorate for Migration and Asylum, DG HOME, European Commission</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Teresa Albano</b>, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, KAICIID</p>
11:30 – 12:15	<i>Key-note interventions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Isabel Silva</b>, MEERU NGO, member of the Network for Dialogue (N4D), Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Imam Yahya Pallavicini</b>, Vice President, COREIS (Italian Islamic Religious Community), Board member of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC)</li> <li>• <b>Rev. Dr. Kenanidis Konstantinos</b>, Secretary General, Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church in the European Union</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ilan Cohn</b>, Director, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Europe, member of the KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue (N4D)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Gabriela Agatiello</b>, Head of Programmes and Policy, International Catholic Migration Committee (ICMC)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Martin Habiague</b>, Director and Founder, Mescladis Foundation, Spain</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic</b>, Network for Dialogue Coordinator, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA</p>
12:15-12:45	<i>Q&amp;A session</i>	<p>Participants are encouraged to share their feedback, inputs, contributions, and experiences. What is the added value of joining forces with people from different faiths? How can the voices of migrants and refugees be factored into local policies? How do</p>

		<p>different cultural and religious affiliations impact attitudes in workplaces? How can religious leaders help in mediating with different organizational cultures and policies (school, employment, health, family life)? How can the private sector help in changing the narrative about poor and desperate migrants stealing jobs from natives?</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic</b>, Network for Dialogue Coordinator, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Balkan Studies SASA</p>
<p>12:45- 13:00</p>	<p><i>Closing remarks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Tanja Florath</b>, Policy Officer, Office of the EU Coordinator on Anti-racism, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Lidia Pereira</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Teresa Albano</b>, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, KAICIID</p>