



Centru de cercetare și documentare în domeniul integrării imigranților

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Immigrant Integration Barometer

June 18th, 2013

Press release

Romanians have an open attitude towards foreigners who are in their country and they support the measures taken to protect them, according to the *Immigrant Integration Barometer* made by Soros Foundation in partnership with the Romanian Association for Health Promotion, in 2013, within the project *Research and Information Center on Immigrant Integration*.

The same study points out that the positive perception on the immigrants is conditioned by their occupational status (14%) and by their knowledge of the Romanian language (14%).

Although the existence of a job is an important factor on the perception of foreigners, the access of foreign citizens to the labor force market is rather difficult. Even if the immigrants and the Romanians have the same professional qualifications, Romanians have priority when it comes to being hired. Moreover, the employer should have the willingness to allocate supplementary financial resources, of about EUR 200, for the foreign employee.

At the same time, the same study shows that learning Romanian, a key element of the integration and an advantage when it comes to finding a job, is a difficult process : the courses are not so well-organized by the public authorities and the non-governmental organizations depend on the financing sources to provide such services.

Family reunification, another factor that motivates foreign citizens to establish their residence and to work in Romania, obtains an unsatisfactory mark within the study. Romania is slightly above the European average as far as the immigrants access to family reunification procedure is concerned, but the deferral of terms by the responsible authorities and the ambiguous information regarding the steps to take decrease the procedure's chances of success.



Immigrants Integration Barometer wanted to identify and analyze the practices of immigrants integration into the Romanian society, by corroborating the opinions of all relevant actors: immigrants, host society and responsible authorities.

At the same time, the study's purpose was to make a radiography of the process of integration of citizens who do not come from the European Union referring to the following areas: labor, medical and social assistance, education, citizenship.

The project „Research and Information Center on Immigrant Integration” is implemented by the Romanian Association for Health Promotion in partnership with Soros Foundation, and financed from the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals through the general program „Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows” (ref: IF/11.01-03.01) of the European Union, managed in Romania by the Ministry of Administration and Interior – General Inspectorate for Immigration as Contracting Authority.

Information on the *Immigrant Integration Barometer* and on the *Research and Information Center on Immigrant Integration* can be found on www.cdcdi.ro, www.soros.ro, www.arps.ro and www.ec.europa.eu/ewsi/.

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