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3.13.3.2. Fostering cooperation among stakeholders

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Information provision for beneficiaries of international protection continued to be an area where different stakeholders worked together (*see Section 3.8*).

UNHCR continued its initiatives to make Italian cities welcoming and friendly for refugees, asylum applicants and statelessness persons with the opening of a new multifunctional centre in Naples.[893]The centre, known as Spazio Comune, is part of the Charter of the Integration of Refugees project, which was signed in February 2022,[894]and serves as a hub for citizens, associations and institutions working on the integration and inclusion of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

In November 2023, the Henryk Wujec Civic Fund in Poland launched a competition to support local activities which are initiated and led by refugees to support the integration and inclusion of other refugees. The activities include creating support groups, strengthening refugees' self-organisation, cooperating with local partners and neighbours, and carrying out of civic activities. [895]

Similarly, the MindSpring programme was launched in Estonia between March and December 2023. The programme aims to support refugees with adapting their life to the new country and focuses on three target groups: parents, youth and children, with activities adapted to the needs of each of them.[896]

The Nordic Council of Ministers launched a call for projects in Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden that promote the integration of refugees and migrants. Projects that are eligible must support ongoing initiatives, share Nordic knowledge and bring together multiple stakeholders, including official agencies and civil society organisations.[897]

In Bulgaria, a forum on "Social adaptation, inclusion and integration of persons granted international protection" brought together representatives of the national administration, civil society and international organisations working on integration to present challenges and practices.[898]A similar forum was organised under the UNHCR-funded project "Advocacy for the Integration of Refugees in Bulgaria" in October 2023 to share experiences and good practices, and call for continued cooperation in the field of migration and social integration.[899]

Integration programmes continued in Malta for beneficiaries of international protection, such as information sessions by the Migrant Advice Unit at AWAS, workshops by the Migrant Women's Association, activities organised by KOPIN, collaboration with JobsPlus for language learning, heritage skills information sessions by the Restoration and Preservation department and community programmes organised by Spark15.

In France, following the inclusion of the AGIR programme to the AMIF country programming, an international conference was organised in December 2023 to take stock of the lessons learned from the first 2 years of implementation of the programme, in the context of generalising contractual schemes between the state and local authorities in the field of integration.

Building on the experiences of various organisations in the field of asylum and migration, as well as on the responses to the conflict in Ukraine, the Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for Children (FONPC), in partnership with Care France, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and Eurochild, organised an international conference on the role of civil society organisations in the integration of refugees across Europe.900

- 893European Commission (EC) European Website on Integration. (2023). *Italy: UNHCR expands Common Space project to Naples*.

- 894European Union Agency for Asylum. (2023). *Asylum Report 2023*;

- 895European Commission (EC), European Website on Integration. (2023, November 15). *Poland: Funding for social initiatives by refugees.* https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/news/poland-funding-social-initiatives-refugees_en

  Henryk Wujec Civic Fund. (2023). *We Act Together! Henryk Wujec Civic Fund Competition for social initiatives of refugees in Poland*.
- 896Estonian Refugee Council. (2024, May 15). *MindSpring*.

- 897European Commission (EC), European Website on Integration. (2023, May 30). *Funding for Nordic projects promoting refugee and migrant integration*. https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/news/funding-nordic-projects-promoting-refugee-and-migrant-integration_en
- 898State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministries | Държавна агенция за бежанците при Министерския Съвет. (2023, August 8). *Форум за социална адаптация и интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в България [Forum for Social Adaptation and Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection in Bulgaria]*.

- 899State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministries | Държавна агенция за бежанците при Министерския Съвет. (2023, October 25). *Председателят на ДАБ при МС участва във форума "Социалното и образователно включване на бежанци – академични дискусии" [The Chairman of the SAR at the Council of Ministers participated in the forum "Social and Educational Inclusion of Refugees – Academic Discussions"]* . https://aref.government.bg/%d0%bd%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b8%d0%bd%d0%b8/%d0%bf%d1%8
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- 900European Commission (EC), European Website on Integration. (2024, May 15). *The role of civil society organisations in facilitating the integration of refugees in Europe*. https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/event/role-civil-society-organisations-facilitating-integration-refugees-europe_en

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