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'NMIS 2015-2020 Public Consultation'

c/o Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties
Barriera Wharf Valletta VLT 1971

1 June 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Dear Mr Agius

Thank you for requesting our input into the public consultation process regarding the National Migrant Integration Strategy.

In response to the questions raised, in general we agree with the Key Policy Areas cited for the strategy, however we would require more details as to their specific content to be able to comment further.

In terms of what we see as needing to be included, we believe that the strategy must tackle some key topics which are critical to TCNs and their integration. It is not clear if the following are tackled by your key policy areas. These are: i) family reunification and ii) political participation. At present the difficulty of family reunification and the lengthy arduous process for this is hindering the ability of migrants to participate and contribute fully in society. Political participation is key for migrants to be able to engage with their communities and nations and feel part of the country, ensuring their full access to voting and political participation will allow this and will benefit Malta through migrants having more of a vested interest in the wellbeing of the country and society.

Additionally, we believe that the strategy must include how it can be implemented across Malta at the local level and not remain centralised at governmental level. Given the multifaceted and cross-cutting nature of integration, it requires the involvement of all different public services (education, health, employment etc) and at all levels of government. We suggest that the strategy also include an approach to ensuring the involvement of municipalities across Malta in its implementation. We are currently working on the Valletta Living Together project (VLT): Promoting Integration through Achieving Intercultural City Status; it is a 16-month project aiming at promoting integration, diversity and intercultural exchange in Valletta. This project has produced an intercultural city strategy for Valletta which looks at the way the community can be improved for all residents including migrants and defines key areas of work and objectives with concrete actions to be taken by different stakeholders at local level. A copy of the strategy is attached. We believe this strategy could serve as a framework/model to be implemented by local councils across Malta, so that the national integration policy can be translated into concrete actions at the local level and will

provide a means to improve access to public services and full participation for everyone in society and community. Enclosed is the VLT project strategy, so that you can see how we intend to reach our objectives and how it is linked and complementary to Mind D Gap.

We look forward to entering in to further discussion

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Taylor-East'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name 'Claudia' and last name 'Taylor-East' clearly visible.

Claudia Taylor-East
CEO