



BELGIUM

OVERVIEW

Belgium is a country of great diversity. Overall, one in five people is Belgian of foreign origin. In 2020, Belgium's net international migration amounted to 41,756 people; more people have therefore immigrated to Belgium than people have emigrated from Belgium. In 2020, the international migratory balance compensated for the negative natural balance.

MAIN PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES

- Language
- Legal framework and access to information
- Discrimination
- Recognition of skills, diplomas and professional experience
- Poverty and risk of social exclusion
- Employment

ART AND INTEGRATION

Belgium has a long history of migration which has played an essential role in the political and cultural development of Belgium.

The use of art and cultural activities to support TCNs and migrants' inclusion in Belgium is also already quite developed. In parallel to activities organised by public institutions (regions, cities, etc.) there are also organisations specialised in the use of art and artistic expression as means of the inclusion of vulnerable groups, among which also TCNs.





FURTHER DEVELOP ART AS AN INTEGRATION TOOL

Skills of professionals

Development of professional skills concerning:
the artistic and cultural background of TCNs' countries

- knowledge on arts and the artistic expression
- the integration of arts and culture in existing educational programs
- exploitation of the power of art and creativity to create social inclusion and multicultural exchange

Topics and art forms

The priorities identified are:

- arts and culture should be a way to learn more about the community TCNs live in;
- arts and culture should be a way for TCNs to express themselves and for their welcoming community to learn more about them and their background;
- arts and culture should be accessible and inclusive

Methodologies and approaches in educational programmes

- Arts and cultural activities can be used as a support tool and topic for educational programmes.
- Arts and culture can be used both passively or actively, and both forms will be very efficient depending on the objective of the educational programmes.
- TCNs themselves should be included in the drafting of such programs, to understand if the offer corresponds to the needs.
- The programs should be flexible, to be adapted to the changing situations and needs of the beneficiaries.
- Art and culture should be presented in an informal, inclusive and accessible way, something to which beneficiaries can feel they belong.

