

## About EMILIE

EMILIE examines the migration and integration experiences of 9 EU Member States and attempts to respond to the so-called 'crisis of multiculturalism' currently affecting Europe.

EMILIE studies the challenges posed by migration-related diversity in three important areas:

- ◇ Education
- ◇ Discrimination in the workplace
- ◇ Voting rights and civic participation

EMILIE focuses on value discourses and perceived value conflicts in order to identify the European dimensions of integrating diversity.

### Project aims:

- ◇ To investigate these challenges and the ways in which different EU member states deal with them;
- ◇ To compare between national experiences, national policies and national value discourses;
- ◇ To engage directly with the policy community and civil society so as to reflect on appropriate policy responses and the values underpinning these policies;
- ◇ To provide policy recommendations at national and EU levels on the educational, legal and political challenges raised by immigration.

Belgium  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Latvia  
Poland  
Spain  
UK

## EMILIE Team

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# EMILIE

## A European Approach to Multicultural Citizenship: Legal, political and educational challenges



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*Citizenship & Governance*





# The scope of our research

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**EMILIE IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT THAT AIMS TO RESPOND TO THE CURRENT 'CRISIS OF MULTICULTURALISM' AND THE LACK OF A COMMON EU INTELLECTUAL FRAMEWORK TO DISCUSS THE RELEVANT CHALLENGES.**

**THE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS ARE FROM NINE EU COUNTRIES (BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, LATVIA, POLAND, SPAIN, UK) THAT REPRESENT DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES OF MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION, INCLUDING THOSE STILL IN TRANSITION WITH REGARD TO MIGRATION.**

After the relative prominence of multicultural citizenship theoretical debates and multicultural policy developments in the 1990s, we witness today a change of direction. This crisis of multiculturalism comes at a time of heightened security awareness as a result of the events of 9/11, the London and Madrid bombings, and their aftermath.

In this context, existing models and policies of immigrant integration and the accommodation of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity are questioned. The governments of several 'old' immigration 'hosts' like Britain, France, Belgium or Denmark are tempted to adopt assimilationist approaches to counteract what they perceive as a (relative) failure of their former cultural diversity policies. New hosts like Greece or Spain and 'old' hosts that did not consider themselves

as such (for example, Germany) find it even harder to adopt a multicultural approach even if political elites recognize the need to integrate immigrants. The situation is even more tense in new member states like Poland that find themselves under double pressure, firstly, to acknowledge the transition from emigration to immigration country, secondly – to introduce all the required anti-immigration provisions while avoiding politicizing the issue. Lastly, the project includes the study of one Baltic country (Latvia) where some of its pre-independence residents have been identified as 'immigrants' – with legal and sociological implications – thereby posing complex problems in terms of accommodating and integrating diversity in society.

At the empirical and policy level, EMILIE aims at highlighting some of the ambivalence and the major challenges of immigrant integration policy in Europe today. The project focuses on both the national and the European level.

At the theoretical level, EMILIE argues that the debate on integrating diversity, multiculturalism and citizenship has to be context-oriented and must develop new theoretical insights related to the specific European context. In Europe multiculturalism challenges relate mainly to the successful integration and participation of Muslim citizens and residents into European societies.

EMILIE seeks to emphasise national debates and approaches to accommodating diversity while also questioning to what extent some debates, policy challenges and best practices have a European currency.

## The project research phases

EMILIE involves an outlining of migration in these 9 EU countries and a critical review of current public debates on integration and multiculturalism. The EMILIE team will focus on three case studies in each country: (i) educational challenges posed by migration related diversity, including multicultural education and faith schools; (ii) legal challenges with special reference to discrimination protection in the workplace; and (iii) political challenges with special reference to voting rights and civic participation.

The case studies will be ethnographic but will also incorporate qualitative and quantitative data on these subjects. Knowledge dissemination activities and interaction with users are incorporated in the research process. We will attempt to identify to what extent each country offers a distinctive 'model' of immigrant incorporation and on what value discourses this model is based.

Finally, EMILIE will compare the main value discourses and perceived value conflicts among the countries studied. It will identify the European dimensions of integrating diversity (value discourses, points of tension, best practices) and elaborate an empirically grounded theoretical model of multiculturalism appropriate to the European experience. This model aims at contributing to the ongoing debates on responding to the challenges and opportunities of migration-related diversity.