

# Case Studies in Migrant Integration and Policy

## Activity #4

## Teacher Instructions

### 1. Overview & Learning Objectives

**Framework:** The activity is built around the **Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)** framework, which uses eight policy areas to measure integration success.

**Estimated Time:** 90 - 120 minutes (45 min group work, 45-75 min presentation/discussion).

**Context:** Students will analyze complex, multi-layered integration challenges faced by specific migrant profiles and develop policy recommendations using the MIPEX areas as a guide.

**Format:** Group work (pairs or groups of 3-4 students). Each group is assigned **one** specific case study.

**Learning Objectives (LOs):** Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Categorize migrant challenges across legal, economic, social, and psychological dimensions.
- Apply the MIPEX framework to structure policy analysis.
- Design feasible, evidence-based integration policies targeting specific needs.
- Identify and allocate responsibilities to relevant actors (government, NGOs, local authorities).

### 2. Materials and Preparation

- **Required Materials:** Handout of the assigned case study and the seminar questions (provided below). Students should have a basic understanding of the eight MIPEX policy areas.
- **Setup:** Print or digitally assign one case study to each group.

### 3. Case Studies for Allocation (Master Teacher Reference Table)

This table includes the full, complete text of each case study for easy reference and accurate allocation.

Case	Migrant Profile	Full Case Description	Policy Focus Areas (Sample)
I.	<b>The Syrian Refugee Family</b>	Fleeing the devastating conflict in Syria, this family consists of parents in their thirties and three children aged 7, 10, and 14. Arriving in Germany two years ago as refugees, they grappled with the trauma of war experiences, a language barrier, and the challenge of finding housing and employment while adjusting to a new culture and education system. Even though over two years have passed, their status has not yet been recognized, as they filed for asylum in Germany. The fact is, they entered Germany illegally, after escaping from a refugee camp in Greece, where they also filed for asylum, but did not stay until the final decision was reached. Right now, they are irregular migrants and their future is uncertain.	<b>Permanent Residence, Education, Health</b> (Trauma Support).
II.	<b>The University Student</b>	Leaving from a remote village in Ethiopia, 20-year-old Amina managed to get a scholarship and to pursue higher education in France. Despite her academic success so far, she faces financial constraints and cultural shock even after	<b>Permanent Residence, Anti-Discrimination, Health</b> (Mental Health/Homesickness).

		<p>almost three years living in France. She is also faced with discrimination and homesickness. Amina is also uncertain about her future, as she is soon completing her bachelor degree.</p>	
III.	<b>The Skilled Migrant Worker</b>	<p>Raj is a 35-year-old software engineer from India, who relocated with his family to the Netherlands one year ago for career opportunities. Despite his impressive credentials and years of experience, Raj encounters challenges in the working environment (e.g.: adapting to a new work culture, and building professional networks in an unfamiliar environment). Raj is also concerned about his wife's access to the labor market and other challenges faced by his 7 year old son.</p>	<p><b>Labor Market Mobility</b> (for spouse), <b>Education</b> (for son), <b>Political Participation</b> (local/community level).</p>
IV.	<b>The LGBTQ+ Asylum Seeker</b>	<p>Maria, a 28-year-old transgender woman, flees her home country in fear of persecution. Seeking asylum in a more accepting society, Maria has no choice but to flee to Slovakia, where family members who already live there can offer her some support. In Slovakia, she is faced with legal barriers, safety concerns, and mental health challenges as she strives to rebuild her life and find a supportive community.</p>	<p><b>Health</b> (Specialized Mental Health), <b>Anti-Discrimination, Permanent Residence</b> (Streamlined/Sensitive Process).</p>
V.	<b>The DACA Dreamer</b>	<p>Javier, a bright and ambitious 17-year-old, was brought to the United</p>	<p><b>Access to Nationality, Permanent Residence, Education</b> (In-State Tuition/Financial Aid).</p>

		<p>States by his parents at the age of five in search of a better life. Growing up in America, Javier excelled in school and dreamed of attending college to pursue his passion for engineering. However, as a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient, Javier faces the constant fear of deportation and uncertainty about his future in the only country he has ever known as home. Despite the challenges, Javier remains determined to overcome the obstacles in his path, striving to make the most of the opportunities afforded to him while advocating for immigrant rights and a pathway to citizenship for himself and others like him.</p>	
VI.	<b>The Divorced Migrant Parent</b>	<p>Maria, originally from Brazil, met her husband, Alexander, an Austrian citizen, while studying abroad. They fell in love and eventually got married three years ago, starting a life together in Austria. Over the years, they welcomed twins. However, despite their initial happiness, their marriage began to deteriorate, leading to a painful divorce. As a result of the divorce, Maria's immigration status became uncertain, as she had been reliant on her marriage to Alexander</p>	<p><b>Permanent Residence, Family Reunion</b> (Rights post-divorce), <b>Labor Market Mobility</b>.</p>

		<p>for her legal residency in Austria. Now faced with the challenge of navigating immigration laws as a single parent, Maria is determined to secure her status and provide a stable and secure future for her children, all while grappling with the emotional toll of the divorce and the uncertainty of her immigration status.</p>	
<b>VII.</b>	<b>The Ukrainian Mother</b>	<p>Two years ago, Natasha, a 42-year-old mother of two, fled her war-torn hometown in Ukraine with her teenage daughter and elderly mother. Their peaceful lives shattered by conflict, they embark on a journey filled with uncertainty, leaving behind their home, belongings, and loved ones. Arriving in Poland seeking safety and stability, Natasha faces the challenges of starting anew in a foreign land, including language barriers, trauma from the violence they witnessed, and the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from scratch amidst the ongoing conflict back home. Natasha and her family benefit from the temporary protection status, but their future is uncertain.</p>	<p><b>Permanent Residence</b> (Pathway Conversion), <b>Health</b> (Trauma Support), <b>Labor Market Mobility</b> (Credential Recognition).</p>

## 4. Activity Flow and Discussion Guidance

1. **Case Allocation (5 min):** Assign one case to each group.
2. **Group Analysis (40-45 min):** Groups read their case, identify key challenges (Q1), and select three MIPEX policy areas for targeted interventions (Q2). They must detail the measure, justify it, and assign an actor (e.g.: *Measure: Local language classes focusing on specialized medical terminology. Actor: Municipal Integration Office/Health Ministry*).
3. **Group Presentation (40-60 min):** Each group presents their case and policy solutions (approx. 5-7 minutes per case).
4. **Policy Critique:** Encourage students to challenge the feasibility and actor responsibility of the proposed measures. For instance, is it realistic to expect a local NGO to handle a nationwide credential recognition problem?
5. **Conclusion:** Summarize how different migrant profiles require different policy combinations within the same MIPEX framework.

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## **Student Materials**

### **Part 1: Case Study Analysis**

Your group has been assigned one case study. **Thoroughly review the case study, focusing on the specific legal status, family needs, economic situation, and psychological barriers of the migrant(s).**

### **Part 2: Group Questions for Presentation**

Use the assigned case study to prepare detailed answers to the following questions.

#### **1. Identify Challenges and Barriers**

Identify the **main challenges and barriers** faced by the migrant(s) in your assigned case. Categorize them (e.g.: legal, economic, linguistic, psychological, social).

#### **2. Propose Integration Measures (MIPEX Framework)**

Based on the **MIPEX eight integration policy areas** (Labor Market Mobility, Education, Family Reunion, Health, Political Participation, Permanent Residence, Anti-Discrimination, Access to Nationality), propose **three integration measures** tailored to address the specific needs of the migrants in your assigned case.



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