

Municipal Coordination Office for Migrant Policy (CPMig) of São Paulo

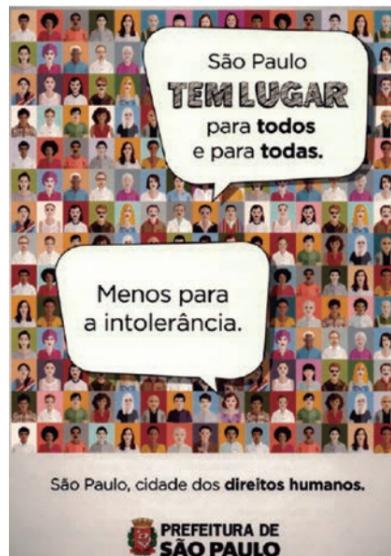
1. Survey of the immigrant population of São Paulo

Developing and implementing policies for the immigrant population requires identifying this population. In this regard, the CPMig has conducted collaborative surveys in partnership with the Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo (IRI/USP) which includes several aspects of the reality faced by immigrants living in São Paulo:

- **Diagnosis of the assistance provided to the migrant population in the city** – Aimed to evaluate how assistance is provided to immigrants and refugees as well as to identify the difficulties faced and to gather suggestions for improvements.
- **Access by the immigrant population to the municipal services of São Paulo** – Aimed to provide inputs to public policies.
- **Groups of immigrants or groups linked to the migration issue** – To stimulate a more effective coordination between municipal government and existing groups.
- **Immigrant fairs in the city of São Paulo** – Aimed to promote diversity through the dissemination of different cultures.
- **Portuguese classes for immigrants and refugees** - Mapping of the Portuguese courses offered to immigrants and refugees throughout the city in order to facilitate their access to such learning opportunities.
- **Cosmopolis Portal** (www.cosmopolis.iri.usp.br) – Aimed to collect contemporary studies on international migrations, especially the ones conducted in São Paulo.

2. Awareness campaign to fight racism and xenophobia: “There is a place for everyone in São Paulo. Except for intolerance”

Disseminated through folders, banners at bus stops, social media and public transport television networks (bus and underground), with the slogan “São Paulo respects migrants and immigrants.”



3. Portuguese classes for immigrants

Mastering the Portuguese language is essential for the immigrants' autonomy and inclusion in local society. Between 2014 and 2016, **more than 500 places in Portuguese classes** at the entry-level were offered to immigrants, in partnership with programmes of the federal government and other institutions.

4. Training and awareness raising in assistance to migrants

Awareness raising and training workshops offered to civil servants sought to ensure a humanized assistance and the access to fundamental rights for immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, foreign students, humanitarian visa holders and their families. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, **1,071 civil servants from the areas of Health, Social Assistance, Education and the Metropolitan Civil Guard** were trained.

5. Regularization of cultural fairs by immigrant communities

The gastronomic and cultural fairs organized by the immigrant communities are important spaces to promote their traditions and interaction with the local community, as well as an income alternative for the micro-entrepreneurs with an immigrant background. There are several fairs spread throughout the city, and CPMig has worked towards their regularization.

6. Promotion of migratory regularization and decent work

In partnership with the Labour and Entrepreneurship Support Centres (CATE), the Municipal Secretariat of Development, Labour and Entrepreneurship, CPMig and Reference and Assistance Centre for Immigrants implement actions to promote the employability of immigrant workers across the municipality. These actions include the organization of employment task forces, the promotion of migratory regularization, access to the National Employment System (SINE), and the sensitization of to hire immigrants and refugees.

7. Inclusion of immigrants in the banking system

One of the first actions of CPMig was to promote the inclusion of the immigrant population in the official banking system, since these people face numerous difficulties when trying to access bank services. In 2013, a first cooperation agreement was signed with Caixa Econômica Federal to facilitate the opening of bank accounts and encourage immigrants to join the banking system. In 2014 a second agreement was signed with Banco do Brasil. Greater flexibility regarding the documentation required is believed to have led to the opening of thousands of bank accounts since then.

8. Recognition and valuing of the festivities and culture of immigrant communities

Respecting and valuing the cultural dimensions of migration processes are also a way to guarantee the rights of immigrants and to combat xenophobia. Therefore, it is essential to foster the participation of immigrants in the cultural projects and to make the existing public incentives available to them, such as the existing bidding processes for cultural events by extending the existing incentive programmes to this population. Every year CPMig supports the festivities of various immigrant communities.

9. Reference and Assistance Centre for Immigrants (CRAI-SP)

CRAI-SP - the first of its kind in Brazil - was created in 2014 to be a public reference facility in the provision of specialized assistance to the immigrant population living in the city of São Paulo. Assistance is provided by immigrants in at least seven languages, including guidance on regularization of migratory status, legal counselling and social assistance, as well as referral to Portuguese classes and job intermediation services in partnership with CATE. The team also welcomes and assists victims of human rights violations, especially immigrant workers found in conditions analogous to slavery.

At CRAI, **5,412** persons have received assistance in **Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Lingala and Quechua**

299 civil servants have been trained to deal with the specificities of this population

158 students have been enrolled in Portuguese classes coordinated by CRAI

10. Specialized shelters for immigrants

For the first time in the country, specialized shelters were created for immigrants and refugees. **540 permanent vacancies were exclusively created for**

immigrants in the municipal assistance network, mostly directed to assist newly-arrived asylum seekers. In 2014, due to the influx of Haitians, an emergency shelter for immigrants was established, which hosted **2,349 migrants from 20 different nationalities** during its 110 days of operation.

11. Municipal Conference and social participation

The inclusion of the migrant population in the political life of the city is essential for their integration into society, even though the current Brazilian law prevents them from voting. Therefore, direct dialogues have been promoted between the government and the immigrant population:

- **Open Dialogues** - The #DIALOGOSP/MIGRANTES were regular meetings aimed to the collective development of a permanent and solid public policy open to social participation. They were attended by social movements and immigrant communities, refugees and Brazilian nationals as well as government representatives, engaging about 900 people.
- **1st Municipal Conference on Policies for Immigrants - Somos Tod@s Migrantes** (We Are All Migrants) (São Paulo, 2013) - The conference, which is of a consultative nature, identified the priorities that later were used to subsidize the municipal public policy for immigrants. It was the first stage in the construction process of the 1st National Conference on Migration and Refuge (COMIGRAR).

The Conference was attended by **695 people from 28 different nationalities; 463 proposals** were presented, of which **57** were selected as **the top priorities**.

- **Election of the Extraordinary Counsellors of the Municipal Participatory Council** - The counsellors are responsible for exercising social control in planning, supervising public actions and expenditures and suggesting public policies and actions. Extraordinary seats for immigrants counsellors were created in all existing 32 sub-regional administration offices in the city in 2015.

12. Municipal Policy for the Immigrant Population

In order to consolidate and expand the set of pioneering public policies that are being implemented in the city of São Paulo, CPMig coordinated the design of the first Municipal Policy for the Immigrant Population of Brazil, sanctioned by Law 16,478 of 8 July 2016.

The initial text was drafted by a committee formed by representatives of 13 municipal secretariats and 13 civil society organizations, which worked from the contributions collected in a public hearing. A first proposal was drafted and submitted to public consultation. The entire process had the technical support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the National Immigration Council (CNIg/MTb).

This innovative law is founded on respect for the human rights of migrants living in the city, regardless of their migratory situation. It also promotes respect for diversity and interculturalism and creates new forms of social participation, such as the Municipal Council for Immigrants. In addition, it formalizes some relevant government policies, such as the maintenance of the Reference and Assistance Centre for Immigrants (CRAIs), the promotion of decent work and the training of public agents to improve the services offered to this population. It also guarantees immigrants access to health, education and housing policies among other aspects.

“This law is important because it helps immigrants to have real access to the city, to full citizenship,” Jobana Moya, Bolivian immigrant and activist from the Warmis Base Team - Convergence of Cultures, a collective movement that integrates the Immigrant Women's Front and the Independent Front for Refugees and Immigrants (FIRI).

MUNICIPAL COORDINATION OFFICE FOR MIGRANT POLICY (CPMig) OF SÃO PAULO

São Paulo was historically built by migrants from different backgrounds, and in the last decade the city has witnessed the diversification and new growth of international flows. Recognizing immigrants as subjects of rights, the Coordination of Policies for Immigrants of the Municipality of São Paulo (CPMig) was created on 27 May 2013 (Municipal Law No. 15,764) under the Municipal Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship (SMDHC). Its objective is to coordinate a municipal policy for immigrants in a cross-cutting, intersectoral and participatory manner - a pioneering proposal in both the city and the country.

Contrary to Brazil's anachronistic immigration laws, CPMig focuses its policies on human rights rather than on national security or labour market protection. In addition, it was the first municipal public agency specifically established to address the migration issue in Brazil.

CPMig has been coordinating a set of actions with other municipal secretariats in order to promote the social, economic and political inclusion of immigrants living in the city of São Paulo.

In general terms, five important programs/actions can be considered as the main legacy of CPMig so far relating to migration: (1) the creation of the Reference and Assistance Centre for Immigrants (CRAI); (2) the creation of four Shelters specialized in assisting immigrants; (3) the sanctioning of Municipal Law No. 16478/2016 establishing the Municipal Policy for the Immigrant Population; (4) the creation, under that law, of the Municipal Council for Immigrants; and finally (5) the consolidation of the Municipal Coordination Office for Migrant Policy (CPMig) of São Paulo itself.



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**COORDINATION
OF POLICIES FOR
IMMIGRANTS
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF
SÃO PAULO**

