



# Coordination of Policies for Immigrants of the Municipality of São Paulo (CPMig):



## 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 immigrant population reality in the city of 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 **improvement**.
- **Access by the immigrant population to the municipal services of São Paulo** – Aimed to provide **inputs** public policies.
- **Groups of immigrants or groups linked to the migration issue** – To estimate a more effective **coordination the government** and existing groups.
- **Immigrant fairs in the city of São Paulo** – Aimed to promote diversity through the dissemination of different cultures.
- **Portuguese courses for immigrants and refugees** - **For people interested in learning the local language to know where to go.**
- **Cosmopolis Portal** (www.cosmopolis.iri.usp.br) – Aimed to collect contemporary studies on international migrations, **especially** in São Paulo.

## 2. Campaign to raise awareness of and prevent xenophobia: “In São Paulo there is a place for everyone. Except for intolerance”

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



## 3. Portuguese course 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 courses** 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

Training and awareness raising workshops for civil servants seek to **guarantee humanized assistance and 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 immigrant cultural fairs

The gastronomic and cultural fairs organized by the immigrant communities are **an important space for leisure, promotion of traditions and interaction** with the local community, as well as an income alternative for the **microentrepreneurs**. 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 CRAI implement actions to promote the employability of immigrant workers **in the municipality**. These actions include the organization of employment task forces, the promotion of migratory **regularization and of access** to the National Employment System (SINE), and the sensitization of **companies**.

## 7. Promotion of the inclusion of migrants 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 **it**. In 2013, **the first cooperation agreement** was signed with Caixa Econômica Federal to facilitate the **opening of accounts** and encourage immigrants to join the banking system. In 2014 **an 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

**The guarantee of immigrants' rights and the fight against xenophobia and racism also stem from the respect and valuing of the cultural dimensions of migration processes.** Therefore, it is essential to **stimulate immigrant participation in cultural projects to them** by extending the existing incentive programmes to this population. Every year CPMig supports the festivities of various immigrant communities.

## 9. Immigrants' Reference and Assistance Centre (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 **courses** and job **intermediation**, in partnership with CATE. The team also welcomes and assists victims of human rights violations, especially **labour** 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 **courses** coordinated by CRAI

## 10. Reception Centres

**Four reception centres – the first in the country - specialized in assisting immigrants were created.** In total, there are **540 vacancies in the municipal network exclusively created for immigrants**, most of whom are **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 **thought** 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 **frequent** meetings aimed to the collective development of a permanent and solid public policy open to social participation. They were attended by social **and collective movements** and immigrant communities, refugees and **Brazilians** as well as government representatives, **totalling** 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 **in the regions** and **suggesting** public policies and actions. Extraordinary seats for immigrants counsellors were created in **all 32 sub-regional administration existing** of 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 **of Immigrants**. In addition, it formalizes some relevant government policies, such as the maintenance of the **Immigrants' Reference and Assistance Centres** (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).

# COORDINATION OF POLICIES FOR IMMIGRANTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY 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 along with other municipal secretariats social, economic and political actions directed towards the immigrant population living in the city of São Paulo.

In general terms, five important programs/actions can be considered as the main legacy of CPMig relating to migration: (1) the creation of the Immigrants' Reference and Assistance Centre (CRAI); (2) the creation of four Reception Centers 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 of Immigrants; and finally (5) the consolidation of the Coordination of Policies for Immigrants of the Municipality of São Paulo itself.



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INMIGRANTS  
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
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