

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

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RECOMMENDATION No. R (84) 9

### OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO THE MEMBER STATES ON SECOND-GENERATION MIGRANTS<sup>1</sup>

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 March 1984  
at the 368th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is the achievement of greater unity between its members with a view to promoting, *inter alia*, their economic and social development ;
2. Noting that for the purpose of this recommendation second-generation migrants are considered to be children born in the host country of immigrant foreign parents, who have accompanied them or who have joined them under family reunion and who have accomplished there a part of their education or vocational training ;
3. Noting that second-generation migrants in host countries are in a particular situation, which differs from that of the other migrants of foreign origin, by reason of numerous links they have with them, the lengthy period they may have lived there, their possible familiarity with the habits, customs and culture of the countries in question and the extent to which they may have become integrated in the society there ;
4. Noting that at the same time they may retain close links with their countries of origin ;
5. Noting that second-generation migrants account for almost half the total immigrant population in certain countries ;
6. Considering that a great number of them belong to the working population and that, in certain countries, they represent a large proportion of those seeking employment among the foreign population and in the numbers attending establishments dispensing elementary education

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1. When this recommendation was adopted, the Representatives of Liechtenstein, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, in application of Article 10.2.c of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, reserved the right of their governments to comply with it or not.

The Representative of Austria, in application of Article 10.2.c of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, reserved the right of his government to apply the provisions of it only to minors of foreign nationality who were born in Austria, or who had accompanied their parents to Austria, or who had joined them and who had accomplished the major part of their compulsory education in Austria and completed it there. As far as minors who had accompanied their parents to Austria or who have joined them there are concerned, they should have entered Austria before 1 September 1982. Furthermore, he reserved the right of his government to comply or not with paragraphs I.a-c, II (3rd sub-paragraph) and III.b of the recommendation.

The Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, in application of Article 10.2.c of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, reserved the right of his government to comply or not with paragraphs I.a, I.b, II (1st and 3rd sub-paragraphs) and IV.h of the recommendation.

The Representative of Norway, in application of Article 10.2.c of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, reserved the right of his government to comply or not with the last sentence of paragraph I.b.

7. Stressing the importance of the contribution by migrants to the economic, social, cultural and, in most cases, demographic development of host countries ;
8. Considering that further action is required to encourage respect for the cultural identity of migrants in general and second-generation migrants in particular and to develop schemes designed to make the public more aware and informed of the culture, economy and society of the countries of origin of second-generation migrants ;
9. Realising the value of progressively harmonising European administrative standards and regulations concerning the residence and employment of young foreigners and having regard, in this connection, to the provisions on residence and employment in the European Social Charter and the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers ;
10. Aware of the need for young second-generation migrants to receive assistance with occupational and social reintegration in the country of origin in the event of voluntary return ;
11. Considering that the special situation of second-generation migrants may necessitate specific measures concerning their education and cultural development ;
12. Noting the necessity and importance of close co-operation between host countries and countries of origin of the parents of second-generation migrants in these matters ;
13. Having regard to Assembly Recommendation 841 on second-generation migrants,  
Recommends that the governments of member states :

**I. As regards residence :**

*a.* lay down provisions guaranteeing residential stability for second-generation migrants and their spouses not possessing the nationality of the host country ;

*b.* ensure that expulsion orders against second-generation migrants who have lived for a considerable time in the host country are issued only on account of offences punished by law courts or in exceptional cases relating in particular to national security and public policy. In this connection, consideration should be given to the occupational and family situation of the person concerned as well as his having been born in the host country and the fact that his family live and work there. A second-generation migrant against whom an expulsion order has been issued should have, in principle, the opportunity of lodging an appeal having suspensive effect with the judicial authorities ;

*c.* guarantee, in accordance with the relevant regulations, that, in cases of temporary absence from the host country, second-generation migrants' rights acquired or being acquired through their birth, schooling or occupational activity shall be maintained when they return to that country ;

**II. As regards employment :**

— guarantee to second-generation migrants vocational training which is incorporated in a general educational system offering real social advancement ;

— endeavour to ensure that, to this end, action relating to information, vocational guidance, training and retraining as well as international co-operation, as outlined in Resolution (76) 11 concerning migrant workers, is taken ;

— take measures assuring equal treatment between young nationals and young second-generation migrants as regards access to employment and genuine social and professional advancement, and to grant work permits if necessary ;

***a. Information***

Develop and adapt to second-generation migrants' needs facilities dispensing information on employment, vocational training and educational opportunities ;

***b. Guidance***

Organise, adapt or develop, if they already exist, vocational guidance schemes consisting of courses and interviews which take account of the specific aptitudes and needs of second-generation migrants and enable them to take advantage of the job opportunities offered to them ;

**c. *Pre-vocational training***

Consider the appropriateness of providing pre-vocational training—whenever possible in the languages of the countries of origin—beyond the compulsory school-leaving age for the following categories :

1. second-generation migrants with insufficient command of the spoken and written language of the host country who, despite attending beginners' or remedial classes, are unable to enter the vocational training system,
2. young people who have failed to obtain any school-leaving qualifications.

This pre-vocational training should enable those concerned to receive suitable vocational training ;

**d. *Vocational training***

Foster, in the same conditions as for nationals, access by second-generation migrants to vocational training centres and institutions providing preparation for employment, in the light of their capacities and aspirations; arrangements for teaching the language of the host country, which is necessary for the social and occupational integration of such migrants, should be provided or improved in this connection ;

**e. *Equivalence of qualifications***

Try to ensure that countries of origin and host countries recognise the equivalence of educational and vocational certificates and qualifications, at least within the framework of bilateral agreements ;

**f. *International co-operation***

Promote co-operation between countries of origin and host countries to enable second-generation migrants to maintain links with the parents' country of origin and find appropriate employment if they return there ;

Envisage where possible, following the conclusion of bilateral agreements, the organisation of visits or courses in parents' countries of origin, so that second-generation migrants can take free and fully-informed decisions on whether to return to the parents' country of origin or remain in the host country ;

**III. As regards acquisition of the nationality of the host country or resumption of the nationality of origin**

*a.* provide all the information needed by parents and second-generation migrants on the conditions in which nationality may be acquired and lost, and also on the consequences thereof, as well as reinstatement of nationality of origin and the procedures to be followed ;

*b.* do everything that is necessary and possible to ensure that procedures for acquisition of nationality or reinstatement of nationality of origin are as simple and speedy as possible, and charges are as limited as possible, and do not exceed administrative costs ;

*c.* ensure, within the framework of international agreements, that young migrants holding the nationalities of two or more member states are subject to national service or military service obligations in only one state ;

**IV. Recommendations on education and culture**

*a.* promote, as far as possible, the education and cultural development of second-generation migrants, acting when appropriate in bilateral co-operation ;

*b.* recognise the importance of intercultural education<sup>1</sup> in education ;

*c.* develop appropriate measures for pupils from different cultural backgrounds, when assessing their abilities and knowledge ;

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1. Interculturalism advocates the integration of migrants into the receiving society and the defence and respect of the value of their languages and cultures as well as supplying the means for attaining these objectives.

*d.* encourage the co-ordination of educational objectives and, as far as possible, the mutual recognition of study and training undertaken in other countries to facilitate mobility ;

*e.* promote the development of coherent policies in the educational, social and cultural fields according to second-generation migrants' needs, while obtaining the support and participation of host communities ;

*f.* foster the integration of migrant girls and women in education and vocational training, in order to enable them to be fully involved in the life of the community ;

*In the receiving country :*

*g.* promote the socio-occupational integration of young migrants through the educational system ;

*h.* give full value to the culture of the parents' country of origin by integrating, possibly in co-operation with the country of origin, the teaching of the language and culture of the country of origin into ordinary school curricula ;

*i.* promote the intercultural training of indigenous teachers, teachers from countries of origin, education officials and adult educators, and encourage the production of suitable teaching aids, in co-operation, where possible, with countries of origin ;

*j.* promote the development of cultural activities, mainly through associations, to enable second-generation migrants to express their own cultural identity and to establish friendly contacts with the local population, and participate in local cultural life ;

*In the country of origin :*

*k.* promote, with a view to the training of teachers and information of the population, knowledge of the living conditions and of the culture in the host countries ;

*l.* consider means and take appropriate measures to help young returning migrants or their families to reintegrate and participate in local cultural life in such a way that they can make the best use of the cultural, linguistic and social experience acquired abroad.