

English Summary

Integrated Action Plan Département Seine-Seine-Denis

URBACT Network WELDI

December 2025

Context

- Seine-Saint-Denis is a French county (*département*) with 1.7m inhabitants - the 5th most populous in France and the one with the youngest population.
- It consists of 39 municipalities, 12 of which have more than 50,000 inhabitants.
- It doubles the average French poverty rate and has 3% higher unemployment.
- 25% or 400,000 inhabitants are migrants, 80% of which from outside the EU.
- The *département* hosts high numbers of asylum seekers and of persons with a precarious residence status.

Challenges

The principal challenges faced by the migrant population include:

- Obstacles in accessing to administrative procedures and services, in part due to digitalisation
- A high number of residents not having access to health care
- Difficult access to childcare services
- Lack of intercultural orientation of care services
- A tense housing market, insufficient social and emergency housing provoke homelessness
- Unequal access to French language support over the territory and intransparent offer
- Access to vocational training and recognition of qualifications
- Discrimination on the labour market
- Challenges faced by unaccompanied minors seeking legal recourse but excluded from support programs
- Normalization of xenophobic rhetoric and systemic discrimination.
- Accumulation of vulnerabilities for newly arrived women can hinder their fundamental rights; risk of sexual exploitation and abuse of women in precarious situations.

Urbact Local Group

Seine-Saint-Denis' ULG brings together 22 services of the département and 134 other organisations, including city councils, NGOs and migrant-led associations and researchers. The ULG met 10 times in different thematic configurations. The effort put into developing the ULG reflects the importance of coordination in this territory.

Objectives and Actions

Strategic Objective 1: Defining the Migration Profile of the Territory

Specific Objectives:

- Identify the priority needs of migrants (housing, health, employment, education, access to rights, etc.);
- Provide indicators to guide the Department in planning and implementing its policies;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policies targeting these populations.

Actions:

- foster a cross-departmental and multi-stakeholder coordination with partners, through the organization of biannual workshops on the subject of migration.
- establish scientific collaborations based on current or ongoing agreements
- collecting materials on migration history: producing narratives
- preserving the urban memory of migration

Strategic Objective 2: Promoting Access to Rights

Specific Objectives:

- Develop tools for professionals within the Department, local stakeholders, and those most directly affected;
- Strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders to co-create mechanisms that promote access to rights;
- Encourage discussions on the deployment of a resource center in the region.

Actions:

- adapt our public policies for better access to rights
- supporting the recognition of qualifications and skills
- creating bridges between language and vocational training and employment
- promote networking between employment stakeholders and job seekers
- activating socio-cultural and sporting practices in the service of well-being and access to rights
- supporting children, young people and parents newly arrived in the territory
- taking interculturality into account in public policies for elderly residents

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Strategic Objective 3: Living Together and Building Community

Specific Objectives:

- Develop and support local events involving the local population, including migrant populations;
- Promote initiatives that foster social connection and combat isolation;
- Encourage local projects that highlight the cultural richness of the region and acts of solidarity both locally and internationally.

Actions:

- promoting the linguistic assets of the territory
- preventing the isolation of aging migrants through intercultural and intergenerational links
- supporting community and citizen-led initiatives in the region
- enabling local stakeholders to come together in a common space

Strategic Objective 4: Spreading a Culture of Welcome and Solidarity

Specific Objectives:

- To deliver a strong political message promoting the values of solidarity and welcoming;
- To raise public awareness of migration realities and counter misconceptions;
- To continue adopting an appropriate and inclusive approach among the Department's professionals.

Actions:

- participate in advocacy initiatives
- to make the local memories of immigrant populations visible and accessible
- promoting cultural, artistic and sporting expressions resulting from migration
- training departmental staff and partners on the issues related to reception and inclusion

Funding

The implementation of this action plan also relies on an integrated financial strategy, based on diversifying funding sources to complement departmental investment – both public and private. These additional financial resources will need to be considered at several levels: local, regional, national, and European. The European Social Fund (ESF) could be one of the avenues explored to finance certain actions.

This approach aims to support transformative and sustainable investments, while integrating fundraising into the strategic planning and operational activities of the local authority.

Governance

The Department's General Directorate will be the lead organization for monitoring the implementation of the action plan. In this context, two annual meetings, led by the General Directorate, will be held to monitor the various activities of the action plan, with the participation of the relevant operational departments. These meetings will facilitate the cross-departmental flow of information on migration within the departmental administration. The first meeting could be dedicated to developing measurable indicators and formulating expected results for the different actions of the action plan.

Furthermore, the Europe and International Directorate (DEI) will organize one or two annual workshops in partnership with the National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories (ANVITA) and the Campus Condorcet. This will allow for the continuation of the strong local dialogue with local stakeholders. The online tool Basecamp will be maintained after the project's completion and will continue to be managed by the DEI (Department of Infrastructure and Innovation) to maintain contact with all stakeholders in Seine-Saint-Denis involved in the WELDI project.

These various coordination and consultation spaces may lead to the formulation of new actions.

Risk assessment

The success of the action plan hinges on strong and renewed political support from elected officials. It also depends on the ongoing involvement of the General Management in its role of driving, coordinating, and mobilizing the operational departments.

A lack of commitment at these levels could weaken interdepartmental collaboration, jeopardize the regular holding of governance meetings, and limit the effective implementation of actions.

Finally, the active participation of the operational departments in coordination meetings and their operational ownership of the plan's objectives and actions are therefore essential conditions for success.