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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

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Working Session 7: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I

Contribution of Portugal

1. Institutional Framework

The High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, I.P. (ACIDI, I.P.) was initially created by Decree-Law no. 202/2006 of 27 October, which approved the organic law of the Presidency of the Council of ministers and merged the High Commission for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities.

The ACIDI, I.P. it is a Public Institute that was established in May 2007¹, under the indirect administration of the Portuguese State, possessing administrative autonomy. It is under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister. The High Commission's mission is to collaborate in the conception, implementation and evaluation of public policies, both cross-cutting and sector-specific, relevant for the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities, as well as promoting dialogue between various cultures, ethnicities and religions, but also to combat all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin or religion through dialogue and integration policies.

Moreover, ACIDI, I.P.'s activities are based on seven key principles: Equality, Dialogue, Citizenship, Hospitality, Interculturalism, Proximity and Initiative. The organisation provides

¹ For more information, please see ACIDI I.P.'s Organic Law ([Decree-Law no. 167/2007](#), dated 3rd May).



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information in order to promote immigrants' rights and fulfilment of duties, including information leaflets, local immigrant support centres and an information phonenumber.

Hence, the functioning and work of the High Commission demonstrates Portugal's objective and action to prevent and forbid every discriminatory act and to discourage every discriminatory practice. It also represents an active engagement in improving the living conditions of persons belonging to minorities and immigrants.

2. Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

One of the ACIDI, I.P.'s mission is, among others, to promote immigrants integration, and to combat all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin or religion through dialogue, tolerance and integration policies.

2.1. Roma and Sinti²

Roma Communities are an integral part of Portuguese society, and their participation is promoted and supported through politics of inclusion that aim at empowering and integrating these citizens, valuing their cultural heritage.

In Portugal, measures to integrate the Roma community have been implemented for some time. It has been estimated that this community comprises between 40,000 to 50,000 individuals, with about 38% under 15 years of age and about 16% live in precarious housing conditions.

In terms of education, the data pertaining to the academic year 2003/2004 reveals that of the 8,324 Portuguese Roma children and young people who were enrolled, 86.7% (as compared to 49.6% for all students) were in the first cycle. One can thus infer that there is a very high failure rate amongst Roma students. In secondary education (including technological courses) enrolments of Roma youth represent a negligible percentage and special efforts are needed to remedy this situation.

² There is no available data to support that are Sintis in Portugal.



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The Roma are increasingly covered by many of the measures accessible to the general population and have access to an important set of general programmes and measures that are aimed at individuals and groups living in situations of poverty and exclusion. These include the Integration Social Income, housing programmes, measures for social protection and school social action. In the same way, Roma communities also benefit from some of the measures outlined in the Plan to Integrate Immigrants.

But the importance of adopting additional measures especially aimed at their communities has been recognised. The third priority of the National Action Plan for Inclusion 2008-2010 contemplates a mechanism to monitor the degree of integration of these communities, with a special emphasis on education, health, employment and housing. It is co-ordinated by the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue.

The Office to Support Roma Communities has also launched in 2007 a website dedicated to Roma communities (www.ciga-nos.pt) (translated as follow us "Roma!"), and has published several studies and publications. The focus of this website is dissemination and sharing of information, creation of working nets, dissemination of field projects, promotion of a positive image of the Roma community and a better knowledge of their history and their culture. These measures aim at reinforcing the interaction between the different participants in the integration of Roma communities, trying to find to best solutions and how to implement and disseminate them.

The High Commission has also created last year, with the support also of the Institute of Social Security, a **Pilot Project for Municipal Mediators** to provide intercultural training (14 October 2009 to 15 February 2010) - in the fields of Mediation, Public Institutions Functioning and Communication - to create fifteen Roma municipal mediators and to insert them in local municipalities and in its Roma inclusion related services so that they can establish a close relation with local services and organisations and local Roma communities. At the end of its first year of implementation, there will be an evaluation report to assess obtained results that should indicate this Project added value to the improvement of Roma communities' situation in Portugal and to the need to implement this Project in other municipalities.

Finally, special and practical measures adopted in the social, economic and cultural fields, must be mentioned. **Programa Escolhas (Choices Programme)**, which was internationally acknowledged as a good practice at the European and international level, is a mainstream governmental programme, created in 2001 and managed and coordinated by the High Commission with the aim of promoting the social integration of children and youngsters from disadvantaged social backgrounds - many of which are immigrant descendants and members of



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Roma communities, but also includes Portuguese. The general objective of this programme is to promote the equality of chances and the social inclusion of the beneficiaries from the programme. Presently in its fourth phase (2010-2013), the Programme supports 130 local projects (66 targeting Roma Communities) with a total budget of 38 million Euros. These projects are managed by local partnerships that involve 1003 local partners. The projects involve, local governments, Non-profit Organizations (IPSS) and the Commissions for the Protection of Children and Youngsters with a total budget of 38 million Euros.

2.2. Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism

The Portuguese law foresees an administrative complaints procedure for cases of racial discrimination, which is dealt with by the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination (CICDR) that works closely with the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI, I.P.).

This Commission is presided by the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue and includes representatives elected by the Parliament, Government' appointed, as well as representatives from the employers associations, trade unions, immigrants associations, NGOs and civil society.

The procedure is initiated with any individual complaint presented to the Commission for a discriminatory act or practice by a public authority, service or by any individual person. The High Commissioner then sends the complaint to the Inspectorate-General of the competent Ministry, who is due to report back after seeking to establish the veracity of the alleged facts. This report is submitted to the Standing Committee of the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination that produces an advisory opinion, based on which a decision is taken by the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue. This decision may include the imposition of a fine that, regarding to individual person(s) can go until 5 minimum wages, and for Public Bodies /Companies, the fine can go until 10 minimum wages.

It should be noted that a discriminatory act or practice can constitute a crime in accordance with Article 240 of the Portuguese Criminal Code.

a) Immigrant / Racial Victim Support



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Regarding the Immigrant / Racial Victim Support is important to stress out the role of the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue on this matter, specifically:

-National Immigrant Centres (**CNAI**), in Lisbon, Oporto, and more recently in Faro, that bring together different Services and provide information and support free of charge in a integrated way to immigrants.

- a Network of Support Centres for Local Integration of Immigrants (**CLAII**), covering almost the entire territory (85 in all country), which provide, in partnerships with local authorities and civil society, decentralized information, support and response to immigrants questions and problems.

-an Immigrant Legal Support Office (**GAJI**) that provides legal advice and mediation services free of charge to all interested immigrants in areas such as nationality, employment, social security, exercise of rights and access to justice.

ACIDI also created a “Victim Support Unit to Immigrant and Victims of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (**UAVIDRE**)” in 2005. This Unit is integrated in a Portuguese NGO, the “Portuguese Association for Victim Support” (**APAV**), which receives public financing on a yearly basis from the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue. This Unit provides support free of charge, legal and psychological help to victims of racial discrimination and to immigrant victims in general.

Finally, the Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination’s website (**www.cicdr.pt**) has a special tool called “Racism on Internet”, where the users have the link to a national project called “Safe Internet”, co-financed by the European Union under the project “Safer Internet Plus”, in which citizens may file a complaint against a internet blog or site that has racist issues. This complaint leads to immediate action in the cases where the site is located in Portugal.

b) Racial Discrimination Awareness and the role of Media

In Portugal, as in other countries, Media are opinion makers, playing an important role in the process of immigrants’ welcoming and integration nearby the Portuguese society. It can, therefore, be a provider of discrimination and, simultaneously, a potential agent for combating it.



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On one hand, Media has often disclosed "cases", or "possible cases", of individual or collective racial discrimination; on the other hand, it has brought to public knowledge events involving foreigners and ethnic minority groups that lead to the development of certain negative "social representation".

The Portuguese constitutional and legal system guarantees **freedom of expression and information**, but at the same time forbids hate speech and encourages intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and a fair portrayal of minorities.

According to Article 37 (Freedom of expression and information) of the Portuguese Constitution, everyone possesses the right to freely express and publicise his thoughts in words, images or by any other means, as well as the right to inform others, inform himself and be informed without hindrance or discrimination, no type or form of censorship being allowed.

Infractions committed in the exercise of these rights are subject to the general principles and rules of the criminal law and of the law governing administrative offences and brought before the courts of law or an independent administrative body, respectively.

According to Article 240 of the Penal Code, inciting or encouraging racial, religious or sexual discrimination in public meetings or through written texts, the media or electronic systems is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment for a period of six months to five years.

The **Television Law** from 2007 reflects these constitutional principles, and except for cases provided for by the law, television broadcasting is based on the freedom of programming and neither the Public Administration nor any sovereign body, with the exception of the courts of law, shall prevent, limit or impose the broadcast of any programs.

However, some restrictions on the general principle of freedom of programming are established, namely that television programming shall respect the dignity of the human being as well as fundamental rights, freedoms and guarantees and television program services shall not incite, through broadcasted programming elements, hatred on grounds of a racial, religious or politic nature, or based on colour, ethnic or national origin, sex or sexual orientation.

Infringement to these dispositions is considered a very serious breach, liable to a fine from 75.000 to 375.000 Euros and to a suspension, for a period from 1 to 10 days, of the license or authorization for the program service or the transmission of the program in which they were



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committed, according to the seriousness of the infringement. If two previous breaches of the same degree of seriousness have been committed less than two years before, it may give rise to the revocation of the broadcaster's license or authorization.

The **Regulatory Entity for the Media** (ERC), which is an independent administrative authority, is responsible for, among other obligations, ensuring the respect for personal rights, freedoms and guarantees, as well as statutes and rules that regulate the work of the media. These responsibilities are carried out in compliance with the constitutional principle that forbids any form of censorship.

In the course of its activity, ERC has in several occasions issued recommendations to specific newspapers or broadcasters in cases where legal and/or deontological principles regarding human rights, human dignity and non discrimination of persons for racial, ethnical or religious reasons, were not fully respected. ERC recommendations must be published with proper relevance by the media concerned and tend to have a pedagogical effect.

Thus, due to the importance of an adequate way of addressing migration issues by the media, the Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination (CICDR), nearby the High Commission for Immigration and intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI, I.P.), issued, in 2006, a recommendation on references to nationality, ethnicity, religion or immigrant legal status on news from official sources and media.

The Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination (CICDR)³,

Considering that tolerance and affection for diversity are particularly constrained by the perception that public opinion has immigrants and minorities through the media.

Whereas it is recurrent reference in the media elements such as nationality, ethnicity, religion or status documents, particularly in cases of unlawful objective explanation which have nothing to do with those characterizing,

Nothing the official sources often advertise, directly or indirectly in their daily activities that characterize these subjects, prompting the media to play them,

³ Un-official translation of the recommendation, available in Portuguese at <http://www.acidi.gov.pt/docs/CICDR/posicaoCICDRsobreReferenciasNacionalidade.pdf>.



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Reiterating these references – either in sources or in media communication – potentially lead to a chain of stigmatization and reinforcing prejudices against foreigners, ethnic or religious minorities or undocumented migrants,

Recalling that the CICDR, created by Law nr. 134/99, dated 28th August, has, as its mission, to prevent and forbid racial discrimination in all its forms and to sanction all actions and practises which violate the fundamental human rights, or by refusing or conditioning the exercise of any economic, social or cultural rights on any person by reason of treatment with regard to racial belonging, colour, nationality and ethnic origins.

Acting under paragraph c) of Article 5 of the Law nr. 134/99,

1. Recommends that the official sources, including security forces and police (the Immigration and Borders Service, the Public Security Police, the Republican National Guard, the Judiciary Police, among others) and different inspecting authorities (General Inspectorates, Food and Economic Safety Authority, among others) to avoid revealing in its communications official or unofficial transactions, nationality, ethnic group, religion or status of any document subject to police action or inspecting or suspected of criminal acts or administrative procedures.

2. Requests the media, always within a framework of respect by its editorial independence, avoiding the construction of news, reference to nationality, ethnicity, religion or documentary situation where that this is not essential for explaining an axis of the news.

3. Calls upon the editors of different agents of media to consider the relative weight that is assigned for actions in the media space detention of undocumented immigrants in Portugal, and the tone of stories about these operations, corresponding to a rigorous option, balanced, proportionate and respect for human dignity.

4. Mandates its Standing Committee⁴ to present this position through hearings to seek different official sources and agents of media, inviting them to join the reference and put it into practice in their work.

⁴ The Standing Committee (so called *Comissão Permanente*) comprises the Chairman and two members elected by the others members of CICDR. The Standing Committee meets on a regular basis, whenever called by the President or at the request of any of its members, particularly in order to be heard the definition of penalties and enforcement of fines or incidental sanctions provided by Law nr. 134/99.



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5. Instructs the CICDR secretariat to ensure that, whenever it is visible in production of sources or means of communication, references to nationality, ethnicity, religion or legal status, the authors are notified of the CICDR's position and invited to join to their principle of non-reporting of nationality, ethnicity, religion or legal status.

Lisbon, 10th April, 2006

CICDR recommended further information and training efforts nearby the main Media companies and its agents (for instance, journalists and commentators). This pedagogical action towards the Media, within the supervision of ACIDI, I.P. and CICDR, but also within the surveillance of the Regulatory Authority for the Media⁵, was very important to the fight against racial discrimination, to awareness of the phenomena of racism and xenophobia, and to build a healthy multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environment on the Media agents.

In this context of positive information and training, ACIDI has promoted several initiatives/activities:

- i) the various publications of ACIDI's intercultural training department, towards intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and facing racism and xenophobia towards immigrants and ethnic minorities, including Roma communities;
- ii) the relevant publications of the The Immigration Observatory (Observatório da Imigração - OI), all important, but some of them directly related to the Media (especially the OI Studies Series, "Attitudes and Values in relation to Immigration", "Representations (Images) of Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in the Media," "Media, Immigration and Ethnic Minorities", and "Media, Immigration and Ethnic Minorities 2007", numbers 2, 3, 6 and 28, respectively);

⁵ The ERC - *Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social* (Regulatory Authority for the Media) was created by the Law nr. 53/2005, dated 8th November. This diploma approves the statutes of the new regulatory entity, which statute is that of a legal person governed by public law, and an independent administrative entity in nature, granting to it regulatory and supervisory powers. ERC's organic structure includes the regulatory council, the executive board, the advisory council and the single fiscal. Although Law nr. 43/98, dated 6th August, has been revoked, AACS members will remain in service until the members of ERC's regulatory council and its single fiscal take up their duties and, after the entry into force of Law nr. 53/2005, all legal and contractual references made to the former AACS are considered to be made to the new ERC, available on this website <http://www.erc.pt>.



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iii) finally, the numerous comments and interviews to newspapers, magazines, radio and television, made by the leaders of ACIDI, I.P.

Along with the initiatives mentioned above, ACIDI with the collaboration of the Journalists Training Centre (CENJOR) has promoted workshops specific for media professionals on how to address migration issues. A set of four workshops, held in Faro, Coimbra, Oporto and Lisbon, all in the first four months of 2010, gather around 100 journalists from all media means (television, radio and newspapers) in a two days residence meeting. Myths and Fact on migration and intercultural dialogue were some of the training modules, towards a better knowledge of one selves and how the person beyond the media professional sees migrants.

Besides training, information is, as mentioned earlier, a very important way to tackle racism or xenophobia. In recognition of this, ACIDI has produced and/or financed important tools:

1) ACIDI translated into Portuguese and published “A Diversity toolkit for factual programmes in public service television”, produced by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). It was presented in 2009, in a meeting, held within the celebration of the 21st May, International Day of Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development.

It's important to stress that this ACIDI's initiative had, already, important outcomes: the Portuguese public television has draw an ethic code based upon the “Diversity toolkit” principles.

2) Due to the importance of having a common language on the news regarding migration, assuring the use of terms that lead to stereotypes, ACIDI has financed the Portuguese version of OIM's Glossary on Migration. It was distributed to media professionals and agencies, and it's an important allied for a better management of migration issues in the news' making.

3) Also, to promote migrant's positive image within the public opinion, recognizing migrant's contribute for the country's development, it OIM, financed by ACIDI, has produced a list of migrants from several intervention areas, namely, doctors, artists, lawyers. The objective is to interview migrant professionals in information pieces not related only to migration, showing their active role in a wide range of areas.

The High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue has also been promoting several relevant measures for the Media, such as encouraging them to join the fight against the stigmatisation of immigrants and ethnic minorities through the **Journalism for Tolerance prize**



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that is attributed every year to journalists that provided a positive image of immigrants and or intercultural dialogue. It also promotes a weekly magazine TV show called Nós (Us) and a weekly radio programme “People Like Us” (Gente Como Nós”) to raise public awareness towards integration and promotion of interculturalism.

One example is the annual **Human Rights and Integration Award** which was jointly established by the Portuguese UNESCO National Commission, ACIDI – High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue and the GMCS – State’s Department for the Media. This award is granted in different categories (print media, radio and television) to journalists responsible for media works that contributed to the promotion of human rights and intercultural dialogue.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the relevant constitutional and legal principles, **public policies** were adopted in the fields of the media, immigration and intercultural dialogue that, while respecting media independence and journalistic deontology, promote and encourage self and co-regulatory initiatives aimed at increasing awareness for human rights and intercultural dialogue among journalists.

Also, the **Statute of the Journalists** specifies that journalists should not discriminate persons in regard to parentage, sex, race, language, home territory, religion, political or ideological opinions, education, economic situation, social condition or sexual orientation.

Moreover, every newspaper, television or radio program service must adopt an **editorial statute** that defines its orientation and objectives clearly and in detail, including the commitment to respect the rights of its readers, viewers or listeners, as well as the deontological principles of journalists and professional ethics.

Along with these activities, it’s worth mentioning the Plan for Immigrants’ Integration (2007-2009), with a Media’s specific intervention area, with two measures⁶: to **encourage the development of self regulatory mechanisms in the media, based upon ethical practice and professional deontology (measure 101)**, and to **nurturing cultural diversity in the media (measure 102)**.

⁶ The PII, also known as *Plano para a Integração dos Imigrantes*, was created under the Council of Ministers Resolution nr. 63-A/2007, May 3rd. This plan outlines a set of 122 measures, covering diverse vertical and transverse sectors and assuming as main goal to bring to conclusion the complete integration of immigrants into Portuguese society and which establishes a set of guiding principles, which are highlighted in the PII, available at http://www.acidi.gov.pt/docs/PII/PII_Ing.pdf.



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Concerning the **measure 101**, in fact the media play an important role in shaping public opinion, becoming important actors for the effective reception and integration of immigrants in Portugal. Studies in the area of Media and Immigration have shown a very positive development for the treatment of news, to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of the information, and less frequent news that identify, abused, nationality or ethnicity of the actors without this constituting factor explaining the same, or linking immigration to deviant behaviour and illegal, as organized crime, prostitution, begging, among other phenomena less socially accepted or socially and / or morally disapproved. That's why the **measure 101** was brought:

- to encourage, respecting media autonomy and the ethics and deontology of journalists, the development of self regulatory mechanisms that cover the domain of news about immigration, namely by adhering to facts and the appropriate framework by way of countering the perverse effects of inciting racism and xenophobia which the media can generate;

- to appeal for the application of a standard rule that people are not to be identified neither by nationality nor by ethnic origin except when it is needed to explain news content, as well as refusing the use of group categorisation as a subject for the news or as a basis for determining behaviour;

- to publish, through the Offices of the Means of Social Communication (GMCS)⁷ in conjunction with major sector representatives, relevant documentation produced by such international organisations as the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, in relation to target materials.

To stimulate the media to give space to programming (information) that demonstrates the existence of cultural diversity in Portuguese society, placing importance upon the cultural and

⁷ The GMCS, best known as *Gabinete para os Meios de Comunicação Social*, is a central government directly by the state, endowed with administrative autonomy. The GMCS's organic structure was approved by Decree-Law nr. 165/2007, dated 3rd May. The GMCS supports mainly the Government in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies for the media, searching for the classification of industry and new media services, with a view to safeguarding the freedom of expression and other fundamental rights, as well as pluralism and diversity. The GMCS is integrated within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Decree-Law nr. 202/2006, dated 27th October) and directly to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, responsible government by the media (under Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Article 11 of the Decree-Law nr. 321/2009, dated 11th December).



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linguistic expression in the resident migrant communities in Portugal, Accordingly to **measure 102**, the main goals were:

- The creation of a Working Group with media representatives about the lack of identification of nationality or ethnicity, except when this is explaining to the subject of the news. Objective: 3 meetings per year;
- Number of relevant documents produced by international organizations sent by GMCS to the various organs/agents of media. Objective: disclosure of all documents produced by the European Union International Organization for Migration, Council of Europe and UNESCO on the subject, during each year.

The working group of journalists, formally constituted in the last quarter of 2007 as part of the implementation of Measure 101 of the PII, was entitled "**Reflection Group on the Treatment of Immigration in Media**" and includes representatives of the following organizations and companies: Portuguese Confederation of Media Companies, Portuguese Journalists Trade Union, LUSA⁸, Daily News (Diário de Notícias) Newspaper, TSF (Portuguese news radio broadcast), RTP⁹ and TVI¹⁰.

The group met six times: four in 2007 and two in 2008. Noted that the meeting on 2007, the group met with representatives of the SEF, PSP, GNR and PJ, examined the relationship between information sources and disseminated by the news media about immigration. The meeting was classified by the group of very fruitful. In the two meetings in 2008, the Group submitted a proposal to launch an investigation into media and immigration to send to all registered journalists in the Comissão da Carteira Profissional do Jornalista (CCPJ), by linking their future work to the results of that investigation¹¹. The establishment and processing of survey data, which had financial support from ACIDI will be conducted by OBERCOM - Centre for Communication (Observatório da Comunicação). As the PPI will ended in late 2009, the

⁸ Lusa - Portuguese News Agency is the official news agency of Portugal.

⁹ The RTP, commonly known as *Rádio e Televisão de Portugal* (portuguese for "Radio and Television of Portugal"), is the Portuguese public service broadcasting corporation. It operates two terrestrial television channels and three national radio channels, in addition to several satellite and cable offerings.

¹⁰ The Independent Television (*Televisão Independente* - TVI) is a private Portuguese TV channel, launched in 1993.

¹¹ This positive trend in the way the media have been dealing with immigration and intercultural issues has been found in studies of media, immigration and ethnic minorities that Prof. Férin Isabel and her team have drawn up periodically for the OI. This same tendency was seen in the recent study by the same team on "Immigration and ethnic diversity, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity in the press and on TV - 2008" which was presented on last December 15, 2009 at a conference sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and by the ERC.



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ACIDI propose to continue that work by the Reflection Group (Grupo de Reflexão) on the basis of results that will be obtained by the survey, transit to a new PII (2010-2013) that will be approved soon.

For the period of 2010-2013, a second Plan for Immigrants' Integration is now being implemented, where the media are also addressed, but in the promotion of diversity and interculturality area.

c) Preventing aggressive nationalism and the extreme-right propaganda via the Internet

In Portugal, there are no extreme-right political parties with parliamentary representation. The extreme-right National Renewal Party had 11,614 votes in recent elections.

A member of an extreme-right wing party was convicted for discriminatory acts under article 240 of the Portuguese Criminal Code and is currently in jail.

The control of the dissemination of propaganda via internet by extreme right movements and in particular the main groups acting in Portugal depends especially of the enactment of legislation where the incitement, the recruitment and eventually the training for criminal purposes, including via internet is included.

However, according to its preventive competence and in the framework of criminal investigation, through judicial authorization, the Criminal Police – National Unit against Terrorism also monitors regularly websites, web chatting rooms and other fora associated or linked to violent extreme right groups, namely connected with PHS (Portuguese Hamerskins).

The National Republican Guard (GNR) - a security force with a military nature – and the Public Security Police (PSP) - a security force, with the nature of public service - have preventive, public order maintenance and criminal investigation responsibilities. Under these responsibilities, they often carry out preventive and repressive actions, in compliance with the legislative scheme in force, notably among sport cheerleading, schools and public manifestations of extremist movements.



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Also, the Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination's website has a special tool called "Racism on Internet", where the users have the link to a national project called "Safe Internet", co-financed by the European Union under the project "Safer Internet Plus", in which citizens may file a complaint against a internet blog or site that has racist issues. This complaint leads to immediate action in the cases where the site is located in Portugal.