SPRING

Handbook for practitioners

Integration of newly arrived migrants in Europe

integrationpractices.eu

2022

SPRING is a EU-funded project focusing on the integration of recently arrived migrants in the context of the large-scale arrivals of refugees and other migrants since 2014. It aims to develop a toolbox to improve the innovation, effectiveness and sustainability of the work done by Europe's integration stakeholders at national, regional and local levels. The project mobilises significant research, networks and communications capacity and gathers, summarises and shares the best available research and evidence on the effectiveness, innovation, transferability, sustainability and evaluation methods for integration policies and practice.

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SprINg: Foreword

The SPRING Handbook is intended as a guide to current research evidence on the integration of refugees and other recent migrants in Europe.

It summarises the most relevant research on various areas of migrant integration, inclusion and participation in Europe focusing on refugees and other recent migrants. All content is based on an extensive review of research on integration of refugees and other recent migrants over the past 10 years undertaken by research teams at Danube University Krems, Erasmus University Rotterdam and ICMPD and published in a separate report (Kraler et al. 2022). The Handbook offers a summary of research findings in relation to 11 themes: Rights and legal status, Employment, Education and Training, Housing and Settlement, Access to Welfare, Health Care, Crime, Family Relations, Identity and Belonging, Attitudes Towards Migrants, and Civic Participation. These short overviews introduce the main characteristics and challenges of a given field, summarise current policy approaches and instruments and provide actionable recommendations for governments and civil society organizations. In addition, each chapter is complemented by an annotated list of key studies and projects in the field for further reading.

Integration is a complex process, where many areas of migrant participation overlap, different kinds of organizations engage and steer the process, and where stereotypes and exclusionary policies often reinforce each other.
To grasp this complex relationships and connections, we have created three infographics: “Building Bridges Towards Effective Integration Infrastructure”, “Intersecting Barriers to Employment”, and “Participation for Migrant Mothers: Barriers and Ways Forward”. These cross-cutting issues came up recurrently during the review process and were reaffirmed in the discussions with both the project external advisors and practitioners. Each infographic is accompanied with a briefing note, which explained the challenges, provides concrete examples, and offers practical solutions.

For those interested in more information on the systematic review we undertook in the SPRING project we invite you to have a look at https://integrationpractices.eu/evidencerepository. There you can access the full report of reviewed evidence, and connect with academic experts and organizations working in each area of integration.
We hope that the Handbook will be a valuable resource, both as a first guide to relevant evidence and for training and thus support practitioners in their efforts to address the widespread challenges that newly arrived migrants and refugees face.

Asya Pisavereskaya, Albert Kraler and Alex Webb,
November 2022

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Introduction:

What is integration?

Integration of migrants can be understood differently by practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and academics. Some prefer not to use this term describing their area of work with migrants, and instead, talk about social inclusion (e.g. Bade & Bommes 2004), adaptation, participation (cf. FRA 2017). and access to services. This could be for several reasons, on the one hand – the vagueness of its meaning, on the other hand, highly normative undertone that this term has acquired over time. In this introduction, we give an overview of some debates around this concept and how it has been used in policy and practice. In conclusion, we suggest a shared definition of integration for newly arrived migrants, as an entry point for the Handbook.

The term 'integration' is specifically anchored in European debates on migrants' presence and incorporation in European societies. Favell (2022) points out that the term as it is used in policy debates refers to both the process and result that states aspire to restore their cohesion after large-scale immigration resulting from globalization. Yet, who the actors of integration are, into what immigrants integrate, and where and when 'integration' occurs is often left open, making integration also an exceptionally vague term.

In defining 'integration', both social science and policy have played an important role. As Scholten et al. (2015) pointed out, integration research influenced "public understanding of immigrant integration processes, and in many cases also in shaping government policies". This fusion of policy-driven and scientific approaches is a source of academic critique of 'integration' term for at least two decades (e.g. Favell 2003, Bommes 2012, Schinkel, 2018). The most relevant to practitioners are the critiques highlighting the normativity of integration, the negative objectification of migrants as 'other', and the a narrow focus on integration as a one-way process, where migrants are held solely responsible for the outcomes of integration processes (Spencer, 2022). Schinkel (2013, 2017, 2018) elaborates that immigrant integration policy expects that society would remain unchanged after a successful process of immigrants integration. According to Schinkel (2018), policy often sees immigrants as racially distinct others, who are lacking skills, knowledge or resources, and puts the task for integration on the individual immigrant. Such policy framing means that integration can fail and immigrants are blamed.

Manfred Zentner, Albert Kraler & Asya Pisarevskaya

Schinkel's critique provoked an intense discussion around the concept of integration, but also triggered interventions arguing for keeping the term and arguing for its usefulness. Thus, Penninx (2019) maintains that the concept integration is useful to study "the (outcomes of) interaction between newcomers and the receiving society at [the individual, collective and institutional level], taking into account different dimensions. The concept of integration remains important in the analysis of policies on integration. Penninx emphasizes that this is fundamentally different from a sociological analysis of integration processes, as it pays first pays attention to how political actors frame integration and use these frames in developing and implementing policies. The research – policy dialogues around integration shape how integration term is understood by policy makers, practitioners and social scientists.

Thus, Penninx calls for a nuanced reinterpretation of the concept of integration. Gulay Ugur Goksel's notion of 'just integration' (Gocksel 2018) provides such a reinterpretation of the concept integration, in which the feeling of belonging to society is seen as essential. This recognition is premised on "a secure environment in which one's needs, values, and beliefs are taken care of", the lived experience of being treated equally; and third, "a symmetrical validation of one's contribution to societal life (Goksel 2018, pos 1439/3964).

EU definition of integration

In 2004, by the Council of the European Union adopted Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy, which formulated a range of prerequisites for integration (Council of the European Union 2004). The Common Basic Principles largely understood integration as process by which immigrants would become similar to the non-migrant population, for example in terms of employment participation or educational achievements. In 2005 the Common Agenda for Integration was established (EC 2005) and updated in 2011 (EC 2011). Together these frameworks provide the most elaborate and widely known guidelines for integration policy in the EU. A variety of countries have developed their own (national) integration strategies based on them and continue to do so now.
The renewed European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals defines 'integration' as a process and a shared responsibility of migrants and the receiving society: "Integration requires the engagement by the receiving society in accommodating the migrants, respecting their rights and cultures and informing them about their obligations. At the same time, migrants need to show the willingness to integrate and to respect rules and values of the society in which they live." (EC 2011, 4). It also lists a number of challenges to integration – namely low rates of employment especially for migrant women, unemployment and over-qualification, risk of social exclusion, gaps in educational achievement and public concern with the lack of integration of migrants and takes these challenges as a call to refine the instruments for integration.

Conclusion

Despite controversies surrounding the term integration it is still widely used in academic and policy contexts, and is unlikely to be replaced. In this Handbook focused on integration of newly arrived migrants, we are inspired by the Penninx & Garcés–Mascareñas (2016) definition: "the process of becoming an accepted part of society". They emphasize the process rather than the result of integration, and do not specify requirements for acceptance by the receiving society. The diverse and rich body of literature summarised in this Handbook employs various definitions of the term integration, and its alternatives. The themes covered in this handbook reflect the multidimensionality of the integration process, shown in Sarah Spencer's (2022) heuristic model of integration processes and factors. In the subsequent sections we pay attention to social, structural, identity, and civic and political, dimensions of integration process, as well as to the role of policies, institutions and individuals in it.

The themes of families and social networks are presented in the briefs on Family Relations, Attitudes Toward Migrants. In the infographic and the briefing note on Migrant Mothers we show how the interplay of individual gender characteristics and structural conditions create obstacles for integration. The Identity dimension is elaborated in the Brief on Identity and Belonging. Briefs on Education, Health Care, Housing and Employment unveil the structural dimension of integration, while the infographic on Employment highlights the interconnectedness of these different areas. Finally, the civic and political dimensions are discussed in the briefs on Civic Participation, Access to Welfare, Rights and Legal Status, Migrants and Crime. The infographic 'Building bridges' shows the importance of collaboration between various institutional stakeholders to facilitate smooth integration process for the newly arrived migrants.

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https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92377-8_14

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Briefs and practical recommendations:

Key integration topics

These Briefs offer a snapshot of European research findings on the pressing issues migrants are facing in 11 themes of migrant integration based on the SprINg Review Report. In this section of the handbook you can find evidence-based and effective recommendations that can be applied by governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO).*

All recommendations in the briefs are based on the research findings from the analysed literature on the topic. For original studies and more information on migrant integration in the EU in the past decade see the full Review Report.

Kraler, Albert, Marija Grujić, Hakan Kilic, Tamara Kerschbaumer, Meike Palinkas, Asya Pisarevskaya, Peter Scholten, Isabella Skrivanek, and Manfred Zentner. 2022. "The Integration of Recent Migrants and Refugees: A Review of Research on Integration Policy Practices in the EU." Deliverable 2.2 of SprINg Project. Krems: Danube University Krems.

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7268460.

*By Migrants we mean newly arrived migrants in a broad sense. The focus is especially on vulnerable groups, including but not limited to refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented who arrived in the EU.

Migrants' Rights and Legal Status

Challenges for Migrants

• Legal status and the scope of rights that comes with it, are cruciall important for the integration process. They determine to what extent a migrant is legally permitted to participate in the receiving society. Such rights can open or restrict migrants' access to various areas of life: i.e. employment, education, health care, welfare benefits, bank account, housing, and freedom of movement.
• Over the years national policies on migrant rights have become increasingly restrictive, which hiders integration process of some groups. Asylum seekers have limited access to rights until they have received a decision, which could take very long time. Undocumented migrants, including rejected asylum seekers, are deprived of basic rights given their lack of legal status.
• Full access to rights can be obtained through citizenship, which becomes available for migrants only after they have lived in the country for a long time, and under many additional conditions: i.e. knowledge of the country's language and culture, and financial independence.
• Migrants could be caught in the conflicting agendas of national and local governments. While the national policies usually restrict their rights local level often prioritizes migrant's participation.

Observed Policy Objectives

Research demonstrated that policies can have several opposing objectives:

• Immigration control: exclusion from participation and encouragement of return through restriction of rights for some migrant groups
• Solving administrative back logs of asylum applications to ultimately grant rights and legal status
• Meet the demographic or economic needs of the receiving country. Offering rights to migrants that are deemed 'useful' by the receiving state.
• To prevent destitution and extreme marginalization: (undocumented) migrants are granted some limited rights

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

To facilitate integration through access to rights, states use the following Regulatory instruments:

• Granting visas and residence permits that authorize entry and stay
• A legal status transition, i.e. from a student to work permit, can enhance the right to work, duration of stay, and right to family reunification
• Granting of supranational humanitarian statuses: Refugee status or subsidiary protection
• Regularization (of undocumented), naturalization

What can we do?

Governments can:

• **Stop restricting migrant rights.** Previous studies have shown that conditions in the origin country, especially those that create an unsafe living environment, have a larger influence on the decision to migrate than access to rights, in the receiving country. There is no conclusive evidence that deprivation of rights leads to return.

• **Cut down on civic integration requirements for entry and stay.** Such policies have been found to ensure symbolic politics and have no effect on integration. Therefore, their main effect has been to exclude migrants from entry and residence.

• **Fast-track the individual processing of all asylum applications.** Spending months in legal limbo and limited access to rights is detrimental to the integration process, while rapid clarification of the legal status opens the gates to rights-based participation in society.However, it is important to note that group based application processing should be avoided as it dehumanizes refugees and does not consider individual circumstances.

• **Regularize undocumented migrants**. Receving regular status allows migrants greater control over their own life including having the legal right to work, study, and access to services. Additionally regularisation can help to fill labor needs in the receiving countryand contributes to its economic growth.

• **Allow rejected asylum seekers and victims of trafficking to regularize or change their status.** Sweden and Germany allow rejected asylum applicants to regularize through participation in employment – 'laborization'. It keeps migrants in legality, grants them basic rights for participation and contributing to economy of the receiving country.

CSOs and Migrant initiatives can:

• **Protest to claim the right to stay, work, study, etc.** While such movements may demand policy change, they more often achieve social recognition and solidarity through the host population and other migrant groups. In time this can lead to policy change.

• **Incorporate undocumented migrants into local communities.** Legal procedures and regularization often follow undocumented migrants practicipation in social and economic life of host localities.

**Disclaimer: There are limited number of studies that measure the direct effect of policies governing legal status of newly arrived migrants on integration process*

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. Understanding Membership in a World of Global Migration: (How) Does Citizenship Matter?

Check out this synthesis of literature to further understand citizenship and how it influences migrants' lives and rights. The authors step outside of the box of citizenship as legal status and discuss it also as a relational process of recognition and claiming legitimate membership in societies.

Bloemraad, Irene, and Alicia Sheares. 2017. 'Understanding Membership in a World of Global Migration: (How) Does Citizenship Matter?' International Migration Review 51 (4): 823–67.

https://doi.org/10.1111/imre.12354

Study 2. Regularization of Irregular Migrants and Social Policies: Comparative Perspectives

Gain a deeper understanding of regularization policy with this article that looks at such policies and their social policy implications in seven European counties. Here you can see what migrants themselves believe are the most important impacts of regularization.

Kraler, Albert. 2019. 'Regularization of Irregular Migrants and Social Policies: Comparative Perspectives'. Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies 17 (1): 94–113.

https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2018.1522561.

Study 3. Cities vs States: Should Urban Citizenship Be Emancipated from Nationality?

Jump into the academic debate on city versus state citizenship with this working paper. The volume provides various academic perspectives on advantages and disadvantages of different types citizenships, which could help you define your strategy on migrant's inclusion and rights

Bauböck, Rainer, and Liav Orgad. 2020. 'Cities vs States: Should Urban Citizenship Be Emancipated from Nationality?' Global Governance Programme-386 16. EUI RSCAS.

http://hdl.handle.net/1814/66369

Featured Projects

Project 1. Easy Rights

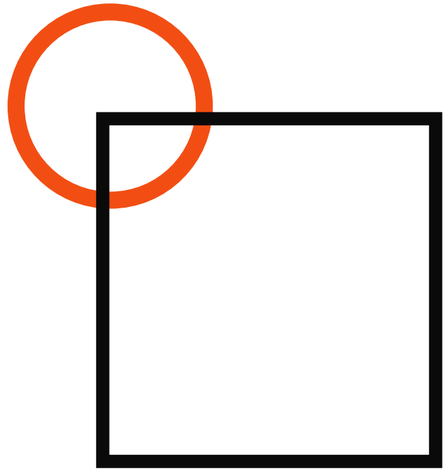
Easy rights is a digital tool that supports migrants in knowing their rights. Practitioners can look to the project for an example of using digital tools to facilitate integration. Additionally, you can access the handbook on service design and supply of digital tools including policy recommendations and sustainable solutions.

www.easyrights.eu/

Project 2. The Cadre Project

The Cadre project protects migrant children's rights through promoting alternatives to detention. Practitioners can access trainings documents and videos in several languages that focus on the care of migrant children, alternatives to detention, and communication strategies when advocating for such alternatives.

http://www.farbg.eu/en/projects/cadre



Employment

Challenges for Migrants

Newly arrived migrants are disadvantaged in the labour market compared to established population and citizens because of the following

Obstacles when seeking employment:
- Lack of language skills
- Lack of knowledge of the local labour market
- Non recognition of certificates and diplomas from countries of origin
- Lack of local networks that can offer employment opportunities
- Inadequate support from governments, organizations and institutions
- Exploitation when working informally as employers are not under regulations
- Racial and ethnic discrimination

Additional barriers specific to women:
- Women are discriminated because they are seen as main care givers of children and other family members
- Gendered stereotypes affecting employment opportunities in sectors oriented towards men

Additional barriers specific to refugees, asylum-seekers and undocumented people:
- Lack of legal status to work
- Long waiting times and bureaucratic hoops to acquire legal access to the labour market
- Psychological issues and trauma

Observed Policy Objectives

Policies in Europe aim to encourage labour market participation of migrants (other than undocumented), in order to:

- Address European labour shortages
- Ensure self-sufficiency of migrants
- Facilitate social cohesion and overall participation in societies

Some policies target migrants specifically, while others provide migrants opportunity to access mainstream Active Labour Market Policies for general population. The main elements of such policies are language training, job-search training, vocational training, assessment of skills together with employer engagement.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments
- Laws facilitating legal access to employment
- Making residency conditional upon employment

Market based instruments
- Language training, civic integration courses, and skills assessment for migrants
- Financial incentives for employers of migrants, financial support of migrant entrepreneurship
- Workshops on work-place diversity for employers

What can we do?

Governments can:

- Fast-track legal access to employment for refugees and asylum seekers, to prevent that they fall into precariousness and have to rely on welfare benefits to survive, and avoid their deskilling
- Offer immediate vocation-specific language training. These trainings are the most effective in improving labour market integration outcomes, especially if employers themselves are involved. The involvement of an employer facilitates a match between training and job requirements.
- Ensure migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers' access to information on their labour rights upon arrival, in a language they understand.
- Offer support for companies that set up mentoring and/or internship programs. Regulate public bodies to create internship opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees. This facilitates work experience as well as language practice opportunities.
- Offer subsidies/grants to companies that create employment schemes that allow migrants to continue working and developing within a company beyond the duration of the subsidy. This facilitates employers decision to hire migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and ensures long term employment.
- Provide long-term funding streams to CSOs. This helps CSOs to focus on their primary tasks – facilitation of employment for migrants, rather then spending time on new funding applications. Long-term funding would allow CSOs to establish long-term programmes and partnerships, retain committed and knowledgeable staff, continuously learn through practice and professionalise over the years.
- Involve migrants in the design of programms and decision-making processes. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can offer their experiences and co-create solutions to their own labour-market participation.

Governments or CSOs can:

- Offer workshops to inform employers, recruiters, and caseworkers about advantages of diverse working environments, how to make the most of workplace diversity and employability of newly arrived migrants. Those in the position to directly affect a migrant's employment need access to information that facilitates a better understanding of the capabilities of newly arrived migrants.
- Organize job fairs to allow employers, refugees, and migrants to meet and be hired. This offers opportunities for employers and job seekers to interact face-to-face and show their capabilities.

Governments, social partners and CSOs can:

- Increase the collaboration and communication between stakeholders involved in integration programs. Cooperation between CSOs, social partners, government and public institutions facilitates more effective and efficient integration programs, increasing integration into the local labour market.
- Assess the skills of newly arrived migrants and refugees coordinated by CSOs, employers, and recruiters to complement the check for formal certificates/diplomas. This helps newly arrived migrants to qualify for additional positions in fields that they already have the skills for and increases their chance of being hired.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *Unveiling the Canvas Ceiling: A Multidisciplinary Literature Review of Refugee Employment and Workforce Integration*

Take a look at this study to see an overview of the institutional, organizational, and individual barriers that refugees face when seeking employment. This article discusses findings from the past four decades including research from different disciplines and countries worldwide.

Lee, Eun Su, Betina Szkudlarek, Duc Cuong Nguyen, and Luciara Nardon. 'Unveiling the Canvas Ceiling: A Multidisciplinary Literature Review of Refugee Employment and Workforce Integration'. International Journal of Management Reviews 22, no. 2 (April 2020): 193–216.

https://doi.org/10.1111/ijmr.12222

Study 2. *Labour Market Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Lessons Learned and Best Practices*

This report highlights barriers and facilitators of labor market integration in European countries. With its focus on policy, NGOs, and individuals, practitioners in each field can find practical, effective strategies to support newcomers.

Maria Mexi. 'Labour Market Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Lessons Learned and Best Practices'. SIRIUS, 2021.

https://www.sirius-project.eu/publications/wp-reports-results.

Study 3. *Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers' Integration in European Labour Markets: A Comparative Approach on Legal Barriers and Enablers*

This book discusses the effect of regional (EU) and national policies on labour market integration. Look here to see a detailed account of recent policy changes and legal decisions contributing to migrant experiences. Policy makers can benefit from this discussion on the interaction of different government levels in regards to migrant integration.

Federico, Veronica, and Simone Baglioni Springer Nature. Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers' Integration in European Labour Markets: A Comparative Approach on Legal Barriers and Enablers. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2021.

https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-67284-3

Featured Projects

Project 1. *Vocational Guidance in CLIL*

This project has created a learning platform to help migrants learn host country language, culture and vocational skills in 5 countries. Practitioners in Belgium, Austria, Spain, the UK, and Italy can direct migrants towards the platform for their personal use or integrate it into their integration programs. Practitioners in other countries can consider the program as an example of vocation-specific language education.

https://vgclil4migrants.eu/

Project 2. *Valorize*

This project aims to inform practitioners on how to support highly skilled migrant's access to the labour market and positions that match their knowledge and experience. On the project website, practitioners can find materials for assessment and development of migrant's soft skills, as well as, on ways to teach migrants self-promotion strategies in the host country labour market.

http://valorize.odl.org/resources.html

Project 3. *Igma Feminina*

This project aims to improve migrant and refugee women's access to the labor market through education and gender sensitive counseling. On the project website practitioners can find guidelines and recommendations for creating gender sensitive migration and integration policy. Additionally, you will find training curriculum on gender sensitivity for policy makers, counselors and adult educators.

https://igmafemina.dimitra.gr/en/the-project/intellectual-outputs

Pre-school, School, Education and Training

Challenges for Migrants

Newly arrived migrants are disadvantaged in accessing pre-school, school and training.

One of the reasons highlighted by the research evidence, is that their needs are insufficiently taken into account, but also that the quality of the education offered is not adequate. Another reason is that there is a lack of clarity about who (which authority, which institution, which organisation, etc.) is responsible for the target group.

Inadequate consideration of the educational needs of the target group:

- Lack of learning opportunities tailored to the needs of refugee children according to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)
- Social and/or emotional needs of learners with a refugee background are often not considered
- Barriers to accessing schooling due to age (lost years of education during flight) and/or misplacement into school class based on age rather than needs.

Lack of clarity regarding responsibilities towards the target group:

Conflicts of responsibility

Inadequate quality of education services:

- Significant differences between European countries in terms of access and quality of ECEC
- Lack of quality childcare for children under 3 due to low qualification requirements for childcare workers
- Educational institutions tend to reproduce existing inequalities between social groups
- Segregation in schools due to housing segregation
- Multilingualism is considered difficult to implement in the classroom
- Insufficient and inadequate training provided to education professionals and/or impossibility for them to undertake training due to an overload of tasks and/or inadequate working conditions

Observed Policy Objectives

Education in general is seen as an essential factor for equal opportunities and participation in society. Therefore, policy should focus on the following areas:

- ECEC-Services must be accessible and affordable for all families and their children the quality of the services offered, especially the training of professionals, must be ensured and evaluated
- Refugee learners have specific needs and therefore need to be specifically addressed
- Coordination between actors involved needs to be improved and responsibilities need to be clearly identified
- Access to education for refugee learners must also be ensured in reception centres and refugee shelters, in collaboration with formal education to facilitate their transition into the mainstream education system
- Two-ways inclusive education policies, that recognize host societies also have lots to learn from migrants' experience.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments

- Right to education regardless of legal status
- Free compulsory education, although exact conditions and duration differs across countries.
- Regulatory measures to improve quality and effectiveness of education, such as additional language training, organisational measures (e.g. preparatory classes), etc.

Economic instruments

Funding of services (notably childcare, language courses, funding of additional and/or specialised.

What can we do?

Governments can:

- Distinguish between migrant and refugee learners and take their needs into account (keyword: trauma-sensitive care). The special educational needs of learners with refugee biographies must be evaluated and addressed appropriately (for instance by adding educational support staff in formal education such as psychologists, interpreters, etc.
- Prioritize the well-being and health of refugee learners. There is also a need to create services that focus on the psychosocial well-being of children and families alongside educational activities.
- Ensure access to early childhood education and care for all. Investing in quality early childhood services for refugee families is an indispensable investment for the host society to support families in building a new life.
- Improve the training and working conditions of staff in education and early childhood education and care settings. Staff with lived migrant/refugee experience can also be recruited for education or ECEC programmes. Not only does this increase the trust of refugee learners and communities in educational institutions, but it can also create an appreciative and trusting environment for the learner, which will have a positive impact on their learning capabilities and long-term individual and social benefits for inclusion.
- Continuously monitor and improve the services provided. Evaluating existing integration services provides important insights into understanding both what works well and poorly, and thus in the long run can further improve programmes.
- Make competences and responsibilities more transparent. Connections and partnerships between childcare facilities or schools and other local support services should be strengthened in this regard.
- Counteract segregation in schools by implementing effective policies for diversity and interculturality in classrooms and in teaching and educational boards, as well as anti-discrimination policies. Integrate education to diversity and interculturality (see also – links with global citizenship education) as essential aspects of curricula, as early as primary school. Consider concepts for children to overcome educational gaps due to flight. Take comprehensive action to ensure validation and recognition of prior learning and skills of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including their non-formal and informal learning.

Governments or CSOs can:

- Raise awareness about the special needs of children and their families in workshops or network meetings. Offer workshops for parents to inform them about educational opportunities in the respective country, and workshops for the host community to facilitate a holistic inclusion of newcomers and prevent fear-based responses.
- Expand the extracurricular options as the connection between formal, informal and non-formal education tends to be beneficial for newcomers to meet people from the host community.

Governments, social partners and CSOs can:

- Actively address the digital infrastructures and skills gap that disadvantages migrants' households by providing targeted material (exp: laptops) or training for them
- Aim for a whole-of-government approach and be clear about their roles and responsibilities. Building partnerships among the important players in the field of childcare and school education.
- Work on concepts for educational services in reception centers and refugee shelters.
- Develop measures that on the one hand meet the needs of refugees immediately, but on the other hand also promise long-term success and social participation.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *High time to put the invisible children on the agenda: supporting refugee families and children through quality ECEC*

This article addresses this issue, by reporting on the results from the Erasmus+ Project 'MyRef', Multilingual Early Childhood Education and Care for Young Refugee Children (01/10/2016–31/05/2019) carried on in Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom. One of the main findings of the project was the almost complete lack of specific policy or attention for this group of young children and their families.

Ankie Vandekerckhove & Jeroen Aarssen (2020) High time to put the invisible children on the agenda: supporting refugee families and children through quality ECEC, European Early Childhood Education Research Journal, 28:1, 104-114.

https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2020.1707366

Study 2. *Responding to the ECEC Needs of Children of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe and North America*

This report explores the findings of a nine-country study of ECEC policies and practices designed to serve young children of refugees and asylum seekers. It draws on fieldwork conducted in Belgium, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States—major host countries with varied refugee and asylum-seeker populations, migration-management policies, and ECEC systems—to highlights both common challenges and promising practices.

Katsiaficas, C., Park, M., & McHugh, M. (2018). Responding to the ECEC Needs of Children of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe and North America.

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/ECECforRefugeeChildren_FINALWEB.pdf

Study 3. *Holistic refugee and newcomer education in Europe*

This paper first provides an overview of key research gaps in refugee education. It then provides a mapping of promising holistic education practices in Europe, with a focus on Germany, Greece and the Netherlands. Based on this, the paper explores key conditions to upscale and institutionalise promising practices of holistic refugee and newcomer education.

Koehler, C., Palaiologou, N., & Brussino, O. (2022). Holistic refugee and newcomer education in Europe: Mapping, upscaling and institutionalising promising practices from Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

https://doi.org/10.1787/19939019

Featured Projects

Project 1. *IntegratEd*

This project aims to provide comprehensive support to eliminate the educational disadvantage that newly arrived migrant children face. They do this through providing educational support, inclusive education, and specific measures targeting migrant children. On their website practitioners can access an educational support model, mentor guide, guidelines for developing school policy on parental involvement, a guide to developing diversity school policies, and a policy brief on mainstreaming educational support.

https://www.integrated-project.eu/

Project 2. *Micreate*

The overall objective of the project is to stimulate inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by adopting child-centered approach to migrant children integration on the educational and policy level. The project created a policy lab that provides policy recommendations based on migrant children's views of wellbeing. Information in the policy lab is available in English, Spanish, Polish, Slovenian, German, and Catalan. Additionally, the project has created a handbook on migrant children integration for teachers.

https://www.micreate.eu/

Project 3. *Bein*

The project created a Blended Learning course for early childhood educators and primary teachers in order to improve their ability to promote the inclusion of migrant and refugee children and to address the risk of social exclusion. The course is available online in English and Portuguese and focuses on developing educators/teachers' skills to handle daily challenges more effectively and enhance their ability for equity, diversity and inclusion in the learning environments.

https://www.beinproject.eu/wordpress/

Housing and Settlement

Challenges for Migrants

Newly arrived migrants and refugees face barriers to accessing housing compared to local citizens:

• Unequal distribution of newly arrived migrants and refugees between urban and rural areas. overconcentration can be observed in urban areas.
• Housing is essential step towards social-economic integration and prerequisite for full access to social and civic rights and benefits.
• Recognized refugees in particular show different patterns of mobility. A move to larger cities is predominantly associated with better job opportunities.
• Four types of housing entry pathways can be distinguished: local-assisted, migrant-assisted, informal-support and non-assisted.
• The living and housing situation has a significant impact on lifestyle and thus on physical and mental health à good housing conditions are a health resource, while poor housing conditions pose health risks.

Observed Policy Objectives

Issues of migration, housing and mobility are seen as a major challenge in European countries, leading to the application of different policies.

• Controlling mobility of newly arrived migrants and refugees is a major objective of distribution and settlement policies at the national and sometimes subnational level.
• Housing and settlement policies vary widely across Europe, and housing policies also differ within countries
• As a corollary, also experiences of migrants vary between and within countries, depending on the capacity of specific cities, neighbourhoods, or even households
• There is widespread prejudice against refugees and their presence associated with the fear of "parallel societies", "no-go areas", "ghettos"
• The transition of asylum seekers from emergency accommodation to the housing market is acknowledged as a challenge, but not really addressed by policy.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments
• Political justification for spatial distribution/dispersal policies
• Residence requirement restricts freedom of settlement --> during and after the asylum procedure
Informational Instruments
• Organisations, associations and CSOs provide information on access to the private housing market
Participatory Instruments
• Initiative promote communication between old and new tenants in municipal housing complexes
• Social mediation services to help migrants find housing and promote their socioeconomic inclusion

What can we do?

Governments can:

• Allow free movement or some flexibility during the asylum procedure and reduce mobility restrictions. Housing in remote areas can make social interaction difficult and can also disrupt contact with one's community.

• Need to work more closely with local authorities and provide them with more authority and resources to provide adequate and affordable housing for newcomers.

• Strengthen national policy frameworks to provide adequate and affordable, balance the housing needs of the native population with those of migrants and refugees. An imbalance in times of crisis, such as COVID or economic crisis can make it more difficult and create tension to build a good foundation for interaction when the native population also has limited/no access to affordable housing.

• Consider the potentially negative impact of refugees' insecure legal status on wellbeing and mental health. Rapid access to health care for asylum seekers and refugees is therefore essential to also mitigate possible costly interventions at a later stage. In addition, living conditions in refugee shelters should also be improved and a strengthening of infrastructural links between these facilities and mental health services should be provided.

International Organisations can:

• Support the efforts of national and local authorities to improve access to medium- and long-term and sustainable housing solutions for migrants and refugees.

• Engage in long-term housing data collection, best practice collection and sharing, and building capacity.

NGOs, governments and other service providers should

• Scale up cooperation between stakeholders active in housing, involving migrants and refugees, to learn from each other in designing and setting up the necessary service

• Continue provide information on access to the private housing market, which is difficult for refugees due to language barriers, lack of networks, but also due to financial situation.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *From forced migration to forced arrival: the campization of refugee accommodation in European cities*

Take a look at this article, which explains the impact of law and policy changes on the socio-spatial configuration and functions of refugee accommodations in European capital regions. This article discusses structural, functional, and socio-spatial characteristics of the accommodations in the three case studies.

Kreichauf R. (2018). From forced migration to forced arrival: the campization of refugee accommodation in European cities. Comparative migration studies, 6(1), 7.

https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-017-0069-8

Study 2. *The impact of housing on refugees: an evidence synthesis*

This paper synthesises the available evidence to understand several key issues in the settlement of refugees, including: the role and impact of housing systems and policies, the impact of housing quality, tenure, housing support workers and how the diversity of the refugee population is reflected in the evidence.

Philip Brown, Santokh Gill & Jamie P. Halsall (2022) The impact of housing on refugees: an evidence synthesis, Housing Studies, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2022.2045007

https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2022.2045007

Study 3. *Living Conditions and the Mental Health and Well-being of Refugees: Evidence from a Large-Scale German Survey*

This article discusses how different living conditions of refugees are related to psychological distress and life satisfaction. The results of the study show that uncertain legal status, separation from family, and living in refugee shelters are associated with higher levels of distress and lower levels of life satisfaction.

Walther, L., Fuchs, L.M., Schupp, J. et al. Living Conditions and the Mental Health and Well-being of Refugees: Evidence from a Large-Scale German Survey. J Immigrant Minority Health 22, 903–913 (2020).

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-019-00968-5

Featured Projects

Project 1. *RESPOND: Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond*

This project studies multilevel governance of migration in 11 countries. Through doing this it provides an in depth understanding of the governance of the recent mass migration and an analysis of governance practices to enhance governance capacity and policy coherence of the EU. Practitioners can access policy briefs and working papers on integration including housing.

https://respondmigration.com/

Project 2. *Merging: Housing for immigrants and community integration in Europe and beyond: strategies, policies, dwellings and governance*

The project goal is to measure the long-term impact of participatory housing initiatives and to identify the factors that facilitate or hinder the integration of migrants. The project publications provide evidence-based recommendations on housing policy for public actors at the local, national and European levels.

https://www.merging-housing-project.eu/

Project 3. *Whole COMM*

The project provides a closer look at the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized cities and rural areas. It has outputs on several areas of integration including access to housing, which can sometimes prove very difficult. The country reports address and discuss different approaches to housing and their effectiveness.

https://whole-comm.eu/

SPRING

Migrants Access to Welfare

Challenges for Migrants

Restricted Access
Access to and use of welfare is linked to migrants' legal status and length of residency within the receiving country. Newly arrived migrants are often more socioeconomically deprived compared to the receiving population, and are thus in greater need for welfare support. However, they are less likely to access it. Asylum seekers and undocumented migrants are almost fully excluded from accessing mainstream welfare. Especially, non-EU migrants are ineligible for benefits in most EU countries.

Additional barriers
When migrants do have the right to access welfare they can face several barriers:
• Accessing welfare may negatively affect chances of visa and residence permits prolongation because self-sufficiency is one of the main conditions
• Migrants may have lower chances accessing welfare support due to ethnic or gender based discrimination of front-line welfare workers

Observed Policy Objectives

Evidence shows that policies can have two types of objectives:

• Exclusion from welfare or decreasing migrants' use of welfare
Many observed policies are created under the assumption that generous welfare systems disincentivize employment and attract migrants who seek to rely on them. Framing migrants as a burden, justifies their exclusion from welfare and restricting the use of welfare resources for those seen as 'undeserving' should stop welfare abuse.
• Inclusion into welfare
Lack of access to welfare denies human rights and leads to an increase in societal problems. This understanding justifies inclusion.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments
Ranging from limited access to welfare to full access to welfare for certain groups and additional welfare specific to refugees through humanitarian protection
Information instruments
Translation and interpretation services to facilitate access, e.g. application forms in multiple languages
Economic instruments
• Funding CSOs that provide basic shelter, food and guidance,
• Inclusive local level policies for migrants excluded at national level

What can we do?

Governments can:

• Stop restricting welfare benefits. Previous studies have shown that conditions in the origin country such as employment rates and low wages have a 10 times larger influence on the decision to migrate than access to welfare in the receiving country. For EU migrants, access to welfare played no role in their migration decision. This renders restrictive welfare policies ineffective in decreasing 'undesirable' immigration. Welfare restriction has also been found to increase migrant involvement in crime, health care utilization as well as migrant children being absent from school and having poorer performance on education tests.

• Offer inclusive welfare access at the local level.
Even in the context of national policies restricting access to welfare, local level governments should see opportunities to provide inclusive welfare access.
This is in the interest of local level governments as they can prevent destitution and marginalization of their population.

• Offer long term subsidies and resources for CSOs that provide welfare services that fill gaps in government welfare provision. This helps CSOs to focus on their primary tasks – facilitating access- rather than spending time on new funding application. This will allow the establishment of long term programmes and partnerships, retain commmitted and knowledgable staff, continuously learn through practice and professionalise over the years.

Governments or CSOs can:

• Offer compulsory anti-discrimination training to frontline welfare workers. Service providers must meet migrant needs without being influenced by their own ethnic and gender biases. Without such trainings welfare workers may wrongfully impact migrants' access to welfare benefits.

• Provide translated materials about the welfare system and migrants' access to social services and support (websites, application documents) in multiple languages. This facilitates understanding of what welfare services are available as well as how and under which conditions migrants can access them.

CSOs and Migrant initiatives can:

• Offer access to services where government services are inadequate. While governments may exclude migrants from welfare, when resources are available CSOs can provide services such as housing, heath care, food, or monetary allowances. CSOs play an important role here as migrants often feel more secure accessing services from CSOs because such provisions cannot be connected to their current or future residency

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. The Welfare Magnet Hypothesis and the Welfare Take-up of Migrants

Looking for evidence debunking the welfare magnet hypothesis? This research proves that immigration decisions are not based on the welfare benefits of receiving countries and discusses what aspects do influence such decisions.
Giulietti, Corrado. 2014. 'The Welfare Magnet Hypothesis and the Welfare Take-up of Migrants'. IZA World of Labor 37.

https://doi.org/10.15185/izawol.37

Study 2. Migration and Social Protection in Europe and Beyond (Volume 1): Comparing Access to Welfare Entitlementss

Check out this book for to learn about social protection policies, welfare accessibility based on migrants' legal status, and how this can lead to inequalities of welfare access. It focuses on recent developments in health care, unemployment, family benefits, pensions and emergency allowances.

Lafleur, Jean-Michel, and Daniela Vintila, eds. 2020. Migration and Social Protection in Europe and Beyond (Volume 1): Comparing Access to Welfare Entitlements. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-51241-5

Study 3. Local Responses in Restrictive National Policy Contexts: Welfare Provisions for Non-Removed Rejected Asylum Seekers in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna

In this article you will find examples of municipalities that have responded with inclusive welfare policies amidst restrictive national policies. Take a look to see the relationships between local and national governments as well as between the local governments and CSOs make this possible.

Ataç, Ilker, Theresa Schütze, and Victoria Reitter. 2020. 'Local Responses in Restrictive National Policy Contexts: Welfare Provisions for Non-Removed Rejected Asylum Seekers in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna'. Ethnic and Racial Studies 43 (16): 115–34.

https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2020.1723671

Featured Projects

Project 1. Libes

This project focuses on long term integration of victims of trafficking by supporting the transition from shelter to independence. It shares practical tools and solutions for the cause. Practitioners, specifically social workers, can find several resources that will guide them to implementing these tools in their own communities. These resources include an intervention kit, independent living skills training to better serve migrants, and a guide to creating mentor programs.

https://libes.org/results/

Project 2. Raisd

This program focuses on highly vulnerable migrants and sustainable ways to address their specific needs. Practitioners can find a policy brief containing practical recommendations based on research in seven different countries with very different contexts. The brief is broken into chapters on Turkey, Italy, Spain, Finland, Lebanon and Jordan.The recommendations cover many areas of welfare including healthcare, education, labour integration and psychological and social support services. Summaries are also available for those that are short on time!

https://raisd-h2020.eu/media/raisd-d9.9-policy-brief.pdf

Health Care

Challenges for Migrants

Compared to citizens, newly arrived migrants are increasingly vulnerable to physical and mental health problems as a result of:

- Migration journey, including perilous, long-distance travel with few resources, often with periods of encampment
- Circumstances in countries of origins such as war, social unrest, and extreme poverty
- Precarious living conditions including overcrowded, unsafe, or dirty housing, resettlement facilities or camps
- Uncertainty regarding migration status

At the same time, migrants face barriers to Health Care including:
- Lack of legal access to health care due to their migration status (i.e., undocumented migrant)
- Lack of insurance because of legal or bureaucratic reasons
- Lack of knowledge of the local health care system
- Lacking language skills to communicate their complaints and understand what treatment they need to follow

Observed Policy Objectives

Evidence shows policies in the EU aim to exclude migrants with precarious legal status from health care systems. It is done to discourage immigration and encourage return, to protect their welfare state and to reserve timely health care access for their citizens, despite that most of these assumptions are disproven by the evidence.

To fill the gaps in health care provision left by national laws, CSOs and local authorities create policies and measures enabling access to health care for excluded groups because it is a human right.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments
Laws and directives that allow access to health care for asylum seekers and refugees
Market based instruments
Funding intercultural competencies trainings for health care workers, subsidizing CSOs offering health care
Communication based instruments
Information campaigns to inform migrants about the local health care system, interpreters available at health care centers.

What can we do?

Governments can:

• Provide health insurance cards to asylum seekers and refugees that cut through bureaucracy. This ensures quick and safe access to regular health care regardless of migration status. Access to regular health care provision requires fewer state resources than emergency care and has been proven to improve refugees' mental health. When untreated, serious deseases impede migrants ability to integrate into society, and could threaten public health more broadly.

• Offer long term subsidies and resources for CSOs that provide health care to fill the gaps left by national legislation. This helps CSOs to focus on their primary tasks – facilitating access to health care, rather than spending time on new funding applications. Long-term funding would allow CSOs to establish long-term programmes and partnerships, retain committed and knowledgeable staff, continuously learn through practice and professionalise over the years.

• Involve migrants in problem formulation and decision making. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can offer their experiences and ideas for solutions based on their first-hand experience with health care system.
They can also do training to become mental health counselors who are culturally and linguistically sensitive to refugee clients.

Governments or CSOs can:

• Translate key public health documents (Public health websites, Health Insurance documents, Medical Consent forms) into multiple languages (specific to local migrant population). This facilitates migrants' access to the health care system and health care institutions.

• Include information on health and health care system in integration and language course curriculum. This facilitates better understanding of the health care system, which increases use of health care services. It also enhances migrants' vocabulary to speak about their health issues.

• Organize workshops for all health care workers on intercultural awareness, cultural respect, cultural safety, and cultural understanding. This facilitates better understanding of migrants needs, their health care situations, and sensitivities to keep in mind when providing health care services for migrants.

• Provide interpreters to health care centers. Interpretation services, whether formal or informal, must be present to facilitate access to healthcare. Formal interpreters promote trust and professionalism, but they can also influence the doctor-patient relationship as well as add scheduling and coordination difficulties. Informal interpreters are easier to organize and offer more trust between the patient and interpreter, but doctors fear that there may be a lack of competence.

CSOs can:

• Ensure health care consultations that advise migrants what services or doctors that they have access to. When migrants lack understanding of the local health care system it is important that they can approach an info-point that directs them to relevant services depending on their health care needs (either public, private or CSOs).

• Offer health care services to fill the gaps of the public system. Migrants, especially undocumented, often feel more comfortable using services that are separate from public facilities.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. 'Policy Makers', NGO, and Healthcare Workers' Accounts of Migrants' and Refugees' Healthcare Access Across Europe—Human Rights and Citizenship Based Claim

Through the eyes of healthcare workers, this paper offers insight into forced migrants' largest barriers to healthcare access in EU national health systems. Take a look to see how migration status, the organization of healthcare services, and language barriers can block access to healthcare.

Bradby, Hannah, Adele Lebano, Sarah Hamed, Alejandro Gil-Salmerón, Estrella Durá-Ferrandis, Jorge Garcés-Ferrer, William Sherlaw, et al. 2020. 'Policy Makers', NGO, and Healthcare Workers' Accounts of Migrants' and Refugees' Healthcare Access Across Europe—Human Rights and Citizenship Based Claims'. Frontiers in Sociology 5 (March): 16.

https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2020.00016

Study 2. Utilization of Health Care Services by Migrants in Europe - a Systematic Literature Review

This study gives a broad overview of how immigrants use health care service in Europe and compares this to citizens' use of health care services. This article will help you to grasp the overall differences in access to healthcare between immigrants and the explanations behind this.

Graetz, V., B. Rechel, W. Groot, M. Norredam, and M. Pavlova. 2017. 'Utilization of Health Care Services by Migrants in Europe—a Systematic Literature Review'. British Medical Bulletin 121 (1): 5–18. Link:

https://doi.org/10.1093/bmb/ldw057

Study 3. Refugee and Migrant Health Literacy Interventions in High-Income Countries: A Systematic Review

This article focuses on the effectiveness of programs aiming to increase refugee and immigrant capacity to understand health information and access needed health services in high income countries. Read this article to see what aspects should be included in your own programs to improve access to health care information and services.

Fox, Samara, Erik Kramer, Pooja Agrawal, and Annamalai Aniyizhai. 2021. 'Refugee and Migrant Health Literacy Interventions in High-Income Countries: A Systematic Review'. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, February.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-021-01152-4.

Featured Projects

Project 1. Oramma

This project provides information and training materials to promote safe motherhood among migrant and refugee mothers. Health and social care professionals can utilize an e-course on integrated perinatal healthcare which covers how migration status shapes the daily lives of migrants, and good practices for culturally sensitive care. Moreover, there are also training handbooks and practice guides available for health professionals who work with patients with a migration background.

http://oramma.eu/deliverables-publications/

Project 2. EUR Human

Aiming to minimize migrant and refugee health risks, this project created training materials and online courses for GPs in English, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, and Croatian. The courses offer training on how to provide health care in an "informed, integrated, person-centred, as well as competent and secure way" that benefits the refugee and the provider. Healthcare practitioners can also access tools and guidelines for providing healthcare to newly arrived migrants.

http://eur-human.uoc.gr/online-courses/

Project 3. Mig Healthcare

This project aims to reduce health inequalities and improve healthcare for migrants and refugees. Practitioners can the project final reports to better understand the main challenges that migrants and refugees face in accessing and using healthcare, and take on board practical recommendations. The project 'Toolbox' page also offers many resources including handbooks, guidelines, practical strategies and more.

https://mighealthcare.eu/roadmap-and-toolbox

Newly Arrived Migrants and Crime

Challenges for Migrants

Research investigating the nexus of migration and crime identifies broadly three different perspectives: migrants as victims of crime, migrants as perpetrators, and what has been framed as 'crimmigration', in the narrow sense referring to the criminalization of migration itself.

Migrants as victims of crime:
- There is an increased risk of victimisation for non-natives or persons perceived as non-natives.
- Different forms are: trafficking in human beings (THB), exploitation, forced labour and hate crimes.
- Migrants who become victims of crime are often reluctant to cooperate with the criminal justice system out of fear for their (insecure) migration status, stigmatization, reprisals or community alienation.

Migrants as perpetrators:
- Measuring the linkages between immigration and crime is complicated by the lack of data on specific immigrant characteristics and violence or criminality, both nationally and internationally
- Generally, there is an overrepresentation of immigrant groups in crime statistics
- Different forms of engagement in crime are: youth crime and juvenile delinquency, clan- and family based crime and radicalization

Observed Policy Objectives

- Governments and politicians often link migration and security in public and policy debates about crime. This link between crime control and immigration control has been labelled "crimmigration" in scientific debates. Importantly, a crimmigration policy approach suggests that instruments of migration policy, such as tighter border controls or deportation are appropriate crime-fighting measures.
- Crimmigration has the biggest impact on policing. Research shows that in dealing with criminal activities committed by non-nationals, policing agencies are prioritizing the utilization of immigration law rather than mobilizing crime prevention measures. In political debates around the EU, deportation is increasingly seen as a crime fighting option.
- States link religious extremism to some groups of migrants. In light of this, many European countries have put in place mechanism to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism. These programs also enable a safe and sustainable exit for people who want to leave such violent groups.
- To address migrant victims' willingness to report crimes, governments may implement firewalls. Such policies aim to separate the provision of services, specifically protection, and immigration enforcement by making an immigration status of individuals inaccessible.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments: prosecution
- National penal codes
- Provisions in migration law (termination of legal stay, expulsion, deportation)

Prevention and protection
- Crime prevention measures
- Awareness-raising campaigns prevent someone from becoming a victim of crime or further assist victims of crime.

What can we do?

Governments can:

- Provide, in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders prevention and intervention programmes for migrants on violence, crime

- Offer programs and consultations to migrants who are at risk of becoming or have become victims of crime, such as campaigns against forced marriages implemented in various countries.

- Strengthen initiatives such as the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and its to inform and support programs targeting migrants at risk of radicalisation or other forms of delinquency.

- Provide educational programmes to prevent a stigmatization of migrants as criminals – both among the general society, as well as among law inforcement actors.

CSOs can:

- Develop prevention and intervention programmes for migrants on violence, crime and radicalization.

- Develop training programmes for practitioners at various levels on radicalisation, early recognition of at-risk-persons, and de-radicalisation.

- Develop targeted trainings for law enforcement actors

- Develop interventions targeting the general population to prevent xenophobia and hate crime(s).

- Promote learning and best-practice exchange amongst relevant stakeholders across borders.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *Immigration, Social Integration and Crime: A Cross-National Approach*

This publication gives a broad overview and analysis on immigration and crime rates in European countries. Take a look to see how and what factors influence the relationship between immigration and crime.

Solivetti, Luigi M. 2013. Immigration, Social Integration and Crime: A Cross-National Approach. Vol. 19

https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203880784

Study 2. *Breaking the Cycle*

The paper aims to support you in adjusting existing strategies for preventing violent extremism by (also) considering the challenges related to an increasing polarisation of public opinion concerning refugees, asylum seekers and migration issues.

Abushi, Sakina, and Goetz Nordbruch. "Breaking the Cycle." RAN Centre of Excellence, 2020.

https://ec.euro pa.eu/home-affairs/system/files/2020-01/policy_brief_breaking_the_cycle_122019_en.pdf

Study 3. *Report on the Comparative Analysis of European Counter-Radicalisation, Counter-Terrorist and De-Radicalisation Policies*

This report provides a comparative overview of legislation, security policies and procedures on preventing extremism and radicalization from a European perspective. You can find in-depth analyses of policies, conclusions from expert interviews and recommendations for EU institutions, member states and NGOs in this publication.

Jurczyszyn, Łukasz, Krzysztof Liedel, and Paulina Piasecka. "Report on the Comparative Analysis of European Counter-Radicalisation, Counter-Terrorist and De-Radicalisation Policies," 2019, 90.

https://www.academia.edu/es/45641491/Report_on_the_Comparative_Analysis_of_European_Counter_Radicalisation_Counter_Terrorist_and_De_Radicalisation_Policies

Featured Projects

Project 1. *THE DREAMM PROJECT*

This project aims to foster a mutual understanding between newly arrived Third-Country Nationals and local communities on each other's values and behaviours, and therefore mitigate stereotypes, xenophobia, and discrimination and racism, and create a sense of belonging. The project offers events and joint social activities to empower newly arrived migrants to access local services and to be supported by an inclusive community network. Furthermore, the project strives to facilitate communication with local services and foster a community-based response to the challenges of a two-way integration process.

https://www.dreamm-project.eu/

Project 2. *TRACE - TRafficking as A Criminal Enterprise*

This project was implemented until 2016 and investigated the relationship between the human trafficking business and the broader organized crime trade. In particular, it examined the specific characteristics of individuals involved in the trafficking industry against the background of the geographical and modus operandi trends within the industry. In addition, the project considered the role of technology in the modus operandi used by traffickers within the European context. There are policy recommendations published, as well as stakeholders' engagement workshops and a handbook called on effective countertrafficking measures.

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/607669

Family Relations, Marriage and Children

Challenges for Migrants

Right to family life and unity are significant areas for understanding inequalities between migrants and non-migrant citizens, refugees and asylum seekers.

Marriage migration and family reunification influence:
- Labour market dynamics
- Placing women with migration backgrounds in the centre of policies socio-economic requirements for sponsors
- European discourses on the cultural integration or assimilation of migrants.

Gender- and age-specific barriers:
- LGBTIQ+ persons face additional challenges
- Psycho-social health of undocumented refugee children

Obstacles specific to parents:
Access to childcare.

Obstacles specific to refugees:
Access to housing adequate for families/children

Observed Policy Objectives

Joining family members depends on the legal definition of who forms a family. To minimise separation time, family migration and reunification policies have to acknowledge gender dierences.

Development of gender-sensitive family-related migration:
- To include lone parents, LGBTIQ+ partners
- Addressing domestic violence and forced marriage without limiting the right to family life or discriminating between men and women.

Strengthening of focus on parenting and the role of family reunification for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers:
- Uncertainties over unification aect migrants' sense of feeling at home and wellbeing
- Family reunification must extend beyond the nuclear family.

Inclusion of newly arrived migrant students/children:
Recognising children's individual premigratory experiences as resources for integrating into receiving societies.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments:
- Laws facilitating marriage migration take into consideration the possibilities of forced marriage
- Parenting courses as a path to 'active' citizenship
- Aligning accommodation measures for accompanied and unaccompanied minors with the EU Directives concerning reception standards and the rights of children.

Economic or market-based measures:
- Aligning labour market integration and requirements for sponsors through the relevant instruments such as the Family Reunification directive
- Providing inclusionary measures for economic integration of female migrants
- Regulation of welfare benefits

What can we do?

Governments can:

- Provide diversity training for case workers working on marriage migration and family reunification

- Increase institutional support (access to psychological support, employment) for LGBTIQ+ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and their family members

- Employ diversity measures when creating integration tools and assessment criteria.

Governments or NGOs can:

- Raising awareness for the purpose of reducing gendered and racialising stereotypes about migrant families

- Establish regional and national networks between various sponsorship programs targeting newly arrived families and children in schools, kindergarten, local religious communities (churches, mosques)

- Provide adequate training for volunteers and teachers who work with families and children to establish trust and sustainable eects of their initiatives.

Governments and NGOs can:

- Increase the collaboration and communication between the dierent stakeholders involved in integration programs by providing training and informational material about migrant families and children's needs

- Increase informal-education options for parents and migrating spouses

- Involve parents in producing informational material targeting children and other parents in the host communities

- Tailor the services they provide to migrant families' needs, e.g. adapt their working hours, provide aordable or free childcare to increase participation in language training, or courses aiming to support them in navigating administrative procedures.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *Lowering Welfare Benefits: Intended and Unintended Consequences for Migrants and their Families*

By focusing on the developments of the Danish welfare reforms targeting arrived migrants, this paper shows that lower benefits can have a negative imapct and result in women withdrawing from the labour market. Also such governmental measures have a negative impact on children's attendance in preschools and care facilities as well as youth crime rates; it means they had an opposite effect from what it was initially intended: facilitating employment and self-sufficiency.

Andersen, Lars Højsgaard, Christian Dustmann, and Rasmus Kløve Landersø. Lowering welfare benefits: Intended and unintended consequences for migrants and their families. Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration, Department of Economics, University College London, 2019.

https://www.rockwoolfonden.dk/app/uploads/2019/03/Study-paper-138_Lowering-Welfare-Benefits.pdf

Study 2. *Best practices: intercultural integration of Arabic refugees in Berlin*

Informational media are more effective if disseminated in the beneficiaries' mother tongues. This paper presents the work of a Berlin-based NGO (ANE) employing such approach. Reaching migrant and refugee families is central to their program, including a Parents Newsletter published in 15 languages. The motto "with parent – for parents" is a key element of the activities, as they consider parents to be "experts" when it comes to their children.

Kyuchukov, Hristo, and William New. "Best practices: intercultural integration of Arabic refugees in Berlin." Intercultural Education 28, no. 2 (2017): 219-223.

http://doi.org/10.1080/14675986.2017.1294789

Study 3. *Experiences of Life and Intersectionality of Transgender Refugees Living in Italy: A Qualitative Approach*

This article stresses the importance of intersectionality for understanding minority groups' needs. Research among the LGBTIQ+ population in Italy shows that for transgender refugees, it is even more challenging to find employment, housing or medical care having to cope with gender-expression based discrimination and hostility. Also, most of the support came from grassroots organisations, which limited the success of the integration process

Rosati, Fau, Valentina Coletta, Jessica Pistella, Cristiano Scandurra, Fiorenzo Laghi, and Roberto Baiocco. "Experiences of Life and Intersectionality of Transgender Refugees Living in Italy: A Qualitative Approach." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 18, no. 23 (2021): 12385.

https://doi.org/10.3390%2Fijerph182312385

Featured Projects

Project 1. *Integration Mapping of Refugee and Migrant Children (IMMERSE)*

IMMERSE is a project on the socio-educative inclusion of refugee and migrant children in Europe, contributing to inclusivity and diversity by mapping relevant practices and stakeholders in this field. It is implemented in 6 EU countries and deliverables include "Collection of Good Practices at the National and EU Level". Practitioners can also make uses of a series of reports on psychosocial support for refugee and migrant children and indicators regarding refugee and migrant children's integration.

https://www.immerse-h2020.eu/

Project 2. *Fast-Track Action Boost (FAB)*

FAB's aim is to respond to refugees' needs, with a focus on women, by transferring and adapting good practices for job inclusion among European cities in a cross-city project focusing on six countries in the following cities: Berlin, Berlin, Madrid, Stockholm, Milan and Vienna. Deliverables include best practices repertory including information on programs targeting parents, for instance, Berlin's project "Neighbourhood moms" and their applicability in different cities. Practitioners can learn which projects were translatable into multiple locations and how specific target groups share similar challenges.

https://fabproject.eu/library/

Project 3. *ISOTIS*

ISOTIS is a collaborative project funded by the European Union that includes 17 partners and 11 countries.
The project builds on the diverse resources (e.g. cultural, linguistic) of migrant families by supporting them in using early education systems and support services to fight inequalities and increase inclusiveness. Relevant deliverables include online tools and apps for parents, classrooms and professionals involved in the lives of culturally and linguistically diverse families. For practitioners, ISOTIS Virtual Learning Environment(VLE) is of special interest, an online platform targeting children, parents and education professionals. It includes activities, information, and videos. It is also a space where parents and education professionals can communicate and share resources.

https://www.isotis.org/en/home/

Identity and Belonging

Challenges for Migrants

Language, culture, values and religion have become markers of national identity, which draw symbolic boundaries between insider and outsider groups.

This can involve "othering" by treating migrants as "not us" due to their e.g. cultural and ethnic identities, and using these markers in "identity politics" to draw the lines between a majority group of "we" and an outgroup of "the other". Migrants are in between eorts of seeking to belong and the politics of whom belonging is granted, including classificatory struggles of belonging and membership.

Specific challenges for refugees, asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants:
• Asylum seekers and undocumented migrants experience a spatial and temporal in-between existence due to limited economic and social access to the host society and uncertainty about the future. They are at the same time inside the host country but outside the host society.
• Such in-between experiences can impact on individual identity and belonging of refugees with status.

Specific challenges for young (refugee) migrants:
• Besides general experiences of (non-belonging) during transition to adulthood, young (refugee) migrants may potentially have traumatic experiences due to flight and face the experience of growing up in two cultures.
• Aspirations of unaccompanied minors and their families vs. policy assumptions of family reunification in home country as their best interest.

Further challenges:
• Non recognition of foreign certificates and work experience, aecting past identities of class and professional status (downward class journey) as well as career and educational perspectives in the host country, due to the risk of de-skilling.
• Anti-immigrant discourse (public statements, political struggles, media reports) aecting subjective belonging

Observed Policy Objectives

Policies on identity and belonging mainly take the form of civic integration and citizenship policies, and are more broadly expressed in national integration policy frameworks.They reflect a range of explicit and implicit policy objectives:
• Equip individuals with language skills and cultural competences to participate in all spheres of life
• Foster economic self-suciency of migrants,
• Shift responsibility for integration from state to migrants,
• Migration control through pre-entry requirements,
• Signal to host populations that immigration is under control and cultural cohesion and national identity are maintained
• Show to the nation who belongs and who do not.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments/laws:
• Prescribing level of language competences, written commitments, assessment of competences (e.g. course curricula, examinations, oaths), and sanctions
• Indirect eects of restricted/conditional access to dierent sectors of society and (mainstream) services that impact on individual identity and opportunities/aspirations for belonging (e.g. access to employment, education, medical services).
Market based instruments:
• Courses to fulfil regulatory requirements, e.g. language courses, orientation courses
• Community based work, basic vocational training, funded leisure activities for some sense of normality during uncertain/insecure status.
Information/participatory instruments:
• Campaigns shifting boundaries of belonging and existing narratives, e.g. city branding, place-based narratives
• Public events with migrants sharing experiences and perspectives
• Leisure activities.

What can we do?

Governments can:

• Improve and accelerate asylum procedures to keep periods of uncertain, in-between situations, short and implement pathways for regularisation of people with an irregular status.
• Provide social belonging interventions for dierent organisational contexts (e.g. schools, higher education, workplace), addressing experiences of dierence and providing newcomers, minority students, etc. with supportive tools to master the challenges of the society and culture they live in. Assess and adapt citizenship regulations because they define who can become a full member of a sociate in legal terms. Citizenship regulations symbolically signal who has legitimate membership in the national community. More inclusive citizenship policies, that decreases cultural biases and counter racial hierarchies positively aect naturalisation intentions of migrants and their feelings of attachment and belonging to the receiving country.
• Regional and local governments can provide opportunity structures for (forced) migrants at the respective level to establish a sense of attachment and belonging, e.g. some access to employment, social benefits, political rights, recognition of cultural diversity, etc. This can allow for some normality and naturalness in contrast to waiting, uncertainty and lonesome life in reception facilities and strengthen identification with and political engagement in the region.
• Set measures (e.g. campaigns, ombudspersons) and make funding available to counteract racist, xenophobic and islamophobic reasoning in the public sphere to prevent othering and victimisation as well as discriminatory and violent acts in other social domains as public discourse and everday interactions with members of the majority population impact on migrants' sense of belonging.
• Foster validation systems and practices (from identification to documentation, assessment, andcertification of competences) to account for formal, non-formal and informal skills and competences of migrants and prevent devaluation and deskilling, aecting individuals identities and feelings of attachment and belonging.

Governments or CSOs can:

• Support self-organised activities of (forced) migrants, resisting prescribed forms of identity, challenging public misconceptions of (forced) migrants, and deconstructing stereotypes and communicating their diverse ethnic and cultural values and experiences to locals, e.g. in the field of education, arts, culture, media and entertainment, volunteering, befriending and parenting. Support access to various leisure activities, subsidise spaces for social and cultural events, subsidise public transportation to reach these activities. This will facilitate access to alternative spheres of belonging that go beyond relationalities of host-refugee/migrant relationships and tackle experiences of hostilit and exclusion.
• Enable connections to the place where asylum seekers are accomodatded, e.g. with voluntary/ community-based work, access to certain educational programmes, room for/access to religious practices, creating familiarity with the history and culture of the place.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. 'Living Liminality': everyday experiences of asylum seekers in the 'Direct Provision' system in Ireland

Learn about how the insecure and highly controlled status of asylum seekers impacts on their every day lives and how they negotiate this liminality through everyday practices, finding a few ways to integration and belonging in a system that discourages both.

Zoë O'Reilly (2018) 'Living Liminality': everyday experiences of asylum seekers in the 'Direct Provision' system in Ireland, Gender, Place & Culture, 25:6, 821-842.

https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1473345

Study 2. Reimagining German identity through the politics of history: changing interpretations of German past migrations during the 'Refugee crisis', 2015/2016

This study shows how Germany's founding narrative of flight and expulsion was reframed by leading politicians and media in 2015-16 and helped to alter Germany's identity boundaries in a more inclusive way.

Catherine Perron (2021) Reimagining German identity through the politics of history: changing interpretations of German past migrations during the 'Refugee crisis', 2015/2016, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 47:18, 4172-4188, DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2020.1812276

https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1812276

Study 3. Lessons on the Boundaries of Belonging: Racialization and Symbolic Boundary Drawing in the French Civic Integration Program

Discover how underlying racialised and symbolic boundaries in civic integration programmes actually reinforce national boundaries and impede migrants' entry into society. The study finds that historical relationships between Europeans and non-Europeans continue to shape the definitions of who belongs in Europe, whereby race operates in the form of language, culture and religion.

Elizabeth A. Onasch, Lessons on the Boundaries of Belonging: Racialization and Symbolic Boundary Drawing in the French Civic Integration Program, Social Problems, Volume 64, Issue 4, November 2017, Pages 577–593,

https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spw037

Featured Projects

Project 1. SYRIAN IMAGINATIONS OF EUROPE/SYRMAGINE

This Marie Curie project focuses on how Europe is imagined by Syrians settling in two of Syria's neighbouring countries (Lebanon and Turkey) and examines how their imaginations affect their attitudes to seek asylum in European countries. Certain migration movements, desires, and imaginations lead to certain foreign and self identifications. This can also lead to a process of re-identification, which may end in a return to the country of origin.

http://leamuellerfunk.com/index.php/syrmagine-project/

Project 2. Mobility trajectories of young lives: life chances of transnational youth in Global South and North/MO-TRAYL

This five year research project studies the relation between migration and young people's life chances in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Ghana. This project aims to make a difference for both schools and policy-makers, by identifying best practices regarding young people's mobility and its impact on identity and belonging.

https://www.motrayl.com/

Project 3. Global Citizenship Law: International Migration and Constitutional Identity

This project examines the question of how international standards and structures for naturalization and for the granting of citizenship should be defined and recommends an "International Citizenship Law (ICIL)" to regulate this supranationally. Such an arrangement for obtaining citizenship could influence migrant's identity and belonging. The project has also produced publications in key areas such as citizenship technology, city citizenship and a global compact on citizenship.

http://global-citizenship.eui.eu/

Attitudes towards Migrants

Challenges for Migrants

How are anti-immigrant sentiments formed?
Anti-immigrant sentiments have been found to grow in the EU receiving societies as a result of media attention and high salience of migration topics. Media narratives and political discourse often link immigration to crime, threats to welfare, culture and employment. Such negative sentiments are popular among those that feel politically disempowered or are in financially insecure situations. Interestingly, negative media narratives are more compelling in areas with few migrants, a higher average age, low education level and poorer standard of living.

How do anti-immigrant sentiments aect migrants?
Anti-immigrant sentiments impede integration, increase marginalization and undermine social cohesion. These sentiments can be revealed subtly through prejudice, discrimination and microaggressions, as well as more overtly through hate crimes and hate speech. In the years 2019-2020 there was an increase in migrant-targeted hate speech online, in mass media and by political figures. Such public discourseincreases hostility towards migrants, leads to more migrant discrimination and has adverse eects on migrants' mental health

Observed Policy Objectives

Negative public attitudes are seen as a barrier to integration. Therefore, the policies generally strive to foster more tolerant and welcoming attitudes toward migrants.

There are two main strategies:
• Managing discourses and narratives about immigrants online, in media, and in the public sphere. This includes tackling misinformation and creating alternative positive narratives
• Facilitation of positive interactions between the receiving society and migrants through providing spaces for peaceful, constructive and positive interactions between groups

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

Regulatory instruments
Anti-discrimination laws, anti-racism action plan combatting individual and institutional forms of racism.
Economic instruments
Subsidies and funding for intercultural spaces.
Communication instruments
Information campaigns, media coverage showing the struggles of migrants, promotion of positive narratives, trainings for CSOs, celebrate shared values and civic participation, intercultural events and festivals.

What can we do?

Governments can:

• Create anti-discrimination laws aimed at preventing hate speech and incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence against persons on grounds of race, religion or belief. This disincentivizes portrayals of anti immigrant sentiments as well as oers procedural support to the victims of such actions.

• Promote alternative narratives at the local level. The Intercultural cities programme promotes positive, pluralist and progressive narratives that respect human rights. It also assists with development, testing, and promotion of intercultural policies. Cities with intercultural polices and narratives are more likely to have populations that believe immigrants are good for their cities.
Provide subsidies to initiatives that facilitate intergroup contact and multicultural spaces.

Governments or CSOs can:

• Facilitate sustainable intergroup contact. In these programs it is important to emphasize meaningful contact that breaks down prejudice and ultimately results in increased respect. Face to face, positive, and personal interactions have the most positive eect. These programs should contain multiple meetings because one-time events have limited eect.

• Create and support anti-extremism programs.
These programs should focus on creating resilient communities and stand up to extremist movements through national communication activities on hate crimes, promoting messages of diversity, and celebrating shared values. Such programs have had positive outcomes including successful interaction events and ability to reach isolated individuals.

• Create and promote informational campaigns. These are most eective when coming from a trusted source and taps into the audience's lived experience. In places where trust in government is low this should be subcontracted to CSOs.

• Provide open multicultural spaces. Such spaces provide opportunities for mutually beneficial cultural learning and understanding. Activities and events can also take place here.

Private for-profit organizations can:

Produce media programing that welcomes refugees and other migrants into receiving society, shares migrants' stories and informs the audience about benefits of migration and integration. These could include, TV shows about cuisine from dierent cultures and other educational and entertaining programs familiarizing viewers with cultural plurality.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. Still Divided but More Open: Mapping European Attitudes towards Migration before and after the Migration Crisis

Discover what determines acceptance of migrants across European countries and how this has changed between 2002-2017. You can deepen your understanding of what values are connected with acceptance and rejection and how politics and the media influence attitudes.

Messing, Vera, and Bence Ságvári. 2019. Still Divided but More Open: Mapping European Attitudes towards Migration before and after the Migration Crisis. Budapest: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/budapest/15322.pdf

Study 2. A Way Forward? The Impact of Interculturalism on Intergroup Relations in Culturally Diverse Nations

Learn about the effect of interculturalism policies in different countries and why it is considered a 'new diversity strategy' to improve intergroup relations. The study finds that interculturalism reduces prejudices and increases people's willingness to interact with members of other ethnic groups.

Yogeeswaran, Kumar, Maykel Verkuyten, and Breanne Ealam. 2021. 'A Way Forward? The Impact of Interculturalism on Intergroup Relations in Culturally Diverse Nations'. Group Processes & Intergroup Relations 24 (6): 945–65.

https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220918651

Study 3. Communicating Strategically about Immigrant Integration: Policymaker Perspectives

Check out this report to see how to address the challenges of communicating about migrant integration. This article offers a practical advice of how to use communication strategies to influence attitudes of receiving population and facilitate migrant integration.

Ahad, Aliyyah, and Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan. 2019. 'Communicating Strategically about Immigrant Integration: Policymaker Perspectives'. Brussels: Migration Policy Institute Europe.

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/MPIE-CommunicatingIntegration-FINAL.pdf

Featured Projects

Project 1. NEMO

This project aims to fight stereotypes of migrants and refugees by preparing pre-teens to be mindful citizens of an online world. Educators can access a toolkit of training materials that facilitate education about discrimination of immigrant people in the media and respectful online behaviour. The toolkit is available in English, Italian, Hungarian, German, Bulgarian, and French. The project's comparative report also offers good practices for educators and parents.

https://project-nemo.eu/toolkit/

Project 2. Immigrants In the Media

Through understanding the media's influence on majority attitudes, this project gives insight on the power of language used to describe migrants. Through this project, Journalists, policy makers and social workers can better understand the impact of their communications and learn best practices of communication about migration.

https://www.immigrants-project.eu/resources/

Project 3. Opportunities

This project brought together migrants and citizens in an effort to create shared narratives of migration. It is a good example for practitioners who want to tackle biased and stereotyping stories about migrants in their communities. On the website they can find manuals detailing successful and effective ways to set up events that facilitate cross cultural encounters in their own community. Also, policy briefs on media narratives and how they shape the attitudes of their audience, and attitudes are published by the project.

https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/resources

Participation, sport, arts & leisure

Challenges for Migrants

Participation in civil society organisations (CSOs) is an important step towards integration for migrants. Newly arrived migrants are less active in CSOs compared to established population and citizens because of the following obstacles:

- Lack of language skills
- Lack of knowledge of the opportunities
- Lack of opportunities and active recruitment eorts specifically targeting recent migrants
- Lack of time.

Additional barriers specific to women:
- Women are disadvantaged because they as main care givers of children and other family members, often have not enough time for themselves to participate
- Traditional gender roles in conflict with participation in certain sports, arts and music.

Participation in sports, arts, religious groups, nature-based activities, and leisure have positive impact on migrants':
- (Mental) health
- Feeling of belonging and identity
- Exchange with the host community
- Experiencing and learning values and traditions
- Increasing social capital.

Important forms of participation in CSOs are participation in sport associations, in intercultural CSOs, in music events, in arts and in religious groups.

Observed Policy Objectives

Fostering civic participation of migrants is generally not a priority for governments. When policies are implemented that promote participation of migrants in sports associations, arts- or nature-based activities or other associations they usually aim at
- Enabling exchange between migrants and the host society and at increasing the migrants' social capital.
- Fostering feelings of belonging.
- Enhancing the health status of migrants.

Yet policy objectives are not always achieved, since
- Expectations are too high regarding the impact of participation for integration when other important components (e.g. labour market integration) are lacking.
- Increasing social bonding through associations can involve exclusion towards others.
- Focusing on migrant status in funding policy sometimes contradicts the issue-based aim of a given CSO.

Government integration policies generally target migrants with a legal status, leaving out asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

Observed commonly used

Instruments and Tools

The main approach to promoting and fostering participation is funding of projects and issuing calls for integration projects in CSOs.

What can we do?

Governments can:

- Establishing exchange and cooperation between policy makers in the field of integration with those in health, sports, arts and culture, social wellfare, and leisure.

- Communicate cleary to the CSOs as beneficiaries of funding the expectations of integration projects and prevent misunderstandings

- Highlight the importance of participation in sports, arts, nature-based activities, and leisure for (mental) health and well-being, for social capital and for feeling of belonging and identity for everyone and therefore also for migrants

- Support volunteers in CSOs to empower them for the working with newly arrived migrants e.g. through funding of special training

- Open general calls for projects supporting integration of migrants by participation in CSOs and aid sustainable transition of projects into programmes

- Oer funding to sport associations to enable them to increase oers for as many newly arrived migrants as possible – independent of their abilities in the field of sport. Some sport clubs might be interested mainly in participation of competitive athletes, whereas others are focussing on amateur sports. These need different forms of support.

Governments or CSOs can:

Step up information and communication eorts on oers in the field of sports, arts, music, nature-based activities or religious groups to reach out to newly arrived migrants. Regional information platforms could inform in various languages on the manifold of different offers.

Governments and CSOs can:

Increase the collaboration and communication between stakeholders involved in integration programs. Networking between local, regional and national government on the one hand and CSOs from various fields on the other hand in order to exchange and cooperate to the aim of integration of newly arrived migrants facilitates more eective integration projects and programmes.

Want to learn more?

Featured Studies

Study 1. *"Active Integration": Sport Clubs Taking an Active Role in the Integration of Refugees*

Learn how sport is potentially an opportunity for refugees to integrate, both with each other and host communities. Important is the active approach of coaches, volunteers and managers to consciously manage inclusive sport.

Mark Doidge, Marc Keech & Elisa Sandri (2020) 'Active integration': sport clubs taking an active role in the integration of refugees, International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics, 12:2, 305-319.

https://doi.org/10.1080/19406940.2020.1717580

Study 2. *Music-Making and Forced Migrants' Affective Practices of Diasporic Belonging*

This ethnographic research shows how music-making sessions of forced migrants enabled the group participants to experience sociality and how to express feelings in a context of enforced marginality and uncertainty.

Nicola De Martini Ugolotti (2022) Music-making and forced migrants' affective practices of diasporic belonging, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 48:1, 92-109.

https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1790344

Study 3. *Religion and the Social Integration Of Migrants in Dublin, Ireland*

See how religious beliefs and practices can be both beneficial and/or a deterrence to the process of social integration of refugees and migrants. The qualitative case study analysed the effect of participation in two congregations in Dublin on integration and acceptance.

Neil Conner (2019) Religion And The Social Integration Of Migrants In Dublin, Ireland, Geographical Review, 109:1, 27-46, DOI: 10.1111/gere.12295

https://doi.org/10.1111/gere.12295

Featured Projects

Project 1. *Bridges – promoting inclusive communities across Europe*

The aim of Bridges is to create and foster inclusive local communities in 4 countries (Italy, Croatia, Greece and Spain) where participation of all residents – old and new – is promoted and intercultural exchange and dialogue between all groups living together is endorsed. Sports, cultural activities, and services generated with a participatory approach, mobilise residents to interact with each other, thereby also strengthening the local community.
A handbook on how to activate and support the development of inclusive communities is available for download.

https://bridges-project.eu/

Project 2. *VOLPOWER – Enhancing Community Building and Social Integration through Dialogue and Collaboration amongst Young Europeans and Third Country Nationals*

Volpower highlights how young people's volunteering in sports and arts can promote and foster social integration of youth. Since active participation in arts and sports activities ask for a high level of individual involvement as well as interaction between participants, intercultural exchange is encouraged. Furthermore, volunteering of young third country nationals increases social integration not only in the sport clubs and arts organisations but in the local community as a whole. This research project shows that volunteering has a positive effect on the feeling of integration.

http://www.volpower.eu/

Project 3. *UGAIN – Urban Gardening for the social integration of Migrants*

This project points to positive effect of the participation in urban gardening projects for the integration of migrants and residents in local communities. Urban and community gardens established by residents and/or the cities provide an oasis for meeting and exchange.
The projects aims at encouraging and promoting these places as meeting points for intercultural exchange and learning and thus for social integration,
for growing closer.

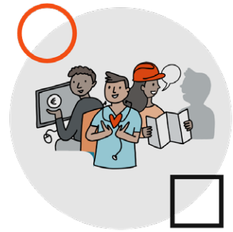
https://www.ugain.online/home/

Infographics and briefs on

Overarching themes

While conducting an extensive literature review, SprINg researchers found topics recurring in each integration theme. We created three Infographics to illustrate the complex nature of interrelated challenges of integration process and pathways to solutions. In this section you will find infographics and briefing notes on:

Building Bridges Towards Effective Integration Infrastructure



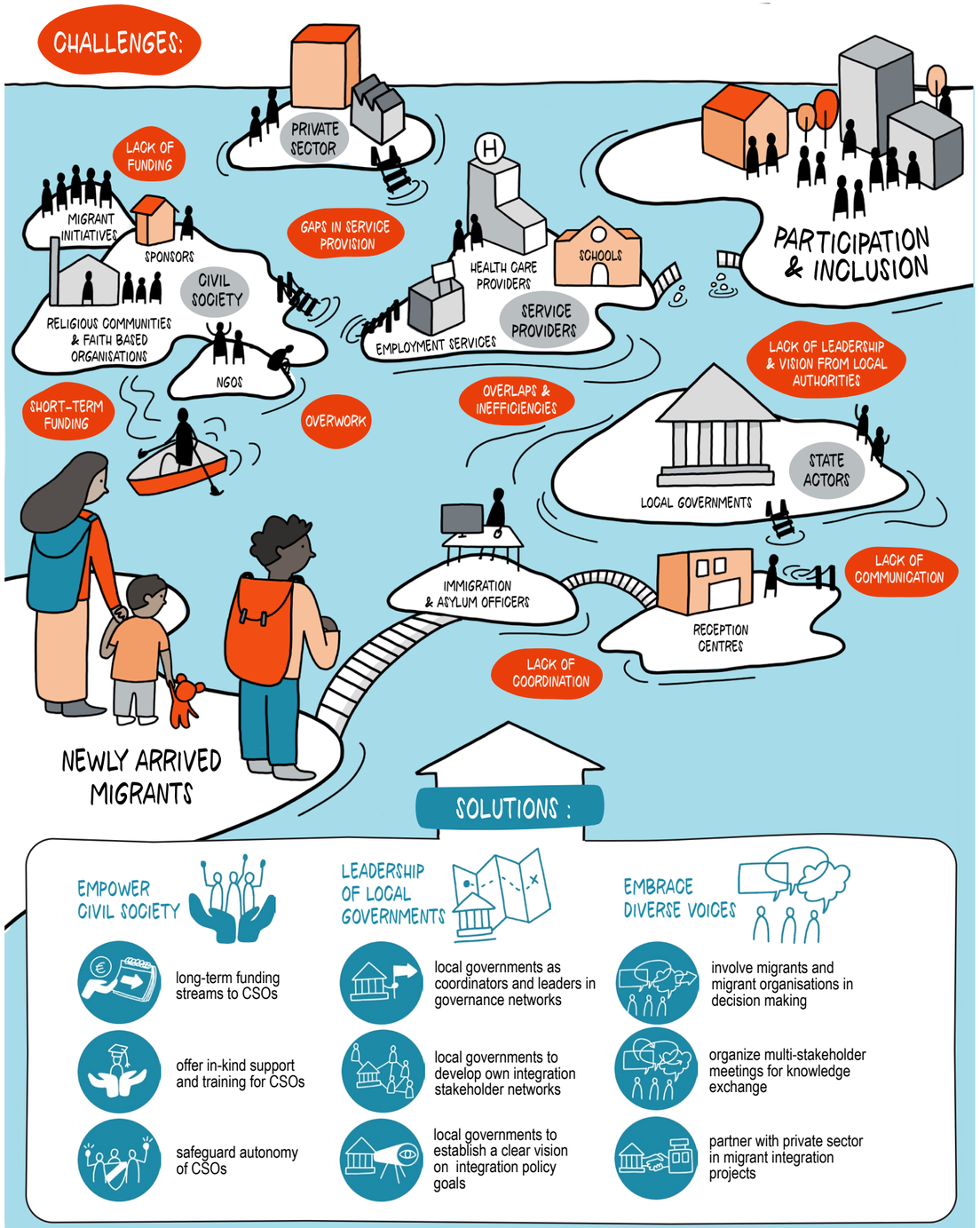
Intersecting Barriers to Employment

Participation for Migrant Mothers

Want to brainstorm and add your own ideas on how to address these interrelated challenges? Below you can download infographics with space to include your own policy solutions.

download prints

https://integrationpractices.eu/evidence-repository



BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION INFRASTRUCTURE

By Asya Pisarevskaya and Alex Webb,
Erasmus University Rotterdam

This brief offers context, challenges, and sustainable practices on a cross cutting issue of integration based on the SPRING review report: Evidence on Integration Policy Practices. This extensive review of integration literature and interviews with practitioners revealed that inefficient local integration infrastructure impedes migrant integration. Migrants and the organizations involved in their support suffer the consequences of this inefficiency. The pro-active collaboration among local government and service providers, CSOs, and private sector can facilitate a more effective and sustainable integration process of newcomers in the local communities.

Context:

As newly arrived migrants begin integrating into a receiving society, they come into contact with various local institutions that can be intimidating and difficult to navigate. Local governments are responsible for providing programs and services that support migrants' integration trajectory. Many different institutions and actors are involved in this process: such as state actors, civil society organisations and ordinary citizens engaging in volunteering, private employers, and service providers.

These actors shape migrant integration in different areas of life by meeting their legal, social, or material needs, providing access to education, work and healthcare etc. Together they constitute a local governance environment, which as a whole can either facilitate or impede the process of migrant integration. Decentralized way of service provision is very useful, since every organization can focus on what they do best, given their specialization and capacity.

Moreover, state and non-state actors can complement each other, for instance in cases when migrants have precarious status, they may only feel comfortable accessing services from non-governmental organizations, or when the state actors do not have enough resources or mandate to cover all services. While the institutions may have a common end goal they often work towards it in isolation, without sufficient collaboration, coordination and communication between them.

This creates inefficiencies and may limit the effectiveness of the integration infrastructure and, therefore, make the integration trajectory more difficult for migrants.

Challenges:

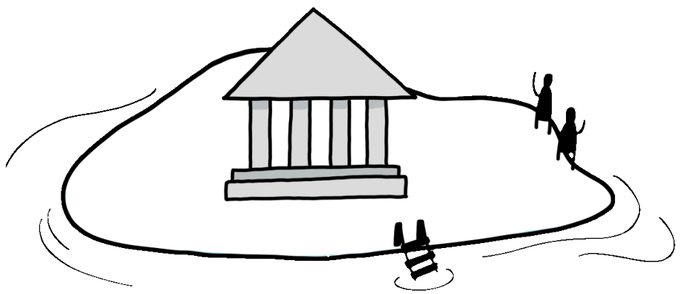
Lack of leadership: Local governments are responsible for integration programs but often have limited capacity to do all that is needed for successful integration of migrants. CSOs often step in to fill the gaps, or the local governments often 'outsource' these tasks to civil society and volunteers. When local governments have a hands off approach, lack leadership and clear vision on migrant integration, this can result in unequal and unfair service provision of varied quality, lack of communication and collaboration among initiatives, and therefore both inefficiency and ineffectiveness.

Lack of communication and collaboration: If local integration actors do not communicate and collaborate with each other they are not able to provide adequate services, or their service provision can overlap, leaving some integration tasks unattended. For a sustainable and smooth integration process, it is important to have an overarching service provision for the newcomers. This can lead to inefficiencies in labor resources and funding resources. Ultimately different services are provided in conjunction to reach the same goal.

This can be seen in Greece, Italy, and Slovenia where researchers found that there was poor coordination amongst organizations in all three countries. Organizations either supplied too much or too little resources such as food and clothing to reception centers as a result of the lack in communication and collaboration.

Short term funding: Organizations providing integration programs rely on public funding. This funding is often short-term, competition-based, and requires continuous applications. Front line workers must spend significant amount of time applying for new funding, which takes the focus away from service provision and contributes to overwork.

The anti-extremism program "Building a Stronger Britain Together" worked to highlight positive aspects of diversity and create meaningful interactions between community members. However, because of bureaucratic procedures and short-term funding this program struggled to retain staff and create trusted projects. Additionally, their short-term funding only allowed planning and implementation of one-time events which are not as effective compared to continual events.



Solutions:

Local governments in leadership role: Local governments should take an active role as coordinator and leader in local integration programmes. A central, clear vision for integration programing would offer guidance to both state actors and CSOs that are implementing services. Such vision and coordination meetings are possible even in municipalities with limited resources.
An integration stakeholder network could be a viable governance tool to unite local organization around a joint vision.

Such integration stakeholder network needs to include diverse representatives of organization involved in integration trajectories. This provides a mechanism to discuss challenges in service provision, and also coordinate a joint and comprehensive response.

Moreover, a knowledge exchange between different actors in such networks can also tackle inefficiency, institutional isolation and knowledge gaps among service providers.

Several collaborative task forces have been implemented in more specific areas of integration. One example are networks focused on labor market integration such as ARIADNA in Spain. This network consists of reception centers (funded by the state), municipalities, immigration offices, CSOs, and employers that work together to ensure work authorization, relevant training, and work placement.

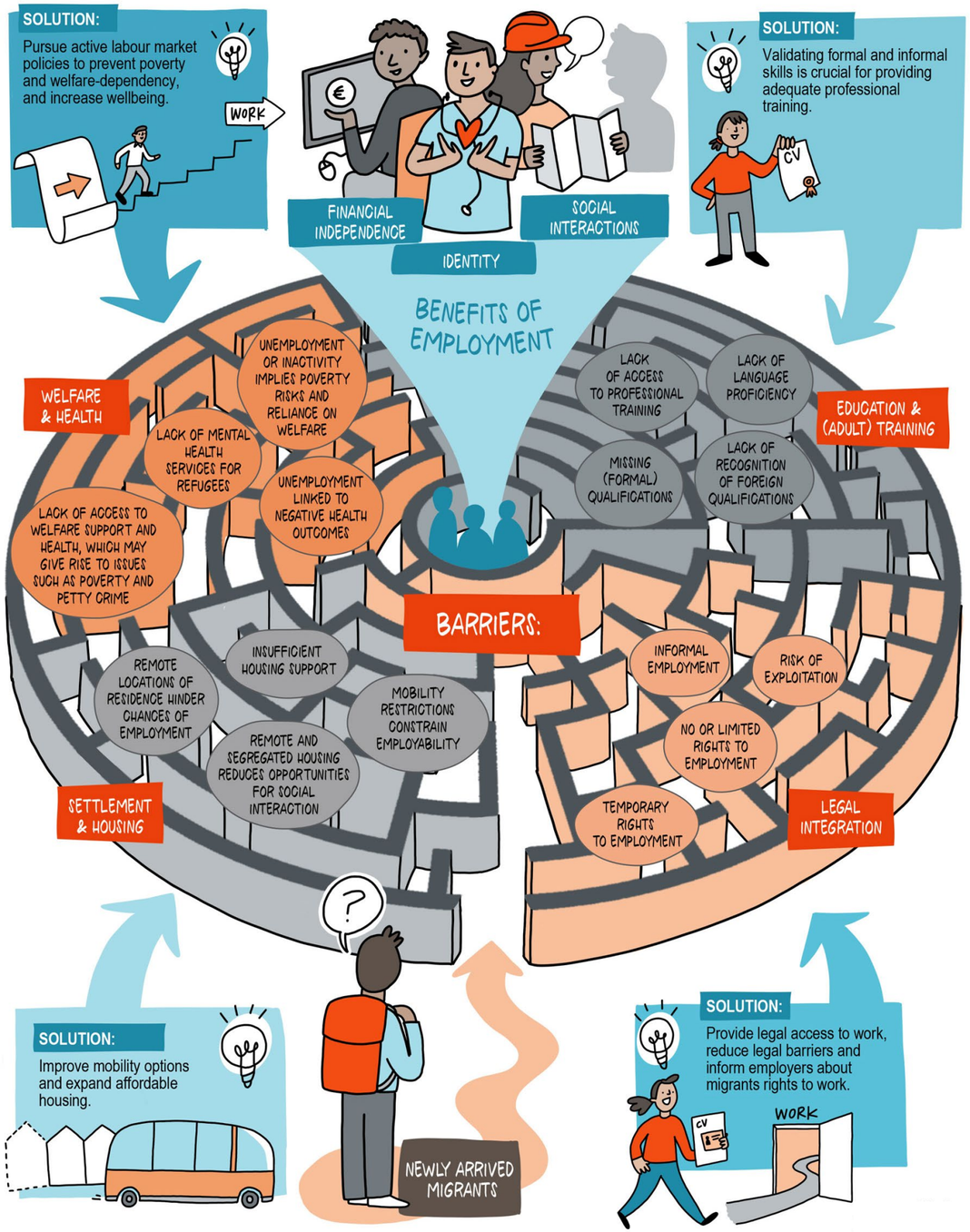
Through successful coordination and communication within this network, labour market integration can be addressed efficiently and promptly. Such a collaboration expanded to all integration programs within the municipality can greatly improve integration services as a whole.

Include diverse voices: It is crucial to include diverse voices in such networks. Migrants and migrant initiatives should be an integral part of decision-making process regarding integration and service provision. Their personal experience can inform program creation that best meets migrant needs. In addition, migrant bottom-up organizations could aid dissemination of information about integration among migrants.

A German CSO has fully included migrants in one of their programs. They provide an informational newsletter for migrant parents and families to promote intercultural integration. Migrant parents are involved in the production and writing of the newsletter, this has led to an increase in the reach of the newsletter. Additionally, migrant parents are able to share their experiences (negative or positive) of their migration journey, integration process, or daily lives.

Empower Civil Society: Local governments should aim to empower civil society organizations. Their participation in integration services is necessary especially for migrants in precarious situations, who may not feel comfortable interacting with government organizations. Therefore, independent non-governmental programs are necessary to ensure inclusion of all people. Long-term government funding is an invaluable mechanism to maintain independence and empower civil society organizations. It allows them to focus on their concrete tasks - service provision, specialize, professionalize their services, and retain qualified staff.

Reliable, long-term funding and support from national governments in Portugal and the UK has provided consistent and well-staffed refugee support programs. This funding allowed for the creation of staff positions that manage and support refugee sponsors including training sponsors, overseeing sponsor relationships and being a point of contact.



INTERSECTING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

By Albert Kraler,
Danube University Krems

Enabling newly arrived migrants to participate in the labour market remains a key objective of immigrant and refugee integration policies. Yet it is not just a matter of employment policy and instead is linked to a variety of other policies. Based on a review of relevant literature on the integration of recently arrived migrants compiled in the SPRING review report on evidence on integration policy practices this brief discusses some of these links, suggesting that for successful policies on migrant employment a holistic approach is required.

Context:

Employment is widely considered a major avenue for integration and a primary expression of an individuals' active participation in society. Most immediately, employment provides a livelihood and financial independence and is thus an important element of individual's ability to 'function' and navigate in society. Yet it also provides opportunities for social interaction: Even if work-related social relationships are generally of a weaker nature such weak ties are important, by providing opportunities for socially connecting to others and providing a bridge to existing networks. Finally, employment also matters in terms of identity, both in terms of individual identity and in terms of wider social recognition by others, which is also is crucial for individuals' well-being. Importantly, employment provides a sense of normality: it structures daily lives of individuals; socially, it makes individuals visible as contributing members of society. This is not specific to migrants. Yet, realizing individual aspirations of meaningful life and finding social recognition through work is arguably even more relevant and pressing for recently arrived humanitarian migrants in their attempts to find a position within society. Employment thus is about much more than participating in labour markets, but it is a core element of sociality in contemporary societies.

Employment is thus linked to other domains in multiple ways and thus is not solely an issue of employment policy. Employment both impacts and is shaped by other policy areas, including legal status and citizenship, education and training, welfare, and housing and policy makers.

Integration Challenges:

Rights and legal status has long been considered as foundational for the exercise of and development migrants' capabilities (Ager and Strang 2008). For humanitarian migrants who arrived after 2014 it has been even more relevant and has shaped their access to employment (See SPRING evidence repository page on rights and legal status).

• Humanitarian Migrants often lack rights to access to employment for long periods of time while waiting for the conclusion of their case, before which no or only limited access to employment or employment related training is possible.
• As a result of limited access to employment migrants often resort to informal employment, especially in countries with less rigid controls, excluding them from regular access to welfare and health services and making them more vulnerable to exploitation.

The **lack of skills and qualifications** required to successfully navigate European labour markets remains a key **barrier to humantiarian migrants' access to employment** and requires adequate educational and training offers responding to specific needs, as detailed in the SPRING brief on employment.

• Migrants often lack formal recognition of qualifications, but also their existing competences are often not identified and validated. In addition, lack of language proficiency, including vocation-specific language proficiency are important hurdles.
• But migrants also often lack access to adequate training and education programmes that would address both address specific gaps and build on existing competences.

Apart from constituting important issues in their own right, housing and the location of migrants has important employment implications:

• Dispersal policies adopted by many countries are usually based on different types of aggregate quotas for new arrivals and impose mobility restrictions on these and certain other categories remaining dependent on welfare (p.95ff). Yet these policies generally don't consider individual profiles, preferences and relevant job opportunities in areas of settlement.
• The location of housing disadvantaged communities, including in remote localities combined with poor transport has shown to have negative integration outcomes, including on employment.
Settling migrants in institutional accommodation, remote locations or otherwise marginalised communities may reduce opportunities for social interaction and thus for building up social capital, indirectly impacting on employment. Institutional accommodation also has been shown to reduce well-being and increases mental health risks.
• Housing transitions from initially provided accommodation and shared housing facilities to the regular housing market has been shown to be difficult for many recent migrants. Public authorities, however, have only limited instruments available to influence these transitions in the short term.

Welfare services are crucially important to address poverty risks related to unemployment and inactivity, for example as a result of ill-health, including mental health.

• Migrants in general and humanitarian migrant have unequal access to welfare, especially non-contributory welfare entitlements. These are particularly restricted for migrants from outside the EU.
• As a corollary, welfare uptake tends to be framed as the main problem to be addressed and a disincentive for employment participation, rather than addressing poverty risks and exclusion from employment as the primary objective of welfare policy.
• Evidence suggests that humanitarian migrants are more likely to suffer from ill health, including mental health linked both to pre-and post-migration stressors. These include, amongst others, a precarious legal status, poor living conditions, poverty and racism and discrimination. Yet there is a lack of dedicated support.

Solutions:

Providing legal access to employment and reduce legal barriers

• In recognition of negative consequences of delayed labour market access Article 15 of the Receptions Conditions Directive (Directive 2013/33/EU) foresees asylum seekers to be provided with access to employment within nine months, although some Member states provide more favourable conditions. For example, asylum seekers in Belgium can access a temporary employment permit, if their case remains undecided after 4 months. It is valid 12 months is terminated in the case of a negative decision.
• The granting of immediate access to employment to Ukrainians and certain third-country nationals following the Decision to activate the Temporary Protection Directive (Directive 2001/55/EC) has been can serve as a model for other categories of (humanitarian) migrants.
• Several countries offer regularisation on the basis of work. Germany, for instance a temporary right to stay is granted for tolerated persons undergoing vocational training or engaged in employment in shortage occupations for at least 18 months.

Validating formal and informal skills and providing adequate training and education.

• In Austria the 'competence check' piloted in 2015 in Vienna and since rolled out to other regions entails a detailed assessment of skills, qualifications and language knowledge as well as specific training linked to both competences and gaps identified. Vocational competence tests, implemented in Germany provide another example.
• High-quality and vocation-specific language training improves employment outcomes as research on Germany has shown. In Sweden, 6-month training in professional Swedish are offered with support from the Public Employment Services

Improve **mobility** options and access to **affordable housing**

• Dispersal policies should consider migrants' profiles and characteristics of regions of settlement and look beyond the short-term availability of housing and rigid distribution criteria. Thus, A data-driven algorithmic assignment of refugees to different localities in Switzerland demonstrated a significant increase of employment prospects, would refugees be assigned on the basis of a matching of individual profiles and local labour market characteristics and needs.
• Providing information on available housing support as well as concrete housing options and establishing structures mediating between landlords and (prospective) tenants can be an effective way to improve access to housing in a policy area with limited policy instruments allowing to change conditions in the short term. Information websites such as the Refugees Wien website or a guide for housing practitioners developed by the Scottish Refugee Council can be named as examples.

Pursue active labour market policies to prevent poverty and welfare dependency and increase well-being.

• Equality in access to welfare and health services has the capacity to increase well-being and reduce poverty. In relation to access to health it can be shown that in countries with more liberal access self-reported health amongst refugees is better than in more restrictive contexts.
• Rather than focusing on disincentivizing uptake of welfare underpinned by coercive policies active labour market policies should be pursued that enable migrants to participate in employment and to be self-sufficient, using a wide array of policy instruments including skills assessment, training, job counselling, financial incentives for employers, information for employers, and job fairs, amongst others (see in detail the SPRING brief on employment).

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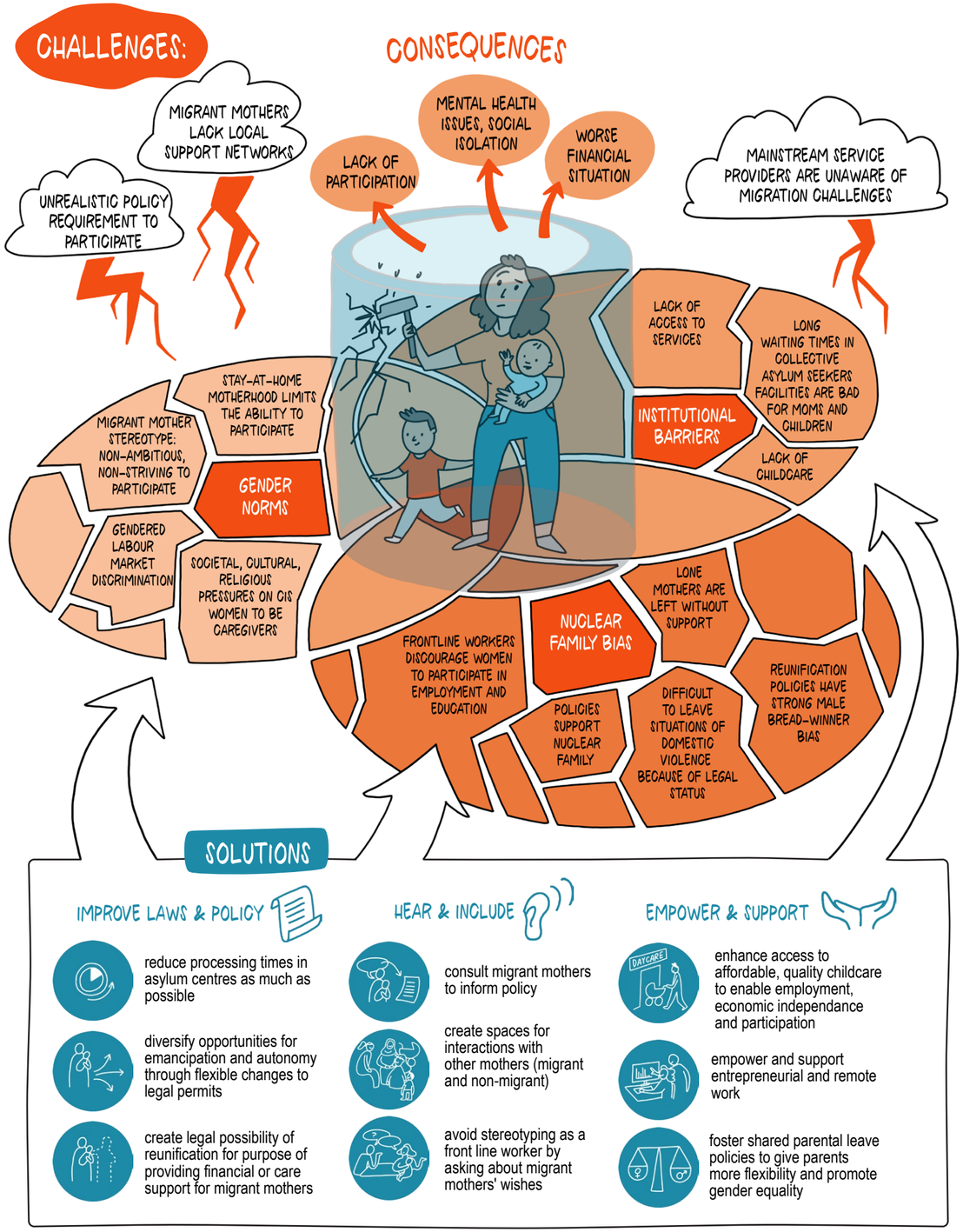


PARTICIPATION FOR MIGRANT MOTHERS: BARRIERS AND WAYS FORWARD

By Marija Grujić ICMPD, Asya Pisarevskaya EUR and Alex Webb EUR

This brief offers context, challenges, and sustainable practices on a cross cutting issue of integration based on the SPRING review report: Evidence on Integration Policy Practices. This extensive review of integration literature revealed that when integrating into the host society, newly arrived migrants face numerous challenges based on their gender and parental status.

Societal, cultural, and religious norms represent women as primarily responsible for childcare. Such views support an ideology of motherhood, linking caregiving tasks to femininity. While non-migrant women are also affected in many ways by these gendered structural barriers and stereotypes, newly arrived migrant women often find themselves in even more precarious situation, due to lack of familiarity with the laws and childcare systems, insecurities of migration status, and lack of family and friends networks in the receiving country. These barriers stemming from gender, parenthood and migration background overlay and reinforce one another to reduce female migrants' time and means to participate.

Practitioners in the field of migrant integration must therefore acknowledge traditional gender norms as traps to integration disproportionally affecting migrant mothers. This brief offers practitioners in the field of migrant integration an overview of both common challenges and sustainable practices to tackle those. For instance, training relevant personnel in cultural competence and intersectional approaches to care obligations, including financing gender-sensitive programs, will increase migrant mothers' integration prospects. Moreover, state and non-governmental actors can actively promote and foster female employment and finance individually-tailored programs that stimulate reflection about traditional gender norms about traditional gender norms among migrants and relevant institutional actors working among specific target groups (e.g. case workers, reception managers, employers, etc). Such initiatives encourage female migrants' autonomy accelerating financial emancipation of mothers of various family and work statuses: married, lone parents, stay-at-home, or part/full-time employed.

Integration Challenges:

Gendered labour market discrimination: Standard requirements for family reunification and long-term residency include migrants having stable income and independency of welfare benefits. For migrant mothers it is very difficult to fulfill such requirements, due to male-dominated job sectors, work place discrimination and the gender pay gap. To enjoy the right to family life or achieve unrestricted residency permits, female migrants need to overcome double-layered problems that impede applicants' chances for reunification and long-term residency.

• Civic integration residency requirements (e.g. linked to economic independence) can 'push' women towards taking up less paid jobs as they can help them secure their legal status. This can disservice women since their starting position may prevent them from reaching their future goals of financial independence, becoming a sponsor, or acquiring permanent status. To properly support female migrants in family reunification processes and tackle the adverse effects of separation with children, it is important to acknowledge their structurally disadvantaged position as sponsors, in which gendered labour market discrimination plays a role. This is especially important for non-EU female migrants, refugees and those using welfare benefits.

• Biases and Stereotypes: Legal nuclear family bias, stereotypes about religion and discourses on transnational marriages pose obstacles to comprehensive integration of migrant mothers. If they are lone parents or have migrated alone, they face additional challenges due to limited support networks, with no grandparents or other relatives to rely on. Family migration or reunification policy accentuates nuclear family, and such heteronormative gender norms sometimes unwittingly reinforce the traditional male-bread-winner model. In addition, immigration officers might interlink religious belonging with a gender-specific exposure to violence representing Muslim women as potential victims of oppression and Muslim men as perpetrators. Lastly, a mother's willingness and capability to work outside of the home may be disregarded due to the expectation that mothers stay home to care for small children.

Lack of childcare: Limited options for daycare for children is a common integration challenge among migrant mothers, and indeed, non-migrant women as well. Restriction of benefits, insufficient provision of child care and other structural barriers can push women of diverse backgrounds into the pathways of stay-at-home motherhood and restrict their chances for economic self-sufficiency and social participation.

• Migrant mothers' involvement at a community sport initiative in Germany was largely diminished due to lack of access to childcare services. Participation within the program of both participants and volunteers depends on access to childcare services.

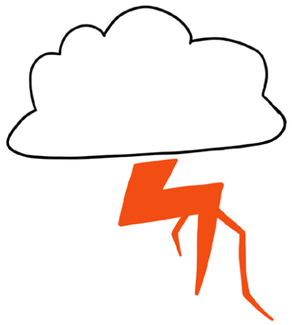
Solutions:

Adopt inclusive legal language: National governments should be aware of the legal definition of 'family' and 'dependent', especially when addressing family migration reunification issues, to avoid exclusion of subgroups when creating new policy. Some mothers are married; others are lone parents or form queer families.

• Among EU Member states, only Spain and Norway identify dependency as a category outside the nuclear family. At the same time, none of the EU Member States with a high number of asylum seekers allow parents to reunite with children older than 18 years automatically.

Raise awareness and support for both parents: Childcare obligations have an enduring influence on the integration of the female population. Nationwide campaigns and further communication measures addressing topics such as women's agency or intersections between female employment and autonomy would increase awareness about migrant mothers' needs among migrants and institutional actors. Also, governments and employers could focus on encouraging fathers to take an active role in child care e.g. by means of mandatory paternal leave.

• The EU Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) suggest flexible hours to inspire participation for children of working mothers, single parents, and those from minority or disadvantaged groups, among others. In this regard, area-wide and affordable services significantly promote equity and social inclusion. Separating refugees and asylum seekers often creates a bureaucratic hurdle in organising and managing childcare.



Facilitate interaction: Local municipalities can have a crucial role in the integration process as they can innovatively bring together the newly arrived population with those already residing in the country. Such interactions and joint initiatives can enhance chances for quicker adoption of language competencies.

• Stadtteilmütter (Bourough mothers) is a model Kitas programme in Berlin that mediates between newly arrived families and the institutions. The unique feature of the bourough mothers is that they are also refugees, increasing interaction and participation in the local communities.

Provide adequate childcare: Providing childcare workers and educators with adequate training, multi-sectoral coordination and funding on the national level can increase the quality of services and support migrant mothers. System-wide leadership is often needed to introduce new methods of qualifying childcare workers or recruit new staff with language and cultural skills.

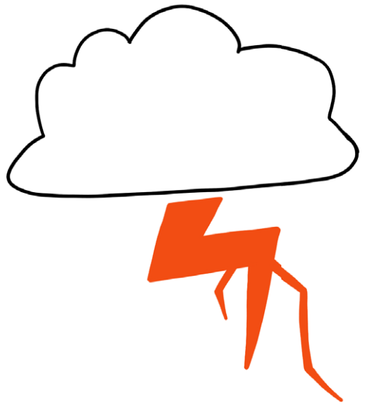
• Gothenburg Language Center in Sweden provides mother-tongue teaching and support for all schools in the city, which relieves the schools enormously with regard to these tasks. It is an excellent example of how the Swedish education authority works closely with municipalities and offers special programmes aimed at newcomers. Preschools offer programs in a mother tongue other than Swedish to develop their cultural identity and knowledge of both languages.

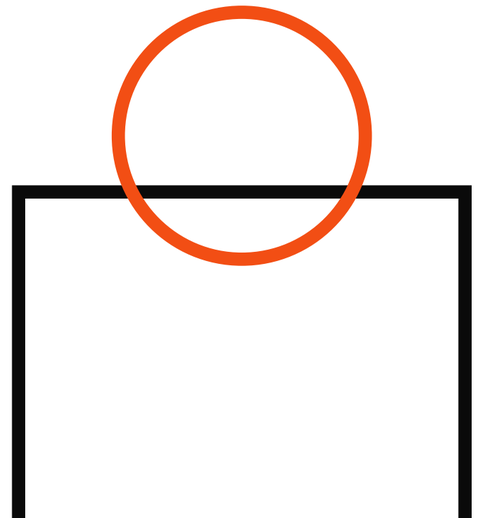
Create informal educational opportunities: Engaging mothers in children's education can be doubly beneficial, and tailored programs can also ease access to other spheres (e.g. health, employment).

• Post-2014 Greece targeted school-aged children and mothers through various instruments of non-formal education. For example, language training for mothers was used as a 'tool' to enhance results of the formal education (i.e., of the refugee children in the state facilities).

Diversify opportunities for emancipation and autonomy: Governments need to diversify opportunities for emancipation and autonomy among female migrants in terms of more flexible changes of legal permits. This should be an important objective for female migrants who are, e.g. third-country nationals or forced marriages survivors. An intersectional approach can help immigration officials target migrant mothers of diverse backgrounds and life situations.

• Ireland and Spain have a legal status specifically for victims of domestic violence. Such changes in status facilitate integration, increase personal autonomy, and prevent falling into irregular situations.





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Are you working with immigrants and refugees?

This handbook summarises the most relevant research on various areas of migrant integration, inclusion and participation in Europe focusing on refugees and other recent migrants. Based on an extensive review report, the handbook is comprehensive in thematic scope, yet concise and outlining ´recommendations in different fields of action. In addition, it also addresses transversal topics, such as overarching governance frameworks, the interlinkage between employment and other areas of integration, and the specific needs of migrant mothers.

Finally, it also addresses different understandings of integration, embracing a conception that sees the core of integration as the acceptance of migrants in receiving societies.