

**Migration flows in the European Union.  
Perspectives on the integration of the migrants**

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**Abstract**

*The consequences of the EU flows of migration recorded before the pandemic COVID - 19 indicated different expectations for the destination countries based on the need to harmonize two opposite European pressure vectors: one vector is to reduce the negative demographic trends and the other is to create better conditions for all persons to participate to social security and welfare mechanism. Adoption of the rates of migrants reflected a mechanism that requires deepening and reconsidering the dimensions of the social and economic inclusion integrative process of the migrants. Thus, given the diversity of the various approaches at the European level to achieve a balance in demographic policies perspective the article highlights the costs and benefits of an endurance process that aims inclusion of migrants at the local level. Complementary, the social and economic inclusion*

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*of migrants is a significant challenge for the Member States of the European Union, meaning that the article analyzes the importance of different indicators favorable to positively integrate the migrants. In this respect, the article outlines the progress, the recent measures implemented and the results recorded by the destination countries which are targeted by the migration flows and the best practices recorded so far. It also summarizes the main directions of valorization and dissemination of policies, strategies, and measures taken for the integration of the migrants in the European Union Member States. Social and economic inclusion at the local level of this category of vulnerable people indicates multiple challenges but also creates significant opportunities aimed to test and validate the fundamental European system articulated by the principles of justice, freedom, and security.*

### **The context of migratory flows in the European Union - recent trends and strategic approaches**

Recent refugees and migrants registered in Europe reached an unprecedented post-war level in the decade 2010-2020: in 2015, more than one million people migrated to Europe, outlining the most complex refugee crisis Europe has ever experienced from World War II. Of course, migratory flows at the European level should be explained based on at least three effects of this phenomenon: effects of migration on the country of origin, on the population of the target country, and on the migrants.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Victor Nicolăescu, *Formation Of The New Romanian Communities* in "Journal of Community Positive Practices", 4(XII), 2011, p. 114.

In 2008, the Clandestino project estimated that the number of illegal migrants in the EU was between 1.9 and 3.8 million, and according to data provided by Eurostat, between 2008 and 2014, 3.6 million people were detained as illegal residents in the EU. Immigrant integration policies and measures do not include non-EU citizens living in the EU illegally, even if they are particularly exposed to the risk of exploitation and discrimination.<sup>2</sup>

The number of non-EU citizens living in EU Member States on 1 January 2015 was 19.8 million, representing 3.9% of the EU-28 population, according to Eurostat. This figure increased to 20.8 million people, representing 4.1% of the total EU-28 population, as of January 1, 2016. Also, the number of those living in an EU Member State, but were born outside the EU, was 34.3 million people on 1 January 2015 and increased to 35.1 million by 1 January 2016.<sup>3</sup>

At the beginning of 2019, there were 35 million migrants in the EU, of which 13 million were mobile EU citizens living outside their country of citizenship, and 22 million were third-country nationals living outside the EU. In 2019, 2.9 million people received residence permits for the EU-27, an increase from 2.8 million in 2018. Of those who came from third countries outside the EU in 2019, 41% did this with a work permit, 27% for family purposes, and 14% for education.<sup>4</sup>

The number of people seeking asylum in the EU Member States each year has fluctuated over the last decade. In 2019 there were 632,000 applications, which

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<sup>2</sup> \*\*\*European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Together in the EU Promoting the participation of migrants and their descendants*. Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2017, p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> \*\*\**Integrating refugees and migrants through education building bridges in divided societies*, LLLPlatform Position Paper September 2016, available at <http://lllplatform.eu/lll/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/LLL-Platform-Policy-Paper-Refugees-and-migrants-and-inclusive-education-Sept-2016.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> \*\*\*European Commission, Joint Research Centre, *Atlas of Migration 2020*, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020, p. 11.

was considerably higher than the 185,000 applications registered in 2010, but significantly lower than the more than one million applications submitted in both 2015 and 2016. The OECD examined data from several selected countries for which it is available and showed how the number of residence permits granted by OECD countries in the first half of 2020 decreased by 46% compared to the same period in 2019.<sup>5</sup>

From the perspective of compliance with international regulations, it is important to note that each Member State of the European Union has ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and has thus adopted the humanitarian values enshrined in this act.

The mandate of the European Union (EU) to promote the integration of third-country nationals was strengthened after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (2009). Thus, in accordance with Article 79 (4) of the Treaty, a legal basis has been provided for the first time to promote EU integration: "The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, may lay down measures to provide incentives and support for action by the Member States to promote the integration of third-country nationals legally residing in their territories, to the exclusion of any harmonization of the laws and regulations of the Member States." In addition, a number of provisions in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights are identified that apply to all people living in the EU, including third-country nationals. Such a common policy framework can further strengthen the coordination of EU-wide integration policies - which has been identified as a concern since the 2004 Council Conclusions on Common Core Principles for Immigrant Integration.

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<sup>5</sup> \*\*\*OECD, *International Migration Outlook*, Paris, OECD Publishing, 2020.

While a mandate to promote integration as well as to support and coordinate Member States' efforts to integrate third-country nationals is clearly highlighted in European regulations, the responsibility for the effective implementation of relevant strategies, measures, and actions lies with the Member States. In this regard, in order to provide an implementation of this perspective, the European Commission published on 6 June 2016 an action plan on the integration of third-country nationals, which provides a common policy framework describing policy, operational and financial support on which the Commission will provide to support Member States' efforts.<sup>6</sup>

Moreover, this approach to cooperation at the Member State level is recognized by pointing out the negative consequences: "The failure of an individual Member State to develop and implement a successful integration policy may in different ways have negative implications for the other Member States and the European Union. ...] This can have an impact on the economy and labor market participation, undermine respect for human rights and the commitment of Europeans to fulfill their international obligations towards refugees and others in need of international protection, and can lead to alienation and tensions within society. (European Commission, 2016)".<sup>7</sup>

Beyond the legal obligation of Member States to protect refugees, various approaches have been implemented to intensify efforts to integrate and empower

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<sup>6</sup> \*\*\*European Commission, *Communication on the Action Plan on the Integration of third-country nationals*, COM (2016) 377 final, Brussels, 7 June 2016.

<sup>7</sup> \*\*\*Council of the European Union (2004). 2618th Council Meeting, Justice and Home Affairs, *Council conclusions on immigrant integration policy in the European Union, including Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the European Union*, Brussels, 2004, cited in Press release, 19 November.

these people in the host communities that will become their homes.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council in December 2016, in its conclusions on the integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU, called on the Member States, inter alia, to provide "opportunities for third-country nationals to actively participate in the civic and cultural life of the Member States, to combat discrimination and segregation, to provide equal opportunities and to promote intercultural dialogue and mutual acceptance between third-country nationals and host societies". By identifying recent migratory trends and the impact of migrants' integration into the EU, the Council also called on the Member States to focus their efforts on "investing in policies that promote the social inclusion of third-country nationals in order to make European societies more prosperous, cohesive and long-term inclusive".<sup>9</sup>

### **European perspectives on the integration of migrants**

The concept of migrant integration highlights a multitude of definitions and interpretations, which differ significantly from the national context, leading to variations in integration policies and practices. Understood in the broadest sense, the integration of migrants is a complex and multiple process of integration into society that refers to four main landmarks of migrant integration: spatial concentration, language assimilation, socio-economic status, and interethnic marriages. In the sociological analysis, the process of integration of migrants

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<sup>8</sup> \*\*\**Integrating refugees and migrants through education building bridges in divided societies*, LLLPlatform Position Paper September 2016, available at <http://lllplatform.eu/lll/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/LLL-Platform-Policy-Paper-Refugees-and-migrants-and-inclusive-education-Sept-2016.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> \*\*\*Council of the European Union, Justice and Home Affairs Council, *Council conclusions on the integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU*, 9 December 2016, n. 15312/16.

describes the mechanism by which individuals become members of society, trying to highlight their multiple and multifaceted participation in the neighborhood, at work, at school, in the family. In the field of economic interpretations, the prospects for the integration of migrants focus on the market outcomes of migratory flows, such as labor market and labor market performance, tax transfers, income gaps, supply of public goods, attitudes towards work, skills, knowledge or productive assets.<sup>10</sup>

Over the last two decades, debates on migration flows at the European level have led to the recognition of the importance of developing, collecting, and monitoring specific indicators on the participation and socio-economic integration of migrants. In this regard, a first step in raising awareness of the relevance of such indicators is signaled in the Common Basic Principles (adopted on 13.11.2004 by the Justice and Home Affairs Council) which highlights the need to develop clear objectives, indicators, and mechanisms to harmonize policies, assess progress on integration, and achieve a more efficient exchange of information. Subsequently, in 2009 a list of key areas and indicators was defined, based on the Common Basic Principles and EU Indicators of the EU 2020 Strategy, a list that was structured to cover four areas (employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship). Within the four areas, there are indicators considered to be simple to understand, easy to communicate, and comparable for a certain period. Thus, given that their selection was related to the quality and availability of data, 14 key indicators were finally proposed and other indicators were taken into account to be developed and developed in case comparable data were recorded. In the light of developments in

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<sup>10</sup> Zuzanna Hübschmann, *Migrant Integration Programs: The Case of Germany* in "Global Migration Research Paper", No. 11, Geneva, 2015, pp. 4-6.

migration flows, the European Commission also supports the two-way approach to integration. In its Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy, the European Commission states that integration is "a dynamic and two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of the Member States" (European Commission, 2014).<sup>11</sup>

Common core principles highlight integration as respect for core European values, contributing to the host society through employment, basic knowledge of the language, history, and institutions of the host society, educational efforts, access to public institutions and goods on an equal basis, and discrimination, as well as participation in democratic processes. In addition, the European Commission emphasizes the importance of dialogue between migrants and citizens, the value of cultural and religious diversity, and the need to develop clear objectives, indicators, and evaluation mechanisms in order to make integration more effective.

The process of developing and adopting indicators on the integration of migrants was continued within the specific activities of the Stockholm Program 2010 - 2014, meaning that during the meeting in Zaragoza in 2010 of the ministers responsible for the integration of migrants in the European Union it was agreed that the European Commission to launch a pilot project on the evaluation of migrant integration policies.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> \*\*\*European Commission, *EU Actions to Make Integration Work*, European Web Site on Integration, Updated on 27 December 2014.

<sup>12</sup> \*\*\*Council of the European Union, *European Ministerial Conference on Integration, Zaragoza, Declaration, including Annex: Swedish Presidency conference conclusions on indicators and monitoring of the outcome of integration policies*, 16 April 2010.



The purpose of the joint proposals proposed by the Zaragoza Declaration, adopted in April 2010 by EU ministers responsible for the integration of immigrants and approved by the Council for Justice and Home Affairs on 3-4 June 2010 for the integration of migrants, is to support the monitoring of the situation, immigrants and the results of integration policies.<sup>13</sup> As a concrete result, the 2011 Eurostat pilot study highlighted the availability and quality of statistical data supporting 15 indicators, thus publishing an integrative statistical analysis. As mentioned above, indicators have been identified in the following policy areas: employment, education, social inclusion, and active citizenship.

The Zaragoza Declaration also included additional areas and indicators on integration that all or most Member States considered important for monitoring, namely:<sup>14</sup> the share of employees who are overqualified for their jobs; employment; language skills; discrimination experiences; trust in public institutions; the voting presence of the voting population; the sense of belonging.

The Zaragoza indicators have been reconfirmed and it has been decided that other indicators should be analyzed or new areas should be developed (such as awareness and experience of discrimination, acceptance of diversity, trust in public institutions, and a sense of belonging).<sup>15</sup>

The integration of migrants into the European Union is also addressed by using more complex analyzes by the OECD to reflect detailed issues on multiple

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>14</sup> \*\*\*EC, EUROSTAT, *Indicators of Immigrant Integration A Pilot Study*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2011, pp. 10-11.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Huddleston, Jan Niessen, Jasper Dag Tjaden, *Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration. Report prepared for European Commission*, Brussels, 2013, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/e-library/documents/policies/legal-migration/general/docs/final\\_report\\_on\\_using\\_eu\\_indicators\\_of\\_immigrant\\_integration\\_june\\_2013\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/e-library/documents/policies/legal-migration/general/docs/final_report_on_using_eu_indicators_of_immigrant_integration_june_2013_en.pdf).

levels: socio-demographic characteristics, defining the characteristics of immigrant populations, household characteristics, labor market outcomes, labor quality, adult education, and cognitive skills, household income, housing, health and care, civic engagement and social cohesion.<sup>16</sup>

From the perspective of European approaches, it should be noted that, based on the Zaragoza indicators, analyzes on migrant integration address the achievement of three main objectives for the use of integration indicators: 1) understanding the contexts of integration and the results of migrant integration; 2) evaluation of the results of the applied policies; 3) the inclusion of migrants' integration in general policies.<sup>17</sup>

The indicators presented on the integration of migrants lead us to the conclusion that countries can always learn from the exchange of experiences, and comparative analysis carried out by crossing different indicators can be particularly beneficial for improving policies and diversifying practices in countries highlighting migrants with similar characteristics and with heterogeneous integration challenges.

### **Integrating migrants at the European level - focusing on local approaches**

The approach of migration in recent years in analyzes and scientific studies is an approach that requires a rethinking of European policies on the integration of migrants,<sup>18</sup> more specifically to correlate with the global and European reality

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<sup>16</sup> \*\*\*OECD/European Union (2015). *Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In*, Paris, OECD Publishing, p. 20-21, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264234024-en>.

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Huddleston, Jan Niessen, Jasper Dag Tjaden, *op.cit.*

<sup>18</sup> Victor Nicolăescu, *Rethinking Ways to Manage EU Migration – From Development Cooperation with Thirds Countries to Social-Economic Integration of Migrants* in Silviu Nate, Annett Arntzen (eds),

recording new phenomena related to vulnerabilities, risks, social exclusion, and terrorism. Thus, immigration and terrorism were clearly the main concerns at the EU level: at 39% (+1 percentage points since spring 2017) and 38% (-6), respectively, both articles are mentioned more than twice as much more common than any other problem. Although growth is limited (+1), immigration has gained ground for the first time since the fall of 2015, after a 20 percentage point decline between the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2017. After a strong increase between the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017 (+12), which took terrorism to the top of the rankings for the first time, this concern has now lost a certain point, falling to second place.<sup>19</sup>

In Europe, where opinions have more often indicated negative attitudes, they differ significantly from country to country. Data from the European Social Survey show a fairly stable distribution of attitudes in Europe over time, with Sweden, Denmark and Finland consistently the most positive, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Portugal the most negative, and mixed opinions in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and France (Heath and Richards, 2016).<sup>20</sup>

Similarly, the 2016 Pew survey of ten European countries showed that in eight of the ten, more than half of respondents were concerned about the security

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"Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: Mapping Options for a Resilient Approach: Proceedings", Bucharest, RAO, 2017, pp. 66-82.

<sup>19</sup> \*\*\* European Union, *Standard Eurobarometer 88 – Autumn 2017* in "Public opinion in the European Union, First results", [https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/admin/images/Standard\\_Eurobarometer\\_88\\_UE\\_dez-2017.pdf](https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/admin/images/Standard_Eurobarometer_88_UE_dez-2017.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> Anthony Heath, Lindsay Richards, *Attitudes towards Immigration and their Antecedents: Topline Results from Round 7 of the European Social Survey*, London, European Social Survey ERIC, 2016, [https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS7\\_toplines\\_issue\\_7\\_immigration.pdf](https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS7_toplines_issue_7_immigration.pdf)

implications of refugee acceptance.<sup>21</sup> Although there is little background evidence linking refugees to recent terrorist attacks in Europe and the United States, the survey findings show the extent to which the link between refugees and migrants has been linked to public concerns and terrorism concerns:

1. Public opinion is not opposed to immigration, but attitudes are becoming increasingly polarized. Public opinion is generally not more negative when it comes to immigration, even in countries with high migration rates. But Europeans are becoming increasingly divided over migration and its effects.

2. The characteristics of migrants matter - highly qualified migrants are considered much more positive than those with fewer skills.

3. Migrants are considered less deserving of social assistance. Migrants are constantly perceived by respondents as less deserving than those described identically by locals, with assessments being influenced by two factors: economic insecurity and prejudices/stereotypes against minorities.<sup>22</sup>

Despite concerns about various vulnerabilities and risks over the last decade, migrants have reflected a significant increase in the European workforce in the context of many European countries facing a shortage of labor in a number of sectors of the economy, including agriculture, construction, hospitality, catering, IT, and financial services, which are partially covered by migrant labor. However, it is estimated that migrants contribute more to taxes and social contributions than they receive in individual benefits, and skilled migrants

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<sup>21</sup> Richard Wike, Bruce Stokes, Katie Simmons, *Europeans Fear Wave of Refugees Will Mean More Terrorism, Fewer Jobs* in Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Washington DC, <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2016/07/11/europeans-fear-wave-of-refugees-will-mean-more-terrorism-fewer-jobs/>

<sup>22</sup> \*\*European Parliament, *Attitudes towards immigration in Europe: myths and realities*, 19 June 2017, [https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/IE\\_Handout\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/IE_Handout_FINAL.pdf).

contribute more to the host country than to the local population, as the host country does not bear the costs of their training and education. The solutions adopted in the destination countries offer the framework to identify the most effective mechanisms for ensuring the reduction of social exclusion of migrants and to share these evidences with other active factors in this field in the European states.<sup>23</sup>

Recently, a series of proposals, recommendations, and solutions for a greater coherence between migration and development policies are highlighted: the protection of migrants' rights in the field of human rights; authorization of dual citizenship; the inclusion of migrants in the policy-making process; moving from a project to an approach process; promoting education for research and development.<sup>24</sup>

From the perspective of the costs of integrating migrants, an attempt is made to highlight the multitude of funding instruments for programs aimed at achieving inclusion objectives, but without a quantification of the distribution of funding needs at the level of the analyzed dimensions or at the level of European agreed indicators. Of course, it is obvious that first of all there is an overlap in the interventions in the plan of migrants' integration and for this reason, the difficulty of such multidimensional estimates is configured. Also, a significant aspect refers to the fact that the realities of the financing of interventions for the inclusion of

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<sup>23</sup> Victor Nicolăescu, Gabriela Petre, *The European Union measures taken to prevent and manage the recent migration flows – from survival to social and economic integration of migrants* in “CES Working Papers”, Volume IX, Issue 4, 2017, p. 562.

<sup>24</sup> Marlene Keusch, Nadja Schuster, *European Good Practice Examples of Migration and Development Initiatives with a Particular Focus on Diaspora Engagement*, Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, 2012, pp. 54-55,  
[https://www.mirovniinstitut.si/data/tinymce/Projekti/comide\\_lana/CoMiDe\\_European%20Good%20Practice%20Study-screen.pdf](https://www.mirovniinstitut.si/data/tinymce/Projekti/comide_lana/CoMiDe_European%20Good%20Practice%20Study-screen.pdf)

migrants are registered in different levels, planned and implemented in a difficult process to follow in the transfers made in the local – national - European route.

At the European Union level, four main types of funding for activities to support asylum seekers and refugees in the European financial year 2014-2020 are identified:

1. European Social Fund (ESF) - according to Regulation N°1304/2013, the ESF's main mission is to improve the employment opportunities of the workers living in the Union;
2. Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) – according to Regulation N°223/2014 has the specific objective to alleviate the worst forms of poverty in the EU such as homelessness, child poverty, and food deprivation and in this way contribute to eradicating poverty in the Union in line with the Europe 2020 strategy;
3. Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) – has aimed at strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, by supporting actions which can relate to the different stages of the asylum procedure and to the different aspects of the asylum policies (reception conditions, asylum procedure);
4. European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 and Territorial Cooperation – ERDF 2014-2020 included an Urban Innovative Actions programme with the topic of migration and EU Territorial Cooperation

(ETC. Interreg V in the period 2014-20) funded mainly by the ERDF would cover migration management and mostly socioeconomic integration.<sup>25</sup>

At the local level, explicit integration efforts by governments are highlighted in view of income inequalities, employment, and the perception of economic underperformance of migrants, insufficient language skills, and social assistance costs. Immigrants usually have higher unemployment rates and lower wages compared to citizens, a situation that persists beyond the first generation for both men and women. Therefore, social, linguistic, and cultural integration can be a catalyst for economic integration and both can strengthen each other.<sup>26</sup>

The integration of migrants, measured in terms of labor market participation and income outcomes, is dependent on increasing their level of education which has the potential to produce positive effects in the socio-economic integration of the second generation of migrants. In this regard, appropriate policy interventions should be applied to promote transitions in the workplace in schools and the optimal allocation of their human capital for economic and social development in the near future.<sup>27</sup>

Germany offers the largest migrant integration program in the EU, which is available to a wide range of newcomers, including EU citizens, a program that focuses on language acquisition as well as cultural, historical, and political training elements.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> \*\*\*CPRM, *Background note. Funds that can be used to support actions targeting migration*, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, 2016,

[http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda/3020\\_background\\_note\\_-\\_migration\\_funds.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda/3020_background_note_-_migration_funds.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Zuzanna Hübschmann, *op.cit.*, pp. 7-8.

<sup>27</sup> Anna Di Bartolomeo, Rezart Hoxhaj, Alessandra Venturini. *Immigrant integration in the EU: Employment, income, and education in "MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies in Europe"*, Kiel: Institute for World Economy, 2017, pp. 49-50.

<sup>28</sup> Zuzanna Hübschmann, *op.cit.*, p.44.

At the local level, there are a number of positive practices regarding the integration of migrants:

- In France, a solidarity network was set up to exchange good practice on receiving refugees and mobilizing citizens by launching the "European Solidarity Network" in October 2016;
- A very interesting initiative has been developed at the regional level in Scotland, called the "New Scottish Strategy", which aims to coordinate all the efforts of organizations involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers;
- In Luxembourg, the social inclusion process is built around a tool to promote the active involvement of migrants in Luxembourg society - Welcome and Integration Contract offered to all migrants residing in the country on a voluntary basis.<sup>29</sup>

Other approaches through multi-stakeholder cooperation appear to be successful in contributing to refugee inclusion through locally supported educational processes:

- Cities or districts that have a leading role in coordinating local and regional actors (as in Ghent, The Hague, and Antwerp, the Netherlands and Munich, Nuremberg and Berlin, Germany);
- Cooperation between the municipality, NGOs, and volunteers for the provision of informal and informal education (such as in Antwerp and Ghent, Belgium (Flanders), Gothenburg, Sweden, Helsinki, Finland and Hamburg, Germany);

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<sup>29</sup> \*\*\*Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, *Migration as an opportunity for European development*, Doc. 13974, Reference 4196 of 22 April 2016.



- Trade unions working together to provide funding for refugee education and the promotion of the right to education (as in Italy);
- Cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Schools, NGOs, and UNHCR in Romania to identify and meet the needs of refugee students (as in Bulgaria);
- Communication and cooperation with communities and parents to alleviate fears (such as in Antwerp, Belgium (Flanders) and The Hague, the Netherlands, Edinburgh, the United Kingdom, Nuremberg and Berlin, Germany and Athens, Greece).<sup>30</sup>

In order to understand the differences at the state level, one can also consult The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX),<sup>31</sup> which measures the national performance of migrant integration policies in their respective societies. The index analyzes the results of integration in eight main policy areas: labor market mobility, education, and political participation, access to citizenship, family reunification, health, permanent residence, and anti-discrimination. Despite differences between countries in different policy areas, high-performing EU Member States are Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain, while national policies in Malta, Slovakia, Lithuania, Cyprus, and Latvia show more little support for the integration of migrants into society. Overall, the key conclusions of MIPEX conclude that national policies are more coherent and

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<sup>30</sup> Claudia Koehler, *Continuity of learning for newly arrived refugee children in Europe NESET II ad hoc question No. 1/2017*, Vilnius, Public Policy and Management Institute, 2017, p. 27, <https://nesetweb.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Continuity-of-learning-for-newly-arrived-refugee-children-in-Europe.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.migpolgroup.com/old/diversity-integration/migrant-integration-policy-index/>

sustained for migrant employment, permanent residence, and protection from discrimination, as these issues are governed by common Community law. On the other hand, policies on social services for migrants (especially healthcare and education) and opportunities for political participation show less support for integration and differ significantly between the Member States.

### **Conclusions**

At the European level, in the last decade, there have been a number of significant trends in migratory flows due to events in other countries (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan), but also against a background of continuous demographic decline in the Member States. The measures adopted at the level of European structures certainly aimed at limiting migratory flows, but in balance, the emphasis was on identifying mechanisms for the integration of migrants. Certainly, the results of the policies and instruments adopted and used in implementation will require new integrative assessments that will generate the improvement of migrant integration systems, with a focus on the state and local levels.