Integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Social Partner Liaison Forum
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Overview

Inflows of asylum seekers/migrants
Integration challenges
EU policies on migration
DG EMPL activities
First time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by origin

1.3 million asylum seekers in 2015

Humanitarian migrants traditionally a small minority

New residence permits stable at 2.5 million, about 30% family reason, 25% work, 20% education

Net migration to EU about 1-1.5 million per year
Integration: shared challenge

Both refugees and other migrants face labour market difficulties – with gradual catch up

Employment rate by immigrant categories and duration of stay in EU countries, 2014

Source: DG EMPL based on EU-LFS 2014 ad hoc module

Integration drivers: language

Employment situation closely related to language skills

Source: DG EMPL calculations based on EU-LFS 2014 AHM
Integration: Member states are different

Employment rate by citizenship, 2014

Source: Eurostat. Age group: 20-64

Integration: Social challenge

Poverty and educational disadvantage, 2014

Source: EU SILC and EU LFS
Integration: also second generation

Employment rate of second generation, and gap compared to native, 2014

More need for skilled migration
- Ageing
- Global competition for talent
- Skills gaps

More concerns
- Still high unemployment
- Concerns about integration/radicalisation

Strong push factors
- Armed conflicts
- Climate change
- (Better transport and interconnectedness)

Source: extraction from EU LFS AHM 2014. Age group: 20-64
EU legal framework – some of it

**Asylum**
- Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33)
- Qualification Directive (2011/95)

**Legal migration**
- EU Blue Card Directive (2009/50)
- Seasonal workers Directive (2014/36)
- Intra-corporate transferees (2014/66)
- Students and researchers Directive
- Family reunification Directive (2003/86)
- Single permit Directive (2011/98)

Integration: cooperation

**EU cooperation on integration**
- European Agenda for Integration (2011)
- National Contact Points on Integration
- European Integration Forum (now Migration)
- Inter Service Group at Commission level (2015)
Integration: funding

EU funding

- Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

... a comprehensive EU answer

European agenda on migration

Reducing the incentives for irregular migration
Border management: saving lives and securing external borders
Europe’s duty to protect: a strong common asylum policy
A new policy on legal migration – EU Blue Card review
DG EMPL in integration

- A Member State's competence, but EU supports and incentivises

- Knowing that integration is a multidimensional process, we have a cross-cutting approach

- Our main focus:
  - Effective access to the labour market;
  - Skills assessment and recognition of qualification;
  - Access to language training, upskilling and on-the-job training;
  - Access to education;
  - Access to healthcare and housing;
  - Specific challenges for women and unaccompanied minors.

What DG EMPL does (1)

- Data gathering and policy mapping across the EU Member States on asylum seekers, refugees, as well as on integration of people with a migrant background (in collaboration with other DGs, expert networks, organisations)

- Promoting the exchange of best practices across Member States, e.g. through peer learning events as well as participating in the newly established ESF Transnational Cooperation Network on Migrants

- Collection and publication of “promising practices” in form of an online repository on: effective labour market integration and social inclusion, as well as assessment of skills and qualifications of refugees and asylum-seekers

- Coordinating (policy and funding) initiatives within DG EMPL and with other DGs
What DG EMPL does (2)

- **Increased focus in the framework of the European Semester** on integration challenges experienced by people with a migration background and by refugees
- **Contributing to the forthcoming Action Plan on Integration**
- **The forthcoming Skills Agenda** will include short- and medium-long-term measures for skills assessment and recognition of qualifications
- **Increased support to the Member States to better target available funds for the reception and integration of refugees and asylum seekers** (ESF, FEAD and synergies with AMIF, etc.)

Social partners are crucial

*Inclusion to the workplace, informing members*

*Training*

*Shaping policies*
- **Joint declaration on Tripartite Social Summit, 16 March 2016**
- **Engaging employers through information campaigns** (BE, UNIZO)
- **Mentoring for Migrants** (AT, WKÖ)
Thank you very much for your attention - and very interested to hear your views

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Some useful sources:
DG EMPL website
http://ec.europa.eu/social/
European Agenda on Migration:
European website on integration: https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/
European Migration Network:

Background slides
Population share of foreign born and their offspring, around 2013

Five crucial phases of the integration process:

1. Pre-departure/pre arrival
2. Arrival/early integration
3. Education and vocational training
4. Labour market integration
5. Active participation and social inclusion


Member states are different