

Committee: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Issue: Achieving compelling integration for economic migrants

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Position: Deputy President

Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Aspasia Boulougouri, I am a student at the Anavryta Model Lyceum in the 11th grade and I have the honor to serve as a Student Officer in the 3rd Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations. I would like to welcome you all to the Economic and Social Council, where international economic and social issues are discussed, and where I will be serving as one of your co-chairs and expert chair on the topic of achieving compelling integration for economic migrants. I am really excited about working with all of you and I hope that it will be an amazing experience.

The job of this study guide is to help you comprehend your country's policy on the matter and find effective and creative solutions to tackle the issue; however you should not base your entire research on the study guide but try to find more information about the topic by yourself.

In case any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact me at aspaboul2003@gmail.com.

Introduction to the topic

For the past few years, the amount of people leaving their country and crossing borders in search of a new home, job, safety and a better future has increased rapidly. This has put pressure on the political system, as it must control this situation. Part of this challenge is the integration of migrants.

Integration is a process in which the government has the ability to include migrants to the society, help them become active citizens and partake in the socioeconomic, political and/or cultural field. It is important to understand that integration is not limited to just the labor market but it must be succeeded in all parts of the migrants' lives such as education, the workplace etc.

Integration benefits not only the government, but also the immigrants themselves. On the one hand, the migrant workers can supplement business performance and productivity by bringing culturally unique and complementary skills. On the other hand, integration is vital for the well-being of migrants, as well as the security, stability and social harmony.

Definition of Key-Terms

Migrant: a person that travels to a different country or place, often in order to find work¹

Refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious, or social reasons²

Economic migrant: a person who leaves their home country to live in another country with better working or living conditions³

Host country: the country to which an immigrant has come⁴

Home country: the country a person comes from⁵

Guest worker programs: are meant to move workers from their country or region, for a specific amount of time, to a different country or region that has shortages in workforce. Guest workers usually perform agricultural, industrial, or domestic labor in countries, and they return home once their contract has expired.

Migrant worker: a foreigner admitted by the receiving state for the specific purpose of exercising an economic activity remunerated from within the receiving country. Their length of stay is usually restricted as is the type of employment they can hold.⁶

Naturalization: the act of making someone a legal citizen of a country that they were not born in⁷

Background Information

In order to understand how integration can be achieved, one must first understand migration as a whole. People may leave their home country or permanent living place for many reasons, such as economic, political or environmental. Thus there are different types of migrants: economic, political and environmental. In this issue we are mainly concerned about the integration of economic migrants.

Economic migration is defined as the movement of people from one country to another to benefit from greater economic opportunities. As a result, it is often assumed that such migration occurs

¹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/migrant>

² https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/refugee

³ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/economic-migrant>

⁴ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/host-country>

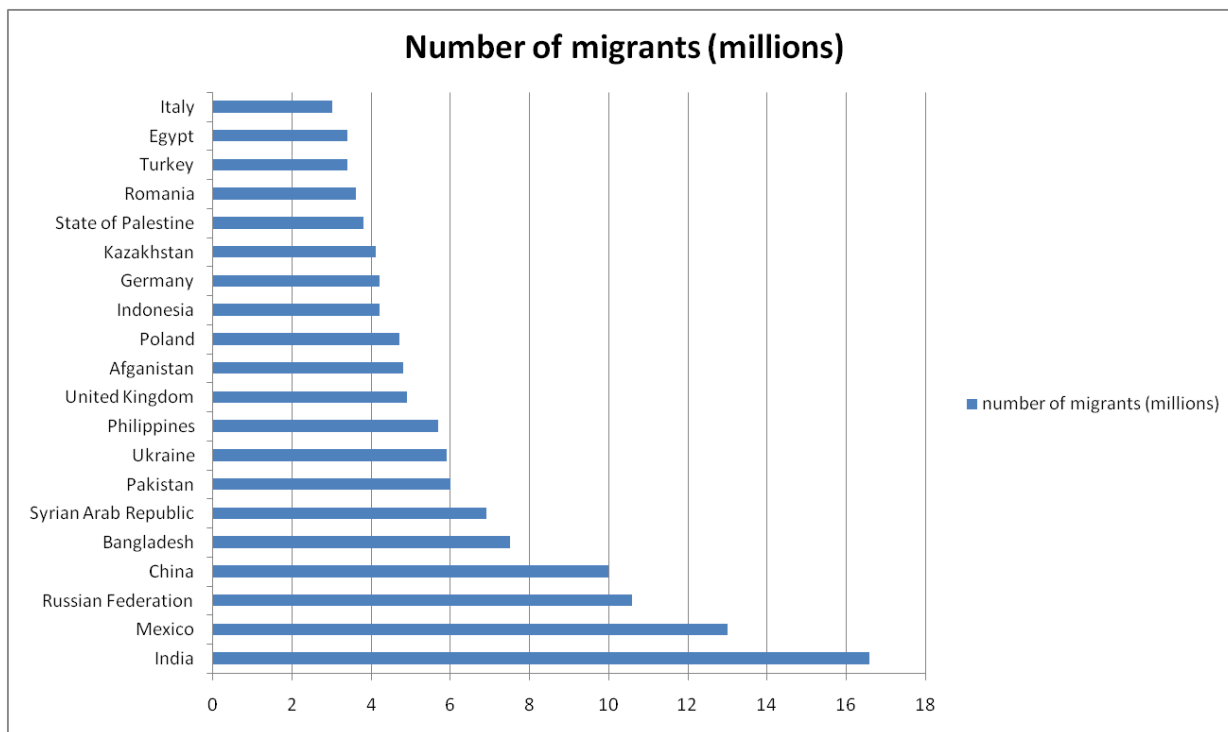
⁵ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/home-country>

⁶ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Migration insights 2018

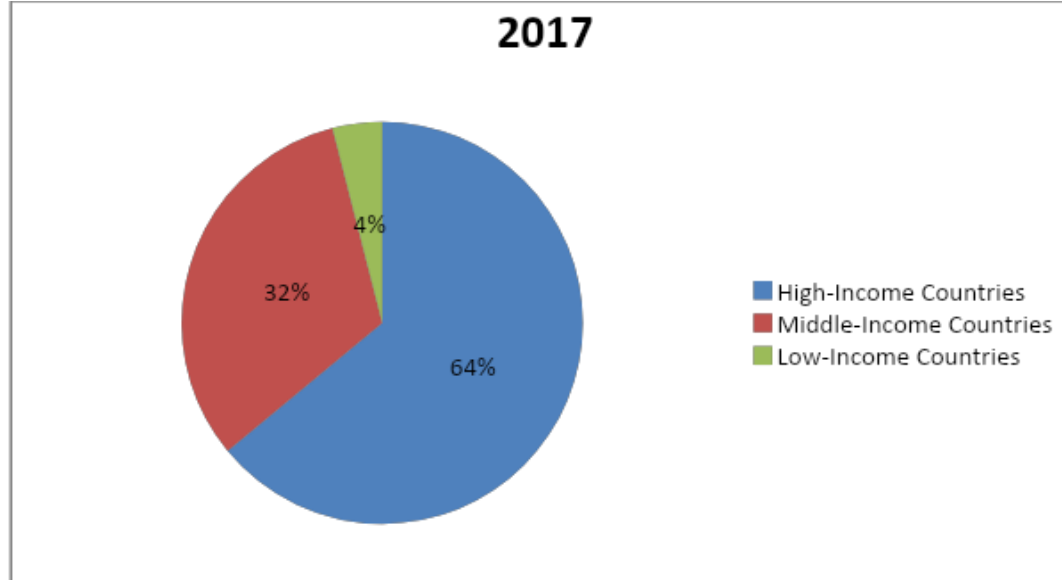
⁷ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/naturalization>

primarily from less economically developed countries (LEDCs) to the more economically developed countries (MEDCs).

As of 2017, the number of international migrants all over the globe reached almost 3.4% of the world's population, according to the UN Population Division. Over 60% of all migrants inhabit Asia (80 million) and Europe (78 million), while Northern America is hosting the third largest count of international migrants (58 million). Africa (25 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million) are coming next, and Oceania (8 million) is in the last place.



Percentage of international migrants by income group (United Nations, 2017)



Migrant integration

Successful integration is essential, not only with regards to the benefits gained from migration, but also for the well-being of migrants and the security, solidity, harmony and prosperity of society as a whole.

In 2011, out of a total of 143 countries with available data, governments of 88 countries (62%) had policies aimed at integrating non-nationals. From the MEDCs, 9 out of 10 governments had policies aiming to improve the integration of migrants, in comparison to less than half (47%) of governments in LEDCs. The proportion of governments with integration policies for migrants, ranged from 39% in Africa, 45% in Asia, 93% in Europe and 100% in Northern America.

For a more rounded approach, integration is ought to be combined with a range of other major policies, such as employment and labour market policy, public health, education, naturalization, regional development and security, as well as the protection of human rights.

To measure the success of integration, one must look at the three sets of fundamental rights: civil, social and political. Civil rights generally concern rights necessary for individual freedom, such as freedom of speech, thought and faith. Social rights involve the right to a minimum standard of living and to a fair share of the economic welfare and social security benefits. They also include the right to education and health. Political rights refer to the right to participate in decision-making processes, such as voting in local and national elections.

As far as social and economic rights of foreign residents are concerned, the majority of countries have established minimum standards. Even so, granting political rights is largely restrained for citizens.

For compelling integration, comprehensive and coherent policy approaches based on partnerships between states and various stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations and migrants themselves, are required. Integration services ought to facilitate access to health care, education and employment, and seek to ensure migrants' social and economic inclusion. When there is a "whole-of-community" approach and a clear understanding of expectations and obligations from all involved, both the migrants and the host society, integration policies are more effective. Access to basic services requires being combined with states' efforts to prepare local communities for the appearance of newcomers, explore common ground between migrants and hosts and establish an overall empowering environment for migrants to reach their full potential and become active members of their receiving societies. In addition, discrimination, xenophobic attitudes and abuse from local communities is an obstacle to successful integration that must be overcome.

Different tactics of integration:

a) Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism is the method with which a society copes with cultural diversity at national and community standard, when it includes people of different races, ethnicities, and nationalities coexisting in the same community. In such communities, people retain, celebrate and share their unique cultural ways of life, languages, traditions and behaviors.

Supporters of cultural diversity debate that it makes humanity more resilient and can be crucial for its long-term survival. They also believe that people should retain some features of their traditional cultures. Opponents, however, say that multiculturalism threatens the social order by diminishing the identity and influence of the predominant culture.

The primary theories or models of multiculturalism, as the manner in which different cultures are integrated into a single society, are two. One of them suggests that various immigrant groups will tend to "melt together", abandoning their individual cultures and eventually becoming fully assimilated into the predominant society. This model has been criticized for reducing diversity, causing people to lose their traditions, and for having to be enforced through governmental policy. The second theory of multiculturalism describes a heterogeneous society in which people coexist, but retain some of their unique characteristics, as it is not necessary for people to give up their cultural heritage in order to be considered members of the dominant society.

Some countries that have adopted the multiculturalism are: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America

b) Assimilation

Assimilation is defined as the process in which individuals or groups of differing ethnic heritage are absorbed into a society's dominant culture, with or without biological unification. The procedure of assimilating includes the adaptation of traits of the dominant culture to such amounts, that the assimilating group becomes socially interchangeable from the rest. Assimilation may be obliged through force or undertaken voluntarily, however it is uncommon for a minority group to replace its previous cultural practices completely.

Historically, there have been numerous attempts to compel minority groups to assimilate, for instance during the European colonial empires of the previous centuries.

Supporters accept cultural assimilation as a natural and inevitable correlate of civilization, progress and development. Non-supporters, however, view assimilation as a political decision, usually by a government violating human rights.

Some countries that use this method are the Netherlands, China and India.

Multi-level governance

To achieve integration, cities often use flexible, multi-level mechanisms to co-ordinate integration measures and share objectives across levels of government. Higher levels of government encourage municipalities to design and implement a more local approach. Formal multi-level governance tools, such as platforms for dialogue and information sharing, incentives for co-ordination, priority selection and performance achievement, contracts across levels can influence local policy makers' attitudes towards inclusion, orient their priorities and build capacities for better integration policies outcomes. Cities often outsource some measures to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in different integration policy areas, such as language acquisition, housing and access to jobs, health, or cultural activities, in response to migrants' particular needs. NGOs can also assist those migrants that municipalities might not be able to reach, due to their more specific expertise with the public.

Naturalization

Naturalization is the final step of integration, since it is the result of migrants' successful integration into the host society. There are socio-economic achievements in the naturalization process, as well as direct benefits in the labour market. Legal provisions that allow immigrants to become naturalized citizens under certain conditions exist in most countries. In some, however, prerequisites for naturalization are overly restrictive for migrants. The criteria for acquisition of citizenship vary from country to country.

Social cohesion

Social cohesion has to do with the solidarity and harmony among groups in society. It consists of two main factors: the sense of belonging to a community and the relationships among members

in the community. It originates from the effort to secure social balance and national identity to found a system of equity and to avoid social fractures. It indicates people's need for personal development and links together personal freedom and social justice, financial efficiency and pluralism and common rules for resolving all conflicts.

The importance of data

Integration refers to different policies and various aspects of migrants' lives, thus data on migrant integration cover a wide range of information, including integration into the economic, social, cultural, and political spheres of society, the discrimination they face, the effect of policies on migrants' inclusion and the public perception for migrants and immigration. Migrants' living conditions, their outcomes in the labour market or education are crucial aspects that need to be considered. For instance, precise information on migrants' employment rates and the degree to which their qualifications are recognized and adequately used in their host communities can be helpful in constructing systematic integration approaches.

Censuses and household surveys are the primary sources for migrant data, particularly labour force surveys and living conditions surveys. They can be utilized to measure migrant integration across a wide spectrum. Key areas include:

- Labour market (e.x. employment rates, wages, occupation and over qualification rate);
- Education (e.x. highest level of education attainment, dropout rate and skills);
- Health (e.x. life expectancy);
- Social inclusion (e.x. property ownership, child poverty and social exclusion)
- Civic inclusion (e.x. voting rights, representation in the political arena, public employment and naturalization rate);
- Cultural inclusion (e.x. customs, traditions, language and religion);
- Financial inclusion (e.x. banking, savings and insurance);
- Role of media (e.x. diversity in public service media).

Major countries and organizations involved

China

While migrants have played a crucial role in China's economic growth since the 1980s, their reception in urban centres has not been easy. The reaction of national and municipal governments to migration has been a series of regulatory strategies. The perception of migrants is very negative, both by the public and the media. Thus, the general response to migration has been separation. The hukou system, with its negative outcomes for migrant life, can fit the official rhetoric of a temporary floating population, but while many migrants have returned to their home place and more will follow, others seem to have longer-term ambitions. Meanwhile,

institutional and other barriers seriously hinder their integration. With huge numbers of migrants, limited integration in the long run can threaten social stability.

European Union

In European Union integration has to be combined with the respect for the migrants' basic values. Immigration is a permanent feature of the European society. If the flow of immigrants is orderly and well-managed, Member States reap many benefits. These include stronger economies, greater social cohesion and an increased sense of security. Taken together and across all Member States, these benefits advance the European process and strengthen the Union's standing in the world. A critical aspect of managing migration is the successful integration of migrants and their children. Simultaneously, successful immigration policy can contribute to the success of integration policy. Also, employment plays a key role for the integration process and is fundamental to the participation of migrants.

United Kingdom

The emphasis of the UK government's policy is on migration and border control, rather than integration. Until very recently, there were over 50 schemes under which people could enter the UK to work. These are seen to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in transparency, and new policies are being implemented which aim to "facilitate easier migration for the skilled, to limit entry by the less skilled, and to boost public confidence in the migration system". The United Kingdom is one of the most difficult countries to settle in permanently and become citizens.

United States of America

In the United States immigration law has been based on the following principles: reunification of families, acknowledging immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, protecting refugees and promoting diversity. Immigrants are benefitted from work-related and training programs certified by the Congress. Most importantly, strong anti-discrimination laws protect all residents. Lastly, the White House's Task Force for New Americans decided, in 2015, a Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant & Refugee Integration, called "Strengthening communities by welcoming all residents."

Canada

Canada is considered to be one of the world's most welcoming migrant destinations and is often held up as a model for immigration policies in multicultural democracies, with more than one of every five Canadian residents foreign born. Canada's approach to immigration and integration has evolved over the years to adjust to alterations. Canadian migrant integration is based on three distinct sets of policies: helping migrants integrate through language and workforce

training and other services, urging them to become citizens and aiding their full participation in society through multiculturalism.

Russian Federation

For the Russian Federation, immigration is not a free choice. It is necessary for sustaining the population. However, the integration of the massive wave of migrants with different languages, cultures and norms that have invaded Russia, constitutes a challenging task. Many foreigners are long-term migrants, who live there permanently and are actually integrated into the society. However, it is important to mention that most migrants have no access to social services and advantages in Russia, apart from a small group with permanent residence permits.

In Russia a complex system of regulations and labor market access rules has been developed. The movement of migrants inside the country, where they live, the access to the Russian labor market and many more, are determined by their residence status and their country of citizenship.

Germany

Germany reported the largest total number of immigrants in 2017 and simultaneously the highest number of emigrants in 2017. To integrate the population, the government have so far set up two integration plans. The National Integration Plan of 2007 focused on education, training, employment, and cultural integration, while the National Action Plan on Integration of 2012 created instruments to render the results of the integration policy measurable and included general objectives, timeframes, as well as indicators to verify the attainment of the set goals:

- optimising individual support provided to young migrants,
- improving the recognition of foreign degrees,
- increasing the share of migrants in the civil service of federal and state governments and
- providing health care to migrants.

Timeline of events

Date	Description of the event
1950s-1970s	<p>Flows of migrant workers from Southern Europe and Ireland to the industrial centers of Western and Central Europe, often under a regime of bilateral agreements.</p> <p>Immigration waves related to colonial ties, stemming from the process of decolonization and involving mainly</p>

	<p>North and Central Africa, South-Southeast Asia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the UK.</p> <p>Immigration waves from North Africa and Turkey under the guest-worker programs implemented primarily by Austria, Germany and Switzerland.</p>
1970s - 1990s	<p>Permanent settlement of immigrant workers, due to an end in guest worker programs.</p> <p>Immigration of low skilled workers from North Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe generated by demand in service and domestic sectors.</p>
1990s - 2010s	<p>The stabilization and enlargement of the European Union's regime of free movement facilitated the mobility of workers and caused migration flows from Central and Eastern Europe to Western and Southern Europe.</p> <p>New waves of migration from North and Central Africa, Latin America and Asia to Southern Europe.</p>
2015	<p>Migrants from Syria, Afganistan, Iraq, Kosovo and many more countries in war-state, towards European countries.</p>

Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

[International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families:](#)

The Convention adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990 is an international treaty that aims to protect migrant workers' rights. It highlights the connection between migration and human rights and wishes to establish minimum labor standards for migrants across all countries.

Global Migration Group: The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group, established by the Secretary-General, aiming at bringing together agencies in order to promote a more

extensive application of all of relevance international and regional instruments pertaining to migration, and to encourage all Member States to adopt more coherent, extensive and greater approaches to the issue of international migration.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda:

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, urges all Member States to ensure that migration is governed with respect for human rights and to facilitate migrant integration, while proposing measures that minimize the migration costs.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

In 2015, 17 goals and 169 targets were designed and adopted by all Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out 15 years for them to be achieved. As a result, the issue of migration has been intruded in the international forum and recognizes the link between international migration and development. The contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development is recognized, as well as the international dimension of the issue. At least 10 out of the 169 targets include references that directly tackle the issues regarding migrants and migration.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Global Commission on International Migration

The Global Commission on International Migration is the first-ever universal panel coping with international migration and was officially initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General. In order to promote an all-inclusive debate on international migration, the Commission reviewed policy approaches, conducted research and collected and disseminated migration-related information. The Global Commission on International Migration completed its task on 31 December 2005.

Across many European countries, until the late 1980s, migrant policies were mainly group-specific, aimed at preparing 'guest workers' to return to their countries of origin. Since the 1990s, however, 'mainstreaming' mechanisms, meaning inserting migration as a parameter in universal public service policies, have ensured that more 'migrant-sensitive' public services have been established.

Possible solutions

To achieve the compelling integration of migrants, governments ought to dive deep into the issue and design a multi-faceted approach, covering education, labour, health, housing, economic development, etc.

Education of migrants

Education plays a key role in helping learn the local language and skills, but also provides social and cultural bridges to native communities. However, the extent to which education should encourage young migrants to culturally “integrate” is a hotly debated issue. What can education systems do to help young migrants fulfill their potential? Efforts may begin early in pre-school education, taking advantage of young children’s unique language-learning abilities to give them a head start in acquiring the local language. Later on, schools may support migrant children through designated preparatory classes, although there is much debate over the duration of such classes before children enter mainstream schooling. In several countries, young migrants may go through relatively brief and separate intense programmes of language learning before transferring to the mainstream school system. In others, they are allowed to attend classes in parallel with extra language classes.

Training of migrants

Migrants and the economies of the host countries can both benefit from ensuring that migrants are able to make the best use of their human capital. That is why governments in many countries have introduced programmes and initiatives to encourage migrant employment. These may involve supplying language tutoring, setting up mentoring systems and initiating activity to recognize overseas qualifications, as well as information programmes that provide practical advice and describe the country’s jurisdictional systems. Such approaches and correlated policies are most efficient when designed to address specific conditions, taking into account migrant characteristics, duration of stay and general socioeconomic trends in the host country.

Preparation of the host society

The education of the receiving communities on the positive contributions of migrants, as well as the benefits of living and working together in multi-cultural settings, must not be forgotten. Open and transparent dialogue on the benefits and challenges of integration among all actors can help to reduce misperception, battle xenophobia and racism and foster a sense of common understanding.

All-inclusive approaches

Furthermore, gender-sensitive approaches to integration are crucial as a person's sex and gender shape every stage of their migration experience, since women and men may deal with diverge obstacles due to societal expectations and prejudices regarding their perceived roles in society.

Coordination between all sectors

Recently, many countries have had to intensify and adapt to their existing migrant integration services, but co-ordination and funds have been a difficult task. There has been reported a lack of co-ordination between central governments, local authorities and emergency reception facilities. Many cities also encountered structural difficulties in public service delivery and housing for migrants. Designing city spaces to promote community, interconnected lives and a common sense of belonging is critical. Furthermore, local authorities play a vital role in integration. Communities can learn from each other and the data collected help to provide policy makers and practitioners with better evidence for integration policy design, while also contributing to monitoring and evaluating programmes and schemes.

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