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Promoting Entrepreneurship among Young People with Migrant Background, focusing on the Trade of Natural Products

Policy Brief Recommendations: Migrants and Migration (Policy Brief 1)

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Executive Summary

The comprehensive policy briefs from the project "Promoting Entrepreneurship among Young People with Migrant Background, focusing on the Trade of Natural Products" delve into the multifaceted challenges and opportunities faced by migrants in Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Spain. While each brief focuses on the unique context of its respective country, they collectively underscore the critical need for enhanced integration strategies, legal and regulatory improvements, and stronger EU collaboration to support migrants effectively. The briefs highlight the importance of addressing integration, access to services, and social cohesion, alongside leveraging the economic contributions of migrants to foster socio-economic development across these nations.





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Introduction

Migration presents both significant challenges and opportunities for Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Spain, each facing unique circumstances due to their geographical locations, historical contexts, and socio-economic conditions. These policy briefs aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the current migration situation in each country, identifying key challenges such as integration barriers, access to services, and social inclusion, as well as opportunities like labor market contributions and cultural enrichment. The briefs serve as a crucial resource for stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, and the EU, offering actionable recommendations to improve the integration and well-being of migrants, thereby contributing to the socio-economic and demographic well-being of each country.





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Cyprus

Executive Summary

The Cyprus Policy Brief addresses the critical challenges and opportunities presented by the current migration and refugee crisis. With its strategic geographical location, Cyprus serves as a key gateway to Europe for migrants and asylum seekers. This brief highlights the need for comprehensive integration strategies, improved legal frameworks, and enhanced collaboration with EU guidelines to support migrants in their new homes effectively.

Introduction

The high number of asylum applications in Cyprus can be attributed to its geographical location, as it serves as a gateway to Europe for migrants and asylum seekers coming from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The audience of this Policy Brief includes both international Refugee and Migrant Organizations, as well as those that operate specifically in Cyprus. The main objective of this Policy Brief is to inform Refugee and Migrant Organizations about the current state of the migrant crisis in Cyprus and highlight the challenges that refugees and migrants face. Additionally, it aims to promote opportunities for adjustment in their new homes.

Background

The strategic location of Cyprus has made it a significant hub for migration, with people coming from various countries and regions. Historically, Cyprus has seen waves of migration due to its proximity to neighboring countries and its role as a gateway to Europe. The island's geographical position to the south of the Anatolian peninsula and west of the Syrian coast has led to migration flows from these regions. Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians have sought refuge in Cyprus due to the ongoing conflicts in their home countries. Additionally, migrants from Egypt have also used Cyprus as a transit point to reach Europe. Since Cyprus is divided into two parts, the Greek Orthodox-majority Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with a Muslim population, the island has also experienced migration between these two regions. People from both sides have moved across the buffer zone for various reasons, including employment, family reunification, or to escape conflict.

This increase in political asylum applications and the arrival of unaccompanied minors in Cyprus have posed significant challenges for the country. As a relatively small nation with limited resources and capacity, Cyprus has had to grapple with the increasing demand for services and support for asylum seekers. The majority of asylum seekers in Cyprus come from countries experiencing conflict and political instability, such as Syria,



India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. This highlights the push factors that drive people to seek refuge in Cyprus. The country's geographical location as the easternmost EU member state also plays a role, as it serves as a gateway for migrants and refugees entering Europe.

The legal framework governing migration issues includes the Law on Foreigners and Immigration of 1952, which regulates aspects of their stay on national soil, including their entry and eventual departure. In 2017, Parliament approved an amendment to this law, bringing it into line with international law and the European Directive 2014/36/EU on seasonal workers as well as the European Directive 2014/66/EU on intra-corporate transfers. The Cypriot Refugee Act (2000) enhanced protection for this category. This legislation stipulates the right of refugees to access education and, in particular, provides for access to all levels of the education system in the case of minors and the possibility of obtaining recognized school certificates and diplomas and/or degrees in the case of refugees of legal age.

Analysis of the Issue

Ways and means to enhance the positive role of migration have been highlighted in several of the Parliamentary Assembly's reports and resolutions, in particular in the recent Resolution 2124 (2016), Resolution 2006 (2015) and Resolution 1972 (2014). Europe faces an ageing problem. In the long run this will weigh on the potential of Europe as a global player, and under current demographic projections it will affect all European countries. Migration can help to counterbalance the drag of ageing and to support much needed productivity growth – but migration can help to improve only to some extent the demographic situation of Europe. All this requires an appropriate policy response. Europe should strengthen quickly its rescue, humanitarian assistance and integration capacity. Beyond intolerable human and social costs for migrants, costs of non-integration could be significant for Europe and its citizens. Many European countries, especially members of the European Union, are experiencing shortages in the labour force in a number of sectors of the economy, including farming, construction, hospitality, catering, information technology and financial services, which are partially covered by the migrant labour force. Migrants are also more willing to take the jobs which are not attractive to the local population, especially in sectors such as cleaning, catering and domestic work for women, and agricultural work, construction, and semi-skilled jobs in manufacturing for men. Migration provides important potential for the development of the private sector. Migrants are very interested in creating commercial links with their countries of origin and are sharing innovative ideas with private companies on how to fill gaps in the market and how to better profit from existing opportunities.



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Policy Recommendations

1. On a national level, there should be a collaboration between policy makers and migrant organizations in order to ensure that migrants are not confronted with extreme legal and administrative barriers, which very often force them into the shadow economy, where they can be exploited and experience violence and abuse.
2. It is of high priority to pursue an immediate adjustment of migrants to the education system in the hosting country, as most of the times newly arrived migrants encounter more difficulties in finding a job than settled migrants as they lack the language skills of the host country, experience problems with recognition of their diplomas, are frequently overqualified and enter into competition with native-born people who, in many European countries, have priority in employment over migrants.
3. Labour legislation should include a simplified procedure for skilled workers whose qualifications respond to the economic needs of the European market. As regards low-skilled employment areas; this sector is very poorly regulated in many European countries, especially in relation to the employment of domestic workers. It would be important to develop common European standards on the employment of migrants for these types of jobs.
4. Particular attention should be paid to the situation of asylum seekers and refugees. They often face administrative restrictions in accessing the labour market, in particular in becoming self-employed.

Conclusion

In this Policy Brief, there is a summary of the recent state of the migrant crisis in Cyprus. There is also a view of the needs and the challenges that Europe faces connected with that crisis. Finally, there are some recommendations for action for Migrant Organisations as an effort to ensure that migrants and refugees adjust easily in their new homes. Within this Brief, we also refer to the benefits of taking a holistic and dynamic approach to migration, as migrants can enhance local and national economies, can replace locals in multiple jobs and can bring life to their new countries.



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Greece

Executive Summary

This policy brief aims to shed light on the current migrant situation in Greece, highlighting the challenges faced by migrants and the Greek society, as well as the potential opportunities for both. It provides actionable recommendations to improve the integration of migrants into Greek society, ensuring mutual benefits.

Introduction

Greece, due to its geographical location at the southeastern border of Europe, has been significantly impacted by recent migration movements. The country serves as one of the primary entry points for migrants and refugees entering the European Union from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. As of December 2023, Greece hosts over 100,000 migrants, with the majority originating from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. According to their legal status, 40% are recognized refugees, 30% are asylum seekers, and the remaining 30% are economic migrants.

This brief aims to inform stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, and the EU, about the current challenges and opportunities presented by migration in Greece. It is important to acknowledge Greece's long history of migration, both as a receiving and sending country, and its recent economic crisis which has impacted its capacity to manage the influx of migrants.

Background

Greece has experienced significant migrant arrivals, particularly since the onset of the Syrian Civil War in 2011. The country's reception and identification centers, especially on the Aegean islands, have been overwhelmed, leading to overcrowding and inadequate living conditions. Despite efforts to manage these challenges, Greece continues to face issues related to integration, access to services, and social cohesion.

Analysis of the Issue

The migrant situation in Greece presents both challenges and opportunities.

Challenges:

- *Strain on resources:* The influx of migrants has placed a significant strain on public resources, particularly in healthcare and education systems, according to a 2020 report by the European Migration Network (EMN). The report highlights the need for increased funding and improved coordination between national and local



authorities to ensure adequate service provision for both migrants and the host community.

- *Social integration:* Many migrants face difficulties integrating into Greek society due to language barriers, cultural differences, and limited access to employment opportunities. The unemployment rate among migrants is significantly higher than that of native Greeks, as noted in a recent brief by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The brief emphasizes the importance of investing in language training, skills development, and targeted employment programs to facilitate the integration of migrants into the labor market.
- *Rise of anti-immigrant sentiment:* The economic crisis and social challenges associated with migration have contributed to the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment and xenophobia in some segments of Greek society. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has documented an increase in hate crimes and discriminatory practices targeting migrants in Greece. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that combines law enforcement measures, public awareness campaigns, and initiatives promoting social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

Opportunities:

- *Labor market contribution:* Migrants have the potential to fill labor shortages in specific sectors like agriculture, tourism, and caregiving, which are crucial for the Greek economy. The EU Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Migration and Home Affairs emphasizes the need for policies that facilitate the recognition of migrants' skills and qualifications, enabling them to contribute more effectively to the labor market.
- *Cultural enrichment:* Migrants bring cultural diversity and dynamism to Greek society, fostering innovation and social exchange. This is highlighted in a report by the Council of Europe's Intercultural Dialogue Platform, which encourages the promotion of intercultural understanding and appreciation as a key factor in fostering social cohesion and inclusive societies.
- *Demographic balance:* Migration can help to address the issue of the aging population in Greece by contributing to a more balanced demographic structure. As noted in a recent study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), effective integration policies can ensure that migration contributes positively to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of Greece.



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Policy Recommendations

1) *Enhance Integration Programs:*

Develop comprehensive integration programs targeting youth, women, and other vulnerable groups, focusing on:

- Greek language education to facilitate communication and access to services.
- Employment training and job placement assistance to connect migrants with available job opportunities.
- Cultural exchange programs to promote understanding and social cohesion between migrants and the host community.

Explore public-private partnerships and EU funding to support the development and implementation of these programs.

2) *Strengthen Asylum and Reception Processes:*

- Encourage the improvement of living conditions in reception centers, ensuring adequate sanitation, healthcare, and access to basic necessities, as outlined in the EU Reception Conditions Directive.

3) *Promote Social Cohesion:*

- Implement initiatives aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue, such as workshops, community events, and media campaigns promoting tolerance and understanding.
- Encourage the Greek government to address hate speech and discriminatory practices effectively, upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals, as emphasized in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

4) *Leverage EU Support:*

- Encourage Greece to actively utilize EU funds available for:
 - Co-funding integration programs for migrants.
 - Investing in infrastructure development in areas with high migrant populations, such as housing and healthcare facilities.
- Advocate for a more equitable distribution of asylum seekers across EU member states to alleviate the burden on Greece, as proposed in the EU New Pact on Migration and Asylum.



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Conclusion

Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities presented by migration in Greece requires a long-term and holistic approach. This includes targeted national policies, effective cooperation with the EU, and ongoing efforts to promote social cohesion and inclusion. Through these efforts, Greece can achieve a more sustainable and positive approach to migration management, benefiting both migrants and the host community.





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Turkey

Executive Summary:

This policy brief addresses key issues related to migration in Türkiye, emphasizing the challenges and opportunities that emerge from current migration trends. As Türkiye plays a crucial role in managing migration flows, the recommendations provided aim to improve integration strategies, support mechanisms for refugees, and align policies with EU guidelines. Ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable approach to migration will not only benefit the individuals involved but also contribute to the socio-economic development of Türkiye.

Introduction:

Migration is a critical issue in Türkiye, with significant implications for social cohesion and economic development. Türkiye's strategic geographic location has made it a significant player in managing migration flows. This policy brief aims to address the challenges and opportunities associated with migration, outlining key recommendations to enhance current policies. It is intended for policymakers, governmental agencies, and stakeholders involved in shaping migration strategies.

From a perspective of the migration-development nexus, Türkiye is currently considered as both a destination country and country of origin for migrants. Hence, both the socioeconomic integration of refugees and legal immigrants, as well as the linkages between Türkiye and Turkish citizens living abroad and diaspora are highly relevant in the Turkish context. While the effective integration of migrants into the Turkish economy is significant for development, the contributions that Turkish citizens living abroad and diaspora can make to the development of Türkiye through their network relations, the implications of these networks on relations between Türkiye and -host countries as well as other factors such as remittances are equally important in the migration-development nexus.

In the past decade, Türkiye's main approach to the migration-development nexus and related policies focused on four areas, namely development sensitive migration –attracting talent and attaining skills, utilizing capacities and networks of Turkish citizens abroad and diaspora, socio-economic harmonization of refugees in Türkiye, and effective governance and cooperation for migration-development and levelling down adverse effects of illegal and excessive migration.



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Background:

Türkiye has experienced complex migration trends due to geopolitical factors, resulting in the presence of a diverse migrant population. Recent developments highlight the need for effective policies that address the challenges of integration, access to education and healthcare, and social inclusion. The background section provides a detailed overview of these issues, supported by relevant data and statistics.

Migration in Türkiye has been shaped by various factors, including geopolitical dynamics and humanitarian crises. Recent developments have highlighted the need for comprehensive approaches to address the diverse needs of migrants. Data and statistics underscore the scale of migration and the importance of effective policy responses.

Analysis of the Issue:

The analysis section delves into the interconnected nature of migration challenges and opportunities. It explores how issues such as integration, social cohesion, and economic contributions are intertwined. Insights from EU policies are considered, emphasizing the importance of aligning national strategies with European guidelines to create a more harmonized approach to migration management.

Policy Recommendations:

To address the identified challenges, this section offers actionable policy recommendations. Recommendations include developing comprehensive integration strategies that focus on education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Support mechanisms for refugees are highlighted, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts with international partners. All recommendations are designed to align with EU guidelines while considering the unique needs and context of Türkiye.

1. Further advancing the socio-economic integration of migrants, including the close to 4 million Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye, should be a priority of migration and development policy-making in 2021. This will not only contribute to the overall development as well as sustainable and inclusive growth of Türkiye, but will also improve the well-being of migrant communities and social cohesion in the society. Improving business support services for migrant businesses as well as re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives for migrant communities should also be important policy directions in 2021. Decreasing informality and encouraging formal employment of migrants will be crucial for their socio-economic integration as well as their overall contribution to the Turkish economy. Through a major EU funded project (Enhancer) promoting



entrepreneurship, ICMPD is providing support to Türkiye for the work in the area of socio economic integration of Syrians under temporary protection.

2. To attract international talent, it will be essential to develop policies to manage labour migration in line with health protection measures in the short term. For this purpose, it will be vital for Türkiye to determine the target migrant groups in line with its legal migration strategy and develop necessary plans and policies to attract these groups.
3. To counter the alienation and ghettoization of migrants in urban spaces, public services including transportation, the organization of public spaces and public events must include measures to facilitate inclusion and mobility for migrant groups. This will be particularly important as in most cases, the migrant communities work in jobs that do not allow them to telecommute, increasing the health risks related to their employment.

Additionally, a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach is needed in order to strengthen the coordination between relevant central and local stakeholders in order to facilitate sustainable, evidence-based and development-sensitive migration policy development. ICMPD is specifically focusing on increasing institutional knowledge and the formulation of migration policies at the regional level taking into account the local dynamics while maintaining an open dialogue with the central level actors. As migration and development nexus is a multilayered topic and beg for the involvement of multiple actors, it is crucial to bring all relevant parties around the same table. This in itself is both a challenge and opportunity in the field of migration and development.

To address the challenges of migration in Türkiye, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Implement comprehensive integration strategies to support the social inclusion of migrants.
2. Enhance access to essential services, including healthcare and education, for migrant populations.
3. Strengthen collaboration with EU partners to align migration policies with international standards.
4. Promote intercultural awareness and diversity to foster a more inclusive society.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this policy brief underscores the significance of implementing effective migration policies for the socio-economic development of Türkiye. By adopting the



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provided recommendations, policymakers can contribute to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for migrants, ensuring their successful integration into Turkish society. Addressing the complex issues related to migration in Türkiye is essential for promoting social cohesion and sustainable development. By implementing the recommended policies and strategies, Türkiye can create a more inclusive environment for migrants, contributing to the overall well-being of society.





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Italy

Executive Summary

Migration in Italy presents both challenges and opportunities, with a notable impact on the economy, society, and demographic dynamics. While issues such as unsafe sea arrivals, language barriers, and political debates exist, migrants contribute significantly to the labor market, cultural diversity, and addressing demographic challenges. Recognising the need for inclusive policies, the European Commission's action plan emphasises education, language acquisition, and equal access to healthcare. To exploit the benefits and address challenges, comprehensive language and cultural integration programs, targeted skill development initiatives, and accessible healthcare services are recommended. Additionally, collaboration with various stakeholders, including the private sector and NGOs, is crucial for successful integration.

Introduction

The subject of immigration has always been of great importance to Italy, given its direct connection to the sea and its centrality in Europe.

After a steady increase in the 2010s, the Covid-19 pandemic slowed the flow to resume soon after the end of restrictions. In addition, Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022 led to a record influx of refugees. Although public attention is often focused on newly arrived migrants, they represent only a small part of the overall migrant population.

These phenomena bring attention to the social, cultural, economic and legislative consequences they entail.

This policy brief is thus intended for policymakers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and stakeholders actively engaged in shaping policies related to migration, education, healthcare, and housing in Italy. The recommendations provided aim to guide decision-makers in implementing inclusive strategies that enhance the overall integration of migrants, contributing to the socio-economic and demographic well-being of the country.

Background

Between 2010 and 2023 the resident population in Italy decreased by 840,000 (-1.4 %). In the period considered, the trend of the foreign presence (+1.2 million; +31.6%) has partially offset the constant reduction in the population with Italian citizenship.

In 2020, measures to counter the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic significantly affected migration to and from abroad, leading to a decrease in migration flows. After that, Italy saw an increase in the presence of non-EU foreigners.



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As of 1 January 2023, there were 3,7 million non-EU citizens with a regular residence permit in Italy. About 30% of non-EU citizens (1.1 million) come from an Asian country; the 30.5% (1 million) have the citizenship of an African country.

With just over 1 million residents (21.5% of the total number of foreigners present), the Romanian community represents the national community with the largest number of residents.

Moroccan and Albanian communities (both with around 420,000 residents represent the two largest non-EU communities.

The increase in migration flows in 2023 compared to previous years is also due to the Ukrainian crisis. As of February 2023, around 170,000 Ukrainian refugees entered Italy. The Ukrainian collectivity, surpassing the Chinese one, ranks third in number of presences after the Moroccan and Albanian ones.

Analysis of the Issue

Immigration in Italy constitutes a source of both challenges and opportunities.

Main challenges:

- Italy has been a major entry point for migrants arriving by sea, often in unsafe conditions;
- The integration of migrants into Italian society poses challenges related to language barriers (that are fewer for migrants who arrived in Italy before the age of 15 and were educated in the country), cultural differences, and consequently access to education and employment;
- Migration has been a controversial issue in Italian politics, with debates on the appropriate response, border controls, and the role of the European Union (EU).

Key Opportunities:

- Migrants represent an asset in the labor market, particularly in sectors with labor shortages and lack of specific competences. Their contributions can positively impact economic growth. There are 2.4 million foreign employees in Italy, accounting for 10.3% of the total employed;
- Embracing cultural diversity can bring about social and economic benefits, fostering innovation and creativity within society;
- Italy faces demographic challenges, including an aging population and low birth rates. Migration can help address these demographic imbalances.

The impact of immigration issues and benefits in Italy are mutually reinforcing. Successful integration addresses economic and demographic concerns, while policy decisions shape the context in which integration occurs.



As stated in the *action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027* by the European Commission, the way to tackle the issues above is to promote inclusive education and training across all stages, from early childhood to higher education, emphasizing the swift acknowledgment of qualifications and language acquisition. EU funds play a crucial role in providing support for these initiatives.

The aim is to enhance employment prospects and facilitate the recognition of skills, ensuring the full appreciation of migrant communities' contributions, with a specific emphasis on empowering women. Achieving equal access to healthcare services for individuals born outside the EU is a priority, along with facilitating the exchange of best practices among Member States. The Commission encourages the use of European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund Plus, Asylum and Migration Fund, and Invest EU to fund adequate and affordable housing initiatives. Additionally, there is an emphasis on sharing experiences at the national, local, and regional levels to address housing challenges, combat discrimination in the housing market, and counteract segregation.

Policy Recommendations

1. Language competences

- Develop and implement comprehensive language and cultural integration programs that address the specific needs of migrants, with a focus on early childhood education and continuous support throughout all education stages;
- Promote initiatives that facilitate the acknowledgment of qualifications obtained by migrants, enhancing their access to higher education and specialized training;
- Develop specialized language courses tailored to the needs of different migrant groups (e.g., refugees, economic migrants, students).

2. Work and education integration

- Identify sectors facing labor shortages and collaborate with industries to create targeted programs for skill development and employment opportunities for migrants;
- Establish partnerships between the government, private sector, and NGOs to provide mentorship programs, vocational training, and apprenticeships, enhancing migrants' employability;
- Prioritise initiatives that specifically empower migrant women, addressing barriers to employment and education through targeted support programs.

3. Access to Healthcare Services



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- Ensure equal access to healthcare services for individuals born outside the EU by eliminating bureaucratic hurdles and providing language support;
- Develop awareness campaigns to inform migrants about available healthcare services and their rights, with a focus on maternal and reproductive health.

4. Housing Initiatives

- Utilize EU funds, including the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund Plus, to support affordable housing initiatives for migrants;



Conclusion

Italy's complex immigration landscape requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach to address the challenges and exploit the opportunities presented by migration. The country's historical positioning as a maritime entry point, along with recent geopolitical events like the Ukrainian crisis, emphasises the need for adaptable policies. The policy recommendations defined in this brief aim to guide policymakers, NGOs, and stakeholders in shaping strategies that foster the integration of migrants. By prioritising language competences, work and education integration, access to healthcare services, and housing initiatives, together with embracing cultural diversity, Italy can benefit from the potential of its multifaceted population.



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Spain

Executive Summary

Migration is a policy issue that has brought about both challenges and opportunities. In Spain, migration has brought about rapid changes in the demographic and health profile of the population, with implications for the development of policies and programs to attend to the health needs of a more diverse population. Strengthening the health system to attend to a more diverse population will require in-depth knowledge about Spain's heterogeneous immigrant population, particularly those in vulnerable situations.



Introduction

In the past two decades, Spain has become an important destination for migrants. Migration is multi-level public policy issue that requires collaboration between public systems for managing health, education, social participation, public expenditure, public security, and others. Within the dimension of health, migration is a multifaceted issue. International human mobility implies changes in the epidemiology of disease and population health. This requires revising and strengthening health systems to respond to changing health needs. Scientific evidence about an increasingly diverse population is needed to inform this process.

Background

Immigrants make up over 10% of the resident population in Spain, and it has become a major immigration country in Europe. The top (non EU) immigrant groups in Spain are Moroccans (714,221), Ecuadorians (212,970), Colombians (172,368), Chinese (164,555), Bulgarians (140,206), and Bolivians (126,421).

There are an estimated 600,000 undocumented immigrants in Spain, one of the highest rates in the EU, despite favorable processes for regularization, naturalization and family reunification. In Spain, economic migrants are the group that has received the most attention from a policy and research perspective.

Analysis of the Issue



People who migrate are healthy contributors to society, but the experience of migration impacts health on multiple levels: in terms of entitlements to health, access to health care, risk of infectious diseases and chronic conditions, exposure to poor working and living conditions, and levels of income. Immigrants tend to face barriers to using health services due to legal and administrative issues, discrimination, linguistic differences, unfamiliarity with the health system, and cultural health beliefs or practices.

Also, health systems and health providers often lack the tools necessary to engage immigrant populations in health promotion, education, prevention and treatment services. Despite these challenges, EU member states and health systems must support immigrants' right to health.

Policy Recommendations

In this section we offer several policy recommendations to improve the health and access to health of migrants in Spain (extendable to other EU countries):

1. Ensure entitlement, support equity, and reduce barriers to health care:

- Maintain a strong national health system with universal access and free.
- Reduce barriers to access to care related to linguistic, cultural, economic, administrative or other issues.
- Design interventions that teach cultural competencies for health professionals.
- Implement specific measures to protect the health of women immigrants, and focus on the second generation of immigrants.

2. Tailor health programs to immigrant populations and promote health service use:

- Engage in program adaptation for certain immigrant groups that have worse health outcomes.
- Improve upon elements of Spanish regional immigration plans (use of translators, cultural mediators and community health outreach workers...).

3. Promote awareness and increase detection of imported and infectious diseases in immigrant populations:

- Develop programs to improve awareness of health professionals of emerging infectious diseases and those associated with human mobility.



4. Support pro-employment policies and occupational health:

- Promote the health of those impacted by the economic crisis; provide protections for the unemployed, those with low incomes and those in precarious work situations.
- Provide incentives to companies to comply with good labor conditions.

6. Support access to mental health services and develop cultural competencies among mental health institutions and providers.



Conclusion

Spanish demographics have changed in a short time period, provoking challenges in terms of social integration, but nevertheless providing the opportunity to support good health of the population.

The Spanish National Health System continues to be an asset in the provision of health protection to the great majority of the population, including immigrants. However, formal entitlements, guidance and leadership are needed for the health sector in order to promote good health of a more diverse population.



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Ireland

Executive Summary

This Policy Brief addresses the intersection of entrepreneurial upskilling and social inclusion for young migrants in Ireland within the context of the natural products trade sector. Recognizing the potential of entrepreneurship to empower and integrate, the recommendations presented here aim to create a targeted framework for policymakers and stakeholders.

Ireland has experienced significant demographic shifts with a growing migrant population, particularly among the youth. This policy brief advocates for harnessing the potential of entrepreneurial upskilling within the natural products trade sector to economically empower young migrants, fostering social inclusion and promoting cultural interaction with local communities.

Proper recommendations would include developing of tailored entrepreneurial training programs, facilitating access to resources and markets, promoting cultural exchange through trade initiatives while suggested methods and tools would include customized training modules, digital networking platforms, financial support and cross-cultural events tools.

By adopting the outlined recommendations, methods, and tools, policymakers and stakeholders could actively contribute to building a more inclusive, economically vibrant, and culturally diverse society where the natural products trade could become a catalyst for meaningful integration and collaboration.

Introduction

The Republic of Ireland has experienced significant demographic changes in recent years, marked by an increasing migrant population, particularly among the youth. As the nation embraces cultural diversity, there is a pressing need to address the socio-economic challenges faced by young migrants. In this context, the natural products trade sector stands out as a promising avenue for fostering social inclusion and cultural integration.

The natural products trade sector, encompassing cultivation, processing, and marketing of agricultural and artisanal goods, holds immense potential. Beyond economic benefits, this sector offers a unique platform for cross-cultural interaction, as natural products often carry rich cultural significance. Leveraging entrepreneurial upskilling within this sector can empower young migrants, providing them with valuable skills while simultaneously enhancing cultural exchange and mutual understanding.



The importance of this initiative extends beyond individual economic empowerment. By promoting diversity within the natural products trade, Ireland can build a more inclusive society that celebrates cultural richness and embraces the contributions of migrants.

The purpose of this policy brief is to present a targeted and actionable framework for policymakers, government agencies, NGOs, educational institutions, industry stakeholders, and community leaders. It seeks to advocate for and guide the implementation of entrepreneurial upskilling programs within the natural products trade sector to address the specific challenges faced by young migrants in Ireland. It also aims to empower young migrants by providing young migrants with the necessary entrepreneurial skills to thrive in the natural products trade sector therefore fostering economic independence. Another purpose would be to foster social inclusion by creating pathways for young migrants to actively participate in and contribute to the natural products trade with the target to building a sense of belonging and community. Encouraging cultural interaction would also facilitate meaningful cultural exchange between young migrants and local communities within the context of the natural products trade, contributing to a more interconnected and understanding society. Also, enhancing economic opportunities would capitalize on the economic potential of the natural products trade sector to create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth, benefiting both migrants and the broader community.

By tailoring entrepreneurial upskilling initiatives to the natural products trade, this policy brief aims to address these objectives and contribute to a comprehensive and sustainable approach for promoting social cohesion and economic empowerment among young migrants in Ireland.

Background

Regarding migration trends in Ireland, a significant increase in the migrant population, particularly among the youth, has contributed to Ireland's evolving demographic landscape. Migrants, including young individuals aged 15-34, have played a crucial role in bolstering the economy across various sectors.

Surely, challenges faced by young migrants have been hard, some of which constituting disparities, social integration hurdles, and difficulties in the recognition of foreign qualifications pose challenges for young migrants. Despite recent policy revisions and civil society initiatives, there remains a need for targeted solutions to enhance the inclusion of young migrants in Irish society. Recent developments have been promising consisting of policy revisions, economic shifts, while increased attention to the natural products trade sector actually present opportunities to address the challenges faced by young migrants. Global perspectives on migration currently emphasize the positive contributions of migrants, fostering a conducive environment for tailored solutions.



In this context, the proposed entrepreneurial upskilling framework within the natural products trade sector stands out as a strategic approach to empower young migrants economically, socially, and culturally in Ireland.

Analysis of the Issue

Migration ensues both challenges and opportunities in the sectors of employment disparities, social integration and recognition of qualifications.

In the employment disparities sector, the challenges are that the migrants often face difficulties in accessing employment opportunities commensurate with their skills and qualifications while essential recognition of foreign qualifications poses a significant barrier to professional advancement. The opportunities however are linked to entrepreneurial upskilling programs that can empower young migrants to create their own employment opportunities, addressing unemployment disparities. This option could assist in overcoming qualification-related barriers.

In social integration the challenges would include linguistic and cultural differences that naturally hinder the social integration of young migrants, leading to isolation and a sense of exclusion. Also, prejudice and discrimination may impede the building of strong social connections within local communities. Main opportunities on the other hand could be that the entrepreneurial upskilling programs in the natural products trade sector may provide a platform for cultural exchange, fostering understanding between migrants and local communities. Further, inclusive policies and community-driven initiatives can facilitate the integration of young migrants into the broader societal fabric.

In recognition of qualifications, the challenges could involve the lack of recognition for qualifications obtained abroad that would consequently limit the professional growth of young migrants. In the same logic, relevant mismatch between skills acquired and those in demand in the local job market would pose a challenge to effective utilization. However, aligning entrepreneurial upskilling programs with local market demands could address the skills mismatch, enhancing employability. Moreover, advocacy for standardized recognition procedures and policies, both at the national and EU levels, can facilitate the acknowledgment of foreign qualifications.

The above sectors are certainly interconnected and impact one another.

Entrepreneurial upskilling serves as a direct response to the employment challenges faced by young migrants, as by fostering the creation of businesses within the natural products trade, entrepreneurial initiatives contribute to job creation and economic self-sufficiency.



In social integration and cultural exchange, entrepreneurial upskilling within the natural products trade sector acts as a catalyst for social integration, providing a shared platform for cultural exchange. Successful integration positively impacts community dynamics while breaking down stereotypes, and fostering a more inclusive society.

EU policies on migration and Irish Policies on Migration emphasize the importance of social inclusion and economic empowerment of migrants.



Reports and briefs highlight the need for tailored solutions that address the unique challenges faced by young migrants, aligning with the proposed entrepreneurial upskilling framework.

EU initiatives focus on establishing standardized qualification recognition processes, aligning with the challenges faced by migrants in Ireland whereas entrepreneurial upskilling programs can align with these standards, contributing to the harmonization of skill recognition procedures.

In summary, the challenges and opportunities in migration are intricately connected, and the proposed entrepreneurial upskilling framework within the natural products trade sector provides a holistic approach. Addressing employment disparities, promoting social integration, and advocating for the recognition of qualifications are interconnected facets crucial to the overall success of integration efforts for young migrants in Ireland. EU policies and initiatives provide a supportive backdrop for these endeavors, emphasizing the importance of inclusive strategies in addressing migration challenges.

Policy Recommendations

Some of the most critical Policy Recommendations to follow would therefore include:

1. Tailored entrepreneurial upskilling programs.
2. Collaboration with all involved stakeholders.
3. Creating accessible financial mechanisms like grants and loans to facilitate the entry of young migrant entrepreneurs into the natural products trade would be critical.
4. Developing digital platforms for networking and market access to connect young migrant entrepreneurs with industry stakeholders as well as integrating language and cultural components into upskilling programs to address social integration barriers would add in the process.
5. Recognition of Skvents to promote ills is also very important as well as organizing cross-cultural events to promote community building and cultural exchange.



6. Monitoring and evaluation to assess program impact and gather continuous feedback is important for the framework in its entirety to last and progress.
7. Policy alignment of Irish policies with the EU directives on migration, skills development, and entrepreneurship for effective collaboration is imperative.

These concise recommendations aim to enhance the socio-economic integration of young migrants in Ireland, aligning with EU directives and fostering a supportive environment.



Conclusion

In summary, this policy brief underscores the importance to harness entrepreneurial upskilling in Ireland for the holistic integration of young migrants. Natural product sector serves this purpose all things considered. The natural products trade sector offers a strategic solution to empower young migrants economically, socially, and culturally.

Upskilling simultaneously addresses interconnected challenges, fostering employment and breaking down social barriers. Proposed recommendations must align with EU directives on skills development, integration, and entrepreneurship, reinforcing at the same time collaboration with stakeholders.

Naturally, successfully implementing these recommendations is pivotal for Ireland's socio-economic development whereas the proposed framework contributes to a more inclusive, diverse, and economically vibrant society.

The recommendations presented indicatively include tailored upskilling programs, collaboration with stakeholders, inclusive financial support, and digital networking platforms.

In essence, these recommendations not only empower young migrants but also aim to enrich the socio-economic fabric of Ireland.



Final Conclusion

The policy briefs for Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Spain emphasize the necessity of adopting a holistic and inclusive approach to migration management. By implementing the recommended policies, such as developing comprehensive integration programs, improving legal frameworks, and enhancing access to essential services, these countries can address the immediate challenges posed by migration. Furthermore, by recognizing and harnessing the potential contributions of migrants to economic growth, cultural diversity, and demographic balance, these nations can ensure a more sustainable and prosperous future. Effective cooperation with the EU and international partners will be crucial in achieving these goals, highlighting the importance of shared responsibility and collaboration in addressing the complexities of migration in Europe.





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