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| Forum: | Economic and Social Council |
| Issue: | Addressing the economic and social integration of migrating populations in promoting balanced growth |
| Student Officer: | Hara Chouliara |
| Position: | Deputy President |

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Hara Chouliara and I am a 10th grader attending Costeas-Geitonas School. It is my honor to serve as a Deputy-President in the Economic and Social Council in this year's 8th session of the Plato-School MUN. This conference will be my 7th MUN conference overall and my 2nd time serving as a Student Officer.

As a Deputy-President it is my duty to help and guide you throughout the conference, but firstly, it is my responsibility to assist you on your research in order to be able to submit effective resolutions. This study guide is aiming at introducing you to the topic of "Addressing the economic and social integration of migrating populations in promoting balanced growth". However, you should not base your solutions and knowledge on this topic only on this study guide. You should conduct further research on this issue as well as learn about your country's policy and position on the matter. If you have any questions or need help the preparation feel free to contact me any time in this address: hara.chouliara@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at the conference!

Best Regards,
Hara Chouliara

INTRODUCING TOPIC

International migration, the process in which people chose to move and settle into a foreign country, is a worldwide and rapid-growing phenomenon. Just within 2017, 258 million people migrated abroad for economical and social reasons. More specifically, poverty, low incomes, high unemployment rates, internal conflicts, war and violation of human rights were some of the motives of migration.

However, despite the immigrants' hopes of finding a better job with bigger income rates, having a better lifestyle, being treated equally and in general the hope of being economically and socially integrated, many countries, including governments and indigenous people, are prejudice against those migrants. Migrants are excluded from the society, cannot be active citizens, face discriminatory behaviors against them and are unemployed or employed in low-valued jobs. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that countries, governments, political parties and people understand the benefits of the economic and social integration of the migrating populations.

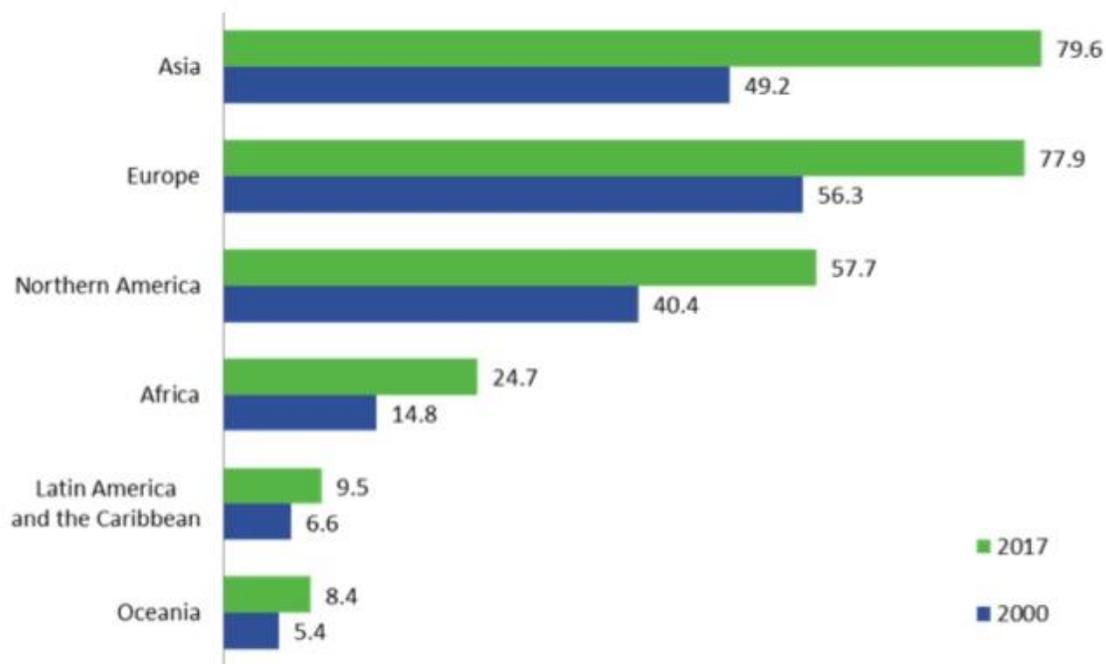


Figure 1: Number of international migrants (millions) by region of destination, 2000 and 2017

KEY TERMS

Migration

The process in which people - refugees, displaced people, economic migrants, and people moving for other purposes - or group of people, move either across an international border or to another area within the same country. ¹

¹ <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

Receiving country / Destination Country

The country in which migrants move to. Receiving country is also the country that is yearly receiving a specific number of migrants.²

Economic Integration

The process in which migrants are able to be employed and in general have any type of income within the destination country.

Social Integration

The process in which unity, equality, inclusion and participation of people is achieved at all levels of a society, despite the diversity of personal attributes.³

Xenophobia

According to UNESCO, xenophobia can be defined as “attitudes, prejudices and behavior that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity.”⁴

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Economic Integration

Ever since the 2008 global economic crisis, many regions and countries have experienced and struggled with high rates of unemployment and have not been able to stimulate economic growth. Hence, many people migrated abroad with the hope of improving their economic status. Unfortunately, though, it is quite hard for migrants to get employed. Additionally, the majority of the working migrants work in sectors that natives refuse to work at and they are more likely to work in risky jobs and in general in jobs that are less-valued by the native people.

The immigrant’s impact on the receiving’s country economy has conflicting views. Opponents of immigration believe that immigrants are the reason behind job losses and depression of wages. They also believe that conflicts among ethnic groups might arise, meaning that the native-born and low-income groups will be competing migrants for jobs and resources. Lastly, they are confident that immigration can destroy the identity and institutions of a society.

² <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

³

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm6_social_integration/documents/Promoting_Social_Integration.pdf

⁴ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/xenophobia/>

On the other hand, proponents of immigration believe that immigration is actually helping a country's economy grow as immigrants are going to be working in all sectors and especially the ones that natives were refusing to work at. At the same time, they will also be consumers thus they will create added value to the economy and create new jobs. Furthermore, it has been noticed that competition between immigrants working in a specific sector can affect the wages of natives in that sector but at the same time it can increase the wages for natives working in other departments. Also, a research has shown that immigration, and in general diversity, has positively affected the level of productivity and economic prosperity. This is due to the fact that migrants are willing to work on sectors that natives are refusing, thus productivity is increasing. Additionally, this also leads to the incline of the world GDP as well as the to the expansion of trade.

The ability of a migrant to be employed and work faces many obstacles. For example, the ability to fluently speak the destination's country language and the educational attainment forms barriers when it comes to employment. Also, many natives feel threatened that migrants are responsible for the unemployment rates among natives, so they discriminate against them and their economic and professional prosperities.

Social Integration

Social integration is the process in which minority groups or newcomers such as immigrants, are included in the social structure of a society. Such people participate in an active dialogue which aims at achieving and maintaining social and peaceful relations. It is focusing at creating a safe, stable and just society, meaning that everyone is included and there are strong relations of coexistence, collaboration and cohesion between the member of the society.

Social integration is a must for a person's life, especially to migrants, as they left their home country with the hope of living in a place that will provide them with more opportunities. Participating in all aspects of a society and being able to freely express your opinion, thoughts and beliefs presents a person with many opportunities. Furthermore, not only does it benefit the individual as he or she feels important, but it also benefits the society.

Despite, the vital importance of social integration, the main issue that many immigrants, when arriving in



the destination country, have to face is social exclusion. This is created by “systematic and institutional discrimination and other forms of rejection that leave out persons or groups from the mainstream system of economic, social, and political relationships”⁵. Such behaviors and actions are results of economical and non-economical causes such as ethnicity, cultural traits, religious beliefs, gender etc. Social exclusion “forbid” and “restrict” people to enroll into the society and be active citizens.

Thus, social integration must be enhanced and promoted by all member states, as it eradicates stereotypes and privileges, increases the opportunity of participating in all levels of a society (political, economical etc) and overall it enables people to express themselves. It strengthens the creation of fair, equal and stable societies, and promotes sustainable and equitable development.

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http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm6_social_integration/documents/Promoting_Social_Integration.pdf

COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

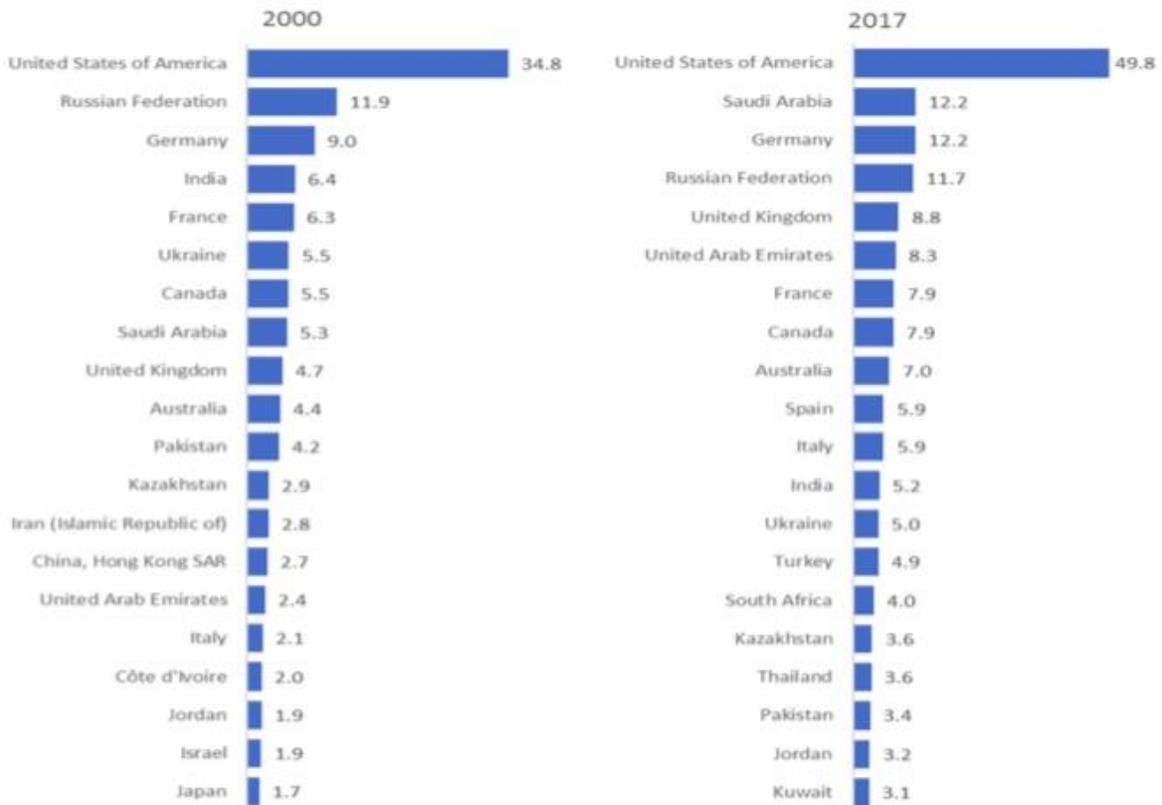


Figure 2: Twenty countries or areas hosting the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)

Any country that hosts migrants is involved in the issue, though each country has its own policy in which they deal with the integration of the migrants. In this study guide I included the four most popular destination countries for migrants based United Nation's 2017 report, but there are many more countries facing this issue.

Based on the 2017 International Migration Report published by the UN, around 80 million migrants lived in Asia, 78 million in Europe, 58 million in Northern America, 25 million in Africa, 10 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 8 million in Oceania. More specifically 67% of all international migrants lived in just 20 countries, in which the largest number resided in the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation, followed by the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Lastly, the countries in which the majority of the migrants originated from where India (17 million), Mexico (13 million), Russia Federation (11 million) and China (10 million).

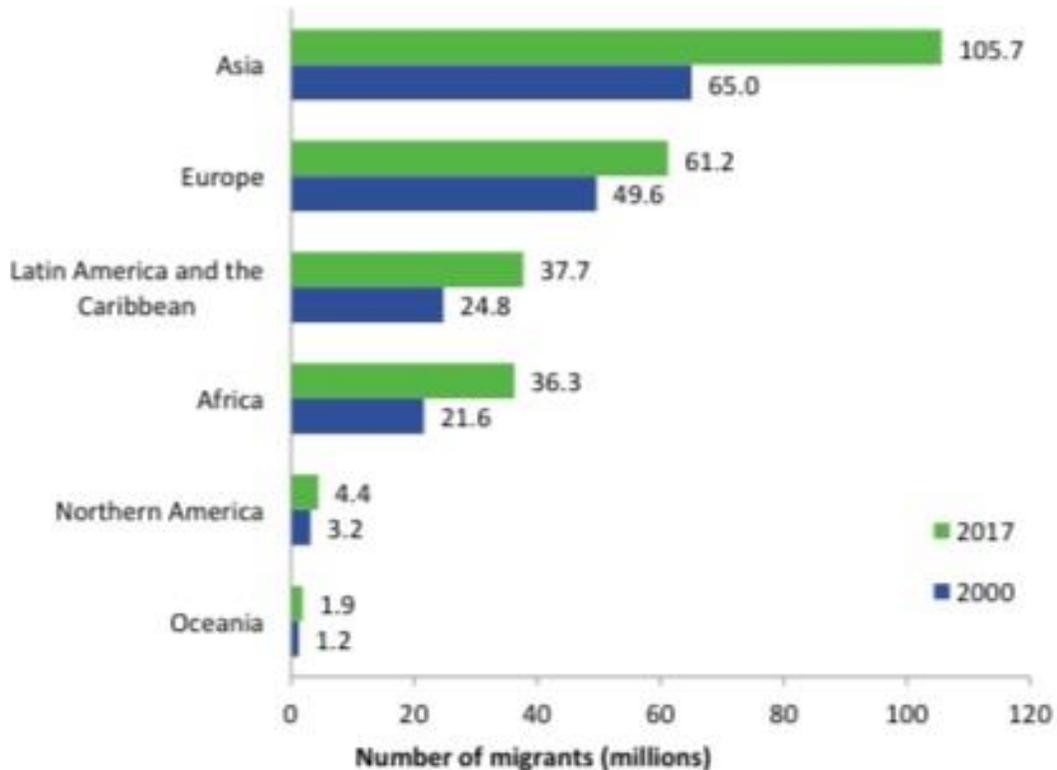


Figure 3: Number of international migrants by region of origin, 2000 and 2017

United States of America (USA)

The United States is a country with the most number of immigrants. Just within 2017 more than 49 million immigrants living in the US. Immigrant's integration occurred without "policy intervention and relatively little federal funding, relying instead primarily on a strong labor market and high-quality public education."⁶ According to language proficiency, socioeconomic attainment, political participation, resident locale and social interaction it has been noticed that immigrants are easily incorporated into the American life, though the full integration into the society and economy sometimes can take more than one generation of immigrants.

The immigrant populations living in the US is extremely diverse thus immigrant's economic prospects and labor-market integration vary, with some group faring better than others. An

⁶ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrants-united-states-how-well-are-they-integrating-society>

immigrant's level of integration depends on factors such as skill level, education, language ability, duration of residence and the entry route in which he or she reached the country.

In the United States there is still a large number of unauthorized immigrants, so the achievement of social cohesion and in general the social and economic integration faces some challenges.

Germany

With 12 million migrants having entered Germany in 2015 and with this number growing, Germany is the second most popular destination for migrant after the US. Despite its large acceptance number, Germany struggles to take in and integrate migrants.

The German government is trying to avoid the 1960s mistake, where hundreds of thousand Turkish people were invited to Germany in order to fill labor shortages. Germany though, didn't try to help learn the language nor upgrade their skills thus this migrating population today accounts for 16% of the unemployment rate, three times the national average.

Today Germany, has developed an integration strategy which includes 600 hours of mandatory language lessons and fast-tracked work permits. This aims at getting the newcomers into the work environment and off welfare.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a popular destination for migrants coming mostly from Southeast Asia, hosting 12.2 million migrants in 2017. Saudi Arabia is dependent on foreign labour. Most of its workers are employed in technical position or in the agricultural, cleaning and domestic service industries. Worker from India and the western countries usually have higher position than workers coming from Africa and Southeast Asia. In general, migrants in Saudi Arabia are easily integration economically.

Saudi Arabia has been criticized over the bad and violent treatment and behavior of the foreign workers and immigrants. According to the Human Rights Watch, hundreds of thousands undocumented migrant workers have been detained and deported by the Saudi authorities. Additionally, there have been many abuses against them. Lastly, Saudi Arabia is working on the indigenization of the workforce.

Russian Federation

Russia, in 2017, is the fourth country with the largest number of international migrants. Specifically, within 2017, Russia hosted 11.7 million migrants. The majority of the migrants come from countries of the former Soviet Union and from Central Asia.

Migrants living in Russia have to face a network of shadow mediators which stand between them and the legal labour market. These mediators benefit from the lack of knowledge of the rules and the Russian language, thus in order to get a work permit they need to pay specific sums of money. This results to an increasing number of migrants working without a permit.

Multi-ethnicity has been an element of the Russia Federation since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's ethnicity comprises of 80% Russians. Despite the large number of migrants, and in general of foreigners living in Russia, there have been many anti-immigrants riots. This shows that xenophobia is a leading concern in the county and that social cohesion cannot be promoted as people feel unprotected and unsafe.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration is the leading inter-governmental organization for migration with 169 member and 8 observer states. The organization works with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in order to ensure humane and orderly migration, promote cooperation on migration issues, help find solution to migration problems and provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need. IOM's activities also try to promote the international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of the migrants' rights and migration health.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| Date | Description of Event |
|---------------------|--|
| 13 December 1990 | The ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| 5-13 September 1994 | The adoption of the Programme of Action at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which contains one of the most comprehensive negotiated texts on international migration to date |
| Early 2006 | The Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency group. It is responsible for promoting a wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments relating to migration and for encouraging the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issues of international migration. |
| September 2006 | The General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development dedicated only to the topic of migration. |

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| 13-16 July 2015 | The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, contains several practical proposals to strengthen the development outcomes of migration. |
| 19 September 2016 | Adoption of the the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants |

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

It is quiet challenging to find solutions to this issue as each country hosts a different number of migrants, each country has its own policy and every society can react to the integration of the migrants differently. When finding solutions, you should try to think on a multilevel, multi-sectoral and multicultural way.

To begin with each community should provide every person regardless of his or her origin, gender, religion, financial status and other characteristics the same rights. Ways that this can be achieved are by informing the people and try to change their mindsets regarding equality and also by creating a legal framework that will first be created through the collaboration of states and secondly which will aim at protecting the right of foreigners and minority groups. Countries could also change or modify their already existing legislation in order to promote the rights of foreigners and eliminate the paperwork needed for asylums etc.

Another solution could be the development of the educational system worldwide. Many migrants cannot be integrated into a society, both socially nor economically, because they don't provide the necessary skills, language ability etc. This leads me to another solution which is that countries should protect and help migrants, when arriving into a country, integrate by providing them asylum. Meanwhile, migrants should be able to attend seminars in which they will be able to learn, practice and grow their language abilities, as well as learn the cultural and civic characteristics of the society.

Lastly, governments should provide migrants with humanitarian aid and everyone should be given shelter, clothes, food and clean water until they are fully integrated into the society even before being officially accepted.

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