



**integra**

**immigrants**

Different Ways of Integration

**INTEGRA**

**IMMIGRANTS – DIFFERENT WAYS OF INTEGRATION**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

IMMIGRANTS – DIFFERENT WAYS TO INTEGRATION  
2022-1-PL01-KA220-ADU-000088153



# int e g r a

## immigrants

Different Ways of Integration



**jovesólides**  
JOVENES HACIA  
LA SOLIDARIDAD  
Y EL DESARROLLO



**ENTORNETVÆRK**  
i Esbjerg / Varde



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## Preface

Following the completion of the research of the situation of immigrants in the partner countries, the consortium has reached an understanding that immigrants' needs have to be addressed and associated material has to be developed along three modules resulting from the distinct problem areas.

The publication includes:

1. Description of the situation of immigrants in partner countries
2. The main types of immigrants in a given region
3. Examples of good practice that work well in partner organizations
4. Recommendations for other organizations and people dealing with the integration of immigrants at the local level, developed as part of the project.

The material of the publication in hand will be used during the project execution organized in each partner country, also making use of the INTEGRA Learning Platform through which pilot training participants will interact among themselves and with the program's trainers.

The publication was developed by a partnership consisting of PCKK Education and Development Foundation, Training 2000, Asociación Jovesólides and Mentornetværk. Editors of the Asociación Jovesólides.

*[September, 2023]*

### DECLARATION

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

The present publication has been prepared solely for training purposes. Its text does not necessarily claim originality, as, besides the authors' own contribution, it is also based on material from various other sources considered to be relevant, useful for training purposes and transferable. This is duly acknowledged in the text in various ways. The authors however accept responsibility for any failure to fully record all such instances in the text.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	3
<b>Chapter 1 - Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Definition.....	7
<b>Chapter 2 - Situation of immigrants in partner countries.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Description of the situation in Poland.....	8
2.1.1 Introduction.....	8
2.1.2 Main groups of migrants in Poland.....	9
Foreigners seeking protection on the territory of Poland.....	12
Refugees.....	12
2.1.3 Citizens of Ukraine in Poland.....	14
2.1.4 Foreigners working in Poland .....	16
Special provisions for the employment of citizens of Ukraine.....	17
2.1.5 Immigrants in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship.....	17
2.1.6 Summary.....	19
2.2 Descriptions of the situation in Denmark.....	21
2.2.1 Overview .....	21
2.2.2 The main types of immigrants in Denmark .....	23
2.2.2.1. International immigrants .....	23
2.2.2.2. Asylum seekers, refugees .....	25
Definitions.....	25
Asylum applications in numbers.....	25
Asylum camps.....	28
Asylum seekers by nationalities.....	28
The big picture.....	29
Asylum seekers routes to Denmark.....	29
2.2.3. Employment – immigrants, refugees and natives.....	31
2.2.4. Change of asylum practice and residence permits.....	33
2.2.5. Integration policies.....	35
2.2.6. Main types of immigrants in a given region.....	37
2.3 Description of the situation in Spain .....	39
2.3.1. Overview .....	39
2.3.2. The main types of immigrants in Spain .....	40
2.3.2.1 International immigrants.....	40
2.3.1.2. Asylum seekers, refugees .....	45
2.3.2. National Legal Framework.....	47
Integration policies.....	48
2.4 Descriptions of the situation in Italy .....	50
2.4.1. Overview.....	50
2.4.2 The main types of immigrants in Italy .....	51
2.4.2.1 International migrants .....	51
2.4.2.2 Asylum seekers, refugees .....	56
2.4.3 Immigration - National legal framework .....	58
2.4.3.1 Historical highlight on immigrations policies.....	59
2.4.3.2 Integration policies .....	60
2.4.3.3 Integration of immigrants in the Marche region .....	61
<b>Chapter 3 - Different ways to integration examples of good practice that work well in partner organizations .....</b>	<b>62</b>
3.1 Good practice in Poland.....	62
3.2 Good practice in Denmark.....	66
3.3 Good practice in Spain.....	71
3.4 Good practice in Italy .....	76
<b>Chapter 4 - Recommendations for other organizations and people dealing with the integration of immigrants at the local level.....</b>	<b>81</b>
4.1. Mentorship scheme – locals or integrated immigrants as mentors helping newcomers in all matters.....	81
4.2. Language classes – free of charge for everyone.....	83
4.3. Integration through participation in the labor market. Local public offices and NGOS support immigrants with all the information they need to find a job.....	84
4.4. Programs which facilitate participation of immigrants in society and promote respect for fundamental values, non discrimination, equal participation of local and immigrants.....	86
TABLE OF FIGURES.....	88
Bibliographical references.....	89
Bibliography Poland.....	89
Bibliography Denmark.....	90
Bibliography Spain.....	92
Bibliography Italy.....	94

## Introduction

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our publication on “Immigrants - Different Ways of Integration.” In this document, we aim to provide valuable insights into the process of immigrant integration in Europe and shed light on the diverse approaches adopted by different partner countries. Whether you are a member of a local organization working towards immigrant integration or simply interested in understanding the complexities of this multifaceted phenomenon, this publication offers valuable information and perspectives.

Europe has a longstanding tradition of considering integration as a two-way process, involving mutual adaptation and adjustment from both immigrants and the host society. This perspective is encapsulated in the Council of Europe’s 1997 document, “Common Basic Principles for the Integration of Immigrants,” which serves as a cornerstone for integration efforts across the continent. We delve into this concept, exploring the dynamic nature of integration and the changes it engenders within intergroup relations.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of the integration process, we have chosen to characterize the phenomenon of immigration in each of our partner countries individually. Recognizing that integration is shaped by diverse social, cultural, and political contexts, we believe that examining the specific approaches employed in different countries will enrich our collective knowledge and facilitate the exchange of best practices. By focusing on these unique national perspectives, we can better grasp the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from integration efforts across Europe.

Esser’s<sup>1</sup> framework guides our exploration of immigrant integration, highlighting four dimensions that encompass both systemic and social aspects. Cultural integration emphasizes the acquisition of cultural principles and language competence, while structural integration involves achieving a certain position in society, encompassing legal status, professional accomplishments, and social interactions. Social integration examines individual attitudes, interactions in public spaces, and private social relations, considering the complexities of building connections within and outside the host community. Finally, identification integration delves into the emotional and cognitive relationship with society, encompassing values, civic duty, and the interplay of indifference and responsibility<sup>2</sup>.

In our project, “Immigrants - Different Ways of Integration,” we aim to support local organizations in partner countries that work tirelessly to foster the integration of immigrants into the host community. By enhancing their knowledge of various integration methods and facilitating

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<sup>1</sup>H. Esser, *Migration, Language and Integration*, Berlin 2006, <https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/pdf/2006/iv06-akibilanz4b.pdf> (access: 30.01.2023).

<sup>2</sup> M. Siciarek, *Integration of immigrants. Pomeranian Guide*, 2020, [https://www.metropoliagdansk.pl/upload/files/58\\_%20Przewodnik%20integracja%20imigrantek%20i%20imi-grant%C3%B3w\(1\).pdf](https://www.metropoliagdansk.pl/upload/files/58_%20Przewodnik%20integracja%20imigrantek%20i%20imi-grant%C3%B3w(1).pdf) (access 30.01.2023)



collaboration, we seek to amplify the effectiveness of their efforts. Additionally, we strive to lay the foundation for an online learning environment tailored to both the host community and immigrants, fostering a space of knowledge sharing and understanding.

We invite you to delve into this publication, as it promises valuable insights into the multifaceted process of immigrant integration. By exploring the different ways in which integration is approached across Europe, we hope to foster a deeper understanding and inspire innovative approaches to promote the harmonious coexistence of diverse communities.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of exploration and discovery.

Sincerely, [Integra Project Team]

## Migrant

*a person who is outside the territory of the State of which they are nationals or citizens and who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate.*

## Immigrant

*In the global context, a non-resident (both national or alien) arriving in a State with the intention to remain for a period exceeding a year.*

## Emigrant

*In the global context, a resident (national or alien) departing or exiting from one State intending to remain abroad for a period exceeding one year.*

## Refugee

*someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion (the legal definition by the 1951 United Nations Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees). UNHCR expanded definition refers to “persons fleeing the civil wars and ethnic, tribal and religious violence and whose country of origin is unwilling or unable to protect them”. Because not all countries agree with it, they have developed different procedures and protection for people asking for refugee status.*



## Definition

EOG regions	It is part of the European Economic Area (EEA). <sup>27</sup> EU Member States and three European countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) that are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Together they form a single market where the same rules apply.
Countries associated with the EU-	Switzerland and from 01.02.2020 Great Britain.
Third countries	These are countries that do not belong to the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the countries of the European Union as well as Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.
Asylum seeker	Is the person who asks for asylum, but whose request is not decided yet.

## Situation of immigrants in partner countries

### 2.1 Description of the situation in Poland

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

Migrations are an inseparable element of social and economic development, which was particularly visible in Poland in the times of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (16th-18th centuries). At that time, Poland was a multinational and multiethnic country, but also exceptionally tolerant for those times, which earned it the name of a country without stakes. Poles, Ukrainians, Jews, Tatars and Belarusians lived together in Poland, which was a common phenomenon until World War II, which completely changed the structure of the population and made Poland an almost ethnically homogeneous state.

The shape of contemporary migrations from and to Poland was influenced by two key events: the political transformation that began in 1989 and Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004. During the political transformation, the immigration of foreigners increased, especially from countries such as Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Armenia and Vietnam. In 2004, Poland's accession to the EU opened borders for workers from other EU countries, which resulted in a further increase in economic and settlement migration.

Since 1989, a dynamic influx of qualified employees from Western countries (mainly Germany, France and the USA) related to investments has been noticeable, as well as numerous returns of Polish women and men from emigration, who, thanks to the qualifications acquired in the West, often took managerial positions and formed specialist staff in country.

In 2004, with the opening of Western labor markets for Polish citizens, a period of increased emigration to the countries of the European Union began. Due to the mass nature of these migrations and the demographic crisis that Poland has been struggling with for a long time, a gap has appeared in the domestic labor market. It was gradually filled by foreigners encouraged to come by Polish employers, especially from countries east of the Polish border.

Data from the 2011 Census indicate that the total number of foreigners residing in Poland at that time was about 110,000. In 2015, Eurostat data placed Poland in one of the last places among the European Union Member States in terms of the share of immigrants in the population.

The countries from which the largest number of immigrants who decided to settle in Poland arrived in the years 2016-2021 are presented in the table below.



**Table 1. Main directions of immigration to Poland for permanent residence in 2016-2021 - persons registered for permanent residence.**

State name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Immigration total	13475	13324	15461	16909	13263	15409
UE/EEG						
Great Britain	3286	3315	3511	4015	2810	2776
Germany	1921	2015	2320	2507	2230	2431
Netherlands	497	492	525	633	581	634
Ireland	627	617	675	747	507	531
France	352	348	367	426	331	358
Italy	524	478	511	511	404	330
Belgium	273	262	313	363	234	279
Norway	352	346	364	397	268	274
Austria	213	256	311	334	254	269
Third countries						
Ukraine	1351	1396	1912	2209	2052	3106
Belarus	393	417	590	745	740	938
United States of America	803	674	697	733	409	597
Russia	197	228	262	221	209	258
Canada	164	177	196	189	129	210

Source: Elaboration based on: [Statistics Poland / Topics / Population / Foreign migrations / Main directions of emigration and immigration for permanent residence in the years 1966-2021](#)

### 2.1.2 Main groups of migrants in Poland

There are many ways to classify migration. We distinguish between internal (within the country) and external (outside state borders), voluntary and forced, temporary and permanent, legal and illegal migrations.

Immigrants are people who came from abroad to the country in order to settle down (permanent residence) or for a temporary stay.

In connection with the existing legal solutions, it is important to divide people coming to Poland into citizens of EU/EEA countries and citizens of the so-called third countries.

In Polish law there is a term “foreigner”. According to Art. 2 of the Act on foreigners, a foreigner is anyone who does not have Polish citizenship. “Foreigners” are subject to the provisions of the Act on Foreigners (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 1650).

The provisions of the Act on foreigners do not apply to citizens of the European Union Member States, parties to the agreement on the European Economic Area and Switzerland, and their family members who join them or stay with them. This does not mean that citizens of the European Union are not considered foreigners - they are, but they have a slightly different status than the other foreigners.

Citizens of European Union countries enjoy the right to visa-free free movement of people within the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA). They also have free access to the labor market.

The approach is different regarding citizens of the so-called third countries. Whether or not an entry visa is required depends on their nationality. (You can check this on the website: <https://www.gov.pl/web/gruzja/lista-panstw-ktorych-obywatele-moga-podrozowac-do-polski-bez-wiz> ).

They must also have the appropriate documents entitling them to work. In order to work legally in Poland, a foreigner must have a work permit. For citizens of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, a simplified and much shorter procedure applies. A statement on entrusting work to a foreigner is required. The document issued by the employer is subject to registration by the competent Labor Office. This simplified procedure enabling quick, cheap and easy (i.e. without a work permit) access to the Polish labor market for citizens of selected third countries has been in force since 2006 and has made Poland one of the most liberal countries in the EU in terms of employing foreigners.<sup>3</sup>

It makes life in Poland much easier to get status as EU long-term residents. This permission is granted for an indefinite period. On its basis, a residence card is issued, valid for 5 years. A foreigner who has a long-term EU residence permit is entitled to work in the territory of Poland without the need to have a work permit. To obtain the status of a long-term resident of the EU, you must live in Poland for at least 5 years and demonstrate a documented knowledge of the Polish language at the level of at least B1.

Free access to the labor market is guaranteed by ownership of Pole cards. The relevant provisions of the law came into force in 2008. The Pole Card is a document confirming belonging to the Polish Nation. It can be obtained by a person who does not have Polish citizenship, but proves his/her connection with Polishness, i.e.: has at least basic knowledge of the Polish language and knowledge and cultivation of Polish traditions and customs; will document Polish origin or that is actively involved in activities for the language and culture of the Polish or Polish national minority for at least the last three years.<sup>4</sup>

The Pole Card entitles the holder to:

- take up work and run a business in Poland on the same terms as Polish citizens;
- receive education in Polish schools and universities on the same terms as Polish citizens and to facilitate access to scholarships;
- use health care services in emergency situations;
- obtain a free one-year national visa.

The Pole Card itself does not entitle you to cross the border or settle in Poland.

Repatriates are people of Polish descent who have lost their citizenship or have Polish roots. If they prove their ties to Poland, they have the right to return and obtain Polish citizenship. Repatriation visas are issued to persons of Polish origin who have demonstrated a connection with Polishness before 01.01.2001, permanently resided in the territory of the present-day

<sup>3</sup> <https://wise-europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Raport-Goscinna-Polska-2022.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/uw-mazowiecki/karta-polaka>

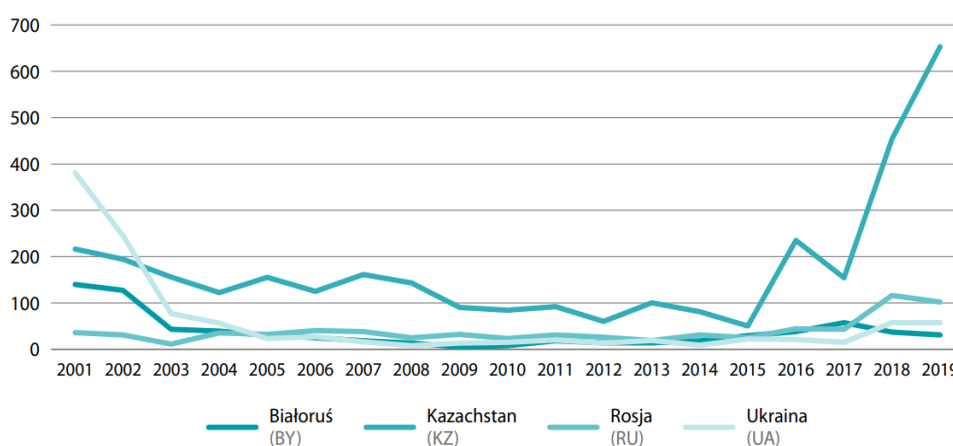
Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan or the Asian part of the Russian Federation.

In 2019, about 739 people obtained repatriation visas, in 2020 - 625, and in 2022 - 779 people. Persons who have entered Poland on the basis of a repatriation visa upon crossing the border of our country acquire Polish citizenship, which means that they are no longer considered foreigners.

**Figure 1. Chart 100. Repatriation visas issued in 2001 - 2019 by the selected country in which the visa was issued.**

**Wykres 100. Wizy repatriacyjne wydane w latach 2001–2019 według wybranych krajów wydania wizy**

Chart 100. Repatriation visas issued in 2001–2019 by selected country in which visa was issued



Source: Central Statistical Office [https://stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/5471/16/1/1/sytuacja\\_demograficzna\\_polski\\_do\\_2019\\_r\\_strona\\_gus.pdf](https://stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/5471/16/1/1/sytuacja_demograficzna_polski_do_2019_r_strona_gus.pdf)

According to the regulations adopted in 2017, repatriates come either at the invitation of the government plenipotentiary for repatriation or at the invitation of a specific commune. The family receives support for the purchase or rent of a flat, adaptation and integration classes are organized, and everyone is entitled to e.g. co-financing of school starter kits for children and reimbursement of vocational training costs. The key limitation in repatriation processes is the lack of housing.

Foreign students. Compared to other developed countries, Poland is not a particularly attractive country for foreign students, although their number is regularly increasing. In 2020, about 85,000 foreign students were educated at Polish universities. For comparison, in the academic year 2012/2013 it was less than 30,000. Foreign students usually stay in Poland on the basis of student visas or temporary residence permits. Most of them are citizens of Ukraine, Belarus, India, Spain and Turkey. Most of them come for paid studies, but also as part of student exchange.<sup>5</sup>

“In the academic year 2021/22, 89.420 foreign students from 180 countries studied in Poland, i.e. 4,731 more than a year earlier (an increase of 5.6 percent). Foreign students currently account for 7.34 percent of all students in our country”<sup>6</sup> - we read in the Study in Poland report.

<sup>5</sup> M. Górczyńska, Poland as a country of immigration - who and for what purpose comes to Poland? [https://migracje.ceo.org.pl/sites/migracje.ceo.org.pl/files/polska\\_jako\\_kraj\\_imigracji.pdf](https://migracje.ceo.org.pl/sites/migracje.ceo.org.pl/files/polska_jako_kraj_imigracji.pdf) access 30.04.2023

<sup>6</sup> Report: Study in Poland, Foreign students in Poland 2022, <http://studyinpoland.pl/raport2022/#page1> access 30.04.2023

Despite the increase in the number of foreign students in recent years, there are still fewer students in Poland than in the most developed OECD countries.

### Foreigners seeking protection on the territory of Poland.

In 1951, the Geneva Convention was created - a key legal document on refugee protection adopted at the United Nations conference in Geneva. Until the early 1990s, Poland did not participate in the international refugee protection system, as it was not yet a party to the Geneva Convention. On the other hand, the influence of the USSR, which controlled Poland's politics, meant that its borders were closed to refugees and free migration. The only institution that was allowed to help refugees was the Polish Red Cross. It was thanks to this organization that Iranians who came to Poland as a result of the 1987 Iran-Iraq conflict received help. In 1991, the International Assistance Team for Refugees from Abroad was established, which was later transformed into the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Minister of the Interior for Refugees. In 1991, Poland ratified the Geneva Convention. The first stage of shaping Polish migration policy, including asylum policy, ended with the adoption in June 1997 of the Act on Foreigners.<sup>7</sup>

Currently, all activities in the field of protection are regulated by the ACT of June 13, 2003 on granting protection to foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Poland (Journal of Laws 2003 No. 128 item 1176).

A foreigner is granted international protection - in the form of refugee status or subsidiary protection, if in his country of origin he is threatened with persecution or a real risk of loss of life or health. At the same time, there must be no circumstances indicating that a given person may, for example, pose a threat to security.

Pursuant to Article 3 of the above-mentioned Act (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 128 item 1176):

Article 3. [Forms of protection]

1. On the territory of the Republic of Poland to a foreigner be protected by:

- 1) granting refugee status;
- 1a) granting subsidiary protection;
- 2) granting asylum;
- 3) granting temporary protection.

### Refugees.

Pursuant to the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees, ratified by Poland, a refugee is a person who: "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or of political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having any nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of similar events, cannot or because of these fears, does not wish to return to that country."

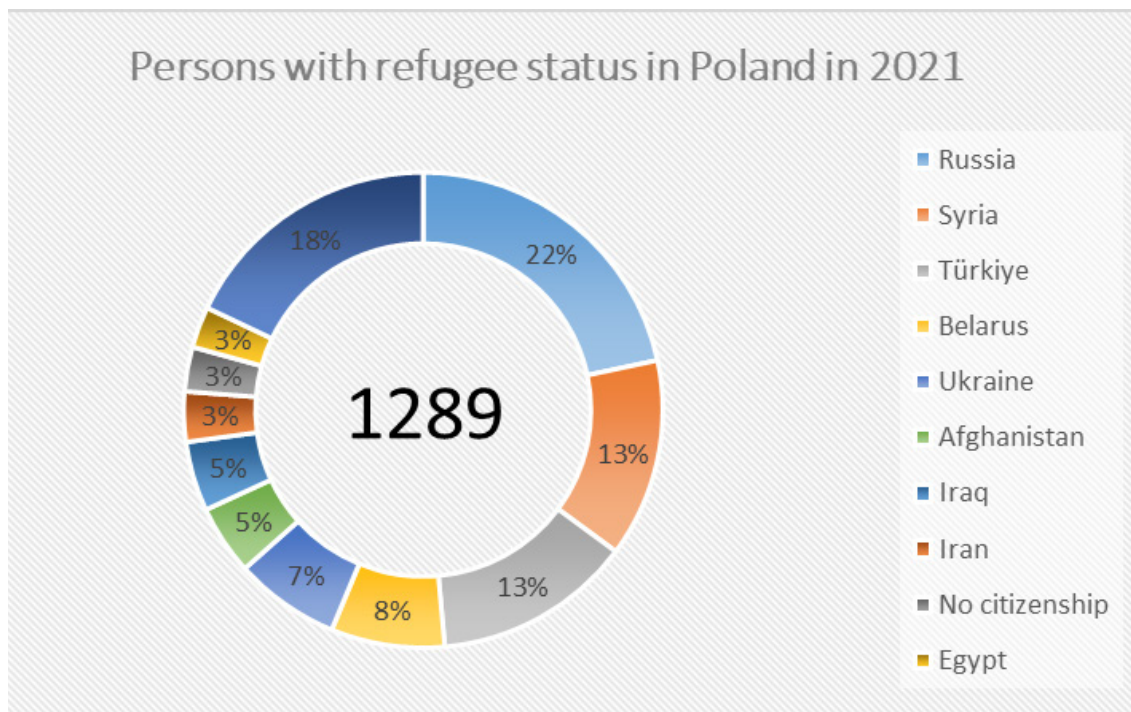
In 2021, 1,289 people had refugee status in Poland. The top five states whose citizens have valid supporting documents to stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland issued on the basis of

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<sup>7</sup> K. Kulecka, Polish policy towards refugees,  
<http://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/Content/21962/PDF/012.pdf> access 30.04.2023

refugee status - include: Russia (279 people), Syria (174 people), Turkey (173 people), Belarus (99 people), Ukraine (92 people). They are followed by: Afghanistan (61 people), Iraq (61 people), Iran (44 people), stateless people (39 people) and Egypt (36 people).<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 2. Persons with refugee status in Poland in 2021.**



Source: [https://kadry.infor.pl/kadry/inne\\_formy\\_zatrudnienia/cudzoziemcy/5314996,Status-uchodzczy-a-praca-w-Polsce.html](https://kadry.infor.pl/kadry/inne_formy_zatrudnienia/cudzoziemcy/5314996,Status-uchodzczy-a-praca-w-Polsce.html)

Procedures for granting international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) last up to 6 months from the date of submission of the application. During this time, foreigners are not allowed to work and they also stay in adaptation centers.

Then, according to the regulations in force in Poland, immigrants with refugee status have exactly the same rights as Poles (with the exception of voting rights). They can live in Poland legally, but also e.g. travel, study, use the public health service, receive social welfare support, start a business or undertake employment.

Lesser. These are people who were sheltered by Poland from political persecution. This is an extremely rarely granted form of protection for foreigners, used only when it is justified by an important interest of Poland. So far, asylum in Poland has been granted to several dozen citizens of Belarus and Ukraine. In 2019, two Norwegian citizens were granted asylum. Asylum is a different form of protection than refugee status.<sup>9</sup>

Temporary protection is granted to foreigners arriving en masse in the Republic of Poland who left their country due to a foreign invasion, war, civil war, ethnic conflicts or gross violations of human rights, regardless of whether their arrival was spontaneous or resulted from assistance provided to them by the Republic of Poland or the international community. Temporary protection is granted until it becomes possible for foreigners to return to their former place of residence.

<sup>8</sup> [https://kadry.infor.pl/kadry/inne\\_formy\\_zatrudnienia/cudzoziemcy/5314996,Status-uchodzczy-a-praca-w-Polsce.html](https://kadry.infor.pl/kadry/inne_formy_zatrudnienia/cudzoziemcy/5314996,Status-uchodzczy-a-praca-w-Polsce.html)

<sup>9</sup> M. Górczyńska, Poland as a country of immigration - who comes to Poland and for what purpose?, CEO, 2020, [https://migracje.ceo.org.pl/sites/migracje.ceo.org.pl/files/polska\\_jako\\_kraj\\_imigracji.pdf](https://migracje.ceo.org.pl/sites/migracje.ceo.org.pl/files/polska_jako_kraj_imigracji.pdf) access 30.04.2023

In 2021, applications for international protection in Poland were submitted by 7.7 thousand foreigners. This was a significant increase compared to previous years. It resulted from the internal situation in Belarus, the evacuation of Afghan collaborators of the Polish army and diplomacy, and the migration of Iraqi citizens through Belarus.

2,155 foreigners met the conditions for granting international protection. They were mainly citizens of: Belarus - 1,150 people, Afghanistan - 750 people (mainly collaborators of the Polish army and diplomacy evacuated in August) and Russia - 90 people.<sup>10</sup>

In 2022, applications for international protection in Poland were submitted by 9.9 thousand foreigners. The number of submitted applications was about 28 percent, higher than in 2021

Almost 5,000 met the conditions for granting international protection to foreigners. They were mainly citizens of:

- Belarus - 3.6 thousand people.
- Ukraine - 1 thousand people.
- Russia - 0.1 thousand people.<sup>11</sup>

In February 2023, a year after the start of Russian aggression against Ukraine, almost 1 million Ukrainian citizens, mainly women and children, benefited from temporary protection in Poland. Most of the newly arrived Ukrainians stay in Poland using temporary protection, which is confirmed by receiving a PESEL number<sup>12</sup> in accordance with the law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of this state.

Women and children make up about 87 percent of this group. Children and teenagers account for approx. 43% of Ukrainian citizens with PESEL numbers. Obtaining a PESEL number enables a citizen of Ukraine to access the labor market in Poland on the same terms as Polish citizens.

### 2.1.3 Citizens of Ukraine in Poland

Ukrainians are by far the largest group of foreigners in Poland, constituting over 80 percent of the total number of foreigners settling in the country. Over 360,000 Ukrainian citizens have valid temporary residence permits. In the vast majority, they are issued in connection with taking up work. Over 65,000 people, on the other hand, have permanent residence permits or long-term EU resident permits. In total, about 1.4 million people have valid residence permits in Poland. To the numbers presented above, one should also add people residing in Poland under visa-free travel or on the basis of visas.<sup>13</sup>

Since February 24, 2022, the migration situation in Poland has been dominated by an increased influx of Ukrainian citizens. Since the beginning of Russia's aggression, over 11.5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border to Poland. According to the Border Guard, these are mainly women and children. From the beginning of the war to May 1, 2023, 9.497 million people returned to Ukraine.<sup>14</sup> Nearly 1 million Ukrainian citizens enjoy temporary protection as a result of the war.

<sup>10</sup><https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/ochrona-miedzynarodowa-w-2021-r>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/ochrona-miedzynarodowa-w-2022-r>

<sup>12</sup>The PESEL number is an eleven-digit numeric symbol that allows for easy identification of the person who has it.

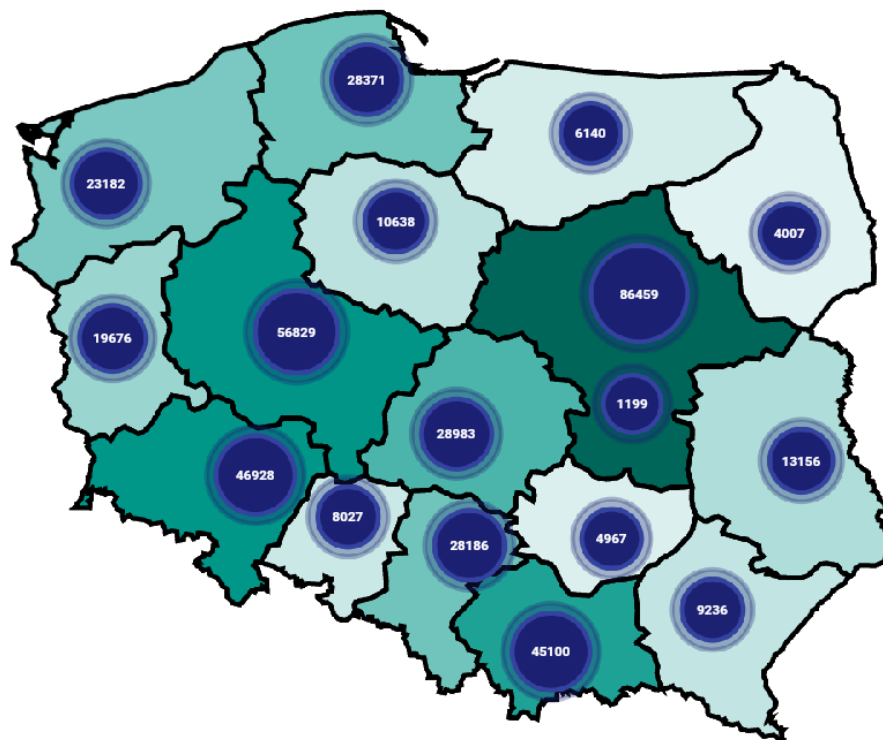
<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/obywatele-ukrainy-w-polsce--aktualne-dane-migracyjne2>

<sup>14</sup>Source:Border Guard Twitter



The territorial distribution of Ukrainians settling in Poland is concentrated in voivodeships with large urban agglomerations. The most popular regions are the following voivodeships: Mazowieckie - 21% of people, Dolnośląskie - 11% of people, Wielkopolskie - 11% of people, Małopolskie - 10% and Śląskie - 9% of people.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 3. Territorial distribution of Ukrainians settling in Poland.**



Source: <https://migracje.gov.pl/statystyki/zakres/polska/>, data from April 2023

A key action resulting from the 2022 war-related migration challenge was the decision to launch the EU Temporary Protection Directive<sup>16</sup> and the adoption by Poland in March 2022 of the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of this country (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 583).

It provides, among others:

- the right to stay in Poland for 18 months, provided that the break in this stay is not longer than 1 month;
- the possibility of obtaining a PESEL number;
- assistance provided by voivodes in the form of: accommodation, food, transport to accommodation, cleaning and personal hygiene products and access to health care;
- access to benefits on the same terms as Polish citizens, including in particular: family benefits;
- legal access to the labor market, if the employer notifies the competent poviats labor and business office within 14 days of starting work.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/obywatele-ukrainy-w-polsce--aktualne-dane-migracyjne2>

<sup>16</sup> Find out more about temporary protection here <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/pl/infographics/temporary-protection-displaced-persons/> access 30.04.2023

<sup>17</sup> Act of March 12, 2022 on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of

“The influx of war refugees from Ukraine contributes to changing the status of Poland from a country in transition from an emigration country to an immigration one. This transformation is taking place the fastest in the modern history of Europe. It should be assumed that regardless of the outcome of the war and its consequences for Ukraine’s economic development, Poland will become a bi-national country, with an obvious predominance of the Polish nation, but with a growing share of the Ukrainian nation.<sup>18</sup> - write the authors of the Gościnną Polska 2022 report.

### 2.1.4 Foreigners working in Poland

The total number of people legally working in Poland on December 31, 2022 was 9,863.4 thousand (ZUS data), which is 1.8% more than in 2021. The number of legally working foreigners was 1,062.3 thousand, 21.5% more than in 2021.

Among the population of people working in Poland in 2022, foreigners accounted for 10.8%. The leading group are Ukrainians.

The table shows the numbers of the most represented groups of foreigners legally working in Poland:

**Table 2. Number of foreigners insured in ZUS - as of December 31, 2022.**

Citizenship	Number of insured	Employees	Business people
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,063,261</b>	<b>632,307</b>	<b>29,738</b>
Ukrainian	745,980	428,633	10,038
Belarusian	108,111	77,827	4,944
Georgian	27,385	9,721	112
Indian	15,961	10,534	296
Moldavian	14,685	5,424	82
Russian	13,416	9,572	854

Source: ZUS statistical portal: <https://psz.zus.pl/kategorie/ubezpieczeni/ubezpieczenia-emerytalne-i-rentowe>

Analyzing the data from the ZUS Statistical Portal, an increased influx of economic migrants from Asia can be noted, most of whom were Georgians (27.4 thousand, one sixth more than the year before). The number of Indians registered with ZUS almost doubled, to about 16,000.

The number of people working in Poland also increased over the course of 2022: Uzbeks (up to 4.9 thousand) and employees from Indonesia, of which there were over 4.4 thousand in

this state, Journal U. 2022 item 583

<sup>18</sup> Bukowski M., Duszczyk M. (eds.), Report Guest Poland 2022

<https://wise-europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Raport-Goscinna-Polska-2022.pdf> access 30.04.2023

Poland at the end of 2022, by 54 percent more than a year earlier. The group of employees from Azerbaijan grew at a similar rate (to over 3.3 thousand). The number of workers from Kazakhstan (3,300) and Bangladesh (3,000) grew slightly more slowly.

### Special provisions for the employment of citizens of Ukraine.

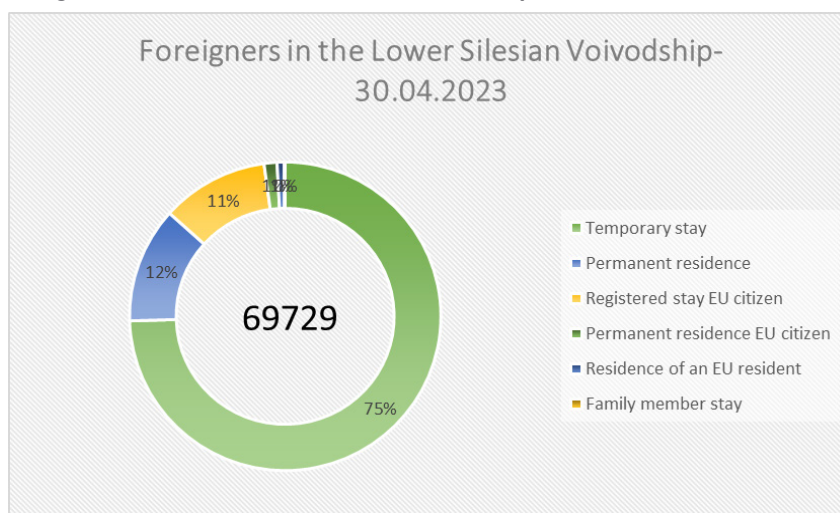
As a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine, in March 2022, the Polish government introduced a special law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens. This act contains provisions regarding the stay in Poland and the area of employment of Ukrainian citizens in Poland, including i.a. the following:

- Ukrainian citizens who left their homeland as a result of Russian aggression, i.e. in the period from February 24, 2022, may legally stay in Poland for 18 months from February 24, 2022,
- the stay in Poland of Ukrainian citizens who stayed in the country before February 24, 2022 will be extended under the Act,
- all citizens of Ukraine residing legally in Poland may take up work without a permit or declaration of entrusting work to a foreigner (it is enough to stay legally in the Republic of Poland and for the employer to notify the employment office by the via the ICT system),
- citizens of Ukraine, whose stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland is considered legal, may take up and run a business on the same terms as Polish citizens (the right is granted provided that they obtain a PESEL number).<sup>19</sup>

### 2.1.5 Immigrants in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship

In April 2023, 69,729 foreigners were registered in the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship.

**Figure 4. Foreigners in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship-30.04.2023.**



Source: based on data from migracje.gov.pl

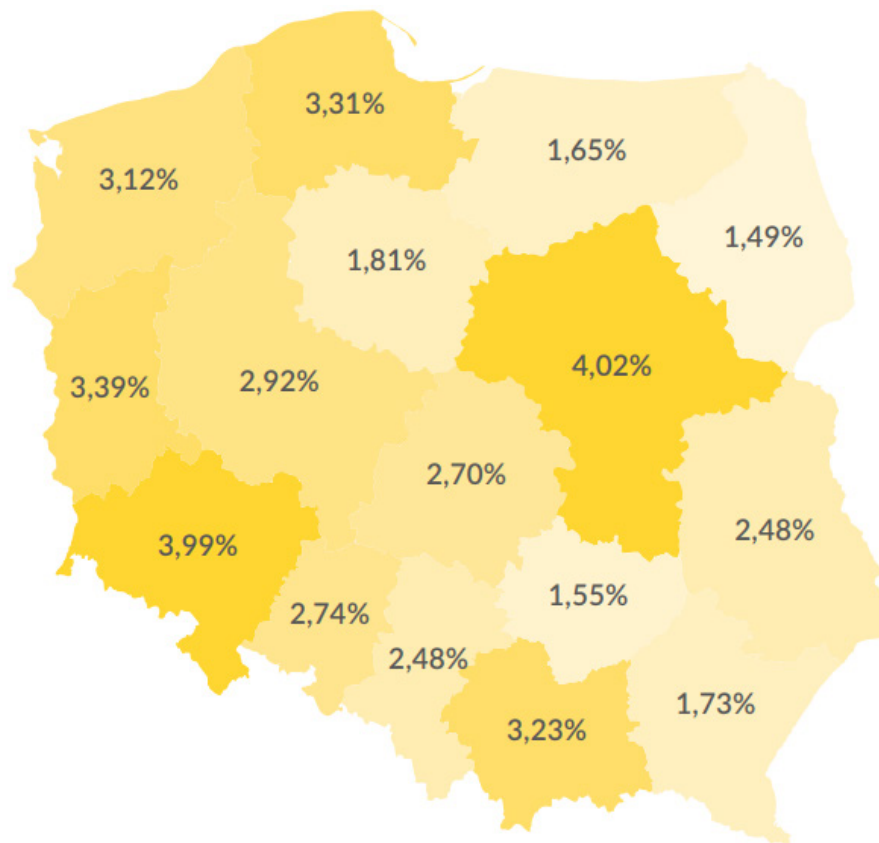
The largest group of foreigners are citizens of Ukraine (46,928), followed by citizens of Belarus (3,793). In the range of 2,000 to 1,000 people there are immigrants from the following countries:

<sup>19</sup>Report:Ukrainian citizens on the Lower Silesian labor market - problems, challenges, prospects, DWUP, 2022,s. 17 [https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211\\_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dol-no%C5%9B%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763](https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dol-no%C5%9B%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763), access 30.04.2023

South Korea, Germany, Italy, Russia, Georgia, India, Spain.

The Dolnośląskie Voivodeship is the second in Poland, most often inhabited by war refugees from Ukraine.

**Figure 5. Percentage share of war refugees registered in the PESEL database in the total number of inhabitants of a given voivodeship.**



Source: PESEL

The number of people registered in the register of Ukrainian citizens and their family members who were granted the status of a foreigner pursuant to the Special Act in the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (as of September 11, 2022) was 142,340. In Jelenia Góra and the surrounding Karkonosze Powiat - 7,666 people.<sup>20</sup>

The Lower Silesian Voivodeship Labor Office conducted research among immigrants from the UA. Selected issues and results are presented below.

The majority (60.5%) of the surveyed immigrants from Ukraine declared their willingness to move to Poland permanently. Such declarations were made mainly by the surveyed men - in this group, 85% of the respondents expressed a desire to live in Poland permanently, while the percentage of women willing to settle permanently in the country was much lower and amounted to 39.1%. Younger respondents are more willing to move permanently.

Most of the surveyed citizens of Ukraine (69.7%) feel the need to supplement, acquire or update their qualifications/competences. It should be noted that in the group of people who feel the

<sup>20</sup> Report: Ukrainian citizens on the Lower Silesian labor market - problems, challenges, prospects, DWUP, 2022, p. 12 [https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211\\_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dol-no%C5%9B%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763](https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dol-no%C5%9B%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763), access 30.04.2023

need to supplement, acquire or update their qualifications and competences, the majority would be interested in participating in training (96.7%).

Most of the surveyed immigrants from Ukraine (60.0%) are interested in learning Polish and training in this field. Women declared greater interest in improving their skills in this area than men. Every third (33.3%) respondent would like to take part in training in the use of computers and programs, and every fifth (20.0% each) would like to be prepared for work in trade and preparation for running their own business. Again, women more often expressed interest in such training.<sup>21</sup>

The quoted statements indicate that there is a niche, e.g. related to teaching Polish, in which non-governmental organizations can engage in cooperation.

### 2.1.6 Summary

In Poland at the end of August 2022, there were approx. 3 million foreigners, which accounted for approx. 8 percent of society. The dominant group of immigrants are citizens of Ukraine.

Researchers indicate that Poland is becoming a bi-national country, which brings both opportunities and risks.

From the beginning of the occurrence of modern migration phenomena, the influx of immigrants to Poland took place without a coherent migration policy. To some extent, such a document can be considered a study entitled “Polish migration policy - current state and postulated actions”, which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Poland in 2012. However, already in 2015, after the change of the ruling coalition, this document was canceled. Since then, the migration policy in Poland has been highly dispersed, constantly focusing on liberalizing access to the labor market, to the exclusion of other issues (housing, access to health care, etc.). In addition, Poland did not implement any significant integration policy with a wide range in practice. Selected, few activities concerned only migrants arriving in Poland for humanitarian reasons and receiving various forms of care. This means in practice that in Poland, mechanisms to support the process of including immigrants into the institutions of the host country have not been created or these mechanisms had to be created bottom-up, either through selected local governments or non-governmental organizations.

In 2021, an executive document defining the migration policy in Poland was developed, entitled “Poland’s migration policy - lines of action 2021-2022”.<sup>22</sup> Unfortunately, it was not approved.

The Deloitte team, in the report Refugees from Ukraine in Poland (2022), has prepared recommendations that, translated into actions, can avoid social unrest and positively affect the quality of life of refugees from Ukraine as well as all citizens in Poland. The key areas identified by the researchers are:

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<sup>21</sup>Report: Ukrainian citizens on the Lower Silesian labor market - problems, challenges, prospects, DWUP, 2022,s. 39-44

[https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211\\_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dolno%20C5%9Bl%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763](https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dolno%20C5%9Bl%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763), access 30.04.2023

<sup>22</sup>Report:Ukrainian citizens on the Lower Silesian labor market - problems, challenges, prospects, DWUP, 2022, p. 12 [https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211\\_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dolno%20C5%9Bl%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763](https://wupdolnoslaski.praca.gov.pl/documents/91541/10909303/2211_Obywatele%20Ukrainy%20na%20dolno%20C5%9Bl%C4%85skim%20rynku%20pracy.pdf/42358b43-dd73-4f24-92f2-c3b9c2aa1763) access 30.04.2023

1. Professional activation of refugees:
  - a. Improving the flow of information and fighting disinformation;
  - b. Facilitating entry into the labor market and professional activation of refugees
2. Learning Polish and facilitating access to the labor market for specialists:
  - a. Teaching refugees the Polish language
  - b. Facilitating access to professions requiring high or specialist qualifications.
3. Creating combined offers:
  - a. Improving access to pre-school care for the activation and financial independence of mothers
  - b. Combining housing offers with job offers.
4. Quick solutions for housing.
5. A systemic approach to housing.<sup>23</sup>

These recommendations are addressed to the government and local authorities, but non-governmental organizations can also find this an area to act for the benefit of education, information and integration of immigrants and the local community.

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<sup>23</sup> Report: Refugees from Ukraine in Poland <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/pl/Documents/Reports/pl-Uchodzcy-z-Ukrainy-w-Polsce-Report.pdf>  
access 30.04.2023



## 2.2 Descriptions of the situation in Denmark

### 2.2.1 Overview

Until World War I, Denmark was experiencing mass emigration, mainly to the US and some immigration from Poland and Germany. Immigration to Denmark became a phenomenon in the 1960s, when the manufacturing economy expanded and a demand for labor foreign appeared, as guest workers. They came from Turkey, Yugoslavia, Pakistan and Morocco. Most of the new guest workers were men and the expectation was that they would only live and work in Denmark for a few years after which they would return to their homeland. Exact numbers are not available, but in 1973, residents from these four countries numbered some 15,000. In the 1970s, Denmark accepted refugees from Chile and Vietnam, probably some 1,000 annually.<sup>24</sup>



**Figure 6: Visit to a club for Turkish guest workers in Copenhagen.**

Source: Per Daugaard, in [Arbejdsmuseets Arkiv](#)



**Figure 7: Guest workers striking against forced redundancies in front of the Danish Employers' Association, 1978.**

Source: [Arbejdsmuseets Arkiv](#)

In the 1970s, Denmark introduced the first limitations on immigration. A fear that immigration would lead to reduced wages and increased need for social assistance amongst immigrants appeared. In the late 1970s, mayors started to raise concerns about problems with integration and the tendency to form a 'parallel society'.<sup>25</sup>

In 1983, the Danish Parliament passed the new Aliens Act, the most liberal in Europe, voted by a majority formed between the parties which were not in government. A wide range of people were allowed to come and stay in Denmark, further beyond the provisions of international rights. It was tightened in 1986, making it more

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/denmark-integrating-immigrants-homogeneous-welfare-state>

<sup>25</sup> <https://nordics.info/show/artikel/danish-immigration-policy-1970-1992-1>

difficult to obtain asylum or citizenship and making it easier to deport fraudulent or criminal immigrants. The law regulating family reunification was tightened in 1992.<sup>26</sup>

The Cold War, the breakdown of empires and federations, and conflicts in the Middle East led to the arrival of several new groups through the 1990s, particularly Russians, Hungarians, Bosnians, Iranians, Iraqis, and Lebanese. None of these groups came in large numbers, but, because of the family reunification policy, they and their descendants began to represent sizable numbers by the 1980s and 1990s.

Another consequence of increasing levels of immigration was that, from the mid-1980s onward, immigrant integration developed into a controversial public issue in Denmark, dividing both public opinion and the political scene.<sup>27</sup>

Until the mid-1990s, in fact, refugees were generally welcome in Denmark, particularly those from former communist countries. As more refugees began to arrive from third-world countries, however, a shift of policy and perception started to set in. Repatriation became an integral part of temporary residence programs from the early 1990s. Since 2001 to today, the prerequisites for permanent residency became more and more strict, and numbers have declined dramatically. Thus, in 2002, the required length of stay was raised from 3 to 7 years jointly with a new requirement of documented language proficiency corresponding to passing a test at the basic course level. In 2007, the bar was raised higher: language proficiency test at the intermediate level, plus two new requirements: “Integration exam” and 2.5 years of full-time employment. The integration program was again reformed in 2016, with a “work-first” policy, meaning that everyone should actively search for jobs and participate in on-the-job training within one month upon settlement – requirements of which refugees were exempted before if they were not assessed as job ready, e.g. if they did not speak Danish.<sup>28</sup> In 2019 the required length of stay was raised again from 7 to 8 years for a permanent permit. Consequently, not many fulfill the requirements for permanent permits. In 2019 more people with a refugee background emigrated from Denmark than immigrated, for the first time since 2011 with a difference of 730 people<sup>29</sup>.

In January 2021, prime minister Mette Frederiksen announced that immigration should be limited so it would not threaten social cohesion of Danish society, which was already under strain, and added that the number of migrants had a strong impact on achieving integration of immigrants<sup>30</sup>.

In March 2021, the Danish government and Danish asylum authorities found the situation in Damascus, Syria, sufficiently safe to withdraw asylum status from 94 Syrian refugees in Denmark and deport them back to Syria. Denmark is the only country in Europe to be doing so.<sup>31</sup> Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen also stated a goal of “zero asylum seekers in Denmark”<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> idem

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/denmark-integrating-immigrants-homogeneous-welfare-state>

<sup>28</sup> I Refugee migration and the labour market: lessons from 40 years of post-arrival policies in Denmark, Jacob Nielsen Arendt, Christian Dustmann, Hyejin Ku, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 38, Issue 3, Autumn 2022, Pages 531–556, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac021>, p. 9-10

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.uim.dk/>

<sup>30</sup> “Mette Frederiksen: Målet er nul asylansøgere til Danmark”. *jyllands-posten.dk*. 2021-01-22. Retrieved 2021-01-23.

<sup>31</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/denmark-permits-certain-syrian-refugees-revoked\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/denmark-permits-certain-syrian-refugees-revoked_en), <http://refugees.dk/en/news/2021/march/denmark-wants-to-send-back-refugees-to-a-dangerous-syria-in-ruins/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://nyheder.tv2.dk/politik/2021-01-22-mette-frederiksen-malet-er-nul-asylansogere-til-danmark>

## 2.2.2 The main types of immigrants in Denmark

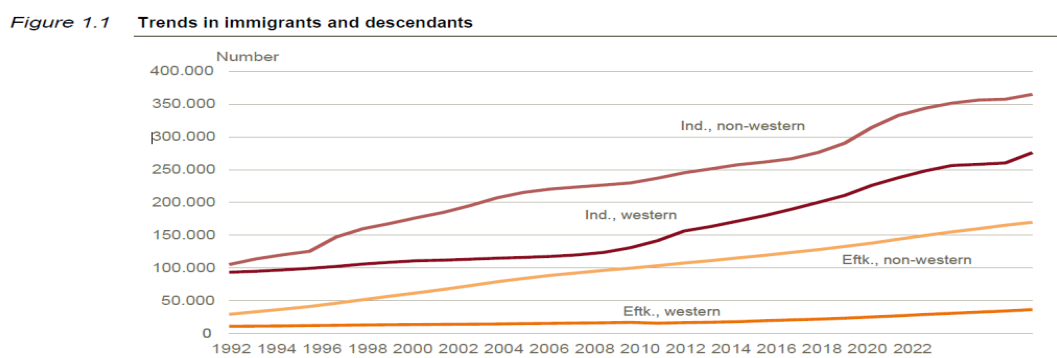
### 2.2.2.1. International immigrants

The population of Denmark on 1 January 2022 is 5,873,420. Of these, 86% are of Danish origin, while 11% are immigrants and just 3% descendants of immigrants.<sup>33</sup>

Over the past 30 years, the number of immigrants and descendants in Denmark has been increasing, with the highest number from non-Western countries. Thus, 365,011 immigrants from non-Western countries in the population on 1 January 2022 is 3.5 times higher than in 1992. Over the same period, the number of immigrants from Western countries has also increased with 195%. Before 1991, there were more immigrants from Western countries than immigrants from non-Western countries.<sup>34</sup>

An interesting fact is that the total population of Denmark increased in the last 30 years from 5,1 mil to 5.8, while the rate of birth in the Danish population is declining<sup>35</sup>, so the increase in population is due to the immigration and its higher birth rate.

**Figure 8. Numbers of Western and non-Western immigrants and descendants in Denmark 1992-2022.**



Source: Immigrants in Denmark 2022, published by Danmark Statistik

#### Definitions

**Immigrants** are born abroad, with no parent Danish citizen, either born in Denmark.

**Descendants** are born in Denmark from immigrant parents. When one or both parents born in Denmark acquire Danish citizenship, their children will not be classified as descendants, but as persons of Danish origin. However, if Danish-born parents both retain foreign citizenship, their children will be classified as descendants.

Persons of Danish origin are persons - regardless of their place of birth - who have at least one parent who is both a Danish citizen and born in Denmark.

**Western countries:** EU countries plus Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, UK, Vatican City, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

**Non-Western countries:** all other countries.

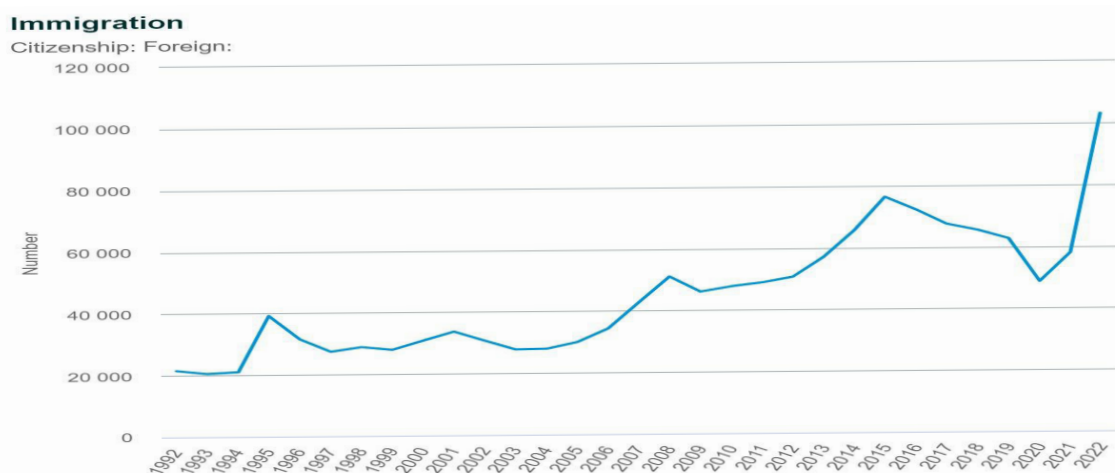
<sup>33</sup> Immigrants in Denmark 2022, published by Danmark Statistik, December 2022, [www.dst.dk/publ/indvandreridk](http://www.dst.dk/publ/indvandreridk), p 11

<sup>34</sup> Ibidem, p. 13

<sup>35</sup> Ibidem, p 28

The total number of immigrants per year from 1992 to 2023 is presented in Figure 2. The peak years appear in the years of war, 2015 (mostly Syrians and Afghans) and 2022 (Ukrainians).

**Figure 9. Immigration to Denmark 1992-2022.**



Source: <https://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/emner/borgere/flytninger/ind-og-udvandring>

Table 1 shows the age distribution of the ten countries from which Denmark has the most immigrants. Together, immigrants from these ten countries account for 42% of all immigrants. Immigrants from Poland numbered 44,213 in 2022, making Poland the country of origin with the largest immigrant population in Denmark. Syria, with 35,325 immigrants is the second largest immigrant group in Denmark, while immigrants from Romania is the third largest with 34,097 immigrants.

**Table 3. Immigrants from Western and non-Western countries to Denmark, by age in 2022.**

Immigrants by age and country of origin. 2022								
	0-9 year	10-19 year	20-29 year	30-39 year	40-49 year	50-59 year	60 years and over	I total
	pct.							number
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>640 922</b>
<b>Western countries</b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>275 911</b>
Of which:								
Poland .....	2	6	17	28	23	12	12	44 213
Romania .....	3	6	26	37	18	7	3	34 097
Germany .....	2	4	18	16	13	16	31	32 426
United Kingdom .....	2	2	13	18	16	20	28	15 960
Norway .....	1	2	26	17	13	12	30	15 638
<b>Non-Western countries</b> ..	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>365 011</b>
Of which:								
Syria .....	9	23	19	23	16	7	3	35 325
Turkey .....	1	2	5	15	29	28	20	33 487
Iraq .....	1	2	16	24	17	22	18	21 966
Iran .....	2	4	7	25	20	19	23	18 044
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	5	24	20	21	29	16 471

Note: The table shows the top ten countries of immigration.

Source: Immigrants in Denmark 2022, published by Danmark Statistik.

The immigrants from non-Western countries are younger than immigrants from Western countries. Immigrants of German origin have the highest share of those aged 60 or over among the major immigrant countries, at 31% (they came to Denmark a long time ago), while those with Polish and Romanian origin are mainly young people and Syrians are even younger.

### 2.2.2.2. Asylum seekers, refugees

#### Definitions

Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.

Asylum seeker is the person who asks for asylum, but whose request is not decided yet, while refugee is the person whose asylum claim has been approved and who is granted (temporary) protection and residency.

The legal definition of a refugee is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion (article 1 of the 1951 United Nations Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees). As the legal definition doesn't specifically address issues of civilians who flee wars and conflicts – the main source of refugee migration today, UNHCR considers therefore an expanded definition, stating that “persons fleeing the civil wars and ethnic, tribal and religious violence and whose country of origin is unwilling or unable to protect them” should be considered refugees, but not all countries agree with it. Consequently, countries have developed different procedures and protection for people asking for refugee status, as Denmark did.

In Denmark, asylum seekers typically request asylum after entering the country, often as undocumented migrants. After the asylum request, the applicant is relocated to a central reception center until the formal application process commences. At that point, and while the application is processed by the Danish Immigration Service, the refugee is assigned to a lodging center. In many countries, asylum seekers are not allowed to participate in the labor market. Since 2013, Denmark permits working during the assessment period in cases where the assessment period exceeded 6 months<sup>36</sup>. However, only few refugees took advantage of this possibility<sup>37</sup>.

Once the asylum application process is concluded the application is either rejected, or refugee status is provided as a temporary residence permit, for 1 year since 2019 (UNHCR recommends 5 years). Extensions (2 years) are granted when the reason for protection still holds. After a period of settlement in the country (9 years currently), knowing the language at intermediate level and min. 2.5 years of employment, refugees can apply for permanent residency. The required length of stay and conditions for permanent residency have changed over time, as detailed in chapter 1.4.

#### Asylum applications in numbers

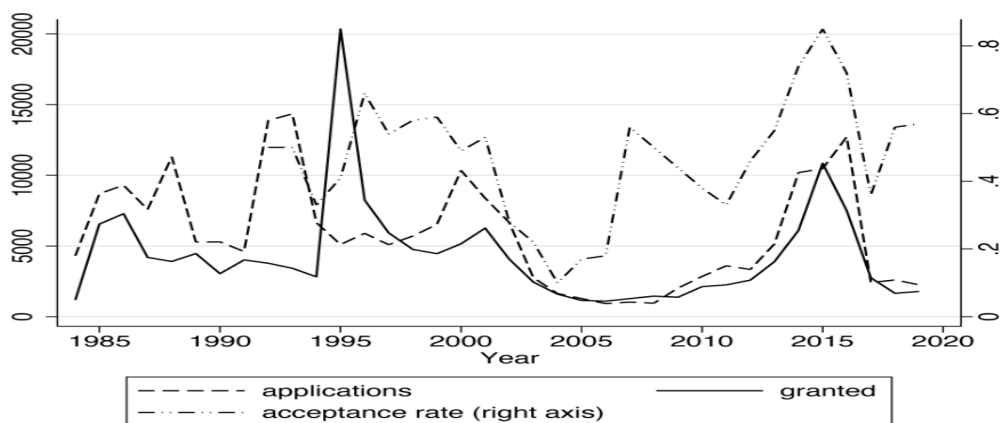
The figure below shows the evolution of refugee migration to Denmark for the period 1984-2019. The dark dashed line indicates the number of registered asylum applications in Denmark, which peaked in 1992-1993 (the conflict in Yugoslavia) and 2014-2016 (the war in Syria). The number peaked at the end of 2015 with 21,316 new arrivals – but dropped overnight to a very low level where it still is. Small peaks in the late 1980s show major groups arriving from Palestine and Sri Lanka, and around 2000, when conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan generated massive migrant flows. The solid black line shows the number of persons who were granted asylum during the

<sup>36</sup> Act no. 430, 2013

<sup>37</sup> According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 3,500 applicants waited more than 6 months in asylum centers between 2013 to 2016 for a decision on their application, but only 78 were employed after 6 months of waiting, and while the application was still being processed. The low employment take-up is likely due to strong disincentives implied by the rules for employment. To receive a work permit during the assessment period, applicants had to apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sign a document that they would voluntarily leave Denmark if their case is rejected. Moreover, any income from work is deducted from public transfers, and if work income exceeded transfers, they could be asked to contribute to housing expenses.

same period, a total of 155,752 persons. Since the ratification of the refugees convention (1952) to 1983, a number of 13,765 individuals were granted refugee status (according to the Danish Refugee Council). The light grey dashed line plots the acceptance rate for applications for asylum by the year of decision, i.e., the number of persons granted asylum over the total number of decisions in a year<sup>38</sup>.

**Figure 10. The number of asylum applications granted and the acceptance rate in Denmark, 1984-2019.**



Source: Arendt, 2021

An analysis of the situation for the period 2020-2022 looks different: the number of new applications is historically low in 2020-2021 - partly because of Covid19 travel restriction (2020-2021), partly because the new Danish asylum rules, and the highest number of European applicants in the last 30 years (2022), due to the war in Ukraine.

<sup>38</sup> Refugee migration and the labor market: lessons from 40 years of post-arrival policies in Denmark, Jacob Nielsen Arendt, Christian Dustmann, Hyejin Ku, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 38, Issue 3, Autumn 2022, Pages 531–556, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac021>



**Table 4. Asylum seekers by continent between 2020 – 2022.**

	2020	2021	2022
EU-27 (without the United Kingdom)	14	20	30
Europe outside EU-27 (without the United Kingdom)	144	150	2400
Africa	517	688	634
North America	2	9	3
South and Central America	25	13	45
Asia	719	1153	1398

Source: <https://www.statbank.dk/VAN5>

In 2022, the war in Ukraine made the asylum applications from Europe outnumbered by the most numerous requests in the last 8 years, i.e Asia (Syrians, Afghan) and Africa (Eritrea, Somalia, Morocco). The number of requests accepted is also historically low (excepting Ukrainians under the Special Act):

**Table 5. Refugee status granted.**

	2020	2021	2022
Europe outside EU-27 (without the United Kingdom)	11	8	19
			32,91
Ukraine (the Special Act)	-	-	6
Africa	142	675	326
North America	0	0	0
South and Central America	7	6	0
Asia	360	369	428

Source: <https://www.statbank.dk/>

In 2022, 4,591 new asylum seekers have been registered in Denmark. Almost half are Ukrainians and around 100 are evacuated Afghans. On top of this number comes over 32,916 refugees under the Special Act for Ukrainians<sup>39</sup>, who have not been accommodated in the asylum system, but stayed in private homes or directly in the municipalities. 589 have been rejected under the Special Act, and 700 Ukrainian asylum cases are pending (but put on hold so far) [31/01/2023].

<sup>39</sup><https://www.statbank.dk/10024>

In the light of the massive focus on refugees and the constant discussion about returning them, it might come as a surprise that refugees only made up 1% of all foreigners who were granted residence permit in Denmark in recent years. The municipalities only received 489 new refugees in 2020. People with asylum as their basis for residence only make up for 1.9% of the population. Adding to this, Denmark has since 2015 not accepted the 500 resettlement refugees per year from the UN, unlike the previous 38 years.

### Asylum camps

Today there are 18 asylum camps in total; the number was 98 in 2015. There are around 2,500 people accommodated in the asylum camps, out of these 700 are staying in one of the three deportation camps. The sudden drop in Denmark was mainly due to the border control introduced by Sweden in two steps December 2015-January 2016. Denmark has always been a transit country to Sweden<sup>40</sup>.

### Asylum seekers by nationalities

The balance in nationalities applying for asylum in Denmark has changed quite a lot from 2010 to 2022. Since 2013, Syrians have made up the largest part, but over the summer of 2016 and 2019 Afghans outnumbered them. In 2014, Eritreans was suddenly number two on the list, dropping to number eight in 2016, and in 2019 rising again, due to the spouses who have been granted family reunification and apply for asylum afterwards. In 2022, Ukrainians outnumbered all of them, first of all due to proximity.

**Table 6. Top 5 nationalities seeking asylum in Denmark 2018-2022.**

2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Eritrea*	656	Syria*	493	Syria*	344	Afghanistan	557	Ukraine	2.069
Syria*	598	Eritrea*	486	Eritrea*	170	Eritrea*	379	Syria*	379
Georgia	396	Stateless	204	Morocco	103	Syria*	325	Afghanistan	377
Iran	196	Somalia	166	Stateless	88	Iran	67	Eritrea*	197
Morocco	181	Morocco	157	Iran	86	Morocco	67	Iran	122

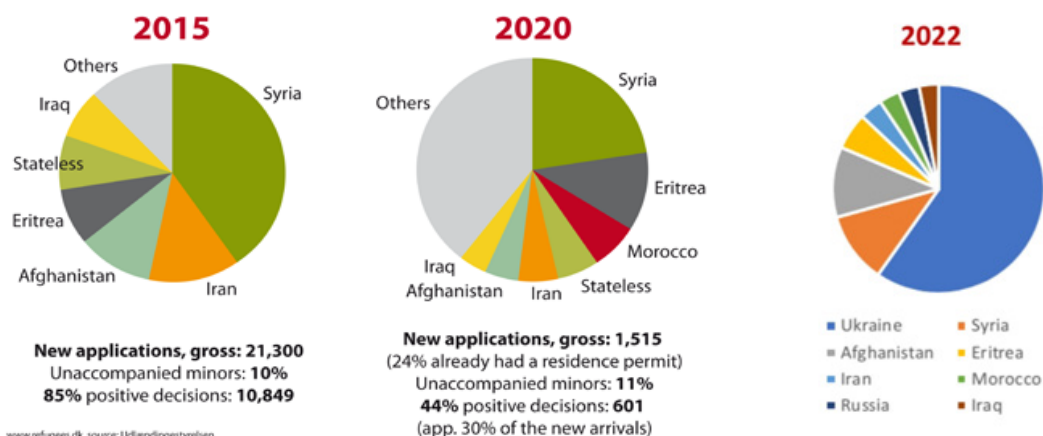
\*) A large proportion already had another residence permit. REFUGEES.DK / Source: Danish Immigration Service

Source: Danish Immigration Service.

41% of the asylum seekers in 2016 were children under 18 years, some of them were [unaccompanied minors](#). In 2022, only 215 unaccompanied minors came, half of them Afghans. Some of the unaccompanied come from Morocco, but they are all rejected.

<sup>40</sup><http://refugees.dk/en/facts/numbers-and-statistics/how-many-are-coming-and-from-where/>

**Figure 11. Nationalities seeking asylum in Denmark in 2015 - 2020 - 2022.**



## The big picture

In general, the amount of asylum seekers arriving in Europe has been declining in recent years, as a consequence of the EU-Turkey deal and the increased control of EU's external borders, but is rising again. Sweden and Germany have also received fewer during recent years, but still receive 6 times more per capita than Denmark.

The rise that Denmark experienced 2014-2016 was even higher in other parts of Europe, and it was mainly due to new and less dangerous access routes opening up via the Greek islands and then through Balkan countries. In 2015 more than 1 mil. refugees came to Europe, which is twice as much as the year before. Both the outer and the inner border controls were intensified, and the number of new arrivals has decreased all over Europe since then, but the drop was more significant in Sweden and Denmark. In total, 80,000 people got a residence permit in Denmark in 2016, but only one out of nine was a refugee. The others got permits because of work, studies or family reunification<sup>41</sup>.

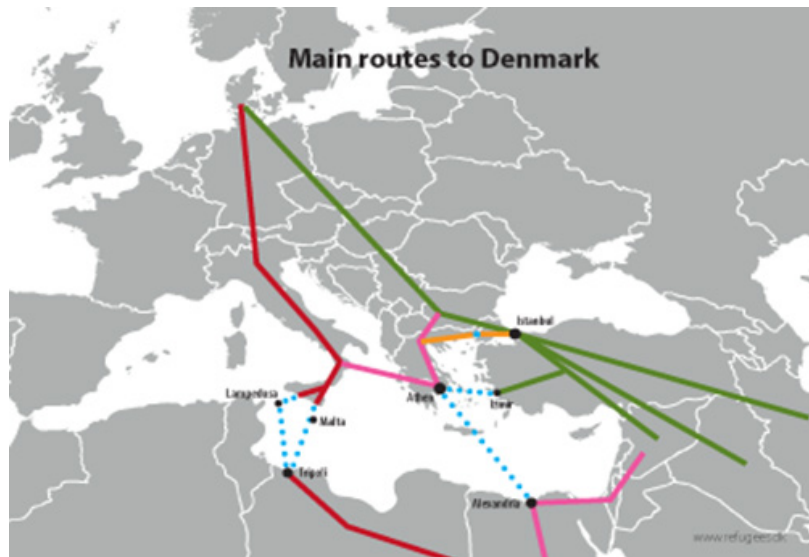
## Asylum seekers routes to Denmark

Almost everybody who asks for asylum in Denmark arrives illegally, with the means of smugglers or false papers. It's almost impossible to get a visa to Europe if you come from countries like Syria, Eritrea or Afghanistan, so this is the only way.

The number of asylum seekers in Europe has dropped significantly due to border controls around and inside Europe, and even more for Denmark specifically. It has become very hard to reach Denmark from Greece, as people are returned to Bosnia from the Croatian border with extremely violent methods.

<sup>41</sup> idem

Figure 12. Main routes to Denmark.



Source: <http://refugees.dk/en/facts/numbers-and-statistics/how-many-are-coming-and-from-where/>

There are still many boats with migrants sailing from Turkey to Greece each month, but relatively more arrive via Libya. It is a much more dangerous route, and many die in the desert of Sahara and drown in the Mediterranean. It is now one out of nine who drowns in the attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>42</sup> UNHCR has an interactive homepage<sup>43</sup> where the current numbers of arrivals and drowned are updated.

Usually Spain, Italy and Greece are the countries that receive the largest number, Denmark in on the bottom of the list. In 2022, 560,000 asylum applications have been registered in the EU until August, beside 4.5 mil Ukrainians. Those who succeed in coming to Europe meet new obstacles: in Greece and Italy<sup>44</sup>, it's almost impossible to survive as a refugee, and many end up in destitution on the streets. All the way through Europe there has been put up fences and control posts, making it very difficult to reach Scandinavia<sup>45</sup>. Thousands are stuck in Lesbos and Bosnia under inhuman conditions.

<sup>42</sup> <http://refugees.dk/en/facts/numbers-and-statistics/how-many-are-coming-and-from-where/>

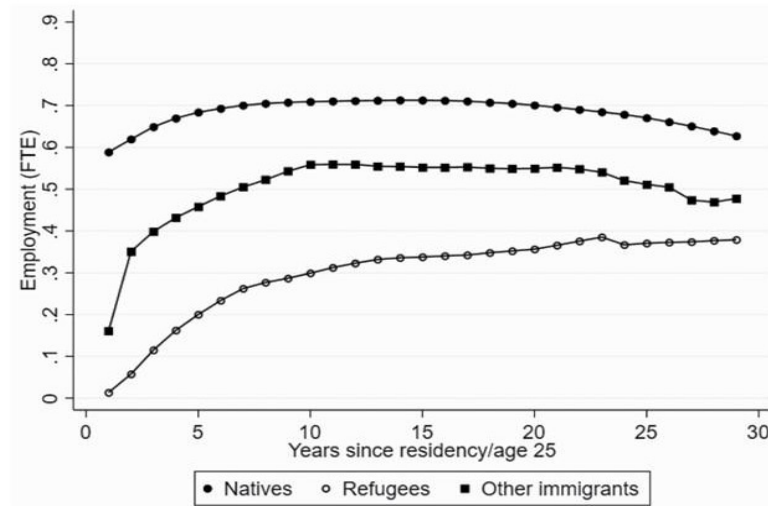
<sup>43</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

<sup>44</sup> See the Danish anthropologist Sine Plambech's documentary about a woman traveling from Nigeria to Italy to sell sex, Beckys Journey, <https://vimeo.com/kongulerod/review/106332153/e7b6e40049>

<sup>45</sup> Read a personal story of a journey from Eritrea to Denmark: "The road to freedom goes through Hell", <http://refugees.dk/en/focus/2015/juni/the-road-to-freedom-goes-through-hell/>

### 2.2.3. Employment – immigrants, refugees and natives

Figure 13. Employment rate for refugees, immigrants and natives.



*Oxf Rev Econ Policy*, Volume 38, Issue 3, Autumn 2022, Pages 531–556, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac021>  
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Source: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac021>

The figure shows the employment rates for refugees compared to other immigrants and natives<sup>46</sup>. Employment of refugees starts off at fairly low levels shortly after arrival but increases rapidly during the first 5 years in the country, to level off again after 4–7 years. There are quite substantial differences in employment rates between refugees, other immigrants and natives, particularly in the first years since residency. Even though the differences narrow after 10–20 years, they remain at 10% points of full-time employment relative to other immigrants and about 25% points relative to natives, after 30 years.

On the other hand there are differences in employment rate between natives and immigrants, depending on nationality, according to the Danish official statistics 2022<sup>47</sup>:

<sup>46</sup> The employment rate is measured in full-time equivalents. Immigrants and refugees aged 18–59 at arrival from 1983 to 2017. Employment is shown by years since residency for immigrants and by years since age 25 for natives (Refugee migration and the labour market: lessons from 40 years of post-arrival policies in Denmark, Jacob Nielsen Arendt, Christian Dustmann, Hyejin Ku, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 38, Issue 3, Autumn 2022, Pages 531–556, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac021>)

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.dst.dk/da/Statistik/nyheder-analyser-publ/Publikationer/VisPub?cid=44690>

Table 7. Employment rates of immigrants vs. natives, by gender, for people aged 30-64, 2020.

	Number of persons			Employment rate		
	Men	Women	I total	Men	Women	I total
	number			pct.		
<b>Immigrants</b>						
Of which:						
Netherlands	2 569	1 649	4 218	84	75	81
Lithuania	3 998	3 894	7 892	83	76	79
Ukraine	3 052	3 817	6 869	89	71	79
Hungary	1 200	1 387	2 587	79	74	76
Latvia	1 248	1 683	2 931	81	73	76
Poland	15 216	12 485	27 701	80	71	76
Thailand	772	8 627	9 399	74	75	75
Germany	7 512	7 897	15 409	78	72	75
Romania	10 623	7 796	18 419	79	69	75
France	2 157	1 493	3 650	78	67	74
Sweden	3 209	4 535	7 744	74	73	74
Philippines	840	6 204	7 044	79	73	74
Iceland	2 108	2 286	4 394	75	72	73
Norway	2 684	4 514	7 198	73	73	73
Italy	3 306	1 752	5 058	76	66	73
United Kingdom	6 674	2 941	9 615	75	65	72
India	4 787	3 480	8 267	84	55	72
Bulgaria	3 483	2 705	6 188	73	68	71
Spain	1 837	1 629	3 466	74	67	71
China	3 080	4 980	8 070	75	68	71
Vietnam	3 318	4 225	7 543	70	67	69
USA	2 629	2 377	5 006	72	63	68
Sri Lanka	2 831	2 871	5 702	70	60	65
Russia	1 176	3 390	4 566	66	64	64
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 143	6 290	12 433	60	54	57
Iran	7 675	5 796	13 471	59	53	56
Turkey	13 851	12 820	26 671	65	47	56
Pakistan	5 157	4 748	9 905	69	42	56
Morocco	2 069	2 407	4 476	63	47	54
Yugoslavia <sup>1</sup>	3 012	3 016	6 028	57	49	53
Afghanistan	4 121	3 724	7 845	64	40	52
Iraq	8 244	6 960	15 204	49	37	43
Syria	9 323	6 825	16 148	60	21	43
Somalia	3 989	3 789	7 778	45	38	42
Lebanon <sup>2</sup>	5 937	5 103	11 040	48	30	40
<b>Danish origin</b>	<b>1 093 316</b>	<b>1 080 981</b>	<b>2 174 297</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>81</b>

Note: The countries in the table include the 35 countries from which there are most immigrants in Denmark at the end of 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Yugoslavia before the break-up.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the people from Lebanon are stateless Palestinians.

Source: Immigrants in Denmark 2022, published by Danmark Statistik, p.60.

Immigrants from the Netherlands, Lithuania and Ukraine have the same level of employment as natives (about 81%) and at the end of the list, Lebanon, Somalia, Syria and Iraq stand out with very low employment rates (below 44%). In most cases, employment rates are higher among men than women, with one exception - Thailand, from where women have a higher employment rate than men. Among immigrants from Syria, India and Pakistan, men's employment rates are more than 25% higher than women's.

Another point of view is that "Without the Polish craftsman on the construction site and the Pakistani social and health worker at the nursing home, Denmark would not be able to hold together"<sup>48</sup>. As the population grows older, native Danes are leaving the labor market, the national birth rate has dropped significantly, the employment rate of people with a migration background in Denmark is needed and they actually fill the gap.



Figure 14. Workforce in construction in Denmark.

Source: Annelene Petersen/Ritzau Scanpix

<sup>48</sup> Fatima og Kamil er årsag til kavalkade af danske beskæftigelsesrekorder – ikke Lars og Lone, 10 January 2023, <https://www.mm.dk/>



**Table 8. Workforce in Denmark, by number Danes, Western and non-Western immigrants and descendants.**

<b>Udlændinge og efterkommere strømmer i arbejde for Danmark</b>				
Antallet af beskæftigede i Danmark fordelt på herkomst, 16-64 år				
<b>Antal personer</b>	2009	2022	2009-2022	2009-2022
Danskere	2.473.375	2.396.985	-76.390	-76.390
Ikke-vestlige <sup>1</sup> indvandrere	120.806	192.200	+71.394	+114.311
Ikke-vestlige efterkommere	19.420	62.337	+42.917	
Vestlige indvandrere	81.818	163.924	+82.106	+84.260
Vestlige efterkommere	5.812	7.966	+2.154	
Det danske arbejdsmarked i alt	2.701.231	2.823.412	+122.181	+122.181

Source: Mandag Morgen, 10 January 2023<sup>49</sup>

The table shows that Danes are leaving the workforce being replaced with immigrants. Moreover, the total number of jobs is increasing and depending exclusively on immigrants.

Denmark has now reached [six national records](#) when it comes to the inclusion of foreign nationals in the labor market:

1. The percentage of people with a non-Western background (first and second generation) in employment is at 64%, a new record for the third year in a row.
2. Last year saw the greatest annual rise in the employment rate of people with a non-Western background, at 5.3%.
3. The gap between the employment rates of ethnic Danes and those with a non-Western background has never been smaller, at 15.3%.
4. The employment rates of migrants from Western countries (first and second generation) is at its highest for 40 years, at 72%.
5. Last year also saw the greatest annual rise in employment rates for migrants from Western countries: 3%.
6. The gap between the employment rates of ethnic Danes and those with a Western background has never been smaller, at 7.3%.<sup>50</sup>

#### 2.2.4. Change of asylum practice and residence permits

Since 2015, a self-described 'paradigm shift' enacted through legislative amendments to Denmark's Aliens Act has shifted refugee policy away from permanent protection and integration

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.mm.dk/politik/artikel/fatima-og-kamil-er-aarsag-til-kavalkade-af-danske-beskaeftigelsesrekorder-ikke-lars-og-lone?toke=8da2ad77dded4dfbad96acc3cd3636b1&fbclid=IwAR0yLHuSoP6h0uXl8hF2JZi9IDoWCg2Qkfrtu-DIdQJ6-FKVUwEZaiAcS7Ng>

<sup>50</sup> *ibidem*

towards temporary protection and return. The intent of the new policy is made clear from the beginning, i.e., in the explanatory memorandum of the bill (Bill no. L 140/2018-19): all protection should be temporary and cessation practice should go to the edge of Denmark's international obligations. A brief chronological account of the changes that constitute the 'paradigm shift':

In February 2015, a new form of temporary protection was introduced - the 'temporary subsidiary protection status'<sup>51</sup>, based on situations of general violence in their home country for which they are granted a one-year residence permit, renewable for two years.

This amendment implicitly aimed at Syrian protection seekers fleeing indiscriminate conflict, but not facing an individual risk of persecution, and explicitly sought to carve out a status more temporary than other protection categories, thus drawing on the temporary protection concept.<sup>52</sup> The explanatory memorandum to the bill noted that cessation could occur 'irrespective that the situation – despite improvements – continues to be serious, fragile and unpredictable'.

In February 2016, new amendments to the Aliens Act barred temporary subsidiary protection holders from accessing family reunification for three years, a restriction currently challenged before the European Court of Human Rights. Further restrictions limited their access to socio-economic rights<sup>53</sup>.

In February 2019, a new set of amendments shifted the focus of protection from integration to return: immigration authorities must end the protection of refugees and complementary protection holders unless such cessation 'would be in breach of Denmark's international obligations'<sup>54</sup>. Affected groups are mainly Somali and Syrians<sup>55</sup>

Since then, residence permits are granted with a view to refugees returning to their country of origin as soon as possible, rather than promoting their integration and long-term residence. Denmark's strong focus on the revocation of refugees' residence permits is unique when compared with other EU countries, and Danish asylum rules provide a significantly lower level of protection for some refugees than the protection generated by asylum rules in other EU member states<sup>56</sup>.

34 000 Syrian refugees have been granted a permit to stay in Denmark since the war in Syria broke out in 2011. By now many are working, studying, speaking the Danish language fluently and feeling strongly attached to Denmark. Only a few hundred of these individuals have been granted permanent residency so far<sup>57</sup>. The requirements are tough: beside employment and proof of Danish language at intermediate level, a 'temporary' stay of 8 years is required in order for permanent residency to be considered (since 2019).

Implementing the new legislation, in 2019, the Danish Immigration Service initiated reviews of residence permits granted to refugees from Damascus. More than 1 000 Syrian refugees have had their residence permits reviewed, and over 100 have had their residence permits revoked [June 2022]. Since Denmark does not have diplomatic relations with Syria, refugees are not forcibly returned at present, but the decisions to end protection create irregular situations for an unknown number of affected persons, either in Denmark or in neighboring countries to which some of them move on from Denmark. It is expected that the Danish authorities will review

<sup>51</sup> Aliens Act via Article 7(3)

<sup>52</sup> The End of Protection: The Danish 'Paradigm Shift' and the Law of Cessation, Forthcoming, Nordic Journal of International Law, Nikolas Feith Tan, 2020, [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3742738](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3742738)

<sup>53</sup> Explanatory memoranda to the bill specifically highlighted the government's objective to make Denmark less attractive as an asylum state - Bill No. L 87/2015-16, explanatory memorandum para 1.2.

<sup>54</sup> Law 174 inserted 19a of the Aliens Act

<sup>55</sup> Tan, p. 18-19

<sup>56</sup> <https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/syriske-flygtninges-retssikkerhed>

<sup>57</sup> <https://jyllands-posten.dk/indland/ECE13730146/et-nyt-tal-om-syriske-flygtninge-faar-eksperter-til-at-faelde-opsigtsvaekkende-dom-det-vil-utvivlsomt-stige/>

the residence permits of refugees from other areas of Syria, as well as refugees from other countries, in the coming years.

The new asylum legislation was subject of many papers submitted by UNHCR (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) between 2015 to 2022, with observations on a range of Danish law proposals, such as the introduction of a temporary subsidiary protection category, confiscation of valuables from asylum-seekers, restrictions on family reunification, reduced social benefits for refugees, introduction of short-term residence permits, mandatory regular review of protection needs, increased use of cessation, restrictive criteria for permanent residency and the temporary halt of the resettlement programme. UNHCR expressed its worries about the limitations introduced in Denmark regarding asylum, many were passed during the special situation in 2015-2016, but are still in place though things have normalized long ago.

In January 2021, Danish asylum policy attracted, UNHCR recommendations to Denmark on strengthening refugee protection in Denmark, Europe and globally<sup>58</sup>. In November 2022, UNHCR renewed and updated its recommendations<sup>59</sup> addressed to the Danish Government, parliamentarians and all other relevant actors and stakeholders and aims at contributing to constructive discussions on improvements of the protection and integration systems for refugees and stateless persons at the national, regional and international level.

UNHCR criticizes the “paradigm shift” from 2019 for having a disproportionate focus on “temporariness”, which will be a hindrance for fast and successful integration into Danish society. If refugees do not have a sense of peace and stability, it creates insecurity and anxiety which is a barrier to the integration process. Even though asylum in certain cases can be revoked, it was never the intention that refugees were to be subjected to constant reassessments once their protection needs had first been established. According to the UNHCR Denmark should not revoke temporary protection status when the situation in the home country is still fragile and unpredictable. The plans to externalize asylum assessment to a third country has also met strong resistance from UNHCR. Denmark is accused of undermining the global system for protection and refusing to acknowledge its responsibilities.

### 2.2.5. Integration policies

The Danish government issued Integration Action Plan 2020-2024 whose main goal is becoming self-supporting and embracing Danish culture and values. The state continues its efforts against negative social control of women in families from a minority background and ‘parallel societies’, which happens when too many ethnic minorities are living in the same housing projects, keeping up cultural patterns from their home countries.

In 2020, the government introduced a new category in statistics: MENAPT countries (Syria, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi-Arabia, Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Qatar, Sudan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Yemen, Mauretania, Oman, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey)<sup>60</sup>. Premises: refugees have a weaker connection to the labor market than

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/neu/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2021/01/UNHCR-Recommendations-to-Denmark-on-strengthening-refugee-protection-in-Denmark-Europe-and-globally-January-2021.pdf>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/neu/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2022/11/UNHCR-Recommendations-to-Denmark-on-Strengthening-Refugee-Protection-Nov-2022.pdf>

<sup>60</sup> MENA/MENAPT are lists of countries used internationally, but there is no common definition. The short version is only 18 countries, but includes Israel, which is not on the Danish list. The longer version includes several non-Muslim countries based geographically in West Africa, former Soviet territory and Europe. The Danish Minister for Immigration and Integration, Mattias Tesfaye, explained that «These new numbers will give a more honest political discussion about the minority of migrants who are very big challenges in our society». He exemplified: women from MENAPT countries had an employment rate of 41.9% in 2018, compared to 61.6% for women from other non-Western countries. Rates for criminal convictions of young men in 2018 were 4.6% for MENAPT countries and 1.8% for other non-Western countries.

others; migrants and descendants from MENAPT countries have less education than people of Danish origin (the gap is decreasing slowly); Non-Western migrants and descendants experience a lack of freedom when it comes to choosing their own partners (this has been decreasing since 2012)<sup>61</sup>.

The Integration plan contains three main focus points:

1. Work or activity 37h per week and learning the Danish language, abolishing user fees for Danish courses, and expanding the group eligible for IGU (basic education for refugees).
  - Full-time job or job training including Danish language training is mandatory.
  - Fees introduced a few years ago for participation in language courses by foreigners holding a work or study permit will be abolished again.
  - The new IGU initiative has been a success, but the number of people with a contract has decreased as a result of fewer arrivals. Therefore, the offer will be extended from only newcomers to refugees and family members with up to 10 years' residency.
2. Efforts to reduce parallel societies (e.g. the so-called Ghetto Plan<sup>62</sup>): better distribution of ethnic minority students at gymnasiums, more efforts for children and young people in socially vulnerable areas, strengthening police work and strengthening collaboration with sports clubs and associations. The 'Ghetto Plan' includes:
  - 1) Changing the balance between residents in areas on the 'ghetto list' by removals, renovations and privatizations.
  - 2) Mandatory day care for children from the age of one, including cultural education, language tests from first grade, a maximum of 30 percent of children being from 'ghetto areas' in any institution.
  - 3) Enforced police efforts in 'ghetto areas', including zones where crimes will be punished harder, as well as increased punishments for domestic violence etc.
  - The project Get2sport will be continued, offering children in 'ghetto areas' easier access to local sports activities.
3. Reducing and preventing negative social control and anti-democratic values and norms: new law proposal against receiving economic support from certain donors.
  - The government finds it important that all girls and women experience the same freedom in Denmark, regardless of their ethnic background. Forced marriages, refusals of divorces and religious marriages of under-age girls are not acceptable. The government wants to increase the use of expulsion in such cases, make it harder to obtain family reunification for parents who have participated in such things and increase the demands for Danish language tests for religious preachers in Denmark.
  - A national team against radicalism and honor-related conflict was established in 2018, and this will be extended with a further focus on negative social control from 2021.
  - A new law makes receiving donations from anti-democratic donors abroad harder. A list of such donors will be reviewed every four years.

When it comes to refugees, since 2019 (Paradigm Shift), the focus has moved from integration to return to the countries of origin. The overall goal is now to send refugees back as soon as

<sup>61</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/denmark-governments-integration-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/denmark-governments-integration-action-plan_en)

<sup>62</sup> Introduced in 2018 by the Danish Parliament in order to change the balance of residents in certain areas with a socially low profile.

conditions allow for it. The word “integration” has been replaced with “self-support and return”. As mentioned before, the United High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) warned Denmark in 2021 and in 2022 that the new policy of temporary stays is harmful to the integration of refugees.

### 2.2.6. Main types of immigrants in a given region

The 847,041 immigrants and descendants living in Denmark on 1 January 2022 represent 14% of the population.

**Table 9. Immigrants and descendants by region - Denmark 2022.**

	Immigrants		Descendants		In per cent of total population		
	Western countries	Non-Western countries	Western countries	Non-Western countries	Persons from Western countries	Persons from non-Western countries	All indiv. and eftk.
		number				pct.	
<b>Whole country</b> .....	<b>275 911</b>	<b>365 011</b>	<b>36 399</b>	<b>169 720</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>14,4</b>
Capital Region .....	121 482	169 142	16 081	84 507	7,4	13,6	20,9
Region of Zealand .....	26 933	39 713	3 585	18 138	3,6	6,9	10,5
Region of Southern Denmark .....	53 778	64 267	7 134	27 828	5,0	7,5	12,5
Region of Central Jutland .....	54 332	67 913	7 204	30 705	4,6	7,3	11,9
North Jutland Region .....	19 386	23 976	2 395	8 542	3,7	5,5	9,2

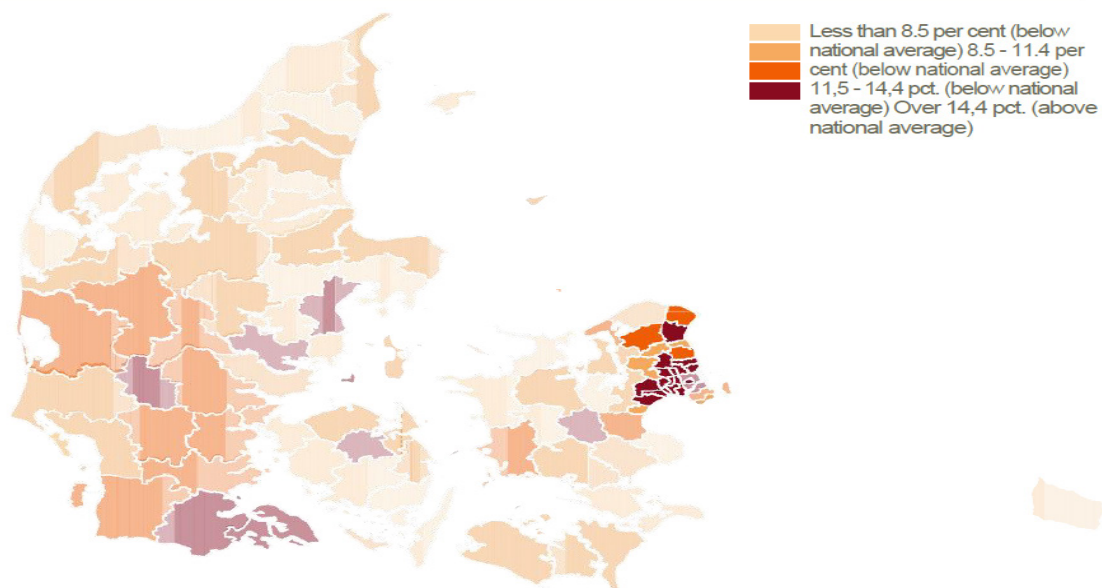
Source: : Immigrants in Denmark 2022, published by Danmark Statistik, p.18

The immigrants are not equally distributed across municipalities and regions. There is a tendency for them to live more near larger cities. Out of the five regions, more than half live in the Capital Region (which has 30 municipalities), and 26% of the total number of immigrants live in Copenhagen Municipalities.

Overall, immigrants and descendants from non-Western countries account for 63% and most of them live in the capital municipalities.

**Figure 15: Immigrants and descendants in total population 2022, by region.**

Share of immigrants and descendants in total population. 2022



Map: Swedish Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure.

Source: Swedish Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure.

In the map, all municipalities are coloured according to their share of immigrants and descendants. The dark red color indicates municipalities with a higher share than the national average of 14%. The map shows that the highest concentration of immigrants and descendants is in the Capital Region, followed by eight municipalities: Greve, Ringsted, Billund, Odense, Sønderborg, Aabenraa, Horsens and Aarhus. The Southern municipalities located near the German border has the highest number of immigrants and descendants of German origin. As a particularity, immigrants in the islands are under the national average (14%) and they hold mostly immigrants from Western countries.



## 2.3 Description of the situation in Spain

### 2.3.1. Overview

Spain has experienced an increase of the migratory flows during the last decades. According to the Spanish Economic and Social Council (2019)<sup>63</sup>, this is due to the context of globalization. In total, the data offered by the National Institute of Statistics of Spain report the number of 5.579.947 foreigners living in the country, while the World Migration Report 2022 (IOM, United Nations, 2022)<sup>64</sup> indicates that Spain has a total population of 6.84 million of international immigrants.

With reference to the countries of origin, Morocco and Romania represent the largest immigrant community of residents in Spain. Besides this, most of the foreigners that have migrated to Spain came from Colombia, United Kingdom, Italy and Venezuela.

The autonomous communities that have registered the largest numbers of foreigners in Spain are the Community of Madrid, Cataluña and Comunitat Valenciana, being also significant the communities present in Andalucía or Canary Islands.

Almost half of the migrant population living in Spain are women, with 2.764.718 foreign women (National Institute of Statistics, 2022)<sup>65</sup>. Another important data with regards to the flows of immigrant population in Spain is the presence of 13.533 unaccompanied minors and ex-warded young people with authorisation of residence.

It is also important to take into account the situation of many international immigrants whose administrative situation is not regulated yet. According to the most recent estimations, in Spain there are between 390.000 and 470.000 people irregularly living.

The obstacles produced by the Law of Extranjería impact generally on the administrative and regular condition of all immigrants. International immigrants in Spain are more likely to be at risk of vulnerability and deprotection, increasing social exclusion and economic inequalities towards the new arrivals. Besides this, language barriers are an important challenge in the process of integration and adaptation of international immigrants in Spain.

The Spanish State is responsible for the regulation of the legal regime of foreigners. However, the autonomous communities of Spain as well as local entities are main actors in the design of public policies for the inclusion and integration of migrant people with competences related to social assistance (social services, health assistance, education and housing).

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<sup>63</sup> Spanish Economic and Social Council. 2019. *Informe La Inmigración en España: Efectos y Oportunidades*. Available at: <https://www.ces.es/documents/10180/5209150/Inf0219.pdf/ae2d5b3-dc20-5683-2763-1b24bb5c0173>

<sup>64</sup> IOM UN. 2022. Available at: <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/wmr-2022-interactive/?lang=ES>

<sup>65</sup> National Institute of Statistics. 2022. Data available at: <https://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/l0/&file=02005.px>

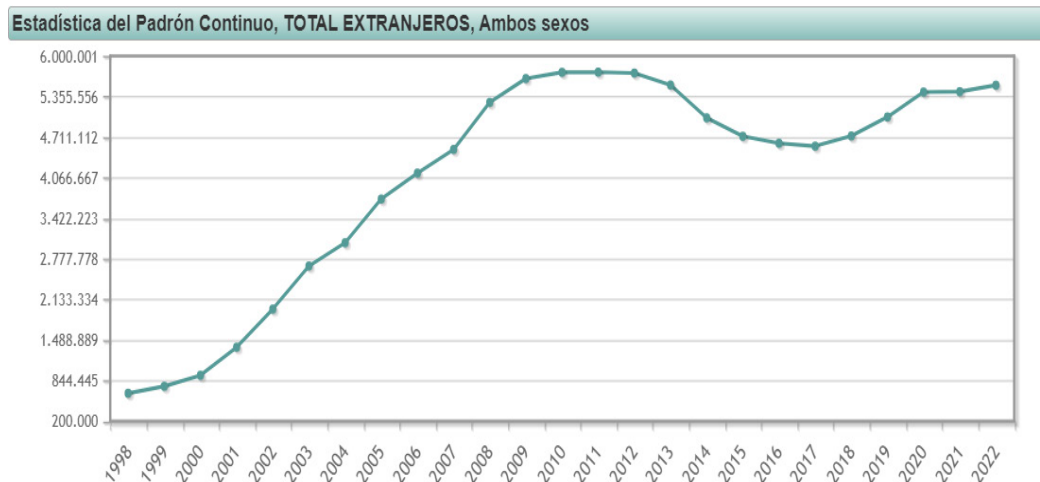
## 2.3.2. The main types of immigrants in Spain

### 2.3.2.1 International immigrants

According to the Migration Statistics of the National Institute of Statistics of Spain<sup>66</sup>, there has been a continuation of the population growth experienced since 2016 in the country. With a population now of 47 million people, it is also remarkable the increase shown amidst migrant population, with 478.990 immigrants reported in the country of Spain in July of 2022 (National Institute of Statistics of Spain, 2022). Despite the fact of not having the exact population numbers of those migrants whose administrative situation is not regulated yet, the population figures and its information have revealed the maintenance of this growth population of immigrants (and even the effects of the COVID-19). For instance, this can be compared to the situation of the previous year with 465.721 immigrants reported.

In total, the data offered by the National Institute of Statistics of Spain (July, 2022) reported the number of 5.579.947 foreigners living in the country. However, the data published by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations (2022)<sup>67</sup> recounted the number of 6.246.130 foreigners as residents in Spain, while the World Migration Report 2022 (OIM, United Nations, 2022) indicates that Spain has a total population of 6.84 million of international immigrants. As seen, the data regarding the total numbers vary depending on the sources consulted and the criteria followed (the registration in el padrón, or the valid certificates of registration and residence cards), although all of them have pointed to the growth of the population of international immigrants in Spain.

**Figure 16. Evolution and growth of the flows of migrant population in Spain.**



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Spain, 2022.

With reference to the countries of origin, Morocco and Romania represent the largest immigrant communities in Spain, being followed by Colombia, United Kingdom, Italy and Venezuela. However, the list of countries of origin with a large number of population reported in Spain is long, including non-EU countries such as China, Ukraine, Peru, Honduras and Ecuador<sup>68</sup>.

<sup>66</sup> National Institute of Statistics. 2022. Data available at: <https://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/l0/&file=02005.px>

<sup>67</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations and OPI. 2022. *Extranjeros con certificado de registro o tarjeta de residencia en vigor*. Available at: <https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/es/Estadisticas/tableau/index.html?modelo=5>

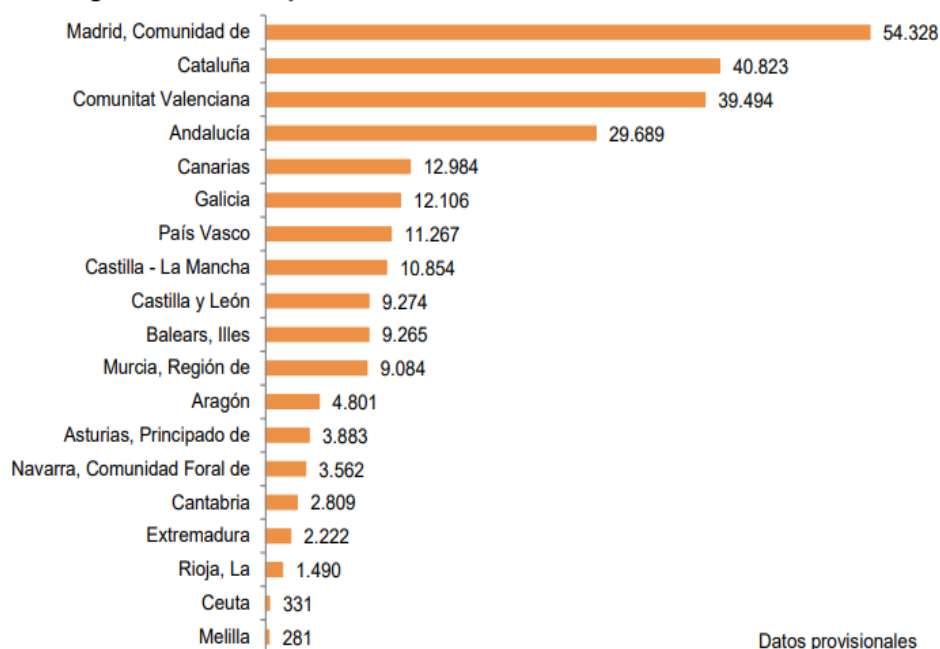
<sup>68</sup> National Institute of Statistics. 2022. Data available at: <https://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/l0/&file=02005.px>

This supposes a very diverse foreign population in Spain (Economic and Social Council of Spain, 2019: 50)<sup>69</sup>. It should also be important to mention that the events that occurred in the last months and years have influenced the flows of the population of foreign immigrants in Spain, as well. As a result of this, the data published during the first semester of 2022 showed that the main nationalities of the new arrivals were Colombia, Ukraine and Venezuela (National Institute of Statistics of Spain, 2022).

At territorial level, the autonomous communities that have registered the largest number of foreigners in Spain are the Community of Madrid, Cataluña and Comunitat Valenciana. In the specific case of Comunitat Valenciana, the immigrant population has reached 751.616 people<sup>70</sup>. Nevertheless, all the autonomous communities have experienced a positive population growth of foreigners, such as Andalucía.

**Figure 17. Data of foreign migration flows by autonomous communities.**

#### Saldo migratorio exterior por comunidades autónomas. Primer semestre de 2022



Source: First semester of 2022. National Institute of Statistics, 2022.

In addition to this, one of the important phenomena that has characterized the flows of migration in Spain during the last decades has been the ‘feminization’ of migration (Economic and Social Council of Spain, 2019: 53)<sup>71</sup>, being migrant women the protagonist of a constant and increased human mobility (Oso Cases, 2010: 34)<sup>72</sup>.

<sup>69</sup> Spanish Economic and Social Council. 2019. *Informe La Inmigración en España: Efectos y Oportunidades*. Available at: <https://www.ces.es/documents/10180/5209150/Inf0219.pdf/ae2d5b3-dc20-5683-2763-1b24bb5c0173>

<sup>70</sup> Generalitat Valenciana. 2021. *Padrón Municipal de Habitantes*. Available at: [https://padron.gva.es/padron/res\\_optimo.php](https://padron.gva.es/padron/res_optimo.php)

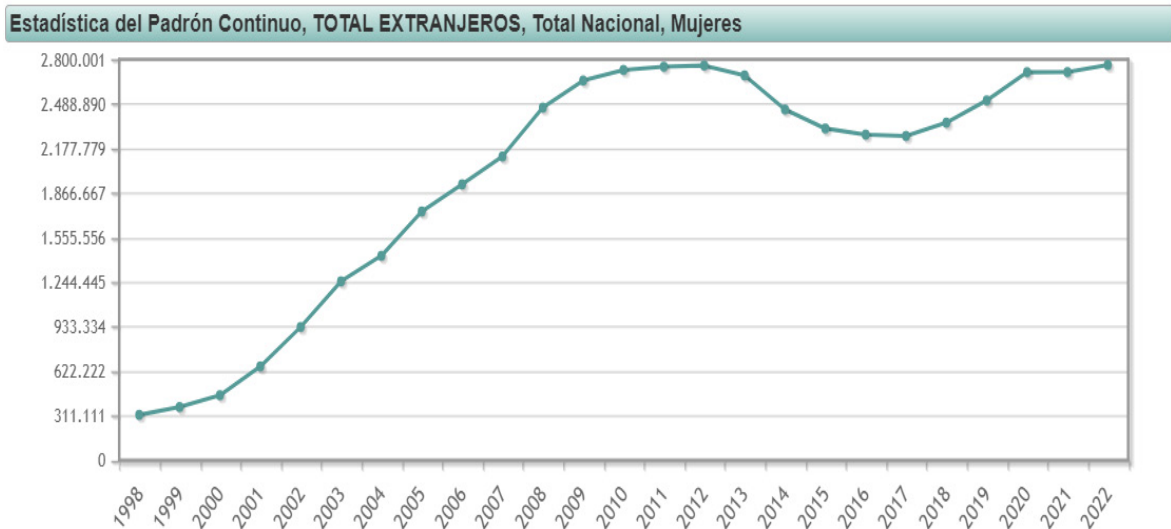
<sup>71</sup> Spanish Economic and Social Council. 2019. *Informe La Inmigración en España: Efectos y Oportunidades*. Available at: <https://www.ces.es/documents/10180/5209150/Inf0219.pdf/ae2d5b3-dc20-5683-2763-1b24bb5c0173>

<sup>72</sup> Grupo Interdisciplinario de investigador@s Migrantes. 2010. *Familias, niños, niñas y jóvenes migrantes*.

Rompiendo estereotipos. Iepala.

The data collected by the National Institute of Statistics indicates that almost half of the migrant population living in Spain are women, reporting numbers of 2.764.718 foreign women. Specifically, they are coming from countries such as Morocco (387.053), Romania (324.223), Colombia, Venezuela, China and Honduras; finding small differences with the situation of migrant men who have mostly arrived from Morocco (496.190), Romania (303.255), United Kingdom, Colombia, China, Venezuela, Senegal and Pakistan<sup>73</sup>.

**Figure 18: Growth of women migration in Spain.**



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Spain, 2022.

However, the population of international migrant women has experienced double labor discrimination due to their condition of migration, gender and, in many cases, race. In such a way, the labor possibilities have often limited migrant women to the fields of care and domestic work. Nowadays, Spain counts with numbers around 700.000 women that work in the domestic and care sector, being most of them migrant women<sup>74</sup>.

Based on the information provided by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations (2022)<sup>75</sup>, around 2.520.176 international foreigners in the general regime in Spain have an authorization of residence, while the rest have a certificate of registration or a family card of an EU citizen. Within the first group, 70% have an authorization of long term, meaning five years to live and work in Spain. The other 30% have a temporal authorization due to exceptional circumstances, the process of *arraigo*, work permits, family reunification, temporal protection and humanitarian reasons.

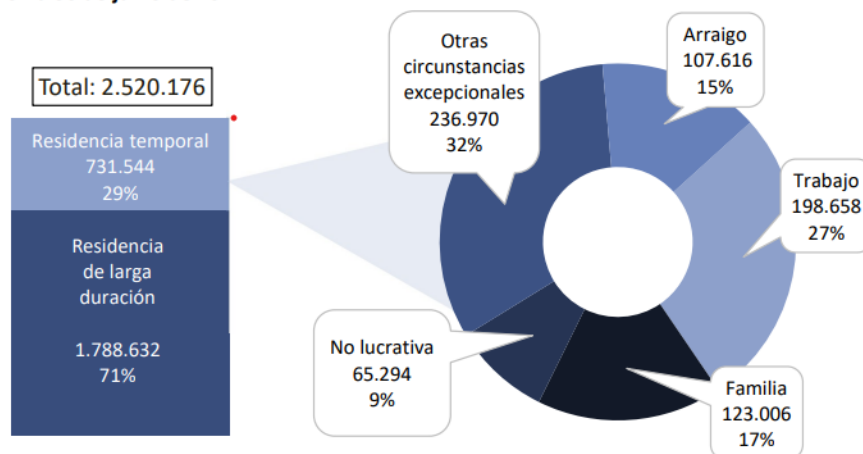
<sup>73</sup> National Institute of Statistics. 2022. Data available at: <https://www.ine.es/jaxi/Datos.htm?path=/t20/e245/p08/l0/&file=02005.px>

<sup>74</sup> Alianza por la Solidaridad. 2013-2022. *Reivindicación de derechos laborales de las empleadas del hogar en España*. Available at: <https://www.alianzaporlasolidaridad.org/reivindicacion-derechos-laborales-empleadas-hogar>

<sup>75</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations and OPI. 2022. *Estadística de extranjeros residentes en España*. Available at: <https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/ficheros/estadisticas/operaciones/con-certificado/202206/Notaanalis.pdf>

Figure 19. Percentages of foreign population with temporary residence in Spain.

Población extranjera residente con autorización de residencia temporal según motivo de la concesión a 30 de junio de 2022



Source: Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, 2022.

Complementing this, an important information with respect to the flows of international immigration arriving in Spain is the presence of unaccompanied minors and ex-warded young people with authorisation of residence. 13.533 persons were reported in the analysis carried out by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations<sup>76</sup>. The same study indicates that there is a largest percentage of men (female migration in this case represents only 7%) and that Morocco represents the country of origin of 70% of the whole group. Other countries of origin are Gambia, Argelia or Senegal.

Despite all this, it should be important to take into account the situation of many international immigrants whose administrative situation is not regulated yet. According to the most recent estimations, in Spain there are between 390.000 and 470.000 people irregularly living. A third of them are minors<sup>77</sup>. One of the main obstacles that leads to this situation in the reception and adaptation of immigrants in Spain is the Law of Extranjería. In many cases, the restrictive and discriminatory criteria of this law obstruct the access to the residence permits. The slowness of the administrative and bureaucratic process also affects the situation, a fact that can create anxiety to the immigrants with an irregular administrative condition.

This anxiety might go along with the fear of being stopped by the police; confined in Foreigners Internment Centers (Centros de Internamiento de Extranjeros, CIES); or deported<sup>78</sup>. In addition, many groups and NGOs have denounced the violence committed in the Foreigners Internment Centers (Centros de Internamiento de Extranjeros, CIES) where many immigrants with an irregular administrative condition are forced to stay. At least, there are eight active CIES in the territory of Spain.

<sup>76</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations and OPI. 2022. *Menores No Acompañados y Jóvenes Ex tutelados con autorización de residencia*. Available at: [https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/ficheros/estadisticas/operaciones/menores/Nota\\_analisis.pdf](https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/ficheros/estadisticas/operaciones/menores/Nota_analisis.pdf)

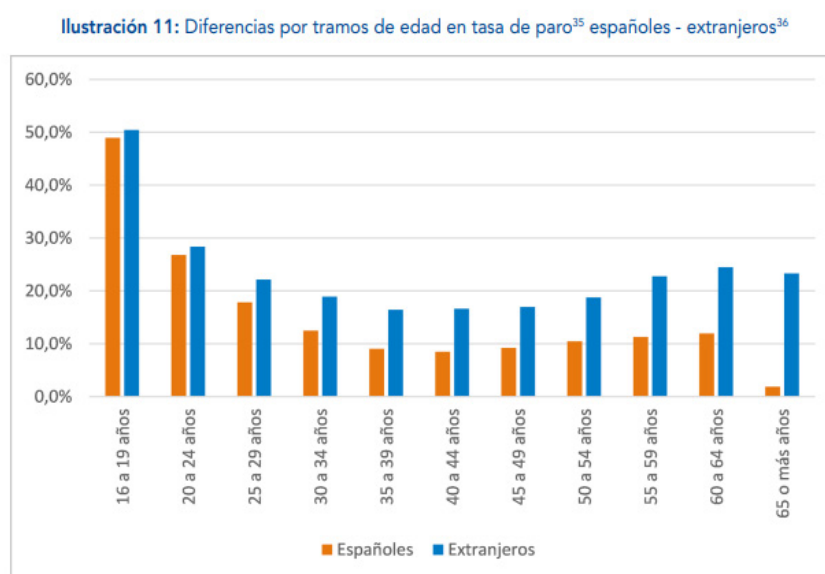
<sup>77</sup> Esenciales. 2021-2022. Available at: <https://esenciales.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Texto-ILP.pdf>

<sup>78</sup> Alianza por la Solidaridad. 2013-2022. *Lucha contra el racismo y xenofobia en España*. Available at: <https://www.alianzaporlasolidaridad.org/lucha-racismo-xenofobia>

The obstacles produced by the Law of Extranjería impact generally on the administrative and regular condition of all immigrants, and with an important effect in the lives of racialised people and foreigners coming from global south countries. The bureaucratic and slow procedures involve, for instance, difficulties to get the NIE, permissions of residence, work or other legal documents; difficulties to validate the previous working experience and studies; and difficulties to access to social services, healthcare, education, social and political participation, etc (Alianza por la Solidaridad, 2013-2022).

As a consequence, this supposes vulnerability, deprotection and discrimination for many international immigrants arriving to Spain - especially, for racialized communities -, increasing social exclusion and economic inequalities as well<sup>79</sup>. Immigrant populations are more likely to be at risk of exploitation and also high rates of unemployment. It has been estimated that 1 of every 4 unemployed persons in Spain is foreign, which means that international immigrants represent 25,6% of the unemployed population in the country.

**Figure 20. Percentages of unemployed population showing the differences between age and spanish-foreign populations.**



Fuente: EPA (INE). Cuarto trimestre de 2021.

Source: National Institute of Statistics, 2021.

Along with the difficulties related to the administrative procedures and permits, language barriers might complicate the access to the labor market. In fact, language barriers are an important challenge in the process of integration and adaptation of international immigrants in the new host community in Spain. Language barriers also have a discriminatory impact on daily life fields like education, culture exchange, the access to information or even to healthcare<sup>80</sup>.

<sup>79</sup> Esenciales. 2021-2022. Available at: <https://esenciales.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Texto-ILP.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> Accem. 2020. *Estudio sobre las necesidades de la población inmigrante en España: tendencias y retos para la inclusión social*. Available at: <https://www.accem.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ACCEM-MAQUETACION-NACIONAL-2020-online.pdf>



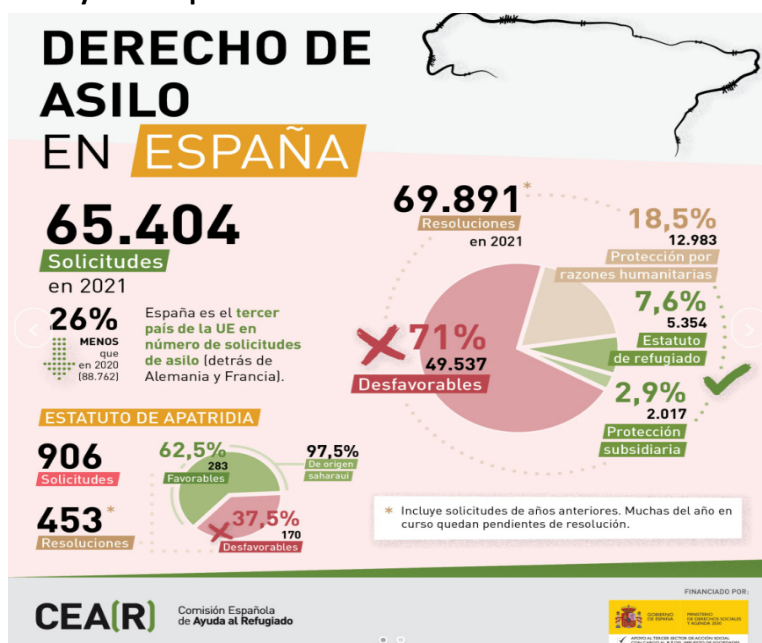
## 2.3.1.2. Asylum seekers, refugees

During 2021, Spain received a number of 65.404 applications for international protection. According to the data offered by the Ministry of Interior of Spain and the Spanish Refugee Aid Commission (Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado, CEAR)<sup>81</sup>, this has represented a drop in the flows of applications of asylum seekers and refugees in Spain, continuing the trend started with the Covid-19 pandemic in March of 2020. This descending trend is due to the impacts and restrictions of the pandemic with regards to international movement with border closures, but also because of the scarcity of appointments to regularize the applications or the delays in the reception system (CEAR, 2022: 63). It should be important to take into account the still need of publication of the data and annual reports of the last year 2022 to include in the trend the impacts produced by the conflict in Ukraine and more contexts in terms of applications of international protection.

Another change characterized the amount of applications in 2021. In the last years, the general profile of the applicants of asylum and refugee came from different countries of Latin America, being especially extended family groups. During 2021, Venezuela y Colombia but also Morocco were the countries of origin with more applications of asylum seekers and refugees. However, within the same year, this trend has also included a growth of the applications of young men with origin in African countries and migrating in individual journeys (CEAR, 2022: 63-66).

In total, 64,07% of applicants were men and 35,93% women. Along with this, in 2021 there was also an increase in the number of international protection seekers of people between the ages of 18 and 34 years old, a fact that can influence the confirmation of the trend shifting to more young people applying individually instead of extended family groups.

Figure 21. Right of asylum in Spain. 2021.



Source: Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR), 2022. Available at: <https://www.cear.es/situacion-refugiados/>

<sup>81</sup> Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado. 2022. *Informe CEAR 2022*. Available at: <https://www.cear.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Informe-Anual-2022.pdf>

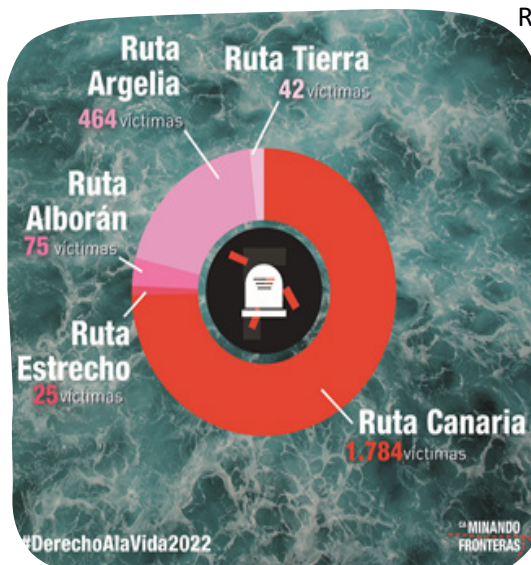
With all these numbers, Spain recognised in 2021 a bigger number of applications of international protection, reaching 10.5% of the total applications (representing the double of the percentage of 2020). The regions of Spain where more applications were regularized were the community of Madrid, Cataluña, Andalucía, Canarias and Comunidad Valenciana. Despite this, the data offered showed that Spain is not reaching the recognition average of applications of international protection of the European Union, situated at 35% in 2021.

It should be estimated that this data might have also increased in 2022 since at the end of October Spain granted temporary protection to more than 150.000 people that escaped from the conflict in Ukraine<sup>82</sup>. A plan for the reception of displaced people coming from Ukraine was designed and published by the Spanish Government in march of 2022, including the simplification of the procedures to obtain the residence and work permits<sup>83</sup>.

In any case, the percentage of applications of international protection that are accepted in Spain is still very small, considering also the numbers of people that put their lives at risk to arrive in the host country. The restrictions in the spanish and european borders (along with other legal procedures, for instance, in the application of visas) impact on the decision of taking dangerous routes that can lead asylum seekers, refugees and other international immigrants to Spain. Hence, these irregular migration flows have followed the maritime routes in the Mediterranean Sea (Estrecho, Alborán and Argelia) and the Atlantic (Canarian route), and the territorial routes through the fences of Ceuta and Melilla. The violence experienced in the borders (as the case of Nador-Melilla in July of 2022) and the dangers along the routes led to the number of 2.390 mortal victims in the access routes to Spain.

**Figure 22. Number of victims in the different routes of access to Spain in 2022.**

The Spanish procedure for dealing with the new arrivals follows the State Program for Humanitarian Reception. The objective of this program is to guarantee the protection of immigrant people, especially those who arrive irregularly through the maritime routes. Also, those immigrants who are in a vulnerable situation due to physical damage and to the lack of social, familiar and economic support. Within this humanitarian program, non-profit social entities have an important role in the implementation of the actions (CEAR, 2022: 104)<sup>84</sup>.



Source: Caminando Fronteras, 2022.

The State Program for Humanitarian Reception includes the transfer of immigrant people from the collection places (CETI: Centers for Temporary Stay for Immigrants; CIE: Foreigners Internment Centers; coasts, settlements, etc) to reception centers. In the case of asylum and refugee, the C.A.R (Reception Centers of Refugees: Centro de Acogida a Refugiados) are public establishments aimed at providing accommodation, maintenance and psychological support. Besides this, they are supposed to offer other social services that might facilitate the integration of those persons who request asylum or those who obtain refugee status in Spain but who lack financial resources

<sup>82</sup> Human Rights Watch. 2023. "Spain. Events of 2022", *World Report 2023*. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/es/world-report/2022/country-chapters/383627>

<sup>83</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. 2022. *Plan de Acogida para personas desplazadas procedentes de Ucrania*. Available at: Microsoft PowerPoint - PLAN DE ACOGIDA Definitivo (lamoncloa.gob.es)

<sup>84</sup> Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado. 2022. *Informe CEAR 2022*. Available at: <https://www.cear.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Informe-Anual-2022.pdf>

to attend their needs and the ones of their families.

Nevertheless, asylum seekers and refugees that finally get to cross the international borders to Spain still have to go through many challenges in the host community. The slowness and difficulties to access the procedures to apply for international protection and their restrictive criteria (CEAR, 2022: 73) to be accepted are an important issue that implies insecurity and fears of deportation. Along with this, other challenges relate to language barriers for their integration in the host society, the lack of information, the lack of social networks and support, economic difficulties, the lack of resources to deal with traumas and mental health<sup>85</sup>.

### 2.3.3. National Legal Framework

During the last decades, some important human rights conventions and protocols that have been ratified by Spain were the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (1968) or the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families (1990)<sup>86</sup>.

Continuing this path, in December of 2018 Spain signed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which is based on the international human rights treaties that oblige the States members to respect, protect and guarantee these rights to all people without any discrimination. As well, the Global Compact highlights the need to promote safe routes for migration<sup>87</sup>.

With regards to the specific competencies on migration, the Spanish State is responsible for the regulation of the legal regime of foreigners. Based on the Spanish Constitution (art. 149. 1. 2<sup>a</sup>), the State has the exclusive jurisdiction with respect to nationality, immigration, emigration, extranjería and the right to asylum<sup>88</sup>.

At the national level, the process to regularize the administrative situation and legal stay of international migrants involves the obtaining of residence and work permits. The socio-economic situation in Spain might also influence the modification of the national policies in migrations. For instance, in July of 2022 the Ministries Council approved the modification of the law of Extranjería due to the need of workers in different economic fields such as agriculture. The aim of this was to improve the system and procedures of migration and to promote the access of migrants to the labor market<sup>89</sup>.

<sup>85</sup> Cruz Roja España. 2023. *Personas refugiadas*. Available at: <https://www2.cruzroja.es/-/personas-refugiadas>

<sup>86</sup> Secretaría de Estado de Migraciones. 2019. *Retos y compromisos. España y el pacto mundial para los refugiados*. Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. Available at: [SP\\_Informe\\_PMR\\_Esp\\_05 \(inclusion.gob.es\)](https://www.inclusion.gob.es/SP_Informe_PMR_Esp_05)

<sup>87</sup> Amnesty International Spain. 2022-2023. *Inmigración y refugio en España*. Available at: <https://www.es.amnesty.org/en-que-estamos/espana/refugio/>

<sup>88</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. 2020-2021. *Inclusión, gestión de la diversidad y lucha contra el racismo y la xenofobia: Actuaciones de las Comunidades Autónomas y las Administraciones locales*. Available at: [https://www.inclusion.gob.es/oberaxe/ficheros/documentos/PDF-1-INFORME-LARGO-CCAA-AC-03112020\\_OK.pdf](https://www.inclusion.gob.es/oberaxe/ficheros/documentos/PDF-1-INFORME-LARGO-CCAA-AC-03112020_OK.pdf)

<sup>89</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. 2022. Available at: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/guest/w/el-gobierno-aprueba-una-reforma-del-reglamento-de-extranjeria-para-mejorar-el-modelo-migratorio-y-favorecer-la-incorporacion-al-mercado-laboral-de-las-personas-migrantes>

Despite this, many social entities and organizations of migrant and racialised people are demanding bigger changes due to the restrictive and discriminatory criteria of the law of Extranjería that obstruct the access to the residence permits. The slowness of the administrative and bureaucratic process also affects the situation. As a result of this, since 2021 a popular legislative initiative has been promoted in order to achieve the regularization of the administrative situation of many international immigrants in Spain<sup>90</sup>.

Along with the national level, those competencies related to social assistance (social services, health assistance, education and housing) can be a responsibility of the regional and local governments and administrations. As a result, the autonomous communities of Spain as well as local entities are main actors in the design of public policies for the inclusion and integration of migrant people and for the fight against xenophobia, racism and intolerance. Within the regional and local level, dialogue and involvement are key elements to design public policies for the integration of migrants.

### Integration policies

Hence, the organic Law 4/2000 (11th of January) about the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration indicates the jurisdiction of the Spanish government to define, plan, regulate and develop the immigration policy, although without prejudice to the competences that might be assumed by the Autonomous Communities and local entities in Spain. In addition, the same law obliges public authorities to promote the full integration of foreigners in the host society and with a framework of coexistence of diverse identities and cultures.

The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations of the Spanish Government has presented the Strategic Framework for Citizenship and Inclusion against Xenophobia and Racism, 2021-2027<sup>91</sup>. The mission of this strategic plan is to strengthen the mechanisms that can allow the inclusion and integration of people of foreign origin. Also, to develop processes and instruments for the prevention, surveillance, detection and elimination of xenophobia, racism and other associated forms of intolerance in the national territory. Integration policies will be presented in seven areas: legal and administrative area; humanitarian attention and reception policies for international protection; active inclusion; participation and co-existence; prevention, sensibilization and intervention against xenophobia, racism and intolerance; victims reparation; human rights, intersectionality and gender perspectives.

This last strategic framework will help in the current development of the new Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration that will have its precedents in the previous “Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration” of 2007-2010 and 2011-2014 (PECI 2007-2010 and PECI 2011-2014) and the principles that guided them: equality, citizenship, interculturality and inclusion<sup>92</sup>.

The Strategic Plan of 2007-2010 included integral reception programs, with the teaching of languages of the host society and inclusion itineraries.

<sup>90</sup> Regularización Ya, 2021-2022. Available at: <https://regularizacionya.com/>

<sup>91</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. 2023. Available at: Marco Estratégico de ciudadanía e inclusión contra la xenofobia y el racismo (2021-2027) – Marco Estratégico SEM (2021-2027) (el-futuro-es-la-inclusion.es)

<sup>92</sup> Portal de Inmigración, Secretaría de Estado de Migraciones. 2023. *Integration policies*. Available at: [https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/es/Programas\\_Integracion/index.html](https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/es/Programas_Integracion/index.html)

With reference to the Strategic Plan of 2011-2014, integration was understood as a process of mutual adaptation and it intended to design a policy based on actions that should involve all citizens, both locals and immigrants<sup>93</sup>. One of the main objectives was to provide foreigners with knowledge, abilities and social, linguistic and coexistence skills to have an autonomous life, access to goods and services, exercise their rights and fulfill the duties on an equal condition as the Spanish population. A special element was the promotion of an action plan for the teaching of languages<sup>94</sup>.

Finally, at least 5 autonomous communities of Spain had an immigrant integration plan that was valid until 2020-2021: Aragon, the Basque Country, Castilla y León, Catalonia and the Community of Madrid.

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<sup>93</sup> Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations. 2011. *El Gobierno aprueba el Plan Estratégico de Ciudadanía e Integración 2011-2014*. Available at: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/guest/w/el-gobierno-aprueba-el-plan-estrategico-de-ciudadania-e-integracion-2011-2014>

<sup>94</sup> Ministry of Labor and Immigration. 2011-2014. *Plan estratégico de Ciudadanía e Integración 2011-2014*. Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/sites/default/files/2018-12/PECI-2011-2014.pdf>



## 2.4 Descriptions of the situation in Italy

### 2.4.1. Overview

As a bridge between Europe and Africa, Italy has always been a land of migration, due to its peculiar geographical position. In the last decades, Italy experienced strong immigration and emigration flows, resulting in more than 6 million foreigners living in the country and about 5.5 million Italians living abroad. Romanians, with more than 1 million residents, represent the largest immigrant community, followed by Albanians, while Moroccans are the main group of non-European residents, followed by the Chinese.<sup>95</sup>

At regional level, over 58% of immigrants live in the Northern Italian regions, especially Lombardy (22.8), followed by the Southern region of Lazio (12.5%), of whom 80% live in Rome, and Emilia Romagna, in the Po valley, with 10.7%.

The immigrants living in the Marche region (Central Italy) reach 8.6% of the global population, the majority of which are women (53,9%).<sup>96</sup>

In general, most of the immigrants living in Italy are female. However, recent flows highlight the arrival of more male individuals, mostly coming from Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, thousands of irregular migrants and refugees have been landing on Italian shores, or are rescued in the Sicily Channel. They come mainly from Tunisia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sudan and Eritrea, and about 15% of them are unaccompanied minors.

Immigrants and refugees, especially the younger ones or females, and the irregulars in particular, have higher chances to suffer from poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. Irregular migrants are at high risk to be subject to trafficking and exploitation; unemployed males in forced labor, while women and children, especially Nigerian, in sexual exploitation. Roma children are also employed in street begging and forced to do little crimes. Latest data estimates that 519,000 people live in Italy without documentation, less than 1% of the total population.

Focusing on the recent Ukraine emergency, it's interesting to notice that the Ukrainian presence is not new. Ukrainians have been living in Italy for many years, before the beginning of the 2022 war. After Poland, (over 651,000 residence permits), Italy is the second European country that hosted the largest number of them.<sup>97</sup> To address immigration issues the Italian legislative system has incorporated many European directives and most of the international conventions related to these matters.<sup>98</sup>

Italian regions (20) are the key actors in the planning of integration policies, given their legislative and regulatory competence in the fields of social policies, education, labor market, vocational training, health and housing. Within the policy framework set by regional governments, municipalities hold the main responsibilities in terms of defining concrete integration measures and policy implementation.

<sup>95</sup> Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Contry profile-Italy <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/italy/#:~:text=As%20of%20June%202021%2C%20UNHCR,57%25%20of%20them%20were%20rejected>

<sup>96</sup> DOSSIER STATISTICO IMMIGRAZIONE 2022 – LA SITUAZIONE NELLE MARCHE

<sup>97</sup> Italian Statistics Office (Istat)- Cittadini Non Comunitari In Italia, Oct. 2021. <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/262806>

<sup>98</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-italy_en)



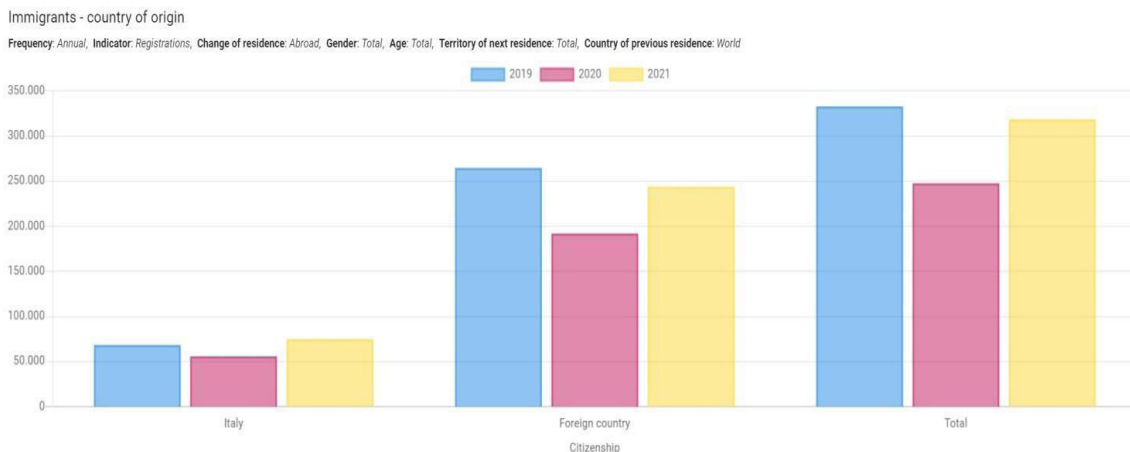
## 2.4.2 The main types of immigrants in Italy

### 2.4.2.1 International migrants

At the present moment, Italy faces the third phase of its country's immigration history. The first period began in the 1970s and was characterized by moderate levels of immigration; the second one started in the 1990s and was characterized by an unexpected and extraordinary growth. The present phase is marked by the economic crisis and humanitarian emergencies where flows of newcomers seeking international protection add to a foreign presence now firmly rooted in the territory.

At the beginning of 2022, there were under 5,2 million foreign residents of whom 3,373,876 were from non-European countries. The UN/DESA Office in Italy estimated about 6,387,000 migrants living in Italy, making up about 10% of the whole population including irregular and naturalized.<sup>99</sup>

**Figure 23: Immigrants - Countries of origin.**



Source: Istat Online Database, <https://tinyurl.com/yckrv8h6>

Among immigrants, the main countries of origin are Romania 16%, Albania 7.6%, Morocco 7.1%, Ukraine 4% and China 3.7%.<sup>12</sup> Nonetheless, these consolidated older flows have decreased in recent years.

Among migrants coming from Western Europe there is a higher female percentage (60% Romanians and 78% Ukrainians), employed especially as domestic workers. Ranking the fifth position in the country in terms of number of residents, Ukrainians are a point of reference for friends and family members fleeing the war. According to data from the Ministry of the Interior, 141,562 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine have arrived in Italy since February 2022 among which 74,771 are women, 22,071 are men, and 44,720 are minors (June 2022 data)<sup>100</sup>. Figures are still growing.

In general, immigrants arrived in Italy at different historical and economic moments and have had more or less time to establish migration networks in the territory. Older communities, such as the Albanian, Moroccan and Chinese ones, are more balanced, due to reunifications and

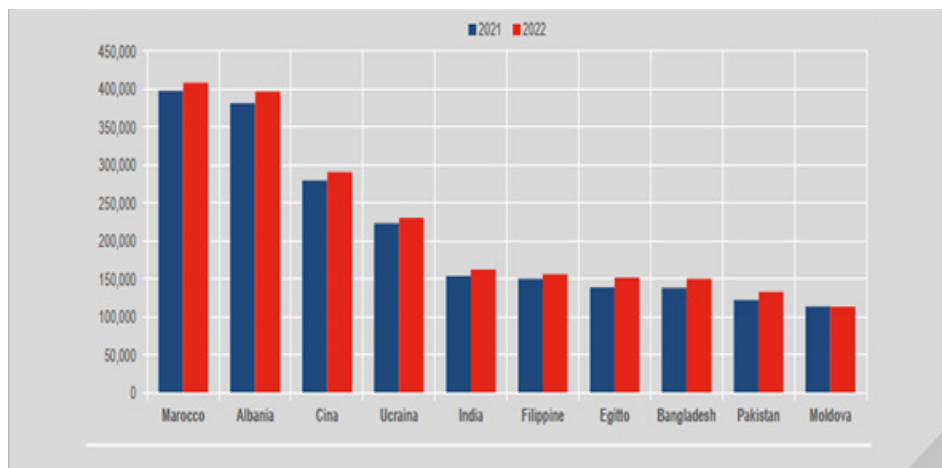
<sup>99</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN/DESA), International Migrant

Stock 2020-Italy. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stoc>

<sup>100</sup> <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/ucraina-141562-i-profughi-giunti-finora-italia#:~:text=Sono%20141.562%20le%20persone%20in,22.071%20uomini%20e%2044.720%20minori.>

family migration. As a matter of facts, nationalities such as Romanians and Albanians have been living in Italy since the fall of the Berlin Wall. On the other hand, irregular migrants, in particular from Africa and Asia migrated to Italy following the recent refugee crisis.

**Figure 24. Non-EU citizens regularly living in Italy by country origin – top 10 citizenships.**



Source: 2022 Annual Report, Istat

In this sense, the North Africa Emergency must be considered as one of the main push factors of immigrants coming to Italy, mostly by sea. This was due to the Arab Spring and the revolution in Tunisia which brought approximately 60,000 people and immigrants to Italy in 2010.<sup>101</sup>

Regarding recent flows of non-EU citizens, in 2020 about 106,500 residence permits were issued compared to the 177,254 allotted in 2019 and the 242,009 in 2018. Most of them were granted to migrants from Asia 32.2%, Africa 29.1% and Central and Eastern Europe 22.5%. Albania 12.4%, Morocco 9.6%, Pakistan 7.4% and Bangladesh 6.1% were their main countries of origin. This time, the immigration trends attested that women were less represented (48.6%), and about 35.7% of newcomers were less than 18 years old.

About 63% of all permits are long-term, allowing people to stay for more than 2 years, mainly for family-related reasons (48.6%), followed by work permits (41.6%).

At regional level, over 58% of immigrants live in the Northern Italian regions, especially Lombardy (22.8), followed by the Southern region of Lazio (12.5%), of whom 80% live in Rome, and Emilia Romagna, in the Po Valley, with 10.7%.<sup>102</sup>

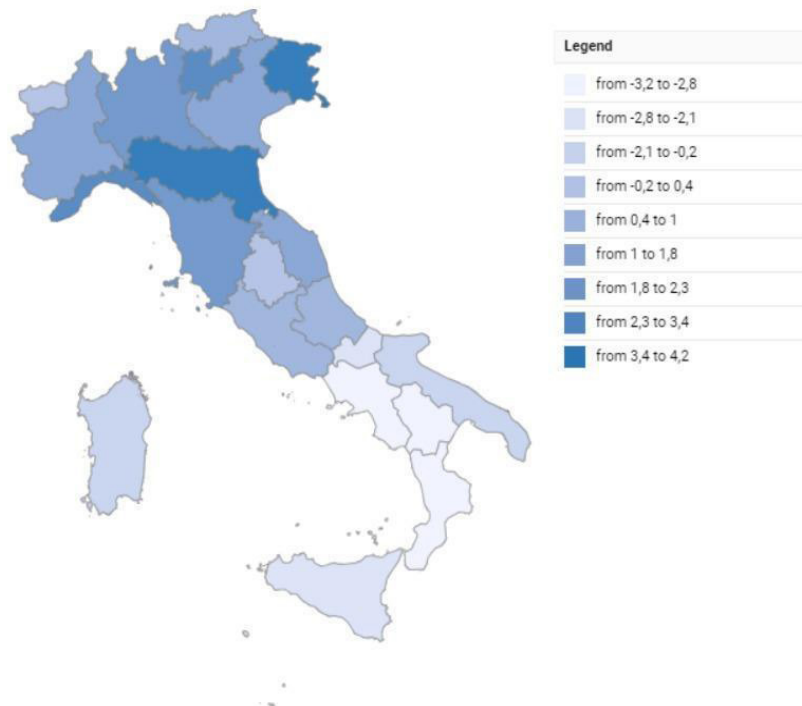
<sup>101</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/623514/migrant-arrivals-to-italy/>

<sup>102</sup> Istat, Immigrants.Stat database, Resident foreigners on 1st January 2021. <http://stra-dati.istat.it/?lang=en&SubSessionId=8ce2ec3d-b47c-418c-ab90-5dd5da60758a>

**Figure 25. Demographic indicators. Total migration rate (per thousand inhabitant).**

Indicatori demografici

Frequency: Annual, Indicator: Total migration rate (per thousand inhabitant), Time: 2021



Source: Istat, 2021

The immigrants living in the Marche region (Central Italy) reach 8.6% of the global population, the majority of which are women (53,9%).<sup>103</sup>

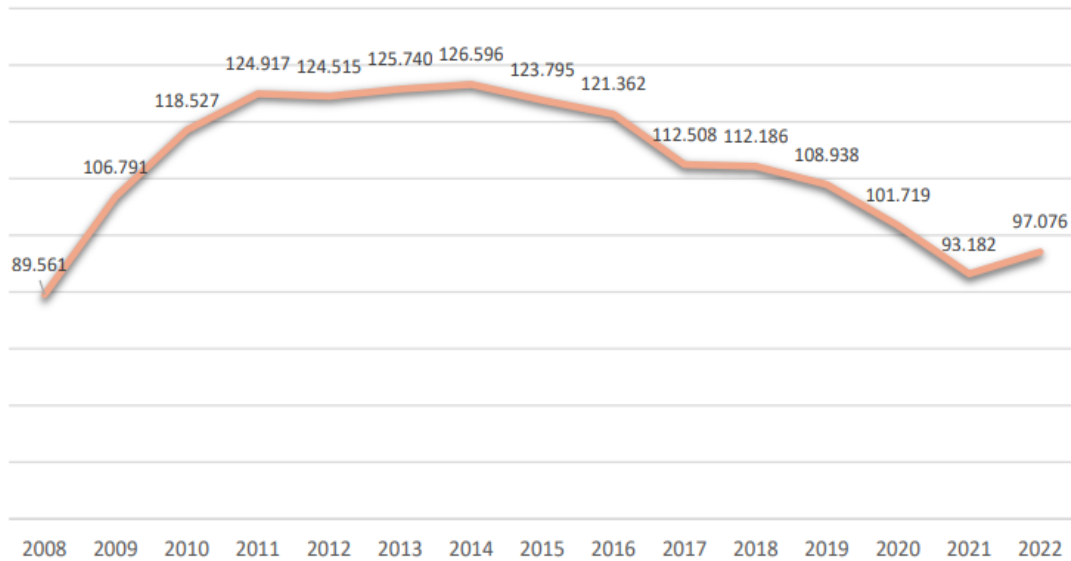
Focusing on the Marche region, the number of Non-EU citizens regularly living is 97 076 (January 2022) showing an increase of 3 894 units compared to the previous year (+4,2%). About 69% of them (66 858 individuals) are long-term residents or have a residence card or a permanent permit.<sup>104</sup>

<sup>103</sup> DOSSIER STATISTICO IMMIGRAZIONE 2022 – LA SITUAZIONE NELLE MARCHE

<sup>104</sup> Regione Marche- Settore Controllo di Gestione e Sistemi Statistici, Report Cittadini non comunitari regolarmente presenti nelle Marche al 1 gennaio 2022 <http://statistica.regione.marche.it>

**Figure 26. Non-EU citizens living in the Marche region (2008-2022).**

**Cittadini non comunitari regolarmente presenti nelle Marche al 1° gennaio. Anni 2008-2022**



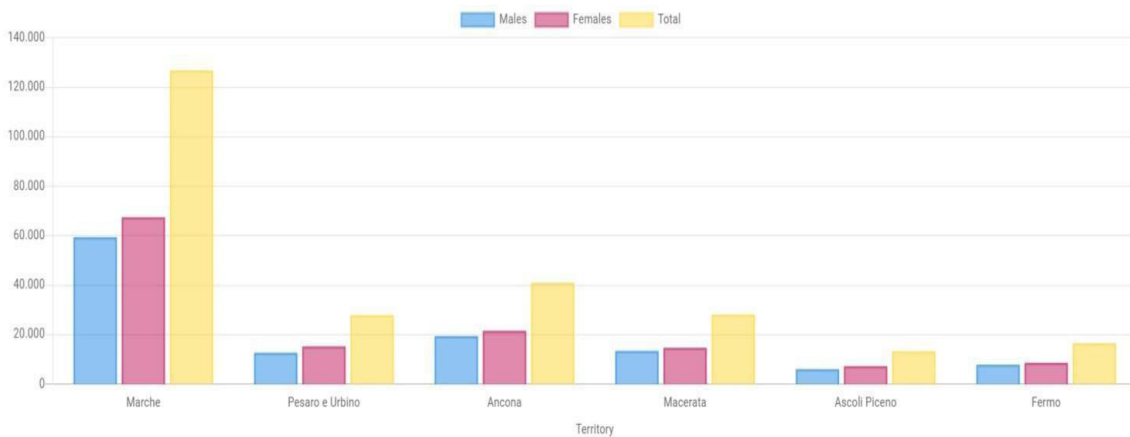
Source: IDOS 2022

Proceeding to the South, the Marche region comprises 4 provinces, namely Pesaro and Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, Fermo and Ascoli Piceno. The regional statistics report (IDOS, Dossier 2022) reveals that the distribution of immigrants in the Marche provinces was quite stable comparing 2020 and 2021. In particular, the percentage of immigrants in the Ancona province (8,8%) and Ascoli Piceno (6,7%) are consistent, while the percentage of immigrants decreased in the Fermo province (from 9,9% to 9,7%). Only the province of Macerata and Pesaro and Urbino registered an increase of immigrants living in the territory, respectively from 8,9% to 9,3% and from 7,9% to 8,1%.<sup>105</sup>

**Figure 27. Foreign population in regions of Italy.**

Italy, regions, provinces - Country of citizenship

Frequency: Annual, Indicator: Foreign population on 1st January, Citizenship: All countries of the world, Time: 2022

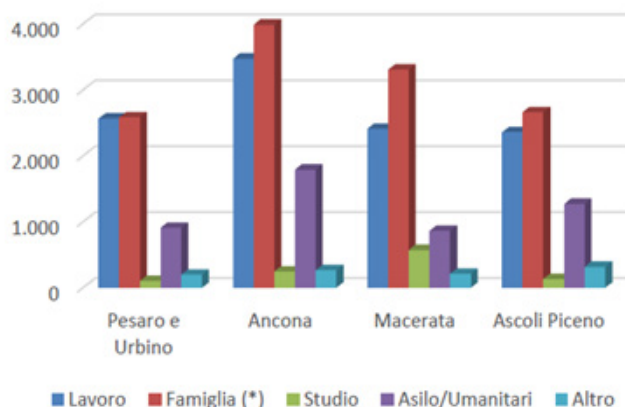


Source: IDOS 2022

<sup>105</sup>IDOS- Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2022 La situazione nelle Marche <https://www.dossierimmigrazione.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Scheda-di-sintesi-Dossier-Statistico-Immigrazione-2022.pdf>

Deeping down in the motivations behind the immigrant’s presence in the Marche region, the majority of the long-term residents had a family permit (42%) while about 36% of immigrants had a work-related permit.

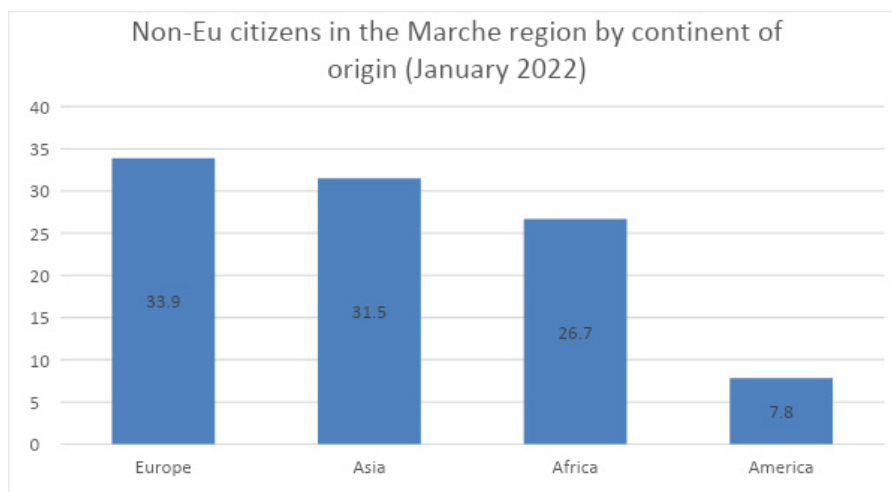
**Figure 28. Non-EU citizens in the Marche region by permit in the 4 regional provinces: Work, Family, Study, Asylum/Refugee, Other.**



Source: Regione Marche- Settore Controllo di Gestione e Sistemi Statistici, Report Cittadini non comunitari regolarmente presenti nelle Marche al 1 gennaio 2022

More precisely, the non-EU citizens living in the Marche region come from Europe (34%), Asia (31,5%), Africa (26,7%) and America (7,8%).

**Figure 29. Non-Eu citizens in the Marche region by continent of origin (January 2022).**



Source: Regione Marche- Settore Controllo di Gestione e Sistemi Statistici, Report Cittadini non comunitari regolarmente presenti nelle Marche al 1 gennaio 2022

As for Irregular border crossing (IBC, this phenomenon plunged between 2018 and 2020, mostly due to pandemic restrictions, but is now increasing again. Irregular immigrants were 119,310 in 2017, barely a fifth, 23,370 in 2018 and even less, 11,471 in 2019. In 2020, however, registered landings were 34,154, and as of October 2021 there were already 53,275 new arrivals. Moreover, about 4,100 irregulars crossed the border from Slovenia.

In 2021, unaccompanied minors (age 0-17) represented a growing portion of newcomers (19% of the 42.464 migrants) with an increase of 73.5 % compared to 2020.<sup>106</sup>

In the last four years, among the different nationalities declared on arrival, Tunisian, Nigerian, Bangladeshi, Ivorian, Guinean, Sudanese and Eritrean have been the most common ones.

Immigrants, especially irregulars, often low-skilled or from non-EU countries, are more likely to be precarious workers, earning less than Italians, and have a higher unemployment rate (13% against 8.7%) 25 and a higher proportion of NEET, in particular among the youth and women.

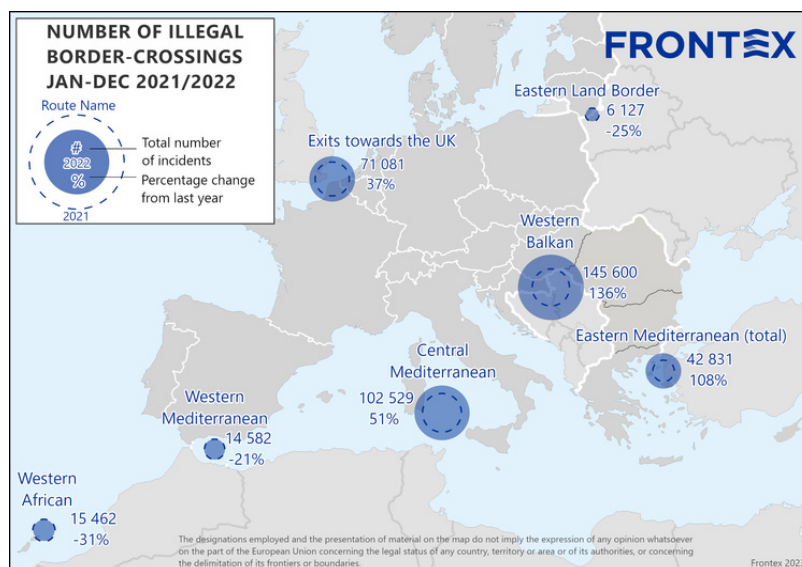
More than one in four foreign families is in absolute poverty, compared to 6% of Italian families. Ethnic children are particularly at risk of poverty or social exclusion. They are also more likely to fall back on school education.

Migrants and ethnic minorities are the most affected by the low efficiency of public employment services, as well as by poor welfare and public housing services. Language and cultural barriers add on to the list of hurdles migrants suffer the most.

### 2.4.2.2 Asylum seekers, refugees

The Central Mediterranean route has been the most used by irregulars, coming from Libya, Tunisia and Algeria towards Sicily and the Italian islands, mainly Lampedusa. In 2020 arrivals from Tunisia showed the highest increase, mostly Tunisians (87%), followed by Ivorians and Guineans. Secondary but relevant routes are the Balkan route, arriving by land from Greece and Turkey, and the East Mediterranean route, from Egypt, Greece and Turkey, to the Apulia shores. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are commonly following this route.

**Figure 30. European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).**



Source: <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/eu-s-external-borders-in-2022-number-of-irregular-border-crossings-highest-since-2016-YsAZ29>

<sup>106</sup>Istat, Annual report 2022

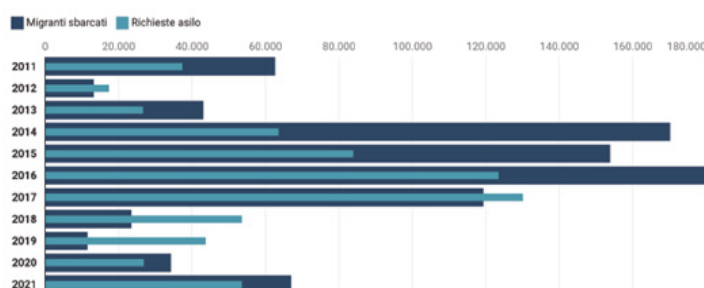


Irregular entries peaked in 2016, when 181,436 people landed in Italy; but the number of arrivals dropped in 2018 and 2019. In 2020 it increased again, reaching 34,154 individuals and already 53,275 in October 2021.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, in 2021, 67,040 people landed in Italy crossing the Mediterranean Sea of which 9,478 individuals were unaccompanied foreign minors (UFM). They arrived mainly from Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Greece.

In 2022 the trend is growing again, with 105,129 landed between January 1 and the end of December<sup>107</sup>. But not everyone makes it to the other side of the Mediterranean: between the beginning of 2021 and September 2022 at least 2,500 migrants who left Libya died or disappeared at sea (1,553 in 2021 alone), and between 2021 and May 2022 nearly 40,000 were intercepted by the Libyan coast guard in the central Mediterranean and forcibly returned to Libya (32.425 in 2021 alone), where they are locked up in overcrowded detention centers. In December 2021 the Supreme Court declared Libya an unsafe place, recognizing resistance against forcible return to that country as self-defense. The following table shows the percentage of migrants who arrived in Italy by sea and the asylum applications from 2011 to 2021.

**Figure 31. Migrants arrived by sea (in blue) and Asylum request applications (in green).**



Source: 2022 Annual report, Istat.

In February 2022, with the beginning of the Ukrainian emergency, the number of unaccompanied minors in Italy has further increased. In June there were 15,595 including 5,392 Ukrainians, making them the most represented nationality (34.6%).

The Italian procedure for dealing with irregular immigrants is the following:

1. Rescued or apprehended irregular migrants are transferred to one of the four currently active hotspots in the Italian territory, for medical examination and pre-identification, receiving first assistance and information regarding their status, immigration and asylum legislation.
2. Afterwards, they are moved to the first-level reception facilities, dislocated in the country, where they are able to stay while it is still pending the definition of their application for international protection. Those who decide not to apply for it, or do not meet the requirements, are held in Repatriation Centers (CPR), waiting for repatriation.
3. Those who apply for asylum are hosted by the Integrated Reception System (SAI), a widespread network of diffused hospitality, managed by local institutions in partnership with social organizations.

<sup>107</sup> Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cruscotto statistico al 15 febbraio 2023 [http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto\\_statistico\\_giornaliero\\_15-02-2023.pdf](http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_15-02-2023.pdf)

A reception plan was implemented for the first time for Ukrainians, in addition to providing immediate access to work and basic areas of welfare (housing, schooling, health care, etc.), supplemented the already existing network (SAI/CAS) coupled with widespread reception forms and support for autonomous accommodations.<sup>108</sup>

### 2.4.3 Immigration - National legal framework

As in other European countries, Italy has adopted a utilitarian approach. The entrance and the permanence of migrants in the country is based on a system of quota set up annually by the government according to the request of workforce (Flows Decree D.L72/2022)<sup>109</sup>. The regular stay of migrants is allowed by a regular working activity which is certified through:

- the residence contract
- the issue of a residence permit of up to two years for permanent relationships (up to one year in other cases)
- without these conditions the migrant is committing a criminal offense for irregular entry. The consequence is going to the Identification and Expulsion Centers

In 2022, the Flow Decree is still struggling with the needs of the Italian economy, opting instead for the progressive reduction of workforce quotas. This is a pivotal problem for an ageing country like Italy, whose demographic balance of people of working age is set to become rapidly more negative.<sup>110</sup>

Currently, the Italian situation on migrations is characterized by a dangerous ambiguity: while official policies are slow to be formulated and still struggle to find their coherence and long-term perspective, informal practices and policies rule across the whole country with migrants labor undeclared, with low prices and few guarantee (see the illegal gang master system known as Caporalato<sup>111</sup>).

Besides the Italian Government and NGOs, other organizations working for the integration of immigrants and refugees that are worth noticing are:

- Italian Coordination of Care Communities (CNCA), a Federation of about 250 Third-Sector organizations, including social cooperatives, support centers, care and treatment communities, etc.<sup>112</sup>
- Humanitarian Corridors, established after a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – Directorate General for Italians abroad and Migration Policies, Ministry of the Interior – Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, the Community of Saint Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (FCEI) and the Tavola Valdese (Waldensians Church).<sup>113</sup>

<sup>108</sup> <https://emergenze.protezionecivile.gov.it/en/pagina-base/system-reception-and-assistance-ukrainian-population>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/servizi/servizi-line/procedure-flussi>

<sup>110</sup> <https://osservatoriocpi.unicatt.it/ocpi-pubblicazioni-dinamiche-demografiche-e-mercato-del-lavoro-chi-sostituirà-i-baby-boomers>

<sup>111</sup> European University Institute/Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Study: *Is Italian Agriculture a “Pull Factor” for Irregular Migration? and, If So, Why?*

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.cnca.it/cnca-english/>

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.humanitariancorridor.org/en/humanitarian-corridors/>

### 2.4.3.1 Historical highlight on immigrations policies

Italy is a State Party in almost all of the UN Human Rights treaties, except for the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. It also signed all of the Fundamental and Governmental Conventions promoted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Being part of the European Union, it is subjected to communitarian policies and regulations, such as the Dublin III (Regulation 604/2013). Moreover, it is a member of the Schengen Agreement.<sup>114</sup>

The Italian State exerts exclusive jurisdiction for the entry, staying and legal status of non-EU citizens, including international protection and citizenship. Based on the Consolidated Law on Immigration (D.Lgs. 286/1998)<sup>115</sup>, the central level has a coordinating role on integration policies that are implemented by Regions, Autonomous provinces and local administrations. Resources for implementation include the National Fund for Social Policies.

Reception policies for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (ASR) reflect the decentralized institutional setting of the country.

The standard channel for reception was the System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati, SPRAR). Established with Law 189/2002 and amended with Law 132/2018, the SPRAR was grounded on cooperation with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and local authorities, that implemented reception projects with the financial support from the central level<sup>116</sup>.

Local authorities, with the collaboration of the third sector, guaranteed integrated reception interventions that went beyond the mere distribution of food and accommodation, providing complementary information, accompaniment, assistance and orientation measures, through the construction of individual paths to socio-economic integration.

However, Extraordinary Reception Centres (Centri di Accoglienza Straordinaria, CAS) have been recurrently established to compensate for the underdevelopment of SPRAR, following a top-down approach. The CAS prevailed in quantitative terms, despite their temporary and emergency features. With Law 132/2018, the SPRAR has been replaced by the System of protection for holders of international protection and for unaccompanied foreign minors (Sistema di protezione per titolari di protezione internazionale e per minori stranieri non accompagnati, SIPROIMI), restricting the access to integrated reception services to recognized refugees only.

Now, asylum seekers are not any longer hosted in the new SIPROIMI reception system, but only in the first-line governmental centers or CAS (SIRIUS, 2019). The main problems are:

- restrictions in the access to public services, violating the principle of equality laid down in Article 3 of the Constitution (ASGI, 2018)
- increased the number of people in an irregular situation.

The SIPROIMI was renamed SAI-Reception and Integration System with D.L. 130/2020 and now includes refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied foreign minors, foreigners entrusted to the Italian social services.

Victims of disasters, migrants with special civil value, holders of a residence permit for medical treatment, holders of a special-protection residence permit (social protection, victims of domestic violence, victims of labor exploitation) are also included in the SAI. This network is composed by the ANCI, the National Association of Italian Municipalities, the Cittalia Foundation, and the Servizio Centrale and together they carry out different activities aimed at the integration

<sup>114</sup> Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development website <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/italy/>

<sup>115</sup> Consolidated Law on Immigration (D.Lgs. 286/1998), as amended in particular with Law 189/2002

<sup>116</sup> Art. 32 Law 189/2002.

of immigrants, namely the consultancy and technical assistance for local authorities and the monitoring of the presence of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in Italy.

As published on its [official website](#), the SAI Network main goal is to support immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and who, in general, find him/herself in a difficult situation in a foreign country through “an individual programme designed to enable that person to regain a sense of independence, and thus enjoy effective involvement in life”.

#### 2.4.3.2 Integration policies

Generally speaking, Italy doesn't have a self-standing integration law.<sup>117</sup> At official level, the Italian migration policy has put the economic and labor market needs of the country at the center of the coexistence between Italian and foreign citizens. In recent years, the Italian government put in place the following measures:

1. The 2012 Integration Agreement established the integration agreement for which migrants have to “participate in the economic, social and cultural life of society” including the achievement of a sufficient level of knowledge of the Italian language (level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR) and the schooling of dependent minors. Unfortunately, no proactive actions are required from the side of the government or local entities to support an intercultural dialogue among cultures.
2. After 2015 (see North Africa Emergency), a three-level reception system for ASRs was established (142/2015). Local authorities, in collaboration with the private and third sector, guarantee “integrated reception” interventions that go beyond the mere distribution of food and housing, providing legal and social guidance towards independence, as well as the construction of a personalized path for inclusion and socio-economic integration.
3. The integration plan (2017) reinforced the mutual commitment:
  - The migrant has to “learn the Italian language, share the fundamental values of the Italian Constitution, respect the laws, participate in the economic, social and cultural life of the territory in which he/she lives”.
  - The Italian government has guaranteed “equality and equal dignity; freedom of religion; access to education and training; interventions aimed at facilitating inclusion in the society and adherence to its non-negotiable value”. It was another step towards a more participative and equal understanding of coexistence. Nevertheless, the focus on security discouraged integration with the local population.

The Law 2018 n. 132 rationalized the SPRAR system as well as the provisions to ensure the recognition of citizenship. New irregularities and less guarantees are the results of this Law, discouraging the coexistence with the local population.

As different research studies have pointed out <sup>118</sup> that housing and employment appear as the most central challenges for post-2014 migrant integration in Italy. The situation gets worse for them due to problems such as:

- the precarious legal status (es. asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application or appealing it in front of the Court or rejected asylum seekers)
- little knowledge of the Italian language because of poor language courses and the limited

<sup>117</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-italy_en)

<sup>118</sup> WHOLE-Comm project, Country report on multilevel dynamics – Italy, 2022, <https://whole-comm.eu/working-papers/country-report-on-multilevel-dynamics-italy/>

opportunities to practice the language in reception facilities and in ethnically segregated workplaces

- the refugee gap that penalizes those entering through the asylum channel, i.e. almost all our target population.

For more information on the opportunities for immigrants to live and work in Italy, see the official website: <https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/en-gb/Esplora-tag/id/43>

### 2.4.3.3 Integration of immigrants in the Marche region

The strategy in the area of migration management adopted by the Marche region includes the sustainable development of the immigrant. This perspective has as main positive effect the achievement of individual autonomy and social empowerment of the beneficiaries. Local NGOs/OSCs and authorities adopted a holistic approach to the migration issue by helping these people with specific mentoring even after the SPRARs period. The positive effects recorded in many different migrants-related project<sup>119</sup> and initiatives assume a particular value. Local authorities, universities and NGOs/OSCs are working hard for the inclusion of migrants and for collective cultural empowerment.

The “[PRIMM Marche Regional Migrant Integration Plan](#)” is an example of good practice because it integrated 5 SDGs by involving multiple social areas involving the children of migrants, with respect to whom it achieved the following goals: promotion of inclusion, combating school dropout and managing the learning gap, promotion of associational participation; the promotion for access to integration services: social, financial, health, housing, information of protection holders; the promotion of migrants’ active participation in associationism.

**Figure 32. PRIMM Marche Regional Migrant Integration Plan.**



Source: <https://www.migrantimarche.eu/>

This was done through an integrated online platform where immigrants could choose among 6 thematic areas that provide information and practical tips under the “How to” form. These 6 dimensions regard social aspects, health issues, work regulations, education and culture and housing aspects.

<sup>119</sup> Le Marche solidali, Lannutti, V. 2021, Quaderni del Consiglio Regionale delle Marche, [https://www.consiglio.marche.it/informazione\\_e\\_comunicazione/pubblicazioni/quaderni/pdf/350.pdf](https://www.consiglio.marche.it/informazione_e_comunicazione/pubblicazioni/quaderni/pdf/350.pdf)

## Different ways to integration examples of good practice that work well in partner organizations

### 3.1 Good practice in Poland

<b>GOOD PRACTICE 1 - POLAND</b>
<p><b>Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc</b></p> <p>Poland for beginners and advanced</p>
<p><b>RESULTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops and online training on intercultural topics for seniors and learning Polish as a foreign language.</li> <li>• Workshops, training and coaching for volunteers - participants of the support network.</li> <li>• Integration meetings for participants of the support network.</li> <li>• Initiative group of seniors meetings of seniors and immigrants to learn Polish (one on one).</li> <li>• Workshop meetings of a mixed group of seniors and migrants - working out ideas for open classes for seniors from various backgrounds.</li> <li>• Open classes for seniors in organizations and institutions working for and/or with seniors. The proposals may include getting to know the cuisines of different countries, stories about customs (e.g. related to holidays), learning national, regional dances.</li> <li>• Developing and making available the publication Model Integration of Seniors and Migrants.</li> <li>• Organizing a seminar summarizing the project</li> </ul> <p>Project implemented in partnership by Fundacja Polskie Forum Migracyjne and Towarzystwo Inicjatyw Twórczych “ę”.</p>
<p><b>TARGET GROUP</b></p> <p>Who is the practice targeted at? (target groups)</p> <p>The group involved in the project activities were seniors and immigrants.</p>



**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

Project activities allowed both seniors and immigrants to be involved in volunteering. Participation in the project gave both groups the opportunity to make new friends, expand their network of contacts, and build positive relationships in the local environment. The language competences of immigrants also increased, and for about a year they met in conversations in duets with Polish seniors

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

Knowledge of the language of the country in which you live is the basis for integration. immigrants at an early stage, learn the language in order to learn to live in a given country and be able to settle basic matters. At a later stage, they often want to improve their quality of life, find a better job, and confirm the qualifications acquired in their home country. Here a good language competence becomes essential. Therefore, proven methods, which additionally foster social inclusion, can have a positive impact on integration processes. This project showed how the potential of seniors as native speakers can be used. How can conversations with foreigners help build mutual relations? How to create a space to build intercultural awareness and understanding other cultures? It also showed the possibilities and ways of social involvement in volunteering activities of both seniors and immigrants.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Please attach an existing document (or more) that explains the practice (e.g. presentation, working paper, video, resource, report, etc.).

The publication presenting the results of the project in English, Polish and Ukrainian is available here

<https://e.org.pl/projekty/polska-dla-pocztakujacych-i-zaawansowanych/>

**WEB LINK:**

<https://e.org.pl/projekty/polska-dla-pocztakujacych-i-zaawansowanych/>

<https://forummigracyjne.org/projekt/polska-dla-pocztakujacych-i-zaawansowanych>

**GOOD PRACTICE 2 - POLAND**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Warsaw for intermediates

Warsaw for beginners

**TARGET GROUP**

Who is the practice targeted at? (target groups)

Foreigners, adults as well as children and youth participated in the projects.

“Warsaw for beginners” is a project addressed to children and youth from abroad who learn about or recall Polish culture.

The project also involved parents. They learned Polish together using the instruments developed in the project.

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The main task of the project was to teach foreigners the Polish language, but the organization of this process allowed for building interpersonal relationships through joint learning and getting to know Polish culture.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

The experiences from both of the described projects can be a valuable clue for activities in local environments for organizations and people who teach Polish as a foreign language. They show that learning a language in the host country does not have to take place only in the classroom. Naturally available spaces and props can be used when organizing language training. Connect language with culture and other areas of life.

It is a good idea to reach adults, usually busy immigrants, through their children. Joint involvement of them in learning the language and using the cultural goods of the host country.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Please attach an existing document (or more) that explains the practice (e.g. presentation, working paper, video, resource, report, etc.).

[https://issuu.com/frse/docs/jows-4-2021\\_online/s/14371922](https://issuu.com/frse/docs/jows-4-2021_online/s/14371922)

<https://jows.pl/artykuly/naucz-sie-jezyka-w-muzeum-wywiad-z-katarzyna-k-caplot>

**WEB LINK:**

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/pl/blog/projekt-muzeum-warszawy-warszawa-dla-srednio-zaawansowanych-czyli-edukacja-muzealna-w-sluzbie>

**REFERENCES:**

**GOOD PRACTICE 3 - POLAND**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Educational Centre of Integration

**TARGET GROUP**

Who is the practice targeted at? (target groups)

In educational projects implemented by PCKK Foundation, participate: Adults, seniors and youth. They are Polish people and immigrants from different countries.

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The aim of the activities of the PCKK Foundation is to include adults in the process of lifelong learning. This is done so that in some activities they are participants, and in others they can be leaders. Participation in joint learning is conducive to building interpersonal relationships and making friends.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**
**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Please attach an existing document (or more) that explains the practice (e.g. presentation, working paper, video, resource, report, etc.).

**WEB LINK:**

<https://www.fundacjapckk.org.pl/>

### 3.2 Good practice in Denmark

<b>GOOD PRACTICE 1 – DENMARK</b>
<p><b>Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc</b></p> <p>Network House Gentofte - Promoting the integration and social inclusion of refugees</p>
<p><b>TARGET GROUP</b></p> <p>Refugees</p> <p><b>Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?</b></p> <p>The activities organized by the Network House impacted the participants helping refugees establish themselves in Danish society. At the house, refugees easily find support and answers to many questions in the same place, provided by both municipal employees and volunteers. As a result, they come to better understand their new society and its people and systems, and feel empowered to take part in it. Lasting social networks are also created, involving a mixture of refugee and local individuals.</p> <p><b>What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?</b></p> <p>The project is an example of excellent good practice (23 years) and collaboration between government, local authorities, local NGOs, and volunteers working together to help refugees of all ages with their integration: from activities for young children (2 years old up), supporting kids with their homework, learning Danish, counseling for adults in any matter of life in Denmark, including finding a bike, furniture and other necessary objects with the support of the locals. Integration is also carried out by organized trips and free dinners.</p> <p><b>MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS</b></p> <p><a href="https://netvaerkshuset.dk/aktiviteter/">https://netvaerkshuset.dk/aktiviteter/</a></p> <p><b>WEB LINK:</b></p> <p><a href="https://netvaerkshuset.dk/">https://netvaerkshuset.dk/</a></p>

## GOOD PRACTICE 2 – DENMARK

### Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc

FAKTI - Integration houses for women in Copenhagen

### TARGET GROUP

The most vulnerable ethnic minority women - most of them above 40 years of age, dealing with issues of trauma and PTSD.

### Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?

Independent consultant firm Als Research produced an evaluation of FAKTI in 2017, through attendance at the house and interviews with users and partners. The main conclusion of the evaluation was that the house is incredibly beneficial to its users. FAKTI's partners said they see a significant positive impact on house users, resulting in increased physical, mental and social well being. FAKTI succeeds in attracting and maintaining regular visits from members of a vulnerable target group which is otherwise hard to reach.

50-70 women visit FAKTI each day. In total, there are 10 000 visits per year. The association itself comprises 420 members. Women that use the house see improvements in their physical, psychological and social well being.

The impact is also on the children of these women, as their mothers build strong networks, understand Danish society better, and become more independent.

FAKTI acts as a bridge between these women and their municipality, the health system, their children's school, and so on.

### What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?

The house is a safe place for women in distress, with a focus on empowerment through a loving and undemanding environment. While most of them don't have a job and don't speak Danish, FAKTI is the place where they learn Danish and relax at the same time – with yoga or gardening, and also get guidance, including psychological therapy.

### MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS

<https://www.fakti.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/FAKTI-program-sommer-2023.pdf>

### WEB LINK

<https://www.fakti.dk/>

**GOOD PRACTICE 3 – DENMARK**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Diversity Works

**TARGET GROUP**

Initial focus was on women with ethnic minority background, now also open to men and children.

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The impact is holistic, the activities create empowerment, better integration and inclusion for the women and their families. One example of success is the social economic-project "Send More Spices", which has been successful in terms of job creation, self-esteem and recognition of the project from society.

The participants get strong support networks, learn more about their rights and duties in society and about health issues, and become increasingly self-supporting.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

This initiative is a very good example of a self-help success story, an organization started by ethnic women in need, nowadays a national network offering all types of support to people with migrant and refugee background needs in Denmark, with the support of national and local authorities.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Read a lot more about Send More Spices: [www.sendflerekryderier.dk](http://www.sendflerekryderier.dk)

**WEB LINK**

<https://diversityworks.dk>



**GOOD PRACTICE 4 – DENMARK**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Mentorship programme

**TARGET GROUP**

Immigrants

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The impact is strong on a personal, social and professional level. The participants get self-confidence through integration in the local society, better understanding of the local mentality and customs, dos and don'ts. They may even get a job, making friends. The main purpose is actually social integration.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

Getting a local mentor helps integration, like a tutor for the new life in a foreign country.

**WEB LINK**
<https://mentoresbjerg.dk/>

**GOOD PRACTICE 5 – DENMARK**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Language cafés

**TARGET GROUP**

Immigrants

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The participants gain confidence in their speaking and understanding ability. Consequently, they feel better prepared for the local social life, as part of the community. With the Arabic lessons, kids develop their mother tongue language and communication skills, feeling the approval of the local society and furthermore, the social acceptance and integration.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

Getting support for local language acquisition, along with developing the mother tongue skills, help integration, through eliminating the language barrier.

**WEB LINK**

<https://mentoresbjerg.dk/>

### 3.3 Good practice in Spain

<b>GOOD PRACTICE 1 - SPAIN</b>
<p><b>Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc</b></p> <p>Language Lab. Open Cultural Center, Barcelona.</p>
<p><b>TARGET GROUP</b></p> <p>The Language Lab is a project that involves both the local community of Barcelona and immigrant population that have arrived in the city. It targets the people of their membership (individuals and organizations), and also refugees and immigrants that have an active role as students and teachers.</p> <p><b>Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?</b></p> <p>Participation has an important impact on social attitudes since the Language Lab offers a space where the exchange of languages, experiences and cultures can be possible between people from all around the world. In addition, social integration of refugees and immigrants is promoted in all levels through the process of learning and teaching. Refugees and immigrants can get access to courses free of charge depending on their situation and learn the local languages. This process will facilitate their integration in the host society, promoting their access to information and different fields of daily life. As well, social integration is promoted facilitating refugees and immigrants the possibilities of getting new skills and experiences as teachers of many language courses.</p> <p><b>What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?</b></p> <p>A community of learning exchange through languages can be promoted. At the same time, an intercultural environment can be created to learn together and promote the integration of refugees and immigrants in the society of Barcelona. This project involves the challenge of the barriers that refugees and immigrants might suffer with regards to the access to formal education. Hence, within this language lab non-formal education is a way to enable them with new skills, knowledge and experiences. Also, the possibility of becoming teachers of many courses may contribute to make them feel empowered and share their own capabilities, knowledge and cultures with the students and the host community of Barcelona.</p> <p><b>MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS</b></p> <p>Open Cultural Center Spain. 2021. Annual Report. In <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SkS_sIZ1L7v1x0-wWxPmnE39vfESldS2/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SkS_sIZ1L7v1x0-wWxPmnE39vfESldS2/view</a></p> <p>Open Cultural Center Spain. September 2021. Intercambio lingüístico en Barcelona: el primero de muchos por venir. In <a href="https://openculturalcenter.org/es/language-exchange-in-barcelona-the-first-of-many-to-come/">https://openculturalcenter.org/es/language-exchange-in-barcelona-the-first-of-many-to-come/</a></p> <p>Open Cultural Center Spain. 2021. OCC Language Classes #OpenLearning. In <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTuhkc6meI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTuhkc6meI</a></p> <p><b>WEB LINK:</b></p> <p>Open Cultural Center. Language Lab Barcelona. In <a href="https://openculturalcenter.org/es/language-lab/">https://openculturalcenter.org/es/language-lab/</a></p>

**GOOD PRACTICE 2 - SPAIN**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Spanish Course, the Language of Social Harmony. ELE-inmigrantes. Asociación para la integración lingüística del inmigrante en Madrid.

**TARGET GROUP**

Immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in Madrid, starting the courses with those new residents with a very basic knowledge of Spanish. The local community of Madrid, NGOs, and teachers are also involved as actors in the creation of linguistic and socio-cultural networks that can facilitate immigrant integration.

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The programs and courses of this association have important impacts on both social attitudes and the support of immigrants social integration in Madrid. Asociación para la integración lingüística del inmigrante in Madrid focus on the right of immigrants to have quality teachers, programs and materials in equal conditions to other local students and in a process that can help immigrants to learn Spanish fostering their linguistic and working integration. The Spanish language is conceived within this association and its programs as a language of co-existence

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

The importance of understanding Spanish as a language of co-existence, providing support in the process of learning the language as part of the socio-cultural and working integration of immigrants. Furthermore, the benefits of promoting the creation of linguistic and socio-cultural networks that can facilitate and improve immigrant integration.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Video presentation of Asociación para la integración lingüística del inmigrante in Madrid (ASILIM) <https://asilim.org/2021/06/18/conocenos/>

«Español, lengua de convivencia» Program in La Casa Encendida. In <https://asilim.org/asilim-en-la-casa-encendida/>

Online ELE teacher training workshops. XIX edition of the course. In <https://asilim.org/2022/01/17/talleres-de-formacion-de-profesorado-ele-en-linea-xix-edicion-del-curso/>

**WEB LINK:**

Asociación para la integración lingüística del inmigrante in Madrid. In <https://asilim.org/que-hacemos/todo-lo-que-siempre-quisie-preguntar-sobre-ensenanza-de-espanol-a-inmigrantes/>

### GOOD PRACTICE 3 - SPAIN

#### Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc

Aprendizaje de idioma. València Acull.

#### TARGET GROUP

The target group of this program is immigrants, with a number of 200 people a year.

#### Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?

This program supports social integration of immigrants in Valencia since learning local languages facilitates the personal relationships and social inclusion within the host society. In addition, the knowledge of local languages is required in some of the procedures to obtain the residence and nationality permits.

#### What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?

This program offers a diversity of knowledge and activities to promote the integration of immigrants in Valencia. The language courses and non-formal education is complemented with other cultural activities that foster diversity. This project benefits a big number of immigrants in Valencia every year (200 people a year).

#### MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS

València Acull. 2020. Informe Anual 2020. In <https://valencia-acoge.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/memoria-actividades-2020-CAS.pdf>

**WEB LINK:** València Acull. Aprendizaje de idiomas. In <https://valencia-acoge.org/aprendizaje-de-lenguas/>

**GOOD PRACTICE 4 - SPAIN**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

Cursos de idiomas. Abrazo Cultural, Barcelona.

**TARGET GROUP**

**Migrants and the local citizens of Barcelona.**

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

Cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity is fostered with the language courses and complementary intercultural activities. Social integration of immigrants is encouraged highlighting their capacities, knowledge and their roles as main actors sharing their cultures of origin, contexts and stories, becoming teachers, tour guides and facilitators of different workshops such as the cooking workshops. This process can also help to break down stereotypes and prejudices against immigrants arriving, living and working in Barcelona.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

The need of providing intercultural spaces that can facilitate the process of learning and social integration of immigrants. Besides this, an important lesson is the promotion of the capacities and knowledge of immigrants.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

Abrazo Cultural: who we are and what we do. In <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjmhUwIEiCQ>

Memoria de actividades. 2021. In <https://abrazocultural.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Memoria-de-Actividades-2021-2.pdf>

Abrazo Cultural. 2020. ¿Cómo la cultura ayuda a aprender un idioma? In <https://abrazocultural.com/project/como-la-cultura-ayuda-a-aprender-un-idioma/>

**WEB LINK:** Abrazo Cultural. In <https://abrazocultural.com/>



### GOOD PRACTICE 5 - SPAIN

#### Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc

Programas de atención integral con población migrante (Holistic care programs with migrant population). Jarit, Asociación Civil. Valencia.

#### TARGET GROUP

International immigrants and the host community of Valencia and its neighborhoods.

#### Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?

Social integration of immigrants is promoted with a holistic perspective that can provide the new arrivals with knowledge of local languages, and skills and information useful in other fields that can help with their labor integration. In addition, social attitudes with an intercultural approach are nurtured with cultural and community activities that involve the participation of the host population as well.

#### What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?

The importance of a holistic and intercultural approach to promote the social integration of immigrants through the learning process and courses of languages complemented with other courses and cultural activities.

#### MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS

**WEB LINK:** Jarit, Asociación Civil. In <https://www.jarit.org/>

## 3.4 Good practice in Italy

<b>GOOD PRACTICE 1 – ITALY</b>
<p><b>Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc</b></p> <p>CultureLab project (H2020) project - Promoting the role of culture in enhancing social inclusion, COOS MARCHE</p>
<p><b>TARGET GROUP</b></p> <p>Within the CultureLabs project, the “Bridging Culture Through Arts” lab organized by COOS Marche involved refugees/asylum seekers and ethnic minorities with low levels of Italian language proficiency. For the pilot, 35 participants from more than 20 different countries registered, but only 10/12 persons were always present. Their nationalities ranged from Pakistan to Perù, Ukraine, Mali, Bangladesh.</p> <p><b>Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?</b></p> <p>The activities organized by COOS impacted on the participants from the communicative point of view. Immigrants who participated in the Image Theater lab gained self-confidence and increased their Italian language proficiency and communication capabilities. Language was one of the main barriers to social integration for the target groups. These events gave immigrants the opportunity to interact with native people and get involved in co-creation opportunities. The group used this art-based activity and produced an output able to represent their experience and cultural tradition in a non antagonistic and constructive way, tackling stereotypes among cultures.</p> <p><b>What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?</b></p> <p>The Image Theatre showed how different cultures can meet and dialogue, without participants feeling criticized or attacked. Strong and rigid cultural traditions such as “imposed weddings” could be questioned and peacefully discussed through irony. The Image Theater can foster social inclusion, involvement and emotional connection among participants who don’t share the same language and culture and prepare ground for a peaceful coexistence of several meanings without conflict.</p> <p><b>MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS</b></p> <p>Theories and Methodologies- Theatre of the oppressed by Augusto Boal <a href="https://beautifultrouble.org/toolbox/tool/theatre-of-the-oppressed">https://beautifultrouble.org/toolbox/tool/theatre-of-the-oppressed</a></p> <p>CultureLabs Platform - Recipes for Social Innovation: <a href="https://recipes.culture-labs.eu/#/workspace/recipes/640">https://recipes.culture-labs.eu/#/workspace/recipes/640</a></p> <p><b>WEB LINK:</b></p> <p>CultureLabs project website <a href="https://culture-labs.eu/">https://culture-labs.eu/</a></p> <p>CultureLabs - Partners:COOS <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZoaiXd-ZGA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZoaiXd-ZGA</a></p>

## GOOD PRACTICE 2 – ITALY

**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

METAPHORA (MELE-VR) – an educational virtual reality project

**TARGET GROUP**

- 4 students from NTNU University in 2022
- 4 students from NTNU University in 2023 (starting mid april 2023)
- 10 community guests at a time: 1 from Somalia, 2 from Albania, 1 from Egypt, 2 from Pakistan, 1 from Bangladesh, 2 from Gambia, 1 from Guinea
- 10 educators/sociologists/psychologists from Lella minor services-oriented teams (Comunità Lella, Casadiciotto) with Italian nationality.

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

For NTNU students, this experience expands their knowledge on the SAI system, namely the way refugees, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors are welcomed, supported and integrated in Italy. Lella Community has a 20 year-long expertise in the field and continuously implements and searches for different ways of integrating immigrants who arrive in Italy.

Lella' educators have the chance to exchange practices with the Northern European welcoming system which is more focused on second or third level welcoming. This partnership can broaden the community's knowledge on the global welcoming and integration system. On the other hand, community guests can interact with different cultures and different approaches on education and integration and become more aware of European culture.

**What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?**

The book "Come fosse casa tua" (As it was your home) by pedagogist and professor Rosita Deluigi summarizes 20 years of experience of the Lella Community. It describes the educators' experiences and how pedagogical planning is the core of each activity they carry out with refugee, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors. The Community educational team is constantly engaged in research and training and willing to share knowledge and practices with international educators.

**MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS**

SAI: History, Objectives and Characteristics <https://www.retesai.it/english/>  
People on the move Conference at the NTNU University of Trondheim (Norway) - Dialogue about pedagogical practices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ROgeUG7BsU>  
Conference transcript: <https://www.lella2001.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/people-on-the-move.pdf>  
Wikilella - a presentation of the Lella 2001 community and its main activities: <https://www.lella2001.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/wikilella2.pdf>  
Lella 2001 –Cooperative Sociale Onlus –website: [www.lella2001.it](http://www.lella2001.it)  
Lella 2001 – Facebook page: <https://it-it.facebook.com/cooperativasocialelella2001/>  
Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/cooplella2001/>

**REFERENCES**

“Come fosse casa tua”, Rosita Deluigi (2020) Come fosse casa tua.... Comunità Lella: un modello di ingegneria dell’educazione - Rosita Deluigi - Libro - Progedit - Educazione, Società e Pedagogia Militante/Education, Society and Militant Pedagogy | IBS

**GOOD PRACTICE 3– ITALY**
**Title of project, research, article, network, initiative etc**

FIN PROJECT – Financial Education for Migrants

**TARGET GROUP**

A total of 273 people with different professional backgrounds were involved: academics, social workers, intercultural mediators, sociologists, staff of the chambers of commerce and trade associations, policymakers, financial advisers, accountants, and business incubators. Teachers of Italian as a foreign language from Provincial adult education centers (CPIA) were also involved.

Education programs were planned for 2 main target groups:

1. newly arrived migrants: refugees and asylum-seekers included, not skilled in Italian language and with limited financial needs
2. permanent migrants (long term residents) with unstable economic conditions, paying special attention to women

**Does participation have an impact on social attitude? Or does it support social integration? If yes, how?**

The FIN Project had an impact on participants because it focused on social integration through financial literacy and financial inclusion. Social integration is linked and supported by financial inclusion.

Economic-financial inclusion concerns the ability of individuals to plan and carry out medium and long-term projects and investments, to identify objectives and needs and link them to tools and opportunities. This is very important for migrants because it signals their intention to settle in the country in which they live.

Financial inclusion is closely related to social inclusion and financial literacy, as they represent three fundamental pillars of the economic and social integration process of individuals, migrants included.

Financial inclusion is a crucial element in the fight against poverty. This is especially true in crisis situations.

### What can we take out from the research, project, article, network, initiative (lesson learned)?

The financial education experiences carried out as part of the FIN project, together with the other experiences, in Italy and Europe, have provided very useful indications for identifying some suitable tools and strategies to allow for the financial inclusion of very vulnerable groups, such as migrants. The lessons learnt are:

- teaching materials must be differentiated according to the type of migrants (new arrivals vs long term residents).
- longer courses (more than 30 h) are more effective
- textbooks clearly divided by Italian language proficiency levels (A1 and A2).
- adoption of a communicative approach and a laboratory model with participants
- trainers also need to act as intermediaries, be able to stimulate curiosity
- use of apps/digital tools, and online lessons, can also be useful, in order to support the learning process.
- think to new forms of involvement of migrants

The FIN project recommendation include the need for financial products designed for people with special needs, the improvement of the banks' role, not only in offering products in line with migrants' needs, but also in removing obstacles for the access to basic services; the promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship, the dialogue between different subjects at local, national and Eu level.

The FIN project experience also provided important evidence of what Ozili (2020, p. 10) recently stated: "financial literacy alone cannot enable financial inclusion. This is because having knowledge of how to use and manage money will itself not eliminate the structural barriers that prevent access to finance". This means that if we want to reach a real financial, and even social, inclusion of migrants, we can't just provide financial education. Financial literacy is a key prerequisite for the financial and social inclusion of migrants, but this result can only be effectively achieved if we are able to create a context where other conditions conducive to financial inclusion are also present. In this regard, the FIN project has provided some guidelines to eliminate the main barriers preventing the financial inclusion of migrants.

### MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE MATERIALS

An Italian project of financial education for migrants, L. Cecarini, F. M.a Cesaroni, V. Lannutti, A. Negri (2021) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356264370\\_An\\_Italian\\_project\\_of\\_financial\\_education\\_for\\_migrants](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356264370_An_Italian_project_of_financial_education_for_migrants)

### WEB LINK

Africa Chiama website: [www.lafricachiamo.org](http://www.lafricachiamo.org)

Fin project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/finanzainclusiva>



## Recommendations for other organizations and people dealing with the integration of immigrants at the local level

The general recommendations for policymakers, NGOs, and other organizations involved in immigrant integration. These recommendations include promoting intercultural dialogue, providing language courses and vocational training, and ensuring access to basic services such as healthcare and housing. However, for a more tailored recommendation, Integration is a two-way process. It requires commitment and interest from both the local community and immigrants. Many areas related to integration require systemic solutions created by central and local authorities. But Non-governmental organizations can play a big role too. The key is education.

From a point of view of non-governmental organizations, as an organizer of educational development processes, we believe that it is worth taking care of the intercultural awareness of educators and animators, generally of the entire staff. The second group to work with in this area are listeners, recipients, participants in the organization's educational activities. The question remains open: how to do it? The materials of the e-learning course developed in the Integra project and the examples described in Chapter 3, showing various ways to integrate, may be useful here.

Most researchers of social phenomena agree with the statement that communicating in the language of the country in which one lives is a key element of broadly understood integration. Therefore, it is very important to enable immigrants to improve their language competences and to provide extensive assistance in this regard. We suggest taking advantage of all educational opportunities, various meetings and workshops. With the right approach and planning, each such event can be an opportunity to learn the language of the host country. Especially when we can invite people from the local community, adults, seniors, youth to cooperate.

### 4.1. Mentorship scheme – locals or integrated immigrants as mentors helping newcomers in all matters.

Implementing a mentorship scheme within your organization can greatly benefit immigrants by providing them with valuable guidance, support, and assistance in navigating their new environment. By pairing locals or integrated immigrants with newcomers, you can foster a sense of community, empower immigrants to overcome challenges, and facilitate their successful integration into the host society. Below are some key details and considerations for establishing a mentorship scheme:

Program Structure:

- a. Recruitment: Identify and recruit suitable mentors from the local or integrated immigrant population who possess relevant experience, language proficiency, and cultural understanding.
- b. Screening and Training: Conduct thorough screening and background checks to ensure mentors are trustworthy and reliable. Provide comprehensive training to mentors to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective mentorship.
- c. Matching: Thoughtfully pair mentors with newcomers based on shared backgrounds, interests, language proficiency, or specific needs to maximize the potential for a successful mentorship relationship.
- d. Duration: Define the duration of the mentorship program, taking into account the needs and circumstances of both mentors and newcomers. A typical duration could range from three to six months, with the option for extension if both parties agree.
- e. Frequency of Meetings: Establish a recommended frequency for mentor-mentee meetings,

such as weekly or bi-weekly, to ensure regular interaction and support.

f. **Clear Objectives:** Set clear objectives for the mentorship program, such as assisting newcomers in language acquisition, job search strategies, cultural integration, and accessing community resources.

**Mentor Responsibilities:**

a. **Orientation:** Help newcomers understand the local culture, customs, and norms, including information on legal requirements, social services, educational opportunities, and employment prospects.

b. **Language Support:** Assist with language learning, providing conversational practice, vocabulary building, and guidance on formal language education resources.

c. **Guidance on Daily Life:** Provide practical guidance on daily living activities, such as grocery shopping, public transportation, healthcare system navigation, banking, and accessing essential services.

d. **Professional Development:** Offer guidance on resume writing, interview skills, and job search strategies tailored to the local job market. Share insights on industry-specific knowledge and potential networking opportunities.

e. **Social Integration:** Encourage participation in local community activities, events, and clubs to foster social connections and cultural understanding.

f. **Emotional Support:** Offer a supportive and empathetic environment, actively listening to newcomers' concerns, providing encouragement, and helping them overcome emotional challenges associated with relocation and cultural adjustment.

**Newcomer Benefits:**

a. **Access to Networks:** Mentors can introduce newcomers to their personal and professional networks, helping them expand their social and professional connections.

b. **Increased Confidence:** Mentorship provides newcomers with the confidence to navigate unfamiliar situations, overcome language barriers, and tackle challenges more effectively.

c. **Cultural Understanding:** Mentors can share insights about the local culture, customs, and social norms, facilitating newcomers' understanding and integration into the community.

d. **Emotional Well-being:** The mentorship relationship provides newcomers with emotional support, reducing feelings of isolation and enhancing their overall well-being.

**Mentor Recognition and Support:**

a. **Recognition:** Recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions of mentors through certificates, awards, or public acknowledgments to reinforce their commitment and dedication.

b. **Mentor Support Network:** Establish a support network or regular meetings for mentors to share experiences, seek guidance, and discuss any challenges they may encounter.

c. **Ongoing Training:** Provide mentors with ongoing training opportunities to enhance their mentoring skills, cultural competency, and understanding of relevant resources and services.

**Conclusion:**

Implementing a mentorship scheme for immigrants can significantly enhance their integration

experience and improve their overall well-being. By offering guidance, support, and a sense of community, mentors can play a vital role in empowering newcomers to overcome challenges and build successful

## 4.2. Language classes – free of charge for everyone

Providing free language classes for immigrants is a crucial initiative that can greatly support their integration process. Language proficiency is essential for effective communication, accessing job opportunities, navigating daily life, and participating fully in the host society. By offering language classes free of charge, you can remove financial barriers and empower immigrants to acquire the language skills necessary for their success. Here are some details to consider when implementing this recommendation:

### Language Needs Assessment:

- a. Determine the primary languages spoken by the immigrant population you serve. Identify the most common languages and their proficiency levels to tailor language classes accordingly.
- b. Assess the specific language needs of immigrants based on their backgrounds, education levels, employment goals, and social integration requirements.

### Collaborations and Resources:

- a. Collaborate with local educational institutions, language schools, community centers, or volunteer organizations that offer language instruction programs. Leverage existing resources to provide free or subsidized language classes.
- b. Seek partnerships with language teachers, linguists, or volunteers who have experience teaching languages to non-native speakers. They can contribute their expertise and support the language instruction efforts.
- c. Explore funding opportunities from government grants, community organizations, or corporate sponsorships to sustain the free language classes.

### Curriculum and Instruction:

- a. Develop a comprehensive curriculum that encompasses all language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Design the curriculum to be progressive, allowing learners to advance through different proficiency levels.
- b. Include practical language lessons tailored to daily life situations, such as workplace communication, interacting with public services, healthcare, and educational institutions.
- c. Utilize interactive teaching methods that engage learners actively, incorporating group activities, role-playing, multimedia resources, and technology-based language learning tools.
- d. Employ qualified language instructors who are experienced in teaching non-native speakers and are sensitive to the cultural backgrounds and needs of the immigrant learners.

### Flexibility and Accessibility:

- a. Offer a variety of class formats to accommodate diverse schedules and preferences. Provide options for full-time and part-time classes, morning and evening sessions, or weekend classes to cater to learners' availability.
- b. Consider providing online language classes or blended learning options to reach a wider audience and accommodate those with limited mobility or transportation challenges.

c. Ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities by providing appropriate learning materials, assistive technologies, and accessible facilities.

Support Services:

a. Supplement language classes with additional support services, such as language labs, conversation groups, or language exchange programs. These opportunities can provide additional practice and enhance language acquisition.

b. Offer tutoring or mentorship programs where learners can receive one-on-one support from language mentors or volunteers who can assist with specific language challenges or provide additional practice opportunities.

Progress Monitoring and Evaluation:

a. Establish a system to monitor and evaluate learners' progress throughout the language classes. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms can help track their development and identify areas for improvement.

b. Conduct surveys or focus groups to gather feedback from learners about their experience with the language classes, allowing for continuous improvement and meeting their evolving needs.

Conclusion:

Providing free language classes for immigrants is a vital step toward facilitating their integration and empowering them to thrive in their new community. By removing financial barriers and offering tailored language instruction, you can enhance their communication skills, increase their employability, and foster social integration. Language classes play a crucial role in enabling immigrants to overcome language barriers and become active participants in their host society.

### **4.3. Integration through participation in the labor market. Local public offices and NGOs support immigrants with all the information they need to find a job.**

Facilitating immigrants' integration into the labor market is key to their successful integration and self-sufficiency. By providing support and information on job opportunities, local public offices and NGOs can play a vital role in helping immigrants find employment. This recommendation focuses on creating a system where immigrants receive assistance and guidance in their job search process. Here are some details to consider when implementing this recommendation:

Collaboration and Partnerships:

a. Collaborate with local public offices, employment agencies, NGOs, and community organizations to establish partnerships. These partnerships will allow for the exchange of information, resources, and expertise on job opportunities and employment support programs.

b. Engage with local employers, industry associations, and chambers of commerce to foster connections and increase awareness of job openings suitable for immigrants.

Information and Guidance:

a. Develop comprehensive information resources that provide immigrants with details on the local labor market, including job sectors, in-demand skills, employment regulations, and job search strategies.

b. Create multilingual materials and resources to cater to immigrants with different language proficiencies.

c. Establish a dedicated website or portal that provides up-to-date job listings, career advice, and information on employment support services.

d. Conduct workshops, seminars, or information sessions to educate immigrants about the job search process, resume writing, interview skills, and workplace culture.

#### Job Search Support:

a. Provide personalized assistance to immigrants in their job search efforts. This can include one-on-one counseling, resume review, and guidance on job application techniques.

b. Offer workshops or training programs focused on improving immigrants' job search skills, such as networking, online job searching, and professional communication.

c. Facilitate connections between immigrants and potential employers through job fairs, networking events, or employer-led recruitment initiatives.

d. Establish mentorship programs or job shadowing opportunities where immigrants can learn from experienced professionals in their desired field.

#### Language and Skills Development:

a. Offer language classes or language support programs specifically tailored to workplace communication and industry-specific terminology.

b. Collaborate with local educational institutions or vocational training providers to offer skill development programs or certification courses that align with the local job market.

c. Facilitate access to internships, apprenticeships, or work placement programs that provide practical experience and help immigrants gain local work experience.

#### Recognition of Foreign Credentials:

a. Advocate for streamlined processes and support services that facilitate the recognition of foreign credentials and qualifications, ensuring that immigrants' skills and qualifications are properly recognized in the local job market.

b. Collaborate with relevant professional regulatory bodies and licensing authorities to explore options for expediting the recognition process for immigrants.

#### Ongoing Support and Follow-up:

a. Provide post-employment support to immigrants, including assistance with workplace integration, understanding labor rights, and accessing career advancement opportunities.

b. Conduct regular follow-up with immigrants to assess their employment experiences, address any challenges they may encounter, and provide additional support as needed.

#### Data Collection and Evaluation:

a. Establish a system for collecting data on immigrant employment outcomes, including job placements, retention rates, and career progression. This data will help evaluate the effectiveness of the employment support programs and inform future improvements.

#### Conclusion:

By providing immigrants with information, guidance, and support in their job search process, local public offices and NGOs can significantly contribute to their integration into the labor market. This approach fosters self-sufficiency, enhances social and economic integration, and maximizes the contributions immigrants can make to their host society.

#### 4.4. Programs which facilitate participation of immigrants in society and promote respect for fundamental values, non-discrimination, equal participation of local and immigrants.

Promoting the active participation of immigrants in society while fostering respect for fundamental values and non-discrimination is essential for creating an inclusive and harmonious community. Implementing programs that facilitate the integration of immigrants and encourage equal participation can contribute to social cohesion and mutual understanding. Here are some details to consider when implementing this recommendation:

##### Cultural Exchange and Awareness:

- a. Organize cultural exchange programs that provide opportunities for immigrants and local residents to learn about each other's cultures, traditions, and perspectives.
- b. Arrange community events, festivals, or exhibitions that celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of immigrants and promote dialogue and understanding among different communities.
- c. Develop educational campaigns and workshops to raise awareness about the contributions of immigrants, dispel stereotypes, and promote cultural diversity and inclusivity.

##### Social Integration Programs:

- a. Establish social integration programs that encourage interactions and social connections between immigrants and local residents. This can include community clubs, interest groups, or sports teams where individuals from diverse backgrounds can engage and build relationships.
- b. Create buddy programs or friendship initiatives that pair immigrants with local residents, fostering personal connections, cultural exchange, and social support.
- c. Encourage immigrants to participate in existing community organizations, volunteer activities, or local initiatives to promote their engagement and active involvement in civic life.

##### Education and Awareness:

- a. Develop educational programs or workshops that focus on promoting respect for fundamental values, human rights, non-discrimination, and equal participation. These programs can target both immigrants and local residents.
- b. Offer language classes or language exchange programs that facilitate communication and understanding between immigrants and local residents.
- c. Provide information on the legal rights and responsibilities of immigrants, including anti-discrimination laws, access to services, and avenues for reporting discrimination or hate crimes.

##### Dialogue and Consultation:

- a. Establish platforms for dialogue and consultation that allow immigrants to voice their concerns, needs, and aspirations. This can include community forums, focus groups, or advisory committees where immigrants can actively participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.
- b. Collaborate with immigrant-led organizations and community leaders to ensure their perspectives are represented and their expertise is utilized in designing and implementing integration programs.

##### Non-Discrimination and Equal Treatment:

- a. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that promote non-discrimination, equal



treatment, and equal opportunities for immigrants in various aspects of society, including employment, education, housing, and public services.

b. Provide training programs for service providers, employers, and community members to raise awareness about anti-discrimination laws, cultural sensitivity, and inclusive practices.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

a. Regularly assess the effectiveness of integration programs and initiatives through data collection, surveys, and feedback mechanisms. This will help identify areas for improvement and ensure that programs are meeting the needs of both immigrants and the local community.

b. Monitor and address any instances of discrimination, hate crimes, or social exclusion, taking appropriate actions to promote a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Conclusion:

Implementing programs that facilitate the participation of immigrants in society while promoting respect for fundamental values and equal treatment is crucial for creating a cohesive and inclusive community. By encouraging cultural exchange, social integration, education, and dialogue, we can foster mutual understanding, bridge divides, and create an environment where both immigrants and local residents can thrive together.

Table 1. Main directions of immigration to Poland for permanent residence in 2016-2021 - persons registered for permanent residence.....9

Figure 1. Chart 100. Repatriation visas issued in 2001 - 2019 by the selected country in which the visa was issued .....11

Figure 2. Persons with refugee status in Poland in 2021.....13

Figure 3. Territorial distribution of Ukrainians settling in Poland.....15

Table 2. Number of foreigners insured in ZUS - as of December 31, 2022.....16

Figure 4. Foreigners in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship-30.04.2023.....17

Figure 5. Percentage share of war refugees registered in the PESEL database in the total number of inhabitants of a given voivodeship.....18

Figure 6: Visit to a club for Turkish guest workers in Copenhagen.....21

Figure 7: Guest workers striking against forced redundancies in front of the Danish Employers' Association, 1978.....21

Figure 8. Numbers of Western and non-Western immigrants and descendants in Denmark 1992-2022.....23

Figure 9. Immigration to Denmark 1992-2022.....24

Table 3. Immigrants from Western and non-Western countries to Denmark, by age in 2022.....24

Figure 10. The number of asylum applications granted and the acceptance rate in Denmark, 1984-2019.....26

Table 4: Asylum seekers by continent between 2020 – 2022.....27

Table 5. Refugee status granted.....27

Table 6. Top 5 nationalities seeking asylum in Denmark 2018-2022.....28

Figure 11. Nationalities seeking asylum in Denmark in 2015 - 2020 - 2022.....29

Figure 12. Main routes to Denmark.....30

Figure 13. Employment rate for refugees, immigrants and natives.....31

Table 7. Employment rates of immigrants vs. natives, by gender, for people aged 30-64. 2020.....32

Figure 14. Workforce in construction in Denmark.....32

Table 8. Workforce in Denmark, by number Danes, Western and non-Western immigrants and descendants .....33

Table 9. Immigrants and descendants by region - Denmark 2022.....37

Figure 15: Immigrants and descendants in total population 2022, by region.....38

Figure 16. Evolution and growth of the flows of migrant population in Spain.....40

Figure 17. Data of foreign migration flows by autonomous communities.....41

Figure 18: Growth of women migration in Spain.....42

Figure 19. Percentages of foreign population with temporary residence in Spain.....43

Figure 20. Percentages of unemployed population showing the differences between age and spanish-foreign populations .....44

Figure 21. Right of asylum in Spain. 2021.....45

Figure 22. Number of victims in the different routes of access to Spain in 2022.....46

Figure 23: Immigrants - Countries of origin.....51

Figure 24. Non-EU citizens regularly living in Italy by country origin – top 10 citizenships.....52

Figure 25. Demographic indicators. Total migration rate (per thousand inhabitant).....53

Figure 26. Non-EU citizens living in the Marche region (2008-2022).....54

Figure 27. Foreign population in regions of Italy.....54

Figure 28. Non-EU citizens in the Marche region by permit in the 4 regional provinces: Work, Family, Study, Asylum/Refugee, Other.....55

Figure 29. Non-Eu citizens in the Marche region by continent of origin (January 2022).....55

Figure 30. European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).....56

Figure 31. Migrants arrived by sea (in blue) and Asylum request applications (in green).....57

Figure 32. PRIMM Marche Regional Migrant Integration Plan.....61

## Bibliographical references

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