

COST Action CA20112

**Evaluation of Policies on
Social Inclusion, Migration,
in particular interventions
related to integration**

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PROFEED *book 2*



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Evaluation community for
improved EU policies and
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publication as "COST
CA20112 PROFEEDbook2"

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PUBLISHER

HETFA Research Institute
Grant Holder Institution
www.hetfa.eu

ACTION CONTACTS

Gábor BALÁS
Action Chair, Scientific Representative
profeedback@hetfa.hu

Tarmo KALVET
Action Vice Chair
tarmo.kalvet@ttu.ee

Renata Anna JAKSA
Science Communication Coordinator
rajaksa@hetfa.hu

Dijana ŠTRBAC
Innovation and Exploitation Manager
dijana.strbac@pupin.rs

Noemia Bessa VILELA OPLOTNIK
Grant Awarding Coordinator
nbessavilela@ophiz.org

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ABOUT PROFEEDBACK

The COST Action PROFEEDBACK - Platform OF policy Evaluation community for improved EU policies and Better ACKnowledgement (CA20112, MoU 052/21) 2021-2025 aims to foster the networking of the policy evaluation community at EU-level, raise awareness on the importance of evaluation policy research and improve its impact on policy-making. The Platform, following a bottom-up and open approach, will gather researchers and professionals from various scientific fields and sectors to present and evaluate theories, topics, tools and methods of policy evaluation. Results of the Europe-wide assessment of good practices will provide direct and high-quality inputs for national and EU bodies responsible for policy evaluation.

Policy evaluation is a key tool in understanding, developing and modernising EU policies, thus there is a growing demand for EU-wide and high quality evaluation services. The main challenge is that currently there is no bottom-up platform for European researchers and professionals working in policy evaluation. They have limited possibilities to discuss common problems, assess country specific practices and share their knowledge in a mutually beneficial and effective way.

The PROFEEDBACK Action has three key objectives to achieve during the Action period 18/10/2021 - 17/10/2025 and beyond.



Foster networking and knowledge-exchange of the policy evaluation community at European level



Raise awareness on the importance of policy evaluation research and improve its impact on policy-making



Reinforce state-of-the-art research in the policy evaluation field and contribute to evaluation standards

ABOUT PROFEEDbook2

In the framework of the PROFEEDBACK Action, one conference every half-year will be implemented. After each conference thematic deliverables will be issued, the so called PROFEEDbooks (D4.1-D4.8). They will summarise the main presentations and results of the conferences.

PROFEEDbooks support multidisciplinary, the systematisation of different methodologies and the exact transfer of know-how for the policy evaluation community. These will also serve the interests of European and national policy-makers in developing the frameworks of the next programming periods and of a common European evaluation culture.

In addition, the PROFEEDbooks enrich the literature of public policy, aiming to develop theory, knowledge, method and tool base of European evaluation policy as well as a common understanding of the current problems and challenges. PROFEEDbooks will support the Action in reaching audience beyond the Action members.

The 2nd PROFEEDBACK Conference focused on **Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration**. Social inclusion is a core policy area whose importance has been highlighted even further by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic recession. Any transition and recovery can only be carried out with keeping the inclusion and integration of the most vulnerable groups in mind, a notion which is reflected in various EU, national and regional policy documents. The aim of the conference is to discuss evaluation examples of integration and inclusion policies and transferable practices among evaluation professionals from COST member states.

The conference took place in **Maribor, Slovenia** between **12-13 September 2022**.

The event was organised by OPHIZ in cooperation with the University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business and the Economic Society Maribor.



**KEYNOTE
SPEECHES**

 **MARTIN KLATT****Non-territorial autonomy (NTA) as an instrument to manage diversity - not just for national minorities****ABSTRACT**

Non-territorial autonomy was designed in the 19th century as an instrument to accommodate national, cultural and ethnic diversity in multiethnic states, primarily the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as an alternative to territorial autonomy or secession. It has been applied in different forms, mostly in Europe. So far, NTA implementation has predominantly been focusing on autochthonous minorities. My presentation will demonstrate, how implementation of NTA can function as an instrument to analyze policies of social integration of vulnerable groups in general. Liberal Multiculturalism (Kymlicka, 2018) presupposes the necessity to recognize groups' cultural rights as a precondition for well-being and social inclusion. Here, NTA is a model on how to implement liberal multiculturalism without challenging state sovereignty. It allows minorities to establish institutions to ensure the continuous development of their linguistic, cultural, and ethnic identity without challenging the state they reside in.

My paper will address the Danish-German border region of Schleswig as a best practice example of how policies ensuring non-territorial autonomy have achieved conflict resolution and minority accommodation, but foremost also social inclusion. The former being widely consensus in research on the case (foremost Kühl & Bohn, 2005; Kühl & Weller, 2005), the development from social (and economic) exclusion to inclusion has not been subject to more in-depth research, yet.

Historically, the Danish-German antagonism has polarized Schleswig, especially in the 19th century, and has transformed a prosperous, economically central region into two peripheral regions. Nationalization (and the defense of perceived national gains) have dominated regional and national policies at least until the 1960s. A paradigm shift around the turn of the century rediscovered cultural and linguistic diversity as an asset of development (Malloy, 2010). Today, the minorities' cultural and educational systems are considered attractive by considerable parts of the majority population.

Both minorities have evolved from segregation and social exclusion during times of conflict, especially after World War II, to recognized groups with attractive social and cultural institutions. Decisive elements were a combination of national and regional policies, political goodwill, and minority self-restriction by the acceptance of the 1920-border between Germany and Denmark. This has resulted in an overall accepted system of diversity, which has been recognized and marketed by regional and national politicians and other stakeholders, culminating in the, albeit unsuccessful, attempt of recognition as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. Out of this experience, my paper will outline a policy checklist to assess successful social, cultural and linguistic inclusion of minorities, demonstrating successes, challenges and policy recommendations for different stakeholders.

References:

- Kühl, J., & Bohn, R. (Eds.). (2005). Ein europäisches Modell? Nationale Minderheiten im deutschdänischen Grenzland 1945-2005. Verlag für Regionalgeschichte.
- Kühl, J., & Weller, M. (Eds.). (2005). Minority Policy in Action. The Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations in a European Context 1955-2005. Institut for Grænseregionsforskning.
- Kymlicka, W. (2018). Liberal Multiculturalism as a Political Theory of State-Minority Relations. *Political Theory*, 46(1), 81-91. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0090591717696021>
- Malloy, T. (2010). Creating New Spaces for Politics? The Role of National Minorities in Building Capacity of Cross-Border Regions. *Regional & Federal Studies*, 20(3), 335-351.

NTA - what is that?

“Unity in diversity”

- Nationalization processes of the 19th-20th century
- How to ensure diversity without challenging territoriality and borders
- Cultural autonomy – not territorial autonomy
- Self-government in cultural affairs, including resources

Liberal Multiculturalism

Liberal multiculturalism (Kymlicka*)/Culturalism

- Culturalism: we can only live happy lives within the confines of a culture
- Liberal multiculturalism is focused on protecting the viability of minority cultural structures against the majority
- Kymlicka: Cultural structure is important, as the outlining features of the culture that people use to define the cultural practices of the day
 - Basic features as shared language, history, geography

*Kymlicka, W. (2018). Liberal Multiculturalism as a Political Theory of State–Minority Relations. *Political Theory*, 46(1), 81-91. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0090591717696021>

Recognition based approach (Taylor, Modrood, Maciel)

- Recognition of the value of cultural memberships for individuals as a requirement for self-respect and human dignity
- Multiculturalism must incorporate politics of recognition,
- Multiculturalism requires a redistribution of power and voice in institutions to incorporate minority groups into public life
- Role of history in a state acquiring sovereignty over a specific territory and its population must be accounted for

Maciel, R. (2014). The Future of Liberal Multiculturalism. *Political Studies Review*, 12(3), 383-394.

Modrood, T. (2013). *Multiculturalism*. Polity Press.

Taylor, C. (1995). The Politics of Recognition. In J. Arthur (Ed.), *Campus Wars: Multiculturalism and the Politics of Difference* (pp. 15). Routledge.

DE-DK: a best practice example?

Starting point: a troubled past

Post WW II - not an accepted part of society

- German minority - collaborators
- Danish minority: national traitors

Recognition and NTA in Schleswig

- Bonn-Copenhagen governmental declarations of 1955: recognition, subjective decision on minority membership
- Ratification of European legal framework (FCPNM, ECRML)
- Constitutional protection in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein
- Self-governing minority associations/institutions
- Mixture of kin-state/state of residence financing
- Positive political climate since the Cold War took geopolitics out of Schleswig

NTA in Schleswig

- A system of recognized minorities with cultural self-governance
 - Minority institutions as private associations
 - Equity of funding (as an aim)
 - But: heavily dependent on kin-state support
- Minority institutions are attractive and competitive
- Today, most people consider the presence of a Danish minority in Germany and a German minority in Denmark as something attractive, increasing the quality of life in the border region

NTA indicators

Self-organisation ✓ Self-administration ✓ Self-decision making ✓
 Self-regulation - partially
 Self-adjudication - no

Verifying indicators

Public law instruments ✓ Registration records ✓
 By-laws and procedures of organisations ✓
 Strategy documents and action plans ✓
 Community narratives ✓ Empirical research ✓
 Interviews with actors ✓ Public statements ✓
 Annual reports and financial statements ✓ Codes of conduct ✓

Transfer to other vulnerable groups

- General issues about multiculturalism
 - Value debates
 - Integration vs. Assimilation discourses
 - Getthoization
 - education
 - Active participation in society
- Institutional setting
 - Self-organization
 - Inclusive public policies
- Transferability of a model of non-peripheralized groups, which are not vulnerable anymore?

AUTHOR - MARTIN KLATT

Martin Klatt is Head of Research Cluster, European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg (since September 2022). He has been an Associate Professor at the Center of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Sønderborg for 17 years (2005-2022). His previous scientific positions were as a research fellow at the Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Peace Research (1996), at the Research Department of the Danish Library for South Schleswig (1997-2000) and as an assistant professor at the Danish Institute for Border Region Studies (2001-2005). Regarding his research activities, he concentrates on national minorities in border regions, regional cross-border cooperation, cross-border regions in history and today, and cross-border regional governance.

His current international research projects:

- Borders in Globalization (BIG) - a global research project involving partners from four continents researching the development of global borders in the 21st century.
- European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network (ENTAN) - a COST Action examining the concept of non-territorial autonomy (NTA), from both a comparative and comprehensive perspective.
- Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance (IGCOORD) - a COST Action with the aim to generate new insights on how to organize and optimize institutions and processes of intergovernmental coordination.



JOSÉ CARAMELO GOMES
EU Law and Discrimination

Reminder about the context

- prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment (Merriam-Webster 2022)
- the quality or power of finely distinguishing (Merriam-Webster 2022)
- the act of making or perceiving a difference (Merriam-Webster 2022)
 - The subject of discrimination: the ones (the context vocally dominant groups)
 - The object of discrimination: the others (the context vocally non-dominant groups)

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 1 – Founding level

- EU, arguably a monist legal order
 - *Ius cogens* (Peremptory International Law Principles) is part of the law of the land
 - UN Charter 1945
 - International Bill of Human Rights (UN General Assembly Resolution 217)
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

Article 2 TEU

- Human dignity, Freedom, Democracy
- Equality
- Rule of law
- Respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities
- Pluralism
- Non-discrimination
- Tolerance
- Justice
- Solidarity
- Equality between women and men prevail

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

Article 3 TEU

- It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child.
- It shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States.
- It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

Article 6 TEU

1. The Union recognises the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 7 December 2000, as adapted at Strasbourg, on 12 December 2007, which shall have the same legal value as the Treaties.

The provisions of the Charter shall not extend in any way the competences of the Union as defined in the Treaties.

The rights, freedoms and principles in the Charter shall be interpreted in accordance with the general provisions in Title VII of the Charter governing its interpretation and application and with due regard to the explanations referred to in the Charter, that set out the sources of those provisions.

2. The Union shall accede to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Such accession shall not affect the Union's competences as defined in the Treaties.

3. Fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, shall constitute general principles of the Union's law.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 7 December 2000, as adapted at Strasbourg, on 12 Dec 2007

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

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Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 7 December 2000, as adapted at Strasbourg, on 12 Dec 2007

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

Article 10 TFEU

In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Article 19 TFEU

1. Without prejudice to the other provisions of the Treaties and within the limits of the powers conferred by them upon the Union, the Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, may adopt the basic principles of Union incentive measures, excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States, to support action taken by the Member States in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 67 (3) TFEU

3. The Union shall endeavour to ensure a high level of security through measures to prevent and combat crime, racism and xenophobia, and through measures for coordination and cooperation between police and judicial authorities and other competent authorities, as well as through the mutual recognition of judgments in criminal matters and, if necessary, through the approximation of criminal laws.

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 2 – Constitutional level

EU powers and competence are conferred by the Member-states and limited by the title of attribution.

Title of conferral – Article 5 TEU

1. The limits of Union competences are governed by the principle of conferral. The use of Union competences is governed by the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

2. Under the principle of conferral, the Union shall act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the Member States in the Treaties to attain the objectives set out therein. Competences not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remain with the Member States.

EU law anti-discrimination protection inventory, Part 3 – Secondary legislation

- Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin
- Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation
- Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law (?? C-243/14)
- Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA
- Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)

And...

What about the "Constitutional" Court?

AUTHOR - JOSÉ CAMELO GOMES

José Carmelo Gomes is Chair of European and Comparative Law at the Law Department of Universidade Portucalense, in Porto and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Salford-Manchester (UK), Maribor (Slovenia) and Camilo José Cela (Spain). He was Vice-rector for Research and International relations at UPT, Head of Research at IJP – Portucalense Institute for Legal Research. He serves as Director of the American Society of Comparative Law and Editor of the American Journal of Comparative Law, member of the Society of Legal Scholars of England and Wales and on several international Scientific Committees, Editorial Boards, and Research Assessment Committees.

His research has ranged from various aspects of International, European and Comparative Law. José Carmelo Gomes has published over 60 titles (books, book chapters, peer-reviewed articles in English, Spanish and Portuguese) in Europe (Germany, Netherlands, Austria, UK, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia and Belgium), the United States, Brazil, and the Peoples Republic of China.

**ANDRÉ PEREIRA MATOS****The integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey: EU's policy-implementation under the multilevel governance theory****ABSTRACT**

In 2016, Turkey and the European Union signed an Agreement on irregular migration in order to create legal mechanisms to resettle Syrian refugees to the EU. Despite wide criticism, the financial support provided by the Union to Turkey has resulted in the creation of facilities and the implementation of those channels. Besides, the European Union has committed to the contribution of the integration of Syrians in Turkish society with a particular focus on children and the education system, namely through two financing decisions to support quality education and access to higher education.

Yet, social integration and education are two traditional fields of Westphalian state sovereignty and the participation of the EU in these domains as a policy-maker or as a provider of funding and strategies for integration within the Turkish territory raises important questions about legitimacy, power and authority. Therefore, this article aims to frame the European Union's activities within the scope of multilevel governance theory, using social integration of Syrian children in Turkey as a case study for the evaluation of EU's policy-making and policy-implementation.

Thus, it is built as follows: i) the presentation of the political and international context of TurkeyEU agreement; ii) a description of the undertaken measures, policies and legislation, including the respective processes, towards the integration of the Syrian children in the Turkish education system; iii) a critical evaluation of their implementation within the theoretical framework of multilevel governance, in order to assess the articulation between the EU and the Turkish government in this domain.

AUTHOR - ANDRÉ PEREIRA MATOS

André Matos holds a PhD in International Relations from the New University of Lisbon and currently works as an Assistant Professor at the Law Department of Portucalense University, where he scientifically coordinates the BA in International Relations and the MA in International Relations and Diplomacy. At the University, André Matos is a Member of the Scientific Council and a Member of the Directive Board of Portucalense Institute for Legal Research. His main research areas are the European Union, democracy and the Middle East, economic diplomacy and Human Rights. He is a member of the Portuguese Association of Political Science, has various national and international publications, as well as a significant record of participation in scientific events by invitation and through competitive peer-review acceptance. André Matos is a frequent invited commentator in national TV broadcast channels and press media for international issues.

**VADIMS MANTROVS****IVETA REINHOLDE****Migration processes and the impact on contract law****ABSTRACT**

Current migration processes and accompanying effects of different nature (social, economic, legal, etc.) produce different challenges and problems for every EU Member State. These challenges differ as by their variety as well as by the potential impact and consequences. From the point of variety of aspects. Out of many challenges, there is one related to an issue whether current legal regulation is appropriate to deal with challenges posed before EU Member States which are produced by modern migration processes. Impact of integration processes on contract law is an unexplored area in EU Member States in general and Latvia as a separate EU Member State in particular. Such a situation prevents arriving at the conclusion whether current contract law regulation effectively deals with those challenges which are created by modern migration processes. However, analysis of such an impact should be carried out based on the experience of each EU Member State as they could be in different situations depending on their location, economy, state of development and other similar factors.

The aim of the paper is to explore how the Latvian legislator dealt and still deals with challenges of modern migration processes from the point of view of contract law. To reach the aim, the paper has two tasks. On the one hand, the paper analyses policy considerations which were or might be used by the Latvian legislator in adopting legislative measures in recent years in contract law (mostly, but not limited to, concerning labour contracts) dealing, directly or indirectly, with migration processes. On the other hand, the paper characterises these legislative measures of the Latvian legislator from the legal point of view by discussing their appropriateness with both announced and required policy considerations. By discussing the suitability of Latvian contract law with challenges of current migration processes, the authors of the paper will discover whether Latvian contract law is adequate to deal with these challenges. In addition, action performed by the Latvian parliament and policy makers will be revealed from the perspective of eventual improvements in both from the policy and legal point of view.

General scope

- Migration and demography policies full of «wicked problems»
- Passive versus pro-active approach towards migration policy from the third countries
- No special regulation – a room for street level innovations

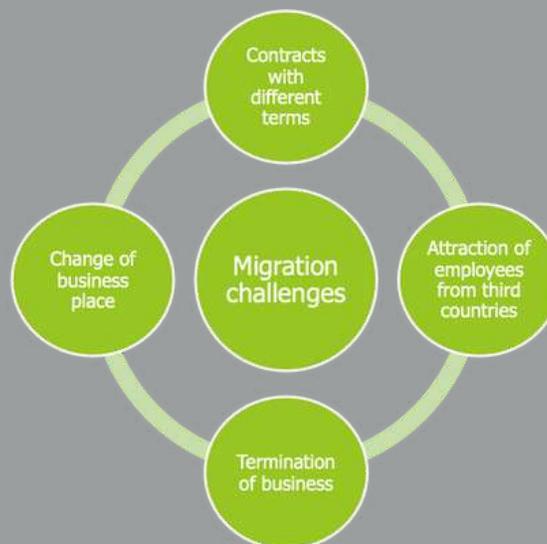
Overview of Latvian contract law

- The choice of the Latvian legislator for regulation of contract law in 1990 → restoration of the Civil Law of the Republic of Latvia dated back 1937 → Part 4 'Law of Obligations' which covers also a contract law
- The main (but not the sole) way of modernisation → through adoption of special legal acts
- Special legal acts → Labour Act (labour contract), Commercial Act (commercial contracts), Act on Rent of Dwelling Premises (rent contract for dwelling premises), Insurance Contract Act (insurance contract), Consumer Rights Protection Act and related legal acts (consumer contracts), etc.

Legislator's response concerning migration challenges

- Mainly → labour contract and related regulation, especially concerning employees from third countries (through interrelation with immigration regulation and its amendments)
 - no migration policy designed nationally
 - no special rules for certain professions / professionals
- Regulation of purchase/supply contracts and other contracts regulation in the Civil Law or the Commercial Act → no response from the legislator yet
- Evidence concerning ability of the Latvian legislator to react to crisis situations
 - the Covid-19 crisis → compensation of expenses while working remotely (Amendments to the Labour Act, 2021)

Response of business



Conclusions

- Lack of migration policy designed at the national level
- No legislator's response concerning contract law regulation except certain contracts such labour contract through other areas of law (i.e. immigration law)
- Regulation of contract law in general → not employed for dealing with migration challenges which are left for businesses and individuals
- Proposal → improvement of regulation of contract law by considering migration (and also demography) challenges, especially concerning purchase/supply contract, labour contract, etc.)

AUTHORS - VADIMS MANTROVS, IVETA REINHOLDE

Dr iur. Vadim Mantrov is Docent of Civil Law and Research Fellow at the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia; he is also the Head of the Legal Science Institute of the Faculty of Law. His main research interests are related to civil law and its relationship with special civil law branches such as insurance law (as well as risk regulation in general), consumer protection, and intellectual property (especially in conjunction with food law and product quality protection). The (co)author of more than 70 scientific publications (including those indexed in recognised databases), inter alia, monographs published abroad and in Latvia. Delivered papers in more than 30 international and domestic scientific conferences. Participated in implementation of significant international and domestic scientific projects either as a head or a performer of the project. He is recognised as an expert in legal science by the Science Council of Latvia since 2012.

Iveta Reinholde is the professor of public administration at the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Latvia. She has considerable experience in conducting policy evaluations, working in multi-national teams and international setting on such areas as public administration reform, internal audit, human security and public services. In addition, fields of her research include EU public policy, public policy evaluation and analysis, public sector organizations and organisation theory. She is experienced in advising and designing policy recommendations for national and local governments as she is a head of Public Council of National Audit Office. Since 2014, she is an independent expert for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe. In 2019, she has been awarded with Alena Brunovska Award for Teaching Excellence in Public Administration (NISPAcee).



**Migration policy,
inclusion and integration**

**HANIFE AKAR, SEDEF AKGÜNGÖR****Social Inclusion and academic performance of the Immigrant Students in Türkiye****ABSTRACT**

The objective of the study is to investigate the connection between immigrant students' social and economic standing and their academic success. We select Turkey as a case where internal and external migration has become an issue of increasing concern particularly over the last decade. In this study, the immigrant status is based on the condition that language other than Turkish is spoken at home (diversity group). Through a mixed-method research design we attempted to explore the indicators that have an influence on the social inclusion and achievement levels of students at risk (diversity group) in order to recommend policies to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage at the EU and national levels. The data for the mixed-method research is based on an innovative approach by interpreting the 2018 PISA student data outcomes with the meta-synthesis results of research studies published between January 2011 and 2022 July.

The quantitative analysis relies on using the PISA 2018 data and explores indicators that intersect with the student's social inclusion and achievement levels in Turkey. We use the 2018 PISA student data. Out of the total of 6890 Turkish student respondents, 512 students speak a language other than Turkish in their homes, out of which only 36 of the students have at least one member born outside Turkey. The analysis includes a comparison of the diverse group of 512 students with the rest of the students in the sample that consists of Turkish-speaking homes (control group) using independent sample t-test. The comparison is made using variables that measure student achievement, social and economic status, student's cognitive abilities, student's perceptions related to the school, student's perceptions related to their ability, student's attitudes in life and parent characteristics. Statistical comparison of the average values will be followed by a regression analysis where the dependent variable is student achievement. The independent variables include a dummy variable that measure whether or not the student belongs to the diversity group as well as additional explanatory social and economic variables that may have an impact on student performance. The analysis is facilitated by the syntax developed by the IDB Analyzer (International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement) that is used in studies of large-scale databases and suitable for using plausible values.

The qualitative part is a meta-synthesis of a review of the literature on migration starting from 2011 onwards due to the dramatic influx of migrants from neighboring countries to seek asylum from conflicts, wars, and political and economic turmoil in their home countries. Accordingly, the in-migration process inter-regionally and intra-regionally have accelerated the more external migrants have become apt to reside in districts where former external migrants settled or reside. Thus, the schools in those in-migration localities experience out-migration simultaneously and the turnover rates of students, teachers, and school managers are considerably high.

Our meta-synthesis, is based on a number of inclusion exclusion criteria, and only studies that are interpretive by nature, or are part of a mixed-method study adopting an interpretive approach are selected from articles that are indexed in WoS and Scopus, empirical peer-reviewed articles that are published in English and Turkish and are open-access meet our inclusion-criteria. The quality of the meta-synthesis is based on the trustworthiness, credibility and dependability of qualitative studies included. Through the meta-synthesis we aim at exploring complementary or explanatory findings that intersect with school-based factors, home-based factors, students' SES, social inclusion and achievement levels of migrant students overall.

The meta-synthesis data is based on using the keywords, *migration, *Turkey, *Türkiye, 2011-onwards in the WoS, the first screening yielded 1670 studies available, through excluding the studies that are *quantitative in nature, *not empirical, the data reduced to 170 studies. Through screening the abstracts and excluding university student-related studies, the data is reduced to 12 studies. As for the Scopus-indexed studies, the same trend above is used and data revealed from 57 studies to 23 studies dealing with internal and external migrant students' education, and the schools they attend. Yet, overlapping/similar studies have not yet been explored by comparing the synthesized data by both authors to validate the inclusion criteria. In case the data may not be satisfactory to complement the quantitative findings, grey literature from research reports and unpublished thesis studies will be included in the synthesis considering the same inclusion-exclusion criteria.

Preliminary synthesis findings indicate that poor school quality indicators of migrant students' schooling are reproduced for both in-migrant and external migrant students. Quality indicators are likely to range from poor school infrastructure to lack of qualified teachers due to high turnover rates, and the over-crowding of class sizes. A common reality is the low socio-economic status of children and family backgrounds. The poor language skills in the official language, i.e. Turkish intersect with low academic outcomes and social adaptation.

Similarly, the initial findings of the quantitative analysis reveal that there are significant differences across Turkish-speaking homes and non-Turkish-speaking homes with regards to the index of economic and social status. Factor analysis results show that the student-based factors can be summarized in 8 dimensions: competitiveness, perceived feedback, cultural awareness, interest in reading, cooperation, perceived discrimination, perception to immigrants, and general fear of failure. The regression analysis demonstrates that the students' achievement scores (plausible values) in reading, math, and science are significantly correlated with the student-based factors as well as the index of economic and social status and language spoken at home.

Introduction

- Internal and external migration is an issue of increasing concern particularly over the last decade both in Turkey and the EU.
- Internal migration, rural-urban and interregional movements, particularly from the Eastern regions to the Western regions in Turkey has been an important issue importance since the 1970s.
- Language other than Turkish is spoken at home (diversity group).
- Through a mixed-method research design we explore the indicators that have an influence on the social inclusion and achievement levels of students at risk (diversity group).
- The aim is to recommend policies to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage at the EU and national level.

Objective

- The objective of the study is to investigate the connection between immigrant students' social and economic standing and their academic success through an innovative mixed-method design
- Immigrant student in the context of this study: The students who live in non-Turkish speaking homes (diversity group). The reason is related to our sample where student that are first generation and second generation immigrants (immigration status) does not allow a sample large enough for statistical analysis.
- We attempt to
 - Explore the indicators that have an influence on the social inclusion and achievement levels of students at risk (diversity group) using PISA 2018 student data, and a meta-synthesis of qualitative research to be explanatory/complementary of the quantitative findings in the quantitative approach to recommend policies to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage at national and the EU levels.

The socio-political context of education in Turkey

The K12 educational context in brief (4 cycles)

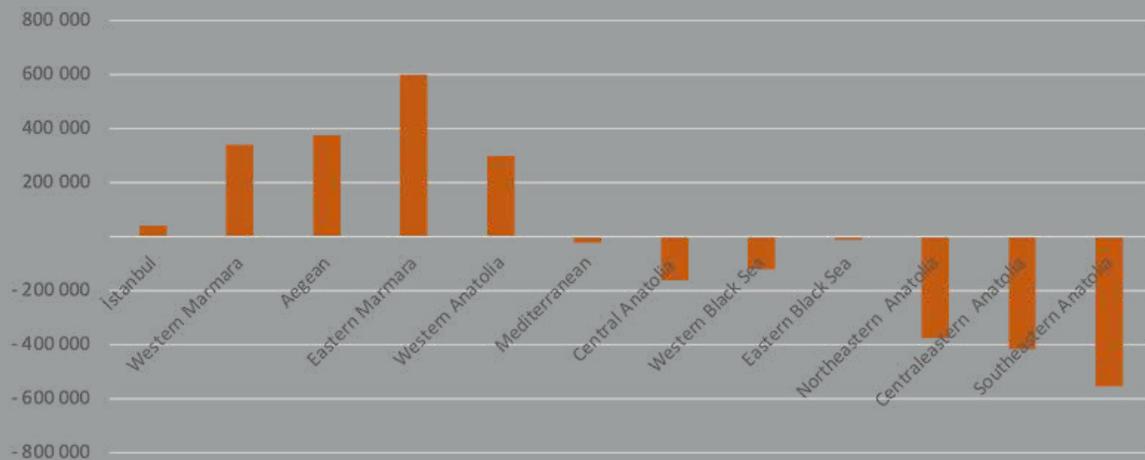
Education is compulsory for 12 years and free of charge regardless of gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, etc. in public schools.

- Preschool: Non compulsory
- Primary education (4 years)
- Secondary education:
 - Lower Middle School (4yrs)
 - High School (4 yrs).
- PISA students are the 15 year-olds are mostly Lower middle school 8th graders or High school 9th graders.

Internal Migration Context

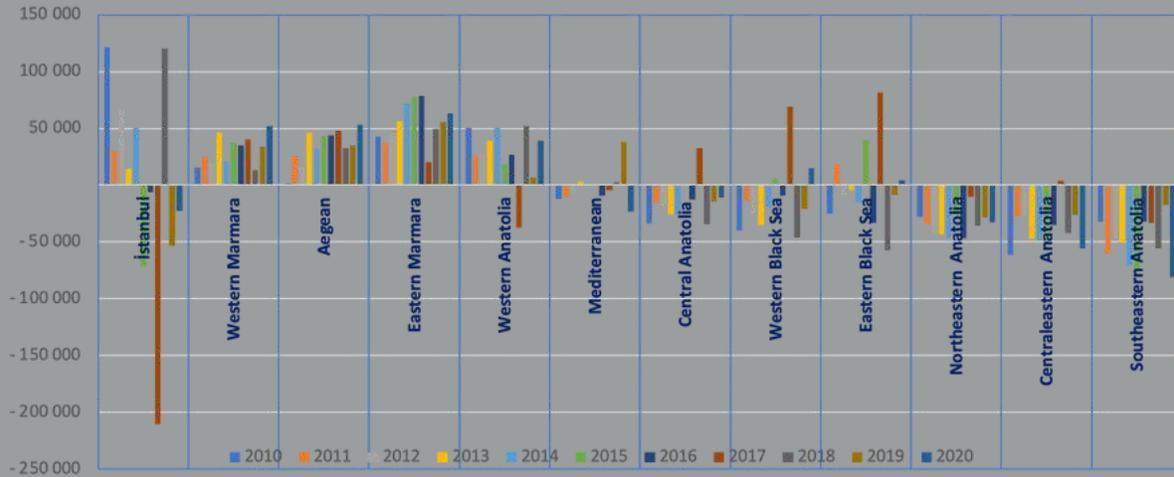
Net Internal Migration in NUTS2 Regions (Türkiye, 2010-2020 Total)

source: TURKSTAT



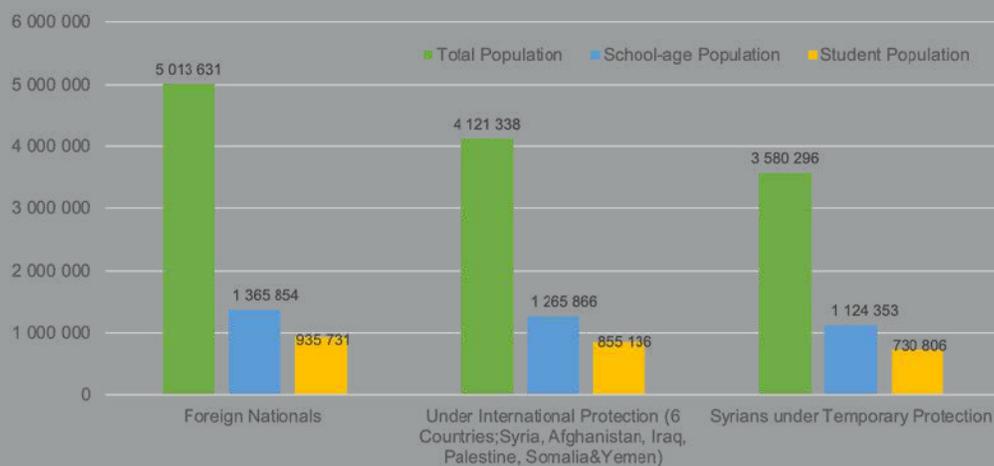
Regional Trends in Net Internal Migration in Türkiye (2010-2020)

source: TURKSTAT



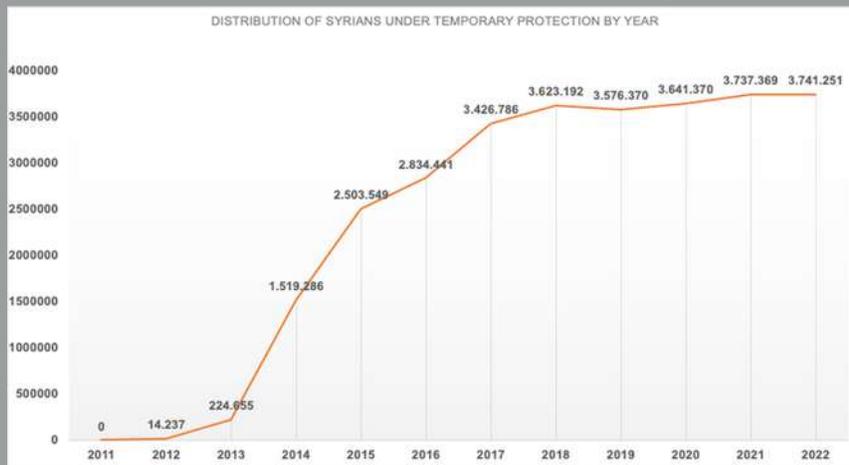
Distribution of total population, school-age population, and student population

Source: Ministry of National Education, General Directorate of Lifelong Learning Department of Education Immigration and Emergency Situations (Jan., 2022).
https://hbogm.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2022_01/26165737_goc2022sunu.pdf



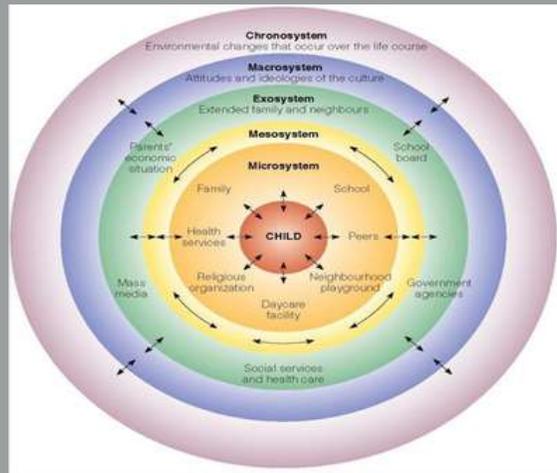
International Migration Trends from Syria over a decade

Source: Directorate of Migration Management (DGMM), As of 3 Feb. 2022. Data from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27#>



Theoretical Framework Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory

Source <https://www.simplypsychology.org/Bronfenbrenner.html>



Ecological-systems

- Micro-Systems: Student, family, Teacher, Principal, etc.
- Meso-Systems: School, Classroom
- Exo-Systems: Society, Culture
- Macro-Systems: Ideologies, culture at national/EU/Global context
- Chrono-Systems: Changes in life circle and beyond

Hypotheses

- Student-based attributes significantly differ across students from Turkish speaking homes and non-Turkish speaking homes.
- There is a significant correlation between student-based attributes and student achievement scores.

Methodology

- The mixed-method enabled a pragmatic approach to integrate the objective and subjective knowledge (Creswell / PlanoClark, 2018).
- It is innovative complementary mixed method design that utilized available data sources, PISA 2018 student data for the quantitative measure to reach more generalizable results; and a meta-synthesis of research published data sources in WoS and Scopus.
- Recommend Policies to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage at national and the EU levels.

The quantitative phase

- Data: PISA 2018 Data set
- PISA examines what students know about reading, mathematics and science and what they can do with what they know (<https://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/pisa-2018-results.htm>)
- PISA 2018 assessed the cumulative outcomes of education and learning at a point at which most children are still enrolled in formal education: the age of 15.
- Most countries assessed between 4 000 and 8 000 students. Students selected to sit the PISA assessment received sampling weights so as to represent the entire PISA-eligible cohort.
- PISA sample in Turkey: 6890 Students

PISA Questionnaires

- Student questionnaire administered to students
- Student questionnaire (one hour version) administered to low-performing students
- Well-being questionnaire administered to students
- Educational career questionnaire administered to students
- Financial literacy questionnaire administered to students
- ICT familiarity questionnaire administered to students
- School questionnaire administered to school principals
- Teacher questionnaire administered to teachers of the test language
- Teacher questionnaire administered to other teachers
- Parent questionnaire administered to parents (via paper)

Student Questionnaire

- Student, student's family, and student's home
- Language learning in school
- Student's view on reading
- Student's thinking about your life
- Student's thoughts about school
- Student's school schedule and learning time

Parent Questionnaires

- Information about the student and the family
- Your child's school
- Your child's educational pathway
- Background information

School Questionnaire

- School background information
- School management
- Teaching staff,
- Assessment and evaluation
- Targeted groups
- School climate

Correlation between PISA scores and Student and Parent Level Scale Indices

- Dependent variable: PISA reading score
- Independent variables: Student and parent level scale indices
- International surveys such as PISA report student performance through plausible values.
- PVs are a selection of likely proficiencies for students that attained each score.
- IDB analyzer provided by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement creates SPSS syntax to analyze the PISA scores (IEA, 2017).
- We use the IDB analyzer to create the dependent variable for regression analysis.

Independent variables

- The number of independent variables are reduced by factor analysis.
- Principle axis factoring for extraction, varimax for rotation revealed 5 factors:
 - Factor 1: Adaptation of instruction (WLE), Perceived teacher's interest (WLE), Perceived feedback (WLE), Teacher's stimulation of reading engagement perceived by student (WLE)
 - Factor 2: Competitiveness (WLE), Mastery goal orientation (WLE) Work mastery (WLE) Eudaemonia: meaning in life (WLE) Resilience (WLE)
 - Factor 3: Teacher-directed instruction (WLE), Teacher support in test language lessons (WLE)
 - Factor 4: Student's experience of being bullied (WLE), Subjective well-being: Sense of belonging to school (WLE)
 - Factor 5: Perception of competitiveness at school (WLE), Perception of cooperation at school (WLE)

Regression results

- No statistically significant correlation between PISA reading scores and Factor 1 (Factor 1: Adaptation of instruction (WLE), Perceived teacher's interest (WLE), Perceived feedback (WLE), Teacher's stimulation of reading engagement perceived by student (WLE))
- No statistically significant correlation between PISA reading scores and Factor 2 (Competitiveness (WLE), Mastery goal orientation (WLE) Work mastery (WLE) Eudaemonia: meaning in life (WLE) Resilience (WLE))
- Statistically significant negative correlation between PISA reading scores and Factor 3 (Teacher-directed instruction (WLE), Teacher support in test language lessons (WLE))
- Statistically significant positive correlation between PISA reading scores and Factor 4 (Student's experience of being bullied (WLE), Subjective well-being: Sense of belonging to school (WLE))
- Statistically significant positive correlation between PISA reading scores and Factor 5 (Perception of competitiveness at school (WLE), Perception of cooperation at school (WLE))
- Statistically significant positive correlation between PISA reading scores and Index of Economic, Social and Cultural status
- When the student and parent characteristics and economic, social and cultural status are controlled for, the regressions results do not give a statistically significant value for the "language at home" dummy variable

Overall

- The difference between the two groups of students (diversity group and control group) are explained well with the student and parent level scale indices and economic, social and cultural status. The diversity group have lower index values than the control group.
- The variation in PISA scores are also explained well with some of the student and parent level scale indices and economic, social and cultural status.
 - Teacher-directed instruction and Teacher support in test language lessons is negatively correlated with PISA reading scores
 - The student's sense of being part of school life is positively correlated with PISA reading scores
 - Cooperation and competition is positively correlated with PISA reading scores
 - **Economic, social and cultural status is positively correlated with PISA reading scores**

AUTHORS - HANIFE AKAR, SEDEF AKGÜNGÖR

Dr. Hanife Akar, is a full professor in Educational Sciences and is affiliated with Middle East Technical University, Turkey. Dr. Akar received her Ph.D. degree in Curriculum and Instruction, METU, and was a TUBA fellow as a visiting researcher at Stanford University, School of Graduate Education, and Pedagogical University of Krakow doing research on fast-track teacher development policy. She received post-doctoral honorary positions as visiting scholar and research fellow at Northeastern University, NU Global, and Boston College, and Higher Education Research Center as a Fulbright fellow doing research on the internationalization of higher education curriculum. Her research focuses on international comparative research, curricular and instructional policy in K-12 and higher education, qualitative research, teacher education, deeper learning instruction, teacher education, intercultural education, citizenship/democracy education, and migration mainly.

Prof. Sedef Akgüngör graduated from Ege University Faculty of Agriculture in 1984. She obtained her MS degree in Agricultural Economics at Ege University (1986), MA degree in Economics at Michigan State University (1991) and Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University (1992). Between 1993 and 2005, she worked at Michigan State University (visiting scholar), Ege University, and Işık University as a Faculty member and in various administrative positions. Prof. Akgüngör is currently a faculty member at Dokuz Eylul University since 2005. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Residence and taught at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service and Philander Smith College at Little Rock (2014-2015). As a Fulbright Scholar, she gave invited lectures at Clinton School, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), Philander Smith College, University at Albany Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, University at Albany Rockefeller School of Public Affairs and Policy. She has 20 years of experience in leading and participating in the EU projects including the European Science Foundation Eurocores programme, European Science Foundation Collaborative Research Project programme, COST and EU Framework 7 programme (FP7) as well as bilateral joint research projects with various European Institutions, including University of Hohenheim and Ghent University.

**EMMANOUIL SOFOS, AIKATERINI TSAKMAKIDOU****Immigrants' Inclusion, Adult Education and Agricultural Policies in a Changing Europe****ABSTRACT**

Since the immigration influx in 2015, integration policies have been a broadly discussed and examined topic. Although immigration itself could be potentially bring various benefits to the host country (social diversity, new labor force), these benefits in order to become realized should be sustained and underpinned by efficient integration process. Apart from the economic dimension, successful integration is also conditioned by cultural integration and civic integration. In our paper we will attempt to: (a) examine the policies followed by EU countries concerning immigrant integration (b) delineate the factors that have contributed to the effectiveness of these policies at national or regional level (c) identify barriers and challenges to integration faced by immigrants in an enlarged European Union (d) make suggestions for the crucial role of Adult Education and Training in the framework of incorporating large numbers of immigrants into the European societies (e) argue how the agricultural sector of several EU countries could profit from immigrant workforce.

Tips for thought

- In 2020, about 2.25 million first residence permits were issued in the EU, compared to nearly 3.0 million in 2019
- Main incentive for immigration is a difference in productivity of various countries (Sachs, 2016)
- Domestic societies cannot stop immigration completely.
- integration of immigrants seems to be less determinative of the future of new racial/ethnic groups than is the integration of their children and the generations that come after (Alba & Holdaway, 2013)

Research questions

- What are the determinants of immigrant integration?
- What are successful integration policies supposed to be ?
- How could Adult Education contribute to Immigrants' Integration ?
- How could the Agricultural Sector profit from a long term integration policy?

Determinants of immigrant integration

Immigrant Population and Individual Factors:

- demographic factors
- socioeconomic factors
- length of stay in a new country and the length of education
- size of the city, low number of family members, low age, so called white collar occupation, residence near the city center, and increasing length of stay
- Group vitality
- acceptance of a new identity of a host society
- history, geography, and religion

General Policies and Country Context

- GDP per capita, unemployment, labor market structures, education system, public opinion.
- Level of welfare state.
- Immigrants from more distant countries seem to integrate into the new society faster.
- Immigrants from repressive countries are less likely to return to their country of origin.
- Immigrants are more likely to transfer their skills to a new job in a host country.

Migration and Integration Policy

- Policies that include a perspective of strategies, instruments, and measures in a range of areas (labor market integration, living conditions, provision of healthcare, suppression of discrimination, promotion of education, professional and language skills, etc.)
- Clearly defined criteria, to facilitate the acceptance and gradual integration of immigrants and mainly refugees

What are successful integration policies supposed to be?

- foreigners are not well integrated on the labor market in France, Germany, and the USA (Algan et al., 2010).
- In Spain foreigners had a full integration into the labor market in the selected period, while social integration was significantly failing (Contucci and Sandell, 2015).
- in Denmark the research showed a very low level of integration due to low support at the labor market (Barslund et al. ,2017)
- In Ireland immigrants are less likely to get a high-level occupation in Ireland (Barrett and Duffy, 2008).
- Malta, Hungary, Czechia, and Poland appeared to have a high level of integration of immigrants. On the contrary, in Estonia, Croatia, and Slovenia integration level was relatively worse (Zubikova, 2020)

How could Adult Education contribute to Immigrants' Integration ?

- Language is a key component
- It seems that standard curricula, including tests and exams, do not adequately cater to functional illiterate and unemployed migrants without basic education
- A focus on standard tests and assessments leads to exclusion and discrimination of support in efforts for integration
 - state-funded and flexible education programmes for adults provided by education providers such as evening technical schools, postsecondary and vocational institutes and public and private higher education institutions.
 - nonformal adult educational initiatives delivered by adult education centres, voluntary, vocational, professional development and training institutes could come into play

Migrant labor in farms

- European countries employ high numbers of migrant agricultural workers.
- An estimated 800 000 to 1 million seasonal workers are hired each year in the EU, mainly in agriculture. (Eurostat)
- In 2017, the number of international migrants worldwide has reached 258 million. (FAO UN)
- Covid Travel restrictions triggered an acute farm labor shortage in 2020

Critical issues in rural areas

- population decline
- a weak labour market;
- the lack of diversification of their economies;
- farmland abandonment;
- a lack of adequate transport connections and broadband internet coverage;
- high numbers of early school leavers;
- a lack of education facilities;
- a higher poverty risk.

Urban vs rural migration

- The majority of the literature on migration, is urban focused,
- Mainly immigrants settle in cities and industrial regions (de Haas et al., 2020)
- Rural areas traditionally “bleed out” and are considered not attractive(outmigration)
- New trending low wage migration into regions of specialised intensive agricultural production, processing and packing industries.

New potential: new life into declining villages, creating new opportunities for growth in agriculture and non-agricultural activities, reversing depopulation trends, contributing to the sustainability of public and private services and revitalising the labour market.

AUTHORS - EMMANOUIL SOFOS, AIKATERINI TSAKMAKIDOU

Emmanouil Sofos is an experienced Education Professional with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Strong education professional with a Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. focused in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of the Aegean. As a University Lecturer, he is employed remotely on a temporary contract at Hellenic Open University for teaching-related responsibilities and teaching the subject NEW APPROACHES IN ADULT EDUCATION in the postgraduate course "MSc in Adult Education Studies". He served as a diplomatic Educational Coordinator representing the Greek nation and government in international organizations and managing the day-to-day issues of Greek primary, secondary as well as elementary schools in Germany.

Aikaterini Tsakmakidou is an Agronomist with a Master's degree in Environmental Policy & Management and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science with a focus on Climate Change from Aegean University, specializing in IT-Project management at Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin. Her academic interests include environmental governance, rural development, sustainable growth, and IT/AI input in dealing with environmental issues. Experienced project manager in government administration and nonprofit organizations, expert project evaluator, and online volunteer lecturer. Skilled in Rural Development, Sustainable Growth, and Environmental Governance. She served as head of the Agribusiness Unit in Rhodes Municipality and currently she is a seconded national expert at the European Commission, DG NEAR.

**IVANA DJURIC****Croatia and the EU's Migrant Integration Policy: Transfer, Implementation and Challenges to the Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers****ABSTRACT**

Croatia has developed the legislative framework regulating the rights and protection of forced migrants - refugees and asylum seekers - in response and as a part of the EU accession requirements. The policy transfer from the EU included the general principles on the migrant integration and the common EU's policy action framework from 2005 (A Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union). On the face of it, Croatia's migrant integration policy and legislative framework was clearly defined, fully in line with the EU's integration framework for refugees and asylum seekers (in some cases it was even more advanced than the requirements and practices in other EU member states, as for an example a two-year coverage of the refugee and asylum seeker's rental cost) and a series of rules that regulated more closely the implementation of legally guaranteed rights. Yet, Croatia's migration policy practice has suffered for years from the lack of a wider vision and migration plans, and nearly non-existent integration policy, best described as slow and reluctant. Some of the reported problems have revolved around the implementation of the integration framework and derived from systemic issues such as: weak multisectoral integration of the policy; protracted absence of an accountable, single body with the policy enforcement powers; insufficient and challenged inter-agency cooperation; weak communication between state and non-state policy actors; missing or underdeveloped integration guidelines and programmes in the field of education; problems in refugees and asylum seekers' access to the health care; insufficient language learning opportunities and inadequate employment support.

Croatia

- No active migration policy until the EU accession processes
- 2015 – 2016 migrant wave of 658,068
- 2006 – 30/06/2022 total of 1034 (896 asylums granted and 138 subsidiary protection)

- An applicant for international protection is a person - a third-country national or a non-national who expresses his intention to apply for international protection in Croatia.
- Azilant (the asylum seeker) for Croatian legislation is actually a refugee in the sense of the 1951 International Convention on the Status of Refugees.

Questions addressed in the research

- How does the integration policy framework corresponds to the legislative framework at the European and national level?
- How do the defined areas and goals of the integration framework correspond to the priorities of inclusion from the perspective of: - relevant documents (at European and national levels), - relevant stakeholders (beneficiaries, local and regional self-government units, state administration bodies, civil society organizations, academic community)?
- To what extent the planned resources for integration (human, material, organizational) match the needs of beneficiaries and the needs of implementation?

Integration

- Integration is a dynamic, two-way process, long-lasting and multidimensional. Objective is to integrate all migrants in the economic, social and cultural spheres of the host society. The degree of integration - is measured by comparing the migrant's performance with respect to the domicile population in several key spheres for which key indicators are defined.
- EU indicators of successful integration: employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship (2010 Zaragoza indicators).

Questions addressed in the research

- How does the integration policy framework corresponds to the legislative framework at the European and national level?
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- To what extent the planned resources for integration (human, material, organizational) match the needs of beneficiaries and the needs of implementation?

International

- 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees
- 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

Evaluation findings: level of the implementing institutions

- insufficient multisectoral integration of the policy;
- the absence of a single body that would be accountable for the implementation of the integration framework with the power to enforce it;
- unrealistic expectations of policy actors
- unwilling institutional participation;
- insufficient inter-agency cooperation;
- weak communication between state and non-state integration policy actors;
- no mechanisms to enable systematic knowledge exchange between different policy actors.
- Finances – insufficient; all integration services financed from the regular state budget or (international) humanitarian organizations (in 2017 Croatia was finally entitled to the EU funds-AMIF).

Psychosocial support and health services, financial support

provided to persons with international protection in 2020

- Psychosocial support for 1246 beneficiaries
- Access to health services for 963 beneficiaries
- housing assistance: 44 beneficiaries
- Financial support for 20 families with a total of 100 beneficiaries
- Croatian language, culture & history: 128 attended
- Elementary school education - 61 pupils included
- Diploma translation & verification - 12 (high school and university diplomas)
- 'Active employment measures' - used by 13 beneficiaries; 153 registered at the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ)/97 employed

Refugee/asylee rights

• right to stay in Croatia • free accommodation (two years) • work (no residence permit or work permit or work receipt certificate required) • health care • education • freedom of religion • free legal aid (in the formulation of a lawsuit and representation before the first instance court in the event of termination or annulment of asylum or subsidiary protection) • social welfare • assistance with integration to society and family reunion • property ownership (in accordance with the 1951 Convention) • to acquire Croatian citizenship in accordance with the Croatian Citizenship Law

DUTIES: respect the Croatian Constitution and laws, register residency within 15 days, carry permit to stay and present it on request of legally authorized persons, attend the Croatian language, history and culture course

AUTHOR - IVANA DJURIC

Dr. Ivana Djuric is a political scientist and an active researcher and consultant engaged in the issues of forced migrations, asylum seekers and refugees, democratization and institution building in post-conflict societies, comparative governance and policy studies, international development, human and minority rights, the EU enlargement and the media. Her wider research interests include comparative politics, global public policy, post-conflict studies, economic development, migrations and Diaspora, nationalism, history, and ethno-politics in Southeast Europe/the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Russia.

 **DORIANA MATRAKU****Positive and negative impact of migration in Albania. How the returnees are re-integrated in the country?****ABSTRACT**

Albania has a high number of emigrants every year, especially in Germany, US, Italy, Greece, but also UK, France, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland ect. The country is facing a new wave of migrants nowadays.

As the number of emigrants has grown up every year, also the number of returnees is not low. The international migration of Albanians, especially starting from the late 1990s, goes hand-in-hand with their return. Survey data show that 17.5%, aged 18 years and older, have migrated for at least one year, mainly to Greece (63.3%), Italy (20.6%), Germany (6%), and to a much lesser extent to the US, Austria, France, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, etc.

The return of Albanian migrants in 2009–2013 is related to the global economic crisis and the resultant high unemployment levels in Greece and Italy. At the end of 2013, according to Eurostat data[1], the unemployment rate was 27.8% in Greece and 12.6% in Italy, but this rate was even higher among the migrants. According to a joint study by INSTAT and IOM, during this period, around 134,000 migrants returned to Albania[2]. In the meantime, the return bulge during 2016–2018 is related mainly to the return of asylum seekers in Germany and some other EU countries.

The return of migrants is a potentially very important process for the economic and social development of Albania. Returnees bring financial capital (savings), human capital (skills and know-how, new mentality and ideas, work habits, etc.) and social capital. However, this depends, on the one hand, on the duration of stay in the host country and the reasons for returning. Potential benefits for the home country are maximized when the returnees have stayed long enough in the destination country to achieve their objectives with regard to saving, education or professional qualifications, or when they are still relatively young and wish to invest human and financial capital in their home country. On the other hand, it depends on the creation of premises in the home country to effectively utilize the human, financial and social capital of returnees.

Returnees need: health support, support to find a job, housing support, educational support, vocational training support

What are Albanian local and central government doing to re-integrate all these people? There are many institutions in central and local level involved in the reintegration process deal with the implementation of policies for reintegration of returnees.

The paper will be focused: firstly, in the data about the migration and also returnees in Albania, secondly, in the policies and strategy for the integration of the returnees.

[1] EUROSTAT (2015) Euro area unemployment rate at 11.4%, December 2014. 20/2015-30 January 2015. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6581668/3-30012015-AP-EN.pdf/9d4fbadd-d7ae-48f8-b071-672f3c4767dd>

[2] INSTAT, IOM(2014)Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania. Tirana: Institute of Statistics/International Organization for Migration.

 **GUIDO TRAFICANTE, YLENIA CARUSO****Evaluation of Single permit Directive (2011/98/EU Directive)****ABSTRACT**

The Directive 2011/98/EU[1] allows third-country nationals to reside and work in a Member State and to benefit from a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State. The Directive has two main objectives: -facilitating the procedure for the admission to work of a third-country citizen in a Member State by introducing a single procedure for applying for a single permit (a combined work and residence permit) and thus helping to better manage the immigration. Furthermore, the directive provides for advantages in the application process; - The guarantee of equal treatment between workers from third countries and citizens of the Member State concerned.

The directive requires Member States to examine applications for authorization of foreign citizens to reside and work in their territory as part of a single application procedure and to issue, if successful, a single authorization which is, at the same time, authorization to stay and to carry out subordinate work activities.

However, this provision has shown some profiles of “regulatory failure” both at EU level and in its implementation in Italy. The “fitness check”[2] of the European Commission (“fitness check on EU regulation on legal migration” of March 29, 2019) highlighted some controversial issues in the implementation and functioning of the directive on the single permit. One example lies in the procedures for obtaining an entry visa[3]. On top of that, we observed citizens’ complaints and infringement procedures. These problems can be classified as “regulatory failures”, as the existing directive failed to solve some of the problems it should have solved at the time of adoption.

The problems highlighted by the European Commission are, however, even more severe at national level. The Directive was implemented with the legislative decree 4 March 2014, no. 40[4], which has made changes to the consolidated text of the provisions concerning the discipline of immigration and rules on the condition of the foreigner referred to in Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, no. 286[5], and subsequent amendments.

In particular, the law did not prescribe any changes in relation to either article 41 of the same Immigration Law, entitled “Social assistance”, or to the pre-existing sector regulations that exclude workers from third countries who do not have an EU residence permit for long-term residents, from certain social assistance benefits.

The debate on Socio-economic integration of third-country nationals has become more relevant in a setup characterized by negative demographic trends in Italy, as recently highlighted by Italian National Statistics Institute (ISTAT)[6]. The forecasts on the demographic future in Italy show a potential picture of crisis. The resident population is decreasing: from 59.6 million as of January 1, 2020 to 58 million in 2030, to 54.1 million in 2050 and to 47.6 million in 2070. To face the country's demographic winter, it is necessary to develop policies to attract foreign workers that can offset the negative demographic trend affecting the Italian population, to make sustainable GDP economic growth. Furthermore, in 2020, the employment rate of immigrants decreased by 2.9% in Italy, while in the average of European countries the reduction was lower (about 2.1%).[7]

This demonstrates how it is necessary to implement policies to improve the conditions of access for immigrants to the European and Italian labour market in order to recover employment, in relation to the demographic aging of the working-age population. For these reasons, the European Commission has proposed a new directive proposal[8] to the European legislator to tackle the problems relating to access to the labour market of third-country nationals to receive socio-economic benefits.

The purpose of this work is to try to identify solutions to the problems identified, in order to create faster conditions of access to the world of work for non-EU citizens, with particular relevance for the economic sectors in which their contribution can entail a high added value, in relation to the characteristics of the Italian labour market.

[1]<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/uri=CELEX:32011L0098&qid=1658153216988&from=IT>

[2] Brussels, 29.3.2019 SWD(2019) 1055 final PART ½ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT FITNESS CHECK on EU Legislation on legal migration {SWD(2019) 1056 final}

[3] Brussels, 29.3.2019 SWD(2019) 1055 final PART ½ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT FITNESS CHECK on EU Legislation on legal migration {SWD(2019) 1056 final}, p. 100.

[4]<https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2014-03-04;40!vig>

[5] <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:1998-07-25;286>. [6]

<https://www.istat.it/it/files/2021/11/REPORT-PREVISIONI-DEMOGRAFICHE.pdf> - p. 1.

[7] <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Undicesimo%20Rapporto%20Annuale%20-%20Gli%20stranieri%20nel%20mercato%20del%20lavoro%20in%20Italia%202021/XI-Rapporto-MdL-stranieri-REV-22072021.pdf> - p. 23.

[8] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:cbf5fadf-c702-11ec-b6f4-01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF



ZUZANA POLAČKOVÁ, DANIEL ŠKOBLA

Community centres and their roles in the context of marginalised Roma communities

ABSTRACT

The active presence of the community centre and other "low-threshold social services" is generally considered to be one of the basic prerequisites for improving the situation of people from marginalised Roma communities.

The systematic support and functioning of a network of community centres is part of almost every strategy and action plan for improving the situation of people from marginalised Roma communities in Slovakia. This was no different in the case of the Slovak Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020 (hereinafter as Strategy). The initial emphasis on increasing the number has been complemented over time by a focus on sustainability and quality in service delivery.

It can be argued that there is strong political support for the promotion of community centres in marginalised Roma communities. This has been confirmed by the inclusion of community centres among the Roma integration programmes financed with the help of the European Social Fund through the Human Resources Operational Programme.

The purpose of the presented evaluation focused on the quality and availability of the community centres is to assess to what extent the set indicators are met, to what extent the criteria and parameters enable the performance of quality community centres respecting the basic characteristics of low-threshold and to what extent the smooth functioning of the selected social services at the local level is ensured.

Due to the specific period during which the evaluation was carried out, much attention is also paid to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning and tasks of the community centres for crisis intervention.

The main objective of the evaluation carried out is to define recommendations that can be used for the benefit of the further implementation of the community centres in marginalized Roma communities. Therefore, the focus of the evaluation is mainly on aspects that have the capacity to positively influence the further functioning of community centres, such as support to staff capacities, administrative and methodological support or cooperation with other actors active at the local level.

For the purpose of the evaluation, emphasis was placed on the use of qualitative evaluation methods, information on project implementation was collected through three main methods: i) secondary data analysis, ii) online questionnaire survey and iii) semi-structured interviews.

In order to better conceptualize the community centres role on the topic of integration of marginalized Roma communities, several datasets of administrative data were also taken into account.

Roma people in Slovakia

Census 2021 – 156 164 people registered as Roma (2,8% of the total population)

Atlas of Roma Communities – 440 000 people considered as Roma (8% of the total population)

Only one in five Roma aged 16 years and older in Slovakia described their main activity as employed or self-employed (EU-MIDIS II survey)

Strong regional disparities

Marginalized Roma community

- Not all Roma live in marginalised Roma communities
 - 1 043 Roma settlements (818 municipalities with the presence of Roma settlements, 200 of these municipalities register two or more settlements in their territory)
 - Roma settlement defined as a concentration of a minimum of 30 people or five houses, which provide sub-standard quality of living and are inhabited by people who are considered Roma by majority
 - 48% of all settlements are located on the outskirts of a village, 34% in a village and 18% are outside of a village or are remote; there is no road or walkway leading to 17 of these settlements
 - access to drinking water is a problem in many localities (5% of the settlements, more than 50% of the population of the settlement uses non-standard water sources such as a river or puddles)

Community centre

- Regulated by the Act No. 448/2008 Coll., on social services
- „Community centre provides to an individual person in an unfavourable social situation caused by remaining in a spatially segregated locality with the presence of concentrated and generationally reproduced poverty: i) basic social counselling; ii) assistance in exercising rights and legally protected interests; iii) assistance in preparing for school lessons and accompanying the child to and from school and school facilities; b) carries out preventive activities; c) provides leisure-time activities.“
- The „low-threshold nature“ of the service can be defined by its basic characteristics
- Provided in 142 local municipalities

Objective of the evaluation

- To assess to what extent the established project indicators are fulfilled, to what extent the criteria and parameters of the project enable the performance of quality social services respecting the basic characteristics of low-threshold and to what extent the smooth functioning of selected social services at the local level is assured.
- To define recommendations that can be used for further implementation of the national project CS MRC II NP
- Much attention is also paid to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the functioning and roles of selected social services for crisis intervention.

Community centre

Due to the ongoing pandemic of COVID 19 - the evaluation was moved to an online environment

i) desk survey

ii) online questionnaire survey

Two types of online questionnaire surveys

operators (44 respondents = 59% return rate)

Emolyees (130 individual respondents, 58 of whom work in the position of a leader of community centre = 76% return rate).

iii) semi-structured interviews

two group interviews (7 people) and nine individual interviews = 16 repondents

Structure of the evaluation

- General perception and main activities of community centres
- Staff capacity of community centres
- Supporting staff capacity in the performance of community centres
- Relationship between the municipality and the community centre
- Cooperation with other projects
- Administrative set-up of the project and the level of payments
- Technical equipment for community centres
- Barriers to the involvement of new actors in the project
- The impact of the COVID 19 emergency on the functioning and status of community centres

AUTHORS - ZUZANA POLAČKOVÁ, DANIEL ŠKOBLA

Zuzana Polačková, is a researcher at the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her professional focus is paid to issues related to employment and employability; social economy and social entrepreneurship; social inclusion, with the main focus on Roma and people with disabilities and the quadruple helix approach to development. She often cooperates with a variety of governmental institutions same as non-governmental organizations in Slovakia and abroad.

Daniel Škobla is a senior researcher at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. As a researcher, he is focused mainly on ethnicity, social inclusion, and human rights. He worked for the United Nations Development Programme and provided technical assistance for the Slovak government regarding the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies to 2020. He has also been involved in ethnic Roma advocacy on an international level, participating in numerous meetings throughout Europe, and has cooperated with the European Roma Rights Centre, Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth, and the Open Society Institute. He has written academic articles in scientific journals such as Ethnic and Racial Studies, Sociologia Ruralis on social inclusion, and Roma integration.



FATIMA CASTRO MOREIRA, BÁRBARA MAGALHÃES

The Portuguese special protection regime to displaced Ukrainians

ABSTRACT

The war in Ukraine caused a major humanitarian crisis, leading thousands of civilians to leave the country and seek refuge in third countries.

As such, rather than being migrants the people fleeing this war shall be considered as refugees in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Moreover, the EU Temporary Protection Directive[1] created a special procedure to deal with a “mass influx” of people in need of international protection. Due to the war in Ukraine, this Directive was activated by an EU Council Decision.[2]

In response to this need for assistance and protection for refugees, Portugal presented a plan for their reception, having established a legal regime delimiting criteria for their protection, as well as the scope of temporary protection to be granted, the Law Decree 24-B/2022.

We propose to analyze the protection regime granted, considering the criteria defined by Public International Law and European Union Law, to assess the convenience, opportunity, and sufficiency of the measures implemented, proposing solutions consistent with the humanitarian crisis experienced in Europe, and the reception and integration of these migrants.

[1] Council Directive 2001/55/EC of July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof.

[2] (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection.

AUTHORS - FATIMA CASTRO MOREIRA, BÁRBARA MAGALHÃES



Fatima Castro Moreira is an Assistant Professor and Erasmus Coordinator at the Department of Law of Portucalense University. She has a Ph.D. in International Law/Law of the Sea and she is a Board Member of the IPDM-Portuguese Institute for the Law of the Sea. She works as a Researcher at the IJP-Portucalense Institute for Legal Research.

Bárbara Magalhães is an Assistant Professor at Portucalense University and Minho University. She has a Ph.D. in Administrative Law and she works at the IJP - Portucalense Institute for Legal Research as a Researcher.

**Technology, digital skills,
sustainability and social
enterprises**

**JAROSLAV DVORAK, GALYNA MISHENINA****Transformation of budgeting technologies in the context of inclusive sustainable development****ABSTRACT**

The idea of inclusive sustainable growth is integrated at all levels of sustainable development (local, regional, national and global). This makes the world community, state, local self-government, business and other stakeholders highly responsible for the decisions made. There is a need for a qualitative change in the understanding of the goals and processes of development of social-economic systems, taking into account the priorities of sustainability and inclusiveness. Since inclusive development provides an emphasis on the distribution of social and material goods among various groups of the population, it has an influence on structural factors in order to reduce the manifestations of exploitation and marginalization of vulnerable groups of society. These provisions, in the center of whose people and their well-being, are today proclaimed as priorities in the programs of the most influential international organizations for sustainable development and economic growth, in the strategies and policies of states, in the codes of corporate social responsibility.

Inclusiveness, as a characteristic of public-political and social-economic processes, presupposes the expansion of borders, forms and models of the attraction of subjects' relations in the process of management or regulation. In this aspect, thanks to the decentralization of public administration in developed countries, the influence of inclusiveness principles on economic and social processes that contribute to local and regional development is increasing. At the same time, the challenges of financial decentralization are related to ensuring citizens' understanding of problems and ways of implementing changes, as well as their possible benefits and influence. At the same time, in an ideal model, citizens should be involved in the creation of reforms long before their implementation. This necessitates the search and application of effective approaches to the transformation of public financing, including an inclusive approach. We are talking about raising the level of inclusiveness in the budgeting process at the state, regional and local levels. In this aspect, participatory budgeting and gender-oriented budgeting play a bigger role.

Thus, the research considers the key features of inclusive budgeting (IOB) and its main elements of participatory and gender-oriented budgeting, highlighting the specifics of the cases of Ukraine and Lithuania in the context of other young democracies of the EU, which must be taken into account when examining the future vision of inclusive sustainable development.

The purpose is to generalize and define the features and possibilities of applying budgetary innovation mechanisms in the context of inclusive sustainable growth, directions for expanding the influence of inclusive-oriented budgeting (IOB) on ensuring the development of territories in the conditions of deepening the processes of decentralization in Ukraine and realizing the goals of sustainable development.

Why this is important to research?

Today, the idea of inclusive sustainable growth is integrated at all levels of spatial development (local, regional, national and global).

This causes the high responsibility of the world community, states, local governments, businesses and other stakeholders for the decisions made.

There is a need for a qualitative change in the understanding of the goals and processes of the development of socio-economic systems, taking into account the priorities of sustainability and inclusiveness. Since inclusive development provides for an emphasis on the distribution of social and material benefits among various groups of the population, it has an impact on structural factors in order to reduce the manifestations of exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups in society.

These provisions, in the center of which a person and his well-being, are today proclaimed as priorities in the programs of the most influential international organizations for sustainable development and economic growth, in the strategies and policies of states, in codes of corporate social responsibility.

Aims and methods

- The aim of the research is to analyze and determine the features and possibilities of applying budgetary innovative mechanisms in the context of inclusive sustainable growth.
- We focus on such tools as participatory budgeting and, which has a significant impact on increasing the level of inclusiveness in public financial management.
- The methods of abstract-logical, system-structural, comparative analysis were also used; systematic approach and method of generalizations; case-study.

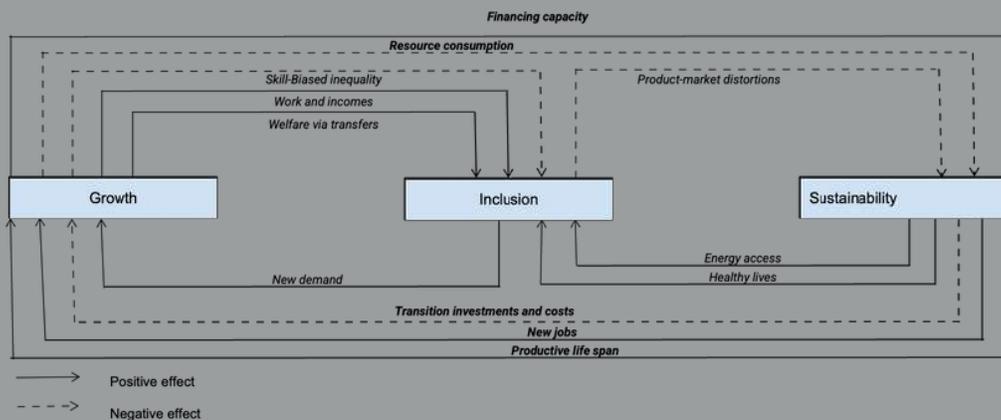
The concept of inclusive development

World Bank Group, 2015	Inclusive development is the constant rapid development of all sectors of the economy, which attracts a significant part of the country's labor force and is characterized by equal opportunities in access to the labor market and resources
OECD, 2018	Inclusive development is sustainable and comprehensive development in terms of employment opportunities, requiring the support of public institutions to solve problems in the labor market
Ranieri, Ramos, 2014	Inclusive development is a concept that provides fair opportunities and equality for economic participants, accompanied by benefits for each sector of the economy and different strata of society.
Cupta, Vegelin, 2016	Inclusive development is presented as development that not only creates new economic opportunities, but also provides equal access to opportunities created for all segments of society, especially the poor.
Popova, 2020	Inclusive development harmoniously fits into the context of the concept of sustainable development (as part and whole), develops, updates and enhances the socio-economic aspect of sustainable development.

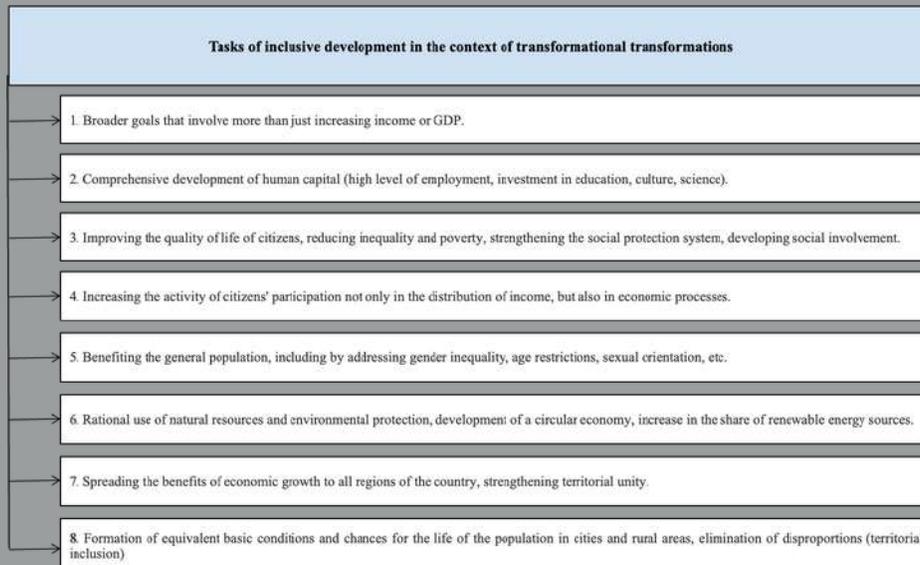
Growth, Sustainability and Inclusion

Interrelationships with Negative and Positive Influences

- (PREPARED BASED ON FRANCIS ET. AL., 2021)



Tasks of inclusive development in the context of transformational transformation



Inclusive Development and Participatory budgeting

- The participatory budgeting (or citizens budget) is one of the most effective mechanisms for strengthening the inclusiveness of budgeting in modern conditions, implemented in the world for 30 years, and every year it is gaining more and more popularity.
- This is due to the fact that participatory budgets imply the involvement of citizens in the process of managing a city, territorial communities or a region by making joint decisions on spending part of the local budget funds on the implementation of projects dedicated to local development issues. In particular, the main difference between the public budget and, for example, a project competition is in the discussion of important development issues by a wide range of community participants who know their needs better, are interested in meeting them, and join in the formation of community development priorities from a position of the common good at different administrative levels: state, region, city, territorial communities, micro district, based on the principles of inclusiveness and deliberation.

MAYORAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETTING DURING COVID -19

RESEARCH CONTEXT

- Participatory budgeting (PB) is suggested as a mechanism for activation of civic participation and involving citizens in decision making process for the improvement the municipality life.
- The past researches revealed mayors as being responsible for regulation, organization and implementation of PB process. But PB success (intention, implementation and durability) is not researched from the mayoral perspective.
- There are many aspects proposed to define mayoral success in city governing, but they are not analysed in the PB context.
- In our paper we reveal Lithuanian PB practice relating this phenomenon to the mayor's social background and personal characteristics that could show the mayor's impact on the successful PB during the times of crises (as COVID-19).

Research context

- Though the first PBs in Lithuania were implemented in 2013 at school level, Alytus city municipality was the first to implement it at the city level in 2018.
- As there are 60 cities and district municipalities in Lithuania, the PB implementation process could be identified as solid and growing with:
 - eight municipalities implementing PB since 2018/2019,
 - seven municipalities starting its implementation in 2021,
 - and some six more that declared about the intention of implementing PB in the nearest future.
- None of the first eight municipalities have terminated or suspended the PB due to the pandemic crisis in 2020. Some of them even increased the budget allocations in 2021.

Research problems

- The question is: what makes the commitment to the PB so resilient?
- Pandemic crisis (as any other crisis) requires strong and effective leadership.
- We claim, therefore, the existence of specific factors (i. e., close cohesion with council members, administration and civic community) as well as mayors' social background and personal characteristics to make the impact not only on success of PB initiation and implementation but also on its durability in times of crisis.
- Awareness of these factors could help citizens to vote on capable persons who have a devoted attitude to PB in spite of challenges or crises and would lead the municipality to the real democratic governance.

Methodology

- Though there are no sufficient research about the impact of mayoral social background and personal characteristics on the PB process in particular, there are sufficient research on mayoral impact per se on the success of PB.
- Based on the scientific research analysis we selected factors that might have impact for the PB initiation, PB implementation, and PB durability.

Methodology

- Semi structured interviews were conducted with the PB starters' mayors (N=6) and executive administrators (N=2).
- Where applicable, statistical data was collected and statistical analysis conducted revealing the statistical significance of the factors.
- As all the variables used in the quantitative research are ordinal, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis H or the Mann-Whitney U tests are used to determine the statistically significant differences (significance level $p < 0.05$) between groups of variables.
- For research purposes we classified the PB implementing municipalities into the:
 - PB starters (8 municipalities implementing PB since 2018/2019),
 - PB surfers (7 municipalities implementing PB since 2021),
 - PB followers (6 municipalities planning to implement PB in the nearest future),
 - and the so-called gray zone (39 municipalities not considering PB implementation at all).

Findings

- The significance of the political affiliation reveals to be an important factor for the initiation of the PB, but does not help to explain the durability of the PB (especially, in time of crises).
- Including the PB in the electoral program or electoral campaign is not a significant factor for the PB initiation or the or the PB durability in case of Lithuania.
- Previous (political/local) experience and skills are important for the PB durability in case of Lithuania
- Mayors are powerful and important catalysts for the PB initiation as the interviews revealed their dominant role as the PB initiators.
- The durability of PB, however, depends strongly on the political support at local council as well as executive and administrative support and commitment.
- Demographic factors are not significant for the PB initiation or durability in Lithuania, but they could be significant in other countries, therefore, are worth for the analysis.

Gender representation in municipal councils of Lithuania

Municipality	Proportion of women at local council	Blau index	Representation index	Compared to the country's average
Alytus city	34.6	0.453	72.1	↑
Kretinga district	25	0.375	60.31	↓
Lazdijai district	25	0.375	61.8	↓
Panevėžys city	30.77	0.426	64.1	↓
Panevėžys district	29.17	0.413	69.3	↑
Šiauliai city	26.7	0.391	61.27	↓
Vilkaviškis district	25	0.375	61.25	↓
Telšiai district	29.17	0.413	65.63	↓

Discussions and conclusions

- Adams and Ramsden (2019) warn about the possible danger, when a government process relies on one leader's will.
- In Lithuanian case PBs do not rely only on the mayors' wills and are influenced by political affiliation. This provides conditions to the continuous success (initiation, implementation and durability) of PB initiative especially in uncertain times of specific crises (i.e. COVID - 19).
- Strong interconnectivity between the mayor and the council (whether majority or opposition) leads to the collective decision making on PB and strong both political and administrative support.

AUTHORS - JAROSLAV DVORAK, GALYNA MISHENINA

Jaroslav Dvorak is a professor and head of the Department of Public Administration and Political Sciences at Klaipeda University, Lithuania. He has executive and expert experience in national and international institutions. He is chair of Non-governmental organizations council at Klaipeda City Municipality. He is a member of the Research Board at People Powered.

Galyna Mishenina has a Ph.D. in economics. Currently, she works at the University of Klaipeda, Lithuania as a researcher in the Department of Management and as associate professor at the Sumy State University, Ukraine. She worked as an investment attraction manager and deputy director of the Regional Development Agency of Sumy region, Ukraine. G. Mishenina in her work combines the experience of entrepreneurial, research, and teaching activities.

 **ZVI WEINSTEIN****Sustainable Cities: Overview Actions and Local Policies****ABSTRACT**

At Rio+20 Conference assembled in 2012, cities were revealed as the pivot players in the arena of sustainability policy. They have presented successful planning and sustained urban management and succeeded in establishing complex partnerships. The local government level is undoubtable the main front of being organized coping with the environmental and social crisis.

Climate crisis which is impacted of producing emissions and was found connected to human activity became the most central challenge of the 21st century. Cities around the globe are standing in front of the struggle to prevent deterioration and change of the world climate. In Israel, 93% of the total population lives in urban settlements. The city is the biggest producer of emission although it composes only 0.4% of Earth surface. Therefore, its economy suffered and its residents are exposed to health risks.

The eighteen big cities in Israel have joined the international treaty aimed at decreasing greenhouse emission. Surveys found out that the source of most of the emissions come from local citizens. It became the present challenge to create and produce processes enabling the resident to step ahead for transformation and adoption of sustainable living.

In response to that dilemma, the solution was directed to the neighborhood community level. The road map to an innovative model became a strong connection between the city, the civil society and the business activities. It presents ten channels for sustainable neighborhood based on continuing partnership among the public urban institutions and the residents. It is the vision of "One Planet Living" translated into a neighborhood action shown by the formula:

Community Capital + Environmental Capital = Economic Capital

AUTHOR - ZVI WEINSTEIN

Dr. Zvi Weinstein is a multidisciplinary academic. He holds 8 (eight) academic degrees among them: Urban Regeneration (PhD.), Town and Regional Planning (MSc.), Environment and Urban Sustainability (MA), Public Policy (MA), and Law (MA).

He was a former National Coordinator for Project Renewal of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods at the Ministry of Construction & Housing in the State of Israel during the years 1977-2015. He is the co-founder of the Israeli Smart Cities Institute; a Long period member of the EU-COST Actions. He offers tutoring on a voluntary basis, to students who are writing their thesis about urbanism and social aspects topics, he participates in international conferences related to his fields of interest and he has published more than 50 articles, researches, and books.

 **DIJANA ŠTRBAC****Social entrepreneurship and social economy in the Republic of Serbia - evaluation of policies, resources and key actors****ABSTRACT**

Social entrepreneurship is a global phenomenon which has an important role in addressing social, economic and environmental development as well as in increasing social inclusion and democratic participation. The policy makers consider social entrepreneurship as a growing sector which offers different opportunities for economic growth, implementing innovation and creating new jobs. There are different examples of policies which support creation of social enterprises and development of an enabling ecosystem for social economy on national and international level. The main objectives of this research are to explore the existing social entrepreneurship landscape in Serbia, evaluate public policies in this field and identify gaps which could be addressed by future policy actions related to social enterprises. The framework used for evaluation of policies focused on social entrepreneurship is based on the OECD approach. According to the OECD, there are six key areas for supporting social entrepreneurship on a national and local level: promotion; building enabling legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks; providing sustainable finance; offering business development services and support structures; supporting access to markets and support to further research in this field. The research methodology includes analysis of statistical data, legal acts, policies, programmes and organisations in this field.

Introduction

- Social entrepreneurship - opportunity for policy makers to explore new frontiers of economic growth, implement innovation, enhance services sector and create new jobs.
- Benefits of social enterprises: addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, fostering inclusive growth, increasing social cohesion, nurturing local social capital, supporting democratic participation and delivering good quality services.
- Challenges of social entrepreneurs: providing financial sources, profit distribution, business expansion, access to markets, understanding of the local community, etc.
- The main objectives of the research: to explore the existing social entrepreneurship landscape in Serbia, evaluate public policies in this field and identify gaps which could be addressed by future policy actions related to social enterprises.

Social economy and social entrepreneurship – theoretical considerations

- The social economy is focused on issues of social inclusion, well-being, social welfare, social capital and sustainable development. It is recognized as a way to mitigate the consequences of globalization, technological progress and economic crises.
- Social economy organisations traditionally refer to the set of associations, cooperatives, mutual organisations, and foundations whose activity is driven by values of solidarity, the primacy of people over capital, and democratic and participative governance.
- Charter of Principles of the Social Economy in Europe (2002) – characteristics of social economy:
 - The primacy of the individual and the social objective over capital
 - Voluntary and open membership
 - Democratic control by the membership
 - The combination of the interests of members/users and/or the general interest
 - The defence and application of the principle of solidarity and responsibility
 - Autonomous management and independence from public authorities
 - Most of the surpluses are used in pursuit of sustainable development objectives, services of interest to members or the general interest.

Social economy and social entrepreneurship – theoretical considerations

- Social enterprise is any private activity conducted in the public interest, organized within an entrepreneurial strategy whose main goal is not the maximisation of profit, but the attainment of certain economic and social goals, and which has the capacity for bringing innovative solutions to the problems of social exclusion and unemployment (OECD/European Commission, 2013).
- These enterprises often employ the most vulnerable categories of population (socially excluded persons). In this way, such enterprises contribute to social cohesion, employment and reducing inequality (European Commission, 2017).
- Three dimensions of social enterprises:
 - Social Dimension: Social or societal objective of the common good
 - Economic/ entrepreneurial Dimension: commercial activity
 - Governance Dimension/Participatory governance: Method of organisation or ownership system based on democratic or participatory principles

Social economy and social entrepreneurship – theoretical considerations

Social entrepreneurship (SE):

- „The creation and undertaking of a venture intended to promoting a specific social purpose or causing a context of mobilization” (Murphy & Coombes, 2008).
- “Process that includes the identification of a specific social problem and a specific solution (or set of solutions) to address it; the evaluation of the social impact, the business model, and the sustainability of the venture; and the creation of a social mission-oriented for-profit or a business oriented non-profit entity that pursues the double (or triple) bottom line” (Robinson, 2006).
- „It is exercised where some person or a group of people: (1) aim(s) at creating social value, either exclusively or at least in some prominent way; (2) show(s) a capacity to recognize and take advantage of opportunities to create that value; (3) employ(s) innovation, ranging from outright invention to adapting someone else’s novelty, in creating and/or distributing social value; (4) is/are willing to accept an above-average degree of risk in creating and disseminating social value; and (5) is/are unusually resourceful in being relatively undaunted by scarce assets in pursuing their social venture” (Salamzadeh, et al. 2011).

Social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia

- Social economy in Serbia: 0.6% of active population works in social enterprises and contribute with 0.2% to the GDP.
- Social economy in the EU: over 11 million workers (4.5% of active population) and contributes with 10% to the GDP.
- Major streams of development of social enterprises in Serbia:
- Legal forms traditionally recognised by the legal system that can be used to develop social enterprise initiatives – these include cooperatives and work integration social enterprises (WISEs) for people with disabilities.
- New organisational forms that could be used to run a social enterprise – non-profit organisations (associations of citizens and foundations) and business companies operating as spin-offs, development agencies and incubators.

Social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia

- Historical roots of social enterprises in Serbia: 19th century, (agricultural) cooperatives.
- After 2000 the affirmation of social entrepreneurship in Serbia is related to the process of approaching the European Union but also to the general characteristics of global economy.
- Legal forms of businesses that have been recognized in Serbia as those that fully or approximately correspond to the social enterprise concept:
- cooperatives; associations of citizens; foundations; enterprises for employment and professional training of persons with disabilities; spin-off enterprises (most frequently in the form of a company with limited liability and a joint-stock company); business incubators; and development agencies.

Size and structure of the social enterprise sector in Serbia

Source: Cvejic et al., 2008. and SORS, 2014.

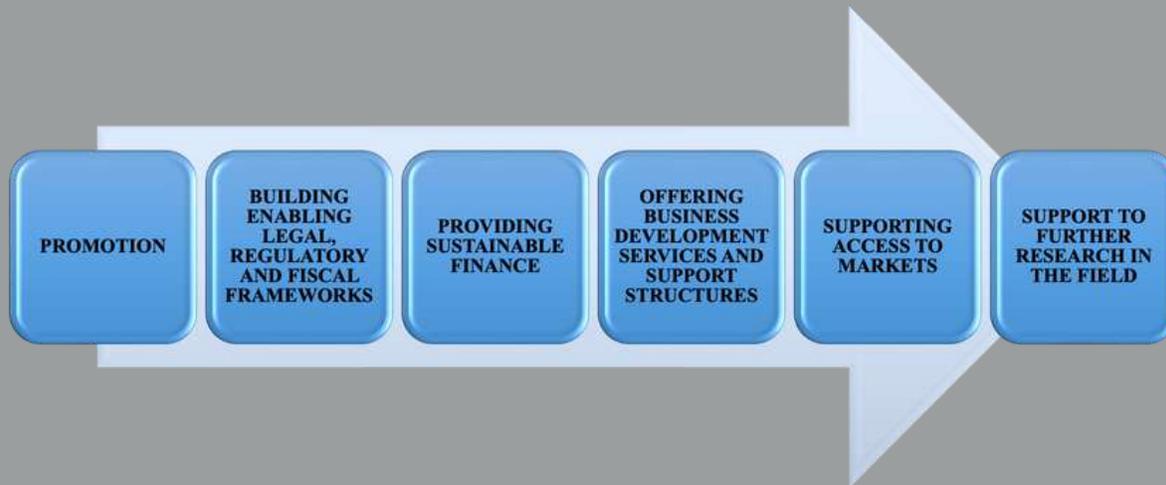
Type of social enterprise	2007	2012
Associations of citizens and foundations	162	306
WISEs	55	45
Development agencies	13	32
Business incubators	8	18
Spin-offs	24	8
Other	2	2
TOTAL	264	411

Size and structure of the social enterprise sector in Serbia

- Estimation for 2022: there are more than 500 social enterprises in Serbia.
- Majority of social enterprises generate income by service provision - 47.5% (social, health care, tourism, culture, etc.). This is followed by production with 32.5%, agriculture with 12.5% and education with 7.5%
- Based on the mapping done by Smart Kolektiv in 2017, main economic sectors are: Economic Empowerment and Employment (65%), Social Protection (35%), Education (32.5%), Environment (39%), Local Economic Development (30%), Human Rights (25%), Culture and Art (20%), Volunteerism (20%), Healthcare (12.5%), Other (12.5%) and Philanthropy (5%).
- Constraining factors: lack of financing sources, low prices of products and services, uncollected debts, lack of government support, inadequate legal regulations and unfair competition.

Evaluation of policies focused on social entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia

source: OECD



Promotion of social entrepreneurship

- Educational and training programmes: at schools (Novi Sad School of business), civil sector (programmes and projects tackling social entrepreneurship).
- Increasing visibility of social entrepreneurship/enterprises: mainly civil sector (Smart Kolektiv, GIZ Serbia, Social Impact Award Serbia) with the campaigns in media and social networks, development of educational materials on SE and sharing relevant literature, organisation of promotional events, establishing dialogue with important stakeholders.

Building enabling legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks

- For more than a decade, social enterprises have been developing in Serbia without a concrete strategic, legal and institutional framework.
- The first Law on Social Entrepreneurship in Serbia - adopted in February 2022. The law provides for status, not a new legal form for social enterprises. In this way, the law will recognize the existing practice and in that way, social enterprises will be able to receive support, regardless of whether they are registered as entrepreneurs, companies, foundations, citizens' associations or cooperatives.
- The law also provides for the establishment of bodies that will monitor the implementation of the law and adopt measures for the development of the sector.
- Before the implementation of the Law - establishing a functional Council for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship and preparing the Sector Development Program, which will be consistently and continuously implemented.

Building enabling legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks

- Before the adoption of the new Law on social entrepreneurship there was no legal regulation in Serbia which regulates this matter in a comprehensive manner.
- However, there were several laws and strategies which contain provisions that may constitute the basis and support to the development of social entrepreneurship. These are: The Social Welfare Act (2011); Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (2009); Act on Associations (2009); Law on Endowments and Foundations (2010); Companies Law (2011); Law on Cooperatives (2015); Law on Volunteering (2010); Public Procurement Law (2012); Labor Law (2005); Legal Entity Profit Tax Law (2001) and Value Added Tax Law (2004); National employment strategy 2011-2020; The Strategy for development of small and medium enterprises 2015-2020.
- Belgrade declaration on the development of the social entrepreneurship (2014).

Providing sustainable finance

Organisation/source	Activity/instrument	Limitations
Government budget	Supports the employment and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities - mostly in the forms of subsidies for employment of persons with disabilities	Recognizes only companies for professional rehabilitation
The Development Fund	State-funded credits for businesses and new business start-ups, including SMEs and crafts shops	Limited regarding the legal entities: to entrepreneurs (self-employed) and limited liability companies
National Employment Service	Subsidies for employment of different disadvantaged groups, training and financial support for start-ups, including social enterprises.	Limited regarding the legal entities: to entrepreneurs (self-employed) and limited liability companies
Innovation Fund	Increasing capacities and providing financial support to start-ups in innovation and technology. Providing co-financing (mini grants and matching grants)	Limited regarding the legal entities: to entrepreneurs (self-employed) and limited liability companies
Development Agency of Serbia	Grants to SMEs for purchase of equipment	Limited to entrepreneurs and limited liability companies
Ministry of Economy	Grants and loans to SMEs	Limited regarding the legal entities: to entrepreneurs (self-employed) and limited liability companies

Providing sustainable finance

- Examples of public programmes tackling SE: Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Promotion Program (one of the specific objectives is encouragement of women, youth and social entrepreneurship); Public call for financial support to the social economy in 2019 (Autonomous Province of Vojvodina).
- General assessment: available financial instruments provided by the state, development funds and commercial banks are not adapted to the specific needs of the social enterprises.
- Other financial support programmes targeting SE:
 - International donors - IPA; EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights), Civil Society Facility, EaSI (Employment and Social Innovation), COSME, the European Investment Bank (EIB); EBRD; Lifelong Learning; the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework program (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), etc.
 - The Step by Step program of Erste Bank (in cooperation with Startup Alliance and Smart Kolektiv)
 - Idea for Better Tomorrow programme (UniCredit Bank and UniCredit Foundation implemented in partnership with Divac Foundation and Smart Kolektiv).
 - Smart Academy programme,
 - Plantation for the future of Delta Foundation,
 - Divac Agricultural Funds,
 - National Forum for Green Ideas

Offering business development services and support structures

- In preparation on a state level
- Council for Social entrepreneurship
- Section for Social entrepreneurship within Chamber of commerce and industry - focus on sustainability, innovativeness and market orientation of social enterprises.
- Other structures act on a narrower scope, usually targeting certain phases of development or topic - Social Impact Award Serbia, Junior Achievement Serbia, In Centar StartIn StartUp Program, IDC, Trag Foundation and others

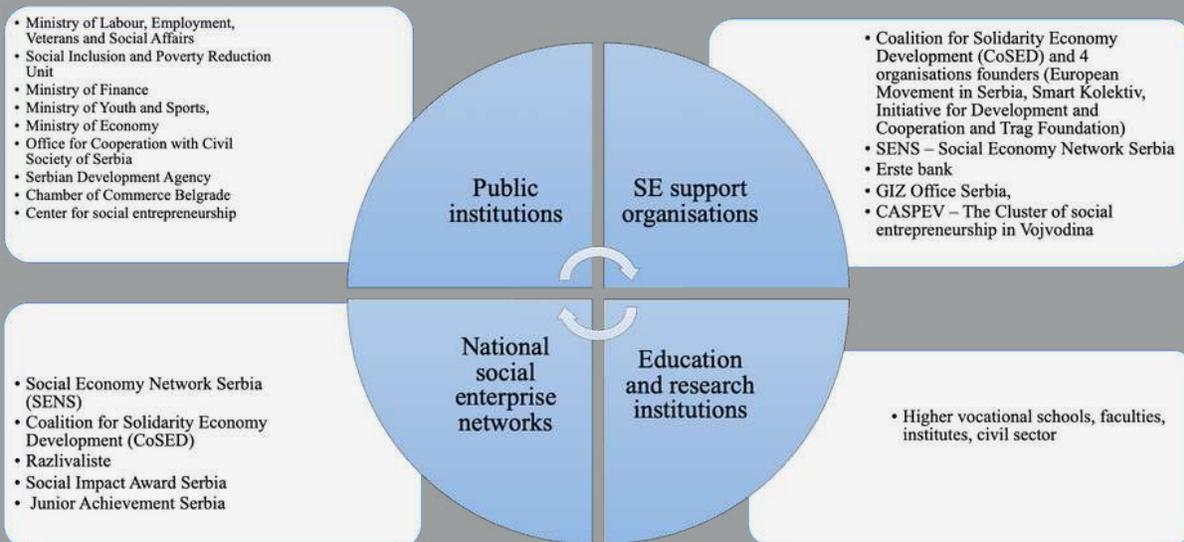
Supporting access to markets

- According to the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability, each company which has more than 20 employees has the obligation to employ certain number of persons with disabilities OR to buy product/services from enterprises for employment and professional training of persons with disabilities.
- Campaign of NGO Smart kolektiv – promotion of twelve social enterprises called “Buy local, think social”. The campaign took place on social networks, as well as in the magazine „Lice ulice“.

Support to further research in the field

- No specific measures identified.
- The academic and scientific community are important for monitoring trends and understanding the development practice of SE in order to support both decision makers and SE support actors in ecosystem improvement.
- Social entrepreneurship and philanthropy as particular practices of the SE concept increasingly occupy the research focus, however, the practice is in its infancy, while SE as a whole is still not present as a research and educational field in Serbia.

Actors in social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Serbia



Conclusions and policy recommendations

- For more than a decade, social enterprises have been developing in Serbia without a concrete legal, strategic and institutional framework.
- Main drivers of SE development in Serbia:
- Direct: civil sector, EU integration process, international donors.
- Indirect: socio-economic environment (need for alternative forms of employment and social inclusion).
- Serbia has taken certain measures to encourage social entrepreneurship, primarily by improving the legal framework and program measures, as well as by networking social entrepreneurs and civil sector organizations, so that through their mutual cooperation, exchange of knowledge, experiences and information, they contribute to development of social entrepreneurship.
- Social enterprises have been developing autonomously and slowly in Serbia, mostly outside the public welfare system, relying very much on the establishment of networks which have proved to be important in their social and financial sustainability.
- There is need for a stronger strategic direction of SE sector that will be incorporated in public policies, policy instruments and capacities of public administration.

Areas which could be addressed by future policy actions

PROMOTION	-Promotion of the role of SE through education and training (formal and informal education system)-Promotion of programmes offering grants to social enterprises
BUILDING ENABLING LEGAL, REGULATORY AND FISCAL FRAMEWORKS	-Establishment and improvement of legal and institutional framework-Development and implementation of the National Social Entrepreneurship Strategy-Establishing a database of social enterprises
PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE	-Offering more funds for SE from the state budget-Formulating a comprehensive system of financial incentives for SEs (consider opportunities for reducing taxes, contributions, and fees)-Systematic financial support for the development of the SE sector through European funds and programs, with budgetary co-financing-Development of a larger number of financial instruments for enterprises in the early development phase-Encouraging investors, donors and companies to invest in social enterprises
OFFERING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES	-Support to initiatives and organisations promoting SE-Offering support to social enterprises in applying for international funds-Stimulating networking and cooperation among social enterprises-Development of incubators and accelerators for social enterprises
SUPPORTING ACCESS TO MARKETS	-Support for the joint performance of social enterprises on the market-Direct support in accessing the market
SUPPORT TO FURTHER RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD	-Monitoring and evaluation of SE development-Analysis of the benefits and impact of social entrepreneurship on socioeconomic development-Collecting statistical data on social enterprises and their activities-Transparency of public programmes in the field of SE

AUTHOR - DIJANA ŠTRBAC

Dijana Štrbac is a Research Associate at the University of Belgrade, Institute Mihajlo Pupin, Science and Technology Policy Research Centre. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kragujevac and an MSc in European studies from the University of Belgrade. Her research interest and fields of expertise are focused on S&T and innovation policy, economic development, and industrial policy. She has published more than 40 scientific and professional papers in scientific journals and conference proceedings. Since 2011 she has participated in several national R&I projects and more than 10 international projects funded by the EU programmes. The projects were related to innovation management, RTDI evaluation, education and research policy, support for entrepreneurship, and technology transfer. Since 2015 she is a member of the Coordination team managing Priority area 7 (Knowledge Society) of the EU Strategy for the Danube region.

**LUCA KOLTAI, TAMÁS SZABÓ, KINGA TÓTH****Evaluation of measures supporting social enterprises in Hungary****ABSTRACT**

The aim of the evaluation is to provide input for further interventions, thus contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness of developments by presenting the results of programs, exploring potential development opportunities and ways to achieve them.

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of measures supporting social enterprises, including:

- an outlook to measures financed by EU funds in the 2007-2013 period, their results, and impacts, and
- assessment of the financial progress and (partial) results of the 2014-2020 period.

The Social Business Initiative of the European Commission (2011) declare the commitment of the EU towards the support of social enterprises: since these enterprises, operating embedded in local communities, can contribute to social cohesion and the diminishing of territorial inequalities. Thus, increasing the competitiveness of social economy has become one of the main goals of the EU. There were many calls for application in the last two programming periods for developing social enterprises; also, since 2016 there are domestic funds in Hungary as well.

This abstract focuses on the programmes carried out using EU funds in the 2007-2013. Although this period was only part of the aforementioned evaluation, but this period is finished and long-term effects could be examined.

Results

In order to exploit the employment potential of social cooperatives, in 2010 the New Széchenyi Plan contained the first project intervention within the Social Renewal Operational Programme (Hungarian acronym: TÁMOP), TÁMOP-2.4.3, called "Supporting atypical employment forms". The B-2 component of this measure aimed to support the employment of disadvantaged people by supporting employment in social cooperatives. In 2013 there have been another two calls for application, also for social cooperatives (focused on supporting the employment potential of social cooperatives, and to contribute to the development of activities and operation of the organizations).

In this period only social cooperatives could apply – thus this support contributed to the strengthening and spread of this type of organization.

Contrary to the intention of the authorities, most of the supported organizations (72.5 %) were new enterprises, established in the year of the application. A part of the beneficiaries (15.6 %) though were older cooperatives, who were able to realize more complex and comprehensive projects due to their experience, resources and the larger amount of funding. With the employment of 10.5 persons on average, beneficiaries completed double of the target indicator.

Since the projects put a heavy emphasis on employment, beneficiaries mostly emphasized the lasting of employment and labour market effect of the project funding. According to the interviews and previous research results it can be stated that it was not among the aims of most project organizations to orient their participants to the labour market. Their aim was mostly the stabilization of the social enterprise and the strengthening of their business opportunities – and keeping their employees.

Apart from employment, beneficiaries deemed the launch of the enterprise, the stabilization of the organization and the increase of their social and attitude-changing effects the most important results of the SROP funds.

According to the survival analysis of the beneficiary organizations, the survival rate of these organizations is higher than those who are not beneficiaries. A larger share of beneficiary organizations is active in a formal sense than of the non-beneficiaries, but there are less actually active organizations among them. Thus, many beneficiaries kept their organization alive because of the maintenance period, with only formal operation. Among the beneficiary organizations, the proportion of those who did not show actual activity was higher than that of the non-beneficiary organizations. This could indicate that a part of the beneficiaries did not continue their activities or did it in other legal form (not as a cooperative).

According to the propensity score evaluation of the beneficiaries, although the funding did not cause significant increase in the number of employed persons, there is significant increase (according to the pairing and difference in differences methods) in other indicators of social cooperatives, such as sales revenue, assets and liabilities. The reason behind this significant increase is that many of the cooperatives were founded during the programming period– when using the pairing method, we paired similar, relatively and absolutely small cooperatives. In terms of their growth trajectory and their level at the end of the period, the share of subsidies resulted in significant differences in all three examined balance sheets and profit indicators, but not in the number of employees.

Studying the geographical distribution of the funds we can observe, that overall, the bigger rural districts including cities with county rights have the most projects for social enterprise development. Similar to the 2007-2013 period, the Eastern and South-western region dominates considering both GINOP and EFOP projects, although with a larger expansion and smaller gap than in the case of SROP. Looking at the number of projects on local level, we see similar patterns to the districts: there are more funded projects in bigger locations and in their vicinity. 22 % of all projects were implemented in districts in need of a complex development programme (which are districts in the most difficult situation), 7-8 % were implemented in districts in need of development, while the ratio of projects increased for the 2014-2020 period from 22 % to 30 % in beneficiary districts. Districts in the best situation, which do not belong to any of the above categories, implemented the highest ratio of the projects: 48 % in the 2007-2013 period and 40 % in the 2014-2020 period.

About the research

- The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of measures supporting social enterprises, including:
 - an outlook of measures financed by EU funds in the 2007-2013 period, their results, and impacts, and
 - assessment of the financial progress and (partial) results of the 2014-2020 period.
- Methods:
 - Document analysis;
 - Data analysis (Eu funding data system, organizational balances database);
 - Online survey;
 - Interviews.
- Researchers: Koltai Luca, Szabó Tamás, Petróczi Andrea, Szabó Noémi, Tóth Kinga, Trinh Tuan Viet, Kelemen Balázs

Research questions

- Which were the main impacts of the subsidies on
 - Employment,
 - Local society,
 - Vulnerable groups,
 - The social economy sector?
- How the subsidies contributed to the sustainability of social enterprises?
- Was it successful to support social cooperatives only?
- Any lessons learned?

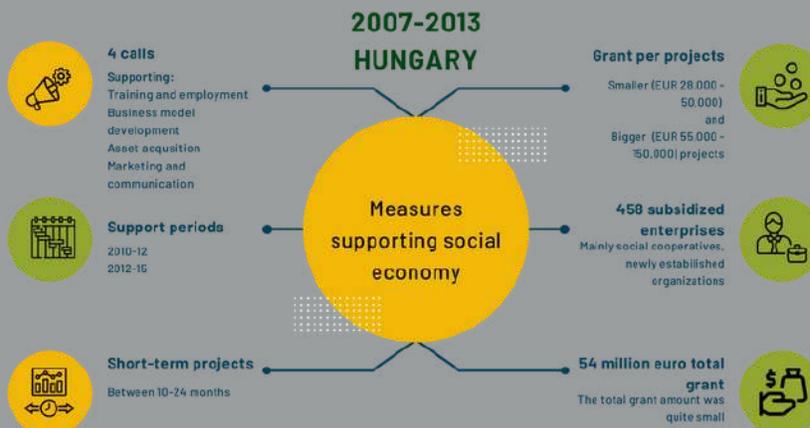
About the measures

Aims of the support measures

- 01 Employment and cooperative membership
- 02 Expansion of local employment possibilities
- 03 Activities focusing on local markets and needs
- 04 Sustainable social cooperatives



About the measures



Results

INDICATORS



3 465

Persons were
involved in
TRAINING



3 368

Persons acquired
EDUCATION



2 859

Persons'
EMPLOYMENT
were subsidized



386

Persons got a
PERMANENT JOB

Employment effects

Subsidies were focused on employment

- Wage support for disadvantaged employees
- Becoming cooperative member

Disadvantaged employees

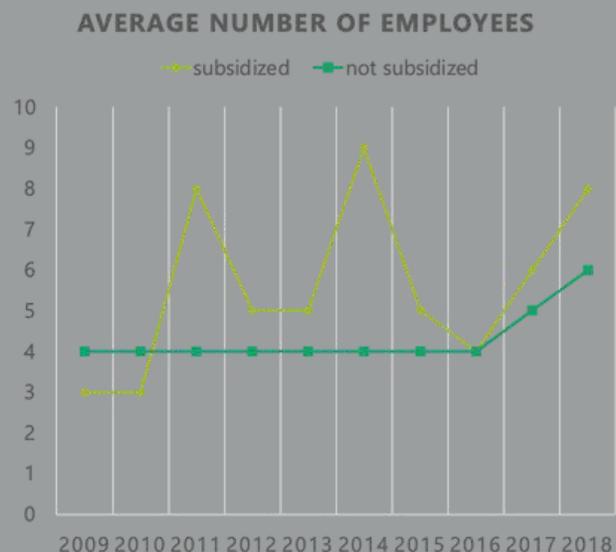
- Some were targeting one specific target group
- Others just tried to meet the call's expectations
- Some were adapting their target group to local needs
- Some were skimming

Employment effects

- Rapid supported job creation
- Often excessive job creation to fit in the call
- A significant part of the project-implementing organizations did not aim to guide participants back to the primary labour market
- But there were people who found jobs after the project
- Beneficiary organizations often cannot maintain the level of employment after the subsidy finished; businesses are not really successful in maintaining the jobs they created

Employment capacity

- Very small enterprises
- The number of employees is bigger at the subsidized organizations even after many years
- But fluctuating - multiple rounds of projects and subsidies
- Project dependency (EU-funding)



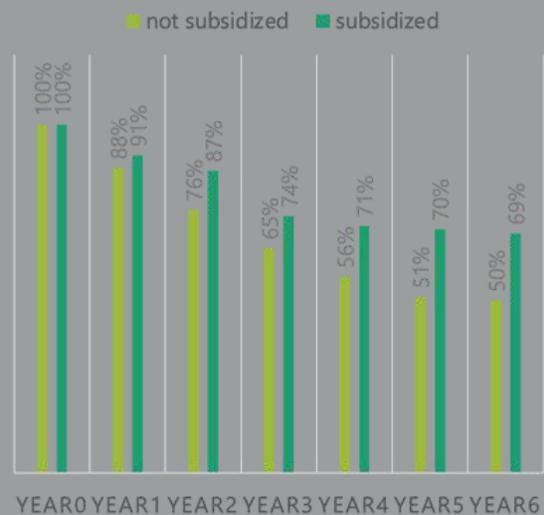
Sustainability

- Business start-up, developments in the early stages of the business
- The enterprises were stabilized for the project period
- Building and strengthening local and market relations
- A longer and more continuous support period is needed for sustainability
- More diverse portfolio is also needed
- Market demand is lower in disadvantaged areas where many of the enterprises were established
- There are many artisan or small-scale producers, which are more expensive

Survival analysis existing

- Existing = submitted a balance sheet report
- YEAR0 = end of subsidy

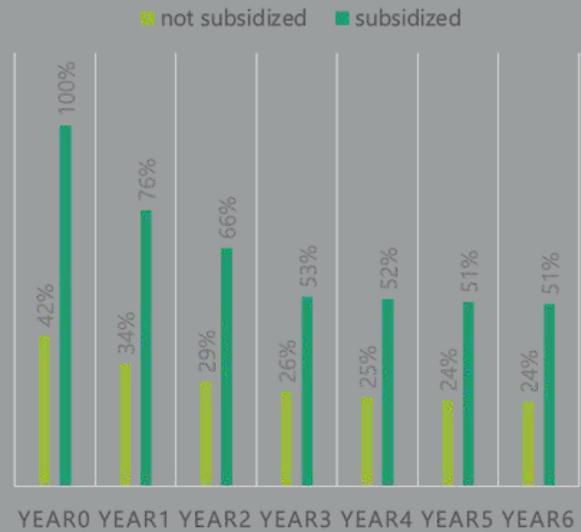
- More than 80% of the organizations were newly founded
- Many cooperatives were founded to get the subsidies
- The once supported organizations are often supported again
- The chance of existing after 6 years is 19% higher than that of not subsidized



Survival analysis active

- Active = submitted a balance sheet report, and had EUR 1,500 income
- YEAR0 = end of subsidy

- Significant drop in business activity after the end of the support
- There are already sleeping organizations among the not subsidized
- Subsidized organizations are 27% more likely to be active after 6 years



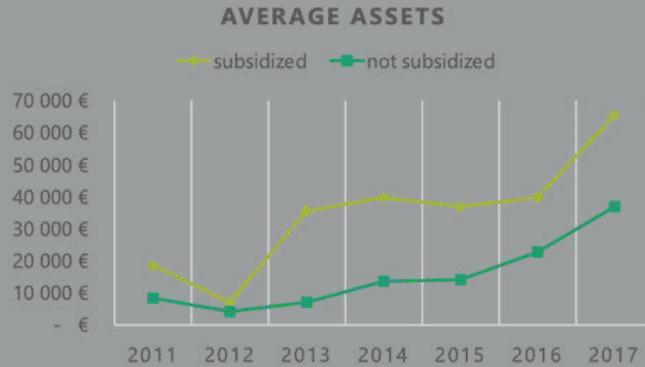
Revenue and assets

- Small average revenue
- Many new organizations between 2011-13
- The effect of the subsidy goes away soon



Revenue and assets

- Many new organizations between 2011-13
- Eu-supported asset acquisitions between 2013-2015
- The effect of the subsidy goes away soon



Conclusions



AUTHORS - LUCA KOLTAI, TAMÁS SZABÓ, KINGA TÓTH

Luca Koltai is a senior associate at the HÉTFA Research Institute, and has a degree in social policy and Europe. In addition, she gained additional knowledge on business ethics, equal opportunities, and non-profit management courses. During her career, she gained experience at Budapest Esély, the National Family and Social Policy Institute, and the Hungarian organization of Habitat for Humanity. As a researcher, she primarily dealt with employment and social issues, including public employment, those excluded from the labor market, and social enterprises. She is one of the leaders of the HÉTFA Research Institute's "Women entrepreneurs during the coronavirus" research.

Tamás Szabó is a junior analyst at the HÉTFA Research Institute and Center for Economic and Social Analysis since the summer of 2017. He holds a master's degree in Economics from Eötvös Lóránd University. His main interest is macroeconomic modelling but he is also motivated to use other analytic tools in many areas of the economy.

His work at the HÉTFA started with large-scale development of the in-house built HÉTFA Computable General Equilibrium. Since that he used the model for calculating the macroeconomic impacts for example EU subsidies, large-scale home energy efficiency upgrade programs.

Analyst in the Division for Public Policy and Impact Assessment, Kinga Tóth is mainly taking part in research projects concerning development policy, education, social policies, and housing. In these projects, her responsibilities usually include management of the project, project design, managing and delivering qualitative methodological elements, etc. Since 2021, Kinga Tóth is also Deputy Research Director. Her responsibilities include assisting in the daily and strategic management of the Division.



ALBENA VUTSOVA, TODOR YALAMOV, MARTINA ARABADZHIEVA

Promoting social economy as an instrument for economic transformation

ABSTRACT

The social economy is often defined by the supremacy of democracy over capital in economic decisions of people and organizations and its performance - measured rather in welfare than (gross domestic) product. The paper looks at the phenomenon from three perspectives: a) Identification of institutional factors and organizational approaches that shape social economy models and develop a supportive eco-system in EU; b) identification of functioning policies and measures to promote social economy in new member states and make it a steady part of the national GDP; and last, but not least c) how social economy itself could serve as an instrument for economic transformation.

The paper builds on approaches to estimate the size and interconnectedness of social economy to the whole economy. We will analyze in detail quantitatively associations, foundations, and cooperatives and qualitatively - social enterprises. The paper will also seek to identify regulatory gaps, which could be resolved through transposition of EU legislation and good practices.

The post-pandemic and military conflicts on the territory of Europe highlight the importance of social economy and could serve as a growth anchor to the region.

Bulgaria in the Eastern European context

	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity, start-up phase, broad measure (SEA-SU-BRD)	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity, operational phase, broad measure (SEA-OP-BRD)	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity as nascent OR operational leader, broad measure (SEA-OP)	Involved in social goal social entrepreneurial activity, start-up phase	Involved in social goal social entrepreneurial activity, operational phase
Bulgaria	0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Croatia	6.1%	2.1%	7.0%	1.5%	0.9%
Estonia	4.0%	4.9%	7.4%	.	.
Hungary	9.7%	2.9%	11.3%	5.8%	2.0%
Latvia	0.9%	2.2%	2.8%	0.6%	1.7%
Macedonia	2.0%	1.3%	3.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Poland	1.4%	6.9%	7.5%	0.3%	3.9%
Romania	2.5%	2.9%	4.8%	.	.
Slovakia	3.9%	4.1%	6.4%	1.5%	1.7%
Slovenia	1.7%	3.4%	4.6%	0.6%	1.6%

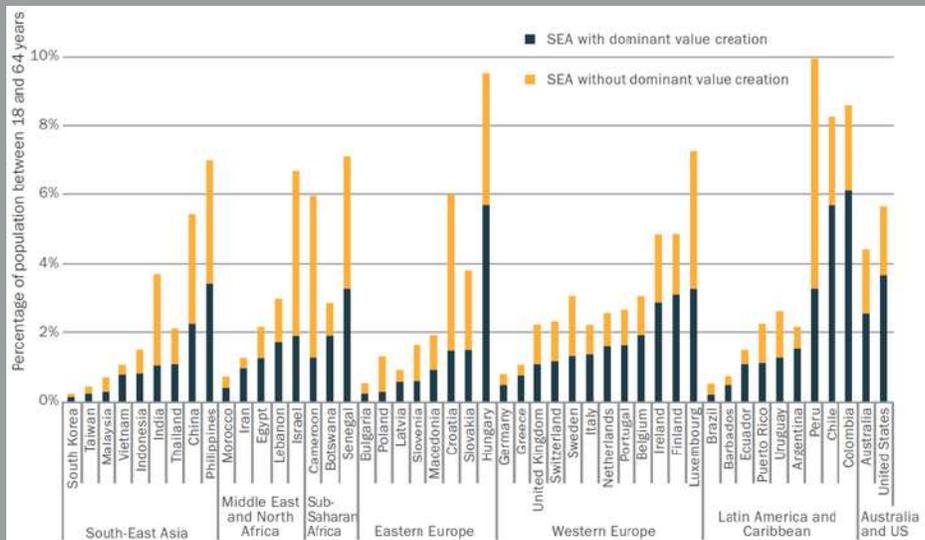
Bulgaria in the Eastern European context

	Broad measure (SEA-OP-BRD)	Narrow measure (social goals and market activity, SEA-OP-NRW)	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity and high market activity	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity and innovation	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity and intense profit reinvesting	Involved in social entrepreneurial activity and intense impact measurement
Hungary	2.9%	0.9%	1.1%	0.6%	1.0%	1.7%
Bulgaria	0.7%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Latvia	2.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.3%	1.0%
Croatia	2.1%	0.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Slovenia	3.4%	0.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.7%	1.6%
Macedonia	1.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%
Slovakia	4.1%	1.1%	2.3%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%

Bulgarian social entrepreneurial activities

- Bulgarian participation rates in social economy are relatively low even in comparison to some NMC
- The problem is even stronger if we look at the value creation vs value capture (prioritization of social over financial indicators) comparing with the Western Europe but...
- relatively better than Poland, Slovenia, Croatia and Slovakia

Value creation vs value capture



Bulgarian social entrepreneurial activities

- They are predominantly and relatively non-market based to the European countries
- There is a segmentation and correlation of value capture and market oriented social enterprises and value creation and non-market oriented
- Yet, there might be definitional issues around this statement due to long-term dependencies from donors and grants to associations and foundations
- The self-assessment of social entrepreneur presumes low innovativeness in operations; however, we think this is due to higher standards compared to typical business. The situation is similar to other Eastern European countries.

Organisational forms

- Unique Bulgarian organizational form - chitalishte (the oldest form)
- Chitalishtes emerged in mid XIX centuries, before the independence from the Ottoman Empire as self-governing community-based organizations funded by rich merchants
- Chitalishte is a typical social economy organization in Bulgaria
- The closest form is association, but the requirement for number of members is 7 times higher

Organisational forms on national level

- Chitalishte - 4140 operating units
- Cooperatives – 2864 operating units
- Associations – around 42,000 operating units but it is unclear what share are real social economy organizations
- Foundations – 8420 operating units (same as above)
- Private enterprises, registered as social enterprises – data is unclear

Social economy as instrument for institutional change

- **Many institutional innovations have been planned and implemented through active involvement of the civil society**
- Ombudsman – national and local
- Registry reform (NGO electronic registry and transformation of company registration from a judicial to an administrative process)
- The Economic and Social Council (ESC)- consultative body expressing contributing to civil society structures on economic and social development".
- the regulation frame regarding civil participation in local government
- Law and ordinance on electronic Document and electronic signature
- Capacity building and introduction of methodological innovations such as OCTA (Interpol)

Institutional change: leading by example

- NGOs with active participation of academics have been established at the beginning of 1990s
- NGOs were more adaptive, better governed by most of the universities so a lot of academics preferred to do policy research and academic research through projects managed organizationally by NGOs
- Later some of the universities and some of the academics improved governance and migrated their activities back to the universities – doing so indirect impact on governance

Institutional change within Civil Society

- Self-organization is difficult and lack of representation skills and self-organization within larger groups lead to non-functioning democracy
- So, good practices as parents' cooperatives, which emerged as a response to lack of enough places for kids at kindergartens – might educate and train the society in democracy
 - Similar for parents associations at schools (similar to parent boards or teaching-parent associations in US)

Regulatory and implementation gaps

- Definition of social enterprise in regard to:
 - statistical purposes
 - government social service procurement programs
 - Inter-relation and perception with other terms as “not-for-profit in public benefit”
- national policy for the development of the social economy and social enterprises remains aside common efforts to achieve the goals set in the National Reform Strategy
- Registration and judicial maintenance of cooperatives and chitalishte are relatively more complex and costly compared to simple association or limited private company
- Various registers are not functioning , lack of statistics and even non-secure and not updated web-pages (for social economy, for instance)

Regulatory and implementation gaps

- a social enterprise created as a commercial company must be established either by a legal entity or provide for similar rules in its internal organizational documents.
- The special limitation of private interests in favor of public socially significant goals is required.
- Need for sectoral reforms-liberalizing the market and supporting a quick and easy access to services for users

Responsibility of universities for non-financial reporting

- As non-financial reporting is gaining a lot of attention and becomes requirement for larger companies and there is little research and corporate training available
- non-financial reporting is part of the ESG concept
- Universities have to be at the forefront
- Sofia University is providing master programs and professional training programs not only for Bulgarian companies but also for regional networks (i.e. Eastern European network of banks)

AUTHORS - ALBENA VUTSOVA, TODOR YALAMOV, MARTINA ARABADZHIEVA

Prof. Albena Vutsova, Ph.D. has been actively teaching at SU “Kliment Ohridski” since 2015. As a Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, she is responsible for educational activities and monitoring of a portfolio of projects in the fields of research and education. She has performed more than 10 projects during the last 10 years. As a Ph.D. students’ tutor prof. Albena Vutsova is coaching more than 14 students, working in various educational and social challenge areas. 11 of the candidates she mentored are already Ph.D. holders.

Prof. Albena Vutsova has 20 years of professional experience in the management of large-scale national and EU-funded programmes and projects in the field of education and research in various capacities such as Team Leader, Programme/Project Manager, and Head. She also has 20 years of experience in research and education projects/programmes, management, and policy development in middle-income countries at the international level (Ukraine, Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Bosna and Herzegovina).

Her professional expertise includes broad experience in working with government institutions and high-level government officials at the national (MoE) and EU Commission level on issues related to research and education as well as working in positions with expert functions as a member of working groups with DG Research Brussels. Prof. Vutsova is also a member of the JRC Board of Governors and she has numerous publications in prominent and indexed scientific journals.

Dr. Martina Arabadzhieva is a chief assistant professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski". In the period between 2019 and 2021, she was taking the role of a researcher (R2). She defended her dissertation on "Financial management implements of higher education institutions in the framework of European quality assurances policies" at the faculty. The model for the distribution of financial resources is accepted as a good model by the specialized directorates of the Ministry of Education and Science. Her research interests are also related to the study of research evaluation, social entrepreneurship, and youth unemployment.

Professionally, Martina Arabadzhieva has experience as a consultant in scientific journals, working with global research databases, tax consultant at KPMG Bulgaria, as well as with problems related to the assessment and selection of HR in the field of secondary education. Actively participates in the implementation of various national and international projects dedicated to education and science. Her project activities include work on the European programs Erasmus +, Horizon 2020 - activities Marie Skłodowska Curie and the European Scientific Council; COST program, as well as a number of national programs. Her experience covers various activities from the preparation of project proposals, administration and organization of activities, reporting, and liaison between stakeholders from the public sphere, business, academia, and civil society organizations.

Martina Arabadzheva is part of the AESIS Network for Advancing & Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science and has published in indexed national and international journals.

Todor Yalamov is an associate professor in e-business and management and vice-dean of research, innovation, and projects at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Todor has over 20 years of experience working with civil society organizations on various institutional reforms and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship at private and social levels. He was a Fulbright scholar at the Center for International Private Enterprise, Washington DC 2013-2014.

**MARIA EMÍLIA TEIXEIRA****Financial Inclusion: Fintech****ABSTRACT**

The way of providing financial services has long been transformed, and the relationship between the provider of these services and the consumer has changed its paradigm. Consumers currently manage their financial applications without human intermediation by using digital platforms and applications. These digital platforms automatically suggest the most suitable financial products to the consumer, according to the profile that is drawn after the consumer answer a set of questions.

The new consumer of financial services is gradually younger, with a higher level of education, mastered with new technologies, and rather subscribes to financial products at home.

However, the more digital and technological providers of financial services become, a new problem arises since it can increase the creation of a new social inequality, turning over into discrimination between those who use new technologies expeditiously and those who do not.

The purpose of our study is to answer whether FinTech will be a way to promote greater financial inclusion or contrariwise, will it promote consumer segmentation, thus creating inequality between consumers?

To this end, we propose to review the literature on the subject published in the last five years and list the disadvantages of the emergence of FinTech, specifically in the creation of potential inequalities in access to financial services, not only in Portugal but in other countries where FinTech also have grown exponentially and with which we propose to make a comparative analysis

AUTHOR - MARIA EMÍLIA TEIXEIRA



Maria Emília Teixeira holds a Ph.D. in Commercial Law (Banking Law). She is an Assistant Professor at the Law Department of the Universidade Portucalense, a Researcher at the Portuguese Legal Institute, and a Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Banking and Securities Law.



NOÉMIA BESSA VILELA, VALENTYNA ROMANOVA

Goal-achievement evaluation of Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons

ABSTRACT

Ukraine has been facing numerous interconnected challenges since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. Arguably, one of the most critical challenges has been the migration of internally displaced persons from localities under Russia's persistent military attack to relatively safe places across the country. Initially, social inclusion policies have been ad hoc and primarily relied on domestic sub-state authorities' input. Then social inclusion policies have been rapidly evolving and engaging multiple international, national, and sub-national stakeholders.

This paper seeks to perform goal-achievement evaluation of Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons and, in particular, identify the impact of the recently implemented decentralisation reform that has strengthened the capacities of domestic local authorities.

The paper uses the concept of multilevel governance and perceives Ukraine as a multilevel system.

In order to identify the policy consequences of decentralisation on social inclusion, the paper applies the method of comparative analysis. It evaluates Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons:

- (a) in 2014-2020 (after Russia's annexation of Crimea and its engagement in the armed conflict in Donbas), when the decentralisation reform has been gradually progressing, but partial;
- (b) since 2022 (since Russia's full-scale invasion), when the institutional and financial capacities of domestic local authorities have been strengthened throughout the whole country.

This research design is aimed at identifying the input of decentralisation and will allow comparing the extent of intergovernmental coordination during policy implementation (vertical and horizontal dimensions).

The paper is based on analyzing primary and secondary sources available for desk research. The paper acknowledges its major limitation – Galton’s problem than goes hand in hand with the comparative method: identifying a relationship between two phenomena does not necessarily mean it is a causal relationship, because the observed outcome might be caused by some intervening variable(s), i.e. the input of international stakeholders into Ukraine’s social inclusion policies that has enormously increased since February 2022.

AUTHORS - NOÉMIA BESSA VILELA, VALENTYNA ROMANOVA

Dr. Valentyna Romanova is a Guest Lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine. She lives in Tokyo, and is a member of the Japan Association of Ukrainian Studies, the Japan Association of Russian and East European Studies, and COST Network Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance. In 2012-2016, she was an Elections Reports Editor for, and, since 2017, she has been a co-editor of the Annual Reviews of Regional Elections in the UK journal *Regional and Federal Studies*. Prior to moving to Japan, Romanova was a Senior Consultant at Ukraine's National Institute for Strategic Studies, team leader for the "Political Elites of Ukrainian Regions" project of the University of Tokyo, DAAD Visiting Fellow at the University of Jena, as well as Chevening Scholar and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her research has been published in English, German, Russian and Ukrainian in, among others, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, *Politics, Survival, Regional & Federal Studies*, *Vox Ukraine*, *Democratic Audit Blog*, *The Ideology and Politics Journal*, *Politychni doslidzhennia*, and the *Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal*, as well as in reports by Chatham House, the Bertelsmann Foundation, and Wilson Center's Kennan Institute.

Noemia Bessa Vilela is Head of Research at OPHIZ, Inštitut pravnih znanosti, Maribor. She is currently a Doctoral Researcher at the EOTVOS LORAND University in Budapest, under a Grant from the FCT – Foundation for Science and Technology, the Portuguese national funding agency for science, research and technology, attributed on the basis of scientific merits.

Partner in several EU-funded projects on EU Law, and with an impressive record of research funding, she is currently Chair of CA20123 – IGCOORD, dealing with matters of intergovernmental coordination. Noémia's research interests range from EU Law, Anti Trust, and Research Methodology to Human Rights.



**Social policy and
inequality**

 **CAO XU, YOULIN XIE****Engaging the social participation of young people in rural areas****ABSTRACT**

Over 53 % of the world's population live in rural areas and more than 70 % of the poor population reside in rural areas. Engaging the social participation of rural youth in society is beneficial to reducing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and improving human resources in rural regions.

The essential to enhancing social inclusion is to involve more individuals in society. Existing studies mainly are improving the integration of immigrations into local communities, education and employment of disabled people, and social participation of certain groups. The current dilemma is that most youth policies ignore the rural, and most rural policies ignore youth. We aim to identify the challenges that young people in rural areas face and to provide solutions to promote young people's social engagement. Although the share of young people in rural areas is declining in Europe due to an aging society, declining birth rate, and migration of young people to more urbanized areas, this group occupies a considerable proportion on a global scale.

For data collection, a desk review using secondary sources was employed such as relevant literature, legislation, national youth strategies, and programmes from the relevant authorities. Moreover, thirty-two questionnaires were collected from Hungarian rural and suburban regions. We find that improving the channel of acquiring and transmitting information to young people in rural is critical. Influencing variables includes financial concerns and awareness of the necessity of education. Therefore, one of the achievable and effective methods is advocacy activity. Besides, increasing mobility make difference such as short-term exchanges, and study tour programs.

Social inclusion - One of core strategies to support youth development

Over 43% of the world's population live in rural areas and more than 70% of the poor population reside in rural areas (World Bank, 2020).

Youth perspective social inclusion is the process of individual's self-realisation within a society, recognition and achieving one's potential by social institutions, integration, in the web of social relations in a community, through study, employment, volunteer work or other forms of participation (Kovacheva 2021).

Rurality:

Rural refers to places outside of metropolitan areas. Many of these locations are situated in agricultural, farming, or fishing areas (Lourenco 2012).

Target group: Young-aged people, 15-29 years old

Social inclusion

- Lack of awareness of education and training;
- Higher risk of unemployment;
- Lower family income (social economic status);
- Less opportunities in the long-term (i.e., education, training, infrastructure, public transport);
- Lack of awareness of participation and knowledge of finance and tax.

All happened before, but not at this speed

Advantages

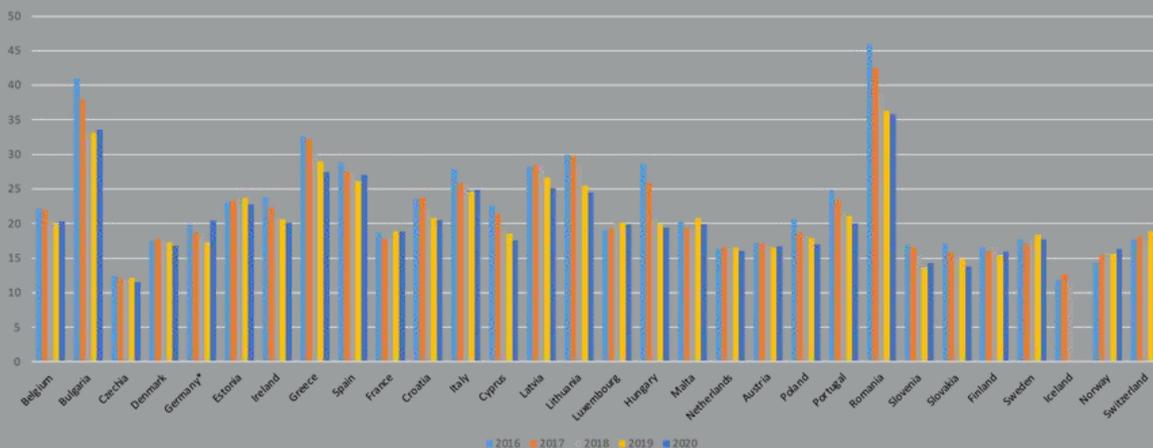
- Lower housing and living costs;
- More land resources;
- Less pollution;
- Closer proximity to nature.
- National policies support

Hungary

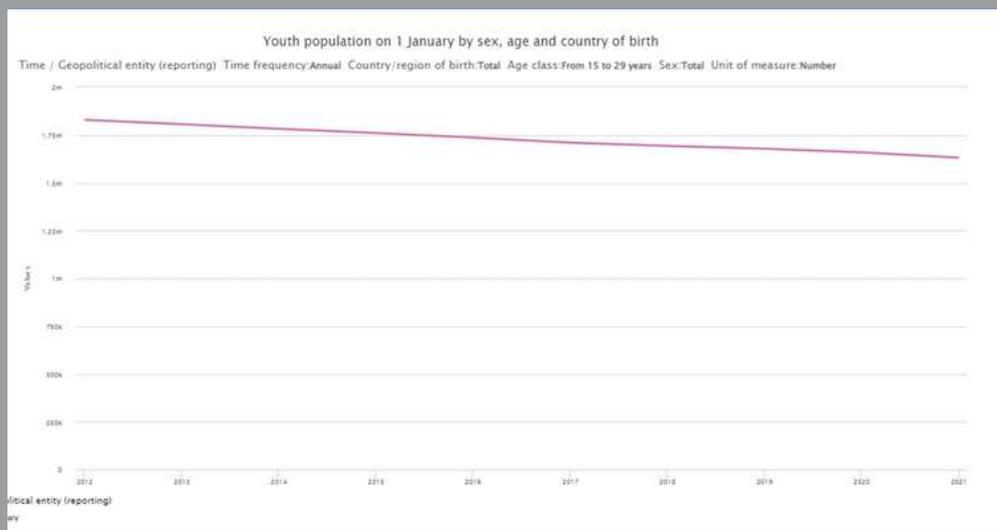
- Institution: Ministry of Human Capacities(2010)
- Two important organization:
 - National Youth Council
 - Hungarian Youth Conference Alliance
- Education: predominantly public
 - Pre-school kindergarten education is compulsory
 - School attendance is also compulsory until age of sixteen
- Employment: legal age of entering job market: 18
 - According to the latest data (2019), as in the total population,
 - the male employment rate (53%) is higher than the female rate (41%) in the youth population aged of 15-29 years.

Persons at risk of poverty or social inclusion

Source: Eurostat, Data extracted on 07/2022

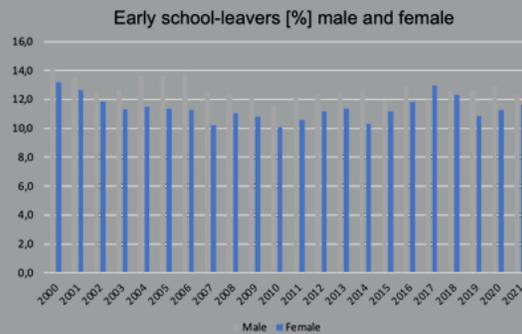
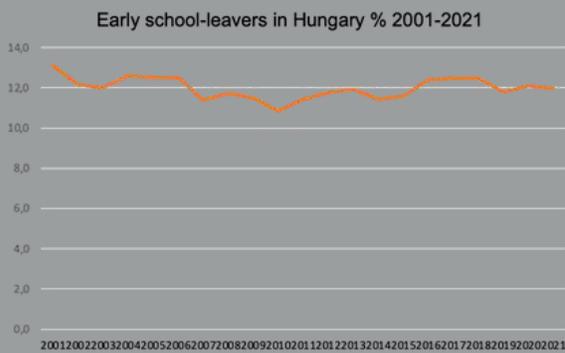


Hungary

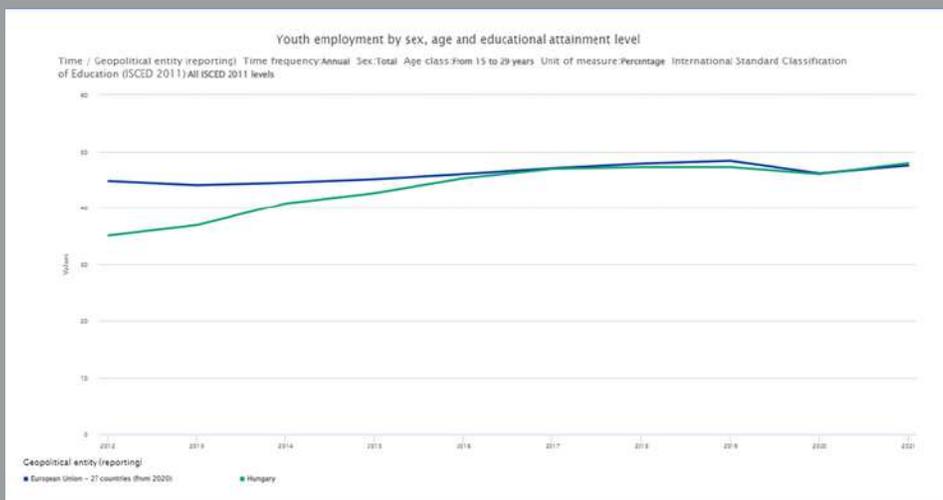


Early School leavers

Source: Hungarian central statistical office



Hungary

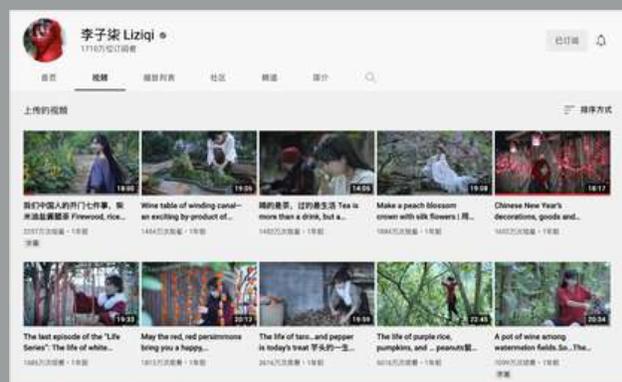


European policies and strategies

- Rural development 2014–2020
- Common agricultural policy (CAP)
- Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013
- Rural development programmes (RDPs)
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- European Social Fund (ESF),
- The Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
 - improving the competitiveness of agriculture; safeguarding the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action; and ensuring that the territorial development of rural areas is balanced.

Case 1: Return to the remote countryside, then go out into the world—Li Ziqi

- 1990, born in a rural family in Sichuan Province
- 2004, dropped out of school to work in the city at the age of 14
- 2012, returned to the countryside
- 2015, started shooting short videos
- 2021, broke the Guinness World Record for “The most subscribers for a Chinese language channel on YouTube” with 14.1 million followers



What the digital opportunity brings to Li Ziqi and the society

Personal gains

- Reputation
- A new way of life
- Entrepreneurship (Li Ziqi as trademark)
- Strong economic power (Sales amounted to 23 million Euro)

Social Harvest

- Drive local industry development
- New living ideas for other rural people
- Encourage more young people to return to countryside

Case 2 : Li Ziqi's network myth is not an isolated case ordinary rural life can touch people's hearts—Xiang Tao

- Dropped out of school during elementary school
- Ordinary rural housewife
- Videos show rural family life, cooking
- After becoming famous, set up a food factory, opened an online store and selling live-streamed goods



Live shopping has become a trend in China

Advantages of developing live shopping in rural area

- Save labor force and material resources
- Promote local employment and entrepreneurship
- Promote green development of agriculture and rural areas

Can we apply live shopping to Europe? Hungary?

- 70% of Europeans are open to live shopping
- European live shopping platform still needs to be improved
- Some of Europe's biggest brands are trying to sell their goods live
-
- Different market interests and trends in different countries
- No significant trend for the rise of live shopping in Hungary till now

Suggestions of digital economy development for rural youth

- Providing video creation and e-commerce management training
 - Digital entrepreneurship incubation
 - Social inclusion and support
 - Legal assistance, tax and other administrative support
-
- Rural youth become an important driving force for rural revitalization. Improving the channel of acquiring and transmitting information (knowledge) to young people in rural is critical.

AUTHORS - CAO XU, YOULIN XIE



Xu Cao is a Ph.D. student in Economics at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences. His research interests are consumer behavior and sensory analysis.

Youlin Xie is a Master's student in Regional and Environmental Economics from the Institute of International, Political and Regional Studies, University of the Corvinus University of Budapest. Her research interest is rural development.

**RUBÉN TAMBOLEO GARCÍA****The transformation of Social Policy in the City of Madrid during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis****ABSTRACT**

The social inclusion of people (including immigrants) at risk of poverty and social exclusion has been one of the great innovative developments of the Madrid City Council in Spain in the last two decades. Especially, it faced challenges never before known during the pandemic crisis and the economic crisis derived from the COVID-19 confinements, in the face of which the Madrid City Council's Family, Equality and Social Welfare Government Area had to transform its social policy and equip itself with new tools to fight against poverty and social exclusion, within a perspective of social democratic public policies.

The Methodology makes a comparison in the issuance of money cards (which will later be called "family cards") in different periods, the annual budget items according to those same periods, and the transformation in the Delegated Area, in addition to including interviews with authorities relevant, especially the Delegate Councilor of the Area. As main conclusions, we see the increase in the issuance of what is known as "family cards" and the expansion of the service charter in the Social Policy of the Madrid City Council.

For the debate and discussion, the question must be taken into account if it is the city councils that should be responsible for this type of social policy matters in general, and specifically to what extent their size influences as administrative entities to know if they can take charge of this type of policy, this issue being one of the main questions for possible evaluations of public policies.

AUTHOR - RUBÉN TAMBOLEO GARCÍA

Rubén Tamboleo García is an adjunct Professor of Sociology at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) in the Faculties of Philosophy and Economic Sciences and of Social Psychology and Human Resources at the Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M). Professor of Sociology and Political Science and Administration at the National University of Distance Education (UNED). Previously Professor of Applied Sociology at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) in the Faculties of Law and Political Science and Sociology; and Research Methodology in Sociology at the University of Valladolid (UVa) in the Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences. Consultant and Manager of Training Projects and Public Affairs. Author of indexed articles, books and book chapters with different publishers. Director of several monographs in Public Administration. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Mahdia Campus in Tunis, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Universities of Liverpool and Vienna. Researcher of UCM Educational Innovation Projects, of R+D+I Projects, and International Research Projects such as Horizon2020 "REMINDER". Secretary of the Scientific Committees of the International Congress on "Governance and Public Affairs" in four editions (last one in Toluca de Lerdo, Mexico) and "Populist Challenges for Consolidated Democracies". Academic Secretary of the "XII Ortega y Gasset Summer Classroom: Initiation to the University" at the UIMP. Director of the XXVI International Congress of Sociology in Castilla La Mancha (ACMS). Analyst for different media (La Sexta, Cuatro, RT, Telemadrid, Televisa, HispanTV, 7NN, ABC).

 **KATALIN BÖRDÖS****NEETs in Hungary: a summary on the evaluations of policies and challenges****ABSTRACT**

NEET-rates in Hungary are not outstandingly high: for 15-24-year-olds, NEET-rates correspond to the EU-27 average (in 2021, it was 10.6% and 10.8% for Hungary and the EU-27, respectively), and for the 25-29 cohort, it is even below the average of the Member States (13.4% for Hungary and 17.3% in the EU-27 for 2021). However, if we have a closer look at the situation of NEETs, we can see that certain groups – especially women, those with a low level of educational attainment and those who belong to the Roma minority – are in a significantly worse position than the ‘average’ youth in Hungary: for example, the gender gap concerning the 25+ NEET-rate was 17.9 percentage points in 2020, and the vast majority (84%) of female NEETs were outside the labour force. Among those with the lowest levels of education, the 25+ NEET-rate in 2020 was almost 3 times higher (49%) than among those with an upper secondary degree (17.0%) and almost 4.5 times higher than among those with tertiary education (11.1%). Also, Romani people have a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion, their employment rate is lower and they complete fewer grades of school on average compared with non-Roma Hungarian citizens.

The different fields of public policy have the potential to improve the situation of NEETs and to enable youth to integrate into the labour market. Concerning NEETs, the most relevant fields of policy in Hungary are youth policy, employment policy, education policy (especially vocational adult training and higher education) and social policy. In this paper, we take stock of the different legislations and regulations in effect in Hungary that can potentially affect the situation of NEETs, and summarise the results of the relevant (counterfactual) impact evaluations as well. Among NEETs, we pay special attention to the 25-29 cohort as well, as this is an age group that is often overlooked in Hungarian public policies.

AUTHOR - KATALIN BÖRDŐS

Ms. Katalin Bördös is a research analyst at HÉTFA Research Institute and has more than 10 years of professional experience. She acquired her Master's Degree in Economics at the Corvinus University of Budapest, and she is also an alumna of the Széchenyi István College for Advanced Studies. Between 2012 and 2016, she worked as a junior research fellow at Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis.

Katalin's main fields of study include employment policy, labour economics, and social inclusion policies. She has participated in research projects on both Hungarian and international (EU-) level, including various projects on youth unemployment and the labour market situation of NEETs, the institutional and regulatory framework of public employment services, active labour market programmes (ALMPs), long-term unemployment or women in the labour market. She has also worked on projects that analysed the performance and heterogeneity of firms in Hungary (e.g., estimating the impact of investment incentives).

Katalin has extensive experience in handling large datasets (including both regional-, individual- and firm-level data) and has a profound knowledge of data analysis techniques, microeconometrics, and counterfactual impact evaluation methods. Besides quantitative research, she has also gained experience in qualitative research by conducting several interviews with stakeholders and experts in various fields. Being the lead researcher in several projects, she has acquired good communication, project management, and leadership skills as well.



**DIEGO MUÑOZ-HIGUERAS, RAFAEL GRANELL PÉREZ, AMADEO FUENMAYOR
FERNÁNDEZ**

New perspectives of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits in Spain

ABSTRACT

The Minimum Vital Income (Ingreso Mínimo Vital in Spanish) has been in force in Spain since May 2020. It seeks to ensure that all citizens enjoy a minimum income that allows them to survive, to avoid falling into situations of poverty or social exclusion. It has been implemented within the non-contributory system, financed through taxes, and can be complemented by the regional GMIs. It is configured as a subjective right of indefinite duration. The objective of the MVI is to be configured as a minimum income protection net guaranteed by the Spanish Social Security, common among the Spanish Regions and Cities (i.e. Ceuta and Melilla), and which allows the transition from a situation of social exclusion to an active participation in society (RDL 20/2020, of May 29). Among its objectives, it stands out the direct reference to the problem of coverage of the current system, and the need to improve it by homogenizing and involving applicants in the procedures to be carried out and increasing the institutional publicity of the benefit. One of its main objectives, therefore, is to increase the take-up of the guaranteed minimum income (GMI) system.

The relevance is such. The that non-take-up in a benefit can affect both the efficiency (adjustment between costs and benefits) and the effectiveness (in terms of reduction or increase in the expected indicators) of the policy implemented. Non-take-up is defined as the set of individuals or households entitled to receive a benefit who do not receive it because they do not apply for it (Hernanz, et al., 2004). Despite this problem, the literature has traditionally given more relevance to overpayment in benefits since this implies an additional cost for public administrations. The design of targeted public policies for specific groups, together with means- testing instruments, has captured the interest of policy makers (Korpi and Palme, 1998; Matsaganis et al., 2010). However, the phenomenon known as non-take-up has generated a growing interest within public institutions (Eurofound, 2015; European Commission, 2013; Barcelona City Council, 2018). This interest arises due to the effects that non-take-up has on the design of public policies, since the low coverage distorts the objective for which they had been designed. In addition, knowing the elements involving an individual who is likely to receive a benefit does not receive it in the end can improve the design of the benefit (Hernanz et al., 2004).

There are different studies that quantify the percentage of people who are likely to receive a benefit but do not apply for it. In social assistance programs within the OECD it ranges between 40-80% (Hernanz, 2004) and between 20%-60% in the EU28 (Euromod, 2007). More localized studies show similar percentages. Among them, Bargain, et al. (2010), show non-take-up ratios between 40%-50% for social assistance policies in Finland; Fuchs, et al. (2020), for a program analogous to a GMI in Austria, estimate a non-take-up of between 39%-51%; and Bruckmeier et al. (2013), 67% in Germany.

In reference to the Spanish case, the evidence is smaller, highlighting the studies by Levy (2008) and Matsaganis et al. (2010), who estimate a non-take-up of 60% in the minimum complement of contributory pensions and 20% in the non-contributory retirement pension. Khalifi et al. (2016), calculate a non-take-up, for homeless people, of 67% in the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI), and the Barcelona City Council (2018), estimates a non-take-up of 22.5% in its pilot project BMINCOME.

However, in the aforementioned literature, there are discrepancies as to which factors are most relevant in explaining why potential beneficiaries do not apply for a benefit, and the relationships between these factors.

This paper has three objectives, first, to quantify the size of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits in Spain, and secondly, to provide new evidence about the non-take-up drivers. With these two analysis, we can assess whether the recent change of the GMI system is a success.

In order to complete both analysis, we analyse the minimum income benefits system in Spain to the 2017 and 2020 year. Using the EU-SILC data, we carry out both analyses. First, using the EUROMOD Tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union, we can estimate the number of people entitled, then, comparing our estimations of entitled people with the official register of beneficiaries provide by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration. We can calculate the non-take-up size of the minimum income benefits.

The results show that the non-take-up level is decreasing in Spain, it decreases from 50%-52% rates to 35%, so, in this sense, the new policy is working, but it not matches yet the government previsions.

Secondly, using the two-steps Heckman selection model, we analyse the drivers of non-take-up, in both systems. By this way, it's possible to know if the new benefit changes the non-take-up determinants.

We use a large variety of variables, structure depending on the influence: i) economic, ii) sociological, iii) physiological and stigma and iv) supply side.

The variables used are:

Economic drivers:

i) Economic status of the household head, ii) Income gap, iii) Housing tenure.

Sociological drivers:

i) Education level achieved by the household head, ii) Citizenship, iii) Composition of the household, iv) Gender of the household head, v) Number of children in the household.

Psychological and stigma:

i) The size of the municipality, ii) Geographical location, iii) The household receives another benefits, iv) % of people receiving a benefit in each Region.

Administrative side "supply side"

i) Subjective Right, ii) Duration of the benefit, iii) Amount.

Related to the non-take-up drivers, as the literature says, it is a multidimensional phenome because it is influenced by economic, sociological, psychological and administrative variables. For example, as the necessity of a benefit increases, the non-take-up decreases. The higher the level of education, the higher the probability of non-take-up. Differences according to an applicant's citizenship. Cultural proximity could reduce non-take-up. Bringing social services and population together could reduce the stigma associated with a benefit or It is essential to design public policies correctly in order to reduce non-take-up. The MVI is focusing on the child poverty and the single parent family unit, and it is reflecting in the result. Now, the presence of child into the household is a more important factor.

In conclusion, the MVI is reducing the level of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits system. However, the government's projections have not yet been met. Probably it is happening because there are still difficulties in the application for the benefit and there is a need to simplify the administrative process and increase publicity of the MVI.

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Introduction

Objectives

- Measure the non-take-up rates in the minimum income benefit system in Spain.
- Provide new evidence about the non-take-up drivers.
- Compare the regional and the national systems.

Methodology

- Tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD
- Two step Heckman selection model

Introduction

Non-take-up in the OCDE and Spain

- What is it? “Situation in which someone is eligible for, but does not receive, a (social) benefit”.
- Distorts the objective for which a benefit is designed (efficiency and effectiveness).
- Relevant literature has generally focused more on the overpayment of benefits.

Non-take-up rates:

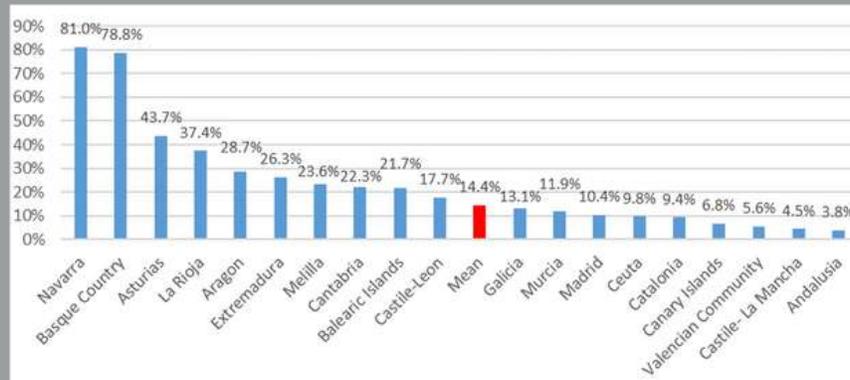
- Social assistance programs within the OECD, it ranges from 40-80% (Hernanz, 2004) and from 20-60% in the EU28 (Euromod, 2007).
- Social assistance policies in Finland ranges from 40-50% (Bargain et al. 2010).
- Subsistence support, 67% in Germany (Bruckmeier et al. 2013).
- Monetary social assistance in Austria ranges from 48-57% (Fuchs et al. 2020).
- Complement of contributory pensions, 60% in Spain (Matsaganis et al. 2010).
- Minimum income benefits by homeless, 67% in Spain (Khalifi et al. 2016).
- Barcelona City Council (2018), 22.5% in its pilot Project B-MINCOME.

Minimum income benefits in Spain

Regional system:

Figure 1: Percentage of extreme poor households covered by regional minimum income policies (2018).

Source: Hernández, A., Picos, F., & Riscado, S., 2020.



Minimum income benefits in Spain

- The system is extremely heterogeneous, underdeveloped and very unequal between regions (Muñoz-Higueras and Granell, 2020)
- The conditions to receive a GMI vary across Regions.
- The system has been changing but it is not enough.
- Needs for a complete reform (AIReF, 2019)

Minimum income benefits in Spain

National system (29 May, 2020).

Minimum Vital Income.

Characteristics:

- Non-contributory Social Security benefit.
- Subjective right.
- Indefinite duration.
- Compatible with the receipt of other benefits and work activity .
- Is linked to the signing of an inclusion agreement and the active search for employment by the applicant.
- Amount: (462€-1015€)
 - Single-parent families, monthly supplement of 100€.
 - The amount increased by 30 per cent per additional member as of the second member, with a maximum of 220 per cent.

Wealth restrictions: three times the maximum annual amount (one adult 16.614€)

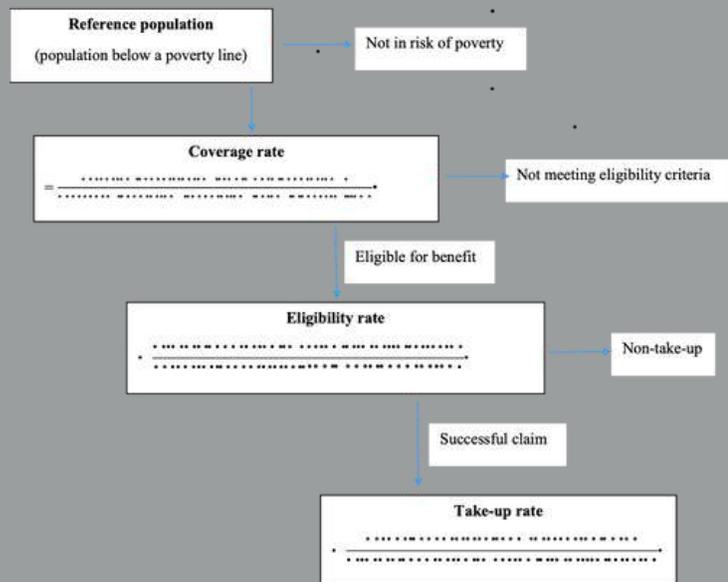
Minimum income benefits in Spain

Goals:

- 800.000 families (2,3 million people).
- 1,6 million could be lifted out of poverty.
- 3 billion euros per year of cost.
- Reduces the Gini index (eligible people) from 0.5785 to 0.4420 (Badenes and Gambau-Suelves, 2021)

Non take-up

Defined as the non-application for a benefit by a person or family unit entitled to it which can occur due to ignorance, indifference or rejection



Non take-up

Concepts of non-take-up (Goedemé and Janssens, 2020):

- Non-take-up of social benefits: someone is eligible for, but does not receive a social benefit. Apply it to non-contributory means-tested benefits.
 - Problems: Beta errors. Due to administrative errors or fraud.
- Non-enrolment on voluntary social insurance: someone is eligible for participation in a social programme, but ends up not being enrolled “non-take-up of participation”
 - The entitled people refused to participate
- Tertiary non-take-up: vulnerable persons are not entitled to a social provision due to eligibility rules.
 - Is a specific form of non-coverage
 - Related to the concept of targeting efficiency and errors.

Non take-up

Data problems:

General purpose surveys (Matsaganis et al., 2010; Bargain et al., 2007; Goedemé and Janssens, 2020)

- Not specifically designed to measure non-take-up. Missing information.
- Under coverage and non-response bias.
- Measurement errors, lack of precision and small sample size.
- Mismatch in the income reference period.

Allow to compute the total eligible population. Readily available.

Under-estimation of non-take-up

- At least 10% of the respective benefit units are not covered by the analysis (Frick & Groh-Samberg, 2007; Fuchs et al., 2020)

Non take-up

Drivers of non-take-up: (Hernanz et al., 2004; Bruckmeier and Wiemers, 2010; Bargain et al., 2012; Chareyron, 2015; Carrero, 2018; Fuchs et al., 2020; Muñoz-Higueras et al., 202X)

Monetary factors.

- Insufficient amount and duration of the benefit.

Non-monetary factors.

- Cost of information, time and effort needed to understand the steps required for the application.
- Transaction costs derived from the need to gather evidence, the necessary documentation or distance to an office to make an application.
- Administrative errors and delays.
- Social stigma derived from receiving such a benefit.
- Ignorance of the benefit.
- Other factors: time when the application can be presented.
- Possible interactions between the above points.

Methodology

Following the Fuchs et al. (2020) analysis.

Eligible households:

Monetary characteristics:

- Minimum Vital Income - revenues and incomes > 10€
- Deductible incomes (scholarships, housing and child benefits, disable child benefits and personal income taxes).
- Wealth \leq three times the annual maximum amount of the household unit.
- Not including the habitual residence

Non-monetary characteristics:

- Between 23 to 65 years old. Exceptions.
- Members of household unit must have their legal and effective residence in Spain for at least one year.
- Have applied for the pensions and benefits to which you may be entitled.
- The households must have been formed at least 1 year before the application.
- Be listed as job seekers

Methodology

Following the Fuchs et al. (2020) analysis.

EUROMOD:

Check the eligibility rules (Hernández, A., Picos, F., & Riscado, S., 2020).

Simulates:

- 2017 (only the Regional system. 19 different benefits). From 48 to 48.123 row.
- 2020 (both, National and Regional system. One national benefit and 19 different regional benefits). From 47 to 47.14 row and From 48 to 48.123 row.
- In-depth analysis:
- Fiscal (expenditure and beneficiaries) changes.

Methodology

TWO STEP HECKMAN SELECTION MODEL

Limiting the regression analysis to the group of eligible household might introduce a bias (endogeneity) to resulting coefficients.

Those who are simulated as eligible take the value 1, those who are not take the value 0.

Selection equation:

Explain the eligibility, using the benefits rules. All the households are included.

- Economic status of the household head.
- Education level achieved by the household head.
- Housing tenure.
- Age and the quadratic term.
- Citizenship.
- Number of children in the household.

Methodology

TWO STEP HECKMAN SELECTION MODEL

Output equation:

- Only households considered eligible are kept. The dependent variable takes value 1 if an eligible household does not receive the benefit and 0 otherwise. Explaining non-take-up.

Economic drivers:

- Economic status of the household head.
- Income gap:

$$\frac{\text{Simulated needs} - \text{allowable incomes}}{\text{Simulated needs}} \times 100$$
- Housing tenure.

Sociological drivers

- Education level achieved by the household head.
- Citizenship
- Composition of the household
- Gender of the household head.

- Number of children in the household.

Psychological and stigma drivers

- The size of the municipality.
- Geographical location
- The household receives another benefits
- % of people receiving a benefit in each Region

Administration side "Supply side"

- Subjective Right
- Duration of the benefit
- Amount

Results

NON-TAKE-UP RATES:

Simulated Beneficiaries (Source: Own calculations using EUROMOD)

	EU-SILC_2017				GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES
	2017	2018	2019	2020	
MVI (National system)					
Entitled	*	*	*	651,184	800,000
Expenditure	*	*	*	2,656,033,181	3,500,000,000
RMI (Regional system)					
Entitled	620,545	601,345	611,813	319,696	*
Expenditure	2,494,616,437	2,469,900,333	2,506,995,168	797,447,403	*

Official Data (Beneficiaries) (Source: Ministry Informs).

Results

	EUROMOD ESTIMATES					GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES
	2017	2018	2019	2020(09/01/2021)	2022 (01/03/2022)	
MVI (National system)						
Beneficiaries	*	*	*	316,000	428,043	428,043
Expenditure	*	*	*	1,690,500,000	-	-
RMI (Regional system)						
Beneficiaries	313,291	293,302	297,183	*	*	*
Expenditure	1,545,443,622	1,519,671,020	1,686,258,924	*	*	*
Social Exclusion n.e.c function. Income Support (means-tested) (Eurostat)	1,261,720,000	1,323,050,000	1,388,510,000	*	*	*
Coverage	50.49%	48.77%	48.57%	48.53%	64.12%	53.50%
Non-take-up	307,254	308,043	314,630	335,184	239,426	371,957
%	49.51%	51.23%	51.43%	51.47%	35.87%	46.49%

Results

There are not large differences between systems (same sign for all variables).

- Any other situation than being employed increases the applicant's eligibility.
- As educational level increases, eligibility decreases.
- Housing tenure reduces eligibility.
- Foreign population has a higher probability of being eligible.
- There is a selection bias, which validates the need to use the Heckman selection model.

Results

Economic drivers

- The economic status is more important after the reform.
- As the degree of necessity for the benefit increases, non-take-up decreases.
- Housing tenure increases non-take-up.

Sociological drivers

- The higher the level of education, the higher the probability of non-take-up.
- Differences according to an applicant's citizenship.
- Single-parent families have a lower level of non-take-up. The presence of minors in the household is an additional factor.

Results

Psychological and Stigma drivers

- Non-take-up increases in rural areas.
- Being in the social service system helps reduce stigma and transaction costs -> lower non-take-up
- Differences between Regions.

Supply side drivers

- Recognising a benefit as a subjective right, increasing its duration and amount, reduces non-take-up..

Conclusions

Non-take-up as a multidimensional phenom

- As the necessity of a benefit increases, the non-take-up decreases.
- The higher the level of education, the higher the probability of non-take-up.
- Differences according to an applicant's citizenship. Cultural proximity could reduce non-take-up
- The presence of minors in the household increases take-up.
- Bringing social services and population together could reduce the stigma associated with a benefit.
- It is essential to design public policies correctly in order to reduce non-take-up.
- Differences between regions are still present.

The research will be updated as new data becomes available.

AUTHORS**DIEGO MUÑOZ-HIGUERAS, RAFAEL GRANELL PÉREZ, AMADEO FUENMAYOR FERNÁNDEZ**

Diego Muñoz Higuera is currently working at the Applied Economics Department of the University of Valencia, as a Research Assistant. He is currently researching a Ph.D. focused on the problem of non-take-up in the minimum income system in Spain, both at regional and national levels; at this point, he is assessing the change that the implementation of the Minimum Living Income has brought about. In his research, he uses microsimulation and statistical data analysis tools, as well as impact evaluation techniques. He also collaborates with the research group Public Economic Evaluation (EvalPub) and the Chair of Autonomic Taxation. He has been a researcher on projects and contracts with the Generalitat Valenciana.

Amadeo Fuenmayor has a Ph.D. in Economics. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics and director of the Autonomous Taxation Chair at the University of Valencia. He is a member of the Public Economic Evaluation research group (EvalPub), of the Commission for the Study of Tax Reform in the Valencian Community, and a researcher at RIFDE. He has participated in various contracts and research projects in: Generalitat Valenciana; M. Labour and Social Affairs; Ins. Estudios Fiscales; U. de Valencia; LARES CV; La Caixa Foundation, Berklee College of Music. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals, such as ICE, Estudios Economía Aplicada, Revista de Educación, Impuestos, Revista Estudios Regionales, Service Industries Journal, International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development, Revista Española Geriatria y Gerontología, Review of Economics of the Household; Hacienda Pública Española. Book chapters at McGraw-Hill, Institute de Estudios Fiscales, Civitas-Thomson Reuters, Edward Elgar; books in Ariel and Tirant lo Blanch. He is currently directing three doctoral theses. He has been a member of the Scientific Committee (2006-2010; 2014-2019) and President (2019-2022) of the Public Economy Meetings; Scientific Committee of the Project 'Review of the minimum income systems in Spain', D.G. Services for the Family and Children (M. of Health, Social Services, and Equality). His area of research focuses on public economics, highlighting the following lines: economics of taxation, microsimulation of taxes and benefits, regional economics, fiscal federalism, poverty and inequality, the economics of education, and public economic evaluation.

Rafael Granell has a Ph.D. in Economics and is an Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Economics of the University of Valencia. He is the Director of the Public Economic Evaluation research group (EvalPub), a member of the Chair of Regional Taxation and of the Commission for the Study of Tax Reform in the Valencian Region, and a researcher at RIFDE. His area of research focuses on Public Economics, highlighting the following lines: economics of taxation, regional economics, fiscal federalism, poverty and inequality, the economics of education, and public economic evaluation. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals, such as *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Service Industries Journal*, *Ageing & Society*, *Education Economics*, *Journal of Regional Research* and *Review of Public Economics*. He has been a researcher on projects and contracts with several entities such as Spanish Social Security, Spanish Institute of Fiscal Studies, Generalitat Valenciana, IVIE, and La Caixa Foundation.

 **STEPHAN KÖPPE****Evaluating Ireland's Paternity Leave: Sluggish Benefit Take-up and Occupational Inequalities****ABSTRACT**

Ireland used to be a laggard in implementing modern fatherhood policies compared to its European neighbours. In 2016, it was one of the last EU countries to introduce paid paternity leave and three years later parental leave. These reforms indicate that Ireland is moving away from the US model of fatherhood to a social investment state closer to the Swedish model of shared parenthood. With the introduction of Paternity Benefit the Irish government aimed to achieve a take-up of about 46-61%, which is used as a yardstick to evaluate its success. First, this paper evaluates paternity leave take-up comprehensively through four different rates based on administrative and aggregate data. Overall, take-up had been increasing initially, but levelled already after four years at the lower government target. This is puzzling as countries with similar reforms reported a constant increase of take-up and higher acceptance of fathers taking leave over time. Second, drivers for the low take-up are discussed. Specifically, occupational and class inequalities emerge as only 55 percent of the male workforce have access to occupational top-ups in addition to the relatively low statutory benefit. The evaluations suggests that without increasing benefit generosity, take-up will stabilise at the rather modest levels in comparison to other European welfare states.

Paternity leave

Definition (Leavenetwork, Blum et. al 2017):

“Paternity leave is narrowly defined as a short period immediately after the birth that is only available to fathers (or in some countries also to same sex partners) and is in addition to Parental leave”

- This excludes father quotas in Parental leave schemes.

Paternity Benefit Ireland

Eligibility	Employee: 39 weeks social contributions, self-employed: 52 wks
Duration	2 weeks
Flexibility	Up to 6 months after birth, but in consecutive weeks
Rate	€230 pw (2016), flat rate
Occupational top-ups	Public employees: 100% of wage Private employees: 37 % of companies offer top-ups, mostly 100% of wage

Policy aim

The Department of Social Protection estimates about 30-40,000 claimants per annum, which would resemble a take-up rate of about 46-61% among all fathers.

Measurement of take-up

Various rates used in the literature

Mostly measured in surveys up until 2000s

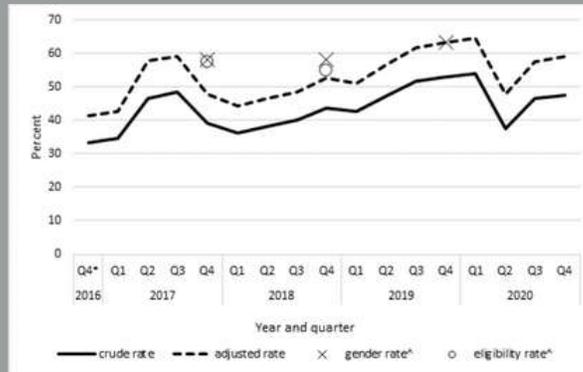
Often lack of accurate administrative data to assess eligibility

Measure take-up with aggregate and official claimant data

- Crude rate = PB / births
- Adjusted rate = $PB / (\text{employment rate of 20-49 old men} * \text{births})$
- Gender rate = $PB / MB \text{ claimants}$
- Eligibility rate = inverted non-take-up, uses birth registrations and social contributions history

Take up: paternity benefit take-up rates by quarter

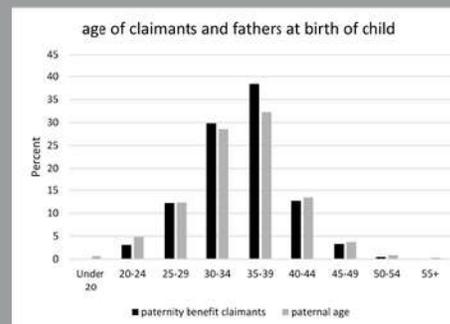
Slight increase over time
 take-up at lower target in 2019
 Strong Covid-19 effect



Differences in take-up

No seasonal effect, covid-19 mirrors economic crisis
 Self-employed
 Occupational inequalities
 Older and younger fathers

Figure 2: Age of claimants and fathers at birth of child, 2017



Source: (CSO, 2018; DEASP, 2018)

Rate comparison

	Crude rate	Adjusted rate	Gender rate	Eligibility rate
+++	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parsimonious Easy to calculate with standard vital statistics Quick data release monthly estimates possible with time delay of 12-18 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More accurate estimate of likely male eligibility Monthly/seasonal estimates possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good estimate for gender equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most reliable and valid rate
---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility unaccounted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relies on LFS data (CSO/Eurostat) Inaccurate for very young and old fathers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not account for gender differences in eligibility Only annual figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High data & analysis demands Only annual figures

Conclusions

- take-up reaches lower government target around 50%
- Take-up falls short in comparison to other countries with similar schemes (e.g. UK)
- Social profile: middle age (25-40), large international firms (100+) with top-ups, strong Covid-19 effect
- All rates are relevant to gain comprehensive understanding of take-up

AUTHOR - STEPHAN KÖPPE

Dr. Stephan Köppe is Assistant Professor at University College Dublin and fellow at the Geary Institute for Public Policy. His research is investigating the nexus of public and private welfare. This includes both the political economy of welfare market creation and analyses of inequalities resulting of these reforms. At the core, his research is comparative and covers Ireland, Germany, Sweden, the UK, and United States. This includes policy studies on private pension, private schools, provision of long-term care, or housing wealth. More recently, his research also included labour market reforms, leave policies, and nonprofit organisations.

SERGHEI SPRINCEAN**Sustainability Of Public Policies For Strengthening Personal Safety And Human Security In Conditions On Political Instability In The East-European Region****ABSTRACT**

In the last decades there were appeared several new security challenges specific for East-European region such as: the expansionist policy of Russian Federation, aggravated in the context of the war in Ukraine from 24.02.2022, increasing emigration and refugees rates, increasing dissatisfaction, panic and social movements among ethnic groups living in different East-European states, adaptation EU cultural policies to new conditions of cooperation with neighboring countries in the East-European region and unfreezing the EU enlargement process etc. In these conditions become important to enhance research on the evaluation of public policies on mentioned phenomena among social, political and academic East-European communities for a realistic evaluation of the evolution of the situation, for securing and achieving sustainable development in the region, including in the Republic of Moldova, in Ukraine and others - East-European countries, seriously affected by the expansionist policy of Russian Federation, especially in last 30 years.

Human security and personal safety approaches to the contemporary East-European security challenges have to be grounded on the necessity to bring social welfare in conditions of changing the accents from military to nonmilitary aspects in assuring security, axed on the security of the human being and citizen.

However, the interests of the human individual as well as of the community cannot be defended otherwise than by the involvement of the state. In condition of emergent military threats only national states, in a strong cooperation for building a common security and defense system can assure human security and personal safety of the East-European citizens.

The issues of human security and person's safety involve not only the defense of social equity, of human rights, but also the elimination or significant reduction of human risks in the context of global changes referring to immediate and latent hazards. Scientists and researchers in various fields of science, have to design together a new type of policies destined for the sustainable and effective survival of the human community on Earth and to overcome the threat of global hazards. In this way, a clear and transparent settlement of the priorities regarding security threats in the East-European region becomes a basic condition and a premise for East-European states to make them able to bring their valuable contribution to overcoming the global crisis.

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General background

- Currently, humanity is facing a complex multifaceted global crisis. The multidimensional crisis of a global scale takes on new aspects, such as the ecological, economic, sociopolitical, spiritual, ethical-moral, health, etc., including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the entire globe at the beginning of 2020. The global crisis, in addition to the general characteristics, it also shows some specific regional trends. Thus, starting from February 24, 2022, the South-Eastern European region was marked by the invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.
- This multidimensional crisis, with a prominent humanitarian component, due to the large number of refugees and forced emigrants, has spread, with a different impact in magnitude, to the whole of Europe, accentuating the macro-social cleavages, unresolved for decades.

General background

- This multidimensional global crisis, in which humanity finds itself at the contemporary stage of development, and its possible disastrous results both for man's standard of living, for the quality of his individual life, for human dignity, and for the future of human civilization on Earth in the more global sense, begins to leave an increasingly visible and substantial imprint on all spheres of human life and activity. Through the awareness of the disastrous long-term impact by more and more decision-makers, by the shapers of public opinion and socio-political leaders, of the progressively galloping extent of the total dangers and threats to humanity and the human person, the adjustment process of public policies, according to social imperatives and constraints.
- It should be noted that taking measures to protect security and safety are never enough, especially in light of the fact that a threat or risk has become an acute security problem. However, it is to be assessed in accordance with the scope of reasonable protection. That notion of reasonable protection is found in direct agreement with the costs and benefits of actions to reduce risks, mitigate macro-social cleavages and ensure security.

Conceptual and methodological overview

- The notion of security, throughout the evolution of history and social consciousness, has always been a controversial and widely debated topic, both in specialist circles and by the public concerned with the effective satisfaction of the most fundamental needs of society and the human person, such as the need for security and shelter.
- According to the illustrious researcher A. Maslow, man's interest in personal security and safety, from the beginning of the formation of the human individual as a social entity, was an essential concern in the structure of the pyramid of needs, a theory first expounded in 1943 in his work "A Theory of Human Motivation".
- This conception, belonging to A. Maslow, represents one of the first attempts to approach the issue of security from a behavioral-psychological perspective, emphasizing the needs of the human individual in the context of the personal approach to the notion of security, which is eminently a social-historical category from the point from the point of view of its genesis, taking into account the entire historical evolution of humanity.

Conceptual and methodological overview

- However, security studies have a less extensive history and evolution compared to the system of social sciences and most sociopolitical theories, denoting a relatively complex area with multiple interdisciplinary aspects that have as their object of research, in most cases, the problem of ensuring security which directly aims at the subjective and objective aspects of the anticipation of dangers and the estimation of risks, as well as the manifestation of vulnerabilities and the consequences of the weakness of socio-political systems.
- The double perspective, subjective-objective, of the awareness of security issues, was studied among the first by A. Wolfers, an important theoretician of the security phenomenon who, in his work published in 1962 - "Discord and collaboration: Essays on international politics", mentioned the idea that security, along with well-being, is a value and a way in which a nation can achieve a superior position over other nations. But, unlike well-being, which refers more to material aspects and involves the ability to control the entire spectrum of the actions of others, according to A. Wolfers: "security in the objective sense denotes the absence of threats to the acquired values, and in the subjective sense - the absence of fear that these values could be attacked".

Conceptual and methodological overview

- This bidirectional aspect naturally folds over the constructivist conception, launched at the end of the 20th century, since security can no longer be perceived exclusively in the context of the state's national interests, but must be extended to the human individual.
- In this context, B. Buzan, the founder of the Copenhagen School, in 1993, in his work "People, States, and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era", notes the shortcomings of the realist and liberal conception of security, as well as the ambiguity of this term, considering that the perception of security, as a product of power in the traditional sense, or as a consequence of peace in an idealistic sense, does not contribute to a complete explanation of the notion.
- B. Buzan claims that, in the traditional sense, security is an ideologized, politicized, limited concept because, if it is only a consequence of military power, it has no means to identify new threats, being subordinated to the specifics of strategic studies and becoming dependent on the evolution of technology. In B. Buzan's view, the concept of security becomes a subjective one, socially transposed, but built on the perception of objective data and facts.

Conceptual and methodological overview

- The issue of human security was first addressed by the UN in 1992 in the "An Agenda for Peace: Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peace-keeping" - a report in which UN Secretary General B. Boutros-Ghali marked the need for an "integrated approach to security human" in the context of the pacification processes in the era after the end of the "cold war", with the aim of elucidating the deep causes of the conflicts of different levels during that period on the world map and in Europe, with a determining impact on the economic, social and political domains.
- At the current stage, security through this prism is no longer considered the simple absence of war and violence in a certain region, but constitutes a comprehensive and complex approach, based on three fundamental principles: (1) The absence or freedom from fear, also treated as security against violence; (2) The freedom from needs related to the provision of food and nutrition for personal protection, medical care and health security or the security of housing and the environment and (3) The freedom to live with dignity by promoting the principles of sustainable human development and the protection of human rights.
- The UNDP Human Development Report of 1994 established the concept of human security worldwide. In the Report, human security was presented as a new concept that imposed the primacy of ensuring the security of the person, replacing the traditional concept of security centered on the security of the state. Human security was defined only in a double sense, as freedom from fear and as freedom from need.

Conceptual and methodological overview

- Several precursors of the HS theory can be noted even before the launch of the concept of human security in UN documents. Thus, the contribution of the Canadian psychologist and pedagogue W.E. Blatz, an important researcher of human needs and needs, a follower of the development of the field of social assistance in Canada, in 1966 uses this term "Human Security" and introduces it into the academic circuit.
- In his view, the human dimension and the concern for the security of the person, at all stages of his development, must be central in the national strategies of the states to educate healthy citizens. Man, according to W.E. Blatz, is the determining factor of the change of any society, so it requires special protection from the state through special policies and strategies.
- With all the indisputable merit, William Ernest Blatz's approach to human security has a psychological and psychosociological character more than a political one, not being interested in aspects and implications of the use of this term in international

Conceptual and methodological overview

- Human security involves ensuring the protection of individuals taken individually, but also as a social whole. This is possible by ensuring the conditions of life and living, of the fundamental needs of the human person. Thus, individual security is based on milestones of a strategic nature, among which the purpose of educating, forming and developing the fundamental qualities and virtues of the person is highlighted, in order to prepare them to face security risks and threats. The security of the person, of the human individual, was conceived as a primary element of the security construction, including the national security assurance system.
- The issues of human security involve not only the defense of the social equity, of human rights, but also the elimination or significant reduction of human risks in the context of global changes referring to immediate and latent hazards. However, the interests of the human individual as well as of the community cannot be defended otherwise than by the involvement of the state.

The Republic of Moldova and political instability in the East-European region

- The case of the Republic of Moldova is a relevant one for the East-European region, confronting in the last two centuries the aggressive and expansionist strategy of the Russian Federation / USSR / Tsarist Empire.
- The Republic of Moldova proclaimed its independence on August 27, 1991, being a state that originated in the rapture of Bessarabia (the territory between the Prut and Nistru rivers) in 1812 by the Tsarist Empire from the Principality of Moldova, diplomatically recorded in the Treaty of Bucharest of 16 /May 28, 1812, concluded between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire, at the completion of the Russo-Turkish War of 1806-1812.
- In its history, the region of Bessarabia suffered several demographic shocks. The colonization with Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Gagauz during the period 1812-1914 which increased the population of the region by approx. 6 times, changing the ethnic composition, but also with Russians or other Russified population in 1945-1989 in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic (MSSR) of USSR.

The Republic of Moldova and political instability in the East-European region

- In 1989, events were triggered that led to the outbreak of separatism in the districts on the left bank of the Nistru river (Transnistria) and in some districts in the south of the MSSR (Gagauzia). The hot phase of the conflict, with the involvement of the 14th army of the Russian Federation, occurred in 1992 and ended on June 21, 1992 with the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the president of the Russian Federation - B. Yeltsin and the president of the Republic of Moldova - M. Snegur.
- As a result of the armed conflict of 1992, the internal displacement of people in the area of hostilities took place both on the right and on the left bank of the Nistru.
- The number of people displaced from war zones and registered on the right side of the Nistru was 51.3 thousand people.
- In July 1992, 80 thousand people who left the city of Bender were registered in the Transnistrian region. Therefore, in total the minimum number of internally displaced persons exceeded 130 thousand persons.
- Most of the records of displaced persons in the territory on the right side of the Nistru were women and children - 91.4%, including children - 56.2%. The vast majority of those displaced were people from the left bank - 93.5%. Most of the displaced people arrived from the city of Dubasari and the district of Dubasari, as well as from the city of Bender, where the main armed battles took place.
- During the hot phase of the armed conflict (March-July 1992) the displaced persons were given various assistance: places were prepared for their reception, problems related to finding jobs were solved, sources were allocated for granting special facilities, food supplies, maintenance and education of children, etc.

The Republic of Moldova and political instability in the East-European region

- Another critical period when the Republic of Moldova faced a wave of foreign refugees was after February 24, 2022, when more than 592 thousand people (01.09.2022) entered the Republic of Moldova – the state with the most refugees reported to the number of the population, of which remained for an indefinite period approx. 100 thousand, but only 8% of them applied for asylum, i.e. just over 8 thousand. Women represented 80% of the total number of adult refugees, 46% of the total number of refugees being children.
- Concluding the impact of the forced migrants' crisis in Europe in the 2022, it worth to mention that the „EU has granted Ukrainian refugees the automatic right to stay and work throughout its 27 member nations for up to three years. Also, refugees are housed in reception centers if they can't stay with friends or relatives. They are given food and medical care, and information about onward travel. They are entitled to social welfare payments and access to housing, medical treatment and schools”. A several influential media such as BBC, based on statistics, consider that “Poland is one of the countries which has taken the highest number of refugees, and Moldova has the largest concentration of refugees by population”.

The Republic of Moldova: public policies in conditions of refugee crisis

- Among the responses of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the refugee crisis triggered by the invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, there is the adoption on 24.02.2022 of Parliament Decision no. 41/2022 regarding the declaration of a state of emergency in the Republic of Moldova to "take the necessary measures to manage migration flows". In the same way, several programs and initiatives of international organizations were launched on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, coordinated by the authorities: the World Food Program (WFP) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) announced support programs to help refugees from Ukraine staying on the territory of the Republic of Moldova: the program of financial assistance for refugees from Moldova, managed by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) through partners - Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Moldova and Diaconia, in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of RM. Several informational assistance platforms for refugees have been established: Dopomoga.gov.md – an official portal of the Republic of Moldova Government for refugees, the platform UAHELP.md – an Informational System administered by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, "Prima Sursă" - the official Government channel for information verification, the Green Line of the Migration and Asylum Office of RM, the Green Line for the management of the flow of refugees 080080011, etc.
- The Unique Crisis Management Center (CUGC) was established, with the technical support of the UN Refugee Agency, developed an online financial reporting tool on the use of donations collected in the accounts of the Ministry of Finance of RM, for the management of the refugee crisis from Ukraine.

The Republic of Moldova: public policies in conditions of refugee crisis

- In accordance with the Provision of the Commission for Extraordinary Situations (CSE) no. 4 of March 1, 2022, point 7, during the state of emergency, Ukrainian citizens received the right to work on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, without obtaining the right of temporary residence for the purpose of work. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of RM coordinates the process of approval and financing of Temporary Placement Centers for refugees from Ukraine, through the National Agency of Social Assistance (ANAS). The temporary placement centers for refugees from Ukraine, approved by order of the National Social Assistance Agency (ANAS), can request goods from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MMPS) warehouse, created by the order of the Commission for Exceptional Situations no. 6 of March 3, 2022.
- A negative phenomenon related to the Ukrainian refugee crisis refers to the fact that in the first two months of the war in Ukraine, the Promo-LEX Association identified 83 cases of hate speech in which Ukrainian citizen-refugees, soldiers and politicians were targeted. No case was sanctioned by the authorities during the monitored period, but the General Prosecutor's Office registered 23 referrals regarding speech that incites hatred and discrimination, and opened three criminal cases regarding war propaganda.
- Concluding the impact of the forced migrants' crisis in Europe in the 2022, it worth to mention that the „EU has granted Ukrainian refugees the automatic right to stay and work throughout its 27 member nations for up to three years. Also, refugees are housed in reception centers if they can't stay with friends or relatives. They are given food and medical care, and information about onward travel. They are entitled to social welfare payments and access to housing, medical treatment and schools”. A several influential media such as BBC, based on statistics, consider that “Poland is one of the countries which has taken the highest number of refugees, and Moldova has the largest concentration of refugees by population”.

Conclusions

- In conclusion, we will note that in the refugee crisis of 2022, the Republic of Moldova has the largest number of refugees per capita and much less resources to manage them than other states, less prepared institutions, smaller budgets, less staff.
- Forced migration in the history of the Republic of Moldova represents an ever-present problem due to the geographical positioning between Western civilization and Russia's sphere of influence, an area characterized for centuries by instability, extreme social turbulence and crises of proportions, including political, economic, military and humanitarian.
- In condition of emergent military threats only national states, in a strong cooperation for building a common security and defense system can assure human security and personal safety of the East-European citizens. Scientists and researchers in various fields of science, have to design together a new type of policies destined for the sustainable and effective survival of the human community on Earth and to overcome the threat of global hazards. In this way, a clear and transparent settlement of the priorities regarding security threats in the East-European region becomes a basic condition and a premise for East-European states to make them able to bring their valuable contribution to overcoming the global crisis

AUTHOR - SERGHEI SPRINCEAN

Serghei Sprincean is the scientific secretary of the Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research and a leading researcher in the Centre of Strategic Research of ILPSR. He is the author of over 250 scientific publications in the last 25 years, including 8 monographs and 8 textbooks. He participated in over 200 international conferences, symposiums, and round tables, being involved in research of various issues of humanities and social sciences, such as the specific of assuring human security in transitional and post-soviet societies, the correlation of morality with politics as well as of politics with bioethics and human rights, the role of the interests and pressure groups and of the civil society in the decision-making process. He actively participated in a significant number of national and international projects since 2005.

Being doctor habilitat in political sciences (2018), he participated in such projects as 20.70086.13/COV "Mitigation of the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of state power institutions in the Republic of Moldova (FUNCOV)" (2020-2021: as coordinator), 20.80009.1606.05 "Quality of justice and respect for human rights in the Republic of Moldova: interdisciplinary research in the context of the implementation of the Association Agreement Republic of Moldova - European Union" (2020-2023), "The development of legal framework of Republic of Moldova in the context of the necessities in security and in assuring European path" (2015-2019), "Interaction between state and civil society in Republic of Moldova in the context of deepening of democratic reforms" (2011-2014), "Management of the problems related to transnistrian conflict and withdrawal of foreign troops" (2013 as coordinator), "Resources, mechanisms and effects of realization of political power in Republic of Moldova" (2009-2010), "Functionality and impact of NGOs from Ukraine and Republic of Moldova on decision making factor" (2010-2011), "Environmental Ethics in Teaching Social Sciences and Humanities", OSI Budapest, HESP, Institute of Philosophy of Russian Academy of Sciences (2007-2010). Also, he is a UNESCO expert in Ethics and Bioethics, according GEOBs database, since 2008.

**IRINA LONEAN****Evaluation of the horizontal principle of non-discrimination in European Structural and Investment Funds in Romania****ABSTRACT**

The evaluation represented the application of the Member State's obligations under the Common Provisions Regulation.[1] It stipulates that Member States must carry out an assessment of the approach to the horizontal principles and objectives set by the Commission. The evaluation is drafted taking into account the obligations of Romania as an EU Member State as per art. 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union. The evaluation is also in direct connection with the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These provisions regarding the fundamental values and rights promoted by the EU and Romania guided both the collection and analysis of data, as well as the formulation of evaluation conclusions and recommendations.

The purpose of this evaluation was to identify the actions planned and implemented by the EFSI managing authorities and the beneficiaries and to examine the extent to which they have contributed to an improvement in the situation in Romania as regards (a) the gender inequalities still present, (b) discrimination faced by some social groups, (c) barriers to access for persons with disabilities.

The number of actions planned and contracted with FESI funding to directly promote equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility is relatively small in Romania. A total of 1,430 projects were contracted[2] amounting to 28.10 billion lei (non-reimbursable financing). The number of projects represents 2.05% of the total number of contracted projects.[3] The budget for these actions also represents a small proportion of the FESI budget allocated to all contracted operations, i.e. less than 4%. The budgetary analysis shows that the largest budget allocation that could contribute to the assessed horizontal principles is for public transport investments, which, as the literature shows, indirectly (but unplanned) contribute to equal opportunities.

The analysis of the Partnership Agreement and of the programs, interviews and case studies shows that the proposed intervention logic starts from the premise that gender inequality, discrimination and lack of access for persons with disabilities are caused by the existence of vulnerabilities (such as: a lower level of education or qualification, poverty and social exclusion, inadequate housing, lack of transport infrastructure and access to public and private services). In this context, the programs aim to address vulnerabilities directly. On the other hand, operational programs do not take into account the causes of social norms, gender stereotypes and prejudices related to some social groups that generate gender inequalities, discrimination and lack of access for people with disabilities.

The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility have been integrated into the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs throughout the program management cycle.

These horizontal principles have been taken into account in program planning, and the use of ex-ante evaluations and consultations with relevant stakeholders has led to programs that integrate the gender perspective and prevent discrimination, ensuring equal access to funding and project activities irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination, and accessibility have been mainstreamed in the implementation of the programs. FESI managing authorities have asked applicants for funding to assume and prove compliance with the horizontal principles. These requirements were reflected in projects that mainstreamed gender equality, opportunities, and treatment. Thus, the projects did not generate obstacles for the participation of women or vulnerable groups through the project management and implementation procedures and through the activities carried out. In addition, the EFSI managing authorities monitored the extent to which the projects are fulfilling their commitments and provided support to the beneficiaries on the horizontal principles. The beneficiaries are satisfied and very satisfied with the received support. However, with the exception of projects dedicated to equal opportunities and social inclusion, the projects have planned and implemented gender-neutral measures that do not perpetuate discrimination, rather than active measures to reduce gender inequality, combat discrimination, and to increase the level of accessibility to infrastructure, technology and services for people with disabilities.

The case studies identified a small number of good practices, which fall into one of the following categories:

- i. Preliminary gender and vulnerabilities analysis;
- ii. Inclusive involvement of the target group in project planning and implementation, including through community building activities/facilitation;
- iii. Involvement of a person responsible for equal opportunities and/or non-discrimination and/or the rights of persons with disabilities in project management;
- iv. Application of affirmative action measures (active measures to increase equality and eliminate discrimination, otherwise known as positive discrimination measures) adapted to the typology of the project and the needs of the target groups (according to good practices of preliminary gender and vulnerabilities analysis). This category of good practice includes both the procedures or quotas used in the selection of target groups and the planning of infrastructure investments with equal opportunities (e.g. the construction of kindergartens including friendly spaces for children and parents activities);
- v. Constant and systematic communication on equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and accessibility;
- vi. Application of active measures to ensure accessibility (verification of texts drafted in projects to be accessible, inclusion in the built infrastructure of accessibility elements in addition to legal obligations, etc.);
- vii. Ensuring inclusive human resources management procedures in projects;
- viii. Procurement from social economy enterprises whose mission is to support women, people with disabilities, or vulnerable people subject to discrimination.

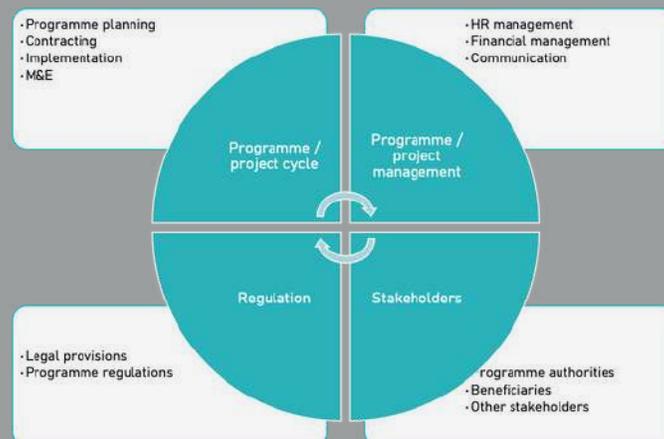
Consequently, operational programs succeed in preventing the aggravation of inequalities, discrimination, or lack of access through funded projects, which address these principles horizontally and do not introduce discriminatory criteria in implementation. On the other hand, FESI-funded projects have a limited contribution to reducing gender inequalities, combating discrimination, or increasing the level of accessibility, which remain serious problems facing Romanian society, because not all the causes that cause problems are systematically addressed.

Context and objectives

- The purpose of this evaluation was:
 - to identify the actions planned and implemented
 - by the EFSI managing authorities and the beneficiaries and
 - to examine the extent to which they have contributed to an improvement in the situation in Romania as regards:
 - the gender inequalities still present,
 - discrimination faced by some social groups,
 - barriers to access for persons with disabilities
 - environment protection, sustainable development and mitigation of climate change
 - demographic decline
- Considering:
 - art. 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union
 - Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
 - Common Provisions Regulation (No 1303/2013)

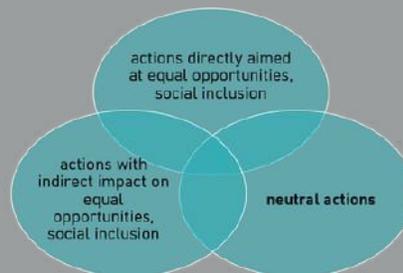
Hypothesis & scope

- a good integration of horizontal principles could allow the accumulation of a large number of actions with the potential to bring about changes for the better in Romania



Planning

- actions directly aimed at equal opportunities, social inclusion and thus non-discrimination and accessibility;
- unplanned actions that aim at equal opportunities indirectly, but have a great capacity to promote it, such as investments in early education, given that women are the main caregivers of young children
- neutral actions that ensure that the use of FESI does not aggravate inequalities and discrimination, but does not actively participate in combating them



Implementation

- A total of 1,430 projects were contracted to directly and indirectly promote equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility is relatively small =
 - 2.05% of the total number of contracted projects
 - less than 4% of the budget
- The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility have been integrated into the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs throughout the program management cycle.
- Thus, the projects did not generate obstacles for the participation of women or vulnerable groups through the project management and implementation procedures and through the activities carried out
- **NO NEGATIVE IMPACT** of European Structural and Investment Funds

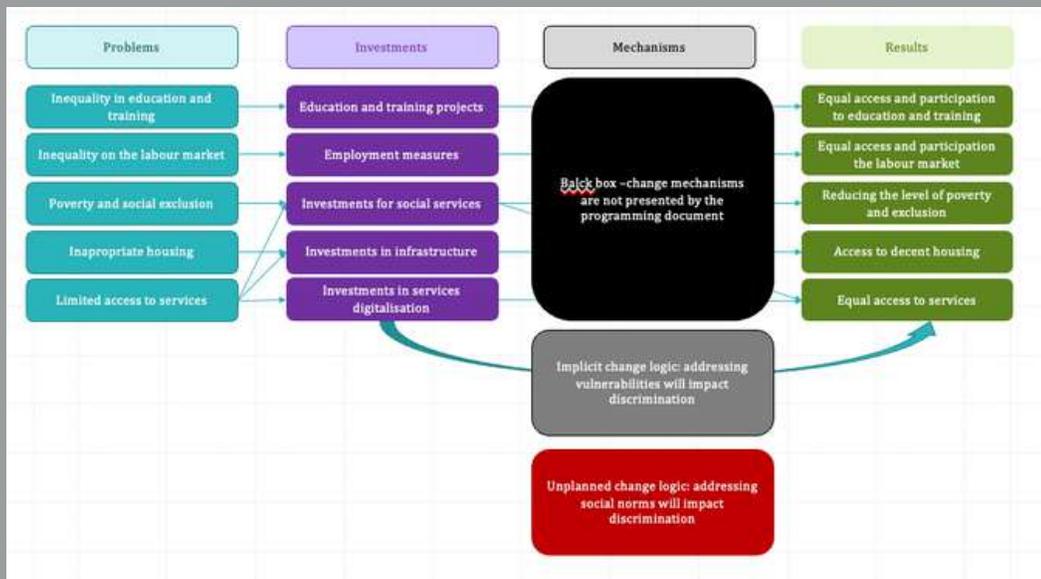
Good practices

- Preliminary gender and vulnerabilities analysis;
- Inclusive involvement of the target group in project planning and implementation, including through community building activities / facilitation;
- Involvement of a responsible person for equal opportunities and / or non-discrimination and / or the rights of persons with disabilities in project management;
- Application of affirmative action measures adapted to the typology of the project and the needs of the target groups. This category of good practice includes both the procedures or quotas used in the selection of target groups and the planning of infrastructure investments with equal opportunities (e.g. the construction of kindergartens including friendly spaces for children and parents activities);
- Constant and systematic communication on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility;
- Application of active measures to ensure accessibility (verification of texts drafted in projects to be accessible, inclusion in the built infrastructure of accessibility elements in addition to legal obligations, etc.);
- Ensuring inclusive human resources management procedures in projects;
- Procurement from social economy enterprises whose mission is to support women, people with disabilities or vulnerable people subject to discrimination.

Limitation of effectiveness in addressing the horizontal principle

- the proposed intervention logic starts from the premise that gender inequality, discrimination and lack of access for persons with disabilities are caused by the existence of vulnerabilities
- the programs aim to address vulnerabilities directly
- the programs do not take into account the social norms, gender stereotypes and prejudices related to some social groups that generate gender inequalities, discrimination and lack of access for people with disabilities
- small number of projects and limited funding to address the gender inequalities, discrimination and lack of access for people with disabilities

Limitation of effectiveness in addressing the horizontal principle



AUTHOR - IRINA LONEAN

Since 2015 Irina Lonean conducted the evaluation of international, national, and local initiatives promoting wellbeing and support services for children and young people. She participated in the Youth policy evaluation review and drafted the Insights into social inclusion and digitalization, both published by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership in 2020. In 2021 she was part of the team working on the development of the online Knowledge HUB: COVID-19 impact on the youth sector developed and hosted by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership. She was also part of teams providing an evaluation of model projects and programmes of UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia.



This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. Visit www.cost.eu

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