

**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.