The project MMWD - Making Migration Work for Development

The Department for Social Policies of the Emilia Romagna Region is the leader of the strategic project "Making Migration Work for Development - Policy tools for strategic planning in SEE regions and cities (MMWD)", which is funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme.

The main objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of public administrations to anticipate and strategically manage the future implications of current demographic change, and specifically of migration on human capital and labour markets, along with social needs, thus supporting their efforts to effectively address critical challenges for the growth and sustainability of South East Europe (SEE) territories.

Its specific objectives are:

1) To improve harmonization of the knowledge base necessary to anticipate the outcomes of current demographic trends on the growth prospects of SEE regions and cities and to facilitate mutual learning;

2) To develop policy tools, i.e. reliable population demographic forecasts and impact scenarios, on the effects that predictable demographic and migratory trends will have in the short to mid-term in critical policy areas;

3) To build the capacity of the administrations involved in the project to use such tools for the formulation of effective development strategies, with migration recognized as a relevant feature for sustainable growth;

4) To pilot their application in 2 SEE regions and in the City of Vienna, with a view to test their relevance for the adoption of knowledge-based and comprehensive development strategies;

5) To promote policy dialogue and consultative mechanisms aimed to foster transnational cooperation on migration in the SEE region, using policy scenarios to identify common migration-related challenges to be addressed trans-nationally.

The future evolution of the demographic structure depends on the combined effects of natural demographic and migratory flows.

According to the baseline scenario provided by Italian Institute for Statistics (ISTAT), in 2050 the Italian population will amount to 61.6 million, from the current 60 million, of which less than 50 million will be citizens of Italian origin. The percentage of the foreign population in Italy is currently 7.5% of the total population and by 2050 it will exceed 17%. Population growth thus depends in large part on immigration, but the incidence and impact of a foreign population on the national territory are not homogeneous. According to the same assumptions, in 2050 foreign residents will make up more than a fifth of the population in three areas of the country, specifically in the North East, North West and Central part, but just 3% in the South.
MMWD project continued

...continued from page 1 (excluding Abruzzo Region) - thus posing an acute problem of territorial balance.

MMWDD partners are public administrations at all levels responsible for defining territorial development strategies, supported by technical partners (statistical offices, universities and research centres, development agencies) in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Serbia. The International Organization for Migration participates as an observer.

The project has a duration of thirty months from 1 May 2012 to 31 October 2014.

More information on MMWD project at: http://www.migration4growth.eu

From Emilia Romagna to Europe, a Transnational Observatory for Refugee Resettlement


The project focuses specifically on operational resettlement practices and aims at exchanging information, knowledge and strengthening transnational cooperation procedures between the actors involved who implement resettlement programmes, or who are willing to do so in Southern European Member Countries.

Refugees’ resettlement is one of the solutions recommended by UNHCR as a tool of international protection. The resettlement country provides the refugee with legal and physical protection, including access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights similar to those granted to citizens. It should allow refugees to become naturalized citizens.

In March 2012 the European Union started a Joint EU Resettlement Programme to support Member States in resettlement actions and to promote their participation. However, Italy does not have a fixed
resettlement programme, but has organized ad hoc resettlement initiatives.

T.O.R.R.E Project is carried out by NOVA Onlus Consorzio di Cooperative Sociali (Italy) as leading partner, together with a partnership which includes public authorities and NGOs working in six Member States: Emilia-Romagna Region and Avvocato di Strada Onlus (Italy), Comunidad de Madrid and Fundación Atenea (Spain), the European Anti-poverty network and the Portuguese Council for Refugees (Portugal), Caritas DiCVOS and the City of Munich (Germany), PRAKSIΣ (Greece) and EDEX/University of Nicosia (Cyprus).

The T.O.R.R.E Project aims at creating a better understanding of the phenomenon of resettled refugees and enhancing the exchange of information, knowledge and good practices about these issues. Such aims will be pursued by the implementation of transnational exchanges between partner countries, and through an exploratory study on policies and resettlement programmes implemented in Member States. This will be published on the project website.

Emilia-Romagna Region is involved in several actions of the project, such as the preliminary study on resettlement projects in Italy, the transnational meetings and the final Congress, which is held on 12 November 2013 at the Emilia-Romagna Region headquarters.
With its growing number of immigrants in mind, the West-German land Hessen has made its integration policies a high priority. The Hessen State Government has two main goals regarding integration: one, to provide equal opportunities in education and employment; two, to increase participation in social and economic life. In the integration policy guidelines adopted in 2000, the State Government defined that every person living on a permanent and lawful basis in Hessen would have equal access to the labour market, public institutions and educational institutions.

In order to attain its goals, Hessen wishes to observe and measure its integration policies. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice for Integration and Europe of the State of Hessen has compiled data from 2005 to 2013 in a statistical report to show the positive changes in immigration and integration. This report is the second of its kind to be published; the first was released in 2010. The report uses a set of 58 indicators and finds different results on population, immigration and the integration process.

The government in Hessen is with its empirical methodology in line with a larger international system that measures integration. The following figure shows the connections between the integration reports of the European Union, the German government, the Conference of Ministers of Integration (Integrationsministerkonferenz), and the communities (Kommunen) within Hessen.

Despite the still-existing inequalities between people with and without an immigration background (put simply, the latter includes all those who came to the Federal Republic of Germany after 1949, all those born in Germany with at least one foreign parent, and foreigners), this statistical analysis has found a positive development regarding integration policies. Since 2005, the differences between citizens with and without an immigration background have decreased slowly, but steadily.

The German version of the 2013 Integration Report of Hessen can be downloaded at http://verwaltung.hessen.de/HMdJ_Internet?cid=2584d92839e6ceccf2e807fefe7d04f8b. There is also a concise version in English available.

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Figure: connection of integration reports
The project "MIRA" (Migration, Integration, Reflection, Attitude) creates non-formal educational tools for newly arrived migrant and refugee students, including unaccompanied minors in the early introduction phase, to be used in the high schools of the Stockholm region.

The project aims to facilitate reflection on migration and integration among young individuals.

Within the project, a course in one of the high schools of Huddinge Municipality has been piloted. In addition, a toolbox has been developed for dissemination and use in other schools across the region.

The project wants to stimulate the newly arrived young immigrants to reflect upon important issues related to their participation in their new society, so they will have a quicker and more supportive environment for their integration process, as well as a stronger basis for their educational development.

Some important issues with which the project deals are: identity (what happens to a person identity when he/she moves from one setting to another); the migration process of the young person (reflecting on their life journey, and the struggles/benefits of living in two different worlds, one foot in the previous culture and one in the host community); getting to know the new city, human rights education, democracy and participation, norms, gender and sexuality, and many other aspects. From the experiences of the pilot project, a structured pedagogical toolkit has been developed.

These pilot project activities have been documented thanks to the involvement of a film crew. The film is being edited as part of the effort to spread these working methods to other schools and regions.

Two independent evaluation reports (in Swedish) have been produced and are available.

The project has been financed by the County Administrative Board of Stockholm.

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BIDE BATEZ – Youth Guarantee Scheme in Bizkaia: innovative approaches for young people facing multiple barriers to labour market entry

Bizkaia is one of the 3 provinces of the Basque Country (Spain). The Provincial Council of Bizkaia, in partnership with Lanbide-Basque Employment Service, the Bilbao City Council, and representatives of business organizations, young people and the third sector, have gathered together to implement and test local activation measures for young people between 15 and 24 years old.

These initiatives target young people living in Bilbao who are unemployed, young people who left the education system, who lack skills/abilities, who come from unstructured environments and are at risk of social exclusion or suffers from social exclusion. Most of them are young migrants.

The project BIDE BATEZ – Youth Guarantee Scheme in Bizkaia therefore aims to take innovative approaches for those young people who face multiple barriers to entering the labour market. The objective of the project is to offer young people who suffer from these problems the opportunity to be placed in the regular labour market.

The project has recently been launched. It has created 30 places in social training centres to enable young people to move from unemployment into the regular labour market. The centres will offer training and professional practice in a real work environment. The objective of this training is to acquire professional, social and personal skills, both in the training centres and in various local enterprises, where the youngsters have the opportunity to carry out concrete work. The project uses a ‘protected working’ formula.

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