REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION:

Cases of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, United Kingdom

PARTNERS

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Activity 1.1.1: Audit on migration, sustainability and development education

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

"Developing capacities together: European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world" (InterCap) is a 3-year project (from November 2017 to October 2020) funded by EuropeAid envisaging to establish European CSOs-university networks, build the capacities of the education actors and promote global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world.

In this direction, InterCap brings together 13 organizations from 12 different EU countries specialized in teachers' training, educational reform, sustainable development and migration issues, along with more than 40 associates from all over EU. The project aims to enhance critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, in the context of SDGs, amongst those in teacher education, in order to increase comprehension of the relationship between the interdependent world, (in)-security and risk.

The InterCap partners are committed to:

- Ensure coherence and consistency in the delivery of development education on migration, sustainable development, and the interdependencies across local and global contexts.
- Enhance development education competencies amongst CSOs' and University teacher trainers.
- Increase the availability of quality content and critical development education pedagogies in teacher training.
- InterCap seeks to explore and strengthen the link between quality development education and attitudes towards migration and development, building on evidence-based practices, taking forward good cases and programs and establishing synergies.

The project will draw experience and knowledge from the following participatory educational methods:

- Philosophy for Children (P4C), focused on thinking, reasoning and questioning, also focus on Global Citizenship);
- Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry (OSDE), referring to the creation of open safe spaces for critical thinking and discussion about global issue;
- Theatre for Living (T4L), drama and theatre as agents of social change.

Read more at http://www.developtogether.eu

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT REPORT FOR STAKEHOLDERS AND DECISION MAKERS

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METHODOLOGY

This report is a part of the project InterCap, which aims to improve critical understanding of migration within the context of sustainable development in general and the SDGs in particular. The goal of the project is to implement SDGs and link them to migration in school teachers' education, so that education actors would then further enhance public awareness about migration and its links to sustainable development.

The objectives of the report are 1) identification of conceptual links between international migration and other global processes, including sustainable development at national level 2) indication of gaps within public understanding of migration as well as sustainable development 3) conceptualisation of challenges and ways by which development education could be used as an instrument to raise public awareness in national context.

The analysis will be used in creation of a more localised and therefore more effective model for development education, mainly targeted at prospective school teachers. However, recommendations address issues beyond teacher competence, such as institutional transformations, inter-sectoral cooperation and the role of education institutions in raising public awareness.

Compiled report encompasses 13 national reports, the EU audit report, transnational audit report and executive summary for decision makers. Each partner conducted national reports, where the state of the art research (literature review) and field work (focus groups and / or expert interviews) have been accomplished.

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European Union Audit on Migration, Sustainability and Development Education

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and the scope of international migration is rapidly growing, cross-border movement becomes a significant force for and an integral part of development in both origin and destination countries. Yet, poorly managed migration poses a number of risks for sustainable progress of societies. In order to maximise development impact of migration, efficient policy and institutional framework as well as coherence between different policy areas are necessary. The report aims to examine the latter, as well as to assess prevailing public perceptions regarding migration and sustainable development as they are key factors for effective migration and development management at both national and EU levels. The current state of development education in the EU is also addressed as a measure to raise public awareness. In addition to desk research, four expert interviews were conducted with specialists in three areas: sustainable development, global education and migration-development links. The insights of the experts are integrated within the report to provide more depth to the analysis.

Links between migration and sustainable development

Migration and development are mutually intertwined. Development in origin countries often increase the proportion of population that can afford to migrate, and hence intensity cross-border movement. Traditionally perceived as a “symptom of development failure” that needs to be overcome, migration was conceptualised as a potential threat and burden in developed countries, and ‘brain drain’ in developing world (ECDPM and ICMPD, 2013). The research on remittances in the early 2000s however challenged the discourse and marked the beginning of a new approach towards migration, by which its development impact was recognised. Received from migrant diasporas abroad, remittances constitute an important source of income for families and communities in migrant-sending countries. In 2017 alone, developing countries received approximately US $443 billion in remittances; the amount that exceeds development aid (World Bank, 2017). Hence, migration might become a crucial poverty alleviation tool in developing countries. Meanwhile, migration helps to fill critical labour gaps and reduce economic strains of ageing populations in the Global North.

However, the relationship between migration and development is more complicated and therefore should be addressed with caution. If managed poorly, transnational movement might lead to underdevelopment (De Haas, 2010). As a result of poor immigration management, migrants often have limited access to social protection services, health system

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and effective integration mechanisms. In these positions, they are under higher risk of exploitation and trafficking. If there are few channels for regular migration, individuals are forced to choose irregular pathways. Respectively, irregular migrants are likely to find themselves in even more precarious situations. Irregular migration and inequalities might lead to social tensions, obstruct social cohesion and trust between community members in host societies (Hsieh and Pugh, 1993; Putnam et al. 1993; Kawachi et al., 1997). It is also important to note that since migration is selective, its benefits are usually experienced by already relatively privileged community members in origin countries, while groups that would benefit the most might remain unaffected. It is hence necessary to make migration available to individuals in different socio-economic positions by not limiting immigration to high-skilled professionals only. Finally, if prejudices in host countries are not addressed, migration might be exploited for political purposes and lead to social tensions. It is therefore important to ensure that members of recipient countries would have developed a more global sense of citizenship. Notions of migration as a threat for national security and public misconceptions have to be challenged to avoid potentially ungrounded public fear.

Institutional and legislative framework: the EU perspective on international migration, sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda

The linkage between migration and development has been addressed by the EU more than a decade ago, and since then the commitment to maximise positive impact of migration to development has been materialised by a number of policy documents as well as international agreements. Yet, the current migration framework often contradicts global development goals of the EU. Historically restrictive nature of immigration policies undermine development capacity of international mobility, and a number of actors interested in maintaining immigration flows at low levels is a major challenge for policy coherence in the area. These issues became even more prominent in the context of the SDGs which calls for development-driven migration agenda.

In presence of recent debate about the future of the European projects marked by Brexit, a conflict of interests within the EU became an evident issue. The level of political sensitivity regarding migration translates into lack of leadership and willingness to advocate pro-development changes within migration agenda, both at national and EU levels. Short-term domestic interests of political parties to maintain public support outbalance long-term objective of international sustainability (Hong and Knoll, 2016). Due to relatively flexible nature of the 2030 Agenda and lack of political interest, a number of countries integrate the Goals superficially or selectively. It becomes a “tick a box” exercise; the objectives can be covered in policies and yet do not necessarily be translated into actions.

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In these circumstances, ambiguous and inconsistent M&D frameworks at national level became a common practice. The policies often stress the development impact on origin countries and yet are largely constructed around self-interest of host countries that implicitly and sometimes explicitly oppose the commitment for global development. The focus on readmission processes, the emphasis on border control, preference for high-skilled migration and little attention for integration of migrants serve national interest of the countries but often oppose the development objectives.

Another worrying tendency in M&D policies is instrumentalisation of development cooperation for migration management purposes. By making cooperation on readmission processes a condition for development aid, the EU makes the latter a tool for reinforcement of restrictive and security-driven immigration agenda, which "totally turns the EU PCD obligation around" (CONCORD, 2015:7). Not to mention that instrumentalisation is largely based on a faulty assumption that development will reduce migration flows, such imperative opposes the long-standing EU mission for global poverty eradication and the SDGs.

Public and media discourse on international migration and sustainable development

The Eurobarometer findings suggest that while Europeans do not hold strong prejudices against immigrants on individual level and tend to support development cooperation in third countries, they are not well informed about the realities of these subjects. Their understandings of the scope of immigration are distorted; migration is still largely perceived as a problem rather than opportunity. The results imply that Europeans are not well aware of the positive role migration plays in development, a misconception that needs to be addressed in order to make the most of the M&D agendas.

The media often depicts migrants as victims, whereas in reality they are active community members as well as contributors to both host and origin economies. Alternatively, migrants are portrayed as dangerous invaders. They are rarely given an opportunity to speak for themselves, especially if newcomers are women, and are rarely identified as individuals with diverse professional skills and personalities. Migrants, especially refugees, are often dehumanised and depersonalised; economisation of migration is also prominent. Migrants are implicitly and explicitly conceptualised as "the other". Articles about migrants as rapers or criminals occur more often than stories about positive contributions they make, because positive aspects often have "no news value".

While it is important to counter prevailing public misconceptions about migration and sustainable development, knowledge of data and figures might not necessarily bring desirable outcomes, especially when there is an emotional element in the discussions. It is

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therefore important to offer counteractive, more humane-oriented images of migration and asylum. As research suggests, adding a human element to representation of migrants improves public engagement with the issue (ODI, 2017). Political and business leaders and other authority figures are encouraged to talk about the positive aspects of migration, as they often have a significant impact on public opinion.

Another major issue regarding public perceptions about sustainable development is the conditionality of public engagement. As experts noted, the latter is largely limited to individuals of certain socio-economic status. The so called middle class shares relatively optimistic beliefs; they tend to believe that individual and collective action could and should be taken, whereas disadvantaged communities often are not as engaged and rather pessimistic. In addition to addressing inequalities as such it is important to promote the concept and knowledge about opportunities and individual actions that can be taken among all community members. It is recommended to try to ensure that awareness raising campaigns are not limited to a selective audience.

Development education is an important tool to raise public awareness about global issues and provides holistic view towards sustainable development by linking a number of processes, including migration. The EU plays an active role in supporting implementation of development education for more than two decades. However, available research on the state of development education in Europe suggests that while significant progress in the area was made since then, implementation is yet far from effective. National strategies need to be further developed in most countries; development education needs to be better addressed in school curriculum and capacity building among policy makers as well as teachers must receive substantial attention in the future. It is important to ensure that global education is sufficiently addressed in teacher education and yet teachers must be trusted with considerable flexibility to implement global education to maximise its potential.

Recommendations for EU institutions

The most important challenge faced at EU level is a conflict of interests between a number of actors, including individual Member States and even different EU institutions. In presence of asymmetry of interests, the call for PCD is not likely to bring successful results. It is therefore crucial to stop conditionality of aid in both bilateral and multilateral agreements with third countries. Human rights and commitment for development should be the underlying objective of the negotiations.

It is important to enhance development benefits of migration through more coherent migration policies. The EU and its Member States should provide more possibilities for regular

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migration of both high-skilled and low-skilled migrants, improve integration mechanisms and address protection of rights of the ones being readmitted by third countries.

The EU should continue providing financial and structural support for improvement of global education and awareness raising campaigns in Member States. As public misconceptions about migration and distorted media coverage of the process affect national politics and respectively debates at the EU level, awareness-raising should be one of the main priorities in terms of both funding and building capacities of responsible actors, such as educational institutions and CSOs.

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Cases Studies

Public opinion

In most countries, hostile or at least oversimplifying attitudes about migration prevail public discourse. Over the past years, anti-immigration attitudes, as indicated by national and cross-European polls, have generally strengthened across Europe. It can also be observed by a rise in popularity of nationalist parties in a few countries such as Italy, Germany, Austria and Poland. Yet, it is not a universal trend. In some countries, the 'refugee crisis' seemed to somewhat stir the feelings of compassion. This is most evident in Greece; while migration is still largely perceived as a threat to socio-economic security of country's nationals, a majority of population report emphatic attitudes towards refugees.

A link between socio-economic realities and attitudes towards migration was drawn in a number of national reports. Anti-immigration attitudes seem to increase in presence of economic hardships and are most prevalent among groups that are relatively disadvantaged. As reported, correlation between level of education attainment and positive attitudes towards migration seem to be present in some countries.

Awareness about sustainable development seems to be limited; in multiple countries such as Malta, Lithuania, Slovenia and Austria the concept is largely associated with environmental sustainability, whereas social and economic aspects of sustainable development remain largely unrecognised. Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness about links between migration and sustainable development and present the latter in a more holistic manner.

Media coverage and instruments to shape public discourse

National reports mostly supported previous conclusions on media coverage drawn in EU Audit. As the scope of migration is beyond personal experiences, media plays a crucial role in shaping public attitudes. However, there seems to be limited linkage between migration and sustainable development in media across different Member States. While images of migration vary within and between countries, it seems that media response to migration is often skewed negatively, the tendency that was further enhanced by the economic recession and so called 'refugee crisis'. Notions of migration as a challenge rather than an opportunity prevail.

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Refugees are often portrayed as either victims or 'criminals', 'undesirables' as emphasis is being drawn on 'illegality' of their migration. Migration flows are discussed in an isolated manner; links between migrant inflows and push factors of migration are rarely made. Thus, there is a need to counter existing images of migration and, most importantly, to develop individuals' ability to critically assess the media content through effective development education. While in certain countries cases of positive accounts of migration and the 'refugee crisis' were more prominent (such as Greece), in other countries (such as Poland) message in the media was overwhelmingly pessimistic.

As suggested by experts in field researches, social media has a growing influence on public opinion. It hence could become an important instrument to distribute more positive images of migration and its links to sustainable development. Yet, it is also important that these concepts would be critically addressed in early days of education, starting from kindergarten, and would be implemented in life-long learning programmes. A number of field researches (including Austria and Lithuania) concluded that while factual knowledge is necessary to combat prevailing misconceptions, emotional language does not need to be avoided, as currently attitudes towards migration are already largely emotional.

In a number of countries, environment does not receive substantial attention in the media despite the fact that majority of analysed populations tend to be concerned with ecological issues. Research on media coverage regarding sustainable development and the SDGs in particular seems to be limited in a number of Member States.

Research, project production and good practices

With several exceptions, there is limited research and project production in mapped countries that would address links between migration and development at national level. As identified in reports of Cyprus and Lithuania, project production in relation to sustainable development tends to focus on environment, agriculture and energy, whereas social aspects of sustainability receive little attention. In most Member States, a number of studies on migration, development and/or the SDGs are being published; however, research on linkage between migration and development is in its 'infancy state'. Most research and initiatives linked to migration are about asylum, integration of migrants and public prejudices against migrants but have few links to development.

While of limited scope, some progress in the area can be seen in Austria and Germany. Meanwhile, in the UK the relationship between migration and development received substantial attention of academic community.

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In most countries, there are a number of good practices regarding sustainable development and the SDGs in particular being mostly implemented by CSOs, but also initiated by higher education institutions and government bodies. Similarly, there are strong, relatively long-standing communities of CSOs that specialise in the area of migration. However, limited number of initiatives that would link migration and development were launched.

Migration policies, sustainable development and international commitments

The recent migration crisis has drawn attention to national immigration, asylum and migration integration strategies and in some cases led to adoption of new legislation or amendments of the old policy frameworks. Nevertheless, it seems that in most mapped countries there are no direct links to sustainable development and the SDGs present in migration and asylum policies. In many countries, especially the ones that joined the EU relatively recently, migration and asylum agendas are still being adjusted to the EU standards and directives.

Lack of coherence between national migration frameworks and the SDGs is another issue. Integration of migrants is still problematic is most of the mapped Member States, especially the ones that have never been countries of destination such as Slovenia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland and Croatia. With a degree of variation, migrants and especially asylum seekers still generally face discrimination; they receive limited social assistance, low-quality or limited integration services; migrants have limited access to education institutions, fair employment and receive little support in general. While the situation is however relatively better in Germany, Austria, and the UK, the general tendency opposes the objectives for development. Hence, it is crucial to improve immigration and asylum policies at national level in order to ensure that migrants' rights are protected and to maximise the development impact of migration.

Recommendations

National and local level recommendations for NGOs

There is a strong need to enhance public engagement with sustainable development and especially its links to migration. Hence, public awareness should remain as one of the key targets to combat public misconceptions. Migration should be more often introduced in a comprehensive and holistic manner and images of international movement as a threat to national security and employment of nationals should be countered. Links between migration and development should be further explored.

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To achieve these purposes, NGOs are encouraged to form and participate in thematic networks at local, national and international levels. It is important to develop partnerships between different NGOs, NGOs and education institutions as well as NGOs and government bodies.

National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

Governments should engage in promotion and communication of sustainable development agenda to the general public. Governmental institutions are encouraged to cooperate with each other, as in some countries there was a lack of coordination between different government bodies. They should continue to cooperate with NGOs as well as educational institutions.

It is important to continue improving national migration and asylum policies as well as national strategies and support for development education. Links between migration and development should be integrated within migration strategies.

Local level recommendations for municipalities

Municipalities are encouraged to initiate and/or engage in awareness raising campaigns, potentially in cooperation with NGOs. It is important that municipalities would effectively communicate information about migration, asylum situations as well as local sustainable development projects. In countries with substantial population of migrants, municipalities are invited to develop platforms to encourage dialogue and communication between local nationals and migrant communities.

National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Migration and sustainable development through effective presentation of development education should be integrated within initial teacher education. As countries of Central and Eastern Europe such as Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia are likely to receive larger numbers of immigrants in the future, it is important to improve intercultural and interreligious skills of future teachers. Taking into account largely negative media response to migration, it is important to develop critical media skills of European populations, both in school and at later stages in life. There is also a need to develop capacity building measures for teachers and improve their skills to employ digital technologies.

National and local level recommendations for future research areas

The nexus between sustainable development and migration has been little addressed in the majority of mapped countries. Hence, research on the topic needs to be further produced at both national and EU levels. The media coverage on the SDGs, teachers' engagement with

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migration issues in the classroom, analyses of good practices of M&D policies are other areas that need to be addressed in future studies.

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EU AUDIT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and the scope of international migration is rapidly growing, cross-border movement becomes a significant force for and an integral part of development in both origin and destination countries. Migrant diasporas abroad foster development in home communities by sending remittances; returning migrants contribute to progress through human capital, technology and valuable skills. In host countries, migrants fill critical labour gaps, pay taxes and social security contributions as well as enrich the communities by cultural and information capital (OECD, 2014).Yet, poorly managed migration poses a number of risks for sustainable progress of societies. The absence of effective migrant integration mechanisms and limited regular migration channels lead to harm on individual level, decreased opportunities for migrants to contribute to development in both migrant sending and receiving countries and obstruct social cohesion in destination states.

Despite its opportunities, migration in both public and political discourses is often perceived as a threat to national security and a 'development failure' that needs to be overcome. These views are worrying as anti-immigration attitudes hinder integration of migrants and might create social tensions within destination communities; prejudices also shape political discourse that might then focus on security-focused rather than development-driven approach towards migration. Since international movement is expected to intensify in the future, it is important to challenge prevailing notions of migration in order to minimise migration-induced unsustainabilities.

1.2 Methodology, aims and objectives

The EU Audit on Migration, Security and Development Education aims to examine migration and development policies of the EU and evaluate prevailing public attitudes towards the phenomena. As an integral part of the project InterCap, the report aims to provide contextual framework to facilitate implementation of migration-development agenda within development education in 14 Member States. The objectives of the audit are: a) to identify conceptual links between international movements and sustainable development b) to assess coherence between migration and sustainable development frameworks of the EU, c) to evaluate current trends in public perceptions towards the processes and identify prevailing misconceptions, d) to examine the current state of development education as a key instrument in shaping public discourse at the EU level.

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Complementary to desk research, four expert interviews were conducted. Specialists from three areas, sustainable development politics of the EU, global education in Europe, and migration-development links both at global and EU levels were interviewed. All interviewees were of different nationalities and represented different institutions, from academia to the NGO sector and international organisations. The interviews were semi-structured, lasted between 45 minutes and 1 hour and were voice recorded. Informed consent was obtained by all participants and confidentiality was addressed by keeping the interview material available only for internal use by the researchers and by anonymisation of experts in the report. The interviews were employed to provide more depth to the analysis, as critical and sometimes internal glance of the experts is expected to enrich the report by technical, explanatory and process knowledge. As the structure of interviews followed the structure of the audit and insights are largely complementary to the desk research, views and suggestions shared by experts are integrated in the report.

1.3 Available data and resources

While links between migration and development is a relatively young research area and evidence is still being produced, a body of literature on the subject is available and hence was used in the report. Yet, not all nuances of the nexus might be addressed due to limited research that would focus on the localised EU context. In addition to academic literature, a number of EU and other international organisations' publications, policy documents, survey findings, policy evaluations produced by NGOs and press releases were also employed.

2. Links between migration and sustainable development

2.1 International migration as a cause and a consequence of (sustainable) development

In the context of increasingly interdependent world and decreasing economic costs of travelling, cross-border migration continues to grow. The number of international migrants worldwide was estimated to increase from 173 million in 2000 to 258 million in 2017; the rate is faster than the growth of the world's population (UN, 2017). As human mobility becomes a major demographic phenomenon, it inevitably becomes a driving force for and an integral

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part of development. Often accelerated by the latter in sending societies, migration fosters social and economic transformations in both origin and destination countries.

Research shows that economic progress in developing world and migration are positively associated. Interestingly, the empirical evidence stands against dominant public opinion and common policy practices of Global North that see development aid as a measure to cope with undesirable immigration from third countries. It is widely believed that migrants from developing countries are fleeing poverty and alleviation of poor living conditions will reduce migration. However, research suggests that cross-border movement is rather a *selective process*. Considerable financial and human resources are required in order to access channels of migration (visas, permits, even smugglers) and to enable to meet travel costs (De Haas, 2007). It is therefore not the poorest who migrate, but the ones who have capabilities and aspirations of better opportunities they expect to have in developed countries (De Haas, 2007; Stoisser, 2017). Hence, national development usually leads to increase in population that can afford to migrate. It also determines that more individuals have a means to access information through education, technologies and social capital about destination countries and therefore *develop* those aspirations. Only in the long run, after the development gap between sending and receiving gap is reduced, emigration tends to decrease, while immigration starts to intensify (De Haas, 2005).

Positive aspects of migration and its potential to development were noticed only recently, when research on remittances in the early 2000s revealed unexpected economic role of migrant diasporas (De Haas, 2010). A priori, migration was considered as a distinct and separate area of global issues and rather an undesirable occurrence; a “symptom of development failure” (ECDPM and ICMPD, 2013). As South-North mobility received more attention than South-South movement, migration was perceived as a potential threat and burden in developed countries, and ‘brain drain’ in developing world. Hence, the root causes and prevention of migration were the focus point in both research and migration-related policies. However, in presence of promising research findings, migration started to be seen as a major contributor to economies of both sending and host communities. Not surprisingly, once potential economic gains of international mobility were addressed, humanitarian issues related to cross-border mobility and wellbeing of migrants also received more consideration. It is now widely celebrated as a self-help development mechanism, a strategy employed to improve human condition (Lonnback, 2015).

Since migration was started to be seen in a more positive light, a number of ways in which it can foster development in both origin and destination countries were discovered. Nevertheless, remittances remain to be the principal channel of such reciprocity. Received from migrant diasporas abroad, remittances constitute an important source of income for families and communities in migrant sending countries. They contribute to improvement of living standards of individual families, and then, through economic growth prompted by remittance expenditure, all members of home communities might benefit indirectly. Through remittances, investments in education, health and housing and sustainable infrastructures increase. Respectively, higher savings and investment ensure better security and protection from natural disasters of migrants’ families at home, as they can rely on informal insurance

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strategies in cases of emergence. In 2017 alone, developing countries received approximately US $443 billion in remittances sent by migrants. In the same year, remittances worth around $594 were sent worldwide (World Bank, 2017). In 2015, remittance inflows to developing countries were about three times the amount of official development aid (World Bank, 2016).Through this mechanism, migration then becomes a crucial poverty alleviation and sustainable development tool. If managed well, it is arguably more effective than deliberate development aid initiatives; however it cannot be considered as a replacement of the latter, as migration does not directly affect population that often needs the assistance most.

At the same time, migration brings a number of benefits and opportunities for countries of destination. Immigrants fill critical labour gaps, create job places, pay taxes and social security contributions. Host communities are enriched by cultural and information capital; foreign diasporas are known to make major contributions in the development of science and technology in host societies (UN, 2017). Research has shown that, on average, immigrants contribute more in taxes and other forms of contributions than they receive in benefits (OECD, 2014). Most importantly, immigration is arguably the most effective measure to cope with economic strains of ageing populations, the issue especially acute in Europe and some Global North countries such as Canada or Australia. As migrants tend to be younger than the average age of populations in receiving countries, immigration helps to reduce the demographic burden of decreased portions of tax payers and increased expenditure on pensions and old-age care (Coleman, 2008). Furthermore, diaspora groups play important role in developing links between origin and destination countries. They facilitate trade, skills and technology transfers and in that way create opportunities not only in origin, but also in destination countries (Lonnback, 2015).

International migration flows are expected to further intensify in the future. It will continue to be prompted by increasing connectivity of the world as well as decreasing travel costs, but from now and in the future migration should also be seen as an inevitable consequence of climate change. The First Assessment Report issued by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that human migration could be the greatest effect of global warming on society (OSCE, 2005). Sea-level rise and growing number in cases of extreme weather conditions are likely to result in resettlement of affected communities. As a result, migration of refugees of displacement and relocation will inevitably intensify. If not governed properly, increased (and likely unstable) movement will determine vulnerability of migrants and instability within host communities (Adamo, 2009).

2.2 Challenges of international migration to sustainable development

While migration might have multiple positive outcomes for development, the relationship is more complicated and therefore should be addressed with caution. In circumstances of poorly

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managed migration policies, transnational movement might have negative effects not only for migrating communities, but it can also impede sustainable growth in both origin and host countries. As de Haas (2010:257) noticed, emphasis on migration as a self-regulatory tool for development 'from below' risks situations when due to unfavourable circumstances migration actually leads to underdevelopment. In order to avoid undesirable outcomes, it is crucial to take into consideration the importance of external factors of international migration and challenges that human mobility might cause to development.

Poor management of immigration often leads to a number of vulnerabilities faced by migrant communities in host countries. As immigrants, especially irregular ones, are more likely to work in informal sector, they often lack access to social protection services, health system, education and water. While approximately 75% of migrants worldwide are legally entitled to some form of social protection, in practice the enforcement of these arrangements in the EU, where the basic public services must be available to regular newcomers, they face difficulties in navigating complicated administrative systems due to limited communication and assistance from the state. Commonly, immigrants struggle to find accommodation due to lack of knowledge on where to search for it as well as widespread xenophobia and discrimination among landlords (Eurodiaconia, 2014). Hence, newcomers often find themselves in precarious positions that further increase the risk of exploitation and trafficking, especially if migrants are women or girls (ODI, 2017). In order to ensure their protection and maximise the potential of migration, it is therefore important to address these vulnerabilities. Firstly, there should be more routes for regular international movement, as irregular migration highly intensifies the risks mentioned above. Secondly, there is a need to improve integration services at local level and tackle discriminative attitudes in host communities. The failure to address the issues is likely to create tensions in recipient countries, and might lead to increased social as well as economic inequalities. Respectively, the latter are known to induce social tensions, increase levels of crime, obstruct social cohesion and trust between community members (Hsieh and Pugh, 1993; Putnam et al. 1993; Kawachi et al., 1997).

The second threat of poorly managed migration relates to origin countries. Since migration is selective, the benefits of international mobility are usually experienced by already relatively privileged community members, whereas effects for the poorest remain limited. Even if affected non-directly through the economy-wide implications of remittances, the latter do not alleviate poverty systematically (de Haas, 2010). Hence, migration as a self-help development mechanism is not necessarily available to the ones that need it most due to high costs of cross-border movement, and thus the development output of migration does not address groups that would benefit most. While this is likely to contribute to existing inequalities in developing regions, it becomes even more problematic in the prevalence of climate-related hazards or conflicts. The poorest members might not be financially capable to leave climate-devastated or dangerous areas, which would lead to serious threats for health and is therefore important to develop channels of migration accessible by less privileged members of origin societies by decreasing the costs of regional and international migration. In presence of necessity, the governments should facilitate safe migration of individuals in precarious positions (Adamo, 2009).

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Finally, researchers agree that intensified migration increases tensions within host societies, and potentially could induce the risk of conflict. As the so called “refugee crisis” in Europe revealed, unexpected flows of immigration might induce feelings of being overwhelmed and threatened by newcomers among members of host societies ( ). In Europe, these public concerns were then manipulated by a number of politicians and media bodies, which further enhanced the notions of migration as a threat to national security, even if the claim is hardly grounded in evidence. While the migration-conflict nexus is complex and yet largely unexplored, rapid immigration, followed by distorted images of the latter in the media, might lead to social and political tensions in host communities (Burrows and Kinney, 2016). In addition to better migration management and integration mechanisms, it is therefore important to ensure that members of recipient countries would have developed a more global sense of citizenship and would perceive migration as a global issue with risks and benefits, rather than a threat for national security to avoid potentially ungrounded public fear and widespread misconceptions.

2.3 Sustainable development as a tool of international migration management: international migration and the Agenda 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Agenda 2030, explicitly refers to migration in 5 Targets. It is the first strategy document that formally recognises migration as a potential contributor to sustainable growth in international framework for development (ODI, 2017). These objectives mainly focus on the need for well-managed and well-monitored migration, protection of migrant rights and reduction of the international transaction costs to maximise the potential of remittances.

Target 8.8 calls to “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers” with particular emphasis on female migrants. By Targets 8.7 and 16.2, focus is being drawn on the need to end exploitation, forced labour and trafficking of children. Target 10.c aims to reduce transaction costs of remittances to less than 3% by 2030. In SDG 17, the need to improve availability of reliable data on population distribution is stressed, with migratory status included among other variables. Finally, arguably the most important objective that covers human mobility and would help to minimise migration-intensified vulnerabilities is Target 10.7. It calls the international community to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Moreover, rights of migrants are implicitly protected by the chief principle of the Agenda 2030, which is to “leave no one behind” (UN, 2015).

Hence, the Agenda 2030 might become an important stimulus and a tool for better management of migration, especially taking into account it’s politically acknowledged authority (ODI, 2017). The other important moment is that the strategy challenges remaining

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notions of migration as a development problem, and instead "frames migration and development relationships between countries as reciprocal and mutual" (ODI, 2017:8). Beforehand, management of migration and development were largely scattered across different institutions and coordination between these areas was limited (Lonnback, 2014). Hence, the document offers an opportunity for a more holistic and, arguably, a more effective approach in migration management. Its holistic agenda also provides an opportunity for better international cooperation regarding migration issues, as "the blurring of traditional divisions [between] countries of origin, transit and destination opens doors to new coalitions" (Angenendt and Koch, 2017).

Yet, while migration and remittances are referred to in several Targets, the Agenda does not cover links between international mobility and other areas of development, such as health, education, sustainable cities, climate action and others (ODI, 2017). The agenda also remains relatively obscure in terms of concrete instructions and monitoring of implementation through meaningful indicators locally. Therefore, further improvements need to be made in the future in order to grant practical relevance of migration-development nexus founded in the document (Agenendt and Koch, 2017).

This somewhat relates to expert opinions expressed in the interviews. A distinctive feature of the SDGs is its rather generic approach. They do not easily translate into concrete policies at national level. As most of development effects of migration tend to happen organically, the SDGs are rather about removing barriers than initiating new activities. They address structural, broader conditions within the societies rather than focus on punctual action to support governments. And this is where most of the policies fail. Unless unfavourable preconditions for migration such as xenophobia and discrimination are addressed, the punctual elements, programmes and activities will not be effective. Yet, such preconditions are difficult to tackle.

As an expert concluded, the 2030 Agenda has an impact for policy making at national level as it outlines global priorities and somewhat lays the foundation for national M&D policies through goals and objectives. However, its effect will vary between countries. Some governments are more engaged and are likely to put more effort in implementation of the Goals, while the impact is likely to be minimal in states with strong anti-immigration agenda. The SDGs will not necessarily have an immediate impact; it depends on how well they will be translated into actions.

3. Institutional and legislative framework: the EU perspective on international migration, sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda

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3.1 Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: commitments, progress and future prospects

The EU has initiated significant steps to implement the integrated approach of the SDGs in a number of policy documents. Yet, the implementation process raises substantial challenges, as it requires revision of priorities and practices within both internal and external policy frameworks. Different policy areas are not necessarily in consensus to each other, and a number of actors with often conflicting interests make the negotiations hard to succeed. In this section, recent attempts to implement the SDGs will be briefly outlined with emphasis being drawn on the emerging issues.

In response to the 2030 Agenda, the European Commission delivered three Communications. The Communication on the next steps for sustainable European future outlines 10 political priorities for internal politics and the second Communication on a new European Consensus on Development proposes a reviewed framework for development cooperation. The need to promote regular channels, tackle irregular migration and introduce a new comprehensive migration policy are covered by the first document, whereas the framework for development cooperation highlights poverty eradication as the main priority and addresses well-managed migration as an integral part of sustainable development in both origin and host communities. Finally, the third Communication calls for a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. While development in these regions is the focus point, the partnerships are identified as a measure for better international migration management (European Commission, 2016; 2016; 2018).

An important aspect of the post-2015 agenda of the EU is increased emphasis on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). As cross-cutting and holistic approach of the SDGs requires consistency between different policy areas, the concept became an important tool for implementation of the Goals. The increased need for more integrity resulted in development of a revised version of the classical PCD, known as Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). The latter is expected to become a key instrument for harmonisation between internal strategies and global goals, between social, economic and environmental dimensions of policies as well as between different international agendas. While the original PCD emphasised horizontal coherence of policies, the PCSD puts more emphasis on vertical measures. However, even if international human mobility is high on the agenda of PCSD, major incoherence between development and migration policies remain and are yet to be addressed (ECDPM, 2016).

The EU has made significant steps to implement the integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda in a number of policy documents. Yet, there is a lot to be done, as its translation into specific and accountable actions as well as distribution of responsibilities are still in the stage of development. As identified by the European Commission itself, migration remains one of the areas that is still not adequately addressed within development framework. In the proposal for its revision, security and migration are expected to be top priorities for policy development

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in the upcoming years (European Commission, 2016). However, the most important challenge is not grounded in the lack of coherent policies, but rather in conflicting interests of the EU institutions and individual Member States.

3.2 Legislative framework: migration policies in the context of the SDGs

The linkage between migration and development has been addressed by the EU more than a decade ago, and since then the commitment to maximise positive impact of migration to development has been materialised by a number of policy documents as well as international agreements. Yet, the current migration framework often contradicts global development goals of the EU. Historically restrictive nature of immigration policies undermine development capacity of international mobility, and a number of actors interested in maintaining immigration flows at low levels is a major challenge for policy coherence in the area. These issues became even more prominent in the context of the SDGs which calls for development-driven migration agenda. In this section, legislative framework for migration will be briefly outlined with emphasis being drawn on the challenges it creates for maximisation of development benefits.

Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)

In 2005, the EU has introduced Global Approach to Migration (GAM), which for the first time explicitly linked migration on one hand, and development cooperation on the other hand. It became “the overarching framework for of the EU external migration and asylum policy”, defining the standards of cooperation dialogues with non-EU countries (European Commission, 2018). Its aim was to present a strategy that would reduce irregular migration and human trafficking and also address push factors of migration through development cooperation. The framework was based on the principle that the more a third country cooperate in the area of migration management, the more advanced visa facilitation will be for its nationals, also known as a “more for more” approach. Hence, promotion of legal mobility was set as conditional on governments’ willingness to cooperate for border control as well as readmission processes (Martin, 2013).

Originally, the focus of GAM was oriented towards two major migrant-sending regions, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Southern Mediterranean, but later the geo-political scope was expanded. The framework was revised and the European Commission proposed to change Global Approach to Migration to the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), in this way broadening the previous focus on migration to also include short-term mobility. Also, more attention was given to asylum. For example, international protection mechanisms as

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well as regional protection programmes were introduced; the document also covered coordination of direct resettlement from third countries to Europe (Martin, 2013). Just as the GAM did in the past, the GAMM mainly operates through Mobility Partnerships (MPs) and the Common Agendas for Migration and Mobility (CAMM), that are both non-binding cooperation agreements between third countries and the EU. So far, only 9 MPs and 2 CAMMs were signed (European Commission, 2018).

While the GAMM attempts to link migration and development and its commitment to address push factors of migration is in consensus to the SDGs and development agenda, certain aspects of the policy remain controversial. The EU's interests are promoted in expense of migrants' rights, even if the framework is claimed to be based on "migrant-centred approach". The focus on irregular migration and readmission undermines the aspects of integration and often conflicts with EU commitments for migrant protection, while selection of high-skilled immigrants risks brain drain in origin countries (Martin, 2013).

European Agenda on Migration

The European Agenda on Migration was introduced by the Commission in response to the so called 'refugee crisis'. In addition to a list of immediate actions required, the document also covered structural reforms regarding European migration policy (Willermain, 2016). The action plan is organised into four pillars: reducing the incentives for irregular migration, border management, common asylum policy among member states and development of legal migration pathways (European Commission, 2018). Issues such as unemployment, poverty and insecurity are recognised as key push factors for irregular migration, and development cooperation is defined as a key instrument to reduce the scope of the phenomenon alongside the fight against human traffickers and smugglers. It aimed to improve border control through reinforcement of the Frontex and coast guards as well as through support for capacity-building in third countries. By harmonising standards for reception and conditions for asylum seekers, the member states were expected to be better prepared to accept refugees and hence alleviate the strains of refugee inflows in European countries located at the external borders. Finally, modernisation of the EU blue card system and EU visa policy were identified as measures to facilitate legal mobility. Migration-development nexus is addressed by stressing the need to maximise the development benefits of migration, especially through cheaper remittance transfers (European Parliament, 2016).

However, the objectives set by the agenda so far had limited success. Little progress was made in fighting human trafficking and improving rescue operations, not to mention effectiveness of the relocation scheme outlined in the document. Few regular migration channels to the EU have been opened since then (European Parliament, 2016). The strategy does not address social protection, decent work and inclusive development in migrant-sending countries, and South-South migration does not receive any attention. While commitment to development is stressed in the document, the objectives and measures

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identified only confirm that restrictive, security-focused approach to international migration still prevails (Concord, 2015).

Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

Initiated by the United Nations, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants signed in September 2016 was a key milestone in international migration policy agenda. As the first high-level meeting of representatives from 193 UN Member States on the topic, it marked the beginning of a new approach that recognises the need for international cooperation and a holistic view towards human mobility (IOM, 2018). The document set in motion the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration. The first one aims to strengthen international response to large refugee flows in the future by developing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework as well as a programme of action that should be implemented by UN Member States (UNHCR, 2017). The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) is built within the framework of target 10.7 of the Agenda 2030. It calls for facilitation of safe, orderly and regular migration, by addressing all aspects of international migration, including human rights and development and by outlining concrete commitments for international community as well as measures of implementation (GCM, 2018).

Currently, the GCM is under development and will be introduced for adoption by the UN General Assembly in the second half of 2018. Civil Society Organisations, academic institutions and the private sector are consulted during the preparatory process. Its zero draft was introduced on 5th February 2018, and the first revised draft was presented on 26th March (UN, 2018). According to the document, no country can address migration issues alone, and features 22 objectives for international action to improve the current state of human mobility with each of them being followed by “actionable commitments”. It allocates the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as a leading institution in implementation and supervision of the Compact, and draws attention to the need for regional and cross-regional reviews regarding its implementation (GCM, 2018; IISD, 2018).

While it is still early to draw conclusions on what impact the GCM will have on migration agenda worldwide and in the EU in particular, the initiative sends an important political message that migration is a normal and inevitable part of development as well as an area that requires better governance at both state and international levels. It provides useful guidelines that, in presence of political will in concrete countries, can be implemented nationally. As a supporting actor in the project, the EU is committed to integrate the principles of the Compact. The initiative hence increases external pressures for the EU to make its migration policies more coherent with development objectives. However, the call for more regular migration channels opposes national interests of a number of Member States that are anxious to keep current mechanisms of border control (CEPS, 2018). Therefore, it further induces internal tensions between two conflicting approaches towards migration: development-coherent agenda, increasingly promoted by research community and

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international projects, and control-focused, mainly driven by national tensions and self-interest of political parties within member states.

Somewhat similar evaluation of the impact of the GCM was suggested by one of the experts. According to him, the project brings attention to issues, provides an outline that could be used by countries that are motivated to implement the principles and creates a platform for generating ideas and partnerships. However, the document is non-binding and hence is not likely to result in immediate change. Few countries with strongly restrictive migration policies will change their strategy in migration management.

3.3 Main challenges within legislative and institutional framework of M&D policies

In presence of existential dilemma regarding the future of the European project marked by Brexit, the rise of right-wing parties in Member States as well as lack of solidarity during 'refugee crisis', a conflict of interests within the EU became a widely acknowledged and discussed issue. One of the key challenges within current EU policies is "capability expectations gap", "where high-mindedness far exceeds available resources, especially of political will" (Bodenstein et al., 2017:443). This is especially acute in the area of migration and development (M&D) policy nexus. The level of political sensitivity of the topic often translates into lack of leadership and willingness to advocate pro-development changes within migration agenda, both at national and EU levels (IOM, 2015). In many countries, migration is still perceived as a challenge rather than an opportunity. Short-term domestic interests of political parties to maintain public support outbalance long-term objective of international sustainability (Hong and Knoll, 2016).

The lack of political will was also listed as a key issue for effective implementation of M&D policies in expert interviews. As the SDGs is a cross-cutting policy project, their implementation at local or national level requires a strong political leadership. Meanwhile, results of M&D policy initiatives often do not bring noticeable outcomes in a short time, whereas political pressures of coming elections require more immediate policy implications. Hence, sustainable development often becomes of secondary importance; there is a conflict between short-term interests of political parties and long-term interests in sustainability. Due to relatively flexible nature of the 2030 Agenda and lack of political interest, a number of countries integrate the Goals superficially or selectively. It becomes a "tick a box" exercise; the objectives can be covered in policies and yet do not necessarily reflect real commitment to sustainable development or are translated into actions. Only those elements of the Goals that align with the interests of a country are then selected, while others remain largely abandoned.

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The project of PCD and its limited success reveal that there are a number of goal conflicts between development cooperation and other policy fields such as security, migration, trade and agriculture (Bodenstein et al., 2017). In the context of the SDGs and the GCM, the incoherence between migration and development agendas becomes increasingly problematic. Yet, due to a number of actors with conflicting interests, it remains a challenge difficult to resolve. As experts noted, there is no agreement on M&D policies among Member States as a few countries have strong anti-immigration approaches and refuse to facilitate regular migration. As a result, the European Commission 1) struggle to achieve policy coherence in the area 2) cannot speak in a unified voice at international stage.

As an outcome of goal conflicts, ambiguous and inconsistent M&D frameworks at national level became a common practice. The policies often stress the development impact on origin countries and yet are largely constructed around self-interest of host countries that implicitly and sometimes explicitly oppose the commitment for global development (IOM, 2015). For example, increasingly restrictive immigration policies and the focus on readmission of irregular migrants in origin countries are not in consensus to the development agenda. While the emphasis on border control is necessary to tackle trafficking and improve security, returning migrants might be exposed to human rights violations, the aspect that receives little attention in policy documents (Hong and Knoll, 2016). In many member states, only certain dimensions of M&D agenda that serve self-interest of the country are addressed, such as high-skilled immigration or remittances (IOM, 2015). Lower-skilled migrants proved to be a more conflictual area, even if such policies tend to have a major negative effect on development of origin communities. It opposes the objective of poverty eradication, as lower-skilled poorer migrants and their families at home have the most to gain from migration. These restrictive and selective policies might further foster irregular migration and force individuals to choose dangerous routes (Hong and Knoll, 2016).

Another important issue that impedes maximisation of development impact is the lack of effective migrant integration mechanism within destination countries. Poor integration quality and hostile public perceptions are known to undermine migrants' welfare; they also decrease their employment opportunities. According to a report published my IOM (2015), a few European countries where local authorities were involved in M&D policy discussions such as Belgium, France, Italy and Germany defined integration of migrants as an opportunity to improve development impact of migration. It is an important step considering that poor integration leads to fewer skills and remittances. Migrants gain lesser social and information capital and hence their capacity to contribute to development in origin countries decrease. It is therefore necessary to put more emphasis on integration within M&D agendas by addressing recognition of migrants' qualifications and degrees, career and skills enhancement programmes, better language courses and other integration facilities to ensure their wellbeing and maximise their status within the host society. (Hong and Knoll, 2016). It is crucial to address prejudice against migrants at societal level through global education and beyond, as the latter translates to other forms of discrimination and seriously impede integration of migrant communities.

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As expert interviews have revealed, in order to maximise development impact of migration, it is however not enough to improve integration or regular migrants. As migrants, especially irregular migrants, are overrepresented in the informal labour market, the issue of grey economy must also be addressed by national and local authorities. In order to minimise negative effects of migration and maximise its potential, it is important that more legal pathways for low-skilled migrants are opened up. The current framework by which high-skilled migrants are provided with somewhat effective state support and protection whereas lower-skilled migrants are often irregular and hence face major vulnerabilities oppose the development agenda and, through differentiated development potential, arguably increase inequalities in origin countries.

A worrying tendency in M&D policies is instrumentalisation of development cooperation. The Commission and Member States increasingly use development aid as a migration control mechanism. The amount of aid received by a third country depends on its willingness to cooperate in the fight against irregular migration (CONCORD, 2015). Firstly, the attitude is problematic because it is based on a faulty assumption that development in origin countries will impede migration, whereas the evidence shows that the relationship between development and international movement is rather positive (De Haas, 2010). However, the most important issue is that the instrumentalisation of development cooperation has negative impact on the population, as not necessarily the ones who need it most receive the aid. By making cooperation on readmission processes a condition for development aid, the EU makes the latter a tool for reinforcement of restrictive and security-driven immigration agenda, which “totally turns the EU PCD obligation around” (CONCORD, 2015:7). As a result of pressures created by the ‘refugee crisis’ and relative failure of previous policies, the EU development agenda is departing from the long-standing principle of poverty eradication. Instead, it shifts towards the overall external affairs goal, which is promotion of the European interest (The European Parliament, 2016).

To sum up, migration and development policies are far from coherent. While addressed by a number of documents, M&D nexus remains a largely problematic and ambiguous area, as short-term domestic interests of Member States to restrict immigration seriously impede maximisation of development impact. Only aspects that serve self-interest of the countries are consistently addressed in policy documents, and politically sensitive topics such as immigration of low-skilled workers or even poor integration services receives little attention or fail to be effectively tackled. Most importantly, not only migration frameworks are being selective and often contradictory to development commitments, but development cooperation also becomes increasingly instrumentalised to serve restrictive immigration policies. The tendency conflicts with the 2030 Agenda and the long-standing mission for global poverty eradication.

3.4 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development: public and media discourses on the spot

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Public discourse

Public opinion is an important factor in political discourses regarding migration and development. It often guides interests of political parties at national level that respectively have an effect on EU policy making. In order to challenge negative notions of migration and security-focused approach, it is important to understand public views on the subjects.

The most recent Eurobarometer survey on migration conducted in October 2017 revealed that there are major gaps between public understanding of immigration and real numbers. Almost half of the respondents believe that there are at least as many illegally staying immigrants as there are legally residing newcomers, even though regular migrants significantly outnumber illegally staying non-EU nationals. Europeans largely overestimate the scope of immigrant population residing in their countries, and nearly four in ten respondents think that immigration is an issue rather than an opportunity. The gap between public perceptions and reality correlated negatively with levels of education obtained (Eurobarometer, 2018).

Nevertheless, some findings of the survey are highly promising. Over half of Europeans reported feeling comfortable around immigrants, and four in ten of them have personal ties with third country nationals. Most respondents also think that effective integration is a necessary investment for the welfare of their country in the long-run and perceive integration as a two-way process. An overwhelming majority see learning the language of a host country as crucial for successful integration (95%). Yet, when asked about major obstacles for the latter, the most cited reason was limited efforts made by immigrants to integrate. Similar proportions of Europeans reported that the media presents immigrants objectively and too negatively. Respondents were also divided when asked whether their governments are doing enough to support integration (Eurobarometer, 2018).

Regarding development cooperation in third countries, the public is considerably supportive. 89% of Europeans believe that it is important to help people in developing world. Most respondents think that poverty eradication should be one of the main priorities of the EU and development aid should either remain the same or be increased. More Europeans than ever believe that they can contribute to tackling poverty on individual level, and almost half of them reported taking personal steps to help developing countries (Eurobarometer, 2017).

While awareness of the SDGs increased since 2015, it remains relatively low. 41% of Europeans reported they had heard about the Goals, among which almost a third admitted they are not sure what they are. Only 12% of respondents felt able to say what they are about (Eurobarometer, 2017).

The findings suggest that while Europeans do not hold strong prejudices against immigrants on individual level and tend to support development cooperation in third countries, they are not well informed about the realities of these subjects. Their understandings of the scope of

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immigration are distorted; migration is still largely perceived as a problem rather than opportunity. It implies that Europeans are not well aware of the positive role migration plays in development, a misconception that needs to be addressed in order to make the most of the M&D agendas. For more details about public discourse at national level in 14 EU Member States, please see national reports.

Experts suggested that another misconception about migrants is that they are too often seen as victims. However, most of them have a job and send money back home as well as contribute to societies in other ways. These facts are often overlooked. According to experts, many Europeans also do not understand the concept of sustainable development; they tend to focus on environmental sustainability. As suggested, the latter misconception might have emerged because ministries responsible for the environment are often the leading bodies in sustainable development at national level.

Another major issue regarding public perceptions about sustainable development is the conditionality of public engagement. As experts noted, the latter is largely limited to individuals of certain socio-economic status. The so called middle class shares relatively optimistic beliefs; they tend to believe that individual and collective action could and should be taken, whereas disadvantaged communities often are not as engaged and rather pessimistic. In addition to addressing inequalities as such it is important to promote the concept and knowledge about opportunities and individual actions that can be taken among all community members. It is recommended to try to ensure that awareness raising campaigns are not limited to a selective audience.

One of the possible solutions to promote a more holistic approach towards migration and development is by raising awareness about the SDGs. They counter prevailing issue-associated notions of migration and promotes comprehensive views towards both migration and sustainable development. However, as experts noted, knowledge of data and figures might not necessarily be most effective. The emphasis on factual knowledge might not bring desirable outcomes. Arguments in favour of migration do not necessarily work when there is an emotional element in the discussions, especially taking into account the current anti-expertise climate in Western societies. Hence, knowledge about human experiences in migration should not be overlooked, especially considering that media tends to depict migration as a rather distant political issue with limited mention of migrants' perspectives and stories. Political and business leaders and other authority figures are encouraged to talk about the positive aspects of migration, as they often have a significant impact on public opinion.

Media discourse

The media is known to play a key role in shaping public attitudes, especially towards phenomena such as migration which full complexity is well beyond personal experiences of Europeans to grasp. In 2015, there was a rapid increase in media coverage on migration and asylum that largely contributed to changes in public attitudes towards the processes. To

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understand dynamics of the latter, most recent research on media monitoring is analysed and linked to dominant public perceptions outlined above.

A study on cross-European perspective on the 'refugee crisis' over the year of 2015 provide relevant insights about depictions of migration, immigrants and asylum prevailing the media discourse. The research was done in 8 European countries: Czech Republic; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Serbia and UK. While images were diverse, asylum seekers were largely portrayed as outsiders, either vulnerable or dangerous. The sympathetic and empathetic response prominent in the beginning of 2015 was gradually replaced by rather suspicious and hostile images towards refugees and migrants. Interestingly, little attention was given to the context of migrant plights. In other words, there were few consistent attempts to link new arrivals and events in the origin countries that prompted them (Council of Europe, 2017).

While there were clear regional differences in tones of media coverage, in general refugees and migrants were spoken about rather than given opportunities to speak for themselves. Most often they were portrayed as silent victims, especially when migrants were women (Council of Europe, 2017).

Similar conclusions were drawn by a project known as Refugees Reporting. Within its framework, a media monitoring study was conducted in 2017 and covered 7 countries: Greece, Italy, Spain, Serbia, UK, Sweden and Norway. The findings revealed that only 21% of news items related to asylum or migration reference a person who is a refugee or a migrant. Hence, the media coverage is mostly impersonal; events are rather discussed at the political level while the impact on affected individuals receives relatively little attention. Furthermore, the research also concluded that women remain largely underrepresented, alongside migrants of certain nationalities such as Nigerians and Afghans. Instead of giving migrants a voice and representing them as capable contributors to the community life, newcomers tend to be spoken about and identified by their displacement only. Occupation or other forms of identification that would not deprive of their humanity and dignity and would reveal them as capable actors remain mostly unaddressed (WACC Europe and CCME, 2017).

In some countries, the language used to describe migration or asylum processes is primarily associated with large quantities and elemental, uncontrollable forces such as flooding. Migration and especially asylum is then understood as a form of invasion; immigration is associated "with powerlessness against the magnitude of newly arriving people and the costs or expenses of refugee services" (Greussing and Boomgaarden, 2017: 1751). Economisation of the 'refugee crisis' is also a tendency in the media coverage in some Member States (Greussing and Boomgaarden, 2017).

It can be thus concluded that refugees and migrants are presented as either victims or dangerous invaders, and yet both approaches are highly depersonalising and portraying them as outsiders. They are rarely given an opportunity to speak for themselves, especially if newcomers are women, and are rarely identified as diverse individuals with professional skills as well as different personal stories. As experts noted, the media representation of

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migrants is negatively skewed. Articles about migrants as rapers or criminals occur more often than stories about positive contributions they make, because positive aspects often have “no news value”. It is therefore important to offer counteractive, more humane-oriented images of migration and asylum. As research suggests, adding a human element to representation of migrants improves public engagement with the issue (ODI, 2017). For more details about media discourse at national level in 14 EU Member States, please see national reports.

3.5 The State of Development Education

Development education is an important tool to raise public awareness about global issues and provides holistic view towards sustainable development by linking a number of processes, including migration. The EU plays an active role in supporting implementation of development education, the concept often used interchangeably with global education and global citizenship education, for more than two decades. By the Maastricht Congress of 2002, 40 European countries were called for development and improvement of national frameworks and the 2002 Maastricht Declaration provided guidelines for improvement of global education in Europe (North-South Centre, 2018).

Since then, two consecutive Global Education Congresses took place. The second congress that was organised in 2012 in Lisbon defined priorities until 2015, and resulted in a more flexible and contextualised framework for global education. The last Congress took place in 2015, and resulted in further recommendations for national strategies in consensus to the post-2015 agenda. Global education was then linked to the concept of global citizenship education as launched by UNESCO in 2013 (North-South Centre, 2018).

While development education figures in EU policies for more than two decades now, the latter becomes even more important in presence of the 2030 Agenda. The Goal 4 of the SDGs calls for effective development education implemented by 2030. According to the target 4.7, learners should “acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development” (UN, 2015).

Increasing political radicalisation is another reason why development education is especially relevant today and yet it also becomes a major challenge for effective implementation of global citizenship. The rising right-wing parties as well as anti-immigration and ethno-nationalist attitudes “on the back of rising unemployment and political disenfranchisement” question effectiveness of current global education framework (GENE, 2017:24).

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Evaluation of cross-European state of development education is relatively difficult due to hardly measurable nature of the latter. Firstly, presence of national strategies and development education curriculum does not ensure its quality, as teachers' competence plays a major role for its effectiveness and yet is difficult to conceptualise. Secondly, there is no consensus on learning outcomes of global education. A unified framework or assessment criteria is impossible, as education for sustainable development is largely context-sensitive (UNESCO, 2017).

Furthermore, as expert interviews suggested, it is important to leave a room for teachers to promote global education as they see it most suitable. An approach by which teachers are addressed as implementers of strict and non-flexible development education agenda poses a number of risks. Teachers should be perceived as professionals who are most familiar with the context and the audience. Hence, restricting their freedom to choose education measures and focus areas might be counter-productive. Teachers should not be "trained", but rather addressed as individuals who are also mothers and fathers, political citizens and local community members. In the classroom, it is not only a teacher-pupil relationship, but also a child-adult and young-old relationships. It is therefore important not to see them as merely instructors, but trust them as professionals who are likely to know the best. It is important to introduce teachers to concepts such as sustainable development, climate change, gender equality and others in the initial teacher education, but "we should not panic". Education is a long-term process; according to an African proverb, "the grass will not grow faster if you pull it". In global education, there is a lot of emphasis on the global and on the knowledge, meanwhile there is little attention being paid to its pedagogical element.

Available research on the state of development education in Europe suggests that while significant progress in the area was made over the past two decades, implementation is yet far from effective. A comparative study on global citizenship education in primary schools of 10 European countries concluded that the agenda is not fully integrated into the national primary school curriculum in none of the participating Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Spain, Portugal, UK). Yet, a trend towards more global approach within schools was present in most of the countries. NGOs were found to play a crucial role in development of national strategies and non-formal frameworks for development education. Their flexibility and ability to adapt to changes allowed easier dissemination of the concept and practices, to both school staff and government institutions. It is therefore important for NGOs to aim for cooperation with a range of institutions, as isolation and self-reference considerably limits their potential (Tarozzi and Inguaggiato, 2016).

In addition to encouragement in development of national strategies, the EU plays a major role in supporting non-formal education for sustainable development. Over the past years, the EU has provided around 143 million for the EU Development education and awareness raising programme (DEAR). Various projects initiated mainly by CSOs were implemented across Europe, with the aim to "inform EU citizens about development issues, mobilise greater public support for action against poverty, give citizens tools to engage critically with global development issues, to foster new ideas and change attitudes" (Businі, 2018). The

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European Commission respectively organised capacity development and networking activities for DEAR partners. Another important initiative for implementation of development education is Global Education Network Europe (GENE). It connects Ministries and other agencies that share responsibilities for global education in European countries. The network encourages peer learning approach by providing a platform to share good practices and effective strategies for development education (Busini, 2018).

While it hardly to draw specific conclusions about implementation of development education in European countries, the research reveals that national strategies need to be further developed; development education needs to be better addressed in school curriculum and capacity building among policy makers as well as teachers must receive substantial attention in the future. It is important to ensure that global education is sufficiently addressed in teacher education and yet teachers must be trusted with considerable flexibility to implement global education to maximise its potential.

4. Recommendations

4.1 EU level recommendations

The most important challenge faced at EU level is a conflict of interests between a number of actors, including individual Member States and even different EU institutions. In presence of asymmetry of interests, the call for PCD is not likely to bring successful results. Respectively, M&D policies often become frameworks for instrumentalisation of development cooperation for migration management purposes, which contradict long-standing EU commitment for poverty eradication, the Agenda 2030 and the very principle of PCD. It is therefore crucial to stop conditionality of aid in both bilateral and multilateral agreements with third countries. Human rights and commitment for development should be the underlying objective of the negotiations. Both EU institutions and Member States should prioritise long-term aims as outlined by the SDGs over short-term interests driven by domestic affairs.

It is important to enhance development benefits of migration through more coherent migration policies. The EU and its Member States should provide more possibilities for regular migration of both high-skilled and low-skilled migrants, improve integration mechanisms and address protection of rights of the ones being readmitted by third countries. The scope of areas addressed should nevertheless go beyond migration management. It is necessary to tackle informal labour market, in which migrant workers are overrepresented and that creates the environment for trafficking, exploitation and other human rights violations.

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In terms of public awareness and development education, the EU should continue providing financial and structural support for improvement of global education and awareness raising campaigns in Member States. While funding of CSO activities is crucial, it is also important to call for responsible institutions to implement coherent policy framework and to address the level of teacher competences at national level. As public misconceptions about migration and distorted media coverage of the process affect national politics and respectively debates at the EU level, awareness-raising should be one of the main priorities in terms of both funding and building capacities of responsible actors, such as educational institutions and CSOs.

4.2 National level and local level recommendations

Authorities at national level should first ensure that M&D agenda is covered by national policies and provide a contextualised, holistic and non-selective approach coherent with the SDGs and other relevant international frameworks. These policies should then be implemented in practice. It is important that M&D policies would not become only a façade for migration control mechanisms; commitments to human rights and development should be prioritised over short-term interests of political parties.

It is not enough to address better migration management in development strategies. As currently immigration policies are largely restrictive and often contradict development objectives, it is necessary to adopt research-dictated, holistic view towards international movement in national migration frameworks. Integration mechanisms must be improved at both national and local levels, and more opportunities for regular migration, including low-skill migration, should be created.

A key challenge for effective implementation of M&D agenda at national level is misleading public opinion regarding migration. It is important that residents in Member States would develop a more global sense of citizenship and would perceive migration as a global issue with both risks and benefits, rather than a threat for national security to avoid potentially ungrounded public fear and widespread misconceptions that respectively restrict political will and impede constructive policy discussions. It is hence necessary for Member States to develop and implement coherent national frameworks for development education that would address formal and non-formal education, life-long learning and capacity building of relevant actors such as teachers. As CSOs proved to be most experienced and flexible in raising public awareness, their expertise should be especially regarded in policy discussions. Yet, it is important that national authorities would engage in countering public misconceptions, as activities of CSOs cannot fix the absence of effective national programmes for development education.

Finally, for these objectives to be achieved it is important to ensure that there is a platform for inter-governmental and intra-governmental, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral

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cooperation. While government bodies are encouraged to aim for consultation from higher education institutions, CSO and private sector representatives, actors from these institutions should respectively make an effort to build networks and exchange knowledge of good practices, expertise and other relevant information resources.

4.3 Recommendations for educational institutions

Higher education institutions play a crucial role in teacher education. Hence, by making sure that migration and development education are well-integrated within pedagogy-related courses, higher education institutions could improve the state of development education at local and national levels. All dimensions of sustainable development (such as the risks of unsustainability, global dilemmas, local-global nexus and migration) need to be addressed with the focus being drawn on a more global sense of citizenship and responsibility.

Besides pedagogy courses, higher education institutions are encouraged to actively participate in policy discussions, collaborate with government institutions as well as CSOs in implementation of more effective M&D frameworks, development education strategies and initiatives and awareness raising campaigns. As a network of experts, the academia has a potential to fight public misconceptions and guide well-informed decisions of policy makers. Therefore, higher education institutions should be open, actively aim for collaboration and avoid self-reference.

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AUSTRIAN NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

The results from the national snap elections from autumn 2018 are interpreted by the new government – consisting of the so-called “Neue ÖVP” and the FPÖ – as a clear mandate for change. However, this does not mean that social-ecological transformations within the scope of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were addressed during the election campaign. The topic of migration, on the other hand, was among the most prevalent topics of the election campaign – leading to highly emotional debates among politicians and voters (“Austrians first”) and stroking already existing fears within the population. This, however, is very much opposed to the important principle of the sustainability goals to “Leave no one behind”. Also, in areas such as climate protection and CO2 reduction, there is need for action in Austria.

Despite the renaissance of more nationally oriented policy in the US and in Europe (UK, Poland, Hungary), Austria has both economically (keyword: high export dependency) and politically (keywords: role of intermediary between East and West, UN capital Vienna) a special interest in the functioning of international cooperation. The implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda in Austria’s own sphere of activity as well as on an international level is therefore in Austria’s very own interest. Austria's EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2018 in particular offers the opportunity to set initiatives for a sustainability policy at EU and international level (Obrovsky, 2017). Beyond politics, the implementation of the 2030 agenda, however, must be seen as a task for society as a whole and requires the involvement and support of all social actors.

As has been shown during the focus groups discussions, there is only limited awareness on the causes and consequences of migration among the population as such and in many cases, no differentiation is being made between refugees and asylum seeker. In this context, media education at schools is considered of central importance by participants of the two focus groups – in particular for shaping views and perceptions on sensitive issues such as migration among the younger generations. Overall, the integration of global learning and development education still depends on the pro-activeness and interest of individual teachers and professors and anchoring them more systematically in different educational paths is expected to raise awareness of the population on issues related to development. At the level of higher education institutions, specialised MA Programmes related to development education are, for example, offered at the Katholisch Pädagogische Hochschule Graz[1], Universität

[1] Lehrgang „Globales Lernen – Pädagogik für WeltbürgerInnen": http://www.kphgraz.at/index.php?id=737 (Institution is associate partner in the InterCap project)

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Klagenfurt[2] and Universität Wien[3]. There is also a faculty for migration and globalization at the Donau-Universität Krems[4]. There have been also annual conferences on migration and integration research where researchers had the opportunity to present their papers.[5]

1.2 Aims and objectives

In line with the InterCap project proposal, the aim of this report is to take stock of gaps, needs and expectations of the target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders in Austria in of (in) security and risk, and influencing understanding of migration, sustainable development and lifestyles in an interdependent world. National attitudes towards migration and security as well as specifics of the educational system are briefly introduced under 1.1. and analysed in further detail under section 3 (field research).

1.3 Available data and recourses

This audit is based on available data including research, reports, policy documents and previous surveys from NGOs, public institutions and associations in Austria. It furthermore builds on relevant international data from Eurobarometer related to Austria.

1.4 Limitations

This report builds on data collected from NGOs, think tanks, the education sector and public institutions. However, as also outlined during the focus group discussions, relevant data and information is not at all times available. This also includes research at the national level on the link between international migration and sustainable development as well as explicit references in relevant national strategies and policies relating to the SDGs.[6]

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[2] Universitätslehrgang Master of Arts "Global Citizenship Education": http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/frieden/inhalt/453.htm (Institution is associate partner in the InterCap project)
[3] Master "Globalgeschichte und Global Studies": https://slw.univie.ac.at/studieren/masterstudien/globalgeschichte-und-global-studies-master/
[4] More see at: https://www.donau-uni.ac.at/en/department/migrationglobalisierung/
[5] More see at: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/kmi/activities/conference/
[6] As outlined also on the report of the Bundeskanzleramt Österreich (2016) on SDG Implementation (http://archiv.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=65724), there is no separate strategy related to the implementation of the SDGs. The report contains many examples, indicating how already ongoing activities contribute to the realization of the SDGs. It is not clear though in many

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2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

As outlined in the *Integration Report of the Austrian Expert Council of Integration*[7] (The Expert Council of Integration, 2017), integration pessimism is unfortunately starting to spread again, after years in which an improvement in the sentiment was to be observed. The number of people agreeing with the claim that "integration in Austria is working quite well or very well" has fallen by almost 12 percent. The report further states that images, driven by the media of a disorganised migration of asylum seekers from the Middle East, the reports of sexual assaults by asylum seekers and repeated acts of terrorism, are having effect on public attitudes. In a less differentiated perception, the spin-off of the Middle East conflict to Europe is mingled with the situation of the migrants who came many years or even decades ago.

The Expert Council of Integration further states: Added to this is the specific action of the political leadership in Turkey that is influencing the population with Turkish migrant background either directly or via institutions steered by the leadership. This has also shaped the overall public opinion towards migrants. The famous dictum of the Turkish president in 2008 that assimilation is a crime against humanity, but also the political activation of the population with Turkish migrant background, even if these have taken on the nationality of their country of residence, have not failed to have the desired effect. An alienation process has started. The percentage rejecting the style of life in Austria (somewhat disapprove or totally disapprove) among people questioned with Turkish migrant background is around one-third, among people questioned with a Croatian, Bosnian or Serbian migrant background the figure is below 10%. Among the people questioned with Turkish migrant background the rejection has increased by roughly 16 percent, while it has remained stable among all the other groups. 57% of the people questioned with Turkish migrant background have an ethnic affiliation with the country from which they or their parents come. Among those questioned with a Croatian, Bosnian or Serbian migrant background the figure is only 31%.

In terms of the perception on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Development Cooperation (EZA), an online survey conducted in 2017 among members of the Austrian Association of Towns conducted by KDZ Zentrum für Verwaltungsforschung has shown that implementation of the SDGs has not (yet) arrived in the Austrian cities. The survey also

cases, on whether the SDGs have been indeed driving forces or at least influencing the development of mentioned policies and programmes.

[7] The Expert Council of Integration supports the responsible ministries on how an immigration society can be shaped sustainably. The Expert Council has been enshrined for the first time by law, in the adopted and enacted Integration Act 2017.

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revealed a general information deficit of cities and towns. For some, goals are already reflected in the political programs, strategies and mission statements of cities (e.g. Goals 3, 9, 4 and 5). There is a fundamental willingness to implement SDGs at the local level; here the effects of the SDGs should be reinforced. Awareness of local government about the benefits of the SDGs (to name a few):

- The SDGs strengthen the holistic and global view in local politics.
- The SDGs focus the city's attention on the long-term impact of measures for the benefit of the coming generations
- The SDGs give the environment a voice in local policy decisions
- The SDGs increase the sense of responsibility of urban actors.

In almost half of the cities surveyed, EZA seems to have little or no importance. Only one in three respondents works directly with cities and municipalities or organizations in destination countries.

Special Eurobarometer Reports

In 2017 a Special Eurobarometer report was published on Climate change. Climate change is considered a very serious global problem by 68% of respondents from Austria. National governments (45%) and environmental groups are most likely to be seen as responsible for tackling climate change. When it comes to personal actions that tackle climate change, respondents from Austria are more likely than EU average to buy locally produced and seasonal food whenever possible (58%), avoid taking short-haul flights (28%), switch to energy providers offering a greater share from renewable sources (17%) (Special Eurobarometer 459, 2017; Eurobarometer 459, 2017).

In November 2017, a Special Eurobarometer Report was published on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment. The survey shows that 85% of respondents think that protecting the environment is important while 41% think it is very important. Television news (49%) is a main information source on environmental issues while social networks make 34%. The most common environmental activity in Austria is buying local products (64%). The proportion of people who think that citizens themselves are not doing enough to protect the environment is one of the lowest at EU level (56%). Same perception about government is 54% and EU 56% (Special Eurobarometer 468, 2017).

End of 2017, a Special Eurobarometer 464b report on Europeans' attitudes towards security was published. It showed that respondents from Austria think that their country is a secure place to live in (93%) while 81% think the same about EU. Terrorism (71%) and EU´s external boarders (65%), natural and man-made disasters (53%) are considered as major challenges to EU security in Austria, but it is as well perceived (higher than EU average) that the police and law enforcement authorities are doing enough to fight specific threats (e.g. terrorism, cybercrime, corruption) (Special Eurobarometer 464b, 2017).

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In December 2017, INTEGRAL-Eigenforschung conducted an online survey (Umfrage zum internationalen Tag der Migranten, 2017) with 485 persons, which is representative for the Austrian population between 18 and 69 years, on topics related to migration. When it comes to attitudes towards immigrants, feelings are mixed: 39% think that immigrants are enrichment for Austria. Persons with migration background in their surroundings agreed with this statement to 50%. On the other hand, 59% express fear from foreigners in Austria. It was noticed that women and persons with lower educational backgrounds showed to have more fear. The fear is significantly lower if a person knows people with a migration background. Regarding the integration processes, the respondents are critical: 92% think that migrants should be better integrated. Even persons with migration background share this opinion to 87%.

Further, 76% of the respondents think that Austria needs to help people who are fleeing from war or aggression. 80% think that Austria should be more engaged in the countries of origin of immigrants to induce reduction of migration to Europe.

The study shows as well that the willingness to help (donations, volunteering) varies between social groups: persons with higher economic status are more ready to engage themselves in volunteering while those with lower show lower willingness.

GFK study: What does Austria think?

GfK Austria conducted a research (Dr Bretschneider, 2017) on behalf of Austrian Integration Foundation about what 1,000 Austrians aged 16 years and more understand under integration and what they expect from migrants and refugees. The results show that the integration of refugees and immigrants is the topic that currently occupies Austrians the most, even before questions on issues such as pensions, taxes or economic development. Almost three-quarters of respondents are concerned about the spread of radical Islam (73%), the integration of refugees and immigrants into school and work (73%) and the influx of refugees and asylum seekers (72%).

When asked about important factors for a successful integration, almost 100 percent of the respondents stated that migrants and refugees should accept the laws in force in Austria and acquire a good knowledge of the German language. For 9 out of 10 respondents, it is also crucial to adopt the values applicable in Austria and to be self-sustaining. As far as responsibility for integration is concerned, more than three-quarters of those surveyed stated that immigrants themselves are primarily responsible for their integration. Slightly more than half of the interviewees also stated that they saw responsibility for integration with the state.

When asked what information and values should be provided to refugees and immigrants, nearly 100 percent of respondents named gender equality (97%), state laws over religious

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precepts (96%), and information on everyday foundations living together like garbage disposal or night sleep (96%).

Overall, migration in Austria is in most cases being put in direct correlation with integration problems already present in the society and fear from spreading of radical Islam. While existing challenges related to migration and integration should be taken seriously it seems that there is not enough willingness to understand the causes and step away from generalisation. Therefore, the complexity of these issues should be addressed in further project work. Also, there should be more awareness raising about global cause-consequence perspective between migration and security since these are being mainly reflected through the national context.

In Austria, SDGs are mainly being recognized through need to protect the environment and climate change. There should be a more strategic approach in defining the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders (citizens, governments, NGOs) relevant to tackling these issues.

Even though Austria has a relatively strong tradition of global education and a range of committed organisations, initiatives and projects in the formal and non-formal education sectors and society (Global Education in Austria, 2006) the implementation of the SDGs is going slowly at local level. There should be more capacity building and educational activities how to implement the SDGs in cities and towns. Due to public sector cutbacks for organisations that are active in this field, this task will be very challenging.

2.2 Media response

SDGs and the media

As mentioned in the article “The SDGs in Austria” Die Nachhaltigen Entwicklungsziele (Kommission für Entwicklungsforschung (KEF), 2017) there are many events on the topic of SDGs but they are not so visible to the general public and did not occur in many TV shows before the national elections 2017. Further, the article reports that they screened the online editions of the three major Austrian print media: “Der Standard”, “Die Presse” und “Kurier” for articles on sustainable development goals (from June 2015 onwards) and realised that there is little to be found.

“Der Standard” provides 27 search results, out of which 6 have the SDGs as their core theme. There are 14 hits in “Die Presse”, 4 of them are guest commentaries. “Kurier” gives the best result, out of 15 search results there are 14 clearly oriented articles with a clear thematic

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orientation. While the SDGs are implicit in articles on climate change, food security, education, and many other forms, they were and are only rarely explicitly addressed.

Refugees, migration and the media

From August 2015 to July 2016, Dr. Peter Hajek conducted a survey (Medienanalyse zur Flüchtlingsthematik, 2016) on how asylum seekers and refugees were viewed in the media and whether there were changes in the tonality and the focus of reporting during the given period of time. It was also a focus of the analysis to see when it came to turning points in the media debate.

The analysis period was selected to reflect both the first major flare-up of the asylum topic in late summer 2015 (Keyword "Refugees Welcome") and the events in Cologne at the turn of the year. As part of the media analysis, central, high-reach media (boulevard and quality media) and selected TV news formats in Austria were analysed.

Thematic development of reporting in daily newspapers: Over time the media topics have developed from issues related to refugee at the beginning (smuggling, accommodation search, refugee assistance, etc.) to topics such as refugee crime, sexual assault or terror (especially since incidents in Cologne in January 2016), which in the past were hardly ever associated with the issue of flight.

Tonality in reporting: The tonality of reporting on refugees has clearly worsened during the analysis period. While at the beginning of the refugee crisis reports that aroused pity for refugees or "friendly reporting" towards asylum seekers were dominating (welcoming culture, successful integration topics, etc.), there was a clear uptick until December 2015 in the light of the reports on the "wave of refugees" and the attacks in Paris Attacks in tonality. Refugees were presented even more critical in media in January 2016 against the background of the incidents in Cologne. Finally, in July there were slightly more positive reports than in the months before, but with 62% also a high proportion of negative reporting. The background of this development was probably the terrorist attacks that happened earlier.

Another break line existed between men and women or children. While reporting on women and especially children was mainly compassionate or friendly, reporting on men was mostly unfriendly.

The country of origin was also relevant. About Syrians, reporting was more compassionate or kind - this group was more likely to be given the status of "war refugees". On the other hand, there was a strong negative reporting on Afghani who were repeatedly mentioned in media in connection with criminal offenses. Moreover, people from Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as people from North Africa, have also been more strongly associated with flight for

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economic reasons. Those seeking protection from the African continent were also associated with offenses.

If one summarises the topic “asylum / foreigners” and the topic “EU refugee policy”, the asylum topic was the strongest domestic policy topic even before the coverage of election campaigns and election results, far ahead of all other domestic issues. This is a proof of how much the issue of asylum overshadows all other domestic debates and how difficult it is for political actors to score points with other topics.

To sum up this chapter, there is no or little visibility of events, projects, initiatives on the topic of SDGs in the mainstream print media and television in Austria. Therefore, the general population is not or is very little familiar with this term and its meaning. The language of the SDGs is very complex, technical and abstract. When bringing forward the topic of SDGs to citizens concrete examples that they can relate to should be used. Stronger mainstream media presence seems to be possible only with stronger strategic political commitment to SDGs on national level. Currently, primarily CSOs are talking about this topic in media. It is also necessary to keep in mind that those topics on the top of agenda in reporting are constantly changing and new always come up.

Media topics about refugees and migrants changed from more positive to currently rather negative reporting over the last couple of years. Media should contribute to constructive, critical and non-hateful discourses in the public arena. Many people take media coverage for granted so media education and media competence of teachers, students and general public should be more emphasized to develop critical questioning (interpreting, analysing, evaluating) of media contents.

2.3 Research and project production

According to the report of the Commission for Migration and Integration Research (Sievers in cooperation with Deibl, Pena, 2012), between 2000 and 2010 more than 3,000 research papers were written on topics related to migration (including articles in books, MA thesis, newspaper articles). The general trend is increasing.

In its report “*Beiträge der Bundesministerien zur Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 für nachhaltige Entwicklung durch Österreich* (Budeskanzleramt Österreich, 2016)“, the Austrian Chancellor’s Office describes and analyses contributions in implementing the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development in Austria for each of the 17 development goals. Interesting initiatives for promoting the implementation of the SDGs overall include (but are not restricted) the following:

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- *SDG 4* (quality education): Thematically, the sustainability goals in the learning life of the pupils come to fruition primarily through the principles of instruction and education: »Environmental Education for Sustainable Development«, »Political Education«, »Global Learning and Global Citizenship Education«, »Intercultural Learning«, »Gender Competence and Gender Equality« etc. These thematic areas must be treated and mainstreamed across all subjects.
- *SDG 8* (decent work and economic growth): In the context of SDG 8, a clear nexus is made to migration: The improvement of labour market opportunities for migrants is considered an explicit focus of the Austrian labour market policy, including through counselling services, recognition of professional qualifications or German language courses. The report also mentions in this context the voluntary year of integration for asylum seekers and subsidiary beneficiaries. The voluntary year is not a working relationship, but from 6 to 12 month training on the job comparable to the Voluntary Social Year, with a mix of education and hands-on activities.

In its Annual Policy Report on Austria (2016) and the Country Factsheet Austria (2016), the *European Migration Network* outlines the status and key features of the legal and policy framework of the Austrian Asylum and Migration System. There are no explicit references in these papers to the nexus between migration and sustainable development.

There is also a vibrant *community of CSOs and think tanks* that work in areas related to migration, asylum and development. These CSOs address different aspects and challenges when it comes to asylum, migration or development – both through direct support to asylum seekers/refugees[8] as well as through research.[9] In general, though, it was very difficult to identify research and projects that relate both to sustainable development and migration and that elaborate on the nexus between these two fields.

One research project which could be identified is StartClim2016 – Migration, Climate Change and Social and Economic Inequalities and has been implemented by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna (http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en): Based on desktop research and a review and analysis of academic literature, the research aims at comprehensively reviewing the state of research on migration scenarios in the context of climate change with a specific focus on those which are relevant for Europe and Austria. It further aims at analysing on how these scenarios take into consideration social, economic and political aspects and inequalities between different social groups and how these aspects could be better integrated in the scenarios. In a second step and by means of the analysis of secondary statistical data it should be ascertained whether there is meaningful statistical data available to quantify migration scenarios. Based on these different strands of analysis research gaps as well as entry points for potential adaptation strategies will be identified.[10]

[8] E.g. Asylkoordination (https://www.asyl.at/de/), Caritas (https://www.caritas.at/hilfe-beratung/migrantinnen-fluechtlinge/), Diakonie (https://diakonie.at/presse-pr/kampagne/hilfe-fuer-fluechtlinge), Omega (http://omega-graz.at/index.shtml) and many others.
[9] E.g. Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en), European Training and Research Center for Human Rights and Democracy (www.etc-graz.at).
[10] More see at: http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en/startclim2016-migration-climate-change-and-social-and-economic-inequalities

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2.4 Case studies of good practices

There are a number of good practices and initiatives (partly also linked to global networks/initiatives) which are being disseminated to raise awareness on the SDGs at the national level, including through the so-called platform “SDG Watch Austria”.

In September 2017, this platform consisting of more than 80 CSOs was established to promote and enhance the realization of the SDGs in Austria (see https://www.sdgwatch.at/de/). The platform is promoting an effective and ambitious implementation of SDGs in Austria by means of coordinated advocacy, information and networking; serves as a joint platform for civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a common outward appearance in participatory processes and towards political representatives; disseminates information and knowledge on implementation; coordinates coordinated actions and communication to create awareness; promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between affiliates and cooperation with European and international networks.

Good practices and initiatives – partly also promoted through the website of SDG Watch Austria – include (but are not restricted to) the following:

Schools/students and youth as main target audience:

- A booklet for secondary education, youth work and Adult Education on the Sustainable Development Goals: https://www.globaleverantwortung.at/17-ziele-fuer-eine-bessere-welt
- Unsere Welt. Unsere Zukunft – Ein Lesebuch über die neuen Weltziele (Exenberger, Huainigg, 2017). The individual stories in “Our World. Our future” should enable young people from Austria to get to know the everyday life of children from different countries of the world and at the same time to draw interesting comparisons with their own reality of life. In addition, they learn what they can do themselves to achieve each of the goals of the SDGs. Target group: Students from 9 to 13 years.

Other:

- SDG Info papers from IUFE (see also below)
- Changemaker is a card game for those who want to learn more about the global challenges of our time (Global Goals) and the opportunities to contribute to possible solutions (http://www.ifte.at/entrepreneur/changemaker/)

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The Platform SDG Watch also disseminates information on events that promote and address specific aspects related to the SDGs.[11]

So far, a number of events addressed challenges related to climate change and the environment, whereas migration has not been specifically addressed in any of the promoted events listed on the SDG Watch Austria website.

Concerning sustainable development and environmental issues, organisations such as the Institute for Environment, Peace and Development" ("Institut für Umwelt, Friede und Entwicklung" - http://www.iufe.at/) actively promote the SDGs through a variety of activities. These include also info papers on selected SDGs (2-5, 7-8 and 12-13)[12].

When it comes specifically to migration and asylum, a considerable number of organisations (including think tanks, NGOs) in Austria is addressing existing challenges in this field (see also under 2.3.). Available research seeks to raise awareness on different challenges and aspects of asylum, migration and integration – i.e. related to social and economic conditions of refugees and asylum seekers – and proposes recommendations to policy makers in order to mitigate existing challenges. Overall, reports though show little to no references to migration in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.

The Austrian Development Agency is currently financing several ongoing projects,[13] related to development education and awareness rising in Austria. To name some:

1. A new EU funded, three-year project called "Mind"[14] (Migration Interconnectedness Development) has been launched by Caritas charities from 12 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Sweden, Germany/Bavaria and Caritas Europe. On the theme of migration and development. The project aims at raising the awareness of civil society and national and European institutions on the complex connection between migration and development. Among others, the project will explore the underlying causes of migration, problems faced by hosting societies and integration processes.
2. On the trail of the SDGs – Global Sustainability Goals and Climate Protection in Lower Austria[15]
   The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the awareness and promulgation of the Global Sustainable Development Goals among the Lower Austrian population and to present implementation examples in the federal state.

[11] More see at: https://www.sdgwatch.at/de/veranstaltungen/
[12] Other topics addressed include true costs of the SDGs and the meaning of sustainable development for persons with disabilities. See also under http://www.iufe.at/publikationen/artikelstudien/. IUFE is also member of SDG Watch Austria.
[13] More see at: http://www.entwicklung.at/projekte/laufende-projekte/map/topic/32/

[14] More see at: http://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/8041/new-project-for-migrants-kicks-off-with-11-caritas-charities
[15] More see at: http://www.entwicklung.at/en/projects/detail-en/project/show/den-sdgs-auf-der-spur-globale-nachhaltigkeitsziele-und-klimaschutz-in-noe/

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3. Development Education and Public Relations – Mattersburger Kreis Paulo Freire Zentrum 2016-2017[16]
   The overall goal of the project is to improve the cooperation between science and practice, areas where the beneficiary association has an intermediary role between science, research and university teaching on the one hand, and the field of development policy practice on the other.
4. Understanding Globalization – Transformation Support 2017-2018[17]
   The project contributes to strengthen and introduce Global Learning / Global Citizenship Education in the Austrian education system and cross-organizational capacity building and quality development in the mentioned areas.

5. The Austrian development NGO Südwind (www.suedwind.at), participated together with other international partners, in the EU project "Parlez-vous global?" The overall objective of the project was to present pedagogical and methodological approaches on how to address global development issues at school, especially for the topics "Migration" and "Global Citizenship". The project developed and in 2015 published a handbook called "Migration and Global Citizenship in the Classroom" with lesson examples for the upper secondary education.

According to the motto "think globally, act locally", the Austrian Municipal Gazette (OGZ) focuses on the local implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the February issue.[18] It is a local initiative for global challenges.

Altogether, there is a considerable number of research papers and projects related to migration on the one hand, and SDGs on the other hand. However, there seems to be little awareness on the nexus between SDGs and migration which can be seen from the lack of research papers, projects and initiatives that relate both to sustainable development and migration and that elaborate on the nexus of these two areas. From an Austrian perspective, it will be thus essential for future activities within InterCap to elaborate and raise awareness on this nexus – e.g. within future training modules to be developed for in- and pre-service teachers. There are also a number of good practices and initiatives for raising awareness on the SDGs in Austria and several initiatives address challenges related to climate change and the environment. Overall, climate change/environmental challenges are also more directly and often addressed in the context of the SDGs in comparison to migration.

[16] More see at: http://www.entwicklung.at/en/projects/detail-en/project/show/entwicklungspolitische-bildungs-und-oeffentlichkeitsarbeit-mattersburger-kreis-paulo-freire-zentr/
[17] More see at: http://www.entwicklung.at/en/projects/detail-en/project/show/globalisierung-verstehen-transformation-unterstuetzen-2017-2018/
[18] Österreichische Gemeindezeitung, 2018. Nachhaltigkeitsziele der UNO: Lokale Initiativen und globale Herausforderungen (2/2018). Available at: https://www.staedtebund.gv.at/fileadmin/USERDATA/oegz/dokumente/OeGZ_2_2018.pdf and https://www.sdgwatch.at/de/ressourcen/

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2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

Asylum, migration and integration of migrants and refugees is considered a policy priority in Austria. As outlined in the 2017 Integration Report the immigration over the past years is still continuing to demand particular political and planning attention. Austria is faced with a real immigration situation with significant integration-political consequences that has not yet been wholly dealt with. 214,000 persons immigrated to Austria in 2015, while in 2016 it was around 174,000 persons. In these two years, some 388,000 new immigrants came to the country. Of course, these immigrants do not remain permanently in the country as Austria also experienced emigration of 211,000 persons in 2015 and 2016. However, the net migration was still +177,000, increasing the share of the population with a migrant background to around 1.9 million (The Expert Council of Integration, 2017, p. 6).

Amendments to the Asylum Act, the Aliens Police Act and the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act became effective as of 1st June and 1st October 2016 respectively. These affected among other things the asylum application procedures, for example:

- An application for international protection must be decided within 15 months at the very latest;
- Legal counselling free of charge is generally provided when complaints are lodged against any decision issued by the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum;
- A residence permit for recognised refugees is granted initially for a limited period of three years;
- A card for persons granted asylum was introduced, which serves as proof of identity and legal residence status;
- Special provisions were adopted allowing a reduction of the number of admitted asylum procedures due to a disproportionate pressure on the national asylum system in 2015 and 2016 in case of risk to public order and internal security (European Migration Network, Country Factsheet Austria, 2016).

The following national legislative initiatives have the largest effect on the area of integration: The Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG)[19], the Integration Act (IntG)[20] and the Integration Year Act (IJG).

The Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG) entered into force on July 12th, 2016. The central provision for recognised refugees is article 8 of this act. It lays down special

[19] Federal Act on the Simplification of Procedures for the Recognition and Assessment of Foreign Educational and Professional Qualifications (Recognition and Assessment Act – AuBG), 2016, Available at: http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_2016_1_55/ERV_2016_1_55.pdf

[20] Federal Act for the Integration of Persons without Austrian Nationality Legally Resident in Austria (Integration Act), 2017. Available at: https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Integration/Integrationsgesetz/20171006_IntG_Gesetzestext_UEbersetzung_final.pdf

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procedures for persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection, who involuntarily cannot provide any documentation of their qualifications. The act thus allows the target group to gain access to recognition and assessment procedures for the first time, thus fulfilling a long-standing request of the Expert Council for Integration. The aim is to promote the real labour market integration, in particular at a medium- and high qualification level.

The Integration Act (IntG), whose essential part concerning the integration of refugees became effective on June 9th, 2017, regulates the central framework conditions for the integration of third country nationals living in Austria, who settle down in Austria for a long-term period. It defines the integration process with distinct responsibilities on the part of the state and concrete integration steps on the part of immigrated persons. approach throughout Austria.

The Integration Year Act (IJG) was adopted at the same time as the Integration Act. The target group of the Integration Year Act comprises persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection as well as asylum seekers with a high probability of recognition.

The so-called 50 Action Points (Integration Report, 2017, p. 43ff), compiled in 2015, is the interpretative document for the integration of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and includes measures from all areas of life in the implementation of which the federal government, federal provinces, municipalities, social partners and the civil society are involved. A key focus is placed on language learning, entering the labour market and the communication of values. The 50 Action Points include sections on:

- Language and education (e.g. mandatory course of kindergarten, language support at schools, pedagogic intervention measures in the afternoon outside normal school hours, supporting access to higher education
- Work and employment (e.g. survey of available skills and qualifications, vocational guidance)
- Rule of law and values (e.g. orientation, language and ethics courses)
- Health and social issues (e.g. expansion of examinations by school doctors)
- Intercultural dialogue (e.g. preventing radicalisation, measures against racism)
- Sports and leisure (e.g. development of buddy systems, funds for non-formal youth sector)
- Housing and the regional dimension of integration (e.g. provision of affordable housing, assistance in finding housing)
- General structural measures (e.g. interlinking statistical data, more resources for integration)

From the desk research conducted, there are however, no direct references made to sustainable development (goals) and relevant targets when it comes to migration and asylum

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policies.[21] The topics addressed – as outlined also in the 50 Action Points – are nevertheless of direct relevance to the SDGs 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and wellbeing), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality) and 8 (decent work and economic growth).

On 1 July 2018, Austria will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. On his website,[22] the Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz mentions as one of three priorities of the Austrian presidency the fight against illegal migration and the proper protection of the external borders of the EU in order to increase security in Europe. Specifically, on the website it is written that the focus will be on those challenges that a state alone cannot cope with and where a European solution is needed (subsidiarity), including:

- Security and the fight against illegal migration: focus on effective border management and on-site assistance, repatriation of rejected asylum seekers.
- Stability in the neighbourhood: Progress in the accession negotiations with the countries of South-Eastern Europe provides more security for Austria.

This can be put into correlation with the government programme 2017-2022 (Regierungsprogramm, 2017) which introduced stricter asylum regulations.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

So far, the SDGs are not yet explicitly referred to in national legislation on migration or migration policies. When it comes to SDG 8, the report of the Austrian Chancellor's Office on the implementation of the SDGs in Austria notices, however, that the improvement of labour market opportunities for migrants is considered an explicit focus of the Austrian labour market policy, including through counselling services, recognition of professional qualifications or German language courses. The report also mentions in this context the voluntary year of integration for asylum seekers and subsidiary beneficiaries (Beiträge der Bundesministerien zur Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 für nachhaaltige Entwicklung durch Österreich, 2016).

As outlined under 2.5., the topics addressed in the so-called 50 Action Points are in practice also relevant for the realisation of specific SDGs in the context of migration – despite the fact that no specific reference to the SDGs are being made.

Experts on sustainable development have raised concerns about the lack of information from Government actors on priorities for implementing the SDGs, as well as on coordinating the process of implementation, monitoring and reporting to the United Nations (Südwind magazine, 2/2018).

[21] See in particular target 10.7. of the SDGs: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
[22] Sebastian Kurz chancellor website, 2018. Der österreichische EU-Ratsvositz 2018. Available at: https://secure.sebastian-kurz.at/fb/eu-ratsvorsitz-2018/

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Different initiatives are/have been underway to transpose EU directives in the field of migration (e.g. Seasonal Workers Directive (Directive 2014/36/EU) and Inter-Corporate Transferees Directive (Directive 2014/66/EU).[23] Even though there is no direct link made to sustainable development, specific aspects (such as more flexible conditions governing the issuing and validity of category D visas) may positively impact e.g. on target 10.7. of the SDGs.

When it comes to development cooperation projects funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation in partner countries, reporting of beneficiaries is required regarding contributions of project activities for the realisation of the SDGs. In addition, initiatives are supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation for promoting the SDGs at the national level.[24]

Asylum, migration and integration of migrants and refugees is considered a policy priority in Austria. A number of laws, policies and programmes regulate asylum, migration and integration. However – the SDGs are not explicitly referred to in national legislation on migration or in migration policies. This also includes the so-called 50 Action Points which address areas relevant to specific SDGs – despite the fact that no specific reference to the SDGs are being made. Experts on sustainable development have raised concerns about the lack of information from Government actors on priorities for implementing the SDGs, as well as on coordinating the process of implementation, monitoring and reporting to the United Nations (Südwind magazine, 2/2018). Future initiatives to promote and implement the SDGs (also beyond InterCap) may thus aim at raising awareness of policy makers on the SDGs and developing their capacities for incorporating the SDGs in law and policy making processes.

3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

For the field research, two focus groups with 11 persons in total were organised. The focus groups took place at the KPH – the Private University College of Teacher Education, Diocese Graz-Seckau – on two different days. The focus groups started with an introduction about the project and the main aims of the focus group. After that, the methodology and advantages of a focus group were explained and presented to participants. After signing the consent of participants, discussions started in line with the questions outlined in the respective InterCap guidelines. Participants of each focus group included invited experts, representatives from

[23] See also European Migration Network. Country Factsheet: Austria 2016.Available at: http://www.emn.at/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/EMN-Country-Factsheet-Austria-2016.pdf

[24] E.g. https://www.globaleverantwortung.at/17-ziele-fuer-eine-bessere-welt. For more project examples see also section 2.4.

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WUS Austria and the moderator from KPH Graz. The focus group with experts from the education sector lasted 90 minutes, the focus group with stakeholders in fields of migration, sustainable development and global education, 75 minutes. For clarity in this report, the experts from the education sector are called “experts” and the stakeholders in fields of migration, sustainable development and global education are called “stakeholders“.

In addition to the moderator and WUS AT representatives, there were in total 11 participants in the two focus groups, 5 in the focus group with experts and 6 in the focus group with stakeholders. All participants are university graduates, 7 of them have masters’ degrees and four of them have doctorate degrees. All of them work at the moment in Graz, the second largest city in Austria. Some of the participants have also worked in the capital, Vienna.

The persons who participated in the focus group of the education sector came from different educational institutions. Three of them work in different positions at university (university professor, vice rector and lector at the Institute for Educational Professionalization), one person is the director of a primary school with children exclusively from a migratory background, and one person is teacher at a high school in Graz.

The participants in the second focus group came from different NGOs and institutions in the fields of migration, sustainable development and global education in Graz. This included one representative from OMEGA (Transcultural Centre for Mental and Physical Health and Integration), a centre for migrants. Furthermore, there were experts for sustainable development from Welthaus Graz and the DKA (Dreikönigsaktion). The representative from Südwind Steiermark is an expert on global education. There was also one person from Caritas who is an expert on projects with Slovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria. Finally, there was also a representative from the Afro Asiatic Institute, an institute that creates opportunities for students from Africa, Latin America and Asia in the context of development collaboration as well as in a migration policy context.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

Both groups emphasised that there is a huge need to catch up in terms of public awareness on migration and its link to sustainable development. Participants of the stakeholder focus group also mentioned that there is supposedly a very high awareness about international migration in the Austrian society, but overall people do not correctly differentiate – e.g. between migrants and refugees/asylum seekers. There is also a limited understanding on the broader context of migration (globally – who, migrates where and for what reasons?). Overall, migration is very much perceived as a threat within the Austrian population – a tendency which is further exacerbated by the rhetoric of politicians.

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Experts also see a notable change in language or choice of words. For example, "foreigner" is often used in a derogative meaning. They agree that family plays an important role in creating awareness of children and young people in fields of migration and sustainable development.

A lack of awareness also exists among students and teachers. NGOs offer workshops and didactic materials for teachers, but nowadays it´s the individual responsibility of each teacher to accept those offers or not. For the students, it´s similar – there are lectures related to these themes, but most of them are elective subjects only. Awareness about sustainable development is also very limited.

On the other hand, there are also some good practice examples: At the KPH and other universities of the so-called Developing Group Southeast (EVSO), Global education and Global Citizenship Education have been implemented in the new curriculum for teacher education.

Experts in the education sector do know about SDGs, Habitat II or PCD to some extent, but consider NGO experts to be better suited to address these topics. They believe that increased information in these areas at schools would be useful. It was also mentioned that the Paris Agreement is better known because it was promoted more strongly in the media.

Stakeholders from NGOs naturally know more about these documents, but they think that the SDGs could be overwhelming for students. It was emphasised in this context, that it is important not just to teach terms, but also concepts. It would be essential to implement a pedagogical concept for global education rather than to explain each single SDG. It was also underlined that it is more important to understand the context rather than to know all the goals. Stakeholders think that it is important to discuss the Paris Agreement, but also broken down into topics that have to do with the reality of pupils (e.g. usage of palm oil or clean clothes campaign).

Policy makers unfortunately don’t have a strategic approach to the implementation of the goals. They are still at the beginning of its implementation. SDGs are not reflected in mass media or tabloid media, but only in specialised magazines. Stakeholders noticed, however, that at the regional policy level, there are more efforts towards the realization and implementation of the SDGs. NGOs have also noticed specific grant opportunities for projects related to the SDGs (e.g.by the Austrian Development Cooperation).

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

Experts believe that this link is only clear to experts from specialised NGOs, but not to policy makers in general or the overall population. NGO stakeholders believe that due to many factors, it is difficult for the overall society to understand the links between climate change

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and migration. Now that migration is very present in the heart of Europe, a closer look is being taken at its causes. For many people, it is difficult to connect war and asylum/migration – and connecting climate change or sustainable development and migration is considered as even more challenging. In the media and among policy makers the link is not enough presented and discussed. NGO stakeholders also drew the attention to the fact that this topic may not be enough exploited by policy makers. However, also NGO stakeholders were not completely clear about the link between climate change and migration – the interconnection is complex and related as well to world economic policies, inequalities between social systems, political systems that are not sustainable. One person stated that climate change is not a reason for migration in line with the Geneva Refugee Convention.

There is only a small amount of elbowroom for anchoring these subjects appropriately in the educational offer at colleges. However, there are exceptions or special offers like a course for Global Education at the KPH. The University of Klagenfurt offers a master course for Global Citizenship Education. Lectures discussing those issues can be also found at institutes like International Law, Global Studies or human rights.

3.4 Insecurity

In the view of experts, globalisation also causes fears. The precarious situation of employment is attributed to globalisation and this view is further supported by political players. However, globalisation is only transmitted in a negative way. Positive aspects are rarely mentioned by policy makers or in the most commonly read newspapers.

Another reason for social insecurity is migration. According to experts, discussions about migration are also held mostly in negative ways both in media and politics. Consequently, experts observed a huge insecurity in dealing with migrants, mostly by people who do not have actual contacts with immigrants. This insecurity originates from their foreignness. Experts think that existing fears should be taken seriously and that there should be well developed strategies to address and ultimately reduce these fears. In this context, it is considered essential to create opportunities for encounter between foreigners and Austrians. There are also examples for good practice in several districts of Graz (and Austria) where politicians or persons from specialised organisations involved the general population, for example, in the construction of a refugee home, and where living together of Austrians and migrants works very well. There should be also more focus on intercultural learning and intercultural dialogue. To respond to this need, the KPH offers a course for teachers entitled “Intercultural and Interreligious Education”.

Other reasons for the feeling of social insecurity are on the one hand a lack of information and on the other hand an abundance of information: Most of the people in Austria read just one and always the same newspaper. A number of mainstream newspapers (including Kronen Zeitung, Kleine Zeitung, Österreich) have an exceptional influence on the opinion

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making of the Austrian population in this context. People do not reflect on which political opinion the newspaper represents or compare the positions in several newspapers.

For younger people, social media play a very big role in collecting information and consequently for creating or preventing a feeling of social insecurity. Therefore, media competence should be highly valued and taught at schools but also at universities. Starting as of the next school year, media education will be introduced at the secondary school level in all Austrian schools.

3.5 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

There is currently a large assortment of media and high quality programs on national TV and radio, but experts stated that only a limited number of people take advantage of this information offer. As mentioned in the previous chapter, social media has a very big influence on people, but experts note a difference between younger and older generations. For older people, television or the newspaper still play a big role, whereas for most younger people social media platforms like Facebook or twitter are very important and thus much of their information comes from articles they find on these platforms. They get their information quickly, anytime and everywhere on their mobile phones. This media behaviour should be investigated in more depth and also used more strongly as a channel to transmit news related to sustainable development.

Experts and stakeholders agree that it is neither possible nor desirable to avoid emotional discussions. Although facts and evidence should play a central role, emotional information can also positively contribute to discussions (e.g. stories about real life of migrant families in Austria). Overall, it is considered difficult to catch people's attention "simply" with facts or numbers. Experts state that sometimes it´s just not possible to convince with arguments, so one should wrap important information in stories that arouse emotions. It´s however critical, what kind of emotion are being caused. If it´s about emotions like solidarity, this can be very positive.

To create values like solidarity or empathy, education from the very beginning is central. On the one hand, relevant topics should be included in every subject at school – today the education of values is nearly reduced to the subject of religious studies – but on the other hand, there should also be strategies to support parents since they are instrumental for shaping the values and opinions of their children. And as experts put it: "It´s only possible to generate a mature civil society if enough opportunities are being created for participation of all people – including young and old."

In the media the SDGs are discussed little and if it is, then primarily through the initiative of Civil Society Organisations. There is thought more awareness about the SDGs compared to

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the MDGs. Some improvement is visible especially in politics and public administration where activities are assigned to SDGs or e.g. findings put in relation to SDGs. There are also some local and regional initiatives to approach this topic. Nevertheless, more strategic approach on national level is needed for the realisation of this complex Materia.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

Experts and NGO stakeholders identified a lot of information gaps related to migration and sustainable development (see also above). Subjects like land grabbing, desertification or global economic and political connections have to be better represented and a greater awareness is needed. Many people feel certain powerlessness when it comes to very complex topics. It is therefore important to create possibilities and spaces of action and participation. A big challenge is the communication of the everyday relevance of global subjects such as the global consequences of consumer behaviour - although in this very case the awareness of the population is considered relatively high.

The topic of migration is discussed only in a very one-sided way. In the perception of most people, migration means that people from other, poorer countries come to Europe. Migration should be discussed in a much more multifaceted way and with reference to both historical and global trends. A very high percentage of migration happens from one country of the Global South to another. This reality should be transmitted as well.

International mobility at universities is very popular and important nowadays, but mobility mostly takes place between European countries. School or university partnerships with schools or universities from the Global South could be helpful for the exchange of information and could help to develop a better understanding for global subjects and challenges.

Another important instrument to fill existing gaps is social media platforms with their specific language and available instruments which are being used by a wide swath of society. It was recommended that experts and NGO stakeholders read the headlines and the newspapers that the majority of people read in Austria, in order to understand how people think and then to adapt projects, workshops and didactic materials accordingly. It was sensed that experts/NGO stakeholders need “to get out of their bubble”. NGO Stakeholders also discussed about how to better reach out to people related to topics of development and migration. They stated that they are in contact with teachers who use to book their workshops or with people who have a special interest in the offered subjects. However, it is considered very difficult to expand the circle of interested persons.

Stakeholders also stated that there are already a lot of organisations implementing very good projects for schools and teachers. It is important to support these organisations so they can build upon their work and use their experiences to further develop and expand available materials.

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3.7 The role of education systems

Experts and stakeholders agree that education plays a central role in promoting issues such as migration and sustainable development. Still, participants in the focus group underlined that the following questions need to be assessed and weighed: “What can an education system actually do – and where are priorities to be set? What can be the role of the family, civil society and the education sector' Experts mentioned that it´s not possible to force schools and/or educational institutions to constantly introduce new subjects. Teachers often feel overburdened with all the tasks they have to perform. In this context, experts mentioned that “schools cannot fix everything that goes wrong in our society”. However, they agree that a specialised education for future teachers and also for in-service teachers related to global and sustainable education is very important. Global and sustainable themes should become subjects of discussion from primary school on and should be reinforced in secondary and high school through obligatory courses. Global and Sustainable Education should be thus part of every teacher training curriculum. Future teachers should be able to use a toolkit that helps them to address socio-politically relevant issues in the classroom.

At secondary schools, Global Education is an interdisciplinary topic. On the one hand, there is potential to incorporate it into every subject. On the other hand, the incorporation depends on the teachers and there is a danger that nobody will handle those themes. Experts recommended to introduce a special subject called Global Learning and stated that “if all pupils get acquainted with issues of global learning, it will be like planting a seed”.

NGO stakeholders observed that the majority of teachers who book a workshop are teachers of religious studies. Therefore, it seems that there is a special attention on global learning in these studies, which seems to be missing in others. In addition, since the Austrian Ministry of Education introduced the “Neue Reifeprüfung” (new high school exam) and the competence orientation, the percentage of workshops booked by primary school teachers has increased opposed to high school teachers. Experts stated that the new system in Austria seems to limit the possibility to implement projects or to teach development issues at secondary school level.

Starting with the next school year, mandatory media competence classes will be taught at secondary schools. It is important in this context, that the information to be conveyed to students will go beyond acquiring technical skills.

Experts and stakeholders agree that intercultural and interreligious dialogue should gain more significance in universities and other institutes of higher learning. At the KPH Graz there is a course focusing on intercultural learning as well as one on global learning. These themes are also positioned well in lifelong learning. It was considered important by experts that an introduction of these topics will be also mandatory in traditional teacher education.

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In the university context, there is a high demand for educational offerings with focus on migration. The role of universities in the creation of a multifaceted understanding of migration and integration should be strengthened. Socially and politically relevant themes should be continuously and sustainably integrated into the education system.

Migrants should have easier access to universities and other higher education institutions, both in order to create opportunities for exchange and in order to support higher education for migrants.

Global and sustainable education should be more easily incorporated into pedagogical studies so that workshops and trainings can also be incorporated into lifelong learning.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

- Pro-actively expand the circle of persons interested and engaged in topics related to sustainable development, including international migration and climate change.
- In this respect, social media are seen as a powerful tool and should be further explored to catch people's attention, shape public opinion and to raise the overall awareness on issues related to sustainable development.
- Decisive factors that shape opinions and attitudes of the population towards sustainable development require understanding and need to be further explored.
- In this context, relevant articles in mainstream newspaper and TV programmes should be monitored and analysed, since they are central for forming the opinions of a major part of Austria's population.
- Efforts to promote sustainable development should not only address younger people, but also target adults in the context of lifelong learning.
- Existing knowledge about migration, global and sustainable development within the broader population should be better understood and analysed and interconnections between these fields should be presented in easily understandable ways.
- NGOs are encouraged to cooperate with governmental institutions, municipalities and educational institutions to further promote topics related to sustainable development.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

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- Use existing power structures and influence for transmitting knowledge and creating opportunities for education and training in this field, with view to overcome fears that exist within the population.
- Anchor Global Education, Intercultural Learning and education for Sustainable Development mandatory in teacher training.
- Generate financial resources for the implementation of new, important subjects at school that are related to sustainable development.
- Governmental institutions are also encouraged to further cooperate with NGOs and educational actors and to use their scientific knowledge and expertise.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

- Create possibilities/platforms for exchange/face-to face encounter between migrants/refugees and the general population.
- Involve and consult the population (including civil society) in the development of plans and policies, in particular in areas relevant to sustainable development.
- Organize public lectures or talks to fill existing gaps of information.
- Offer workshops and trainings, including for older generations.
- Support existing organisations, dedicated to promoting the realisation of SDGs and addressing specific aspects of sustainable development in their daily work.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

- There are a number of good practice examples for addressing topics of global education at educational institutions. For example, the Developing Group Southeast (EVSO) implemented the course “Global Education and Global Citizen Education” in the new curriculum for teacher education. Another example are various courses for in-service teachers such as the course at University of Klagenfurt on “Global Citicenship Education” or at the “Kirchlich Pädagogische Hochschule Graz “Globales Lernen”. InterCap should build upon these already ongoing initiatives and create synergies to the extent possible.

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- The pedagogical concepts of global learning should become an integral part of teacher education for all teachers.
- There should be also a stronger focus on intercultural and interreligious learning and dialogue, to enable teachers to deal with diversity in the classroom.
- At schools, there should be a stronger focus on media education and media competence so that students learn to look at news in newspapers and social media in a critical way.
- Every pupil should have the chance to learn about global and sustainable issues starting from the age of primary school.
- Teachers need to be supported through a set of capacity building measures in order not to feel overwhelmed with new tasks (such as media education or introduction of global learning topics). In this context, it is also recommended to provide them with a toolkit that addresses socio-politically relevant issues and how to respond to these in the classroom.

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

- Further engage in research on the nexus between sustainable development, climate change and migration.
- Further explore existing models and good practices in Europe for integrating topics of global learning in the higher education system, including teacher education.
- Further explore existing models and good practices in Europe for integrating pupils with a migrant background in the education system.
- Further explore the interaction between migrants and the majority population. So far, these two groups have been mainly analysed and looked at separately from each other. Already existing examples address the following topics: interethnic friendships and partnerships; interactions in schools between asylum seekers and pupils from the majority population (Sievers in cooperation with Deibl and Pena, 2012).
- Further analyse participation of migrants in decision making processes. Already existing studies address aspects of participation in political parties, CSOs and workers' councils. Overall though, there is a lack of studies in other areas related to this topic (Sievers in cooperation with Deibl and Pena, 2012).

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BULGARIAN NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1. Rationale

Bulgaria is located in the South Eastern corner of the European Union, being one of the gates into Europe along the Balkan and the East Mediterranean migration routes. Prior to 2013, the country was not a preferred entry or transit destination for migrants. Since June 2013, however, the situation in Bulgaria has dynamically changed with regard to the number of undocumented migrants. The majority of undocumented migrants who arrive in Bulgaria try to continue their journey to destination countries in North and Western Europe.

Very often, the positive correlation between the migration and the sustainable development has been underestimated and misunderstood. The migration is seen as a threat, rather than a driving force for sustainable development. There is a need of raising awareness actions to change the negative prejudices about the migration processes and to connect them with the sustainable development.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

According to the InterCap project proposal, the aim of this report is to take stock of gaps, needs and expectations of the target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders in Bulgaria in terms of security and risk, and influencing the understanding of migration, sustainable development and lifestyles in an interdependent world.

The audit should investigate the national attitudes towards migration, security, correlation between the migration and the sustainable development and how these interrelated topics are presented in the educational system.

1.3. Available data and resources

The report is based on different available sources – National policy and legislation documents, reports, surveys from CSOs and institutions, media response analysis, press publications, Eurobarometer and MIPEX surveys.

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Identification of good practices at National and regional level is used as well. Two focus groups and 4 individual interviews were realised with experts, which have outlined and enriched the audit.

1.4. Limitations

The main limitations for this report relate to the lack of information about the links between sustainable development and migration. The two processes are covered separately. There was a lack of information on any researches about the development education and global education.

In Bulgaria there is a gap concerning the understanding and covering the two aspects: migration and sustainable development.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Public opinion polls

In the autumn of 2013, Bulgaria was the subject of unpredictable and unmanageable refugee flows from the Middle East and mainly from Syria, torn apart by a military conflict with elements of civil, ethnic and religious war. The Republic of Bulgaria proved to be unprepared to meet more than 7,000 human beings seeking protection, food and shelter.

According to a nationally representative survey of the sociological agency Alpha Research (Alpha Research, 2015), conducted on 5–7 September 2015, many Bulgarians (6%) believe that the refugee wave is a danger for their country. The vast majority of the respondents (89%) think that Bulgarian state has to fight with the people smugglers and 82% supports strengthening the border fence. The results indicate that there is strong support for restrictive measures. At the same time, the study indicated greater acceptance of social measures to improve the work of social institutions to ensure better conditions for refugees – 75%. 44.5% of the respondents were in favour of the need for coordination between a Bulgarian and European asylum policy. 11% demand a complete closure of borders. Opposite option – to accept refugees without restrictions – was approved by 3.7% of the respondents. The release

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of additional money from the state budget for refugees was not supported by the Bulgarian society. According to the survey results, 63% of the respondents support quotas to distributions of the migrants and 34% are opposed.

The survey registered growth of the fears, extreme sensitivity to political speeches and solutions, radicalization of public opinion, but within the institutional alternatives. The refugees continue to be perceived as “mass”. A study (Alpha Research, 2015), for the years 2012 and 2013 indicate the refugees were rather unknown, misunderstood, with a negative image in Bulgarian public opinion. The main concerns about the refugees have been associated with rising crime, diseases and infections.

Concerning a research made by Trend agency in Bulgaria, in October 2017 (Trend agency, 2017) the Bulgarians remains highly sceptical about the admission of refugees and migrants to their territory. Moreover, there is no difference in the attitude towards refugees and economic migrants from the Middle East and in both cases just over 80% of all respondents believe that they should not be allowed on the territory of the country.

Most undocumented migrants who are detected by the Border Police initiate a procedure for seeking international protection. In recent years, there has been a constant increase in the number of migrants seeking international protection. For 2015 and 2016, the top five countries are Iraq; Afghanistan; Syria; Pakistan and Iran. Worthy of note is the increase in 2015 and 2016 of the number of Afghan citizens who represent over 46 percent of the total number of migrants detected by Border Police for 2016 and 40 percent of the new asylum seekers for 2016 (IOM, 2017).

A study, commissioned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Bulgaria was conducted in December 2017 (UNHCR, 2018) with the aim to explore public attitudes towards refugees and people seeking protection in the country, as well as the reasons and motives for the attitude and behaviour of Bulgarians towards them.

Concerning the attitude to the refugees and people searching for protection in Bulgaria, the results show that local people's direct contacts with refugees and people seeking protection are diminishing as well as public awareness of refugees compared to the beginning of the intensified migratory flow in 2013. In 2017, 93.2% of Bulgarians say they have never had a contact with a refugee, while in 2013 they were 81%. There is also a significant drop (from 84% in 2013 to 54% in 2017) in the proportion of people who have come upon news or stories about refugees (UNHCR, 2018).

Considering the lack of direct contact with refugees and people seeking protection, the media is the main source of information for Bulgarians and a major factor in forming opinion. Television is the leading source of information (94%), internet (20%), conversations with friends and acquaintances (19%), printed media (11%), social media (7%), and radio (7%) (UNHCR, 2018).

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There is no understanding of who needs protection. As a whole, Bulgarians perceive anyone coming to the country outside the European Union as an illegal migrant without clearly realizing the difference between migrants and people seeking protection.

The survey confirms several recent stereotypes of refugees, seen lately, that can be broken down into the following groups:

- Stereotypes about what people should be accepted in the country: they include the opinion shared by 51% of respondents that Bulgaria should accept people seeking protection coming from countries at war (such as Syria and Iraq) and only 15% declare that people who are persecuted or whose human rights are violated must be admitted. 53.5% of the respondents believe that the majority of people seeking protection in Bulgaria are not fleeing because of persecution or war in their homeland (UNHCR, 2018).
- Stereotypes connected with the fears of the local population: this group includes concerns about the differences in cultural customs and religious beliefs that underlie fears in Bulgarian society towards refugees. The main concerns are that refugees could commit crimes (60%), spread their cultural customs and religious beliefs (48%) and spread diseases (39%). Concerns about personal security, job losses and disease contamination were most prevalent in 2013 at the start of the increased migratory flow. In 2017, the leading ones are security concerns, differences in culture and religion (UNHCR, 2018).

The majority of the population (55.5%) believes that during the process of granting protection, the state should only provide shelter and food for people seeking protection, while 46.5% believe that they should not to receive more rights and financial support. Compared to 2013, there is a significant increase in the proportion of people who believe that people seeking protection should be detained during the protection process from 59% in 2013 to 76.8% in 2017. There is also a decline in the proportion of people who believe that government support and work opportunity should be provided – from 77% in 2013 to 62.5% in 2017 (UNHCR, 2018).

2.2. Media response

It is impossible to ignore the role of the mass media in influencing public and elite political attitudes towards asylum and migration. The mass media can set agendas and frame debates. They provide the information, which citizens use to make sense of the world and their place within it. In many countries it has been found that refugees and migrants have tended to be framed negatively as a problem, rather than a benefit to host societies. However, it is also true that, on occasion, media can have positive impacts on public attitudes and policy.

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People very often learn about migration or “migration crisis” from the media, where the refugees are present either as a victim of violated human rights, with fates of war-fledged and genocidal fugitives, or at the other extreme, as threatening security and a big issue for the host country.

A small part of the Bulgarian society has a direct daily contact with foreigners in order to be able to build up a personal judgment and mind-set. Therefore, the main source for information that forms opinion and leads to taking certain position, appear to be the media. For this reason, their role is of a great importance. Usually, in order to draw the attention of the public, they somewhat overexpose the topic with the threat of the refugee crisis or they simply turn into an uncritical platform for racial and xenophobic standpoints.

The main instrument for spreading the speech of hatred towards migrants is television. Nearly 75 % of the surveyed who have had an encounter with it, said it has happened through the TV screen, further shows the sociological data. Internet is the second significant media, through which the speech of hatred has gained popularity, especially amongst the youth and the educated (Project TAL, 2014). Analysis (Gancheva, V., 2015) of over 8,400 online publications, done by the Association of the European journalists, has found that a refugee has been presented as a thread, illness, danger. Only some 20% of the articles pay attention to the Syrian society and culture.

In the forums, social networks and mostly in comments under news and reports on different news websites can be found the aggressive and hostile language towards the “others”. The arsenal, usually used, is made of qualifications like “spawns”, “scum”, “mass murderers”… According to Dr Vyara Gancheva, sociologist and professor at the Faculty of Journalism of Sofia University St. Climent Ohridski, the advantage of the haters in the net space is that they are anonymous and to a great extent they can’t be punished (Evdokieva, R., 2015).

At the same time, there is a lack of data on media response to sustainable development and on the coherence with the sustainable development goals and migration. There are many publications, covering different regional and national problems connected with the environment, air pollution, water, safe energy. Media cover sustainable development in a broader sense and mostly climate change and do not connect with the SDGs.

There are different events in the country that media cover – conferences, seminars, workshops covering different aspects of the sustainable development in different industries, for example in tourism, environmental protection, energy, agriculture, but not through the lens of SDG.

To summarise, the prejudices and manifestations of intolerant inclinations towards the migrants, as well the coherence between migration and sustainable development may be overcome through education, upbringing, social politics, equal access to quality education, health care and social assistance. Therefore, more raising awareness actions are needed at

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different levels. More projects have to be performed with trainings and spreading information on these global topics.

2.3. Research and project production

There is a lack at National level of researches on SDGs, sustainable development and researches on linking the migration and sustainable development. The sustainable development topic is covered very narrowly in some governmental strategy documentation – mostly in the field of tourism, environmental protection, energy, and agriculture.

At the same time, there are many realised projects, mostly from CSO and voluntary initiatives connected with the sustainable development and SDGs. One good example are the projects realised by "The Global Compact in Bulgaria", a voluntary initiative of the former UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, bringing together business and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, cities and UN agencies in a truly global forum to promote sustainable growth and civic responsibility. All projects of UNGC Bulgaria are in accordance to the Global Sustainable Development Goals and are in implementation of the 2015+ Strategic Plan of the Network (Uniglobalcompact 2018).

Here are some examples of these projects and connection with the appropriate SDG (Uniglobalcompact 2018):

- SDG3 – the project "Games for good" aims to show that the responsible companies, the good health of the employees, sports and the meaningful causes can go hand in hand. For that purpose, the Bulgarian network organises sports tournaments where each of the companies participating has pre-selected a charity cause in the name of which they give their maximum effort to win the competition's prize fund.
- SDG4 – the "Proud of my parents' work" programme aims to demonstrate to children the role of labour as a necessity and value that regardless of one's the profession, every person is indispensable and useful to the society. The program creates empathy with the values of labour and progress in life as a result of personal qualities, capabilities and gained knowledge.
- SDG8 – "Children's' Bazaar of Professions", is an early career orientation expo which meets the children with various professions, experts who tell more about the specifics of each profession, and career-orientation experts. The project gathered more than 1600 visitors in the National Palace of Culture. 35 lecturers from various professional spheres took part in the event, while the children could also visit 13 stands, which presented different models and installations and the professions of some of the specialists.
- SDG12 – the "Responsible Choice" Project is an idea stemming from the member-companies of the GC Network Bulgaria. The main objective of the project is to show

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that the companies can, through transparency in responsible production and supply, demonstrate to the consumers that with their actions the latter have the power to change the production practices, to influence the “fashion” imposed by advertisers and to nurture anti-consumerist culture in themselves and young people. With this project we wish to provide citizens with an increasingly proactive stance thus imparting to them the confidence and sense of duty, that it is all up to them.

Another set of successful projects that focus more on migrants, their integration and raising awareness among communities are performed from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Bulgaria (IOM Bulgaria, 2018):

- “Provision of information and counselling for voluntary return” – the programme assists undocumented third country nationals (TCNs) staying in Bulgaria. The project activities consist of providing information and counselling on possibilities for voluntary return to TCNs, including rejected asylum seekers and persons provided with international protection.
- “Integrated Border Management” – a cooperation program aiming to build the capacity of the government in border management is being implemented by IOM missions in Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria.
- “Migrant Integration Programme” – under its migrant integration programme, IOM Sofia has established Integration Information Migration Centres in key locations in Bulgaria, which help migrants to successfully integrate into Bulgarian society. It has also conducted integration information days within the country targeting third country nationals residing legally in Bulgaria. A specialised integration website and specialised integration hotline was established.
- “Strengthening the National Capacity of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Field of Asylum and Migration” – the overall objective of the project is to focus on: improving reception conditions, in particular the provision of psycho-social and legal services; assistance to counter the trafficking of vulnerable migrants and protection for unaccompanied minors; providing information and advice to third-country nationals on the possibilities for voluntary return.

In summary, there are many projects – local, regional, national, European, funded by different sources or volunteers. Most of them are executed by CSO. There is a need to develop some initiative, events, trainings, more projects, different actions to raise awareness to the coherence between the migration and the sustainable development, to emphasise on the migration as a driving force for sustainable development.

2.4. Case studies of good practices

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In 2018, Eleven European Catholic Caritas charities join forces for a project funded by the European Union to raise the public's awareness of migration issues. “Migration, interaction, development” is a three-year initiative of 12 Caritas organizations from 11 European countries to raise public awareness of sustainable development issues and migration and promote development education in the European Union. The participants are Caritas Bulgaria, Caritas Austria, Caritas Bavaria, Caritas Czech Republic, Caritas Netherlands, Caritas Europe, Caritas Belgium, Caritas Italy, Caritas Portugal, Caritas Slovakia, Caritas Slovenia and Caritas Sweden (Caritas, 2018).

The project is funded by the European Union and is aimed at raising the awareness of civil society and national and European institutions on the complex connection between migration and development.

“Migration, Interaction, Development” will contribute to the active participation of European society in issues and issues related to sustainable development as well as to raising awareness of the link between migration and sustainable development. In each of the three years, Caritas will focus on a specific topic related to the migration flow, including the causes of migration, integration, migrants' contribution to the development of host countries and their countries of origin.

“Migration, Interaction, Development” will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, which is vital to the preservation of our common home and the common good. Caritas is convinced that building progressive societies based on charity, humanity, solidarity and concern for the common good is of key importance to achieving the goals of sustainable development and creating a better world for future generations.

Another good practice example is UNICEF, Bulgaria, as a part of the Global Initiative “The Biggest Lesson in the World”. The aim of this initiative is to familiarise the young generation with the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and to commit ourselves to the future of children and the whole planet. In the period 2016-2017, more than 422 Bulgarian schools received their Certificate from UNICEF, Bulgaria, because they performed many activities, learning interactively the 17 SDG`s. In addition, more than 40,000 students met the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The web site of the UNICEF – Bulgaria covers extensively the SDGs and the coherence with the migration and sustainable development in a broader sense with publications, projects, examples, news, materials for educators, lesson plans and other useful information (UNICEF, 2018).

A good practice in Bulgaria in the area of integration, established over the years, is working with social mediators. The social mediators supporting asylum seekers and beneficiaries are selected among other migrants, beneficiaries, family members of mixed marriages, foreigners with permitted residence in the country and Bulgarian citizens who are fluent in the most commonly used languages by those seeking protection and familiar with the culture of the countries where the largest groups applying for refugee or humanitarian status come from.

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Social mediators play an extremely important role in the cultural orientation and integration of newcomers in the country. They are irreplaceable advisers and consultants in the first integration steps of asylum seekers and beneficiaries. Sphere of activity of the mediators:

- acquainting asylum seekers with their rights and obligations;
- assisting them in everyday living activities – familiarizing them with the internal order of the housing centres, communicating in a multicultural environment (in the registration and reception centre and beyond), observing personal hygiene, hygiene in the housing and public places, visiting a shop, use of public transport, banking services, etc.;
- medical assistance related to attendance and translation during a visit to a health facility, contact with medical staff, administrative services for the detection of chronic diseases and disabilities, care for pregnant women, young mothers and children, awareness campaigns for the prevention of serious diseases and related to children's immunizations, etc.;
- mediation in contacts with institutions – issuance and legalization of documents, registration, etc.;
- assistance in children enrolment in kindergarten and school and mediation in parents' contacts with school authorities and teachers.

A week point for the most project activities, funded by programs and projects, is their financing for certain periods of time. This affects the sustainability of the results achieved and the inability of the trained experts to be kept for a longer time in the area of the proposed integration measure.

2.5. Migration policies and sustainable development

The National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration 2015-2020 (National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration 2015-2020 (2013) aims to formulate effective and integrated national migration management policies. This document is underpinned by the understanding of migration both as a necessary resource for the national economy and as a potential threat to social unity and national security. The document combines three other similar strategic documents adopted in the period 2008-2014 and updates them according to the situation in Bulgaria and EU after the refugee crisis in 2013.

In the strategy there is nothing connecting the sustainable development with the migration processes. The main focus is on administration of the processes.

On 20 March 2018, the Bulgarian government opened a public consultation on the draft 2018 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2015-2020 National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration. Within the framework of the national strategy, which was adopted in

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response to the “Migrant crisis” in 2015, the Council of Ministers was to adopt annual Action Plans including specific measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. However, there were no national plans neither developed nor implemented in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The Action Plan for 2018 is drafted within the Secretariat of the National Council on Migration and Integration (NCMI) and includes strategic objectives and implementation activities under the priority policies set out in the Strategy, which are the responsibility of all institutions participating in the NCMI.

Perhaps the Bulgarian state sees no connection between sustainable development and migration processes, and even less links them to sustainable development goals and the Agenda 2030.

2.6. Migration policies and international commitments

The National Council on Migration Policy, established under the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (2011) is chaired by the Minister of Interior Affairs in view of improving inter-ministerial co-operation and coordination between the structures engaged in the migration processes. The Council functions as a linking unit between the respective ministries, the local authorities and the non-government sector engaged in the management of migration processes.

The Migration Directorate within the Ministry of the Interior Affairs handles the administration of residence of third country nationals (TCNs), removals, coordination, information and analysis and accommodation for irregularly staying TCNs. The State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers is responsible for granting refugee status and subsidiary protection status / humanitarian status. In the Bulgarian Constitution, asylum is granted by the Presidential Institution and is the responsibility of the Vice President. The General Directorate “Border Police” is responsible for border control. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for visa matters through the diplomatic and consular services abroad. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy proposes and implements measures for regulation of labour migration, regulates access to the national labour market and is responsible for the coordination of the immigrants’ integration measures. The Employment Agency under the Ministry issues work permits. The State Agency for Child Protection is responsible for the development and coordination of the State policy for child protection and implementation of related programmes. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for granting citizenship; the decision is taken by the Presidential Institution under the Vice President.

The Bulgarian Council for Refugees and Migrants, together with the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Association for Integration of Refugees and Migrants, Caritas – Bulgaria, Bulgarian

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Helsinki Committee etc., as well as ILO, IOM, ICMPD and the UN complement the work of the migration and asylum institutions in Bulgaria.

The Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria (2017), with amendments, is the key piece of legislation and regulates conditions for TCNs. For EU citizens and their families, the Law for Entering, Residing and Leaving the Republic of Bulgaria of European Union Citizens and Members of their Families with amendments applies. The Ordinance for the conditions and the order of issuing, refusal and revoking work permits settles conditions related to work permits – following the framework set by the Employment Encouragement Law. The Law on Citizenship regulates the process of awarding of Bulgarian citizenship. The Law on Asylum and Refugees lays down the conditions and the procedure for granting refugee status, humanitarian status /subsidiary protection status/ to TCNs, as well as their rights and obligations.

Since Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007, national legislation is harmonized with the EU *aquis communautaire* and is being further developed in line with developments in migration and protection issues at EU level. The National Strategy in the Field of Migration, Asylum and Integration 2011 – 2020 (2011) governs national policy and programmes, for example, for integration of refugees, on legal migration and integration, etc. All stakeholders are represented in the National Council on Migration Policy.

TCNs may enter the territory with the required valid travel document and visa. Visa types include air transit visa, transit visa, short-term residence visa, and long-term residence visa. A visa is not required if the foreigner holds a prolonged, long-term or permanent residence card. Admission requires the fulfilment of specific criteria and the possession of documentation. EU citizens and their family members wishing to stay for more than three months must register to receive a residence permit. Applications for international protection may be lodged with the State Agency for refugees or any other State Authority. During the asylum procedure, accommodation, health care and social assistance are provided to applicants. All applicants, except unaccompanied minors, are determined under an accelerated procedure and receive a decision (whether rejected as unfounded or admitted to general procedure) within three days. Legal aid is available at all stages.

Short-term residence may not exceed ninety days. Prolonged residence is given for the period up to one year mainly for reasons connected with education, family reunification and labour. Long-term residence is given for a period of 5 years, with a possibility of renewal, for the purpose of e.g.: employment, (freelance) self-employment, commercial activities, study, non-profit activities, medical treatment, and family reunification. Requirements must be met regarding housing, subsistence, compulsory insurance and social insurance. Permanent residence may be granted after five years of uninterrupted residence or in case of certain family ties, investments or Bulgarian nationality.

Regarding the access to the labour market, certain types of short-term employment and study are exempted from work permit requirement. Registration must however be done before entry and employment. Work permits may be issued to a TCN having specialised knowledge, skills

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and professional experiences, where certain conditions are met. A work permit can be extended for up to 12 months if valid grounds exist and employment is not interrupted. Asylum applicants have access to the labour market if the asylum procedure has not been finalised after one year. Refugees and persons granted humanitarian status have the right to work.

Return can be forced or voluntary with the latter as the preferred option. Centres for temporary accommodation of foreigners anticipating escort to the border and expulsion have been established.

Migration policy is related to other sectors, such as public health, education, commerce, demographics, transport, anti-poverty, and working conditions. Labour market policy and work force characteristics are important elements, as immigration policy is applied in support of economic development.

The main tasks and drivers of the asylum and migration system have been effective prevention of illegal migration and to meet the needs of the national labour market. Moreover, being an external border to the EU entails certain challenges in terms of migration pressure, and the EU accession led to the need to update the mechanisms for control and regulation of migration, including a long-term strategy with a view to national security and economy. Therefore, a need has emerged to develop and apply a successful integration programme. Harmonisation and cooperation at EU level both regionally and nationally are seen as instrumental to overcome existing challenges and to reach set objectives.

Bulgaria's international development cooperation activities are guided by the 'Concept on the Policy of Bulgaria for participation in the international development cooperation' adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2007 (2007). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs manages Bulgaria's development cooperation activities through its International Development Cooperation Department. The government established an advisory body to the Minister, the International Development Cooperation Council. The Council draws up midterm programmes and annual action plans and promotes the development cooperation policy.

In terms of linkage with the sustainable developments, migration and SDGs, there is again lack of cohesion. More raising awareness actions should be done to popularise the cohesion.

3. Field research

3.1. Introduction

In Bulgaria, two focus groups and 4 interviews were conducted. The first focus group was realised with 6 experts in Stara Zagora in the premises of the Department of Information and

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Teacher Training in Trakia University. This institution with its training activities covers Central and South Bulgaria (In Bulgaria there are three departments in three universities, covering all 3 geographical regions in the country). The Department in Stara Zagora is associate partner in the InterCap project. The participants are academic staff /professors, associate professors and assistant professors in different academic subjects: philosophy, psychology, inclusive education, natural sciences, social pedagogy, and special pedagogy.

The second focus group was conducted with 5 experts and it was executed in Varna in the premises of the second in Bulgaria Department of Information and Teacher Training in Shumen University. It covers the East, North East and South East regions in the country with its training activities. The participants are academic staff /professors, associate professors, assistant professors in different academic subjects: environmental education, natural sciences, and social sciences. Two stakeholders from CSO organisations, working in the field of integration and inclusive education, took part in the focus group.

The participants from both focus groups participate regularly at National level in different commissions in the Ministry of Education for curricula development, accreditation, authors of the textbooks and methodological guides.

Four face-to-face interviews were organised and executed with other experts: director of the NGO “Centre for Community Support” in Stara Zagora. They work actively and voluntarily in the field of migration. The other 3 persons are academic staff from the Faculty of Education in Stara Zagora: one expert in inclusive education and member of the National board of the authors of the documentation, concerning inclusive education, the second one is an expert in Intercultural communication and interreligious communication and pedagogy, non-formal education and educational prevention of radicalisation, terrorism and hate speech and the third one – a specialist in civic education and social work. All three of them are academic staff and teach students, who will become teachers as well, students, who will work in the social field – Social Pedagogy, Special Pedagogy, preschool and school education, as well as teaching in-service teacher trainers.

3.2. Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

In this topic, the respondents answered that the awareness raising actions regarding the sustainable development are very limited, as a whole. The sustainable development is understood in a very narrow sense and is usually related to environmental protection, pollution, climate change and energy saving activities. The Policies Coherent to Development as a concept is not known. They mentioned that there is a lack of public discourse on these topics and very fragmented information.

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Concerning the Paris agreement and Habitat III the participants revealed general knowledge – more on the Paris agreement and less on the Habitat III. One of the participants has been working on a 4 years project on Habitat III project “Improving Living Conditions through Interest-free Financing for Housing Improvements for Low-Income Child Care Families”.

Almost all participants indicated that they know about the SDG`s. Some of them have been working on different projects connected with the previous MDG`s (2000-2015). They pointed that in many schools teachers include in their subjects many of the SDG`s aspects. However, they regret that in the educational curricula of 9-12 graders there is still a gap. But they pointed that in 2020 a separate subject “civic education” will be compulsory for 9-12 graders, concerning the ordinance from the Ministry of Education. So far, the civic education has been a compulsory subject only from the first to the 8th grade in the schools (Ordinance13, 2016).

At the state level concerning the sustainable development goals, the participants shared the view that there is not strategic approach to the implementation in practice of the SDGs. Concerning the international migration all fully agree that there is a lot of information, but at the same time they regret that the information is distorted.

The respondents mentioned the negative media environment, fake news, influences from the political parties, very often manipulative presentation on information about the international migration. They explained that very often the parties manipulate public opinion. Fake news is growing. Expert opinions are not heard and are deliberately ignored or devalued by the media. People's fears are exploited and the truth is blurred.

3.3. Link between migration and sustainable development

Most of the participants agree that Bulgarians are positively disposed towards Westerners, Americans and Russians, but extremely sharp set against people who have sought refuge in the country because of the wars in the Middle East. Some of them stated that Bulgarian society was not prepared to meet the migrants. The others explained that the society is not well informed about the benefits of the international migration, because media mainly stress on migrants as a threat.

Almost all experts evaluate that the climate changes are linked to migration. But they mentioned that as a whole our society is not well informed, some professionals and other interested groups are aware, mostly NGO`s, but the wide audience is not. The respondents revealed that these topics are covered usually totally separately in mass media and from policy makers. No connection is seen between the migration and sustainable development. This is a problem.

The participants explained that he link between migration and sustainable development in a pedagogical context can be found in the increased interest and rising state requirements for

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training future educators to work in a multicultural environment, social inclusion of marginalised groups, environmental, health, civic and inclusive education. They quoted as an example the State Educational Standard in the Preschool and School Education Act, which is further elaborated in ORDINANCE No. 13 of 21.09.2016 on Civil, Health, Environmental and Intercultural Education (Ordinance13, 2016) and some other state documentation, too. The participants discussed that there is a need for actions to change the attitude and the way of thinking. There is hope for young people to be the generator of these changes.

3.4. Insecurity

The perception of insecurity is largely spread in the Bulgarian society and it is strongly linked to the social and economy situation. That reflected the discussion on this topic with the experts.

According to some experts the penetration of people from Asia into Europe, especially caused on a religious basis, also leads to uncertainty in the communication of particular groups of society. Sustainable development is not the main reason for migration at the moment, they think.

One participant shared an opinion that the main fears and negative attitudes in Bulgarian society regarding migration come from the previous unsuccessful attempts to integrate and socialise the Roma population in Bulgaria.

Some participants identified as a reason the severe demographic crisis in Bulgaria, which in massive and long-term immigration will significantly change the ethnic and religious composition of the population, which would even endanger the stability and existence of the Bulgarian state in principle.

Other experts explained that the main reason for Bulgarians to feel unsecure first of all is the economic situation – low salaries, not a secure work place, and very big internal migration from the villages to the big cities. They quoted that around 18% from Bulgarian population live in Sofia – the capital, or almost 1/5 of the population. The least developed region from all 28 EU countries is situated in Bulgaria – the North-West part. There are many small villages with a few people left; some migrated in the big cities, others are working abroad. Many high-qualified persons emigrated to work abroad. This entire picture explains why people feel insecure, and why migrants are not so welcome for many Bulgarians, they stated.

Another opinion from the expert was that Bulgaria is mostly a transit country. That is why the Bulgarians do not fear so much that migrants will replace them from their job. Probably the potential crimes are the main reason for many people to feel insecure. And the media “helps” for drawing such a picture, emitting mostly negative messages about the migrants. Another

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expert in line of the above pointed that probably just 1-2% of the crimes in Bulgaria are connected with the international migrants.

All experts fully agree that more education and raising awareness activities should be done and more positive messages should be emitted. With support of this conclusion, one good practice was pointed from the interviewed director of the Crisis Centre in Stara Zagora with the informal display of documentary films with social focus in the hall of their organisation and for more viewers in the city library. She observed a big interest and very positive attitudes and feedback from the young people.

3.5. Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

All participants found that the main factors shaping public opinion on migration and sustainable development are the media, especially electronic media.

The respondents regret that the wide audience is very often subjected to the populism of politicians (including extreme right and “patriotic” movements / parties). Eventually, the real picture is distorted and the truth remains in the background, recognised only by professionals in the field and active civic society associations. Very often, the topic for the migrants is exploited by politicians and related media and used in the fight with opponents. In this way, the truth is blurred and the ordinary citizen is manipulated in favour of one or another party insinuation.

The experts argue that the society is much polarised and if a media just put some “shocking” title, almost nobody can go deeper to understand actually what is happening, but people immediately react to the news, just by emotion, and are ready to hate the opposite opinion.

One interviewed expert shared the opinion that in Bulgaria there are inherited local dimensions of islamophobia, connected with the Islamic state and the painful memory of Turkish /Islamic slavery. He justified the urgent need of special educational policies for acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes to work in an intercultural environment and in the spirit of the modern inclusive education.

The participants discussed the need of broad implementation of solidarity activities at governmental and non-governmental level with regard to migrants in particular and in the context of the social inclusion of the marginalised groups in the society as an element of the sustainable development in Bulgaria.

The respondents said that frequent public media debates based on evidence – research, strategies and good practices are needed, but not coloured with politics and emotions from

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one side only. It requires a national network of experts, national movements in schools - concerts, competitions, shared lessons and more.

3.6. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

All participants fully agreed that at this stage there is a big gap of adequate information in terms of migration, sustainable development and coherence between them. Logically the wide audience very often is influenced only by the media presentation and not by the competent presentation of information from professional specialised sources, which is difficult to find and follow.

Some participants noted that in the country there is a lack of enough professionals in the field of migration and the sustainable development. Migration, especially in the last years, is a new phenomenon for Bulgaria and because of that reason there is still lack of enough expertise.

One interviewed person shared that there is no general coordination framework and an effective mechanism for inter-institutional information exchange on integration processes, policies and measures, as well as an assessment of their effectiveness, efficiency and economy.

Another opinion is that still there is a lack of possibility of quantitative and qualitative research needed for comparability, qualitative analysis and forecasts, including publicity of data on the migration situation in the country.

One expert shared that there is a gap in institutional activities to promote and clarify steady development and sustainable development goals. There is no information on the links between migration and sustainable development. This is a big problem, he concluded.

Some experts united around the idea of the urgent need for the introduction and development of civic education in Bulgaria which is becoming increasingly acute due to the, rise of racism, nationalism and xenophobia, the stigma of anti-immigrant sentiments and the need to protect freedom and European values.

The respondents agree that the gap in the education for sustainable development can be overcome through implementation of some not too difficult measures and activities in Bulgaria, for example education programs, programmes based on interdisciplinary approach; materials based on the use of interactive methods and information and communication technologies.

There are good examples and initiatives, they said, for supporting of schools for development of their own programmes and projects in the field of sustainable development; encouraging children and young people to participate in activities, related to elaboration and

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implementation of the projects in the field; development of programmes suitable for outdoor use, e.g. for Green Schools; establishment of networks for information exchange about the education for sustainable development; public participation in the decision-making process of developing programmes and projects for education for sustainable development on local scale; supporting centres offering educational services focused on children's spare time etc.

3.7. The role of education systems

All participants in the focus groups and the interviewed experts have strongly emphasised the importance of education in different forms and the education system as a whole. They explained that probably many teachers do not know exactly about SDGs, but at the same time, in their everyday work, they include in their subjects elements of the SDGs.

One teacher trainer explained that despite the tense curriculum and the workload she always includes some connections between the topic and the SDGs. At that time it is not compulsory, she regrets, and every teacher is doing it voluntarily and despite of the lack of time.

All participants appreciate the including of the special subject in primary and secondary school concerning the sustainable development goals and civic education as a whole. The process started in 2017, they stated.

Part of the respondents suggested a different point of view, but it is likely that parents can play a significant role in the process of making popular the goals for sustainable development, because the educational system is not the only a possibility to educate pupils. In many cases the good examples from the parents plays a crucial role. The teachers concentrate totally on the curricula topics and pressed by lack of time to extend and mention some social issues, especially some simple pragmatic examples about sustainable development.

Some experts regret that recently in Bulgaria, people lost the moral and human values and that influenced immediately education. The value system was lost, stated some of them and urgent measures should be taken. They argued that the attitudes are slowly changing for better. However, in Bulgarian schools environment / this is a legacy of the past/ is still not very good, there is a lack of empathy. In this field big efforts should be done. At the same time, children are more empathic than the elders and they easily accept the different classmate. However, parents are more conservative and, for example, they do not like their children to play or to communicate with migrant one.

The experts stated that the most problematic areas with regard to the integration of immigrants from third countries in Bulgaria are limited access to education, citizenship and opportunities for political participation. They explained that this shows the measurement results of the Migration Integration Policies Index (MIPEX), developed by the British Council and the Migration Policy Group in partnership. The most positive were assessed to be

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Bulgarian national policies for immigrant integration in areas that are regulated by European law – protection from discrimination on the status of long-term residence and family reunification.

Bulgaria, however, is ranked the penultimate place on the indicator education, followed by only Hungary. Bulgaria is one of the last in terms of immigrants' access to citizenship as well as access to the labour market (MIPEX, 2015).

Some respondents noticed that adapting to a large number of migrant pupils face a range of challenges for group, class, school and educational level education. Classes and schools need adaptation to the growing number of different mother tongues, cultural perspectives and achievements. New, adapted teaching skills will be needed, as well as developing new ways to work with migrant families and communities.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. National and local level recommendations for NGOs

In Bulgaria, the NGOs are the most active part of the society raising awareness on the migration, environmental protection, and sustainability. However, there is room for improvements especially for linking the sustainable development and the migration. They should popularise more the sustainable development goals and such key documents like Agenda 2030, Habitat III, and The Paris Agreement.

They should create links with the educational institutions and try to be key factor in civic education, developing mentor partnerships with schools and universities. They may bring their expertise in non-formal training methodologies, which are in many cases more attractive and interactive and this way may enrich the schools /universities didactic tools.

Another recommendation is to be more united, to create and participate in thematic networks – national and international with similar CSOs, working in the field to achieve more sustainable positive results raising awareness together and exchanging of good practices.

There are a lot of projects and initiatives from NGOs, realised under the shield of Global Education and Development Education, but still in the country lack a policy in the field, lack of any coordination of the efforts of the different actors, lack of coordination or joint actions between the stakeholders. Public awareness of Global Education and Development Education is also a problem - it is not possible to have built this awareness without pro-active policy on behalf of the state and of the stakeholders, without enough institutional support.

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4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

Information provision of the integration process requires additional measures to be taken to feed the migration policy with comparable statistics, analyses, research, opinion polls, and more. It is necessary to effectively inform civil society by making the reports on the migration situation public, presenting the strategic documents and plans in the sector, conducting mandatory public discussions on proposals for legislative changes, organising forums, seminars and other information events on the issues of migration policy, providing for forms of civil control on the implementation of the measures set out in the action plans.

From another point of view, more efforts are needed from governmental institutions to inform immigrants, because it will also improve their activity, efficiency and capacity that is currently being wiped out by the same person several times as it is not prepared or it is missing something from the requirements. Here, synergies can be sought with NGOs that are perceived better among migrant communities because of the lack of awareness and the fear of the unknown. This holds true for the host society as well. Information about the other side is a successful step on the path to integration and socialization without disruption.

The achievement of the main national priorities related to the employment and growth of the Bulgarian economy are directly related to the attraction of business, capital, entrepreneurs, qualified specialists coming outside the country, in many cases the migrants and their successful integration into the Bulgarian society are an important prerequisite for this because they are a commercial and cultural channel. This requires the provision of a favourable environment for doing business and good living conditions, accompanied by a working mechanism for integration in the Bulgarian society.

4.3. Local level recommendations for municipalities

The local municipality should create, support and participate in many actions for raising awareness on the migration and the sustainable development and the links between them. They need to support the civic education and include democratic practices like: participation in student self-government; volunteering; maintaining school media; supporting school campaigns; organising school holidays and events; peer education; promote the youth leadership; mediation; solving conflicts and preventing aggression; mentoring; studying the opinions, attitudes and expectations of the wide audience at local level and inform the local community for that. They should connect the topics like SDGs and migration with the local

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policy and the local strategy for the sustainable development and create a synergy at local level.

4.4. National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

The most problematic areas with regard to the integration of immigrants from third countries in Bulgaria are limited access to education, citizenship and opportunities for political participation.

The universities should take a responsible role for providing adequate training of students, especially in pedagogical specialities on topics like immigration and sustainable development. Bachelors and Master programs should be developed and included in the curricula connecting the globalisation and interdependent world.

In-service teacher training should be also focused on the development education, sustainability and the link with the international migration.

Creating the links /networks between the educational institutions and the civil society organisations is one possible option for more practise oriented mentorships in the field of sustainable development education. The CSOs can bring their expertise with this collaboration and can motivate students from different level to raise more awareness about the migration and SDGs. This could be done as well with common projects and other practically oriented initiatives.

4.5. Recommendations for future research areas

There are existing researches concerning the migration. But there is a lack of information on any existing or potential links with the sustainable development. This reflects on local and national level. From other point of view, the results of the researches should be presented to the wide audience without any dependencies and populism from the political parties. It is time to look and start the researches with regard to the coherence between the migration process and the sustainable development and connected with the SDGs.

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CROATIAN NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

Since 2013, when Croatia became an EU member state, country is experiencing large emigration and significant decrease in population. Large parts of country are depopulated and there is a growing concern on country's demography. Furthermore, Croatia is on the so called "Balkan migration route" and these two facts have a large impact on the society. To facilitate societal changes that Croatia is experiencing with increase of number of asylum-seekers, it is necessary to further adjust current policy framework at different levels, to use the full potentials of the current setting for the sustainable growth and development.

Concerning the data on Croatian citizens' awareness about sustainable development and attitudes towards asylum and immigration, it is crucial to understand how media represent these issues. Media has a large influence on population, while media monitoring results indicate that there is a large number of texts, were migrants and asylum seekers are presented eitjer as numbers, or as a threat. This way of reporting may have negative impact on the ways in which people are perceiving migrants and asylum seekers. Furthermore, the additional efforts should be placed towards education on issues of inclusion, migration and sustainable development for both in-service and pre-service teachers in shaping public discourse around asylum, migration and integration issues.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The main aim of this report is to promote critical understanding of migration and sustainable development within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the context of Croatia, identify potential gaps between migration as and sustainable development as well as addressing the need for development of clear SDG indicators for Croatia and the importance of raising public awareness in national context. Croatia is experiencing large emigration. Hence issues of migration are also linked with the possible change in population and readiness of stakeholders for different public institution for full inclusion of the large number of immigrants in the future.

1.3 Available data and recourses

This report includes analysis of relevant strategies on sustainable development, law regulations and analysis of ways in which Croatian laws are adjusted to the requirements of

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EU legislation, used survey data collected under Eurobarometer survey and MIPEX, presented media response analysis conducted both by NGOs and group of researchers, reviewed results of relevant research studies conducted by independent researchers. The list of the resources used in this report is available under References. A field research which results are presented in the report was conducted in the form of focus group discussions.

1.4 Limitations

Reviewed research, focusing on the issues of migration and sustainable development in Croatia, are seldom. These two areas are traditionally considered as separate policy areas. This report reflects this gap and presented policy and research data is commonly focusing solely on migrations and/or on sustainable development, the interlinkages between migrations and SD and/or SDG are made in the concluding paragraphs of the chapters and subchapters of this report. The participants of the field research recognised the interconnectivity of these two areas and made significant number of references to mutual influences of migration and sustainable development. In addition, the findings of the field research can be generalised with the reservation. We cannot argue that the opinions of the individuals involved in focus groups represent the stakeholder opinions' in their sectors entirely; nevertheless report considers their opinions to be indicative of the current tendencies.

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

Different aspects of migration and development issues have been analysed by the Eurobarometer survey. This report includes data on attitudes of Croatian citizens towards migration in general and refugees in particular, national security risks, sustainable development, environmental and climate change.

Migration in general and migrants / refugees in particular

According to Knezović and Grošinić (2017), even during so called "migration crisis" (15th September 2015 – 8th March 2016), when 650,000 people passed through Croatia, there were actually only 22 of them who wanted to stay and seek asylum in Croatia. In negotiations with the EU, Croatia agreed to accept (1.87% of the total EU amount) of asylum-seeking migrants and it is likely that this will bring new dynamics into the system at the national level

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(Knezović & Grošinić, 2017). Obucina (2016) writes that in 2015, Croatian citizens participated twice in a Eurobarometer survey on immigration. In the span of half a year, the opinion of Croatian citizens has changed. From spring 2015 until the end of the year, negative answers on migration rose by 10%. Before, 43% of the population had negative views on immigrants from outside the EU; in 2015 survey this has risen to 53%. Positive attitudes are present in 41% of population, which is again 4% lower than in the previous survey. According to Obucina (2016) this is due to the fact that more than half a million of immigrants, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, passed through Croatia. According to the EU Agreement on quotas for refugees in EU member countries from September 2015, Croatia should accept up to 1,600 asylum seekers. The rise of negative attitudes toward these people is partly connected to fear of change in the employment market. In the same time, entrepreneurs and unions are reminding the public that Croatia will accept a small number of migrants, who will not endanger workplaces.

National security risks

In the survey of Europeans' attitude towards security (European Commission, 2017a) a large majority of Croatians feel secure in their immediate city and neighbourhood, but they are less convinced that the EU is a secure place to live in. Around 9 from 10 respondents say that their neighbourhood, their city and their country are secure places to live in (96%, 95%, and 89% respectively). It is necessary to emphasise that during the recent migration crisis, Croatia was only a transit country and big number of immigrants was passing through the country. Therefore, the statistics and country's immigration structure did not change significantly. Under the given circumstances, it is possible to conclude that the survey participants do not perceive Croatia as an immigrant destination country. Hence, it is not possible to link issues of immigration to the feeling of security/insecurity in the local environment.

A large majority of survey respondents from Croatia (European Commission, 2017a) consider terrorism, organised crime and natural as well as man-made disasters as key challenges to the EU security. Respondents continue to consider challenges to the internal security of the EU as important, particularly terrorism (94%) and organised crime (93%). There are mixed opinions on whether the national authorities are doing enough to tackle various security problems. Two-thirds (60%) of respondents think that enough is being done by national authorities to combat terrorism and almost half (48%) think enough is being done to fight drug trafficking. A significant majority of respondents in Croatia agree (92%) on the need to share information within the EU to better fight crime and terrorism. In addition, respondents believe that the police and other law enforcement authorities cooperate adequately to fight crime and terrorism (76%). In Croatia, a majority of respondents (73%) think that cooperation between the police and other national law enforcement authorities is adequate to fight crime and terrorism.

Sustainable development and environmental issues

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The first public opinion poll towards climate change issues in Croatia was carried out by UNDP Croatia (2008). The research focus was on ways in which Croatian citizens perceive climate change as a phenomenon with important social implications. The surveyed citizens had highly positive attitude towards environmental protection, with less than 2% of respondents that considered environmental protection to be “irrelevant”.

Opinion of Croatian citizens on sustainable development and environmental issues is presented in the Special Eurobarometer 468 (European Commission, 2017b). According to the gathered data, less than half of respondents from Croatia think that protecting the environment is very important to them personally. Since the last survey in 2014, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion saying it is “very important”: 40% in 2017 comparedto 58% in 2014. In the same time, there is an increase in number of citizens, which believe that protecting the environment is fairly important: 47% in 2017 compared to 35% in 2014. Air pollution (47%) and the growing amount of waste (41%) are considered as the most important environmental issues. Majority of respondents from Croatia (51%) believe that decisions about protecting the environment should be made by the national government. Since the last survey in 2014, there has been increase in number of respondents who choose this option (7%).

From 2014 to 2017, it is possible to recognise a growing trend of support for stricter legislation to tackle environmental problems. In 2017, 46% of respondents tend to agree and 40% agreed that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in Croatia. Most of the survey participants from Croatia (86%) feel that they have a personal role to play in protecting the environment. Survey participants from Croatia believe that introducing stricter environmental legislation (31%) and introducing heavier fines for breaches of environmental legislation (30%) are the most effective ways of tackling environmental problems.

When surveyed about ways in which society contribute to the environment, most of the survey participants from Croatia answered that they recycled their waste (44%) and bought local products (30%). Almost half (49%) of survey participants think that air quality in their country has deteriorated over the last ten years, while more than third (41%) say that air quality has stayed the same, and only 7% say that it has improved. A bit less than a half of Croatians (43%) think that air pollution can be effectively addressed at the national level. Around one third (35%) think that it is better addressed at the EU level, while 21% favour action at the regional or local level. Respondents from Croatia believe that one of the most effective ways of tackling problems of air quality would be applying stricter pollution controls on industrial and energy-production activities (36%) and introducing stricter air quality legislation (31%).

In reviewed research and public opinion pools, there are limited interlinkages between security, international migration and sustainbale developmet. Attitudes of the Croatian citizens, in relation to migration in general and migrants/refugees in particular, national security risks and sustainable development / environmental issues are questioned in the recent Eurobarometer survey (European Commission, 2017c). The results of this survey for the participants from Croatia differ from the results of the same survey organised among

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other EU citizens. More than half of the surveyed Croatians (52%) believe that unemployment is the most important issue that Croatia is currently facing. At the same time, 25% of EU citizens recognise unemployment as important issue. In Croatia, economic situation (28%) and cost of living (27%) are also considered to be highly important issues. In EU, 16% of surveyed citizens recognise economic situation as the most important issue. Also, 17% of EU citizens recognise cost of living as the most important issue. Immigration is recognised as most important issue by only 5% of Croatian citizens (in comparison to 16% of EU citizens), terrorism by 4% of Croatian citizens (in comparison to 16% of EU citizens), and the environment, climate and energy issues by only 2% of surveyed Croatian citizens (in comparison to 10% of EU citizens). In the same time, Croatian citizens believe that terrorism (51%) and immigration (29%) are the most important issues facing the EU at the moment. It is possible to conclude that although Croatian citizens recognise terrorism and immigration as important issues that EU is currently facing, they do not perceive Croatia as an environment that is significantly influenced by these issues.

Nevertheless, due to recent accession to the EU, Croatia will gradually be losing its status of entirely transit state for those attempting to reach Western Europe. It is likely that this will change the pattern of discourse about immigration and increase pressures at the state administration level to consolidate its policy in the field of migration. There is a need for awareness rising on the importance of interdisciplinary understanding of climate issues due to relation of economic insecurity and the potential for democratic support for climate change mitigation. In addition, there is a need for training for stakeholders from different public institutions on changes in policies in the field of migration and need for the further policy alignment to fundamental European values and principles in order to generate growth and use current immigration trends for sustainable development at the national level.

2.2 Media response

Analysis of the data from media monitoring in Croatia indicate the media response to the topics of asylum, migration, integration and “refuge crisis”, climate change, environmental issues, sustainable development and national security threats with the focus on terrorism. The available media monitoring reports do not indicate any interlinkages between above mentioned issues. Instead of that, media discusses abaout it separately.

Asylum, migration and integration

Center for Peace Studies (CMS, 2015) conducted the analysis of media response on asylum-seekers on the sample of three Croatian newspapers (“Jutarnji list”, “Večernji list” and “24 hours”). According to the research results, there are three dominant ways of reporting. The first way of reporting presents asylum-seeking migrants as numbers, through the metaphor of waves that come and place additional burden on the state, and endanger security, health, economics, and culture of a particular country. The second way of reporting presents asylum-

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seeking migrants as criminals. In the reviewed media, it is possible to notice dominant themes, such as theft and rape assaults by asylum-seeking male migrants. The third way of reporting presents migrants as victims and this is usually done by describing them through the "warm human stories". In these stories, the migrants are presented as victims of their own cultures and countries of origin.

So called 'refugee crisis'

Jurišić, Vesnić Alujević & Bonacci (2017) analysed 12,721 articles published in eight Croatian news portals (Jutarnji.hr, Večernji.hr, 24sata.hr, Tportal.hr, Index.hr, Net.hr, Dnevnik.hr i Vijesti.rtl.hr) in the period from 15 September 2015 to 15 March 2016. All articles contained the key word "migrant" or "refugee". Two thirds of the selected articles had comments (8,822) and total 416,374 comments of 31,458 identified by the commentators were recorded. From the time the refugees entered Croatia, the number of articles on refugee crisis grew day after day, and the largest number was recorded in October 2015, when total of 3,094 articles were published. Each portal of that month had more than 300 articles that contained keywords ("migrant" or "refugee"), and portal Index.hr had more than 600 articles. After October 2015, the number of articles began to decrease linearly, at the beginning of 2016, again briefly grew and then continued to descend linearly. In the first two months of the refugee crisis, the media relied on Croatian sources of information, and politicians have used the crisis to put their agenda through the media during the pre-election campaign. After that, this issue was no longer part of the agenda of Croatian politicians. The analysis showed that the refugee crisis was the most common topic in the analysed media in October 2015. The most prominent thematic clusters are related to the bilateral relations of the countries on the Balkan route in times of crisis (first closing the Hungarian-Serbian border as it is conditioned the redirection of refugees through Croatia, then the Serb-Croat border, and Croatian-Hungarian border), refugee camps, the number of refugees passing through them and the relationship of foreign statesmen to the refugee crisis.

Climate change, environmental issues and sustainable development

In Croatia there are seldom media analysis on the issues of climate change, environmental issues and sustainable development. According to the UNDP Croatia (2008) report, media plays an important role in educating, raising awareness, and mobilising the public to take action regarding climate change. The survey's results show that Croatian citizens primarily obtain information about climate change from television (34%), newspapers (24%) and magazines (13%).

National security threats with the focus on terrorism

Kurtić & Đukić (2013) analysed the way media has been reporting on Norwegian terrorist attacks that occurred on 22 July 2011. The analysis was conducted on three online news

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portals from Croatia. General assumption was that global media, beside targeted dissemination of facto-graphic information, also obtrude interpretative frames, which are under influence of not only dominant culture but, more or less, clear global economic and political interest. In the way global media has been presenting information on terrorist attacks, Croatian online media remained on the level of presentation of pure information without additional questioning and possible placing the issues in the context of Croatian social environment. Felger and Lesinger (2017) provide an overview of the relations between terrorist atrocities and media coverage of the said atrocities through the analysis of media content present on Croatian Internet portals and national television in the case of terrorist abduction of a Croatian citizen Tomislav Salopek. The authors focus on both identifying elements and reasons of the media coverage of that case as well as on their impact on the public.

The presented results may serve as a guideline for the InterCap awareness raising and training. More recent and extensive media analysis studies on the media coverage of climate change, environmental and sustainable development issues should give more clear indication on the ways in which these issues are presented on internet, television, newspapers and magazines. InterCap may contribute with awareness raising and relevant stakeholders training on the inclusive ways of reporting on asylum-seeking migrants' importance of placing of information on terrorism in the context of Croatian social environment.

2.3 Research and project production

Croatian Strategy for Sustainable Development is focusing on long-term action in the following eight key areas: encouraging population growth in the Republic of Croatia, environment and natural resources, promoting sustainable production and consumption, ensuring social and territorial cohesion and justice, ensuring energy independence and increasing the efficiency of energy use, strengthening public health, interconnectedness of the Republic of Croatia, and protection of the Adriatic Sea, coastal area and islands (MEPPPC, 2011). The new Environment Action Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2016–2024 is under development and is in line with environmental aspects of SDGs. Project for drafting of Strategy for adaptation to climate change, which includes detailed modelling of climate changes in Croatia, has started in May 2016.

In reviewed research and policy document, the term "Sustainable Development" has been used in a variety of ways by different groups and entities. Bečić, Mulej and Švarc (2012) presents an overview of the progress in the development of indicators of sustainable development (SDI) in Croatia and Slovenia in the context of global challenges. Key challenges include: (1) comparability and aggregation variability of SDI in relation to the quality of data determined by the sustainable development policies; (2) impacts and

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reflections of compiled SDIs on different kinds of user needs; and (3) Social responsibility, as a contribution to, and framework of sustainability.

Knezović and Grošinić (2017) write that Croatia was obliged to implement common EU provisions and measures in the immigration policy field, maintaining autonomy in decisions on numbers of accepted immigrants and asylum-seekers and having at least limited possibility to influence the development of EU policy in this field as its newest full-fledged member state. In the context of sustainable development policy making, estimated trends of increase of number of asylum-seekers will lead toward raising the issue of quality of current policy framework at different levels, flexibility of existing institutional set-up and capacities at the national level to use the potentials of existing setting for sustainable growth and development. Botrić (2016) writes that although immigrants have a disadvantaged position on the Croatian labour market, most analysed indicators do not imply that they are in a worse position than in other European economies. Migrant integration policies related to the labour market are assessed as being relatively favourable for Croatia. Judging by the comparable indicators for the native population in Croatia, immigrants' adverse labour market outcomes seem to be more related to the unfavourable general economic situation, and particularly by the deep and long recession.

With the relation to migration, there are several research papers presenting certain aspect of migration and related asylum procedures that are implemented in Croatia. Čapo (2015) presents analysis of certain aspects of the exceptional migration process unfolding in Europe from the middle of September to the beginning of November 2015. It focuses on analysis of managing migration in Croatia through the presentation of the functioning of the reception (and transit) centre at Opatovac. The ethnographic perspective used in this research offered a complex view of responses to the events, pointing out the paradoxes in refugee reception and transit migration management in Croatia. It is established that there are constant contradictions contained in the nexus of security and humanitarian demands in the migration process management, these largely coming to the fore because of a lack of international co-operation and a firm stance and common policy on the part of the EU. In that way, the EU has contributed to the deepening of the humanitarian migration crisis, but also demonstrated its deep value crisis.

Lalić Novak (2015) writes that the European Union and other countries on the Balkan route for migrants have recorded a large increase in the number of asylum seekers. In parallel with the increased number of refugees trying to enter the territory of the EU, measures for migration management have tightened, and the right to asylum at the level of the Member States has been interpreted more and more restrictive. Search for protection from persecution has become a reason for closing borders and disabling access to territory and asylum system. However, access to asylum system is the first step in the realisation of the right to asylum as guaranteed by international, European and national law. In addition to allowing access to territory and asylum system, which implies an obligation of states to accept refugees in order to confirm the need for international protection in a fair and efficient procedure, the states are obliged to respect the principle of non-refoulement. The conclusion is that the states must take into account international and European standards regarding the

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protection of the principle of non-refoulement, when considering the introduction of new measures to manage migration movements.

There are no any of Sustainable Development Goals explicitly mentioned in the projects on displacement, asylum, migration and integration policy making. Nevertheless, several research studies focus on the disadvantaged position on the Croatian labour market, which may be directly related to the SDG on decent work and economic growth and use of the potentials of existing setting for sustainable growth and development. In adittion, studies, discussing necessary changes in legislation that should lead toward improvement of asylum system, do consider SDGs, particularly with the relation to reducing inequalities and implementing global partnerships.

2.4 Case studies of good practices

On the national level, in February 2013 the Croatian Parliament adopted the Migration Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2013-2015 (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2013), which contains a section on Integration Policy (Section 5., including 5 measures). In Croatia, the development of migration policies is mainly shifted to border control, which has resulted in strengthening border control particularly in the wake of country's entry into the Schengen area and the abolition of internal borders with Austria, Italy and Hungary.

Knezović & Grošinić (2017) describe institutional setup of the support for migrants in Croatia. For example, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is responsible for registering foreigners and regulating their status in Croatia. The issue of foreigners and asylum seekers is under the authority of Directorate for Administrative and Inspection Affairs. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare ensures health services and provides lodging for asylum seekers during first two years of their stay in Croatia, while Ministry of Science, Education and Sports offers Croatian language classes and provides basic educational possibilities. National Protection and Rescue Directorate is a leading organization for the protection and rescue of people, assets and environment in the Republic of Croatia. In the period of migration crisis, it provided a logistical support to the process of admission of immigrants and their accommodation. The Croatian Red Cross has a mandate to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants "living at the margins of conventional health, social and legal systems", throughout their journey.

Kuti (2014) emphasises that when it comes to the engagement of non-state actors, there are several relevant actions and initiatives focusing on the integration of immigrants. However, they are implemented by non-migrant civil society organisations and primarily target asylum seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. In Croatia, there are several civil society organisations and initiatives that were involved in work with refugees on every day

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basis: “Are You Syrious?” (AYS),[25] the Center for Peace Studies (CMS)[26] and Initiative “Welcome”.[27] For example, the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) is very active with respect to asylum issues in Croatia. It organises Croatian language lessons for asylum seekers, refugees and persons under subsidiary protection.

In the last decade, several educational research projects focusing on migration and socially oriented sustainable development goals were financed by the EU funds in Croatia. For example, Comenius-3 projects were led by the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, targeting primary and secondary schools (both pupils and teachers) with the purpose of improving pupils' knowledge in the field of migration and intercultural relations; Erasmus+ project BRIGHTS with the aim to promote Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in formal and non-formal Educational contexts in Europe with the help of digital storytelling (DS) techniques (BRIGHTS, 2017), other.

According to ESDN (2017) report, there is a growing awareness of the importance of sustainable development in Croatia, which resulted in a number of towns and counties that are taking the initiative on their own, joining the international initiatives and campaigns. Some other sub-national activities are organised by public administration or are result of civil society initiatives. In addition, several EU funded projects are focusing on SD and SDG. For example, HMRR (2012) was working on the IPA project “Together for Sustainable Development in Croatia”, with an overall objective to strengthen the voice of civil sector in shaping, monitoring and evaluating sustainable development policies on local, national and international level through networking, cross-sectoral partnership and capacity building; Erasmus+ project “Social Innovation & Inclusion of Sustainable Development Goals” (sociSDG), coordinated by Croatian Institute for CSR – IDOP (2017), with the focus on adult education, cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice examples on nine socially-oriented SDGs. The project is focusing on the exchange of good practice examples of companies already integrating SDGs into their models by measuring their social impact and developing tools and methodology for its integration; other.

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

When reviewing migration policies and considering their interrelation to the sustainable development in the Croatian context, it is necessary to present immigration, integration and emigration related policies separately.

Croatia’s recent accession to the EU and developments in the wider surroundings are likely to change the pattern of discourse about immigration and increase pressures at the state

[25] Read more at: https://www.facebook.com/areyousyrious/
[26] Read more at: https://www.cms.hr/en
[27] Read ore at: http://welcome.cms.hr/index.php/en/

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administration level to consolidate its policy in the field of migration, making it reasonably aligned to fundamental European values and principles and capable of generating growth as well as using current immigration trends for sustainable development at the national level (Knezović & Grošinić, 2017).

It is useful to review Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX 2015), which provides data on characteristics of particular country regarding the ways in which migrant integration policies as implemented through different areas: citizenship, labour market, education, health, antidiscrimination, political participation, permanent residence. According to MIPEX (IMIN, 2014), all legally residing migrant children in Croatia can enrol in compulsory education. Following the recent amendments of the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary School of 07/15/2013 (National Gazette, 2013), undocumented migrant pupils in Croatia will now have limited access to primary education. Still, they will not be able to enrol in secondary school, as in nearly all MIPEX countries, and access higher education or vocational training, as in half of the MIPEX countries. Moreover, Croatian schools are required to provide very few integration measures for migrant pupils. Migrant children can benefit from official language support in primary and secondary education, but are not provided with an opportunity to learn their mother languages. According to the MIPEX (2015) evaluation scores, migrant access to education (score 7), targeting needs (score 13), new opportunities (score 0) are critically unfavourable for integration. Slightly better results relate to implementation of intercultural education for all (score 33) which is still marked as unfavourable for migrants.

As Kuti (2014) writes, in accordance to the legislative measures adopted in Croatia in 2013, it is clear that integration is becoming a political priority to a great extent. The only official document dealing with migrant integration prior to 2013 was the Migration Policy of the Republic of Croatia for 2007-2008 (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2007). It prescribed 17 measures and activities with only a few pertaining to integration: e.g. introducing compulsory language lessons and Croatian history and culture tests in the process of acquiring Croatian citizenship or permanent residence status and “measures, by which, in order to prevent discriminatory practices and attitudes towards immigrants in the economic, social and cultural life, the right to an equal status in relation to Croatian citizens is provided, with a focus on acquiring citizenship” (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2007). The latter measures (together with the “development of a comprehensive analysis of the labour market situation and of multi-annual trends of supply and demand for certain professions with a proposal of appropriate measures to meet the workforce demand”) are listed among “the most important measures, which were not fully carried out or which because of their importance should be implemented continuously” in current Migration Policy (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2013: 2).

Out-migration is a major issue in Croatia, and according to the Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Republic of Croatia (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2014), which is aligned with the SDGs, the aim of multisector investments in deprived areas, is to ensure the reduction of regional differences, including the number of persons at risk of poverty, which is to be realised through a synergistic effect of investments focused on

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increasing the availability of social and municipal services, on economic measures and incentives to employment and workforce education, as well as on measures and activities in the field of housing, especially in relation to minority groups, through a number of smaller regional and local projects. One of the expected results of such integrated activities is the prevention of further outmigration of the inhabitants of these areas and stopping their resettlement in cities where they tend to join the existing groups of poor, which causes additional intensification and deepening of the issue.

When discussing and evaluating the development of migrant integration policies in Croatia it is important to take into account that traditionally Croatia was primarily an emigration country. According to the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia (MEPPPC, 2011), for a number of years Croatia had unfavourable demographic developments. This is manifested in an increase of ageing population, negative natural growth rate, migrations during the Homeland War and ageing of the active working population. According to the 2001 census, Croatia had approximately 4.44 million inhabitants, of which 56% lived in urban settlements. The birth rate in 2005 was 9.6% while the natural growth rate was negative: -2.1. According to the projections of the mean fertility rate with migrations, by 2050 the total number of inhabitants in the Republic of Croatia would be around 3.68 million, of which 80% would live in urban settlements. The age structure of the population between 1953 and 2001 has significantly changed in the negative direction. In 1953, Croatia had a progressive population age structure of the so-called pyramid type. In 1981, it took on the stagnating form of the beehive type and in 2001 transformed into a regressive type by taking on the inverse pyramid form. The younger population spontaneously and rapidly migrated from marginal and rural areas of the state, which is especially evident in highland areas and areas affected by the Homeland War. Due to the very low natural population growth and uneven population distribution, almost all Croatian counties experience unfavourable demographic processes and the distortion of the population age and gender structure. These processes are particularly manifested in the migration of younger, fertile population from rural, remote and economically underdeveloped areas to urban centres, which was especially noticeable in the second half of the 20th century. The main strategic objective is to prevent further decline in the natural increase of the population and negative migration trends in order to sustain the population number of the Republic of Croatia at a level higher than 4 million inhabitants by 2050, while raising the total fertility rate from the present 1.38 to 1.88 or increasing the number of new-born children from the present 42,500 to 60,000 per annum.

Although, current migration policies in Croatia are shaped in order to reach sustainable development goals, further improvements are needed. The migration policies should be adjusted to the current social moment, such as recent EU accession, ongoing emigration and expected increase in number of asylum-seeking migrants. Migration policies should reflect issues of population growth and, ways in which urbanisation is managed as well as types of jobs and services that migrants can access.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

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The *Migration Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2013-2015* document (The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2013) is establishing the migration policy priorities. In addition, as part of its preparation for EU accession, Croatia harmonised The Aliens' Act (National Gazette, 30/11, 74/13, 69/17) and started a significant policy and administrative reform. This Act regulates conditions for the entry, movement, residence and work of foreigners as well as working conditions and rights of workers assigned to work in the Republic of Croatia.

According to Knezović & Grošinić (2017), development of Croatian national migration policy was a consequence of two parallel processes: 1) increased relevance of the issue of migration at regional, European and global level and 2) conditionality in the process of EU accession, with the latter obviously having a prevailing impact. The first official migration policy document was adopted in 2007 in the midst of the EU accession process. The aims and goals were set very generally and only 17 measures and activities were envisaged, relating predominantly to adoption of legislature. In the document, there was barely any visible track-record of implementation and investments in the organisational infrastructure in the period when the issue was not dominating the wider regional, European and international discourse. Again, two processes affected the dramatic change in relevance of immigration policy: 1) Croatia's accession to the EU and assumption of responsibility for implementation of EU policies in this specific field; 2) geostrategic turbulences in MENA region and their consequences in the field of migration. In other words, in a very short period Croatia turned from a candidate state dealing with migrations, as with just one of topics in the EU accession process, to an EU member state on an immigration route to the EU in a very difficult regional environment burdened with consequences of security dysfunctions in the 90s. In such set of circumstances, Croatia was obliged to implement common EU provisions and measures in this specific field, maintaining autonomy in decisions on numbers of accepted immigrants and asylum-seekers and having at least limited possibility to influence the development of EU policy in this field as its newest full-fledged member state.

The international commitments of Republic of Croatia may be observed through development cooperation programmes, projects and initiatives, external aids to reduce migration risk and implementation of global education.

Cooperation programmes such as "Interreg", were implemented by Croatia and neighbouring countries. For example, Agency for Regional development of the Republic of Croatia (2014) is managing the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020". It is a new cooperation programme envisaged to be implemented during financial period 2014-2020. It represents continuation of successful cooperation between two countries established previous financial perspective. The overall objective of the Interreg IPA Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 is to strengthen the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area through the implementation of joint projects and activities. Veneto Region (2014) is managing authority for the Interreg IPA programme Italy-Croatia 2014-2020 CBC. This programme was developed taking into consideration the policy framework on European, macro-regional, national and regional levels. The drafting

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process was conducted along the goals and priorities identified within multi thematic strategies.

The recommendations that may be linked to the reduction of migration risks are provided in the Meznarić and Stubbs (2012) study. According to this study, there is a need for more timely and accurate data / research, promoting circular migration and regional approach to migration from neighbouring countries, investing in migration-loss regions.

Globally interrelated challenges such as climate change, the refugee emergency, the financial crisis and security challenges point to the urgent need of changing the dominant model in order to realise a just and sustainable world. Kovač, Buchberger and Rafajac (2014) focus on the ultimate educational policy goal focusing on enabling citizens to effectively take advantage of the global world economy. So, that there is a need for continuous improvement of education systems, the concern for improving the quality of educational services, equitable access to education and stronger incentives for efficient education. These trends are idientified in the contents of the policy documents in Croatia and are reflecting global education policies.

Based on migration policy analysis, it is possible to conclude that there is ongoing adjustment of the Croatian migration and educational policies and relevant legislative documents to the EU standards, while taking into consideration specifics of the Croatian society. These ongoing adjustments were also part of the EU accession process and advocacy directed at decision-makers, while ensuring the inclusion of the interests of socially excluded groups in all areas of life.

3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

In Croatia, focus groups were held on 21 and 23 of February 2018, in the premises of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split. The first focus group lasted about 1 hour and 20 minutes, of which a part of the interview was held for 1 hour and 6 minutes (audio recording does not include participants' introductions, project presentation and presentation ethical aspects of focus group participation: privacy protection, the right to use information and ideas discussed). The length of the audio recordings for the second focus group is 52 minutes. Prior to start of the second focus group, same as in the first group, the main elements of the project were presented and participants signed the terms of participation. The total duration of the second meeting was 1 hour and 10 minutes. The focus group were led by two researchers. In total, two focus groups had 11 participants, 5 men and 6 women. The average age of the participants was 47 years.

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There were 6 interviewees in the first focus group (city councillor, president of the city district, university teacher who is actively involved in the work of the NGO dealing with migrant population, Catholic Church priest who is actively involved in the work on issues of migration and sustainable development, the Employment Service analyst, and a member of NGO working with migrants at regional and national level) and the focus group leader.

The president of the city district and city councillor have an understanding of initiatives and decision-making procedures at the national and regional/city level, as well as the types of influence that exist when deciding on migration and sustainable development issues. The priest is a representative of one of the most influential social institutions in Croatia that shapes public opinion and has an explicit attitude towards migrants and sustainable development / ecology. The Employment Service Analyst monitors the labour market trends, especially in relation to the new trend of emigration from Croatia and develops projections of possible consequences. Two NGO participants through the NGO sector have participated in work with migrant population and track the situation in the area.

There were 5 participants in the second focus group (elementary school principal with experience in working with migrant children, Croatian language teacher from the Centre for Lifelong Learning who worked with migrants, teaching assistant at the University with expertise in the area of health as a segment of sustainable development, university professor of sociology who teaches social ecology and other courses that cover the issues of sustainable development and education, university professor working in the area of inclusive education) and the focus group leader. All participants in the second focus group work in the field of education focusing on the issues of migration and/or sustainable development. Three focus group participants work at the University level, one in elementary school and one in the Lifelong Learning Centre.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

When discussing the key concepts related to the issues of migration and sustainable development (Policy Coherence for Development - PCD, the Paris Agreement, Habitat III), it is possible to conclude that focus group participants share an indirect knowledge of these concepts. For example, they knew that the U.S.A. withdrew from the Paris Agreement, whose predecessor is the Kyoto Protocol. SDG is recognised as an attempt to reduce the emissions of pollutants and use of renewable energy sources through a number of small ecological interventions (wind power and solar panels).

The participants of second focus group (educational workers) knew the content of these terms, knowing even the history of the development of these documents (up to the 70s of the twentieth century), but did not associate content with their names and mentioned English

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abbreviations. Some, again, tried to translate the abbreviations wrongly and thought that Habitat III refers to the natural environment. One participant from the first focus group precisely defined sustainable development as a dealing with nature, in ways that current development does not restrict and/or jeopardise the development of future generations. Participants in the second group were well acquainted with these terms, strategies for promotion sustainable development at the global level, and change of strategies in that process.

Participants believe that these topics appear as political themes, but only under the pressure of deadlines set by the EU or when they are in the interest of politics as a means of winning power, but not as a strategic goal at the national level in order to improve life conditions on a national level or at local community. However, all participants believe that these are topics that should be promoted and accepted not for the commitments undertaken, but for the interests of the community. These topics appear both in the media as well as in the public, but only when a concrete problem arises in the community, without continuity, and often as an opportunity to realize political power. Migration experts are dealing with these issues, again, far from the media and the public, so their expertise becomes interesting only in specific local situations that are recognised as a current threat.

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

In Croatia, this issue arises only marginally, through the media as a problem that may for example appear in coastal areas, or as a concrete environmental and civil action problem that prevents investment that endangers environmental and climate change that could force the local population into migration. One of the participants was among initiators of the public initiative for reconsideration and the pressure on all those who make decisions in a major energy project (a combined gas power plant and a hydro-power plant in a reversible system) in Croatia (Cvitković, 2017; HINA, 2017). This participant stated that it was unbelievable for such a big project that no one knows who investor is and who promotes the project. In addition, from the outset, it was obvious that this project may be detrimental to the environment, the population and their present existence, and there is no available economic justification.

Additionally, although the realization of this project would endanger one of the largest drinking water reservoirs in Europe, a large number of residents and a range of economic activities (such as tourism, which is one of the key economic branches in Croatia), the project passed all the necessary levels of decision-making up to the level of Ministry and received all necessary permissions without public discussion.

If there was no reaction from the citizens, the project implementation would go through and would create huge environmental damage and irreparably endanger the environment. This indicates that politics can easily find fair arguments and that at the political level there is no

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awareness of ecological issues (as a segment of sustainable development). Collective awareness of the problem of sustainable development and migrations that are associated with this problem is very weak. Interest groups are absolutely not interested in the problem itself, but only in the context of achieving social power.

Some participants, however, believe that awareness of the problems of sustainable development is growing, but that it is mainly linked to current environmental problems. Also, the majority of focus group participants believe that there is a delay in way our civil society functions in comparison to the Western democracies and that there is an inherited mentality under which the law is selectively respected – when it goes in favour, otherwise it is not respected.

The problem exists at level of problem recognition, but also as proactive approach in raising awareness on the issues of sustainable development in schools. While the climate change problem is recognised in Croatia in the last decade, there is a growing awareness of related issues, especially since there are particular issues that directly affect Croatian economy: agriculture, tourism, fishing and other areas affected by climate changes as invasive plants and animal species appear, and on the other hand, some species of fish are disappearing, etc. There is a proactive approach to raising awareness on the issues of sustainable development and climate change in schools: the themes of environmental pollution, sustainable development and climate change are included in biology and chemistry curriculum in the 6th grade of the elementary school. Following special topics were emphasised by interviewees: the problems of the sea level lifting, the notion of carbon footprint and the problem of release of methane from the smelting of ice on the poles as pollution is potentially more damaging than the CO2 generated by fossil fuel combustion. In addition, some schools implement small ecological projects such as: composting, collecting old paper and so on. These small school activities can change the consciousness deeply and permanently change the behaviours of generations that will create the future. More participants are of the opinion that inappropriate environmental behaviour should be sanctioned because it is one of the most effective behavioural interventions. The majority of the focus group participants think that sustainable development should be the key strategic project in Croatia, in the vision of the future society, but its implementation will be difficult without 'pressure' from the EU. Moreover, most participants think that this strategy should be regionalised by adjusting development to the specific potentials, resources and people of particular Croatian regions.

The focus group participants do see interconnection between SDG on quality education and migrations. Also, there is a clear understanding of the social inclusion issues and other socially oriented sustainable development goals. Nevertheless, due to the Croatian social context (e.g., constant emigration and high unemployment rates) more emphasis was given to the SDGs on decent work and economic growth issues. It is possible to speculate that social inclusion, migrations and gender equality issues are not perceived as sustainable development goals primary importance for the Croatian society.

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3.4 Insecurity

Migration as an element of uncertainty has a complex structure in Croatia. The primary problem for Croatia is strong emigration as hundreds of thousands of people have left the country. Majority of these people emigrated towards Western European countries. Participants mention that a similar phenomenon occurs in neighbouring countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia) and that this occurrence is even more severe than it is a case with Croatia. There is no agreement between focus group participants about reasons for such strong emigration waves: some participants think that the main cause is unemployment, general uncertainty and uncertainty of employment, others believe that emigration is affected by corruption and other unfavourable social relations, etc. Some of the focus group participants discuss unemployment, while media news are full of reports about search for workers for jobs that are not attractive to Croatian citizens (construction workers, chefs, waiters, maids, etc.).

According to the focus group participants, there is no fear that migrants could lessen chances of local population from getting a job, because migrants would probably take jobs that are not attractive to Croatians. There is a greater fear of aging of the population and of the labour force that will be missing in the future, and due to which the sustainability of the pension system is endangered. In Croatia, emigration is a much bigger problem than immigration, because only 20-40 asylum seekers are requested annually in Croatia. On the other hand, a large number of people leave Croatia and the large areas of Croatia are empty. Emptying these big areas of Croatia, especially the wheat fields, creates a sense of insecurity and neglect of the earth. In that sense, some think that it would be good to settle these areas in order to use the rich wheat fields. The “Migrant Wave” that passed through Croatia initially created a sense of insecurity because citizens did not know what was going on and whether or not these people would stay in Croatia or know who those people are. Migrants were passing through the courtyards of people in poorly populated areas, people helped them though they did not know who they were and what their intentions were – most did not have identification documents and many suspected that there among migrants were people with “bad intentions”.

The focus group participants recognise fear among Croatian citizens that all arriving migrants would stay in Croatia and outnumber the local population. There was also a fear of a possible loss of identity, due to the number of people that are arriving at the country, while the birth rate of local people decreases and the nation has a negative demographic growth. Although this fear decreased after a while, some uncertainty and insecurity remained. Nevertheless, in Croatia, there were no political movements against migrations as it has happened in Germany or Greece, where political parties explicitly opposed to migration. The question remains if the same political reactions would occur in Croatia, in a case that migration wave continued. In Croatia, there were attempts to collect political points on account of the migration crisis, by raising tensions and solving things without arguments. There are stories in the media about rare migrants who have stayed in Croatia, and there is a general sympathy

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for such people. Some interviewees believe that it would be beneficial if the abandoned and neglected areas of Croatia were inhabited by people who would like to live there, regardless of who they are and where they came from. These opinions may be directly related to the SDG on sustainable cities and communities.

Croatians have a great experience of emigration (and receiving migrants because at the time of the Homeland War in Croatia there were a large number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina). Croatian people recognise the feeling of arriving in another country and living there. Only 100-kilometers from Croatia is Austria, where a large number of Croatians migrated – similar like Syrian people arrived in Croatia. The main issue in understanding migrants is the readiness to accept values and adapt to the new culture. Among the participants, there is no agreement on ways in which migrants should be received and placed across the country. One interviewee says that it is necessary to avoid potential ghettoization and integrate them. In the same time, others feel that this should not be done violently because everyone has the right to their culture, religion, customs and that integration is a matter of choice and process that lasts several generations. Most of the participants believe that the main reason for the uncertainty is state administration of Croatia which is uncertain and there is an overall feeling that the state has no strategic goals for overcoming existing and anticipated situations, including migration and lack of public awareness of a sustainable development. Most of the issues are solved on the local level. According to this, migrants passing through the Croatia realise that the state here is unregulated and they choose security of the highly regulated countries of Western Europe.
It is apparent that interviews discuss about SDGs that are linked to the current social and economic situation in Croatia, which is experiencing mass economic-driven emigration. It would be beneficial if InterCap project would put more emphasis on the ways in which migration can facilitate development and improve opportunities for all, facilitate economic growth and decrease economic-driven emigration.

3.5 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

The focus group participants commented that approach to the themes of sustainable development is chaotic. It seems that there is no political strategy, and that activities happen occasionally and under the pressure of deadlines set by the EU, in order to meet ad hoc requirements. Participants have the feeling that public discussions related to this topic are not motivated by actual attempt to recognise the needs and national well-being, nor that they are based on real arguments. On the other hand, experts in this area receive media attention and are asked for advice only in some crisis situations or when that it aligned with the political interests. In any case, the real expertise related to migration and sustainable development is poorly publicly visible and available in the media. The Church as an institution that has a clear attitude on migration and sustainable development at a supranational level (numerous Pope's exhortations) is nationally reduced to the explicit instances of only one bishop, while the other

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are silent and unclear in expressing their opinion. NGOs appear to act as a catalyst at regional and national level, but sometimes they are recognised as institutions that abuse the system for financing their activities.

Nevertheless, NGOs are recognised as a positive factor by politics and society in raising awareness and education on issues of migration and sustainable development. There are several factors that encourage and shape public opinion about these phenomena, and most participants believe that a national political strategy and education on all educational levels is needed in order to direct society towards the promotion and implementation of a sustainable development system. A national political strategy should rely on professional expertise and implementation that is coordinated with all interested social institutions in order to implement education on all educational levels. All citizens should have competencies to live, communicate and work in the intercultural environment. Hence as a part of InterCap project there is a need for additional awareness raising campaigns in order to reach sustainable cities and communities goal, and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Also, the goal is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

The “Migrant Wave” that passed through Croatia proved that society is insufficiently prepared for such phenomena. At the time of the emergence, after the first shock, a series of contradictory information on the situation on the ground occurred in media, dealing with the issues of the intentions of migrants and possible moves of the state. Also, it was difficult to determine whether the political moves were rational and whether governmental actions could lead to disputes with other countries such as Hungary and Slovenia, but also Austria threatening that all migrants who came to their countries through Croatia would go back to Croatia. There was a lack of information and reception centres, and for now the public is poorly informed that a migrant centre is being built near the city, and it is not clear how many people are there; whether they are looking for asylum or just wanting to go to other European countries. NGOs are connected at national level and carry out information campaigns and raise awareness of these phenomena.

The majority of focus group participants believe that the key education component in the long run can carry the burden of raising awareness of the phenomenon of sustainable development and the link between migration and sustainable development / climate change. In relation to the migration phenomenon, most schools have prepared programs for migrant children and are introduced with both legislative and learning aspects through manuals prepared by the Croatian Teacher Training Agency in 2012. Also, some schools and centres for lifelong learning already have practical experience with work with children that do not speak Croatian language or with asylum seekers of different ages. The city administration

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takes care about technical conditions, and the Education and Training Agency and the Ministry of Science and Education assist with the programming part. In the case of a large number of migrants, the question is whether the thing would work and whether all schools could work on such programs.

The interviewees rise important issues of timely dissemination of relevant information on migrations, migration policy and legislation change among Croatian citizens, which is necessary in order to achieve equity and responsible citizenship goals. In regards to relation of migration and sustainable development goals, the interviewees focus on the quality education and need for further work on educational policies, strategies and action plans that would ensure inclusion of migrant population.

3.7 The role of education systems

In Croatia there are already numerous NGOs and educational projects that promote and educate about need for sustainable development as the only correct way of thinking and acting in the future. Students do not know too much about the phenomenon of migration and sustainable development, so participants note that they should educate teachers' practitioners. In addition, migration can be associated with social deprivation and therefore, inclusive pedagogy should be taught in all teacher education programs. Inclusive pedagogy is a part of the people's values in Croatia, but is poorly included in the study programs – although recently the situation is improving. At lower educational levels, such as schools, some teachers still think that work in inclusive environment is not their job. In pre-school education, the situation is better as young children easily accept differences. On all educational levels, there is a need for lifelong learning of teachers. Teachers at the school level and pre-school educators have a range of specialisations and / or training opportunities offered by Ministry of Science and Education programs, but no one is obliged to do so, nor does Ministry of Science and Education value participation in them. The vast majority of teachers participating in the training and offered programs return with positive experiences and transfer them to other students as well as other teachers. Enthusiasm is praiseworthy, but teacher licencing would be beneficial addition.

Participants think that kindergartens are doing well on sustainable development programs as they monitor current social situations (e.g., environmental protection, inclusion of children from different cultures) and children really appreciate these activities. The media should also like these positive things to promote and present examples of how well they work in these sectors. However, it is important to know that work in elementary school for adults requires special sensitivity, as it is almost always a case with the vulnerable groups. This type of training should be implemented by particularly sensible teachers and such inclusiveness and tolerance should be raised by future generations of teachers.

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University of Split programs for teacher and preschool education have already introduced some programs that implement some of the sustainable development goals such as quality education – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities diverse populations, including migrants (courses: Inclusive education, Educational Policy); gender equality – theory and practice of achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through education (courses: Sociology Education, Comparative Education). Some programs will introduce sustainable development related courses in the next two years (e.g. Philosophy and sustainable development). These courses are part of a group of courses that aim (along with ethics and others) on the development of competences for the implementation of civic education and inclusion of migrant population, which is unavoidable in promoting sustainable development.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

There are several relevant NGO actions and initiatives focusing on the integration of immigrants and primarily target asylum seekers, refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries. Nevertheless, there is an apparent lack of a link between sustainable development, SDGs and migration issues. NGOs need to actively participate in advocacy on migration policy making with the focus on sustainable development goals in order to develop initiatives that will help the public to understand that migrations are consequence of global inequalities, climate change and injustice. Sustainable development goals may serve as an instrument to contest the dominant negative public perceptions of migration and displacement. Furthermore, due to the great experience with the work with migrant population, NGOs should be part of the communities of practice, which should raise awareness to both in-service and pre-service teachers, as well as other public service workers (e.g. health workers, social workers) about work with migrant population.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

In Croatia there is an existing institutional setup for the support of migrants. These organisations are responsible for registering foreigners and regulating their status in Croatia, ensure health services and provide lodging, offer Croatian language classes and provide basic educational possibilities, and address the humanitarian concerns of migrants. Still,

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there is a need for closer cooperation between different governmental institutions, need to build accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, which should lead to further improvement of migrant policies. Teacher Training Agency should facilitate implementation of in-service training programs focusing on the issues of work with migrant population and sustainable development. Furthermore, Ministry of Science and Education should and stimulate universities to include modules on work with migrant population and sustainable development in programs that train people that will interact with migrant population in their future work (e.g. health workers, social workers, teachers). These modules should further expand on the variety of quality education topics (e.g., work with migrant children and their families, educational work with adults from different cultural backgrounds, teaching Croatian as a second language), gender equality (empowerment through education). In addition, it is necessary to provide both in-service and pre-service teachers with the educational materials that can support the educational process in class.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

On a local level, intercultural events (e.g., exhibitions, festivals), should be organised to enhance tolerance and respect towards different cultures and facilitate the migrants integration to the society. These types of activates lead towards localisation of the sustainable development goals within the context of migrant integration initiatives. Municipalities in cooperation with Teacher Training Agency should create offices to provide advice and support for schools that will be accepting migrant children. So far, schools managed to deal with the issues of education of children which are not speaking Croatian language, but this may change with the increase in number of children entering schools. The support services should focus not only on the teachers expertise in teaching Croatian as a foreign language, but also in widening cultural perspectives and adaptation of teaching methods. In addition, teacher will need support in communication with migrant families and communities which is directly aligned with the SDG on quality education.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Both in-service and pre-service teachers need to receive adequately training in order to improve their intercultural competence and communication with migrants. The training modules should investigate issues such as poverty, social exclusion, climate change, security, migration, within the framework of SD/SDGs.

There is urgent need for a change in legislation related to education of asylum seeking migrants on secondary school and vocational school level. According to the current

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legislation, only elementary schools in Croatia are obligatory and state has obligation to support schooling of all children. Since secondary schools are not obligatory, there is a huge legislative gap that prevents asylum seeking migrants in obtaining secondary school diploma. This situation limits asylum-seeking migrants from full and productive employment and decent work, which is one of the main sustainable development goals. Also, problems with obtaining secondary school diploma may more significantly influence female asylum-seeking migrants, and increase gender inequality.

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

There is a need for more clear understanding of the impact of migration on the achievement of all sustainable development goals and investigating the ways in which migration can work in favour of sustainable development in Croatia. In terms of further research, it would be necessary to focus on the adjustments that educational institutions should make in order to successfully teach larger number of migrant children. In regards to the implementation of sustainable development goals in educational and other public institutions, all institutions should be measuring the social impact of SDG implementation. Also, it would be beneficial to focus on the media reporting and try to clarify potential impact that media may have on the ways in which people perceive and, later on, treat migrants and asylum seekers. Finally, future research on migration and sustainable development issues should move from the topics related to the potential threats of migrations, in order to consider how migration can facilitate development and improve opportunities for all.

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CYPRUS NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

Since the mid-1990s, the up until then homogenous Greek-Cypriot society experienced an unparalleled increase in net migration rates. Cyprus's accession to the EU in 2004 along with the arrival and presence of migrants have contributed to the socio-political and demographic changes that have formed the current institutional and political situation (Papamichael 2009). As figure 1 shows, Cyprus became a magnet for migrants after the rest of southern Europe had reached capacity or took action to deal with this situation. It should be noted that Cyprus is not in the Schengen free movement areas of Europe. Consequently, immigrants cannot leave the island for other EU countries (Civil Registry and Migration Department, 2016).

VALID RES. PERMITS ON 31.7.2016			*
General Employment	**7423**	***11.74%***	↓
Domestic Employment	**18844**	***29.82%***	↑
Employment at Foreign Companies	**2294**	***3.63%***	↑
International Protection	**7036**	***11.13%***	↑
Family Members of Cypriots	**6503**	***10.29%***	↓
Family Reunification	**1799**	***2.85%***	↓
Immigration Pemrits	**9302**	***14.72%***	↑
Long Term Residents	**219**	***0.35%***	↑
Education	**4023**	***6.37%***	↓
Visitors	**5657**	***8.95%***	↓
Researchers	**6**	***0.01%***	↑
Victims of Trafficking/ Exploitation	**70**	***0.11%***	↓
Special Permits	**27**	***0.04%***	↓
Total:	**63203**	***100.00%***	↓

Figure 1: Research data depicting migration statistics for 2016 (Civil Registry and Migration Department, 2016)

Despite the fact that international migrants play an important part in the globalisation process, their role has been continually neglected due to the fact that migration has often been regarded as a hazard to national identity, social cohesion and security (Castles 2014; Pantuliano 2016). Thus, the Cypriot society is confronted with new challenges deriving from this phenomenon, such as racism and discrimination issues towards migrants. Such discrimination and exclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers results to marginalisation and increased racism and xenophobia (Mainwaring 2008).

Countries' growth and progress is regarded to be challenged by migration; therefore, migration issues need to be well handled by the governments that need to support the

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phenomenon and fully utilise its development potential. The significant role of migrants in both origin and destination countries needs to be acknowledged as, according to the OECD report, (2014) migrants support home countries development by sending remittances; pay taxes to the destination country and contribute in social insurances and enhance the cultural and social capital of the country. Hence, there is a need to bring the knowledge to education sector in general and students in particular that migration is an essential aspect of wider social and development process and not an exogenous factor.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The main aim of project InterCap is to promote critical understanding of migration and sustainable development within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But most importantly – to showcase the extent to which migration and sustainable development are perceived as interrelated in the Cypriot context, identify potential gaps within interlinkages of migration and sustainable development as well as addressing the importance of raising public awareness in national context. The report constitutes a part of the project InterCap, which aims to develop policy-makers', researchers' and educational agents' capabilities in terms of promoting global education on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world by addressing these challenges at the national level and in accordance with the European context, using techniques such as Communities of Practice, networking, conferences and digital resources. In Cyprus, this issue needs to be addressed due to high rates of racism and discrimination towards migrants among the society. This objective will be achieved through the modification of public views, perceptions and reinterpretation of security and risk matters regarding migration and sustainable development by providing a holistic approach on international migration and displacement through the development of a training package, the establishment of mentor partnerships for the promotion of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), transnational trainings, workshops, internships for pre-service teachers, annual international conferences and other awareness raising activities.

1.3 Available data and recourses

A selection of resources was used for the development of this national report (statistics, reports, literature, academic journals at national and EU level); a detailed catalogue of all resources is available in References. Eurobarometer data revealed that immigration remains on top of the matters that concern EU citizens (45 %) (European Commission 2016). Based on Eurostat data (2015), the Republic of Cyprus has one of the EU highest levels of net migration. Figure 2 indicates the Asylum statistics between the years 2002-2015.

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Cyprus: Asylum Statistics 2002-2015 - Asylum Service

Year	Applications	Re-op	Refugee Status	Subsidiary	Hum.	Total Protection	Refused	Closure	Pending
2002	952		0	0	0	0	143	0	808
2003	4,407		0	0	10	10	274	128	4,816
2004	9,872		30	0	56	86	2,734	2,538	9,328
2005	7,746		41	0	123	164	3,133	2,505	11,279
2006	4,545		37	0	151	188	1,779	3,640	10,218
2007	6,789		36	0	191	227	2,316	4,641	9,823
2008	3,922		64	0	163	227	4,001	3,683	5,833
2009	3,199		49	1,287	33	1369	3,325	2,626	1,748
2010	2,882		31	370	25	426	2,032	173	2,273
2011	1,770		53	1	15	69	2,559	234	1,193
2012	1,620	42	80	10	15	105	1,240	255	1,232
2013	1,346	109	33	124	8	165	633	325	1,412
2014	1,887	259	53	941	0	994	302	242	1773
2015	2105	148	200	1384	0	1584	473	263	1557
Total	53,042	558	707	4,117	790	5,614	24,944	21,253	

Pending Decisions 31.12.2015	
Syria	579
Palestinians	163
Egypt	128
Ukraine	120
Somalia	60
Iraq	51
Vietnam	48
Pakistan	45
Iran	38
Lebanon	37
India	30
Cameroon	27
Other	231

Top 10 Nationalities (applications + reopenings)

2002-2006		2007-2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
Bangladesh	5305	Syria	2939	Iraq	343	Viet Nam	212	Syria	663	Syria	574	Syria	1164	Syria	937
Iran	2384	Gaza	1902	India	320	Syria	284	Viet Nam	198	Egypt	143	Ukraine	94	Palestinian	176
Pakistan	2742	Sri Lanka	1317	Egypt	235	Egypt	184	Bangladesh	188	Bangladesh	106	Egypt	82	Vietnam	126
Russia	1368	Iran	859	Viet Nam	227	Bangladesh	182	Egypt	156	Viet Nam	83	India	81	Pakistan	122
Gaza	895	Georgia	547	Sri Lanka	187	Pakistan	148	Pakistan	108	Iraq	80	Vietnam	80	India	90
Syria	3037	Pakistan	772	Gaza	186	India	135	India	64	Pakistan	54	Bangladesh	69	Egypt	75
Georgia	2178	India	829	Pakistan	155	Sri Lanka	115	Sri Lanka	58	Sri Lanka	50	Pakistan	68	Ukraine	71
Sri Lanka	1702	Bangladesh	611	Bangladesh	152	Nepal	102	Afghanistan	51	Somalia	43	Sri Lanka	49	Stateless	70
Ukraine	1708	China	393	Syria	144	Philippines	84	Iran	43	India	36	Iran	42	Iraq	68
India	1152	Iraq	559	Nigeria	126	Iran	68	Philippines	36	Philippines	34	Philippines	39	Somalia	66

Figure 2: Asylum statistics during the period 2002-2015 (UNHCR, 2015)

In 2015, less than 3,000 asylum seekers were present in Cyprus possibly due to the geographic position of the island, which is isolated from the rest of EU countries, the existing obstructive asylum policies, being outside the Schengen area (Council of Europe 2016). It should be noted that 59,099 asylum applications were received in the Republic of Cyprus from 2002 to September 2017. Of these, 8,968 granted protection; 44,845 refused or otherwise closed and 4,594 pending a decision. 76 refugees from Syria and Palestine are under UNHCR mandate currently residing in the Turkish occupied side in Cyprus whereas 53 refugees and asylum-seekers reside at the British Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) (UNHCR, 2017a). These people arrived in 1998 and have since been living there in so called legal limbo. The following figure indicates statistics provided by The Asylum Service, a department of the Ministry of Interior, responsible for asylum-related statistical collection in Cyprus, regarding the applications and granting of protection status in 2017 and the countries the asylum seekers are coming from (AIDA, 2017). The thorough investigation of research reports with respect to migration revealed the disconnection of migration and sustainability since in the Cypriot context, migration policies and sustainability are often discussed separately.

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	Applicants in 2017	Pending at end 2017	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Rejection	Refugee rate	Subs. Prot. rate	Rejection rate
Total	4,582	3,843	142	680	1,148	7.2%	34.5%	58.3%
Breakdown by countries of origin of the total numbers								
Syria	1,805	:	8	640	0	1.2%	98.8%	0%
India	446	:	0	0	276	0%	0%	100%
Vietnam	357	:	0	0	206	0%	0%	100%
Bangladesh	287	:	0	0	199	0%	0%	100%
Egypt	268	:	2	1	36	5.1%	2.6%	92.3%
Pakistan	191	:	0	0	140	0%	0%	100%
Sri Lanka	140	:	0	0	36	0%	0%	100%
Somalia	118	:	41	17	21	51.9%	21.5%	26.6%
Cameroon	111	:	5	1	21	18.5%	3.7%	77.8%
Philippines	87	:	1	0	31	3.1%	0%	96.9%

Figure 3: Asylum statistics regarding the applications and granting of protection status in 2017 and the countries the asylum seekers are coming from (AIDA, 2017)

1.4 Limitations

Research studies indicate that migration and development have been traditionally regarded as separate policy areas. However, nowadays the impact of migration in economy, politics, and society shows that these two areas are interrelated. It should be noted that there is lack of research in the Cypriot context with respect to the link between international migration and sustainable development. Hence, this state of the art report addresses the aforementioned

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gap and supports the notion that migrants can act as active agents in terms of national development especially in economic, social and cultural advancements. In addition, the field research took into consideration the feedback by 11 stakeholders in the fields of migration and education. However, it should not be argued that these individuals represent the stakeholder opinions' in their sectors entirely, but still their opinions should be considered as indicative to the current trends.

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

The unprecedented influx of refugees in Europe has been termed by the media as the so-called "refugee crisis" or, more generally, the migrant crisis. However, the latter terms has been contested since the term "migrant" refers to individuals who move to a foreign country voluntarily, whereas the term "refugees" refers to individuals who have been forced out of their home country against their will. Examining and conceptualising public opinions towards migration in general and migrant/ refugees in particular within their host country is becoming increasingly important for those individuals who are interested in the refugee and migration policy areas. A recent study by IPSOS MORI (2016) revealed that 8,000 out of the 16,000 thousand people who participated in the poll hold the perception that the number of immigrants in the host country is high. Participants from Turkey, Italy and South Africa most agreed with this statement. Additionally, only one fifth of the participants have reached to a consensus that immigration has a positive effect on their country while approximately half of them argued that immigration has adverse effects on the country. Even though less than half of the respondents rejected the closing of country's borders to refugees as a suggestion, more than over one-third was positive towards it. In Turkey, India and Hungary, most respondents agreed with this proposition. Within Europe, Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Finland are more positive towards migration, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK and France hold both positive and negative stance, whereas Czech Republic, Hungary and Portugal are more negative (Heath and Richards 2016). It should be noted that public attitudes towards refugees and migrants are interrelated and are best understood within the context they are being formed. For example, in Saudi Arabia where migrants constitute a high proportion of the population (32%), poll participants agreed that immigration has a positive impact on their country possibly due to the existing governmental policies that encourage the regulated arrival of highly skilled migrants. Respondents in India seem to share the same opinion, possibly due to the low proportion of migrants in the country (less than 1% of the population). On the other hand, Turkey and South Africa have been negative towards migration. Turkey because of hosting the largest number of refugees and South Africa due to the apartheid and xenophobia (UNHCR 2017b; Crush, Ramachandran, and Pendleton 2013).

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Specific attention should be paid both to the demographic differences in the participants' responses with respect to the examined issues, as well as on how attitudes differ towards migrants (Hatton, 2016). In terms of demographic characteristics, older participants of all European countries but Sweden appeared to be more negative towards migration. In Cyprus, Greece and Hungary the rate of people with negative attitudes reached 80 % (Winkler 2015). Heath and Richards's study (2016) also revealed that Roma and Muslims constitute the most unwelcomed groups amongst Europe. Hence, there is a need of launching migration-positive awareness campaigns to encourage civic integration and tolerance, reduce fear and paranoia towards refugees, introduce activities for neighbourhoods hosting new reception centres, perform debates, invest on training programmes on democracy and tolerance, to ensure the adequate integration of refugees in society.

According to Cypriots, migration constitutes one of the most important issues that EU has to face (41%, + 2 %, EU28: 39%). Data derived from the Special Eurobarometer (2017a) show that migration from other EU Member States (50%, + 1% from Spring 2017, EU28: 30%) and from non-EU countries (71% + 2%, EU28: 54%) creates negatives emotions amongst Cypriots (highest percentage amongst EU). The vast majority of Europeans hold an opposite perception (64%, + 1%, Cyprus: 49%, + 1%, lower in the EU) with respect to migration from EU countries. However, with respect to migration of people from non-EU countries, Europeans also have negative feeling (54%, same as Spring 2017). Two thirds of Cypriot respondents (66%) consider that migrants' contribution to the country is not significant (+ 9% from Spring 2017, EU28: 45%, -1%). This belief is again ranked among the highest in the EU. Nevertheless, the majority of Cypriot respondents (80%, -2%, seventh taller in the EU) believe that Cyprus should help refugees (EU28: 67%, same as Spring 2017).

Security concerns are influencing people's attitudes. In terms of security risk and threat, a recent study indicated that poll participants from Greece, Hungary, Poland consider that refugees are a great threat to their country fearing that the influx of refugees could be associated with terrorism and reduction of jobs (Wike, Stokes and Simmons, 2016; Esses, Hamilton and Gaucher, 2017). Even though there is limited evidence of connecting recent terror attacks in Europe with refugees, respondents have associated terrorism attacks with refugees and migrants. As indicated in PEW's research study in Figure 4, more than half of the participants of ten European countries were concerned about the security consequences of the mass influx of migrants. In a similar pattern, migrants and refugees have been regarded by political far right-wing parties as a threat to values and culture, as the basis of terrorism and crime, and a threat to quality of living and jobs (ODI, 2017a). In Cyprus, research studies revealed that Cypriots are not only worried about the possible economic impact of immigration in their country but they also expressed xenophobic feelings by perceiving immigrants as a threat to their national identity: e.g. many have expressed concern that soon they native people will be a minority in their own country (ENAR, 2012).

These concerns can lead to polarisation between the native population and the immigrants due to the increasing immigration and the dissatisfaction with their presence in the new home country, respectively. This polarisation can lead to extremism therefore there is a need for

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governments to invest in integration programmes to ensure integration and socialisation of migrants into the society and also invest in training by developing programmes for police, social workers, schools actors that are focused on integration, tolerance and democracy for sensitisation and consciousness-raising within the SD/SDGs framework.

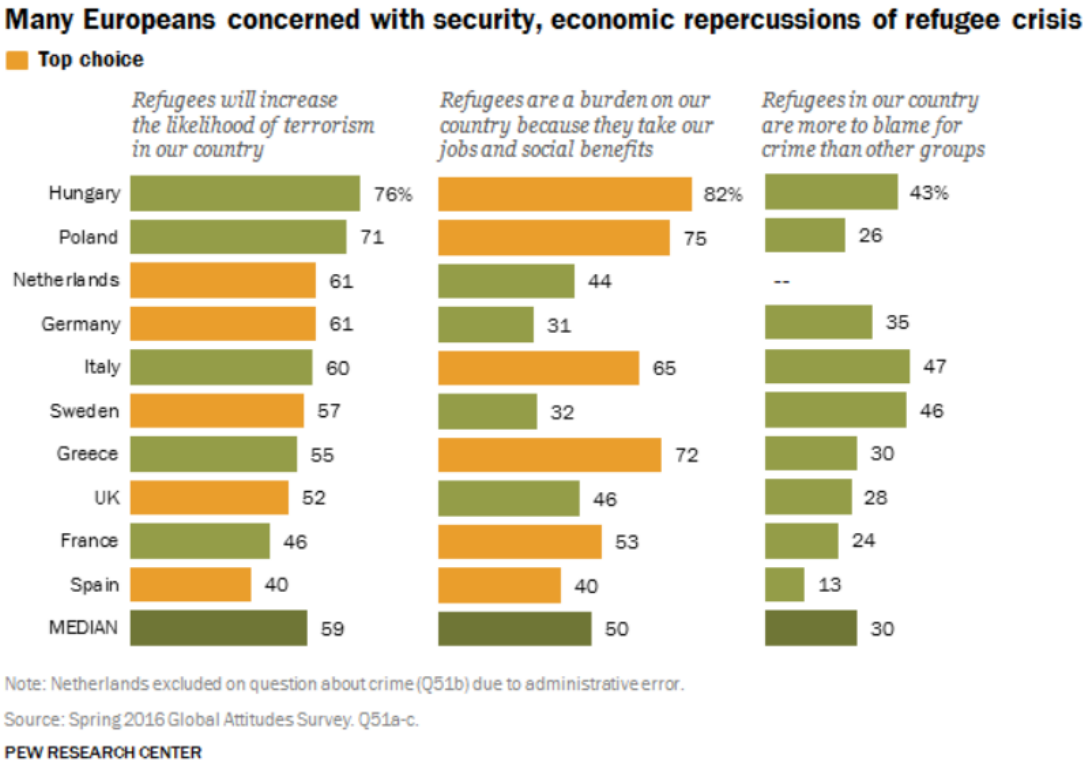

Figure 4: Research data showcasing Europeans' concerns over refugees (Wike, Stokes and Simmons, 2016)

National Policy agendas are being determined by public opinion. Therefore, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments across the world need to listen the ways in which people think about SDGs to motivate them, mobilise them and engage them into action. Results on Sustainable Development (OECD 2017) indicate that being aware about SDGs is not equivalent to having knowledge about them. Figures 4 and 5 concern the extent to which people have heard of the goals. As shown, 28% - 45% appear to have heard the goals with just over 1 in 10 Europeans to know what the SDGs are. Figure 5 also indicates the discrepancies across the countries. Furthermore, in Finland (73%), Luxembourg (62%) and the Netherlands (61%) people showed high level of awareness. Despite the fact there was a SDGs awareness increase of 5% since 2015, it should be noted that, in Cyprus a percentage of 25% appear to have some knowledge of the goals, a percentage, which constitutes a very low rate compared to other EU countries.

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Source	Awareness of SDGs	Knowledge of SDGs
Eurobarometer (2016)	36%	10%
Eurobarometer (2017)	41%	12%
Globescan Radar (2017)	35%	n/a
AIESEC Youth Speak Global Report	45%	n/a

Figure 4 & 5: Research data indicating the extent to which people know the SDGs.

In terms of protecting the environment, Special Eurobarometer (2017c) revealed the consistency of European citizens' attitude across the years towards environmental issues by indicating their high level of concerns regarding climate change, air pollution, growing amount of waste. Specifically, it is noteworthy that, in Cyprus and Sweden, 85% of the participants considered the protection of the environment as very important in comparison to ~40% in Croatia, Poland, Austria and Lithuania.

It is notable that limited surveys measuring public attitudes have interlinked migration, national security risks and sustainable development and environment; instead, these issues have been measured and examined separately or combining two areas of interest such as climate change and migration, sustainable development and migration. A connection between climate change and migration has been made in the EPCC survey (2017). According to the report, there is a pattern between future climate change and migration as Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and politicians expect people to migrate and move away from climate problematic areas. This has also been indicated in an earlier study designed by Happer and Philo (2013). Therefore, there is a clear need for enhancing critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, within the framework of SDGs by developing awareness raising activities on global learning on migration, security, sustainability and development education, in an interdependent world through the implementation of international and local trainings and workshops on issues with respect to the aforementioned issues. Specifically, the development of a model of accredited professional development programme for educational actors across all levels should be designed and implemented based on international good practices and explore issues such as poverty, social exclusion, climate change, security, migration, while considering matters such as development and sustainability. This will enable school actors to become agents of change by developing tools and other educational resources through innovative teaching methodologies to promote issues on migration, sustainability and development education.

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2.2 Media response

The media play a significant role in shaping and influencing public attitudes towards refugees and migrants. The ways in which countries report on migration differs from country to country.

BEPA (2006) report asserts that media are often biased towards migration linking them many times to security issues, and discussing migration in the context of border controls, illegal migration or human trafficking. It is noted, that in the UK media, the articles crimes committed by migrants were more numerous than stories covering racist crimes, racism experienced by migrants. A study by Finney and Robinson (2008) argued that the main themes of the press regarding asylum issues were the reduction of migrant rights, the deceitfulness of migrants and their portrayal as a burden on the welfare state and being associated with crime. Based on BEPA's data, immigrants have been accused for being involved in acts of terrorism and for threatening social cohesion. By perceiving immigrants as threat, makes their integration in the hosting country more difficult. As already emphasised, public opinion is being formed mainly by the media. Therefore, the integration becomes difficult when public perceptions are hostile towards immigrants thus contributing to further marginalisation, exclusion and discrimination.

According to Oxford Migration Observatory (2013) the word "illegal" has been mostly being used upon referral to "immigrants" by the British print media. Migration has been linked in many occasions with security issues by framing them as a possible threat to culture, welfare, security and the health system (Berry et al. 2015). Similarly, migration is depicted as a potential threat to human security (Adger et al. 2014). Additionally, Esses, Hamilton and Gaucher (2017: 87) revealed that media coverage tends to degrade refugees and migrants.

Happer and Philo (2013) investigates the impact of media coverage regarding climate change and economic development. The empirical findings of this study indicate that media shape public opinion and guide the development of relevant agendas. Moreover, a number of European media outlets have also discussed climate change impact, which could lead to a big wave of migrants towards Europe (ODI 2017c). In the recent study on the media influence on public opinion towards so-called "migration crisis", Kosho (2016:88) included a compilation of the headlines of how foreign media covered this process. The investigation of the headlines indicated the increased attention the foreign media paid to the migrant crisis aiming at putting pressure on European leaders to move towards an effective management of the mass influx of immigrants.

According to IPSOS MORI (2016), the media use different words to describe refugees and asylum seekers. Particularly, the word "failed" has been attributed to asylum seekers in the media; moreover, in more mid-market newspapers than tabloids or broadsheets. In adittion, the asylum seekers have been characterised as "illegal" in the mid-market stories and

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"destitute" and "vulnerable" in the broadsheets. In a similar mode, in Portugal, such words as "others" have been used, in many occasions characterising migrants as "criminals", "delinquents" and "undesirables" (BEPA 2006). In the UK, migrants have been described as 'swarms', 'cockroaches' or a 'plague of feral humans'.

Based on the ECRI (2016) report in Cyprus, the tendency of using an intolerant and xenophobic tone in the media has increased after the economic crisis. As has already been noticed, migrants, especially the Muslims, are often presented in a negative light and are associated with problems, such as rising unemployment and crime, while asylum seekers are presented as "parasites" of the system. Additionally, immigrants are presented by the media as a threat to the security concerns and social policy of the country. At the same time, the media are duplicating stereotypes and prejudices. In a similar vein, an earlier study, which focused on the articles published between 2011 and 2015, also indicated that migrants were considered as a threat and a burden according to Cypriots to the welfare system and economy in general (RE.KRI.RE, 2016).

Hungary and Czech Republic are countries, which also hold a negative opinion towards refugees (ODI 2017b). During election period, the governing party run an anti-refugee campaign, which was broadly covered by the media having as a result the intensification of xenophobia. In a similar pattern, the largest newspaper in the Czech Republic announced the adoption of an anti-migrant position aiming in painting refugees and migrants in a negative light to reinforce negativity and hostility within public opinion. Similarly, in Cyprus, the Archbishop of the Church in his annual Christmas speech argued that that Muslim immigrants coming from Turkey are not only receiving high allowances, but they also constitute a threat to the national and cultural identity. This statement was circulated in the Cyprus media, but it was condemned by the press for promoting intolerance rather than courage and solidarity (Politis News 2017)

This analysis of the media response reveals the problematic coverage of immigration in the media in Europe mainly due to the lack of specialised knowledge on migration issues, lack of time for collecting empirical evidence and the prevalence of negativity. Despite the systematic ill-treatment immigrants receive, there is a tendency of the media to support the existing xenophobic rhetoric by framing immigration in the context of the financial crisis and giving emphasis on migrant criminality and the negative economic and social consequences of migration; therefore, influencing public attitudes towards refugees and migrants in a negative way. In addition, as it was evident, there is no media coverage in the national context of Cyprus regarding sustainable development and its link to migration. As it was depicted, migration is being portrayed in the media as an isolated phenomenon with no links to sustainability, but with links to security threat.

2.3 Research and project production

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes an action plan for the world, which is comprised of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. This political declaration for a better world was approved on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Government at a special UN conference meeting and it encompasses a commitment to eliminate poverty and accomplish sustainable development goals by 2030 internationally, while safeguarding that no one is left behind (UN 2015). A noteworthy development, which appeared in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, is the recognition of the international movement of migration as an important aspect for the growth of countries of birth, transit and destination, stressing the positive input of migrants for inclusive and sustainable development (IOM 2017). Surprisingly, migration was not included in the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework mainly due to the scepticism about the contribution of migrants to development. Therefore, for policymakers and researchers on migration across the globe, the 2030 Agenda broke new grounds by acknowledging the multi-faced trend of migration and migrants' role in sustainable development.

In the research paper, Suliman (2017) examines the SDGs while relating it to migration aiming at an estimation of the anticipating or unintended effects of the insertion of migration within the 2030 agenda. In addition to this, the study reveals the problematic conceptualisation of migration within the context of SDGs and in organisation of sustainable development. Mach's (2017) research paper clearly presents a connection between migration and environment/climate change as well as investigating the ways in which the SDGs and their relevant targets can assist in readdressing the numerous challenges of the migration setting and transforming them into opportunities.

The health of migrants is important to be thoroughly taken into consideration in national and international development strategies aiming at the support of benefits of migration for the development. As Barragan and colleagues (2017) state, the SDG agenda, through its wide range of targets and aims, offers a great chance for concentrating on the health of migrants in the context of national growth agendas. It is further highlighted that migrants' health is important for a more effective and balanced future.

Gender equality and women's empowerment constitutes the fifth goal of the SDG agenda and concerns both the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women but also their empowerment through migration governance and to measuring vulnerabilities and adopting empowerment (Girard 2017).

For the first time in the SDG agenda, there is a link between labour mobility and development. In terms of labour mobility, approximately 150 million migrant workers existing in the world and approximately USD 441 billion of remittances were transferred to their countries of origin. It is important to develop policies protecting migrant workers and control labour mobility in a way that benefits both the hosting country but also migrants themselves (Vidal, 2017).

Nowadays, international migration has become a phenomenon, which occurs in a parallel to the movement of people from rural to urban areas. Amongst the goals of the sustainable development agenda, the development of inclusive, safe and resilient of human settlements

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is of a key importance. A considerable number of migrants live in the cities. Hence, there is a need for national and regional policy development for migrant inclusion aiming at the social urban cohesion and smooth integration of migrants into the urban life (Lee, Guadagno and Murillo 2017).

Child migration was addressed in the context of the Sustainable Development age. According to UNICEF statistics (2016), 31 million out of the 244 million international migrants are children whereas the 11 million were refugees and asylum seekers. Starfield's (2017) article addresses the link between children and migration in a country's development by addressing the need for the governments to the international community to protect all vulnerable persons and to "leave no one behind".

In the Cypriot context, the 2030 Agenda has been supported through the implementation of SDGs. However, despite the adoption of the goals and targets of the agenda, Cyprus has yet to develop national priorities and targets. More importantly, though a clear interlink on migration and SD / SDGs, which has not been identified in reports (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017). It is clear that sustainable development and SDGs in Cyprus are examined within the framework of agriculture, environment and industry with no connection to migration, integration and asylum issues, thus neglecting the social dimension of sustainability. This indicates not only the need to engage all stakeholders in the achievement of the SDGs, but to raise awareness about the SDGs and develop adequate capacity and understanding to link priority issues, such as asylum, migration, and integration, to sustainable development in general and SDGs in particular. In order to support this cooperation and activity between interested parties, government should develop consultative policies and set up national priorities so that local authorities, Higher Education Institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), NGOs, work for the achievement of the SDGs and supporting the global vision of sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

2.4 Case studies of good practices

Due to the increased number of immigrants, the development of policies and practices is required in order to enhance social inclusion. At a European level, a few Member States, implement a range of programs, which are considered as good practices for integration but without a clear linkage between migration and sustainability. For example, the "Stuttgart Pact for Integration'' constitutes the New refugee strategy to support the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers aiming to reconstruct their lives while giving them the chance to have access to services and become active agents in society. The updated 'New Scots' strategy concentrates on aspects such as on education, housing, healthcare and employment, and aims to distance itself from the strict existing UK immigration law regarding refugees and asylum seekers (Scottish Government, 2018). In terms of good practices, the Local Committee of Inquiry in London developed a strategic action plan at local level aspiring to reduce racial discrimination and at the same time to enhance the social integration of these

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people, through the organisation of open dialogue events regarding intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. Also, in the frame of programs such as the 'Round Table of Consultation', migrants had the opportunity to get in touch, exchange views, express a number of concerns and concerns in an attempt to meet their psychosocial needs. Beyond these, organizations and local governmental bodies provided low cost or free of charge English language courses. In the United Kingdom, there is the view that learning the official communication language of the host country is the most crucial factor, which is linked to successful social integration.

In Greece, the integration was promoted through the development of Migrants Integration Boards. The establishment of these Boards was an attempt to increase migrants' participation in the society. In this light, based on the Legislative Framework (Law 3852/2010) Migrants Integration was set up and functioned to provide the opportunity for migrants to participate in the political dialogue and local governmental bodies.

In Belgium, many organisations help in refugee welcoming. Governmental bodies along with NGOs encounter refugees at the airport. When refugees arrive at the reception centre, information is given, and a social orientation class is being held during which they are informed about issues like schooling, expenses, food, housing, transportation, environment. During their stay in the reception centre, a social worker is assigned to help them adapt in the new environment. Once the refugee moves to individual housing provided by partnering organisation, the social worker will check up on the refugee's integration for approximately 18 months in partnership with civil society organisations (European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affair 2013).

At national level, in Cyprus, a reception centre in the community of Kofinou has been established for refugees. The unaccompanied under aged individuals are sent to government-run shelters for children. In the reception centre, language courses and social and medical help is provided to the people by staff members and NGO volunteers. Asylum seekers have the right of free access to public transportation. In addition to the Kofinou reception centre, a temporary camp was created in 2014 in Kokkinotrimithia to accommodate refugees rescued at sea. However, these establishments and the living conditions there have been characterised as inadequate, resulting to the closing up of the camp (Council of Europe 2016). The creation of NGOs like the AWARE Group in Cyprus which is responsible for raising awareness and focusing on the cultivation of knowledge and acceptance of refugees and immigrants in Cyprus is a good practice. The aim is to illustrate in public the lives of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants, provide necessary information, knowledge and promote interaction with the host society, through the organisation of a series of workshops, conferences, lectures, media interventions and having as partners the Ministry of Education, the UNHCR, the Association of Recognized Refugees the Youth Organization, and many local actors (AWARE, 2018).

The aforementioned practices indicate that the connection between sustainability and migration is unaddressed and any good practices focus on raising awareness solely on migration or SDGs and sustainability separately. For example, in terms of promoting the 2015 SDGs, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cyprus, in collaboration with other government

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departments, CSOs and NGOs make efforts to raise public awareness and participation to the largest possible extent by promoting global citizenship education through regular local and EU meetings and development of activities. A number of examples of raising awareness activities include the “Walk the (Global) Walk: mobilizing European young people in support of the Sustainable Development Goals” and educational projects such as (a) “Combating Hate Speech: Training of Trainers' European Youth Foundation Pilot Project October 2015”, (b) “Combating Islamophobia in Cyprus”, (c) “Project i Decide”, developed by CARDET which can be linked with the SDG 10, (d) the GlobaLab project – 6 Steps to Global Citizenship (06/2015 – 05/2017) which emphasis is given on on Goal 4 (4.7) and it is funded by EU – Erasmus+, (e) the “Time for change: Promoting sustainable consumption and production of raw materials in the context of EYD 2015 and beyond!” which refers to SDG 12, (f) the EuropeAid project EAThink 2015 which can be related with 14 over 17 SDGs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017).

However, in the EU, there are few well established initiatives in which international migration and SD / SDGs are reflected in other forms of cooperation such as the development of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa which aims to enhance stability and to improve the ways in which migration is being handle by focusing on developing synergies between migration and development (EU Commission, 2018a) and the development of mobility partnership between EU and Jordan. The aim of this partnership is to develop a framework of collaboration between migration and mobility by focusing on the potential benefits from migration and linking them to development. This mobility partnership was signed by 12 EU member, including Cyprus (EU Commission, 2018b). Additionally, the EU established a mobility partnership between Republic of Moldova the European Commission, FRONTEX, European Training Foundation and 15 EU Member States including Cyprus. The aim of this partnership was to identify the extent to which migration affects the development efforts of developing countries by examining the ways in which migrant workers can contribute to the development of their destination countries in a more efficient way (MFA, 2013).

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

The wave of immigration in Cyprus made imperative the development of immigration policy or integration plan. Therefore, the “Action Plan for Integration of Immigrants legally residing in Cyprus in 2010–2012,” was prepared and adopted in 2010 by the Ministry of Interior. This action plan encompassed issues such as employment, education (learning the Greek language); health; housing and culture (Ministry of Interior 2010). However, this action plan did not bring the desired results. Muižnieks’ report (2016) revealed major concerns regarding access to asylum, reception of asylum seekers and social integration, trafficking, access to citizenship. Specifically, he commented about the lengthy asylum procedures, the absence of legal aid for asylum seekers during these managerial procedures, the inadequacies in reception procedures as well as the restriction of family reunification. In terms of human

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trafficking, he identified the absence of surveillance of private employments services, the need for labour inspection and the inadequacy of appropriate housing and social aid for victims. In terms of citizenship, the Commissioner depicted the difficulties in acquiring citizenship regardless of meeting the legal requirements. Despite the fact refugees pay taxes, their involvement in the country's politics is non-existent (Officer and Taki 2014).

According to the United Nations refugee agency in Cyprus, the clear majority of asylum-seekers receive limited social assistance due to the insufficiencies of the reception system. Refugees revealed the systematic delay in the issuance of food coupons and the inadequacy of the support system in general. Asylum seekers can face eviction at any time due to their inability to pay the rent, since the rent allowance is much lower than actual rent. It should be noted that they are given 220 EUR per month to cover food, clothing, utilities, transportation, and all other needs and up to 100 EUR for rent allowance. Data deriving from the "Migrant Integration Policy Index" (MIPEX 2014), Cyprus is ranked below average and ranks second to last among the 37 participant countries with respect to the degree of integration of immigrants. Furthermore, labour market mobility in Cyprus has been characterised as the most adverse within the EU. Although priority issues such as migration, asylum and integration policies have the potential to meet migration guidelines of SDGs, this is only indirect without a clear connection or direct implementation between sustainable development goals within the national migration context.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

The Republic of Cyprus' national review on implementation of Agenda 2030 illustrates the main priorities and preparation for embedding the SDGs in national policies and the activities of government and non-government sectors towards this course, as well as Cyprus' international activity towards promotion of priority SDGs. The Republic of Cyprus prepared in 2017 a national review regarding the enactment of Agenda 2030 and presented the up to that point progress towards achieving the SDGs. According to a national report, Cyprus has been an advocate of Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" and the Paris Agreement, with high commitment and active participation in pertinent UN procedures. According to the report, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN participated and co-chaired his counterpart from Peru at the 18th UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, "The effects of climate change on oceans". Based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs report (2017), the interlink between sustainability and migration is not reflected in the national legislation and migration is being treated as an isolated phenomenon.

Since 2001 and after the introduction of the Refugee Law in 2000, the Republic of Cyprus started to receive applications for international protection in accordance with UNHCR, which was responsible for this procedure up until then. Despite the existence of a policy about a swift procedure on asylum applications treatment, this policy was almost never being enacted

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and implemented. Long delays in the processing of the application result in an application to take two to three years before first decision, and sometimes five to seven years. Asylum seekers whose application is being declined are immediately addressed as “prohibited migrants” and given a detention and deportation, a tactic, which is against the EU Asylum Procedures Directive. With respect to the situation of unaccompanied asylum seeing children and the procedures regarding age assessment, Cyprus does not follow the directives depicted in Resolution 1810 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) or in General Comment No. 6 (2005) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, in terms of family reunification, the Republic of Cyprus does not act according to the European Commission guidelines, i.e. it does not permit beneficiaries of subsidiary protection to reunify with family. Similarly, in terms of social integration, refugees are excluded from benefits such as public housing schemes, student scholarships, or loans for small business development. In 2014, the anti-trafficking law, Law 60(I)/2014 on Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims was adopted by the Republic of Cyprus, something which was regarded as a positive measure in order to organise, avoid identify victims, prosecution this matter. The aforementioned impediments to immigration make imperative the need to remove them through the design and implementation of comprehensive, long-term and adequately-funded integration policies (Muižnieks 2016).

3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

In Cyprus, CARDET conducted a 1-hour focus group, including mainly professionals who have knowledge and/or direct professional link to the field concerned. Stakeholders in the fields of migration, sustainable development and global education as well as stakeholders from the educational sector participated in the national focus group to discuss and identify the current competencies, knowledge and needs of teacher trainers, decision makers, and teachers in the areas of migration and sustainable development, and how these needs can be addressed through needs-oriented innovative activities.

11 stakeholders from the further migration and educational sector participated (all of them Cypriot nationals) with 10 individuals of them to be female and 1 individual to be male; 10 individuals were below the age of 40, while 1 individual was 40 years old or older. Moreover, all participants are at least university graduates (EQF level 6) and have acquired work experience in the fields of education and/or migration. The background and the working experience of our focus group participants varied: officers who currently work, or worked, for the Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education and Culture; academics and/or trainers from tertiary education

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institutions (colleges or universities); social worker; trainers from educational private organisations and social enterprises; free-lancer trainer; representative and trainer from civil society organisation; and teachers in primary and secondary education.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

The invited experts and representatives of education sector are mainly aware about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, only academics and trainers from tertiary education and civil society organisations could further elaborate. In contrast, significantly less awareness existed among our focus group members about the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), the Paris Agreement, Habitat III and other relevant initiatives. Only the representative from the civil society organisation was aware of the PCD and the Paris Agreement and, even them, they had never heard of the UN-Habitat programme.

Overall, focus group's participants do not believe that the above-mentioned documents, initiatives and/or strategies are adequately treated at national level. While overall the SDGs, PCD, the Paris Agreement and Habitat III are not in the media spotlight, SDGs are somewhat heard, but only occasionally, and there is no in-depth analysis and definitely no link with migration phenomena, according to our invitees: for instance, the media covered, to an extent, the public consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the civil society for the assessment of the progress towards the achievement of SDGs at national level and, especially, the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2017. Moreover, the Paris agreement on climate change mitigation was projected by the media, following the withdrawal of the US in June 2017. This mere media coverage is believed to result from the fact that also policy makers (including politicians and other governmental stakeholders) do not really highlight the SDGs (and other strategies) as part of their statements and/or action nor is it visible whether some initiatives are part of the efforts towards their achievement. One of the participants mentioned that policy makers and the media are supposed to use a language free of technical terms, so that the general public understands their reportages or articles; this could explain why both actors do not explicitly refer to such initiatives and avoid making this linkage – however, it was highlighted that they must find the formula to use a simple language and at the same time cover properly and comprehensively such initiatives, since this is actually their role. Another participant also stressed that "the Cypriots need to do their research themselves" to find out about SDGs, the achievements so far and other related initiatives.

When it comes to the awareness of teachers' trainers, pre-service and in-service teachers and educational representatives, while the SDGs topics (in the form of Global Education) are

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included in the curricula, the success factors and the school year objectives, the teachers are not sufficiently aware of them. In addition, the inter-sectoral committee of the European and International Affairs Office (from the Ministry of Education and Culture) organises the Global Education Week in November every year with raise-awareness events for certain SDGs topics (e.g. climate change or migration), but again teachers fail to understand the connection. On another note, participants overall believe that the teachers' trainings provided by the Pedagogical Institute (the main public training institution for teachers in Cyprus) and its department for Sustainable Development, are inadequate and fragmented, even if they acknowledge that some officers are indeed engaged. Participants are also sceptical towards the content and the quality of the trainings offered (when they are offered), since they find the Institute to be distant from the school units and its officers not to fully understand the challenges in class.

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

The Cypriot focus group members seem to understand how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is expected to transform our world and the link with migration issues, including –but not limited to- the fact that climate change and environment policies are linked to migration. Some of them highlighted that the climate change has already started accentuating the migration, since people from the most affected areas (due to desertification, continuous drought, lack of adequate food) are forced to move in search of better living conditions. They also agree that the rise of sea level induced by climate change will accelerate the displacement of tens of millions of people in the following years. Moreover, they understand that SDGs include the achievement of gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, eradication of poverty and hunger, good health and well-being, inclusive and equitable quality education for all, full and productive employment and decent work for all, etc., with which migration policies are (or should be) linked at national level as well.

As a result of the possible lack of awareness by policy makers and media in Cyprus, both actors do not discuss the link between migration and sustainable development. Due to the war in Syria and the increase of terrorist incidents in Europe by ISIS, the focus shifted to refugees and asylum seekers who are forced to leave their country in order to escape the war zone and thus save their lives. Therefore, the general public is confused and cannot easily distinguish the concept and the different types of migration (e.g. economic migrants, climate migrants) and the differences with the refugees or the asylum seekers. Additionally, while media refer indeed periodically to the consequences of the climate change in Cyprus (e.g. continuous drought, desertification), there is no link of local with global issues (glocal); and on the other hand, migration is "clearly discussed at another level" and, sometimes, inaccurately "explained" as a phenomenon deriving from the latest developments in the Middle East.

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In relation to the Cypriot society's opinion, our members overall claim that it is not sensitised; the "average Cypriot does not know [the link between migration and sustainable development] and does not realise [it]" and that "as long as something does not have an impact on you, you are not interested".

3.4 Insecurity

Most responses from our participants about the main reasons for the Cypriot society to feel socially insecure are related to the consequences of the financial crisis that seriously hit the island in 2013: precarious employment, loss of jobs, the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation of the Cypriots. Migration comes in as a topic, but not as the main reason for the Cypriot society to feel insecure and/or threatened. However, it is believed that the Cypriot public opinion is influenced by media (e.g. over-projection of social benefits for migrants/refugees/asylum seekers, crimes and/or other delinquencies committed by migrants) as well as by general unsubstantiated stereotypes, e.g. that "migrants come to Cyprus in order to take our jobs". These result potentially in feeding sentiments of racism and xenophobia, also probably due to the fact than until recently the Cypriot society was more homogeneous. Still, such misperceptions do not cause insecurity to the public, but it is rather a reaction due to the financial crisis' impact and some cultural beliefs that "we are better than the others", especially when the "others" are third country nationals. According to the focus group members, at the moment, the sustainable development does not come in as a discussion topic among policy makers, media nor the public.

3.5 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Media is considered the main factor shaping the public opinion towards migration and sustainable development, according to focus group members. In this sense, it shares responsibility for the fact that these phenomena and certain strategies remain unlinked as well as the low public awareness. Social media has also emerged in the last few years as a main channel of wide communication of mainly negative perceptions and stereotypes about migrants by certain groups or even individuals.

Participants agreed that emotional discussions and evidence-based or "evidence-based" debates have the power to influence the public opinion and discourse in a negative or positive way. The rise of the far-right party (2 out of the 56 Members of the Parliament) is also considered by a focus group member to be indicative of the shifting of Cypriot public perceptions towards (in)security and risk and of the influence in misinterpreting migration and sustainable development.

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In addition, education plays a key role, according to the focus group members, since it cultivates the perceptions and attitudes of the future Cypriot citizens. In this sense, teachers should efficiently develop critical thinking skills to their students so that, in the future, the latter are able to understand the phenomenon of migration, be tolerant, realise the importance of sustainable development – and its connection to migration – and discover in an efficient and "sustainable" way their role in the society.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

Gaps of information in Cyprus, related to migration and sustainable development, have been identified by the majority of the focus group members. First of all, the whole concept of migration is unclear to the public, including educational actors, as well as the difference with other statuses, such as the refugee and the asylum seeker status. Secondly, migration is not viewed (nor presented by the majority of media, policy makers, and education actors) as a timeless phenomenon with a positive impact in the societies (economic, cultural, etc.) but rather a "trouble" cause for the hosting countries – however, a participant noted that this is the prevailing attitude not only at national but also at European level. Thirdly, there is a confusion about the reasons forcing people to migrate/ displace as well as an overall failure (by policy makers, the media, education system) to link the international phenomenon of migration, not only with the SDGs, but also with similar immigration tendencies of the Cypriots in our recent history (e.g. following the 1974 war and the serious financial crisis in 2013).

Focus group's participants highlighted education as the main long-term factor to fill these gaps. For this to happen, teachers not only need further and regular trainings, but they also need new tools and innovative methodologies for their professional development so that they are able to engage their students in such sensitive and complex issues meaningfully. However, our members stressed that trainers (i.e. from the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus) have to identify the real problems in the school units in order to be able to develop the appropriate material. Universities also have a key role, since they educate future teachers and trainers and they are (or should be) responsible for the further training of teachers during their career, while civil society is to intervene by proposing innovative and non-formal trainings for the raise awareness of both teachers and students. Thus, civil society should be allowed to have an active role in the national education system.

3.7 The role of education systems

While a small island state, there is clearly a growing recognition in Cyprus that it is part of an interdependent, globalising world. Cyprus is going through a period of considerable change with regard to how it sees itself as a society and how it interacts with the outside world. Since

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2004, when Cyprus joined the EU, the country is increasingly becoming a multicultural society with increased immigration in recent years. These developments and changing perspectives, coupled with the geographic location of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, highlight the importance of development education in the Cypriot education system.

It is more evident than ever that the education actors in Cyprus need to acquire a more active role in the shaping of the public opinion, via the education of future citizens, and thus achieve their sensitization in SDGs and better understanding of interrelationship with global migration, security and sustainable development. Thus, the role of education systems is critical first of all for teachers (and thereby students) to better understand the links between international migration and sustainable development. Our focus members reiterated the need for systematic and comprehensive trainings of teachers, trainers and adult educators and the need of specific programmes (at bachelor and master level) in universities for future teachers, or even compulsory modules in curricula. In addition, the use of interdisciplinary approach where teachers from different disciplines could cooperate and study global issues and new interactive methodologies would also provide a way out of the strict curricula and subject-based learning.

Universities, training institutions, teachers and civil society organisations should also be “critical friends” through the set-up of an efficient mechanism facilitating collaboration, communication, feedback and input by each actor. Such collaborations in the frame of relevant projects between all actors are considered necessary; nevertheless, it is equally important to provide motivation to teachers for their involvement as well as support from the school management; meaning that schools should encourage teachers (and students) to take initiatives on tackling problems first on a local level and then on a national and global level. In this way, students engage in real life situation problems in a non-formal environment –with their school’s support- where they can develop their critical thinking skills and better understand the complex issues of migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world.

Generally, although the Cyprus educational system has made a lot of progress during the past years, some of its areas need to be reformed, particularly those related to teachers’ educational training. Trained teachers must be able to use innovative participative methodologies for the promotion of development education (with adequate links to the critical phenomenon of migration and security) in their classroom and in school, and thus to help students become more active and sensitized in the aforementioned issues.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

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NGOs need to organise events, workshops, conferences, run awareness campaigns on the problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers and provide reports on empirical data to raise public awareness about sustainable development and contest existing perceptions of migration as a harmful, threat to security phenomenon. The aim of these events should be the creation of a climate of tolerance and solidarity towards refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in order to fight social exclusion and marginalisation, xenophobia and racism. In addition, their involvement in the educational sector (public and private schools and teacher training institutions, including universities) can also significantly contribute to: raise awareness to in-service and pre-service teachers, as well as students; provide a functioning communication channel between education and migration stakeholders through their practises and active role; assist in training all interested parties in using their on-field expertise and contemporary non-formal education methodologies, potentially attractive to both teachers and students for maximum results in shifting their perceptions towards migration and sustainable development. Since there is a lack of conceptualising the link between sustainable development, SDGs and international migration, NGOs need to understand that their expertise in priority issues is related to the SDGs and they should develop initiatives that will help the public to understand that international migration and displacement is a consequence of global inequalities, climate change and injustice by utilising SD / SDGs as a key instrument to contest the dominant negative public perceptions of migration.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

Literature review on the integration procedures in Cyprus indicate that the Government needs to urgently review its current policies in order to protect the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. This requires the development of an action plan based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which will encompass actions, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review of this plan. Prior to its development, the plan needs to be based on any prior evaluation of refugee needs and how they should be treated, and it also seems apparent that there has Appropriate mechanisms should also be set by the Ministry of Labour with respect to migration labour. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Culture, through the main teachers' training institution, as well as the Pedagogical Departments of public and private universities, with the active involvement and collaboration of civil society organisations, need to take consistent initiatives towards sensitizing in-service and pre-service teachers about migration and sustainable development and providing them the necessary and fit-for-purpose educational tools to support the educational process in class.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

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Municipalities need to publish information regarding the rights and obligations of migrants and refugees in Cyprus and thoroughly explain the conditions under which the refugee status is granted to a person in their language. The process should be planned and monitored by the municipalities. Municipalities can create offices to provide advice and support for migrants in the host countries. Advisory boards for the smooth participation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers should be set up at the local level. Furthermore, intercultural events including concerts, exhibitions, festivals, should be organised to enhance tolerance and respect towards different cultures and facilitate the migrants' integration to the society, along with free language courses in collaboration with civil society organisations and teacher training institutions aiming at the localisation of the SDGs within the context of immigration programmes and migrant integration initiatives.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Educational institutions need to create an effective vocational training to enhance local and regional political collaboration in order to raise awareness on migration and sustainable development. Moreover, since globalisation created many challenges in schools due to increased migration, cultural diversity, teachers need to readdress their teaching methodologies and use innovative material.

All involved parties need to participate in more effective training schemes, such as communities of practice. Teachers, educators, policy makers in the areas of health, social services, education and employment should participate in face-to-face or virtual communities of practice to explore practices with respect to the smooth integration of migrants in the Cyprus society. Additionally, all interested parties need to receive adequately training in order to cultivate skills of intercultural competence and communication with migrants by participating in modules and educational activities to develop capacity and understanding in order to be able to link priority issues such as migration/integration with SDGs. These modules should be comprised of international good practices and investigate issues such as poverty, social exclusion, climate change, security, migration, within the framework of SD/SDGs.

Additionally, educational institutions should offer free language courses to asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees. In schools, all refugee children should receive training with respect to language learning with the appointment of extra teacher. As soon as refugees reach a desirable level of competence in the Greek language, they should participate in "Action for the vocational training and promotion of the employment of public assistance recipients" sponsored by the European Social Fund or through other new funding schemes. Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be provided with relevant material, guidance and

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training to overcome any organisational and structural difficulties, leading to their empowerment and integration in the society.

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

In terms of further research, there is a need of conceptualising the impact of migration on the achievement of all SDGs and investigating through qualitative research the ways in which migration can work in favour of sustainable development. Moreover, it is necessary to develop worldwide research on the migration and development trajectory further, where attention should be paid beyond an EU-centric directive. Additionally, further research needs to focus on the contextualisation of what is nowadays portrayed as the “migration crisis”, aiming at the identification of possible similarities and/or differences in migration patterns by relating and comparing the current situation with previous one with respect to migration flows. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda needs to be evaluated as to the extent to which fundamental changes took place especially at a period during which migration is highly debated and contested.

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GERMAN NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Limitations of the Report

This Report can only address certain aspects of the so-called migration crisis and sustainability, given the framework provided. A holistic approach towards the causes and consequences of migration for target groups regarding the issue of development education potentially calls for a very wide range of issues that would have to be reviewed. The Report therefore focuses on a selection of topics in line with the project proposal and bearing links between these topics in mind.

1.2 A wider range of causes of migration

A number of studies and reports suggest that tracing back present migration movements into Europe mainly to climate change would represent an unwarranted reduction of the issue and would hence prove counterproductive in terms of educational concepts. For example, while migration related to climate change is set to increase as global warming builds up, climate refugees account for only a very small share of migrants actually coming to Europe. In many areas, violent conflicts play a much greater role, although these may originally be related to climate change. Similarly however, large numbers of smallholders, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, are being displaced by land-grabbing. Here, rural exodus could trigger other developments in burgeoning megacities, which in turn might also have consequences regarding longer-distance migration.

Correspondingly, responses to migration in host countries may be based on humanitarian considerations, e.g. in the case of refugees from war zones. In contrast, migration may prove highly beneficial to a host country lacking skilled labour or in need of care workers for an aging population. Receiving large numbers of migrants, and especially refugees, requires a major effort on the part of the population and the government. This can give rise to anxiety and grievances among those feeling anxious about or disadvantaged by the new situation – all the more reason to understand and communicate the different contexts of migration.

1.3 The significance of global education

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Response by the mass media and by politics can help turn such a situation into a “refugee crisis” or a potential boon for migrants and hosts. This depends not only on the contents that politicians and the media seek to spread, but also, and crucially, on how well-prepared the population are to make up their minds about new contexts they are faced with. This is where global education has a paramount role to play.

1.4 Brief summary of contents

The Literature Review starts with a range of polls conducted above all from 2015-2017, the period including the climax of the “refugee crisis”. Chapter 2 looks at the media response. Chapter 3 summarises German reports e.g. on the impact of migration on the labour market and also on causes of migration in countries in the Global South. Chapter 4 concentrates on the ESD National Plan of Action and where it is implemented. Chapter 5 focuses above all on the new Coalition Agreement serving as the basis of the new Federal Government, but also on the emergence of far-right, anti-immigrant movements and their impact on other political parties. Chapter 6 looks at how some of the EU regulations on migration are being implemented in Germany. Finally, a brief outlook is provided.

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

Overview of attitudes towards migration in general and migrants/refugees in particular

Eurobarometer survey results for 2015, 2016 and 2017 put developments in Germany into perspective in relation to other European Union countries. In 2015, immigration was seen as the main problem facing the EU by 38%, up by 14% compared to 2014, of the overall EU population, and in 20 of the EU’s Member States, up from four in 2014. In Malta, it was referred to as the main problem by 65% of the population, followed by Germany’s 55%.

Immigration was seen as the second main national concern, after unemployment, by 23% of Europeans, having risen by five points compared to 2014. It was seen as the most important national concern in four countries, with Germany, in second position at 46%, following Malta’s 76%.

In contrast, Europeans’ feelings about migration had hardly changed compared to 2014. For 34% of Europeans, immigration of people from non-EU countries evoked a positive feeling,

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having dropped by just one percentage point. Germany was not among the five countries with a majority of the population having a positive feeling in this respect. Close to three quarters of the overall EU population were in favour of a common European policy on migration, with support second highest in Germany, at 84%, next to the Netherlands' 85%.

By 2017, 39% of the EU population were viewing immigration as the biggest problem facing the EU, up by one per cent compared to 2016. In Germany, 47% regarded the issue as Europe's biggest problem, seven per cent more than in 2016. It was followed by terrorism, at 38% for the EU as a whole, and down by five points compared to the previous year, and at 29% for Germany, down by six points compared to the previous year.

As a German problem, immigration topped the list among Germans at 40% in 2017, up three points since the previous year, and Germany took the lead in Europe in this respect, followed by Malta at 32%. However, only 10% of Germans felt personally affected by the refugee issue (1).

In national surveys, Germany is attested an increase in the level of positive attitudes towards migrants in a number of national surveys from 2015-2017, although statistics points to marked differences between the old and the new states regarding several issues. For example, a 2015 EMNID report commissioned by the Bertelsmann Foundation and published in March 2015 finds that while openness towards migrants was generally on the rise in the period examined, scepticism was increasing in East Germany (2).

In the EMNID survey, regarding better conditions for migrants, 82% of Germans questioned called for more support for them at labour agencies, 76% for better recognition of school certificates and vocational qualifications, 62% for a permanent right of abode, 56% for easier conditions to gain German citizenship and 54% for laws to combat discrimination against foreigners. While 97% of interviewees stated that migrants should make an effort to live together with Germans, 80% said they would like to see them becoming more involved in social activities, and three out of four Germans stated that they should adapt more to German culture, whereas 80% would welcome them demonstrating more of their own culture.

According to the EMNID survey, a total of 55% of Germans interviewed said that migrants were good for the economy, while 68% maintained that they were attracting new businesses and 67% claimed that they were making life more interesting. Germany's demographic trends appear to be a further aspect considered by respondents, with 60% assigning migrants a positive role in an aging society. Gaining skilled labour from abroad was referred to by 34% as a benefit. However, 64% also pointed out that migrants could be a burden on the social services, while 61% warned of problems with migrants at schools, and 63% spoke of a "conflict potential" between German residents and migrants.

A September 2015 FORSA survey commissioned by RTL stated that 73% of those interviewed regarded war as a legitimate reason for flight, 56% political or religious persecution and 42% natural disasters. Just 14% believed that refugees should be received who were reckoning with better economic prospects (3).

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An October 2015 Allensbach survey for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung referred to 54% of interviewees stating that the development of the refugee situation was filling them with considerable concern, compared to 40% two months earlier. An upper limit to the number of refugees admitted to enter Germany was called for by 56%. Also, 64% stated that refugees meant more risks than opportunities in the short term, while 46% believed they would represent more risks than opportunities in the long term. And around two thirds of Germans feared that refugees were going to change the country considerably (4).

A FORSA survey for stern published in February 2016 that looked at what worried people in Germany put attacks on refugee hostels at the top of the list, at 83%, followed by growing popularity of right-wing extremist groups. Crime figured at 63%, terrorist attacks at 59% and numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees at 52%. Also in the survey, 49% of the interviewees stated that there were enough refugees and foreigners in the country, while 35% maintained that there could be more (5).

The “Willkommenskultur im Stresstest” survey conducted by Kantor Emnid for the Bertelsmann Foundation in January 2017 looked at around 2,000 people from age 14 upwards regarding their opinion on whether migrants in general and refugees in particular were welcome in Germany. With respect to government authorities, 77% believed that migrants as a whole tended to be welcome; while 12% maintained that this was rather not the case. The figures for refugees were 73% and 18% respectively. Among the public at large, 70% of the interviewees believed that migrants tended to be welcome, while 22% maintained that they tended not to be. The figures for refugees were 59% and 34% respectively (6).

The January 2017 Kantor Emnid survey also examined views among German residents on taking up more refugees in Germany and other EU countries and compared the results to those from an earlier survey. Here, 81% were in favour of a fixed number of refugees depending on the size and economy of a country, compared to 76% in 2015, and 54% held that Germany had reached its limits and should not take up further refugees, compared to 40% two years previously. Asked whether Germany could and should take up more refugees, 37% were in favour, compared to 51% in 2015. Broken down into three age groups, the respective figures were 51% and 53% for the 14-29-year-olds, 35% and 49% for the 30-59-year-olds and 29% and 53% for those 60 years of age and beyond. One possible factor explaining the results for the age groups could be the higher number of young people with a migration background, a Bertelsmann representative maintained.

In a July 2017 FORSA survey for stern, 44% of Germans welcomed adopting the refugee issue in the election campaigns, while 54% rejected this. 51% were against an upper limit for the number of refugees, and 48% were in favour (7). An October 2017 survey by YOUGOV for DPA found that 56% of Germans supported an upper limit for refugees in the Coalition Government Agreement, while 28% were against this (8). A December 2017 Allensbach survey found that just 23% were in favour of refugees being reunited with their families in Germany (9).

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National security risks

In the Allensbach survey of October 2015 referred to above, 57% of those interviewed had a feeling that Germany had lost control of its borders, while 62% were concerned that terrorists were being smuggled into the country together with the refugees. Fear of terrorism grew considerably following the 2016 attacks in Nice and Berlin involving lorries ploughing into large groups of people (10). In the 2017 survey "Die Ängste der Deutschen", conducted annually by R+V-Versicherungen, at 71%, terrorism topped the list of fears among Germans, followed by political extremism (62%) and tension through migration (61%) (11). In the survey for 2014, the value for terrorism had been at a mere 39% (12).

Sustainable development and environmental issues

Sustainability ranks high among priorities referred to by Germans. According to a survey published by Bertelsmann in 2017, 81% of citizens consider sustainability important, while around a third of the population are willing to do more to raise sustainability levels (13). The Umweltbundesamt runs representative surveys on people's environmental awareness every two years, and its 2016 survey reflects key importance given by citizens both to environmental protection and to combating global warming, although there is a general feeling that too little has been done and halting climate change is viewed sceptically (14).

An August 2017 Kantar Emnid survey commissioned by Germany's "Funke-Mediengruppe" found that at 71%, climate change ranked highest among the country's fears. 63% feared terrorist attacks, and 43% refugees. The corresponding figures for East Germany were 76%, 72% and 43% respectively (15).

InterCap relevance

From an Education for Sustainable Development perspective, reviewing the statistics gained from individual polls does not appear to offer much in terms of raising awareness, whereas following the results of these surveys over time does give an impression of the impact that developments in the "refugee crisis" have had on the population and how they interrelate in terms of public perception. Similarly, comparing polls at national level with those at EU level (e.g. the Eurobarometer polls) helps put Germany into perspective regarding overall developments in Europe. However, especially in an educational context, opinion polls should not be confused with more in-depth surveys and reports.

2.2 Media response – what is the media response to asylum, migration and integration and the so-called

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refugee crisis, and to climate change, environmental issues and migration?

According to an Allensbach survey in mid-October 2015, just below a third of the population in Germany felt that they were receiving balanced information via the media, while 47 % referred to “biased reporting”. Around half of those interviewed expressed considerable concern regarding the refugee situation, and 55% of this group felt they were being informed one-sidedly in that the asylum issue was being tabooed (16).

A 2017 survey of more than 30,000 media reports between February 2015 and March 2016 arrives at the conclusion that both the leading national and the local press spread “the narrative of the welcome culture emerging from positions in the political discourse, adopting their euphemistic and persuasive elocution”. Commissioned by the trade union-affiliated Otto Brenner Foundation, Hamburg Media School and University of Leipzig media researchers headed by Professor of Journalism Studies Michael Haller concentrated on Germany’s major German broadsheets FAZ, Süddeutsche Zeitung and Die Welt, its leading tabloid Bild and the online portals of the country’s two key news journals, Der Spiegel and Focus, and Tagesthemen of the public service TV channel Das Erste as well as on 85 local newspapers (17).

Summing up, the survey states that the overwhelming majority of the leading opinion columns “have focused on the political elites”. Concerns, fears and objections among the population were not reflected. Instead, the “welcome culture” for refugees was presented as an obligatory moral standard. Moreover, it was viewed as economically necessary and desirable for society as a whole. “A considerable portion of the population now believes that journalism is being forced to report in conformity with the system, and hence in a manipulated manner,” the survey states.

A 2017 survey conducted by Professor of Communication Science Marcus Maurer looking at the period between May 2015 and January 2016 reviews the broadsheets FAZ, Süddeutsche Zeitung, the tabloid Bild and the public service channel programmes Tagesschau (ARD) and heute (ZDF) as well as the private channel news journal RTL Aktuell (RTL) and a number of talk shows (18).

Maurer demonstrates that, in the period reviewed, the volume of reporting grew substantially as the influx of refugees increased. Contrary to claims by populists, the German media did not conceal the fact that there was a high share of young men among the migrants, while the number of asylum-seekers with a higher level of education was even higher in reality than what was stated in many of the media reports, the survey notes.

However, Maurer also refers to a drastic discrepancy between the reality of crime and how it is represented in the media in the context of the “migration crisis”. Whereas property offences committed by migrants were predominant in the statistics, around 75% of the media reports concentrated on migrant perpetrators of sexual offences and violence. And while crime

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statistics reflected a significantly greater share of refugees being perpetrators of violent crime, the media reported more frequently of violence against refugees than that perpetrated by refugees. Also, Maurer notes that while Tagesschau (ARD) and heute (ZDF) presented an all-in-all favourable image of refugees, the two news programmes simultaneously emphasised the dangers of migration far more than their benefits for society.

The survey states that German media referred almost exclusively to “refugees” in addressing the topic of migration, whereas the UK media distinguished far more clearly between asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. German talk shows tended to be dominated by guests in favour of more migration. Those objecting to this faced around twice as much confrontation by the moderators than those advocating migration.

Maurer confirms observations that the media atmosphere changed drastically following mass sexual assaults on young women in Cologne and other German cities on New Year’s Eve 2015/2016. His empirical results also suggest that the huge increase in refugee numbers, the terrorist attacks in Paris and the alleged covering up of the extent of involvement of North African asylum-seekers in the Cologne incidents contributed to this sudden change.

IFEM “Institut für emprische Medienforschung” keeps track of the time devoted to individual topics in the main news on television. Chancellor Angela Merkel made her statement that “We can do it”, which was later declared the “soundbite of the welcome culture”, in August 2015. This was at the height of the “refugee crisis”, at a time when, at 553 minutes of coverage, the issue was easily heading the list of TV topics. The Greek debt crisis came up second, but far behind, at 106 minutes. By October of that year, refugees were still way ahead of any other topic, at 493 minutes, with the Syrian war featuring second at 94 minutes. The terrorist attacks in Paris, at 518 minutes, dominated the news in November, although this item was still followed by the refugee crisis, at 272 minutes. The Climate Conference COP21, held in Paris, came tenth, at 30 minutes, in November, but reached fifth position, at 42 minutes, in December. By then, the “refugee crisis”, although still topping the list, had fallen to 248 minutes, with the war in Syria and the IS threat figuring second at 118 minutes (19).

January 2016 saw another surge in refugee coverage, with 317 minutes being devoted to the topic. The New Year’s Eve sexual assault events came second, at 214 minutes. Refugees enjoyed even more coverage in February, at 403 minutes, with Syria coming up second at 188 minutes. But during the next few months, the “refugee crisis” remained mid-field or even towards the bottom of the IFEM list, the only exception being September, when it was at the top of the list at 163 minutes, well ahead of the Syrian conflict’s 130 minutes. The July Nice terror attack appears to have had no significant impact on the scale of “refugee crisis” reporting, and the same applies to the Berlin Christmas Market attack in December, although here, the issue of internal security and counterterrorism began to gain attention, peaking at 202 minutes, and coming second after Donald Trump’s taking office as US President at 420 minutes. Throughout the months of the following year, the “refugee crisis” figured relatively low, only coming up fourth in December, or even not appearing in the IFEM list. COP23, held in Bonn, came third in November, at 96 minutes, compared to the leading topic of talks on forming a new coalition at 418 minutes.

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Commenting on a German talk show in March 2016 (20), the FAZ refers to a “new objectiveness” in the debate over the “refugee crisis” (21). The talk show with conservative and left-wing politicians as well as representatives of Christian and Muslim denomination discussed faith issues, how terrorism related to confession and political extremism. The FAZ noted that a “new objectiveness” was the only way to guarantee that the “uncritical welcome culture” was not replaced by a “search for new enemies” in the shape of “all Muslims”, but cautioned that the new approach would be put to the test should Germany experience terrorist attacks on the scale of incidents in Paris or Brussels.

Georg Diez, in a column for Der Spiegel in 2016, noted that Germany’s leading evening news programme, Die Tagesschau, was repeatedly reporting on an incident in Ansbach in July 2016 that left 15 people injured and involved a suicide bomber who was a Syrian refugee (22). An attack in Munich two days later, in which nine people were killed and scores injured, received comparatively little subsequent coverage according to Diez, although he claimed that there were clear indications that the perpetrator was a xenophobic right-wing radical. Diez maintained that Die Tagesschau was also excessively focusing on “law and order proposals” from Bavaria’s conservative Christian Social Union and generally giving considerable attention to stricter legislation, thus simulating a “constant threat”. Diez maintained that the media were encouraging fear, which, he said, was the opposite of their mission in society to inform people.

Looking at the television talk show topics of 2016 in an article published by Deutschlandfunk Kultur in late January 2017, author and expert on right-wing extremism Bodo Morshäuser stated that half of them centred on the thematic complex of refugees, Islam, terror and integration (23). Morshäuser claimed that the individual topics themselves were not discussed but set in relation to one another to create a “field of agitation”, with moderators then seeking to keep the field at a constant level of intensity.

Germany was in fact hit by its first major Islamist terror attack in December 2016, when a lorry charged into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing eleven visitors. The following month, a string of television talk shows were held addressing topics such as whether a harder approach towards migrants could guarantee more security or how those likely to threaten the safety of the public should be dealt with. Another topic focused on in these shows was concern among citizens over criminal immigrants. In one of these shows, broadcast in early January 2017, talk show guests were asked whether, “in this agitated atmosphere”, it was “justified to ask the right questions” and whether it was right to “unemotionally discuss topics” (24).

Bodo Morshäuser noted that whether intentionally or unwittingly, these programmes were playing into the hands of Germany’s new anti-immigration party, the AfD, which, he maintained, “specialises in agitation” (25). Television programmes continued to give vivid accounts of refugees crossing or attempting to cross the Mediterranean throughout the spring and summer. And in the TV debate between Angela Merkel and Martin Schulz, the two

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candidates for chancellorship, on the 3rd September 2017, the issue of refugees accounted for more than a third of the programme (26).

In April 2015, as the refugee crisis was building up in Germany, environmental economist Dennis Meadows and publisher were quoted Jacob von Uexküll calling for long-term strategies to combat climate change in an article in Die Welt (27). Meadows, head of the group of authors who had written the survey "The Limits of Growth" for the "Club of Rome" in 1972, warned that climate change was causing conflicts that were forcing people into migration. Alternative Nobel Prize founder von Uexküll noted that former International Monetary Fund chief Michel Camdessus had warned that over the coming decades, around 200 million environmental refugees from Africa would be attempting to reach Europe. In December 2015, Die Süddeutsche explained that drought periods in the Fertile Crescent of Syria and Iraq had led to failed harvests, causing around 1.5 million people to flee by 2011, above all to cities, where competition for food, water, housing and employment then grew. This in turn, the paper maintained, was to spark unrest, culminating in the Syrian civil war (28).

Deutschlandfunk noted in November 2017 that the UNHCR had given the figure of around 25 million climate refugees each year, more than three times the number of refugees fleeing from war zones or political persecution (29). However, it pointed out by far the largest share of them went to city slums or e.g. regions not affected by sea-level rise in their home countries. In a Zeit-online article published on the same day, Steffen Bauer and Benjamin Schramm of the German Development Institute (DIE) quoted Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel stating that the USA's opting out of the Paris Climate Agreement could cause even greater migration flows to Europe (30). However, Schraven and Bauer noted that migration caused by climate change tended to progress within the countries affected or across borders to neighbouring countries in the overwhelming number of cases. They pointed out that distinguishing between flight and migration was problematic in such areas. Migration researchers therefore referred to "mixed migration" when economic motives to flee coincided with fleeing from poor governance or natural disasters. The authors stressed that there was hardly any empirical evidence of climate change being the sole cause of armed conflict.

In December 2017, Spiegel online reported on a survey authored by Wolfram Schlenker and Anouch Missirian of Columbia University, USA, according to which weather extremes like drought were driving more and more people to Europe (31). The study, financed by the European Union's Joint Research Council, drew its conclusions from findings from 2000-2014 that in this period, numbers of asylum applications had grown depending on how long temperatures stayed above 20° C, which was the ideal temperature for the maize harvest. The report was given considerable attention by international news agencies but was heavily criticised by many scientists in Germany and abroad, Spiegel online stated.

Early in January 2018, Telepolis reported that Oxfam France was demanding refugee status for people forced to migrate because of climate change (32). Oxfam pointed out that people in developing countries were threatened by climate and environmental hazards five times

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more frequently than people in industrialised nations, although the latter were the chief cause of anthropogenic climate change.

InterCap relevance

The importance of the media in Germany as a factor influencing awareness during the "refugee crisis" cannot be overemphasised, although an account of the actual degree to which media have contributed to forming opinion cannot be provided in the context of the report. Mainstream media have frequently sought, in a frequently irresponsible way, to associate migration with crime, terrorism and taking advantage of the social welfare system. Suggestions of presented by some of the media of mass migration to Germany caused by climate change have distracted attention from the true dimensions of climate change and flight, and above all from the true conditions that people and governments in the South are having to cope with. Developing an atmosphere of anxiety verging on a siege mentality has partly stifled attempts to discuss the "refugee crisis" in rational terms.

Here, it would be paramount for Education for Sustainable Development to focus more on enabling young people to develop a critical awareness of media and on training skills such as comparing accounts, contents and what they themselves know, perceive or believe regarding the "refugee crisis".

2.3 Research and reports

International research conducted by the Bertelsmann Foundation in 2012 and 2013 to identify good examples of sustainability strategies at national, subnational and supranational level is summarised in the 2014 report "Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien erfolgreich entwickeln – Strategien für eine nachhaltige Zukunft in Deutschland, Europa und der Welt" (33). Analysis focused particularly on governance-related criteria, such as the strategy quality, implementation potential and forms of participation. The research was intended to identify best practices for sustainability strategies in the international arena and to stimulate German and global debate on shaping successful sustainability policies. Besides selected sustainability strategies at international level, the report looks at strategies in Germany, in particular at the regional level. These strategies are examined more closely in terms of governance and crosscutting themes as well as regarding topics such as sustainable management, sustainable financial policies", Education for Sustainable Development and youth participation.

The 2013 report "Auswirkungen der Einwanderung auf Arbeitsmarkt und Sozialstaat: Neue Erkenntnisse und Schlussfolgerungen für die Einwanderungspolitik", commissioned by the Bertelsmann Foundation and carried out by the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) and the University of Bamberg, looks at the impact of migration on the labour market and the

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social welfare state (34). While employers are eager to gain young, skilled labour from eastern and southern Europe, municipalities are complaining about “Armutszuwanderung” (immigration of poor people) from Romania and Bulgaria, and at local level, many are fearing for their jobs. However, the report notes that higher education plays a particularly significant role in this context, with the share of students among new migrants having grown from 13.6 per cent in 2000 to 21.2 per cent in 2009. With 60 per cent of new migrants already holding a higher education degree, if their integration in the labour market is successful, the employment rate will drop, while the wage level remains constant, the report argues, taking the period under review. Moreover, it states, increased integration of skilled labour will have a positive impact on the labour market. The report also demonstrates that migrants benefit the social welfare state, paying more into the social security systems than they receive.

In June 2014, results were published of the MICLE (Climate Change, Changes to the Environment and Migration in Sahel) research project, carried out by the Institute for Socio-Ecological Research (ISOE) and the University of Bayreuth’s Institute of Geography and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (35). The MICLE project looked at links between climate change and land degradation in the two regions Linguère in Senegal and Bandiagara in Mali, in the semi-arid Sahel Zone.

Tree diversity has been declining in these areas, and less drought-resistant species are taking over, while natural forest and bushland has given way to cultivated landscapes some of which is affected by increasing land degradation. A survey among more than 900 people in the two regions revealed that migration is a traditional feature of life there, and 87 per cent of those interviewed had experienced migration themselves, although most of them had only migrated temporarily, moving to larger cities in particular seasons. Thus internal migration accounts for the majority of migration in Linguère and Bandiagara, although the study also finds that seeking employment in neighbouring Côte d’Ivoire plays a significant role too. Only a very small number of those interviewed intended to migrate to Europe.

The chief reasons stated for migrating were employment and income, followed by improving food security and education as well as family decisions. Environmental changes played a role in such contexts, especially when factors such as soil were concerned. However, the majority of those interviewed referred to migration as a “normal aspect of day-to-day life and culture”. MICLE researchers stress that preventing migration cannot be a political goal, but rather that migration has to be regarded as an important survival strategy. The MICLE project therefore calls for a more differentiated approach in the debate over climate refugees.

More than twice as many people are displaced by extreme weather events than by war and violence, according to a survey by Hildegard Bedarff of “Gesellschaft für Umwelt- und Entwicklungsforschung” and Cord Jakobeit of the University of Hamburg’s Economics and Social Sciences Faculty (36). Their 2017 survey, commissioned by Greenpeace Deutschland, states that millions leave their home regions because of creeping land degradation. However, more migration movements lead into risky areas than they do away from them. Apart from the rapid growth of megacities, coastal areas and river deltas are above all sought as destinations. The lion’s share of migration is in the Global South, and

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takes place within the boundaries of individual countries. As global warming proceeds, more and more people are being faced with forced immobility and becoming trapped in areas like the Horn of Africa or Yemen.

The Greenpeace survey stresses that migration movements are natural processes with which people adapt to changed living conditions; they can be steered to a degree but cannot be stopped. Furthermore, migration bears both risks and major opportunities for the countries of origin as well as the countries of destination. Benefits in this context include positive impacts on the economy, alleviation of the problem of aging societies, care for the elderly, and contributions to culture and science. Furthermore, the survey points out that migration can defuse crisis situations and avoid possible forced migration in the future. Remittances from countries of destination play a key role regarding the resilience of communities in crisis areas. Migration can support knowledge and technology transfer, and Diaspora communities can play an important role as lobbies for their home communities.

Drawing conclusions, the survey demands that forced migration, e.g. through land-grabbing, be avoided. Victims of forced migration ought to be supported and protected. Migration itself, the survey argues, needs to be supported because it represents an important adaptation to climate change. Safe, legal and circular routes ought to be established for labour migration. National humanitarian reception programmes are called for as well as the implementation of the UNHCR resettlement programme and regional agreements.

InterCap relevance

Research and reports on various aspects of migration can provide a valuable background for young people to develop a more differentiated view of the “refugee crisis” and different groups of migrants. Knowledge thus acquired can help them to better assess claims made in the media or elsewhere regarding issues such as education, skills or the general impact of migrants on the economy. Similarly, taking a look at developments in the Global South or in countries in a state of armed conflict with the aid of relevant surveys can contribute to a better understanding of the reasons people may have to leave their countries. In particular, such sound information can put paid to blatant attempts to equate refugees with terrorists, especially when it is terrorists that they are fleeing from.

2.4 Case studies of good practices

Education for Development (ESD) is a UNESCO programme that empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future by including sustainable development issues such as climate change and biodiversity in teaching and learning. In 2015, Germany’s Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) established an ESD

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National Platform, together with a number of supporting committees. The Platform was assigned the mission of developing concrete measures to structurally integrate ESD in all education sectors and compiling an ESD National Plan of Action by 2017 (37).

Goals and recommendations were discussed by more than 350 representatives from civil society, politics, education and industry as well as ministries at Federal and State level for more than a year. In addition, early in 2017, citizens submitted over 7,000 proposals on measures to be taken and nearly 8,000 assessments in an online survey that were to provide significant input for the National Plan of Action. In September 2017, the Plan, containing 130 goals and 349 proposals for action on the structural integration of ESD in the German education system, was presented to the German Federal Government, which pledged its support. The Federal Government stated that “now, for the first time in Germany, with the Action Plan, there is a comprehensive ESD strategy that is jointly backed by the Federal and State Governments, municipalities and civil societies. It provides the basis to implement structurally and to its full extent ESD in the German education system.”

Four principles guide the Federal Government’s support. ESD is seen as central to achieving all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The German education system is to be oriented on the guiding principle of sustainability. The Federal Government supports the programme’s multi-stakeholder approach involving actors from politics, industry, culture, the media and education and, particularly, young people in its implementation. Four Federal Ministries are contributing to implementing the National Plan of Action.

The BMBF is in charge of implementing ESD in Germany. It promotes ESD programmes in various areas, such as the “Haus der Kleinen Forscher” (early childhood education), “HOCH-N” (higher education) and Vocational Education for Sustainable Development”. With the Youth Forum youpaN, the BMBF aims to strengthen the participation of young people in the programmes. The development of ESD indicators is to simplify the identification of good ESD practice and make corresponding reports more comprehensible.

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports ESD projects via the Federal Programme on Biodiversity or the National Climate Protection Initiative. In addition, it provides teaching material via its online portal “Umwelt im Unterricht”. A further BMUB programme promotes Green Key Skills in Climate and Resource Friendly Practice in vocational education.

Activities supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) include international exchange and skills development for teachers in the context of an orientation framework for the Global Development field of instruction. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) focuses in particular on youth participation. ESD is a standard element in the educational backup of the Federal Volunteer Service and the Voluntary Ecological Year. The BMFSFJ has also compiled a concept together with various institutions and organisation for the implementation of ESD in national and international youth work. A wide range of further activities are being supported

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by government institutions together with projects, foundations, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Some examples are given in the following.

In the area of early childhood education, Innowego – Forum Bildung und Nachhaltigkeit, together with NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) and Umweltstation Liasgrube, is supporting a further education concept on ESD focusing on climate protection and the conservation of natural resources for educators. Stiftung Haus der kleinen Forscher is backing measures to incorporate ESD in daycare concepts.

BUND Friends of the Earth Germany is contributing to the training of school teachers and educators for ESD. Schools are being supported in the structural integration of ESD by World University Service (WUS), Deutsches Komitee e.V. and Greenpeace Deutschland. WUS is also backing nationwide “Vocational Education for Sustainable Development” campaigns as part of efforts to link formal vocational education more closely with professional experience. The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) is involved in supporting measures to establish sustainable development via a holistic approach in businesses focusing also on management in small and medium-sized enterprises.

One of the aspects the Action Plan concentrates on in higher education is the introduction of quality criteria to systematically link research and ESD. Here, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) is supporting further education measures for teaching staff in the field of ESD for which a working group on Sustainability in Teaching and Learning has been set up. Another area the Action Plan addresses is orienting funding and incentive systems in higher education on sustainability and ESD in terms of content and structure. In this context, WUS has introduced an ESD Sustainability Award for Bachelor and Master theses.

Further Action Plan activities are underway in the areas of non-formal and informal learning and youth as well as municipalities. Here too, support is coming from a wide range of actors. The Coalition Agreement stipulates more Federal Government support for the ESD Plan of Action.

InterCap relevance

The ESD National Plan of Action offers a wide range of opportunities to address sustainable development in education that could also be linked with migration issues in various contexts.

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

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Germany went to the polls on September 24th 2017 to elect a new Federal Parliament. The Coalition Agreement (38) between the Christian Democratic Party (CDU), the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) was signed on the 12th March 2018.

The Coalition Agreement states that Germany upholds existing humanitarian and legal commitments regarding the right to asylum but stresses that the country's capacity to integrate immigrants must not be overstretched at the expense of its inhabitants with regard e.g. to school or kindergarten facilities. The package of measures proposed in the Coalition Agreement addressing migration sets out from not more than 180,000 to 220,000 immigrants entering the country each year.

Germany seeks to combat the causes of flight (Fluchtursachenbekämpfung). Key measures here comprise improving development cooperation, stepping up humanitarian efforts, providing adequate support for the UNHCR and the World Food Program, extending peacekeeping missions, a fair trade and agricultural policy and a restrictive arms exports policy. The Marshall Plan for Africa, introduced by the previous Federal Government in 2017, is intended to back the African Union in implementing its Agenda 2063, which seeks to support growth and sustainable development on the continent.

The Marshall Plan for Africa, introduced in 2017, contains a number of components that are expected to have an impact on migration. Focal aspects include a programme to promote medium-sized enterprises and start-ups in order to create more employment and bolster African products as well as support for renewable energy. The Mediterranean countries of North Africa are to be assisted in their transformation processes, and the Maghreb states are to be integrated step by step in the European economic region.

Germany is striving for a common European asylum system incorporating a fair distribution system among EU member states. It supports EU policy measures addressing organised immigration crimes and seeks more intense cooperation with the UNHCR, the IOM as well as countries of origin and transit countries. Until effective protection is ensured along the EU's outer boundaries, internal border checks are justified, according to the Agreement. Family reunion among refugees is limited to 1,000 persons a month.

Germany has a considerable demand for skilled labour that is set to grow yet further. The Coalition Agreement therefore contains a set of regulations to steer migration to the German labour market and the right of abode and return in legislation oriented on the economy's needs. Key criteria include qualifications, age, language proficiency, proof of employment and a steady income. Skilled labour refers both to individuals holding higher education degrees and those with vocational qualifications or extensive professional experience. Cleverly steered migration policy, the Agreement argues, supports job creation in Germany and substantially reduces the attractiveness of illegal and unchecked immigration.

The Coalition Agreement stresses that people with a migration are part of German society and participate in shaping it. More should be done, it points out, to improve their being represented at all levels in business, social institutions and above all the public services.

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Existing integration measures are to be better coordinated and monitored regarding their effectiveness. Additional financial incentives are to be considered for local authorities engaging in integration measures. The quality of support for those with prospects of permanent residence, such as integration and language courses, is to be improved.

The Coalition Agreement offers a number of proposals to make asylum procedures more efficient, also with regard to establishing the identity of asylum seekers. Only those who have good prospects of residence are to be distributed among local authorities, whereas those without such prospects are to return to their home countries within foreseeable time. If the right of abode is abused to commit offences, perpetrators must leave the country.

The Coalition Agreement recognises Germany's commitment to the right to asylum and to the basic values enshrined in the Constitution, to the Geneva Convention on Refugees, to the obligation to process every asylum application and to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Agreement also considers a number of security aspects discussed more intensively over the past two years, such as border controls within the EU, controlling the outer boundary of the EU and the handling asylum seekers who have committed offences committed by asylum seekers.

The German economy's need for skilled labour and the role that migrants play in this context is a further focal point in the Agreement, which stresses the potential that a new concept for regulations on labour-related migration could have on curbing illegal migration. Furthermore, the Coalition Agreement explicitly states that it seeks to "avoid a repetition of the situation in 2015" with efforts to achieve a reasonable steering and limiting of migration, improvements in development cooperation and more engagement in peacekeeping missions. Further aspects referred to in this context are fair trade agreements, more commitment to combating climate change and a ban on arms exports to crisis regions.

On the issue of climate change, the Coalition Agreement commits to Germany's commitments regarding international climate projection and pledges further funding in this respect in the context of raising Official Development Assistance. Based on the European Union's Registry for the EU emissions tracking system, four out of Europe's five power stations with the highest CO2 emissions levels were in Germany in 2014, accounting for 13 per cent of Europe-wide CO2 emissions in the power generating sector. Lignite accounts for a quarter of the country's power generation and is its biggest single source. To meet the Agenda 2030 climate goal, Germany's lignite CO2 emissions would have to fall by 87 per cent compared to the 2016 values. However, the Coalition Agreement makes no reference to phasing out lignite.

In April 2013, the "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) was founded as a German nationalist, populist and Eurosceptic party (39). Parts of the AfD have also subscribed to racist, Islamophobic and xenophobic tendencies. The AfD took 4.7 per cent of the vote in the 2013 Federal Election, just missing the five per cent threshold for the German Federal Parliament.

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The far-right German nationalist and anti-Islam movement “Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes” (PEGIDA) was launched in October 2014, during a series of demonstrations in Dresden, in east Germany. Announcing that he was taking part in one of the December 2014 PEGIDA rallies, Alexander Gauland, now AfD party chairman, declared: “We are the natural allies of this movement” (40). In January 2015, a PEGIDA demonstration attracted around 25,000 people. Further rallies were held throughout the following months, the largest of them in October 2015, at the height of the “refugee crisis”, when 20,000 demonstrators gathered in Dresden.

One of the key slogans that emerged in the 2014 PEGIDA rallies was the “Lügenpresse”, the “lying press”, accusing the mainstream media of treating the movement unfairly and of biased reporting on migration. Similar accusations were made by senior AfD politician Frauke Petry, who felt that the press were treating her party in a defamatory manner. The “Lügenpresse” campaign found some resonance with those who had expressed in polls that they felt misrepresented in the media. President Joachim Gauck stated in January 2015 that the German press was not manipulative, and that coverage of events was mostly balanced (41).

However, following the Cologne New Year’s Eve incident in 2015/2016, former Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich, of the CSU, criticised the media for upholding what he referred to as a “cartel of silence” (42). “There’s suspicion that they believe they don’t have to report on such assaults, especially involving migrants and foreigners, for fear of unsettling the public,” Friedrich maintained. It was former CSU Chairman Franz-Josef Strauß who had said under Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl back in the 1960s that “there must be no democratically legitimised party to the right of the CSU” (43).

In the 2017 Federal Elections, the CSU, that only has candidates for elections in the Free State of Bavaria, scored historically poor results. It still took nearly 40%, but at 12.7%, the AfD had managed to more than double its share of the vote – and was doing especially well in Bavaria. The CSU leadership was now under considerable pressure to stick to Strauß’s directive, and not to be outdone with calls for drastic curbs on migration by the AfD.

Federal Chancellor and CSU sister party chair Angela Merkel noted that Strauß’s dogma could also be interpreted as viewing the CSU and the CDU as major parties in at the centre of the political spectrum that were capable of drawing people away from more radical views. Merkel insisted that adding that “if Strauß’s statement can also be understood as ultimately allowing principles to be relativised or even abandoned to keep people from leaving the Union [the CDU and the CSU], then this sentence does not apply, in my opinion. European unification incorporating a common currency and freedom to travel, NATO as a community of values, the inviolability of human dignity, especially for people in need, must never be forfeited” (44).

The CSU reached an agreement with the CDU in October 2017 that Germany should not receive more than 200,000 refugees a year – a ceiling that the Federal Parliament could lower in the event of an economic crisis or raise to accommodate refugees from war zones.

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CSU representatives put forward further proposals regarding the refugee issue at a party conference in January 2018. There were calls for a drastic reduction of social benefits, obligatory medical examinations to determine the age of alleged minors, postponement of family reunion for those not recognised as refugees, and de facto detainment of refugees in centres pending a decision on their asylum status. The compromise reached in the Coalition Agreement allows for more flexibility regarding the upper limit for refugees than originally conceived by the CDU and the CSU.

InterCap relevance

Keeping in touch with political debate over the “refugee crisis” can create an awareness of the societal and historical context that migration is moving in.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

The European Agenda on Migration was introduced in July 2015 (45). Its short-term goals include extra funding for Frontex search and rescue operation, for safe and legal resettlement of people to Europe, and for Europol to tackle criminal networks operating in the area of migration. The Agenda stipulates further support for the EU Common Security and Defence policy operations to capture boats used in illegal migration and to identify immigrants.

Medium- / long-term measures focus, for example, on reducing incentives for irregular migration. These include addressing its root causes in non-EU countries, dismantling migrant trafficking and smuggling networks and activities for the better application of return policies. Furthermore, they take up the issues of saving lives and securing the external borders of the European Union. Measures here focus on a better management of external borders, exercising solidarity towards Member States at borders and raising the efficiency of border crossings.

Strengthening a common asylum policy is a further medium- to long-term item of the Agenda. It stresses solidarity both towards those needing international protection and among EU Member States. Finally, the Agenda takes up the issue of developing a new policy on legal migration. Demographic changes that the EU is facing constitute a major factor in this context. The focus is on attracting workers that the EU economy needs, particularly by facilitating entry and the recognition of qualifications.

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Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) promotes political, economic and social reforms in partner countries, seeks to foster non-violent conflict solutions and backs civil society.(46) Development cooperation measures in these contexts can contribute to recipient and home countries benefiting from migration as a form of self-help. Considerable support for people in the home countries of migrants can be achieved with remittances, which is one of the reasons why the BMZ views migration as a contribution to development. Based on this approach, and together with other Federal Ministries, it therefore supports mitigating the risks of migration and promotes regulations facilitating labour migration.

In Germany, the BMZ informs on causes of migration as well as the opportunities it offers, which creates greater acceptance of migrants, who, in turn, are seen as important co-operation partners in the context of development education. Furthermore, both at home and in Germany, migrants are part of active civil society, and are particularly skilled at reporting on their home countries. In this manner, they are ideally suited to forge bridges. Based on its assessment of the role that migration plays in society and in development co-operation, the BMZ participates in three European Union initiatives (47).

The Blue Card facilitates migration for highly skilled labour. The BMZ engages in intensive dialogue with home countries to achieve a balance of interests and ensure that any lack of skilled labour in these countries is compensated and no massive brain drain occurs. Germany would like to see common recruitment guidelines for skilled labour in all EU countries.

Circular migration only offers real opportunities if close contact is maintained with communities at home. To facilitate circular migration, migrants are allowed to interrupt their stay in Germany and return home for certain periods. This gives them the opportunity to bring knowledge acquired to their home economies and societies on a shuttle basis. The recognition of degrees is crucial in this context. The better integrated migrants are in the labour markets of their host countries, the better they can support their families and home countries.

Mobility partnerships are conceived for host and home countries to jointly shape the migration process. The partnerships are signed with the countries of origin as well as the transit countries to attune the needs of migrants and their home and recipient countries, and aim at creating access to the European labour market and reintegration in the country of origin. The EU also supports the home countries of migrants in getting rid of the causes of involuntary migration.

The European Return Directive was introduced in 2008 (48). It contains an obligation to return irregular immigrants and governs their treatment during expulsion proceedings. Furthermore, it has provisions on entry bans, procedural rights and grounds and conditions for detention. The Directive states that voluntary return should be preferred over forced return and obliges all EU Member States to issue return decisions to any third-country nationals who are staying irregularly on their territory.

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The Directive became German law in late 2011, and the European Commission released a recommendation on its implementation in March 2017. A study issued by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in 2007 summarises the key aspects of how the Return Directive is implemented in Germany (49).

Return decisions are usually issued as removal warnings to individuals no longer entitled to reside in the country. In certain cases, persons obliged to leave Germany are granted permission to stay by the responsible authorities, e.g. when leaving the country is impossible or following the recommendation of a hardship commission. More often, a removal is suspended ("Duldung") because an individual cannot be removed for practical or legal reasons. "Duldung" merely certifies that the removal has been suspended.

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the foreign nationals authorities initially grant a certain period for voluntary departure during which the latter may impose certain obligations on persons who are obliged to leave the country in order to ensure their departure. Their residence may be restricted to a certain area, or they may be requested to surrender their travel documents to the authorities. If no other sufficient but less coercive measures can be applied effectively and removal is to take place within the next three months, detention is resorted to.

The Repatriation Support Centre ("Zentrum zur Unterstützung der Rückkehr"; ZUR) was established in March 2017 to organise removals at the national or cross-Federal-state level and strengthen coordination in the area of voluntary return. Appeals can be filed against both the removal warning and the underlying decision, e.g. the rejection of an asylum application. Unless the application was rejected as manifestly unfounded, an appeal against a rejection of an asylum application will have a suspensive effect in most cases.

In line with the provisions of the Return Directive, the Residence Act includes safeguards for the removal of unaccompanied minors and stricter criteria for ordering detention in the case of vulnerable persons. Current practice at Federal state level is that unaccompanied minors are not removed or detained. The legal provisions concerning health obstacles to removal were amended in 2016. In principle, removal will only be suspended if an individual has a life-threatening or serious illness that would significantly worsen upon the removal being carried out. Removed or expelled persons are subject to an entry ban. The implementation of the Return Directive introduced a limit of five years for the entry ban, granted ex officio. The time limit is fixed at the discretion of the responsible authority on a case-by-case basis.

InterCap relevance

An understanding of migration policies and the international framework that they are being applied can contribute to grasping the societal and political dimensions of migration.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

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3.1. General remarks

Germany has a framework to develop ESD

Germany's ESD National Plan of Action is an ambitious attempt to promote ESD in all areas of society. Moreover, it provides a wide range of options to link institutions and groups in society to communicate on the issue of sustainable development. It represents a comprehensive framework to accommodate ESD.

Attitudes towards migration are easily swayed

In contrast, both the polls summarised in the first section of this report and media coverage largely reflect an awareness of the "refugee crisis" and how it relates to climate change and more generally to sustainable development that is at best fragmented, and certainly far from any holistic view. The phenomenal rise of the AfD and other anti-immigration movements indicate that large sections of the population are all too easily persuaded to adopt hostile or at least oversimplifying attitudes towards migration.

The public at large need more reliable information about migration and its causes

To promote a holistic approach in the sense described in the framework for this report, a number of issues discussed controversially in the media and research need more intense treating and, equally importantly, more communicating to the public. In particular, more clarity is called for regarding the causes of migration, especially with a view to climate change. Many of the facts have already been established in international reports, e.g. with regard to the extent of climate-induced migration beyond country or regional boundaries, or with regard to the extent energy policies in the EU, and particularly in Germany, contribute to global warming. Considering other factors causing migration, the European Union has already commissioned reports on land-grabbing, while an overview of companies – and EU Member States – exporting arms to conflict areas should not be too difficult a feat.

ESD should focus more on media skills

Considering the reviews of the media, it would seem appropriate to give media skills a greater focus in ESD. In the "information society", strengthening people's ability to critically assess what they are presented in the media ought to be a key element of ESD.

A clearer terminology is needed for migration issues in ESD

A further aspect worth considering with regard to contents in the ESD context is how distinctions are made between different groups of migrants, e.g. asylum-seekers, refugees, "economic migrants" or "economic refugees". Apart from these terms already being

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ambiguous, it is hard to see how any of them can apply to displacement through climate change. As suggested above, “mixed migration” could be referred to where it is difficult to distinguish flight from migration. Should Oxfam and other NGOs succeed in having a refugee status assigned to victims of climate change, this would represent a useful new category.

New, non-derogatory categories are required for refugees who are victims of climate change, land-grabbing or other hostile business practices

However, the terms “economic migrant” or “economic refugee” are often used in a derogatory sense in Germany, both among the public at large and in the media, implying reference to taking advantage of social security systems or outbidding resident workers in a wage-level downward spiral. Land-grabbing and the spread of industrial agriculture in the Global South – often to provide products used especially in the Global North, such as palm oil or biofuels – is increasingly leading to the displacement of smallholders. While most of the migration resulting from these developments happens within the Global South, it would nevertheless make sense to impart such issues in ESD – if only to avoid people having been driven away at gunpoint from their land in the South being accused by consumers of products from the new plantations as “exploiting Germany’s social security system”. In the medium term, a new category will have to be defined for this rapidly growing group of migrants.

3.2. Recommendations for NGOs

National and local level recommendations for NGOs: To increase cooperation with and between formal and non-formal education system to share knowledge and best practices and peer-to-peer education methodologies and instruments.

3.3. Recommendations for governmental institutions

National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions: To provide and invest more in teacher training on sustainable development, migration, security and inclusion.

3.4. Recommendations for municipalities

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Local level recommendations for municipalities: Local authorities could promote cooperation between educational institutions, NGOs and associations in order to strengthen issues of the SDG and refugees at municipal level

3.5. Recommendations for educational institutions

National and local level recommendations for educational institutions**:**

- Implement the “Curriculum Framework - Education for Sustainable Development” throughout Germany
- The pedagogical concepts of the “Curriculum Framework - Education for Sustainable Development” should become an integral part of teacher education and teacher training for all teachers.
- Upgrade the knowledge of teachers regarding the Digitalisation of education with respect of the right to informational self-determination

3.6. Recommendations for future research areas

- Research on Education for Sustainable Development on Global level
- Research on the contribution of migrations for Education for Sustainable Development

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GREEK NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

Modern Greece has undergone several emigration waves. The first of the latest two took place during the 1960s and 1970s, when mainly unqualified workers immigrated to countries such as Germany and Australia in order to escape the poverty that resulted from WWII and the Greek civil war. The second most recent emigration wave is ongoing and it is mostly highly skilled young professionals who leave Greece due to lack of job opportunities, resulting from the economic crisis (Bank of Greece, 2016). In the period between these two emigration waves, the collapse of the eastern bloc in 1989 signalled a change in the migration patterns taking place in Greece, which became a destination and host country to many immigrants – from 1989 through the mid-2000s – mostly from those countries.[28]

Meanwhile, the global situation concerning displaced people has changed substantially in the past twenty years (from 33.9 million displaced people in 1997, 65.6 million in 2016) (UNHCR Global Trends, 2016). A local manifestation of this global situation is that in the past six years, large numbers of displaced people, originating mostly from Syria but also Afghanistan, Iraq and other Asian and African countries, have crossed the Mediterranean in an attempt to enter Europe. In 2015 alone, over 800,000 displaced people reached Greece via the Mediterranean, most of them while moving to other European destinations. Although the numbers of incoming migrants are smaller nowadays, the trend of reaching Europe via the Mediterranean continues to date, and it is estimated that over 60,000 refugees are going to stay in Greece for the long term.[29]

Massive movements of populations are usually triggered by unsustainable conditions at home – for environmental, economic or (interlinked?) social reasons. By the same token, the notion of sustainable development and the influx of immigrants into a region – especially in large numbers – are thought to be connected in a straightforward manner: on occasions, immigration may be necessary for maintaining sustainable development in the destination country, but when immigration is done in irregular or uncontrollable ways, the situation in the host country may become unstable and eventually even unsustainable. However, a closer look at the issue reveals that the relation between sustainability, development and migration is complex. The significance of the ways people view this relation may have tangible

[28] At the same time, there had been significant numbers of migrant Pakistanis, Iraqis, Egyptians and Nigerians who entered Greece in order to move to other European countries.

[29] Neither the exact number of refugees who are currently in Greece is exact (the estimates vary from UNHCR's 45,614 (UNHCR, 2017) to IRC's 62,000 (IRC, 2018)), nor is the exact number of those who are going to stay for the long run known. However, given the current situation at the Greek boarders, both with Turkey and with the rest of Europe, and given that the number of refugees within them is unlikely to decrease—given the continued influx of refugees from the eastern borders and the comparatively small number of relocated refugees—the estimate above gives a plausible number.

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implications on many areas, ranging from day-to-day activities, such as the ways a community treats migration, to policymaking and policy decisions, such as the type of legislation a government will impose, and to how a state as a whole may regulate migration. Greece's history of migration, with influx and outflow of migrants, constitutes a striking and ongoing case study of the relations between migration and sustainable development and the impact that a better flow of information might have on policies, sustainable development and related issues.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The aim of the Greek national report on migration, sustainability and development education is to identify how deeply the knowledge and understanding of the relations between migration and sustainable development goes in the country, and what role development education plays or will have to play in Greek education and beyond. The report comprises two parts, a literature review and field research. The literature review contains information about the comprehension of the aforementioned issues by the society in general, but also by Greek educators and Greek academics. In the same vein, the field research involved experts from the field of education and experts in all the other fields involved, including migration, political economy and sustainable development, and their involvement offered the possibility to assess the depth of the relevant knowledge and understanding by the respective participants. However, most helpful – for the later stages of the project – is the exposure of the lack of information, knowledge and understanding that the report offers as well as of the gaps that need to be covered, and this was yet another of the report's aims.

1.3 Available data and resources

The focus of this report is on sustainable development and development education *in relation* to migration and in the context of present day Greece. However, migration has yet to be recognised and appreciated as one of the key elements for sustainable development in Greece, and for this reason the data accessed for this report concerns mainly migration and, separately, sustainable development. This is highlighted by the findings and analysis below. The notion of economic sustainability has surfaced in recent years in relation to the ailing Greek economy, but sustainable development in general has been linked mostly to the environment but not to the other aspects described by the sustainable development goals of the UN, and certainly not at all to migration. Opinion polls and opinion surveys that have been conducted in Greece over the past ten years with the exacerbation of the refugee crisis are a valuable source recording the tendencies among the population of the country. Other resources used in the report comprise press, educational and scholarly publications (printed and online), as well as numerous reports from UNHCHR, research, policy and financial institutions.

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1.4 Limitations

Like in many other countries with highly irregular migration, Greece does not have available detailed data on all types of migration. Thus, although the official data concerning regular migration are accurate and so are the large numbers of irregular migrants who have applied or intend to apply for international protection, the actual total numbers of immigrants through and in Greece are not known with precision. Another limitation is that although the socio-economic sustainability has been discussed a lot in Greece in recent years, the discussions concern almost exclusively the internal conditions and not the sustainable development goals of UN. A last limitation arises from the fact that development education is also very little known in Greece and it is mostly associated with education in relation to environmental sustainability.

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

Since 2009 and the start of the financial crisis, the GDP of Greece has shrunk by 24% while the unemployment rates rose from 9% in 2009, to approximately 28% in 2013, before dropping to 21% currently. One of the consequences of the crisis has been the aforementioned wave of emigration from Greece, which has all the characteristics of brain drain with an estimated 427,000 mostly highly skilled individuals leaving the country between 2008 and 2013 (Karakasidis, 2016). Adding to the brain drain the already existing immigrants that account for over 8% of the population of the country[30] and the refugee crisis that culminated in 2015 with over 800,000 refugees and immigrants crossing the Greek borders, the issue of migration for Greece ought to consider all three aspects affecting Greece. The first, chronologically, concerns the immigrants whose presence in Greece is already decades long, the second concerns the Greeks who left Greece due to the financial crisis, and the third concerns the refugees that have reached Greece during the last years.

According to polls by the Public Issue (Public Issue Surveys, 2008; 2009; 2010) the general view of immigration and its effects on the society in general and more specifically on the

[30] According to the 2011 census, in Greece there are 912,000 in a population of 10,816,286, or 8.4% of the population.

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economy and crime are negative (see table 1). Unfortunately, the poll questions over the years changed and consequently so did the data for the years following 2010.

Table 1: Opinion Polls on Immigration

	General View of Immigration		Consequences of Immigration on Economy		Consequences of Immigration on Crime	
Year	Rather Harmful	Other	Rather Harmful	Other	Causes Increase	Other
2008	58 %	42 %	48 %	52 %	71 %	29 %
2009	62 %	38 %	52 %	48 %	76 %	24 %
2010	59 %	41 %	59 %	41 %	75 %	25 %

Although quite a lot of Europeans and some Greeks believe that the immigrant and refugee influx in their respective countries brings about the threat of terrorism (Eurobarometer, 2016), and some news articles focus on the possible relation between migration and terrorism (Mastrogeorgiou, 2016; To Vima, 2016), survey results from 2017 show that the threat felt by some Greeks does not concern terrorism, but rather potential negative economic and cultural impacts. In particular, a recent survey by EKKE reveals that 65% of the responders (827 in total) believe that the immigrants have negative effects on the Greek economy, whereas 57% believe the cultural life of the country deteriorates due to the presence of immigrants in it.[31]

In 2011, when asked whether a border fence at the border between Greece and Turkey would deter immigrants from entering the country, the majority (56%) agreed (Public Issue, 2011), whereas most agreed with the construction itself of such a fence (46 – 73% depending on the poll (Karasavaidou, 2014)). From 2015 onwards, the attention of the public and the polling agencies shifted towards the ongoing refugee crisis, which was the biggest current wave of migration. The polling showed that the majority of the population (65%) believed that Greece should not accept refugees for permanent residence in Greece, 68% believed that the refugee crisis was not a passing phenomenon, and that Greece should either accept all or most refugees (27%) or consider this option depending on the conditions (26%) (Public Issue, 2015a). However, 53 % of the responders believed that refugees constituted a threat for the country (Public Issue, 2015b). By 2016, people believed that the refugee crisis was a rather permanent phenomenon (65%), that the United States, European Union and Russia were responsible for the crisis (54%). In addition, that the government and local authorities were doing well or very well in dealing with the massive influx of migrants (58%), but that the NGOs were doing much better (72%) and the army and the navy's response were excellent (78% and 94% respectively). Very positive were the view of the islands local communities' response to the migrants' arrival (96%), while the view of the EU's stance towards Greece and the crisis was regarded mostly as negative (92%) (Dianeosis, 2016).

[31] Given that this research is ongoing, its results come from secondary sources, i.e. reports in the press (e.g. Lifo, 2017; Newsroom, 2017).

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Noteworthy is that UNHCR acknowledged the “generous response of Greek civil society, in a difficult context, [that] should be recognised and supported” (Spindler, 2015). In addition, that in 2016 the High Commissioner of UNHCR praised Greece for the solidarity it demonstrated during the refugee crisis. Also noteworthy is the fact that the emotions towards refugees were mostly positive (67%) and sympathetic (84%), despite the fact that throughout 2016, people believed that the refugees could not be integrated in Greece (53% in September (Public Issue, 2016a), 57% in October (Public Issue, 2016b), and 69% in November (Public Issue, 2016c)).

The conflicting views continue to the present day. In 2017, the Observatory for Refugees and Immigrants of the Municipality of Athens commissioned to Public Issue a survey that recorded all the refugees at the Municipality’s Refugee Hospitality Centre of Eleonas in Athens, and tracked the opinions of citizens of Athens on the visibility and integration of refugees as well as the interaction with them (Public Issue, 2017). Citizens reported that immigrant and refugee residents do not cause any trouble (80%), and that the accommodation of refugees in their neighbourhood has not created any problems (66%). Of those who reported problems with the adjacency, 55% mentioned crime and 40% mentioned cleanliness. Regarding the integration of refugees, the trend recorded in 2015 continued in 2017, with 54% believing that the refugees cannot be integrated even though they believe that their children should go to school (72%) or to day nurseries (65%). Importantly, 57% of respondents reported having done something to help refugees in the past year.

This attitude may be explained, even if offhand, by the following considerations. On the one hand, seeing the refuges crossing the Mediterranean in difficult conditions, many of whom being women and children, created very strong feelings of compassion in the public, both Greek and global, as the immediate human and humane reaction to this is to help others who flee war and are in need. On the other hand, “host societies (including the Greek society) are not prepared and receptive to changes that are brought about deterministically by the more or less sudden settlement of a large number of foreigners, are unable to capture the major implications of this settlement, and have difficulties contributing to the mild absorption of the vibrations that this settlement causes in the social structure of the host society and to its transformation.” (Tsigganou et al. 2009). Thus the tension: the feelings of compassion stirred by the plight of the refugees clash with the pre-existing views of immigration as negative for the country, especially at this junction that Greece’s economy and citizens still feel the impact of the most recent crisis. To reaffirm the main premise of *InterCap*, one may take this plausible explanation of the evident tension further and suggest the following. If additional information was communicated to the public, that is, information based on facts about the actual positive impact of migration on the host country and its contribution to the country’s sustainable development, then the public’s pre-existing negative views would be dispelled and they would be positively predisposed towards the subsequent integration of migrants and refugees.

There are no opinion polls or surveys on sustainable development. There are articles in the press, though, as well as on various websites, and lengthier publications on environment and

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environmental education that deal with the notion of sustainability, albeit restricted to sustainability in relation to the environment (see below). Similarly, development education as a distinct education subject matter is non-existent in Greece,[32] although mentions of it have appeared in the press since 2000.[33] Hence, it should come as no surprise that there are no surveys or opinion polls mentioning it.

2.2 Media response

Naturally, the entirety of the Greek press point out the negative – for the country – fact that over 400,000 mostly highly qualified young (25-39 years of age) professionals left the country between 2008 and 2013. However, at one end there are those who use emotionally charged language, for example, declaring a *shocking mass wave of flight* from the country (Newsbomb, 2016) while on the other, the language becomes more sober when merely presenting the facts, and when parallels with the past are drawn (Karakasidis, 2016; Kapaktsis, 2016) to facilitate a better understanding of the phenomenon. This might be because the presentation of the issues by the media may be influenced by the personal views of the involved journalists as well as by the agendas of certain publications, which may vary from recognizable political agendas to the need to sell more. Taking this disclaimer into consideration, it comes as no surprise that migration has been presented from strikingly different perspectives in the Greek press and the overtones vary.

Some propose a number of possible positive measures that could be taken to counterbalance that situation such as the development of scientific centres of excellence, fostering conditions for Greek scientists to remain in Greece and for those abroad to return, and creating a sustainable economic situation in Greece through entrepreneurship (News 247, 2017; EPT 2017; Kanellos, 2017).

When writing about immigration, also about the recent refugee crisis, the situation is similar, in the sense that the way facts are presented by the press varies from one publication to the next. The issue of significance, though, is that in some cases the emotional rhetoric reaches xenophobic and racist overtones (Penesi, 2017; Εθνική Εφημερίδα Εμπρός (National Newspaper Empros), 2017) that apart from altering or misrepresenting the facts, they sometimes reach the level of advocating conspiracy scenarios (Dimopoulou, 2017; Free World (Ελεύθερος Κόσμος), 2017). It should be noted, however, that the large portion of the press present the issues either more objectively—sticking to the facts—or with a humane and positive outlook (McCollum & Antoniou, 2016; Proto Thema (Πρώτο Θέμα), 2017; CNN Greece, 2017).

[32] Only recently the subject matter has made an appearance in civil society, with Action Aid's advocacy for sustainable development education (Diroyianni, 2010) and Green Arc's seminars on environmental sustainable development (Πράσινη Κιβωτός, 2017). But more on this in what follows.

[33] Despite the fact that the first advocates of development education appear to have been active in Greece since the 2000s (Lakasas, 2006).

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On the other hand, some recent reports on academic events often advocate the positive impact of migration on sustainable development, in particular events to which high-profile Greek academics and politicians participate. Thus, there are reports on talks that highlight the positive impact of migration on economic development (Lionakis, 2013; Poutetsi, 2007); popularised science articles advancing the US model on migration (Capital.gr, 2012); and articles presenting the importance of this discussion even for the 2016 G20 meeting (Διάλογος (Dialogos), 2016). The global academic community has studied the implications of migration on the economy of both the countries of origin and the host countries and the impact on their sustainable development for quite a few decades now (see below). The press has been following the main themes and conclusions, to some extent, and the terms 'migration' and 'development' sometimes appear together in publications that discuss the issue of environmental migration—i.e. mostly emigration due to the fact that the environment in the country of origin has been destroyed or badly affected by human intervention. It should be noted that in the Greek press, the concept of sustainablity became very pronounced almost as soon as the national economic crisis started making the headlines, circa 2009. However, in this context, sustainability concerns the GDP and its growth in general, and not the specific factors that may affect it, such as the influx and subsequent settlement of tens of thousands of refugees in the country, or the emigration from the country of hundreds of thousands of highly qualified workers.

In the Greek education system, environment, ecology and sustainable development in relation to them have been topics of discussions since 1991, when a law passed introducing environmental studies at the primary and secondary education. Therefore, although development education as a separate subject has yet to make an appearance in the educational system and in the press, the concept of sustainable development in relation to the environment has been discussed in Greek schools for almost three decades now. This means that a whole community of school and high-school teachers, as well as their trainers and teachers—academics and other—have been discussing, teaching and writing on the subject matter for the same period of time. In addition, so has the press. The publicity on the subject is only positive.

The lacuna in the reporting and commentating of the relations between migration, sustainable development and development education that is revealed by the opinion polls and the research on the media response indicates that there is ground to be covered in both the training (of teachers' trainers and teachers) and the awareness raising activities that will be planned. An encouraging fact is that the lack of representation is not due to lack of interest from the media but due to lack of information, which is easy to overcome.[34] Another encouraging fact is that despite the variations in their responses on the themes of migration, sustainable development and development education, the overall disposition of the Greek media towards migration may be regarded at least as composed if not as positive, which will be helpful in the attempts to promote the core idea of *InterCap*.

[34] The literature review below will reveal a lack of academic work on the relation between sustainable development and migration too.

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2.3 Research and project production

The interest of Greek scholars in migration is longstanding and continuous, arguably due to the various migratory waves that have characterised modern Greece. Indicative to the research on migration that has taken place in Greece in the period 1993-2003 is a working paper by Stratoudaki (2008), who discusses the main axes of research in Greece, it summarises the research results and examines critically the quality of the research while pointing out the weaknesses and the things that needed to be improved. More specifically, the main axes of research at the time were three: social and economic integration, reception of immigrants by the Greek population, and the significance of mass media. The weaknesses lied mainly in the methodologies employed, which were mostly qualitative and exploratory rather than quantitative and data-driven. The existence or not of sufficient funding was affecting the kind of data that could be extracted and used, of course, and the governmental priorities dictated to a large extent the direction of the research, because where there were needs there was also funding. Another factor influencing the direction of the research was the funding that was coming from the EU, which also dictated directions through its own priorities.

Since then, the issue of integration of immigrants into the Greek society has continued to preoccupy the Greek scholars. This can be seen in the production of research in the years after 2003. Thus—indicatively only—, the following work that has been published since is being briefly presented. In their paper, Christopoulos and Pavlou (2004) examined integration from the point of view of social participation and interaction. The volume touches on the relation between migration, racism and nationalism in Greece, on issues that the second generation of immigrants faces, as well as on the protection of immigrants.

As years went by, scholars continued to examine the issue of integration, but more and more they would take into consideration additional factors that affect it. Thus, in a collective volume, Kasimis et Al. (2012) attempt to offer an understanding of the issue of immigration through the analysis of the general economic and institutional framework of integration of migrants into the labour market, reflecting on the local dimensions of employment, as well as on the mobility of migrants in different regions of the country. Adding the factor of social policy, Moysides & Papadopoulou (2011) tackle the issues of integration and social policy in the context of employment, education and identity. Legislation in relation to migration, in general, and to citizenship, in particular, is another issue that comes to the fore, because approximately 20 years after the immigration wave from the 1990s, a second generation immigrants are coming of age in Greece. Works like the edited volume by Maroukis &

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Triantafylidou (2010) examine migration from a national and European legislative point of view. Whereas other researchers, like Christopoulos (2012) examine the notion of citizenship and the process of naturalization from the beginning of the Modern Greek state until the early 21st century. This change in the themes in the published works indicates that, by the 2010s, it is not the needs of the Greek state directed the direction of the research leading to those publications but, rather, what the academic community had identified as the needs of the immigrants themselves.[35]

Other lines of research follow sociological questions and methodologies. Indicative of that is the book of Papandreou (2013), in which the author presents the results of sociological research on migrant youth from countries of the eastern bloc who inhabited the centre of Athens in the 1990s, and their interactions with local youth.

Finally, very recently and as a response to the refugee crisis, scholarly work has started exploring the issues revolving around the reception of the refugees by the Greek society and state. In this vein, Nagopoulos & Panagos (2017) focus their research on the interactions between local communities and the hundreds of thousands of refugees who arrived at the island of Lesvos, after crossing the sea often in treacherous conditions.

The literature review reveals that in Greece, the academic research on migration does not meet sustainable development for the time being, except in an educational publication on sustainable development, designed and produced by university students for the use of university students who are interested in an introduction on the subject matter (Goniadis, 2015). Though the research on the relations between the two may be in its infancy in Greece, given the importance of the two and the relevant research that is being done abroad, it should be only a matter of time until the Greek academics catch up. What is more, the discussion of development education is very restricted too, with one notable exception, namely an introduction to global development education by Kanakidou & Papagianni (2010).

In terms of projects, nowadays in Greece prevalent is the implementation of projects mostly related to refugees, due to the recent and ongoing refugee crisis, and the need to either host them until they are relocated or integrate them. The projects are funded by the European Union,[36] various countries such as Denmark and Norway, charitable foundations and so on. Indicatively, it is noted that the UNHCR has implemented a number of projects funded from the European Union and others,[37] in an attempt to respond to the crisis of the massive influx of migrants to Greece through its eastern—mostly sea—borders, aided both by large NGOs with global impact, such as the International Rescue Committee, the Danish Refugee Council, Medicines Sans Frontiers, and local NGOs such as Praksis, the Greek Refugee Council, Medical Intervention, Metadrasi, etc.

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[35] As we will see shortly, the Greek legislation concerning citizenship and naturalization of third country nationals changed only a few years later, in 2016.

[36] For example, the EU has contracted 440,000,000 euro to humanitarian aid partners (https://ec.europa.eu/echo/aggregator/sources/5_fr)

[37] For example, between 2015 and January 2018, UNHCR has spent over 200,000,000 USD for their operations in Greece (https://data2.unhcr.org/es/documents/download/61705).

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A plethora of projects have also been undertaken by various municipalities across Greece, which host refugees and make the best they can, not only in order to provide for their new residents but also to help them become an integral part of the hosting societies. As indicative, we mention the various hosting facilities that have been provided in a lot of municipalities, including Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki etc., and the initiative of the City of Athens Coordination Centre for Migrant and Refugee issues, the first of its kind that brings together all the stakeholders involved, including state, city and civil society groups.[38]

In a sense, some of the projects being implemented in Greece right now are projects related to migration and sustainable development. After all, the refugee and migrant integration touches on a number of the UN's SDGs such as No Poverty (#1), Quality Education (#4), Clean Water and Sanitation (#6), Decent Work and Economic Growth (#8), Reduced Inequalities (#10), and Sustainable Cities and Communities (#11). Therefore, although the various projects of Greek municipalities hosting refugees do not specifically address any of the aforementioned SDGs, by providing –or trying to—decent accommodation to refugees they address SDGs #6 and 10. NGOs such as IRC that try to help refugees find jobs address SDG #1, 8 and 10, other NGOs and the state in their efforts to provide schooling to refugee children address SDG #4, whereas all these efforts address indirectly SDG #11.

An initiative in the direction of promoting international development cooperation and development education is the Hellenic Platform for Development,[39] which was established in 2015 and aims to do so through the coordination of NGOs performing in relevant fields. Ultimately, its main goal is to influence the decision-makers in Greece, in the EU and internationally, for the improvement of policies and practices for sustainable development and to provide education, development of skills, and training and sharing of information among Greek NGOs on the issues concerning sustainable development.

As mentioned above, development education as an individual educational subject in Greece has yet to reach schools and, further, universities. The civil society is the frontrunner in this case, and two attempts in this direction that have taken place in Greece so far come from it (Diroyianni, 2010; Πράσινη Κιβωτός (Prasini Kivotos), 2017). The first attempt is under the auspices of ActionAid and appeals to school children, whereas the other effort has been supported by the academic community. Specifically the seminars that are run by Prasini Kivotos, a CSO, have been commissioned to it by the Research Commission of the University of Thessaly in the context of a European Rural DEAR Agenda – EYD 2015 project, thus displaying collaboration between civil society and the academia. What is more, this project shows that the European Union's commitment to development education has started yielding positive results.

[38] The website of the centre: http://www.accmr.gr/en/
[39] The website of the platform: http://hellenicplatform.org/?lang=en

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Finally, it should be noted that with regards to environmental sustainability there are several publications addressed to students (such as Kaila et Al 2005; Dimitriou, 2009; Flogaiti, 2011 etc., but also a plethora of publications that may be found on the website of Sustainable School (Αειφόρο Σχολείο),[40] and they are worth noting because environmental sustainability is also among the UN's SDGs, even though it is not covered individually.[41]

2.4 Case studies of good practices

Given that the relation between sustainable development and migration has yet to become an issue that will attract the national attention, there have not been any attempts to raise awareness in this direction. Having said that, we may consider projects such as the Hellenic Platform for Development and initiatives like that of ActionAid and Prasini Kivotos to constitute good practices in this direction, although strictly speaking their goals are multiple and the awareness raising element is only partially if not indirectly associated with them.

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

Given that there is very little on the relation between migration and (sustainable) development in the Greek public discourse, it comes as no surprise that there is nothing in the legislation either. However, if assuming that certain aspects of dealing with migration are related to sustainable development, even if indirectly, then there is legislation and policies in this direction that have been advanced in recent years. The most obvious such aspects include the naturalisation of third country nationals, and the refugee status and relocation, but also changes in the policies of schools across the country that have been called to accommodate newly arrived migrant or refugee students.

The issue of the naturalisation of third country nationals has been debated for long in Greece, in particular, a decade or two after the country became a significant destination for migrants in the 1990s, when the second generation of immigrants started coming of age. Although this issue has not been associated with sustainable development, it can certainly be asserted that a solution to the problem of those children and sustainable development go hand in hand, not only for their future in Greece, but also for the future or Greece as a country with a demographic problem. Thus, after years of discussions and debates, in 2015 a law that would allow for the naturalisation of great parts of the immigrant population of Greece was

[40] For a review on the education on sustainable growth in Greece after 2015, the interested reader may consult Delari (2015). The site of Sustainable School: http://www.aeiforosxoleio.gr/
[41] Factors affecting the environment can be found in SDGs with number 7, 13, 14, & 15.

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published, with positive responses from the people most affected by the pre-existing state of affairs (LawSpot, 2015; Gaglias, 2015).

The legislation and regulations concerning refugee status and relocation changed in Greece in 2016, thus expediting processes, which have as a consequence a faster path to integration for those who will stay in Greece (GR law 4375/2016; CNN Greece, 2016; Georgiopoulou, 2017).

Finally, so far as primary and secondary education are concerned, a large number of fast steps have been taken since 2015, in order to offer all newly arrived children a chance to complete their primary and secondary education.[42] A lot of what has been done concerns the accommodation of children who do not speak the language and at first it was restricted to children age 6-15 but recently the legislation has also included children 15-17. The production of new regulations continues as the needs are continuously assessed and are covered one after another.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

At this juncture, Greece is in the process of tackling two major issues: the first concerning the state of its economy and the second concerning the refugees who have settled in Greece or continue to arrive. Each of these two issues is a challenge of its own for any country, let alone one that saw its GDP being reduced by almost 25% in the past eight years. This does not mean that the country can or will try to avoid its international commitments. On the contrary, the commitment of the Greek state to the UN's SDGs is reflected in a number of regulations and projects related to environmental sustainable development – ranging from the promotion of production of energy through renewable sources and further promotion of green growth to protection of aquatic environment and paying attention to regional planning[43], as well as in the publicising of the SDGs for a while now.[44]

However, the point of fact is that even prior to the refugee crisis – although admittedly in the midst of the economic one – the Greek state had not done much to comply with European Union commitments to SDGs and Policy Coherence for Development. As the 2013 and 2015 Reports on Policy Coherence for Development of the European Commission reveal, Greece had either done very little (by 2013) or was omitted altogether from the report (2015). All these may imply that at this particular juncture with its challenges, the Greek state may have

[42] For all the relevant policies that are already in place see the designated site of the Greek Institute of Educational Policy: http://iep.edu.gr/el/component/k2/content/5-ekpaidefsi-prosfygon

[43] For detailed information on the sustainable development policy and its specific applications by the Ministry or Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the interested reader is directed to the Ministry's site: http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=230&locale=en-US&language=el-GR

[44] The designated page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: https://www.mfa.gr/exoteriki-politiki/pagkosmia-zitimata/stokhoi-biosimes-anaptuxes.html.

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to solve the two equations concerning development, and the refugee crisis and migration rather independently from one another.
O
n the other hand, the civil society, the academic community and the community of teachers have a lot at their disposal and may well play an important role in the direction of raising awareness first and of effecting essentially the national legislation in the future so that it does reflect even more international commitments to sustainable development, in general, and to sustainable development in relation to migration, in particular.

3. Field research

3.1 Introduction

Two focus groups were conducted in order to collect information regarding the topic at hand from experts and enrich the findings of the literature review. Group I comprised six stakeholders from the fields of migration, sustainable development and global education. The stakeholders were chosen on the basis of their area of expertise and active roles in the national and European academic and political life in relation to the fields of sustainable development, global education and migration. Their specific areas of expertise are as follows: an expert on global sustainability, former Senior Advisor and Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Global Sustainability Panel, and in this capacity one of the people who formulated the SDGs; a Greek researcher at the University of Geneva with expertise on social policy, welfare states in comparative perspective, Social Europe, open method of coordination, soft Europeanisation, and European integration, and Senior Researcher at UN; a professor at the University of Peloponnese with expertise on international economic relations, former development policy adviser for a parliamentary party; a researcher at the Greek Centre of Planning and Economic Research who specialised in international political economy and migration; a university professor of global political economy, founding member and former president of the Hellenic Development Platform; and an adviser to the Minister of Economics and Development with expertise on political economy and development policies.

Group II comprised six stakeholders from fields associated with education. The stakeholders were chosen on the basis of their area of expertise and active roles as educators and education administration in the national education sector in the region of Central Macedonia. Their specific areas of expertise are as follows: the director of the Municipal Directorate of Secondary Education of Imathia; a state school adviser on teaching and pedagogical issues to the Greek language teachers; a junior high school headmaster; the Director of a Teacher Training Centre in Thessaloniki; a member of the Working Group for the Management, Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee education in Northern Greece; a university lecturer on computer science and logistics, with long experience on for the design and development

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of regional operational programs and collaboration with educational institutions in Central Macedonia on the implementation of European Commission and national funding mechanisms in national and regional level.

The sampling procedure included contact with relevant stakeholders and institutions through the organisations' contacts to select experts in the field of migration, sustainable development and development education. In both focus groups the conversation was inspired by a number of questions dictated by the agenda. Apart from the questions on the agenda, additional issues were also discussed in each group, depending on the interests, knowledge and question of the participants. The conversation was digitally recorded only in Group II. The reason for not recording the conversation in Group I is that one of the participants in it is a government official, and he agreed to participate in the group on the condition of anonymity.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

The two groups were uneven with respect to the depth of their knowledge on the UN document of SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Habitat III and the EU's Policy Coherence for Development. The participants in Group I were very well versed with the content of the aforementioned documents/initiatives/strategies as well as the complexity of the relations between sustainable development and migration. Group II, on the other hand, was mostly aware of the more narrow relation of sustainable development to the environment and climate change. That gave a variability and diversity in the responses, which is required when one targets general and specific knowledge on the topic at hand.

Moreover, both groups were well aware of the global implications of the migration issue, as well as of its links to economy, environment, the society and governance, although each group used its own terms to talk about these issues. In addition, both groups noted that Greece appears to be lagging behind with respect to its international and European commitments to sustainable development and policy coherence respectively.

The fact that the educators-participants in Group II were less well informed on the various agreements and policy commitments than the participants in Group I may be attributed to limited information on such issues from the media and the press. After all, the media are the source of all new information for non-professional and non-academics who are not involved in such issues professionally. This disparity indicates that there is certainly need for offering more information to the educators about SDGs, Paris Agreement, Habitat III etc. and possibly need to bring back these agreements and commitments to the public eye in the awareness raising events.

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

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The discussion regarding the link between migration and sustainable development was extensive in both groups, despite the different perspectives of the two groups and the fact that the knowledge on the issue of the two groups was uneven. The discussion in Group II focused on what –through the Greek experience of emigration in the 1990s and 2000s—were perceived to be the negative aspects of migration on development and social cohesion, and certain stereotypes were exposed and analysed critically. Focus group participants stressed that more scientific research is necessary, in order to shed light on the actual impacts of migration on society, and that this research should reach the general public.

Group I analysed in depth the relation between sustainable development and both aspects of migration, namely emigration, and immigration. They proposed that sustainable development may be examined from two points of view: as the result of immigration or as the result of emigration. For example, regions that are poor may benefit from emigration in more than one way: the unemployment may be reduced as a result of the outflow of working-age people, while the money available to the local economy may increase as a result of remittances flowing in from emigrants who help their families, whose fortune, conditions and prospects may improve even in sustainable ways. As a result, emigration may contribute to the development of the area. On the other hand, an economy and society may improve their odds for sustainable development thanks to immigrants. For example, it is known that the influx of immigrants in the 1990s and 2000s in Greece rescued the social security system (pensions and healthcare) as a large number of young workers changed the demographics. The opposite possible effects on sustainable development of both immigration and migration were also discussed. In concluding this discussion, the participants in this group stressed the need for better data, which will strengthen further certain ideas that highlight the positive impact of migration on development.

3.4 Insecurity

Both groups identified similar reasons why societies may feel insecure, but each group laid different emphasis on different aspects. Hence, Group I highlighted the socio-economic conditions, economic disparities, job insecurity and migration, whereas Group II focused mainly on the Greek society and identified the reasons to feel insecure as health, the outbreak of epidemics, the religion, and then criminality and, lastly, availability of jobs. This difference of perspective may be attributed to differences in the professional focus of the participants in the two groups. Thus, the educators (Group II) deal with students and their family situation, hence their perspective is associated with the atoms comprising a society, whereas the experts (Group I) who deal with concepts, ideas and policies are more inclined to look at things at the level of society and the state.

The insecurity that host societies develop due to the influx of immigrants was discussed in both groups at length. Group I delved into the complexities of the relations between insecurity

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and migration and pointed out that insecurity in the socio-economic and environmental conditions in a county/region is typically associated with outflow, hence emigration; whereas security in the corresponding conditions in a country/region is associated with inflow, hence immigration. However, they, too, noted that inflow-immigration may (and usually does) cause insecurity to the host population. On the same issue, Group II pointed out that insecurity in the society is increased by mass media and social media misrepresentation of incidents involving immigrants. They also discussed yet another aspect of insecurity, caused by the emigration of young well-educated Greek people, who migrate to other developed countries in order to find a job, or a better-paid job, because of the economic crisis in Greece.

Finally, both groups agreed that the Greek society does not feel threatened by terrorism as connected to migration.

The particular ways in which the Greeks might feel threatened by migration indicates that better information about the positives of migration of both the educators as well as the public would not go amiss. For, such information would dispel unfounded fears.

3.5 Main factors shaping public opinion and instruments shaping public discourse

Both groups agreed that the factors shaping the public opinion include the mass communication media, with special emphasis to the press, and the academic community, but they diverged in the importance that laid on the role of social media, with the group of educators placing them at the top of the influencers, and the role of the policy makers, with the group of experts giving them prominent role in how the future will be shaped. The same group also included the Non-Governmental Organisations, groups of citizens and the public discourse expressed by people.

Both groups also considered the role of education and hence the role of the educational community to be of particular importance. Group I pointed out that even the academic community would benefit from being educated on issues revolving around the relation of migration and sustainable development as these have surfaced in recent years and hence many members of that community may still be unaware of it. However, both groups discussed possible ways in which education at other levels would enable students and adults comprehend the positive influence of migration on development. Group II asserted that the education community could play a very active role through awareness raising campaigns that could involve from groups of experts to social media campaigns, targeting not only students but also parents and the local community. Such campaigns are sometimes run centrally, by the relevant Ministries.

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Finally, the role of experts was also discussed in both groups, with Group I highlighting the importance of popularization of complicated issues, like the relation between migration and development, while Group II voiced the need for experts to step up in order to fill in the gaps in information in accurate and scientific ways.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

The outline of the discussions that took place in each of the focus groups is the same: there was consensus that the majority of the Greek public are not informed about the relation between sustainable development and migration, nor are they adequately informed about facts concerning migration and, separately, sustainable development. The gaps in information can be filled by all the instruments that affect public opinion, which have been presented above. However, the group of educators emphasised that the issue needs to be treated in an interdisciplinary and experiential way through all the school subjects and not through isolated actions. Thus, they laid out a roadmap for all the stakeholders involved in education, ranging from schools and refugee management teams to regional teacher training centres and universities that may be followed if particular activities are planned.

3.7 The role of education systems

The role of education systems was deemed very important by both groups, as education constitutes the foremost weapon against ignorance, and thus it helps dispel fear. It was pointed out that education in this context concerns all levels, from educating the academic educators, to university to school to society and lifelong learning. Tertiary education's role is of particular importance in informing and training teachers and through them the societies. Also significant is the other role played by universities: the production of new and important-because informative-research on issues previously unexamined.

Group II emphasised also the fact that in order for the teachers to play their crucial role in society, they need to be continuously trained. This training needs to be organised by state institutions, such as the Teacher Training Centres, in collaboration with the Greek Institute for Educational Policy and the Municipal Directorates of Secondary Education, so that there is greater impact. They also pointed out that of great importance in this context are the European programmes, as they can greatly contribute to expanding the knowledge, developing techniques, applying practices and exchanging ideas, so that migration can be

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connected to sustainable development most effectively. And this is also understood by the communities and the societies.

Both groups agree, therefore, that the educational system has a very significant role to play in educating the students (through formal and non-formal education) and the public (through lifelong learning etc.); but they also stress that even the educators themselves have to be trained. The group of experts pointed out that even the university teachers ought to be educated, as the concepts and issues involved in sustainable development and its relation to migration are new—they had not arisen or taken such a central stage when the current academics were educated.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Although the sample was small the variable expertise of the participants, including a government official proved invaluable. With regards to recommendations, given the complexities of the relation between migration and sustainable development, the research above point to a well-supported recommendation that the Greek state and society need better information and more accurate data, from which sound conclusions concerning that relation may be drawn and which will lead to recommendations, policies and actions that will benefit the society, the state and the world. However, accepting the fact that migration is eminent nowadays, and assuming that migration is a necessary characteristic of sustainable development in the global society, regardless of the particulars of their relation, there is a number of suggestions that could still be made.

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

The role of organisations in sustainable development education that takes into consideration the role of migration is restricted mostly to civil society. Indeed, as discussed above, it is an NGO—Action Aid—that has initiated sustainable development education with reference to migration in Greece, and this is certainly a role that may be played effectively by more NGOs. In particular, NGOs that deal with migration and/or education, especially those maintaining a positive view about the relation between sustainable development and migration, could expand their scope and reach out to the society at large, in order to raise awareness of the issue and of the positive impact of migration to sustainable development.

Another contribution some NGOs may make is to help develop practices whereby immigrant communities contribute positively to the development of the greater local communities that host them. That is to say, by helping immigrants to find employment or to engage in

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entrepreneurial activities, they would create success stories that would constitute the best publicity for the issue at hand.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

As stated above, the information that is currently available about the relation between sustainable development and migration is incomplete, and, therefore, it is too early to make specific recommendations to governmental institutions in relation to it. However, it may not be too early to suggest that since at the global level migration is here to stay, a state would be better off if it gave migration a central role in fulfilling its commitment to SDGs.

One recommendation that would not go amiss, however, is that the Greek state as a whole ought to honour its European and international commitments with regards to sustainable development and policy coherence for development. More specifically, it should heed to the advice stated in the 2013 EU report on policy coherence for development, for example, and develop specific strategies for reaching specific SDGs.

Another recommendation is to make the SDGs and the PCD commitments something that goes over and above specific political parties, by reaching political consensus on these issues.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

The disclaimer stated above also holds for local government. However, two recommendations that can be made to the municipalities are, first, to facilitate the integration of all newly arrived immigrants and refugees, and, second, to help raise awareness about the situation of the migrants, in particular the newcomers, and foster a positive attitude towards migrants and their integration in the society. For, integration of immigrants in the host community is a *sine qua non* for sustainable development and, arguably, for development also.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

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Educational institutions could, and indeed should play a pivotal role in awareness raising about UN's SDGs and the other analogous commitments that our country should adhere to. With regards to the relation between sustainable development and migration, starting from the universities, the recommendation is for more research on the relation between sustainable development and migration, for the development of courses and programmes that would educate the educators first and then the school students and the public, and for outreach of the educators to the entire society including Open Universities for the public in the municipalities and the administrative peripheries. Ways in which this might be done include studies at the undergraduate and graduate university level, seminar meetings at regional and national level, change in school curricula, local civil society mobilization with lifelong learning seminars and programmes etc. And of course the coordination and collaboration of the institutions of the Ministry of Education involved in lifelong teacher training on issues related to migration and sustainable development would constitute the most important factor in improving the sensitisation of the societies on these issues, as well as in developing a secure framework that will connect effectively the international migration with sustainable development.

Alongside the local government bodies, the educational institutions should also contribute to awareness raising about the situation of the migrants, in particular the newcomers, and fostering a positive attitude towards migrants and their integration in the society.

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

The power is in the numbers, which do not lie. It is for this reason that, as mentioned above, more and more accurate data about migration and its impact on the society, economy, crime, development etc. has been requested time and again. This, therefore, is a significant, even if broadly defined, area for future research.

Another broad area for research that has been identified by the present research concerns the particulars of the intricate relation between migration and sustainable development. Turning our attention to Greece, three aspects of migration have played a role in shaping the current situation of the country, namely immigration in the 1990s and 2000s, emigration with brain drain in the 2010s and a crisis with incoming refugees since 2015. Defining sustainable development targets in relation to migration in Greece requires probing into the details of how the various kinds of migration are affecting and being affected by the social, economic and environmental factors associated with development, and this opens up a research area that should be explored by various scientists from a number of disciplines.

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ITALIAN REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: REGION OF TUSCANY

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

Over the last 20 years, schools, local authorities, NGOs, Universities and the nuanced world of the associations have worked together to spread a new cultural model based on reception and inclusion, intercultural development education, undertaking the role of promoters of a better knowledge and awareness of the global-local interdependencies between economic, social, cultural and environmental phenomena. Gaps and rigidities are not lacking in this complex task: for example, upper secondary schools, and Universities in particular, are strongly bound on what they teach: not connected, fragmented, specialised, sectorial and auto-referential subjects, knowledge that lose sight of complexity and interconnections.

Moreover, this continuous work of dissemination of knowledge and awareness lacked (and still lacks) the necessary continuity and unity, as it has always been based on scarce and irregular funding and rooted in a troubled and hostile political and cultural environment, both at national and local level. The issues which the InterCap project focuses on are surrounded by false rumours, populism and rough knowledge that feed on disorientation, ignorance and economic insecurity feared by people, who are blind to the entanglements and complexity of the global-local phenomena in the current development area.

As suggested by researchers, Italy is behind schedule in the educational alignment to other countries' standards of sustainability and resilience. Similarly, Italy's engagement in support of an effective and long-sighted action of dissemination aimed to help the general public understanding the complex reasons underlying the migration phenomenon and its interlinkages with the environmental/economic sustainability is behind schedule (Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition 2017). A recent literature review seems to confirm this trend.

1.2 Aims and objectives

This research aims to give a general picture of the relation between migration, sustainable development and education and school sector in Italy, with a particular focus on Tuscany region.

1.3 Available data and recourses

To write the report the most recent surveys, reports and researches have been used. All these sources are from some of the most influential Italian Research Institutions. Research

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and studies realised by experts of the themes and by NGOs have also been used. Institutional material and in more limited cases journalistic resources have been used too.

1.4 Limitations

The report, in the short time given to the researcher, has been written using the resources on internet. To a lesser extent, printed sources have been used. Another limitation is the lack of research and project production at Italian level.

With regards to the field research, the main limitation is that we did not manage to carry out the focus groups, so we decide to collect stakeholders' feedback with phone interviews (2 cases) and written interview (4 cases).

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

Migrants and asylum seekers are increasingly perceived as a problem in Italy. As the economy of our country goes global, politics is following the opposite path, becoming increasingly nationalist. The threats posed by Islamic terrorism over the last few years provide grounds for stricter policies of containment, namely those towards refugee seekers. However, statistics reveal another surprising fact: those refugees who reach the EU countries account for less than 10 % out of the global total, and most of them are actually fleeing from ISIS. The perpetrators of the terror attacks that have shaken Europe, instead, are almost invariably born and raised in Europe and there they became radicalised. Due to its geographical position, Italy has often found itself at the receiving end of the migration flows; however, despite the percentage of arrivals is constantly increasing, Italy is among the last countries in Europe when the ratio of the number of refugees to the total population is concerned: 3 refugees per thousand inhabitants. (M. Ambrosini 2017, Fondazione Migrantes 2018, Ciabarri L. 2015, Oxfam Italia 2017).

The recent survey Osservatorio Europeo sulla Sicurezza, carried out by Demos/Fondazione Unipolis (Fondazione Unipolis 2017) draws attention to how much the perception of unsafety caused by the presence of immigrants in Italy has reached the higher figure for the past ten years: 46 %. Only in 2007 there was a higher rate (51 %), whereas in 1999, the year when municipal and European elections both occurred, the fear of immigrants was just as widespread. In both occasions, immigration was one of the key topics of debate, caused by the concerns about the increase in crime and eventually resulting in the centre-right's

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democratic electoral win. This subject has been taken up again only now since then, as a consequence of news such as the large influx of migrants from North-African coasts and the hideous violent events that took place in Rimini, Macerata, Firenze, etc.

Today's scenario does not appear very different from the one in 2007. However, the current situation has specific features that mirror several shocks occurred over the past ten years on an economic, social and politic level. Despite the relative stability existing since 2012, the labour market situation, as well as the deep inequalities within society, is a key reason why Italians have closed themselves off from migrants and asylum-seekers.

Italy is today facing also problems that were not perceived as such ten years ago, such as terrorism and the environmental uncertainty linked to the earthquakes and the other hazards that have hit Italy in the recent past. Let us look in detail at the standard indexes provided by the Osservatorio.

The global uncertainty index, measuring the major concerns perceived by Italians, holds the first place with 76%. Italians are mostly concerned about the "destruction of the environment and nature" (58%), "pollution" (55%), "safety of food" (47%), "terrorist attacks" (44%), "globalization" (39%) and "falling victim of natural disasters" (38%). The fear of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides and floods, has increased by 13 points compared to 2016.

The index of economic uncertainty comes second, accounting for 63% of the overall concerns of Italians. What Italians fear most can be summarized as it follows: "losing a pension or not having it at all" (38%) and "losing a job, becoming unemployed" (37%) and "not having enough to live on" (37%), as aftershocks of the past economic crisis.

The index of "insecurity due to criminality" holds third place with 41% (Iafrate 2017). The index of the overall uncertainty, which sums up the three main sources of insecurity mentioned above, presents the same value as ten years ago (29%), even though the "chart of the insecurities" now comprises data such as "politic uncertainty" and "our children's future", that did not exist in the past.

The relationship existing between immigration and the rise in criminality is a widespread conviction. As a matter of fact, the past surveys Osservatorio di Demos had pointed out how the perception of the rise in criminality was directly linked to the increasing fear of the foreigners and perceived as a danger for individual safety and a threat to employment. Over the last two years, however, the Osservatorio highlighted how the relevance of criminal phenomena has been scaled down, while the fear of the migrants has risen instead. According to 78% of the respondents, there has been an increase of criminal events in the last five years, although data have decreased by 3 points compared to 2016 and 10 compared to 2007. Conversely, the fear of the foreigners has been increasing: 39% of respondents see migrants as a threat to public order security; 36% sees them as a threat to employment. Both figures show higher values than 2007, when they jumped to 50%, but tensions still remain.

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With regard to the demographics of the respondents, those with a lower education level seem to be the more xenophobic. However, whatever the level of education, xenophobia is higher among right-wingers, while left-wingers feel safer (Diamanti 2017).

Looking at the data from the Eurobarometer (Eurobarometer 2017), it clearly emerges that "immigration and terrorism are the leading concerns at EU level". Immigration is seen as a concern by 39% of respondents, while terrorism by 38%. According to the survey, "though the increase is limited (+1), immigration has gained ground for the first time since autumn 2015, after a 20-percentage point decline between autumn 2015 and spring 2017. After a steep rise between autumn 2016 and spring 2017 (+12), which took terrorism to the top of the ranking for the first time, this concern has now lost some ground, falling to second place."

For Italian respondents, immigration and terrorism are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment (38% and 34% respectively). At a national level, immigration is the second most important issue facing Italy according to the respondents of the Eurobarometer survey (33%) while the first one is unemployment (42%). Terrorism is seen as one of the two most important issues by 13% of respondents (6th most important issue). These data confirm the one found for Italy by the survey Osservatorio Europeo sulla Sicurezza (Fondazione Unipolis 2017) analysed before.

2.2 Media response

Not a day goes by in Italy where media do not cover immigration. Both the studies carried out in the past and the present ones have highlighted how the phenomenon has been historically linked to danger, crime, social unrest and other negative associations (Di Luzio 2011, Montesano 2010, Calvanese 2011, Binotto, Bruno, Lai, 2012). Among the most recent studies, it seems important to refer to the Rapporto dell'Associazione "Carta di Roma" (www.cartadiroma.org), a research on the mediatic behaviour on the migration flows over the last year (Beretta P., Milazzo G. 2016, Lai 2017). What follow are the main findings of the report.

Almost 44% of the news reported in the newspapers examined covered the arrivals in Central Mediterranean countries. News on criminality and insecurity increased by an average of 10 more compared to 3 years ago. Conversely, reports on immigrants' reception decreased by one third compared to 2016. Crime stories, such as that about the gang rape in Rimini, were covered 137 times in a month, with peaks of 28 news items a day. Sensational news and alarmistic claims rose from 27% in 2016 to 43% in 2017. 4 headlines / news out of 10 bring about anguish and distress. The remaining 57% adopts a neutral language (52%) or a reassuring one (5%).

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Immigration and politics go almost always hand-in hand in the ongoing debate (Musarò, Parmiggiani 2014, Binotto, Bruno, Lai 2016). The reception of immigrants is regarded as a phenomenon to be managed at grassroots level by local and European decision-makers, while the award of the Italian citizenship to those born there is deemed as a topic to be discussed in the national arena. National press focuses more on the political debate, often arguing in favour of one or another solution according to the political position of the newspaper. On the other hand, local press gives higher importance to relevant issues at a local level, paying a special attention to criminal events with migrants as perpetrators, or on the problems perceived as such (Erta 2014).

Since 2017, the narrative depiction of migrants started evoking feelings such as doubt, mistrust, suspicion. For instance, the front pages of newspaper started featuring events such as the potential collusion between NGOs and traffickers of human beings, which fosters doubts on the real intention of humanitarian associations. Terrorism, crime, decay, transmission of diseases and threats to public order and security are other topics often linked to the above feelings.

As far as discrimination is concerned, the analysis of newspaper headlines carried out in the "Carta di Roma" report highlights four areas of denigrating depictions of migrant people, several of which spread, intentionally or not, offensive and discriminatory claims: religion, violence, costs and diseases. These points deserve a greater deepening (Beretta P., Milazzo G. 2017).

Mass-media often spread generalizations based on religious stereotypes. In these, Islam is often depicted as a sect of extremists that presents consistent incompatibilities with the Catholic religion and the Western culture and values. Islam is almost always linked to terrorism, denial of women's fundamental rights and violence, usually used to "subdue infidels". What follow are some of the headlines appeared in the main Italian newspaper over the last year.

Table 1. Denigrating depictions of other people's religions. A collection of newspaper headlines on the national press:

"Migrants abound where terrorist attacks occur"
"The more Muslims, the more terrorism"
"Islam is willing to exterminate us with chemical and nuclear weapons. Assassins, thieves and terrorists: that is what the Imam inmates are"
"Turin, capital of the submission to Islam"
"Secludes and rapes his own sisters: 'they were too westernised'";
"I have become islamophobic and I am proud of it!"
"Here they go again saying that Islam has nothing to do with it!'"
"Quaraan kills more than handguns"
"'Migrants' or 'refugees' are invaders anyway"
"Guess what! Western terrorists grow up in the mosques"
"Islam slaughters 35 Christians"

Muslims are frequently depicted as a socially dangerous group, fairly homogeneous despite the diversities at its core. Their crimes often provide pretexts to highlight alleged connections

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between their condition as migrants, holding a different ethnicity, “race”, culture and religion, and their natural propension to commit crimes and violence, especially against women (Lai 2015). Whenever such crimes concern Italian perpetrators, they fall within the category of gender-based violence. Conversely, when foreign perpetrators are concerned, regardless their being legal migrants, asylum-seekers or refugees etc. – the “migration framework” is the one that prevails, while that of gender-based violence fades into the background. What follow are some of the headlines appeared in the main Italian newspaper over the last year.

Table 2. Denigrating depictions of violence. A collection of newspaper headlines on the national press:

“Minniti (the former Italian Ministry of the Interior, AN) and his statistics prove that Italy nowadays imports more criminals than goods”
“To cut down the rape cases we need to curb the influx of migrants. Foreign people rape more than Italians; stats never lie”
“Migration is the leading cause of rapes in Italy”
“Rome: robbed and raped by a refugee”
“Alleged refugee, real rapist”
“Illegal migrant rapes a girl”
“Beaten by her Moroccan husband”
“Rome: tied to a pole and raped”
“Fear for a 15-year old girl harassed and beaten by two immigrants”
“Two refugees arrested for sexual abuse”
“Raped by an asylum-seeker in Bergamo”
“13-year old girl raped by two Nigerians at the playground”
“80-year old woman goes shopping. Raped by a foreign man”
“Nigerian helps a 75-year old, then beats her up and rape her”
“Raging migrant rapes a dog”

With regard to the costs of immigration and reception, the denigrant depiction of migrants usually puts in comparison the resources allocated for the integration and reception of migrants with those taken away from Italians, fostering the inappropriate perception of an alleged “embezzling” of subsidies and other resources to which Italians should be entitled. Ad-hoc storytelling techniques accentuate the gap between “us” and “them”, depicting migration as an unsustainable cost and extending the condition of “assisted” to the whole group of migrants while their real contribution to the Italian economy is overlooked and their status as refugees deemed as a lucky privilege. Tab.3 reports some of the headlines appeared in the main Italian newspaper over the last year.

Table 3. Denigrating depictions of the immigration costs. A collection of newspaper headlines on the national press:

“Migrant women chow down the government maternity grant”
“Migrant women have even their (graduate!) baby-sitters paid by our government”
“Immigrants have their soccer camps paid by us!”
“Indigent students receive from our government 83 % less than the amount paid for migrants”
“Refugees get their cottages, while 30 % of the inhabitants of Amatrice (a small town in central Italy, heavily affected by earthquakes in 2016, AN) still have got nowhere to stay”
“Our borders are always open to refugees, but closed to the retirees fleeing fiscal treatment”
“INPS (the Italian social security institution, AN) must be drunk not to realize how much money is lost for migrants”

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“Refugees steal the orchards from retirees”
“Nowadays Nigerians take mafiosi’s jobs”
“Educational grants have been drawn up into migrants’ business”

Another recurring generalisation by mass media is that concerning the diseases brought over by immigrants to our country. This false claim feeds on the citizens’ worry about their health and the transmission of rare and untreatable diseases. The incubus of viral plagues in our country is palpable in the following claims, where migrants are spreaders of epidemics or, alternatively, people with mental issues causing danger to society (see Tab. 4).

Table 4. Denigrating depictions of the migrants’ diseases. A collection of newspaper headlines on the national press:

“Nigerian leper causes panic in Rimini”
“A non-Community malaria”
“The Ministry confirms it: foreigners bring diseases to Italy”
“Scientists confirm it: immigrants are crazy”
“Refugees alarm: 38 cases of TB and 2000 of scabies”
“Milan, 2.000 refugees have scabies”
“Uncontrolled migrants. And viruses follow them”
“Imported malaria: here is the evidence”
“The mental issues of those arriving on the barge”

With regard to the relationship between media, environment and sustainable development issues, it would be useful to make some reference to the last Rapporto OSA-Osservatorio sullo Sviluppo Sostenibile e l’Ambiente nei Media, realized by Pentapolis (Pentapolis 2017). The report shows how media are likely to cover environmental issues only in the aftermath of natural hazards, and only treating them as sensational news, without drawing any attention to the interlinkages between these events and other social phenomena, which include migrations.

All in all, the Report points out a still uneven presence of environmental issues in media coverage. This, along with the little influence of pressure groups and the ineffective activism by the competent press, caused a substantial lack of interest by decision makers and, consequently, in public opinion. There is the worrying tendency to “forget that sustainability in the energy and food industries, waste disposal and rural development, is definitely going to have an impact on the future economy” (Pentapolis 2017).

The reports mentioned above highlight the need to change the narrative on migrations, underlining its structural relation with the sustainable development issues and the root causes of this phenomenon in all the diverse contexts, through new researches and evidences. The ultimate goal will be that of fighting against disinformation, stereotypes and fake contents circulating through media and political discourses, both at national and local level.

2.3 Research and project production

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This short paragraph draws on evidence from some reports and projects on the topics of the InterCap project.

A Report from Legambiente (Legambiente 2016) underlines the difficulties to define who is an environmental migrant and also to identify the interventions to be done in this field. Still, it is evident that the causes for which part of the Earth are unfit for habitation are vast and complementary. In this context the fight to energy and water resources buying up and to land grabbing play an important and decisive role. The Report shows that environmental migrants are not included in the refugee definition recognised by the Geneva Convention, so from the point of international protection they do not have any right. This makes the international protection system unsuitable to deal with what is happening in the last few years in terms of migrations. It is, therefore, urgent, the researcher underline, to review the definition of refugee of the Geneva Convention of 1951 and of the subsequent protocols. “If a formal recognised definition of environmental migrants is missing at international level and there is uncertainty on the variety and complexity of the reason behind the choice to migrate, a fact remains certain: environmental migrants flee from uninhabitable conditions of their territories, caused by disasters or by the slow transformation of environmental conditions. In one case or another, climate change is at the basis of this phenomenon”.

An interesting project of the University of Florence is the creation in 2017 of the Master in Management of Reception Services for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The professional profile that emerges from the master's proposal is characterised by a particular ability in managing relationships and collaborations with the services for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and other subjects in this field, with the institutions involved and with the territorial communities interested in reception.

Over the last few years, the CESPI Institute of Rome has been carrying out researches to address the root causes of international (and illegal) migration, such as conflicts, instability, poverty, environmental/climate change and unemployment in the countries of departure. In these studies, the approaches based on the single sectors are denied in favour of highlighting the role of international cooperation for development and thus changing the narration on migrations and sustainable development issues between Italy and the countries of departure and transit. For further information, see A. Stocchiero, *Per un Migration Compact in stile italiano. Le ambiguità della lotta alle radici profonde delle migrazioni: il caso dell’Etiopia nella rotta del Mediterraneo centrale*, Cespi, Roma, 2017 www.cespi.it

2.4 Case studies of good practices

InterCap’s main themes have been addressed in several initiatives undertaken at the level of organised civil society. The most significant example of this is the Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (ASviS), created in 2016 by Associazione Unipolis and the “Tor Vergata”

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University of Rome, to raise awareness of Italian society and institutions on the importance of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and to push them to take action to realize them (http://asvis.it/l-asvis).

The Alleanza reunites 180 among the most important institutions and civil society networks, such as business associations, trade unions and non-profit associations; CSOs focusing on specific development goals, such as health, economic welfare, education, work, environment, gender equality, etc.; local agencies; universities and research centres; other relevant actors in the fields of culture and information; foundations; associations and international networks revolving around the above topics; (Calvano 2017). In 2017, ASVIS realized the first edition of the Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile (Sustainable Development Festival – 22nd May-7th June 2017), a great event to raise general awareness and rethink the cultural and politic scenarios at national level.

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The fruitful relationship between immigration and development has shown itself with the decentralised cooperation, whose projects traditionally aimed to curb the diasporas with the collaboration between the countries of origin and the Concord Platform, where Italian NGOs for development, solidarity and international development are reunited (for further information on these initiatives, please see Summit nazionale delle diaspore, *Il Sistema Italia con le diaspore e nuove generazione per la cooperazione allo sviluppo. Raccolta di informazioni in occasione del Summit nazionale delle diaspore per la cooperazione italiana*, Roma, November 2017). On the other hand, over the last ten years several initiatives promoted by grassroots movements, civil society and local authorities, such as the Co-development programme managed by the City of Milan, have successfully taken place. As Concord Italia claims, such initiatives have flourished at national level in an “institutional vacuum”, not relying on a political environment or coordination tools. As a consequence of this, the ongoing initiatives aimed to promote social inclusion, better mobility and dialogue with asylum-seekers and returnees, currently carried out by the Ministries of the Intern and Employment social inclusion, are highly fragmented and financed by EU funds (Mendola, Rosati 2017).

At regional level, the Region of Tuscany is currently developing laudable programs bringing together the themes of immigration, development, education and information. It is important to mention, in this regard, the “Senza Frontiere. Associazioni di migranti protagoniste di una nuova dimensione della cooperazione internazionale Toscana” project, implemented by a pool of associations (Arci e Anci Toscana, CESVOT, COSPE, Euroafrican Partnership e

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Funzionari Senza Frontiere) and focused on strengthening the migrants' associations and the potential perspectives of cooperation between them and the other actors of cooperation in Tuscany. In addition, they have also mapped the migrants' associations actively operating in the region, set up training workshops, funded parallel actions from other partner associations in the fields of sustainable local development, education and enhancement of existing networks. In these co-development projects, foreigners who are resident in Tuscany were given the opportunity to connect their home countries to the ones that they are being hosted in, as well as the feeling of being active part of the hosting community. On the other hand, the above projects have successfully laid the foundations for a better reception of migrants, more respectful towards their needs and aimed at developing their awareness on the actions to be undertaken to achieve a sustainable development.

There are a number of other important regional initiatives that are worth a mention, such as the "Toscana senza frontiere" (Tuscany without borders) project to set an inclusive and pragmatic model of righteous TV information. Broadcast on "Toscana TV", Toscana senza frontiere was born to represent on the TV those foreign citizens resident in Tuscany, featuring a brief multilingual newscast and several interviews to people experiencing virtuous stories of integration and inclusion in Tuscany. It is worth to mention that the TV host was chosen among professionals from the second generation of immigrants: a positive choice that has proven so in a number of ways.

Finally, during the "Week on Education to Sustainability - Agenda 2030" promoted by UNESCO in November 2017 and during the entire school year 2017-2018, many initiatives have taken place on the issue of "Climate Change and Environmental refugees", since the reality of people forced to flee from drought, floods and famine caused by climate change, as well as from the wars waged to gain control over the natural resources, while the gap between the rich and the poor increasingly widens, cannot be overlooked anymore. (http://www.arpat.toscana.it/notizie/arpatnews/2017/190-17/settimana-unesco-2017-per-leducazione-alla-sostenibilita).

These projects, experiences and practices have been primarily carried out by regional and local institutions and NGOs and should ideally be supported by research activities by universities to develop, systemize and disseminate knowledge and approaches in a field where systemized knowledge is scarce and often unexploited.

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development/Migration and International commitments

On October 2nd, 2017, the Italian Government approved the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, (provided for by Law 221/2015), as a joint action between Italy and the UN Agenda 2030. The Strategy, defined by experts from civil society and local and national

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authorities, focuses on five different areas, all marked by letter P: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, all to be implemented through the achievement of national goals. The Strategy originated by deepening the outreach of the previous "*Strategia d'azione ambientale per lo sviluppo sostenibile in Italia 2002-2010"*, which has been now integrated with the objectives included in the UN Agenda 2030; the ultimate aim of this plan is that of "creating a new model of circular economy for a low-carbon society, resilient to climate change and other global issues". The 5 Ps driving the Strategy, all mirroring the interrelations between economic dynamics and social growth, are also going to be used to define the targets whose knowledge on the interdependencies of the flows (in migration, labour-market, trade, finance and communication) needs to be strengthened. The monitoring on the Strategy will reveal eventual contradictions and unsolved issues, enabling the actors of sustainable development to evaluate the measures taken, the consistency of national policies and the emerging issues on reception, access to rights, freedom of movement and the relations between global strives and national interests.

Table 5. The five areas of intervention

People: Erasing poverty and reducing social exclusion by overcoming the territorial disparities; Ensuring conditions suitable for developing human potential; Promoting health and environmental, social and cultural wellbeing. *Planet:* Curbing the loss of biodiversity; Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources; Creating resilient communities and territories, treasuring lands and landscapes. *Prosperity:* Funding and promoting research and innovation; Guarranteeing full employment and quality training; Promoting sustainable models of production and consumption; Decarbonizing economy. *Peace:* Promoting a non-violent and inclusive society; Tackling discriminations and ensuring both legality and lawfulness. *Partnership:* Combating imbalances and inequalities in wealth and opportunities to achieve better governance and rights; *Migration and Development*; Health; Education; Sustainable agriculture and food safety; Environment, climate change and energy for development; Safeguarding natural and cultural heritage; the private sector.

Through an holistic approach to phenomena, the above Strategy identifies several areas where joint action is not just possible, but also increasingly necessary: a) transnational welfare, immigration and cooperation; b) economy (trade, investments, entrepreneurship, labour), immigration and cooperation; c) flows of knowledge, brain and *skill drain* and cooperation; d) environment, immigration and cooperation (both in terms of unpredictable events such as natural hazards, and of long-term processes like desertification and sea-level rise due to climate change); d) finance, migrants' remittances and cooperation (how financial systems should be reformed to improve the value of remittances and financial inclusion; e) rural-urban development, migrations and cooperation; f) safety, migrations and cooperation; g) democracy, *peace building*, migrations and cooperation with regard to the role played by diasporas in helping the establishment of the rule of law in both countries of origin and destination.

The MIUR is engaged in many of the strategic choices, which is the reason why a *Piano per l'Educazione alla Sostenibilità* (2017) was adopted. Knowledge is essential and transversal to change, to combat poverty, to promote an open and inclusive society; this transversality is also underlined in the choice of SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and

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promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, in which quality education, awareness and communication all play a key role.

Concerning the relations between schools, Universities and research reported in the UN Agenda 2030, the MIUR set itself ambitious objectives for its work programme: a) facilitate the development of networks and areas for joint action between the actors of sustainable development and education towards sustainability to promote concrete action to spread knowledge and competences, lifestyles and sustainable models of production and consumption; b) develop plans for disseminating education to sustainability at all levels of education; c) propose actions and initiatives to drive the application of academic research and learning processes towards sustainable development actions; d) promote the realization of tools for non-formal education; e) support the good governance of public administration.

In addition, a set of guidelines for contrasting stereotypes, gender-based violence, and inequalities has been developed, in line with the Istanbul Convention, the Italian reform law "Buona Scuola" (l.107/2015), the updated Guidelines on Environmental and Food Education. Massive investments in properly training teaching staffs on these issues are foreseen. Other actions focus on university and research (scholarships, doctorates, tax incentives to enrol in ad hoc degree programs, ad-hoc funds for research), information and communication (information campaigns targeting all citizens and disseminated through the distribution channels of Ministries and educational institutions, along with their testimonials and sponsors). It is not really possible to say at the moment whether the actions deployed are going to be effectively implemented or not, given the unprecedented political and parliamentary situation created by the national democratic elections held last 4th March.

On the issue of asylum-seekers and their reception at regional level, the *Libro bianco sulle politiche di accoglienza di richiedenti asilo politico e protezione internazionale* is a valid document attesting the joint action between the associations of Tuscan municipalities (Anci Toscana) and the Region of Tuscany (http://www.regione.toscana.it/documents). This policy paper takes into proper consideration all the instruments already in use by the Region of Tuscany with the intention of integrate and improve them; however, on the other hand, this also constitutes a valid working basis from which a concrete improvement in terms of quality, equity, effectiveness and efficiency can be achieved, at both national and European level.

Over the last 10 years, Italy and especially the Region of Tuscany have distinguished themselves by their actions of decentralised cooperation, a type of intervention managed by Italian local authorities (Regions, Departments and Municipalities) in close collaboration with NGOs, local associations and ethnic and migrants' associations. Unlike the traditional development aid, decentralised cooperation operates on processes instead of projects, in order to develop the economies and the labour-market of the involved countries, their environmental protection and the reduction of migratory flows. For further examples of good practices in this regard, please refer to point 2.4 above.

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3.1. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

Six people have been interviewed from representatives of different educational sectors: primary and secondary schools, University researchers, professionals from associations and local authorities, selected for their competences and knowledge on the InterCap themes. Unfortunately, due to time constrains it was impossible to organise focus groups, so we contacted people asking them to participate to a telephone interview. Most of the people contacted were not available for the interview, so they were asked to answer to a written questionnaire instead.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development and about the links between migration and sustainable development

The interviews have generally shown that the topics of international migration and sustainable development are not sufficiently covered by media, politics and public opinion. The interviewees also stated that, in their perception, information on this topic is often flawed. However, they have expressed different views in this regard.

For some of them, national media do not focus enough on the relationship between migration and sustainable development, but rather consider them as two single subjects, migration and sustainable development. Often, they observe, any possible argumentation is characterised by interpretations that are strongly affected by political influences and pressures. The debate connected to migration is, in fact, no more than an expression of well-defined prejudices and cultural and politic point of views.

Interviewed teachers report that migration is discussed almost only in a negative way and this leads to difficulties in bringing this topic to schools, at educational level. One teacher states that “it is difficult to work with students on this topic when not at a systemic level”. In addition, she thinks that students are more aware of this issue than their parents. “The level of awareness of public opinion – continues another teacher – is low, if not zero. The connections between sustainable development and migration are always underestimated

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since there is a trend to focus on other topics. Adults are very influenced by media, and they rarely bring the topic of migration to light".

From the interviews it has also emerged that media usually deal with such topics with superficiality and that youth do not have the capacities and the instruments to go deeper and understand what lies behind certain issues.

Indifference toward these issues seems to be the main behavioural trait that pervades even those seemingly aware of the above interconnections.

As a confirmation of what already observed, one University teacher says: "There is very low awareness that environmental factors are at the roots of the actual migration trends. Processes such as land grabbing or desertification/soil depletion, as well as climate change, that causes destructions and devastation of the territories, for example, are little known even though some international institutions and various report indicate them as warring elements at the basis of the destruction of subsistence economies, which in turn force people to flee from rural areas or their countries".

Media on one side and politics on the other, have yet to demonstrate the willingness or the capacity to explain to the vast public the reality of the phenomenon and the adequate measures to deal with them. This is a big problem.

3.3 Insecurity

Our societies are largely and increasingly perceived as insecure. The Italian one makes no difference, as this perception closely depends on the economic and social situation of citizens. This seems to be the opinion shared by the experts interviewed, even though some differences in the interpretations and the point of views do exist.

Contexts where permanent jobs are rare obviously foster insecurity and instability among fellow citizens. This perception usually increases when there are many "foreigners", as they are commonly seen as treats instead rather than resources. In some other contexts migrants are seen as necessary, in others as a social and economic problem. From this crisis, old and new prejudices and misleading point of views emerge, and are easily exploitable by media and by some political parties and movements.
"A bad socio-economic situation", adds another interviewee, "leads to more racism and hate. Most Italian politics are contributing, with their speeches, to depict migrants as the cancer of our society."

Hardships in finding a job, inequalities and depletion of welfare, extensively justified as "necessities" given the actual economic situation, make people insecure and afraid to lose

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the job because of migrants. Migrants then serve as “easy” scapegoat on which to let off fears, politic inefficiencies and faults. This fact emerges from many of the interviews carried out.

Other causes of insecurity, for the interviewees, are: a) terrorism and the fear of terroristic attacks; b) the arms race of last few years; c) more in general the climate of war that we are living in, like we were back to the Cold War.

According to one teacher, we need to focus our educative efforts on international terrorism, identified by the majority of people as linked to the Arab population and Islam as a whole.

3.4 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

On this topic, interviewees are unanimous in highlighting the “not very educative” role of mass media and social media. The representations of migrants that can be found on the media are often associated to negative features, linked to degradation, violence, criminality and, unfortunately, in some cases fuelled by crime news.

It is beyond doubt that television, the Internet and social network far too often offer sensational information through simplistic views and morbid narration, thus contributing to spread anxiety and (unnecessary, in many cases) concern over social issues.

All the information channels have a big impact on shaping public opinion on the topic of the project, but, according to the respondents, they are also very difficult to control when a more objective communication is concerned. What we need from media is a different, sincere communication on migration and sustainable development, with a special view on human values.

One interviewee believes that the negative image of migrants needs to be fought by acting on three different fields: politics, culture and education.

University and schools have a very important role in fighting against the negative image of migrants, especially with new generations. According to one of the teacher interviewed, there is the need “to do more education for peace, starting directly from teacher training in Universities. With regards to civil society, for example, here in Cecina [a municipality of the Region of Tuscany]”, the teacher says, “we organise an event called ‘Seminando il Futuro’ (‘Sowing the Future’) that involves charities and schools in addition to citizens. It is, anyway, difficult to organise such events, because of lack of collaboration of local authorities and of funding.”

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What emerges therefore from all these interviews is that media, in Italy, are fuelling the sense of risk and insecurity that Italians are feeling towards migrants.

3.5 The role of the education systems

Over the last few years, the attention of Universities and schools towards migration has definitely increased. This is a common understanding of this between interviewees, as they all think that there is still much work to do in both Universities and schools with regards to migration and sustainable development.

This increased attention from University, according to interviewees, can be seen in the integration, among the faculties offered, of new subjects linked to migrations and interculturality. In schools this can be seen in the implementation of education projects, trainings, thematic workshops and the identification of systematic figures with specific tasks connected to inclusion and multiculturality.

What emerges from one of the interviews is that teachers' training, both with regards to University and in-service training, needs to be strengthened. Teachers need to be equipped with the proper instruments to discuss about migrations and sustainable development in a way that capture the attention and interest of students. These instruments could come from Global Citizenship Education.

The necessity of better teacher training also emerges from the answers of the teachers interviewed. They often underline the fact that they feel unprepared, "little competent" on topics such as migration and sustainable development. In addition, they sometimes must confront with insensitive teachers that obstacle the realisation of project to rise students' awareness on migration and sustainable development. According to one of the interviewed teachers, there are few of them, that due to personal interest or sensitivity, have received a training on these topics and actually include what they have learned in their lessons.

What emerges from the interview of one teacher is that in lower secondary schools, migration is often tackled as a problem, and not as a resource for Italy. Global citizenship education is also tackled in a sectoral way. The definition of learning programs is often left to the own initiative of teachers, so lessons are given without focusing on the transition between knowledge and being an aware citizen.

Another teacher observes: "I have been trained on these topics with a competent and innovative NGO that has taught us the most efficient and interactive methodologies to convey them in class." But she voluntarily decided to participate in the training, so again everything is left to the willingness of the single teachers.

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To conclude, one University Professor emphasised that “There is a big confusion of concepts and data, and many teachers are really ill-informed. At a University level, I have noticed, sadly, that the trainings offered are not always free from stereotypes or prejudices, nor critically informed on the topics addressed. Global Citizenship Education is very little present in University courses, and not too much at lower and upper secondary school levels. Topics related to ecology are mostly treated in a superficial way and are often missing in training paths like Education Sciences, even though there are high level researchers in Italian Universities on this subject. We should first revise University programming with regard to some important topics related to human rights, equal opportunities and gender, ecology and sustainable development, migration: all transversal and transdisciplinary themes that have a big impact on the life of each one of us”.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The report shows a general consideration that will be the basis of the recommendations below and that is important to mention.

No informed and aware citizenship can be built unless the focus on the difference between sectoral and complex thinking will be placed. The first one rigidly separates problems, loses sight of interconnection and interdependencies and hides people to be hold responsible. The second one allows concentrating attention on the existing links among phenomena, eases the identification of causes and responsible actors and favours searching for the best solutions. By adopting a territorial approach, citizens may better understand the negative phenomena linked to migrations, connect good practices for combating social exclusion and acquire the necessary strength and awareness to be able to promote change.

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

- To foster and implement decentralised cooperation experiences that link migratory Diaspora with the country of origin by involving the different actors of both territories (destination and origin), like local authorities, local associations, migrant associations, NGOs and schools.
- To promote better information on InterCap’s topics, in particular migration and sustainable development, in the territories interested by migration and at national level through reports, researches, people’s stories to combat disinformation, stereotypes and false information that are spread in the media and in politics. To

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favours debates, exchanges, analysis and historical reconstructions of the migratory processes, studies and researches able to analyse causes and reasons.

- To develop – within the school context – educational courses and informative materials that, through the collaboration with teachers of different topics, highlight the complexity of the phenomena of international migration and sustainable development? and of their intercurricular nature, also starting from concrete everyday issues and from one's own territory (glocal approach).
- To develop educational courses on "media" to combat stereotypes, prejudices, to strengthen critical thinking and behaviours towards the messages of the media.
- To strengthen, at the same time, the collaboration with Universities, in the research field and the training of teachers-to-be.
- To find agreements with the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) – as confederation of NGOs and civil societies – to make interventions in the school stable, structured, monitored and assessed.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

- The MIUR should open a deeper reflection on the competences that are necessary for the future and that, nowadays, schools and also Universities, in many cases, are not able to provide.
- The "Indications for the national school curriculum" of primary and secondary school (I and II level) should be more oriented to develop interdependencies and links among phenomena and disciplines (both in horizontal and vertical directions, which means among different subjects and classes of the schools cycles).
- The Italian national government should launch awareness-raising campaigns on the media to sensitise and inform the public opinion of the interconnectedness between migration and development, in a constant and pervasive way. Furthermore, it should foster the understanding of the root causes that push people to leave their territory or their country, etc.
- Ethic committees and those working for equal opportunities and fighting racism should undertake a more robust role.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

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- To foster the collaboration on the different territories with associations, informal movements schools and citizens would be useful and fruitful
- To promote decentralized cooperation experiences (see above, point 4.1)

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Creating an informed and aware citizenship should be supported by the Universities that put the development of human societies and its quality at the centre of the focus of the attention and use it to better understand why the distance between people and politics, human needs and science, equality aspirations and reality is getting deeper. Furthermore:

- Training of trainers – both university training and in-service teachers' one – must be strengthened especially in relation to the identification of good practices, effective behaviours, together with different institutions (schools, social services, employment centres, health services and public security forces)
- Universities should be the primary channel to train professionals who know how to find their way in these contradictions and look for solutions according to the UN 2030 Agenda.
- As the best existing experiences show, Italian universities could cooperate – with the development actors of their territory, supporting them in systematising knowledge that comes from their good practices and in training themselves, stimulating and guiding experience exchange.
- The University and the other local actors may launch together a big cultural campaign to review the specialised disciplines in order to purge them from the ideologies that are currently influencing them, making them really rigorous and useful, filtering them though quality development objectives of the human societies and therefore transforming them into an incredible progress tool.

4.5. Recommendations for future research areas

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- To foster the research on the central topics at the core of InterCap project (interconnections between migrations and sustainable development) would be important taking into consideration the scarce number of researches in Italy
- To develop “qualitative” researches that start from the experiences and personal stories of the many “environmental migrants” or those fleeing from situations of progressive impoverishment and who are currently living in Italy. Such initiative could be a good idea and also a good basis for a future transformation into educational material

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ITALIAN REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: REGION OF LAZIO

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Rationale behind this report

Italian institutions and education system perceive the need for an effective education on sustainable development for the following main reasons:

- Italy's progress towards a condition of sustainable development is low and the country lags behind on the achievement of the SGDs.
- Since 2011, the country has been challenged by migrants' influx and hosting, considered by public opinion as the main cause of growing insecurity and leading to widespread stereotypes, prejudices, increasing xenophobia.

In this context, it is essential to actively engage all citizens in a common path towards sustainable development (bidding on young generations, as they are citizens of the future and change agents) as well as to spread a databased and informed knowledge on the extent of migrants' influx and its socio-economic impact on the society.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The aim of this report is to present the state-of-the-art analysis carried out by ICU at a national and regional level (Lazio Region) to draw a comprehensive picture of

- Public opinion knowledge and perception on sustainable development, migrations, security and their interlinkages, including the main instruments/mechanisms that influence and shape public opinion;
- Whether national legislation on migration takes into account sustainable development international frameworks and how;
- Existing initiatives and best practices undertaken by national/local governments, the education system and civil society to promote informed knowledge of sustainable development and related topics, with a focus on migration, and gaps to be filled;
- Needs and expectations of education system representatives and civil society organisations (CSOs) on reinforcing their capabilities to effectively educate students on sustainable development matters.

1.3 Available data and resources

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Main data and resources used for this report have been found in national level reports published by research centres, journals and CSOs whose work focuses on relevant themes, such as Rome Charter Association, Sustainable Development Association (ASviS), International Affairs review. The identification of projects and best practices focused on regional initiatives undertaken in Lazio region by CSOs.

1.4 Limitations

The main limitation of this research is the lack of regional level data concerning public opinion knowledge / awareness and media representation of sustainable development, migration and security. Information on how development education is conveyed in regional schools is also absent. In addition, there is a lack of national institutional researches about the current state of teaching development education, needs assessments, and links between sustainable development and migration.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Public Opinion Polls

The purpose of this section is to look into national and regional data to find out the position of public opinion on migration issues, national security and sustainable development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As highlighted by the surveys reported below, migration is considered by the population among the most worrying issues. Particularly, hosting migrants is deemed one of the major causes of anxiety, as it is perceived as a danger to national security.

For instance, a recent survey (IPSOS and the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation 2017) highlights that Italian population has become xenophobic, racist and increasingly intolerant in response to migratory flows that have been affecting country's territory in recent years. On one hand, 24% of respondents highlight the need to reject migrants, considering them a threat to national security. On the other hand, 25.4% is in favour of welcoming migrants and refugees, as they take into account the causes (such as wars, violence, famine and natural disasters) that force people to flee their country of origin. The

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majority of respondents, about 44%, are in favour of reception policies but solely towards a specific category of migrants: the political refugees.

According to the IPSOS-CDEC (2017) survey, 70% of Italians believes that there are too many immigrants in the country, and argues that migratory flows put a strain on Italian public services and the labour market. 43% of respondents consider migrants as responsible for the difficult and unstable situation gripping the Italian labour market, while 41.7% believes that immigrants are ruining Italian traditions and culture.

Furthermore, a survey conducted by Laps (2016) shows that 40% of Italians believes that immigration is a danger to security, and agrees with the statement "around here there are so many foreigners that I do not feel at home". It also reveals how, in light of recent terrorist attacks in Europe, such as the Bataclan attack in November 2015 or the one to the Christmas market in Berlin in December 2016, Italians feel they are living in a climate of fear and terror. Consequently, respondents (from 27% to 32%) justify the use of torture on migrants suspected of terrorism to prevent attacks to the country. It is worth mentioning that only 42% of respondents would oppose to torture on those accused of terrorism.

The results of the survey highlight that xenophobic and anti-immigrant feelings are on the rise.[45] However, they also show that about 27.4% of Italians perceives migration as a positive phenomenon (especially in economic and cultural terms) that contributes to the "deprovincialisation" of the country.

Quite the opposite is shown in the research “Building a possible development: creation of a permanent system of international solidarity and decentralized cooperation for development”, conducted by the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP). It demonstrates that the citizens of Lazio Region are not confident and not satisfied with the inclusion practices adopted by the regional government. Their impression is that the Region is not committed to the implementation of policies able to foster international cooperation, stimulate education for global citizenship, intercultural education and the integration of foreign citizens (CISP 2012).

The “X Report on Social Security and Insecurity in Italy and in Europe” (2017) suggests that, after the management of migratory flows and the alleged risks related to migrant integration, Italians are mostly concerned about environmental problems strictly connected to sustainable development. In particular, the Report shows that Italians feel frequently worried for “the destruction of the environment and nature” (58%), “pollution” (55%), “globalisation” (39%) and “being a victim of natural disasters” (38%). The fear of natural disasters has undergone a significant increase over 2017, due to the tragedies that hit Central Italy in recent years – namely, the Amatrice earthquake in August 2016, the Rigopiano avalanche in January 2017, or the Livorno floods in September 2017.

[45] Read more at: http://www.affarinternazionali.it/2017/10/paure-cambiano-italiani-immigrazione/

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Additionally, the vast majority of Italians (85%) affirms to be in favour of policies towards sustainable development, and young generations are by far the largest number. On one side, 71% of young people between 15-24 and 72% of adults between 35-44 years of age consider environmental protection policies as a priority, even at the cost of a lower economic growth. On the other side, only 58% of people over 65 are in favour of sustainable development policies. Nevertheless, there is a shared belief that a paradigmatic change should be deferred to individual actions. Indeed, more than 80% of respondents believe in the need to introduce restrictive changes to our comfortable lifestyle (AsviS 2017).

The above data points out the existence of a correlation between migratory phenomenon, associated risks and change in geopolitical space. Indeed, people feel their social, cultural, political and economic spaces are threatened by the arrival of migrants and, being incapable of handling relationships both at personal and community level, react with an hostile attitude of fear and alienation. However, this belief does is not based on an in-depth understanding of the migration phenomenon and of its complexity. Therefore, there is a need to spread a databased and informed understanding on the extent of migrants' influx, the dynamics of sustainable development and their implications for the society.

2.2 Media Response

This section analyses the role played by media in conveying news and contents on migration flows, refugee crisis, sustainable development and climate change. An article published by the national newspaper *La Repubblica* (2017) points out that over 2017 news related to migratory flows, crime and security have been witnessed a dramatic increase, both in the press and in the evening news information, with about 44 % of headlines dedicated to landings and rescue at sea and 16 % of newspaper' headlines dedicated to crime and security.

According to the organisation *Carta di Roma*, the main topics in 2017 media agenda (NGOs and the rescue at sea, *Ius soli*, and dreadful crimes involving migrants) mainly reflect a concerned and problematic narrative of migration phenomenon and its socio-economic implications. Too often media coverage emphasises violent acts committed by migrants, framing them as dangerous for the community and inclined to illegality. Such a stereotype and prejudice-based narrative feeds and strengthens feelings of fear and resentment towards migrants in general. Migrants are frequently described as burdens for the society, as people draining resources and jeopardising the civil coexistence. The attention mainly draws on the alleged negative impact and disadvantages resulting from welcoming migrants in our country. The language used is often characterized by alarmist, catastrophic and apocalyptic tones.

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Meanwhile, a narrative of positive cases of integration, or of migrant contribution to the society is absent.[46] Actually, studies on the relationship between media and migration, such as the one by E. Calvanese (2013), highlight that a positive narrative of the migratory phenomenon is not very much present, if totally absent. When presenting facts or events concerning migrants, media disregard the motivations that pushed people to abandon their family, home and country of origin. Media convey images and news related to crime, scarcity of resources and difficulties faced by host countries rather than encouraging narratives to understand and integrate migrants. Calvanese also shows that media are unwilling to bring stories of integration/ redemption to the audience attention and deepen its cultural horizons, which instead could contribute to stimulate new insights, mutual understanding and socio-cultural integration.

According to the V Report by Carta di Roma (2018), migrations are depicted by media as a danger directly threatening national security and citizens safety. It is rare to see migration and migrants presented as an opportunity to foster growth and development in hosting countries and their citizens.

As far as sustainable development is concerned, this theme is mainly (if not almost only) depicted through the lens of climate change and environmental sustainability, disregarding the conspicuous and diversified topics included in the SDGs. In this regard, the dissemination of news on climate change suffers the same problems as the migration phenomenon. Catastrophist and alarmist narratives characterise news related to these topics. Emotional implications jeopardise the reality and invalidate the public's understanding.[47] M. Inglisa (2007), professor of Sociology of Communication at the University of Pavia, explains this based on the fact that the general public has no attraction to news linked to climate change and sustainable development. This information requires technical skills to be understood and is difficult to be properly read by the public.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a link between, on one side, the negative narrative of migration and the limited or absent information on the broad range of topics related to sustainable development and, on the other side, the prevailing public attitudes that identify migration flows as the main cause of insecurity.

2.3 Research and project production

This section draws on: evidence from remarkable international and national researches[48] exploring the links between migration and sustainable development; main initiatives promoting sustainable development at national level.

[46] Read more at: https://www.cartadiroma.org/editoriale/prima-serata-notizie-flussi-migratori-criminalita/
[47] Read more at: http://www.greenman.it/2009/09/scuola-e-comunicazione-sviluppo-sostenibile/
[48] Such studies were selected for their role in influencing the principles driving the international cooperation.

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Regarding international researches and studies, amongst them it is worth mentioning the OECD Development Centre's "Perspectives on Global Development 2017: International Migration in a Shifting World". It points out the existence of a relationship between global economic development and an increase in migration, describing international migration as "shifting wealth", as human capital mobility improves people quality of life and benefits societies at large. It also identifies transnationalism as one of the key elements triggering prosperity in societies of origin and destination. On this basis, it elaborates recommendations for the introduction of a new policy framework able to face challenges of migration and make it a positive driving force of development and growth. The proposed approach calls for: embedding the development dimension in national policies; promoting policy and institutional coherence; sharing responsibilities and strengthening international cooperation.[49] In more concrete terms, on one hand, origin countries should: reduce remittance costs, while promoting their re-investment; promote initiatives to support public development and protect the most vulnerable. The long-term objective should be to encourage migrants to return to their countries and contribute to local economic growth. On the other hand, destination countries should take action to improve the labour market structure, stabilise financial market volatility and uncertainty, as well as strengthen social integration. In this direction, policy coordination and coherence at different levels (local, national and international) is also desirable. Furthermore, destination countries should design policies contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs (OECD 2017).

At national level, the current law on international development cooperation (Law n°125/2014) recalls the international and European standards and practices and acknowledges the positive economic impact of migrants on both origin and destination countries. Hence, it commits to protect their human rights, to financially sustain and integrate them into society.

Concerning relevant national studies, the report *"Migration and international development cooperation. Analysis and insights"* (Link 2007,[50] 2014) draws the attention on Diasporas. It highlights that while integrating in receiving countries, migrants maintain strong connections in countries of origin. Such a phenomenon is particularly clear when it comes to its economic dimension. By sending remittances and sharing the acquired know-how, migrants contribute to the development of their home countries. In addition, migrants are development actors of destination countries (Link 2007 2014). In this regard, a study conducted by MIUR and VIS[51] outlines that migrants social security contributions and taxes are essential to finance pensions (7 billions EUR) provided by the National Institute for Social Security to 620.000 Italian citizens. The fact that migrant labour market integration is becoming a national priority is recalled also by the VII Annual Report *'Foreigners in the Italian labour market'* by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Particularly, the Report highlights complexities due to the presence of multiple and diverse migrants communities, characterised by sectorial

[49] Read more at: http://www.oecd.org/dev/perspectives-on-global-development-22224475.htm
[50] *LINK 2007 - Cooperation Network* was established to promote collaboration and coordination among some Italian NGOs. Members include: CESVI, CISP, COOPI, COSV, MEDICI CON L'AFRICA-CUAMM, GVC, ICU, INTERSOS, LVIA.
[51] Read more at: http://www.ionondiscrimino.it/

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specialisations and different level of female labour participation. In 2016, foreigners workers represented 10.5% of the employed workforce (in 2007, only 6.3%) - up to around 17% for some economic sectors, such as agriculture and construction. Learning the local language, having academic and professional qualifications recognised, and receiving trainings are crucial aspects of the economic, social, cultural and political integration of migrants. According to the Report, including migrants in the labour market is the key for an effective integration into destination societies and positively impact the European economy overall.

Moving from the research field to on-field initiatives, at national level they mainly deal with the promotion of sustainable development and are mostly carried out by NGOs and CSOs. As pointed out by an ASviS research[52], in Italy NGOs play an essential role in calling for policies that respect and contribute to the achievement of the 17 SDGs. Indeed, by addressing a wide public, NGOs are able to raise awareness, outreach and take action at different levels: local, national and international. Furthermore, NGOs have the competence to ask corporates and governments to be more sustainable and commit to such goals.

In this regard, one of the most recent initiatives is “Agent 0011”, promoted by ActionAid and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. It involves students from ten schools of different Italian regions (including Lazio) with the aim to raise their awareness and mobilise the civil society on the SDGs and the 2030 UN Agenda. The project focuses on four thematic areas covered by the 17 UN objectives: Rights & Equality, Goods & Resources, Wellness & Health, Environment & Territories. During the school year 2017/2018, the classes will have to partner with a network of local NGOs to develop concrete ideas to make cities more sustainable. For this purpose, a dedicated portal has been created. It is constantly updated with the contents produced by the students (texts, photo collections, educational pills, interactive games, research, proposals, testimonies of people from the South of the world).

Another popular initiative is the Festival of Sustainable Development organized by ASviS, which is a week-long and eventful festival (workshops, seminars, conferences, shows) aiming at raising general public awareness on the 17 objectives of the Agenda 2030.[53]

This brief review shows that the need to analyse migration and sustainable development jointly and to identify links and cause-effect relationships between them is taken into account at international level. Far from it, at national level both researches and on-field initiatives tend to keep these two concept separated, analysing migrants socio-economic impact disregarding sustainable development dynamics, or promoting a sustainable development where there is no reference to migration. Hence, there is a room to bring value to national studies and initiatives proposing a more comprehensive and integrated approach, that always considers and works on both phenomena and their relationships simultaneously.

[52] Read more at: http://asvis.it/goal17/notizie/296-2662/la-mobilitazione-delle-ong-per-gli-sdgs-e-in-atto-ma-gli-ostacoli-non-mancano
[53] Find out more at: http://festivalsviluppodsostenibile.it/2017/il-festival/

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2.4 Case studies of good practices

The present section outlines the best practices identified in Lazio Region to promote sustainable development education. They were identified among projects sponsored by both the regional government and the civil society, which takes action and participates spontaneously.

Both the regional government and local civil society acknowledge the urgent need to raise public awareness and engagement on highly interconnected issues: the respect of the environment, the protection of fundamental human rights, the recognition and enhancement of diversities, and the pursuit of economic, social and environmental justice. Hence, they undertook outreach, training and dissemination initiatives primarily targeted at children and young people (the future of sustainability), but also at other stakeholders specifically engaged in the field of migration.

These initiatives are based on the assumption that to fully achieve the 17 SDGs, every citizen should be aware of the need to adapt to major challenges faced by contemporary societies – increasingly moving towards globalisation, multicultural exchange, and sustainable living. In this respect, international development cooperation plays a crucial role, as it is called upon to create a fertile environment to fight the injustices afflicting the most vulnerable people in the world.

One of the main initiatives for children and adolescents is *"Let's get to know each other: 6 steps for a united world"*, a project co-promoted by AMU Onlus (Action for a United World) and Teens4Unity (international movement of young people) with the support of Lazio Regional School Office of the Ministry of Education. Its purpose is to boost the number of awareness and training courses on the concept of global citizenship and other related topics. Starting from the belief that only a true and conscious knowledge of the other allows its understanding and acceptance, the project organises conferences, activities and courses in synergy with secondary and upper secondary school students for thriving local positive examples and practices of active and accountable citizenship. Teachers and educators participating in the project need to attend a training course (frontal lessons, workshops, and on-the-ground experience) in order to guide students in developing their sense of judgment/ability to reflect, which in turn will make them contribute to good civic practices.[54]

Additionally, the contest "*I don't discriminate…I try to discern*", co-organised by the Ministry of Education and VIS for the school year 2017/2018, targets secondary and upper secondary school students. By fostering a welcome and solidarity culture, it helps prevent and counter

[54] Read more at: https://bastaconoscersi.wordpress.com/progetto-di-educazione-alla-cittadinanza-globale/

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any form of discrimination and stigma. Through stories, videos, and images, the project allows students to retrace migrant journey and explore fears, hopes, obstacles and violence experienced by migrants.[55] The project uses also an Internet-based quiz to test knowledge on migration issues, with the ultimate goal of dispelling myths and providing correct and reliable information upon which teachers and students can debate and reflect.[56]
Among the initiatives targeting adults, *"RETES Lazio: against the discrimination of foreign citizens"*, was implemented and coordinated by Lazio Region between September 2013 and June 2014. The project aims to prevent, counter, and raise public awareness on ethnic and racial discriminatory phenomena, increasingly perceived as normal and socially accepted. In this sense, the research pinpoints how every single discriminatory act - albeit void or unaware of any racial and xenophobic motivation - results in social marginalisation, non-recognition of fundamental rights, and the consequent exclusion of migrants from the provision of basic services. By analysing discrimination episodes across different sectors (education, employment, and health), the RETES final report illustrates a set of good practices suitable for other local actors interacting with migrants. Namely: an increase in sensitisation and training activities for the staff employed in public facilities, with the aim to reduce and prevent cases of stigmatisation and discrimination; implementation of information campaigns specifically targeting refugees and migrants, in order to inform them about their own rights and opportunities and, therefore, empower them. Lastly, it identifies highly problematic and unsettled matters that need to be addressed, such as the right to housing assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers.[57]

Another project directed at adults is *"I don't discriminate! Knowledge of migration and integration together with migrants",* promoted by the Institute for Peace, Development and Innovation (IPSIA). It is intended to raise awareness on migration and global citizenship in the cities of Rome, Milan and Catania, with the aim of fostering mutual understanding as well as dismantling unfair stereotypes and prejudices. Thanks to the support of local entities and non-profit organisations, IPSIA organises training and sensitisation courses for actors that regularly interact with migrants: lawyers, journalists, public officers and employees, teachers and professors, coaches and referees, social workers, students and migrant associations.[58]

From the good practices depicted above, it emerges that regional level initiatives often focus on discrimination and integration challenges that the community has to face daily. Compared to the national initiatives presented in Section 2.3, the migration component is of primary importance but it is still dealt with no reference to the whole sustainable development framework. Importantly, at regional level there is also a closer cooperation between local authorities and civil society, which could be the starting point of a possible, future scale-up of a national level cooperation.

[55] Read more at: http://www.volint.it/vis/concorso-miur-20172018-io-non-discriminocerco-di-discernere
[56] Read more at: http://www.ionondiscrimino.it/
[57] Read more at: https://www.cies.it/retes
[58] Read more at: http://www.ipsia-acli.it/it/progetti/in-corso/item/393-io-non-discrimino.html

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2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

National migration and integration policy is regulated by the Legislative Decree n. 286/1998, known as “Testo Unico Immigrazione”, [Decreto legislativo, testo coordinato, 25/07/1998 n° 286, G.U. 18/08/1998], which sets-out the principles and procedures governing migrants and asylum seekers’ entry, residence (including socio-economic rights and labour market integration) and return.

The Decree was drafted and adopted by the Ministry of the Interior 18 years earlier than the current international framework on sustainable development. It contains no reference/ link with international legal frameworks/ initiative on current or previous sustainable development and no consideration on the causes of migration.
Nevertheless, the Decree implicitly:

- acknowledges the right to humanitarian protection to environmental refugees, escaping their country of origin for reasons related to climate change, linking migration to climate change;
- takes into account migration impact on national social cohesion.

As far as concerns environmental refugees, the Decree states that a residence permit cannot be denied or withdrawn if *serious humanitarian reasons* persists. The Decree does not provide a precise definition of “humanitarian reasons”, thus it has been subject to broad interpretations by the administrative and case-law practices. Accordingly, humanitarian reasons include the existence of vulnerability/ risky conditions related to the individual (e.g. health, human rights guardianship) or to his/ her country of origin, such as widespread violence, political instability, natural disaster and other environmental problems. On this basis, the Territorial Commissions (responsible for evaluating asylum requests) have granted the humanitarian protection to people running away from South-East Asia countries hit by tsunami or from Nepal after 2015 earthquake (ASGI 2017). Furthermore, national jurisprudence is geared towards overcoming the concept of natural disasters as exceptional occurrences, embracing also those environmental phenomena having progressive, slower evolutions (e.g. desertification, draught, land and water grabbing, widespread lack of necessary resources to ensure local population subsistence).

With respect to the impact of migration on social cohesion, the Decree identifies a set of measures to facilitate immigrants’ social and cultural integration in our society while respecting and safeguarding their background and cultural diversity. In this regard, article 42 “Social integration measures” claims for national/ local authorities and civil society organisations to undertake initiatives to promote and spread knowledge of cultural, social and religious expressions of immigrants residing in Italy, to organise information campaigns and trainings to raise awareness on the causes of migration, the importance of peaceful coexistence and the prevention of discriminatory or racist behaviours.

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Concerning the links of national legislation with the Agenda 2030 and sustainable development, these are found in the recently adopted National Sustainable Development Strategy (December 2017). It provides a long-term path for the adoption of a new socio-economic model, which is based on circular economy principles, on low-CO2 emissions, is resilient to climate change and other global changes at the origin of local crisis (e.g. loss of biodiversity). Importantly, the Strategy emphasises the relevance of fighting and eliminating inequalities, as they hinder the accomplishment of a sustainable, inclusive and equitable development at national level. Thus, the Strategy acknowledges and intends to build upon the links between migration and sustainable development.

Particularly, the fifth pillar "Partnership[59]", devoted to international cooperation for development, includes Migration and Development among its areas of intervention. This aims at promoting immigrants' role as key development players and their professional/ entrepreneurial skills in relation to countries of origin.

In addition, the fourth pillar "Peace" is devoted to the implementation of policies for social protection and poverty reduction, which include initiatives for the integration and non-discrimination of immigrants and asylum seekers and claims for well-planned and well-managed migration policies.

Finally, migration is embraced among those topics to be better explored and understood, for whom the Strategy claims for a more complete information framework. This latter shall guarantee the availability of necessary data and knowledge which are essential for the elaboration and evaluation of future sustainable development policies.
The different approach between the Legislative Decree n. 286/1998 and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development arises from their different historic moment, background and purposes.

The national migration policy is rooted in the late 1980s, when the first legislation was adopted (law no. 943/1986) to face the *emergency* of immigrants arriving in Italy[60] and were focused on labour market integration above all. In the 1990s, more comprehensive legislations entered into force: "Matterlli law" in 1990 that firstly introduced social measures for migrants' integration; "Turco-Napolitano law" in 1998; the Legislative Decree n. 286/1998. Afterwards, migration policies have been updated to face changes in international scenario related to security and terrorism. This is particularly evident in the latest law no. 46/2017, which integrates the Decree n. 286/1998 with rules for terrorism prevention, the identification and ejection of illegal foreign citizens.

With respect to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, it has been developed after a first assessments of Italy progress towards the achievement of the SDGs carried out

[59] The Italian National Strategy for Sustainable Development is structured around five pillars, representing main areas of intervention. These are: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership.
[60] Previously, Italy was a country of emigration rather than a country of immigration. Thus, there was not a structured policy to govern immigrants flows and their socio-economic integration.

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in 2016 and 2017. They highlighted that, although some progress, Italy falls short of a condition of sustainable development and lags behind on the adoption of strategies to lead the country towards future sustainability. Hence, the Strategy was born with the purpose to shape a feasible path to follow to enhance progress towards sustainability in general and the SGDs in particular.

In Italy, there is a general lack of institutional communication or storytelling on:

- SDGs and other international frameworks related to sustainable development;
- the real, knowledge and data-based extent of migration phenomena, its causes and impacts for our society.

These themes are often investigated and debated among insiders only, without reaching out to the general public. Consequently, media communication takes over as the main information channel and is the most potent instrument in shaping public opinion. As illustrated in paragraph 2.2, media communication is dominated by a negative storytelling of migration and integration a stereotyped image of migrants, always presented as a risk/ problem to solve or as a vulnerable group to be protected. Most of times, news highlight violent episodes and disregard positive examples or success stories of migrant integration, leading to the spreading of prejudices and stereotypes among public opinion; especially the youngest, and to a general lack of informed, conscious knowledge.

Although in an initial stage, the Italian Sustainable Development Strategy case could provide an example of how national policies could integrate both migration and sustainable development, address them simultaneously and build upon their relationships not only when it comes to guarantee humans rights (as in the case of environmental refugees) but also to create a positive impact and bring benefits to the community.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

National development cooperation projects are linked to the Agenda 2030 as the multi-annual Programming Documents of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) put the Agenda 2030 and sustainable development at the art of cooperation development initiatives promoted by the AICS and realised through projects implemented by CSOs. The national framework for development cooperation also identifies a clear link between migration and sustainable development and emphasizes migrants' contribution to development.

The new national law for international development cooperation (Law no. 125/2014) acknowledges and promotes the positive role that migrants and migration policies can play for sustainable development. One of the objectives of Italian international cooperation is to

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promote new migration policies that are shared with countries of origin, rely upon migrants' communities as instruments to convey local development, are inspired by international and EU laws on human rights guardianship.

Importantly, the law includes diaspora and other immigrants' associations keeping close relationships with countries of origin among the key actors of international development cooperation and hence emphasizes their contribution to socio-economic growth.

Additionally, the new Programming Document 2017 – 2019 of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) integrates "Migration and Development" among fields of intervention and recalls the SDGs' target 10.7 "well managed migration policies" as a long-term objective. The Document claims for policies deal with migration in the long term, instead of approaching the phenomenon as an emergency, and that consider migration as an opportunity for economic growth and social development. It also highlights the need to foster migrants' know-how as a tool for development for host and origin countries.

However, whereas the link and cause-effect relationship between migration and sustainable development are well identified and taken into account only in high level strategies or documents, it remains still blurry or hidden in main laws that directly govern the immigration and integration processes.

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3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

The focus groups aimed to define perception and interest levels regarding migration and sustainable development issues among civil society and education stakeholders. To this end, the focus groups involved education sector representatives (teachers, trainers, university representatives, and local associations) and experts on migration and sustainable development (researchers, representatives of public institutions, national and international agencies). Participants included both men and women, in the age range of 35 to 60 years. A methodology based on debate and active exchange of opinions and ideas was adopted.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

One of the focus groups objectives was to investigate the level of awareness among public opinion as well as the level of expertise among representatives of the education sector on sustainable development and related issues. In general, the discussion showed that the 17 SDGs were little publicised and, therefore, poorly assimilated by the general public. Notably, the general public is unaware of both the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs formulation process by the international governance.

With regard to the education sector, only 5-10% of teachers are aware of the SDGs, of the international regulations (i.e. the Paris Agreement, Habitat III, etc.) and of the national and international initiatives planned for their implementation. A real lack of awareness on the concept of "sustainable development" is observed, despite an extensive debate promoted at a national level by the Ministry of Education. One of the main obstacles is the deficit of structured initiatives to convey such concept within and through the education system. Therefore, sustainable development mainly remains a theme for the experts in the subject, which, however, tend to focus on the goals (one or few) that fall within their field of competence.

In this context, including the SDGs in school programs is a way to bring these issues to the attention of students, their families, and to promote information and awareness among public opinion. The eight *"Key competences for learning"* defined by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in 2006 - considered essential for training future citizen and, therefore,

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taken by the Italian school system as reference -[61] could represent the framework and the starting point to introduce the SGDs in school programs. For instance, the 17 goals could fall back into the 6th competence *"Social and Civic Awareness"*.

The lack of attention towards SDGs in schools is also due to the fact that teachers often prefer to focus on more urgent themes such as bullying, cyberbullying, and children's learning problems. Moreover, sustainability is often linked to peace education. However, this concept should be extended, passing to education for global citizenship, to a cosmopolitan humanity. It is also important to familiarise students with cultural and linguistic diversity, in order to foster mutual understanding and encourage a more responsible attitude towards diversity.

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

The complex link between migration and sustainable development is not addressed in detail neither by the media, nor by the education system. In general, public debate is not based on official data and analysis - which take into account motivations of migration and policies governing migration flows and migrants' integration.

Media tend to emphasise the emotional content of migrants' stories, to under-represent the diasporas, and to overlook the positive stories of integration and development involving immigrants.

As for the education system, migratory issues receive scant attention in school programs: they are addressed as a minor subject starting from middle school. Furthermore, a protective attitude towards students was observed in the Italian schools. Indeed, young people are generally kept away from sensitive topics (e.g. ethnic, cultural, religious diversity) - which, in turn, negatively affect their critical thinking.

The main obstacle is that teachers themselves are not informed / aware / competent and tend to pass on a perception-based rhetoric to young people. During the focus groups, it was suggested to create mixed classes, in order to enable Italian and foreign children to directly interact, as well as to learn to deal with cultural and linguistic diversities. Such an approach should be able to contribute to change public perception and develop greater mutual understanding.

In line with recommendations from Section 3.2, students as well as teachers shall be trained and informed to develop an in-depth understanding of sensitive issues they have to deal with as contemporary citizens.

[61] Read more at: http://www.icpagnacco.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Dalle-competenze-chiave-europee-alle-discipline.pdf

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3.4 Insecurity

In regards to the feeling of insecurity, a strong link with fear and misinformation on migrants' influx was revealed. By underlining the most negative aspects of integration, such as describing migrants as invaders, media play an essential role in fuelling the sense of fear. On the other hand, media do not dwell on the positive impact of immigration on the country. Newspapers, for instance, do not show how migrants help increase the GDP, and contribute to the national pensions' system (although they will not be able to access these resources). Therefore, there is a need to contrast this trend, introducing and spreading a data-based picture and a positive narrative of migration in order to allow public opinion to have a more comprehensive and true understanding of the phenomenon and its implications.

3.5 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Media and political discourse are amongst the prominent factors shaping the public opinion on migration and sustainable development. Politicians are empowered to make citizens reflect and decide over specific issues. In turn, the political discourse is amplified by both traditional (newspapers, radio and TV) and digital media. A crucial role in influencing public opinion is played by local press, which actively disseminates information and stories of migrants. Local politicians often exploit local news that negatively frame migrants, amplifying thereby the negative rhetoric around immigration. On the contrary, if local press focused on positive stories of integration, this could encourage good practices at a grassroots level.

Moreover, media always frame immigrants as a problem, or as vulnerable people living in poor and problematic contexts. Media tend to spread superficial information by using false data to leverage the emotional dimension, and without distinguishing among the different categories identified by national and international regulations/laws on the matter (refugee, clandestine, migrant, irregular migrant).

Another crucial factor influencing the public perception is represented by the cultural and socio-economic background. In fact, children absorb parents' beliefs and ideas, which in many cases are based on stereotypes. Moreover, according to a survey carried out by the National Research Council (CNR),[62] children coming from families with low socio-economic status are more likely to be influenced by the stereotypes and prejudices brought by the

[62] The survey were carried out on teachers and pupils of middle schools and the first two years of high school.

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parents. Vice versa such stereotypes are absent in families with high socioeconomic status or with migratory background.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

The education system is considered a primary actor in creating awareness and informed knowledge on sustainable development and migrations and filling current gaps. These themes should be addressed starting from primary school to promote a critical and in-depth understanding.

Informal and peer-to-peer education represents a remarkable tool that contribute to counter misinformation and stereotypes. Indeed, it allows to convey reliable information and directly engage young people in activities aiming to foster understanding between cultures and, thus, eliminate prejudices and hostilities.

The use of non-formal education approaches in formal contexts, such as schools, could facilitate the (re)introduction of modules to develop active citizenship - intended as respect, inclusion, and fight against discrimination. A good example is *'Promoting integration policies through sport'*, a programme promoted in 2014 by the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) and the Ministry of Education. By distributing information toolkit to teachers and students, the campaign was intended to sensitise and educate people on the great value of sports in counteracting discrimination and intolerance.

Another suggestion is to incorporate few hours of non-formal education per week in school curricula. However, nowadays such activities still have a limited impact on the general public, since they are mainly carried out by independent associations and actors of the civil society.

3.7 The role of education systems

Education system and teachers play a crucial role in informing and encouraging critical awareness on sustainable development, as well as in shaping public opinion.

Teachers must be considered important vehicle of culture and change agent. In this respect, structural measures are required to educate the school system as a whole (professors as well as school managerial and administrative staff) on sustainable development issues. It would be also suitable to introduce both university courses and post-graduate training programs on sustainability and related topics. Such trainings should include frontal lessons and workshops, in which future teachers have the opportunity to learn how to fund and coordinate a school project.

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Furthermore, universities along with other educational institutions should raise critical awareness and, hence, teach students to act responsibly towards the environment and the forthcoming generations. It is precisely with this in mind that the role of education system as a sustainability-maker should be acknowledged. Accordingly, schools must serve as a place where sustainability is learned, promoted and concretely practiced. The formal education system should encourage young generations to take action for the concrete achievements of the SDGs not only through raising their awareness but also by showing concrete practices of sustainable lifestyle and consumption patterns.[63] In this sense, the selection of appropriate information tools is crucial, since it helps embed an abstract notion of sustainable development in the concrete everyday life.

At a national level, universities are already taking actions in this direction. SDGs are covered and tackled increasingly by universities, as they try to fulfil their 'third mission', meaning that they tried to open themselves up to the world, share their know-how, foster dialogue and joint initiatives with external stakeholders. For this purpose, Italian universities created the Network of Universities for Development (RUS) that promotes sustainable practices (i.e. proper waste management, responsible water and electricity consumption), and projects that concretely show how to contribute to achieve the SDGs. Universities are thereby becoming sustainable 'living labs'. Worth-metioning examples are represented by the University of Turin, University Ca' Foscari (Venice), the University of Milan, Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa), and the Human Rights Center of the University of Padua - which are taking action by enriching their curricula with Degree and Master level courses on migrations and sustainable development.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The literature and field research carried out highlighted the need to reinforce the role of the education system in providing a critical and data-based awareness and understanding of sustainable development, related issues such as migration, and the relevant international/ national frameworks.

Education system representatives and experts in the fields of sustainable development, acknowledge that teachers play a crucial role in informing and encouraging critical awareness as well as in shaping young public opinion. Nevertheless, they have poor competences and

[63] For instance through a responsible use of water, electricity and non-polluting detergents; but also activities aiming to integrate new students.

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needs appropriate instruments to convey an informed knowledge of sustainable development and related topics to students.

Hence, it is necessary to increase teachers' awareness and knowledge on sustainable development and related topics as well as on international frameworks, to strengthen their sense of responsibility towards students' knowledge and personal development as active citizens. Indeed, teachers tend to bring sustainable development topics (e.g. climate change, green energy, poverty eradication, etc.) in their classes only in exceptional, contingent cases, such as national disasters with high media resonance. Another important gap to be filled-in is the provision of teaching instruments, in order to put in practice national initiatives such as the National Plan on Sustainable Development Education.

In this context, the following general and specific recommendations have been elaborated to improve Sustainable Development Education at national level.

4.1 Recommendations for all stakeholders

Recommendations for all stakeholders involved in Sustainable Development Education:

- To increase joint and networking initiatives among concerned stakeholders (national, regional, local authorizes, education institutions, NGOs) and facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practices among organisations engaged in same themes/ fields in different areas of the national territory.
- To give value and build upon interdisciplinary experiences, including exchanges and volunteering.
- To involve families and territorial communities in initiatives aiming at students' sensitization on sustainable development.

4.2 Recommendations for NGOs

National and local level recommendations for NGOs: To increase cooperation with formal education system to share knowledge and best practices related to non-formal and peer-to-peer education methodologies and instruments, fostering synergies between formal and non-formal education.

4.3 Recommendations for governmental institutions

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National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions:

- To introduce institutional programmes aimed at fostering knowledge and contacts with other countries and cultures, especially countries of origin “most represented” by immigrants residing in Italy.
- To invest more in the school system to reinforce education quality, specifically: to provide teachers with training opportunities on topical issues related to sustainable development, migration and security; to formalise teachers’ trainings on Sustainable Development and the SGDs, making sure they acquire necessary knowledge and skills to convey these themes to their students.
- To formalise the inclusion of topics related to sustainable development in educational courses on offer.

4.4 Recommendations for educational institutions

National and local level recommendations for educational institutions:

- To open school systems to CSOs, associations and experts engaged in sustainable development initiatives and build upon methodologies and techniques used in the non-formal education sector.
- To promote initiatives based on team working among students with different origins and backgrounds, the development of skills and aptitudes related to active citizenship.
- To reinforce the inter-disciplinarity among subjects, emphasise the cultural and historical dimensions of topics related to sustainable development, spread data-based information and knowledge among students.
- (At secondary school and university level) To develop partnerships/ networks with foreign schools/ universities to provide an international dimension to Sustainable Development Education, fostering debates and ideas exchange across borders and enabling students to experiments the global dimension and links of development.
- To make more clear the links between frameworks related to sustainable development and to school education and possible synergies among them. For instance, the EU Key competences for life-long learning include “Social and civic competences” defined as the “ability to participate effectively and constructively in one’s social and working life and engage in active and democratic participation, especially in increasingly diverse societies. This might be somehow related or provide room for synergies with Sustainable

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Development Education, or contribute to achieving targets set by SDGs 10 “Reduced inequalities within and among countries” and 16 “Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”.

- To start-up long-term projects (rather than two or three-years projects), that emphasize the single individual, that strengthen his/ her competences and active role as informed and aware citizen.

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LITHUANIAN REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1. Rationale

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and costs of travelling decrease, the number of cross-border migrants worldwide is rapidly growing. According to the UN estimates (2017), it has increased from 173 million in 2000 to 258 million in 2017, with the rate faster than the growth of the global population. In these circumstances, migration starts to play an important role in development of both origin and destination countries. Migrant diasporas abroad foster development in home communities by sending remittances; returning migrants contribute to progress through human capital, technology and valuable skills. In host countries, migrants fill critical labour gaps, pay taxes and social security contributions as well as enrich the communities by cultural and information capital (OECD, 2014). On the other hand, the relationship between migration and development is more complicated. If not managed well, migration can be a threat to sustainable progress of societies. Migrants tend to be under higher risk of poverty and social exclusion, they also, on average, have worse access to education, healthcare and social security systems. In addition to the harm on individual level, economic and social marginalisation of migrants might increase inequalities in host countries. Respectively, economic inequalities are known to induce social tensions, increase levels of crime, obstruct social cohesion and trust between community members (Hsieh and Pugh, 1993; Putnam et al. 1993; Kawachi et al., 1997; Letki, 2007).

Despite its complexity and potential, migration is often perceived as a threat to national security by the public in Member States (Lubbers and Coenders, 2017). Since globalisation and increasingly common extreme weather conditions are expected to intensify migration further, there is a strong need to challenge threat-focused public attitudes to ensure sustainability in the future at both local and global levels. It is important to raise awareness about migration as a global phenomenon with both risks and opportunities. Notions of international movement should reflect its links to other global issues such as climate change, conflicts and global inequalities. One of the main channels by which current misconceptions about migration could be challenged is through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a holistic agenda with concrete targets for global development set by the United Nations. The Goals recognise the economic benefits of human mobility to international development and, most importantly, provide a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional view towards both sustainability and migration (IOM, 2017). The discourse of the SDGs challenges the dominant negative perceptions of migration, and therefore is an important instrument in promotion of a more holistic approach towards the phenomenon.
The aim of this report is to assess the extent to which migration and sustainable development are perceived as interrelated in the national context of Lithuania. It offers an analysis of public attitudes, prevailing political discourses and attempts to address the subjects, both in terms of policies and good practices. To complement the literature review, two focus groups were

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conducted. The first consisted of experts in the field, whereas the second was formed of government representatives. The conclusions of the research suggest that awareness about sustainable development in Lithuania is strongly limited, and prevalence of anti-immigration attitudes is particularly high. The public discourse regarding international movement is currently reproducing isolated, country-focused and negative images of migration. Development education, as an instrument for a more inclusive approach, is not systematically integrated in school curriculum and largely depends on initiatives of individual actors. There are no programmes on sustainable development in higher education, and areas integral to SDGs such as human rights, gender equality and integration of migrants are rather segmented. As Lithuania is likely to receive a higher number of migrants in the future, there is a strong need to raise public awareness about sustainable development in a holistic manner and redefine migration as an integral part of global processes, such as international development, global inequalities, climate change, armed conflicts and other types of humanitarian crises.

1.2. Aims and objectives

The report is a part of the project InterCap, which aims to improve critical understanding of migration within the context of sustainable development in general and the SDGs in particular. The goal of the project is to implement SDGs and link them to migration in school teachers' education, so that education actors would then further enhance public awareness about migration and its links to sustainable development. The objectives of the report are 1) identification of conceptual links between international migration and other global processes, including sustainable development at national level 2) indication of gaps within public understanding of migration as well as sustainable development 3) conceptualisation of challenges and ways by which development education could be used as an instrument to raise public awareness in national context. The analysis of national situation will be used in creation of a more localised and therefore more effective model for development education, mainly targeted at prospective school teachers. However, recommendations will also address issues beyond teacher competence, such as institutional transformations, inter-sectoral cooperation and the role of education institutions in raising public awareness.

1.3. Available data and resources

As the national sustainable strategy has never become a national priority and migration remains to be largely isolated from the agenda, linkage between SD and migration is largely unaddressed in national documents as well as research. Therefore, the data used is mainly focused on either migration or sustainable development and links between the latter and the

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former in the report are indirect. Another data limitation is related to governance of sustainable development policies at institutional level. The majority of government bodies responsible for national development strategy have not published any information regarding implementation of the programme; there is a lack of transparency regarding institutional framework of sustainability agenda. The main sources of information are national legislation and strategies, Eurobarometer and national surveys, government publications as well as scholarly and press publications, both local and international.

1.4. Limitations

The major limitation of this research is the lack of development in the area of migration and sustainability. As it has been barely addressed and, considering the fact that the national sustainable development policy is in general weak and narrow, sustainability and migration policies are often discussed separately instead. Due to lack of progress in the cross-cutting field, an in-depth analysis of the links between the concepts was impossible. Respectively, localised recommendations largely focus on the management of sustainable development and development education, rather than on links to migration specifically.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Public opinion polls

While public opinion towards immigration from other EU states is rather supportive, Lithuanians tend to view immigration from third countries as a negative phenomenon. According to Eurobarometer survey (2016), 72% of respondents reported that immigration from the EU states triggers positive feelings, but only 26% told the same about immigration of third country nationals. Attitudes towards the latter form of migration are more negative compared to the EU average (37%), and yet have slightly improved since 2015. The shift could be explained by diminished emphasis and media coverage regarding so called 'refugee crisis', which was mainly portrayed as a threat to national security (the Institute for Ethnic Studies, further - CES, 2017). The divide in public support for migration within the EU and from outside the EU is in consensus to general pro-EU attitudes among Lithuanians and high prevalence of xenophobia and muslimophobia in the country.

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Public opinion polls conducted by national bodies offer similar conclusions. 53% of residents oppose immigration of labour migrants from outside the EU, even if the country faces labour shortages caused by rapidly ageing population (CES, 2017). Attitudes are even more hostile towards migrants who come from more culturally distant backgrounds. The opposition to immigration is especially acute when it regards migrants from North Africa and Middle East, as Lithuanian respondents tend to associate these regions with a threat of terrorism. In 2017, 68% of respondents admitted being against immigration of Muslim war refugees. Both Muslim and refugee minorities tend to be among most discriminated groups with only Roma community and former prisoners reportedly facing higher levels of prejudice. However, it is important to note that both Muslim and refugee minorities are especially small in Lithuania and the absolute majority of residents have not encountered any of the Muslim or refugee immigrants in real life (CES, 2017). Therefore, as Lithuanians' personal experiences are limited, prevailing political and media discourses are arguably the most important factors in shaping public attitudes towards migration.

The anti-immigration discourse in the EU is known to be largely based on migration-security nexus. Research shows that notions of immigration from third countries as primarily a security issue is positively correlated with hostile public attitudes (BEPA, 2006; Pinyol-Jimenez, 2012). Interestingly, while anti-immigration views in Lithuania are strong, they could not be explained by high prevalence of insecurity among residents. Over the past years, the number of Lithuanians who reported feeling safe in the area they live in has rapidly increased and even exceeded the EU average. According to Eurobarometer survey (2017), 64% of Lithuanian respondents agreed that their immediate neighbourhood is a secure place to live in, and 42% of the interviewed agreed they feel secure about living in Lithuania. At EU level, these numbers were lower, reaching 57% for neighbourhood and 37% for country, respectively. However, just as other EU residents (76%), Lithuanians (76%) perceive terrorism as the most important risk for national security. The other major concerns were organised crime and the EU's external borders (Eurobarometer, 2017). Therefore, public perceptions of threats to national security are in consensus to widespread muslimophobic and anti-refugee views in Lithuania (CES, 2017). Just as the rest of the EU, Lithuanians view terrorism as the most important security issue, which, as research suggests, further induces anti-immigration attitudes.

In terms of environmental protection, Lithuanians are less concerned than an average EU citizen. According to Eurobarometer (2017), only 42% of country residents have indicated the issue as very important, which is one of the lowest percentages across all member states. The respondents were mostly concerned with waste and air pollution, whereas climate change was perceived as the least important environmental problem. In addition, Lithuanians were more likely to disagree with the statement that actions of each individual can help solving environmental dilemmas when compared to the EU average (Eurobarometer, 2017). Moreover, there was no significant change in public attitudes towards ecological issues since 2014 (; 2017). The findings illustrate that public awareness about ecological protection and its solutions on individual level is limited and, most importantly, remains relatively fixed. Different forms of pollution seem to be perceived as rather mutually exclusive, and climate change is not considered as a major issue at societal level.

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Lack of awareness about sustainable development is in line with public attitudes regarding migration and environmental issues. Limited understanding of linkages between the subjects, as well as their global context, is also reflected in their knowledge about SDGs. According to Eurobarometer survey (2017), only 27% of Lithuanian respondents have heard about SDGs, and only 6% think they could tell what the goals are. This is one of the lowest percentage in the EU alongside Romania, Czech Republic and Cyprus. A positive shift towards more global approach can be seen in the growth of Lithuanians who think that development aid to third countries is important, but the number of nationals who consider global development as an important issue are still behind the EU average (Eurobarometer, 2017, Eurohouse, 2017).

Altogether, public attitudes towards migration, national security and environmental protection indicate lack of orientation towards global sustainable development; the scope of concerns seems to be limited to Lithuanians' surroundings. Low levels of attention towards climate change, perception of refugee flows as a national risk rather than a global issue arguably reveal lack of awareness about broader context of these subjects. Even if immigration from third countries would help to solve demographic burdens of rapidly ageing local communities within the country, views towards migration are based on prevailing prejudices. The general picture then suggests that 1) awareness about climate change, Muslim and refugee minorities, benefits of migration as well as security risks is limited or distorted 2) there is no long-term strategic thinking about sustainability within and outside Lithuania; 3) global issues are perceived as distant matters that have little to do with individual responsibility and wellbeing within the country of residence.

2.2. Media response

Due to so called "refugee crisis", national media coverage regarding immigration and asylum situation has intensified over the past years. However, as research that combined both qualitative and quantitative discourse analysis suggested, instead of providing a balanced view and encouraging a dialogue between different discourses, the media response to the issue was largely negative and arguably further strengthened anti-immigration attitudes (CES, 2017). Prevailing stereotypical, not well-grounded claims about refugees living in Lithuania outbalanced positive stories. Article headlines and visual material used often depicted shocking and fear-inducing images from refugee camps that do not represent asylum situation in Lithuania. As a result, the 'crisis' was presented as a major burden for national and EU security as well as economy; it was implicitly (and explicitly) linked to danger, crime and terrorism. Attempts to discuss cultural backgrounds of refugees were limited; when made, Islam was mainly portrayed as leading to cultural conflict and inability to integrate rather than cultural enrichment. Intentions of refugees were questioned, and attempts to imply that refugees are economic migrants were relatively common (CES, 2017). This recent study is in consensus to previous research on media coverage regarding asylum and integration. In 2013, it was concluded that asylum seekers are firstly associated with *irregularity,* and

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immigration of refugees is depicted as a large-scale and unmanageable flow; a threat to stability (CES and DDG, 2014). As absolute majority of Lithuanians do not encounter refugees in real life, the media plays a determinant role in shaping public attitudes (CES, 2017). Arguably, overlapping dominant media and public discourses as well as correlation between misinformative content and public misconceptions support the impact of the media.

There is no institutional body that would periodically produce media monitoring on sustainable development, and the interest in the subject has generally been limited. As a result, data on media coverage regarding sustainability or environmental issues is scarce. Yet, qualitative research conducted in 2011 concluded that appearance of sustainable development in the most popular online news portals was rather fragmented; there was no appealing or holistic approach towards sustainability (Savickas, 2011). The study indicated lack of analytical accounts that would explain and link social, economic, environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In 2011, only 41 articles that included a set of words “sustainable development“ were published in all three most popular news portals (15min.lt, Delfi.lt and Lrytas.lt). The articles were mainly descriptions of separate events and rarely covered the broader context of sustainable development agenda (Savickas, 2011).

While there is no recent data on the media coverage of sustainable development available, the lack of interest in the area is in consensus to both lack of awareness at societal level and lack of concrete measures at institutional level. Sustainable development does not seem to be among national priorities with only relative exception in the area development aid, and lack of occurrence in the media arguably illustrates absence of the dialogue. As sustainable development in the media receives little attention among researchers, it would be naïve to expect a more niche area, its links to migration, be substantially addressed. Research on the coverage of asylum in Europe further highlights that depiction of refugees as a threat to national security is prevailing. The media reproduces images of migration as an isolated, risk-inducing phenomenon and contributes to the discourse that Lithuania is not related to global issues.

2.3. Research and project production

Research that covers both migration and sustainability has been largely focused on emigration as an obstacle for demographic and economic development. As Lithuania is one of the most rapidly decreasing and ageing population in Europe, migration from the country poses major challenges for sustainable development, and SDGs in particular (Ministry of Environment, 2014; EP, 2017). Its constraints on adequate long-term pension and healthcare systems, sustainable regional development and resources for sufficient social security mechanisms have received substantial attention in both academic and public discourse.

An in-depth analysis of interlinks between emigration and sustainability can be found in the National strategy for sustainable development (2009; 2011). Migration is discussed as an

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integral part of the process and is given considerable attention in the assessment of opportunities and challenges for development. Depicted as both a cause and a consequence of sustainability issues, the role of emigration is addressed in relation to social, economic and regional development as well as public health. As most migrants tend to be young working-age individuals, labour shortages and the burdens on the national health care and pension systems seem to be the main concerns and obstacles that are then expected to restrain resources for implementation of sustainability policies in the future. Migration processes are also seen as accelerated by income and regional inequalities, as they sharpen existing social tensions. Emigration is expected to be reduced in the future through increase in pay and better opportunities for lifelong learning (the Ministry of Environment, 2011). Hence, the strategy depicts the relationship between emigration and (un)sustainability as a vicious cycle of development issues, with limited strategic action plan on how to break it.

While attempts to assess the role of emigration were made, it is important to note that the scope of inclusion of migration processes to the analysis was strongly limited. First, there is no discussion about the benefits of emigration. The impact of return migration or remittances is absent from the report, and there is no consideration of immigration processes. Furthermore, the analysis shows that Lithuania's sustainability agenda in relation to migration is focused on its own internal capacity, and does address global migration. While emigration is undeniably a major demographic issue, absence of any attempts to view migration as a more complex phenomenon or see it in a broader context indicate unfulfilled integrity of the subjects. The discourse of the document suggests that among policy makers migration is prevailingly perceived as an undesirable occurrence that indicates sustainability faults in the origin country. The approach is in consensus to long-term and still relatively important view towards migration among international community which was particularly dominant in the late 20th century. Migration was and still, to an extent, is seen as a "symptom of development failure" (ECDPM and ICMPD, 2013).

Similar approach towards migration can also be found in available independent analyses. In a collective monograph of academicians on sustainable development issues and its solutions migration was only discussed in terms of threats of emigration. Movement from the country was linked to increased poverty, economic burdens and diminishing innovative and technological potential of Lithuanian society (VU and ASU, 2015). Migration is depicted as implicitly negative, and no opportunities of the phenomenon are addressed in the research.

Research that sheds a more varied light on migration processes at country level is strongly limited with only diaspora studies suggesting a more positive and balanced view. In a report on the potential of Lithuanian diasporas on sustainable development, Geciene and Matulaitis (2011) suggest that the potential of emigration has a lot to offer and yet is unrecognised. The researchers conclude that Lithuanian diaspora could and would like to contribute to the country's sustainable progress, including social, cultural, scientific and business dimensions. According to the study, the main obstacles for recognition are lack of information about possible forms of contribution available to Lithuanian diasporas and lack of attention of Lithuanian government towards diaspora potential (Geciene and Matulaitis, 2011). However, there has been a positive shift in the area since the research was published. A number of

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initiatives to encourage diaspora's role in national development were introduced, such as "Create Lithuania" that enables professionals abroad to contribute to the wellbeing of nationals in the origin country and "Global Lithuanian Leaders", an organisation that connects professional Lithuanian diaspora abroad. Yet, the positive outcomes of emigration remain underrepresented in the research production. Even if migration starts to be seen as a more complex and not only an exclusively negative phenomenon, international movement in research is still viewed from a standpoint of national interests, rather than is perceived as a global process.

Apart from emigration, other forms of migration (such as immigration, irregular migration, asylum, integration) do not seem to occur neither in research on sustainable development, nor in the political discourse. Furthermore, sustainable development and SDGs are also absent from national research that focuses on asylum, immigration and migrant integration. In Lithuania, sustainable development is largely perceived and conceptualised as an environmental, agricultural and industrial project, while its social dimension receives little attention. It can be illustrated by 'Sustainable Development Indicators'. Introduced by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics, they are used to monitor implementation of the national sustainable development strategy. Out of 55 indicators, only 15 are social development indicators, and none of them monitor migration processes (Statistics Lithuania, 2016). The environment-focused nature of the national discourse was raised as an issue and largely agreed upon by experts and government representatives from focus groups, a complementary field research presented in the second part of the report (for more details, see p. 14).

2.4. Case Studies of good practices

As lack of awareness about sustainable development is especially acute in Lithuania, there is a strong need for development education: from targeted trainings and awareness raising campaigns to new ways of looking at the curriculum for universities and schools. So far, development education initiatives were limited. As there is no national framework, initiatives were usually short-term, organised by individual actors such as NGOs or a government body and, as a result, of limited accessibility by the general public. Yet, there are a few leaders in the area of information campaigns and representation of SDGs that hitherto have shaped the current public understandings about sustainability and the Agenda 2030.

A number of awareness raising initiatives are carried out by National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform (Lithuanian NGDO Platform). Between 2015 and 2017, in cooperation with Eurohouse Lithuania, it has been implementing a project called "Media 4 Development" that aims to raise awareness about global development issues among journalists. They offered participants an opportunity to travel to developing countries and publish articles about global issues they have observed in Lithuanian news portals. Another initiative is inclusion of films that address poverty, inequality and exploitation in

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developing world in the human rights film festival “Ad Hoc: Inconvenient Films”. The NGDO Platform also plays an important role in development of non-formal development education system at national level. In 2017, it has implemented an awareness-raising campaign about SDGs that targeted youth population. Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the programme covers organisation of public discussions, national competitions, theatre performances and training initiatives (NGDO Platform, 2015; 2017). The Platform also funds projects implemented by other CSOs that aim to raise public awareness. In October 2018, a hackaton on the SDGs will be organised by a consultancy platform AfriKo, focusing on sustainable energy and human trafficking (AfriKo, 2018).

Another non-governmental organisation that contributes to development of global citizenship in Lithuania is Global Citizens’ Academy. Established in 2014, it aims to develop capacities of young people to understand and engage with global issues. The main activities of the organisation includes non-formal education and awareness raising campaigns, training for youth workers and educators, research on development education and advocacy of global citizenship at national level (GCA, 2017). Arguably, it is one of the most important actors in development of development education in Lithuania. The academy has considerably contributed to identification of knowledge gaps among the youth and has built the theoretical foundations of localised framework for development education.

Noticeably, attempts to raise awareness about sustainable development were also made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to financial support for activities implemented by the NGDO Platform, the Ministry has independently initiated a periodic radio show that aimed to improve public understanding of development assistance (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017). The ministry is also responsible for development and maintenance of a website www.orangeprojects.lt. The web page effectively explains what development cooperation is, how the government of Lithuania contributes to development projects abroad and, most importantly, how it relates to sustainable development agenda, including SDGs. However, awareness raising campaigns initiated by the ministry mainly focus on development assistance separately, the area they are responsible for. While briefly linked to sustainable development in the website, information campaigns do not cover all aspects of development education (such as sustainability locally, migration, environment, etc). Apart from these initiatives of the ministry, other government bodies seem to play little role in promotion of sustainable development.

In consensus to some experts’ opinion, campaigns mentioned above seem to have limited outcomes as there is no national agenda for development education and the initiatives were rather fragmented, accessible only to limited segments of the population (Eurohouse, 2018). The Government of the Republic of Lithuania has confirmed the programme for develoment education in 2007 but it was cancelled in 2011. Since then, little has changed, and due to limited instructions and funding implementation of development education at municipal level has also weakened. As a result, education on sustainable development mainly relies on non-governmental sector, irregular small-scale projects and motivation of individual municipalities as well as individual actors in education sector (ESDN, 2014; Eurohouse, 2017).

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As public opinion polls demonstrate, perceptions about migration processes and their links to sustainable progress are strongly limited. In the context of lack of awareness about sustainable development and absence of a strategy to improve the latter, initiatives have so far focused on development education in general and links between migration and sustainable development remain largely unaddressed. On the other hand, as one of the government representatives suggested, it is questionable whether in the context of unawareness there is a need to focus on the concept of sustainable development or SDGs directly. As these concepts are complex and not necessarily easily understandable, emphasis on more general and holistic notions of global development and sustainability without the focus on technical aspects of the concepts could arguably be more effective.

2.5. Migration policies and sustainable development

There is no direct implementation of sustainable development goals within the national migration framework. Yet, national legislation regarding migration is, to a great extent, being shaped by more integral EU policies, and migration policies have indirect links to SDGs due to the holistic approach of the latter. Therefore, national migration policies can be assessed in terms of its compatibility with the goals. Two main trajectories of the SDGs, as instruments of evaluation, can then be distinguished. The first is promotion of regular, safe and well-managed migration. The other is protection of migrants' rights, as they face a number of migration-induced vulnerabilities and are under higher risk of trafficking as well as other forms of exploitation.

One of the most important aspects regarding migration and sustainability in the agenda is set by goal 10.7, which encourages to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies" (UN, 2015). While migration policy framework at national level is far from effective, the government has arguably made significant improvements in migration management in 2014, when it adopted the 'Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines' and 'Action Plan for Implementation of the Policy for the Integration of Foreigners'. Even if triggered by so called 'refugee crisis' and political pressure of the EU, it was the first time when more explicit migration strategy containing long-term goals and priorities was implemented (Zibas, 2015). Its main objectives include continuous improvement of integration system for foreigners, periodical release of strategic planning documents, promotion of public tolerance towards immigrants and ethnic minorities, and the compliance of asylum procedures and reception conditions in relation to the EU standards (the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2014).

However, a lot still has to be done in order to achieve mobility-related SDGs. Other targets of the Agenda 2030 include creation of "secure working environments for all workers, including migrants workers", protection of migrant rights and ending all forms of exploitation (UN, 2015). The major issue that hinders achieving the goals is the ineffectiveness of

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integration mechanism. According to MIPEX (2017) indicators, there was no significant improvement regarding integration of foreigners since 2007. Migrants face difficulties in accessing information about relevant integration and public services, education system is not prepared to accept foreigners' children, labour migrants are not eligible to any assistance in finding a job or improving their qualifications (HRMI, 2018). Furthermore, protection of migrant rights is weak, which is especially problematic considering the growing number of labour immigrants. Recent findings suggest that labour immigrants are one of the most vulnerable groups that is more likely to experience exploitation by employers and even become victims of modern slavery (HRMI, 2018).

Flawed implementation of the legislation, alongside gaps within the strategies, is the reason why asylum, migration and integration policies do not fully fulfil the second aspect of migration policy guidelines of SDGs. Lack of decent integration system determines that immigrants in Lithuania, especially refugees, are highly vulnerable social groups. The situation is even worse when refugees are considered. The financial support that should help refugees to integrate is not enough for the basic needs, language courses are not sufficient and psychologists' consultations are mostly unavailable due to language restrictions (HRMI, 2018). Alongside high prevalence of anti-immigration attitudes among Lithuanians that do not seem to be systematically tackled, the current circumstances hardly create a safe and sustainable environment for migrants. Rather than being successfully integrated, migrants, and especially refugees, are forced towards social isolation and economic deficiencies.

While national migration, asylum and integration policies have a substantial legal basis in order to meet migration guidelines of SDGs, implementation and lack of consideration of migrants' rights do not allow meeting the standards of the Agenda 2030. Despite legal commitments to raise public tolerance towards immigrant and ethnic minorities, the government bodies remain largely inactive. When the lack of political communication is combined with ineffective integration policies, majority of refugees leave the country for other EU states, and public attitudes towards the minorities arguably worsen even further.

2.6. Migration policies and international commitments

In 2001, the EU has for the first time adopted Sustainable Development Strategy. During Gothenburg Summit (2002), as well as the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002), the sustainability agenda was introduced as one of the global priorities. Lithuania, which at the time planned to join the EU, has followed the international community. In 2003, the country adopted its own National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) that reflected priorities and objectives of the EU. However, the first document was rather vague, and in 2009 a new version of the NSDS was introduced. This time it included new items, such as a concrete plan of implementation measures with allocation of specific responsibilities to different government bodies. A list of sustainable development indicators was also developed as a measure to monitor progress. A few minors amendments of the

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strategy text were made in 2011, and no further legal development of the framework has occurred since then (ESDN, 2014).

Since 2006, the EU has imposed obligations for each country to develop and supervise implementation of national strategies for sustainable development, as in that way specific circumstances of each state could be better addressed. The national strategy of Lithuania was developed on paper, but arguably has never led to effective implementation. Just as experts from the field research agreed, sustainable development has never become a national priority. As they argue, the project was imposed 'from above' (the EU), and there were no qualified and motivated individuals to make the strategy an integral part of national policies.

The stagnation in implementation of the strategy illustrates the lack of political will and secondary importance of sustainable development policies. By the strategy, the government has committed to form the National Commission on Sustainable Development that would monitor the progress and regularly improve the sustainability guidelines. Since 2005, periodic evaluation reports that would track the implementation had to be prepared and published every 2 years (the Ministry of Environment, 2011). However, the release of reports was suspended in 2014, and no development of the strategy has occurred since 2011. The activity of the commission has been limited, and lack of commitment to the strategy can be seen from scarce implementation efforts at ministry level.

On the other hand, principles of sustainable development were transferred to the national strategy that outlines the vision of Lithuania's future, called "Lithuania 2030". Sustainable economy, including environment-friendly use of resources, 'green' agriculture and transport are extensively referred to in the document. Yet, sustainable development is mentioned only 5 times and only in the context of environmental protection. While some goals of social dimension of SDGs are discussed (such as the need to tackle social exclusion and the need for open, critically thinking society), they are not linked to sustainable development or SDGs. Arguably, it again reveals the misconceptions of sustainable development in national context, and the fragmentation of different dimensions of SDGs. Migration is also mentioned in the strategy, but the focus is being drawn on inclusion of Lithuanians abroad and tackling emigration; the need to improve public policy regarding immigration is mentioned only once. (the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2012). While the document can be assessed positively due to references to the goals of the Agenda 2030, the generic nature of the strategy, as well as its focus on economic development over social progress limits its potential. Therefore, better management of national strategy for sustainable development is still needed, as "Lithuania 2030" is not an equivalent substitute of the effective sustainable development programme. It is important to ensure that substantial attention being paid to social issues at both local and international levels, as well as development of global citizenship.

The state of development education at national level is also weak. Introduced in 2007 by the Ministry of Education and Science, the programme of development education was cancelled in 2011 (Eurohouse, 2018). While some aspects of development education are implemented

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in the national curriculum for school education such as respect for cultural diversity, a report assessing national programme for development education concluded that “there is still lack of a systematic approach, strategic planning and coordination of actions between different actors” in the area (Augutiene and Baltreniene, 2014:28). As researchers suggested, it is important that not only schools, but a range of education institutions and organisations (such as youth centres, non-formal education institutions) would have relevant competence to incorporate development education into their activities. Even if included in legal acts, effective implementation of development education requires improvement of higher education programmes on the subject, in order to ensure that future educators are competent to teach about global issues and sustainable development (Augutiene and Baltreniene, 2014).

However, a more positive picture regarding the role of Lithuania in tackling global issues can be seen in the area of development aid. In September 2016, National Development Cooperation Action Plan for the period 2017-2019 was approved. The document covers concrete objectives and measures to contribute to development in aid recipient countries (the Department for Development Cooperation, 2017). In response to pressures of the EU and the UN, Lithuania has implemented a number of development cooperation projects and provides humanitarian aid to the areas of conflicts and crises. In 2017, the country has provided humanitarian aid worth of 503 000 Euros. While the Eastern Partnership countries, especially Ukraine and Georgia, remains among prioritised recipients, contributions to alleviate crises outside the region were also made. Two of the most notable projects were developed to address the humanitarian crisis in Mali and overpopulation issues in Nigeria. Lithuania allocates the funds to Mali in order to secure food aid and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene conditions. It also participates in EU Peacekeeping missions by providing military and security support in the fight against the rebel groups in the north of the country (the Department for Development Cooperation, 2017). In Nigeria, development assistance aims to alleviate food shortages as well as to address the root causes of irregular migration to Europe, as Nigeria is the largest migrant-sending donor in Africa. By developing a mentoring programme between IT specialists in Lithuania and Nigeria, the ministry seeks to improve employment of young Nigerians, as unemployment among the most mobile population group is a major push factor for emigration (The Department for Development Cooperation, 2017).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been relatively successful in communication of their activities to the general public. In addition to maintenance of the website on development cooperation, the ministry releases annual reports that provide systematic information about development assistance projects. While it is hard to deduce whether relatively high public support for development cooperation is the result of consistent implementation measures, development assistance is arguably the most developed and evidently the most supported aspect of sustainability agenda at national level.

As a member of the EU, Lithuania has participated in the EU resettlement programme. The country has committed to accept 1105 refugees and in that way show solidarity with the EU as well as asylum seekers. However, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour has reduced integration allowances by 50% and shortened the length of integration programmes shortly

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after the commitment was made. According to the UNHCR ambassadors in Lithuania, current conditions for refugees in the country are not substantial for effective integration. They prompt refugees to leave for more prosperous Nordic and Western Member States that offer better living standards for individuals granted asylum (European Website on Integration, 2016). Therefore, Lithuania's response to the so called "refugee crisis" is controversial. While the country has agreed with quota system, actions of the government arguably indicate the unwillingness to integrate refugees. If interpreted in the general context, it could be said that changes in asylum policies after agreeing to the quota illustrate that political will to address global issues beyond national interests is still low and the current engagement is rather imposed 'from above'; there is a lack of awareness regarding the need of a more global approach not only at public, but also at policy level.

As the national sustainable development framework is weak and mainly focuses on environmental issues, links between sustainability and migration as well as relevant international commitments are hardly reflected in national legislation. Migration is largely absent from the sustainable development agenda. The political discourse regarding migration management depicts international movement as an isolated phenomenon with the main emphasis being drawn to national risks and benefits, with the only exception of development cooperation projects. Development assistance seems to be the only area that offers a broader, contextualised view on global issues, in which migration is perceived as interlinked to development problems.

Challenges within the institutional framework of sustainable development agenda and questions such as whether, and, if so, in what ways migration policies are (indirectly) linked to sustainability strategy still need to be addressed as data availability is limited. To fill these information gaps, the field research with representatives from NGOs, education institutions and the government was conducted.

3. Field Research

3.1. Introduction

The field research consisted of two focus groups. The first one was carried out with 4 female experts, mainly working in NGOs and education institutions. Two experts represented NGO sector and two experts were from educational sector. The sampling was chain-referral (also known as snowball sampling); a small group of experts were asked to invite colleagues whose expertise would be relevant to the research. The discussion in this group was led by an interview protocol and lasted approximately an hour and a half. The group was designed to a) explore how aware the society and Government about SDGs and sustainable development in general are; b) what are the (potential) links between sustainable development and

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migration at national level; c) to find out what experts propose in order to improve management of sustainable development; and d) what is needed to raise awareness about SDGs as well as migration as a global process.

The second group consisted of 8 government representatives who have some form of responsibility over sustainable development policies and/or migration. The participants represented the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Chancellery of the Government of Lithuania. The sample was collected through official invitations distributed to the government bodies asking to allocate the most qualified representatives. 3 of the participants were female, 5 of them were male. In this group, the main topics were a) responsibility distribution between government bodies; b) reflection of SDGs in different national strategies; c) challenges in integration of sustainable development within each ministry; d) the reasons for and the potential measures to tackle public unawareness about SDGs and global issues in general. The discussion was led by an interview protocol and lasted approximately 2 hours. Both focus groups were voice recorded and informed consent was obtained by all participants. Confidentiality was addressed by keeping the focus group material available only for internal use by the researchers, storing it safely and making it impossible to identify interviewees in the research reports.

3.2. Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

Both experts and government representatives agreed that there is no public discourse about SDGs at all, and there is a strong need to raise public awareness about sustainability. Yet, the issue was not yet effectively addressed. As suggested, there are only few separate projects and initiatives to raise awareness about sustainable development, but no systematic action is taking place. Even the government understands it fragmentally and superficially. As an education actor claimed, from 2000 up until 2010, a number of institutions were actively working on Sustainable Development Goals and many efforts were put in order to develop this discourse. According to an expert, schools were developing programs, there were special training courses for teachers and universities were preparing a special interdisciplinary Masters programme. However, the lack of public consciousness about the importance of Sustainable Development and therefore absence of interest led to failure of the project.

Additionally, it seems that even within a small segment of population familiar with sustainable development, there are widespread misconceptions about the concept. The experts suggested that definitions are used interchangeably among the general public, there is a lack of understanding what Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Aid and Development Cooperation are and how they differ. In the view of government representatives, the majority of the society believe that sustainable development is limited to protection of the environment.

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Furthermore, as it was agreed in both focus groups, it is primarily perceived as limited to our own geographical area, the region of national interest.
A number of research participants highlighted that the society is not yet ready to comprehend the need for sustainability, especially at global level. The public is not prepared to accept migration and displacement as international issues Lithuanians should also take responsibility for, especially when the origin locations are geographically and culturally distant. The government representatives explained the widespread objection by historical circumstances: as a former state of the USSR, Lithuania was isolated from global initiatives and cooperation; the country has never been affected by large-scale migration and did not have historical links with nations outside the neighbouring region. Hence, Lithuanians' concerns about the world are limited to national interests.

3.3. (Potential) links between migration and sustainable development

Since so far there were few attempts to link SDGs and migration at national level in practice, the discussion was rather focused on the need for a more holistic approach towards sustainable development in general, rather than migration and SDGs in particular. However, some insights regarding public opinion about migration and its potential implementation within the agenda were made.

According to the government representatives, it is important to improve understanding of the risks regarding social exclusion and inequalities first if one aims for solidarity for migrants and refugees. It is naïve to expect empathy for immigrants in the context where there is little concern for social issues at national level. The claim relates to another suggestion made in the same group, that firstly SDGs should be promoted as a way of critical thinking, rather than a set of concrete goals. In that way, the linkage between separate issues will be perceived by the general public, and it will arguably affect attitudes towards migration too.

When experts from NGOs were asked about the potential links that could be implemented in development education, proposals to link migration and SDGs through emigration of Lithuanians were suggested. According to an expert, it might be effective to use personal, relevant stories or perspectives. Emigration has directly or indirectly affected the majority of Lithuanians, and therefore could effectively fill the linkage. The suggestion can be translated to a need for a micro-macro approach (i.e. linking local to global, and personal to collective), as it is conceptualised in general guidelines for development education (Cabezudo et al., 2008). While experts demonstrated knowledge about the SDGs as a multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary project, migration-development nexus did not seem to be an area of in-depth expertise.

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3.3. Insecurity

While the discussion regarding insecurity was limited, two conclusions were drawn. First, both government representatives and experts agreed that empathy for migrants should not be expected in the presence of acute inequalities that hence create social tensions. Second, participants of both focus groups agreed that immigration is primarily perceived as a negative phenomenon.

The insights shared during focus groups are in consensus to conclusions of a vast body of research literature. The language used to describe migration or asylum processes in media is often associated with large quantities and elemental, uncontrollable forces such as flooding (CES, 2017). Migration and especially asylum is then understood as a form of invasion; immigration is associated "with powerlessness against the magnitude of newly arriving people and the costs or expenses of refugee services" (Greussing and Boomgaarden, 2017: 1751). In the environment where the media and public discourse tend to dehumanise migrants and depict them as quantified commodities, the lack of empathy and fear-inducing implications are not surprising.

3.4. Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

The government representatives also emphasised the importance of more personal stories, arguing that "statistics and numbers" are not effective measures to increase levels of empathy. In their view, the main reason for ignorance is the lack of "personal touch" to global issues such as migration.

As experts agreed and academic findings suggest, it is important to offer positive and more human-oriented images of migration and asylum. Evidence shows that adding a human element to representation of migrants improves public engagement with the issue (ODI, 2017). The latter approach could also facilitate linkage between migration and other global processes such as climate change in public awareness campaigns, as a more humane model of migration challenges a country-focused and threat-oriented discourse towards global issues in general.

Some of the government representatives suggested that Lithuanians lack empathy for immigrants from culturally distant communities, but are relatively welcoming migrants from culturally and historically similar backgrounds, such as Ukrainians and Georgians. Arguably, the society can relate to them more, as historical circumstances and socio-political issues are already familiar to Lithuanians. In other words, the general public feels more personally connected to migrants from these areas. A representative from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour then suggested that while empathy is easy to develop when immigrants from

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neighbouring countries are concerned, but a more pragmatic, benefit-focused approach could be effective in presentation of immigration from culturally distant regions.

Again, the insight relates to the concerns raised by research community. There is a risk in portraying migrants and refugees as victims only, as then they might be seen as sympathetic figures that however are not “contributing or capable”, notions that many see as crucial for successful integration (ODI, 2017). As public prejudices towards immigrants are usually based on distinction of identities (‘us’ vs. ‘them’), it is important to break the barrier and emphasise commonalities and shared values between migrants and host communities (ODI, 2017). Instead of focus on cultural differences, migrants’ contribution and achievements in arts, investments, job creation and other forms of participation in creating the ‘public good’ should be raised. In that way, migrants will be seen as global actors that are capable and contributing, rather than unfamiliar ‘invadors’ that local public has no shared values with.

One focus group participant has suggested that knowledge about the SDGs is not as important as a more holistic approach towards global and national processes; development education should primarily develop skills of critical thinking rather than specific knowledge. It is important to link global and national interests, and stress the long-term consequences of unsustainability.

When asked about the organisation of awareness raising campaigns, NGO representatives told that there were some measures undertaken by the government in the field of education, but it was rather “on paper” only and not effectively implemented in practice. One of the representatives stressed that all the emphasis in information campaigns was focused on the environmental protection. According to the experts, such distortion occurs because the government body responsible for the national strategy is the Ministry of Environment, and it is not the institution that is competent enough to implement a holistic approach towards sustainability.

Noticeably, the government representatives have shifted responsibility of raising public awareness about both migration and sustainable development to the NGO sector, while experts from the latter have claimed that the government should take more actions. According to the experts, NGOs do not have instruments to develop long-term programmes; they are only capable to develop short-term, small projects as the funding as well as human resources are not sufficient for large-scale campaigns. They also argued that the accessibility of information about funding opportunities is limited. On the other hand, a representative from the Ministry of Education and Science admitted the lack of political will at the ministry level. It was suggested that there are not enough measures undertaken to promote development education within education institutions. While development education is included in the agenda on education, it is integrated to policy papers only and in practice implementation is far from effective; there is a strong need to work with teachers. The mutual scapegoating implies there is a lack of communication and cooperation between governmental and non-governmental, as well as educational, sectors, the issue that was also addressed by the experts.

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3.5. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

The most important issue related to migration and sustainable development, as touched upon in both focus groups, is the lack of awareness about global issues among the general public. Lithuanians focus on local matters and do not see the links between national interests and global processes. The society seems to lack understanding about interdependency of the world; the public does not see themselves as global citizens. Migration is perceived as a separate and predominantly negative subject and is barely linked to sustainability. It is therefore important to first strengthen public understanding of global processes (including migration) in general and sustainable development as a holistic concept in particular. The most important measure, as discussed, is a more systematic programme of development education. It should be implemented in schools, as well as improved at university level for students who are interested in the subject. As experts indicated, migration should be more effectively integrated within the broader sustainable development approach both in policy and research. There is a strong need to bring more emphasis on social dimension of sustainable development, including international movement, its opportunities and challenges.

The scope of information regarding sustainable development available to public is respectively limited, both in terms of government communication strategy and media coverage. While migration receives more attention in the media than sustainable development, it is not presented as primarily a global phenomenon, but is seen from the point of national or EU interests. The lack of information available to public that would help to develop a more holistic view towards global issues is a major problem as a vicious cycle of public unawareness is then formed. According to experts, collaboration between universities, government institutions, NGOs and the government would help to raise awareness. As there is no effective inter-sectoral collaboration but, on the contrary, misunderstanding of roles of different actors exists, more effective cooperation would help to develop long-term public awareness campaigns of larger scale.

In the context where public discourse towards sustainable development mainly focuses on environmental aspects and is largely limited, there is no data or literature regarding links between migration and sustainable development. There is also a lack of professionals with expertise in the inter-disciplinary field. Currently, areas of sustainable development (such as migration, gender equality, human rights) are highly fragmented and are not seen in the broader context of sustainable progress. As there is a lack of programmes as well as modules that would effectively address sustainable development at university level, there is a need to develop sustainable development agenda in higher education institutions. According to experts, one of the ways to fill these gaps could be preparation of optional modules on sustainable development, which could be chosen by students from any faculty. In this way, there would be more multi-disciplinary prospective professionals that in the future could implement sustainability in different areas of expertise.

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3.6. The Role of education systems

Currently, the system of development education is nearly non-existing and needs to be created from the ground up. While the national strategy for development education was introduced in 2007, it was suspended in 2011; since then there is no coordination at national level, and development education has arguably never been effectively integrated within school curriculum. Therefore, there is a need for structural, rather than fragmented transformations. Not only programmes on sustainable development at university level should be developed, but also the root causes should be addressed. In order to reach its full potential as a form of critical thinking, it has to be integrated within education of young children. Development education has to start in primary schools and even kindergartens; content material suitable for the programme such as textbooks and online courses has to be developed. Most importantly, education of teachers must ensure that educators are sufficiently competent to teach about the subjects. Ideally, measures should be undertaken to target adult population as well, by integrating development education into lifelong learning programmes and adult education institutions. However, the latter issue was not addressed by the research participants. Localised challenges and recommendations for education on sustainable development, as identified by experts and government representatives, are summarised below.

Representatives from both focus groups agreed that teachers are not well-qualified to present content related to sustainable development, especially SDGs. One of the experts stressed that not only teachers, but also social workers and psychologists working in schools should also be trained, as they could integrate development education in extra-curricular activities. However, the issue that needs to be addressed, as indicated by experts, in the changing focus of sustainable development education. As measures of sustainability keep transforming, and new challenges emerge, it is not enough to prepare teachers once. It is important that teachers' knowledge and competency is up to date. Potentially, seminars for educators could be periodically held; information about changes in the area should be made available and easily accessible to school staff.

Fragmentation of different expertise areas of sustainable development was identified as a major challenge for implementation of development education in school curriculum. According to experts, a number of NGOs with their own areas of interest (such as gender equality, environmental protection, humanitarian aid) have approached the Ministry of Education and Science, with proposals to implement their agendas into the national curriculum. Yet, due to a number of proposals being received, the ministry is not capable to process them all separately. Therefore, a more centralised and cooperative attempt is needed, in which sustainable development and SDGs could be used as a link.

Furthermore, if more courses at university offered content related to sustainable development, more professionals with inter-disciplinary thinking would be raised. One of the potential measures would be introduction of optional modules on sustainable development

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that students from any faculties could take. In this way, fragmentation of different areas of sustainable development at national level could be alleviated in the future. Arguably, optional courses would contribute to a more systematic approach and cooperation of experts with variation in expertise, and therefore more effective management of sustainable development agenda at country level eventually.

According to experts, the Ministry of Education and Science is more likely to adopt projects that focus on complementing existing programmes, rather than introducing new ones. While there is a strong need to-reintroduce a national strategy for development education, from a pragmatic point of view, currently more integrative rather than inventive projects are likely to result in success. Therefore, resources of relevant NGOs are focused on two potential opportunities 1) introduction of compulsory volunteering into the school curriculum 2) transformations in curriculum on citizenship. Through compulsory volunteering in public sector, NGOs might use the opportunity to raise awareness about SDGs among minors by engaging them practically, while transformed citizenship lessons in schools could include more content related to global issues as well as promote global citizenship and sustainable development more effectively.

As development education is in general largely absent from the national education system, the discussion was focused on the latter rather than addressing links between sustainable development and migration specifically. However, migration was perceived as an inherent part of global development during the discussions, and is expected to receive substantial attention in the future improvements of development education.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. National and local level recommendations for NGOs

There is a strong need to continue raising public awareness about sustainable development and challenge public perceptions of migration as a negative, threat-associated phenomenon. Notions of sustainability, climate change and migration indicate that there is little awareness about the interdependence of the contemporary world; national interests and global welfare are perceived as mutually exclusive. Hence, it is important to develop a sense of global and responsible citizenship; the concept that should be promoted by implementation of effective awareness-raising initiatives targeting both youth and adult population. Hence, NGOs need to organise events, workshops, conferences, run awareness campaigns on the problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers and provide reports on empirical data to raise public

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awareness about sustainable development and contest existing perceptions of migration as harmful.

A major challenge in non-governmental sector, as the field research has revealed, is the lack of cooperation between organisations working in different areas of sustainable development. The majority of NGOs that specialise in gender equality, environmental protection, human rights, migration and other relevant fields do not realise that their areas of expertise are also domains of sustainable development and SDGs. Meanwhile, the latter concepts could become the basis of collective action when it is in their own interests. Currently, the existing fragmentation hinders effective communication of gaps and recommendations to the government bodies. Experts from different (but connected) areas offer amendments to the national education system separately, while the effort could be centralised. Arguably, a more united voice and a smaller number of individual projects being suggested would facilitate a more constructive dialogue with the government.

Finally, there is a lack of knowledge and understanding regarding links between sustainable development, SDGs and international migration among NGOs in the field. While representatives have demonstrated expertise in sustainable development and the Agenda 2030 in a broader sense, relation between the latter concepts and migration remains unrepresented in non-governmental sector.

4.2. National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

Another major challenge for implementation of sustainable development policies is the lack of political will. Sustainable development is not a national priority, and, to a large extent, seems to be imposed 'from above'. As experts suggested, the need for sustainable development is still not fully comprehended by policy makers. As a result, the strategy was introduced as a necessary document but is not working in practice: the monitoring of the progress in the area was suspended and attempts to implement sustainable development at ministry level have been limited. Hence, there is a need to re-introduce monitoring process and impose more binding requirements for ministries to materialise commitments for sustainable development. It is not enough to make references to sustainable development within more generic national strategies, such as "Lithuania 2030" and use them as substitutes for the national sustainable development agenda since it risks diminution of the latter (as it can already be seen by "Lithuania 2030").

The institutional structure for implementation of the strategy also needs to be reconsidered, as currently the lack of effective cooperation between ministries reduces the potential of the agenda. Different ministries are responsible for different parts of sustainable development,

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and communication between the institutions seems to be flawed. As the leading body is the Ministry of Environment, the main focus of sustainable development policies is currently being drawn on environment-friendly developments, and other aspects of the strategy, including its social dimension and migration in particular, receives little consideration. As both experts and government representatives agreed, changing the leading body to the Chancellery of the Government is likely to solve these issues.

Since public awareness regarding sustainable development, migration and global issues is a major challenge, there is a strong need to re-introduce a uniform strategy for development education. Currently, national programme for development education in schools is non-existing; initiatives implemented in the past do not seem to develop adequate knowledge and skills regarding global issues among pupils, as participants of both focus groups agreed. Development education should be integrated within national school curriculum; non-formal and adult education should also be considered. In addition, it is important to take into consideration competence of teachers, as relevant content alone will not lead to desirable learning outcomes.

The field research has demonstrated that there is no clear distribution of roles between non-governmental sector and the government, especially in the area of awareness-raising campaigns. While some government representatives have suggested that enhancing public understanding and countering negative notions of immigration is the responsibility of NGOs, it is important to take into account that capacity of non-governmental sector is usually limited to short-term and small-scale projects. Therefore, in order to address the lack of awareness effectively, the government should take a more active role in promotion and communication regarding sustainable development agenda as the authority of the government is likely to have a positive effect on public attitudes. It could be done by enhancing cooperation with NGOs; it is also recommended to create channels by which information about sustainable development projects being undertaken would be easily available and comprehensible to the general public.

Finally, there is a need to integrate migration, and especially immigration, to sustainable development framework and, vice versa, sustainability should receive more consideration within the migration policies. While there are attempts to address emigration, immigration is largely absent from the strategy for sustainable progress. There is a need to challenge prevailing negative and risk-inducing perceptions of migration through effective inclusion of the topic to sustainable development agenda, development education and awareness raising campaigns. Furthermore, in order to ensure social dimension of sustainability at local level as well as protection of migrant rights, it is important to improve immigration policies. The poor quality of integration mechanism, limited availability of public services to migrants and the lack of measures undertaken to tackle their vulnerable positions have to be addressed.

4.3. Local level recommendations for municipalities

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Just as government bodies, municipalities are encouraged to engage in awareness raising campaigns, potentially in cooperation with NGOs. It is important that municipalities would make information about local sustainable development projects easily accessible to local communities, as the authority of local government is likely to facilitate changes in public perceptions.

Furthermore, youth and culture centres established by municipalities can become important mediators of development education and global citizenship, as well as advocates that would counter negative attitudes towards immigration and migrant minorities. The institutions are therefore encouraged to integrate development education within non-formal education being provided, targeting both youth and adult population.

Finally, there is a strong need for municipalities to improve their integration facilities, as the latter largely depend on local authorities. It is important to make public services more accessible to newcomers and foreigners, including provision of information about relevant services, schooling for children that do not speak local languages, health services, career and legal consultations as well as to ensure better quality of free language courses. Municipalities are encouraged to advocate for anti-discrimination and inform locals about the ways migration and immigrants can contribute to development of their communities.

4.4. National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Higher education institutions should take a more active role in improving the state of development education. As currently future educators are not being substantially trained to teach development education in schools and through non-formal education activities, there is a need to develop programmes that would build their capacity to engage with the subject. A holistic model of development education needs to be integrated within the pedagogy courses; all dimensions of sustainable development (such as the risks of unsustainability, global dilemmas, local-global nexus and migration) need to be addressed with the focus being drawn on a more global sense of citizenship and responsibility.

Furthermore, introduction of optional modules on sustainable development available to students from across faculties and relevant undergraduate as well as postgraduate degrees would arguably raise a generation of future specialists with a more holistic, interdisciplinary approach towards the subject. Respectively, it could solve the existing fragmentation of different areas of sustainable development, which is currently a major issue for effective sustainable development management at both non-governmental and government sectors.

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4.5. Recommendations for future research areas

A major issue with existing literature is the lack of consideration regarding links between sustainable development and international migration, especially immigration. Immigration is not seen as a potential contributor to sustainable growth, and the dangers of poorly managed immigration policies are not covered in the national strategy for sustainable development as well as research in general. There is no localised perspective of the role of immigration to development, the knowledge gap that must be addressed in order to achieve effective integration of the subjects at policy level. In addition, more research is needed in the area of media coverage. There are no recent studies on how sustainable development in general and the SDGs in particular, are depicted in the media, not to mention its linkage to migration.

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MALTA NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1. Rationale

Migration is a defining feature of this century and contributes to economic and social development everywhere: indeed, it is key to achieving the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (Overseas Development Institute, 2017). One of the 10 targets set down by Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to "reduce inequality within and among countries" is to "[f]acilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". Other goals relating to migration include Goal 4, which talks about student mobility; and Goals 5, 8 and 16, which relate to trafficking in human beings. Finally, other goals aim at ensuring equality for all in all areas of life, including rights to economic resources, access to nutritious and sufficient food, access to health, education and decent work, as well as access to adequate and affordable housing to all (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2018; Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2018). However, the positive correlations between migration and sustainable development, including decreased unemployment and enriched human capital have "often been underestimated or misunderstood" (UNITAR, 2012).

In Malta, as this report indicates, a dearth of these positive correlations can be found in multiple sectors of society: in the education sector, in the local media, at policy and governmental level, as well as at a public level. The lack of links between migration and sustainable development is not aided by the existing attitudes towards migration, but also towards sustainable development. Negative attitudes towards the former stem from various unfounded reasons, not the least of which are those surrounding employment. Indeed, despite the fact that Malta's unemployment is extremely low: in the third quarter of 2017 it stood at 4.0 %, the lowest jobless rate since at least 2001 (Trading Economics, 2018); and that Malta's economic growth is one of the strongest in Europe (International Monetary Fund, 2017), there are still fears surrounding migration in relation to employment as well as in other aspects of societal life. As will be seen in the following sections, fear and negative attitudes are fuelled, or at the very least often not addressed, by media and political discourse. Recent incidents have also unearthed prejudiced attitudes at a judicial level, as demonstrated by a magistrate acquitting a man accused of inciting racial hatred through social media towards a Muslim woman, with the magistrate ruling that the man was simply expressing an opinion (Agius, 2018a).

Meanwhile, there seems to be a lack of awareness, in different levels of the Maltese society, of what sustainable development truly entails, with the concept being often equated with environmental and natural issues. And, while on the one hand, the social and economic aspects of sustainable development are often ignored (thus also making it harder to link to

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migration unless it is with relation to climate change, a concept which, regardless, many Maltese do not seem to equate with their country), these are often equated with poverty and thus with developing countries.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

It is in this environment that the Maltese educational institutions are situated. Teachers and students are part of society, and classrooms and schools, as emphasised by the focus group participants[65], are part of communities. In view of the issues laid out in the previous section, the need for further exploration of the tools and resources needed to address these issues is evident. This study thus attempts to unpack the factors influencing attitudes, opinions, policies and driving forces behind the concepts surrounding migration and sustainable development discourses in Malta, in order to better inform the process of developing beneficial tools and resources in targeting the perception and understanding of these interrelated topics, and ultimately lived experiences of migrants and 'host' communities in an interdependent world.

1.3 Available Data and Resources

Various resources were used in the carrying out of this research, including national and EU-level surveys, local news sources, local and international literature (including NGO websites and research reports), and national policies, legislation and strategies. There are very limited available national surveys or policies looking into both aspects of the research, that is, migration and sustainable development as interrelated topics, and thus the sources used were often ones which dealt with each topic separately.

1.4 Limitations

The major limitations in this research study relate to three main factors, the first being that some requested interviews which could have shed further light on the topics being researched failed to materialise, thus limiting the completeness of the picture presented. This is also related to the second limiting factor, that is, the rather short timeframe allocated for this research project, which is, in turn, linked to the third factor, that being the vastness of the topics explored (and their interconnectedness), which needed to be looked at from multiple aspects and in different settings, as well as reported on in the limits of a short report. Due to this, the same report might not altogether have done justice to the richness of the interrelation between the subjects which were explored.

[65] See Chapter 3.

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2. Literature Review

2.1 Public Opinion[66]

Introduction

According to the latest Eurobarometer[67] results on public opinion in the EU, 32% of people in Malta think immigration is one of the most important issues faced by Malta at the moment. The other two most cited issues were crime (45%) and the environment, climate and energy issues (22%). 72% of Maltese are in favour of a common European policy on migration (Eurobarometer, 2017a). 91% of Maltese are very and somewhat concerned about irregular migration; while 31% believe that the main objective of the government is to limit migration (Foundation for the Promotion of Social Inclusion Malta (FOPSIM), 2018).

Attitudes towards migration, migrants and refugees

A research study commissioned by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) Malta on housing discrimination concluded that widespread racism and xenophobia, which are grounded in stereotypical beliefs, seem to have an impact on migrants and ethnic minorities living in Malta. The research suggests that certain migrants and ethnic minorities are subjected to a racialisation process, which is possibly grounded in historical constructs that have filtered into the present times. It documents various degrees of abuse by neighbours and property owners, including non-verbal abuse, intimidation and harassment. The research also suggests that racist discourse and practices have become normalised and are conducted with a sense of impunity, so much so that in extreme cases some estate agents even include discriminatory provisos in their written contracts. This results in limited housing opportunities for migrants and ethnic minorities, possibly contributing to the development of ethnic clusters and involuntary segregation, which in turn may fuel and maintain racialised beliefs, thus creating a vicious cycle (Fsadni & Pisani, 2012).

The emphasis on fear of African national and Arabs, which emerged from the above mentioned research, is confirmed by a survey commissioned by the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, where the researchers comment that one recurring theme during the survey was the distinction, by respondents, between different

[66] This section limits itself to studies published from 2012 onwards, since the migration situation (such as the sources of migration and the situation of detention and open centres for migrants) has changed in recent years.
[67] The National Statistics Office (https://nso.gov.mt) has no recent statistics on the public's perception of migration, sustainable development or national security.

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categories of foreigners: many spoke favourably of “rich” migrants who contribute to the economy, and negatively of “poor” migrants, which includes migrants who entered Malta irregularly (Media Today, 2015). The survey found that 48.6% of respondents were in favour of an integration policy. When seen in view of the fact that 13.4% replied that it ‘depends’ and 10.6% were not sure, this suggests, as the researchers state, a “lukewarm support for integration policies”. Furthermore, before the term ‘integration policy’ was explained, 47.4% of the respondents did not know what it meant. However, the study found that the percentage of respondents who are in favour of an integration policy increases (to 55.8%) when they know a foreign national living in Malta by name, and decreases (to 39.7%) when respondents do not know a foreigner by name. The major reasons given by those who replied that it ‘depends’ were that they are in favour of an integration policy as long as the numbers are limited and they respect the Maltese laws and rules, and that it depends on the migrants’ nationality and on whether they entered Malta legally. Meanwhile, those who replied ‘no’ to a government-backed integration policy gave various reasons, with the major one being that Malta is too small (19.8%), followed by the fear that they will take over Malta (12.2%), that there are too many foreigners (11.5%). Other noteworthy reasons were that they take Maltese people’s jobs, that more of them will come (both at 7.2%) and that they are not civilized or are inferior (6.5%). Similar reasons were given when respondents were asked what their greatest worry about the presence of foreigners in Malta were, with the most cited one being that they take Maltese jobs (21.6%) and that Malta is too small (17.9%). However, in this case, 9.0% mentioned religious extremism, while 5.5% mentioned crime and the same amount mentioned that they bring disease. Among other reasons were that they will take over Malta (5.3%), and that Maltese are losing their identity (4.2%).

The International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) found that Malta’s mean score for ‘students’ attitudes toward equal rights for immigrants’ (48.0) was significantly lower than the ICCS international average (50). Maltese female students, particularly those attending independent schools, were more in favour of equal rights for immigrants than males. When evaluating head of schools’ opinions of sources of social tension, Malta’s mean scale score for ‘ethnic and religious conflict’ (50.3) was marginally higher than the ICCS international average (50) (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2016).

It is worth noting that the perception held by the public that the majority of migrants living in Malta is made up of sub-Saharan asylum-seekers is unfounded (PfC & Integra Foundation, 2016). This perception might also be related to the fact that around half of the Maltese population do not consider people from other EU countries as migrants (FOPSIM, 2018). Furthermore, UNHCR Malta (2018) data shows that in 2017, the largest number of asylum applications was made by migrants originating from Syria and Libya. Indeed, the highest number of people from a non-EU country registered as residents in Malta in December 2017 were from Libya (3,622), followed by Serbia (2,757), the Philippines (2,047) and the Russian Federation (2,027) (Costa, 2,017). A similar situation has been recorded over the last few years: in 2015, 49% of asylum applications in Malta were made by Libyan nationals, while 23% of them were made by Syrians (National Statistics Office, 2016).

Attitudes towards national security risks

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Interestingly, a study looking at the Maltese public's perceptions of refugees and migrants in Malta suggests that the majority of respondents (54%) are not very concerned that their way of life is under threat from migration. However, this number increases among respondents who live in localities close to Ħal Far, a town in the South of Malta where there are three reception facilities (open centres) for refugees and asylum seekers, as well as an immigration detention centre (UNHCR Malta, 2012). Furthermore, as shown in the next section, there are concerns about the increasing crime rate in certain areas of Malta, which is attributed to migrants. A survey found that 58% of Maltese believe that migration affects the spread of crime (FOPSIM, 2018). A recent court case in which the presiding magistrate commented on the "increasing number of crimes being committed by a small number of foreigners" (Agius, 2018b) perpetuates the idea that Maltese should be worried about crimes committed by foreigners.

Attitudes towards sustainable development and environmental issues

Only 4 in 10 (38%) citizens living in Malta are aware of the SDGs (Eurobarometer, 2017b). With regards to environmental issues, according to a survey conducted by InsightPolls in November 2015, traffic (43%) and immigration (20%) were seen as two of the major issues facing Malta (Corporate Identities, 2018). In a commentary by Briguglio (2015) on another InsightPolls survey conducted earlier in the same year, she comments that the fact that for many Maltese, pollution is the main issue (right after immigration) facing Malta[68] is not surprising, since, among other factors, the Maltese own more cars per person than almost any other European country; and air pollution is high in localities where housing intensification is ongoing, thus exposing more people to pollution and generating more traffic.

However, a Eurobarometer on attitudes towards the environment reports that 90% of Maltese believe they can play a role in protecting the environment (Eurobarometer, 2014). A study found what seems to be corresponding evidence, that is, that Maltese exhibit voluntary pro-environmental behaviour without any financial incentives in the case of recycling behaviour; although some influencing factors were observed, such as the fact that recycling rates decreased in lower-income, more densely populated, and having a high number of tourists per-capita localities; and increased in localities having pro-government sentiments (Briguglio, Delaney and Wood, 2015). These findings, however, were not confirmed by the fieldwork research, where certain amount scepticism as to Maltese's behaviour in protecting the environment emerged[69].

Conclusion

In the light of the findings from this first section, a strong connection emerges between the general public's perceptions and its prevalent negative attitudes towards migration in Malta, especially in relation to security issues. Meanwhile, when looking at the Maltese public's

[68] 25% of adults in Malta mentioned the environment (mainly air quality and buildings in the countryside) as the key issue that Malta faced at the time and another 20% mentioned traffic as Malta's biggest problem (Briguglio, 2015).
[69] See section 3.2.

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attitudes towards sustainable development and the environment, it is important to note that sustainable development is mainly considered in its environmental sense and mostly addressed in terms of mobility and pollution issues, with a minority of the population being aware of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In the framework of the InterCap project, it becomes crucial to address bias on migration and raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all its aspects. This translates into the need for the provision of data and information on migration from reliable local and international sources to educators and learners alike, as well as raising awareness on existing relatable good practices fostering mutual exchange and integration, as well as on the SDGs in their entirety.

2.2 Media Response

Introduction

Based on a study commissioned by UNHCR Malta on public perceptions of refugees and migrants in Malta in 2012, UNHCR Malta suggest that the picture appears more complex compared with how these views are often portrayed by Maltese media (UNHCR Malta, 2012). Furthermore, in Malta there is a difference between independent newspapers / media newsrooms and those owned by political parties: the former seems to have a more balanced approach, perhaps more oriented towards evidence-based news. On the other hand, political party-owned newsrooms tend to give importance to news that rely on official statements coming from policy-makers, simply backing them out of duty, and without necessarily analysing those statements in depth. The topics of migration and sustainable development and migration and national security are linked by the media only sporadically; however local independent newspapers often carry out more in-depth research and offer a better, and more informed link, between migration, sustainable development and national security, as opposed to other newsrooms owned by political parties (Moncada, 2018). Even so, there are different reporting styles between independent newsrooms, styles which play a role in influencing public opinion.

Media response to Asylum, Migration and Integration

The Times of Malta (ToM), an English-language daily newspaper whose website is the most accessed newspaper website in Malta (Alexa, 2018), reported that between 2015 and June 2017, more than three quarters of crimes carried out in Marsa were carried out by Maltese nationals (ToM, 2017a). Marsa, a town in the South Eastern region of Malta, has had an influx of migrants as a result of the presence of the biggest open centre hosting single men on the island, and has often been the centre of controversy on the migrant situation of Malta, the latest of which culminated in a solidarity walk by Marsa residents in September 2017, in view of increase in crime which the residents attributed to immigrants (TVM, 2017). But while TVM, the national television station, uses headlines such as “Protest in Marsa against criminality by immigrants”, irrespective as to whether the large part of criminality is caused by immigrants, the Times of Malta tempers the hysteria that is evoked by such headlines with headlines such as in the article referred to above, that is “77% of crimes in Marsa were committed by Maltese”.

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Regardless, racialised beliefs continue to be rife even in view of such evidence to the contrary, with views ranging from blaming different ethnic groups (including migrants from Eastern Europe) for high crime rates to blaming such articles as incorrect. This seems to indicate the impenetrability of racialised views and the lack of impact awareness raising has on racism and xenophobia, both of which continue to flourish. This is shown by the uproar which ensued following the government's proposal to move the migrant open centre from Marsa to Birżebbuġa, a microcosm of which can be seen in the readers' reactions to the article by The Malta Independent (2017a), another daily English-language newspaper, where members of the public go so far as to state that "After ruining Marsa it is time to ruin Birżebbuġa", and telling migrants to go back to their own country, an oft-heard statement in Malta. Once again, the reporting of this news piece brings to the fore the difference in the styles of reporting between local newspapers, where the newspapers such as The Malta Independent limited themselves to reporting politicians' and authorities' views, while the Times of Malta (2017b) also reports on the migrant community's take on the issue, who reached out to the government for talks. Bias-eliciting on issues related to migration is shown through various media outlets, including, as mentioned previously, TVM. An example of this is the reporting on an issue which arose in 2016, when a group of Muslims met several times to pray in a public space in front of a Catholic church, eliciting controversial views from the public. An article by TVM (2016), headlined "Msida Muslims claim they are only praying and not inconveniencing anybody", continues to state that some of the Muslims brought "prayer mats which they spread about the wharf right in front of a traditional Christmas tree". While the wording of statements in the article and its headline seem to seek to channel the readers' views into viewing this event as an affront to the Maltese Catholics, the Times of Malta (2016), once again, attempts to present a more balanced view and cites the reason for the group of Muslims praying in public, that is, their having been evicted from their usual meeting place and being, at the time, in search of new premises.

Media response to Climate Change, Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development

In recent years, some newspaper articles covering climate change issues regarding Malta were printed in the Times of Malta, discussing the possible impact of climate change (including global greenhouse gas emissions) on the country in the coming years and its relation to the rising temperatures on the island (ToM, 2018; ToM, 2014).

Both newspapers and social media contain multiple references to other environmental issues pertinent to Malta, with the most recent focus being on the continuous building of areas, including ODZ (outside development zones) ones (for example: Cacopardo, 2017a; Pace, 2017).

Conclusion

The analysis of the mainstream media discourse with regards to migration and related issues in Malta shows that there is a certain degree of bias in reporting on news items involving

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foreigners, evidence of which is mainly found in the use of language, especially when looking at state-owned and political parties-affiliated news agencies. It is also evident that, although environmental issues are sporadically addressed in some of the mainstream media, these are often linked to political events, as in the case of the concerns over ODZ development, which has sparked ongoing protests from civil society and intense political debate. In light of this, it would be appropriate to explore basic skills and tools to analyse and compare the use of language in mainstream media – as well as social media – when addressing reporting on migration issues, within training and awareness raising initiatives targeting educators and learners alike, in order for them to become aware of the influence language can exert on the shaping of public opinion, as well as to be able to recognise biased reporting and identify under-reported issues.

2.3 Research and Project Production

Introduction

Research and project production linking migration and sustainable development are scarce at a local level. One such project is described in the next section as an example of good practice. Meanwhile, this section mentions another and then gives a brief overview of some pertinent recent research studies and projects on migration or sustainable development / climate change, on a separate basis.

Migration and Sustainable Development

With regards to project production in relation to migration and sustainable development, it is perhaps worth mentioning an initiative carried out in 2017 by SKOP,[70] the national platform of Maltese development NGOs within the project "Educating 4 Change". The platform organised a youth camp focusing on the issues of climate change and migration in the wider context of sustainable development, involving young participants (18 – 30 years old) from 17 different Mediterranean countries, who had the opportunity to come together and address these themes during a week-long event, which culminated in a conference where the youth presented their shared message (SKOP, 2017a).

Sustainable Development

In 2017, SKOP commissioned a research as part of an EU funded project, which explored Malta's then current state of affairs and policy (both domestic and foreign) and how they relate to the areas outlined by each sustainable development goal (SDG). The study highlighted some of the key statistics, policies, achievements and challenges in Malta's contribution towards the achievement of the SDGs. The study observed that the large part of the policies and legislation to which the study refers were enacted before the SDGs were established, and thus, while there are policies in place around each of the themes of the SDGs, the

[70] 'SKOP' is an abbreviation of '*Solidarjeta' u Koperazzjoni*', which means 'Solidarity and Cooperation'.

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language and targets do not relate specifically to these goals. Furthermore, the study observes that the link between various policy areas (such as education and health) and sustainability is practically non-existent. The study concludes that there is a lack of comprehensiveness in addressing the SDGs and "in comprehending Malta's role both in contributing at the national level, as well as in making a significant contribution (despite being a small country) at the global level" (The People for Change Foundation (PfC), 2017).

Environmental Issues

The perception of pollution and traffic being among the top of Maltese' concerns, as mentioned in the first section, is reflected in the Institute for Climate Change & Sustainable Development's staff publications, which focus largely on transportation (University of Malta, 2017a). Meanwhile, the University of Malta (UoM) has set up a Climate Change Platform (CCP) to facilitate collaboration between UoM entities and academics; and to promote research and teaching initiatives relating to climate change. The CCP organises various seminars on themes ranging from disaster risk-management to low-carbon economy in Malta, as well as sustainable development (UoM, 2016), but so far none on climate change and sustainable development in relation to migration. However, the Sustainable Development and the EU module taught to undergraduate students studying European Studies includes a migration topic (Moncada, 2018; UoM, 2017b).

Migration

Although there are a significant number of publications dealing with different aspects related to migration (including integration, access to healthcare and the job market, sexual and gender based violence, among others), there is a lack of explicit focus on migration in relation to sustainable development and the SDGs.

Extensive information and project outcomes and reports can be found when looking at the work carried out by a number of civil society, migrant organisations and international organisations in Malta, particularly aditus foundation, Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants; Integra foundation, IOM Malta, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Malta, Kopin, the People for Change Foundation and UNHCR Malta.[71]

2.4 Case Studies of Good Practices

Migration and Sustainable Development

A locally initiated good practice in the area of migration and sustainable development as interrelated topics is a training course, given by the development NGO Kopin[72] to teachers and educators, between January and April 2017. The project, called 'TEAM SD – ***T****raining*

[71] http://aditus.org.mt; http://fsmmalta.org; http://skopmalta.org/about-us/members/integra-foundation; https://malta.iom.int; http://www.jrsmalta.org; http://www.kopin.org; http://www.pfcmalta.org; http://www.unhcr.org.mt

[72] 'Kopin' is an abbreviation of '*Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali*', which means 'International Cooperation'.

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***E**ducators **A**bout **M**igration and **S**ustainable **D**evelopment*', implemented with the collaboration of the Curriculum Department of the Ministry for Education and Employment, aimed to foster and promote education that builds the notion of global citizenship among Maltese formal educational professionals. Through this project, Kopin gave 12 hours of training to 86 participants on issues related to education for sustainable development and about migration. The project concluded with a conference where participants discussed ideas, challenges and opportunities in continuing their professional development on the relevant topics (Kopin, 2017). Besides this, Kopin has been providing training for teachers and educators on migration, development and sustainability as part of the in-service training optional units offered to state, Church and private school teachers in July and September of every year since 2014 (Kopin, 2016).

Sustainable Development

Other good practices are either related to migration *or* sustainable development, separately. Regarding the latter, a current example is the training to teachers that SKOP is providing in primary schools in the use of a series of e-books focusing on the SDGs. These books seek to promote development education and raise awareness about the SDGs with school children. Developed by SKOP in collaboration with professional storywriters and illustration artists, these e-books explain the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in a child-friendly manner; and come in Maltese and English versions. The Ministry for Education and Employment is involved in this project in order to ensure that the books meet the required standards in terms of literacy and development education content (SKOP, 2017b).

Other ongoing programmes focusing on Sustainable Development, specifically in the education sector, which are worth mentioning, are the *Ekoskola* (EcoSchools) and the *Dinja Wahda* (One World) initiatives, managed by the NGOs Nature Trust and BirdLife Malta. Both programmes feature a strong environmental component (which is the common denominator in many initiatives on sustainable development implemented in Malta), offering students the possibility of connecting with nature through experiential outdoor education, with the main aim of fostering a sense of environmental mindedness in children and youth (BirdLife Malta, 2018; Nature Trust, 2018). Moreover, organisations such as Kopin, NatureTrust and Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (Fair Trade Cooperative) have been providing activities focusing on various aspects of Sustainable Development, both through formal and informal education, as well as teachers' training, since 2006[73].

With regards to the involvement of Local Councils in projects and initiatives related to Sustainable Development, the ongoing Resilient Communities pilot project, spearheaded by SOS Malta, will see the active participation of the Gzira and Mellieha Local Councils in initiatives fostering civic participation and the promotion of the SDGs (SOS Malta, 2018).

[73] For example: 'EAThink 2015' (http://eathink2015.org/en); 'Fair Trade in Schools' (http://www.l-arka.org/about/kkg); 'Global Schools2Communities' (http://psd.skola.edu.mt/2010/11/schools2communities); and 'We Eat Responsibly' (https://www.eatresponsibly.eu/en/about-us/#intro)

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Migration

Good practices implemented with regards to migration in Malta are largely orchestrated by civil society. The following are a few pertinent ongoing examples, although it is by no means an exhaustive overview of current, past or planned projects. Notably, while these initiatives target migration and do not particularly refer to sustainable development as part of their aims, they do target sustainable development through enabling better employment and integration for migrants.

Of note are initiatives undertaken by organisations working in this area. For example, the Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants (FSM) is currently implementing a project to improve the prospects and quality of employment for third country nationals (TCNs) through improving literacy and communication skills, as well as increasing their knowledge and awareness of cultural, legal and political context of Malta. It also exposes TCNs to education and employment opportunities, and informs relevant stakeholders on best practices in the provision of education and training for TCNs (FSM, 2017).

Another noteworthy project, initiated by the NGO SOS Malta (with the collaboration of the Valletta Local Council and Valletta 2018 Foundation[74]), was the 'Valletta Living Together (VLT): Promoting Integration through Achieving Intercultural City Status', which aims at developing a strategy for the capital city to become an intercultural city, through adhering to the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme. The strategy will promote and enable the integration of TCNs in Malta, through a series of workshops and exchanges (SOS Malta, 2015).

The integration of refugees and TCNs in Malta is also supported by the social inclusion work carried out by a number of civil society organisations and migrant-led organisations, such as the Blue Door Institute[75], Integra Foundation, JRS Malta, Kopin, Migrant Women Association[76], Spark 15[77], and the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society[78] who conduct research, raise awareness and provide services aimed towards the integration of migrants in Malta.

With regards to local authorities[79] addressing migration issues, so far there has not been an organic approach towards these. Indeed, during a meeting organised by UNHCR Malta with representatives of the Human Rights and Integration Directorate (responsible for the implementation of the new integration strategy[80]), NGOs and migrant communities on the 27th of February 2018, the government representative mentioned cases of single local councils undertaking integration measures, but when asked whether an organic approach for

[74] This is the foundation responsible for Valletta's journey towards the title of the European Capital of Culture in Malta in 2018 (https://valletta2018.org).
[75] Read more at: http://volontarjat.org/news/807/
[76] Read more at: http://migrantwomenmalta.org
[77] Read more at: http://www.humanrightsplatform.org.mt/members-item/spark-15
[78] Read more at: http://pfws.org.mt
[79] The 2017 integration strategy (see section 2.5) states that a number of local councils have taken integration-related initiatives.
[80] See section 2.5.

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the implementation of these measures at Local Council level was foreseen, the same representative was not able to confirm this nor give further information[81]. However, a few local councils are implementing single initiatives in this area. Some examples include: the Sliema Local Council which, through an AMIF[82] funded project, is providing homework aid for TCNs parents, enabling them to assist their children;[83] the Local Council of Gzira which, since 2015, is putting integration at the centre of its annual celebration for World Children's Day;[84] and finally, the Local Council of Marsa, one of the areas with the highest presence of migrants on the island, has just recently embarked on the European DEAR (Development Education and Awareness-Raising) project called 'Snapshots from the Borders', partnering up with Kopin and planning activities fostering integration and mutual understanding[85].

Conclusion

As the two sections above indicate, various initiatives relating to projects and research studies on the topics of migration and sustainable development exist, with most of them being initiated by civil society. Nonetheless, the two topics often remain separate (with the exception of a very small number of initiatives targeting education on migration and sustainable development). This indicates that there is a dearth of training and awareness raising on how migration and sustainable development are interrelated. This knowledge sharing needs to be not only aimed at educators but also at the public in general. One of the reasons that the interrelation between migration and sustainable development is not brought to the foreground by the above mentioned projects and research studies is that many of these focus on the environmental and natural aspects of sustainable development. Focus on economic and social aspects of sustainable development could be propagated not only by civil society, but also at a university level through the funding of such research, the organisation of conferences and training sessions, knowledge platforms and courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

2.5 Migration Policies and Sustainable Development

Introduction

As noted in section 2.3, the links between local policies and sustainability in Malta are lacking (PfC, 2017). This also applies to migration-related policies. The only reference to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development / SDGs in local policies and / or strategy related to migration/integration can be found in official political documents by the government, and mostly because it is a requirement from the EU (Moncada, 2018).

[81] This information was gathered through personal communication with a Kopin representative in February 2018.
[82] Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
[83] Read more at: http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Migration%20Funds/Documents/AMIF%20and%20ISF/List%20of%20Projects%20-%20AMIF%20and%20ISF/list%20of%20projects%20-%20AMIF.pdf
[84] Details can be found at: https://tfal.org.mt/en/News/Pages/World-Children%27s-day-2016.aspx
[85] This information was gathered through personal Communication from a Kopin representative in March 2018.

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Sustainable Development within Asylum, Migration and Integration Policies

The main legislative acts which are relevant to migration (that is, asylum procedures, reception conditions and detention) in Malta are the Immigration Act[86], the Refugees Act[87] and the Children and Young Persons (Care Orders) Act[88]. Complementing these legislative acts, there are a number of legal notices in place, regulating international protection, status of refugees, detained persons, and family reunification among others (aditus foundation & JRS Malta, 2017). The Strategy for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants (Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, 2015) does not refer to sustainable development. Moreover, the AIDA (Asylum Information Database) Malta country report states that such measures as the criminalisation of the use of false documentation by asylum-seekers attempting to enter Malta[89] raised concerns among NGOs[90] over the fact that not only does the criminalisation violate the 1951 Geneva Convention[91], but it also penalises persons opting not to risk their lives at sea (ibid). Such measures seem to go against Goal 10 of the SDGs promoting safe migration.

The Ministry for European Affairs and Equality (MEAE) finally launched the long-promised Migrant Integration Strategy & Action Plan in December 2017[92]. The strategy states that it "creates a framework for understanding successful integration through the level of the migrants' own sense of belonging to Maltese society". The strategy envisages the setting up of an Integration Unit (IU) with the Human Rights and Integration Directorate (HRID) within the same Ministry. The strategy also outlines various measures to be taken towards integration, including delivering courses in Maltese, English and cultural orientation; strengthening the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Integration; revamping and keep updating the existing website www.integration.gov.mt; training cultural mediators in public services; organising awareness-raising campaigns; lengthening the validity of employment licences; a Local Councils' Integration Charter; making funds for migrant communities and NGOs available; and developing a system to gather significant statistics related to migrants (MEAE, 2017). However this strategy, while a welcome initiative, makes no mention of the SDGs, nor is there any indication of how the strategy falls within the wider Agenda 2030, despite the fact that it was only published in 2017, almost two years after the SDGs came into force. This was confirmed by the Integration Unit, who specified that the strategy deals neither with sustainable development in general, nor with the Agenda 2030 in particular (Email Communication 1, February 2018). Furthermore, Ahmed Bugre, the director of the NGO Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants, when interviewed by a local newspaper, emphasised the importance of inclusion of migrants in decision-making, rather than

[86] Can be found at: http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8722&l=1
[87] Can be found at: http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8886&l=1
[88] Can be found at: http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8773&l=1
[89] The AIDA report states that in 2016, there were several reports of cases of applicants for international protection imprisoned for that reason.
[90] For example, see JRS Malta's press statement on World Refugee Day 2016: http://www.jrsmalta.org/content.aspx?id=410472#.WoWhy6j482x
[91] Can be found at: http://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html
[92] In 2005, the then Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs and Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity published the policy document: 'Irregular Immigrants, Refugees and Integration', which can be found here: http://www.refworld.org/docid/51b197484.html.

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integration. Bugre insisted that there are systemic gaps in the implementation of the policy, saying that "[t]he system is so bureaucratic" that a migrant who had been in Malta for a decade obtained his identity card in a week instead of the couple of hours it takes a Maltese person (Carabott, 2018). Bugre's observations are linked to research studies which confirm the diffidence and lack of trust TCNs feel towards Maltese authorities, based on their experiences with them (Fsadni & Pisani, 2012; Zammit, 2012). Indeed, policies and practices in different sectors in Malta do not seem to reflect a sustainable approach with regards to migrants. For example, a report on the risk of poverty among asylum seekers in Malta recommends, among others, that the employment services offered by the national employment agency be made available to all asylum seekers, thus enabling "a smoother interaction in the labour market between demand and supply"; that temporary employment be regulated through a legal framework that adequately compensates the worker; and that rejected asylum seekers who have been residing in Malta for 5 years be given the opportunity to obtain legal status on a permanent basis. These initiatives would enable asylum seekers "to be productive members of Maltese society" (Caruana, 2016) and thus also enable sustainable development. However, actual policies and practices went against these recommendations in the last years. The most recent example surrounded the Temporary Humanitarian Protection New (THPN)[93] status given to asylum applicants (UNHCR Malta, 2011). Late in 2016, THPN beneficiaries were informed that the procedure was being reviewed, without being given any information about how to renew their residence and work permit documents (aditus foundation et al, 2016). THPN beneficiaries were then informed that their status would only be renewed until October 2017, and that they would be expected to procure documentation from their country of origin, in order to apply for a residence permit for their stay in Malta, leaving the around 1000 THPN beneficiaries in limbo and threatened with deportation. Ultimately, in October 2017, these beneficiaries were informed that their protection would not be terminated that month, and will continue to be renewed on a yearly basis for the time being. Yet, as the NGO aditus foundation pointed out, there is a need for a status that is "more stable and [that brings] greater peace of mind to migrants" (Carabott, 2017).

Sustainable Development

As mentioned throughout this research report, sustainable development in Malta is often equated with environmental issues, even at policy level, as can be seen through the document 'A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands' (GoM, 2016c) and the fact that the Directorate for Sustainable Development[94] is part of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change[95].

Meanwhile, during a conference for members of parliament from the European Union and the Mediterranean region held in Malta in November 2017, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and

[93] THPN is a local form of protection granted ex-gratia to failed asylum seekers who entered Malta in 2007 or before, subject to meeting a number of eligibility criteria (Government of Malta, 2016a).
[94] Attempts to hold an interview with the Sustainable Development Directorate did not materialise.
[95] Details can be found at: https://msdec.gov.mt/en/sustainabledevelopment/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx.

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Trade Promotion was reported by The Malta Independent (2017b) to have talked about the awareness raising that the government of Malta, together with civil society, has been working on: through regular media and social media platforms, they have been working to bring the Agenda 2030 into every household. This not only seems to jar with the finding that only 38% of citizens living in Malta are aware of the SDGs (see section 2.1), but Cacopardo (2017b) also states that while "since the 1990s, when sustainable development first made it to Malta's statute book, it was retained (on paper) as a direct political responsibility of the Prime Minister", he notes that: "Unfortunately, not even one of our prime ministers assumed direct political responsibility for the matter as, formally or informally, all of them delegated the matter to the Minister (or Parliamentary Secretary) responsible for the environment"; and that "all the talk on sustainable development by governments in Malta has been an exercise in managing hot air". These comments are confirmed by the findings from the focus groups carried out as part of this research study.[96]

Migration within the framework of Sustainable Development

The public consultation document for the National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development for Malta (NSESD Board of Governors et al, 2016), released in 2016, makes no mention of migration or migrants, despite the fact that the Minister for Education and Employment stated the need for a "whole society approach" during the official release of the consultation document (The Malta Independent, 2016). In the document itself, organisations working with migrants and refugees and migrant organisations themselves are notably absent from the list of entities and organisations who participated in the data collection phase, a list which includes organisations ranging from pilots' associations and catering establishments, to youth organisations, educational institutions and political parties (NSESD Board of Governors et al, 2016).

Thus, while there are commendable actions being taken: in the education sector, for example, the Foundation for Educational Services commissioned a research study on the integration of TCNs in education (Falzon et al, 2012); the Migrants' Learners Unit was set up to promote the inclusion of newly arrived learners into the Maltese education system (Government of Malta, 2016b); and with regards to the SDGs in general, Malta was ranked 22nd on the SDG index in 2017 (Sachs et al, 2017); the initiatives on migration and those on sustainable development tend to remain separate and the connection, benefits and dynamics of the correlation between the two is rarely made.

2.6 Migration Policies and International Commitments

[96] See section 3.5.

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Introduction

While the evaluation of the implementation of legislation related to migration and sustainable development was made in section 2.5, this section looks specifically at Malta's development cooperation and its links to the relevant international documents. It is to be noted that Malta is a relatively new member of the 'donor countries club': indeed, it became a donor country in 2004 when it joined the EU. Meanwhile, its Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme has been running since 2008 (Grech, 2016).

Development Cooperation – Links to SDGs, European Agenda on Migration and other Relevant International Documents

Malta's ODA Policy (2014-2020), in spite of its statement that Malta "is determined to… push forward the sustainable development agenda" (Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), 2014), makes no mention of the SDGs. It was developed with reference to the Millennium Development Goals, and despite its statement that the "policy will be kept up to date with international developments during the 2014-2020 period and is subject to review, especially in view of the post-2015 discussions taking place at various levels" (MFA, 2014), no move seems to have been made towards aligning the policy with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. When contacted regarding this issue, a representative from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs replied that the European Consensus on Development and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development suffice in terms of policy. The representative added that: "it would not be useful to produce more policy documents at this stage. In this regard, our challenge is with the implementation aspect and… we are exploring ways to ascertain that going forward, Malta's official overseas development plan, while fully conforming with the international development agenda, could make a meaningful impact on the ground" (Email Communication 2, 2018).

During a conference for members of parliament from the European Union and the Mediterranean region held in Malta in November 2017, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion (MFA) was reported by The Malta Independent (2017b) to have said that Malta had made considerable progress in the field of development. Nonetheless, the actual financial resources allocated by the Maltese government for ODA in the period of 2014-2016 is limited (Grech, 2016), as can be seen from the ODA statistics published by the same ministry (MFA, 2016). In fact, for 2015, Malta's total ODA disbursements amounted to 0.1% of its Gross National Income, steadily decreasing from 2011, when it stood at 0.25%. In 2016 it amounted to 0.20% (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018).

Furthermore, while the ODA policy includes migration and asylum as one of its ten areas of focus (MFA, 2014), a large part of the ODA reported regularly consists of "refugee costs" (Grech, 2016). For instance, the 2015 ODA disbursement comprises €2,335,796 which was spent on costs incurred by the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security on the Refugee Commission, operational expenses, security services, food and per diem allowances to asylum seekers in Malta (MFA, 2016). In 2016, again, Malta spent 16.1 % of its ODA disbursement on in-country refugee costs, and out of its 0.20 % disbursement, only 0.16 %

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is considered by the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) as genuine aid (CONCORD, 2017). AidWatch Malta also reports its concerns about the lack of progress in Malta's ODA commitments, which results from "the absence of an actual strategy or plan for making aid more effective" (ibid). The concern includes the MFA's disregard of NGOs as implementers of development in the Global South, with funds given to NGOs implementing projects in this region continuing to decline from an already very small amount (ibid). Ironically, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated, in a conference organised by SKOP in 2017, that the "NGO sector has always been, and remains, the long arm of the Government in attaining preparedness towards the implementation of Agenda 2030" and that the ministry appreciates the same NGOs' work in different communities around the world, aiming to eradicate poverty.[97]

Conclusion

As can be observed in these last two sections, migration and sustainable development are mainly treated as distinct subjects even when it comes to policies at national level, where the two spheres are clearly separated and quite rarely impact each other. Even though one might argue that some of the policy frameworks addressing migration could, in fact, contribute to the fulfilment of the targets set out in the Agenda 2030, and that, vice-versa, policy documents and implementation related to sustainable development might affect migration, the lack of an explicit connection might hinder any possibility of correlation of these aspects within the general public, as well as the target groups of the project, that is to say, educators. A possible measure that could be applied when dealing with training and awareness raising activities for educators and learners is to look at the direct and indirect links and influences between the different policies taken into account for the purpose of this research; this exercise could highlight the interrelation of the topics in a wider context, looking at both national and international levels.

3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

[97] Details can be found at: https://www.eu2017.mt/en/Press-Releases/Documents/PR171544_EN.pdf

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The two focus groups (one with stakeholders in the field of education and one with stakeholders in the fields of migration and sustainable development) were held in February 2018, each lasting around two hours.

The focus group with the stakeholders working in the field of education (henceforth referred to as 'the educators' focus group') comprised seven (two female and five male) participants from different areas in the education sector, including the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST); the Faculty of Education and the Department of Inclusion and Access to Learning at the University of Malta; the Education Directorate and the Education for Sustainable Development at the Ministry for Education and Employment; the Maltese national Focal Point for the Council of Europe's Global Education Week; the Migrant Learners' Unit[98]; and school teachers.

The focus group with the stakeholders working in the fields of migration and sustainable development[99] (henceforth referred to as 'the experts' focus group') comprised six (three male and three female) participants from UNHCR Malta; the NGOs Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants[100] and SOS Malta[101] (both of which work in the field of migration but whose representatives work on issues such climate change and global education); experts in the field of Sustainable Development and Global Education; and the NGO Nature Trust Malta (whose representatives also work in the sustainable and environment education sectors)[102].

For both focus groups, other participants were also invited who could not make it; one of whom (an academic from the University of Malta lecturing and researching n subjects including climate change and sustainable development, who is also involved in civil society organisations working on migration) replied to the questions explored in the focus groups via email.

3.2 Awareness about International Migration and Sustainable Development[103]

Education Sector[104]

In the education sector, steps are being taken by the Ministry for Education and Employment to promote education for sustainable development across the curricula. This is being done through training being delivered to teachers in schools who request it. The emphasis is not only on teaching sustainable development through the content of the lessons but also through

[98] Read more at: http://migrantlearnersunit.gov.mt/en/Pages/About%20us/about-us.aspx
[99] Efforts to find a sociologist working on monitoring media and societal attitudes (especially related to asylum, migration, integration, etc.) were to no avail.
[100] Read more at: http://fsmmalta.org
[101] Read more at: http://www.sosmalta.org
[102] Read more at: https://www.naturetrustmalta.org
[103] This section reflects views expressed by the participants of the focus groups.
[104] Unless specified, the findings presented here are those emerging from both focus groups as well as the email correspondence mentioned in the previous section.

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the methodology, such as through fostering peace and justice (SDG 16) in the classroom. Thus, while until a few years ago, teachers were not aware of the SDGs unless they were personally interested in them; today, several projects in education include the SDGs so there is more awareness.

However, while teachers might know of the existence of the SDGs and are aware that they are related to the environment and sustainability, few are aware of international conventions such as the UN Paris Agreement or the Habitat III. Furthermore, it is doubtful as to whether teachers are aware of the actual content of the SDGs. This partly depends on teachers' willingness to receive training on the topic and to own the subject, factors which are also contingent on teachers' workloads and opportunity to take ownership of related initiatives: when initiatives related to SDGs are taken by the school management and the relevant communication is relayed to teachers via circulars, teachers are not engaged in the process, and the sense of ownership (of the teachers) is decreased. Furthermore, although Education for Sustainable Development is officially part of the curriculum, the link to migration is still vague in practice. Additionally, if teachers have a negative attitude towards migration[105], they cannot effectively teach the topic. While policies might exist, putting them into practice is a different matter.

With regards to higher education institutions such as MCAST, while participants expressed doubts with regards to awareness of SDGs themselves, there are initiatives being taken with regards to sustainability.

Migration and Sustainable Development Sector

Although there is a good level of awareness (depending on the person's level of interest) of documents, such as the UN Paris Agreement among practitioners working in these sectors, these are not always linked to the work being carried out on the ground. There is also more awareness of the SDGs than other less known documents like the UN Paris Agreement. The challenge, however, lies in informing the relevant institutions effectively, and in how the agenda of policy makers does not seem to follow the same level of awareness raised by the experts.

Public

Regarding migration, there is no 'real' public debate on the real causes of migration, but just a discussion on the impacts in Malta. Regarding sustainable development, in the public's mind the SDGs are linked to developing countries such as those in Africa and Latin America: people do not link them to Malta, which they perceive as already developed. There is also the perception that migrants are the 'black' and that they depend on government handouts: Russians, Italians and other white people are not considered as migrants. If one takes climate change specifically, people do not really know what climate change is, or what brings it about,

[105] See section 3.3.

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as evident by the rampant use of plastic bags. Furthermore, the public does not link migration and climate change, nor do they know that migration can mitigate climate change.

3.3 Link between Migration and Sustainable Development

Education Sector

While there is awareness, among teachers, that the SDGs are related to subjects such as science and geography, there is little awareness of how they are related to migration. Thus, while delivering training to teachers on goals such as those related to the seas, water and land is quite straightforward, goals relating to economic growth are harder to get across, especially in how they can be translated in the classroom; and thus there needs to be more work done on training teachers on goals relating to these topics, including migration. Furthermore, teachers encounter difficulties in teaching the concept of migration in relation to sustainable development (unless it is in relation to climate change, that is, environmental migrants), even to older secondary school students. Sustainable development is very much linked to the natural aspect of the environment and less so to the social and economic aspects.

While the participants of the educators' focus group themselves are more aware of the links between migration and sustainable development, they noted that among teachers in general there is even confusion about who migrants are. Furthermore, while there are teachers who connect migration to a better future and society, there are also those who connect migration to negative aspects and think that migration can affect development negatively. The same views are also applied to the classroom: while there are teachers who perceive migrant students as bringing instability to a school, others think differently. These opposing views, which are also held by society at large, indicate the need to educate teachers on: creating the right empowering and equal environment in the classroom, rather than simply one of acceptance (that is, acceptance of migrants by the Maltese); and the positive links between migration and sustainable development.

Migration and Sustainable Development Sector

For these positive links to take place, there is a need to keep skilled migrants (both those who come as students and otherwise) in Malta so as to render migration sustainable. This also links to the need for migrants to be able to vote and participate politically: Malta needs to be more democratic in order for everyone to be able to participate in sustainable development.

On a more general level, social issues and sustainable development are also not linked in public events in Malta, such as exhibitions: sustainable development is generally linked to natural and environmental issues. The compartmentalisation of these topics therefore, does not allow links between the two; and the links perceived by the public between migration and sustainable development are almost non-existent.

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Government Level and the Public

At a government level, migration and sustainable development are not linked either: there is no apparent gain at a political level to do so[106], given that the narrative used by the two major political parties prefers to highlight the negative aspect of migration, rather than looking at the advantages of integration. For example, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change do not work together towards the Agenda 2030: there is a lack of inter-ministerial communication. The Sustainable Development Directorate (within the latter ministry) consists of only one person. This person is charged with reporting on how Malta is reaching the Agenda 2030 targets, but Malta's progress towards the SDGs is very disjointed, despite the fact that reports make it seem that Malta is making great progress on the SDGs. Above all, no SDGs underlie Malta's migration policies: even the new integration policy[107] has no reference to the SDGs. Sustainable development is missing from the discourse. The lack of connection made between migration and sustainable development is further demonstrated by such examples as the lack of Maltese government representatives at the annual Global Forum for Migration and Development.

This also translates in how the interrelation between migration and sustainable development are presented (or not presented) to the public: for example, rather than presenting an initiative to reduce poverty among migrants through employment, the national employment agency preferred to present the message to the public that Malta needs to fill in a number of jobs that no Maltese wants to do. Thus, such initiatives have to be "packaged" in a way that suits the Maltese public's minds.

This situation is further solidified by the fact that in Malta, there are no television programmes that discuss the links between migration and sustainable development, such as remittances and the redistribution of wealth. Hence, the links between the SDGs (which aim at reducing inequality and enabling better migration) and migration are not made. Migration is only given attention by the media when something tragic happens, and this shapes the way the public thinks of migration: in a negative way. There are people who think that migrants are here to work and at some point they should leave. The human beings behind the work are not seen, nor the reasons why they come or where they come from.

3.4 Insecurity

Migration

At national level, the link between migration and national security is not as intense as in other EU member states. It tends to focus more on the possible 'loss of national identity'[108], or use

[106] See section 3.5.
[107] See section 2.5.
[108] See section 3.5.

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of national welfare. Since Malta is a very high densely populated country, where resources (including welfare) are scarce and space is limited, conflicts over the use and access to these resources can erupt more easily than in other European contexts.

Feelings of insecurity relate in some way or another to a feeling of not being safe because of migrants, including a fear of invasion by migrants, as shown by a forthcoming report on online hate speech. Although so far, terrorism does not seem to have affected the perceptions by the Maltese over migration as a security threat, there is an unfounded perception amongst the public that most of the migrants that are currently coming to Malta are Muslims; and, since Muslims are equated with terrorists, there is the fear that Malta will have the same problems with terrorism as other European countries.

In Malta, feelings of insecurity relating to migrants are also very much related to job security, although the relatively high economic growth and satisfactory employment opportunities for many[109], have softened these possible tensions. Additionally, fears regarding job security are partly contingent on the migrants' countries of origin: when it comes to migrants from Eastern European countries, people are (unfoundedly) afraid of them taking Maltese people's jobs (and not of terrorist attacks). However, although the public has fears regarding migration and job security such as the perception that migrants are undercutting the wages, there is also a general dislike of foreigners working in Malta, even if this is not related to a particular fear. Ironically, many migrants do the jobs that Maltese people do not want to do anymore because the latter have become choosier with regards to what jobs they take on. Indeed, there is also insecurity among businesspeople in Malta due to the fact that there is a lack of trained labour, making it difficult to find enough people to employ. A feeling of insecurity among businesspeople in the construction business was created when, for example, action was being taken by the government with regards to the THPN status[110]. In this case, business people protested against sending African migrants back, since it would have killed their businesses. Indeed, when some migrants were recently detained, one businessman got them out of detention because he needed them to work in his construction business. Thus, there is currently a fear that the government will take action against migration, resulting in ambivalent feelings towards migration: while there are those Maltese people who have a lower level of education and receive benefits who are against migration, there are those, such as business people, who are in favour of keeping migrants in Malta.

Finally, EU policies affect the public's perception of migration and insecurity in the sense that the relevant EU policies are more focused on controlling and pushing people out, rather than managing the migration flow and seeing it as an opportunity: In Malta, for example, migration is a great opportunity both in terms of jobs as well as in terms of diversity.

Sustainable Development

[109] See section 2.1.
[110] See section 2.5.

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Maltese farmers and people who work with nature (such as beekeepers) feel insecure with regards to factors such as the importation of foreign food produce; and climate change-related factors such as lack of rain. However, in general, Maltese people do not feel insecure, due to the strong social network and strong social benefits that exist in Malta. Furthermore, even though the Maltese public are aware of climate change, they do not feel its immediate effect with regards to themselves: it is rather perceived as something happening elsewhere. Indeed, people are concerned about factors that affect them directly or personally and are not willing to go out of their way to be more environmentally sustainable.

3.5 Main factors that shape Public Opinion and Instruments to shape Public Discourse

One major factor shaping public opinion is the media, which presents negative images of migration: for example there are differences in the reporting of a court case relating to a non-European migrant and that of a European one. Furthermore, the former are reported more than the latter. Media portrayal of Muslims also leads many Maltese to believe such things as Muslim women not having rights, creating the fear that issues such as these will bring previously non-existent problems to Malta. All this creates an 'us' and 'them' attitude and a hatred of the 'Other', which influences discussions of migrants at students' homes. Students thus have pre-set ideas of migration, ideas that teachers have to try to challenge in order to find negative stereotypes. Thus, parents have to be included in the equation if negative stereotypes are to be challenged. Furthermore, although today the scenario is changing because children are being exposed to these issues, negative images persist partly because today's adults were not exposed to such topics at school.
Sometimes the reasons for the fear or negative attitudes are simply that there is a fear of difference from oneself, difference from what one is used to, and fear of the unknown. This is also related to a fear of change. People in general do not like rapid change, and in recent years there has been a great amount of change in Malta (including foreign betting companies basing themselves in Malta; and many foreigners working in the catering business).

At the same time, there are people whose opinions towards migration are fluid: while there are those who are resolutely against refugees and those who are resolutely in favour, the majority's opinion falls between these two[111]. The opinions of the latter group are quite fluid, and shift according to specific events, such as terrorist attacks in other countries. Here, social media has a very strong influence on shifting the public's opinions. Ironically, although people today have easy access to information, there is a lot of misinformation. If there were more awareness of what migration is, more people would be in favour of migration.

[111] These are findings from a survey carried out by a recent UNCHR Malta, to which the researcher has no access.

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The terminology used also affects people's opinions. In a UNHCR survey on attitudes towards migration[112], when the term was changed from "refugee" to "a person who is fleeing from war and persecution" in a question posed to Maltese people as to whether they would accept this person in their country, there was more compassion when the second terminology (that is, the "fleeing person" one) was used.

Paradoxically, there is still the idea in people's minds that African migrants are not working and that they are leeching on the government. These perceptions still exist because of lack of discourse: politicians refuse to discuss it. They do not want the public to know that migrants are contributors to Malta's economy, and the public does not want to know either. They refuse to accept the reality, "because to accept means the Maltese are weak, and the foreigner came to build our country". Meanwhile, the government is wary of talking about the SDGs and sustainable development: if they do, it would open a can of worms. Thus they simply use sustainable development as a key word.

Another major factor driving public opinion towards migration in Malta are the narratives used by key policy makers and public figures in the country. Very few critical approaches are used to back up arguments in relation to migration. Politicians could change the public perception faster than education can: but they do not want to. They downplay migrants' importance because they need scapegoats when things go wrong. Furthermore, politicians are sending out the message that if a person has money, they can buy a Maltese passport[113] and are welcome here; while if a person does not have money, they are not welcome, confirming the research results findings mentioned in section 2.1.

In private meetings with civil society, politicians are different, but in public they do not want to broach these arguments because they might lose votes. Furthermore, since migrants do not vote, politicians have no interest in them: they want the local population to feel that the latter's' interests are of primary importance to politicians. This is also reflected in media belonging to political parties, which are strong influencers of the public opinion: there is no discussion of migration in terms of sustainable development. Local TV programmes discuss crimes in Marsa and their relation to migrants.[114] The only local TV programmes featuring migrants' stories were lone initiatives started by NGOs like SOS Malta. Educators, too, often find it difficult to get authorities to engage. For example, when an educator attempted to organise a discussion of the then-bombing of Palestine between students (including students whose relatives live in Palestine) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the latter did not easily accept.

Public discourse in Malta is also influenced by the EU discourse and policies: the EU prefers to give charity to countries in Africa, rather than open up the markets. Charity is not empowering; but it is charity, rather than sustainable development (which might give the idea

[112] Ibid.
[113] This comment was made in relation to the Malta Citizenship by Investment Programme, details of which can be found here: http://www.maltaimmigration.com.
[114] See section 2.2.

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that someone else's country might be better than ours) is propagated by local discourse: charity to build a school, a centre. This is linked to people's attitude of giving money so that they can feel that their obligations have been fulfilled.

3.6 Gaps of Information and Instruments to fill the Gaps

Education Sector

Instead of adding to the information (of which there is an overload) in the educational system in Malta, there needs to be a reorganisation of the existing knowledge: knowledge is often compartmentalised, hence the need to connect the concepts of migration and of sustainable development. Often, entities do not connect the two, but speak about either one or the other. Higher education institutions need to engage with public discourse in order to shape it together with the public. The idea behind this is that academics do not necessarily have the 'truth' which should be imparted to the public: rather, public discourse needs to be engaged with in a democratic manner.

One idea is for academia (and civil society) to act as a platform through which migrants can speak, be seen and be heard. While this has its own challenges (due to factors such as the diversity of ideas expression both among migrants and also between migrants and locals), it is important that the voices of those who are suffering are louder than the voices of the persons who are interpreting. The educational system (including universities) needs to transmit skills (such as how to listen, how to speak without imposing, how to share ideas, and how to be critical) to students so that they use the power of the information they have to "give voice" to those they speak in favour of. Unfortunately, the education system (and the examination system) only looks for information and memorisation of this information, thus not nurturing these needed skills. Unless this changes, these skills will not flourish.

Migration and Sustainable Development Sector

An initiative that can be introduced so as to help fill the gaps in the public's information on migration could be creating a space where local people can talk about the topic. This could emulate an existing initiative where an anthropologist in Gozo[115] created a space for local people to speak out on why they do not want refugees in Gozo: it is a place where the local population can share their fears. Another initiative taken by SOS Malta that could be applied to the sector of migration and sustainable development is related to the concept of personal character development[116], promoting critical thinking so that people can analyse the information they receive, promoting more empathy and knowledge of how to treat the other and the self. These reflect and impact on how people treat migrants. Related to this idea is that of promoting happiness: underlying this is that if people are more grateful for what they have, they are less resentful and prejudiced towards others.

[115] Gozo is the second largest island in the Maltese archipelago.
[116] See section 3.7.

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Also important is tackling the other side of the coin: the Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants (FSM) provides information on the SDGs to migrants themselves and shows them that migration is not an end in itself but a means to an end; and that their time in Malta is a time of learning and capacity building, skills which they can use when, and if, they go back to their countries of origin. FSM empowers migrants with education, which is both a tool of empowerment and a tool of awareness raising.

Efforts like these need to be continuous, especially with the public: while education in schools is important, there is also a need to target the demographic that are not in schools. There are many public events throughout the year, and if efforts such as the initiatives mentioned here are continuous, they will have an effect. Civil society needs to continue advocating and raising awareness.

However, one of the challenges that civil society in Malta faces is funding. People prefer to give to charities, and companies prefer to fund something that will show immediate results, rather than something which will only show results in the long term (such as initiatives targeted at sustainability). Thus fundraising for civil society in Malta is difficult. Meanwhile, government departments compete with civil society for EU funds and other funding for projects and programmes related to migration. Co-funding for such projects is also an issue for civil society organisations since the amount required is often beyond their budget limits.

Other challenges in implementing the necessary project and programmes involve local councils. Local council members work on a part-time basis; hence in initiatives such as the one being implemented by SOS Malta on resilient communities, they (local councils) cannot do much. The government needs to start channelling services and organising information sessions, through local councils. This decentralisation is necessary because, when it comes to migrants, the situation is different in every locality. Furthermore, local communities can tap into EU funds, which would give them more power, thus removing the power that the government has over them.

Government Level and the Public

As previously indicated, local TV programmes showing the links between migration and sustainable development (including on how migration can mitigate climate change), would help fill gaps in people's knowledge. Meanwhile, it is not only the public's knowledge which is questionable, but also the level of politicians' knowledge of sustainable development and migration issues, as is evident when organisations working with migrants meet with ministry representatives. There is also a lack of inter-ministerial communication on these two topics.

3.7 The Role of Education Systems

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Since every school has its own identity, having a nationwide policy with regards to migration and sustainable development would be futile: some schools have classes with the majority of them being migrants, while in other schools there are practically none. There is thus the need to train teachers in unpacking the terms of migration and sustainable development to enable cultural awareness and awareness of the importance of cultural expression. This awareness should not be raised by simply organising a 'migrants' day' twice a year, but rather by indicating what needs to be done in the classroom. Emphasis needs to be made on practical action in the classroom, that is, rather than simply teaching students to respect each other, utilising subject-related tasks (such as mathematics and science tasks) to enable students to connect and create something together, such as a mathematical or scientific solution. Thus there is the need to process attitudes with the students in order to revise these attitudes. Activities themselves mean nothing if these are not related to the outside world: sometimes, schools and classrooms feel like they have a boundary around them and are safeguarded, removed from society in the outside world; yet students are part of society and if the school focuses only on the content (and not on attitudes), it cannot match the rapidly changing pace of society. Existing initiatives like the diversity week where children show their understanding of migration through discussions, and learn about different cultures and backgrounds from a young age; as well as the course developed by FSM together with MCAST on cross-cultural mediation and counselling; are raising awareness on the benefits of migration and trying to change the mind-set of the students towards migrants. Indeed, while there are commendable government-initiated initiatives like the Migrant Learners' Unit to help migrant children integrate in mainstream schooling, local children also need to be worked with. A potential idea could also be to have an experimental school where students can learn through a practical model of learning. In this school, teachers work with the students (rather than teachers being the experts teaching students) to arrive at a solution together.

Yet, before this happens, lecturers at higher education institutions and teachers training centres need to start fostering, in themselves, the skills and behaviours that were mentioned previously with regards to students: that is, the fostering of such elements as respect, peace. Currently, there have been incidents such as those were migrant students attend MCAST and University lectures and the lecturer speaks in Maltese. When migrants protest this, they are told "go back to your country". Ultimately, if the attitudes of teachers are not reshaped (for example if the teacher is not comfortable with having migrant students in class), it is futile having new Bachelor's or Master's degrees.

Meanwhile, the already existing Master's degrees in education for sustainable development in Malta focus simply on climate change and the natural environment. Furthermore, there needs to be a change in the methodology and focus of teaching: current university students are not being taught how to use experimental sustainable development methodologies in the classroom. Hence there is a need to work with teachers in-service. During their teaching practice, student teachers tend to focus on their delivery and on the assessment they are undergoing by the assessor: they do not focus on the content, the characteristics of the school they are teaching in, and the surrounding community. Teaching practice should be considered as an experience for the student teachers to get a feel of the school and the community they are working in. Moreover, public schools should hire the teachers

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themselves, because teachers (not the Ministry) know the needs of the community; and should be given more power in choosing projects to implement, rather than the management of the school making the selection and asking teachers to implement them.

There is also a need for more personal character development and public speaking. People are afraid to speak their own mind, or stand apart from the crowd. If a large number of people are talking about migrants negatively, people tend to be afraid to say something different. Thus before we speak about what is needed what regards to migration and sustainable development, we need to talk about self-development, in which the education system should play a role. The Maltese education system is based on teaching children to do what they are told and to conform. Ultimately, due to the overload of work in the curriculum of the Maltese education system, no one has time to self-develop.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

As can be seen from the focus group responses, practitioners and educators have a high level of awareness of the links between migration and sustainable development. Meanwhile, however, the public does not seem to be aware of these links. This is sustained by both the findings from the focus groups, as well as by other research studies discussed in Chapter 2 of this report. The public's lack of awareness of the positive links between migration and sustainable development seems to stem from a variety of factors, including the lack of connections made between these two topics by the local media, as well as the void left in this area by the discourse propagated by politicians. It could also be due to the fact that in Malta, sustainable development is often correlated with environmental and natural issues (an aspect emerging from both current policies as well as from the field research carried out for this study), rather than being considered as holistic and taking into account "the environmental, economic and social aspects of development" (UNITAR, 2012). In the minds of the public, sustainable development may also be equated with developing countries, and thus not only considered as a 'faraway' concept, but also as one to be dealt with through charitable donations.

4.1 National and Local Level Recommendations for Governmental Institutions

As already mentioned, one of the biggest influencers of public perceptions is political discourse and action (or lack of it). Politicians in Malta seem to be propagating (or at the very least, not denying) the same misguided assumptions that inform policies in other host countries: first the assumption that "every livelihood established by a refugee deprives a

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citizen of the same opportunity"; and second, that "refugees who are able to support themselves will become too comfortable and less inclined to return to their own country, even if it is safe for them to do so" (Crisp, 2017). These assumptions, which are also (or consequentially) absorbed by the public, continue to fuel the government's policies, who would not take any action that might alienate voters. In one of the focus groups conducted for this study, it was mentioned that unless Malta becomes more democratic and opens its doors to full participation, sustainable development will not likely occur. Opening doors fully to democracy would also mean that everyone would have the right to vote. Given the current climate in Malta, and the varying degrees of "fear of invasion" described in public opinion polls and fieldwork findings, it is doubtful that this would occur anytime in the near future. The fact that the majority of migrants do not vote, in turn, does not propel politicians to act in their favour, since this would garner no votes. The same lack of willingness on the part of politicians to correlate migration and sustainable development and to encourage migrants' social and economic integration in Malta leads to a vicious cycle: unless migrants can be integrated, they cannot contribute to sustainable development.

Although the links between migration and sustainable development are not consistently and sometimes not fully made even by the NGO and civil society sector in Malta, it is this sector which takes the lead in explaining migration to the public and in pushing the integration agenda. Unfortunately, as fieldwork research findings sustain, unless there is political will, the migration and sustainable development agenda cannot fully take root. Research shows that 51 % of Maltese trust their government (Eurobarometer, 2017c), and, as one of the participants in the focus groups pointed out, politicians can change perceptions much faster than education can. Thus, while initiatives to educate the public and students are necessary and positive steps, unless politicians are willing, these initiatives will not live up to their potential.

This links to the evident need, raised in the focus groups, for education at a government and political level: the concepts of migration and sustainable development have to be better understood not only in the classroom but also at policy level. As discussed above, the diction that is being used by politicians surrounding these concepts is pushing certain agendas, and unless these gaps in information are addressed, there will remain gaps in what is envisioned as being needed. This is not to say that training for teachers is not crucial. On the contrary, focus group findings indicate the need to educate teachers, notably on creating the right empowering and equal environment in the classroom, rather than simply one of acceptance (that is, acceptance of migrants by the Maltese); and on the positive links between migration and sustainable development. Training teachers is, after all, the ultimate sustainable development exercise: the teachers of today are teaching the politicians of tomorrow, and in aiming for a sustainable society, the critical importance of sustainable teaching cannot be overstated. Nonetheless, as stated in the introduction to this report, it is essential that any tools and resources developed for teachers and students are designed with the significant aspects that make up teachers' and students' knowledge, information, perceptions, attitudes and opinions. These aspects comprise life outside the classroom and the school, and include the family, the community, the media, the political discourse and also international events which are part of teachers' and students' lives.

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4.2 National and Local Level Recommendations for NGOs

In influencing these aspects, civil society plays an important role in shaping knowledge and attitudes. As Moncada (2018) suggests, positive messages work well in this aspect, together with promoting best practices and 'champions' of integration in order to facilitate the understanding of the positive correlations between migration and sustainable development. Civil society also needs to be critical and present the information that is missing from these debates, and, as also suggested in the fieldwork part of this research, to enable those who cannot, or are afraid to, speak, to do so.

4.3 Local Level Recommendations for Municipalities

In this, the role of local councils is also important, not only because of the fact that the migrant population in each locality is immensely diverse (Sansone, 2018), but also because local authorities know their locality more than national ones. Empowerment of local councils is thus a significant step towards shifting public perception and moving towards a sustainable future.

4.4 National and Local Level Recommendations for Educational Institutions

Finally, as stated in Chapter 2, training and awareness raising on how migration and sustainable development are interrelated, are scarce in Malta. The role of educational institutions here is pivotal. Higher educational institutions such as the university and colleges need to promote, encourage and fund research on the economic and social aspects of sustainable development, and not only on environmental issues (on which there is a strong focus in local research, such as on the topic of pollution). However, even such platforms as those dedicated specifically to environmental and natural aspects such as climate change, can bridge the gap of information on the interrelation between sustainable development and

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migration through knowledge dissemination, including through conferences, seminars and lectures for the public and students.

4.5 Recommendations for Future Research Areas

On a final note, this research study is only a small step in a long road leading towards a sustainable society in which migration is viewed as, and enabled to be, a positive aspect of development. For this to happen, there needs to be action which is orchestrated by different sectors (political, educational, civil, public, media) towards the same goal. Such action needs to be informed by research which is participatory and involves not only stakeholders in the mentioned sectors, but also involving the true experts of migration, that is, migrants themselves. Only then can Maltese society move forward towards sustainable development.

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1. Introduction

In the frame of the international project “Developing capacities together. European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world - INTERCAP”, The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA) is presenting a summary of the research prepared about the current political context in Poland. TEA is a part of an international partnership engaged in the above-mentioned project and is an active organisation in global, intercultural, sustainable and migration education.

The political situation in Poland over the last two years makes the subject of this research summary very relevant. In 2015, a right-wing conservative party Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) won both presidential and parliamentary elections. The new ruling party refers to the Catholic traditions of Poland, a history closely connected to World War II and the times during communism. Safety (both physical and economical) is one of the key points of their programme.

Both election campaigns were dominated by the theme of migration and Polish fears toward migrants and refugees. The party winning both elections has made the issue of migration even more prevalent over the last two years of governance. Furthermore, all issues connected with ethnic and national minorities in Poland, as well as hate speech and hate crimes, have become political subjects which are often used to win some political goals. For example, when discussing Poland’s future in the European Union, themes connected with migration and how “the European Union is not solving the problem by allowing migrants and refugees to come to Europe” are being highlighted, usually showing how the Polish solution of not letting any refugees to relocate to Poland is being better than the European. Government representatives point out that they do everything for the country’s safety, meaning that creating a monocultural society and not taking part in actions of solidarity proposed by other European countries is the only thing a government can do to keep the country safe.

The aim of this research, according to the InterCap project, is to investigate gaps, needs and expectations (from target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders) in shifting public perceptions of (in)security and risk as well as influencing understanding of migration, sustainable development and lifestyles in an interdependent world. In the face of the current Polish situation, this aim becomes extremely relevant. There is a need to shift the narrative of dangerous migrants and refugees coming to Europe/Poland only for economic purposes and instead to understand global mechanisms and deep causes of why people decide to leave their homes and move to another place that they do not know. Understanding such an issue as migration is very much connected with what is happening in the world: wars, political conflicts, climate change, economic inequalities, poverty and hunger. The overall aim of the InterCap project is to build this understanding and the research will give the whole partnership

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a good foundation, looking at why and how the subject should be tackled and how we should address our audience.

The research is based on literary review as well as individual interviews conducted with decision makers, academics, teachers and activists. The literature review is based on existing documents and research produced by Polish public institutions (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Administration), opinion polls prepared by Public Opinion Research Centre, non-governmental organisations and media outputs.
Presented research has its limitations:

1) Ten individual interviews have been conducted instead of two focus groups as it was difficult to deal with people's availability.
2) The specifics of individual interviews gave us a much deeper understanding of different contexts and attitudes.
3) The political context of the migration issue has been affected by an absence of opinion from the side of governmental decision makers(e.g. Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Education).

2. Literature review

2.1. Public opinion polls

Opinion polls on migration and refugees

Starting in May 2015, Public Opinion Research Centre (pl. Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej – CBOS) started taking regular opinion polls related to migration and refugees including people's country/region of origin (e.g. Ukraine, the Middle East or Africa) and the possibility to grant asylum and subsidiary protection.

According to the report from June 2015[117] 72% of respondents supported accepting refugees displaced by conflict and war, 21% were against, 7% did not have an opinion. Within the 72% supporting, 58% would accept on a temporary basis (until the conflict finished) and 14% on long-term basis (including settlement).

On a monthly basis, the same opinion poll was repeated. The last observation showed how support decreased over 8 months (in February 2016,[118]) to 4% of respondents who supported

117(2015) Polish people on refugee problem. Communication on report, CBOS nr 81/2015, s. 1-7, link: http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2015/K_081_15.PDF [date of availability: 18.03.2018]
118(2016) Polish people on refugee problem. Communication on report, CBOS nr 24/2016, link: http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2016/K_024_16.PDF [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

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accepting refugees on long-term basis (including settlement), 35% were ready to help temporarily, 57% were against any kind of support in Poland. The change is the consequence of both political and media campaigns against refugees (including presidential and governmental election campaigns in autumn 2015).

One interesting part of the research is how the positive perception of migrants from Ukraine has changed. Support for them increased from 50% to 61% between May 2015 and February 2016. The situation differs when it comes to refugees from the Middle East and Africa. Support decreased from 33% to 26% during this time, whereas the percentage of opponents rose from 53% to 67%. Due to the political campaign, Ukrainian migrants became "refugees" in public opinion and the economic context was no longer highlighted. In the same time, a strong push towards an "anti-Islamic" agenda was seen both in the media and in political debate, which influence the perception of refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

Opinion polls showed that Poles do not recognise the difference between refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, so conflict as a cause of migration does not make any difference. Younger people are much more radical in their views when it comes to any forms of assistance for refugees. This is also related to the level of education. What is interesting, the difference based on political views is rather small – 15% between rightists and leftists when it comes to closing Polish borders.

In May 2017, according to an opinion poll, 70% of respondents were against the reallocation of refugees from Muslim countries. For 65%, losing European funds is still not an argument for accepting refugees from Muslim countries. 56% support the idea of a national migration referendum in Poland. The idea for a referendum was announced by Konrad Szymański, Poland's deputy foreign minister, based on the Hungarian example with a referendum in 2016.[119]

A recent public opinion poll from 12th March 2018[120] showed Polish people's approach to 24 other nations. Poles did not change their opinion about any single nation compared to the previous year's results. The most disliked nations are:

- Arabs: 62% of respondents declared to dislike the Arab nation (+3% compared wtih the pervious year) and only 10% declared sympathy (-6%);
- Roma people: 59% declared a dislike of Roma people (+9% comparing to the previous year) and only 12 % declared sympathy (-9%);
- Russians: 49% declared to dislike the Russian nation (+11%) and only 18% declared sympathy (-13% comparing to the previous year).

119 Kośmiński Paweł, (2017). Nie chcemy uchodźców nawet za cenę utraty funduszy z UE [sondaż], Gazeta Wyborcza 2017, link: http://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,21892061,nie-chcemy-uchodzcow-nawet-za-cene-utraty-funduszy-z-ue-sondaz.html [date of availability: 18.03.2017]

120 (2018) Communication after the research on Polish approach to different nations, CBOS nr 37/2018, link: http://www.cbos.pl/PL/publikacje/raporty.php [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

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Poles mostly like Czechs (44%), Italians (44%) and Americans (43%). It is important to notice that still less than half of the respondents declared sympathy for them and 23% of respondents disliked everyone.

The above-mentioned polls demonstrate changes in the attitudes of Poles caused by political debate. In autumn 2015, there were both governmental and presidential elections in Poland. During the election campaigns, the European refugee crisis was politicised and used as an argument concerning security issues and cultural (especially Islamic) threats. This was reinforced after the rightist parties in Poland, such as Law and Justice and Kukiz'15, won the election and started their campaign against refugees. The concept of delivering aid in the place needed rather than supporting migrants' movement has been taken up by Polish society and this is visible especially in the poll about sanctions on the European level. Exclusion and discrimination in the views and opinions of Poles is demonstrated by the previously mentioned poll, where we discovered that almost 25% do not like any other nation, which in practice means not accepting any otherness or diversity.

Opinion polls on security

Based on the Eurobarometer report "Europeans' attitudes towards security"[121] published in December 2017, around 90% of Poles felt secure in their closer neighbourhood, 93% respondents answered positively in relation to their city, town or village and 91% in relation to the country. Still, only 59% of respondents considered the European Union as a secure place to live in. The most important challenges according to Poles are: terrorism (94%), organised crime (93%) and the EU's external borders (91%). Natural and man-made disasters are recognised as a challenge by 90% of respondents.

According to research conducted by Public Opinion Research Center (pl. Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej – CBOS) in the first week of April 2017, 89% of respondents considered Poland as a safe country to live in and 95% felt safe in their neighbourhood. Researchers highlighted that the outcome of the research was one of the highest/ best since 1987.

It is interesting that Polish society feels safe inside but expects risk from outside. The methodology of the poll was focused on neighbourhood relations, based on local experience and does not open global, non-European or cultural issues. Probably this is the main reason why the results are so different. When a poll concerns something known and understandable, the answers are based on experience rather than assumptions. When starting with questions related to global issues, it is more likely this could negatively influence the results.

121 Factsheet: Poland, report: Europeans' attitudes towards security, December 2017: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1569 [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

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Opinion polls on sustainable development

The most recent opinion poll on development aid was ordered by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland at the end of 2015[122] (according to information in the report interviews were conducted between 27th November and 2nd December 2015). According to this, 65% of respondents agreed that Poland should help less developed countries (LDCs) and only 22% were against it. When it comes to reasons for development aid, 46% answered that richer countries helped Poland in the past so now this is our role. The second most popular answer was ethical/moral obligations – 44% of respondents. Only 7% of respondents had heard about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in late 2015.

Three frequently mentioned obstacles in development for other countries are access to water (50%), wars and conflicts (45%) and infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS (45%). Human rights violations are considered to be an important obstacle by 13% of respondents and exploitation of natural resources by only 10%.

According to the Eurobarometer opinion poll "The European Year for Development – Citizens' views on development, cooperation and aid"[123] only 7% of respondents had heard about SDGs and also knew what they mean, whereas 16% had heard of them but didn't know anything more.

Polish society's awareness of global challenges seems to be lower than average in the EU. The lack of data after 2015 related to development issues underlines the political shift in Poland and a narrowing down of perspectives. Focusing more on national issues is also related to excluding people (with the idea of closing borders to stop migrants) and antipathy to others, no matter where they come from (as almost 25% of Polish people do not like any other nation). On the other hand, Polish people feel safe in their neighbourhoods and their country, but this changes when it comes to EU as a community.

In order to work on Polish society's assumptions and negative stereotypes or emotions, teachers and educators (both formal and non-formal) need to be equipped with various tools/methods addressing emotions, conflicts and values. On one hand, in such a highly negative and isolationist atmosphere, the education process will be difficult. The response from Polish society to actively participate in any activities related to the issues could be relatively low. On the other hand, the polarisation of society is an important issue, so the supporters could be much more engaged and motivated by the situation in their country. Since it seems that the political situation will not change in the near future, focusing mainly on social media and alternative media in order to balance the messages is very important.

122 In 2016, Polish MFA stopped conducting opinion polls. You may find all reports 2005-2015: https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Badania,opinii,publicznej,128.html [date of availability: 18.03.2018]
123 Factsheet: The European Year for Development – Citizens' views on development, cooperation and aid, (2016): https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/special-eurobarometer-441-european-year-development-citizens-viewson-development-cooperation-and-aid_en [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

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2.2. Media response

"Should Poland refuse to accept refugees from Muslim countries, even if this decision would force Poland to leave European Union?" – this question was included in a public opinion poll conducted by one of the largest weekly newspapers in Poland "Polityka" in July 2017. The answers were terrifying – more than 51% of respondents answered "yes" and around 38% said "no". This question reveals the kind of attitudes currently prevailing in Poland.

The topics of migration and, especially, refugees coming to Europe and Poland appeared strongly in the media in the middle of 2015. This was the time when the conflict in Syria forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee and look for a safer place to live in other countries, including Europe. The middle of 2015 was also a very hot political time in Poland - just after the presidential elections (in May 2015) won by a conservative candidate Andrzej Duda and just a few months before the parliamentary elections (in November 2015). According to an analysis[124] of the six most popular weekly newspapers (with the highest readership rates), a significantly higher number of texts on migration and refugees appeared starting in May/June 2015 and most of them were published in September/October 2015. In July 2015, the Polish prime minister announced the official decision of the Polish government to accept 7,000 refugees in the framework of the allocation mechanism. This decision was heavily discussed in the media and finally, after the elections were won by the conservative "Law and Justice" party, Poland never met these arrangements. A clear division could be observed in the above-mentioned weekly newspapers. Those more liberal were describing the situation of refugees more accurately, focusing on the people, their needs and the problems they were dealing with. This can be seen, for example, in the interview with Janina Ochojska (CEO of Polish Humanitarian Action)[125] or the commentary by Szymon Hołownia[126]. It is important to note that "Tygodnik Powszechny" is a progressive Catholic weekly publication, not at all considered conservative or right-wing.

Those papers more conservative and in favour of the new ruling party were very much against accepting refugees and, even more significantly, were discussing migrants as "a horde" or "invaders". Refugees were also described as "terrorists" and people with "demanding attitudes" - this last one was described in an article titled "Too much pasta, too little sex"[127]. A lot of space in media coverage was dedicated to issues of religion: most of the migrants coming to Europe were/are Muslims. A very clear assumption was made very quickly - when talking about Muslims, it means "terrorists". Therefore, the conservative media were focusing

124 The analysis was a side research prepared by E. Kielak for Anti-discrimination Education Association in 2015. It was never published.

125 Janina Ochojska (2015), Obojętność, która zabija, Tygodnik Powszechny 37/3452, 13.09, p. 9
126 Szymon Hołownia (2015), Gość w dom, Tygodnik Powszechny 37/3452 (13.09), p. 6
127 (2015) Za dużo makaronu, za mało seksu, W Sieci 41/150 (12.10), p.18.

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on creating a correlation between migration, terrorist attacks and a lack of security. The clear conclusion was: “If we want to be safe, we cannot accept migrants in Poland because migrants are terrorists”.

Almost no other issues connected to the current world migration processes are being mentioned in the media in Poland. After 2015, the topic has appeared only when there are significant situations happening in Europe: terrorist attacks (e.g. in Paris, Berlin or Stockholm) or the so-called sexual attacks in 2016 in Koln, Germany. Most of the coverage is against migrants, with an aim to prove that migration to Poland means lack of security. Deeper texts on the causes of migration (such as climate change, poverty and hunger) are not being presented to the general public. Themes like human solidarity and Polish commitment to global challenges are not “hot” media topics.

Since 2015, the situation has gotten worse. As mentioned in the subsection above, attitudes toward migration are very pessimistic. Polish public television has manipulated data, broadcasting information that more than 100% of respondents are against accepting refugees in Poland (from data in April 2017).[128] This is a minor manipulation, but it appeared on public television in European country in 2017.

The situation described above is pessimistic (taking into account the whole political context), but it also shows a huge chance for educational activities. The main aim would be to work on changing attitudes toward diversity, solidarity and global understanding. Project activities would not be dedicated directly to politicians or journalists but bringing education about migration and sustainable development to schools, higher education institutions and teacher training facilities is a great chance for social change. Moreover, methods proposed in the InterCap project – like Philosophy for Children – provide great opportunities to encourage people to start reflecting, talking and sharing their opinions. This is a first step towards changing attitudes to be more open for widely understood diversity.

2.3. Research and project production

Despite the political situation in Poland and the negative attitudes toward migration in general and refugees in particular, there have been several research papers and reports published tackling themes of refugees, migration and the situation of migrants in Poland and in Europe. Most of these publications were prepared by the non-governmental sector with the financial support of such organisations like Stefan Batory Foundation.

128 tw (2017), Żarty z prezentacji w TVP Info sondażu o uchodźcach. „Przeciw przyjmowaniu jest 117 proc.”, link: http://www.wirtualnemedia.pl/artykul/tvp-info-sondaz-o-uchodzcach-przeciw-przyjmowaniu-jest-117-proc [date of availability: 18.03.2018]

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Activities led by public central institutions

At the same time, there has also been some state-sponsored research published by The Office for Foreigners, an institution "established to provide comprehensive and professional service in the scope of legalisation of stay and granting protection to foreigners staying in the territory of the Republic of Poland".[129] OFF produces reports summarising its activities related to legalisation of stay and granting protection.[130]

Another state institution where the scope includes the broad issue of migration is the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, responsible also for protecting human rights in Poland. This Ministry published a statistical analysis on motives of perpetrators of hate crimes, the legal qualifications, types of crimes divided into groups against which they were targeted, a demographic profile of victims and perpetrators as well as educational activities undertaken. The report was published in 2016.[131] The most important outcome from this research was the conclusion that a significant increase in the number of hate crime cases has been noted. The motivation of the perpetrators is primarily xenophobic. In 2015, there also was a significant increase in crimes against Arabs and Muslims.

Another public institution, appointed to counter discrimination toward minority groups as well as migrants, was the Council for the Prevention of Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (the Council operated by the Ministry of Digitisation). The aim of the Council was also to conduct targeted research, but it was liquidated in April 2016 by the former Prime Minister Beata Szydło.

Academic and research institutions

One of the most important research institutions dealing with widely understood attitudes toward diversity is the Centre for Research on Prejudice. This academic institution, affiliated with the University of Warsaw, conducts research on the prejudice of Polish citizens toward different groups, such as minorities in Poland and also migrants. Their last two significant publications are "Prejudice in Poland" and "Hate speech, contempt speech". The first is a comprehensive study on various forms of intergroup prejudice in Poland and was published in 2015.[132] In a chapter related to attitudes toward Chechen refugees in Poland[133] the author looks at two kinds of victimization: inclusive and exclusive. Results show that, despite the relatively small community of refugees living in Poland and the fact that negative historical events happened some time ago, a sense of victimisation plays a role in intergroup relations in Poland.

129 Website of the office: https://udsc.gov.pl/en/urzad/misja-urzedu/ [date of availability: 18.03.2018]
130 Reports prepared by OFF are published on the institutions website: https://udsc.gov.pl/statystyki/raporty-specjalne/
131 Ministry of Interior and Administration (2016) Analysis of hate crime [Analiza przestępczości z nienawiści], 05.2016. http://www.spoleczenstwoobywatelskie.gov.pl/sites/default/files/analiza_mswia_policja.pdf [date of availability: 18.03.2018]
132 http://cbu.psychologia.pl/en/events-2/prejudice-in-poland [date of availability: 18.03.2018]
133 Olechowski, M. "National victimization and its influence on prejudice toward refugees" (in: Bilewicz, M., Stefaniak, A., Winiewski, M. (2015). "Prejudice in Poland". Warsaw University. pp. 98

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The second piece of research, “Hate speech, contempt speech”, is study on young people attitudes toward hate speech directed at minority groups. The research was conducted by Mikołaj WIśniewski, Karolina Hansen, Michał Bilewicz, Wiktor Soral, Aleksandra Świderska and Dominika Bulska and was financed by Stefan Batory Foundation in the frame of EOG Programme. A whole chapter was dedicated to the analysis of hate speech toward refugees and Muslims.[134] Results show that attitudes towards Muslims, measured by the scale of anti-Islamic prejudices and secular criticism of Islam, can also be taken as negative. Adults were more prejudiced than young people, but at the same time more willing to accept Muslims in everyday relationships. When it comes to refugees, attitudes toward this group - especially in relation to their relatively small number in Poland, - were definitely negative and the attitudes of the youth are more negative than the attitudes of adults.

Research conducted by non-governmental sector

The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA) also tackled the theme of migration in its latest report. The aim of the report was to analyse the responses of public institutions responsible for the formal education system to reports of different types of discrimination happening in schools in Poland. One basis for discrimination was national or ethnic origin, as was confession/atheism. Within this, migration/refugee experience was also reported as a premise for discrimination.[135]

Another player in the migration research field in Poland is the International Organisation for Migration. Active on the Polish scene, they are conducting projects with migrants in Poland as well as publishing data and reports. The latest of these is “World Migration Report 2018”[136] which summarises a global overview on migration in 2017.

An interesting study on migration and Polish humanitarian aid is this presented by Grupa Zagranica, a Polish platform of civil society organisations, engaged in development cooperation, democracy support, humanitarian aid and global education. The study “If Polish government is not helping refugees in Poland, then where is it helping?” was prepared by Magdalena Trojanek and Magdalena Wnuk in 2016.[137] The main results from this overview of data provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that, in terms of bilateral assistance, Poland directly helps refugees and victims of the Syrian war residing in three countries: Jordan and Lebanon and in the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan (Iraq). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not finance projects in Syria (in the territory of the conflict), explaining that helping directly in Syria might be dangerous for workers of the organisation and would be difficult to monitor. The Polish Humanitarian Action operates directly in Syria, but funds for this purpose must be obtained from sources other than public monies.

134 http://www.batory.org.pl/upload/files/pdf/MOWA_NIENAWISCI_MOWA_POGARDY_INTERNET.pdf (18.02.2018)
135 Read more at: http://www.tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea_raport_www_final.pdf [date of availability: 18.03.2017]
136 Read more at: http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf [date of availability: 18.03.2017]
137 Read more at: http://zagranica.org.pl/sites/zagranica.org.pl/files/attachments/Publikacje/RaportGZ/pomoc_humanitarna_2016.pdf

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In summarising this segment of our research, it is worth emphasising that there have been several pieces of research conducted in Poland, mostly looking at attitudes and prejudice toward diversity and minority groups (including refugees). The subject of sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goals is generally not taken into consideration when studying migrants' situation in Poland, with the exception of one study summary addressing the topic of humanitarian aid. Discussions about global challenges such as migration are very focused on Polish circumstances in Poland, rather than taking into consideration the global context.

2.4. Case studies and good practices

Since 2015, there have been many interesting and valuable projects conducted in the area of migration and refugee education. Most of them were financed in the frame of EOG mechanism granted by the Stefan Batory Foundation. It is worth mentioning that Batory Foundation diagnosed a significant problem of discriminatory attitudes against migrants (especially Muslims) and dedicated a huge amount of money for projects tackling this issue. Most of the projects were conducted between January and April 2016 and most of them were dedicated to education.

Examples of projects conducted by Polish NGOs

The practices mentioned below have been identified as those most important, taking into consideration the aim of this research. All activities were designed by Polish NGOs and all are combining two significant issues: migration as a global challenge and sustainable development, wherein sustainable development is often treated as a cross-cutting issue not always mentioned directly in project proposals or descriptions.

The Anti-discrimination Association "Refugees? Welcome"

In 2016, TEA carried out a project with teachers aiming to train teachers how to tackle migration issues in school education. There were lesson scenarios created, based on reportage texts written by three of the most respected journalists in Poland: Wojciech Tochman, Lidia Ostałowska and Katarzyna Boni. Information about the project in Polish: http://tea.org.pl/pl/SiteContent?subitem=uchodzcy__zapraszamy!/ Publication: http://tea.org.pl/userfiles/raporty/tea_scenariusze_www_pojedyncze.pdf

Uchodźcy.info

This is a website created by the informal initiative Chlebem i Solą (Bread and salt) and Stefan Batory Foundation. It was created to raise public awareness about refugees in Poland and

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Europe by disseminating reliable knowledge and combating stereotypes. This website is also a kind of guide for various forms of engagement and help - it contains practical knowledge and the most essential tools. Its aim is to encourage and inspire people to act on behalf of refugees across the widest possible range - from combating hate speech, through educational and media activities, to direct help to those in need.
Website only in Polish: http://uchodzcy.info

Centre for Citizenship Education

The Centre is one of the most active organisations in global education in Poland. It conducts projects on global citizenship education and, starting in January 2016, also in refugee/migration education. All projects are targeted at teachers, providing training, and methodological help as well as lesson scenarios. The most significant project, when talking about migration, would be “Let’s talk about refugees”. This was created to enable teachers to conduct conversations about refugees in the framework of lessons at school. The project activities consisted of blended learning courses, where teachers experienced and active in the field devisied lessons scenarios () and gathered a library of texts on how to talk about migration including the most important facts about current challenges connected with the topic of migration. There were also short videoclips created, to make the conversations with young people easier. The project is still on-going (in 2018) and all materials can be found on the website in Polish: https://migracje.ceo.org.pl

Amnesty International

Amnesty International Poland is also one of the most active organisations in the field of global and anti-discrimination education. It has conducted several projects, mostly directed at teachers. One recent project, “All human beings are born free and equal,” aimed to build a network of conscious leaders in civil society (primarily teachers and activists) with the motivation and competence to mobilise their local communities for a world free from discrimination, hate speech and violence. The outcome of the project was a publication to be used in schools and local communities on migration in the context of global education and sustainable development goals. Link to the publication in Polish: https://amnesty.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Wszyscy-ludzie-rodza-sie-wolni-i-rowni-pakiet-materialow-edukacji-praw-czlowieka.pdf

Instytut Globalnej Odpowiedzialności (IGO)

The Institute of Global Responsibility is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Warsaw, Poland. It was established in 2007 and focuses on development policy issues, global education and cooperation with partners in the South. It works on the issue of migrants in the area of critical global education (as one of the most relevant and current topics

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to discuss values) and also analyses the influence of media on our perception. Discussions on diversity, difference, the notion of “otherness” and respectingto people form part of their work about values, using dialogical methods such as Philosophy for Children (P4C) as well as Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry (OSDE). Link to the new version of guidebook on Code of Conduct regarding images and messages on the global South: “Jak mówić o większości świata? Jak rzetelnie informować o krajach globalnego Południa?”: http://igo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Jak_mowic_o_wiekszosci_swiata_wydanie4_-ebook.pdf

Fundacja Ocalenie

The Ocalenie Foundation was established to support migrants with regards to integration and individual development in Poland. It works for intercultural dialogue and the strengthening of civil society, striving to make every human being able to live with dignity and respect for his/her rights. The Foundation directs its activities toward two major groups of people: migrants and Polish citizens. It helps migrants with all issues connected with settling in Poland and educates Polish society on migration issues. The website of Ocalenie Foundation: https://ocalenie.org.pl

The above-mentioned initiatives carried out in Poland over the last two years are those most significant with regards to raising awareness on migration and sustainable development. However, we cannot forget that activities described in this subchapter, as well as many others being introduced in Poland, are created by the non-governmental sector and are usually on a local level. When it comes to the national level, such ideas or projects are not created, calls are not being opened or fulfilled. The Ministry of Interior and Administration, which is responsible for migration issues in Poland, has not resolved The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) call for almost three years.

2.5. Migration policies and sustainable development

The relation of policy framework between migration and sustainable development is difficult to indicate on national level. First of all, the division of labour in the governmental bodies is as follows:

- Ministry of the Interior and Administration is responsible for all forms of social support for migrants in Poland
- Ministry of Investments and Development became a national coordinator for the implementation of Agenda 2030
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a national coordinator for development cooperation (including humanitarian aid and global education) based on development cooperation

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law and is also responsible for national policy on human rights in relation to The United Nations (UN) and organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Beata Kempa, a Minister and Member of the Cabinet[138], is responsible for needs assessment and action direction for humanitarian aid

The engagement of three different ministries plus the Prime Minister's Office on different levels of implementation makes the framework quite fragmented. There is a lack of understanding and cooperation between ministries, as well as an overlap in the area of humanitarian aid. Additionally, there are divisions within the ministries, e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs has two separate departments - one working on Development Cooperation (pol. *Departament Współpracy Rozwojowej*) and one dealing with the UN and human rights (pol. *Departament Narodów Zjednoczonych i Praw Człowieka*). These factors make relations even more complicated. It is also important to note that the Ministry of Environment does not have any significant role in the implementation and monitoring process.

In 2015, during the European Year of Development, there was a chance for the Development Cooperation Department in MFA to open and lead Polish debate on migration and refugees and also connect this with Sustainable Development Goals. However, decision makers were fixed on a conservative agenda, especially in the final phase of the election campaign, so they decided to avoid controversial issues such as migration. By that time, the Polish Development Cooperation was not able to influence or frame any political debate on migration. In late 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Administration, together with Prime Minister's Office, became the centres of communication on migration. The refugees and migrants issue has been narrowed down to a national context with two main domains: security and cultural difference. Because of this, there are no linkages between international development cooperation and global sustainable development. The only international link highlighted is the obligation to the European Union and its migration policy (which is unacceptable for Polish decision makers due to the local context mentioned).

Also, there is no integration of migration and sustainable development policies on a national level. There are two strategies where Sustainable Development Goals are present, but they have different policy status and are based in different areas of work and different ministries. The first one is the National Strategy of Responsible Development under the Ministry of Investment and Development with the following goals: stable economic growth based on knowledge, data and perfect organization:

1. Development sensitised for society and territorially sustainable
2. Effective state and institutions towards growth and social and economic inclusion

138 Decree law to appoint Beata Kempa to her post, 8.01.2018: http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20180000046/O/D20180046.pdf

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The Sustainable Development Goals are mentioned only in general introduction and there is no context of migration. At the same time, the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation 2016-2020 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Policy Coherence for Development is an important rule for implementation and effectiveness. SDGs are mentioned here as a key reference point, so the country's priorities - the Polish Development Cooperation programme does not have country-specific strategic papers - should be coordinated to support global sustainable development. This declaration has not been realised by the ministry itself nor by other ministries or governmental agendas.

These two examples show that commitment depends not only on policy levels but also on the understanding of sustainable development, which may differ when it comes to economic growth agenda. Cases referencing the SDGs are general and the indicators are not implemented to measure changes in certain sectors/areas of work. Migration is not a priority in the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation. It is only mentioned in one paragraph related to the Syrian situation where it is called a "migration crisis". There is also an intention to address the consequences of the crisis, so that Polish Development Cooperation delivers aid to refugees in the region but holds back on migration (see the chapter related to global challenges).[139]

The Supreme Audit Office announced they would monitor the preparation process towards the implement of Agenda 2030 between 15th January and 30th March, 2018 (the report will be published in mid-2018).[140] The monitoring process will be based on a *whole-of-government* approach, which tracks the application on all levels (central, regional and local) by public institutions and other actors.

There is no direct link to migration as an issue in the above-mentioned documents. The Polish government has officially stated that we adopt different approaches and sets of activities by helping in the place of conflict in order to stop refugees coming to Europe. Under Polish law, humanitarian aid is a part of development cooperation but there is no priority of this topic in documents proving this. The Polish government disagreed with the European Commission's decision regarding the re-allocation of 6,000 people from Greece and Italy.

Migration is described as a part of national policy. Therefore, it is helpful to look at the most important national legislations shaping the migration issue: the Constitution of the Republic of Poland from 2nd April, 1997.[141] In article 56, the document mentions "refugee status" as linked to international frameworks such as The Geneva Conventions.

1. The law on security and asylum for foreigners in Poland, dated on 13th June , 2003.[142] This is the most important and detailed law related to the situation of refugees in

139 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016), Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation 2016-2020: http://polskapomoc.gov.pl/Dokumenty,i,publikacje,83.html
140 Link to information about the monitoring process: https://www.nik.gov.pl/aktualnosci/nik-sprawdzi-realizacje-celow-onz.html
141 Full text of The Constitution: http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19970780483
142 Full text of the law: http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20031281176

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Poland, including all assumptions of refugee status and asylum procedure. The law is also an implementation of all international and European directives.
2. The law about foreigners dated 12th December , 2013.[143] This law specifies the status of refugees and rules of deportation and also introduces new assumptions for refugee status related to humanitarian issues.
3. Regulation of Minister of Interior and Administration dated 19th February 2016[144] on the volume of assistance for foreigners applying for refugee status**.**

This list of documents shows that all existing laws and regulations on migration are focused on the national level and internal commitments under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. Most of them are rather technical and there seems to be no place to formulate a broader agenda on migration. It is notable that most of the regulations came into force before 2015. Between 2013 and 2015, most people awaiting refugee status came from Russia and Ukraine.

From 2015, there has been no public or political debate about migration in a broader context. Official statements are mostly derived from fear-based management and a lack of information related to the causes and consequences of migration as a global process. There are no expectations that the policy framework will change in the coming future to become more progressive in the field of linkages between migration and sustainable development. Development Cooperation does not have a high priority under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is more likely to be a part of the PR strategy on an international level. In 2018, the mid-term review of the Multiannual Programme of Development Cooperation is expected and civil society organisations will have a chance to take part in consultation process, so some small technical changes are expected.

3. Field research

3.1. Introduction

Participants of interviews were identified by three main factors:

143 Full text of the law: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20130001650
144 Full text of the law: http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20160000311

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- their expertise and engagement in the topic in previous years (project engagement, publications, media coverage, etc.)
- their institutional affiliation (during the research, the focus was on representatives of civil society organisations - practitioners and university tutors - working on theory)
- availability during the research period and readiness to publicly state their opinions

Ten representatives of non-governmental organisations and academia took part in the field research. Six out of ten represented the higher education sector and four came from non-governmental organisations. Most of the participants are based in big cities in Poland (e.g. Warsaw, Cracow, Kato

wice and Wroclaw), engaged in the topic of global education, development, migration and sustainable development. All participants are considered to be experts and have some connection with civil society sector and researchers from The Anti-discrimination Education Association (TEA). Due to limitations, research was conducted as a set of individual interviews both online and offline. Each interview lasted 45-70 minutes.

3.2. Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

The first part of each interview was dedicated to discussing the participant's awareness about international migration and sustainable development. According to the instructions, researchers explored the participant's knowledge about Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, Habitat III and other relevant documents/initiatives/strategies and how these documents are reflected by different actors in Poland.

All participants were aware about international documents and strategies, but they do not make use of them in their everyday work. SDGs agenda was the only initiative that was mentioned as one sometimes discussed, especially by academic teachers who refer to it during their educational work. Overall, people were aware that international institutions created such documents, they know the aims of each document but there is no need to rely on it in practice. One of the participants working with migrants and refugees mentioned that, for him, the most important are national legal regulations and documents addressing the rights of migrants and refugees in Poland. There was only one voice that highlighted the importance of working close to SDGs Agenda and Policy Coherence for Development, but in advocacy rather than on an educational level.

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It is worth highlighting one critical opinion about the role of international bodies and communities (especially The United Nations and the European Union) as agents of change. According to this opinion, all large strategic processes are much more focused on a good-looking document at the end rather than on the inclusive implementation of the strategy - “the final product of the strategy makes a nice pdf file, but not the change itself”. It is also important to note that, most of the interlocutors, saw strategies such as Agenda 2030 as having an economic approach aligned with a neoliberal agenda which is far from the reality not only of their educational work with students but also from the interest of public opinion.
According to the opinions collected, deeper knowledge about European and international strategies is not necessary to work effectively in the field of education. It was deemed that having a basic insight and using the framework as a context in the educational processes is enough. For teacher trainers and lecturers, it is important to present the reference point, but working on international documents is not interesting for their target groups.

3.3. Link between migration and sustainable development

In the second part of each interview, researchers focused on links between migration and sustainable development. Questions were asked concerning the role of climate change in global migration movements. All interviewees noted the significance of this link but also mentioned a lack of resources to elaborate on this issue. One of the interviewees dealing with migrants and refugees on an everyday basis emphasised that the official UN definition of a refugee should be updated, and that climate change should be mentioned as one of the reasons people have a right to obtain refugee status.

On the other hand, there are only few organisations and practitioners who understand this link clearly. There are only few researchers in academia working in this field and analysing the global context of migration in Poland and probably none are focused on climate change context as such. Most researchers are focused on small parts of the process, so they don’t utilise the global context. When it comes to research and study, universities are not institutions that react immediately to current situations. For example, in 2018 at Warsaw University, researchers analyse discourse about migrants and refugees that happened in 2015. Therefore, fragmentation of research will not provide a hypotheses on a global scale.
One of the representatives from academia highlighted that Polish society is no longer ready to analyse complex issues. The Polish education system (including schools and universities) tends to be apolitical in their views and stories, so they are not prepared for discussions about the here and now. The effect is that we have lost not only the civic engagement of people, but also an understanding of the current situation (which is obviously political). These interlinkages need a holistic approach and critical thinking, not ready-made answers.

Moreover, one of the participants mentioned that the story about the connections between global migration movements and climate change is of course true, but that this is not a very

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fortunate story. Migration is such a complex phenomenon that attempting to indicate individual factors and the strength of these factors is doomed to failure. Additionally, we cannot forget about the numerous individual choices people make when deciding to flee. While it is clear that the rising level of the Pacific level will accelerate migration movements, a clear cause of conflict in Syria and migration movements from this area is not so evident.
Summing up this part of the interviews, it is worth recalling a concept used when teaching adults – the David Kolb cycle of learning. It consists of four main phases: experience, reflection, generalisation/conceptualisation and active experimentation. When discussing migration in Poland, people stop on the second level. Even when there is a chance to experience someone's story or to meet a migrant and talk with him/her, even when there is a short moment of reflection about this individual story, people are not able to move to the conceptualisation part of the cycle. It is not possible to draw generalisations from this one story or to think about how an individual story could influence our lives in Poland/Europe, let alone what can be done and what individuals do to change the situation. This is due to a number of factors, including limitations of the education system, a lack of experiences with intercultural, global and anti-discrimination education as well as popular media coverage.

3.4. Insecurity

The theme of insecurity was also mentioned during every interview. Most of the participants focused on one factor of social insecurity - migration movements to the country. In almost all conversations, the issue of the "politicisation" of this topic was mentioned. Politicians use migration to win their political battles by creating an atmosphere of fear among people.

One of the representatives from academia mentioned how the word "security" has made such a great career in the academic world that she feels sick because of this trend. The revision of our understanding of security, despite the fact that the world is safer than ever, is directly linked with a neoliberal system because it makes profits, e.g. intelligent cities that collect all data about you and sell this to companies under an agenda of security. Also, safety is an argument that ends all discussions, when it comes to someone's security or defence. Security has started to be a universal value rather than a subjective feeling, which is very disturbing in the conception of the modern world. The fear-based management/strategy works fairly well when it comes to the migration issue. It is very likely that opinion polls related to security would change completely if you begin the discussion with the issue of migration, as this puts people into an unknown context and immediately activates fears.

One final point mentioned in one of the interviews is the Polish Catholic Church - which is not confronted at all when it comes to migration issues. The Church as an institution is designated to help people and take care of those in need. However, the Church in Poland is somehow a part of the political debate and even when some individual priests mention the role of the Church in helping, they are not listened to. Even the government, declaring itself as Catholic,

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didn't realise one of the flagship ideas of creating "humanitarian corridors" for refugees. This solution, proposed by Catholic Church in Poland, was never taken into consideration by politicians.

There is a definite need for possibilities to engage people in Poland in real discussions based on values and to find ways to identify and define them in the community. Overcoming fears and prejudice in both teaching and learning processes seems to be crucial for interviewees to make the discussion happened.

3.5. Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Before 2015, the debate on migration had a different aspect. Around 2 million Polish young people had departed to work in different European countries. Therefore, we faced a situation on the labour market where there was not enough work for people to answer their needs. On the other hand, many migrants from Ukraine came to work in areas of basic services and less qualified jobs. The perception of migration changed in 2015. The question is whether the debate is still divided and if we still think about Polish migrants in this context.

One of the key factors that shape the public opinion views is social media and short, non-revised news. Social media has been mentioned by all interviewees. One of them said that initially the internet was supposed to be a place where you have unlimited access to various information and perspectives, so it could be a great critical tool. However, social media has changed this perception completely, especially with its short messages and visual tools. Fake news and memes influence the debate on migration on a large scale.

One of the academic representatives highlighted that social media stops a real debate and has left it on the level on memes, fake news and hate speech. In social media, it is easier to break communication rules, writing comments from a comfortable chair with a cup of coffee. One example is the photo of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy of Kurdish ethnic background whose image made global headlines after he drowned on 2nd September 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea. Some interviewees also noticed that, communication on social media, has made it harder to make deeper reflections, especially for young people, as news is important for only a few hours.

The perspective changes when we face a more homogeneous society with a lack of experiences and is far from the national centre of the debate. One of the academic representatives mentioned that her students at the Faculty of Education are passive in such discussions and don't want to speak about their opinions. They feel a distance from such a

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complex issue and a lack of understanding to argue about it. Their peripheral location makes them less engaged in political issues.

Summarising this part of the interviews conducted, there were two more factors shaping public discourse mentioned: politics/politicians and creating an atmosphere of fear. As fear was previously addressed, politics and politicisation of the topic is worth now describing. The migration issue was used to build political support particularly in the second half of 2015, but not only. This topic is still utilised when politicians want to gain something - it creates an atmosphere where the ruling party (Law and Justice) seems to be the only one able to defend the safety of Polish citizens by not allowing migrants to come to Poland. The message here is clear - vote for us, we guarantee you a safe life without any “non-catholic foreigners”. A large part of this discourse is built on people being scared of other people and of other religions, with whom they have no experiences and who they’ve never met. This, according to one of the respondents, shows that we do not have any public discourse about migration in Poland at all. The media coverage and political use of this topic makes us feel this is not a debate we should have. As a society, we are very distant from any real discussion about this issue.

The interviewees cannot expect the re-opening or a real opening of the debate on migration thanks to the activities of just one project. However, it is worth to take it as a starting point that there is a need to learn how to start such discussions, how to work with emotions and fears or lack of understanding. Some targeted materials and methods, as well as meetings with real people to hear their stories could be a good starting point.

3.6. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

There is a huge information gap, when it comes to research on this topic. Some of the interviewees mentioned that education provides hope and the only answer to fill this gap. The way education process is designed for both young people and adults is very important. There are not enough opportunities to meet with Others - foreigners, people of other religions. As Polish society is still homogenous (which is a new situation, as before the II World War it wasn’t) and not ready for diversity, we need to secure opportunities to discover diversity and feel comfortable with it.

Civil society organisations have some potential to do this, but they are not ready to use it, and their capacity or range is too small to make that happen. Representatives from academia suggested that NGOs could bring changes and new methods/tools/instruments. But some investment has to be made in the NGO sector, to give them capacity and strength to work on this. Also, political will would be required to instigate work in this field, which is nowadays absent in Poland.

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On the other hand, NGO representatives see universities as places where change could be validated and objectified - creating an open space where discussions could be conducted, where different people representing different fields could meet. This may be a chance for creating a new style of debate on migration.

The last thing worth mentioning here was the idea of engaging pop culture products (e.g. television drama series) to open discussion. In previous years, HBO produced two seasons of a Polish crime series entitled “Wataha” about border guards working under pressure on the EU eastern border. This provides an interesting look at xenophobia and misogyny in Poland and Ukraine, with terrorist attacks, human traffickers and refugees as a background. Such a pop culture product could be a great factor for starting mature debates on global migrations and its causes.

All interviewees are looking for allies and other interlocutors to make this topic less isolated and more public. Certain examples of opening the topic are very positive in terms of creativity of the movement. It is worth considering the efforts of project that build synergies, with networking activities both on a national level and also on a European level. Both practitioners and academics can provide input to the community of experts, which can be built-in to project activities.

3.7. The role of education systems

The role of education systems could be significant, but when it comes to practice the limitations of the systems are bigger than expected. Representatives from NGOs saw the role of both universities and schools to start explaining the current world and also to teach about values. However, the condition of the education sector after reforms were conducted by conservative government in 2016-2017 shows that civil society engagement is also necessary.

Representatives from universities underlined that structure and hierarchy are involved when it comes to strategic decisions. Universities are no longer places of free and erudite discussions, because they are now answering to neoliberal market needs. The higher education sector at the moment is a sophisticated work agency which gives important points to a young person’s CV or portfolio toward their future career, said one of the university representatives. Critical thinking attitude and deeper discussions on current issues are no longer an area of interest and only fans of academia are willing to work at universities and conduct research under the conditions that Polish academia can offer. The academic world is petrified by grant conditions and also by the recent political push. During interviews, comments of parliamentarians from the Law and Justice Party about the academic work of Michał Bilewicz on hate speech were mentioned. Questions about the condition of Polish academia came up many times during our meetings.

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When researchers asked about practical proposals, most people supported cross-cutting training with a strong anti-discrimination approach and also improving methods to work with critical thinking skills. One of the interlocutors emphasised that most academic lecturers need anti-discrimination training and that this should be as important as work safety and hygiene training when starting work or studying. Building on this, it is important to train tutors at universities, but we have to remember how difficult the target group is and to use various methods or tools. The idea of addressing this as a cross-cutting issue was emphasised by many people.

The creation of new faculties or studying programmes is not the way to promote knowledge on global challenges and critical thinking attitude, according to our interviewees. This would only attract people already interested and convinced, which is not our goal.

The last interesting proposal mentioned by respondents was to create training programmes for in-service teachers to strengthen their knowledge, abilities and competencies to work on global issues, including migration and its causes. This was seen as a very important part of the role of NGOs in the education system. Of course, this may be difficult considering the current situation in Poland, where several NGOs have been blacklisted by the Ministry of Education. However, there is still a great need amongst teachers to tackle these issues and to take part in training.

All interviewees highlighted the practical aspect of solutions within the education system. Proposals coming from the NGO sector are interesting as they present new qualities and new approaches to teaching and learning, different than what is typical. Innovations related to partnerships and methods are important, but the financial capacities of universities are not ready to fund such additional work. What is also important is to plan this as a long-term process with different kind of activities (including critical feedback, etc.) including stable cooperation between partners in order to make this idea work in the institutions, rather than giving the impression that a few hours of training or lectures could solve all the problems.

Summary

The research provokes reflection on the condition of Polish academic work on migration, but also some critical comments towards the skills and engagement of civil society organisations. The coming together of all these voices and different backgrounds has given a deeper understanding of the current condition of both sectors. It also provided a lot of inspiring ideas which could be a part of a needs assessment for a project target group.

Based on the literature review, we can observe the lack of connection between migration and sustainable development on a national policy level. Based on changes in political debate and

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also in media coverage on the migration issue, public opinion has radicalised rapidly, and this is visible in the quoted opinion polls (which start getting worse in late 2015). The analysis does not take into account social media as a main information channel but, from the researchers' perspective, the traditional media coverage is a continuation of the internet discussions.

Non-governmental organisations are the main actors active in the area of changing the discourse. Good practices mentioned in the report showed that this can be a group of change makers, but even the methods and range of their work wouldn't be able to entirely change the situation in its complexity and volume.

The field research showed how the many limitations of the current system and agenda make it difficult to work in this area. The politicisation of the topic, together with a high level of fear and emotions, makes it even harder. A lack of political will or openness between actors makes the debate seem useless. Looking for alliances between civil society organisations and academia seems to be reasonable when it comes to looking for solutions. Cooperation between practitioners and academics to develop methods for working with opponents and those unconvinced could be an answer to break the isolation of this issue.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. National and local level recommendations for NGOs

- Initiate cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions. Look for broader alliances and supporting initiatives to bring the debate on migration and values to various places.
- Introduce critical thinking attitudes in learning processes. Present methods that help to deliver a new set of skills and attitudes to young people and train multipliers in this area.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. Lead with efforts to introduce anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. If necessary, change the language and describe this as an investment in future, ambitious plans and identify this as a market need.
- Build expertise in social media work as an essential area to balance messages on migration and sustainable development. Increase understanding of the role of social media in the delivery of information.

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4.2. National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

- Support cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions on migration and sustainable development financially and through operational policy decisions on a national level.
- Utilise NGOs as experts in their advocacy work with migrants and sustainable development policies, e.g. during public consultations processes on the national level.

4.3. Local level recommendations for municipalities

- Support cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions on migration and sustainable development financially and through operational policy decisions at a local level.
- Utilise NGOs as experts in their advocacy work towards migrants and sustainable development policies, e.g. during public consultations processes at a local level.

4.4. National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

- Take active part in cross-sectoral cooperation between NGOs and universities/educational institutions. Look for broader alliances and support initiatives to bring the debate on migration and values to various places.
- Introduce a critical thinking attitude into learning processes. Apply methods which help to deliver a new set of skills and attitudes to young people and train multipliers in this area and use expertise of NGOs in this area.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education. Support efforts to introduce anti-discrimination and holistic approach in education into their institutions. If necessary, change the language and describe this as an investment in future, ambitious plans and identify this as a market need.

4.5. Recommendations for future research areas

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- NGOs as actors leading debates on migration and sustainable development in social media and alternative media.
- If, why and how universities work/do not work in the global and anti-discrimination context based on migration and sustainable development topics.
- Overview of the methods for working with controversial issues in both formal and informal education areas (e.g. schools, academia, NGOs).

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SLOVENIAN NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1. Rationale behind

Freedom of movement is a basic human right, enshrined in various international instruments relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet, with the so-called refugee crisis of 2015-2016 in Europe, the public debates have evolved around who has the right to move to Slovenia, exposing the need to strengthen the understanding of migration as a global phenomenon, the migration – development nexus, and interconnectedness of the globalised world.

The report will review how national policies reflect interconnectedness of migration and sustainability issues, including Global Education as a means of deepening this understanding. It will identify main shortcomings in comprehensively addressing these issues on national level from the standpoint of target groups, beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

1.2. Aims and objectives

Main aim of the audit report is to identify needs, shortcomings and expectations of target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders, in strengthening holistic understanding of migration, sustainable development and lifestyles in interdependent world.

1.3. Available data and resources

Following audit report has been drafted based on literature review and field research, which was conducted in the form of focus group discussions.

1.4. Limitations

Lack of literature on migration – development nexus, with sustainable development and migration addressed in silos on policy level, coupled with growing intolerances toward migrants, pinpoint the need to develop literature on interconnectedness of these issues specifically for educational system and decision-makers, with the purpose of strengthening understanding of intertwined global issues, including migration and development.

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2. Literature review

2.1. Public opinion polls

Various aspects of migration and development issues have been analysed in the Eurobarometer survey. According to the last Eurobarometer report (2017a), Slovenians consider health and social security (38%), and unemployment (29%) as the two most important issues that Slovenia is currently facing. Among issues relevant to this report, immigration ranks on 7th place (9%), and education system, and environment, climate and energy issues on 11th place (4%, respectively). Among issues faced by the European Union (EU) that Slovenians deem as most important, are terrorism (46%) and immigration (43%). Climate change ranks on 6th place (with 9%), the environment on 7th place (8%), and EU influence in the world on 9th place (7%). 72% Slovenians support the common European policy on migration.

Regarding perception of security (Special Eurobarometer on Security, 2017d), 77% totally agree, and 20% tend to agree that their immediate neighbourhood is a secure place to live in. Similarly, 75% totally agree, and 22% tend to agree that their city, town or village is a secure place to live. 64% consider Slovenia as a secure place to live in, with additional 31% considering Slovenia as a somewhat secure place to live in. Hence, 97% Slovenians consider their immediate neighbourhood and their city, and 95% their country as a safe place to live in. The percentage drops significantly relating to security in the EU: 28% Slovenians consider the EU as a secure place, and 45 % consider the EU as a somewhat secure place to live in (with total 73%). Among challenges of the EU internal security, Slovenians recognise terrorism as the most important challenge (77% consider it as very important issue, and 19% as fairly important issue), followed by organised crime (73% consider it as very important, and 22% as fairly important).

Though the concept of sustainable development developed from the environmentalist understanding to a broader concept with environmental, social and economic dimension, the environmental dimension of development is still prevalent. According to the Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens toward the environment (2017c), the environment is very important to 67% Slovenians, and fairly important to 29%, hence the environment is considered as a value in Slovenia (with 96%). Slovenians consider growing amount of waste (50%) and air pollution (48%) as most important environmental issues. 52% Slovenians consider that decisions pertaining environment protection shall be made jointly within the EU, while 45% consider that decisions should be made by the national government. More than a half (52%) agree that they can play a role in protecting the environment in Slovenia – as an individual, with additional 33% somewhat agreeing with the statement. According to the Special Eurobarometer on Climate Change (2017b), more than seven in ten

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respondents in Slovenia consider climate change as a 'very serious' problem (71%, EU average 74%). Around one in ten (11%, EU average 12%) consider it to be the single most serious problem faced by the world, a 14 percentage point decrease since the previous survey in 2015. Around two-thirds say they have taken personal action to fight climate change in the past six months (66%), well above the EU average (49%). However, when given specific examples, the percentage rises to 96%, suggesting that many do not associate certain actions with tackling climate change.

While research on public understanding of the migration – development nexus is lacking, research on migration represents an important starting point. With regard to broader, general environment in Slovenia, Niko Toš (2016), the pillar of the Slovenian public opinion research, assesses that "in relation to the institutional system /…/, mistrust and extreme criticism are prevailing and tend to grow among Slovenians. High degree of mistrust /among Slovenians/ in institutions of the system is accompanied by an extremely high level of mistrust on interpersonal level. In Slovenian society, we are therefore faced with a low level of systemic and social integration and, consequently, a high vulnerability of society to shocks that come from the environment." Ule (2016) establishes lack of systematic public opinion research available to show how this sort of environment affects implementation of integration measures for international protection beneficiaries and immigrants in Slovenia. "After transition to the new century /…/, uncritical nationalism has calmed down, and intolerance towards marginalised groups and ethnic minorities has diminished. International comparative analyses /…/ have shown that on the scale of "tolerance–discrimination", Slovenia ranks among predominantly Western European countries (together with Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium), thus among more tolerant, and not among Eastern European countries (Baltic countries, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria), which are significantly more discriminatory. This applies to both time sections (1992, 2008)." (Toš, 2016: 535) During that time, and especially after 2014, the situation in Europe (opening of the EU's internal borders) and its neighbourhood (refugee flows) changed radically. "And these migration flows have triggering repulsive, intolerant, discriminatory initiatives and actions of the extreme political right to limit migration flows and close the (Schengen) border, which was necessarily reflected in public opinion and influenced changes in attitudes." (Toš, 2016: 536) For the period 2002–2014, Toš (*ibid.*) establishes growing tolerance among Slovenians, and a decline in negative attitude towards immigration – but differently, depending on cultural, racial, and socioeconomic origins or characteristics of potential immigrations. During this time period, tolerant attitudes have strongly prevailed over the negative ones concerning the attitude of Slovenians towards migration (especially in 2014 measurement). However, these findings do not reflect the situation after mass influx of refugees in Europe in 2015.

When researching Slovenian public attitude toward immigrants in the period between 2002 and 2016, Zavratnik (2017) distinguishes between three groups of immigrants: immigrants of similar ethnic origin as the Slovenian majority population (mostly referring to immigrants from the former Yugoslav republics), immigrants with different ethnic origin than the majority population of Slovenia, and immigrants from poorer EU Member States. Two thirds of majority population are supporting immigration of similar ethnic origin, while one third is opposing it (Zavratnik 2017: 866). Similarly, there were no noticeable deviations in public attitude toward

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immigrants of different ethnic origin than the majority population of Slovenia in the period between 2002 and 2014, with higher share of people supporting immigration. The refugee crisis changed the ratio of 60: 40 supporting immigration of persons with different ethnic origin, to division in half (50: 50). In 2016, the share of population who believes that Slovenia "shall allow immigration only to rare /few/ individuals" has risen sharply (from 24 % to 35 %) (Zavratnik 2017: 867).

General attitudes toward migration depend on economic and social situation in the country, and hence are connected with greater or lower acceptance of, desirability and tolerance toward migrants (Zavratnik 2011: 68). General trend of public opinion is nevertheless inclined toward supporting immigration to Slovenia (Zavratnik 2017: 868). Analysis of public opinion confirms the trend of declarative openness toward migrants, especially those who are barely present in the country, or those whom the majority population is 'already well acquainted with'. Public opinion is less supportive toward immigration of economic migrants, while more supportive toward immigration of refugees who flee from persecution in their countries of origin. Legal status (i.e. recognition of international protection) is the key feature in attitude toward refugees. Public opinion strongly distinguishes between so-called illegal (irregular) migrants and 'real' refugees, showing considerable sympathy for recognised refugees, while rejecting those who do not qualify for this category (Zavratnik 2017: 881).

Public opinion polls emphasise the need for strengthening understanding of migration phenomenon, and the right to freedom of movement among Slovenian public. While sustainable development is still somewhat understood within its environmental dimension, raising awareness on interconnectedness of sustainable development, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and deepening understanding of intertwined global issues represents an important input to the InterCap project activities.

2.2. Media response

Authors acknowledge that especially since 2015, the issue of refugees and mass migration has been re-actualised in European and Slovenian environment. As acknowledged by Zavratnik (2017: 858–9), public opinion, media and politics fall within the set of factors framing different opinions during the so-called refugee/migration crisis. Even though migration has been among key global issues for the last two decades, the issue entered both Slovene and European public debates within "another crisis" narrative. The so-called refugee crisis has followed or has been happening simultaneously with the economic crisis, which significantly affected communities outside EU borders. Collision of two significant phenomena, mass migration and recession, with numerous implications for social life, has positioned newcomers, migrants, refugees in the most vulnerable position. At the same time, these phenomena offered a variety of issues for political instrumentalisation to various actors.

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Pajnik (2017) analysed the operation of 'media logic' based on the case of editorials, which address igration in relation with the so-called 'refugee crisis'. The analysis established that meta-processes of mediatisation define operation of media to the degree that 'media logic' follows political agendas. Qualitative analysis of journalistic commentary (editorials) that were published in the Slovenian daily newspaper Delo from August–December 2015 on the topic of European migration policy (quota system, Schengen regime, bilateral agreements, visa regulations etc.), showed that articles most often referred to various mechanisms of migration policy which adopt a 'realist' political view, in the absence of a more informed analysis that would increase readers' understanding of policies. The media-political parallelism, i.e. fusion of media with political agenda, is also shown by the lack of views of non-governmental sources. The legitimisation of European migration policy is largely based on narratives about Europe/EU that reflect Eurocentric views. Refugees are represented as the culprits for the collapse of Europe, and as those endangering European values; representations of Eastern Europeans as 'other Europeans' and of Turkey (reflecting the political 'trading' of refugees between the EU and Turkey) as uncivilised were also common – which is then used to legitimise strict migration regimes.

Another media analysis (Jurgele 2016: 44–5) of daily newspaper Delo also confirmed that their coverage of refugee issues and so-called 'refugee crisis' mainly reproduced the discourse of political elite, while journalists contributed without critical perspective to the division between 'us' and 'them'. In the survey, elite official sources appeared in 38.7% articles, official sources in 39.9% articles, while non-official sources only in 11.7% articles. Hence, Delo journalists were mostly (80.3% articles) using routine communication channels in collecting information on refugee issues, thus creating an imaginary impression of objectivity of the communication, yet not presenting balanced opinions and positions. Critical discursive analysis showed that refugees were often represented as a threat to Slovenian citizens (number of refugees, threat to public order, 'others') due to dominance of elite political resources.

A comparative study of Central European countries' responses to the so-called 'refugee crisis' 2015–2016 established that while a humanitarian view prevailed in Slovenia when the influx of refugees and migrants reached the country in summer of 2015, even with the general public and the government heavily criticising Hungary's decision to build a fence at its border, "/p/erceptions of a chaotic "handling" of the transit from Croatia toward Austria in autumn 2015 as well as security concerns have strongly influenced public opinion. Faced with immigration pressure and criticism at home, government responded by focusing on security aspects of the issue" (Göbl *et al.* 2016: 2–3).

In 2015, an independent Council for Response to Hate Speech has been established, coordinated by the Peace Institute. Within a year of operation, the Council received up to 50 initiatives, majority on hate speech toward refugees, migrants and Islam (but also toward the LGBT community) (Varuh človekovih pravic 2016).

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Analysis of media response confirms the need identified when analysing public opinion polls, i.e. to encourage public discussion on the phenomenon of migration, including its various aspects, motivation, factors, and the development – migration nexus.

2.3. Research and project production

According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index (2017), Slovenia ranks on high, 9th position among 157 countries, which shows high quality of life, but falling short in implementing its official development assistance commitments. On national level, the SDGs implementation is coordinated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinating the external, foreign policy dimension of the SDGs agenda.

With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, states committed to regularly report on implementation of the SDGs to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Slovenia has presented its Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2017. The report acknowledges the need for Slovenia to "develop more agile and adaptable policies that consider unpredictable, faster paced, and more fundamental shifts in the world as well as addressing the challenges in Slovene society called upon the Government to develop a new approach toward planning for the future, which includes designing and implementing coherent policies for sustainable development" (*ibid.*, 4). The process of SDGs implementation has been on national level linked/embedded in drafting of the new national Development Strategy until 2030. Slovenia's record in implementing the SDGs and targets can be monitored through annual data published by the Statistical Office of Slovenia.

While policy-making is quite centralised in Slovenia, inter-sectorial cooperation on crosscutting issues is still to be strengthened. This is reflected in weak links between crosscutting issues, including migration – development nexus. Slovenia is also lacking clear migration and integration strategy (elaborated under chapter 2.6).

According to the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) for 2015, Slovenia ranks on 27th place among 44 analysed countries. The index establishes that Slovenian integration policies still create somewhat more obstacles than opportunities for immigrants to fully integrate into society. Policies on family reunification are assessed as favourable to migrants, followed by regulations on anti-discrimination and permanent residence as slightly favourable, and access to nationality somewhat favourable to migrant integration. Among shortcomings of Slovenian integration policy, the index recognises labour market mobility, education and political participation as slightly unfavourable to migrants, while access to health services is assessed as the weakest point of integration policies. Among MIPEX recommendations are for Slovenia:

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- to open up access to labour market for family migrants and introduce new measures to decrease overqualification among migrant workers;
- to increase access and targeted support within the education system for all immigrant pupils, students and adults;
- to guarantee universal healthcare for all migrants and Slovenian citizens, and increase support measures for migrant patients;
- to enable dual citizenship and speed up naturalisation for migrants meeting the requirements after 5-7 years; and
- to increase reporting rates of discrimination cases and provide adequate victim support system.

InterCap project represents an opportunity to bridge the gap of addressing complex and intertwined issues in silos. As identified during desk research, it is crucial to establish the link between sustainable development and migration, which would consequently also strengthen the understanding of both concepts/phenomena.

2.4. Case studies of good practices

Already in 2007, Ministry of Education developed Guidelines for Upbringing and Education for Sustainable Development. The Guidelines define key areas of sustainable development, emphasising that addressing versatile issues requires comprehensive approach. The document defines key aims and principles of Sustainable Development Education, and provides practical guidelines on implementation in kindergartens, schools, the line Ministry, non-governmental organisations, and local communities. It encompasses a set of recommended measures to be introduced by each stakeholder with the purpose of implementing the Guidelines. While the Guidelines refer to interconnected environmental, economic and social issues on declaratory level, in practice they mostly refer to environmental dimension of sustainable development (Gobbo 2011).

In civil society sector active in various aspects of Education for Sustainable Development, the concept of Global Education[145] is often referred to with similar understanding (Gobbo 2011). Definition of Global Education, used in Slovenian national context, has been developed by the Working Group on Global Education, coordinated by SLOGA, in 2008: Global Education is “a learning process, with the focus on interdependence and involvement of every individual in global challenges”. The approach to Global Education highlights the need to develop both “formal and non-formal education and learning programs” (CONCORD 2018). Global Education focuses on skills and values. Issues are presented as interconnected and interdependent (e.g. development cooperation, peace studies, human

[145] Often also referred to as Global Citizenship Education, but the concept of Global Education is used on national level.

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rights, environmental education, climate change). It also includes modern teaching techniques, such as Open Space Methodology, learning by doing, less strict division between learners and knowledge providers, participatory learning, and development of critical thinking. However, Global Education is still practiced as an extra-curricular activity, often implemented by non-governmental organisations (Gobbo 2011).

As the InterCap project aims at strengthening the understanding of interconnectedness of inclusivity, sustainability and migration, efforts in strengthening inclusive education in Slovenia shall be recognised. As access to education has been identified as a weakness of Slovenian migrant integration system by MIPEX (with the recommendation to increase accessibility and targeted support within the education system for all immigrants), efforts in strengthening inclusion of migrant children can be pinpointed as good practice relating to inclusive education of this particular group. Systemic regulation of education of immigrant children is based on the Guidelines for Integration of Children of Immigrants in Kindergartens and Schools (2012), which mandates kindergartens, primary and secondary schools to implement the principle of "an inclusive approach to implementation of rights of immigrant children to education in order to effectively integrate them and create an intercultural society", but professional assistance for teaching Slovene language is provided only for schooling children (Lunder Verlič 2016).

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport provides schools, which enrol immigrant pupils, with hours of additional professional assistance in teaching Slovene language in the first and second year of schooling. In addition to providing resources for teaching Slovenian language, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport enables and supports the implementation mother tongues and cultures classes for immigrant pupils. Rules on Assessment of Knowledge and Advancement of Students in Primary Schools (2008) allow the possibility of adapting the knowledge assessment for immigrant pupils. Immigrant pupils whose mother tongue is not Slovene and are first to be enrolled in primary school in grades 6 or 9, can undergo the national knowledge assessment test in the same year only voluntarily (not mandatory, as in case of other pupils) (Lunder Verlič 2016).

Rules on Norms and Standards for Implementation of Educational Programs in Secondary Education stipulate the obligation of secondary schools to organise Slovenian language course for students who, due to lack of knowledge of Slovene language, need and seek assistance, taking into account teacher's expert assessments on the level of their knowledge and understanding of Slovenian language. Schools organise a course only for the first two years of foreign students' education in Slovenia (Lunder Verlič 2016).

Regarding enrolment of asylum-seeking and refugee children, as they originate from non-Slavic areas and therefore represent a more demanding dimension for learning Slovenian language, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport recommends a two-level integration model. The integration process is divided into two periods, i.e. preparatory phase and introductory phase. Before enrolling in regular classes, a 20-hours preparatory phase is organised for the children. Thereafter, children are included in regular classes, with additional professional assistance in learning the Slovene language provided, and with recommended

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adjusted implementation of the learning process. After completing the introductory phase, the child is included in a follow-up program, where she/he is provided with additional support within two school years, as the program includes activities offered both by school and in the local environment (learning Slovene as the second language, learning assistance, individual programs for pupils, adapting teaching methods and forms of work, adjusted knowledge assessment, supporting involvement in after-school activities at school and in the local environment, various holiday opportunities, continuation of language courses and support in organising complementary classes of mother tongues and culture of immigrant children) (Lunder Verlič 2016).

While Slovenia's model of inclusion of migrant children into school is most relevant to the InterCap project, Slovenia has also developed guidelines for inclusion of Roma children and children with special needs/with disabilities – as guidelines for ensuring inclusive education for children from specific vulnerable groups.

A research (ISA Institute 2015) established that teachers are inclined towards integrating different cultures into schools, but they expressed the need for more didactic materials for working with immigrant pupils. There were several materials developed on migration and/or sustainable development, including educational and teaching materials. The Government Communication Office issued a publication titled 'Actively for tolerance', with the purpose of highlighting various aspects of migration, and strengthening tolerant society. The handbook was prepared based on series of workshops titled 'Actively for tolerance' which have been developed in collaboration with SLOGA,[146] and implemented in local communities. Aim of the workshops was to research local communities' experience with migration, related concerns emerging about refugees and migrants, including fears towards them, and how key counterparts can actively contribute towards overcoming those concerns in local communities. Main purpose of the publication is to support local communities in constructively addressing current migration trends. The handbook presents refugee integration system in Slovenia, but also views of experienced practitioners (often critical toward the Government) who daily face challenges in supporting refugee and migrant integration. The handbook also provides practical recommendations to local communities on how to approach integration of immigrants.

Within the project “Konzorcij NVO: Z globalnim učenjem do globalnih ciljev!” (NGO consortium: With global education towards global education!), funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by SLOGA with consortium of non-governmental organisations (2016–2017), a handbook for teachers on SDGs and Global Education has been developed (CONCORD 2018).

In cooperation with the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, a multidisciplinary group of students developed a handbook for teachers on the SDGs through the prism of

[146] In the summer 2015, an informal non-governmental organisations’ coalition working on migration and integration issues has been established, with the aim of coordinated humanitarian response, but also advocacy and awareness-raising efforts toward strengthening supportive environment for integration in Slovenia. SLOGA has been providing support and secretariat for the coalition.

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migration. The handbook presents each SDG, reflects the situation on global and national level regarding implementation of targets, links each SDG to migration issues, and then identifies best practices on global and local level, contributing toward implementation of the SDG. The handbook also encompasses suggestions for teachers, including class activities, on how to implement a lecture on each SDG in the classroom.

2.5. Migration policies and sustainable development

Sustainable development is among declared cornerstones of Slovenian foreign policy (Declaration on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia 2015), recognising Slovenia's responsibility toward achieving the SDGs. Among priority issues of Slovenia's foreign policy are also safe migration and fight against human trafficking. Resolution on the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia (2017) is based on the same goal of achieving sustainable development in partner countries, with promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with focus on good governance, equal opportunities, including gender equality, and quality education; and with fight against climate change, with emphasis on sustainable management of natural and energy resources, as priority issues (Article 10). Both the Declaration on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia (2015), and the Resolution on the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia (2017) recognise international development cooperation and international humanitarian aid as important instruments of Slovenian foreign policy. Slovenia has been an official development assistance donor since 2004. In 2016, funds earmarked for international development cooperation amounted to EUR 73,568,454 or 0.19% of gross national income (GNI) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2018b).

The Resolution on the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia (2017) recognises global education and its role in eliminating poverty and implementing sustainable development (Article 27). Global education encourages participants to understand world events, their causes and consequences, and interconnectedness of local and global dimension. On national level, the field overlaps between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly supports projects of non-governmental organisations in this field (Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2018a). Although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could be identified as one of the most prominent institutional supporters of Global Education in

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Slovenia, an overview of their activities in various years indicates that their support is not consistent and geared towards achieving long-term goals (Suša 2015).

When the field of Global Education began developing in Slovenia (non-governmental organisations' Working Group on Sustainable Development has been established in 2008), the process was marked by transfer of ideas, methodologies and didactic materials from Western European countries. Yet the national context is significantly different: Slovenia does not have extensive development cooperation programs, a relatively small share of GNI is allocated to official development assistance, only a small number of non-governmental organisation are part of larger international networks, and many of them do not engage in development projects outside Slovenia. Unlike in many countries, Global Education can be placed at the core of the non-governmental sector, as many educational and public awareness campaigns represent the bulk of non-governmental organisations' work (Suša 2015).

While international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance are recognised as important instruments of Slovenia's foreign policy, contributing to sustainable development and the SDGs, and recognising the importance of the awareness-raising component and global education, migration-related issues or migration – development nexus are not reflected in foreign policy documents (on sustainable development).

2.6. Migration policies and international commitments

In Slovenia, policy-making is still centralised, with line ministries responsible for coordination of certain issues. Policies regarding migration fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. Already in 2002, a Resolution on Migration Policy of the Republic of Slovenia has been adopted based on the Foreigners Act, recognising individual's right to move as a form of expression of freedom of movement, a right protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. In 2010, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities drafted the Economic Migrations Strategy for the period 2010–2030, recognising Slovenia joining the group of countries facing labour shortage. Among Strategy goals are to provide guidelines and measures to ensure work experience of domestic workforce abroad, and to reduce brain drain by encouraging circulation of professionals.
In 2017, a new Government body, Government Office for Support and Integration of Migrants, has been established, but only asylum-seekers and international protection beneficiaries fall within their responsibilities with regard to majority of the body's tasks. Other issues related to integration fall within workload of various line ministries (e.g. Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Health).

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In terms of immigration to Slovenia, scope of rights entitled to migrants greatly depends on their status in Slovenia. International protection beneficiaries are entitled to the most comprehensive scope of rights, their rights are equal to rights of Slovene citizens with the exception of some political rights. All migrants are entitled to the Initial Integration of Migrants program, with Slovene language courses and Slovene culture and state system courses.

In response to the increased number of refugees and migrants coming to Europe between 2015 and 2016 (the so-called refugee crisis), Government of Slovenia adopted the national contingency plan to provide accommodation and care in case of an increased number of international protection applicants in June 2015. The contingency plan specifies objectives, actions and involvement of competent authorities, and various scenarios relating to increased number of international protection applicants, and establishes foreseeable systems for responding to newly emerged emergency situations (Ministry of Interior 2016).

Under the EU scheme for relocation and resettlement of international protection applicants and refugees, Slovenia has committed to relocating 218 persons from Italy and 349 persons from Greece, and to resettling 20 persons from third countries (Ministry of Interior 2016). On 4 August 2016, the Government adopted a decision that, based on the EU-Turkey Agreement, 60 third-country nationals in total who are eligible for refugee status may be admitted (Ministry of Interior 2017). In 2015, the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior drafted Implementation Plan for relocations from Italy and Greece, and permanent resettlement from third countries, which may be adapted in case of changing mandatory quotas. The Implementation Plan encompasses foreseen timetable for gradual reception of international protection applicants, and a comprehensive action plan of measures (admission procedure, determination of refugee/subsidiary protection status, special care for unaccompanied minors, accommodation facilities, integration programs, involvement of local communities, role of media, etc.), which is needed for successful relocation and resettlement, and integration of persons into Slovenian society (Ministry of Interior 2016). In March 2016, Government of Slovenia established an interdepartmental working group to coordinate the Implementation Plan, which includes representatives of Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Ministry of Interior 2017).

As the EU relocation scheme concluded by March 2018, 253 asylum seekers have been relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece, mostly of Syrian and Eritrean nationality (Ministry of Interior 2018). The resettlement process shall commence in April/May 2018.

Similarly to foreign policy, migration policies are lacking the sustainability component, including the migration – development nexus, which would also strengthen general understanding of migration phenomenon. This often results in some concerns or tensions in local community or formal education environments, while stakeholders are not well equipped to address complex and interconnected issues.

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3. Field Research

3.1. Introduction

The local team (meeting on 27.02.2018) identified 44 relevant individuals with expertise from different fields, institutions and organisations, covering migrations, sustainability and Global Education. The program of the focus group was prepared, using research methodology provided by the InterCap partner organisation, Diversity Development Group. Invitations were sent to all identified individuals on 09.03.2018, after the date of the focus group implementation was set to 15.03.2018. A web application form was set up to enable the local team to further communicate with the applicants.

Until 13.03.2018, 18 individuals confirmed participation in the focus group. The local team decided to organise two separate focus groups on the same day, by opening up an additional morning session. 5 applicants participated in the morning session and 13 applicants participated in the afternoon session.

Seven participants were males, eleven participants were females. Four participants were from national government institutions (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for Global Education; Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, responsible for sustainability issues; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, responsible for youth; and from the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants). Four participants were from academic institutions (Faculty of Social Sciences and Slovenian Migration Institute; two of them were pedagogy students, participating in an educational project on SDGs and migration). Two journalists, who are covering migration, human rights and sustainability issues at two national media, also participated. Eight participants were from various NGOs, covering global education and/or integration of migrants.

Zavod GLOBAL as the local partner and SLOGA as the associate partner were in role of focus group facilitators.

3.2. Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

Slovenia is a two million country with limited human resources. The education system is well developed, and based on teachers' autonomy in case of extracurricular activities or issues.

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Policy Coherence on Development (PCD) as a concept is known among development experts in academia and among some experts from civil society sector. Although PCD is recognised as an important principle for international development cooperation policy (direct reference to PCD in Resolution on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid until 2030), its institutional embeddedness is rather difficult to assess.

Focus groups revealed common understanding among participants from different sectors that PCDs, SDGs, Paris Agreement or other international conventions and agreements are considered helpful, because they set at least a minimum benchmark for implementation at national level. On the other hand, international agreements and conventions are considered important for the civil society' advocacy work.

Some officials expressed their opinion that the new international development cooperation strategy (currently being drafted) is developed in a more participatory manner, including content-wise, e.g. on PCD, and the process has been open to other sectors more than was the case in the past. The same can be said about the Slovenia Development Strategy, adopted in 2017.

It was also noted, that some basic issues are still open, i.e. human rights-based approach is not well developed in Slovenia. Thus, questions were raised how well are the key stakeholders prepared to deal with the implementation of complex issues, as the attainment of the SDGs, on the national level.

Experts also pointed out that Slovenia was criticised for its approach towards implementation of sustainable development actions. In case of the so-called Balkan migration route, Slovenia was steadfast with her regional initiatives to close the route, and lacking almost completely in terms of finding sustainable solutions, that are connected with understanding the causes of migration from Syria, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, etc. A similar approach can be seen also in other EU policies, especially those dealing with development and migration, where development aid is more and more considered as a tool to "control migration", "manage migration" and "tackle the root causes of migration". This is based on the misnomer that development reduces migration flows.

In similar fashion, while Slovenia participates in shaping the EU Common Agricultural Policy, there seems to be little concern about implications of subsidies to EU farmers, on food production and trade in the Global South.

3.3. Link between migration and sustainable development

The focus groups revealed that relevant stakeholders are not lacking information about different issues concerning climate change and migrations. On the other hand, they are facing

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quite a low level of understanding about migration as a phenomenon. For instance, relevant stakeholders are not really concerned with global migration. “We start to deal with it, when somebody is crossing the border. Migration is a much bigger, complex phenomenon. Mixed migration is not discussed, for example – we are trying to bring that to attention in coming post-Cotonou negotiations. Through that discussion, it would be easier to make the connection between migration and sustainable development goals. It is unrealistic to look at global issues only through local policy-making.”

In addition, policy implementation is suffering of so-called vertical approach to issues at the administrative level. That has a negative impact on national capacity to deal with modern problems that are overwhelmingly horizontal. Internal administrative culture is facing lack of intra- and inter-departmental/ministerial co-ordination, hierarchic culture and poor flow of information. Discussion resembled in great extent the results from the study on competences of public administration (Kajnč *et al.* 2010: 84) after the Slovene presidency of the EU in 2008. Study identified similar issues to discussion in the focus groups, that are marking the existing public administration competences: human resources deficit, bad vertical cooperation within department, insufficient interdepartmental cooperation, hierarchy within institutions that stifles initiative, insufficient knowledge in similar fields and awareness of linkages, insufficient information on the substance of relevant issues and internal political issues (Kajnč *et al.* 2010: 99).

Such conditions will have detrimental impact on national implementation. It is not of coincidence that focus group participants noted several times that much more has to be done on collaboration and co-operation capabilities within the country.

3.4. Insecurity

Focus group participants understood insecurities regarding migration and sustainability in a form of securitisation of public discourse, especially after facing the so-called refugee crisis of 2015-2016.

Slovenia was facing a huge financial crisis in the last decade. Growing unemployment and precarious employment have caused a wave of emigration from Slovenia to EU and non-EU countries in the recent years. Economic inequalities grew in the same period, with the growing percentage of people living in poverty. People lost trust in public institutions – Slovenia reached bottom among OECD members in that concern. National election turnout in 2014 reached lowest level in short history of independent Slovenia (below 51 %). In this context, it was relatively easy for some media outlets and political sphere to portray migrants as a security threat. Hence, migration only added additional insecurities to the already touched societal fabric.

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Sustainable development is not considered an issue in the public that could contribute anything to solving that situation.

3.5. Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Focus groups pointed out that regarding migration, problem lies in complexity of these processes. Editors and journalists do not possess sufficient knowledge, needed to comprehend the phenomenon. However, everyday decisions on news, their direction and type are being taken anyway. There is an evident merger between media and some political agendas, which help shape the news that get air time. Public opinions are being shaped and framed through various techniques addressing human emotions. Thus, no real space for evidence-based discussion is being left.

Even civil society organisations identified that business as usual in communication is giving much less results than expected.

The main question posed was, what really works in the age of social media, where majority of people are living in some kind of bubble [community], in a balloon, reinforcing their own values, attitudes, stereotypes and loyalties. Civil society organisations, working in the field of advocacy, identified that objective and complex information does not reach “hearts and minds” of people, especially if expected to change their attitudes or preferences. Choice of methods and approaches is thus very important – deciding upon objective data and so-called rational arguments, or using narratives to gain compassion and emotional support for the issue.

3.6. Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

Participants shared the position that there are big gaps and great needs to be filled, to establish more comprehensive narrative regarding migration – sustainable development nexus. Although participants in general thought that there is sufficient data available, main gaps can be identified (1) in the field of interpretation that would support narratives, and (2) in supporting structures, providing knowledge/information to enable – in the best sense of the word – informed decision. Nothing particular has been pointed out.

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3.7. The role of education systems

Civil society organisations that are very active in global [citizenship] education programs, are identifying how important and demanding it is to work with youth, and to provide support to teachers. As it was a common understanding that there is a clear need for discussion/exchange platform on national level, clear need for strengthened co-operation. Based on the focus groups discussion, more has to be done to provide training for teachers, as they are facing many challenges when introducing migration and other global issues.

Practitioners also identified that additional work has to be done in the field of so-called “fake news” accessible/provided through social media. Teachers need additional training and support to provide credible responses and to gain trust (with a goal to maintain position of a “third party validator”).

At the University level, there are some projects bringing together issues of sustainable development and migration that are of limited scope, taking into account resource limitations and current research supporting mechanisms.

Focus group discussions also revealed an interesting discrepancy between the readiness of the state to support teachers training on intercultural competences on one hand, and to fulfil very restrictive immigration and migration policies on the other.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Main conclusions are:

- There is a great need for cooperation/collaboration among different actors in the field of sustainable development – migration nexus.
- Prevalent vertical administrative culture is not suitable do deal efficiently and successfully with contemporary complex and cross-cutting challenges.
- Media landscape is showcasing “spontaneous” overlapping, even fusion, of editorial and political agendas, thus providing unbalanced positions and opinions.
- There is a need for additional training on all levels of policy-making (local, national) on SDGs and targets. Training is needed on cooperation and collaboration techniques, effective and efficient management for sustainable development, on policy coherence issues, monitoring and evaluation.
- Existing capacities to provide comprehensive support to teachers, mentors, trainers and adult educators are weak, and in many cases left to the agility of knowledge

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providers and the courage of teachers, especially in time of social media and fake news.

- More comprehensive awareness-raising activities are needed, focusing especially on development of capacities in horizontal understanding of the national and international development context – this is crucial for attainment of SDGs.
- Coherent and consistent migration and immigration policy is needed on national level, as existing framework does not provide an adequate basis for implementation (existing framework is at least outdated and fragmented).
- Planning and implementation activities have to take into account realistic evaluation of available human and financial resources.

4.1. National and local level recommendations for NGOs

- Strengthening cooperation/collaboration among actors (civil society organizations, academia, educators, national and local authorities/administrators) by utilizing existing and forming additional supporting structures.
- Opening space for objective, evidence-based exchange and discussion on migration – sustainable development nexus in close cooperation with all actors and beneficiaries.
- Through collaboration, strengthening advocacy actions for new, coherent and consistent migration and immigration policy on national level, providing concrete and attainable goals and targets (including education and training actions).
- Systematic collection and exchange of new narratives on immigrant reality – from success to open hate speech/racism by people and institutions.
- Strengthening presence in social media by providing counter-populist narratives.
- Improving advocacy efforts through collaborative actions between civil society organizations and academia.
- Strengthening communication channels and information exchange through existing platforms/networks.
- Developing tailored trainings for policy and decision-makers, media editors (and journalists), local counsellors on analytical tools, situation and power analysis, communication and co-operation methods and techniques, prioritization, inter- and intra-departmental collaboration, methodologies on attaining common understanding of implementing agents and decision-makers.
- Awareness raising on general ideas of sustainability, development and migration, on mass migrations (causes and forms), supported with development of comprehensive integration capacities on local and national level.

4.2. National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

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- Adoption of a comprehensive migration and immigration policy in open, transparent and inclusive manner.
- Providing additional resources for civil society organizations work in the field.
- Strengthening support to raise capacity of existing and new diaspora organisations.
- Re-thinking and reshaping focus of collaborative action by taking into account real limitations of human and financial resources.
- Improving communications on migration by linking them to national issues (access to accommodation, precarious work, conditionalities and youth).
- Plan and implement actions to address atmosphere of mistrust among population (human rights, rule of law, active citizenship).

4.3. Local level recommendations for municipalities

- Creation of local support mechanism on migration (i.e. in form of Integration Council).
- Using existing platforms for information and practice exchange among municipalities.

4.4. National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

- Creation of additional support mechanisms and tools for practitioners (teachers, trainers, adult educators, activists).
- Identification of information gaps and educational needs at primary, secondary and tertiary education, including lifelong-learning capacities is needed.
- Increased accessibility and targeted support within the education system for all immigrants shall be provided.
- Development of new didactic materials for teaching about the sustainable development – migration nexus to enable better understanding causality of the future trends.

4.5. Recommendations for future research areas

- Strengthening research on national demographic situation, workforce projections and economic needs.

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- Providing evidence-based ‘big picture’ by use of statistics and its interpretations, to support all actors to improve their communication of new narratives.
- Strengthening research of fake news mechanisms, and how to counter them effectively.
- Strengthening research of social media impact on population preferences and biases, with a goal to support counter-populist actions.

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UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale

In common with countries across Europe, concerns about immigration and the risks posed by extremism and terrorism have dominated political and public discourse in the United Kingdom (UK) in recent years. This contrasts with lower levels of concern about the risks posed by sustainable development issues, such as climate change, and their role as a factor in movements of people around the world.

This context suggests a pivotal role for education in promoting awareness and critical understanding of the interplay between migration and contributory factors, both to address the rise of negative public feeling towards migrants and the need for action in relation to sustainable development. Whilst the UK has a strong tradition of Global Education, much of this takes place at the margins of education. Challenges remain in ensuring that opportunities are created for participation in dialogue about themes such as migration, climate change and security in education, and that teachers and those in teacher education have the skills and confidence to facilitate these conversations.

1.2 Aims and objectives

To investigate the gaps, needs and expectations of educators, teachers, policy makers and those involved in teacher education in relation to migration, sustainable development, (in)security and risk, public perceptions and possible responses. This will be achieved by:

- Investigating current perceptions and understanding of migration, sustainable development, (in)security and risk by the target groups indicated above and beneficiaries, including school pupils and the wider public
- Investigating needs, expectations and competencies of the target groups indicated in relation to the themes outlined above
- Investigating gaps in understanding and skills, and how these might be addressed, with reference to existing research, policy and good practice.

1.3 Available data and resources

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The report has been informed by the following: international and national reports on public attitudes towards and education for migration, sustainable development, (in)security and risk; national policy, research reports and statements from the UK government, as well as universities and organisations with responsibility for and/or interest in the themes of migration, sustainable development and security.

1.4 Limitations

With regards to public opinion and media, significantly more data was available on migration than sustainable development, and there was a lack of material on the relationship between these themes overall. Data on public opinion was limited by the extent to which it could provide insight into influencing factors; an issue returned to later in the report. Limitations on timescale and scope of the report meant that decisions had to be made about what to include and not to include. For example, whilst the UK consists of four devolved regions, the majority of data and resources came from the English context; to some extent justified by its dominant influence on national discourse on migration and sustainable development. Some bias may have resulted from a tendency to select from certain media or resources which reflect the authors' interest, expertise and access to information.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Public opinion polls

Migration, forced migration and refugees

In recent years immigration has risen to prominence as one of the most highly politicised and salient issues in the UK, consistently ranking in the top 'most important issues' as selected by the British public. Immigration is largely unpopular, 73% of UK participants favouring a reduction in immigration levels in 2013, with roughly equal levels (50%) of concerns against both EU and non-EU migration (Allen and Blinder, 2016: 4).

Attitudes towards humanitarian aid have also shifted in this period. Only 65 % of the UK, were aware that the EU funds humanitarian aid in 2016, a 12pp decrease from 2015. The UK has also seen a 6% decrease in viewing the EU funding of humanitarian as important (89-83), compared to an EU average -2%. Additionally, only 54 % believe humanitarian aid is more efficient at EU level rather than individual, a 14pp decrease (Special Eurobarometer 453,

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2017: 5-10). It is worth considering whether these changing attitudes reflect decrease support of humanitarian aid and refugees in the UK, or instead are the result of worsening EU-relations preceding the 2016 EU referendum.

The UK also views migration as a greater challenge than the EU average, 37 % against 34 %, outweighing issues of unemployment and social inequalities at 27 % and 24 %, differing greatly from the EU average of 39 % and 36% (Special Eurobarometer 467, 2017: 8-11). A significant challenge also arises in who constitutes a 'migrant', the differences with 'immigrants' and the danger of grouping migration with other social issues such as 'race relations', as Ipsos MORI did until 2015 (Allen and Blinder, 2016: 9).

National security risks

With the rise of terrorism, religious extremism and international tensions, some of which the UK has been a target of, this has been reflected in public attitudes towards national security risks.

Across the EU, the UK has one of the lowest agreement rates that 'our country is a safe place to live', with 27% disagreeing. Given the increased frequency of terror attacks in the past five years, this trend is of no surprise, and is reflected across countries, demonstrated with the UK 'severe' terrorism threat level reflected in survey results, while in the Netherlands only 4% disagree with the same statement, their terrorism threat level at 'limited' (Special Eurobarometer 464b, 2017: 6-9). Consequently, the perceived threat level from terrorism has also risen, 97% of those surveyed seeing terrorism as a threat, a rise of 3pp. Interestingly, the perceived threat of natural and man-made disasters level has risen to 85% (+13pp) in the same period, a trend that has arisen across the EU, with the 2017 results showing a positive correlation between the increased perceived threat of terrorism and the increased perceived threat of natural and man-made disasters (Special Eurobarometer 464b. 2017: 15-16). This public fear has resulted in a Government response to the increased risk of extremism in 'Prevent', part of a larger anti-extremism strategy aimed at stopping those at risk of radicalisation, a programme used in schools and community centres across the UK.

In the midst of this, the importance of climate change as a threat to internal EU security is at 69%, comparatively less important than extremist ideologies (86%) and external war/political instability (86%) (Special Eurobarometer 467, 2017: 8-10). This external war/political instability and the forced displacement it causes are inextricably linked to another perceived threat, the so-called migration crisis. With increased migration deeply unpopular in the UK, and one of the leading causes of the pro-Brexit vote, government policy towards this has focused on preventing incoming migration by tackling root-causes such as conflict and poverty, rather than in accommodating migrants and refugees (Leurs and Ponzanesi, 2018: 7-8).

Sustainable development and environmental issues

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With the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, European engagement with sustainable development and environmental issues is at an all-time high. The importance placed upon the environment by EU member states is at 90%, and within this, 51% consider climate change one of the most important issues. While this suggests a level of engagement with the SDG's, the importance of drinking water shortages sits at 30%, demonstrating that EU attitudes towards goals that do not usually affect Europe, despite being an SDG, are lessened (Special Eurobarometer 468, 2017: 4-5). This is also seen in the UK, where public awareness of the SDG is 'shockingly low', a pattern repeated in the private sector (HoC EAC, 2017: 7). This contrasts with NGOs and charities, who have been heavily involved in the promotion of the goals, forming the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development and other projects to raise awareness.

As seen earlier in humanitarian funding, UK support for increased EU investment in environmental protection is one of the lowest surveyed at 78 % (Special Eurobarometer 468, 2017: 20), but again questions arise to how much this is a product of Brexit or actual attitudes. Resultantly, while there is a high level of importance placed upon environment issues nationwide (Special Eurobarometer 468, 2017: 7), this far outweighs awareness of the SDGs. While NGO, charity and government initiatives aim to increase this awareness, the current interlinkages with the EU have the potential to decrease support to the SDGs, potentially affecting UK progress in achieving them at home, and aiding internationally.

2.2 Media response

In the past 20 years, media has undergone a transformative process, transitioning from a largely television and print-based medium to one of internet and social media. In the process that has seen internet/social media rise to 41 % of EU citizens' main source of information on the environment, second only to television at 58 % (Special Eurobarometer 468, 2017: 29). The role of media has also changed. Rather than simply relaying information, the media is an active agent in shaping and developing immigration and environmental policy, largely driving hostile immigration attitudes in the UK (Threadgold, 2009). The internet has also led to a hugely increased prominence of so-called 'fake news', in which false news stories and information are circulated, the increasing prominence of which had a profound effect on the 2016 U.S election (Allcott and Gentzkow, 2017: 211-213).

Asylum, migration and integration

Most useful examples in understanding media responses to asylum, migration and integration are again found in the media coverage of the European Union vote, in which these issues were prominent, if not the primary factor for many who voted (Allen, 2016: 2). In the period leading up to the vote there were under 400 mentions of immigration/migration per month in 2012 in the British Press. This rose, to over 800 by 2016. This same period marked the

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increase of the importance of immigration in the UK, overtaking economy by 2015 (Allen, 2016: 4-5).

While there is obviously variance in this coverage, between different political perspectives, a majority of coverage has anti-immigration and anti-asylum rhetoric. Refugees and migrants are often portrayed as numbers rather than people; the rhetoric of economy and danger overwhelmingly prevalent (Nagarajan 2013). Integration is an additional focal point of these responses, with perceived lack of integration by asylum seekers often suggested by media as a reason for a reduction in numbers, though evidence for this is often anecdotal, relying on newspaper/ editorial opinion rather than expert, and fails to include migrants in this process (Migrant Voice, 2014). Although it is difficult to say whether this media coverage is led by public sentiment or leads it, it is doubtless the combination of these which has shaped government policy, a significant factor in the rise of increasingly far-right politics which shaped the discourse of the EU referendum.

'Refugee crisis'

The refugee/migrant crisis has received perplexing coverage in UK media. Following the outbreak of Syrian civil war in 2011, 'Syrian' began to far outweigh uses of 'Palestinian' and 'Jewish' as a modifier of 'refugee' in the media (Allen, 2016: 13), with clear stages in media response, reflecting public opinion. Despite initially empathetic press coverage in 2015/2016, this reverted to the more negative portrayal familiar currently. Similar to immigration, the salience of this issue begets major coverage. While the left-right split exists across the press in this coverage, reflected in coverage of the same people as 'migrants' or 'asylum-seekers', the prior often with connotations of economy/EU and used by right-wing papers and spokespeople (Berry, Garcia-Blanco, Moore, 2016). Despite right-wing media prominence, anti-immigration/asylum coverage has occasionally lapsed in consistency. Most notable of these was during the 2015 reportage of death of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, part of a family of asylum seekers who attempted to travel from Turkey. Perhaps in response to public outcry, the UK press moved strongly in support of granting asylum, even from papers leading the charge against 'migrants' weeks earlier (Sumen, 2016). Despite affecting some government policy, as the public memory of this event faded, standard coverage returned with the depiction of refugees as dangerous or economy-damaging playing a large role in the EU leave vote (Moore and Ramsay, 2017). Concurrently, social media has offered a haven for more extreme views, offering a platform for racism and the aforementioned 'fake news', significantly affecting public perceptions of refugees (Wilcock, 2017).

Climate change, environmental issues and sustainable development

In this same period, issues of climate change, environment and sustainable development have been much less discussed. Although there are regular news reports on environmental issues, such as natural disasters, a clear focus on climate change and sustainable development have been lacking from this coverage (Hymas, 2017). While action has begun, such as the Guardian Media Group setting out targets of sustainability education among their audience (Buckingham, 2011), until the government sets out a complete strategy on the

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SDG's and environmental education, information is being led by NGO's rather than print media.

The coverage of these issues across social media has been much more prominent, offering a platform to read, discuss and inform on sustainable development and climate change, encouraging greater knowledge.[147] Though social media offers a platform for positive discussion, it also hosts climate change denial and false facts, potentially drawing people into misinformation.

National security threats with the focus on terrorism

Alongside immigration, likely due to the links drawn between them by the media, national security threats, in particular terrorism, are covered often. Drawing on 2.1 EU Barometer data, terrorism is perceived as the most significant national security threat, with media coverage representing that.

As expected, coverage of national security threats mostly aligns with terrorist incidents, sparking debate over the providence and causes of these attacks. Some right-wing press have encouraged strong associations between terrorism and immigration, particularly from outside the EU (Murray, 2017), as part of an agenda for stronger border regulations. During the same periods, British social media sees increasing anti-immigration/anti-Islam prominence, extreme instances of which have resulted in far-right groups being banned from social media (Hern and Rawlinson, 2018). Clearly, despite United Nations evidence to suggest otherwise (Dearden, 2016), terrorism has a far great association than climate change with forced migration in the UK press.

UK media has focused in particular on 'home grown' individuals closely associated with Daesh (Isis) and acts of terrorism, such as 'Jihadi John' and Sally Jones, with media sensationalism over their origins and eventual deaths (Sawer, 2015). It is this kind of emphasis which means there is much less focus or balanced reporting on other issues and may explain lower awareness and perceived importance of other more common risks (Special Eurobarometer 435, 2015: 6).

In summary: Findings from public opinion polls endorse concerns that public anxieties about security issues and migration will continue to have a high profile. Whilst there is growing awareness of environmental concerns, connections are not being made with issues such as migration, and awareness of the wider policy context, including the SDGs, is very low in the UK. Analysis of media response also highlights the way in which attention is focused on migration as a threat to security, both in economic terms and from terrorism. This contrasts

[147] The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science
http://climatescience.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228620.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228620-e-369

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with lack of media coverage of sustainable development and the environment. The role of the media in shaping public discourse on all of these issues is complicated further by the rise of social media, which has created space for expression of extreme views and 'fake news' on the one hand and, more recently, prompted limited backlash against some of these views and provided space for different perspectives on issues such as climate change.

There is a need to facilitate spaces which offer opportunities to explore perceptions, consider more critical perspectives on issues of migration and climate change, and promote understanding of the wider policy context. The significant influence of media requires more analysis of its scope and effects and a sharper focus on promoting critical literacy, particularly in relation to social media.

2.3 Research and project production

Migration

Research on migration could be said to focus on a number of themes: how migration is experienced within the UK; the relationship between migration and issues of identity, diversity and cohesion; and the relationship between migration movements and sustainable development internationally.

A number of research reports and projects focus on the experience of migration from the perspectives of immigrants in the UK (Braakmann, Wagas, Wildman, 2017; University of Bristol, 2018). Others focus on impacts of migration for host communities, their attitudes and that of media towards migrants (Migration Advisory Committee, 2012; Allen, Blinder, McNeil 2017). For example, the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford is currently leading projects on Inclusive Cities[148], which supports five UK cities to 'achieve a step change in their approach towards integration of newcomers, and Messaging Mobility[149] which aims to create new narratives about migration through participatory methods including drama.

There is significant interest in the relationship between migration and issues of identity, diversity and cohesion. This takes place both through research focusing specifically on the impact of migration on social cohesion (Demireva 2017) and broader research on identity and cohesion which includes reference to migration effects (Foresight 2013; Casey 2016). It includes substantial critique of government policies and political and media discourse (Kofman 2005; Katwala, Ballinger, Rhodes 2014), the conflation of migration with security concerns and implications for schools (Lander 2016; Lundie 2017; Busher et al 2017).

[148] Inclusive Cities Project, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (Compas) /www.compas.ox.ac.uk/project/inclusive-cities/
[149] Messaging Mobility: Exploring and creating new narratives about migration human movement in a changing world. Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (Compas) www.compas.ox.ac.uk/project/messaging-mobility-exploring-and-creating-new-narratives-about-migration-and-human-movement-in-a-changing-world/

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A third area of research focuses on the international context in terms of the relationship between migration movements and sustainable development themes, including poverty and climate change, and the reasons people move both internally and internationally (Waldinger 2015; University of Sussex, 2016; Crawley et al 2017). One of the most significant projects was the Foresight Report (2011) on behalf of the UK government which looked at how changes in environmental conditions will affect patterns of human migration over the next fifty years. The Migration Observatory at University of Oxford has explored both benefits and challenges in the relationship between migration and development (Vargas-Silva 2011), and the Department for International Development (DfID) has gathered 'best available evidence' on the impact of livelihood opportunities and interventions on migration (Fratzke and Salant 2018).

Sustainable development

Research and projects on sustainable development, particularly in the context of education, have tended to focus on sustainability in terms of environment. Much of the research in this area has focused on impact on children and young peoples' learning, social-emotional skills and well-being, and skills for living more sustainably, both in schools and in higher education (DCSF 2010; Keep Britain Tidy 2013; NUS, 2018). Research has also focused on progress in integrating sustainability in education (Jackson nd; UKNC, 2013; QAA/HEA 2014; EUAC et al, 2017), including arguments which challenge government policy to include more emphasis on climate change in the National Curriculum (Hicks and Ward 2013). Currently SEEd is attempting to take this work forward in its Evidence Alliance for Sustainability and Environmental Education[150].

More recently, research has focused attention on monitoring UK progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, both through assessing progress against indicators (Newcastle University/UKSSD, n.d) and making recommendations to government and wider groups with responsibility for taking the agenda forward (Hickson 2015; St Georges House 2017). Research undertaken by Oxfam and DfID has also explored new ways of engaging the public in global poverty through frames theory (Darnton and Kirk, 2011).

Global Learning and Education for Sustainable Development

Migration and sustainable development is often framed educationally within broader concepts of Global Learning (also Global Education or Global Citizenship Education) and/or Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Building on a long history of Global Learning/ESD initiatives in the UK (Hicks 2008), the Development Education Research Centre (DERC)

[150] Evidence Alliance for Sustainability and Environmental Education, Sustainability and Environmental Education (Se-ed) http://se-ed.co.uk/edu/evidence-alliance-sustainability-environmental-education/

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publishes a large number of research reports on Global Learning as a pedagogy for addressing global themes and on evaluation of its impact. A number of reports have also been published in Scotland and, to a lesser extent Wales, where Global Learning/ESD is much more embedded in policy and practice through concepts such as Learning for Sustainability[151] (Estyn, 2014). Some of this is captured in research and case studies of practice in teacher education and schools which has been collected and published by TEESNet (Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability). These include conference papers and case studies available through its web site[152]. TEESNet's activities have also been highlighted in a review of ESD and Global Citizenship Education in Teacher Education prepared for UNESCO's 2017-18 Global Education Monitoring Report (Bourn, Hunt, Bamber 2017).

Projects on themes related to migration or sustainable development and education have tended to come through funding by DfID or the EU. A three year project to embed the 'global dimension' in teacher education at Liverpool Hope University resulted in a significant range of outcomes, including an embedded course for all students in Global Education and a number of research papers and publications (Ellis and Hogard, 2010). Other projects have focused on promoting dialogic and critical pedagogy to apply to global themes.[153]

2.4 Case studies of good practice

As suggested in the previous section, some of the most successful initiatives on raising awareness of migration and sustainable development are those using broader educational frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Learning. The initiatives below are highlighted for being effective through building networks and stakeholder engagement, closely aligning with mainstream education and schools' values, or offering a model with potential for sustainability and long term impact.

United Kingdom Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)

UKSSD is a multi-stakeholder network which brings together organisations across business, civil society, academic and public sectors to mobilise all sections of society to engage with the SDGs. Their activities include:

- organizing conferences and workshops to bring sector representatives together and promote 'influencing skills'
- undertaking research on coherent integration of the SDGs (Coopman et al, n.d)

[151] Learning for Sustainability Scotland http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/
[152] Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet) http://teesnet.liverpoolworldcentre.org/
[153] Teachers: Agents of Change Project, Varianty https://www.varianty.cz/projects/65-teachers-agents-of-change

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- mobilizing sector representatives to contribute evidence to and inform how the UK government is reporting on progress in meeting the SDGs[154] (UKSSD, 2016), including use of national media[155]

Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet)

TEESNet is a national network of university teacher educators, schools and CSOs which aims to share research and practice in relation to Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education (ESD/GCE). TEESNet used its 2017 conference to promote awareness of and engagement with the SDGs across education[156]. The 2018 conference will build on this momentum to encourage more critical engagement with SDG 4.7. Building alliances between universities, schools and CSOs also provides a platform to influence policy makers and contribute evidence to other networks such as UKSSD outlined above.

Global Learning Programme (GLP)

The GLP is a national programme introduced in 2013 and funded by the Department for International Development (DfID) to help schools deliver effective teaching and learning about development and global issues and build a network of like-minded schools across the country.[157] Emerging evidence of its impact (Centre for Global Education, 2018) suggests the programme has been effective in increasing school engagement in Global Learning and raising awareness of resources and good practice on themes such as migration and sustainable development (see case study example of St Nicholas of Tolentine RC Primary School[158]).

Schools of Sanctuary

This initiative, which grew out of the City of Sanctuary network[159], encourages schools to show how they are a welcoming and safe place for all, especially children from asylum seeking and refugee families. Schools of Sanctuary works in collaboration with organisations, including Oxfam, to provide teaching resources and advice on supporting children seeking sanctuary. By providing audit and evaluation tools, it encourages schools to demonstrate their values in practice and offers opportunities for wider community awareness and engagement.

Wider Perspectives in Education (WPE), Liverpool Hope University

[154] United Kingdom Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) www.ukssd.co.uk/News/the-uks-performance-against-the-sdgs
[155] https://www.ukssd.co.uk/open-letter-to-pm
[156] Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet) http://teesnet.liverpoolworldcentre.org/conferences/
[157] Global Learning Programme (GLP) https://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/
[158] Global Learning Programme (GLP) http://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/pages/11162
[159] Schools of Sanctuary https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/

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WPE has been established as a course for all students training to be primary school teachers at Liverpool Hope University since 2010. It has been identified as an example of good practice nationally (HEA, 2014). Students are introduced to theory, concepts and teaching ideas relevant to themes of migration and sustainable development, as well as enquiry-based, participatory and dialogic methods seen as effective for exploring topical and potentially controversial issues (Kerr and Bonnell, 2011). This learning is applied in Global Learning projects which students negotiate and deliver with local schools or organizations linked to education. For example, a group worked with a local organisation supporting refugee and migrant mothers to provide them with accessible information about school education, using SDG 4 and the goal of quality education to frame their approach. The combination of theory and practice, cultivates a shared vision that transforms students' perspective on the role of education (Bamber and Bullivant 2016) and raises the profile of this work in schools.

In summary: there is evidence of significant research is taking place on migration which offers broader perspectives and insights than those represented by the media. This includes research exploring the relationship between migration and sustainable development. Research on sustainable development more specifically tends to focus on environment and sustainability, at least in the context of education. However, there is growing momentum around the SDGs, led largely by CSOs and organisations acting independently of government. This is also taking place through broader educational movements of Global Learning and Education for Sustainable, reflected in the case studies of good practice. However, there is a need to ensure research has wider impact on public understanding of, engagement with and discourse on migration and sustainable development. Similarly, there is a need to ensure that activities and momentum relating to these themes and the SDGs does not remain with those organisations currently leading, but links with wider movements, formal institutions and policy makers; exemplified in the efforts made by UKSSD.

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

Government policy on Immigration and Migration is found in the Immigration Act 2016. The aim of the Immigration Act 2016 is, that "This act will make it harder for people to settle in the UK when they have no right to do so, building on the Immigration Act 2014 to restrict access to services for illegal migrants" (Home Office, 2016). The UK Government website is the source of information explaining what this act means in practice and consists of procedural information – for example, explanations of who is entitled to apply to settle in Britain, how to apply for asylum, access to services for asylum seekers and refugees, and the process for conducting appeals against deportation.

The Government also monitors and reviews the processes connected to immigration, for example, appeals and detention, and publishes those reports (Bolt 2017). Further government publications that implement the law on immigration relate, for example, to the

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Dublin III regulation, and how the UK fulfils its role in the protection of unaccompanied refugee children. These reveal the twin (conflicting) drivers of migration policy in the UK – to keep net migration low and reduce illegal immigration, and to present a government with a compassionate (but firm) attitude to requests for settlement in the UK.

There is no link in legal documents on immigration to sustainable development. Where government sources come closest to a link is in press releases, when the root causes of migration are discussed. Examples of those root causes identified by the Department for International Development (DFID), include poverty, war and unstable governments. Penny Mordaunt, the Secretary for International Development stated, on 18 December 2017, that the rationale for UK action was a feeling of responsibility for "vulnerable migrants whose lives are at risk due to a lack of food and medicine, or whose freedom is at risk from traffickers and criminal thugs" (DfID/Mordaunt, 2017). However, along with this somewhat paternalistic attitude is an attitude of self-interest, as a press release for the Prime Minister (June 2017) stated that aid "will not only save lives, but also reduce the need for dangerous journeys and reduce irregular migration – which is also in Britain's national interest" (DfID/Patel, 2017). ·

Another theme of the current government is the belief that migration has been 'forced' and asylum seekers and refugees want to return to their country of origin; therefore, procedures for voluntary returns are a cornerstone of the government's policy. This is, however, a somewhat simplistic view of migration, as an independent academic review of migration discovered. Van Hear et al identified a variety of "drivers" of migration, beyond economics and conflict; and furthermore, found that certain drivers may be grouped into "complexes", which may have varying impact within the same movement of peoples. He explained, "In any one migration flow, several different 'driver complexes' may themselves interconnect in shaping the eventual direction and nature of a group's movement." (Van Hear et al 2012: 5)

A further report, similarly commissioned by the government, but independent of it, was the Foresight review of Migration and Environmental Challenge (Foresight 2011). This report links the two issues of climate change and migration, but found that migration into areas of environmental challenge was just as likely as from such areas (Foresight 2011: 9). Again, it shows that migration is a complex matter.

More recently, the Overseas Developmet Institute (ODI) have produded a report on Climate change, migration and displacement (Opitz Stapleton et al, 2017). This is part of a larger research project, which may serve to inform government and public opinion in the future (Foresti and Hagen-Zanker, 2017).

2.5 Migration policies and international commitments

There is a commitment to the EU's Policy Coherence for development (EU PCD 2017). This is primarily seen in the response to SDGs within Government departments. The Department

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for International Development, (DFID) is leading the UK Government on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the intention to link the goals to the Single Development Plans (SDPs) of each UK Government Department. The main response comes in the form of a report, Agenda 2030 (2017), which states, "Integrating the Goals into the SDPs is a clear demonstration of the UK Government's commitment to this agenda" (DFID 2017: 1). Agenda 2030 addresses each of the SDGs through parallel sections entitled "Around the World" and "At Home". The document gives detail on action both historic and current that supports each goal. Migration and SDGs are not linked, except in two places: Goal 13: Climate Action and Goal 16, Peace and Justice. In the context of Climate Action, the focus is on extreme weather events which leave countries vulnerable, "leading to social upheaval, conflict, and forced migration" (DFID 2017: 31-32). Therefore, Climate Change is regarded as a risk to the UK, due to its links to migration. The use of the term *forced* reflects the government's belief in a reluctant migratory population, as seen previously in government press releases and policy.

In the context of Peace and Justice, migration is seen as part of a wider issue of serious crime and corruption, again, showing UK Government belief that problems in developing countries are preventing proper economic development, and so leading to migration; and that migration itself feeds into crime and corruption. Agenda 2030 states, "Supporting developing countries requires tackling many of the challenges that affect us at home – such as corruption, money laundering and tax evasion, serious organised crime and irregular flows of migration." (DFID March 2017: 39)

The reporting and monitoring of SDGs has now begun, although it is at a very early stage of development, as stated on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website, "ONS is responsible for the development and collection of UK data for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) global indicators and for reporting UK progress towards them."[160] The first report was produced in November 2017 (ONS, 2017). This was followed by a letter from Lord Bates, at DfID, that the "UK will put itself forward for a VNR (Voluntary National Review) in 2019 to showcase our work on the SDGs' to the United Nations."[161] Both of these actions appear to show that the UK is in line with the international community's expectations, in taking the first steps to engage with, monitor and report on the SDGs.

Following the publication of Agenda 2030 in mid 2017, by the end of 2017 a further document was produced, *Implementing the SDGs* (Cabinet Office, 2017). This document forms an audit of the government's eighteen department SDPs, and the SDGs. Of note, the Government department SDPs do not use the terminology of the SDGs (with the exception of DFID).

Implementing the SDGs links the 17 SDGs to 51 actions within the entire bank of SDPs. Of the 51 actions, 37 are linked to just four Government Department plans: 13 are the responsibility of DfID, 10 are the responsibility of the Department for Education,9 lie within

[160] Office for National Statistics (ONS). Sustainable Development Goals. About https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/about/

[161] Letter from Lord Bates, United Kingdom Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) https://www.ukssd.co.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=7cd07d1d-f392-4bfa-9c7f-07c9907c7bb1

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the remit of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and 6 with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Six departments have no links at all to this document, and so to the SDGs. Even in places where such a link might have been made, it does not occur; e.g. Department for International Trade SDP 4:2 (Department for International Trade, 2018). In the civil society sector, UKSSD has created a network of groups that is monitoring UK government progress on the SDGs.[162] More details are provided on UKSSD in section 3:4, the Case Studies.

A report on Integration (Casey 2016) has brought some of the issues of Migration and Integration in Britain into the public domain; yet the actions contained within it are mainly local and national, and not clearly linked to the SDGs, nor other international reports. This has been acted on by a government grant to support integration in five towns over the next few years in the wake of Brexit. The reporthighlighted the impact that Brexit has had on the amount of reported race-hate crime, and also the isolation felt by some groups within Britain in the post-Brexit vote era.

This section has provided evidence of some government-led action on issues relating to migration in the UK, and the SDGs. However, this action appears to be superficial in the case of the SDGs, and under-resourced in the case of migration. Furthermore, there is little evidence either at national or local government level of a plan to increase the general public understanding of the SDGs; even the school-based Global Learning Programme run by DFID is not being effectively disseminated into the public domain, and this is a missed opportunity.

3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

There were ten participants for this field research, four of whom identified as male, and six as female. Six of the participants were directly involved in the UK education system. Two were teachers within the schools system, one in Primary education (ages 4-11), and the other with Secondary education (ages 11-16). The Primary teacher was a champion of the SDGs within her school; the Secondary teacher was head of *Citizenship, PSHE, and Life Skills* in school, as well as delivering guest lectures on these topics for Initial Teacher Education (ITE). Four were lecturers in Higher Education (HE) at university level. Two were from a university in the north of England, one from a university spanning England and Wales, and the other from a university in the south of England. The HE lecturers all had recent or active research

[162] United Kingdom Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) https://www.ukssd.co.uk/

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projects in schools. Two of the HE lecturers were also leaders in ITE, and one was also a member of the *Geographical Association*, and editor for the magazine, *Primary Geography*, for school teachers. Another of the HE lecturers, having migrated to the UK from Canada, was working on international projects related to migration and schools. Finally, one HE lecturer had recent publications in global education, as well as previous experience of managing an ITE programme. Two participants worked full-time for a Civil Society Organisation (CSO). One worked at a national level in the field of Development Education for an international NGO, the other in an international organisation providing materials for UK schools on global education, and for the *Global Learning Programme* led by DFID. One participant was an Officer in Local Government with responsibility for the 'Prevent' Agenda (HM Government, 2011) and worked with schools on issues of radicalisation, terrorism, fundamental British Values, and community cohesion. Finally, one participant was an Artist working with community groups and refugees, in the north of England, and nationally, focusing on climate change and migration though creative media and technology.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

All participants were familiar with the Sustainable development Goals, and related materials, including teaching materials. Some participants were less familiar with the current UK Government response and action on SDGs; the most secure knowledge was with those working directly in CSO Development Education. One CSO described the SDGs as the 'cornerstone' of the organisation's work with schools and teachers. Teachers spoke of the positive impact of *The Global Learning Programme* (GLP)[163], a school-based programme run by DFID which has reached 7000 schools (age 7 to 14) in England and Wales. It provides resources and training for teachers as the leading UK response to SDGs. CSO workers supported the *World's Largest Lesson*[164] with school pupils. In all three universities, Sustainable Development was a key aspect of both Education Studies and Initial Teacher Education. One lecturer organised 'Summit Simulations' to discuss climate change issues with students, and another provided opportunities for university students to work with refugees (linked to Goal 10 - Reduced Inequalities). Another lecturer indicated that there was little guidance in the Primary *National Curriculum for England and Wales* on ESD; however, his ITE programme supports teachers of the future to develop SDGs in school, within Primary Geography.

Few participants were aware of Habitat III and Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). Those involved in CSO Development Education and working on EU projects knew of them,

[163] Global Learning Programme (GLP) https://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/
[164] World's Largest Lesson http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/

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but did not use them in the course of their daily work on UK projects. Teachers explained that there was no direct reference to the schools' *Citizenship* curriculum for many of these policies, unless the teacher made that link.

Migration still formed a key theme in the work of the teachers, lecturers, and those involved in CSOs linked to Development Education. However, both schools and CSOs explained that they tend to react to what is in the news, and migration had been less in the news in 2017-2018, compared with the news before, during and immediately after the Brexit vote in June 2016. One lecturer was currently involved in research into how schools support newly-arrived children through the *Schools of Sanctuary* project.[165] However, one CSO participant stated that it was difficult to engage civil sector groups in a global agenda, as the relevance to their (often) locally-driven agenda and work was not always clear. Few participants were aware of Habitat III and Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). Those involved in CSO Development Education and working on EU projects knew of them, but did not use them in the course of their daily work on UK projects. Teachers explained that there was no direct reference to the schools' *Citizenship* curriculum for many of these policies, unless the teacher made that link.

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3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

While it was felt that there was, and should be, an explicit link between migration and sustainable development, all participants felt that this link had been overlooked in the UK. This was due to the superficial and simplistic discussion of migration, and the way that it was presented as primarily conflict or economy driven, despite the Prime Minister announcing support for climate change issues at the *One Planet* summit in December 2017 (Prime Minister's Office/May, 2017). The artist representative commented that a problem was that much of the process of climate change was gradual – for example, the slow drying of riverbeds or gradual desertification, compared with a major flood catastrophe. The latter would catch public attention due to its iconic nature, but the former unlikely to be seen as headline news.

[165] Schools of Sanctuary https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/

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One HE lecturer cited their Global Citizenship course and their role in hosting **TEESNet** which supports research into Sustainable Development.[166] 'Summit Simulations' in one university showed how climate change was a key driver of migration; another lecturer described the role of student teachers from Initial Teacher Education initiating or supporting ESD projects in schools where such a link could be made. However, one lecturer felt that resources may not emphasise the significance of the link between the two, nor were there forums verbalising it. Another lecturer had previously worked on a UNESCO project in Canada looking at migration and climate change and was aware of similar work through the UK's *Royal Geographical Society*[167] where case studies are available, and the *Geographical Association's*[168] work on school curriculum, where migration and climate change link both Human and Physical Geography, and global themes are examined nationally in *World Wise Week*[169].

CSOs cited *The Climate Coalition*[170] and *Show the Love*[171] campaign were reaching thousands of people in the UK and both linked migration and sustainable development , as was another organisation, *SEEd*[172], which also draws on the Paris Agreement. However, all participants from this sector commented these topics appear to be mainly discussed as standalone issues and that there was a great need to help students and pupils see the SDGs 'through interconnected lenses'. It was felt in this sector that the SDGs can be used to illustrate the 'interconnectedness' of the issues, therefore, they provide a framework for taking action. A further example of linking migration and sustainable development is in the *Footprint Modulation* Project, which brought together academic research, creative narrative, art and film, in July 2015.[173] However, while there has been flooding in the UK recent years, it was felt that it was rarely linked to climate change, in the media.

3.4 Insecurity

The discussions here identified the complexity of the issue, and no specific answer to whether people see the UK as a safe place to live was given by the participants, although, with

[166] **Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet)** http://teesnet.liverpoolworldcentre.org/practice/
[167] The Royal Geographical Society https://www.rgs.org/
[168] Geographical Association https://www.geography.org.uk/
[169] Worldwise, Geographical Association http://worldwise.geography.org.uk/worldwiseweek/
[170] The Climate Coalition https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/
[171] The Climate Coalition https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love
[172] Sustainability and Environment Education (Se-ed) http://se-ed.co.uk/edu/
[173] Footprint Modulation: art, climate and displacement. Meta'ceptive projects + media http://metaceptive.net/footprint-modulation/

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reservations, there was a tendency to agree that it *was* a safe place to live. Part of the issue was that "there is no UK population, but there are lots of UK populations" as one participant commented, indicating the diversity of lived experience in the UK.

Issues such as terrorist attacks, economic uncertainty, austerity measures and lack of control of future were the main areas cited for insecurity in the UK, with the media and social media enhancing feelings of insecurity. Examples were given, by all participants, of schools trips to London being cancelled in the wake of terrorist attacks, and the Manchester Bombing, in 2017. All spoke of the increase of zero-hour employment contracts and student debt as part of current economic insecurity. Immigration was perceived as a scapegoat for economic insecurity (evidenced in its role in the Brexit vote); Brexit was explained as both an expression of insecurity around migration and the impact of it in the UK, and the creator of feelings of insecurity. Insecurity in this context was felt to be about managing a changing world, and the older generation (largely held responsible for the swing to exit in the Brexit vote) were clearly insecure with how Britain was changing. Giving a different perspective, one lecturer spoke about how newly-arrived people might also feel insecure, given the hostile attitude they experience both from government officials and local people. Similarly, vulnerable groups, such as people with a disability, also had to cope with 'absurd bureaucratisation' in order to access state support, which creates acute insecurity.

Concern was expressed by all participants about the fears of children and young people. The rise in the UK of mental health issues among young people was linked to fear of the future both economic and related to global issues. ESD agenda could be a burden on children, creating insecurity and fear of the future. Teachers and CSO representatives saw it to be their role to present the SDGs in a positive light - hope rather than fear - and emphasise action for change; and similarly, they needed to provide a different narrative around fearful events – for example, the acts of kindness and bravery of those attending the scene of atrocities.

3.5 The main factors that shape public opinion

All participants were agreed on the role of the media, particularly the daily newspapers, and of social media in forming public opinion and informing public discourse. Newspapers were seen as fear mongering especially in relation to migration, creating a negative link between migration and insecurity, a reaction to which was the campaign, *'Stop funding Hate'*[174]. The demise of local newspapers has meant that discourse is guided by fewer perspectives. Similarly, high-budget films could be funded by interest groups (e.g. military) and so present particular moral or political perspectives. Another powerful factor was cited as social media,

[174] Stop Funding Hate https://stopfundinghate.org.uk/

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given the amount of time young people spend using it. It was felt that the danger was that there would be a lack of diverse opinions available to them through like-minded groups and search engine algorithms. Chat rooms, such as those in games (e.g. Call of Duty) could lead to and reinforcement of attitudes and beliefs associated with the game. The internet was seen as a key influence; while there were diverse views available both in the press and on the internet, the key question was how views were formed, and also changed. It was felt that this needed greater understanding.

On the positive side, suggestions were made of ways that public opinion could be shaped, for example, the power of ordinary, face-to-face conversation, and through an education which encourages critical reflection on different perspectives. In particular, Primary Schools (ages 4-11) could reach families as well as children through ESD campaigns that they may organise, for example, *Schools of Sanctuary* creating welcoming environments for newly arrived children was seen as important.

A positive example of the media is the impact of the BBC series *Blue Planet II*, in 2017, which has created an astonishing shift in public opinion about plastics and the impact on oceans and marine life (Allen, n.d). A further example of TV shows, films, blogs and music as shapers of public opinion in the UK was given, with the example of M.I.A., the rapper who has written songs on migration (Godwin, 2016). Another participant stated that the shift to recycling showed society's change, and that younger people he worked with were more positive about influencing aspects of sustainable development.

3.6 Gaps of information and how those gaps might be filled

Discussion between participants related to both the need for information, and also for development of skills. Areas for information included increasing the level of critical discussion around ESD and global issues, for example, historical perspectives on migration and conflict; fuel issues such as fracking; migration stories, showing the multiplicity of experiences of migrants including why they travel, the conditions of travel, experiences of arrival in the UK, and the problems they face of language, health care and rights; and providing a wider understanding of extremism, from being simply focussed on Islamic fundamentalism to incorporating right-wing extremism and anti-vivisection protests. There was also a desire for positive messages, such as examples of migration as a positive benefit, to provide a counter-narrative to the one that the media presents; positive aspects of ESD to counteract a 'doom and gloom' message; and how sustainable development has been of benefit to economies.

It was agreed by all that educators needed time, appropriate curriculum resources and training to use them; teachers in schools, it was felt, would be too busy to create such resources. Training gaps – for teachers - included how to welcome people from other

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communities into the classroom as teacher fear of "doing it wrong" is strong, according to both the teachers and CSO workers. The lack of training for teachers to manage controversial discussions that might arise in the classroom relating to issues of migration and sustainable development was a deterrent to many teachers in school. One participant working for a CSO felt that there needed to be more support for teachers and CSOs in understanding the SDGs, as they may be couched in inaccessible language.

A further information gap identified by a lecturer in Teacher Education was the link between SDGs and the Teachers' Standards (DfE, 2011). The *Geographical Association* have introduced a Quality Mark (mainly accessed by Secondary level schools), which included the following criteria: "Geographical skills promote a better understanding of difference and diversity" which could link to the SDGs and migration, as exemplars.[175]

Examples of organisations that might be of help were given, such as the *Refugee Council*[176]. Programmes such as *Safer Skills*[177] in the Merseyside area of England were available to support teachers and other professionals. It was also suggested that tapping in to expertise that youth workers have, including artists and musicians, might help bring the SDG message to schools in a way that connects with young people. Similarly, young people, bringing the message to their peers were seen as a powerful tool. An example of this was *Youth Parliament*[178], a programme available to all schools which encouraged political engagement.

3.7 The role of education systems

At school level, there is a great deal of activity taking place relating to global education, despite being in a negative context in education. It was felt that the many other initiatives in schools in England were the result of politicians tying to make schools compensate for society's failures, in particular, related to mental health, e-safety and anti-social behaviour. For many schools, pressure on their budgets was significant with austerity cuts; and, with other educational priorities taking precedence, resources for developing ESD was limited. Furthermore, the growth of academisation in English schools, and the reduction of the role of local government in local schools has led to the growth of profit-making companies providing support to schools. There is a lack of diversity in the school system, dominated by white British teachers, with very few non-white teachers, and only a minority of white non-British. The paucity of diverse cultures is particularly seen in the Primary sector (age 4-11). In addition, schools may be reliant upon a teacher with a particular interest in promoting global education– which may mean that some schools might be very aware of SDGs and

[175] The Primary Geography Quality Mark. Geographical Association, https://www.geography.org.uk/The-Primary-Geography-Quality-Mark-PGQM
[176] The Refugee Council https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/
[177] Ariel Trust http://www.arieltrust.com/
[178] UK Youth Parliament http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/

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sustainable development issues, and others not at all aware. The lack of time in the curriculum to address issues effectively, rather than simply raise them was seen as a major issue for schools; having training and appropriate resources would be of no benefit if there was not enough time to explore issues properly, rather than superficially.

That said, it was recognised by all participants that there are many examples of creative and imaginative use of existing resources and limited time. Teachers cited the use of 'drop down days' (where the normal curriculum is suspended) to have in-depth discussions with young people. Opportunities existed for the inclusion of global education in curriculum areas of Citizenship and Geography, which are compulsory subjects in school, and through programmes linked to personal development.[179] At Primary level teachers had some freedom to interpret the Geography curriculum, and tap into interest among young pupils on sustainable development and Climate Change.

Many examples were given by participants of ESD activities in UK schools. Those relating to understanding migration were: *Refugee week* activities, including visitors to schools to speak about their experiences; and examining the *Rights of the Child* and understanding the impact of migration on children; initiatives such as *Schools of Sanctuary*[180] were influencing not only pupils, but also their wider family; some schools linked the SDGs to fundamental British Values, for example, *personal liberty*. However, it was recognised by one teacher that themes from the SDGs, e.g. gender equality, could have been linked more explicitly with World Women's Day in March 2018. Those linked to the environment included: reducing plastics, and learning about impact of plastic on *life under the sea*, also supported by news articles on the BBC (state-financed media) about plastic waste, and high profile companies such as the *Iceland* food chain targeting their use of plastic packaging; investigating the issue of energy supplies, including fracking, which has also received a strong media focus in the UK. Those with the aim of deepening understanding of the SDGs, and global learning consisted of: conducting a *global learning* week with all subjects linking to ESD; supporting *Send a Cow*[181] linked to improving the life of families in Africa; exploring the impact of consumerism on young people, and the demand for designer goods being challenged as unsustainable; and the initiative *Send my Friend to School.*[182]
A lecturer explained how there was an increase in service learning opportunities for students. The role of CSO Development Education networks continued to be important, for example *Think Global*[183] and *SEEd*, providing expertise. It was felt that a network of experts was needed to take this agenda forward, particularly at a local level. In addition, it was felt that a monitoring organisation would be needed to examine what would work effectively.

[179] Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE); Life Skills.
[180] Schools of Sanctuary https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/.
[181] Send a Cow https://www.sendacow.org/
[182] Send My Friend to School https://www.sendmyfriend.org/
[183] Think Global https://think-global.org.uk/

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4. Conclusion and recommendations

The evidence from EU surveys, national reports and the field research conducted for this report, confirms that migration remains a prominent issue for debate in public and political discourse in the UK. This is both conflated with and heightened by anxieties about risks posed by extremism and acts of terrorism, and the UK's troublesome relationship with the European Union (EU). It also creates challenges in understanding *actual* perceptions towards issues. For example, in section 2.1 it was suggested that UK attitudes towards humanitarian aid might be the result of attitudes towards the EU as a donator of aid, rather than humanitarian aid per se. Similarly, whilst the UK appears to feel less secure than other EU country populations, explained at least partially by the experience of terror attacks, responses in the field research suggested that factors affecting perceptions of security may be much more complicated and variable across groups.

The research confirmed that media, combined with political rhetoric and policy responses focused on security, ongoing debates about diversity and cohesion and a growing far right discourse, has created a powerful and largely malign influence on public perceptions and concerns. The rise of online and social media has emerged as a major factor in shaping the views of young people. The field research also highlighted the positive potential of media in raising awareness and offering different perspectives and narratives. The role of social media in mobilising young people to act against mainstream media and political consensus in a recent general election is one example of this.

Evidence from both EU and national reports, and the field research, similarly confirms that the UK public is less focused on and concerned about issues of sustainable development, including climate change. This is also reflected in far less media coverage overall, although again the role of social media in shaping the debate around climate change was raised. Of particular concern is the low level of UK public awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, despite evidence of significant activity and engagement by CSOs and in some universities and schools. Conversely, responses in the field research pointed to evidence of growing awareness of the impact of lifestyles and need for behaviour change in relation to the environment. However, a strong emergent theme was the need for more critical understanding of environment and sustainable development concepts, and the relationship with migration. It was also acknowledged that insufficient links were being made between these themes educationally, despite significant activity in the field of Global Education broadly.

In addition to the role of the media, lack of coherence in government policy is also contributing to gaps in critical understanding of the interrelationship between migration and sustainable development. Whilst steps are being taken by the government to address its responsibilities in reporting on the SDGs, this remains piecemeal and explicit reference to the SDGs is often absent. This is complicated further by a discourse of paternalism rooted in the UK's colonialist

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past and an emphasis on tackling root causes of migration in order to protect the UK from incoming movements of people. As one of the field research respondents highlighted, this reduces understanding of the effects of long term and less immediately observable climate change on movements of people to being seen as nothing more than economic migration.

By contrast with policy, there are significant research activities and projects taking place in the UK which offer more complex and critical insight into migration and sustainable development, and the possibility for alternative narratives. What is less clear is to what extent these are taken account of in policy and practice. There is evidence of a growing body of research and practice working in tandem to support educational responses framed by Global Learning and Education for Sustainable Development. This was reflected in responses in the field research, although gaps still exist in teachers' skills and confidence, and use of approaches which could promote more critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, including historical legacies. Concerns were also expressed about the challenges faced by universities and schools where Global Education is still marginal, where schools face pressures from competing priorities, including an array of agendas aimed at tackling social issues, and reduced funding and support from local authorities. As the case studies in 2.4 suggest, the most successful initiatives are those which can support schools' values and align with wider or mainstream educational movements; often led or supported by CSOs.

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

- An increased focus on making explicit links between migration and sustainable development, and translating this into resources for teacher educators and schools.
- Increased support for teacher educators, pre and in-service teachers, in using approaches which can promote dialogue, critical thinking and opportunities for participation in conversations about issues such as migration and sustainable development. This includes the need for wider community engagement which allows contributions from different perspectives.
- Increased engagement with international policies which can support their work; Habitat III and Policy Coherence in particular.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

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- A more coherent approach between government departments with responsibilities towards migration and sustainable development, including more explicit use of the language of SDGs. This is where external networks such as UKSSD (2.4) may be influential.
- Renewed funding for initiatives such as the national Global Learning Programme (currently under review) which can support mainstreaming of Global Education in teacher education and schools. This needs to recognise the role played by CSOs.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

- Whilst recognising limitations on the contribution of local authorities (LAs) given significant reductions in their funding and role in supporting schools, it is important for connections to be made between educational responses to migration and sustainable development and wider responsibilities of LAs, including localising of the SDGs.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

- To support collaboration with CSOs who can bring expertise in critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, and approaches for critical thinking, dialogue and participation, particularly for those in teacher education.
- To support research on migration, sustainable development and education, which can provide evidence of good practice, and encourage mutual exchange between research and practice (see TEESNet in 2.4).

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

- Increased research on public opinion and media influence in relation to sustainable development, and the relationship with migration.
- Increased research which explores qualitative data on public awareness, perceptions and understanding.

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- Increased efforts to ensure research filters through to public awareness and understanding as a mechanism for influencing policy.

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