

## **Migration and Territories.**

### **The EU and the Relevance of Conditionality**

#### **I. Migration and the EU. Policy and Rules**

- (1) Data - Migration data highlights 295 million international migrants globally, with 183 million foreigners residing outside their citizenship countries.
- (2) Background - EU migration policy evolved from no competence in migration (Treaty of Rome, 1957) to the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997), which introduced communitarization.
- (3) The Dublin Regulation governs asylum applications, assigning responsibility to the first country of entry, but has substantially failed and faced criticism for overburdening frontier states.
- (4) The new Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (2024/1351) has its focus on the solidarity principle and introduces solidarity mechanisms, minimum quotas for relocations (30,000 annually), and financial contributions (€600 million annually).
- (5) Migration impacts EU demographics positively, contributing to workforce growth and addressing labor shortages.

#### **II. Territories**

- (6) EU policies focus on Visa requirements, resettlement programs, humanitarian corridors, and bilateral tailored initiatives to manage migration inflows. The EU's approach to visa, asylum, and migration policies in the relationship of the Union and the individual Member States with Third countries varies based on a range of different consideration and feasible conditions, including the peculiar characteristics of the relevant country and specific common interests.
- (7) Integration of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) in the EU society (art. 2 TEU) and the local communities is crucial, with factors like employment, housing, education, and cultural inclusion playing key roles.
- (8) Empirical evidence from selected cases: Italian and German case-studies highlight the importance of local authorities in managing integration facilities and implementing

administrative procedures. Examples include Italy's Trentino agricultural model and the MeCI Project in Molise (aimed also at revitalizing depopulated areas through migrant settlement), and the main output of the 2020 "Zwei Welten? Integrationspolitik in Stadt und Land" study by the Universities of Hildesheim and Erfurt-Nürnberg.

- (9) Successful integration of TCNs often occurs in less complex social contexts, such as rural areas, where proactive local governance enhances the positive effects of existing community networks, often leveraging engaging and effective youth activities (e.g., sports, music, religion, culture, recreation).
- (10) Education and training, along with social and public services (access to kindergartens, schools, public transport, etc.), are crucial elements in successful integration strategies, particularly concerning minors and non-working relatives of TCNs.

### **III. Financial Conditionality**

- (11) The EU uses financial conditionality *vis-à-vis* its Member States to ensure compliance with EU policies and regulations, tying funding to adherence to labor, social, and environmental standards.
- (12) Conditionality became strategic after the 2008-11 financial crisis and is now applied across various policy areas.
- (13) The EU budget remains limited, emphasizing the need for cooperation and coordination among Member States to align national and EU priorities.

### **IV. Final Remarks**

- (14) The EU aims to create a cohesive approach to migration, regional development, and policy enforcement through financial incentives and inter-administrative coordination.
- (15) National agencies and observatories are needed to monitor EU decentralized tasks, promote best practices, and foster competition among infra-national autonomous (territorial and non-territorial) decision-makers.
- (16) Enhanced cooperation and inter-administrative coordination are essential for effective policy implementation.