JOINING FORCES
FOR BETTER REFUGEE INTEGRATION

Results from a CoR – Eurochambres – OECD survey

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Work on the local integration of migrants & refugees

Past work _ 2018

- 12-points Checklist for public action to migrant integration at the local level
- 10 case studies in EU metropoles
- 1 case study in a small town

Recent work _ 2022

- Report to identify who does what in key policy sectors
- Report to evaluate 6 policy instruments fostering coordination

Current work

- Capacity building training for sub-national governments
2022 surveys: Motivation & Respondents

Motivation

• The need for a territorial approach.
• Having a job is a top priority for many Ukrainians & gaps remain
• What role can the private sector and SNGs play?

Survey respondents

• 117 EU municipalities, counties and regions from 19 countries
• 24 national, regional and local EU Chambers of Commerce and Industry
A potential win-win equation...

- Gaps remain in Ukrainians employment
- Businesses from all countries except Greece have had hiring needs in the past 6 months
- All activity sectors are concerned

Top 5 sectors with hiring needs

- Construction
- Transportation and storage
- Manufacturing
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
... curbed by information shortfalls

- Many SNGs do not collect data on local employers’ labour needs usually (41% do not), and in relation to Ukrainians (56%).

- Even fewer collect data on skills need (52% usually do not, 68% for Ukrainians)

- SNGs are in contact with only a minority of businesses in their territory (<25%)
A potential win-win equation...

- Refugee integration can be easier there
- Most hiring needs are there
- Positive perceptions of benefits refugee can bring

Localisation of businesses with hiring needs

- Small urban areas (population between 50 000 and 200 000)
- Medium-size urban areas (population between 200 000 and 500 000)
- Metropolitan areas (population between 500 000 and 1.5 million)
- Rural areas
- Large metropolitan areas (population of 1.5 million or more)
- Border regions with Ukraine
.. held back by coordination gaps

- Less than 1 in 5 countries encourage refugees to move to these areas

- Observed changes in relation to Ukrainian refugees:
  - More incentives, in particular providing housing
  - More horizontal coordination

- Structural challenges remain: lack of transportation, services, etc.
Main obstacles for businesses to hire refugees/providing training:

- Uncertainty of duration of stay
- Cultural / language barriers
- Assessing diploma and skills
- Lack of knowledge of how to do so

Solutions exist

- SNGs and Chambers provide language training and support skills and diploma recognition mechanisms, but only a minority of them do.
- Must come with support in other areas key to integration: health, education, childcare, housing etc.
Access to funding

Observations in relation to Ukrainian refugees:

• More special grants from national governments (from 17% to 45%)
• Fewer applications to EU funds (AMIF, ESF, ERDF)
• More applications for grants from private sector organisations
• 0 loans from a public or private bank

Obstacles to use of loans

• Administrative burden
• Limited scope

==> SNGs need financial & administrative support
• Better coordination among SNGs, businesses and NGOs could have considerable positive effects on refugee integration and help local communities be best prepared for future population movements.
  ➔ Starting by better information-sharing

• Funding actors must adopt a territorial and multi-sectorial approach
THANK YOU!

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