

1. Title: Migration and social policy in Europe

2. Abstract

Intensifying migration flows pose a challenge to European social policies, and at the same time open a very interesting opportunity for their development. On the one hand, migrants' arrival requires social program transformations and specific measures especially oriented towards the social inclusion of migrant population. On the other hand, immigration also brings about a very interesting rejuvenation of European population, with the resulting consequences in revitalizing of labour markets, economic growth and increase of social contributions.

Nevertheless, the intensity of migration flows, the way of organizing its regulation and control systems, the politics and management of a rising multicultural societies, and social policies oriented towards migrants' social integration, meaningfully vary between European countries, according to the different conditions in each case, shaped by the various welfare state models and also by the structure and dynamics of the labour markets.

Huge differences were found in the characteristics of the migration systems of EU member states: e.g. the new, intensive, low qualified and irregular migration flow in South Europe in contrast to a smaller demand but of high qualified workers in Northern and Central Europe. Related to this, the impact that migration has on the welfare states is also different: migration could be reinforcing the welfare state in some cases (it seems more indispensable for the aim of social cohesion and, at the same time, assures its funding needs), while in other cases migration may introduce more pressure on public funding and erode the legitimacy of some social programmes.

3. Contact

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