Sustainable Practices of Integration

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D4.3 - Webinar on evaluation @M16

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1 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Please complete with the abbreviations used in the document

Abbreviation	Definition
MPI Europe	Migration Policy Institute Europe
EU	European Union

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview – Migrant Integration: Learning from What Works in Times of Uncertainty

MPI Europe organised the webinar ***"Migrant Integration: Learning from What Works in Times of Uncertainty"*** on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 3pm to 4 pm CEST. The webinar discussed innovations in migrant integration in scenarios marked by uncertainty and limited resources, as well as projects proving the benefits of fostering an evidence culture in migrant integration policymaking.

More than 400 individuals registered to attend the event, which was recorded and is now available online on the MPI Europe website both as a video and as a podcast. The webinar marked the launch of the policy brief (D 4.4) "Promoting an evidence culture in migrant integration policymaking", introduced the Toolkit (D 4.5), and aimed to foster reflection and discussion on embracing innovations in evidence-informed policymaking in the field of migrant integration in times of disruption and uncertainty.

The Webinar on evaluation was initially planned to be held in M16 (June 2022). Yet to avoid summer holidays, maximize attendance, and ensure availability of the identified speakers, the webinar was eventually moved to the current date. The new deliverable date for the Webinar (October 11th 2022) was set in coordination and agreement with other partners, and timely communicated and approved by the Consortium leader.

2.2 Background & relevance

Based on desk research, input from the evidence network, input from SPRING partners and bilateral meetings with experts, MPI Europe framed the meeting to reflect on questions of innovations in evidence-informed policymaking in migrant integration in a context of crises and uncertainty.

The abstract for the event was as follows:

"Migrant Integration: Learning from What Works in Times of Uncertainty".

With millions fleeing war-torn Ukraine, questions about how to effectively promote migrant integration are again front and center. Integration policy is often forged in the heat of crises and led by political priorities, with limited resources devoted to making improvements along the way. As a result, lessons from promising innovations that tend to emerge particularly during crises often get lost. Understanding what works, under which conditions, and how to use this knowledge is crucial to design effective policies. Failure to embrace an evidence culture in migrant integration may come at a high human, financial, and societal cost for not only migrants, but also for governments and host societies.

This webinar, organized as part of the HORIZON SPRING project on Sustainable Practices on Integration, will bring together experts and policymakers to examine the state of the field and promising innovations that facilitate an evidence culture in migrant integration, particularly in contexts marked by uncertainty and limited resources, such as the current effort to integrate displaced Ukrainians. The discussion will spotlight projects that demonstrate how an evidence culture can be leveraged to benefit migrant integration policymaking, including from the frontline reception of Ukrainian refugees.

The webinar marks the publication of a policy brief that maps out the state of play of an evidence culture in migrant integration and identifies obstacles and promising steps policymakers at EU and national levels could take. It also previews the launch of a toolkit that will help policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to embed an evidence culture in migrant integration.

MPI Europe identified speakers based on input from the Evidence Network and our own policy makers and experts' network. It sought to involve high-level speakers with experience in migrant integration that would engage the audience and provide practical examples that reflected the findings from MPI Europe's research. The speakers represented the EU, national, and local level, and included researchers and policymakers.

Speakers:

- **Claudia Spinelli,** Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
- **Jürgen Wander,** Program Manager, For an Inclusive Labor Market Program, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands
- **Tomasz Pactwa,** Director, Projects and Social Affairs Department, City of Warsaw
- Moderator: **Jasmijn Slootjes**, Senior Policy Analyst, MPI Europe

Each speaker was asked to prepare a 10 minute intervention following bilateral discussions with MPI Europe team. Speakers were asked to reflect on innovations in evidence-informed policymaking in migrant integration with interesting practical examples. Claudia Spinelli was asked to talk about the Joint Research Centre and the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography and the role they play in making migrant integration policies more evidence-based, and to discuss their project during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Jürgen Wander was asked to present the labour market programme he manages and share lessons learned to make migrant integration more evidence-informed. Finally, Tomasz Pactwa was asked to discuss an agile management approach to migrant integration and the lessons learned from large displacement from Ukraine.

3 ANNEXES

3.1 ACCESS THE RECORDING FROM THE WEBINAR AND RESOURCES SHARED BY SPEAKERS ON MPI EUROPE'S WEBSITE

here

PRESS RELEASE
11 October 2022
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As migrant integration field lags in embracing evidence-informed policymaking, MPI Europe brief sketches strategy to foster effective integration policies

Join webcast TODAY at 15h00 CEST for discussion of promising innovations

BRUSSELS — Questions about how to effectively promote migrants' integration are again front and centre in European policymakers' minds. The displacement of several million people from Ukraine, coupled with pressing European labour shortages and strained government budgets, reinforce the importance of implementing integration policies that are both effective and efficiently use limited resources.

Yet even as governments, community organisations and others are exhibiting significant innovation, resources devoted to evaluating the impact of new integration initiatives often are limited and there is little bandwidth for developing an evidence base in the heat of crisis to support improved policymaking going forward. As a result, lessons from some of the most promising innovations get lost.

The evidence revolution that has swept through many policy areas, with states and international organisations such as the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development officially embracing and promoting evidence-informed policymaking has yet to fully reach the migrant integration policymaking space, a Migration Policy Institute Europe policy brief out today argues.

'Throughout the policymaking cycle—from agenda-setting to policy design, and from implementation to evaluation—crucial opportunities to learn from past experiences and use that knowledge to strengthen future initiatives are being missed', MPI Europe analysts Jasmijn Slootjes and Maria Belen Zanzuchi write.

Evidence-informed policymaking promotes migrant well-being as well as good governance by improving institutional learning, accountability and cost-effective spending. It also can benefit the broader society by leading to integration policies that facilitate economic growth, a thriving labour market and social cohesion.

The brief outlines five strategies to nurture a more conducive environment for evidence-informed integration policymaking:

- **Using pilot projects to keep costs low and cultivate political buy-in before scaling them up.** Such projects have lower risks and costs than launching untested large-scale programmes and are less complex to discontinue if they are unsuccessful.

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- **Increasing targeted investments in evidence-based policymaking.** Such investments, though resource consuming, are likely to reduce wasteful spending and increase cost effectiveness.
- **Promoting stakeholder involvement throughout the policy cycle, including the evaluation stage.** Involving practitioners and programme beneficiaries can ensure that evaluators' recommendations reflect the reality on the ground in terms of needs, capacity and resources.
- **Improving access to evidence by leveraging online databases and multi-stakeholder networks.** To maximise their impact, databases should raise the visibility of key lessons from policy evaluations of both successful and unsuccessful initiatives, as well as share practical evaluation tools. Multi-stakeholder networks also can facilitate dialogue and peer learning.
- **Building the capacity of policymakers and other key stakeholders to use evidence-informed techniques.** Skill-building efforts tend to be aimed at evaluators. Ensuring other actors have access to this critical knowledge can increase their motivation to use evidence-informed techniques.

The policy brief, *Promoting Evidence-Informed Immigrant Integration Policymaking*, was generated under the Sustainable Practices of Integration (SPRING) project, which is receiving funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. MPI Europe is one of the consortium partners in SPRING, which aims to make immigrant integration practices more effective and sustainable.

Read the brief here: www.migrationpolicy.org/research/evidence-informed-integration-policymaking.

To learn more about the SPRING project and access research developed by consortium partners, visit: https://integrationpractices.eu/.

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To join a webinar TODAY at 15h00 CEST (Brussels, Berlin) / 14h00 BST with experts from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the City of Warsaw and the Netherlands' Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, click here. The speakers will spotlight projects that demonstrate how an evidence culture can be leveraged to benefit migrant integration policymaking, including from the frontline reception of Ukrainian refugees.

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3.2 ACCESS THE POLICY BRIEF ON MPI EUROPE'S WEBSITE

here

Promoting Evidence-Informed Immigrant Integration Policymaking

By Jasmijn Slootjes and Maria Belen Zanzuchi

Immigrant Integration | Immigration Policy & Law | Integration Policy

Across Europe, immigrant integration policy has often been forged in the heat of crisis and driven by political priorities. This can be seen in the response to millions of people fleeing war in Ukraine and to the 2015–16 migration and refugee crisis. Resources and attention are much less frequently devoted to gleaning lessons from integration initiatives and using them to improve policymaking going forward. Yet, pressing labor shortages, strained government budgets, and social cohesion challenges all point to the importance of implementing integration policies that efficiently use limited resources—and that work.

This policy brief explores why immigrant integration has fallen behind other policy areas in embracing an evidence culture and suggests ways to remedy this lag. It first examines recent progress and key gaps in this area, and then maps the obstacles that continue to hinder an evidence revolution in integration policy. The brief concludes with recommendations for creating an environment in which evidence-informed integration policymaking can thrive, including through the effective use of pilot projects, targeted funding, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building initiatives.