

## REBUILD ICT-enabled integration facilitator and life rebuilding guidance

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This document presents the situation at European, national and local level with reference to migrants' integration. Its aim is to set the scene for the REBUILD activities and outputs and constitutes a first point of reference for the socio-economic and political impact assessment that will be performed in the next months of the project.

The phenomenon of permanent migration to EU countries has consistently increased in recent years. According to the OECD, the European Union is currently home to approximately 58 million immigrants, accounting for over 10% of its population. In the EU, around two-thirds of immigrants are from non-EU countries and, over the last decade, the immigrant population has increased by 28%.

In this context, social and economic outcomes of migrant population resulted in differentiated levels of integration, well-being and inclusion. In particular:

- There's a persistent gap in the socio-economic status of migrants, that tends to reduce the longer they stay and become more familiar with their host country.
- Education proved to be a crucial instrument for successful integration. At the same time, personal education and labour skills are not sufficient predictors of the degree of integration of immigrants, nor of the possibility of obtaining a fair position in the labour market.
- Unemployment is a crucial issue for migrants; they are more exposed to unemployment and unfair working conditions than native-born counterparts.
- Migrants adults participate less in adult education compared to EU native born; this lower rates of participation can be attributed to the weaker structure of opportunities for migrants' guidance and counselling on learning activities.
- Overqualification too is an important element in migrants' access to the labour market: in Europe, 45% of the highly educated immigrant population are overqualified for their job, compared with the 30% of the highly educated native-born EU.
- For the majority of newly arrived migrants learning the host country language is a strong necessity: 56% of recently arrived non-native speakers have attended classes since their arrival. The two main determinants for language proficiency are: time upon arrival and internal characteristics of the host-country in terms of national minorities and related migration flows.
- In terms of health, migrants and refugees report better health conditions than EU-nationals in most of the EU countries. At the same time, difficulties in accessing health services do exist especially in some countries. Anxiety disorders affect a percentage from 4% to 40% of migrants and refugees, compared with 5% of general population showing the relevance of a special attention to offering high quality mental health and wellbeing services.
- Across Europe migrants are often in a disadvantaged situation when talking about housing. One foreign-born in four lives in substandard housing against one in five native-born and this is especially true in South-European countries (and in some long-standing European destinations, such as Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK and Austria).
- With reference to civic participation there is a clear interest by migrants and refugees in participating to the civic life of the host countries, but there are also barriers such as language difficulties, lack of access to information, police activity, threat of deportation or detention, harassment, threat of expulsion from work and media censorship.

From the international statistics it is clear that the economic crisis (started in U.S.A in 2008) had consequences on migrants' integration, especially in South European countries like Greece and Italy and this is especially evident in terms of unemployment rate and access to health services. About the latter, one in four immigrants in Italy and Greece claim unmet healthcare needs against one in six among native respondents.



The situation of migrant women deserves a special attention; indeed, women are more exposed to unemployment and need a special attention in terms of accessing health services. On the latter, literature shows a marked tendency for worse pregnancy-related indicators among refugees and migrants compared to EU-born counterparts. On this, entitlement is one of the most crucial problems. The persistent restrictions related to migration status is often associated to language and cultural obstacles, financial barriers as well as the lack of legal frameworks preventing sexual violence and clarifying the migrant women's legal status often creates barriers to seeking help and health care. Delays in seeking health care, refusal of medical interventions, inadequate medication, misinterpretation of cardiography and interpersonal miscommunication: all these factors adversely influence healthcare for migrant women and pose extra challenges in providing adequate health care to more vulnerable categories of migrants.

Finally, considering migrants and refugees relationship with ICT, recent surveys conducted in different countries show that immigrants have, on average, similar and in some cases higher digital knowledge levels than the local population as a whole. Mobile technologies show to be effective tools to overcome the isolation displaced families face on arrival, providing learning and training opportunities, fostering their language and cultural skills, thus promoting social integration. There are several Apps developed for migrants and refugees, some available in a single country and other accessible in several. The majority of the Apps offer translation and information provision services, but there are also Apps dedicated to solving legal or medical issues and to training.

This report is complementary with D9.1 which presents a first version of the methodological framework that will be used for assessing the socio-economic and political impacts of REBUILTS outputs. A more in-depth, at micro level, analysis of the situation without REBUILD (zero scenario) will be conducted at the beginning of the REBUILD pilots in order to describe the specific conditions of the engaged users and of their communities.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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The project REBUILD aims at improving migrants and refugees' inclusion through the provision of a toolbox of ICT-based solutions aimed to enhance both the effectiveness of the services provided by local public administration and organizations, and the life quality of the migrants.

This project follows a user-centred and participatory design approach, aiming at addressing properly real target users' needs, ethical and cross-cultural dimensions, and monitoring, as well as validating the socio-economic impact of the proposed solution. Both target groups (immigrants/refugees and local public services providers) will be part of a continuous design process; users and stakeholders' engagement is a key success factor addressed both in the Consortium composition and in its capacity to engage relevant stakeholders external to the project. Users will be engaged from the beginning of the project through interviews and focus groups; then will become part of the application design, participating in three Co-Creation Workshops organized in the three main piloting countries: Italy, Spain and Greece, chosen for being the "access gates" to Europe for main immigration routes. Then again, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of the project, users' engagement in Test and Piloting events in the three target countries will help the Consortium fine-tuning the REBUILD ICT toolbox before the end of the project.

The key technology solutions proposed are:

- GDPR-compliant migrants' integration related background information gathering with user consent and anonymization of personal information;
- AI-based profile analysis to enable both personalized support and policy making on migration-related issues;
- AI-based needs matching tool, to match migrant needs and skills with services provided by local authorities in EU countries and labour market needs at local and regional level;
- a Digital Companion for migrants enabling personalized two-way communication using chatbots to provide them smart support for easy access to local services (training, health, employment, welfare, etc.) and assessment of the level of integration and understanding of the new society, while providing to local authorities data-driven, easy to use decision supporting tools for enhancing capacities and effectiveness in service provision.

This deliverable aims at reporting the situation related to the migration phenomenon in Europe and in the geographic locations of REBUILD pilots as an ex-ante scenario for the socio-economic and political impact assessment activities that will be performed in WP9. Indeed, in order to describe the benefits produced by REBUILD, it is necessary to frame the action in the current situation concerning those elements such as employment, training, health, use of ICT, etc that it will tackle. This deliverable is complementary to D9.1 which describes the methodological framework developed for capturing the value that will be generated by REBUILD as a project and, especially, as a co-designed socio-technical solution.

An important disclaimer for this report is the level of analysis. This report maps the situation of migrants and refugees in terms of integration in Europe, in the three pilot countries (Italy, Spain and Greece) and in the three geographic areas in which the pilots will take place: Bologna (Italy), Barcelona (Spain) and Thessaloniki (Greece). However, the specific situation of the migrants/refugees that will participate in the pilot activities may or may not be fully aligned with that represented by the official statistics here reported. For this reason, a more in depth, micro-level analysis of the ex-ante situation of participants and related social groups that will participate in the pilot activities will be carried out at the beginning of the testing phase.

This deliverable is structured as follows: Chapter 2 is devoted to a background review of the current situation about migration at European level and in the territories where the REBUILD pilots are developed: Barcelona (Spain), Bologna (Italy) and Thessaloniki (Greece). More specifically, paragraphs 2.2-2.4 report statistics from international, national and regional organisations in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of migrants with reference to the different integration variables (such as employment, education, health, housing, participation). Chapter 3 focuses on the relationship between migrants and technology, providing a short literature review on technology usage by migrants and on the main Apps already implemented for migrants. Chapter 4 summarizes the work done in other tasks of REBUILD that are useful for adding more information in the situation before the beginning of the pilots in the selected territories. Indeed, this chapter introduces the insights from the surveys and desk research carried out so far as well as the results from the co-design activities carried-out for planning REBUILD socio-technical tools. The conclusion section describes the relationship between this deliverable and the socio-economic and political impact assessment described in D9.1 and sets the next stages for WP9.

## 2. MIGRANTS IN EUROPE AND IN REBUILD PILOT COUNTRIES/REGIONS

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This chapter reports statistics from international, national and regional organisations aiming at framing the current situation covering migration at European level and in the territories where the REBUILD pilots will be developed: Barcelona (Spain), Bologna (Italy) and Thessaloniki (Greece). When statistics were not available at the city level, regional statistics have been used.

### 2.1 MIGRANTS VS FOREIGNERS IN INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

This report includes statistics about migrants in European countries. It has to be stressed how preliminarily in all the surveys taken into consideration, the operationalization of the category of “migrant” in international statistics is hampered by the lack of a universally accepted definition for migration.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) adopts a broad definition of migration, including every “<sup>1</sup>movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border (international migration), or within a state (internal migration), encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes”.

In this framework, all forms of migration (voluntary/forced migration, internal/international migration, long-term/short-term migration) are equally included, regardless of different motives for migration (e.g. political persecution, conflicts, economic migration, environmental degradation or a combination of different causes, or other motives such as family reunification). An “umbrella-term”, that does not take into account the difference between legal and irregular migration, nor the means of migration and comprehends a wide variety of displaced people, including “well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally-defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iom.int/who-is-a-migrant>

<sup>2</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml\\_34\\_glossary.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf)

In the European framework, an equally broad definition is used to indicate a person who “either<sup>3</sup>:

(i) establishes their usual residence in the territory of an EU Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another EU Member State or a third country;

or

(ii) having previously been usually resident in the territory of an EU Member State, ceases to have their usual residence in that EU Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months”.

OECD reports generally consider immigrants as the foreign-born population. With reference to the European context, in line with Zaragoza indicators, OECD narrows the definition of migrants to non-EU, or third country nationals (TCN), who reside legally in the European Union, thus comparing their outcomes with those of host-country nationals and EU nationals.

The distinction is made to take into account the difference between TCNs and EU citizens moving between or living in EU member states other than their own: “Although many enjoy equal rights with host-country nationals, not all third-country nationals have access to the labour market and there are greater restrictions on their mobility within the European Union. Their reasons for migrating are also likely to be different from those that prompt EU nationals to move and are more often related to asylum or family reunification”<sup>4</sup> (2018, p.225).

### 2.1.1 The phenomenon at EU level

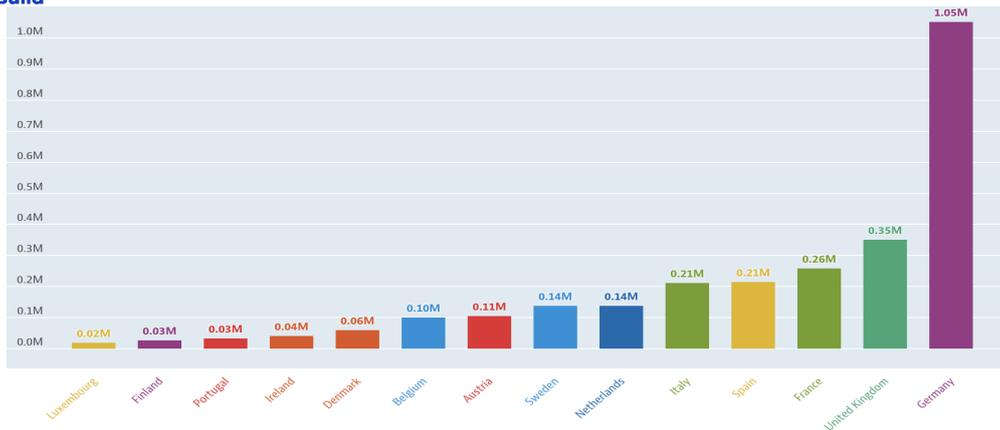
The phenomenon of permanent migration to EU countries has consistently increased in recent years. According to the OECD<sup>5</sup>, the European Union is currently home to around 58 million immigrants, accounting for over 10% of its population. In the European Union, around two-thirds of immigrants are from non-EU countries. Over the last decade, the immigrant population has increased by 23% in the OECD countries and by 28% in the EU.

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<sup>3</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_search/migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/migration_en)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264307216-en/1/1/4/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/9789264307216-en&mimeType=text/html&csp=4097de129716dfc4d9e49720228ada3a&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book#execsumm-d1e627>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9789264307216-en/1/1/4/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/9789264307216-en&mimeType=text/html&csp=4097de129716dfc4d9e49720228ada3a&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book#execsumm-d1e627>



**Figure 1 Permanent inflow population 2016. Source: OECD 2020.**

In the European context, social and economic outcomes of migrant population resulted in differentiated levels of integration, well-being and inclusion. The complex integration of different social protection, welfare and migration policies, labour market structures, migration histories and the structure of available opportunities (Carmel and Cerami, 2011) produced a differentiated integration. Despite national differences, however, based on data provided by the OECD reports, a few generalizations may be drawn concerning the economic and social outcomes of immigrants, also in comparison to the native-born population in EU countries.

In particular:

- There's a persistent gap in the socio-economic status of migrants, that tends to reduce the longer they stay and become more familiar with their host country.
- Education proved to be a crucial instrument for successful integration.
- Immigrants in EU countries tend to have lower outcomes than those in other OECD countries, especially if they come from outside the EU. This phenomenon is only partly driven by their lower education on average.

The differences in operationalization and in the source of different indicators (see paragraph 2.1 and D9.1) are accompanied by a very different set of integration approaches and national policies regarding integration. With reference to the European Union, despite internal differences that rely on the history of each country, it is possible to identify some common key economic, social and political areas of intervention.

From a theoretical point of view, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles provides an operational definition of integration<sup>6</sup>, which derives from the traditional theoretical framework of integration as a "dynamic and two-way process" that has been a keystone of European approach to integration politics and policies: in this perspective, "it places demands on both receiving societies and the individuals and/or the communities concerned". At the same time, the process has a long - term deployment, starting "at the time of arrival in the country of final destination concluding when a refugee becomes an active member of that society from a legal, social, economic, educational and cultural perspective".

<sup>6</sup> ECRE, The Way Forward. Towards the Integration of Refugees in Europe, July, 2005, pp. 14-16. Available at: [https://www.ecre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ECRE-The-Way-Forward-Towards-the-Integration-of-Refugees-in-Europe\\_July-2005.pdf](https://www.ecre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ECRE-The-Way-Forward-Towards-the-Integration-of-Refugees-in-Europe_July-2005.pdf)

Finally, the concept is multi-dimensional, involving all the “conditions for and actual participation in all aspects of the economic, social, cultural, civil and political life of the country of durable asylum as well as the refugees’ own perception of acceptance by and membership in the host society”.

From an operational perspective, the Action Plan developed by the European Commission tried to formulate a comprehensive framework to support Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies.

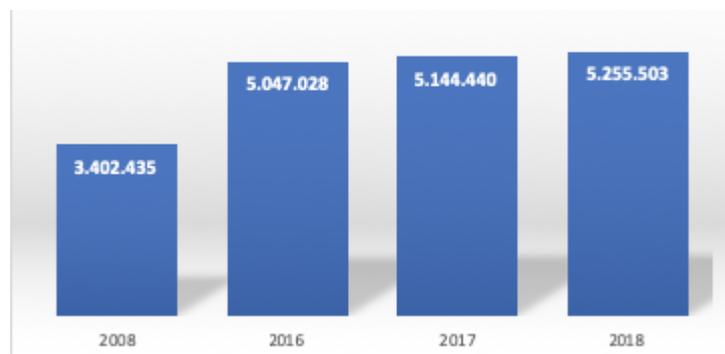
The Plan includes actions across all the policy areas that are crucial for integration:

- Pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, including actions to prepare migrants and the local communities for the integration process.
- Education, a dimension that includes all the measures aimed at promoting language training, participation of migrant children to Early Childhood Education and Care, teacher training and civic education.
- Employment and vocational training, with reference to specific actions promoting early integration into the labour market and migrants’ entrepreneurship.
- Access to basic services (such as housing and healthcare) as a basic condition for third-country nationals starting a life in the society of the receiving country.
- Active participation and social inclusion, including actions to support exchanges with the receiving society, migrants' participation to cultural life and fighting discrimination.

## 2.1.2 The phenomenon at country level for Italy, Greece and Spain

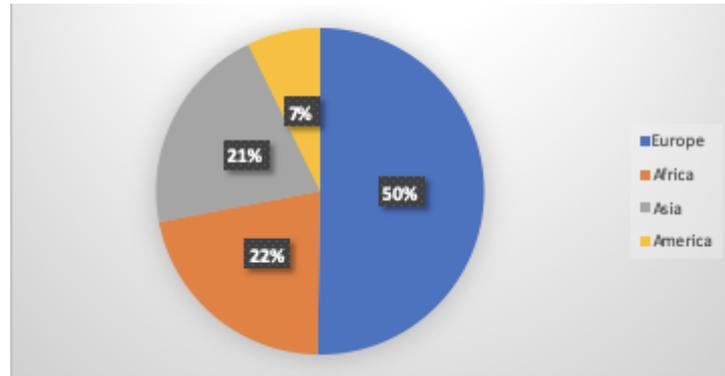
### Italy

In Italy, as reported in the annual report conducted by IDOS (2019), at the end of 2018, the foreign population has reached 5.255.500 residents, 8.7% of all inhabitants of the country. As reported in table 1, such numbers signal a slow increase of only 111.000 individuals mainly due to new births from foreign parents. Compared to previous years, the number of new births from foreign parents, indeed, is following the national trend and is decreasing. In 2018, 65.444 is the number of children born from foreign couples and is lower compared to the previous years, considering that in 2017 the number of children born from foreign couples was 67.933.



*Figure 2 Foreign population in Italy*

Looking at the provenance of foreigners, the distribution is the following: 50.2% from EU, 21.7% from Africa, 20.8% from Asia, 7.2% from America. The table below also shows the provenance looking at the continents' distribution (see figure below).



**Figure 3 Foreigners' origins by continents**

It is fair to say that, in addition to the reduction in new births, in Italy there is also a decrease in the total number of migrants arriving in the country due to the political measures restricting regular entrance through entry-channels for non-EU workers, but also due to the agreements signed with Libya to stop irregular migration by the Mediterranean sea. Accordingly, IDOS report (2019) states that the presence of migrants arriving by sea has decreased to 23.370 presence in 2018. This data is extremely relevant if we consider that the flows coming from sea arrivals in 2017 accounted for 119.310 people (+80-4%).

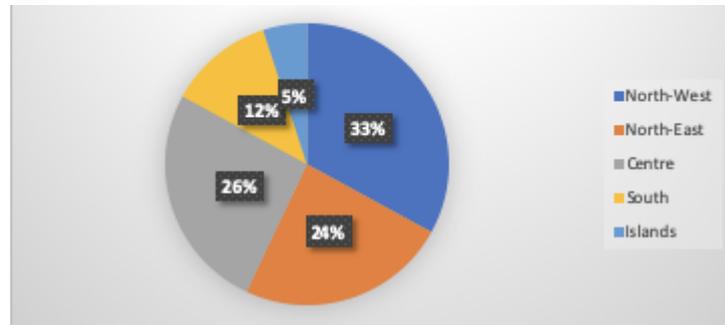
At the same time, there are encouraging data which suggest that the foreign presence is extremely rooted in the country. In fact, 60,1% of non-EU regular stayers have an unlimited permission of stay and among the people with a temporary permit, most of the justifications are related to family reasons or job opportunities.

Nevertheless, discrimination is still high and based predominantly on migrants' origin or religion. This alarming data is also aligned with the difficult access to welfare and general services. Just to provide some examples, only 21.5% of foreigners are homeowners, while the rest of the people renting apartments or rooms, often shared with compatriots. Also the data related to education do not show encouraging figures with foreign students having higher school delay (30.7% against 9.7% of Italians) and a higher degree of school leaving after the compulsory age (only 64.8% of foreign pupils continue to study after the compulsory age against 80.9% of Italians).

Considering now the gender aspect of migration, 51.7% of foreign residents are women (for a total number of 2.718.716). Women's presence is concentrated mainly in the north of Italy. As reported in Figure 3, 33% of women live in the North-West, 24% in the North-East, 26% in the Centre, 12% in the South and 5% in the Islands. The most numerous communities in terms of female presence are Romania, Albania, Morocco, Ukraine, China, the Philippines, Moldova, Poland, India and Peru.

It is worth noting that migration patterns are different for men and women. In particular, women, more than men, are residents in Italy due to family reasons, while for men the main reason is job

searching. Also, the asylum requests show different numbers: while 27% of men apply asylum, the percentage of women in the same situation is much lower, only at 5%.

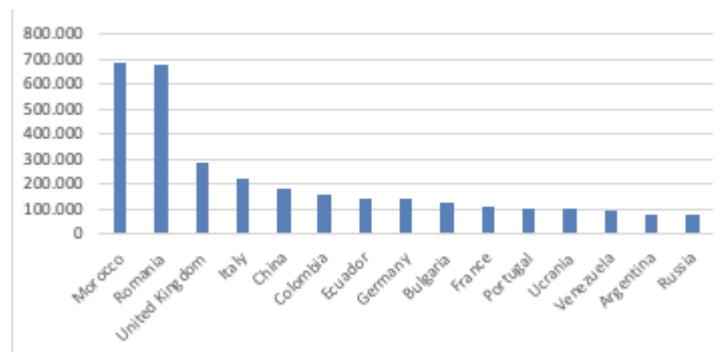


**Figure 4** Foreigners' women distribution in Italy

Looking at the employment rate, ISTAT<sup>7</sup> estimates that 50,2% of foreign women are employed in Italy with only one percentage point more than women born in Italy. On the other hand, there is an existing gap of 17.6% compared to men. Regarding the unemployment rate, the rate of unemployment for foreign women is 16.4%, 5% more compared to men and 4% more compared to Italian women).

## Spain

As reported in the International Migration Outlook (2019), Spain hosted in 2018 6.2 million foreigners in 2018, of which 52% were women, accounting for 13% of the resident population. Main countries of birth were Morocco (12%) and Romania (10%), as also confirmed by the Spanish Statistics Institute (INE)<sup>8</sup> (see figure below).



**Figure 5** Foreigners in Spain: 2018.

<sup>7</sup> ISTAT. Rilevazione sulle forze di lavoro. Available at <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/8263>

<sup>8</sup> Data available at <https://www.statista.com/statistics/445784/foreign-population-in-spain-by-nationality/>

According to OECD (2018)<sup>9</sup>, in 2016, there were 15,755 asylum claims. In 2017, the number grows to 31 563, showing an annual increase of 91%. In terms of countries of arrival, in 2017 the vast majority was from Venezuela (10,511) followed by Syria (4,271) and Colombia (2,487).

As reported in the International Migration Outlook 2018 dedicated to Spain, regarding migrants "In 2017, Spain received 324,000 new immigrants on a long-term or permanent basis (including changes of status and free mobility), 8.3% more than in 2016. This figure comprises 43.8% immigrants benefiting from free mobility, 9.4% labour migrants, 36% family members (including accompanying family) and 1.3% humanitarian migrants. Around 38,000 permits were issued to tertiary-level international students and 11,000 to temporary and seasonal labour migrants (excluding intra-EU migration). In addition, 60, 000 intra-EU postings were recorded in 2017, an increase of 16% compared to 2016. These posted workers were generally on short-term contracts."

According to OECD data (Figure below) in 2017 in Spain, 5,700 migrants were employed in seasonal work, increasing in comparison to 2016. Other migrants obtained a company transfer visa<sup>10</sup> and 3,260 have been registered as temporary workers.

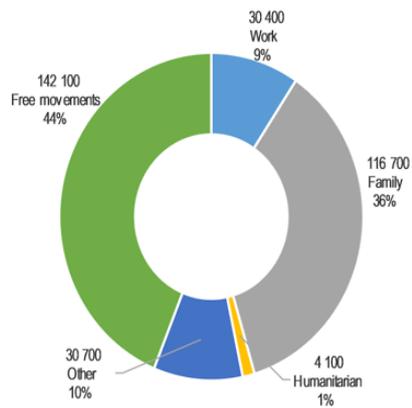
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<sup>9</sup> OECD (2018), "Migration Snapshot of the city of Barcelona", in Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Barcelona, OECD Publishing, Paris.

<sup>10</sup> This permit is granted to work as a manager, specialist and trainee employees for short trips from a company established outside the European Union to a host entity belonging to the same company or group of companies established in Spain.



Long-term immigration flows  
(Source: OECD)



Temporary labour migration (non-EU citizens)

	2017	2017/16
Working holidaymakers	..	..
Seasonal workers	5 720	+ 101%
Intra-company transfers	1 820	+ 41%
Other temporary workers	3 260	+ 23%

Education (non-EU citizens)

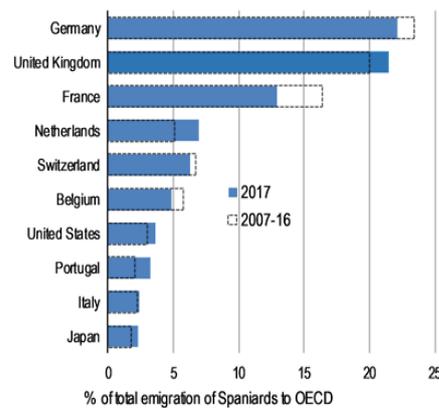
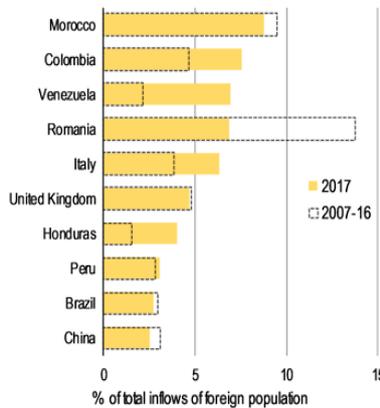
	2017	2017/16
International students	37 530	+ 11%
Trainees	..	..

Humanitarian

	2018	2018/17
Asylum seekers	52 750	+ 73%

Temporary migration  
(Source: OECD)

Inflows of top 10 nationalities  
(national definition)



Emigration of Spaniards to OECD countries  
(national definition)

Components of population growth

	2017	2017/16
Total	2.8	+0.9
Natural increase	-0.7	-0.7
Net migration plus statistical adjustments	3.5	+1.6

Annual remittances

	Million current USD	Annual change %	Share in GDP %
Inflows (2018)	12 301	+15.6	0.9
Outflows (2017)	362	+19.2	0.0

Labour market outcomes

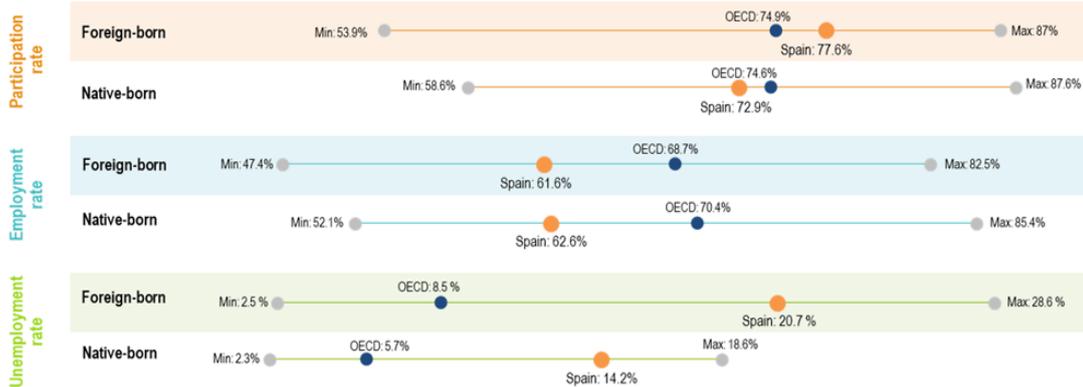


Figure 6 Migrants in Spain. Source: OECD, 2019.

## Greece

According to the OECD (2019), in 2016 in Greece, there were 0.6 million of foreigners, the 6% of the total population, coming mainly from Albania (48%), Georgia (7%), Russia (5%). In total, 54% were women. Looking at the evolution from 2010 since 2016, it is possible to count a decrease of 22% of the foreign population.

In 2017, around 630,000 foreign-born people were residing in Greece and countries of origin were: Albania, Georgia and China. In particular, in 2017, 31.9% of new migrants obtained residence permit longer than 12 months in 2017. As reported by the OECD "This figure comprises 6.7% labour migrants, 46% family members (including accompanying family), 2.8% who came for education reasons and 44.4% other migrants. Around 800 permits were issued to tertiary-level international students (excluding intra-EU migration) and 4 800 to temporary labour migrants. In addition, 8 100 intra-EU postings were recorded in 2017, an increase of 27% compared to 2016. These posted workers were generally on short-term contracts."

On the other hand, in 2018, the number of asylum applicants increased by 14.1%, to account for approximately 65,000 people coming from Syria (13 000), Afghanistan (12,000) and Iraq (9,600). The arrivals by sea were estimated at 32,500 people, compared to 29,700 in 2017. The majority originated from Afghanistan (26%), Syria (24%) and Iraq (18%).

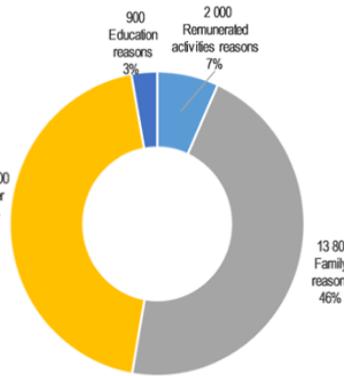
In 2017-2018, Greece implemented a biennial procedure for determining the number of people of admitted updating some criteria, such as: quotas for highly qualified workers, employees, seasonal and temporary workers. Accordingly, the residence permit for exceptional reasons (case-by-case regularisation) was extended to three years.

Particular attention is given to education of foreigners; according to Greek legislation, education is compulsory until the age of 15, and in January 2018 the government announced a pilot programme on language and cultural education for adult refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and for those aged 15-18 years.

According to the statistics reported by the OECD (2019), in Figure 5, in 2017 in Greece there were 5,699 temporary migrants (non considering EU citizens) divided as follows: 4,770 migrant workers and 830 international students. In 2018, the number of asylum seekers was equal to 64,900. Other data show the inflows of nationalities and labour market outcomes.



Grants of long-term residence permits (Source: Eurostat)



**Temporary migration (non-EU citizens)**

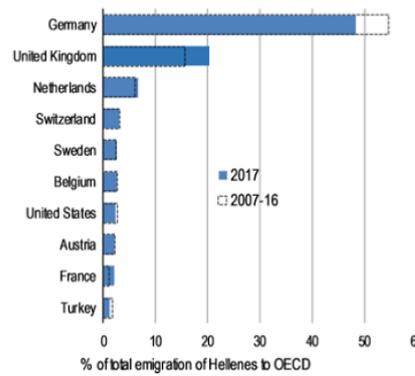
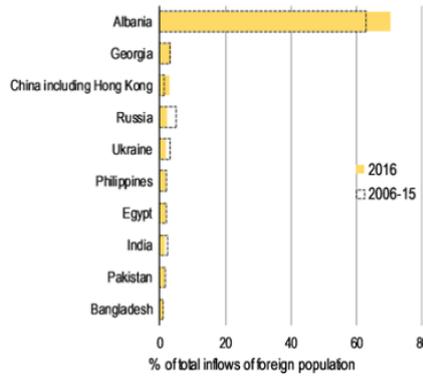
	2017	2017/16
Labour migrants	4 770	..
International students	830	..

**Humanitarian**

	2018	2018/17
Asylum seekers (2018)	64 990	+ 14%

Temporary migration (Source: Eurostat)

Inflows of top 10 nationalities (national definition)



Emigration of Hellenes to OECD countries (national definition)

**Components of population growth**

	2017	2017/16
	Per 1 000 inhabitants	% change
Total	-2.5	-1.1
Natural increase	-3.3	-0.9
Net migration plus statistical adjustments	0.8	-0.2

**Annual remittances**

	Million current USD	Annual change %	Share in GDP %
Inflows (2018)	406	+1.3	0.2
Outflows (2017)	2 082	+15.7	1.0

**Labour market outcomes**



**Figure 7 Migrants in Greece. Source: OECD. 2019**

## 2.1.3 The phenomenon at pilot-location level

### *Bologna*

In Italy, the REBUILD pilot is developed in Emilia Romagna and, in particular, it works on an urban scale in the city of Bologna.

As already mentioned in the national overview, North Italian regions account for the highest concentration of foreigners. Among these regions, Emilia Romagna is the region with the higher concentration of foreigners (on the total number of inhabitants). According to the Regional Report on migrations and demography<sup>11</sup>, in January 2018, the region hosted 551.222 foreigners, namely 12.3% of the total population. In 2019, it is possible to notice a slight increase (+2.3%).

Foreign citizens are mainly resident in the province of Piacenza (14.8%), Parma (14.2%), Modena (13.3%) and Reggio Emilia (12.4%) and they are mostly coming from Romania, (with more than 95,000 residents), Morocco and Albania. Average age of foreigners is 34 years old. Data update in January 2019 estimated that foreign minors residing in the Region are 117.000: 16% of the minors living in the Region, while the number of new-borns from foreign parents, in 2018, is 7.860 (23.4% of the total born). Following the national trend, 52.9% of the foreign citizens are women.

Looking at data updated in January 2019, foreign citizens in the province of Bologna are 122.126 (12% of the entire population). Bologna is ranked as the 6th city for foreign citizens (before Rimini, Forlì, Cesena and Ferrara). The distribution of foreigners in the province of Bologna is quite diversified: 15.5% of residents live in the city of Bologna. The remaining are scattered around the Metropolitan Area (former Province of Bologna). It is relevant to notice that, in the last sixteen years, the number of people residing in the province of Bologna has increased by 215%.

Looking at gender and age dimensions, national and regional trends are confirmed, and - as said - most of the foreigners are women (54.3%) with an average age of 36.8 years. The average age for foreign men population is 32 years old. Minors represent 16.3 of the total number of foreigners' resident in the area.

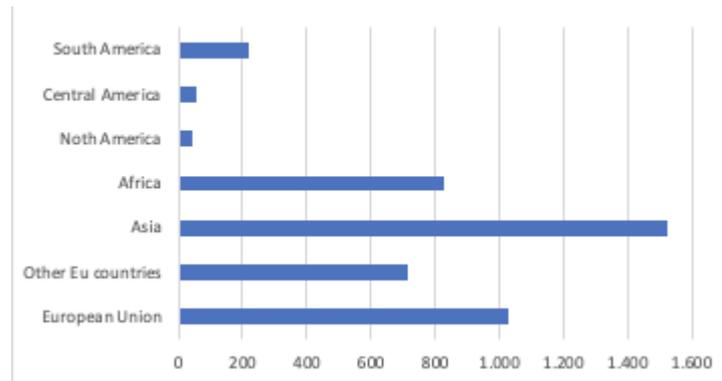
Looking at the open data provided by the Municipality of Bologna, the number of foreigners<sup>12</sup> in Bologna in 2018 was 4.441<sup>13</sup>. Most of them are coming from Asia (1.414 people) followed by European Union (1.028) and Africa (712).

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<sup>11</sup> Osservatorio Regionale sul fenomeno migratorio. (2019). Available at <http://sociale.regione.emilia-romagna.it/immigrati-e-stranieri/temi/osservatorio-regionale-sul-fenomeno-migratorio/cittadini-stranieri-residenti-e-dinamiche-demografiche-dati-al-1-1-2019>

<sup>12</sup> Please notice that for the open data portal are defined foreigners all the people that move their official residency in Bologna <http://inumeridibolognametropolitana.it/dati-statistici/immigrati-stranieri-secondo-la-provenienza-e-la-cittadinanza>

<sup>13</sup> Data available here <http://inumeridibolognametropolitana.it/dati-statistici/immigrati-cittadinanza-serie-storica>



**Figure 8 Provenance of foreigners in Bologna in 2018.**

In terms of gender balance, women (2339) are more present than men (2079) and the most numerous age group is between 25-34 years old. Details are reported in the table below.

Age	Men	Women	Total
00-02	59	72	131
03-05	54	58	112
06-14	154	128	282
15-24	627	411	1038
25-34	638	684	1322
35-44	319	365	684
45-54	139	283	422
55-64	61	251	312
over 65	21	87	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.072</b>	<b>2.339</b>	<b>4.411</b>

**Table 1 Foreigners in Bologna by gender and age.**

Despite the data described above, mainly single adult men were involved during the Bologna pilot, because of the following reasons:

- Cooperative CIDAS, NGO partner of Rebuild, manages first and second reception centres for asylum seekers, holders of international and humanitarian protection on the territory of Bologna.
- Within this specific target group, as shown by the graphic info published by the Municipality of Bologna in June 2019 ( <https://www.bolognacares.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Caratteristiche-beneficiari-e-SPRAR-SIPROIMI-31-05-2019.pdf>), the percentage of women is considerably lower than that of men.
- The majority of women hosted in Bologna's care facilities are mothers with children. Care work has significantly limited their participation in REBUILD project's activities.

## Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is one of the 74 regional units of Greece and the second largest, with a total population of 1.110.551 inhabitants. It is part of the Region of Central Macedonia and its capital is the city of Thessaloniki, with a population of 315.196 inhabitants<sup>14</sup>. The latest available data concerning migrants and refugees in Greece has been published on December 31st, 2018<sup>15</sup>. The total number of immigrants residing in Greece is estimated at 116.867 people. At the time of writing it appears that no official statistics are available for the area of Thessaloniki. For this reason, the data here reported are related to the migrant and refugee population as they have been reported by UNHCR and IOM. Thessaloniki has been selected as the proper area for the pilot because it act as a base for several organizations working with asylum seekers and refugee population as well as providing services related to the scope of the project. Additionally, in the city of Thessaloniki and the greater urban area, a large number of the target population is residing. Moreover, Thessaloniki is the administrative center of central Macedonia with seven Hospitals providing tertiary health care, and the base of the Greece Asylum Office.

According to UNHCR, until December 24th 2019, in the region of Central Macedonia, the total population of refugees and asylum seekers hosted in the ESTIA Accommodation scheme was 3,191 people. Regarding the ESTIA partners that are active within the Municipality of Thessaloniki under the REACT scheme (Refugee Assistance Collaboration Thessaloniki), according to the most recent available data (August 2019), the total population was 766 people residing in 176 apartments.

Within the regional urban area of Thessaloniki there are 4 sites active: Diavata with a hosted population of 984 people, Vagiochori with 797 people, Lagadikia with 462 and Volvi 1006, while in the broader area, within a distance of maximum 82 kilometers, there are four active additional camps: Nea Kavala (781), Alexandria (608 people), Veria (449) and Kato Milia (315)<sup>16</sup>

## Barcelona

As reported by the OECD (2018) "Barcelona (Ajuntament de Barcelona) is the second most populated city in Spain with more than 1 620 809 inhabitants. It is the most populated city of the region (Autonomous Community of Catalonia) which includes 7.5 million people. There are provinces within the Autonomous Communities (4 provinces in Catalonia, for example) and the city of Barcelona is part of the province of Barcelona (TL3) and is at the heart of a metropolitan area of 3.2 million residents. In the city there are ten municipal districts - the most granular territorial and administrative unity - and 73 neighbourhoods in the metropolitan area. In 2018, relevant competences for migrant integration are the remit of central, regional and local governments whereas provincial and metropolitan bodies do not have competences in terms of migrant integration and do not implement policies pertaining to it. Yet, the provincial level remains used for statistical purposes"<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1210503/FEK\\_monimos\\_rev.pdf/125204a0-726f-46fe-a141-302d9e7a38dc](https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1210503/FEK_monimos_rev.pdf/125204a0-726f-46fe-a141-302d9e7a38dc)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/63673834-40e3-4eb3-a33a-efc54cb04de9>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.react-thess.gr/category/%ce%b5%ce%bd%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%b5%cf%81%cf%89%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%cf%8c-%ce%b4%ce%b5%ce%bb%cf%84%ce%af%ce%bf/>

<sup>17</sup> OECD. 2018. Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Barcelona. Available at <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/working-together-for-local-integration-of-migrants->

According to the data provided by Idescat (2016) the foreign residents in 2016 were 267.790, accounted for 16.6% of the population. Within this number, 31% comes from EU countries while the 63.9% from non-EU countries.

	Barcelona		Catalonia	Spain
	Absolute numbers	Foreign as a % of total population	Foreign as a % of total population	Foreign as a % of total population
2000	53 428	3.5%	2.9%	2.3%
2005	230 942	14.2%	11.4%	9.5%
2010	284 632	17.6%	16%	12.5%
2016	267 790	16.6%	13.6%	9.9%

**Table 2 Changes in population of foreign residents at local, regional and national levels (Source: Idescat, Padrò Municipal d'habitants, Local Census) reported by OECD (2018).**

Looking at the population trend in Barcelona<sup>18</sup>, the main industrial sectors where migrants have been employed are the following: wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities, domestic work and personal care. In terms of employment contracts, 22.9% are employed through fixed terms contracts, while 66% of an unlimited-term contracts. These figures could be compared to Spanish workers, respectively engaged with 20.5% of temporary contracts and 79.5% on unlimited contracts. Looking at data shared by IERMB (2018) in 2016 foreigners unemployment rate was 23%, while for the Spanish it was at 13.4%. Differences are also evident when talking about over qualification. As in the OECD database, at regional level over qualification for foreign born people reached 15.62% while for native born overqualification was estimated at 17.19%.

Such data can be reflected in the discrimination among foreigners and native born in terms of exclusion and risk of poverty. OECD, indeed, estimates that the risk of poverty is at 19%, higher than for the native born (17.6%). The difference is also greater if we consider housing. As reported by the Municipality, in relation to housing costs, risk of poverty is at 29.6%.

Even if 92% of the residents are satisfied with the quality of life offered by the city (European Commission, 2016), inequalities are increasing above all for the migrants showing gaps between native and foreigners, having a strong impact on women, and producing several issues related to spatial segregation by income (OECD, 2016).

[and-refugees-in-barcelona/migration-snapshot-of-the-city-of-barcelona\\_9789264304062-5-en.jsessionid=Fb4nE0v\\_vIG5JslUx7w-khJ.ip-10-240-5-152](https://www.oecd.org/migration/migration-snapshot-of-the-city-of-barcelona_9789264304062-5-en.jsessionid=Fb4nE0v_vIG5JslUx7w-khJ.ip-10-240-5-152)

<sup>18</sup> OECD (2018), "Migration Snapshot of the city of Barcelona", in Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Barcelona, OECD Publishing, Paris.

## 2.2 MIGRANTS AND LABOUR

The statistics about “migrants” include all the non-EU, or third country nationals who reside legally in the European Union, whose situation is legally different from those of foreign citizens from another EU member state. With reference to the labour market, the OCSE 2018 Report stresses how “not all third-country nationals have access to the labour market and there are greater restrictions on their mobility within the European Union. Their reasons for migrating are also likely to be different from those that prompt EU nationals to move and are more often related to asylum or family reunification” (p.225).

The EU equality framework includes a number of provisions that involve and equal working conditions and equal access to goods and services for third-country nationals. It is sensible to recall here the Directive 2000/43/EC on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, that explicitly guarantees equal conditions for:

- a) access to employment, to self-employment and to occupation, including selection criteria and recruitment conditions, whatever the branch of activity and at all levels of the professional hierarchy, including promotion;
- b) access to all types and to all levels of vocational guidance, vocational training, advanced vocational training and retraining, including practical work experience;
- c) employment and working conditions, including dismissals and pay;
- d) membership of and involvement in an organisation of workers or employers, or any organisation whose members carry on a particular profession, including the benefits provided for by such organisations;

Furthermore, the Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy, adopted in 2004 and reaffirmed in 2014, define employment as a key part of the integration process, central to the participation of immigrants, to the contributions immigrants make to the host society, and to making such contributions visible.

Furthermore, employment is one of the core “Zaragoza indicators” and it is often considered to be the single most important indicator of integration. Adopted in April 2010 by EU Ministers responsible for integration, and approved at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 3-4 June 2010, the Zaragoza Declaration identifies key indicators of migrant integration in Europe: Employment rate; Early leavers from education and training; Tertiary education; At risk of poverty or social exclusion; Long-term residence; Naturalisation rate.

Jobs are crucial instruments of economic empowerment and social integration; as main source of income for migrant families, employment situation is deeply related to all dimensions, such as accommodation, education, health assistance and general life satisfaction. Furthermore, being economically interspersed with the working class of the host-country contributes to social acceptance of migrants and to the inclusion of the entire family.

As recognised by OECD, beyond the mere employment level, the quality of work has a great importance.

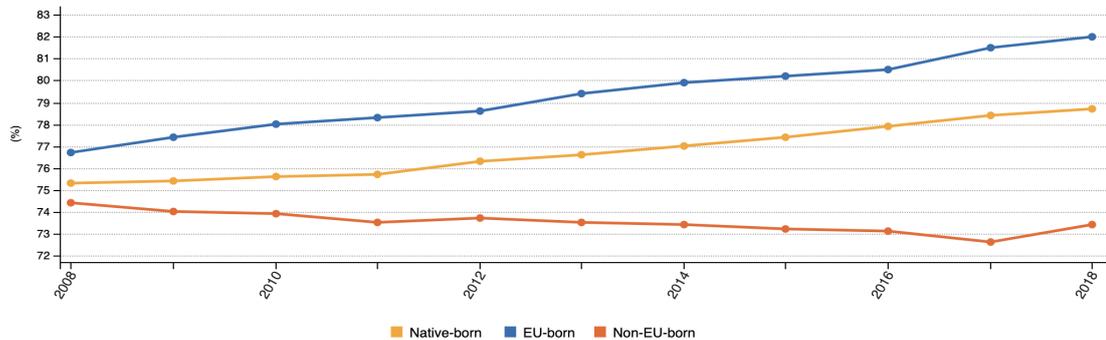
Individual skills and qualifications are traditional determinants in immigrants’ economic and social integration. However, as highlighted by the data presented in the further sections, personal education and labour skills are not sufficient predictors of the degree of integration of immigrants actually nor of the possibility of obtaining a fair position in the labour market.

Data presented in the following sections are by Eurostat (*Migration and migrant population statistics, 2018*<sup>19</sup>) and by OECD publications *Settling in 2018. Indicators of Migrants Integration*<sup>20</sup> and *International Migration Outlook 2019*<sup>21</sup>.

## 2.2.1 Employment

Data from the 2018 OECD - EC *Indicators of Immigration* Report show that in EU countries foreign-born employment rates are lower than the native ones.

In particular, in 2018, the EU employment rate for people aged from 20 to 64 was 64.5 % for those born outside the EU, 73.9 % for the native-born population and 76.5 % for those born in another EU Member State. In 2018, the EU unemployment rate for people aged from 20 to 64 was 12.2 % for those born outside the EU, 6.1 % for the native-born population and 6.8 % for those born in another EU Member State.



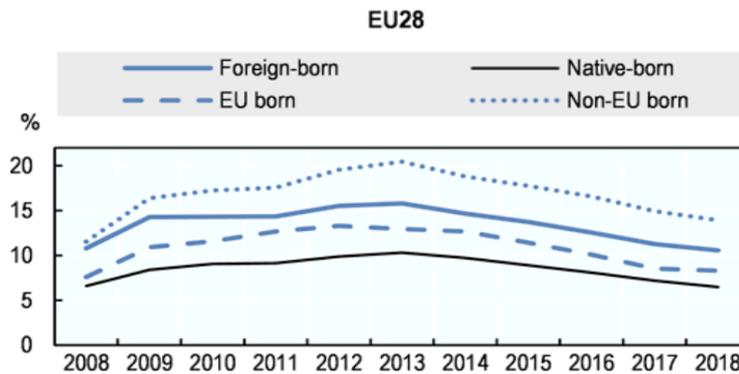
**Figure 9 Activity rates for the population aged 20-64, European Countries, 2008-2018. Source: Eurostat.**

Other cross-national trends can be derived from OECD data, showing how immigrant employment rates exceed 70% in countries where immigration is mostly labour-driven and highly skilled, such as Switzerland and the UK. In parallel, it has to be stressed how the economic crisis had a consequence on the unemployment gaps between immigrants and native-born, which have widened in both OECD and EU countries, most notably in Southern Europe. In general, if we consider the period 2009-14, immigrant unemployment rates remained higher than 15% in Europe, five percentage points more than native-born workers. The situation of the unemployment rates partially improved for the first time in 2018, with the persisting exceptions of Southern European countries (except Portugal), Sweden, Finland and France, where more than 13% of migrants were still unemployed in 2018.

<sup>19</sup> Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics#Migration\\_flows:\\_Immigration\\_to\\_the\\_EU\\_from\\_non-member\\_countries\\_was\\_2.4\\_million\\_in\\_2017](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migration_flows:_Immigration_to_the_EU_from_non-member_countries_was_2.4_million_in_2017)

<sup>20</sup> Available at: [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2018\\_9789264307216-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2018_9789264307216-en)

<sup>21</sup> Available at: [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook\\_1999124x](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook_1999124x)

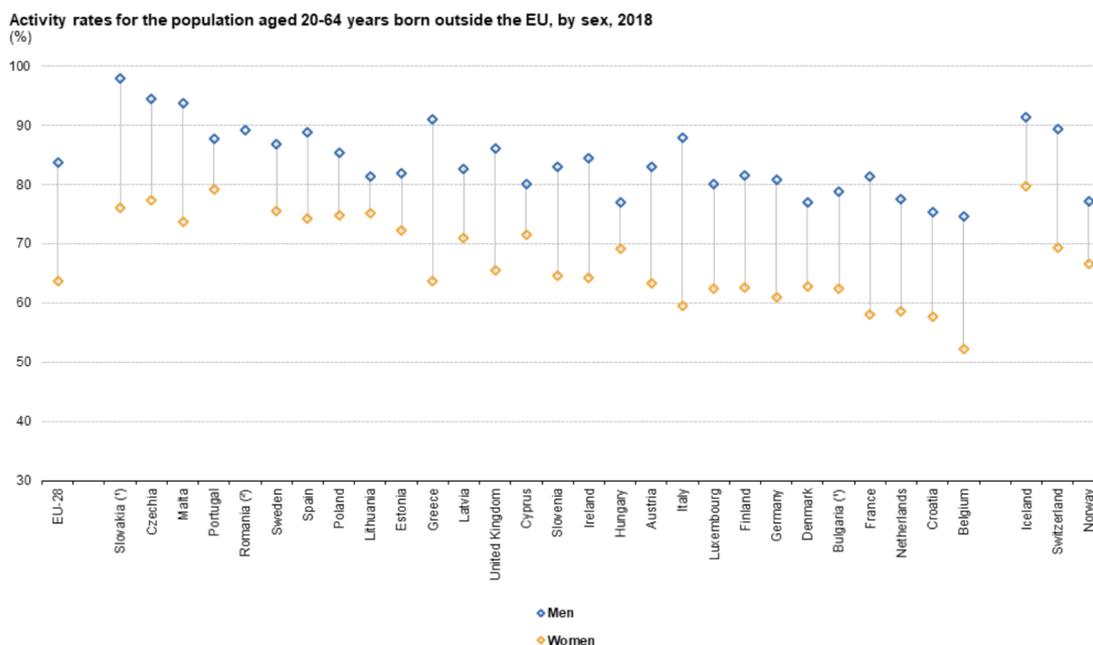


**Figure 10 Unemployment rates by place of birth, 2007-18. Percentages of the active population aged 15-64. Source: OECD 2019.**

If we look at the individual level, the economic schism between Northern and Southern EU countries is accompanied by common determinants of labour market integration across immigrant groups, involving individuals' gender, age, education and regions of origin (inside-outside EU).

With reference to the traditional dimension of gender, we know that activity rates for women are systematically lower than the corresponding rates recorded for men. Once again, last available data show how the gender gap hits particularly women born outside the EU: for those women, the activity rate (63.7 %) was in fact 20.1 percentage points lower than the one recorded for men (83.8%) (Eurostat, 2019).

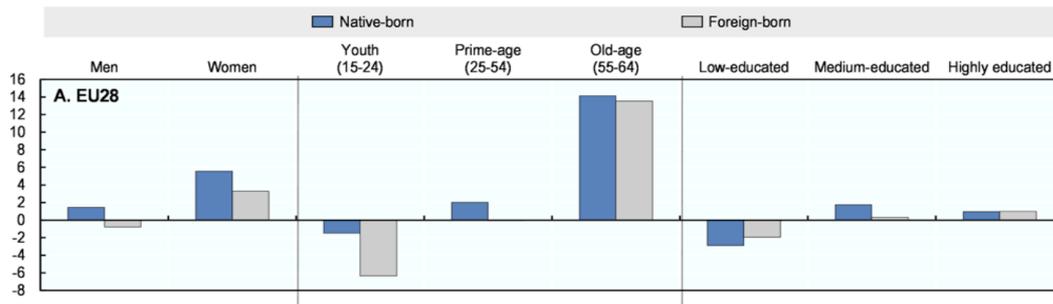
This gap market participation hit its peak in Italy (28.4 points) and Greece (27.2 points), two of the countries engaged in REBUILD pilots. In Belgium, the activity rate for women born outside the EU was just over half (52.2 %). On the contrary, the activity rate for women born outside the EU is comparable to the one involving men in Portugal, Lithuania, Hungary, Cyprus and Estonia (Eurostat, 2019).



**Figure 11 Activity rates for the population aged 20-64 years born outside the EU, by sex, 2018. Source: Eurostat.**

If we look at the longitudinal trends in migrants' employment conditions, we can identify a similar trend. In the period 2007-2018, we can observe how the number of employed immigrants born in another EU country increased by 80%, while employment of those born outside the EU increased by only 24%.

In general, women and older people (55-64) experienced the greatest improvement in their employment rates in the EU. However, for immigrant women, the increase in employment rates was smaller than among the native-born, while the very large increase in employment rates observed for the older immigrants is similar to that of native-born old-age workers (+14 percentage points for both groups). This trend is largely explained by their rising participation in the labour market due to the ongoing population ageing.

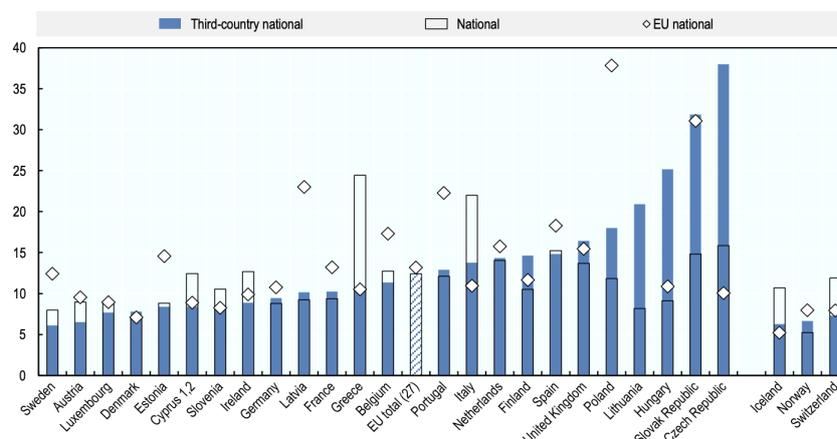


**Figure 12 Change in the employment rate across various demographic groups, 2018 compared to 2007. Source: OECD.**

The issue of unemployment involves other dimensions of migrant integration: it is clear that unemployed immigrants are less likely to receive unemployment benefits compared to native-born in the EU.

The lack of measures of assistance for foreign-born unemployed, added to the bureaucratic requirements linked to temporary working permits and the general weaker personal and social networks around migrants have contributed to the consolidation of another feature of migrants' employment that is the general acceptance of low-skilled jobs, often involving overqualified workers.

On average in the EU and OECD, over one in four low-skilled jobs is held by an immigrant. This percentage rises to over 40% in Austria, Germany, Sweden and Norway, and over 60% in Switzerland and Luxembourg (Cfr. section 2.2.2).



**Figure 13 Self-employed workers, by citizenship. Percentages, excluding the agricultural sector, 15- to 64-year-olds in employment, 2015-16. Source: OECD, 2018.**

## Self-employment

With the label “self-employed workers” statistics indicate all the people who work in their own firms or create their own businesses, sometimes hiring employees: it is a wide category, involving different kinds of entrepreneurs, the liberal professions, artisans, traders, and many other freelance activities, excluding agricultural entrepreneurship.

According to the last OECD-EU report, “about 1 million third-country nationals (TCN) and roughly 1.1 million EU foreigners are self-employed in the EU. At 12%, the self-employment rates of third- and host-country nationals are similar, whereas they are 1 percentage point higher among EU foreigners” (p.236).

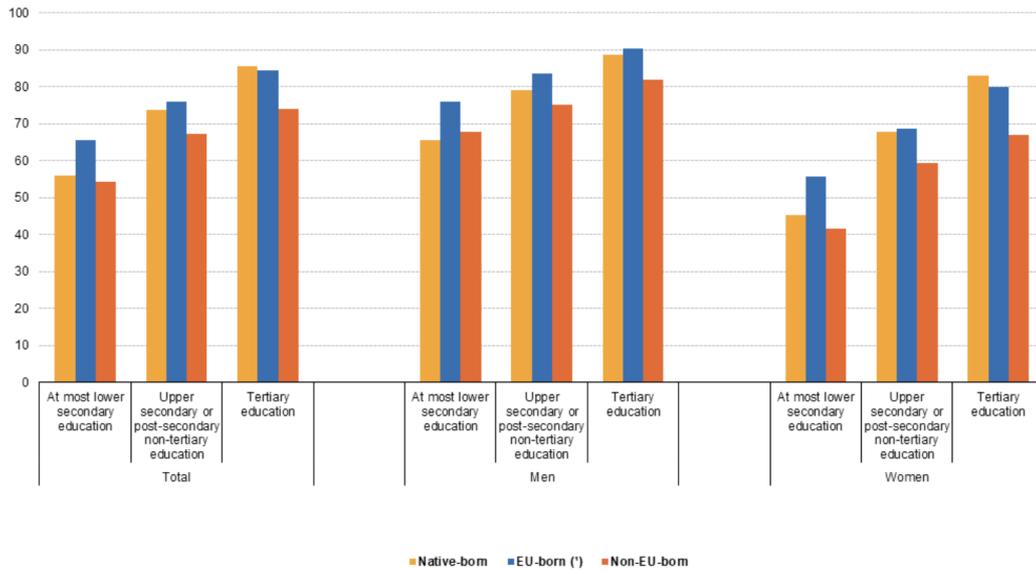
Lower share of migrants in the country seems to be a strong predictor of TCN self-employment. In fact, in countries where the numbers of immigrants are low (such as some Central European countries, for example) more than 25% of third-country nationals are self-employed, double the share of nationals.

On the contrary, the percentage of self-employed is lower in countries with larger numbers of migrants: in Italy and Greece, for instance, more than one in five employed nationals are self-employed, but only between one in seven to one in nine third-country nationals.

The economic crisis had a role in influencing the percentage of TNC entrepreneurs: as stressed by the same report, “in the 10 years following the economic crisis, the share of the self-employed among non-EU nationals increased by 3 percentage points, fell by 2 points among their host-country peers, and remained the same among EU foreigners”, with the most relevant oscillations involving countries worst hit by the economic crisis. In those countries (and namely Southern European countries and Ireland), self-employment constitutes a strategy to remain in the labour market, often after losing the previous occupation in a situation of economic hardship and diffuse unemployment. Not by coincidence, “the observed growth in these countries was partly driven by self-employed with no employees”, especially in Southern Europe, where small businesses are likely to be grounded on the owner's work alone.

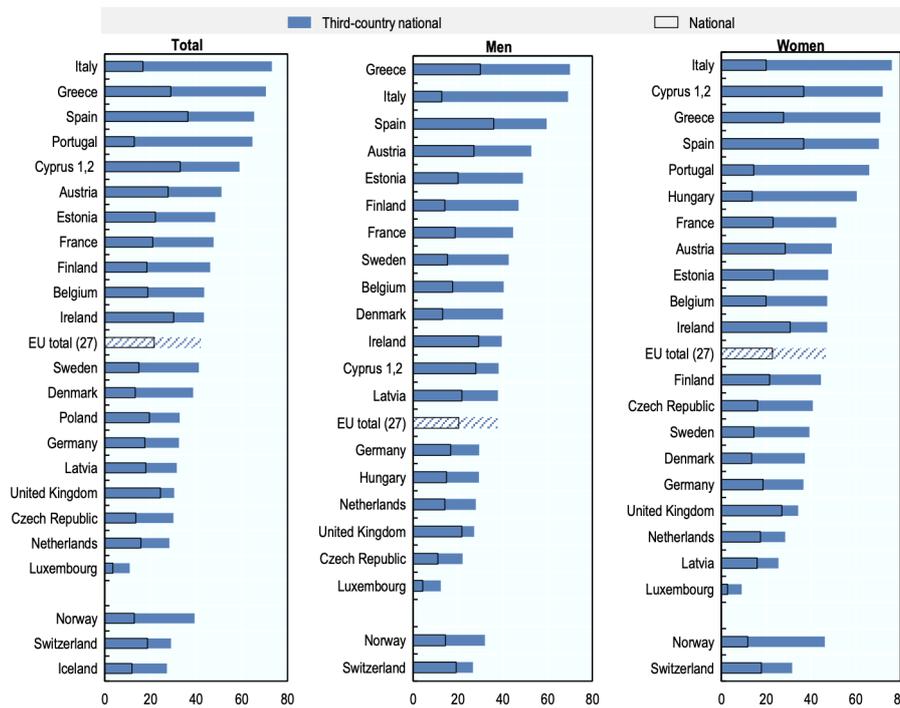
### 2.2.2 Overqualified/underqualified

If we look at the educational level, overqualification seems to be one of the most common features of migrants' employment conditions. The phenomenon involves 2.9 million highly educated immigrants in the EU out of a total share of 11 million people. In addition, 2.4 million are unemployed. Taken together in both areas, this is almost 45% of the highly educated immigrant population whose formal qualifications are not – or not fully – used, compared with the 30% of the highly educated native-born EU. The reasons between overqualification are several. First, there is an issue related to degree recognition. In many cases, the EU does not value foreign as highly as native degrees. In the EU, the employment rate of non-EU migrants with foreign credentials is 14 percentage points lower than that of their peers with host-country qualifications.



**Figure 14 Employment rates for the population aged 20-64 years, by sex, education level and country of birth, EU-28, 2018 (%). Source: EUROSTAT.**

The figure that follows shows that the three countries included as pilots in REBUILD are those that show the highest level of overqualified migrant workers among EU countries.



**Figure 15 Over-qualification rates, by citizenship and gender. Percentages of highly educated, 15- to 64-year-olds, 2015-16. Source: OECD 2018.**

If we compare host-country occupational status against previous occupational status or human capital of experience and qualifications, refugees, more than the other groups of immigrants, seem

to be affected by under-employment. The situation is somehow deteriorated by the difficult recognition of already-acquired qualifications, due to physical or institutional barriers.

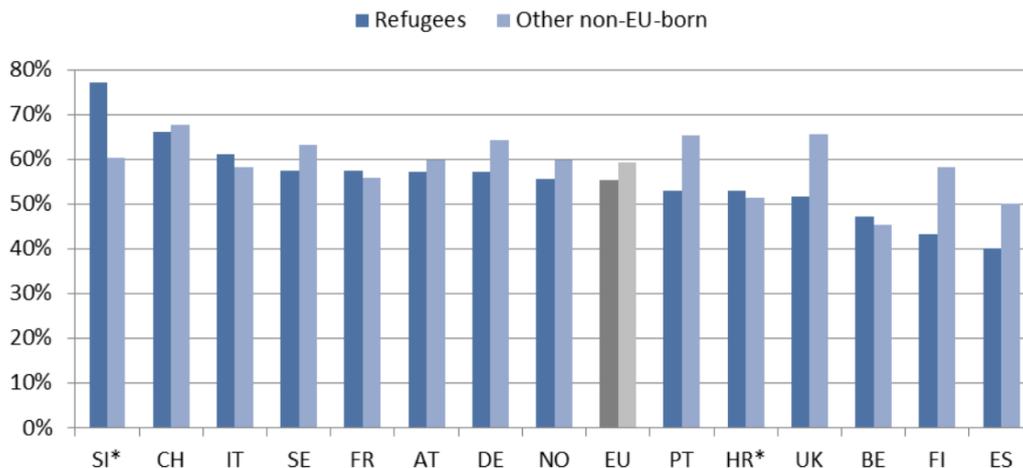
The joint OECD Secretariat - DG Employment Report *How are Refugees Faring on the Labour Market in Europe?* provides evidence about the employment situation of refugees across Member States in the light of data provided by the 2014 EU Labour Force Survey (LFS) *Ad Hoc Module on the Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants*<sup>22</sup>.

Although referring to data related to the year 2004, some general information can be noted specifically on refugees' employment in comparison to other non-EU born workers.

First of all, the report confirms the extreme economic and social precariousness of refugees, who "have lower employment rates on average than other migrant groups except family migrants. On average, in the European Union in 2014, only 56% of refugees are employed, and refugees' unemployment rate reaches 19%.

Fig. 15 describes the employment rate of refugees, that is characterised by a high level of cross-national variation. According to the report, in fact, in some countries (namely Belgium, France, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia) refugees show higher employment rates than non EU-born migrants.

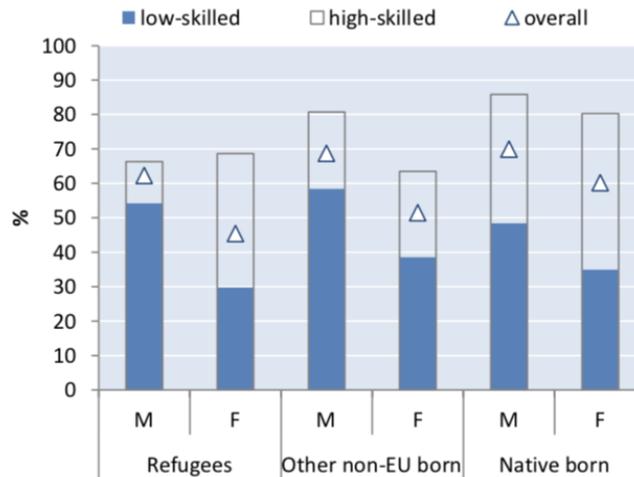
The opposite trend is recorded in Finland, the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal, where the employment rate of refugees is consistently lower, with "only around 40% of refugees are employed in Spain and Finland compared to 66% in Switzerland and more than 60% in Italy, Greece and Malta" (p.18).



**Figure 16 Employment rate of refugees and other non-EU born in the European Union, 2014.**  
Source EC - OECD 2016.

<sup>22</sup> The 2014 LFS ad hoc module covers 25 countries of the European Union (Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands did not participate), but in 11 EU countries, no refugees or only insignificant numbers were identified (i.e. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Poland and the Slovak Republic). Data on Germany, which have been collected separately,<sup>2</sup> is excluded from some analyses due to the lack of detailed specific information. Data for Norway and Switzerland, which are covered by the ad hoc module, are presented separately whenever possible.

Refugee women have to be considered as a peculiar case of social marginalization. The employment rate is substantially lower than that of male refugees. After checking for controls, the report notices how education somehow mitigates the employment gap, with the employment rate of high-educated refugee women close to 69% (see figure 14), three points higher than their male counterpart.



**Figure 17 Refugees employment rate. Source: Source EC - OECD 2016.**

## 2.3 MIGRANTS AND EDUCATION

The EC Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals - COM(2016) 377 - aimed at supporting EU Member States in their efforts to integrate migrants in their education and training systems, ranging from early childhood education and care to higher education. In particular, the Report identifies three priorities for education:

- to integrate newly arrived migrants into mainstream education structures as early as possible
- to prevent underachievement among migrants
- to prevent social exclusion and foster intercultural dialogue.

In order to identify a range of education indicators, contrasting the situation of migrants with the native population; the information may be used as part of an on-going process to monitor and evaluate migrant integration policies.

Eurostat adopts a number of indicators based on:

- 1) The 2010 *Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on Integration as a Driver for Development and Social Cohesion* (9248/10)<sup>23</sup>;
- 2) The Eurostat 2011 *Indicators of immigrant integration. A pilot study*, based on data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), the European Union Statistics on Income and

<sup>23</sup> <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%209248%202010%20INIT>

Living Conditions (EU-SILC), and Eurostat's migration statistics, as well as the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)<sup>24</sup>;

- 3) The 2013 Report *Using EU indicators of immigrant integration*<sup>25</sup>, prepared at the request of the European Commission by the European Services Network (ESN) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG) as a tool to monitor the integration of immigrants and evaluate integration policies starting from the pilot 'Zaragoza' European integration indicators.

The indicators taken into account are:

- Levels of educational attainment according to the international standard classification of education (ISCED);
- Adult participation in learning (previously referred as to lifelong learning);
- The share of early leavers from education and training;
- The share of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

REBUILD will focus on adult migrants so that in our impact assessment activities we will consider mainly the first two indicators.

### 2.3.1. Years of studies and diplomas

The first dimension involves the global educational attainment. Keeping into consideration the distinction between EU and non-EU born migrants, empirical evidence shows that - on average - immigrant population is less educated than non-immigrant.

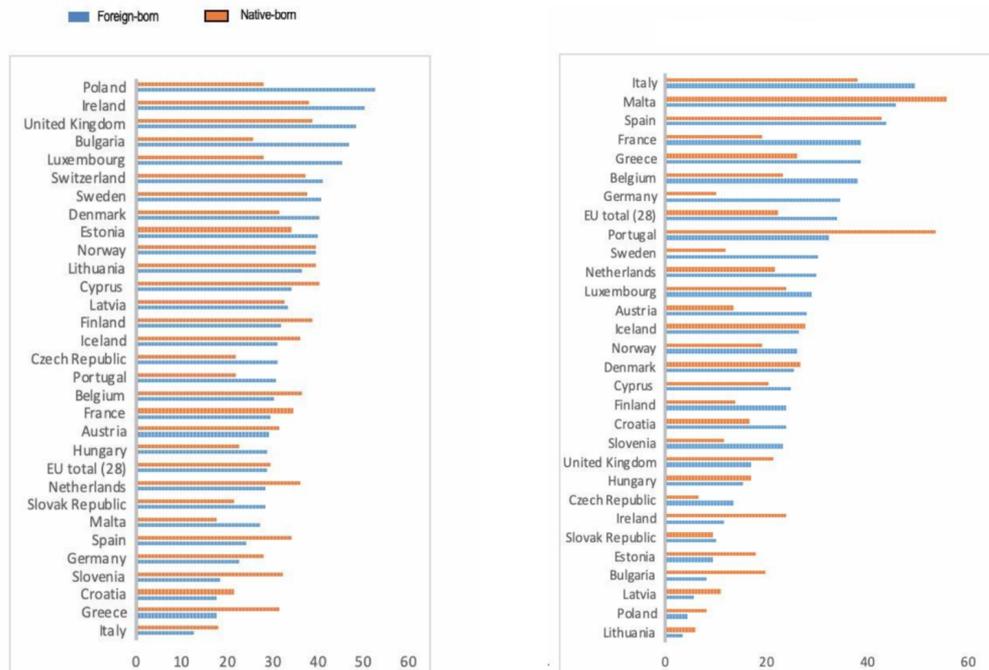
More specifically, the last available data show how 39% of non-EU migrants and 26% of those who are EU-born have low levels of education, against 23% of the native-born. In total, according to OECD 2018 data, there are 13 million poorly educated immigrants in the EU. They outnumber their 11 million highly educated peers, who account for 29% of immigrants. There are, however, differentiated trends within the continent.

Of these low educated, 19% – 2.6 million individuals – are considered to have very low levels of education (they went no further than primary school). While that share has declined by 2.5 percentage points over the last decade, it remains almost 4 times as high as among nationals. In Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Spain, over 25% of non-EU nationals are educated on a very low level. In Central and Eastern Europe, by contrast, less than 2% of third-country nationals have very low levels of education.

With reference to cross-country comparison, it can be noticed that a number of EU countries have been recently interested in migration flows characterized by a large percentage of highly educated migrants. As shown in the figure below, this is true for countries such as Poland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The opposite trend keeps characterising both longstanding European destinations (France, Germany, and the Netherlands) and Southern European countries, where the majority of immigrants are poorly educated.

<sup>24</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3888793/5849845/KS-RA-11-009-EN.PDF/9dcc3b37-e3b6-4ce5-b910-b59348b7ee0c>

<sup>25</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/general/docs/final\\_report\\_on\\_using\\_eu\\_indicators\\_of\\_immigrant\\_integration\\_june\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/general/docs/final_report_on_using_eu_indicators_of_immigrant_integration_june_2013_en.pdf)



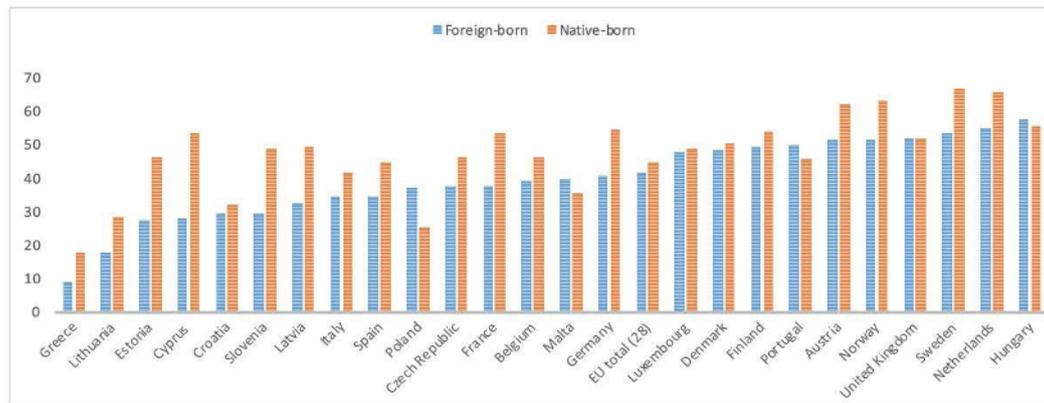
**Figure 18 High and Low - educated. Percentages of 15- to 64-year-olds not in education, 2017.**  
**Source: OECD, 2018**

Children with an immigrant background generally have a higher education than their parents; however, there is a persistent heterogeneity across countries when comparing the levels of migrant and native children. The gap is somehow reduced in Anglo-Saxon European countries and is still consistent in Central and Northern European countries.

The European Expert Network on Economics of Education (EENEE) for the European Commission presented a 2016 report exploring the role of education as a Tool for the Economic Integration of Migrants<sup>26</sup>. In the report, the authors stress how the educational gap between migrants and natives “in some countries can be imputed to differences in socio-economic background and to deficiencies in the host language proficiency, in other countries the sources of these gaps are not easy to identify as they persist even after controlling for a vast array of individual characteristics” (2016, p.4).

In general, however, “apart from historical reasons, a crucial role is played by immigration policies: whether a country applies immigrant selection policies (aimed at attracting high skilled immigrants) or policies emphasizing “guest worker” recruitment, family reunification or refugee movements, shapes the average educational level of first generation immigrants and also affects, via intergenerational transmission, the educational attainment of following generations” (ivi, p.8).

<sup>26</sup> available at: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp9836.pdf>



**Figure 19 Participation in adult education and training among the foreign- and native-born. Percentages of adults, 25- to 64-year-olds, 2016. Source: OECD, 2018.**

As shown in the figure above, “immigrant adults are less likely to participate in formal and non-formal education and training than the native-born in three-quarters of OECD and EU countries. In the EU, 42% attend a course or training, against 45% of their native peers. OECD-wide shares are 5 percentage points higher in both groups” (OECD, 2018, p.70).

When looking at the trends overtime, the OECD report notices how the share of both the foreign- and native-born participating in adult education and training has increased by 4 percentage points in the EU, with persistent cross-national variations. The report attributes immigrants’ lower rates of participation in adult education to the weaker structure of opportunities for migrants’ guidance and counselling on learning activities: “across the EU, about a quarter of the foreign-born enjoy such support, against one-third of the native-born. Indeed, immigrants receive less guidance on learning opportunities than natives in virtually all EU countries do. The gaps are widest in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, the Netherlands and Austria. The sole exceptions are Lithuania, Portugal and Finland. In Finland, for example, almost half of the foreign-born benefit from guidance and counselling, against two-fifths of their native peers” (*ibidem*).

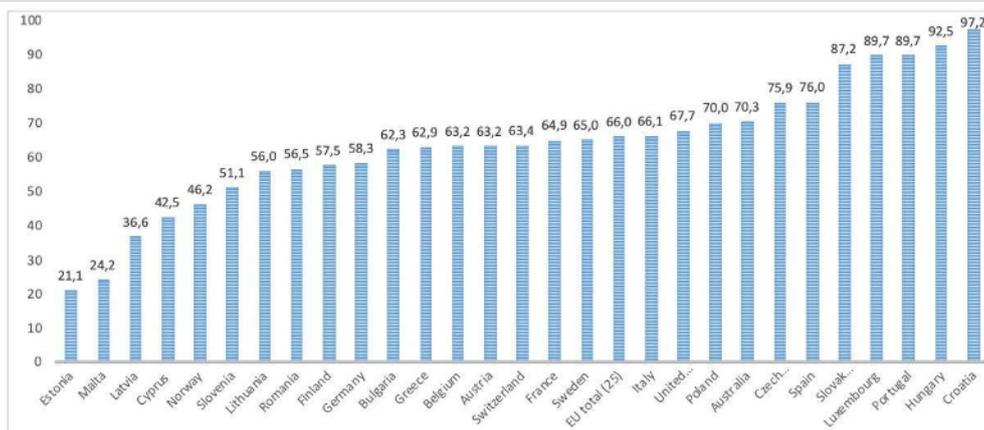
### 2.3.2. Language competence

International statistics provide information about the share of the foreign-born people who report advanced skills in the host country’s main language (or who state that it is their mother tongue). Language competence is considered a crucial tool for migrants’ empowerment that facilitates the possibility to find a job and reach economic subsistence.

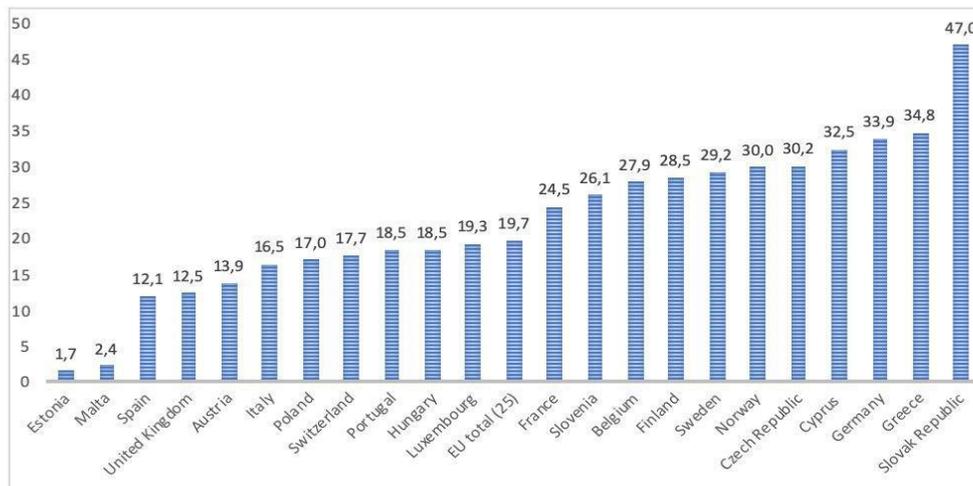
According to the 2018 OECD-EC Report, “two-thirds of the foreign-born population state that they have at least advanced language proficiency in one of the official languages of the host country”. While these statistics consider together both newly arrived people and long-term migrants, the same report stresses how newcomers are generally in need of language courses, with “56% of recently arrived non-native speakers in need of language training have attended classes since their arrival”.

When looking at cross-national trends, we can see how two main determinants of advanced language competence:

- 1) The first one is the time of permanence. As the same report stresses, "among settled immigrants in the EU who are not native speakers, six out of ten report advanced proficiency in the host-language – 20 percentage points more than among recent migrants. The difference is most pronounced in the Slovak Republic, Greece and Germany" (2018, p. 68).
- 2) The second determinant involves the internal characteristics of the host-country in terms of national minorities, with "more than 90% of the foreign-born report(ing) advanced language skills in countries with an immigrant population shaped by national minorities (such as Croatia or Hungary), as well as in Portugal and Luxembourg" (*ibidem*).



**Figure 20 Advanced host-country language proficiency. Percentages of the foreign-born, 15- to 64 year-olds, 2014 (*ibidem*)**



**Figure 21 Shares of advanced host-country language speakers among settled immigrants. Differences in percentage points with recent migrants, foreign-born population who are not native speakers, 15- to 64-year-olds, 2014.**

## 2.4 MIGRANTS AND HEALTH

The discussion about migration and health has to be included in the broader framework of social security systems, aimed at reducing poverty and inequality and promoting social inclusion. In this perspective, by providing security for individuals against specific social risks (such as unemployment, sickness and invalidity) the implementation of effective social security systems is a crucial task of all EU Member States. The benefits of social security systems, in fact, involve productivity, employability and general economic growth.

On 29 May 2017, the 70th World Health Assembly endorsed the Resolution on "Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants"<sup>27</sup>. The document, updating World Health Assembly Resolution 61.17 on the same theme, "urges Member States to consider promoting the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants, including using it to inform discussions among Member States and partners engaged in the development of the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. It also urges Member States to identify and collect evidence-based information, best practices and lessons learned in addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants in order to contribute to the development of a draft global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants".

In the EU context, EU Member States share a common commitment to ensure the well-being of their populations through effective social security systems; however, the rules on who is entitled to social security and healthcare, which benefits are granted and under what conditions, vary significantly.

The Council Conclusions on Health and Migration (15609/07) addressed the topic and acknowledged, "in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the responsibilities of Member States in the development of national policies regarding health of migrants"<sup>28</sup>. The health of migrants has since then continued to be addressed: among others, it is useful to recall the 2010 Spanish Council Conclusions on Equity and Health, that invited member states to "further develop their policies and actions to reduce health inequalities and to participate actively in sharing good practice, taking into account the need for action across all relevant policies"<sup>29</sup> and the more recent 2016 Dutch report, focused on the necessity of establishing best practices investing in social determinants of health<sup>30</sup>.

In parallel, the EU has produced a number of legally binding directives on migrant health. These include:

- 1) Directive 2000/43/EC — implementing equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin<sup>31</sup>,
- 2) The Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents;
- 3) The Council Directive 2003/9/EC laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers.

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<sup>27</sup> The Resolution was co-sponsored by 14 countries; Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Switzerland, Thailand, Zambia.

<sup>28</sup> <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%2015609%202007%20INIT>

<sup>29</sup> <https://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%209947%202010%20INIT>

<sup>30</sup> [http://health-inequalities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Integrated-approaches-to-combating-poverty-and-social-exclusion\\_best-practices.pdf](http://health-inequalities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Integrated-approaches-to-combating-poverty-and-social-exclusion_best-practices.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:I33114&from=EN>

Finally, in 2016, the Commission adopted an action plan on better integrating non-EU migrants<sup>32</sup> that includes several health proposals and a reform of the Blue Card Directive that enables the EU to attract and retain highly skilled non-EU nationals, including healthcare professionals. The proposal also allows refugees to apply for a Blue Card.

In order to identify the different components of improved health systems, we can rely upon the framework established by the European Commission's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC)<sup>33</sup>, that provides detailed, comparable and regularly updated information about national social protection systems addressed to citizens moving within Europe. The framework, although not addressing third-country migrants, proposes a useful categorisation of social security benefits – under eleven groups or 'branches' dedicated to specific 'risks' – and provides a useful basis for identifying the variety of social security benefits involving migrant healthcare in EU states.

In particular, the eleven 'branches' are: (i) Healthcare (ii) Sickness cash benefits (iii) Maternity and paternity benefits (iv) Invalidity benefits (v) Old-age pensions and benefits (vi) Survivors' benefits (vii) Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases (viii) Family benefits (ix) Unemployment benefits (x) Guaranteed minimum resources (xi) Long-term care benefits.

In the absence of Union-level harmonisation of social security policies, significant variations exist in relation to the range of benefits available in the Member States, the way these benefits are financed and the conditions under which the benefits are granted across the above-listed eleven 'branches' of social security indicated by MISSOC. For this reason, the situation of migrants' healthcare varies significantly throughout the EU Member States.

Furthermore, the lack of harmonization of social security measures and health services for migrants has determined another consequence: It is difficult to assess the health situation of migrants from third countries in different European countries in a comparative context. The *Settling in 2018. Indicators of Migrants Integration*<sup>34</sup> adopts only two health indicators of migrants: In both cases these are self-reported indicators, indirect indicators derived from self-assessment of respondents to the survey.

The first indicator involves general self-reported health status, that denotes how people perceive their physiological and psychological health<sup>35</sup>.

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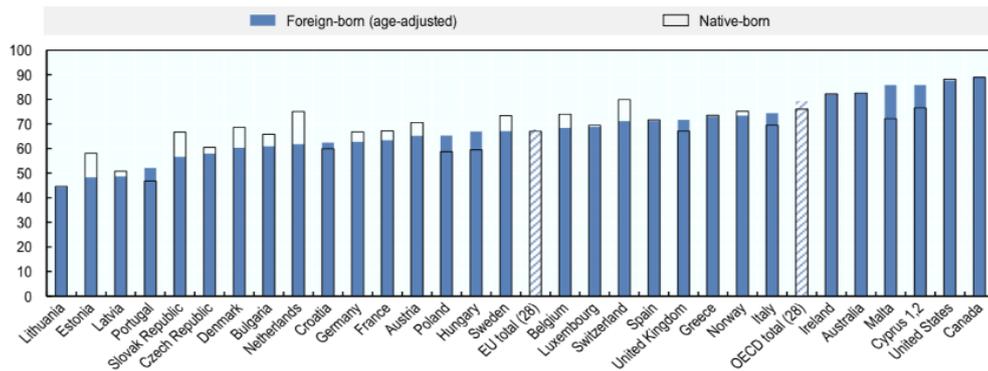
<sup>32</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication\\_action\\_plan\\_integration\\_third-country\\_nationals\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.missoc.org/>

<sup>34</sup> Available at: [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2018\\_9789264307216-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2018_9789264307216-en)

<sup>35</sup>As stated by the report, "since health status is strongly age-dependent, and immigrants tend to be younger in most countries, health status of immigrants is adjusted to estimate what outcomes would be if immigrants had the same age structure as the native-born".

Percentage, aged 16 and above, 2016



**Figure 22 Good health status. Source: OECD 2018.**

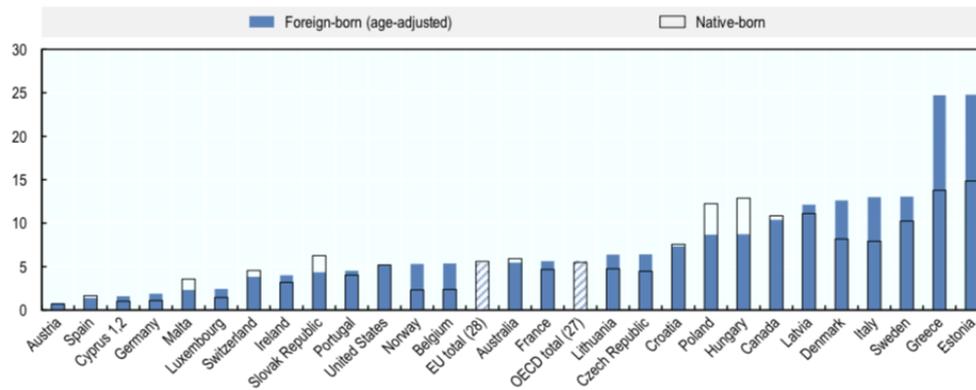
As indicated by the OECD report, the percentage of immigrants feeling to be in good health is higher than the one of native born in both OECD and EU countries: specifically, 81% against 76%, and 71% against 67%, respectively. The same applies after controlling for age, with 79% migrants in the OECD reporting to be in good health. However, self-reported health is especially poor in the Baltic countries, Portugal and the Czech and Slovak Republics. In these countries, overall health is low in international comparison, and the share of immigrants in good health follows the general national trend.

Immigrants are more likely to report good health than native-born in seven countries, including Poland, the United Kingdom, Italy and Hungary. Vice versa, in the other countries native-born reported better health than their immigrant peers, with higher gaps in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Denmark. In these countries, in fact, self-reported good health status among the foreign-born is 10 percentage points less than among the native-born.

The same report identifies a general trend characterising half of the observed countries. In all these countries, in fact, the percentage of foreign-born reporting good health status has been rising: the phenomenon involved Latvia (+13% against 5% among native-born), Norway and Germany. In Sweden, the share of those with good health fell among the native-born but rose among immigrants.

The opposite hit Portugal, where migrants' good health status fell by 5 percentage points, while rising by 4 points among the native-born. In a quarter of countries, good health rates rose among the natives especially in Denmark, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. In the latter, the share of the native-born who described themselves as being in good health fell by 10 percentage points, against 3 points among immigrants.

Percentages, aged 16 and above, 2016



**Figure 23 Unmet healthcare needs. Source: OECD 2018.**

The second indicator involves “unmet healthcare needs”. It indicates the share of people who reported “needing but not receiving medical healthcare or dental care in the previous 12 months”.

Again, the report identifies similar trends across both the OECD and EU countries in terms of shares of foreign- and native-born (5.5%) who report unmet medical needs. The same data show how differences between native-born and immigrants from third countries are particularly striking in Sweden, Estonia, Italy, and Greece. In all these countries, in fact, one in four immigrants claim unmet healthcare needs against one in six among native respondents. Again, we find here two of the three countries in which REBUILD is going to deploy its pilots.

The economic crisis seems to have substantially affected the situation of unmet medical needs in countries such as Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Belgium, particularly among immigrants. In Greece, for instance, the increase in the share of immigrants reporting unmet medical needs was twice that of the native-born over the last decade.

As stressed by the same report, however, immigrants’ general higher tendency to have unmet medical needs could be attributed to individual socio- economic factors such as poorer education, low income levels, working conditions, and social integration – all of which tend to adversely affect access to health care services.

The second wave of the European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II Survey), released in 2016, collected comparable data in all 28 EU Member States about discrimination in different areas of life (labour market, education, housing, health and other services), criminal victimisation (including hate crime), social inclusion and societal participation.

With reference to health, the EU-MIDIS II questionnaire included three questions regarding respondents’ assessment of their overall health: (i) perceived health status (ii) limitation to everyday life due to illness (iii) longstanding illness or health problem.

According to the survey, about 6% of non-EU migrants from the largest immigrant groups did not have a medical examination or treatment in the previous 12 months each time they really needed it. Among that group:

- 39% could not afford it (too expensive or not covered by the insurance);
- 16% preferred to wait until they got better;
- 11% thought the waiting list was too long.

## 2.4.1 Focus on women's health

The 2018 WHO Report on the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO proposes an overview of refugee and migrant trends and health policies in the WHO European Region.

The Report identifies gender as an additional important aspect to consider when analysing refugee and migrant health; however, as the same publication highlights, "data are rarely disaggregated by sex and there is no systematic, comparable information on those who do not fit the typical binary male and female categories"<sup>36</sup>.

A general trend in the literature identifies a marked tendency for worse pregnancy-related indicators among refugees and migrants. According to this framework (see for instance Keygnaert et al. 2016) refugee and migrant women have in general poorer pregnancy outcomes compared with non-migrant women, including increases in pre- and perinatal events such as induced abortions, caesarean sections, instrumental deliveries and complications during childbirth.

Pedersen et al. (2013) searched electronic databases for studies published 1970 through 2013 for all observational studies comparing maternal mortality between the host country and a defined migrant population. The review included 13 studies with more than 42 million women and 4,995 maternal deaths and showed that immigrant women in Western European countries have double the risk of dying during or after pregnancy when compared with indigenous born women. Furthermore, the surveys identify substandard obstetric care as the leading cause of the excess deaths among migrant women.

The 2018 WHO Report introduces a set of general characteristics of migrants and refugees women with reference to obstetric and perinatal health: among others, the study identifies "higher prevalence of low birthweight and small for gestational age babies (a proxy for placenta problems), with refugees tending to have a higher risk than other migrant groups. Studies in Italy and Portugal found increased preterm delivery rates among migrant women, while other studies found migrants were more likely to have better outcomes for both low birthweight infants and preterm". Similarly, "African refugee and migrant mothers in Sweden were found to have 18 times more risk of neonatal death".

Generally, there is a greater amplitude of variations in health outcomes of women differing between host countries also considering personal risk factor. Poor living conditions, unemployment, need to support families and poverty may expose women to a range of risks, "including sexually transmitted infections, HIV and tuberculosis and other, dangers such as trafficking, sex work or forced labour, where risks of sexual violence, sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy increase" (Keygnaert et al. 2016, p. 7).

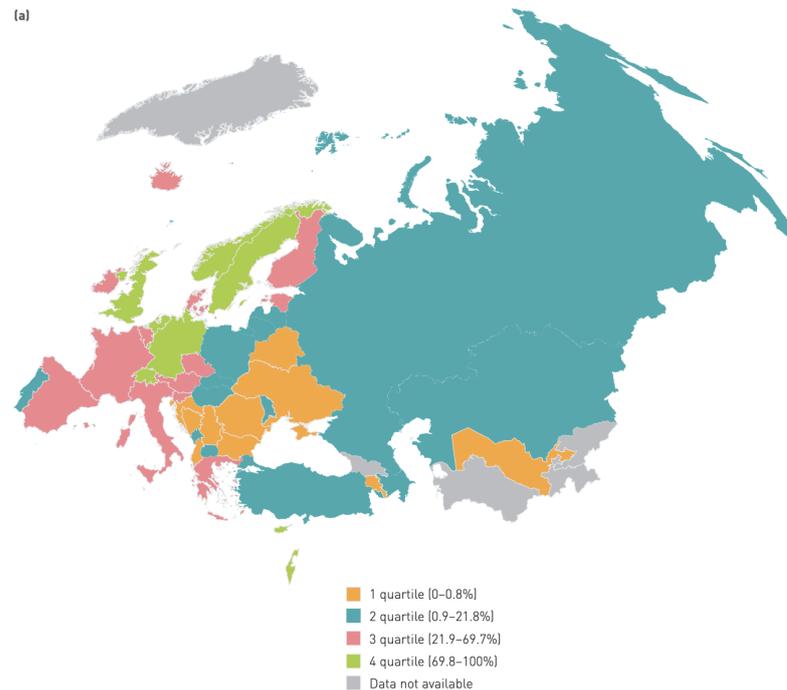
Entitlement is one of the most crucial problems. The persistent restrictions related to migration status is often associated to language and cultural obstacles, financial barriers as well as the lack of legal frameworks preventing sexual violence and clarifying the migrant women's legal status often creates barriers to seeking help and health care. Delays in seeking health care, refusal of medical interventions, inadequate medication, misinterpretation of cardiography and interpersonal miscommunication: all these factors adversely influence healthcare for migrant women and pose extra challenges in providing adequate health care to more vulnerable categories of migrants<sup>37</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/392773/ermh-eng.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/392773/ermh-eng.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/392773/ermh-eng.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/392773/ermh-eng.pdf?ua=1)

## 2.4.2. Focus on specific diseases

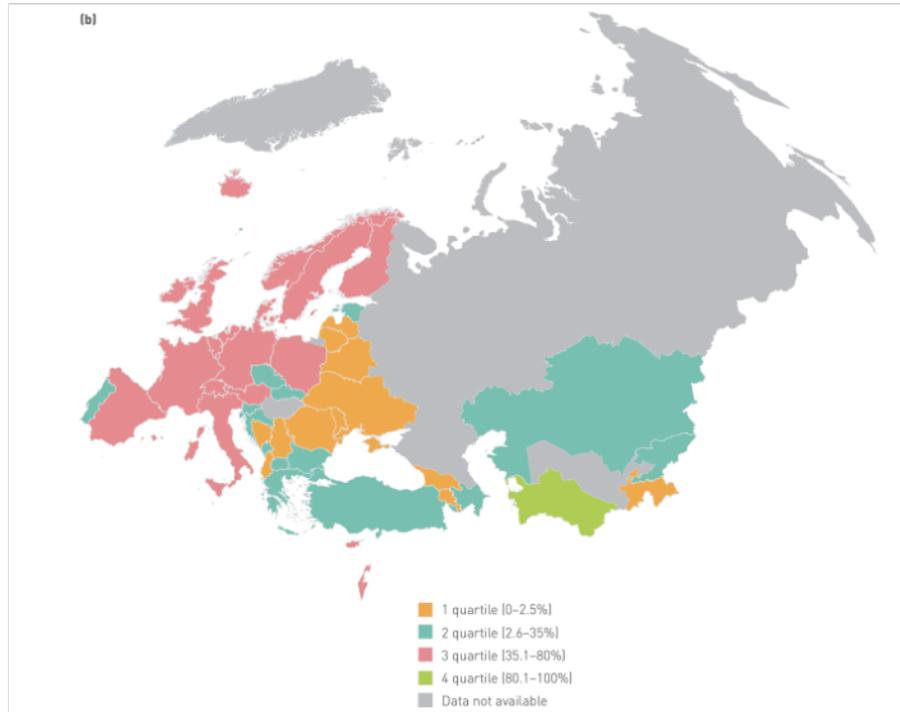
The 2018 WHO Report on the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO European region contains a focus on specific diseases, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. With reference to the first diseases, the report stresses how 33% of TB cases reported in EU/EEA Member States involved foreign-born individuals, with high cross-national variation of TB prevalence in the host population. The situation is different when taking into account the share of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), that has been detected in foreign-born individuals within the EU/EEA in 73.4% of cases.



**Figure 24 Percentage of cases of foreign origin among total number of diagnosis of TB in Member States of the WHO European Region. Source: WHO 2018.**

With reference to HIV, the 2018 report contains important information about patterns of virus' diffusion. About 40% of new HIV cases in the EU/EEA involve migrants, but "there is growing evidence to suggest that a significant proportion of refugees and migrants who are HIV positive, including those who originate from countries of high HIV prevalence, acquire infection after they have arrived in the Region<sup>38</sup>" (2018, p. 30). Again, the share of "HIV cases among refugees and migrants within the total population of a country also varies widely geographically across the WHO European Region", with refugees and migrants more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of their HIV infection" (*ibidem*).

<sup>38</sup> <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311347/9789289053846-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y&ua=1>



**Figure 25 Percentage of cases of foreign origin among total number of diagnoses of HIV in Member States of the WHO European Region. Source: WHO 2018.**

### 2.4.3 Focus on mental health

According to the last WHO Report on Mental health promotion and mental health care in refugees and migrants<sup>39</sup> (2018), there is no unanimous consensus on the incidence of mental disorders in refugees and migrants across countries. A comprehensive review conducted by Close et al. (2016)<sup>40</sup> identified a prevalence of depression ranging from 5% to 44% in refugee and migrant groups in different studies, compared with a prevalence of 8–12% in the general population.

In particular, the study reported how anxiety disorders affect a percentage from 4% to 40%, compared with reported prevalence of 5% in the general population. Data availability about psychotic disorders is generally low; not by coincidence, the same scholars stress how there is no clear and consistent evidence of higher prevalence of psychotic, mood or anxiety disorders in refugees and migrants at arrival compared with the host populations. In a predictable manner, substantial and consistent differences in comparative prevalence involve post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); this is specific for refugee groups (9–36% in refugees compared with 1–2% in host populations). In general, mood disorders (e.g. depression), are more frequent than PTSD in refugees and migrants (prevalence can vary between 5% and 44%), although prevalence does not consistently differ from host populations. Hollander et al. (2014) conducted a study in Sweden<sup>41</sup> to determine whether refugees are at elevated

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/386563/mental-health-eng.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/386563/mental-health-eng.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>40</sup> <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12992-016-0187-3>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.i1030>

risk of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychotic disorders, relative to non-refugee migrants from similar regions of origin and the Swedish-born population.

The study finds how “on average, refugees in a high-income setting face substantially elevated rates of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychosis, in addition to the array of other mental, physical, and social inequalities that already disproportionately affect these vulnerable populations” (2015, p.5). In the end, the scholars stress the correlation between mental health and social marginality, thus fostering the hypothesis that exposure to psychosocial adversity may increase the risk of psychosis in vulnerable population.

## 2.5 MIGRANTS AND HOUSING

In 2004, the European Council adopted the Common Basic Principles (CBPs) on Immigrant Integration. After that, the European Commission translated these principles into a framework based on action points to develop at national and European levels. Among the principles, the living environment and conditions in terms of housing was presented as a key element for the integration of refugees and migrants. The crucial point states that only by making housing equally accessible to refugees, migrants and national citizens, will integration succeed.

As stated by the European Commission, “housing is one of the most fundamental human needs. Who lives where and how, tells a lot about a society, the opportunities and pathways available for integration, as well as the inequalities and obstacles to social mobility. It has a major influence on immigrants’ employment options, educational opportunities, social interactions, residence situation, family reunification and citizenship rights. At the same time, housing quality is a key outcome indicator of successful societal integration”<sup>42</sup>. Indeed, around Europe, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders are well aware of the issue and active in organizing and managing housing facilities, as well as providing accommodation for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

Nevertheless, across Europe migrants are often in a disadvantaged situation when talking about housing. As it emerged from data collected by EWSI national experts in the 28 EU countries, inequalities are urgent when talking about the house market as migrants have serious problem in accessing public housing or housing benefits and are, in the majority of the cases, exposed to private rental with high costs and bad standards of living. As reported by the Migration Policy Group of the EC “For many, housing is scarce, rents are high, living conditions are poor, and often the only neighbourhoods available are deprived areas. Insufficient and inadequate social assistance often leads vulnerable groups amongst the immigrants, such as new arrivals, undocumented migrants and in some cases asylum seekers and refugees, to situations of homelessness. Due to their socially disadvantaged position, many migrants and refugees end up living in deprived areas of cities where housing conditions are poor and unemployment is high. The poor living conditions, lack of opportunities and lack of contact between migrants and the native population in such neighbourhoods have a bad impact on migrants’ and refugees’ integration”<sup>43</sup>.

In order to collect evidence on this phenomenon, member states have agreed on some indicators, called the ‘Zaragoza indicators’. These include: i) home ownership, ii) overcrowding rate (referring to the ratio between household rooms and number of household members) and iii) the housing cost overburden rate (i.e. the population share living in households that spend more than 40 % of disposable income on housing).

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<sup>42</sup> Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/intdossier/ewsi-analysis-immigrant-housing-in-europe>

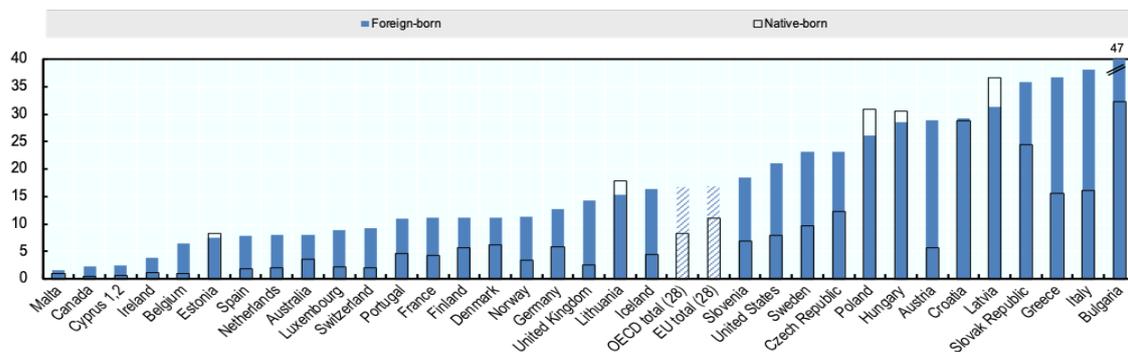
<sup>43</sup> Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/intdossier/ewsi-analysis-immigrant-housing-in-europe>

OECD, in particular, has integrated housing among the three major determinants of living conditions, together with income and health. In relation to housing, the indicators provided by OECD are: the incidence of overcrowding and general housing conditions.

The definition provided by the OECD for overcrowding housing is the following “a dwelling is considered to be overcrowded if the number of rooms is less than the sum of one living room for the household, plus one room for the single person or the couple responsible for the dwelling (or two rooms if they do not form a couple), plus one room for every two additional adults, plus one room for every two children”.

According to the Indicators of Immigrant Integration (2018) situation on overcrowding is quite alarming as the foreign-born overcrowding rate rose in half of all OECD countries, particularly in longstanding European destinations such as Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. As reported by OECD (2018) “Almost 17 million immigrants in the OECD and over 7 million in the EU live in overcrowded accommodation – a rate of 17% in both areas, against 8% and 11% among the native-born, respectively”.

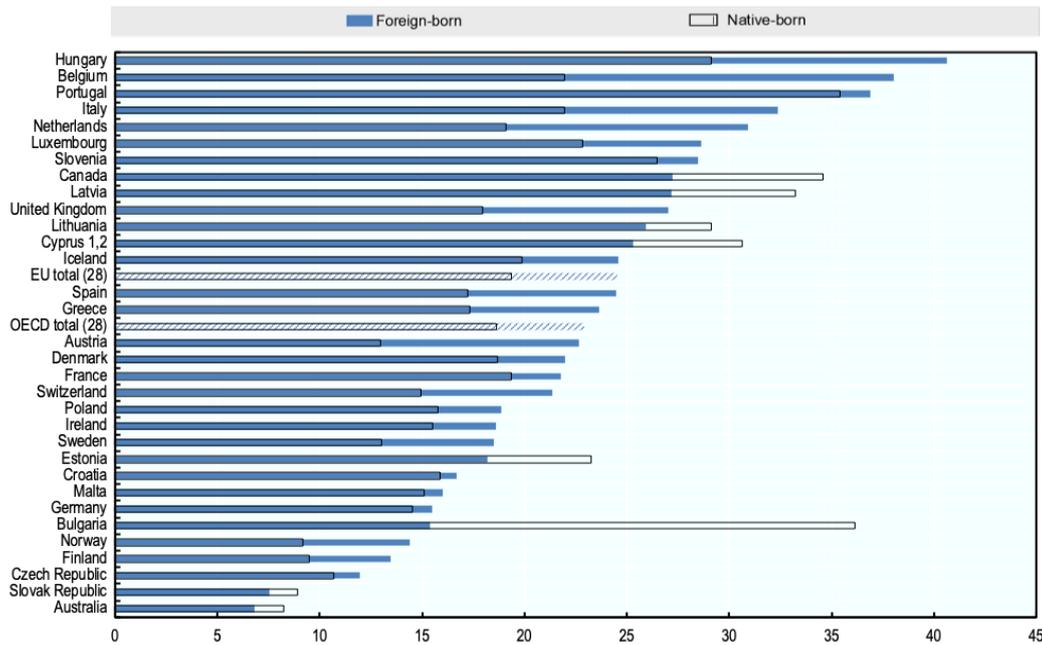
As reported in Figure 26, foreign-born overcrowding rates is particularly urgent in Bulgaria, Italy and Greece; again, we find two of the three REBUILD pilot countries.



**Figure 26 Overcrowding rates**

Regarding the general housing conditions, OECD defines a substandard or deprived housing conditions when the place is too dark, or does not provide exclusive access to a bathroom, or if the roof leaks. According to OECD (2018) “In the EU, one foreign-born in four (whether from inside or outside the EU) lives in substandard housing against one in five native-born. Differences between the two are particularly marked in Southern Europe and in some long-standing European destinations, such as Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK and Austria”.

Just to make an example, it estimated that 38% of all foreign-born residing in Belgium live in deprived housing, while it is the 22% of the native born.



**Figure 27 Substandard accommodation**

It is fair to stress that often substandard and overcrowding are overlapping conditions. Indeed, 6% of foreign-born and 3% of native-born in the EU live in housing that is both overcrowded and substandard.

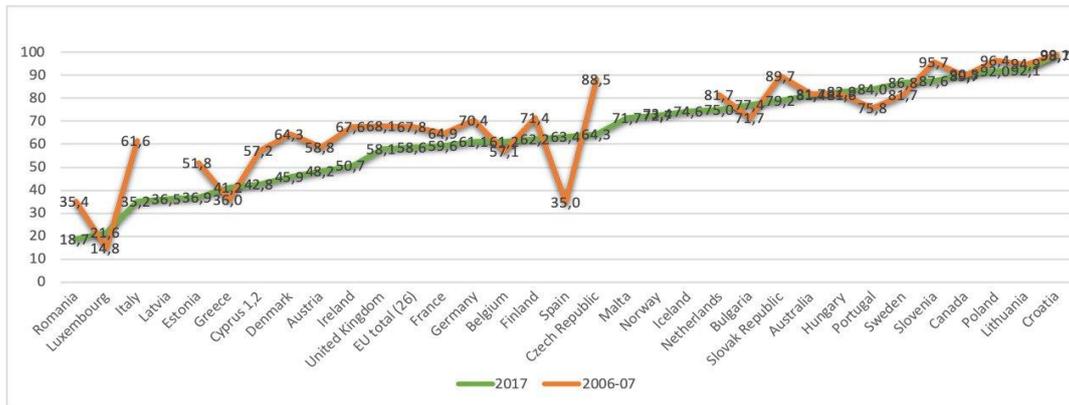
In terms of gaps between immigrants and natives, worst conditions are in Southern Europe, Austria, and the United Kingdom – over 4 percentage points to the detriment of the foreign-born. Gaps are at least 20 percentage points in Greece, Austria and Italy. While in Central and Eastern European countries, gaps are not significant.

## 2.6 MIGRANTS, POLITICS AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

From the last joint OECD-European Commission publication on *Immigrant Integration* we know that in Europe about two-thirds of long-settled immigrants (i.e. more than ten years of residence) in the OECD and 59% in the EU have host-country citizenship<sup>44</sup> – over 74 million and 34 million immigrants, respectively.

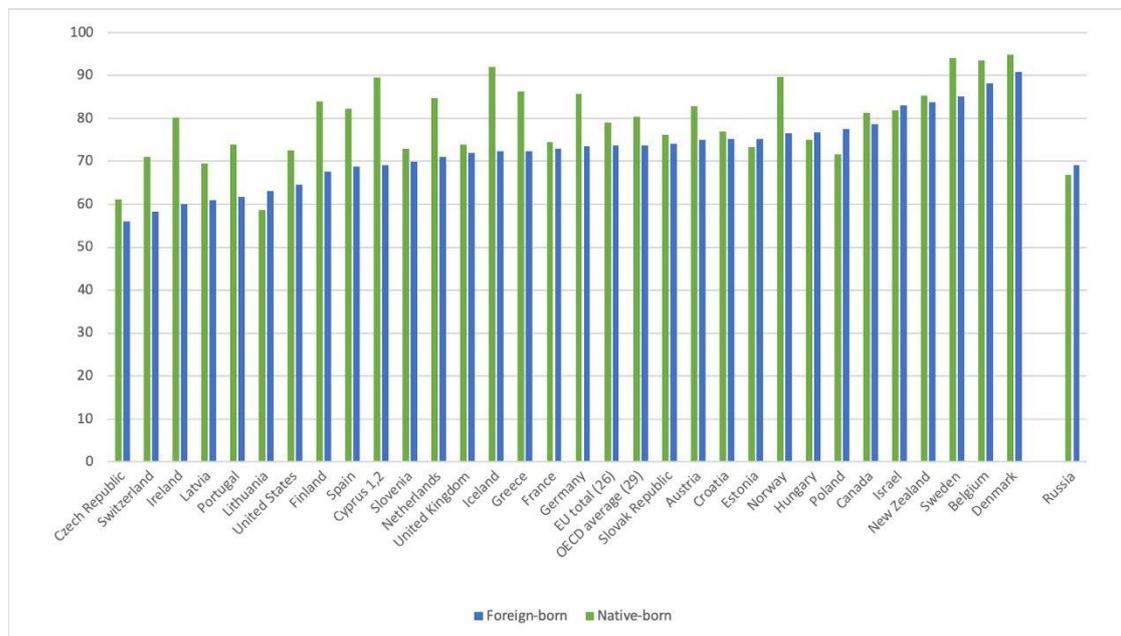
Cross-national differences are persistent: as it can be seen in figure 25, the process of nationality acquisition is still more difficult in some areas, such as countries of Southern Europe (with the exception of Portugal) and Luxembourg.

<sup>44</sup> According to the OECD-European Commission Indicators on Immigration report, the “acquisition of nationality is the process through which immigrants become citizens of the host country in which they reside. In addition to other requirements, immigrants must have lived for a certain time in the host country before they can apply for nationality. Required durations vary according to the host country and the immigrant group. After 10 years of residence, most immigrants are eligible for citizenship in all countries”.



**Figure 28 Evolution of acquisition of nationality among immigrants 2006-2017. Source: OECD.**

With reference to political participation, the OECD-European Commission report shows how, in Europe, 74% of immigrants with host-country nationality in the OECD and the EU report that they participated in the most recent national elections. The turnout is lower than the one of native-born, which is 79%. It is important to notice that the gap in voter participation with the native-born remains constant after accounting for traditional control variables such as age and education.



**Figure 29 Self-reported participation in the most recent election. Source: OECD.**

The picture becomes more complex when dealing with civic forms of participation. The de-institutionalized nature of these forms of participation, often characterized by episodic and unstructured activism, make it difficult to provide cross-national statistics based on a reliable sample of migrants. Cause-oriented activism, in particular, is significantly related to Internet usage rather than

on consolidated physical or local networks. A joint report<sup>45</sup> produced by CIVICUS World Alliance for civic participation and the US-based international worker rights organisation conducted a research in Germany, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia and Mexico, identifies some features shared by migrants in all these different host-societies:

- Across countries, migrant workers and refugees who were interviewed repeatedly pointed out their willingness to have a more active participation: they “want to access their civic freedoms. They want to participate in the societies they call home and do not want to remain in the margins. They want to have a say in their communities and their workplaces, and on the decisions that affect their lives (2019, p.7).
- Across countries, migrant workers and refugees face numerous and severe barriers and obstacles jeopardizing their civic freedoms: among others, “the main barriers identified were language difficulties, lack of access to information, police activity, threat of deportation or detention, harassment, threat of expulsion from work and media censorship” (*ibidem*).

## 3 STATE OF THE ART ON ICT SOLUTIONS FOR MIGRANT INTEGRATION

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In the previous chapter the situation of migrants with relation to the main integration variables such as employment, education, health, housing have been reported. These integration assets are the ones that will be represented - in different degrees - within the REBUILD socio-technical solution. This chapter is complementary to the previous ones and it will focus on the relationship between migrants and technology. Indeed, it will contain results from literature review on technology usage by migrants and on technological solutions for migrants according to a user-based analysis conducted with qualitative methods.

### 3.1 MIGRANTS AND ICT USAGE

The relationship between migration and ICT usage has been traditionally framed in terms of social inclusion<sup>46</sup>. In this perspective, technology adoption and usage would enhance displaced people and refugees to have access to information for their daily activities such as education, employment and health (Alam and Imran, 2015). This line of research considers the technological inclusion of migrants similar to that of other marginal groups, having low income levels within socially disadvantaged communities (Helsper, 2008<sup>47</sup>; Powell et al., 2010<sup>48</sup>). Other studies, in parallel, have adopted an information perspective to study the levels and practices of information literacy among refugees (Lloyd

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<sup>45</sup> [https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/freedoms-on-the-move/freedoms-on-the-move-report\\_oct2019.pdf](https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/freedoms-on-the-move/freedoms-on-the-move-report_oct2019.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> cfr Alam, Khorshed and Imran, Sophia (2015) The digital divide and social inclusion among refugee migrants: a case in regional Australia. *Information Technology and People*, 28 (2). pp. 344-365. ISSN 0959-3845, available at <https://eprints.usq.edu.au/27373/>.

<sup>47</sup> Helsper, E.J. (2008), *Digital Inclusion: An Analysis of Social Disadvantage and the Information Society*, Department for Communities and Local Government, London.

<sup>48</sup> Powell, A., Bryne, A. and Dailey, D. (2010), “The essential internet: digital exclusion in low-income American communities”, *Policy and Internet*, Vol. 2 No. 2, pp. 161-192.

et al., 2010<sup>49</sup>, cfr. D9.1), stressing how the inability to adopt ICT effectively and independently could increase both the information disjuncture and social exclusion.

In recent years, the reduction of the digital divide due to diminished economic and infrastructural barriers have led scholars to adopt a more optimistic paradigm: not by coincidence, recent surveys conducted in different countries showed that immigrants have, on average, similar and in some cases higher digital knowledge levels than the local population as a whole. For example, Lupiañez and al. (2015)<sup>50</sup> conducted a survey on the role played by ICT in supporting digital integration of immigrants in three Member States: Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and Spain. One of the main findings of the study is that migrants have higher or similar levels of ICT use and skills, are more connected than the general population, and are more frequent digital users on average. In line with this argument, a number of studies have recently investigated the role of social media and mobile apps (including tools such as instant messaging, translation websites, wire money transfers, cell phone charging stations, and Wi-Fi hotspots) in building and consolidating a so-called "new digital infrastructure for global movement" Latonero and Kift (2018).

Among others, the work of Gillespie et al. (2018) about the use of smartphones in the experience of forced displacement and social and cultural integration of Syrian refugees is worth mentioning. According to the authors, mobile technologies are effective tools to overcome the isolation displaced families face on arrival, providing learning and training opportunities, fostering their language and cultural skills, thus promoting social integration (a more comprehensive theoretical overview is provided in D9.1).

The same Gillespie, with Open University and France Médias Monde, has recently conducted a Mapping Refugee Media Journeys research that analyses digital resources available to refugees on their journeys and upon arrival in Europe. The report identifies best practices in the provision of digital resources for refugees.

## 3.2 AVAILABLE APPS FOR MIGRANTS INTEGRATION

The table that follows summarises the Apps analysed and their main features, number of users, etc. This first mapping is relevant for REBUILD in order to set the scene in which REBUILD solution will come to play. In the impact assessment activity, we might use one or more of the Apps reported in the following table as a means for comparison of the REBUILD solution and its achievements. What follows is a preliminary analysis that cannot be considered exhaustive, but that can provide the REBUILD team and the reader with a sense of the state of the art on the phenomenon of ICT-based solution for migrant integration. The App here considered are the following<sup>51</sup>:

<sup>49</sup> Lloyd, A., Lipu, S. and Kennan, M.A. (2010), "On becoming citizens: examining social inclusion from an information perspective", Australian Academic and Research Libraries, Vol. 41 No. 1, pp. 42-53.

<sup>50</sup> Francisco Lupiañez & Cristiano Codagnone & Rosa Dalet, 2015. "ICT for the employability and integration of immigrants in the European Union: Results from a survey in three Member States," JRC Working Papers JRC93960, Joint Research Centre (Seville site).

<sup>51</sup> During the review, other apps were identified and deliberately excluded from this list for different reasons. In particular:

- Juma map e Refugee.info, that do not have an app but are only accessible through a website;
- Welcome app Germany, which is limited to a country not included in Rebuild's list of pilot countries.

- app4refs
- Rights4Refugees
- Mini lexicon
- Asylum Service Application
- Refugee Class Assistance 4 Teachers
- IENE 6
- RefAid - Refugee Aid App
- Refugees@Business
- Refugee Speaker
- RefHope
- ICOON for refugees
- ImMigRanT
- Tarjimly
- MigApp
- Sona Circle
- ALMHAR
- Mygrants
- Migradvisor
- M-APP
- SaniMApp
- Ataya App
- My Life Project

App name	N. of users/N. of downloads and feedbacks	N. of languages offered by the App	N. of services available	Services' descriptions	Presence/creation of an online community	Link to face to face services/communities
<b>app4refs</b>	Installs: 100+ 4.9 stars, 9 comments	1:English	3	Mapping-Referral to services/links	No	Yes
<b>Rights4Refugees</b>	Installs: 1000+ 4.2 stars, 8 comments	4:Greek, English, Arabic, Farsi	5	Information services about basic rights, Asylum in Greece, Relocation and family reunification	No	Yes
<b>Mini lexicon</b>	Installs: 500+	8:French, Arabic , Kurmanci, Sorani, Farsi, Urdu, Greek, English	1	Translation	No	No
<b>Asylum Service Application</b>	Installs:5,000+ 4.8 stars ,90 comments	9:English, Italian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi and 4 more (cannot	12	Information services	No	Yes, by referring users to skype call , or other services by physical presence



Re\_Build

		specify)				
<b>Refugee Class Assistance 4 Teachers</b>	Installs: 100+	6:English, Dutch, Bulgarian, Greek, Turkish, Serbian	1	Educational videos, documents, material, translation	Yes	No
<b>IENE 6</b>	Installs: 100+	7:English, Greek, Turkish, Romanian, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi	1	Storytelling and exchange of stories	Yes	No
<b>RefAid - Refugee Aid App</b>	Installs: 1000+ 4.2 stars, 30 comments	3:English, Arabic, Farsi	1	Mapping-guide to services	No	Yes
<b>Refugees@Business</b>	Installs: 100+	3:Dutch, English, Arabic	1	Guiding refugees to entrepreneurship	No	Yes
<b>Refugee Speaker</b>	Installs: 100+	6:Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Somali	1	Medical Translation App	No	No
<b>RefHope</b>	Installs: 100+, 5 stars 6 comments	10:English, German, Turkish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Swedish, Hungarian, Danish, Greek	3	Education, employment, community liaise	No	Yes
<b>ICOON for refugees</b>	Installs: 10,000+ , 4.2 stars, 41 comments	2:German, English	1	Visualization of services/words/information through pictures	No	No
<b>RefAid</b>	Installs: 1,000+, 4.2 stars, 30 comments	1:English	10	Map visualization of services/information	No	Yes (third-parties' services)
<b>ImMigRanT</b>	Installs: 50+,		1	Visual information about medical emergencies, discomfort or natural disasters.	No	No

<b>Tarjimly</b>	Installs: 10.000+, 3.5 stars, 60 comments	App in English, translato n available in other language s according ly to volunteer s' capabilitie s <sup>52</sup>	1	Connects migrants/refuges with translators and interpreters.	Yes	Yes, by referring users to chat and video services
<b>MigApp</b>	10,000+ downloads, 4.7 stars, 161 comments	1 English	5	Information on: Migration risks - Visa regulations - Health guidelines - Migrants rights - Governments' migration policies - Access to migration service and programmes - A secure space to communicate and tell their story.	Yes	Yes
<b>Sona Circle</b>	100+ installs, 3.9 stars, 7 comments		1	Platform for the professional refugee community; enabling employers and job seekers to connect and network.	Yes	Yes
<b>ALMHAR</b>	1,000+inst alls, 3.9 stars, 8 comments	2 :English, Arabic	1	Application for Mental Health Aid for Refugees	No	No
<b>Mygrants</b>	500+ installs, 3.9 stars, 8 comments	3	1	Micro-learning tools for Migrants	Yes	Yes
<b>Migradvisor</b>	1,000+ installs, 3.9 stars, 62 comments	4 :English, French, Arabic, Italian	1	Geo-localized information about help centers, police stations, post offices, embassies and consular officers and other relevant services.	No	Yes
<b>M-APP</b>	50+ installs,	1: Italian	1	Geo-localized information about all the services provided to	No	Yes

<sup>52</sup> Arabic-Classical, French, Spanish, Arabic-Levantine, Arabic-Egyptian, Urdu, Arabic-Gulf, Farsi Irani Turkish, Arabic - Iraqi, German, Kinyarwanda, Italian, Arabic-North African, Kurdish Sorani, Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Pashto, Swahili, Dari, Bosnian, Portuguese, Russian, Georgian, Croatian, Greek, Serbian, Haitian Creole, Sindhi, Kurdish Kurmanj, Hungarian, Amharic, DutchKirundi, Chinese, Tamil, Kurdish, Badini, Tigrinya.

				migrants by public and private institutions in the Metropolitan Area of Venice.		
<b>SaniMApp</b>	n.a.	1: Italian	1	Geolocalized info healthcare undocumented people in Rome and Lazio	No	Yes
<b>Ataya App</b>	1,000+ installs, 5 stars, 24 comments	1: Italian	1	Didactic tool conceived for foreign users to learn Italian	No	No
<b>My Life Project</b>	100+installs,	1: Italian	1	Social app for unaccompanied foreign minors in foster homes that connects young people, educators and tutors	No	Yes

**Table 3 Apps for Migrants. An overview.**

In the Annex, the link to the Apps website is provided, when available.

## 4. STATE OF THE ART AS RESULTED FROM REBUILD FIELD RESEARCH

At the time of writing, the REBUILD team has already conducted several surveys and desk research on the situation in the pilot countries and carried out co-design activities for planning its socio-technical tools. This chapter summarizes those findings and links to the related deliverables for a more in-depth view.

Italy, Spain and Greece are the “access gates” to Europe for the majority of migrants and refugees. Compared to other European countries, in these nations there is a greater need for digital solutions, in order to facilitate migrants and refugees’ inclusion, especially in the early stages of the integration process. The development and implementation of a toolbox of ICT-based solutions appear therefore crucial in order to favour the migrants’ integration process and their life quality. These ICT tools should take into account the highly heterogeneous nature of migrants relatively, for example, to educational and linguistic skills, so as to facilitate them accessibility, usefulness and usability.

In particular, the ICT solutions proposed should allow more sustainable integration, by ensuring migrants and refugees, in real time and without charges, useful information to the main services (for example training, health, employment, welfare, etc.) provided by local public administrations and organizations in each country involved in the project.

One of the first activities of the project was a survey, based on a semi-structured questionnaire aimed at identifying the needs and expectations in accessing the rights and services of those who will be the main users of the ICT tool developed by the REBUILD project: migrants, asylum seekers, refugees (D1.2). According to the results of the survey, the REBUILD Project should develop an ICT toolbox that allows migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to:

- have contents provided both in a written and in visual forms in the main mother languages present in the countries involved in the research;
- provide a list of schools, district offices, parents and teacher associations where users can find information to ensure their children's right to education;
- provide a list of the national/territorial office of international organizations that have in their mission to "Restore Family Links";
- improve job services or job opportunities, through a friendly and smart formula to be implemented in the ICT tool;
- improve the language learning and the digital skills, by offering a language school and IT classes mapping;
- facilitate access to classes or programmes, especially for those people who have to take care of the family;
- serve as a tool for self-reporting - for example to the Asylum Office - also through the chat bot, especially for those people with vulnerabilities not supported by the services actually offered.

Besides the above-mentioned survey, focus groups were carried out in the three pilot countries with the aim of investigating the role of the cultural markers (specific features that distinguish one culture from another) on migrant and refugee communities in technology use and adoption. This brought a better understanding of the need for reliable and trustworthy sources of official information. In particular, in order to define the cultural markers for technology creation, the focus groups investigated the following questions:

- What, if any, is the relationship between migrants and refugee culture and technology adoption?
- How does culture impact technology interaction and use?
- How much dependency do refugees have on ICT for the everyday tasks? Is ICT perceived by refugees as a reliable source of information?

As reported in D1.4, at least three key elements emerged from the focus groups: confirmation that migrants and refugees rely heavily on their mobile phones in everyday life; language is one of the main barriers for ICT use and adoption; the need for reliable and trustworthy sources of official information. REBUILD Project should consider all this and provide a toolbox and services understandable for the stakeholders. Furthermore, REBUILD toolbox should be certified as an official source of information or, at least, should be able to show information certified from institutions and Ministries, in order to disseminate only reliable and trustworthy information to migrants and refugees. Privacy-related issues emerged also as relevant, especially for refugees.

A second survey was run aiming at understanding the service provision from the point of view of service providers. All the integration services were analysed (legal services, access to employment, access to education, health, accommodation, conditions of life) though semi-structured questionnaires administered to high level stakeholders, relying on them for in depth information on needs and gaps.

As reported in D2.2, the interviewed organizations, in all 3 nations (Italy, Spain, Greece), do not yet receive sufficient information on the refugees / migrants. This is even more relevant if we consider that almost a third of the interviewed organizations are public bodies.

The survey also showed that the services to be improved using ICT are so many and well distributed according to the organizations that they are almost the same "weight" (i.e. importance). In Italy it is



particularly evident that the digitalization process should be improved for healthcare, whereas for Spain the website of the service providers should be revised and enhanced.

Considering the information on the flow of service provision for each mapped service, the REBUILD ICT toolbox should simplify and facilitate access by refugees / migrants to services provided by local service providers. This is also because these organizations are the first subjects interested in usability and visibility of their services. In fact, very often the gaps mentioned limit their activities.

Finally, the work done in the three co-creation workshop held between October and November 2019 with migrants and service provided (reported in D2.5) highlighted a deep interest for REBUILD scenarios and upcoming development within the project, with all the participants extremely collaborative, engaged and contributing. In all three workshops, the refugees/migrants were very positive and interested in hearing about the development of the system as well as being able to use it and share the information with their friends.

All the insights and results coming from the Co-creation Workshops have been elaborated into Design Themes described in Par. 6.3 - D2.5 REBUILD Service Scenarios and Prototypes and further developed in D2.6 REBUILD testing: modules and user groups.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

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This deliverable presents the situation without REBUILD (zero scenario) at macro and meso level by considering available statistics at European, national and regional/city level. A more in-depth, micro level analysis will be conducted at the beginning of the REBUILD pilots in order to accurately describe the situation before REBUILD (zero scenario) for the individuals and organisations that will actively interact with its socio-technical solutions. Indeed, as previously mentioned in this report, the conditions of the persons and communities that will participate to the pilots may differ from the overall situation at local level. Additionally, even if some of the expected impacts of REBUILD have the potentialities of change the situation at city/regional level (and even at national level), this will only happen once the project outputs will have reached their full maturity so that intermediate results will be mainly visible at micro level.

At the time of writing, the exact execution of the pilots is still under discussion so that this complementary, micro-level analysis will be included in the first assessment report (D9.3).

This report accompanies D9.1 which presents a first version of the methodological framework to be used for assessing REBUILD socio-economic and political impacts. D9.1 and D9.2 are indeed complementary and share a common vision on the definition of migrant integration and its main areas: employment, education, health, housing, political and civic participation, ICT as an enable factor for migrants/refugees' integration.

Several studies investigated the potential socio-economic impacts of migrants and refugees on destination countries. Kancs and Lecca (2017), for example, suggested that, although the refugee integration is costly for the public budget, in the medium-long term, the social, economic and fiscal benefits may significantly outweigh the short-term integration costs.

The REBUILD project offers the opportunity to study such benefits while "happening": the impact assessment activity will accompany the entire duration of the project and will constitute a way to constantly improve projects' activities while, at the same time, describe the potentialities of co-designed socio-technical solutions such as the ones currently under development in REBUILD.

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## ANNEX 1

App name	Website
<b>app4refs</b>	Not working
<b>Rights4Refugees</b>	Not working
<b>Mini lexicon</b>	No
<b>Asylum Service Application</b>	No
<b>Refugee Class Assistance 4 Teachers</b>	<a href="http://www.teachers4refugees.eu">www.teachers4refugees.eu</a>
<b>IENE 6</b>	<a href="http://www.ienerrefugeehub.eu">www.ienerrefugeehub.eu</a>
<b>RefAid - Refugee Aid App</b>	<a href="mailto:info@refugeeaidapp.com">info@refugeeaidapp.com</a>
<b>Refugees@Business</b>	<a href="http://www.immigrationguidance.eu">www.immigrationguidance.eu</a>
<b>Refugee Speaker</b>	<a href="http://www.refugeespeaker.org">www.refugeespeaker.org</a>
<b>RefHope</b>	<a href="http://www.refhope.com">www.refhope.com</a>
<b>ICOON for refugees</b>	<a href="http://www.icoonforrefugees.com">www.icoonforrefugees.com</a>
<b>RefAid</b>	<a href="https://refaid.com/">https://refaid.com/</a>
<b>ImMigRanT</b>	<a href="https://www.migrantaid.eu/">https://www.migrantaid.eu/</a>
<b>Tarjimly</b>	<a href="https://www.tarjim.ly/it">https://www.tarjim.ly/it</a>
<b>MigApp</b>	<a href="https://www.iom.int/migapp">https://www.iom.int/migapp</a>
<b>Sona Circle</b>	<a href="http://www.sonacircle.com/">http://www.sonacircle.com/</a>
<b>ALMHAR</b>	<a href="http://almhar.org/">http://almhar.org/</a>
<b>Mygrants</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.trelogic.mygrants.app">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.trelogic.mygrants.app</a>
<b>Migradvisor</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.spicybit.intime.migradvisor&amp;hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.spicybit.intime.migradvisor&amp;hl=en</a>
<b>M-APP</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.iuav.M_App">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.iuav.M_App</a>
<b>SaniMApp</b>	<a href="https://sanitadifrontiera.org/sanimapp/application/?l=it">https://sanitadifrontiera.org/sanimapp/application/?l=it</a>
<b>Ataya App</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.mindtek.ruah&amp;hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.mindtek.ruah&amp;hl=en</a>
<b>My Life Project</b>	<a href="http://www.mylifeproject.it/">http://www.mylifeproject.it/</a>