Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Small Territories: A factor for local development

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Social challenges of rural areas

DEPOPULATION AND AGEING

RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURES AND SERVICES
Some numbers

Depopulation and ageing

Share of farms by age group of manager (EU-27, 2013)

Changes from 2009 to 2014 in urban and rural populations
Risk of poverty and social exclusion

Source: Eurostat, 2015
Access to infrastructure and services

Source: DESI report, 2019

Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination:

- Too far to travel
- Too expensive

Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband coverage in the EU (% of homes), 2011 - 2018

Source: IHS, VVA and Point Topic

Source: DESI report, 2019
Rural areas receiving migrants and refugees: what are the additional challenges?

Migrants in rural areas may be in a more vulnerable situation due to:

- remoteness
- isolation
- limited access to targeted services (psychological and social support, language learning, information availability, access to digital...)
- rural communities may have limited capacity to respond to inflows of migrants
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EU Rural Development

Example of measures:

M07 Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

M19 Support for LEADER local development (CLLD)
The CAP is a common policy framework at EU level allowing for adaptation to local conditions. It provides support for farm income and competitiveness, while fostering a sustainable agriculture. It supports the development of rural areas throughout the EU. It enables the functioning of the single market and to speak with one voice internationally.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post 2020

€365 billion for the period 2021-2027

- CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY
- AND ENVIRONMENT
- STEWARD
- 48% OF EU LAND
- BIO & CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- FOOD SECURITY
- FOR 500 MILLION CONSUMERS
- SINGLE MARKET
- EU AGRI-FOOD EXPORTS
- NEARLY €138 BN
- 44 MILLION JOBS
- IN THE FOOD CHAIN

EU Agriculture
WHAT FOR: THE NEW ARCHITECTURE OF CAP OBJECTIVES

**Policy Objectives**
- Foster a smart and resilient agricultural sector ensuring food security
- Bolster environmental care & climate-action and contribute to the relevant EU objectives
- Strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas

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**Economic**
- Support viable farm income and resilience throughout the territory
- Enhance competitiveness and market orientation
- Improve farmers position in value chains

**Environment & Climate**
- Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Foster sustainable and efficient management of resources
- Preserve nature and landscapes

**Social**
- Attract new farmers, facilitate business development & generational renewal
- Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas
- Address societal demands on food and health, food waste, and animal welfare

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**Cross-Cutting Objectives**
- **Sustainability**: Enhance sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas
- **Simplification**: Address simplification and policy performance
- **Modernisation**: Foster knowledge, innovation, digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas

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* Impact indicator 25: promoting rural inclusion (poverty index in rural areas)
* Result indicator 35: Nº of people from minority and/or vulnerable groups benefitting from supported social inclusion projects
There will be EU involvement at each stage to set rules, assess plans, monitor progress and ensure delivery.

Member States can decide which measures will ensure most effective and targeted results, reflecting their own circumstances.

Each country will develop a CAP Strategic Plan outlining the measures chosen and desired results, which will be subject to Commission approval and ongoing monitoring.

Pre-defined result indicators assess whether progress has been made towards each country’s strategic goals.

New system of monitoring and steering policy implementation, with possibility to reward/penalise.

EU set basic rules and toolbox of measures.

Helping farmers through tailor-made solutions focused on results, not process.

Direct support for farmers to ensure stability and predictability to farmers.

More incentives for farmers to go beyond the minimum and tougher penalties for insufficient progress.
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Work training and placements in rural Italy
The ‘Terre e Comuni’ (Land and Municipalities) project provided training and work placements to young unemployed immigrants and local people in Frosinone, central Italy. It has resulted in a new association working in close cooperation with the local asylum centre to provide new opportunities to young immigrants.
An artistic response in Lesvos, Greece
The Greek project ‘Culture as a Lever for Sustainable Development’ became a platform where participating artists and local society discussed and tried to present an understanding of the unfolding refugee crisis on the island of Lesvos.

In 2016, the fastest overall population growth in the EU was recorded in Lesvos, Limnos (Greece); its total number of inhabitants grew by 4.6%.
Examples of projects in RD

STEP BY STEP in rural Sweden
The project focuses on integrating migrants on the labor market in rural Sweden. The aim is to collaborate with local actors to help newcomers settle in the rural areas affected by depopulation. The project, funded by both EAFRD (through LEADER) and ESF, has benefitted more than 250 newcomers in the area.
Examples of projects in RD

Coordinating integration in rural Finland

The ‘Immigrants Villages’ LEADER project has promoted the integration of immigrants into Finnish society using a dedicated integration coordinator. The award-winning project has encouraged immigrants to stay in rural areas, increasing the vitality of the villages.

An integration coordinator

The municipality of Punkalaidun hired an integration coordinator to act as the first contact person and point of reference for migrants and refugees in the area. The integration coordinator helps solving the everyday problems facing the new arrivals. She is also a bridge-builder between the newcomers and local citizens, including local services and employers.

Cultural integration

Cultural and linguistic understanding is one of the first priorities for successful integration. The integration coordinator organises language lessons which are a prerequisite for many forms of activity, from basic social interaction to professional training. Cultural awareness education is also provided to explain social practices and customs in Finland. The integration coordinator connects the immigrants with local residents through clubs and activities according to the interests and profile of each individual or family. This can include sports clubs, village development associations, churches, businesses and other public, private and third sector operators.
European Solidarity Corps

€ 3.6 million (€ 1.8 for each phase) from EAFRD to support engagement of the European Solidarity Corps participants in solidarity activities with an agricultural, forestry or rural development component.

Under shared management national and regional authorities can also use CAP resources in both pillars to engage Solidarity Corps participants i.e. Integration of migrants in rural areas
Thank you for your attention!

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm