Presentation of the results from the CoR/OECD survey

Sub-national authorities’ perspectives on migrant integration at the local level
Aims of the survey

This survey tried to answer questions on:

- What specific services do subnational governments (NGS) provide to migrant populations, beyond universal policies, to promote their integration.

- What are the impacts of COVID-19 crisis on:
  - SNGs’ opinion on the allocation of competences in integration-related sectors
  - Local inhabitants’ perception of migration
  - SNGs’ intention to act upon these changes in perception

- What are the means SNGs use to foster integration:
  - Data collection
  - Access and use of EU funds to finance migrant-integration programmes (AMIF, ESF+, ERDF)
Survey respondents

73 sub-national authorities from 27 countries replied:

- 37% of respondents are municipalities of under 50 000 inhabitants
- 41% of respondents are German
Survey results: decentralisation

For all policy sectors studied, at least close to half of the SNGs would like to see a new allocation of competences among levels of government considering the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on migrants.

For all policy sectors studied, among SNGs who want a change in the allocation of competences the great majority asks for more decentralisation rather than more centralisation.

Two of the sectors for which the most SNGs ask for a change in the allocation of competences are the ones in which the most SNGs provide specific services for certain groups of migrants: temporary housing and language acquisition.
Survey results: perceptions of migration

- Native-born populations’ **perceptions and attitudes matter** for migrant integration.

- **Contrasting narratives** on migration have unfolded during the COVID-19 crisis:
  - One acknowledges the essential role people with a migrant-background played in certain territories and sectors, notably as essential workers, and their vulnerabilities;
  - Other depict cross-border movements as source of virus-spreading;
  - While rising unemployment among domestic populations risks nurturing negative views.

- **SNGs are aware of this issue**: 50% of them noticed a positive change and 45% a negative change in the way people living in their territory perceive migrants

- **And most want to take action**: 69% of SNGs consider leveraging these changes in perception to support the development of a more positive narrative/communication on migration in their territory.
Survey results: improving SNGs’ means of action

- **Data collection:** More than 90% of SNGs do not collect data on the geographical distribution and integration results of 2nd and 3rd generations of migrants, although incomplete integration leads to lasting inequalities across generations.

- **European Funds:**
  - The great majority of SNGs in the sample did not apply to AMIF, ESF+ and ERDF to finance migrant-integration actions.
  - Only 13.7% SNGs already significantly benefitted from the AMIF, 8% from the ESF+ and 2 from the ERDF.
  - SNGs face 2 main difficulties when using the funds: **Administrative burden**, followed by a **lack of human resources**.
Next steps: Publication of the OECD work on *Multi-level governance for migrant integration* that benefitted from CIVEX/CoR inputs in a joint web seminar in December 2021

Questions?

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