



INFORMATION

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

October, 2022.

The European Migration Network published a synthesis report of the EMN study "Integration of Migrant Women" based on the national contributions of 24 EMN NCPs¹.

The aim of this study is to see and document the extent to which the member states of the European Union devote themselves to considering migrant women in their integration policies and measures. This study focuses on the integration of migrant women in the main sectoral areas covered by the EU Integration and Inclusion Plan for the period 2021-2027. including education and training, employment, health and housing.

DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet is created exclusively by EMN NCP Croatia in order to highlight the most important data and information from the study in question. This information leaflet provides a comparative overview of the "Integration of Migrant Women" study.

The EMN synthesis report and more information can be found [here](#).

INTRODUCTION

- European Union member states increasingly recognize the need for specific policies related to the integration of migrant women, but only a few member states specifically mention migrant women in their national integration policies.
- This study defines a migrant as a female from a third world country. About half of the migrants in the European Union are women.
- In most countries of the European Union, the responsibility for integration policies is divided between the national, regional and local levels. Furthermore, most member states emphasize the importance of involving local levels of government as well as non-governmental organizations in the implementation of policies.
- The prevailing narrative is about the integration of migrant women into the labor market, where existing obstacles and ways to circumvent them are analyzed. Problems such as the language barrier and lack of recognition of qualifications were identified, but also challenges such as discrimination, lack of social contacts and family restrictions. Most of the member states have not developed any specific integration policy or accepted an existing one in order to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant women.

¹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE, SI, SK



CROATIAN INTEGRATION POLICIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTEGRATION POLICIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Studies have shown that migrant women face the double disadvantage of being both women and migrants. Statistics in some member states show that migrant women have a higher unemployment rate than non-migrant women and migrant men². Also, when analyzing the employability of migrant women, it is important to take into account the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left its mark on all groups in society, but especially heavily on migrant women. This is most visible through the loss of jobs, increased exposure to the virus through work and increased care of the household.

Member countries, including **Croatia**, have indicated that the main challenge in integrating migrant women into society is integration into the labor market³. Furthermore, some member states indicated the problem of migrant women who don't know their own rights and the protection that can be provided to them⁴. Many migrant women do not have enough motivation or initiative to look for a job and continue their education. **Croatia** also reported on this problem⁵. On the example of Finland, the problem of women's lack of interest in work is visible due to the state allowance they could receive for child care.

Six Member States mentioned an increased awareness or need for special integration measures adapted to migrant women, although this is also implied in recent policy developments in many Member States.⁶ Belgium emphasized the possibility of understanding and adapting to female entrepreneurs. Cyprus introduced a gender-neutral approach, so that their policies could also be applied to people who declare themselves as "non-binary", i.e. they do not belong to any gender. The situation is similar in Italy, where there is no specific integration policy for migrant women because the national legislation does not distinguish between women and men.

As shown in Table 1, in most member states there is some kind of integration policy and these can be divided into three main approaches. **Croatia** does not have a specific focus on gender in integration policies.

Integration policies	
There is no specific focus on gender in integration policies	BG, CY, EE, HR , IE, IT, LU, LV, NL, PL, SI
Integration policy with a specific focus on migrant women	AT, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, LT
A gender-aware approach within integration policies	AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, LU, MT, SE, SK

Table 1.

² AT, BE, DE, EE, FI, FR, IT, NL, SE

³ AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, HU, IE, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE

⁴ CZ, IT

⁵ BE, FI, FR, **HR**, LV, SE

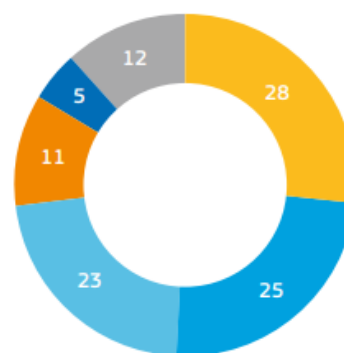
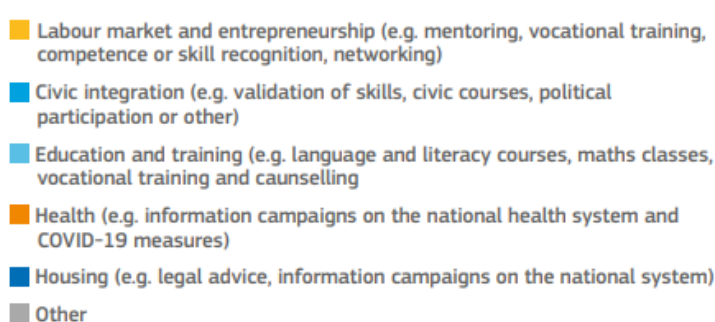
⁶ BE, CZ, EE, EL, FI, IT

Examples of measures cover six main integration areas, the largest share of which is focused on support for inclusion in the labor market or civic integration, followed by measures related to education and language training. A small proportion of reported measures include access to health and housing or support for entrepreneurship. In addition to the mentioned measures, another 12 of them refer to other forms of assistance, such as psychosocial or parenting support. **Croatia** reported the provision of assistance measures for inclusion in the labor market, language training and other forms of assistance, i.e. psychosocial support for migrant women. In most countries, the integration of migrant women is not a priority. This was also reported by **Croatia**⁷.

The measures presented in the study were identified by the member states as examples of good integration practices and are therefore indicative, but not representative of the overall integration measures in the EU. The member states presented a total of 54 examples of good practices and examples of integration measures (including **Croatia**)⁸, while five member states did not identify a single example⁹. About half of the measures consist of systematic initiatives that are multi-year or long-term, and slightly less than half are ad hoc projects. **Croatia** reported the existence of both types of projects, both long-term¹⁰ and short-term.¹¹ Most of the measures reported by the Member States are implemented at the national or regional level, and somewhat less at the local or European level. In **Croatia**, measures are implemented at the national¹² and local level¹³.

More than half of the measures focus on migrants in general, including citizens of third countries and EU citizens of migrant origin, and this is also the case in **Croatia**¹⁴.

Figure 13: Overview of good practice examples of integration measures per focus area



⁷ BG, EE, **HR**, HU, IE, IT, LU, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, SI, SK

⁸ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, SE.

⁹ BG, HU, PL, SI, SK.

¹⁰ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, EE, ES, FR, **HR**, IT, LU, LV, MT, NL

¹¹ CY, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, SE.

¹² BE, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, SE

¹³ AT, BE, FI, **HR**, IE, LT, LU, NL, SE

¹⁴ AT, BE, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, SE



CIVIL INTEGRATION

The largest share of measures refers to civic integration or provides similar types of activities aimed at civic integration, and do not fall into a specific category. The main goal of this group of measures is to enable migrants to become better acquainted with the language, culture, public institutions and public services of the country in which they live, as well as their rights and civil responsibilities. Many measures in this group aim to improve social cohesion by providing opportunities for migrants to interact more with their local community. **Croatia** reported the existence of civil integration measures.¹⁵

LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The second largest share of measures is focused on activities related to integration support when joining the labor market, entrepreneurship. **Croatia** is among the member states that have reported the existence of these measures¹⁶. The measures in this group aim to increase the possibilities of migrant women in the development of professional skills and/or experience, as well as their self-confidence in order to make it easier for them to find employment. It also makes it easier for them to develop their own professional project, if they decide to do so.

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE TRAINING

Some member states, including **Croatia**, provide integration measures such as language courses and other types of education and training, such as mathematics classes, literacy courses and vocational training¹⁷. These measures aim to support the learning and development of participants' professional skills in different areas, such as language acquisition, literacy, digital skills, self-confidence and public speaking. Measures are implemented to help migrant women overcome challenges such as lack of access to the labor market, lack of knowledge of the local language, isolation from the local community and lack of information about available learning and vocational education opportunities. As for the results, evaluations were carried out for less than half of the measures in this group¹⁸. Eight Member States reported that these actions achieved their objectives to a certain extent.¹⁹

¹⁵ AT, BE, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, FI, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL

¹⁶ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, EE, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, SE

¹⁷ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, **HR**, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, SE

¹⁸ AT, CY, CZ, DE, EL, FI, LV, NL

¹⁹ AT, CZ, DE, EL, FI, LV, NL



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INTEGRATION POLICIES AND MEASURES

Most member states, including Croatia, have not developed special integration policies or adapted existing ones in order to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant women. Of the countries that have not developed special measures, eight believe that their policies directed towards migrants are generally related also to migrant women. In the same way, they pointed to the existence of cross-sectoral policies related to COVID-19, which are aimed at society as a whole, including migrant women. Germany, for example, gave concrete examples of integration policies that directly targeted migrant women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their integration policies are focused on counseling and multi-sector direct assistance to migrant NGOs. Eleven Member States reported that women were included in the integration measures of a wider target group, such as measures of the migrant community or women in general. Some measures implemented by member states included multilingual campaigns to raise awareness of the disease COVID-19 and the provision of digital information on various topics such as health, domestic violence, language learning or housing. States also provided health-related measures such as testing and vaccination, support and campaigns to prevent domestic violence, improvement of existing shelters for migrant women who have experienced violence, economic support and other.