

CROATIAN EMN NCP CONFERENCE MARKING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

“WOMEN IN MIGRATION”

23 June 2022

Zagreb, Croatia

CONCEPT NOTE

European Migration Network National Contact Point Croatia (EMN NCP Croatia) and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia organizes on 23 June in Zagreb the EMN NCP Croatia Conference marking World Refugee Day, dedicated to women in migration. The conference will be also held online.

To access the conference online, click [here](#).

Women on the move; Migrant women in the EU

In most European countries, the female share of migrants remains consistently high. What do we know about these women on the move? Women migrate to Europe for a variety of reasons and over half of all migrants in the OECD and EU countries are women. Available data¹ show that in 2020, there were an estimated 1.9 million immigrants to the EU from non-EU countries and as regards gender distribution of immigrants to the EU Member States in 2020, **there were slightly more men than women (55 % compared with 45 %)**. The Member State reporting the highest share of male immigrants was Croatia (75 %); by contrast, the highest share of female immigrants was reported in Cyprus (54 %).

Women migrate in search of economic opportunity, to join family members, or as asylum seekers and refugees. Based on EUROSTAT data, the gender distribution shows that in 2020, the primary reason for issuing a first residence permit in European countries to men was for employment-related reasons (29.2 % of the total), while the corresponding share for women was lower and accounted for

¹ [EUROSTAT data](#)

14.6 %. By contrast, 16.5 % of all permits issued were for women who were granted residence permits for family-related reasons; this share was higher than the corresponding proportion recorded for men (11.4 %). Almost the same amount of permits for education reasons were delivered to men and women, which accounts for the same share in the total permits delivered in 2020 (6.1 %).

The role of migrant woman is paramount when talking about integration— not only of their own but also of their family members' integration. Even though, migrant women are large and diverse group, their potential is often underused and discounted among new migration flows, due to challenges they face as being a woman and being a migrant. For example, migrant women in the EU (including EU nationals and third-country nationals) generally have a higher unemployment rate than both non-migrant women and migrant men. For women with young children, the employment rate is significantly lower for migrant than non-migrant women.

Recent events in Ukraine have prompted even more debate on the integration of migrant women. More than six million Ukrainians have left their country since the start of the war on 24 February, the majority of these refugees are women and children. The events in Ukraine have resulted in EU members opening their doors and helping displaced people as much as they can. In addition, while national authorities are taking the lead on reception facilities and regulate legal status and integration, it is cities that also play a key role in helping newcomers settle in.

Focus on integration of migrant women; EU framework and Member States national policies and strategies

National governments are responsible for the creation and implementation of integration policies, while EU plays a key role in supporting its Member States. On 24 November 2020, the European Commission came out with an Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027. The Plan recognizes that individual characteristics may present challenges to people with a migrant background, such as gender or religious background and is proposing targeted and tailored support. Main focus is on inclusive education and training, improvement of employment opportunities and skills recognition, access to health and adequate and affordable housing.

Taking into account the importance of this subject, in 2022, the EMN will publish a study *Integration of Migrant Women in the EU: Policies and Measures* that will document if and to what extent EU Member States consider the distinct situation of migrant women in their integration policies and measures. This study focuses on the integration of migrant women in the main sectorial areas covered by the EU Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027.

The EMN NCP Conference aims to provide for the opportunity to hear more about the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, since almost more than 18 months have passed since its adoption, in the context of the position of women in migration, with special emphasis on the use of EU funds.

Furthermore, the main conclusions of the EMN study on the Integration of Migrant Women in the EU: Policies and Measures will be presented.

As some Member States have developed dedicated policies that target specific issues of migrant women integration, there will be the opportunity to learn from approaches already established by other Member States. Representatives of other Member States that have specific integration programs aimed exclusively at migrant women will be invited to share best practices and successful integration measures.

Who are the women on the move? An experience of migrant women in Croatia

Placing women in decision-making roles and including their needs and realities in policies and solutions designed to address migration and integration issues would make integration policies more sustainable and responsive.

Having in mind that integration is a long and complex two-way process that depends on partnership and cooperation between all stakeholders in the process, the Conference will also provide an opportunity for migrant women in the Republic of Croatia to inform the public about the experiences, challenges they face, expectations they have and suggestions of needs and activities that would enable more successful and equal inclusion in Croatian society.