



# RESEARCH RESULTS INFORMING **MIGRATION POLICY** IN EUROPE: insights and future directions

A policy report on collaborative research projects  
funded through  
Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe



Research and  
Innovation

## Research results informing migration policy in Europe: insights and future directions

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# **RESEARCH RESULTS INFORMING MIGRATION POLICY IN EUROPE: insights and future directions**

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## ***Preface: Horizon's contribution to shaping the understanding and management of migration in the European Union through research and innovation***

*This brief was prompted by a policy round-table event organised in December 2023 and attended by representatives of research projects funded by the European Union's Horizon programmes, Horizon 2020 (2014–2020) and Horizon Europe (2021–2027), and of policy services of the European Commission and other EU institutions. It presents a comprehensive synthesis of migration research funded under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6, 'Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies', and Horizon Europe Cluster 2, 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society', and highlights the significant progress made towards understanding and managing migration in the EU and its Member States. It encapsulates how the intersection of rigorous research and dynamic policymaking can forge pathways for a well-governed migration system. Reflecting on the culmination of years of concerted effort, it sets forth a vision for future research directions that anticipate the evolving needs arising from the EU's migration landscape.*

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1. Contextual overview of migration research in the European Union	4
1.2. From research to policy: insights from Horizon research and policy dialogue	6
<b>2. Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6 and Horizon Europe Cluster 2: catalysts in migration research.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1. Overview of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe migration projects	8
2.2. Policy implications and practical outcomes	8
<b>3. Key policy areas and future directions in EU migration research .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1. Supporting the effective implementation of the pact on migration and asylum	11
3.2. Anticipating future migration trends and directions in the EU migration landscape	11
<b>Annex I. Recommendations to policymakers from projects covered by the policy round table of December 2023.....</b>	<b>13</b>
A. Legal pathways – labour migration and integration into the labour market and society	13
B. Mixed migration, international protection and migrants in an irregular or precarious situation – returns, readmissions and forecasting	19
<b>Annex II. Portfolio of Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6 and Horizon Europe Cluster 2 projects on migration research.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Annex III. Portfolio of Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 7 and Horizon Europe Cluster 3 projects on border management research .....</b>	<b>29</b>

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Contextual overview of migration research in the European Union

Migration research in the European Union, under the aegis of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, the previous and current EU framework programmes for research and innovation, has been pivotal in providing nuanced insights into one of the most pressing global issues. The research under these programmes has delved into various aspects of migration, ranging from the socioeconomic impacts of migration to the integration challenges faced by migrants and refugees. In Pillar III of Horizon 2020 and Pillar II of its successor, Horizon Europe, research, and innovation activities are organised by societal challenges and thematic clusters, respectively. Pillar III of Horizon 2020 addresses a range of societal challenges, while Pillar II of Horizon Europe addresses global challenges through thematic clusters, with a total of six clusters encompassing various areas of research and innovation. Furthermore, curiosity-driven frontier research projects, some of which study migration, are funded under Pillar I of the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes, through the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions <sup>(1)</sup>. Pillar I, however, is not covered in detail in the present policy brief.

Migration is a relatively new research area for the EU that has been growing steadily since 1993 and the EU's third framework programme for research and innovation (1990–1994). However, it was only under the Horizon 2020 programme – and in particular with its Societal Challenge 6, 'Europe in a changing world; Inclusive, innovative, and reflective societies' – that migration research took centre stage. From 2015, EU Member States experienced a significant increase in asylum seekers, during a period when rates of legal migration were consistently rising, with an average of about 2.5 million entries per year <sup>(2)</sup>. New dynamics and challenges revealed complexities of migration that needed to be better understood in order to better govern it. After taking stock of the research needs emerging from these new challenges, the EU dedicated more than EUR 125 million to funding research on migration and mobility. This considerable investment was a part of the EU's response to the migration crisis of 2015 <sup>(3)</sup> and led to the funding of more than 40 projects contributing to a comprehensive migration research agenda, including on integration (labour market, skills, education, host societies), migration governance, asylum and forced displacement, the migration–development nexus, narratives and discourses, and migration forecasting and modelling.

Under Horizon 2020 and during the first years of Horizon Europe (2021, 2022 and 2023), the ERC funded around 130 frontier research projects on migration, with a total budget of around EUR 250 million <sup>(4)</sup>. These projects cover a wide range of topics linked to migration:

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<sup>(1)</sup> The ERC funds research in all fields of science, selected without any predefined academic or policy priorities and with excellence as the sole evaluation criterion. Although the ERC does not determine research topics, migration often features among the topics researchers propose to study when they apply for ERC grants.

<sup>(2)</sup> European Commission, '[Statistics on migration to Europe](#)', 2024.

<sup>(3)</sup> European Commission, European Website on Integration, '[Europe: New Horizon 2020 funds on migration policy](#)', 2016.

<sup>(4)</sup> The 2023 funding included the starting grant and consolidator grant.

such as migration and health; social mobility; education; labour mobility; integration, inclusion and equality; forced migration; climate change; refugees and asylum; border management; human rights; and human migration from a historical perspective <sup>(5)</sup>.

Horizon Europe continues to fund research into migration and mobility from several different angles. Its Cluster 2, 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society', focuses on engaging deeply with understanding migration by using social sciences and humanities to explore its impact and effects on society (see Annexes I and II). Cluster 3, 'Civil security for society', focuses on external aspects of migration and effective management of the EU's external borders (see Annex 3). Under this cluster, more than EUR 300 million has already been allocated to topics related to border and external security. Other clusters also touch upon migration aspects, for instance through their research into health or the climate.

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe have contributed significantly to advancing our understanding of migration. This has included exploring the human stories behind migration statistics, enhancing EU migration governance, and opening up new avenues for understanding the diverse experiences of migrants and refugees. The Horizon programmes have funded numerous projects that not only assess the immediate challenges of migration management but also examine the long-term societal impacts of migratory flows within and outside Europe.

In 2024, migration remains one of the most significant challenges for the EU. The recent increase in asylum applications and irregular entries into the EU, combined with the need to ensure the effective integration of migrants while upholding human rights, underscores the complex nature of this issue. The recent adoption of the pact on migration and asylum marked a significant breakthrough towards a common system for managing migration in the EU, sparking an ongoing debate around border control, human rights protection, and integration.

This agreement, reached after years of complex negotiations among Member States, constitutes a comprehensive strategy designed to normalise and effectively manage migration in the long term. The pact emphasises a balanced approach, rooted in solidarity, responsibility, and respect for human rights, aiming to provide clarity, certainty, and decent conditions for those arriving in the EU.

The key components of the pact include establishing uniform rules for registering and identifying non-EU nationals upon arrival and managing migratory situations in a predictable, equitable and stable manner by achieving a fair balance between responsibility and solidarity among Member States. The pact also aims to streamline asylum, return, and border procedures, making them quicker and more effective.

The implementation of the pact on migration and asylum is the critical next step. Its effectiveness will lie in the translation of its principles into practice, ensuring that the EU's migration and asylum systems are resilient and responsive to the needs of migrants and host communities.

In this dynamic context, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research projects have played and continue to play a valuable role. They provide crucial research insights into various

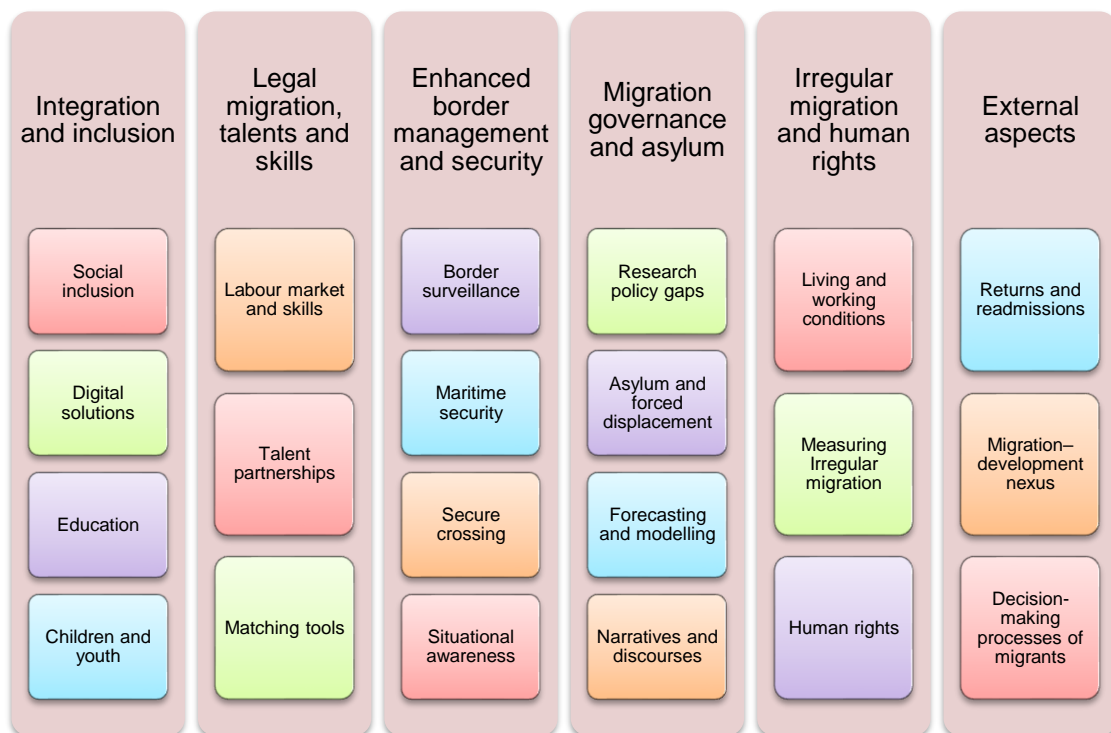
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<sup>(5)</sup> European Commission, European Research Council Executive Agency, [\*Migration and Asylum – The contribution of frontier research to the understanding of human mobility across frontiers\*](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017.

aspects of migration, such as labour market integration, the accessibility of rights and services, and educational and psychosocial support for migrant children. This research is instrumental in understanding and addressing both long-standing challenges – for example, integration into the labour market and society – and new, pressing issues such as irregular migration, returns and readmissions (Figure 1).

Moreover, these projects contribute significantly to forecasting and crisis response strategies. Such forward-looking research prepares the EU to effectively anticipate and address potential migration crises. This proactive approach will be critical to managing future migration trends and ensuring that the EU's migration policies remain adaptable, effective, and aligned with the broader goals of the pact on migration and asylum.

**Figure 1.** Classification of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe migration topics



NB: The classification was based on a mapping analysis of how migration research areas have evolved over the past few years.

## 1.2. From research to policy: insights from Horizon research and policy dialogue

This brief is inspired by the policy round table ‘Bridging research and policy: Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe shaping migration policy’, organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation in December 2023. The primary objective of this event was to facilitate a dynamic exchange of research findings from 11 completed and ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research projects on migration with policy services of the European Commission and other EU institutions. By connecting research



results with policymaking, the event aimed to inform and foster evidence-based policy initiatives.

The selected projects showcased a wealth of research results, ranging from evidence-based policy recommendations to innovative tools such as new datasets, artificial intelligence (AI) applications and social media analytics for monitoring migration patterns. In addition, a new CEN-CENELEC standard emerged<sup>(6)</sup>, along with prospects for collaboration with industrial production sectors (agriculture, for instance), which underscored the vital role of migrant workers in various industries. With a keen focus on applied research, the discussions delved into ongoing policy considerations, and participants reflected on how research influences decision-making and shapes the trajectory of long-term policies. The interactive sessions fostered a robust exchange of insights, highlighting the symbiotic relationship between research initiatives and policy formulation.

The policy round table represented just the beginning of an ongoing series of dialogues and collaboration. It was part of a broader effort to engage Member States, stakeholders, and researchers in a continuous exchange in which policy development and research innovation intertwine. Future events in this series will maintain this dual focus, bringing policy and research experts together to examine a number of migration-related topics, and ensuring a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to the challenges and opportunities presented by migration to the EU.

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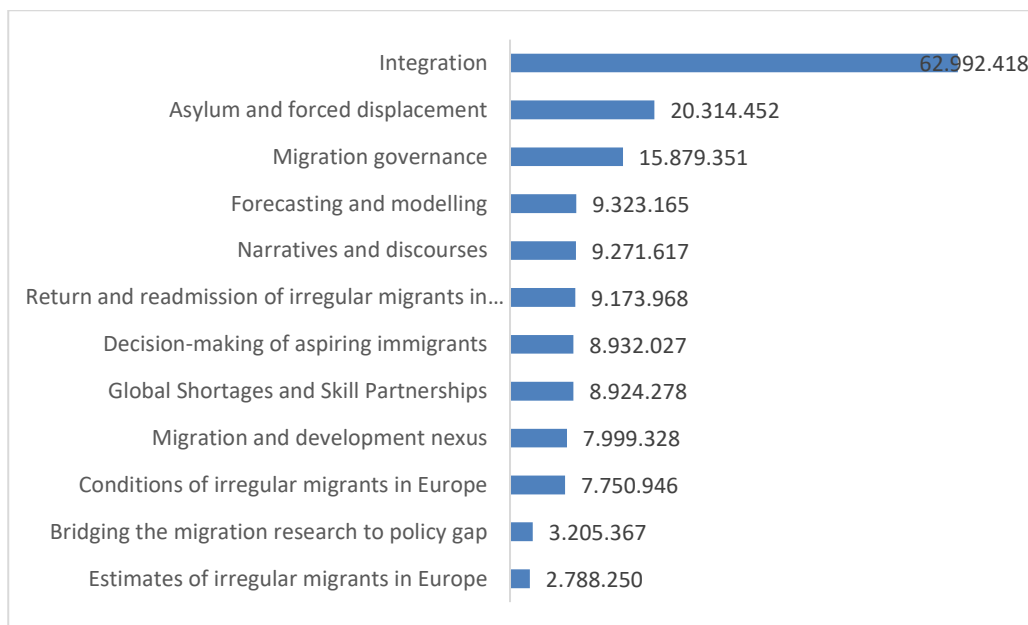
<sup>(6)</sup> This [officially published standard](#) is entitled Mediation Grammar; it is a testing methodology for measuring the extent to which basic public services are provided in a non-discriminatory manner to their intended beneficiaries. The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) are officially recognised by the European Union as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at the European level.

## 2. Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6 and Horizon Europe Cluster 2: catalysts in migration research

### 2.1. Overview of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe migration projects

The total investment in migration-related research under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6, ‘Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative, and reflective societies’, and Horizon Europe Cluster 2, ‘Culture, creativity and inclusive society’, amounts to roughly EUR 160 million, with more than 55 projects funded. This substantial funding reflects the EU’s commitment to advancing the understanding of migration issues and shaping effective policies. More than EUR 125 million was allocated under Horizon 2020, and nearly EUR 35 million has been invested under Horizon Europe so far (to 2024), contributing to financing a comprehensive migration research agenda, including on integration, migration governance, asylum and forced displacement, the migration–development nexus, narratives and discourses on migration, and migration forecasting and modelling (Figure 2).

**Figure 2.** Spending by research area under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6 and Horizon Europe Cluster 2 (EUR, to 2024)



### 2.2. Policy implications and practical outcomes

The large number of relevant research initiatives under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe have not only expanded our understanding of migration but also had tangible policy implications and practical outcomes. The integration of these research findings into EU policymaking demonstrates a commitment to evidence-based approaches in addressing the multifaceted issues arising from migration.

- **Enhancing policy frameworks.** The insights from these projects have been instrumental in refining the EU’s migration policy frameworks. The research findings have informed the development of more effective strategies in areas such as labour

market integration, access to rights and services, and educational support for migrant children. For example, the [Refuge-Ed](#) project, funded under Horizon 2020, focused on enhancing educational and psychosocial support for the integration of refugee children. The project combined educational and mental health support to address refugee and migrant children's educational needs. Refuge-Ed implemented various pilot studies across multiple European countries, having a significant impact by creating inclusive and supportive educational environments. One of its practical outcomes, the [Brokering Knowledge Platform](#), serves as a one-stop shop for practical evidence, resources and tools for people working with children from a migratory background and supporting their education, well-being and sense of belonging. Another important project in that regard is [EasyRights](#). The project has made significant advancements in simplifying access to public services for migrants through practical, innovative solutions, such as the AI-driven [EasyRights Agent](#) and a method, named [Mediation Grammar](#), that can be used by public administrations to standardise and improve the quality of services for migrants. The project managed to certify this method as a standard with the European Committee for Standardisation ([CWA 18014:2023](#)) and it essentially acts as a benchmark for quality service provision, aiding public administrations in evaluating and improving their interaction with migrants.

- **Influencing public discourse and perception.** Some of the projects have shed light on how public narratives on migration are shaped. By providing empirical evidence on and adding nuance to migration narratives, these initiatives have contributed to a more balanced and informed public understanding of migration issues. This is particularly relevant in countering misconceptions and fostering a more empathetic approach to migrants and refugees. The [Bridges](#) project, for instance, has contributed to reshaping public discourse on migration, fostering a more informed and inclusive understanding. It brought forth critical insights into the impact of migration narratives across Europe. Focusing on countries including The Gambia and Türkiye, the project evaluated the effectiveness of EU-funded information campaigns on migration decisions. Key outputs include recommendations on creating more comprehensive communication strategies, engaging with community leaders, and creating more legal migration avenues. The project also revealed how media narratives often polarise the migration debate, underscoring the importance of nuanced, inclusive storytelling and empowering migrant voices. These insights can guide the development of more effective and balanced migration policies within the EU.
- **Guiding crisis management and forecasting.** One of the most critical aspects of these research projects has been their contribution to crisis management and migration forecasting. The ability to anticipate migration trends and prepare for potential crises is essential for effective migration management. Research from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects has provided policymakers with the tools and knowledge to develop proactive strategies that can be adapted to changing migration patterns. In that regard, the contribution of the [Hummingbird](#) project to crisis management and preparedness is invaluable, offering tools for accurate nowcasting and forecasting of migration trends. The project has the potential to significantly strengthen EU migration governance through enhanced data quality and comparability, which are crucial for informed policymaking. Utilising big data for forecasting, it provides real-time insights into migration patterns, leading to better crisis response and management.
- **Bridging the research–policy gap.** A structured approach is essential to ensure that the wealth of evidence produced by research projects under programmes such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe is effectively utilised in policy formulation and implementation. Often, valuable evidence and insights generated by research projects do not effectively influence policy decisions, leading to a disconnect between academic

findings and practical policymaking. Bridging this gap is of paramount importance, as it impedes the implementation of research-backed, effective migration policies that can adapt to and address the evolving challenges in the field. The recently established project [Innovate](#) stands as a prime example of efforts to bridge this gap. Innovate aims to establish the MR2P Collaboratory, a platform designed to capitalise on the knowledge produced by Horizon projects. The MR2P Collaboratory will serve as a nexus for researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders, enabling the direct flow of research insights into the policy domain. This platform will not only facilitate the dissemination of research findings but also promote dialogue, training, and collaboration between the academic and policymaking communities. By fostering this structured interaction, the MR2P Collaboratory will ensure that policies are grounded in the latest research and responsive to the complex realities of migration. This will enhance the effectiveness of EU migration governance, ensuring that policies are informed by a comprehensive understanding of migration dynamics and capable of addressing both current needs and future challenges.

Numerous research projects are contributing to various areas related to migration. For instance, in addition to [Refuge-Ed](#), projects such as [Child-Up](#), [MiCreate](#), [Immerse](#) and [MIMY](#) are focused on aspects of **child and youth inclusion**. Projects such as [Spring](#), [Sirius](#), [Matilde](#) and [Whole-Comm](#) concentrate on **community and labour market integration**, while [MIICT](#), [Rebuild](#) and [Micado](#) have developed **IT solutions** to facilitate migrant integration. The projects [Mirrem](#), [I-Claim](#), [DignityFirm](#) and [Prime](#), which focus on various aspects of **irregular migration** in Europe, aim to contribute to a better understanding of the conditions, policies and living situations affecting irregular migrants in the region. Furthermore, several other projects are addressing topics including **asylum and forced displacement**, **irregular migration**, and the identification of **root causes** of people aspiring to migrate to the EU.

These diverse projects have collectively not only expanded our knowledge of migration but also contributed to a more comprehensive and evidence-based approach to addressing migration challenges within the EU.

### 3. Key policy areas and future directions in EU migration research

#### 3.1. Supporting the effective implementation of the pact on migration and asylum

This chapter highlights the key role of research and innovation in shaping the future of EU migration, particularly in the context of the [pact on migration and asylum](#), the EU's comprehensive migration framework. The pact has already delivered various outcomes in fields such as paving the way for a common European return system, the new [European Union Agency for Asylum](#) (EUAA), the new [Talent Partnerships](#) and Talent Pool initiatives, and an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration. In addition, once the 2-year transition period to full application is over, important pieces of legislation – such as the **asylum and migration management regulation**, the updated **asylum procedures regulation** and a **crisis and force majeure regulation** – will reform the governance and management of migration and asylum in Europe, with an immediate impact on migrants.

This poses a twofold challenge for research and EU migration governance: on the one hand, supporting the implementation of the outcomes of the pact that precede and immediately follow the application date and, on the other, informing with evidence the upcoming policy initiatives for the next Commission mandate. For instance, at a practical level the recent Commission initiative on Talent Partnerships will be supported by three projects, [Link4Skills](#), [Skills4Justice](#) and [GS4S](#), in a coordinated way. These projects will provide valuable insights and evidence that will help maximise the effectiveness of this newly founded migration-related scheme.

Furthermore, the implementation of an effective European return and readmission system, a key aspect of the pact, will find strong support from projects such as [GAPS](#), [MORE](#) and [FAIR](#), which will be instrumental in assisting the EU Return Coordinator. Their insights will aid in establishing a common return system and improving coordination between Member States.

In addition, the [EUAA](#) stands to gain from the findings of several Horizon 2020 projects, including [RAISD](#), [ASILE](#) and [EasyRights](#). These projects provide valuable insights into asylum and reception practices, supporting the EUAA's mission to bring greater convergence to these practices across the EU.

Collectively, these research initiatives offer a solid foundation for informed policymaking, ensuring that the EU's migration approach is both proactive and responsive. By leveraging the outputs of these projects, the EU can effectively navigate the challenges and trends in migration in the evolving global context in a comprehensive manner.

#### 3.2. Anticipating future migration trends and directions in the EU migration landscape

Despite the substantial progress made, new gaps constantly emerge, necessitating ongoing research to expand our understanding of migration-related areas and to inform and support the policy initiatives introduced in the pact on migration and asylum.

Several key areas have been identified for future research and innovation actions, including the following.

- The intersection of **climate change and migration**. Understanding the impact of climate change on migration patterns, particularly in regions vulnerable to environmental degradation, is crucial. This involves studying not only migration itself but also the adaptative strategies of migrant populations and the socioeconomic impacts on both origin and destination regions. Projects that examine policy responses and the role of technology in the climate–migration nexus can provide valuable insights to help in the development of comprehensive management frameworks.
- The relationship between **migration and technological advancements** is another critical area. With the digital transformation shaping migration trends, research is needed to explore how technology can enhance migration management. This should include AI-driven tools for language and cultural integration, AI-enabled platforms for information and service access, and ethical considerations relating to the new digital solutions and infrastructures used in border security and asylum application processing.
- **Public health**, especially considering the impact of migration on health systems and the unique health challenges faced by migrants. Research in this field should focus on migrant health outcomes, the strain on public health systems, cross-cultural health practices and the specific needs of refugee and asylum-seeker populations.
- The unique challenges faced by **migrant children and young people** demand focused attention. This should include evaluating existing practices and proposing new approaches to the integration of migrant children and young people into educational systems, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) measures, investigating the role of children and young people in migration decision-making, and measures addressing the particular needs of unaccompanied minors.
- Other potential research areas could include **labour migration policies**, with an emphasis on legal migration, and the **quality and compatibility of migration data**, which at the moment pose challenges with regard to accurately understanding migration scenarios and designing effective policies. The **long-term impact of integration policies** also deserves further research, to assess their effectiveness and sustainability. In this context, it would be valuable to **deepen the concept of integration**, going beyond the usual definition (has a job, speaks the language) to look at integration in terms of values.

The identification of these research areas paves the way for a collaborative effort involving Member States, academic researchers, and policymakers. Each stakeholder plays a pivotal role: Member States in facilitating data collection and policy implementation, researchers in conducting in-depth studies and developing innovative solutions, and policymakers in translating these findings into actionable strategies. Together, this multilateral collaboration will ensure that EU migration policies are grounded in robust evidence, responsive to emerging trends and reflective of the diverse experiences of migrants.

In conclusion, the developing landscape of EU migration presents new challenges and opportunities for research. A continuous cycle of learning and adapting is essential to shape policies that are resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking, ensuring that the EU remains well-prepared to handle the complexities of future migration trends.

## Annex I. Recommendations to policymakers from projects covered by the policy round table of December 2023

This Annex presents a concise overview of the 11 participating projects funded under Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6, 'Europe in a changing world: Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies', and Horizon Europe Cluster 2, 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society', categorising them into two sections, reflecting the structure of the event: 'A. Legal pathways – labour migration and integration into the labour market and society' and 'B. Mixed migration, international protection and migrants in an irregular or precarious situation – returns, readmissions and forecasting'. Each project is summarised, highlighting key outcomes and implications for policymaking. Insights cover a range of pertinent topics, including skills recognition, human rights literacy, rural migration impacts, decision-making processes, education initiatives and forecasting models.

### A. Legal pathways – labour migration and integration into the labour market and society

The morning session centred on regular migration pathways, qualified migration, and integration into the labour market and society. Researchers from the projects *Aspire*, *Sirius*, *Refuge-Ed*, *EasyRights* and *Matilde* presented key findings. Policy officers engaged in constructive dialogue, aiming to harness research insights to shape future talent retention policies and address migration challenges.

#### Sirius – Skills and integration of migrants, refugees and asylum applicants in European labour markets

*Budget, EUR 2 500 000; duration, 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2021*



## SIRIUS

Skills and Integration of Migrants,  
Refugees and Asylum Applicants  
in European Labour Markets

In response to the escalating polarisation in debates on refugees and migrants, Sirius set out to dismantle barriers hindering the labour market integration of newcomers. Recognising the urgency of shifting from a prejudice-driven narrative, Sirius established a comprehensive conceptual framework that identified the pivotal

role of the labour market in integration and targeted specific challenges faced by women and young migrants post-2014.

Sirius pursued three core objectives: providing systematic evidence on migrants' potential for labour market employment and social integration, deepening the understanding of the intricacies of their integration journey and proposing a theoretical framework for an inclusive integration agenda. The project adopted a mixed-methods approach, employing innovative dissemination strategies such as online networks, film essays, festivals, job fairs and an applied game, complemented by engaging in scientific and policy dialogues.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/770515>

#### Key outcomes

*Workeen* emerged as a significant outcome – a practical application designed to guide migrants entering the job market for the first time. Available from Google Play for Android devices, *Workeen* offers interactive scenarios to assist jobseekers in securing employment

and navigating workplace integration. It provides practical guidance, including on documentation requirements, skills presentation, contact with placement agencies and preparation for interviews. In addition, Workeen helps users navigate real-life workplace situations, fostering a smoother transition for newly employed migrants. The application is accessible in multiple languages, including Arabic, English, Farsi and six European languages.

### Policy recommendations

- **Inclusive employment policies.** Advocate for legal reforms eliminating categorical work bans based on legal status. Bridge CV gaps, recognise skills and create an inclusive job market for all newcomers.
- **Combating bias and discrimination.** Launch awareness programmes challenging negative perceptions of migrants. Highlight their positive contributions and implement initiatives promoting equal job opportunities and combating discrimination.
- **Tech-facilitated integration.** Promote technology tools such as Workeen for practical guidance and soft-skills training, helping migrants to navigate job search and workplace challenges. Make tools multilingual to enable people with diverse migrant backgrounds to access them.

### EasyRights – Enabling immigrants to easily know and exercise their rights

*Budget, EUR 3 519 000; duration, 1 January 2020 to 30 November 2022*



The overarching objective of EasyRights was to develop a co-creation ecosystem in which different actors belonging to the local governance system could cooperate on increasing the quantity and quality of public (welfare) services available to migrants. The specific aims were to improve personalisation and contextualisation levels, to empower the prospective beneficiaries of existing services in getting better access and fruition opportunities and to engage quadruple helix stakeholders in joint purposeful co-creation efforts, facilitated through hackathons. An EasyRights platform – with the twin aim of bringing together local stakeholders and providing information on online and offline services – will be developed and deployed in four pilot locations (Birmingham, Larissa, Palermo and Malaga). In this way, EasyRights can support migrants in their efforts to have various needs met, making them less reliant on discretionary street-level bureaucracies<sup>7</sup>, saving time for both migrants and social services staff and cutting costs for public administrations.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870980>

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<sup>7</sup> Street-level bureaucracies refer to public service agencies where front-line employees exercise personal judgment and discretion in carrying out their duties and applying rules.



## Key outputs

- **Mediation Grammar: revolutionising informational rights compliance.** Mediation Grammar (European Committee for Standardisation standard CWA 18014:2023) is a groundbreaking European standard that sets the stage for a new era of compliance in addressing the informational needs of non-EU migrants. By providing specific benchmarks, it functions as an invaluable tool for policymakers striving to enhance the quality and inclusivity of public services, in alignment with the broader goal of fostering societal integration.
- **EasyRights Agent: transformative AI for policy-driven access.** In the realm of migrant service access, EasyRights Agent is both a cutting-edge, text-based technological innovation and a policy-driven solution designed to streamline bureaucratic complexities. Tailored for efficiency, it empowers policymakers to revolutionise public service accessibility for migrants. By leveraging AI to simplify intricate processes, it aims to create a more responsive, inclusive, and efficient public service landscape.

## Policy recommendations

- **Institutional adoption of Mediation Grammar.** Encourage Member States to formally adopt Mediation Grammar as a regulatory framework. This step will ensure standardised compliance with informational rights, fostering improved interaction between migrants and public services.
- **Integration of EasyRights Agent into public service portals.** Facilitate the integration of the EasyRights Agent into national and local public service portals. Policymakers should advocate for its seamless incorporation, leveraging AI to simplify access, reduce bureaucracy and empower migrants with tailored information.
- **Promotion of multilingual AI-driven solutions.** Emphasise the development and adoption of multilingual AI solutions, expanding the linguistic capabilities of the EasyRights Agent. This would help to support diverse migrant communities, addressing language barriers and enhancing the inclusivity of public services for effective migrant integration.

## Matilde – Migration impact assessment to enhance integration and local development in European rural and mountain areas

*Budget, EUR 2 987 830; duration, 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2023*



The Matilde project, spanning 3 years, aimed to leverage the potential of non-EU migrants in promoting economic and social development in European rural and mountain areas. Conducting 13 case studies across 10 countries, Matilde assessed the multidimensional impacts of non-EU nationals on local development. Employing a transdisciplinary approach, the project engaged local stakeholders and implemented an action research strategy to understand migration effects. The outcomes contributed valuable insights into the positive role of migrants in these regions, emphasising the importance of language acquisition, combating discrimination and promoting labour market inclusion. Matilde sought to guide policymakers with tailored recommendations on inclusive governance, fostering long-term settlement and recognising the diversity of rural areas.

## Key findings

- **Economic and social boost.** Matilde's findings showcased the substantial positive impact of non-EU nationals on the economic and social vitality of European rural and mountain areas. Contrary to stereotypes, migrants emerged as vital contributors, countering demographic challenges and enriching the cultural landscape.
- **Inclusive integration strategies.** Matilde underscored the imperative need for inclusive measures in migrant integration. This should include targeted language programmes, initiatives combating discrimination and tailored labour market strategies. Emphasising the pivotal roles of local policymakers and regional governance, the project advocated for measures fostering a sense of belonging, thus promoting the long-term settlement of migrants in these unique geographical settings.

## Policy recommendations

- **Streamline EU funding access for local impact.** Reform EU funding mechanisms to ensure local and regional actors, particularly small non-governmental organisations, can easily access and sustainably utilise EU funds. This step is crucial to catalysing lasting change in rural communities.
- **Empowerment through entrepreneurship.** Implement robust support programmes for non-EU nationals and refugees, fostering their entrepreneurial ventures. Facilitate their participation in EU business forums and coaching seminars to amplify their contributions to rural economies.
- **Revolutionise qualification recognition and intercultural integration.** Accelerate the recognition of foreign qualifications to streamline the integration of skilled workers from non-EU countries. Bolster EU-wide intercultural initiatives and ensure ubiquitous internet access in asylum accommodation, fostering a connected, inclusive society.
- **Enhance integration infrastructure.** Expand integration offices, with a focus on migrant intermediaries. Invest in community services and create spaces for meaningful interaction between migrants and local populations, promoting social cohesion and combating racism at its roots.

## Aspire – Decision-making of aspiring (re-)migrants to and within the EU: The case of labour-market-leading migrations from Asia

*Budget, EUR 3 535 099.75; duration, 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025*



The Aspire project seeks to unravel the decision-making process behind migration from Southeast and East Asia to Europe. The project looks into the practical realities that push individuals towards the EU. Considering the context of the global pandemic, the project is set to dissect how European policies align with or affect the choices of potential migrants. The goal is to pinpoint the personal motivations and broader influences that lead to migration. Aspire aims to provide insights that could steer EU migration strategies in a direction that acknowledges and addresses the actual needs of and timing factors affecting those considering a move to or within Europe.

## Preliminary findings and policy recommendations

As the project unpacks the initial findings from the Hong Kong / Mainland China–Portugal case study, a pattern emerges: migrants’ journeys are influenced by a variety of factors that range from the socioeconomic landscape of their homelands to the intricate web of immigration policies in their chosen European destinations. Decisions are not linear but part of a complex matrix of aspirations, shaped by both personal choices and policies, for example those on work visas or family reunification forming part of the regulatory frameworks established by destination countries, which can determine the feasibility of relocation for migrants and the opportunities available to them upon arrival.

Given these dynamics, the preliminary recommendations presented at the round table were fourfold.

- **Adopt a transnational and multidimensional policy framework.** Migration policymaking must transcend borders and sectors, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of migrants’ lives and decisions.
- **Ensure policy flexibility for practical implementation.** Create adaptable policies that can be swiftly executed, accommodating changing circumstances that affect migrants’ experiences.
- **Foster dialogues with migrant communities.** Engage directly with migrants to ensure that policies reflect their realities and needs, bridging the gap between legislation and lived experience.
- **Invest in targeted research.** Conduct more empirical studies on the nuances of qualified migration, focusing on specific corridors or pathways to better understand and support this group.

## Refuge-Ed – Effective practices in education, mental health and psychosocial support for the integration of refugee children

*Budget, EUR 2 997 830; duration, 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023*



The Refuge-Ed project aimed to enhance the educational and psychosocial well-being of migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeker children. During the largest child refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War, with over a million people

arriving in Europe since 2015, the need for quality education and mental health support for children was paramount. The project was dedicated to advancing the integration of migrant and refugee children into European societies. It developed the Brokering Knowledge Platform, a repository of tools, solutions and guidelines designed for the effective integration of children, emphasising dialogic co-creation with all stakeholders involved, to disseminate effective practices for integration. Refuge-Ed’s innovative approach involved mapping best practices, engaging in co-creation, implementing pilot experiences across Europe, and making solutions available for wider use. Spanning 6 countries – Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy and Sweden – the project facilitated 33 communities of

learning and practice, which were set up in a variety of environments, from migration hotspots and reception centres to inclusive school settings.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101004717>

### **Key outcomes**

- A catalogue of existing effective practices aimed at promoting the integration, academic success and inclusion, and well-being and social belonging of refugee and asylum-seeker children.
- A toolkit for evaluation of outcomes and process evaluation, and a data management system, which can be used across the pilot action sites.
- The Brokering Knowledge Platform, for end-users and stakeholders, and a transnational European community of learning and practice.

### **Policy recommendations**

- **Accessible evidence-based practices.** Make educational and MHPSS resources widely accessible and understandable through user-friendly channels.
- **Comprehensive MHPSS approach.** Integrate MHPSS comprehensively into educational policies to enhance children's well-being and help them to develop socioemotional skills, leading to improved educational outcomes.
- **Inclusive co-creation.** Engage stakeholders, including children, educators, families, and policymakers, in co-creation processes for education and MHPSS policy and action design.
- **Language and anti-discrimination measures.** Implement structured language learning and anti-discrimination practices in educational settings to ensure safe, inclusive spaces and enhance communication for refugee children and their families.

## B. Mixed migration, international protection and migrants in an irregular or precarious situation – returns, readmissions and forecasting

The afternoon session of the round-table event focused on mixed migration, international protection and individuals in irregular or precarious situations. Researchers from the projects Mirrem, DignityFirm, ASILE, FAIR, GAPS and Hummingbird shared their findings. Participants delved into discussions on translating research into effective policy responses, respecting human rights in irregular migration, and informing asylum and international protection policies with evidence amid divergent views and political dynamics. The session aimed to bridge the gap between research and policymaking and increase understanding of the complexities of irregular migration.

### Mirrem – Measuring irregular migration and related policies

*Budget, EUR 2 788 250; duration, 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2025*



The Mirrem project is an ongoing coordination and support action under Horizon Europe that will take stock of and analyse policies and how they shape the meaning of migrant irregularity and related concepts. The project aims to address the challenges posed by irregular migration by improving knowledge and data on this issue. Irregular migration is a complex problem, and policies to address it require accurate information. Policymakers and service providers often struggle with policy development due to limited reliable data on irregular migration. Issues include data comparability and quality and differing definitions of irregularity. Mirrem will assess policies and data needs related to irregular migration in multiple countries, involving stakeholders in the process. The project aims to develop innovative methods for measuring irregular migration and regularisation scenarios. It will create databases with estimates on irregular migrant stocks and migration flows, along with handbooks and training resources to support evidence-based policymaking in this area.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101061314>

#### Planned outcomes

- **A public database.** This database will contain assessments of existing indicators and estimates related to irregular migration, providing a basis for improving knowledge in this area.
- **Mirrem methods lab.** This lab will assess the potential of new approaches, with a focus on upscaling innovative methods of addressing irregular migration challenges.
- **Handbooks and training resources.** Mirrem plans to provide tangible recommendations in handbooks and to develop training resources to support evidence-based policymaking.
- **Webinar series.** The project team conducts webinars on various topics related to irregular migration, making information and discussions accessible to a wider audience.

## DignityFirm – Dignity for irregular migrants in EU farm-to-fork labour markets

*Budget, EUR 3 000 283; duration, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026*



DignityFirm aims to improve conditions for irregular migrant workers in farm-to-fork labour markets across Member States and associated countries. It will address the challenges faced by migrant workers, who play a crucial role in food production

but often work in unsafe conditions. The project will involve stakeholders at various levels and will aim to bridge the gap between policy aspirations and the realities of migrant workers. DignityFirm seeks to develop future policy measures, tools and strategies that will uphold migrant workers' rights and well-being while contributing to the sustainability of farm-to-fork industries in the EU.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094652>

### Planned outcomes

- **Tailored policy measures.** DignityFirm will deliver group-sensitive policy measures designed to empower irregular migrant farm workers. These measures will address migration management, social rights, sustainable labour markets and corporate responsibility, offering practical solutions for policymakers seeking equitable outcomes in the farm-to-fork sector.
- **Regulatory enhancement.** The project aims to enhance regulatory infrastructures governing migrant workers' conditions. Policymakers will find structural recommendations to fortify these frameworks, ensuring the well-being of workers in this vital sector.
- **Social inclusion.** DignityFirm endeavours to improve access to rights and services for migrant labourers, fostering social inclusion. These outcomes align with policymakers' goal of creating fair and equitable societies.

## FAIR – Finding agreement in return

*Budget, EUR 3 024 240; duration, 1 May 2023 to 31 October 2026*



The FAIR project aims to address the challenges faced by undocumented migrants in Europe by exploring ways to enhance return migration governance. It will involve stakeholders from non-EU countries (Georgia, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Türkiye), Member States (Germany, Italy, Poland) and European Economic Area countries (Norway, Switzerland). The project's objectives include assessing public support for alternatives to return policies, improving human rights monitoring of enforced return procedures and developing better

means of measuring the outcomes of Europe's return policies. FAIR seeks to reduce measurement bias, analyse policy drivers, conduct a survey experiment on public support and facilitate international agreements on return and readmission. Its goals align with the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration and with the sustainable development goals.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094828>

## Planned outcomes

- **Migrant Return Policy Index (MIREX).** A database that systematically evaluates and compares different return policies, providing valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, students and the public.
- **Behavioural experiment on public acceptability of alternatives to return.** Investigating public perceptions and the acceptability of alternative policies to return, shedding light on potential pathways for more acceptable migration policies.
- **Guidelines on monitoring human rights in return procedures.** Offering guidance on ensuring that human rights are upheld during return processes.
- **Simulation game to assess negotiation strategies.** Developing a tool to assess negotiation strategies related to return and readmission agreements.
- **Eurostat data on return without measurement bias.** Providing accurate data on return processes.
- **Handbook on dilemmas relating to return.** A comprehensive resource for understanding and addressing challenges in return migration governance.

## ASILE – Global asylum governance and the European Union’s role

*Budget, EUR 2 979 826; duration, 1 December 2019 to 31 March 2024*



The ASILE project, funded by the EU, examined the EU’s role in asylum governance in light of the global refugee crisis. It focused on the interactions between emerging international protection systems and the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees (UN GCR). The project assessed the impact of asylum governance instruments on vulnerable groups based on gender and age, as well as the compliance of these instruments with human rights and refugee law standards. ASILE aimed to create a better understanding of asylum systems, their inclusivity and their effects on refugees’ rights. It also offered policy insights and recommendations to improve asylum policies both globally and within the EU.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870787>

## Key outcomes

- **Groundbreaking insights.** ASILE offered groundbreaking insights into the evolving landscape of asylum governance, focusing in particular on the EU’s role and its interaction with emerging international protection systems and the UN GCR.
- **Evidence-based policy tools.** The project provided a collection of evidence-based policy tools and recommendations, with the aim of helping to ensure that future asylum policies are both effective and fair, with a specific emphasis on addressing vulnerabilities related to gender and age.

- **Global academic association.** ASILE laid the foundations for a global academic association on refugee studies and the UN GCR, fostering sustainability and international collaboration in the field of refugee protection.
- **Critical evaluation of containment and mobility.** The research critically evaluates asylum governance instruments, shedding light on the complexities of ‘contained mobility’ and the need for more inclusive and non-discriminatory approaches to refugee protection.

### Policy recommendations

- **Critical evaluation of asylum instruments.** Urgently reassess and independently monitor asylum governance tools to ensure that they align with international standards and genuinely offer protection, rather than creating complex forms of contained mobility.
- **Tackle exclusion in socioeconomic integration.** Address the exclusionary features of ‘complementary pathways’ that undermine fairness and the right to decent work, leading to prolonged precarity and informal status for asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Redefine ‘vulnerability’ in policy.** Reconsider the use of the term ‘vulnerability’ in asylum policies, recognising its tendency to perpetuate negative stereotypes and downplay the legal and policy factors contributing to the vulnerability of individuals.

### Hummingbird – Enhanced migration measures from a multidimensional perspective

*Budget, EUR 2 992 035; duration, 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2024*



The Hummingbird project was dedicated to enhancing the understanding of migration dynamics by studying the origins and drivers of migration and their connection to people’s propensity to migrate. Recognising the growing social and political significance of migration, this project sought to deepen our comprehension of migration’s root causes and patterns, including the motivations behind it and the new geographies it encompasses. A key aspect of Hummingbird was the use of data to provide insights into migration drivers, geography, incentives and instruments. The project aimed to evaluate the success of past migration policies, identify gaps in prediction and assess the current and future impacts of contemporary migration policies. Through this, Hummingbird intended to improve understanding of the changing nature of migration flows. The project’s ambitious goals included developing realistic global migration scenarios based on both quantitative and qualitative perspectives. The project’s advancements included using several types of big data to monitor migration flows and conducting in-depth qualitative research on migrants’ perspectives. The Hummingbird project, with its focus on a data-driven understanding of migration, gave rise to several practical applications that can significantly influence migration policies and practices, including on predictive analysis and forecasting, crisis response and humanitarian aid, and improved integration strategies.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870661>



## Key outcomes

- **Innovative data analysis.** Utilising big-data sources such as mobile phone records, social media, satellite imagery and air traffic data, the project developed novel methods of monitoring and understanding migration. These include identifying climate-driven migration patterns, mapping subgroups of migrants and analysing public attitudes towards migrants.
- **Qualitative research on migrant perspectives.** Through interviews with both settled migrants and migrants en route, the project gained deeper insights into the experiences and decisions of migrants. This part of the research aimed to capture the complexed realities of migration from the migrants' point of view.
- **Policy insights and information on societal impacts.** The project generated important findings about the impact of migration policies. Restrictive policies tend to decrease migration flows and change their skill composition, but they also lead to unintended consequences such as increased numbers of undocumented migrants. Inclusive policies, conversely, create positive cycles of integration and societal participation for migrants.

## Policy recommendations

- **Integrate and analyse diverse data sources for migration insights.** Emphasise the integration of various data streams, including social media data, satellite data and machine learning outputs, to gain a comprehensive understanding of migration trends and patterns. This innovative approach is crucial to developing effective migration policies that respond to the dynamic and circular nature of migration flows.
- **Establish robust ethical frameworks for data usage.** Prioritise the development of ethical guidelines to govern the use of big data in migration studies. Address privacy concerns and the potential risks of tracking individuals, ensuring that group privacy and individual rights are safeguarded in all data-driven migration research and policy formulation.
- **Recognise and adapt to the realities of irregular migration.** Acknowledge that irregular migration often involves skilled individuals and that policy adaptations are necessary to address this reality. Understand that restrictive border policies do not halt migration but rather reshape it, underlining the need for policies that are responsive to the complexities of migration, including the impact of climate change and policy changes on migration patterns.

## GAPS – De-centring the study of migrant returns and readmission policies in Europe and beyond

*Budget, EUR 3 392 025; duration, 1 March 23 to 28 February 2026*

The logo for GAPS (Decentring the Study of Migrant Returns and Return Policies) features the letters 'GAPS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'G' and 'P' are significantly larger than the 'A' and 'S'. The 'A' and 'S' are positioned below the 'G' and 'P' respectively, creating a stacked effect.

Decentring the Study of Migrant  
Returns and Return Policies

GAPS is a groundbreaking research initiative that aims to enhance the governance and understanding of return and readmission policies and to critically reassess the EU's migrant return policies by conducting comprehensive studies across 13 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, including Afghanistan. GAPS

focuses on deconstructing the complexities of return policies from multiple perspectives, particularly emphasising the experiences and viewpoints of migrants. It explores the gaps between policy expectations and actual outcomes, the dynamics of international cooperation on returns and the search for alternative return approaches. The project employs a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods and introduces innovative concepts such as return migration infrastructures and trajectory analysis to understand migrant agency.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094341>

### **Planned outcomes**

- **Stakeholder expert panels.** Expert panels will serve as a platform for dialogue, so that policy specialists and stakeholders can convene to discuss, review and provide critical insights on return and readmission strategies.
- **Governance indicators and cooperation typology.** The development of robust governance indicators, alongside a comprehensive typology of cooperation models, will assess and classify return policies using the critical quality attributes method. This will enable a nuanced evaluation of policy effectiveness and collaborative practices.
- **Interactive return data repository.** An extensive data repository with advanced search functionalities will be established to consolidate and provide access to data on return and readmission, aiming to bridge gaps in current knowledge and enhance policy monitoring and evaluation.
- **Dissemination materials.** A suite of communication materials, including policy briefs, blogs, visuals and videos, will be created to translate the project's findings into actionable insights, ensuring that knowledge is shared effectively with policymakers, academics and the general public.

## Annex II. Portfolio of Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6 and Horizon Europe Cluster 2 projects on migration research

Abbreviation	Title
<a href="#">Spring</a>	Sustainable practices of integration
<a href="#">Sirius</a>	Skills and integration of migrants, refugees and asylum applicants in European labour markets
<a href="#">GEMM</a>	Growth, equal opportunities, migration and markets
<a href="#">Matilde</a>	Migration impact assessment to enhance integration and local development in European rural and mountain areas
<a href="#">Welcoming Spaces</a>	Investing in 'welcoming spaces' in Europe: Revitalising shrinking areas by hosting non-EU migrants
<a href="#">Whole-Comm</a>	Exploring the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas from a whole of community perspective
<a href="#">Merging</a>	Housing for immigrants and community integration in Europe and beyond: Strategies, policies, dwellings and governance
<a href="#">Child-Up</a>	Children hybrid integration: Learning dialogue as a way of upgrading policies of participation
<a href="#">MIMY</a>	Migrant youth integration and empowerment
<a href="#">Immerse</a>	Integration mapping of refugee and migrant children in schools and other experiential environments in Europe
<a href="#">MiCreate</a>	Migrant children and communities in a transforming Europe
<a href="#">Refuge-Ed</a>	Effective practices in education, mental health and psychosocial support for the integration of refugee children
<a href="#">NEW ABC</a>	Networking the educational world: Across boundaries for community-building
<a href="#">EasyRights</a>	Enabling immigrants to easily know and

Abbreviation	Title
	exercise their rights
<a href="#">Micado</a>	Migrant integration cockpits and dashboards
<a href="#">MIICT</a>	ICT-enabled public services for migration
<a href="#">Nadine</a>	Digital integrated system for the social support of migrants and refugees
<a href="#">Rebuild</a>	ICT-enabled integration facilitator and life rebuilding guidance
<a href="#">ReRoot</a>	Arrival infrastructures as sites of integration for recent newcomers
<a href="#">Welcome</a>	Multiple intelligent conversation agent services for reception, management and integration of third-country nationals in the EU
<a href="#">Opportunities</a>	Crises as opportunities: Towards a level telling field on migration and a new narrative of successful integration
<a href="#">Bridges</a>	Bridges to assess the production and impact of migration narratives
<a href="#">Ithaca</a>	Interconnecting histories and archives for migrant agency: Entangled narratives across Europe and the Mediterranean region
<a href="#">Novamigra</a>	Norms and values in the European migration and refugee crisis
<a href="#">Admigov</a>	Advancing alternative migration governance
<a href="#">MAGYC</a>	Migration governance and asylum crises
<a href="#">Respond</a>	Multilevel governance of mass migration in Europe and beyond
<a href="#">Mignex</a>	Aligning migration management and the migration–development nexus
<a href="#">Agrumig</a>	'Leaving something behind' – Migration governance and agricultural rural change in 'home' communities: Comparative experience from Europe, Asia and Africa

Abbreviation	Title
<a href="#">RAISD</a>	Reshaping attention and inclusion strategies for distinctively vulnerable people among the forcibly displaced
<a href="#">FOCUS</a>	Forced displacement and refugee–host community solidarity
<a href="#">Trafig</a>	Transnational figurations of displacement: Connectivity and mobility as solutions to protracted refugee situations
<a href="#">Vulner</a>	Vulnerability under the global protection regime: How does the law assess, address, shape and produce the vulnerabilities of protection seekers?
<a href="#">ASILE</a>	Global asylum governance and the European Union's role
<a href="#">Protect</a>	The right to international protection: A pendulum between globalisation and nativisation?
<a href="#">Ceaseval</a>	Evaluation of the common European asylum system under pressure and recommendations for further development
<a href="#">Quantmig</a>	Quantifying Migration Scenarios for Better Policy
<a href="#">FUME</a>	Future migration scenarios for Europe
<a href="#">Hummingbird</a>	Enhanced migration measures from a multidimensional perspective
<a href="#">Resoma</a>	Research social platform on migration and asylum
<a href="#">Cross-Migration</a>	Current European and cross-national comparative research and research actions on migration
<a href="#">Mirrem</a>	Measuring irregular migration and related policies
<a href="#">I-Claim</a>	Improving the living and labour conditions of irregularised migrant households in Europe
<a href="#">DignityFirm</a>	Dignity for irregular migrants in EU farm-to-fork labour markets

Abbreviation	Title
<a href="#">PRIME</a>	Protecting irregular migrants in Europe: Institutions, interests and policies
<a href="#">Dynamig</a>	How migration decisions are made: Diverse aspirations, trajectories and policy effects
<a href="#">Aspire</a>	Decision-making of aspiring (re-)migrants to and within the EU: The case of labour-market-leading migrations from Asia
<a href="#">PACES</a>	Making migration and migration policy decisions amidst societal transformations
<a href="#">GAPS</a>	De-centring the study of migrant returns and readmission policies in Europe and beyond
<a href="#">MORE</a>	Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: Revealing and developing effective alternatives
<a href="#">FAIR</a>	Finding agreement in return
<a href="#">Innovate</a>	Innovating to enhance dialogues on migration policies and practices
<a href="#">Link4Skills</a>	Link4Skills - An AI-based tool assists the EU in identifying and remedying skills shortages
<a href="#">Skills4Justice</a>	Skill partnerships for sustainable and just migration patterns
<a href="#">GS4S</a>	Global strategy for skills, migration and development

## Annex III. Portfolio of Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 7 and Horizon Europe Cluster 3 projects on border management research

Abbreviation	Title
<a href="#">Ranger</a>	Radars for long-distance maritime surveillance and search-and-rescue operations
<a href="#">SafeShore</a>	System for detection of threat agents in maritime border environment
<a href="#">ALFA</a>	Advanced low-flying aircrafts detection and tracking
<a href="#">iBorderCtrl</a>	Intelligent portable border control system
<a href="#">Protect</a>	Pervasive and user-focused biometrics border project
<a href="#">Mesmerise</a>	Multi-energy high-resolution modular scan system for internal and external concealed commodities
<a href="#">Bodega</a>	Borderguard – Proactive enhancement of human performance in border control
<a href="#">SMILE</a>	Smart mobility at the European land borders
<a href="#">Tresspass</a>	Robust risk-based screening and alert system for passengers and luggage
<a href="#">Foldout</a>	Through-foliage detection, including in the outermost regions of the EU
<a href="#">Persona</a>	Privacy, ethical, regulatory, and social no-gate crossing point solutions acceptance
<a href="#">Marisa</a>	Maritime integrated surveillance awareness
<a href="#">Roborder</a>	Autonomous swarm of heterogeneous robots for border surveillance
<a href="#">Camelot</a>	C2 advanced multi-domain environment and live observation technologies
<a href="#">Meticos</a>	A platform for monitoring and prediction of

Abbreviation	Title
	social impact and acceptability of modern border control technology
<a href="#">Criteria</a>	Comprehensive data-driven risk and threat assessment methods for the early and reliable identification, validation, and analysis of migration-related risks
<a href="#">ITFlows</a>	IT tools and methods for managing migration flows
<a href="#">Mirror</a>	Migration-related risks caused by misconceptions of opportunities and requirement
<a href="#">Perceptions</a>	Understanding the impact of narratives and perceptions of Europe on migration and providing practices, tools, and guides for practitioners
<a href="#">AI-ARC</a>	Artificial-intelligence-based virtual control room for the Arctic
<a href="#">Aresibo</a>	Augmented-reality-enriched situation awareness for border security
<a href="#">D4Fly</a>	Detecting document fraud and identity on the fly
<a href="#">iMARS</a>	Image manipulation attack resolving solutions
<a href="#">BorderUAS</a>	Semi-autonomous border surveillance platform combining next generation unmanned aerial vehicles with ultra-high-resolution multi-sensor surveillance payload
<a href="#">Effector</a>	An end-to-end interoperability framework for maritime situational awareness at strategic and tactical operations
<a href="#">Andromeda</a>	An enhanced common information-sharing environment for border command, control and coordination systems
<a href="#">Nestor</a>	An enhanced pre-frontier intelligence picture to safeguard the European borders
<a href="#">Compass2020</a>	Coordination of maritime assets for persistent and systematic surveillance



Abbreviation	Title
<a href="#">Promenade</a>	Improved maritime awareness by means of AI and BD methods
<a href="#">Einstein</a>	Interoperable applications suite to enhance European identity and document security and fraud detection
<a href="#">EurMARS</a>	An advanced surveillance platform to improve the European multi-authority border security efficiency and cooperation
<a href="#">Flexi-Cross</a>	Flexible and improved border-crossing experience for passengers and authorities
<a href="#">I-SeaMore</a>	Integrated surveillance ecosystem for European authorities responsible for maritime operations leveraged by reliable and enhanced aerial support
<a href="#">iFlows</a>	Advanced technologies for scanning and detection of illicit material for postal services and express courier flows (iFlows toolkit)
<a href="#">Melchior</a>	Mechanical impedance and multiphysics concealed and hidden objects interrogation
<a href="#">Odysseus</a>	Unobtrusive technologies for secure and seamless border crossing for travel facilitation
<a href="#">SafeTravellers</a>	Secure and frictionless identity for EU and third country-national citizens

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The portal [data.europa.eu](https://data.europa.eu) provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.

This policy brief offers insights from a portfolio analysis of Horizon 2020's SC6 and Horizon Europe's Cluster 2 projects, showcasing their pivotal role in advancing EU migration research and policy integration. It outlines the recent Pact on Asylum and Migration's significance and urges for research focus on critical areas such as the climate-migration nexus and technological innovations in migration management. This analysis underscores the need to ensure migration policies are informed, inclusive, and prepared for future trends and challenges.

*Studies and reports*

