

TAS - Migration Labs

Newsletter 16 - August 2021



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union



Whether they're referred to as refugees, asylum-seekers or migrants, for decades people from around the world have looked to make Europe their home (<https://www.dw.com/en/migration>)

THESIS, ANTITHESIS, SYNTHESIS – MIGRATION LABS

TAS -Migration Labs project funded by **Europe for Citizens Program**, is implemented for 18 months, March 2020 - August 2021. The project partners from **Romania, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Serbia** organized WorkLabs, debates and roundtables with the aim to analyse past and current experiences, narratives, misconceptions and stereotypes about migrants and refugees, as well as local, regional, national and European policies related to migrants and migrations.

- Directed at young adults, decision-makers and other stakeholders from partner countries, the project envisages raising awareness of EU policy-making processes and to boost opportunities for participation and volunteering.

- 5 WorkLabs in each partner country (25 in total): Thesis 1, Thesis 2, Antithesis 1, Antithesis 2 and Synthesis, where the current narratives of migration and the model of different groups of migrants in Europe were analyzed. This analysis allowed us to know and deconstruct prejudices and stereotypes about migration and to debate current national and international migration policies.
 - 10 young people from Romania, Serbia, Italy, Portugal and Belgium were selected and participated at the final Conference in Brussels.
 - 6 volunteers were selected from the European Solidarity Corps database and actively participated in the activities organized by the partners from Belgium, Italy and Romania.
 - 5 Multiplier Events were organized in each partner country.
- 3 WEBINARS were organized at the partnership level *in which important speakers in the phenomenon of migration at the European Union level were invited.*
- Read more on the project website: <https://tasmigrationlab.eu/>

"The essence of international aid is to protect a person and not to send him or her to the country of origin where his or her life is endangered." Nisreen Rubaian - representative of UNHCR Romania

ACTA Center organized the workshop TAS Migration Labs – Synthesis, which took place on the 12 June 2021 in physical format and focused on Migration Labs - conclusions and insights and we were honoured to have special guests as speakers:

Ms Nisreen Rubaian, representative of UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency in Romania

Ms Gabriela Leu, member of UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency

During this workshop, the participants engaged in debates, activities and simulations to develop their own narratives and developed a country recommendation paper for EU policymakers that will be presented during the final event in Brussels. The participants were informed about the EU Solidarity Corps, Structured Dialogues and similar opportunities at the European level.

The 30 participants asked questions regarding the attitude of local communities regarding migrants and refugees and how authorities deal with the problem. They also inquired about the difficulties of independent media projects and about the motivation such journalists have.



2021- Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

A total of 4.2 million people immigrated to one of the EU Member States during 2019, while 2.7 million emigrants were reported to have left an EU Member State.

In addition, 1.4 million people previously residing in one EU Member State migrated to another Member State.

- Between January and August 2020, nearly 50,000 refugees and migrants (25 per cent children)

10,000 unaccompanied and separated children – are highly vulnerable and require urgent care and protection.

- Despite the gains made in recent years, humanitarian needs remain significant and capacities to respond are overstretched due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Access to quality, appropriate health, nutrition, protection and education services and basic supplies is critical.
- UNICEF will work with United Nations agencies and partners to support governments to improve reception conditions, provide protection and facilitate access to basic services for refugee and migrant boys, girls, adolescents and women, while also advocating for their rights.
- UNICEF requires US\$36.4 million to support the immediate and longer-term humanitarian needs of affected refugee and migrant children and their families and host communities in Europe.

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE EUROMED REGION

During a visit to a Spanish reception centre for **Afghan refugees** on 21 August 2021, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen [said](#) the EU Commission was ready to provide “funding to EU countries that help resettle Afghan refugees and more humanitarian aid for the country” amounting to EUR [57 million](#) for 2021. At the G7 meeting on 24 August 2021, she [announced](#) an increase in EU funds in humanitarian support to Afghanistan to EUR 200 million, the need for [close cooperation with UNHCR](#) for resettlement operations and the importance that [development assistance](#) must be **condition-based**, linked to fundamental values, human rights, and women’s rights.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.