CYPRUS NATIONAL REPORT ON MIGRATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Activity 1.1.1: Audit on migration, sustainability and development education

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C o n t e n t s

1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale behind

Since the mid-1990s, the up until then homogenous Greek-Cypriot society experienced an unparalleled increase in net migration rates. Cyprus's accession to the European Union (EU) in 2004 along with the arrival and presence of migrants have contributed to the socio-political and demographic changes that have formed the current institutional and political situation (Papamichael 2009). As figure 1 shows, Cyprus became a magnet for migrants after the rest of southern Europe had reached capacity or took action to deal with this situation. It should be noted that Cyprus is not in the Schengen free-movement areas of Europe. Consequently, immigrants cannot leave the island for other EU countries (Civil Registry and Migration Department, 2016).

VALID RES. PERMITS ON 31.7.2016			*
General Employment	7423	11.74%	↓
Domestic Employment	18844	29.82%	↑
Employment at Foreign Companies	2294	3.63%	↑
International Protection	7036	11.13%	↑
Family Members of Cypriots	6503	10.29%	↓
Family Reunification	1799	2.85%	↓
Immigration Pemrits	9302	14.72%	↑
Long Term Residents	219	0.35%	↑
Education	4023	6.37%	↓
Visitors	5657	8.95%	↓
Researchers	6	0.01%	↑
Victims of Trafficking/ Exploitation	70	0.11%	↓
Special Permits	27	0.04%	↓
Total:	63203	100.00%	↓

Figure 1: Research data depicting migration statistics for 2016 (Civil Registry and Migration Department, 2016)

Despite the fact that international migrants play an important part in the globalisation process, their role has been continually neglected due to the fact that migration has often been regarded as a hazard to national identity, social cohesion and security (Castles 2014; Pantuliano 2016). Thus, the Cypriot society is confronted with new challenges deriving from this phenomenon, such as racism and discrimination issues towards migrants. This discrimination and exclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from society results to marginalisation and increased racism and xenophobia (Mainwaring 2008).

Countries' growth and progress is regarded to be challenged by migration; therefore, migration issues need to be well handled by the governments that need to support the phenomenon and fully utilise its development potential. The significant role of migrants in both origin and destination countries needs to be acknowledged as, according to the OECD report, (2014) migrants support home countries development by sending remittances; pay
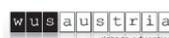
taxes to the destination country and contribute in social insurances and enhance the cultural and social capital of the country. Hence, there is a need to bring the knowledge to education sector in general and students in particular that migration is an essential aspect of wider social and development process and not an exogenous factor.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The main aim of project InterCap is to promote critical understanding of migration and sustainable development within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But most importantly – to showcase the extent to which migration and sustainable development are perceived as interrelated in the Cypriot context, identify potential gaps within interlinkages of migration and sustainable development as well as addressing the importance of raising public awareness in national context. The report constitutes a part of the project InterCap, which aims to develop policy-makers', researchers' and educational agents' capabilities in terms of promoting global education on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world by addressing these challenges at the national level and in accordance with the European context, using techniques such as Communities of Practice, networking, conferences and digital resources. In Cyprus, this issue needs to be addressed due to high rates of racism and discrimination towards migrants among the society. This objective will be achieved through the modification of public views, perceptions and reinterpretation of security and risk matters regarding migration and sustainable development by providing a holistic approach on international migration and displacement through the development of a training package, the establishment of mentor partnerships for the promotion of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), transnational trainings, workshops, internships for pre-service teachers, annual international conferences and other awareness raising activities.

1.3 Available data and recourses

A selection of resources was used for the development of this national report (statistics, reports, literature, academic journals at national and EU level); a detailed catalogue of all resources is available in References. Eurobarometer data revealed that immigration remains on top of the matters that concern EU citizens (45 %) (European Commission 2016). Based on Eurostat data (2015), the Republic of Cyprus has one of the EU highest levels of net migration. Figure 2 indicates the Asylum statistics between the years 2002-2015.

Cyprus: Asylum Statistics 2002-2015 - Asylum Service

Year	Applications	Re-op	Refugee Status	Subsidiary	Hum.	Total Protection	Refused	Closure	Pending
2002	952		0	0	0	0	143	0	808
2003	4,407		0	0	10	10	274	128	4,816
2004	9,872		30	0	56	86	2,734	2,538	9,328
2005	7,746		41	0	123	164	3,133	2,505	11,279
2006	4,545		37	0	151	188	1,779	3,640	10,218
2007	6,789		36	0	191	227	2,316	4,641	9,823
2008	3,922		64	0	163	227	4,001	3,683	5,833
2009	3,199		49	1,287	33	1369	3,325	2,626	1,748
2010	2,882		31	370	25	426	2,032	173	2,273
2011	1,770		53	1	15	69	2,559	234	1,193
2012	1,620	42	80	10	15	105	1,240	255	1,232
2013	1,346	109	33	124	8	165	633	325	1,412
2014	1,887	259	53	941	0	994	302	242	1773
2015	2105	148	200	1384	0	1584	473	263	1557
Total	53,042	558	707	4,117	790	5,614	24,944	21,253	

Pending Decisions 31.12.2015

Syria	579
Palestinians	163
Egypt	128
Ukraine	120
Somalia	60
Iraq	51
Vietnam	48
Pakistan	45
Iran	38
Lebanon	37
India	30
Cameroon	27
Other	231

Top 10 Nationalities (applications + reopenings)

2002-2006		2007-2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
Bangladesh	5305	Syria	2939	Iraq	343	Viet Nam	212	Syria	663	Syria	574	Syria	1164	Syria	937
Iran	2384	Gaza	1902	India	320	Syria	284	Viet Nam	198	Egypt	143	Ukraine	94	Palestinian	176
Pakistan	2742	Sri Lanka	1317	Egypt	235	Egypt	184	Bangladesh	188	Bangladesh	106	Egypt	82	Vietnam	126
Russia	1368	Iran	859	Viet Nam	227	Bangladesh	182	Egypt	156	Viet Nam	83	India	81	Pakistan	122
Gaza	895	Georgia	547	Sri Lanka	187	Pakistan	148	Pakistan	108	Iraq	80	Vietnam	80	India	90
Syria	3037	Pakistan	772	Gaza	186	India	135	India	64	Pakistan	54	Bangladesh	69	Egypt	75
Georgia	2178	India	829	Pakistan	155	Sri Lanka	115	Sri Lanka	58	Sri Lanka	50	Pakistan	68	Ukraine	71
Sri Lanka	1702	Bangladesh	611	Bangladesh	152	Nepal	102	Afghanistan	51	Somalia	43	Sri Lanka	49	Stateless	70
Ukraine	1708	China	393	Syria	144	Philippines	84	Iran	43	India	36	Iran	42	Iraq	68
India	1152	Iraq	559	Nigeria	126	Iran	68	Philippines	36	Philippines	34	Philippines	39	Somalia	66

Figure 2: Asylum statistics during the period 2002-2015 (UNHCR, 2015)

In 2015, less than 3,000 asylum seekers were present in Cyprus possibly due to the geographic position of the island, which is isolated from the rest of EU countries, the existing obstructive asylum policies, being outside the Schengen area (Council of Europe 2016). It should be noted that 59,099 asylum applications were received in the Republic of Cyprus from 2002 to September 2017. Of these, 8,968 granted protection; 44,845 refused or otherwise closed and 4,594 pending a decision. 76 refugees from Syria and Palestine are under UNHCR mandate currently residing in the Turkish occupied side in Cyprus whereas 53 refugees and asylum-seekers reside at the British Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) (UNHCR, 2017a). These people arrived in 1998 and have since been living there in so called legal limbo. The following figure indicates statistics provided by The Asylum Service, a department of the Ministry of Interior, responsible for asylum-related statistical collection in Cyprus, regarding the applications and granting of protection status in 2017 and the countries the asylum seekers are coming from (AIDA, 2017). The thorough investigation of research reports with respect to migration revealed the disconnection of migration and sustainability since in the Cypriot context, migration policies and sustainability are often discussed separately.

	Applicants in 2017	Pending at end 2017	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Rejection	Refugee rate	Subs. Prot. rate	Rejection rate
Total	4,582	3,843	142	680	1,148	7.2%	34.5%	58.3%
Breakdown by countries of origin of the total numbers								
Syria	1,805	:	8	640	0	1.2%	98.8%	0%
India	446	:	0	0	276	0%	0%	100%
Vietnam	357	:	0	0	206	0%	0%	100%
Bangladesh	287	:	0	0	199	0%	0%	100%
Egypt	268	:	2	1	36	5.1%	2.6%	92.3%
Pakistan	191	:	0	0	140	0%	0%	100%
Sri Lanka	140	:	0	0	36	0%	0%	100%
Somalia	118	:	41	17	21	51.9%	21.5%	26.6%
Cameroon	111	:	5	1	21	18.5%	3.7%	77.8%
Philippines	87	:	1	0	31	3.1%	0%	96.9%

Figure 3: Asylum statistics regarding the applications and granting of protection status in 2017 and the countries the asylum seekers are coming from (AIDA, 2017)

1.4 Limitations

Research studies indicate that migration and development have been traditionally regarded as separate policy areas. However, nowadays the impact of migration in economy, politics, and society shows that these two areas are interrelated. It should be noted that there is lack of research in the Cypriot context with respect to the link between international migration and sustainable development. Hence, this state of the art report addresses the aforementioned gap and supports the notion that migrants can act as active agents in terms of national development especially in economic, social and cultural advancements. In addition, the field research took into consideration the feedback by 11 stakeholders in the fields of migration and education. However, it should not be argued that these individuals represent the

stakeholder opinions' in their sectors entirely, but still their opinions should be considered as indicative to the current trends.

2. Literature review

2.1 Public opinion polls

The unprecedented influx of refugees in Europe has been termed by the media as the so-called "refugee crisis" or, more generally, the migrant crisis. However, the latter terms has been contested since the term "migrant" refers to individuals who move to a foreign country voluntarily, whereas the term "refugees" refers to individuals who have been forced out of their home country against their will. Examining and conceptualising public opinions towards migration in general and migrant/ refugees in particular within their host country is becoming increasingly important for those individuals who are interested in the refugee and migration policy areas. A recent study by IPSOS MORI (2016) revealed that 8,000 out of the 16,000 thousand people who participated in the poll hold the perception that the number of immigrants in the host country is high. Participants from Turkey, Italy and South Africa most agreed with this statement. Additionally, only one fifth of the participants have reached to a consensus that immigration has a positive effect on their country while approximately half of them argued that immigration has adverse effects on the country. Even though less than half of the respondents rejected the closing of country's borders to refugees as a suggestion, more than over one-third was positive towards it. In Turkey, India and Hungary, most respondents agreed with this proposition. Within Europe, Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Finland are more positive towards migration, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK and France hold both positive and negative stance, whereas Czech Republic, Hungary and Portugal are more negative (Heath and Richards 2016). It should be noted that public attitudes towards refugees and migrants are interrelated and are best understood within the context they are being formed. For example, in Saudi Arabia where migrants constitute a high proportion of the population (32 %), poll participants agreed that immigration has a positive impact on their country possibly due to the existing governmental policies that encourage the regulated arrival of highly skilled migrants. Respondents in India seem to share the same opinion, possibly due to the low proportion of migrants in the country (less than 1 % of the population). On the other hand, Turkey and South Africa have been negative towards migration. Turkey because of hosting the largest number of refugees and South Africa due to the apartheid and xenophobia (UNHCR 2017b; Crush, Ramachandran, and Pendleton 2013).

Specific attention should be paid both to the demographic differences in the participants' responses with respect to the examined issues, as well as on how attitudes differ towards migrants (Hatton, 2016). In terms of demographic characteristics, older participants of all European countries but Sweden appeared to be more negative towards migration. In Cyprus, Greece and Hungary the rate of people with negative attitudes reached 80 % (Winkler 2015). Heath and Richards's study (2016) also revealed that Roma and Muslims constitute the most unwelcomed groups amongst Europe. Hence, there is a need of launching migration-positive awareness campaigns to encourage civic integration and tolerance, reduce fear and paranoia towards refugees, introduce activities for neighbourhoods hosting new reception centres,
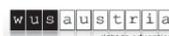
perform debates, invest on training programmes on democracy and tolerance, to ensure the adequate integration of refugees in society.

According to Cypriots, migration constitutes one of the most important issues that EU has to face (41%, + 2 %, EU28: 39%). Data derived from the Special Eurobarometer (2017a) show that migration from other EU Member States (50%, + 1 % from Spring 2017, EU28: 30%) and from non-EU countries (71% + 2%, EU28: 54%) creates negatives emotions amongst Cypriots (highest percentage amongst EU). The vast majority of Europeans hold an opposite perception (64%, + 1 %, Cyprus: 49%, + 1 %, lower in the EU) with respect to migration from EU countries. However, with respect to migration of people from non-EU countries, Europeans also have negative feeling (54 %, same as Spring 2017). Two thirds of Cypriot respondents (66%) consider that migrants' contribution to the country is not significant (+ 9% from Spring 2017, EU28: 45%, -1%). This belief is again ranked among the highest in the EU. Nevertheless, the majority of Cypriot respondents (80%, -2%, seventh taller in the EU) believe that Cyprus should help refugees (EU28: 67%, same as Spring 2017).

Security concerns are influencing people's attitudes. In terms of security risk and threat, a recent study indicated that poll participants from Greece, Hungary, Poland consider that refugees are a great threat to their country fearing that the influx of refugees could be associated with terrorism and reduction of jobs (Wike, Stokes and Simmons, 2016; Esses, Hamilton and Gaucher, 2017). Even though there is limited evidence of connecting recent terror attacks in Europe with refugees, respondents have associated terrorism attacks with refugees and migrants. As indicated in PEW's research study in Figure 4, more than half of the participants of ten European countries were concerned about the security consequences of the mass influx of migrants. In a similar pattern, migrants and refugees have been regarded by political far right-wing parties as a threat to values and culture, as the basis of terrorism and crime, and a threat to quality of living and jobs (ODI, 2017a). In Cyprus, research studies revealed that Cypriots are not only worried about the possible economic impact of immigration in their country but they also expressed xenophobic feelings by perceiving immigrants as a threat to their national identity: e.g. many have expressed concern that soon they native people will be a minority in their own country (ENAR, 2012).

These concerns can lead to polarisation between the native population and the immigrants due to the increasing immigration and the dissatisfaction with their presence in the new home country, respectively. This polarisation can lead to extremism therefore there is a need for governments to invest in integration programmes to ensure integration and socialisation of migrants into the society and also invest in training by developing programmes for police, social workers, schools actors that are focused on integration, tolerance and democracy for sensitisation and consciousness-raising within the SD/SDGs framework.
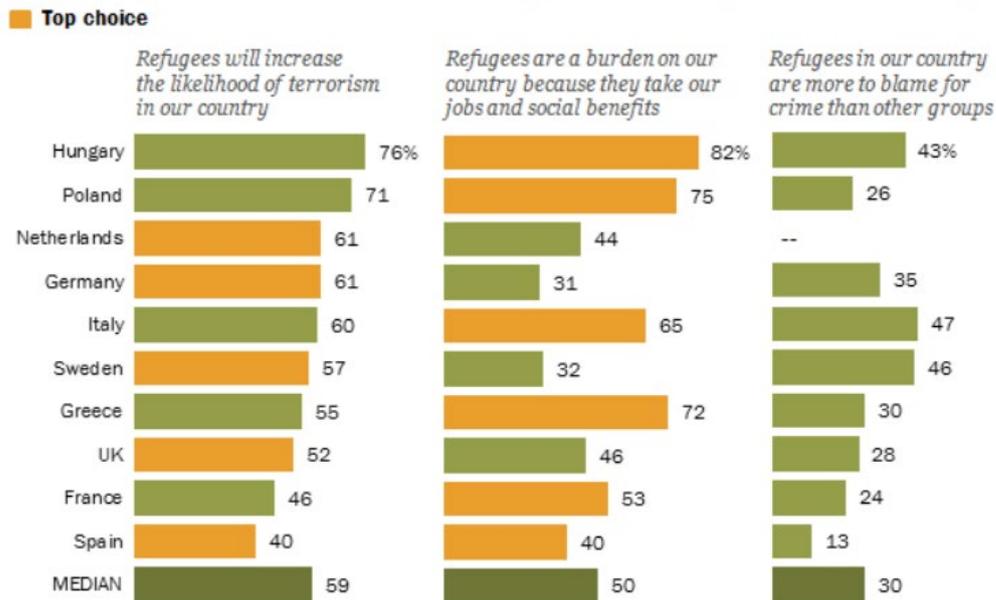
Figure 4: Research data showcasing Europeans' concerns over refugees (Wike, Stokes and Simmons, 2016)

National Policy agendas are being determined by public opinion. Therefore, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments across the world need to listen the ways in which people think about SDGs to motivate them, mobilise them and engage them into action. Results on Sustainable Development (OECD 2017) indicate that being aware about SDGs is not equivalent to having knowledge about them. Figures 4 and 5 concern the extent to which people have heard of the goals. As shown, 28% - 45% appear to have heard the goals with just over 1 in 10 Europeans to know what the SDGs are. Figure 5 also indicates the discrepancies across the countries. Furthermore, in Finland (73%), Luxembourg (62%) and the Netherlands (61%) people showed high level of awareness. Despite the fact there was a SDGs awareness increase of 5% since 2015, it should be noted that, in Cyprus a percentage of 25% appear to have some knowledge of the goals, a percentage, which constitutes a very low rate compared to other EU countries.

| Source	Awareness of SDGs	Knowledge of SDGs
Eurobarometer (2016)	36%	10%
Eurobarometer (2017)	41%	12%
Globescan Radar (2017)	35%	n/a
AIESEC Youth Speak Global Report	45%	n/a
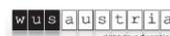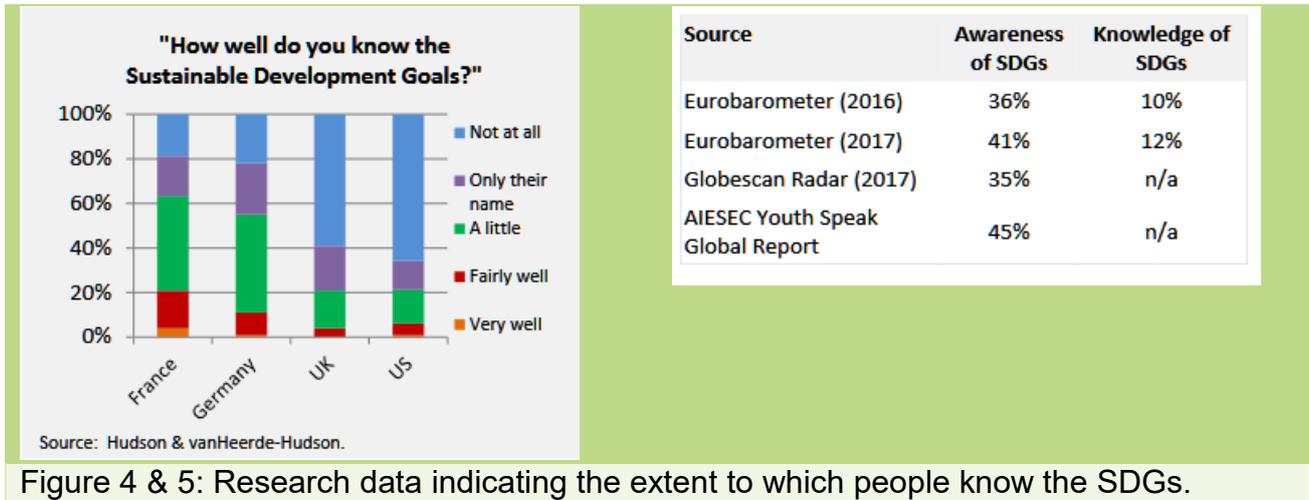
Figure 4 & 5: Research data indicating the extent to which people know the SDGs.

In terms of protecting the environment, Special Eurobarometer (2017c) revealed the consistency of European citizens' attitude across the years towards environmental issues by indicating their high level of concerns regarding climate change, air pollution, growing amount of waste. Specifically, it is noteworthy that, in Cyprus and Sweden, 85% of the participants considered the protection of the environment as very important in comparison to ~40% in Croatia, Poland, Austria and Lithuania.

It is notable that limited surveys measuring public attitudes have interlinked migration, national security risks and sustainable development and environment; instead, these issues have been measured and examined separately or combining two areas of interest such as climate change and migration, sustainable development and migration. A connection between climate change and migration has been made in the EPCC survey (2017). According to the report, there is a pattern between future climate change and migration as Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and politicians expect people to migrate and move away from climate problematic areas. This has also been indicated in an earlier study designed by Happer and Philo (2013). Therefore, there is a clear need for enhancing critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, within the framework of SDGs by developing awareness raising activities on global learning on migration, security, sustainability and development education, in an interdependent world through the implementation of international and local trainings and workshops on issues with respect to the aforementioned issues. Specifically, the development of a model of accredited professional development programme for educational actors across all levels should be designed and implemented based on international good practices and explore issues such as poverty, social exclusion, climate change, security, migration, while considering matters such as development and sustainability. This will enable school actors to become agents of change by developing tools and other educational resources through innovative teaching methodologies to promote issues on migration, sustainability and development education.

2.2 Media response

The media play a significant role in shaping and influencing public attitudes towards refugees and migrants. The ways in which countries report on migration differs from country to country. BEPA (2006) report asserts that media are often biased towards migration linking them many times to security issues, and discussing migration in the context of border controls, illegal migration or human trafficking. It is noted, that in the UK media, the articles crimes committed by migrants were more numerous than stories covering racist crimes, racism experienced by migrants. A study by Finney and Robinson (2008) argued that the main themes of the press regarding asylum issues were the reduction of migrant rights, the deceitfulness of migrants and their portrayal as a burden on the welfare state and being associated with crime. Based on BEPA's data, immigrants have been accused for being involved in acts of terrorism and for threatening social cohesion. By perceiving immigrants as threat, makes their integration in the hosting country more difficult. As already emphasised, public opinion is being formed mainly by the media. Therefore, the integration becomes difficult when public perceptions are hostile towards immigrants thus contributing to further marginalisation, exclusion and discrimination.

According to Oxford Migration Observatory (2013) the word "illegal" has been mostly being used upon referral to "immigrants" by the British print media. Migration has been linked in many occasions with security issues by framing them as a possible threat to culture, welfare, security and the health system (Berry et al. 2015). Similarly, migration is depicted as a potential threat to human security (Adger et al. 2014). Additionally, Esses, Hamilton and Gaucher (2017: 87) revealed that media coverage tends to degrade refugees and migrants. Happer and Philo (2013) investigates the impact of media coverage regarding climate change and economic development. The empirical findings of this study indicate that media shape public opinion and guide the development of relevant agendas. Moreover, a number of European media outlets have also discussed climate change impact, which could lead to a big wave of migrants towards Europe (ODI 2017c). In the recent study on the media influence on public opinion towards so-called "migration crisis", Kosho (2016:88) included a compilation of the headlines of how foreign media covered this process. The investigation of the headlines indicated the increased attention the foreign media paid to the migrant crisis aiming at putting pressure on European leaders to move towards an effective management of the mass influx of immigrants.

According to IPSOS MORI (2016), the media use different words to describe refugees and asylum seekers. Particularly, the word "failed" has been attributed to asylum seekers in the media. Moreover, in mid-market newspapers than tabloids or broadsheets. Moreover, the asylum seekers have been characterised as "illegal" in the mid-market stories and "destitute" and "vulnerable" in the broadsheets. In a similar mode, in Portugal, such words as "others" have been used, in many occasions characterising migrants as "criminals", "delinquents" and "undesirables" (BEPA 2006). In the UK, migrants have been described as 'swarms', 'cockroaches' or a 'plague of feral humans'.

Based on the ECRI (2016) report in Cyprus, the tendency of using an intolerant and xenophobic tone in the media has increased after the economic crisis. As has already been

noticed, migrants, especially the Muslims, are often presented in a negative light and are associated with problems, such as rising unemployment and crime, while asylum seekers are presented as "parasites" of the system. Additionally, immigrants are presented by the media as a threat to the security concerns and social policy of the country. At the same time, the media are duplicating stereotypes and prejudices. In a similar vein, an earlier study, which focused on the articles published between 2011-2015, also indicated that migrants were considered as a threat and a burden according to Cypriots to the welfare system and economy in general (RE.KRI.RE, 2016).

Hungary and Czech Republic are countries, which also hold a negative opinion towards refugees (ODI 2017b). During election period, the governing party run an anti-refugee campaign, which was broadly covered by the media having as a result the intensification of xenophobia. In a similar pattern, the largest newspaper in the Czech Republic announced the adoption of an anti-migrant position aiming in painting refugees and migrants in a negative light to reinforce negativity and hostility within public opinion. Similarly, in Cyprus, the Archbishop of the Church in his annual Christmas speech argued that that Muslim immigrants coming from Turkey are not only receiving high allowances, but they also constitute a threat to the national and cultural identity. This statement was circulated in the Cyprus media, but it was condemned by the press for promoting intolerance rather than courage and solidarity (Politis News 2017)

This analysis of the media response reveals the problematic coverage of immigration in the media in Europe mainly due to the lack of specialised knowledge on migration issues, lack of time for collecting empirical evidence and the prevalence of negativity. Despite the systematic ill-treatment immigrants receive, there is a tendency of the media to support the existing xenophobic rhetoric by framing immigration in the context of the financial crisis and giving emphasis on migrant criminality and the negative economic and social consequences of migration; therefore, influencing public attitudes towards refugees and migrants in a negative way. In addition, as it was evident, there is no media coverage in the national context of Cyprus regarding sustainable development and its link to migration. As it was depicted, migration is being portrayed in the media as an isolated phenomenon with no links to sustainability, but with links to security threat.

2.3 Research and project production

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes an action plan for the world, which is comprised of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. This political declaration for a better world was approved on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Government at a special UN conference meeting and it encompasses a commitment to eliminate poverty and accomplish sustainable development goals by 2030 internationally, while safeguarding that no one is left behind (UN 2015). A noteworthy development, which appeared in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, is the recognition of the international movement of migration as an important aspect for the growth of countries of birth, transit and destination, stressing the positive input of migrants for inclusive and sustainable development (IOM 2017). Surprisingly, migration was not included in the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework mainly due to the scepticism about the contribution of migrants to development. Therefore,

for policymakers and researchers on migration across the globe, the 2030 Agenda broke new grounds by acknowledging the multi-faced trend of migration and migrants' role in sustainable development.

In the research paper, Suliman (2017) examines the SDGs while relating it to migration aiming at an estimation of the anticipating or unintended effects of the insertion of migration within the 2030 agenda. In addition to this, the study reveals the problematic conceptualisation of migration within the context of SDGs and in organisation of sustainable development. Mach's (2017) research paper clearly presents a connection between migration and environment/climate change as well as investigating the ways in which the SDGs and their relevant targets can assist in readdressing the numerous challenges of the migration setting and transforming them into opportunities.

The health of migrants is important to be thoroughly taken into consideration in national and international development strategies aiming at the support of benefits of migration for the development. As Barragan and colleagues (2017) state, the SDG agenda, through its wide range of targets and aims, offers a great chance for concentrating on the health of migrants in the context of national growth agendas. It is further highlighted that migrants' health is important for a more effective and balanced future.

Gender equality and women's empowerment constitutes the fifth goal of the SDG agenda and concerns both the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women but also their empowerment through migration governance and to measuring vulnerabilities and adopting empowerment (Girard 2017).

For the first time in the SDG agenda, there is a link between labour mobility and development. In terms of labour mobility, approximately 150 million migrant workers existing in the world and approximately USD 441 billion of remittances were transferred to their countries of origin. It is important to develop policies protecting migrant workers and control labour mobility in a way that benefits both the hosting country but also migrants themselves (Vidal, 2017).

Nowadays, international migration has become a phenomenon, which occurs in a parallel to the movement of people from rural to urban areas. Amongst the goals of the sustainable development agenda, the development of inclusive, safe and resilient of human settlements is of a key importance. A considerable number of migrants live in the cities. Hence, there is a need for national and regional policy development for migrant inclusion aiming at the social urban cohesion and smooth integration of migrants into the urban life (Lee, Guadagno and Murillo 2017).

Child migration was addressed in the context of the Sustainable Development age. According to UNICEF statistics (2016), 31 million out of the 244 million international migrants are children whereas the 11 million were refugees and asylum seekers. Starfield's (2017) article addresses the link between children and migration in a country's development by addressing the need for the governments to the international community to protect all vulnerable persons and to "leave no one behind".
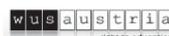
In the Cypriot context, the 2030 Agenda has been supported through the implementation of SDGs. However, despite the adoption of the goals and targets of the agenda, Cyprus has yet to develop national priorities and targets. More importantly, though a clear interlink on migration and SD / SDGs, which has not been identified in reports (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017). It is clear that sustainable development and SDGs in Cyprus are examined within the framework of agriculture, environment and industry with no connection to migration, integration and asylum issues, thus neglecting the social dimension of sustainability. This indicates not only the need to engage all stakeholders in the achievement of the SDGs, but to raise awareness about the SDGs and develop adequate capacity and understanding to link priority issues, such as asylum, migration, and integration, to sustainable development in general and SDGs in particular. In order to support this cooperation and activity between interested parties, government should develop consultative policies and set up national priorities so that local authorities, Higher Education Institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), NGOs, work for the achievement of the SDGs and supporting the global vision of sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

2.4 Case studies of good practices

Due to the increased number of immigrants, the development of policies and practices is required in order to enhance social inclusion. At a European level, a few Member States, implement a range of programs, which are considered as good practices for integration but without a clear linkage between migration and sustainability. For example, the "Stuttgart Pact for Integration'' constitutes the New refugee strategy to support the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers aiming to reconstruct their lives while giving them the chance to have access to services and become active agents in society. The updated 'New Scots' strategy concentrates on aspects such as on education, housing, healthcare and employment, and aims to distance itself from the strict existing UK immigration law regarding refugees and asylum seekers (Scottish Government, 2018). In terms of good practices, the Local Committee of Inquiry in London developed a strategic action plan at local level aspiring to reduce racial discrimination and at the same time to enhance the social integration of these people, through the organisation of open dialogue events regarding intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. Also, in the frame of programs such as the 'Round Table of Consultation', migrants had the opportunity to get in touch, exchange views, express a number of concerns and concerns in an attempt to meet their psychosocial needs. Beyond these, organizations and local governmental bodies provided low cost or free of charge English language courses. In the United Kingdom, there is the view that learning the official communication language of the host country is the most crucial factor, which is linked to successful social integration.

In Greece, the integration was promoted through the development of Migrants Integration Boards. The establishment of these Boards was an attempt to increase migrants' participation in the society. In this light, based on the Legislative Framework (Law 3852/2010) Migrants Integration was set up and functioned to provide the opportunity for migrants to participate in the political dialogue and local governmental bodies.

In Belgium, many organisations help in refugee welcoming. Governmental bodies along with NGOs encounter refugees at the airport. When refugees arrive at the reception centre,

information is given, and a social orientation class is being held during which they are informed about issues like schooling, expenses, food, housing, transportation, environment. During their stay in the reception centre, a social worker is assigned to help them adapt in the new environment. Once the refugee moves to individual housing provided by partnering organisation, the social worker will check up on the refugee's integration for approximately 18 months in partnership with civil society organisations (European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affair 2013).

At national level, in Cyprus, a reception centre in the community of Kofinou has been established for refugees. The unaccompanied under aged individuals are sent to government-run shelters for children. In the reception centre, language courses and social and medical help is provided to the people by staff members and NGO volunteers. Asylum seekers have the right of free access to public transportation. In addition to the Kofinou reception centre, a temporary camp was created in 2014 in Kokkinotrimithia to accommodate refugees rescued at sea. However, these establishments and the living conditions there have been characterised as inadequate, resulting to the closing up of the camp (Council of Europe 2016). The creation of NGOs like the AWARE Group in Cyprus which is responsible for raising awareness and focusing on the cultivation of knowledge and acceptance of refugees and immigrants in Cyprus is a good practice. The aim is to illustrate in public the lives of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants, provide necessary information, knowledge and promote interaction with the host society, through the organisation of a series of workshops, conferences, lectures, media interventions and having as partners the Ministry of Education, the UNHCR, the Association of Recognized Refugees the Youth Organization, and many local actors (AWARE, 2018).

The aforementioned practices indicate that the connection between sustainability and migration is unaddressed and any good practices focus on raising awareness solely on migration or SDGs and sustainability separately. For example, in terms of promoting the 2015 SDGs, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cyprus, in collaboration with other government departments, CSOs and NGOs make efforts to raise public awareness and participation to the largest possible extent by promoting global citizenship education through regular local and EU meetings and development of activities. A number of examples of raising awareness activities include the "Walk the (Global) Walk: mobilizing European young people in support of the Sustainable Development Goals" and educational projects such as (a) "Combating Hate Speech: Training of Trainers' European Youth Foundation Pilot Project October 2015", (b) "Combating Islamophobia in Cyprus", (c) "Project i Decide", developed by CARDET which can be linked with the SDG 10, (d) the GlobaLab project – 6 Steps to Global Citizenship (06/2015 – 05/2017) which emphasis is given on on Goal 4 (4.7) and it is funded by EU – Erasmus+, (e) the "Time for change: Promoting sustainable consumption and production of raw materials in the context of EYD 2015 and beyond!" which refers to SDG 12, (f) the EuropeAid project EAThink 2015 which can be related with 14 over 17 SDGs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017).

However, in the EU, there are few well established initiatives in which international migration and SD / SDGs are reflected in other forms of cooperation such as the development of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa which aims to enhance stability and to

improve the ways in which migration is being handle by focusing on developing synergies between migration and development (EU Commission, 2018a) and the development of mobility partnership between EU and Jordan. The aim of this partnership is to develop a framework of collaboration between migration and mobility by focusing on the potential benefits from migration and linking them to development. This mobility partnership was signed by 12 EU member, including Cyprus (EU Commission, 2018b). Additionally, the EU established a mobility partnership between Republic of Moldova the European Commission, FRONTEX, European Training Foundation and 15 EU Member States including Cyprus. The aim of this partnership was to identify the extent to which migration affects the development efforts of developing countries by examining the ways in which migrant workers can contribute to the development of their destination countries in a more efficient way (MFA, 2013).

2.5 Migration policies and sustainable development

The wave of immigration in Cyprus made imperative the development of immigration policy or integration plan. Therefore, the "Action Plan for Integration of Immigrants legally residing in Cyprus in 2010–2012," was prepared and adopted in 2010 by the Ministry of Interior. This action plan encompassed issues such as employment, education (learning the Greek language); health; housing and culture (Ministry of Interior 2010). However, this action plan did not bring the desired results. Muižnieks' report (2016) revealed major concerns regarding access to asylum, reception of asylum seekers and social integration, trafficking, access to citizenship. Specifically, he commented about the lengthy asylum procedures, the absence of legal aid for asylum seekers during these managerial procedures, the inadequacies in reception procedures as well as the restriction of family reunification. In terms of human trafficking, he identified the absence of surveillance of private employments services, the need for labour inspection and the inadequacy of appropriate housing and social aid for victims. In terms of citizenship, the Commissioner depicted the difficulties in acquiring citizenship regardless of meeting the legal requirements. Despite the fact refugees pay taxes, their involvement in the country's politics is non-existent (Officer and Taki 2014).

According to the United Nations refugee agency in Cyprus, the clear majority of asylum-seekers receive limited social assistance due to the insufficiencies of the reception system. Refugees revealed the systematic delay in the issuance of food coupons and the inadequacy of the support system in general. Asylum seekers can face eviction at any time due to their inability to pay the rent, since the rent allowance is much lower than actual rent. It should be noted that they are given 220 EUR per month to cover food, clothing, utilities, transportation, and all other needs and up to 100 EUR for rent allowance. Data deriving from the "Migrant Integration Policy Index" (MIPEX 2014), Cyprus is ranked below average and ranks second to last among the 37 participant countries with respect to the degree of integration of immigrants. Furthermore, labour market mobility in Cyprus has been characterised as the most adverse within the EU. Although priority issues such as migration, asylum and integration policies have the potential to meet migration guidelines of SDGs, this is only indirect without a clear connection or direct implementation between sustainable development goals within the national migration context.

2.6 Migration policies and international commitments

The Republic of Cyprus' national review on implementation of Agenda 2030 illustrates the main priorities and preparation for embedding the SDGs in national policies and the activities of government and non-government sectors towards this course, as well as Cyprus' international activity towards promotion of priority SDGs. The Republic of Cyprus prepared in 2017 a national review regarding the enactment of Agenda 2030 and presented the up to that point progress towards achieving the SDGs. According to a national report, Cyprus has been an advocate of Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" and the Paris Agreement, with high commitment and active participation in pertinent UN procedures. According to the report, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN participated and co-chaired his counterpart from Peru at the 18th UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, "The effects of climate change on oceans". Based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs report (2017), the interlink between sustainability and migration is not reflected in the national legislation and migration is being treated as an isolated phenomenon.

Since 2001 and after the introduction of the Refugee Law in 2000, the Republic of Cyprus started to receive applications for international protection in accordance with UNHCR, which was responsible for this procedure up until then. Despite the existence of a policy about a swift procedure on asylum applications treatment, this policy was almost never being enacted and implemented. Long delays in the processing of the application result in an application to take two to three years before first decision, and sometimes five to seven years. Asylum seekers whose application is being declined are immediately addressed as "prohibited migrants" and given a detention and deportation, a tactic, which is against the EU Asylum Procedures Directive. With respect to the situation of unaccompanied asylum seeing children and the procedures regarding age assessment, Cyprus does not follow the directives depicted in Resolution 1810 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) or in General Comment No. 6 (2005) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, in terms of family reunification, the Republic of Cyprus does not act according to the European Commission guidelines, i.e. it does not permit beneficiaries of subsidiary protection to reunify with family. Similarly, in terms of social integration, refugees are excluded from benefits such as public housing schemes, student scholarships, or loans for small business development. In 2014, the anti-trafficking law, Law 60(I)/2014 on Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims was adopted by the Republic of Cyprus, something which was regarded as a positive measure in order to organise, avoid identify victims, prosecution this matter. The aforementioned impediments to immigration make imperative the need to remove them through the design and implementation of comprehensive, long-term and adequately-funded integration policies (Muižnieks 2016).
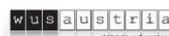
3. Field Research

3.1 Introduction

In Cyprus, CARDET conducted a 1-hour focus group, including mainly professionals who have knowledge and/or direct professional link to the field concerned. Stakeholders in the fields of migration, sustainable development and global education as well as stakeholders from the educational sector participated in the national focus group to discuss and identify the current competencies, knowledge and needs of teacher trainers, decision makers, and teachers in the areas of migration and sustainable development, and how these needs can be addressed through needs-oriented innovative activities.

11 stakeholders from the further migration and educational sector participated (all of them Cypriot nationals) with 10 individuals of them to be female and 1 individual to be male; 10 individuals were below the age of 40, while 1 individual was 40 years old or older. Moreover, all participants are at least university graduates (EQF level 6) and have acquired work experience in the fields of education and/or migration. The background and the working experience of our focus group participants varied: officers who currently work, or worked, for the Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education and Culture; academics and/or trainers from tertiary education institutions (colleges or universities); social worker; trainers from educational private organisations and social enterprises; free-lancer trainer; representative and trainer from civil society organisation; and teachers in primary and secondary education.

3.2 Awareness about international migration and sustainable development

The invited experts and representatives of education sector are mainly aware about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, only academics and trainers from tertiary education and civil society organisations could further elaborate. In contrast, significantly less awareness existed among our focus group members about the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), the Paris Agreement, Habitat III and other relevant initiatives. Only the representative from the civil society organisation was aware of the PCD and the Paris Agreement and, even them, they had never heard of the UN-Habitat programme.

Overall, focus group's participants do not believe that the above-mentioned documents, initiatives and/or strategies are adequately treated at national level. While overall the SDGs, PCD, the Paris Agreement and Habitat III are not in the media spotlight, SDGs are somewhat heard, but only occasionally, and there is no in-depth analysis and definitely no link with migration phenomena, according to our invitees: for instance, the media covered, to an extent, the public consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the civil society for the assessment of the progress towards the achievement of SDGs at national level and, especially, the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2017. Moreover, the Paris agreement on climate change mitigation was projected by the media, following the withdrawal of the US in June 2017. This mere media coverage is believed to result from the fact that also policy makers (including politicians and other governmental stakeholders) do not really highlight the SDGs (and other strategies) as part of

their statements and/or action nor is it visible whether some initiatives are part of the efforts towards their achievement. One of the participants mentioned that policy makers and the media are supposed to use a language free of technical terms, so that the general public understands their reportages or articles; this could explain why both actors do not explicitly refer to such initiatives and avoid making this linkage – however, it was highlighted that they must find the formula to use a simple language and at the same time cover properly and comprehensively such initiatives, since this is actually their role. Another participant also stressed that "the Cypriots need to do their research themselves" to find out about SDGs, the achievements so far and other related initiatives.

When it comes to the awareness of teachers' trainers, pre-service and in-service teachers and educational representatives, while the SDGs topics (in the form of Global Education) are included in the curricula, the success factors and the school year objectives, the teachers are not sufficiently aware of them. In addition, the inter-sectoral committee of the European and International Affairs Office (from the Ministry of Education and Culture) organises the Global Education Week in November every year with raise-awareness events for certain SDGs topics (e.g. climate change or migration), but again teachers fail to understand the connection. On another note, participants overall believe that the teachers' trainings provided by the Pedagogical Institute (the main public training institution for teachers in Cyprus) and its department for Sustainable Development, are inadequate and fragmented, even if they acknowledge that some officers are indeed engaged. Participants are also sceptical towards the content and the quality of the trainings offered (when they are offered), since they find the Institute to be distant from the school units and its officers not to fully understand the challenges in class.

3.3 Link between migration and sustainable development

The Cypriot focus group members seem to understand how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is expected to transform our world and the link with migration issues, including –but not limited to- the fact that climate change and environment policies are linked to migration. Some of them highlighted that the climate change has already started accentuating the migration, since people from the most affected areas (due to desertification, continuous drought, lack of adequate food) are forced to move in search of better living conditions. They also agree that the rise of sea level induced by climate change will accelerate the displacement of tens of millions of people in the following years. Moreover, they understand that SDGs include the achievement of gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, eradication of poverty and hunger, good health and well-being, inclusive and equitable quality education for all, full and productive employment and decent work for all, etc., with which migration policies are (or should be) linked at national level as well.

As a result of the possible lack of awareness by policy makers and media in Cyprus, both actors do not discuss the link between migration and sustainable development. Due to the war in Syria and the increase of terrorist incidents in Europe by ISIS, the focus shifted to refugees and asylum seekers who are forced to leave their country in order to escape the war zone and thus save their lives. Therefore, the general public is confused and cannot easily distinguish the concept and the different types of migration (e.g. economic migrants,

climate migrants) and the differences with the refugees or the asylum seekers. Additionally, while media refer indeed periodically to the consequences of the climate change in Cyprus (e.g. continuous drought, desertification), there is no link of local with global issues (glocal); and on the other hand, migration is "clearly discussed at another level" and, sometimes, inaccurately "explained" as a phenomenon deriving from the latest developments in the Middle East.

In relation to the Cypriot society's opinion, our members overall claim that it is not sensitised; the "average Cypriot does not know [the link between migration and sustainable development] and does not realise [it]" and that "as long as something does not have an impact on you, you are not interested".

3.4 Insecurity

Most responses from our participants about the main reasons for the Cypriot society to feel socially insecure are related to the consequences of the financial crisis that seriously hit the island in 2013: precarious employment, loss of jobs, the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation of the Cypriots. Migration comes in as a topic, but not as the main reason for the Cypriot society to feel insecure and/or threatened. However, it is believed that the Cypriot public opinion is influenced by media (e.g. over-projection of social benefits for migrants/refugees/asylum seekers, crimes and/or other delinquencies committed by migrants) as well as by general unsubstantiated stereotypes, e.g. that "migrants come to Cyprus in order to take our jobs". These result potentially in feeding sentiments of racism and xenophobia, also probably due to the fact than until recently the Cypriot society was more homogeneous. Still, such misperceptions do not cause insecurity to the public, but it is rather a reaction due to the financial crisis' impact and some cultural beliefs that "we are better than the others", especially when the "others" are third country nationals. According to the focus group members, at the moment, the sustainable development does not come in as a discussion topic among policy makers, media nor the public.

3.5 Main factors that shape public opinion and instruments to shape public discourse

Media is considered the main factor shaping the public opinion towards migration and sustainable development, according to focus group members. In this sense, it shares responsibility for the fact that these phenomena and certain strategies remain unlinked as well as the low public awareness. Social media has also emerged in the last few years as a main channel of wide communication of mainly negative perceptions and stereotypes about migrants by certain groups or even individuals.

Participants agreed that emotional discussions and evidence-based or "evidence-based" debates have the power to influence the public opinion and discourse in a negative or positive way. The rise of the far-right party (2 out of the 56 Members of the Parliament) is also considered by a focus group member to be indicative of the shifting of Cypriot public perceptions towards (in)security and risk and of the influence in misinterpreting migration and sustainable development.

In addition, education plays a key role, according to the focus group members, since it cultivates the perceptions and attitudes of the future Cypriot citizens. In this sense, teachers should efficiently develop critical thinking skills to their students so that, in the future, the latter are able to understand the phenomenon of migration, be tolerant, realise the importance of sustainable development –and its connection to migration- and discover in an efficient and "sustainable" way their role in the society.

3.6 Gaps of information and instruments to fill the gaps

Gaps of information in Cyprus, related to migration and sustainable development, have been identified by the majority of the focus group members. First of all, the whole concept of migration is unclear to the public, including educational actors, as well as the difference with other statuses, such as the refugee and the asylum seeker status. Secondly, migration is not viewed (nor presented by the majority of media, policy makers, and education actors) as a timeless phenomenon with a positive impact in the societies (economic, cultural, etc.) but rather a "trouble" cause for the hosting countries – however, a participant noted that this is the prevailing attitude not only at national but also at European level. Thirdly, there is a confusion about the reasons forcing people to migrate/ displace as well as an overall failure (by policy makers, the media, education system) to link the international phenomenon of migration, not only with the SDGs, but also with similar immigration tendencies of the Cypriots in our recent history (e.g. following the 1974 war and the serious financial crisis in 2013).

Focus group's participants highlighted education as the main long-term factor to fill these gaps. For this to happen, teachers not only need further and regular trainings, but they also need new tools and innovative methodologies for their professional development so that they are able to engage their students in such sensitive and complex issues meaningfully. However, our members stressed that trainers (i.e. from the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus) have to identify the real problems in the school units in order to be able to develop the appropriate material. Universities also have a key role, since they educate future teachers and trainers and they are (or should be) responsible for the further training of teachers during their career, while civil society is to intervene by proposing innovative and non-formal trainings for the raise awareness of both teachers and students. Thus, civil society should be allowed to have an active role in the national education system.

3.7 The role of education systems

While a small island state, there is clearly a growing recognition in Cyprus that it is part of an interdependent, globalising world. Cyprus is going through a period of considerable change with regard to how it sees itself as a society and how it interacts with the outside world. Since 2004, when Cyprus joined the EU, the country is increasingly becoming a multicultural society with increased immigration in recent years. These developments and changing perspectives, coupled with the geographic location of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, highlight the importance of development education in the Cypriot education system.

It is more evident than ever that the education actors in Cyprus need to acquire a more active role in the shaping of the public opinion, via the education of future citizens, and thus achieve

their sensitization in SDGs and better understanding of interrelationship with global migration, security and sustainable development. Thus, the role of education systems is critical first of all for teachers (and thereby students) to better understand the links between international migration and sustainable development. Our focus members reiterated the need for systematic and comprehensive trainings of teachers, trainers and adult educators and the need of specific programmes (at bachelor and master level) in universities for future teachers, or even compulsory modules in curricula. In addition, the use of interdisciplinary approach where teachers from different disciplines could cooperate and study global issues and new interactive methodologies would also provide a way out of the strict curricula and subject-based learning.

Universities, training institutions, teachers and civil society organisations should also be "critical friends" through the set-up of an efficient mechanism facilitating collaboration, communication, feedback and input by each actor. Such collaborations in the frame of relevant projects between all actors are considered necessary; nevertheless, it is equally important to provide motivation to teachers for their involvement as well as support from the school management; meaning that schools should encourage teachers (and students) to take initiatives on tackling problems first on a local level and then on a national and global level. In this way, students engage in real life situation problems in a non-formal environment –with their school's support- where they can develop their critical thinking skills and better understand the complex issues of migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world.

Generally, although the Cyprus educational system has made a lot of progress during the past years, some of its areas need to be reformed, particularly those related to teachers' educational training. Trained teachers must be able to use innovative participative methodologies for the promotion of development education (with adequate links to the critical phenomenon of migration and security) in their classroom and in school, and thus to help students become more active and sensitized in the aforementioned issues.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 National and local level recommendations for NGOs

NGOs need to organise events, workshops, conferences, run awareness campaigns on the problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers and provide reports on empirical data to raise public awareness about sustainable development and contest existing perceptions of migration as a harmful, threat to security phenomenon. The aim of these events should be the creation of a climate of tolerance and solidarity towards refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in order to fight social exclusion and marginalisation, xenophobia and racism. In addition, their involvement in the educational sector (public and private schools and teacher training institutions, including universities) can also significantly contribute to: raise awareness to in-service and pre-service teachers, as well as students; provide a functioning communication channel between education and migration stakeholders through their practises and active role; assist in training all interested parties in using their on-field expertise and contemporary non-formal education methodologies, potentially attractive to both

teachers and students for maximum results in shifting their perceptions towards migration and sustainable development. Since there is a lack of conceptualising the link between sustainable development, SDGs and international migration, NGOs need to understand that their expertise in priority issues is related to the SDGs and they should develop initiatives that will help the public to understand that international migration and displacement is a consequence of global inequalities, climate change and injustice by utilising SD / SDGs as a key instrument to contest the dominant negative public perceptions of migration.

4.2 National and local level recommendations for governmental institutions

Literature review on the integration procedures in Cyprus indicate that the Government needs to urgently review its current policies in order to protect the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. This requires the development of an action plan based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which will encompass actions, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review of this plan. Prior to its development, the plan needs to be based on any prior evaluation of refugee needs and how they should be treated, and it also seems apparent that there has Appropriate mechanisms should also be set by the Ministry of Labour with respect to migration labour. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Culture, through the main teachers' training institution, as well as the Pedagogical Departments of public and private universities, with the active involvement and collaboration of civil society organisations, need to take consistent initiatives towards sensitizing in-service and pre-service teachers about migration and sustainable development and providing them the necessary and fit-for-purpose educational tools to support the educational process in class.

4.3 Local level recommendations for municipalities

Municipalities need to publish information regarding the rights and obligations of migrants and refugees in Cyprus and thoroughly explain the conditions under which the refugee status is granted to a person in their language. The process should be planned and monitored by the municipalities. Municipalities can create offices to provide advice and support for migrants in the host countries. Advisory boards for the smooth participation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers should be set up at the local level. Furthermore, intercultural events including concerts, exhibitions, festivals, should be organised to enhance tolerance and respect towards different cultures and facilitate the migrants' integration to the society, along with free language courses in collaboration with civil society organisations and teacher training institutions aiming at the localisation of the SDGs within the context of immigration programmes and migrant integration initiatives.

4.4 National and local level recommendations for educational institutions

Educational institutions need to create an effective vocational training to enhance local and regional political collaboration in order to raise awareness on migration and sustainable development. Moreover, since globalisation created many challenges in schools due to

increased migration, cultural diversity, teachers need to readdress their teaching methodologies and use innovative material.

All involved parties need to participate in more effective training schemes, such as communities of practice. Teachers, educators, policy makers in the areas of health, social services, education and employment should participate in face-to-face or virtual communities of practice to explore practices with respect to the smooth integration of migrants in the Cyprus society. Additionally, all interested parties need to receive adequately training in order to cultivate skills of intercultural competence and communication with migrants by participating in modules and educational activities to develop capacity and understanding in order to be able to link priority issues such as migration/integration with SDGs. These modules should be comprised of international good practices and investigate issues such as poverty, social exclusion, climate change, security, migration, within the framework of SD/SDGs.

Additionally, educational institutions should offer free language courses to asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees. In schools, all refugee children should receive training with respect to language learning with the appointment of extra teacher. As soon as refugees reach a desirable level of competence in the Greek language, they should participate in "Action for the vocational training and promotion of the employment of public assistance recipients" sponsored by the European Social Fund or through other new funding schemes. Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be provided with relevant material, guidance and training to overcome any organisational and structural difficulties, leading to their empowerment and integration in the society.

4.5 Recommendations for future research areas

In terms of further research, there is a need of conceptualising the impact of migration on the achievement of all SDGs and investigating through qualitative research the ways in which migration can work in favour of sustainable development. Moreover, it is necessary to develop worldwide research on the migration and development trajectory further, where attention should be paid beyond an EU-centric directive. Additionally, further research needs to focus on the contextualisation of what is nowadays portrayed as the "migration crisis", aiming at the identification of possible similarities and/or differences in migration patterns by relating and comparing the current situation with previous one with respect to migration flows. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda needs to be evaluated as to the extent to which fundamental changes took place especially at a period during which migration is highly debated and contested.
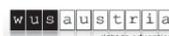
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