

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1st Annual InterCap International Conference "INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: WAYS FORWARD"

12 October 2018







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ABOUT THE INTERCAP PROJECT

The project "Developing capacities together: European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world" (InterCap) EuropeAid" is a 3-year project (from Nov. 2017 to Oct. 2020) funded by EuropeAid envisaging to address the emerging concern on the way in which shifting public perceptions of (in) security and risk, influence understanding of migration, sustainable development, roles, responsibilities and lifestyles of EU citizens in an interdependent world.

THE CONTEXT & PRIORITIES

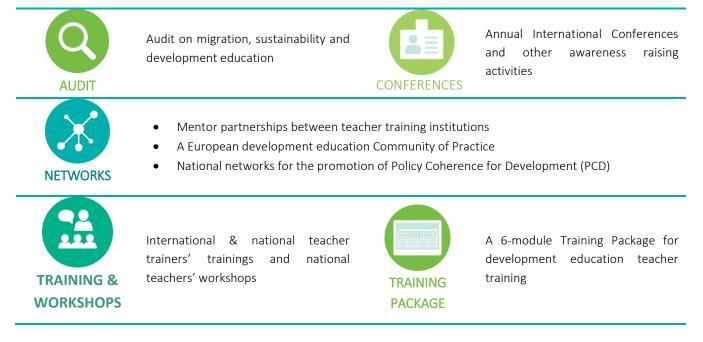
Terrorism and extremist ideology as a challenge to security has significantly increased at a global scale. A large number of EU citizens, who share this view, negatively influence the promotion of further collaboration among the EU and the developing countries, constituting also an obstacle to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Action's primary aim is to establish European CSOs-university networks, to build the capacities of the education actors, to promote global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world.

PARTNERSHIP

InterCap brings together 13 organizations from 12 different EU countries specialized in teachers' training, educational reform, sustainable development and migration issues, along with more than 50 associates from all over EU (local authorities, Ministries, Universities, and CSOs).

MAIN ACTIVITIES





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training





Practice-oriented projects, involving CSOs, universities and local community



Internships for pre-service teachers

CONTACTS

Project partner in Lithuania

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More information about the InterCap project:

Website: <u>http://www.developtogether.eu/</u> Facebook: @InterCapProject Twitter: @InterCapProject Email: <u>info@developtogheter.eu</u>







INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the InterCap project, the 1st Annual International Conference **INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**, **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: WAYS FORWARD** took place in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 12 October 2018. Conference was organized and hosted by <u>Diversity Development Group</u> in cooperation with the InterCap's partners.

Three International Conferences are one of the InterCap's project activities. The annual work, outcomes and progress in the themes of the InterCap aims to be discussed in International Conferences, organized every year of the project. There are foreseen 3 Annual International Conferences in total with more than 60 participants per conference, including decision makers, education actors and stakeholders. Key sections of the conference aims to include presentations on policies and initiative of EU in interdependencies of development, panel discussions on the SDGs progress, and networking and lobbying events.

International Conference INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: WAYS FORWARD took place at <u>Theater hall</u>, Vilnius University, Universiteto st.3, Vilnius, Lithuania.

The 1st International Conference **has addressed** the emerging concern on the way in which public perceptions of (in)security influence the understanding of international migration on one hand, and creates unfriendly public and political discourse around asylum, migration and integration issues on the other hand.

The Conference was for education actors, decision makers, public servants, local education authorities, instructional designers, teacher trainers, pre-service and in-service teachers, school staff and the general public; a certificate of participation shall be given upon completion of all sessions.

Associated partners of the Conference

Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

N^{US} UNIVERS 1579. 6 The Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania was established in 1991 to represent the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) in Lithuania, and to develop Nordic-Lithuanian cooperation. The NCM is the forum of cooperation for the governments of the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including the autonomous areas of the Faeroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands.

Website: http://www.norden.lt

Vilnius University is the oldest and largest Lithuanian higher education institution. Since its establishment in the 16th century, Vilnius University, as integral part of European science and culture has embodied the concept- of a classical university and the unity of studies and research. Vilnius University is 1st in Lithuania according to national ranking. It is the most popular and most acknowledged higher education establishment among Lithuani-an secondary school graduates.

Website: https://www.vu.lt















RATIONALE BEHIND

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the number of cross-border migrants worldwide is rapidly growing. According to the UN estimates (2017), it has increased from 173 million in 2000 to 258 million in 2017, with the rate faster than the growth of the global population. In these circumstances, migration starts to play an important role in the sustainable development of both origin and destination countries. Migrant diasporas abroad foster development in home communities by sending remittances, while returning migrants make positive contributions through human capital. In host countries, migrants fill critical labour gaps, pay taxes and social security contributions as well as enrich the communities by cultural and information capital (OECD, 2014). However, at the same time, migrants tend to be under higher risk of poverty and social exclusion, they also, on average, have limited access to education, healthcare and social security systems. In addition to the vulnerabilities on individual level, economic and social marginalisation of migrants might increase inequalities in host countries. Respectively, economic inequalities are known to induce social tensions, increase levels of crime, obstruct social cohesion and trust between community members (Hsieh and Pugh, 1993; Putnam et al. 1993; Kawachi et al., 1997). Eventually, this leads to misunderstanding about who is most affected by migration flows, as well as reduced focus on issues that force humans to migrate, such as climate change, public goods exploitation, poverty, social injustice, war and persecution.

At the same time, internal and external displacement as well as refugee integration is becoming as important as never before. Solving current challenges, related to displacement, requires more than a humanitarian response. It depends on the capacity of the international community to understand the relationship between the environment, displacement and sustainable development (Displacement and Development, 2016). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to 'leave no-one behind' provide a powerful basis for the inclusion of refugees and displaced people in localization of immigration and integration polices.

Despite its complexity and potential, migration is often perceived as a threat to national security by the public in the EU Member States (Lubbers and Coenders, 2017). Since globalisation and increasingly common extreme weather conditions are expected to intensify migration further, there is a strong need to challenge threat-focused public attitudes to ensure sustainability in the future at both local and global levels. It is important to raise awareness about migration as a global phenomenon with both risks and opportunities. Notions of international movement should reflect its links to other global issues such as climate change, conflicts and global inequalities. One of the main channels by which current misconceptions about migration could be challenged is through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a holistic agenda with concrete targets for global development set by the United Nations. The Goals recognise the economic benefits of human mobility to international development and, most importantly, provide a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional view towards both sustainability and migration. The discourse of the SDGs challenges the dominant negative perceptions of migration, and therefore is an important instrument in promotion of a more holistic approach towards the phenomenon.

The primary pillar to initiate a domino effect among the European public, to change attitudes, to improve its critical understanding of the interdependent world, and of its roles and responsibilities in a globalised society, is education; particularly – development education, which considers international migration as a part of above mentioned global processes. However, in some instances, education actors, decision makers, public servants, local education authorities, instructional designers, teacher trainers, pre-service and in-service teachers, school





staff, curriculum developers and, eventually, students, lack critical understanding of the causes and effects of migration, also influenced by misinformation and negative representations of migration impacting on public attitudes. Despite the increase of demands for education to respond to controversial issues (European Council, 2015), including those related to migration (EC February 2016:10), and meet the challenges of international agendas on sustainable development (SDGs), the lack of competences, resources, methodologies and tools on the part of education actors to address such issues is undermining such initiatives, demands and expectations.

Considering the complexity of interlinkages between international migration, sustainable development and development education, the conference obtained two main elements: conceptual and educational.

Conceptual part: links between international migration and sustainable development were discussed in the morning session: Setting the Scene with the emphasis on migration policy making. Three key notes speeches were delivered followed by Panel discussion: 10th Sustainable Development Goal on the spot: (reducing) global inequalities and (managing) migration policies

Educational part: four different workshops for representatives of educational institutions and one workshop for experts from governmental institutions and nongovernmental organisations were organised with the aim to present different approaches and methodologies of development education for better understanding of international migration.







OVERVIEW

The Agenda of the Conference is available <u>here</u>. The 1st InterCap International Conference **INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: WAYS FORWARD** was welcomed by representatives from associat4ed partners, namely Dr. Valdas Jaskūnas, the Vice-Rector for Studies of Vilnius University and Šarunas Radvilavičius, Deputy Director, The Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania.

The Conference was live streamed and all six key note speeches are available at the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania <u>YouTube Channel</u>.

Morning session: Setting the Scene

Moderator: Jogaila Vaitekaitis, Junior Researcher, Vilnius University (Lithuania)

Links between international migration and sustainable development: policies and practices

Dr. Karolis Zibas, Director, Diversity Development Group, Senior Researcher at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre (Lithuania)

The presentation aims at disclosing links between international migration and Sustainable Agenda 2030, focusing on important elements of development (labour market and remittances in particular) as well as such challenges as human trafficking, exploitation and modern day slavery. In addition, the presentation looks at the challenges of localisation of Sustainable Development Goals through migration policy making with the emphasis on the research findings from the "Audit on migration, sustainability and development education" that was accomplished in the framework of InterCap project.

For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.



Karolis Žibas, researcher at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre (Institute for Ethnic Studies) and Vytautas Magnus University (Centre for Demographic Research); founder of independed think tank 'Diversity Development Group', is sociologist, researcher and NGO activist in areas of human rights and migration, equal opportunities and migrant integration, fight against human trafficking and different forms of exploitation. As a project partner, leader and independent expert, Karolis Žibas is involved in different projects and researches on national and international levels. Karolis holds PhD in Social Sciences (Sociology). +370 615 14401 / karolis@diversitygroup.lt







Shifting public attitudes towards immigration and (in)security in the European Union

Agnese Lāce ,Senior Policy Analyst, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, Latvia

Public attitudes towards immigration and the perceived threats linked with migratory processes are often used as justification for certain policy choices. This presentation address the question on what does recent data about the views of the general society tell us about future policy venues, the main stakeholders and the main caveats.

For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.



Agnese Lāce is senior policy analyst in the areas of migration and integration at Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS in Riga, Latvia. She holds a master's degree in political science and a joint European masters in sociology with specialization in international migration and social cohesion. Currently Agnese is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Koc University in Istanbul.

Agnese's previous professional experience includes positions at several governmental and municipal institutions, research assistantship at the Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, position of a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher at Migration Research Institute at Koc University, position of a migration and diversity expert at Society Integration Foundation, and the role of a consultant for UNHCR RRNE.

The Opportunities and Challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals for Global Learning

Dr. Harriet Marshall, Independent Global Learning Expert and Advisor

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal framework for action that bring to the fore the intrinsically interrelated nature of the 17 goals and 169 targets. These ambitious goals are to be met by 2030 by all 193 country signatories. The mutually-supporting nature of the goals combined helps us explore the interdependent economic, social and ecological dimensions of global issues. With migration, for example, we know that migrants tend to be at higher risk of poverty (Goal 1), with less access to quality education (Goal 4), which leads to growing economic inequalities (Goal 10) – a gross over-simplification, of course, to illustrate a point. We know too that the links between migration and climate change (Goal 13 and many others) are deeply complex, but that climate change has adverse consequences for public health, food security and water availability and will likely lead to a rise in migration and displacement. Although there have been significant critiques of the SDGs, they are proving to be an effective and motivating educational tool for getting development. In this presentation I explore some of the opportunities and challenges of the SDGs for global learning and development education.

For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.







Harriet is a specialist in global learning and has been involved in the field of global citizenship education for 20 years both nationally and internationally as a teacher, author, researcher and lecturer (Universities of Cambridge, York and Bath). Harriet is passionate about the United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development and is part of the founding taskforce of the global educator movement #TeachSDGs.

Website: <u>www.harrietmarshall.com</u> Twitter: @ham1

Panel discussion: 10th Sustainable Development Goal on the spot: (reducing) global inequalities and (managing) migration policies

Moderator: Giannis Chatziris, Project Director, KMOP (Greece)

Sustainable Development Goals and international migration: reducing inequalities and ensuring migrant workers' rights

Elisa Bacciotti, President of Oxfam Italia Intercultura, Director of the Campaign and Domestic Programme Department of Oxfam Italia (Italy)

Work opportunities are one of the key motivations behind international migration: ensuring living wages and decent work for the world's workers - migrants and non-migrants - is fundamental to curb the extreme rising of wealth and income inequality. Unfortunately, this is far from being happening and migrants are most likely to be labor exploited and employed in temporary, precarious work – with lower wages, fewer rights, less access to social protection, and more subject to abuse, including sexual abuse.

However, this work insecurity and exploitation is not a residual phenomenon but is closely connected to the nature of the current global economic system, which produces this extreme income and wealth inequality. In fact, the system benefits large economic players that reduce costs by outsourcing production to smaller businesses that employ contract workers and achieve their competitive advantage by lowering costs and adopting short terms contracts with minimal protections. In 2016, the International Trade Union Confederation stated that 50 of the world's largest companies, with a combined revenue of \$3.4 trillion, maintained a 'hidden' work force of an estimated 116 million people in their supply chains – representing around 94% of the total workers employed.

Creating decent work for everyone is key to reducing inequality and to create better conditions for everyone including migrants. To reach this aim, it is critical to: introducing and enforcing minimum





wages, increasing them to become living wages, protecting the rights of the informal workers and of migrants out of the system. For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.



Elisa Bacciotti is Director of the Campaigns and Home Programs of Oxfam Italia and president of the Oxfam Italia Intercultura Social Cooperative, which has been working in the field of inter-culture and reception for refugees and asylum seekers since 2010. Elisa holds a degree in Political Science from the Ca 'Alfieri University in Florence, and has been working in the third sector since 2002, specifically in the field of human rights promotion, social and solidarity economy, campaigns and advocacy.

Sustainable Development Goals and Displacement: a European perspective in a global reality

Céline Giertta, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator at CONCORD Sweden (Sweden)

The 2030 Agenda is providing a framework for a sustainable approach to migration. Nevertheless, there has been a swift shift in the EU and its Member States towards looking at displacement as an outside threat. The EU has stated that the Union wants to "combat irregular migration" and "increase its leverage" on third countries. The EU is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals both internally and externally. Nevertheless, there is a diverging understanding of what sustainability is within and outside the EU. Externalisation of internal interests to stem migration has become a common procedure.

For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.



Céline Giertta, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator on Migration and Gender Equality, CONCORD Sweden - civil society platform. Expert in the government investigation on strengthening civil society. Board member of Transparency International Sweden. Previous work, Policy Officer Unizon, platform for women's shelters and Responsible for Gender Mainstreaming Swedish Police Authority. MA in European Public Affairs and BA in European Studies.

It's all about us - working locally to save the world





Eliot Wieslander, Executive director of 'Doctors of the World' (Sweden)

Sustainability - economic, social and environmental sustainability - is a package deal. It's virtually impossible to achieve one without the other. Understanding that these are not opposing things, but rather that they are interdependent, is one of the key learnings for implementation. Localisation in this context implies our responsibility to act, responsibly, in our own communities. Through the example of health provision to undocumented migrants in Sweden Doctors of the World shares ideas of doing precisely that and working with implementation of the equality as framed in the SDGs.

For your convenience, video of the presentation is available <u>here</u>.



Eliot Wieslander is executive director of Doctors of the World, Sweden and has a long standing commitment in working for the health and sustainable policies for human rights. In Sweden the organisation mainly works with undocumented migrants, survivors of trafficking and destitute mobile EU-migrants. As one of the major humanitarian actors they do large scale interventions in as well countries of origin, transit and reception.

Parallel workshops: Contextualising international migration through different methods of Development Education

Workshop 1: Communities for Philosophical Enquiry: promoting thinking, reasoning and questioning through a dialogic approach

Facilitated by Andrea Bullivant, Liverpool World Centre (United Kingdom) and Marta Gontarska, Antidiscrimination Education Association (Poland)

Communities for Philosophical Enquiry aims to promote questioning, thinking and dialogue about big issues in ways which promote skills of reasoning, reflection and respect for ideas. This workshop introduced participants to some of the key ideas, concepts and techniques used in this approach, and how it can be applied to complex and controversial topics such as migration. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a series of activities to experience: what is meant by philosophical concepts and questioning; how a community of enquiry process works; ways of facilitating dialogue which is both critical and caring.

Workshop 2: Interacting learning communities: Engaging in critical thinking, reflection, inquiry and dialogue for global learning through a participatory method





Facilitated by Charalambos Stergiou, CARDET – Centre for the Advancement of Research & Development in Educational Technology (Cyprus)

Drawing on the methodology "Open Spaces for Dialogue and Enquiry", in this workshop participants were introduced to a participatory educational methodology for the development of spaces for critical thinking and discussion regarding global issues. Participants have learnt how to engage critically through dialogue with their own and different points of view, reflect individually and collectively for taking informed decisions. More specifically, participants gained practical knowledge on how to create spaces where they discussed and actively participate in a continuous process of (de)constructing meanings, while depicting ways of relating to one another in global learning.

Workshop 3: Participatory Theatre Methods for Global Learning with reference to Theatre for Living

Facilitated by Natasa Tadic and Louise Sperl, World University Service Austria (Austria)

The workshop provided an introduction to participatory theatre methods for global learning with reference to Theatre for Living, its possibilities and practical aspects and explore the extent to which this methodology can be incorporated into education/classroom. This was done by practical examples, games and exercises. Particular emphasis was put on the following methods: Image theatre, Newspaper theatre and Mini Forum theatre.

Workshop 4: Sustainable development: education, inequalities and international migration on the spot

Facilitated by Jogaila Vaitekaitis, Vilnius University, and Karolis Zibas, Diversity Development Group (Lithuania)

The workshop shaded the light on interlinkages between education and inequalities in the context of Agenda 2030 on one hand, and localisation of Sustainable Development Goals at municipal level by implementing migration policies on the other hand. In addition, the workshop set the background to establish formal national network of actors and stakeholders on promoting Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) with the focus on migration and development interdependencies.



