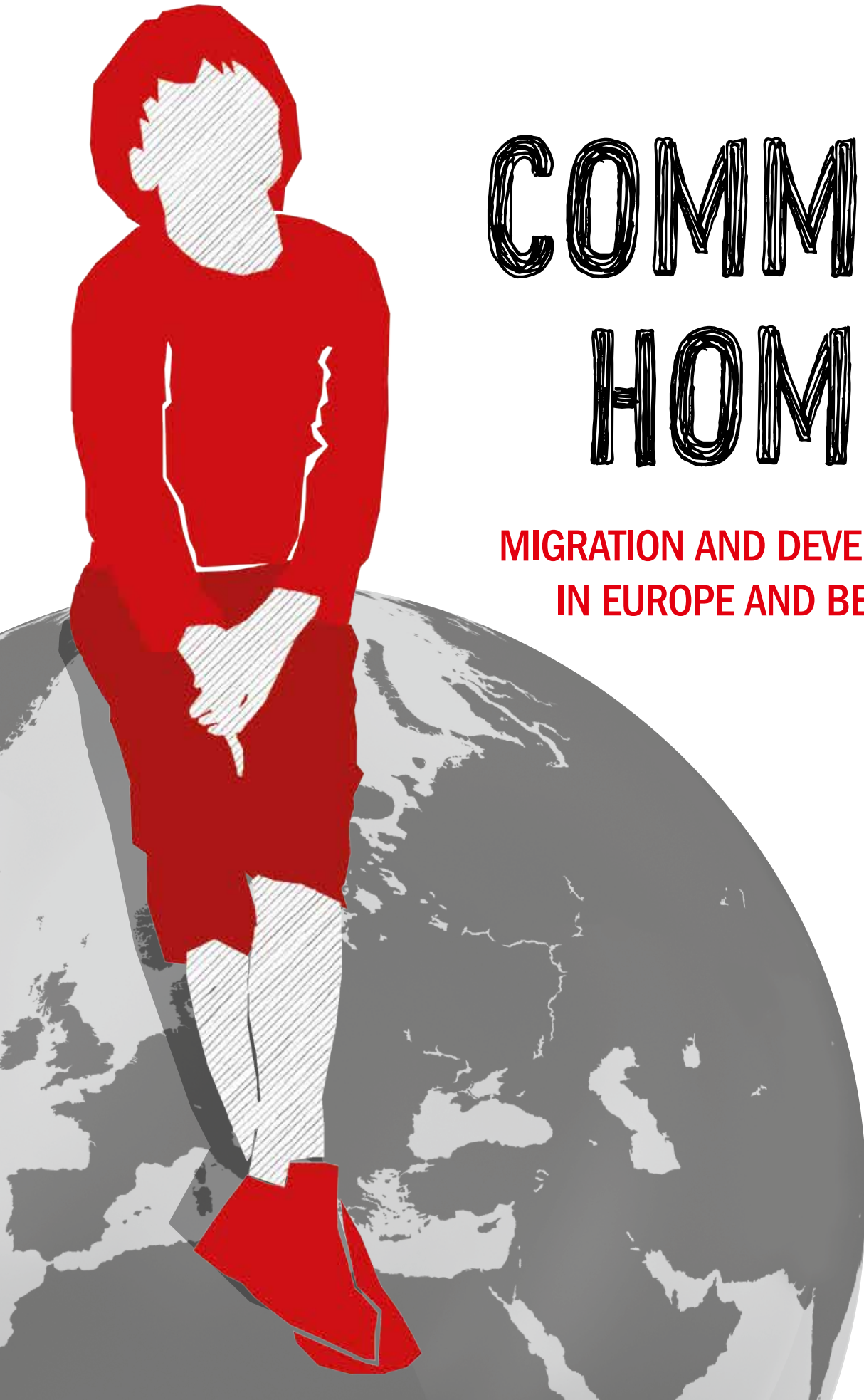


COMMON HOME

**MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN EUROPE AND BEYOND**



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This publication is part of MIND (Migration. Interconnectedness. Development), a 3-year project financed by the European Commission (DG DEVCO). The aim is to raise public awareness on the relation between sustainable development and migration and the European Union's role in development cooperation. Led by Caritas Austria, the partners of the MIND project are: Caritas Bavaria (Germany), Caritas International Belgium, Caritas Bulgaria, Caritas Czech Republic, Caritas Europa, Caritas Italy, Cordaid (Caritas Netherlands), Caritas Portugal, Caritas Slovakia, Caritas Slovenia and Caritas Sweden.

For more information about MIND follow the campaign: <https://www.caritas.eu/whatishome/>



This publication was proofread by Mauricio Ruiz and Richard Tuffs

Graphic design and layout by Vanden Broele Group supported by Leticia Lozano (Caritas Europa)

Printing by Vanden Broele Group

Cover illustration by Jean Bernard Boulnois

Published November 2019 by Caritas Europa, Rue de la Charité, 43, 1210 Brussels – Belgium.

ISBN: 978-2-931068-00-7



This publication was produced in the framework of the MIND project, which has received financial support from the DEAR Programme of the European Union. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Union.

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CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS

Migration has become a deeply contentious issue in Europe. Irresponsible populist politicians, capitalising on the growing frustration of the impoverished working and middle-class, have turned migrants and their families into perfect scapegoats. As fear of migrants becomes the main driver of policies and actions in Europe, the continent risks losing sight of what migration really is: a challenge and an opportunity for all those involved (Avramopoulos 2017). It is in this context that the Caritas network has deemed it necessary to launch a renewed reflection on the complex interconnections between migration and development.

This European-wide publication has discussed the various ways in which migration and development are interconnected,

both in Europe and globally. Drawing on Caritas' perspective as a global, grassroots-based organisation primarily concerned with fighting poverty and social exclusion and promoting human dignity, Caritas has approached migration and development from two angles. On the one hand, it has analysed the extent to which migration itself does and may contribute to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, provided the right conditions in each context are in place. On the other hand, it has examined the extent to which European and Member States' policies and practices contribute both internally and externally to integral human development of people and to the sustainable development of countries in Europe and beyond.

4.1. Contributions associated with migration and development in Europe and overseas

The analysis of the European migratory context presented in the 11 Common Home studies and backed by additional secondary sources shows that **migrants and refugees have long been important features of Europe**, as European countries have experienced both immigration and emigration for centuries. In total, 60 million people, or 11.7% (of the total EU population of 512.6 million people) residing in EU Member States are considered as international migrants. According to the 11 Common Home studies, half or more of their respective migrant populations are from EU Member States. Not surprisingly, in many cases the largest numbers of migrants come from neighbouring countries. In 2015, the number of people seeking asylum in the EU-28 reached a peak and has since declined. However, it should be pointed out that the number of refugees in European countries remains very small in comparison to the *frontline* countries bordering Syria and Iraq as well as to worldwide totals.

Further analysis of the contributions of migration and of migrants to integral human development in countries of destination and in Europe confirms that **migrants are already substantially contributing to the well-being of European societies**. They make vital contributions in the labour market, sustaining the economy and creating jobs and businesses. They are often key actors in ensuring the sustainability of the welfare and social protection systems, and contribute to enriching European societies socially, culturally and politically. For many European countries of emigration, such as Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, emigrants are even making significant economic contributions elsewhere, often in other EU Member States or even in countries, such as the United States, Canada or Australia. In light of current social and demographic challenges faced by several European Member States - especially in relation to the aging population and changing modes of production, which have resulted in

significant labour shortages across labour sectors and regions - those contributions are likely to become even more vital for communities and countries in the future.¹

Continued analysis shows evidence of the **contributions of migration and of migrants in countries outside of Europe**, i.e. in countries of origin, and stresses the importance of preserving human mobility as a relevant factor to foster sustainable integral human development. For many African countries, remittances constitute an important share of their GDP and substantially outweigh flows of development aid. The growing **flow of remittances to countries of origin** is being used by migrants' households for productive activities as well as for sustaining household consumption patterns or fulfilling basic needs (education, healthcare, and food). Thus, remittances prove to be vital for the welfare of receiving households, also due to its potential to enhance their access to socio-economic opportunities and to contribute to

poverty reduction. Other important contributions include knowledge transfer and the circulation of ideas and practices fostered by migrants individually and by migrant diaspora organisations; both of which play a key role in supporting development processes in countries of origin across a variety of domains. Regional mobility in African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), just like in Europe, contributes to sustaining the livelihood of communities and the viability of labour markets and economies. However, just as in Europe, it would be a mistake to assume that migration and migrants can take primary responsibility for the development of African countries and regions. Expanding now on the second angle Caritas uses to approach migration and development, the next section presents a critical assessment of what has been done and what should be done in these domains in order to create structures and policies that foster integral human development and to support the development potential of migration.

4.2. Barriers and challenges associated with migration and development in Europe and overseas

Further analysis of the 11 Common Home studies shows that **a number of challenges and barriers threaten migration's development potential and have a negative effect on the European commitment to promote sustainable development in the countries of destination**. These are identified as both European and national barriers, reflective of the specificities of each Member State. Despite the efforts made, policies and practices governing the inclusion of migrants at the economic, social, cultural and political levels in European societies remain overall unsatisfactory. Whether at the workplace, at school, at the hospital or elsewhere, migrants still encounter discrimination, limited support, and restricted access to social provisions. This leads to the first main finding, consistently identified as a major concern in all of the 11 national Common Home studies:

Finding 1: A longer-term, global approach to migration is needed that includes inclusive integration models, while also taking seriously the concerns of native populations.

Promoting the inclusion of migrants and refugees through robust integration policies is essential, not only for unlocking the full potential of migration but also for pursuing a sustainable development agenda universally. While EU institutions actually have a mandate to provide incentives and to support Member State actions aimed at promoting the integration of third-country nationals (European Commission n.d.a), Member States nevertheless continue to face numerous setbacks. One major challenge is the perceived competition between marginalised local populations and the visible migrant population supposedly competing for scarce material resources. This situation is more broadly linked to structural changes taking place both in Europe and globally, from the casualisation of work and the restructuring of economic production (delocalisation, sub-contracting, etc.) to the retreat of the welfare state in many European countries. These structural changes have had devastating effects on the well-being of many Europeans, where the working and middle class of several European countries have seen their standards of living deteriorate. It is no wonder then in the current neoliberal era, where socio-economic inequalities are on the rise, welfare systems are being dismantled, and labour protection is

¹ For an interesting discussion on future migration scenarios, which take stock of changing social, political and economic conditions in Europe and globally, see (Szczezanikova, Alice and Tina van Crielinge 2018).

Finding 2: Rising hostility towards migrants erodes social cohesion in Europe and inhibits the recognition of migrants' contributions to countries of destination and countries of origin.

becoming weaker, that many are tempted to see migration as the cause of these developments. Also unsurprising is the resulting consequence of the politicisation of migration in the European context and the obsession with fighting against irregular migration. Nevertheless, it is important to note that knee-jerk response is generally contributing to eroding the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as they become the easy scapegoats for all the societal ills.

For migration to truly benefit everyone, integration policies must be linked to general social and economic policies targeting the rest of the population, and particularly the most disadvantaged or newly impoverished segments of European communities. This understanding should inform a renewed discussion on the interconnections between migration and development and, more in general, on the kind of society we want for the years and decades to come. Fostering a long-term approach on the inclusion of migrants is, at its foundation, a matter of upholding basic human rights and of ensuring respect of everyone's human dignity. Creating social and economic marginalisation, pushing people 'outside the system', and breeding resentment amongst newcomers contribute to eroding the opportunities associated with a cohesive society and weaken the potential of migration to contribute to the sustainable development of Europe. Moreover, strong integration is likely to yield greater returns in the long run for countries of destination and local communities, inasmuch as it may result in a virtuous circle (greater social cohesion, greater contribution to the tax system and social security, greater participation in the labour market, reduction of social marginalisation, and an enrichment of social and cultural life). Promoting an inclusive and balanced debate, which dispels harmful myths but also recognises the concerns and fears of the local population, is all the more important to counter the current toxic 'broken narrative' fuelled by irresponsible politicians. This alludes to a more recent and potentially very dangerous trend, which is identified as the second main finding.

In the current polarised political climate, migrants and refugees are usually framed as a problem, either as a threat to European economy, identity or security or, at best, as passive victims in need of help, with the result that their contribution to European development is dramatically undervalued. Rising public hostility, xenophobia and open discrimination towards migrants and refugees is, unsurprisingly, eroding social cohesion in Europe, and limiting the public's recognition of migration's contributions. It is becoming more difficult for the public to discern misinformation from evidence-based news considering the wealth of data available and readily spread via social media. This has contributed to creating a climate of 'fake news' which tends to scapegoat migrants for things not necessarily even relating to them such as blaming them for society's macroeconomic challenges. Such a climate, fuelled by disingenuous media and/or irresponsible governments and populist politicians, who are trying to gain popular support to win national and local elections, has led to an impasse both at national and European levels. Divisive rhetoric has legitimised continuous attacks on migrants' rights, the criminalisation of solidarity, as well as discriminatory and racist policies in a variety of domains. Pro-migrant legislative actions have been effectively blocked many times – the reform of the common European asylum system and the opening of more regular channels of migration are two good examples – while also eroding existing good policies and practices on migrant integration.

The toxic mix of populist nationalist politics, negative and biased media messaging and frustrated public opinion – much of which has been hurt by years of economic crisis, neoliberal labour and social policies, and the downsizing of the welfare state – has produced a vicious circle in public debates that is difficult to break and requires a strong counter-narrative.

Consequently, it is important that the media, journalists, politicians and public figures take seriously their responsibility to contextualise migration accurately and responsibly. Promoting a more balanced debate will also depend on whether media and social media providers can also be involved in these discussions to ensure better public access to (good quality) information. It should be stressed that migrants are people and members of our communities. They should never be described in terms of numbers, figures, as 'problems' or as subjects in newscasts. They should be given the opportunity to speak for themselves, to voice their own stories and to present their own testimonies, while, if they wish, also engaging in policy development and in proposing solutions. It is expected that such an approach would further work to disarm populist narratives pitting poor communities against each other. In addition, highlighting publicly some opportunities associated with migration could further help.

4.2.1. External dimension with focus on Africa

In analysing the interconnections between migration and development in the context of European external policy, a specific focus was directed on the African continent and on EU-African relations. The analysis of the **migratory context in Africa** revealed the importance of placing the volume and scope of African migration to Europe within a wider historical context. Migration of all types has long been a feature of the continent, and most African countries are, at once, countries of origin, transit and destination. In contexts such as the Sahel, century-old patterns of pastoral nomadism and circular/seasonal migration intertwine with regional refugee and IDP escape routes as well as with Europe-bound migration corridors. While there is an important share of African migrants - mainly from North Africa - attempting to reach Europe, **the majority of African migration takes place within the continent and, particularly, within sub-regions**. This is also the reality of asylum, whereas Sub-Saharan African countries alone host more than 30% of the global refugee population. When it comes to pursuing sustainable development in Africa and elsewhere, numerous challenges and barriers emerged from the data **that threaten migration's development potential and have a negative effect on European commitment to facilitating integral human development in countries of origin**. These included insufficient progress on African regional mobility, Europe's lack of commitment on opening regular migration channels, the lack of enabling environments (including high cost of remittances) in countries of origin, and the still limited involvement of diaspora/migrant groups in development processes in countries of origin. The third and the fourth main findings both draw further attention to challenges related to the external dimension, first, related to the value of European Official Development Assistance (ODA) and, secondly, related to policy incoherence.

Finding 3: The value of ODA is being compromised as a result of the instrumentalisation of aid and the EU's security and migration control priorities. Instead, ODA must be preserved as the EU and its Member States' primary tool for addressing poverty.

Despite the multiple ways previously described about the contributions of migration to development, it would be a mistake to presume that migrants should take primary responsibility for the development of the countries and regions from which they come. It is important to approach the developmental potential of migration in a nuanced way, being mindful that the impact of migration on countries of origin can have important drawbacks such as the disruption of family unity and cohesion, the perpetuation or reinforcement of social and economic

inequalities and negative interference in political affairs. Being the result of dynamics that are essentially individual or family-based, migration cannot be expected to respond to the public interest, which needs to be represented by national and supra-national institutions, starting locally. For these reasons, migration should only complement sustainable development policies and actions, which need to be designed by stakeholders in Africa or the developing regions, such as governments and local civil society actors. In this context, European ODA can provide a key source of support.

In the current political context, voices from different sides of the political spectrum have questioned the added value and relevance of ODA as a tool of European foreign policy. Yet, ODA remains the primary tool through which both the European Union and its Member States can address poverty, social and economic inequalities and climate change, which are all major issues of our time. When responding to the needs and priorities of partner countries, if channelled to relevant domains (i.e. economic sustainable development, good governance, conflict prevention, access to food security, human rights, democratisation, and so forth), and when involving local stakeholders (including civil society), ODA can in fact play a major role towards achieving sustainable development worldwide.

The challenges to achieving sustainable development focus on the barriers limiting the added value of European ODA, including, among others, the inflation and securitisation of aid, the mainstreaming of migration in development policy, the lack of policy coherence, and the problematic role of the private sector. All of this contributes to further eroding the potential of ODA in pursuing a sustainable development agenda. Additionally, development policy is increasingly being directly linked to short-term migration-reduction objectives. The anti-immigrant climate described above has likely been a key driver in this recent policy agenda of the European Union and its Member States. In particular, the Union's preoccupation with securing its external borders, and eliminating or at least 'containing' irregular migration from outside Europe, seem to have overridden almost all other concerns related to the protection of migrants' and refugees' rights, and the preservation of development cooperation as an instrument exclusively devoted to eradicating poverty. It would be short-sighted, however, to use European development cooperation as part of a broader migration-reduction strategy. Not only is this approach likely to backfire against its stated aims but also risks undermining the potential long-term benefits of development aid. If Europe wishes to retain its global role as a value- and principle-based international actor, and ensure that official development assistance leads to meaningful poverty reduction, ODA should therefore remain a cornerstone of European external action, and it should not be influenced by other foreign policy objectives, which leads to the fourth finding.

Finding 4: The integral human development of migrants and their human dignity is being compromised due to other contradictory foreign policy objectives of the EU and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States (to varying degrees) are known to pursue different foreign policy objectives that may compromise their development objectives and contribute to harming the pursuit of sustainable development for countries and people outside of Europe. These conflicting policies (e.g. policies on trade, agriculture, climate change, tax regimes, military and security, environment and asylum) can easily compromise and undermine the positive role played by ODA and development cooperation more generally. Moreover, in certain cases, these policies and additional practices (i.e. arms sales, land grabbing, exploitation of natural resources, etc.), can contribute to further exacerbating the conditions - such as wide social and economic inequalities, conflict, and climate change - that drive forced migration and displacement, and can thus contribute to creating the conditions for increasing irregular migration movements to Europe. This is all the more worrisome in light of Europe's lack of commitment on expanding regular migration channels, which has so far embittered relations with African partners on migration cooperation.

In terms of the trade and migration relationship, for instance, analysis tends to focus on whether migration benefits trade internationally or in receiving and origin countries. Answers point towards migration mostly benefiting trade and both complementing each other. Typically, however, countries are more open to trade than they are to migrants. Ignoring a very complex system of 'push' and 'pull' factors underlying migration and its relationship with trade policies – coupled with lack of coherence in policies – has led to a number of unintended consequences. Another example of how other European policies and practices contribute to undermining sustainable development outside of Europe is related to the tax regime. There is a global imbalance in international taxation negotiations, to the detriment of developing countries that are often unable to generate as much profit from taxes generated in their own territory. In an effort to address this, the European Parliament has called on Member States to ensure the fair treatment of developing countries when negotiating tax treaties.

Security and foreign policies are also areas that may have important ramifications for sustainable development in developing countries. Security-oriented actions funded under development instruments have already been flagged up as potentially problematic, especially when they exclusively reflect European foreign policy priorities and interests. Another contradiction relates to EU arms and military equipment exports to developing countries, which can exacerbate or perpetuate situations and conditions that compel the displacement of people. The EU's role in contributing to

climate change exemplifies another issue with contradictions. The EU's climate target to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030 was set in 2014. Since then, a large number of legislative actions were approved at EU level. Despite this, the EU has one of the world's worst ecological footprints and CO₂ emissions per capita. Although this a global phenomenon, climate change disproportionately affects people in less developed countries, and can contribute to increasing displacement. Estimates suggest that as many as 143 million people, most of whom are in developing countries, may be compelled to leave their homes by 2050 due to such progressive environmental degradation. Ultimately, these actions are in contradiction with development objectives and they affect the livelihoods and well-being of whole communities of people living in developing countries - often for the worst. Similar repercussions are noted in relation to land grabbing and to the exploitation of natural resources. These trends and the resulting contradictory policies and actions are worrisome, because they show an utter disrespect of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and fail to put the person at the centre of the policy or to foster an atmosphere that enables and fosters integral human development.

While the EU has tried to tackle the lack of policy coherence through the establishment of PCD, numerous inconsistencies remain both in interpretation and in practice, resulting in its rather ineffective translation at the operational level. The simple result is that there is no clarity or consensus among institutional stakeholders concerning the EU's commitment towards developing countries. A greater effort is clearly needed from the EU and its Member States to ensure that their policies cause no harm to developing countries and bring about a positive contribution to their sustainable development. In a context in which the EU's obligations regarding PCD remain ambiguous and in which PCD is at times applied in reverse (development at the service of other policy areas) and where mobility is framed as security-related, it is clear that political will remains a decisive factor in determining the effectiveness of PCD, as defined in the Lisbon Treaty.

4.3. Opportunities associated with migration and development in Europe and overseas

Continuing the expansion of the second angle Caritas used to approach migration and development, the next section presents the opportunities that emerged from the data as a result of existing structures, policies and practices that foster integral human development and support the development potential of migration both in Europe and overseas.

There are a number of existing conventions, policies, and promising practices in countries of destination, as well as opportunities arising from multi-stakeholder collaborations and civil society engagement that signify important opportunities for migration. For instance, **Agenda 2030, the Global Compact on Migration as well as the Urban Agenda** provide useful frameworks through which civil society organisations can advocate for inclusive policies by linking migrant integration to sustainable development objectives, including the respect of human rights and human dignity. Highlighting the positive results and opportunities that come from resettlement as well as innovative private and/or community sponsorship schemes would be another important issue worthy of greater public attention. More than that, when such schemes benefit from the participation of civil society organisations (including Caritas) as well as institutional partners, they contribute to enhancing safe and legal channels for protection purposes. Another example of a general opportunity is building on **existing legal frameworks** and conventions for the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees. Additional opportunities associated with migration that emerged from the analysis include also the successful integration policies and practices at work, policies and practices fostering the social inclusion of migrants, projects and activities that seek to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding, and practices that foster the participation of migrants and/or of migrant and diaspora organisations in social and political affairs. All of these opportunities could benefit from greater public visibility, showing evidence of positive collaborations and successful stories as well as personal testimonies.

When it comes to the external dimension, the publication also identified **policy and practical opportunities** attributed to promoting and fostering sustainable development and enhancing the development potential of migration in countries of origin. Again, the importance of Agenda 2030 framework emerged, as did the Policy Coherence framework and the EU-ACP and MFF negotiations. These were all identified as key frameworks for civil society and other stakeholders to advocate better quantity and quality of ODA. The Global Compact on Migration, the Global Skills Partnership of Migration, and the strengthening of African regional mobility were recognised as promising tools to enhance the role of migration in development. Some innovative policies and projects on remittances, as well as on diaspora involvement in development cooperation were also discussed. Finally, this leads to the fifth main finding and reminder for national and EU policy makers to bear in mind when devising a comprehensive approach to any future long-term migration and development policies.

Finding 5: Migration is a natural part of life. Opportunities must be assured so that people are not forced to migrate out of desperation, but rather via safe and legal channels in pursuit of their personal life projects.

Migration and mobility compose a universal feature of humanity. Since the beginning of time, people have been on the move - migrating. This is not expected to stop soon; on the contrary, greater mobility is expected in the future. Migrants are often resilient; they can make choices depending on their situations and financial means – about how to respond to life's circumstances and decide whether, with whom and when to flee or leave their country. Having expectations of substantially affecting this process through development cooperation is only naive and likely to fail. Regardless of the efforts put in place to deter, stop, or prevent migration movements, desperate and resourceful people will find a way through the fences, and will continue to risk their lives along dangerous routes. This is one more reason why international cooperation should rather focus on facilitating regular mobility for the sustainable development of all countries. If any meaningful connection between ODA and migration is to be made, then this should ensure that development policy contributes to making migration a choice rather than a necessity – keeping in mind that, as discussed in Chapter 1, development is likely to reduce (but will never completely stop) economically-motivated migration *over the long term*. Thus, in order to truly maximise the benefits of international migration, regular migration should be strengthened by giving people from all skill levels, education, and economic backgrounds the chance to move in a safe and legal manner between their countries of origin and of destination.

From a legal point of view, because the EU is bound by international refugee and human rights obligations, it cannot dismiss the negative side effects of its external policies, and should ensure the respect of human rights and protection needs, while also promoting the sustainable integral human development of people in countries of destination, transit and origin.

Ultimately, the combination of these various dimensions (i.e. the internal vs. external, country of destination vs. country of origin, barrier vs. opportunity) exemplify the interconnection between migration and development - both in policy and in practice on the ground. All of the data in this publication and these findings together allude to the **complexity of the so-called nexus between migration and development**. Overall, the **key is to create a virtuous circle on migration and development** based upon the following: 1) migration is a potential opportunity for sustainable development of all countries and communities, and it needs to be facilitated with measures ensuring the dignity and rights of people on the move; 2) the development agenda should be primarily concerned with fostering sustainable development in Europe and beyond for the benefit of everyone, ensuring that migration largely remains a choice and not a desperate necessity. The findings of this publication confirm that, **given the right structures and legal opportunities, states should build on the potential of migration to contribute not only to the integral human development of migrants and their families, but also to communities, as well as to the sustainable development of their countries of origin, transit and destination.**

In addition to these main findings, the following section puts forward essential **recommendations** targeting EU level policymakers in the European Commission, Parliament and Council and where applicable, also the Council of Europe.

CHAPTER 5

RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS

This section identifies essential recommendations targeting policymakers in the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Council and, where applicable, in the Council of Europe as well.¹ These recommendations complement the numerous existing recommendations put forward by Caritas² and other NGOs over the past years in relation to ensuring the dignity and rights of migrants, asylum protection standards, aid effectiveness and sustainable development principles. Caritas Europa calls on European Union leaders:

- To prioritise migration and development policies creating environments which enable people to achieve their full potential, to develop their *life project*, and - all in all - to fulfil their integral human development. To change the negative discourse on migration and to counter rising hostility and harmful attitudes toward migrants and migration.
- To effectively address the barriers identified in this publication that inhibit the contribution and recognition of migrants both to countries of destination as well as to countries of origin.
- To promote the factors that facilitate migrants' ability to participate fully in society and to recognise their contributions.

To achieve this, more attention needs to be devoted to opportunities to maximise the development potential of migration and to enhance migrants' integral human development in countries of destination as well as of origin.

¹ For recommendations targeting the national level, please refer to the 11 national Common Home studies on the Caritas Europa website: <https://www.caritas.eu/common-home-series/>

² Please refer to our publications and positions on the topic, such as Caritas Europa 2016b; Caritas Europa 2018c; Caritas Europa 2019c.

Caritas recommends EU policymakers:

To change the negative discourse on migration, counter rising hostility and harmful attitudes toward migrants and migration:

- ① Stop linking migration to security concerns. Instead, emphasise the important role of migrants and migration's contribution to development both in countries of origin and destination.
- ② Fight against misinformation and disinformation by supporting evidence-based research and promoting an objective debate on migration and development targeting the media and wider public.
- ③ Humanise migration and migrants through stories and testimonies, applying a person-centred approach and making visible migrants' many contributions to their countries of destination and origin.
- ④ Raise awareness about the drivers of forced migration, including causal effects of EU and Member States' practices and policies on countries of origin, such as the consequences of arms sales, land grabbing, the exploitation of natural resources, among others.
- ⑤ Conduct evidence-based research and raise awareness via EU-wide campaigns, about the opportunities associated with migration, emphasising and recognising the many ways migrants contribute to integral human development both in their countries of origin and of destination.
- ⑥ Foster a culture of encounter and promote a positive narrative on migration.

To maximise the development potential of migration and enhance migrants' integral human development in countries of destination:

- 7 Prioritise and promote rights to equal opportunities and non-discrimination, notably by adhering to existing equality frameworks³ and by finalising the EU negotiation to adopt the anti-discrimination directive to ban discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, religion or belief, among other characteristics, in all areas of EU competence.⁴
- 8 Create structures and practices that allow and foster the full and active participation of communities in society, particularly by facilitating labour market inclusion and access to basic social and economic rights for all.
- 9 Guarantee an environment that fosters integral human development and that delivers and supports access to economic, social, cultural and physical materials and resources to all, including migrants.
- 10 Overcome the structural barriers inhibiting welcoming societies, as there can be no integration without participation:
 - Guarantee high-quality, accessible and affordable social services for all. Take into account the particular needs of many migrant women (and children), who may experience multiple risks and vulnerabilities.
 - Invest in early childhood education and care as well as family support.
 - Guarantee access to employment for all, with a particular focus on the most marginalised.
 - Promote a boost in job quality, fight labour market inequalities, and create policies to foster a social economy and to support social enterprise and entrepreneurship.
 - Ensure migrants play an active role in their own self-determination (i.e. recognising their agency to make decisions and act while also involving them in policy processes that affect them).
- 11 Foster structures to ensure the involvement of migrant/diaspora groups in social and political affairs.
- 12 Facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible mobility and enforce human rights in line with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees.
- 13 Implement Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in a participatory, inclusive, transparent and universal manner, supporting the engagement of all stakeholders and, particularly, of civil society and migrant/diaspora groups.
- 14 Expand safe and legal pathways to Europe and link policy to practice, enabling channels for protection, employment and family reunification purposes. Foster resettlement, humanitarian admission programmes, humanitarian visas, community sponsorship, family reunification, visa facilitation for labour purposes and other mobility schemes.
- 15 Ensure access to asylum, meaning that asylum policies and the granting of refugee status are in line with the Geneva Convention, that the right to asylum is respected, and that the right to seek asylum in the EU is maintained.
- 16 Ensure solidarity and responsibility sharing among EU Member States to welcome asylum seekers in the negotiation of the Common European Asylum System, especially concerning the reform of the Dublin Regulation.
- 17 Promote a conducive environment to humanitarian assistance and solidarity towards migrants and stop blurring the roles of NGOs and human smugglers. Remove restrictions on civil society's space and prevent violations of the rights of human rights defenders, including smear campaigns, threats and attacks against them, or other attempts to hinder their work.
- 18 Implement the 'firewall' principle to ensure that migrants can gain access to basic services and to the humanitarian support provided by public institutions or CSOs, regardless of their administrative status and without fear of being deported. Ensure that victims of smuggling and trafficking can access justice without fear or prosecution.

3 This refers to directives against discrimination on grounds of race and ethnic origin, against discrimination at work, equal treatment for men and women in matters of employment and occupation, and equal treatment for men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services.

4 The European Parliament adopted the directive proposal (COM(2008)462) against discrimination based on age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief beyond the workplace (European Commission n.d.u) in 2009, but since then the proposal has been stuck at the first reading stage in the European Council. Currently, EU non-discrimination legislation only exists to protect against the discrimination of women, and on grounds of race and ethnicity in the labour market.

To maximise the development potential of migration, enhance opportunities for migrants to be able to contribute to integral human development and to sustainable development in countries of origin and ensure a virtuous circle between migration and development:

- 19 Ensure the respect for human rights is at the core of all partnerships with third countries including monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Overhaul cooperation with countries not respecting human rights and never return people to a country where they risk facing abuse or loss of life.
- 20 Promote external policies coherent with sustainable development and that have sufficient resources allocated to empower the most excluded. Ensure European Official Development Assistance (ODA) is used solely to tackle the root causes of poverty and the drivers of forced displacement (conflict, environmental disasters, persecution, structural inequalities, lack of good governance, etc.) and not used for purposes of curbing migration flows.
- 21 Ensure ODA is allocated to countries based on actual recipients' needs and development strategies and not on the EU's foreign policy objectives (particularly in relation to trade, taxation, security, arms exports, migration management and control, etc.).
- 22 Tackle the lack of policy coherence through the establishment of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and address the inconsistencies in interpretation and in practice so that it can be effectively translated at the operational level.
- 23 Ensure that the EU and its Member States' external policies cause no harm to developing countries or existing frameworks of regional mobility in the Global South, and bring about a positive contribution to their sustainable development.
- 24 Ensure no conditionality on migration management, readmission, and (forced) return is included in new cooperation agreements and provisions being discussed by the EU, its Member States and third countries and regions (e.g. EU-ACP, NDICI).
- 25 Ensure equal partnerships between the EU and partner countries when setting priorities in ongoing negotiations and future agreements.
- 26 Ensure involvement of migrant/diaspora groups in development cooperation and transnational partnerships.
- 27 By 2030, reduce to less than 3% of the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%, according to SDG target 10.c.