

## **The Integration Of Migrants In The European Area**

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**Abstract.** This research explores the process of integrating migrants into the European area, analysing the policies and mechanisms of the European Union aimed at promoting the inclusion of third-country nationals. The study examines the Action Plan for Integration and Inclusion, 2016 Action Plan and Pact on Migration and Asylum, which seek to facilitate access to education, employment and social services. The research examines the role of the European Migration Network (EMN), including the contribution of national contact points and the Steering Committee in coordinating and exchanging good practices between Member States. The impact of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is also analysed across the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 periods, as an essential financial instrument for managing migration and supporting integration. The research highlights the importance of inter-institutional cooperation and of civil society in transforming the challenges of migration into opportunities for social cohesion and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** integration, migration, European security, inclusion, cohesion

### **Introduction**

Migration, as a global phenomenon, profoundly influences European security, shaping the social, economic and political dynamics of the European Union (EU). The integration of third-country nationals is a strategic pillar for consolidating cohesion and preventing risks associated with exclusion, which can generate social instability and security vulnerabilities. In this context, the EU has developed strategic frameworks such as the Action Plan for Integration and Inclusion, 2016 Action Plan and Pact on Migration and Asylum, which promote social inclusion and access to education, employment and services, reducing inequalities and intercultural tensions. The European Migration Network (EMN), through its national contact points and Steering Committee, facilitates the exchange of good practices and the coordination of policies, while the Asylum Fund, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) provides essential financial support for managing migratory flows and supporting integration. This research analyses the contribution of these mechanisms to the integration of migrants from the perspective of European security, highlighting their role in preventing systemic risks and promoting stability.

The objective of the research is to assess how EU policies and instruments support the integration of third-country nationals, strengthening European security by reducing the vulnerabilities associated with migration. The central question is: how do the EU's strategic and financial frameworks contribute to the integration of migrants in the context of European security? To answer this, the research adopts a qualitative approach based on the analysis of official EU documents, including the 2016 Action Plan, the Pact on Migration and Asylum and the AMIF reports (2014–2020 and 2021–2027). EMN reports and the contributions of the national contact

points and Steering Committee were examined, accessed from the official databases of the European Commission and the EMN, without involving primary research. The analysis focused on identifying the links between integration, social cohesion and security, evaluating the impact of AMIF funding on the management of migratory risks. Through this approach, the research contributes to the specialist literature on European security, underlining the need for integrated migration management in order to turn challenges into opportunities for sustainable development and long-term stability.

### **The Integration Of Migrants In The European Area**

The successful integration of migrants is essential for the well-being, prosperity and future cohesion of European societies. Although responsibility for integration lies primarily with the Member States, the EU supports national and local authorities by helping them coordinate their policies, share knowledge and providing them with financial resources.

This support operates within a Union long characterised as an "archipelago of diversities", ethnic, linguistic, religious, socio-economic and cultural, in which pluralism is read as a stimulus for transformation, creativity and progress rather than as an obstacle to cohesion. Since the Maastricht Treaty (1993), and as reaffirmed in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU has assumed an explicit role in promoting cultural cooperation between Member States while respecting national and regional diversities.<sup>1</sup>

### **Action Plan for Integration and Inclusion**

As emphasised in the *new Pact on Migration and Asylum*<sup>2</sup>, a successful integration and inclusion policy is an essential part of a well-managed and effective migration and asylum policy. It is also essential for social cohesion and for a dynamic economy that works for everyone. The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021–2027 proposes concrete actions to support Member States and other relevant stakeholders in overcoming integration challenges for migrants and EU citizens with a migrant background. Although national governments are primarily responsible for the implementation of social policies, the EU plays a key role in supporting Member States through funding, capacity-building and the creation of new partnerships.

Building on the achievements of the 2016 Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, the Action Plan addresses integration barriers in the main policy areas: housing, education, employment and healthcare. In particular, the actions target:

- Inclusive education and training from early childhood to higher education, with a focus on faster recognition of qualifications and on language learning, with support from EU funds.
- Increased employment opportunities and skills recognition in order to make full use of the contribution of migrant communities, especially women, and to ensure that they are supported to reach their full potential. The Commission works with social and economic partners and with employers to promote labour-market integration, support entrepreneurship and facilitate the recognition and assessment of skills by employers.

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<sup>1</sup> Matiuța Cristina (2016), *Integration through culture: The role of cultural participation in fostering european identity*, în Stoica Alina, Horga Ioan Ribeiro Maria Manuela Tavares (eds), *Culture and Paradiplomatic Identity: Instruments in Sustaining EU Politics*, Editura Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 69-70.

<sup>2</sup> European Council, *Pact on Migration and Asylum*, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-migration-policy/eu-migration-asylum-reform-pact/> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

- Equal access to healthcare services for people born outside the EU and opportunities for Member States to exchange good practices.
- Access to adequate and affordable housing financed through the European

Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Asylum and Migration Fund and Invest EU, as well as exchange of experience at national, local and regional level on identifying housing solutions, combating discrimination in the housing market and combating segregation<sup>3</sup>.

The Action Plan will be implemented through the mobilisation of EU funds and the creation of partnerships with all those involved: migrants, host communities, social and economic partners, civil society and the private sector. It will seek to modernise access to services through the use of digital tools. Finally, it will improve the evidence base for further policy development and to ensure proper monitoring of results. The Action Plan builds on the achievements of the 2016 Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals.

### **The 2016 Action Plan On The Integration Of Third-Country Nationals**

The 2016 Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals provides a comprehensive framework to support Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies and sets out the concrete measures the Commission will implement to this end<sup>4</sup>.

Although it targets all third-country nationals in the EU, it contains actions to address the specific challenges faced by refugees.

The 2016 Action Plan included actions in all policy areas that are essential for integration:

- Pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, including actions to prepare migrants and local communities for the integration process
- Education, including actions to promote language training, the participation of migrant children in early childhood education and care, teacher training and civic education
- Employment and vocational training, including actions to promote early labour-market integration and migrant entrepreneurship
- Access to basic services, such as housing and healthcare
- Active participation and social inclusion, including actions to support exchanges with the receiving society, migrants' participation in cultural life and the fight against discrimination.

It also set out tools for strengthening coordination between the various actors working on integration at national, regional and local level, for example through the European Integration Network, which promotes mutual learning between Member States, and a more strategic approach to EU funding for integration.

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<sup>3</sup> Council of the EU, *EU policy on migration and asylum*, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-migration-policy/> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>4</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0377> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

## **Pact On Migration And Asylum**

Migration is a complex matter that requires a common European response. Account must be taken both of the safety of people seeking international protection or a better life, and of the concerns of countries that fear migration pressures will exceed their capacities. The common European response proposed by the European Commission is the Pact on Migration and Asylum, an EU framework for long-term migration management. The Pact, which was voted on by the European Parliament in April 2024, is designed to support Member States facing significant migratory pressures and which protect our external borders. At the same time, it provides certainty and clarity to people arriving in the EU<sup>5</sup>. It also seeks to give Europeans the assurance that migration is managed in an effective and humane manner, in full compliance with our values and with international law.

With a holistic approach, the Pact represents a new vision for migration management, intended to strengthen trust through more efficient procedures and to find a new balance between shared responsibility and solidarity<sup>6</sup>.

- Introducing new border control procedures, improving IT systems and amending the rules on asylum applications
- Reforming the Schengen Borders Code and introducing a new strategy on the future of the Schengen area
- Improving transfer procedures for vulnerable groups and persons rescued at sea
- Attracting talent and supporting integration into local communities
- Supporting other countries hosting refugees and combating migrant smuggling
- Ensuring a common and rapid response to migration-related crises<sup>7</sup>.

## **The European Migration Network**

The Commission finances, through specialised funds, projects dedicated to asylum, migration and integration, established over a 7-year period<sup>8</sup>. The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU network of migration and asylum experts working together to provide objective, comparable and policy-relevant information and knowledge on emerging issues related to asylum and migration in Europe.

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<sup>5</sup> European Commission, *Pact on Migration and Asylum*, [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum\\_ro](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_ro) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, *Flexibility and resilience*, [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/flexibility-and-resilience\\_ro](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/flexibility-and-resilience_ro) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*

<sup>8</sup> EP, *European Parliament legislative resolution of 10 April 2008 on the proposal for a Council decision establishing a European Migration Network*, <https://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:247E:0052:0060:RO:PDF> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

The EMN was established in 2008 (Council Decision 2008/381/EC<sup>9</sup>) and amended by Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council in April 2014<sup>10</sup>. The EU Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs coordinates the EMN.

### **EMN National Contact Points**

The EMN is made up of National Contact Points (NCPs) from EMN Member States (EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark) and observer countries (NO, GE, MD, UA, ME, AM, RS), the European Commission and the EMN Service Provider (ICF)<sup>11</sup>. Each EMN NCP is appointed by the relevant national government. EMN NCPs are located within Ministries of the Interior, Ministries of Justice, specialised governmental agencies dealing with migration, research institutes, non-governmental organisations and national offices of international organisations.

### **The EMN Steering Committee**

The EMN Steering Committee provides strategic guidance on EMN activities. It is chaired by the European Commission and is composed of a representative from each EU country, as well as observers from the European Parliament, Norway, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. The European Commission is assisted in its coordinating role by a secretariat and other service providers.

The EMN produces reports, studies and other publications that analyse migration and asylum policies and track legislative developments in this field. The EMN publishes the latest developments on migration and asylum in a quarterly bulletin and maintains a glossary of terms related to migration and asylum. The Network also regularly organises webinars, round tables, conferences and other events, both at EU and national level.

EMN outputs proactively respond to the immediate information needs of EU and national policymakers. These include:

- Annual reports on migration and asylum<sup>12</sup>
- Studies on relevant topics
- Informs on issues of immediate priority
- Country factsheets
- Ad-hoc queries<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> EC, *Council Decision of 14 May 2008 establishing a European Migration Network*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008D0381> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>10</sup> EP, EC, *Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0516> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>11</sup> European Commission, *About the EMN, Who are we?*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/about-emn\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/about-emn_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>12</sup> European Commission, *EMN annual reports*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/emn-annual-reports\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/emn-annual-reports_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>13</sup> *Idem*, *EMN ad-hoc queries*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/emn-ad-hoc-queries\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/emn-ad-hoc-queries_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

### **EMN Funding**

The EMN is funded by the European Commission through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. A biennial budget is allocated to support the work of each Member State's EMN NCP, each of which is co-financed from national funds. Work programmes biennial EMN work programmes are drawn up by the EMN and approved by the European Commission. The EMN publishes status reports on progress made in implementing the EMN work programmes<sup>14</sup>.

### **Asylum, Migration And Integration Funds**

The Commission finances, through specialised funds, projects dedicated to asylum, migration and integration, established over a 7-year period.

### **The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014–2020)**

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) was set up for the 2014–20 period, with a total of EUR 3.137 billion for the seven years. It will promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration. This fund will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

- Asylum: strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System, ensuring that EU legislation in this area is applied efficiently and uniformly;
- Legal migration and integration : supporting legal migration to EU countries in line with labour-market needs and promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals;
- Return: improving fair and effective return strategies, which contribute to combating illegal migration, with a focus on the sustainability and effectiveness of the return process;
- Solidarity: ensuring that EU countries most affected by migration and asylum flows can count on the solidarity of other EU countries.

This fund will also provide financial resources for the activities and future development of the European Migration Network (EMN). The EMN aims to meet the needs of EU institutions and of EU countries' authorities and institutions for information on migration and asylum by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable data, with a view to supporting the policymaking process.

Special financial incentives have been included in AMIF for EU countries to support the Union Resettlement Programme, including with a focus on the Union's common priorities. A similar financial mechanism is provided for the transfer of beneficiaries of international protection from an EU country under high migratory pressure to another<sup>15</sup>. All EU countries, except for Denmark, participate in the implementation of this fund. Examples of beneficiaries of programmes implemented under this Fund may be state and federal authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organisations, humanitarian organisations, private and public-law companies, and educational and research organisations<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*

<sup>15</sup> Council of the EU, *EU policy on migration and asylum*, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-migration-policy/> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>16</sup> EU, *Funding, grants and subsidies from the European Union*, [https://european-union.europa.eu/live-work-study/funding-grants-subsidies\\_ro](https://european-union.europa.eu/live-work-study/funding-grants-subsidies_ro) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

### **The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021–2027)**

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is set up for the 2021–2027 period, with a total of EUR 9.88 billion. The Fund seeks to further boost national capacities and improve migration management procedures, and to enhance solidarity and the sharing of responsibilities between Member States, in particular through emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism<sup>17</sup>.

AMIF will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

- to strengthen and develop all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension
- to support legal migration to the Member States, including by contributing to the integration of third-country nationals
- to contribute to combating illegal migration and to ensuring effective return and readmission to third countries
- to enhance solidarity and the sharing of responsibility between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by the challenges related to migration and asylum Actions funded under AMIF may include a wide range of initiatives, such as<sup>18</sup>:
  - ensuring uniform application of the EU acquis (common set of rules) and of priorities related to the Common European Asylum System, legal migration and return
  - providing support and services in line with the status and needs of the person concerned, in particular vulnerable groups
  - supporting resettlement, humanitarian admission and transfers of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection
  - supporting the development and implementation of policies to promote legal migration, such as developing mobility schemes to the EU and raising awareness of the appropriate legal channels for immigration
  - supporting integration measures tailored to the needs of third-country nationals and early integration programmes that focus on education, languages and other forms of training (such as civic-orientation courses and vocational guidance) in order to prepare their active participation and their acceptance by the receiving society.
  - supporting reception infrastructures for third-country nationals, including the possible joint use of such facilities by more than one Member State
  - supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at EU and Member State level, building capacity for effective and sustainable return, and reducing incentives for illegal migration
  - supporting assisted voluntary return and reintegration

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<sup>17</sup> EP, *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021–2027)*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/RO/legal-content/summary/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027.html> (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>18</sup> European Commission, *Funded actions under AMIF*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

- cooperation with third countries on asylum, legal migration and combating irregular migration, as well as on effective return and readmission for the purpose of migration management<sup>19</sup>.

Examples of beneficiaries of programmes implemented under AMIF may include:

- state and federal authorities
- local public bodies
- non-governmental organisations
- humanitarian organisations
- private and public-law companies
- education and research organisations<sup>20</sup>.

Following Ireland's official notification of 7 February 2022 to opt in to AMIF, the Commission confirmed Ireland's participation in AMIF by Decision (EU) 2022/507 of 29 March 2022<sup>21</sup>. Ireland therefore participates in AMIF from 7 February 2022. Irish beneficiaries are thus eligible alongside other EU countries, with the exception of Denmark, which does not participate in AMIF, in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)<sup>22</sup>. Third countries, non-EU countries, may be associated with AMIF and eligible for funding, provided they have signed an agreement with the EU on the criteria and mechanisms for determining the EU country responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in an EU country or in that third country<sup>23</sup>.

The specific agreement covering the participation of a third country in AMIF must at least:

- allow cooperation with the EU country and with EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies in the field of asylum, migration and return, in the spirit of the principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibilities
- be underpinned, throughout the Fund's duration, by the principles of non-refoulement, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights
- ensure a fair balance regarding the contributions and benefits received by the third country participating in the fund;
- lay down the conditions for participation in the fund, including the calculation of financial contributions to the fund and its administrative costs;
- not confer on the third country any decision-making power as regards the fund

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<sup>19</sup> *Idem*, *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>20</sup> European Commission, *AMIF beneficiaries*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>21</sup> European Commission, *Ireland and Denmark*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*

<sup>23</sup> European Commission, *Associated countries*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

- guarantee the EU's rights to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests
- provide for the third country to grant the necessary rights and access to the responsible authorising officer, OLAF and the Court of Auditors<sup>24</sup>.

In addition, the participation of the third country should also be covered by the annual or multiannual AMIF work programme. Currently, there are no associated countries, nor are any negotiating their association with AMIF.

### **Conclusions**

The integration of migrants in the European area is a major challenge, but also an opportunity to strengthen social and economic cohesion in the European Union. The process requires well-coordinated policies that ensure the inclusion of third-country nationals in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life. Action plans, such as the 2016 Action Plan for the integration of migrants and the Pact on Migration and Asylum, set out strategic frameworks that promote rights and access to education, employment and social services, contributing to the reduction of inequalities and to the fight against discrimination. Beyond formal access, however, the academic literature has insisted that genuine integration requires a "legal and institutional framework" for intercultural education, in which the specific characteristics and particularities of minority and migrant communities are not only safeguarded through adequate provision but also reflected in the school curricula of the majority itself.<sup>25</sup>

The European Migration Network (EMN) plays a crucial role in this context, facilitating the exchange of information and good practices between Member States through the national contact points and the Steering Committee. It supports the development of informed, evidence-based policies and strengthens cooperation at European level. Equally, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), implemented over the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 periods, has provided essential financial resources for managing migratory flows, supporting integration and strengthening the capacities of Member States in managing asylum.

Beyond institutional coordination, however, the durable inclusion of migrants also rests on the mediating capacity of civil society, considered in the literature one of the most important regulatory mechanisms of democratic societies. Civil society organisations, structured around members who serve the general interest through democratic processes, operate as intermediaries between public authorities and citizens, and where necessary as amenders of policies and practices on the ground<sup>26</sup>, a function that becomes particularly salient in the field of migrant integration, where access to housing, education, employment and healthcare is shaped daily by the work of non-governmental and community actors alongside state institutions.

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<sup>24</sup> European Commission, *Associated countries*, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/asylum-migration-and-integration-funds/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2021-2027_en) (Accessed on 18.06.2024)

<sup>25</sup> Brie, Mircea, *National Minorities: Levels of Educational Analysis*, in Polgár, István; Horga, Ioan; Brie, Mircea (eds.) (2017), *Migration and European Integration of Minorities*, Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing, p. 17.

<sup>26</sup> Brie, Mircea; Costea, Ana Maria; Petrilă, Laurențiu (2023), „Perceptions of Civil Society in Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Context of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict”, *Civil Szemle*, vol. XX, nr. 2, p. 101.

The success of migrant integration depends on the continued commitment of European institutions, national authorities and civil society, which must work together to create an inclusive and fair environment. The consistent allocation of financial and human resources, together with the promotion of intercultural dialogue, is essential to transforming the challenges generated by migration into opportunities for sustainable development. In this way, the European Union can build a more diverse, resilient and united society, capable of responding to the global dynamics of migration.

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