

Labour-market  
integration of  
refugees and  
asylum seekers

Rome Dialogues on Jobs and Migration  
World Bank and ICID



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# TOWARDS A MORE ORDERLY MIGRATION:

# POLICY OPTIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS



# “THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS” (2013-15)

## Asylum seekers

“Asylum seekers are all “[...] **whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed.** National asylum systems are in place to determine who qualifies for international protection. However, during mass movements of refugees, usually as a result of conflict or violence, it is not always possible or necessary to conduct individual interviews with every asylum seeker who crosses a border. These groups are often called ‘prima facie’ refugees” (UNHCR, 2022)

## Why they cross borders to save their lives

War

Violence

Conflict

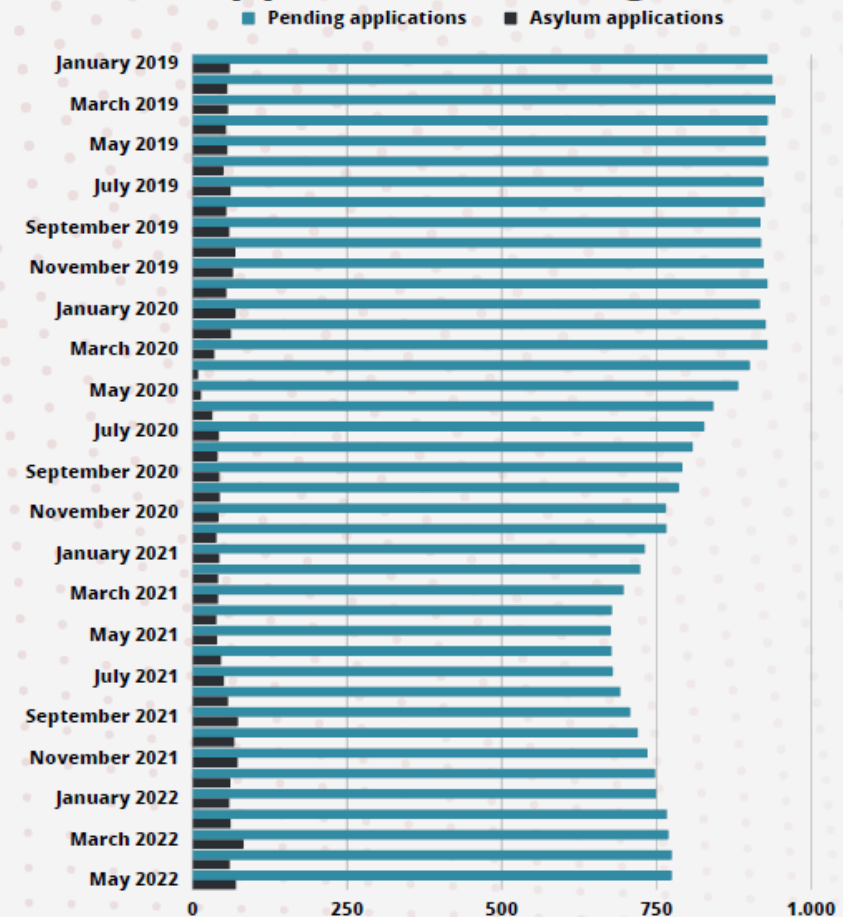
Persecution

[...] Refugees are defined and protected in international law [...]” and the 1951 Geneva Convention is the key legal document defining them. (UNHCR, 2022)

Several aspects of the application process need to be addressed:

1. The duration of the vetting process (6 months on average in the EU)
2. Hosting policies and inclusion (incl. relocation)
3. Degree of integration (incl. the right to work)
  - 1 in 5 “economically active” refugees is unemployed (EU labor force survey)
  - Practices are disperse in the EU

## Number of pending applications compared to total number of applications in a given month



# Caveats....

1. The economic literature did not address the pros and cons of better integration policies of asylum seekers (as opposed to refugees);
2. It rather focused on the integration of refugees (as opposed to economic migrants);
3. The standard approach looks at inflows of migrants as a simplistic binary phenomenon (refugees vs non-refugees) failing to accurately capture the complex reality;



# Policy options



Increasing border controls (incl. offshore)



Expanding legal pathways (incl. “economic migrants”)

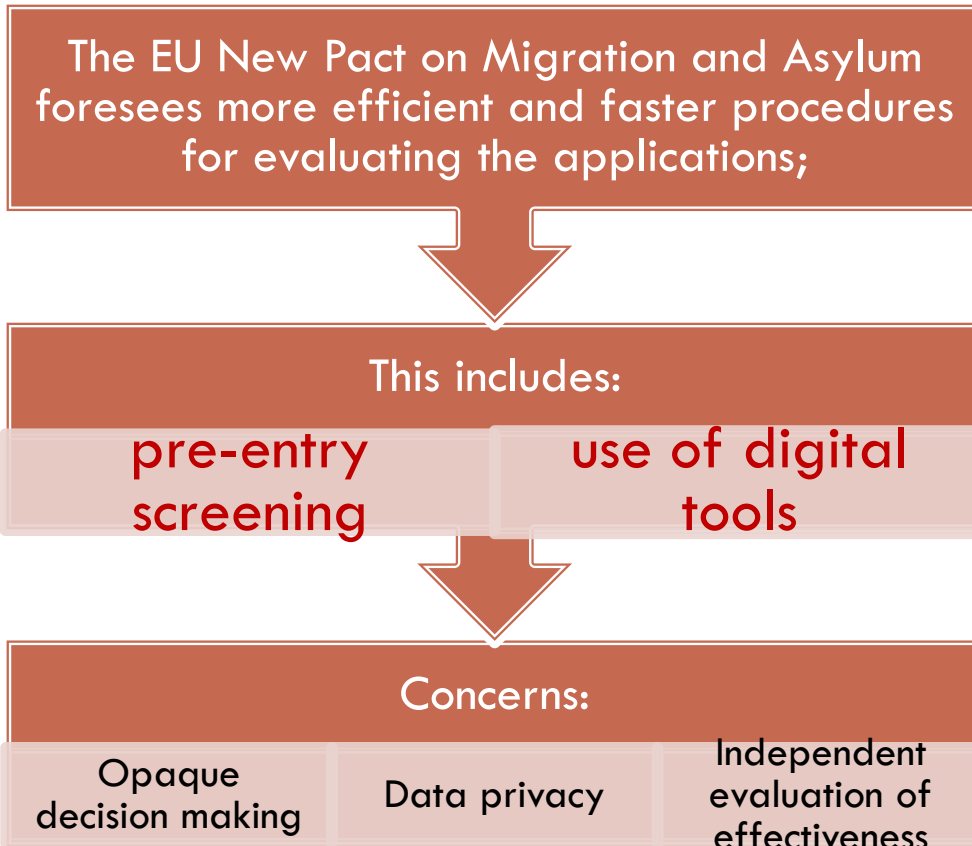


Applying inclusive hosting policies (incl. labor integration)



Implementing hybrid solutions (incl. “Refugees Labor Pathways”)

# INCREASING BORDER CONTROLS (INCL. OFFSHORE)



## In order to reduce pending applications

- a. A pre-entry screening outside the borders of the Union



- b. A new Regulation of processing the applications, which divides the applications between those that show a high or a low probability of being accepted. With the latter, direct repatriation is carried out.

# EXPANDING LEGAL PATHWAYS (INCL. "ECONOMIC MIGRANTS")

Hosting countries may freely choose how many "non forced migrants" to accept

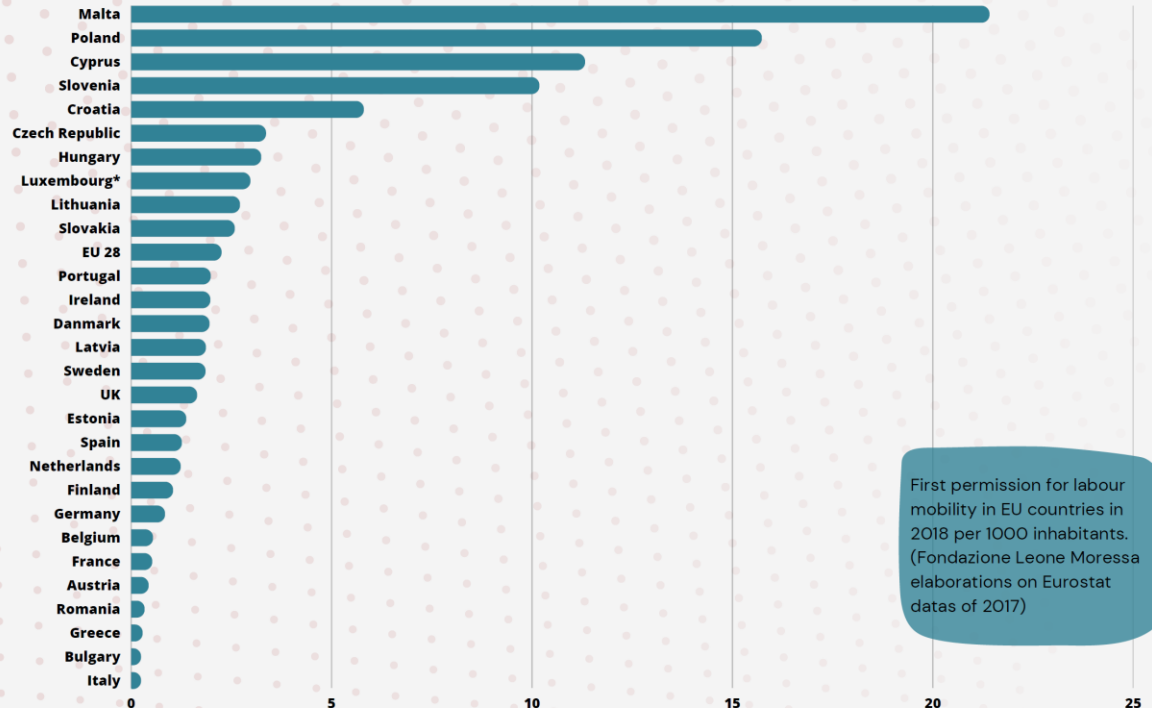
The new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum promotes 2 new actions:

**Talent Partnership**  
(building on Erasmus and Leonardo programs)

**Skill and Talent Package** (a search and match system from the admission of workers from third countries)



## Labour mobility in EU



First permission for labour mobility in EU countries in 2018 per 1000 inhabitants. (Fondazione Leone Moressa elaborations on Eurostat datas of 2017)

Revisions of quotas for labour mobility, as only 9% of flows in 2021 were motivated by "forced reasons"

# APPLYING INCLUSIVE HOSTING POLICIES (INCL. LABOR INTEGRATION)

## Comparison of different integration policies

Urban vs rural  
hosting

Permanent vs  
temporary  
protection

Concentration  
vs dispersion



## Integration and relocation

The admission of a person in need of international protection to the territory of a State other than the first-entry State.



The EU-FRANK (European Union Action on Facilitating Resettlement and Refugee Admission through New Knowledge)

- improve the efficiency of existing relocation programs
- relocations should be diverted from the urban locations and directed towards rural areas.



# IMPLEMENTING HYBRID SOLUTIONS (INCL. “REFUGEES LABOR PATHWAYS”)

- ❖ Relying solely on the humanitarian channel forces people to demonstrate their vulnerability to gain entry;
- ❖ Providing alternative legal pathways can recognize and value all aspects of a person without neglecting the need for protection:
  - University corridors;
  - Community sponsorship;
  - Refugee Labor Pathways;

## Community sponsorship schemes and complementary pathways.



Proliferation of sponsorship schemes and complementary pathway across the EU might ease the entire process

Good practice also in





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THANK YOU