

# From migrant to citizen: Promoting inclusive society through intercultural dialogue

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Geopolitics and European integration. Challenges and  
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Fundación Europea Sociedad y Educación  
European Foundation Society and Education

# Summary

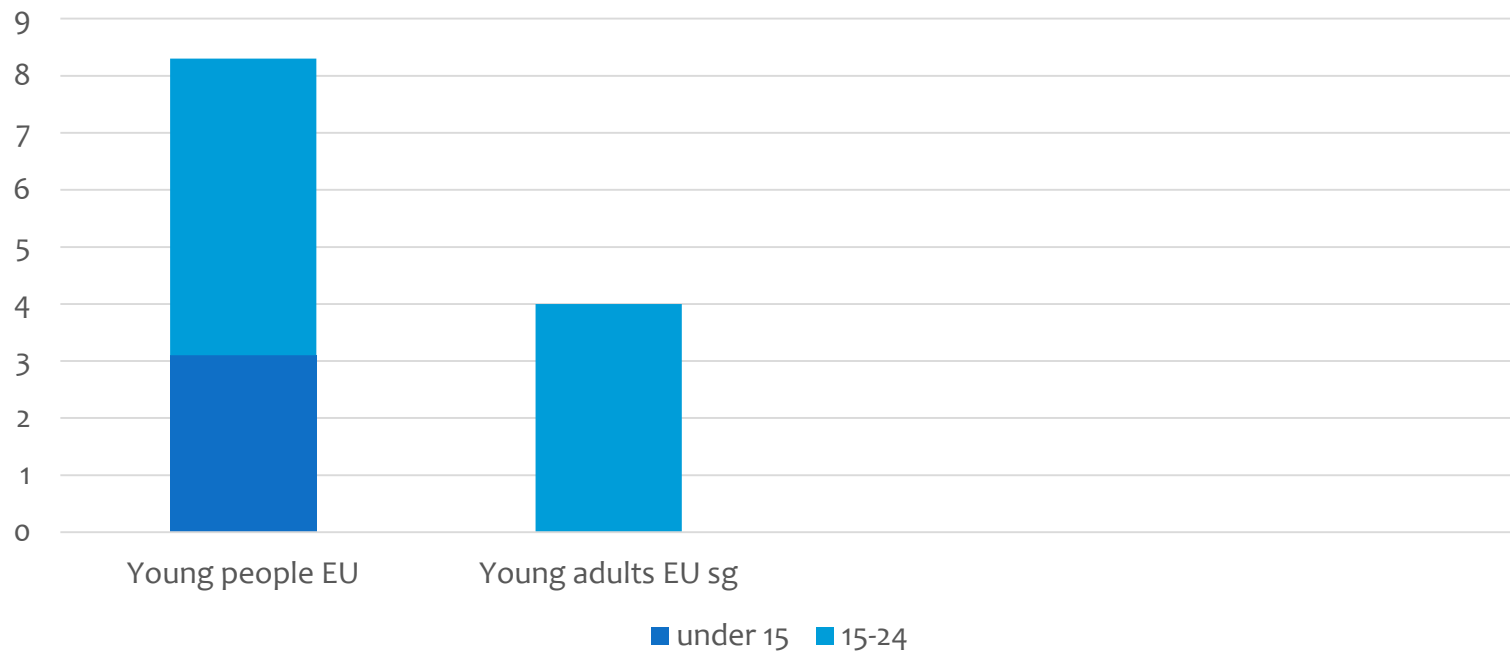
- \* Some figures about migrants and education
- \* The story of Sabri Refla
- \* Multiculturalism vs interculturalism
- \* Intercultural dialogue to build an inclusive society
- \* Intercultural education for social cohesión

# Migrants. Some figures in Europe.

- \* Europe is only one part of the problem.
- \* 60 m-90 m migrants in the world
- \* one in four are out the educational system at secondary level.
- \* The youth unemployment and (**NEET**) rates **are significantly higher for first and second generation migrants** than for their native peers in most EU Member States.
- \* **early school leavers among foreign-born** learners in the EU is nearly **twice** as high as among the total population.

(Source: A Clear Agenda for Migrant Education in Europe. Sirius 2014)

## Millions young migrants EU



# Schooling figures

- \* **13 m children are denied their right to an education** in the Mideast, according to the UN.
- \* **1 in 2** Syrian refugees are children (2.2 million).
- \* **1 in 4 schools** in Syria **have closed** since the conflict and **52,000 teachers have left** their posts.
- \* **1.1 million Syrian refugee children are out of school**
- \* The **long-term impact** of Syrian is **5.4% of Syria's GDP**, or nearly 2 billion euros, according to Save the Children.
- \* **only 2% of international humanitarian aid is allocated to education.**

Source: SIRIUS Statement on Urgent Response for the Education of Refugees. October 2015

# <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>

Refugees/Migrants Emergency Response - Mediterranean



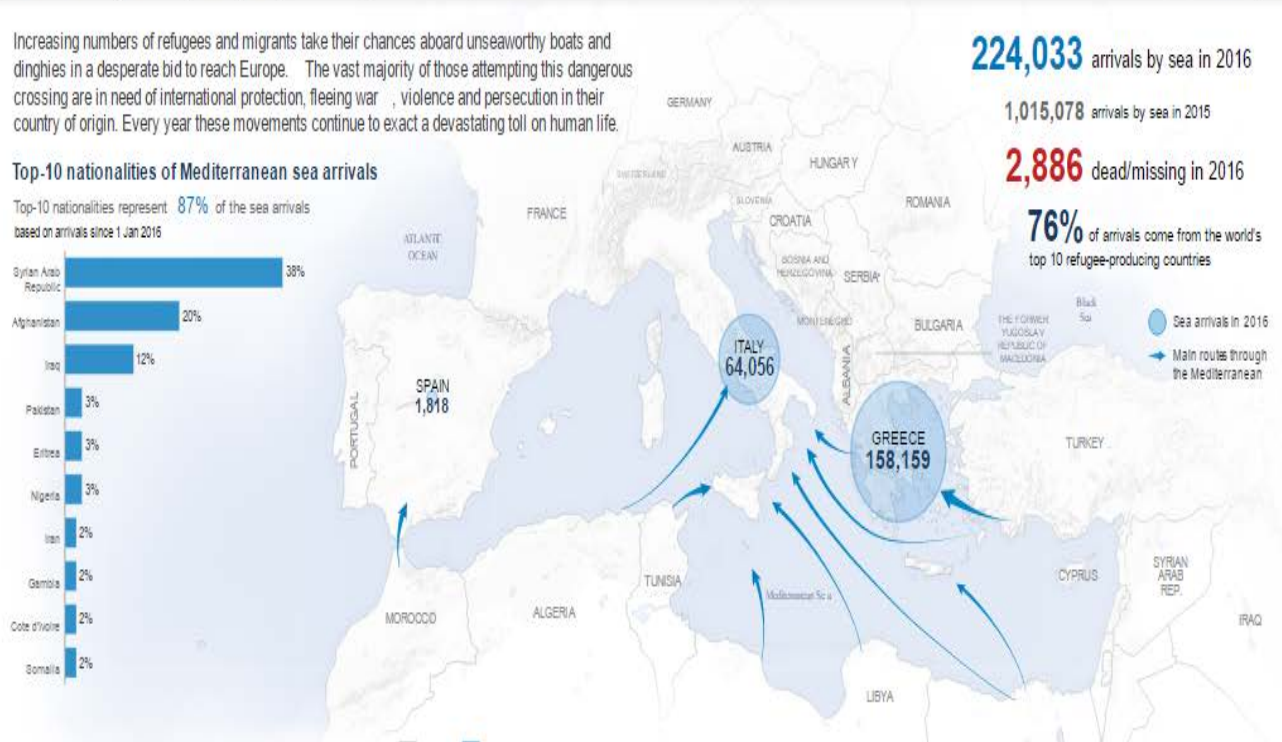
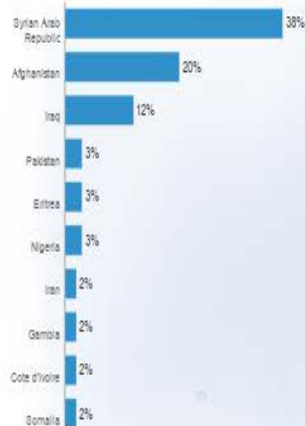
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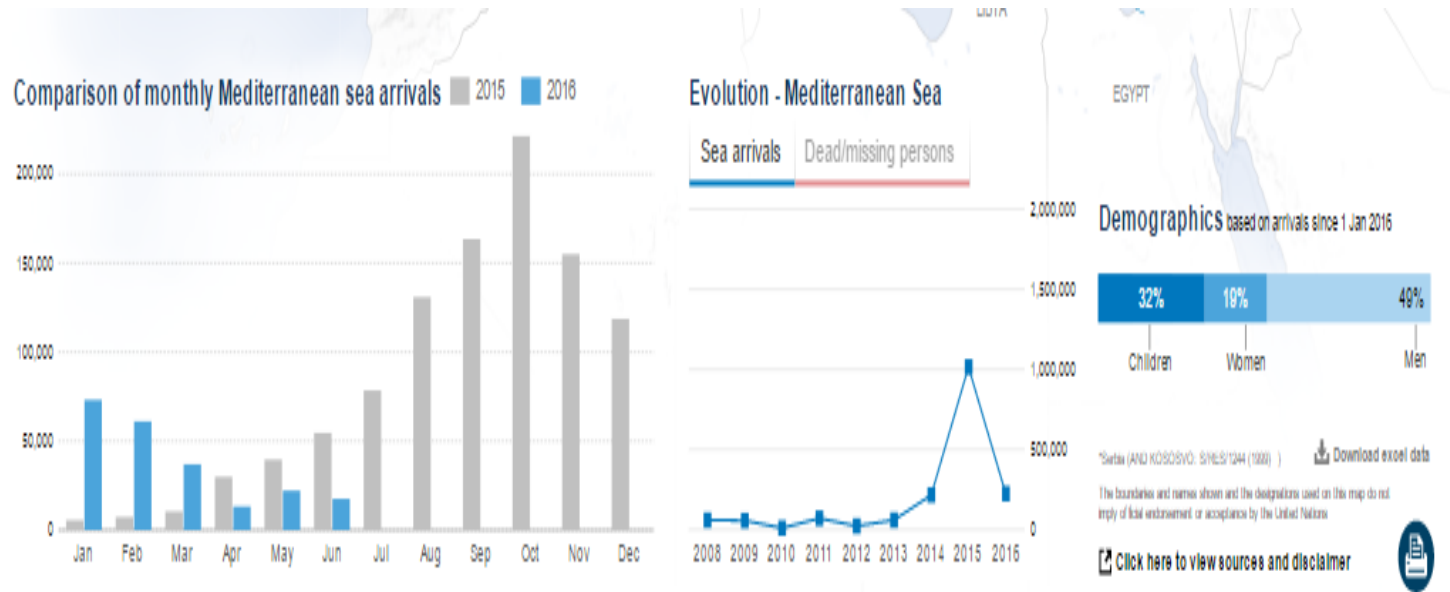
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

## Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 87% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



# <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>



# Society. Diversity. Integration and Culture

- \* We are living in a complex society: diverse, multicultural and global.
- \* How is the differences produced?
- \* Stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination.
- \* Elements of cultural identity: not innate, learned through socialization processes, open, dynamic.



# How can we manage cultural diversity ?

- \* Inhibition
- \* marginalization
- \* Assimilation
- \* multiculturalism
- \* interculturalism

# MULTICULTURALISM

- \* From 'multiculturalism' ... to 'interculturalism'
- \* Multiculturalism **emphasizes different cultures** existing among the members living in the same context (school, neighborhood, city, region, country).
- \* Priority is given to **what distinguishes us** (languages, customs, religions, etc.) rather than what unites us.
- \* Emphasis is given primarily to cultural group membership
- \* Group cultural identity trumps unique personal identity.
- \* This model results in a "juxtaposition" of socio-cultural groups, a "mosaic" of ethnic and cultural groups.
- \* There is coexistence, but rarely cohabitation between people of different cultures is given.

# INTERCULTURALISM

- \* **Interculturalism** refers to the relationship and **interaction** between different groups, individuals, identities.
- \* It is based on a philosophy of personal subject, such as free and responsible being, enrolled in a community of peers.
- \* which is not the mechanical product of a static and homogeneous culture, but also and above all a creator of culture ('renewed' continually ) through mainly of everyday relations with others

# Interculturalism

Commitment to coexistence in diversity.

- \* No culture is homogeneous nor static.
- \* Diversity also exists within the same culture.
- \* **The dialogue** that arises in coexistence is the **driving force** as an instrument of integration and peaceful conflict resolution.
- \* Practical reason and dialogue
- \* There are **common values** that favor the encounter, mutual understanding and acceptance of difference as something enriching.
- \* Promotes awareness of an interdependent society, working to **overcome discrimination** and exclusion.

# The principles of intercultural model

- \* The principle of **citizenship**, which implies equal rights and opportunities.
- \* The principle of the **right to difference**, which advocates equality of all cultures.
- \* The principle of **unity in diversity**, shared responsibility for cultural minorities and majorities.

# Society. Diversity. Integration and Culture

- \* Institutions are more aware of the value of diversity and of intercultural dialogue. Four relevant references:
- \* **The White Paper of the Council of Europe on intercultural dialogue**
- \* **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Declaration (2008)**

# INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

- \* **European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2016 on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values (2015/2139(INI))**
- \* “3. Advocates that **foster an intercultural**, interfaith and value-based approach in the **educational field** should be encouraged in order to address and promote mutual respect, integrity, ethical principles cultural diversity, social inclusion and cohesion, including through exchange and mobility programs for all”;
- \* “The roots of our peoples, the roots of Europe, were consolidated down the centuries by the constant need to **integrate in new syntheses the most varied and discrete cultures**. The identity of Europe is, and always has been, a dynamic and multicultural identity... **The culture of dialogue** entails a true apprenticeship and a discipline that enables us to view others as valid dialogue partners, to respect the foreigner, the immigrant and people from different cultures as worthy of being listened to.” **Pope Francis receiving Charlemagne award**

# What is intercultural education?

- \* The educational response to the current requirement to prepare future citizens to develop in a society, practically "multicultural" and ideally "intercultural".
- \* this education is aimed to instill in all students, of all places, **across all curricular field ... a solid cultural competence: a series of skills and attitudes that enable all students to treat others properly and interact in our multicultural and multilingual contexts.**



# Intercultural education

- \* Intercultural education is **focus on respect and appreciation of cultural diversity**,
- \* addressed to each and every member of the society as a whole,
- \* which proposes an intervention model, formal and informal, **holistic educational approach**, integrated, **all dimensions of the educational process**
- \* in order to achieve equal opportunities / results, overcome racism in its various manifestations, communication and intercultural competence.

# Intercultural education

The objectives of intercultural education:

- \* effective equal opportunities
- \* compensation of inequalities
- \* construction of collective knowledge based on intercultural encounters

# Some initiatives to foster intercultural education

- \* OECD global competencies program.
- \* European Commission:
  - \* 'Europe for Citizens' programme. the 3rd priority:  
    Combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding
- \* Erasmus+ helping refugees through
- \* Higher Education
- \* European School, VET and Adult Education

# The OECD global competence

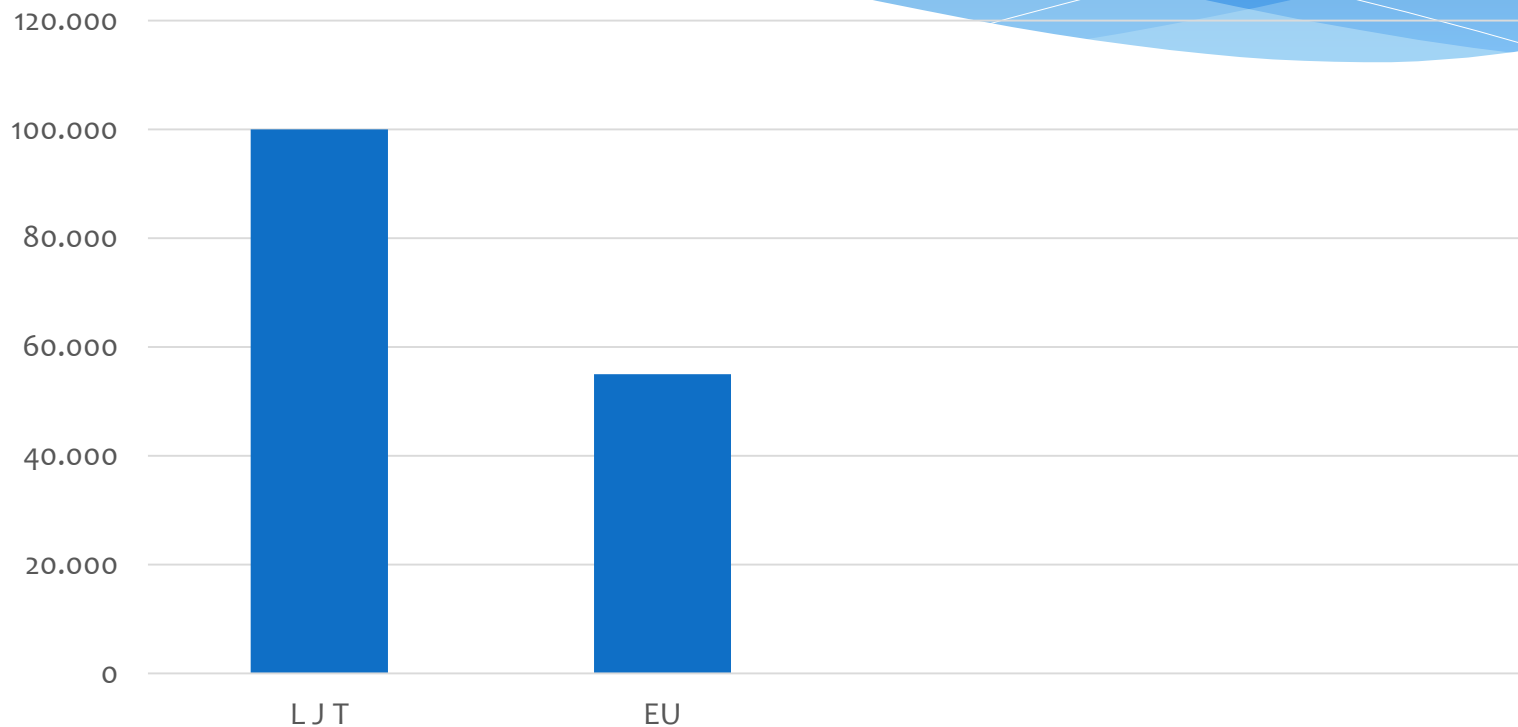
- \* The OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (Pisa) has recently added a new competence, "global competence“:
- \* "the capacity to analyze global and intercultural issues critically and from multiple perspectives, to understand how differences affect perceptions, judgements, and ideas of self and others, and to engage in open, appropriate and effective interactions with others from different backgrounds on the basis of a shared respect for human dignity".

# The lost generation: higher education

- \* Many of the individuals fleeing the war scene of Syria are scholars, academics, students, or young people at the age of becoming students.
- \* Many more are in the age of university studies but have never had the option to initiate their studies.
- \* They are the lost generation, the generation that has lost many years of education.
- \* At the same time, they constitute a resource.

# The lost generation: higher education

Refugees missing university classes



- \* This can be done through a number of ways:
- \* quicker and smoother **validation processes**,
- \* **integration programs**, scholarships and establishment of programs and courses directly created in order **to reach out to the target group**.
- \* But higher education institutions cannot do this on their own, they need **committed governments and development institutions**.

- \* (Helena is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Professor in peace and development research at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden).

# VET and Adult education

- \* Schools, VET and Adult education: helping newly-arrived refugees in Europe
- \* This document presents the answers given by the 256 respondents to the survey.
- \* Challenges and ideas to address them cover a range of issues:
  - Language learning
  - Intercultural learning (for refugees and Eur. society)
  - Acquisition of skills
  - Integration in Education and training institutions, labour market and society
  - Recognition of skills & competences
  - Career guidance / entrepreneurship
  - Personal / psychological / general support
  - Teachers training



Without this capacity for integration and social cohesion through education, the words once spoken by **Konrad Adenauer** will prove prophetic:

“the future of the West is not threatened as much by political tensions as by the danger of conformism, uniformity of thoughts and feelings: in a word, by the whole system of life, by flight from responsibility, with concern only for oneself.”