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GA 3: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

Research Report

TOPIC 1: Combatting the alienation of immigrant groups in developed countries



Rakshikaa Rathakrishnan & Niv O'Reagan

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Definition of Key Terms	3
Background Information	4
Major Countries and Organisations Involved	6
Relevant UN Resolutions	7
Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue	8
Possible Solutions	9
Bibliography	10

Introduction:

The topic of "Combating the Alienation of Immigrant Groups in Developed Countries" is increasingly relevant in today's globalised world, where migration patterns have shifted dramatically due to factors such as conflict, economic disparity, and climate change. As immigrant populations grow in developed countries, they often face significant challenges that lead to alienation and marginalisation of minorities. This alienation can stem from cultural differences, language barriers, discrimination, and a potential lack of access to essential services and opportunities. The consequences of such alienation are profound, affecting not only the well-being of immigrant individuals and families but also the social cohesion and economic vitality of the host communities.

To address these issues, policymakers, community leaders, and civil society organisations must implement strategies that promote inclusion and integration. These strategies ultimately are to combat the alienation of immigrant groups. This report will address the first topic, the strategies that are involved and such relevant information.

Definition of Key terms:

Globalisation- It refers to the speedup of movements and exchanges of human beings, goods, services, capital, technologies, and cultural practices across international borders. It promotes interactions between different regions

Social cohesion- the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper

Immigrant- A person who moves to a foreign country to live permanently, often seeking better economic opportunities or fleeing conflict. Immigrants face various challenges in adapting to their new host societies.

Marginalisation- The process by which immigrants are pushed to the periphery of society, excluded from full participation in social, economic, and political life. This can lead to isolation and hinder successful integration.

Integration- The process through which immigrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups. Successful integration involves participation in the host country's economic, social, cultural, and political life while maintaining aspects of their own culture.

Discrimination- Unfair treatment of immigrants based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. This can manifest in various areas such as employment, housing, and access to services, creating barriers to integration.

Exclusion- A situation where immigrants are incorporated into certain areas of society (e.g, labour market) but denied access to others (e.g, welfare systems, citizenship, political participation). This can occur through legal mechanisms or informal practices.

Diversity- The presence of people from various cultural, ethnic, and national backgrounds within a society. Recognising and valuing diversity is crucial for creating inclusive policies that combat alienation and promote integration.

Background Information:

Through globalisation, the growth in the absolute number of migrants over the past 50 years has led to more social, cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity in receiving societies. Along with this increase in diversity, the question of social cohesion and how to integrate and make most of our present-day societies arises as well. Issues such as terrorism, negative publicity of minorities and immigrants, economic constraints, labour market competitions and conflicts of interest with the civilians of the host country have made the issue more prominent. By 2050, projections suggest that the total number of international migrants could reach 330.9 million to 379.6 million, representing 3.9% of the world population, making this issue a matter of increasing concern.¹

¹ Martin Hofmann, Audrey Jolivel, Daria Huss and Caroline Ambiaux. "International Migration: Drivers, Factors and Megatrends." ICMPD, March 2020. <https://www.icmpd.org/>.

Successful integration of immigrants can maximise productivity and contribute to economic growth. Immigrants often fill labour market shortages and bring diverse skills and perspectives that can drive innovation. However, challenges persist, such as the prevalence of low-wage and low-status occupations in immigrant groups, which can lead to a risk of wasted potential and overqualification. Aside from the economic disparities, Language barriers and a limited social network in an alien network might make it difficult to find opportunities and receive adequate community resources for immigrant groups. Methods like the formation of cultural/ ethnic enclaves may limit interactions with the wider community and so will the institutional barriers like the issues with the recognition of foreign education and legal restrictions.

Diversification of migrant's origins, socioeconomic backgrounds, and reasons for migrating complicates the issue further. The various motivating factors for migration, from highly skilled professionals to refugees with limited formal education, necessitate tailored support systems. The expanding motivations for migration, include economic factors, fleeing conflict, seeking education, family reunification, and climate change-induced displacement. Viewing the issue from an organisational perspective this diversity presents substantial challenges in data management, including collecting comprehensive and accurate information across multiple languages and cultural contexts while protecting privacy.

In conclusion, the issue of immigration and social integration has become increasingly complex and crucial in our globalised world. The unprecedented diversity resulting from increased migration has brought both opportunities and challenges to receiving societies. While successful integration of immigrants can drive economic growth, innovation and fill labour shortages, significant obstacles remain. These include economic disparities, language barriers, social isolation, and institutional hurdles that hinder full participation in society.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

EU countries

The EU's commitment to a unified migration policy is crucial as it addresses the challenges of irregular migration and ensures that migrants are treated fairly across member states. The EU is the largest donor globally through initiatives such as Global Gateway initiative², providing assistance to about 150 developing countries. This initiative not only focuses on infrastructure but also emphasises human capital development, which includes addressing migration issues.

² ECDPM. "The EU's Global Gateway: Groundbreaking Initiative or Smart Rebranding?," 2021. <https://ecdpm.org/work/the-eus-global-gateway-groundbreaking-initiative-or-smart-rebranding>.

USA

The U.S. has a long history of immigration, which has shaped its cultural landscape. Current discussions around immigration policy are particularly relevant following significant political shifts, including the recent elections. The Biden administration had focused on reforming immigration policies to promote inclusivity and address issues such as family reunification³, but post the recent elections, their outlook on immigration is predominantly predicted to be shifting to one that is more conservative due to the influence of the Trump administration.

UK

Following Brexit, the UK has introduced a points-based immigration system⁴ that aims to attract skilled workers while also addressing public concerns about immigration levels. The new immigration policies have raised concerns about the potential alienation of existing immigrant communities, particularly those from lower-skilled backgrounds who may face increased barriers. It also is experiencing heightened discussions around national identity and multiculturalism.

Canada

Canada's immigration system is designed to be inclusive, with recent plans to increase immigration levels significantly through its Immigration Levels Plan 2025-2027⁵, which focuses on family reunification and economic migration. Its policies aim to ensure that immigrants feel welcomed and integrated into society. With an aging population and labour shortages in various sectors, Canada's approach to integrating immigrants is critical for sustaining economic growth.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)⁶:

³ www.dhs.gov. "Fact Sheet: New Family Reunification Parole Processes Provide Lawful Pathway for Family Unity | Homeland Security," n.d. <https://www.dhs.gov/>.

⁴ Morris, Anne. "The UK Points Based System: A Guide | DavidsonMorris." DavidsonMorris, April 15, 2024. <https://www.davidsonmorris.com/points-based-system/>.

⁵ Canada.ca. "Notice – Supplementary Information for the 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan - Canada.ca," 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/supplementary-immigration-levels-2025-2027.html>.

⁶ International Organisation for Migration. "Global Compact for Migration." International Organisation for Migration, January 25, 2019. <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>.

As part of the UN system, IOM promotes comprehensive migration management and social inclusion. IOM's activities cover four main areas, migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)⁷:

The OECD monitors integration outcomes and policies across more than 40 countries, providing valuable data and analysis to inform policymaking. Its work includes assessing the economic and social impacts of migration and evaluating the effectiveness of the integration policies.

European Union (EU)⁸:

The EU has implemented various integration policies and action plans for member states. The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, which promotes inclusion for all and addresses barriers to participation, fostering partnerships between national and local level policymakers.

Relevant UN Resolutions

*A/RES/76/136: "Promoting Social Integration through Social Inclusion"*⁹:

Adopted in December 2021, emphasises the critical role of social integration in achieving sustainable development. This resolution recognises that social integration is not just about reducing disparities, but also about creating an inclusive society where all individuals, regardless of their background, can participate fully and the exchange of good practices among Member States

The resolution's effectiveness relies on countries voluntarily implementing its recommendations and reporting their progress during UN sessions and reviews.

*A/RES/73/195 "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration"*¹⁰:

⁷ OECD. "Economic and Social Integration of Migrants," 2024.

<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/economic-and-social-integration-of-migrants.html>.

⁸ Laurentsyeva, Nadseya, and Alessandra Venturini. "The Social Integration of Immigrants and the Role of Policy – a Literature Review." *Intereconomics* 2017, no. 5 (2017): 285–92.

<https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2017/number/5/article/the-social-integration-of-immigrants-and-the-role-of-policy-a-literature-review.html>.

⁹ UN General Assembly, Resolution 76/136, Promoting social integration through social inclusion, A/RES/76/136 December 16, 2021, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/136>.

¹⁰ Iom.int. "GLOBAL COMPACT for SAFE ORDERLY and REGULAR MIGRATION | ONU Migración Americas," 2018. <https://lac.iom.int/en/global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration>.

Adopted in December 2018. This landmark agreement represents the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted by the UN General Assembly, aims to address migration challenges through the use of a comprehensive framework. While not legally binding, it serves as a roadmap for countries to cooperate on migration issues

The Compact establishes a capacity-building mechanism, a connection hub, and a start-up fund to support countries in achieving its objectives. Its impact depends on countries' willingness to align their policies with its principles and participate in its follow-up mechanisms, such as the International Migration Review Forum.

A/RES/59/194 "Protection of Migrants"¹¹:

focuses specifically on protecting migrants from discrimination and xenophobia. This resolution came at a time of increasing concern about the treatment of migrants worldwide. It strongly condemns acts of racism and intolerance against migrants, protecting migrants works by setting normative standards and calling on states to take specific actions, such as adopting measures to prevent human rights violations against migrants in transit.

They create frameworks for cooperation and set standards, but their implementation relies heavily on voluntary state action and the advocacy efforts of civil society organisations. The effectiveness of these resolutions depends on diplomatic pressure and international climate.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-27¹²:

A **comprehensive framework** aimed at helping Member States foster the integration of migrants. It focuses on achieving comparable social and economic outcomes for migrants and natives by addressing key areas such as **education, employment, healthcare, and housing**. The plan emphasises inclusive education, enhances job opportunities through skills recognition, ensures equal access to healthcare services, and promotes adequate housing. It also highlights the importance of **digital inclusion** for successful integration.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, Resolution 59/194, "Protection of Migrants," A/RES/59/194, December 20, 2004, https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmsbdl486/files/2018-07/A_RES_59_194_en.pdf.

¹² Migration and Home Affairs. "Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion," 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-resettlement-and-integration/integration/action-plan-integration-and-inclusion_en.

Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)¹³:

A crucial **tool that measures integration policies** across 56 countries using 167 indicators. MIPEX provides insights into migrants' opportunities for participation in society by evaluating dimensions like **labour market access, family reunification, education, health services, political participation, and pathways to nationality**. This index encourages governments to improve their integration frameworks based on best practices.

Individual Integration Programmes¹⁴:

Implemented by **local authorities** in countries like Poland to support migrant integration. For example, Poland's IPI offers recognised refugees cash assistance for maintenance, Polish **language courses, health insurance, and social counselling** over a 12-month period to enhance self-reliance and employment prospects.

National Action Plans¹⁵:

Many countries have developed specific plans to **combat discrimination** and promote integration to combat racism and discrimination. Ireland's National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR), for instance, addresses various forms of racism and aims to positively impact all minority ethnic communities through **targeted actions** and the establishment of an **Advisory Committee on Racism and Racial Equality**.

Possible Solutions

Comprehensive integration policies:

Implement policies that address multiple aspects of integration, including economic, social, and cultural dimensions

Language and civic integration courses:

Provide targeted language training and civic education to facilitate integration

Skills recognition and matching:

¹³ www.mipex.eu. "MAIN FINDINGS | MIPEX 2020," 2020. <https://www.mipex.eu/key-findings>.

¹⁴ Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles. "Social Welfare - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles," June 17, 2024. <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/poland/content-international-protection/social-welfare/>.

¹⁵ "Recent Developments in Migrant Integration Policy." *International Migration Outlook*, October 21, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1787/61fe58ad-en>.

Develop systems for recognising foreign qualifications and matching immigrants' skills with job opportunities

Anti-discrimination measures:

Strengthen legal frameworks and awareness campaigns to combat discrimination against migrants

Local integration initiatives:

Empower local authorities to develop and implement context-specific integration programs

Pre-departure and pre-arrival orientation:

Offer information and support to migrants before they arrive in the host country

Data collection and analysis:

Improve systems for gathering and analysing data on integration outcomes to inform policy making

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- ⁶ Laurentsyeva, Nadseya, and Alessandra Venturini. "The Social Integration of Immigrants and the Role of Policy – a Literature Review." *Intereconomics* 2017, no. 5 (2017): 285–92. <https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2017/number/5/article/the-social-integration-of-immigrants-and-the-role-of-policy-a-literature-review.html>.
- ⁷ UN General Assembly, Resolution 76/136, Promoting social integration through social inclusion, A/RES/76/136 December 16, 2021, <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/136>.
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- ⁹ UN General Assembly, Resolution 59/194, "Protection of Migrants," A/RES/59/194, December 20, 2004, https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmsbdl486/files/2018-07/A_RES_59_194_en.pdf.
- ¹⁰ Migration and Home Affairs. "Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion," 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-resettlement-and-integration/integration/action-plan-integration-and-inclusion_en.
- ¹ www.mipex.eu. "MAIN FINDINGS | MIPEX 2020," 2020. <https://www.mipex.eu/key-findings>.
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