



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN
SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

3rd CDCDI International Conference

Changing migration policies: national perspectives and supra-national strategies

10 - 11 November 2016, Bucharest, Romania

Call for abstracts

In the last decades the conflicts across the globe and especially in the Middle East, along with changing political spheres of influence in high income countries led to different patterns of migration. The needs and interests of nation states have their roles in shaping the responses to migration within the wider frame of the rules and obligations resulted from their affiliation to international bodies and ratification of international conventions. In this fast pace changing world, not only the domestic policies on migration, but also some of the international human rights instruments seem to be inadequate to the new realities. The 3rd CDCDI conference aims to set the ground for debates between academics, professionals and policy makers with different backgrounds on topics related to migration, with focus on the migration policies.

The questions proposed for this conference await answers from various disciplines. To what extent the national migration policies are underpinned by knowledge and needs and not by political interests and choices? What are the limitations of immigration as solution to the demographic downturn, and to the shortage of labour force/skills? How to deal with cultural diversity while the public attitude towards immigration is turning to intolerance? How do the countries of origin and destination negotiate their domestic migration policies in the broader context of international/EU regulations? What role do the various social actors play in the decision making process regulating migration?

These are some of the issues for discussion, but the list remains open to submissions covering other related topics, as well. The contributions of practitioners from various fields to the conference themes are particularly welcome.

Proposed workshops:

1. Civil society contributions to challenging migration policy and practice

This panel aims to discuss comparative perspectives, theoretical and practical approaches to the role of civil society structures in changing migration policy and practice at both national and EU/international levels. The topics will refer, without being limited, to: advocacy initiatives, examples of policies or practices that proved successful in improving the migrants' opportunities in the destination countries, analysis of factors and contexts that facilitated the change at policy/practice levels, the role of mass-media in promoting and making the change happen, creative tools that lead to changes in the migration policies/practices.

www.cdcdi.ro

www.advocacy.ro

www.cercetareinterculturala.ro



2. Mainstreaming migration in the domestic labour policies: failures and successes

Mainstreaming migrant issues in the national policies was a strategy adopted by several destination countries as a way to promoting diversity and social cohesion. The panel focuses on comparisons between different country strategies to include migrants into their national labour policy target, and the impact of those policies on the migrant population. It includes case studies and empirical perspectives that refer to overcoming the obstacles hampering the economic participation of migrants.

3. Impact of migration on social work and social welfare

The panel aims to bring together papers dedicated to analysing different impacts of migration on welfare systems in the European countries, to assessing particular social problems for migrant sending and receiving countries, to raising questions regarding European policies on migration and integration from the perspective of their effectiveness. It is also of interest the perspective of professionals (including social workers) who work directly with migrants and their families on strategies and tools that enhance the migrant participation in the social and economic life of the destination countries.

4. Labour and skill shortages and the economics of migration

With immigration being the number 1 priority at European level, overtaking issues such as economic situation and unemployment (Standard Eurobarometer, July 2015), the economics of migration are entering a new era of change and challenges. This panel considers current labour and skill shortages and the way they can be addressed through effective migration policies, while looking at the possibility to fill the existing niches in fast-growing and declining sectors of the economy. Papers addressing migrant entrepreneurship, the impact of education on migrant integration on the labour markets, skills match/mismatch are also welcomed in this section.

5. Selective migration and regional economic development

In this panel we will welcome contributions that look at the migration selectivity and its impacts on spatial socio-economic development. Papers under this topic investigate how migrants choose *where* to settle, and which are the *pull* factors to the new locations. Furthermore, the panel expects new insights into the implications of selective migration on regional growth and regional convergence, spatial polarization and territorial development. Not last, papers addressing the links between the European cohesion policy/European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and migration policies in Europe are of high-interest to this panel.

6. The economic and refugee crisis nexus

The impact of economic crisis on the labour participation of migrants and its effects in shaping the public attitudes towards migrants have been prominent topics of research during the last years. Nowadays the refugee crisis replaced the economic downturn on the public agenda. This panel will explore from different disciplinary perspectives the intersections of economic and refugee crises, their causes and effects, and the issue of migration control in fragile economies. Papers addressing the reflection of both crises in the political discourse (who is to blame?) are also included in this panel, alongside analyses of changes in public attitudes towards immigrants in Europe.

7. Re-active and pro-active migration policies in the European countries

The topics approached under this panel will focus on the analysis of political decisions and the balance between knowledge and interest in the migration policy making process. The topics will explore how states pro-act or react to migration challenges at policy level and will identify patterns of decision making in the European migrant source and receiving countries. This panel will also cover the negotiation of the rights-based approach in migration policies, as well as strategies of diminishing migration costs and maximising its benefits from the perspectives of migrants, countries of origin and destination.

8. The new challenges of migration to old Human Rights International instruments

In line with their international obligations assumed through the 1951 Refugee Convention and through other international human rights instruments, states have developed diverse migration systems. The 2015 migration crisis put additional pressure on the national migration systems in the EU, pressure that states have not entirely anticipated.

The panel welcomes, among others, studies analysing the areas that need revision in the international law on migration, case studies exploring the application of human rights, migrant workers and refugee conventions, as well as comparative views on the domestic asylum law, practice and institutional co-operation in different European countries.

How to apply?

Abstracts of maximum 300 words should be sent to conference@cdcdi.ro by **30th June 2016**. Please include the **title, name of the authors, affiliation and e-mail addresses**. The abstracts will be blind peer reviewed. The authors of selected abstracts will be notified by **15th July 2016**. The draft papers to be presented in the panel sessions are expected by **15th October 2016**.

We will acknowledge the receipt of all applications. If you have not received any confirmation e-mail within 3 days, please consider sending the abstract again.

Important deadlines:

- **30th June 2016** – receipt of abstracts
- **15th July 2016** – notification of accepted abstracts
- **15th October 2016** – receipt of full draft papers

Information about the conference will be soon available at <http://conference3.cdcdi.ro/>.

The conference is part of the project “Developing a network of active organisations in the field of migration (EMINET)”, co-financed by a grant from Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union.