

CALL FOR PAPERS



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Section 10. Regional Studies and Local Policies Panel 10.1 Local Migration Policies in Europe

CHAIRS

Emanuela Dal Zotto (emanuela.dalzotto@unipv.it), Research Fellow at the University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences.

Angelo Scotto (angelo.scotto01@ateneopv.it), PhD in Political Science at the University of Pavia.

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Tiziana Caponio (tiziana.caponio@unito.it), University of Turin, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society.

The migration phenomenon has been central in European politics for decades by now. Not only does the issue dominate the political and electoral agenda in many countries, because of the rise and consolidation of parties and movements that put the fight against immigration at the core of their proposals, but also for what concerns the policymaking, the management of migration flows and the instruments for the inclusion or the integration of foreigners in host societies, see the emergence of relevant conflicts among both political parties and interest groups, and even among different institutional levels. Examples of infighting in the decision-making process can be observed in parliamentary legislative procedures as at municipal level; in the relationships between European institutions and national governments, as in the conflicts between government and regions (e.g. the Italian case). It should be added that recent phenomena and current events highlighted many serious problems of European immigration policies, from the insufficient ability in managing refugees and asylum seekers to the limits and failures of social integration policies and their underlying models. This is why the analysis of migration policies is currently an important issue both in terms of public discourse and for what concerns scientific research.

This research area is not new: the evolution of the studies on migration policies in Europe followed the changes in the social perception of the migration phenomenon. While earlier the main focus was

on immigration policies, intended as control of the flows and definition of the rules of entry and stay in host countries, the rising awareness about the settlement of a constantly growing number of migrants led to the rise, in terms of quantity and relevance, of studies on the policies for the integration of migrants and the social cohesion in multiethnic societies. The development of this research pointed out the link between immigration and integration policies, and their mutual influence.

Another important development in the academic scholarship is the growing relevance, from the late 1990s onwards, of the local dimension in the analysis of migration policies. This trend is a straight consequence of the researches on the integration policies because, as noted by Rinus Penninx, the local context is the one in which the integration process takes place and is measurable; besides, in many European countries the devolution processes which took place in last decades led to an expansion of the local governments' spheres of action, powers and resources, thus making them responsible for service delivery and the definition of policies. In this case too, the growth of a new research area did not imply the disappearance of the previous one: on the contrary, the interactions among the different levels of government are at the core of studies on multi-level governance of immigration, one of the main paradigms in the current analysis of migration policies.

The question we ask is how local migration policies are influenced by the current European refugee crisis and the events that seems to testify to the failure of the integration and social cohesion policies (be they crime news like the 2016 New Years' Eve assaults in Cologne or wider social phenomena like the religious radicalisation of some second generation migrants): which are the new emerging problems? How and how much do they influence the political agenda? How do they influence the choice and the extent of the subjects which take part in the decision-making process? And the policy outcomes? Which are the policy areas which are affected the most by this impact? Similarly, we wonder whether the areas with greater experience the management of migration and the implementation of integration and social cohesion policies (cities, districts/provinces, regions) face greater or lesser difficulties in the management of new refugee flows.

The panel aims to promote the analysis and discussion on local migration policies, particularly on the above-mentioned questions. While the focus stays on the local dimension, and empirical analyses and case studies (both singles and comparative) are preferred, we welcome papers that:

- a) analyse the changes of the policies facing the mutations of migrations flow, for what concerns both the decision-making process and the contents of the policies;
- b) focus on the policy-making process, on the subjects which participate in it, on the relationships among the different levels of governments;
- c) deal with specific policy areas (e.g. social policies, job placement, social cohesion);
- d) focus on d1) specific categories of migrants (e.g. unaccompanied minors, irregular migrants) or specific ethnic, national or religious groups; d2) specific actors of the policy-making process, such as political parties, street-level bureaucrats, nonprofit organisations, civic committees, economic groups, etc.;
- e) analyse bottom-up activities, projects and practices of integration and social cohesion, promoted by not institutional subjects;
- f) offers innovative methodological approaches and theoretical reflections on migration policy-making processes.

Papers may be in Italian or in English.

If you are interested, please submit a paper proposal including title, abstracts, name(s) of the author(s) and institutions through the SISP website (<http://www.sisp.it/convegno2016/>), where the instructions for the paper submission are provided for.

The deadlines for participation are the following::

5 June 2016: last day for paper submission; chairs will inform the authors of accepted proposals by 7 June;

8 September 2016: last day for submitting the full papers; authors can do it by using the above-mentioned website.

The registration to the conference is open from 6 June to 17 September 2016; the cost of participation for paper givers who are not members of the SISP is € 80,00 if registered by 31 July 2016 (early bird), € 100,00 if registered after 1 August 2016.