



SIRIUS

Skills and Integration of Migrants,
Refugees and Asylum Applicants
in European Labour Markets



Reversing the trend and recognising potential: towards more evidence-based policies on integration of migrants and refugees in the EU

Date: 4th December 2019

Location: CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels - Belgium

Time: 10:00-13:00

Migration and asylum have been a key political and social issue in European societies for decades. However, since 2015, with the arrival of refugees escaping conflict in Syria, alongside the waves of refugees and migrants from Africa, migration and asylum have become an even more politicised and polarising issue across Europe. The election of a new European Parliament in May 2019, along with the establishment of the new Commission, could potentially create opportunities to reverse the trend of contention that threatens the very cohesion of the European Union.

We should thus take the opportunity of a new political term to set out a policy agenda aimed at overcoming divisive rhetoric and policies on migration and asylum. A new agenda which, founded on European liberal democratic principles and human rights, reflects an evidence-based approach that recognises the potential for inclusive growth, entrepreneurship and innovation provided by new arrivals, rather than portraying their very existence as a 'threat'.

Adopting this fresh perspective, the [SIRIUS](#) project, together with [CEPS](#), wishes to open a dialogue among different actors that aims to move us beyond discussion and debate regarding 'border management and security' to a position at the intersection of integration, entrepreneurship and innovation. Moreover, we seek to develop this dialogue at a higher level of policymaking, in other words from a European viewpoint, rather than at the national level. Our approach is underpinned by an awareness that the challenges of migration and asylum are better addressed by a transnational vision. Hence, we invite policy makers, trade unions and business representatives, along with civil society, to meet, share experiences and visions, and discuss how a coordinated and best practice-based integration strategy could unleash the potential benefits of migrants and refugees for our societies and economies rather than their arrival being used as a tool for political division.



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The questions we will address shall include:

- What factors contribute towards unleashing the entrepreneurial potential and the economic and social capabilities of migrants and refugees? Do we need new legislation to unlock the potential of new arrivals to Europe? Do we need different implementation capacities to support new arrivals in realising their potential? Do we need different public/policy rhetoric to reframe the discussion on migration and asylum?
- What lessons have we learned from best practices and effective policies?
- How could the segmented labour markets of Europe better accommodate the capabilities and needs of European citizens and newcomers?
- How can labour market integration policies and practices ensure that women are fully supported to realise their employment potential?
- How can we better ensure that young people among those arriving in Europe are given the opportunity to make the transition towards an employment pathway that offers them opportunities for progression through skills development?
- What mechanisms that are currently in place can facilitate a transnational dialogue between policy makers, trade unions, business representatives and civil society organisations to develop policies and practices that can realise the potential of migrants and refugees?



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Agenda

09:30-10:00 Registration and coffee/tea

10:00-10:15 Welcoming Remarks and Setting the Agenda

Dr. Mehtap Akgüç, CEPS, & Prof. Simone Baglioni, Sirius Coordinator,
Glasgow Caledonian University, UK

10:15-11:30 Labour Market Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants. Results from the Sirius project – Research angle

Chair Dr. Mehtap Akgüç, CEPS

- Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Labour Market Integration in Europe: Barriers and Enablers—findings from the EU project SIRIUS
 - Prof. Simone Baglioni, Yunus Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University
 - Dr. Maria Mexi, University of Geneva
 - Dr. Veronica Federico, University of Florence

11:30-13:00 Panel discussion – Policy angle

Chair Dr. Maria Mexi, University of Geneva

Speakers:

- Mr. Laurent Aujean, Policy Officer, Legal Migration and Integration Unit, DG Home European Commission
- Ms. Paola Camilli, Policy Coordinator, Social Dialogue & Economic Governance, ETUCE
- Mr. Rob De Lobel, Programme and Policy Officer, IOM
- Ms. Teresa Hornung, Senior Adviser, BDA Confederation of German Employers' Associations
- Ms. Tineke Strik, MEP, Member of Committee of Civic Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

13:00—14:00 Lunch and end of event



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