

Integration of Migrants as a Factor of Sustainable Development of Local Economies

Globalization influences on local economies transformations that are driven by migration processes and the rapid spreading of digital technologies. On one hand, the integration of migrants has become a driver of economic growth, as it contributes to filling labor gaps, stimulating entrepreneurship, and fostering cultural diversity. On the other hand, the rise of digital nomadism – a form of remote work independent of physical location – creates new opportunities for local communities by increasing demand for services, infrastructure, and innovation.

The integration of migrants has a potential for strengthening local economies, especially in regions facing demographic decline or a shortage of skilled workers. Successfully integrated migrants revitalise the labor market, increase consumption, and expand the service sector. However, successful integration requires effective state policies related to education, language learning, and intercultural dialogue – all this foster social cohesion and reduce marginalization risks.

According to various researches, the process of migrant integration has multiple measures and cannot be one-directional. Integration involves mutual adaptation of newcomers and host communities through social interaction, exchange of experiences, and learning. It also includes setting to shared norms, values, and behaviors that forms co-existence. Moreover, integration is influenced by employment, education, and societal attitudes [1, p. 3]. In general, researchers identify several main dimensions of integration: cultural (language gain and values perception), structural (inclusion in social and labor institutions), social or interactive (participation in networks and community life), and identification (a sense of belonging to local or national identity). Each of these aspects reflects the degree to which migrants become part of the host society while also contributing their own cultural and professional capital.

The level of migrant integration related to various factors, particularly social, economic, and political conditions of the host country. Political decisions, legislation, social support systems, and public attitudes significantly shape the success of integration efforts [2, p. 140 – 141]. Integration programs typically include legal, social, educational, and economic support services that facilitate migrants' adaptation to a new environment. In the European Union, these programs provide assistance with residence permits, documentation, translation, and access to education or employment opportunities. The scope of such services depends on migrant's status and reason for relocation.

Due the rF's full scale invasion to Ukraine in 2022, the European Union demonstrated strong solidarity with displaced Ukrainians by providing humanitarian, financial, and administrative support. For the first time, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive to facilitate legal stay, access to work, and social assistance for those fleeing the war, while coordinating information-sharing among member states [3, p. 178-180].

While developing programmes, it's need to keep in mind the difference between migration and integration policies, as they serve different functions. While immigration control addresses border management, asylum, and labor migration, integration policy focuses on inclusion, anti-discrimination, and access to citizenship programmes. Integration requires initial state investment; its long-term macroeconomic effects are positive for the most successful in this task states. Once migrants participate in the labor market via paying taxes they contribute to economy growth, human capital development, and technological progress. To ensure social stability, governments must continuously improve integration policies, provide equal opportunities, and maintain dialogue with all stakeholders. The Interreg Europe program via projects support and sharing best practices support the states.

At the same time, digital nomadism has emerged as a new form of mobility that also influences local economic dynamics. Remote workers from different countries generate demand for housing, services, and coworking spaces, while fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. This phenomenon creates new horizons for tourism, innovation, and local entrepreneurship [4, p. 40–41]. From an economic perspective, digital nomads benefit local economies by providing steady consumption and promoting small businesses. Unlike tourists, they often stay for months, invest in local services, and support infrastructure development. Moreover, their presence contributes to technological advancement and global networking [5].

Nevertheless, digital nomadism also demonstrates challenges. Increased housing demand raises rental prices, potentially making uncomfortable conditions for local residents. Overreliance on this segment may lead to instability if global mobility patterns shift. Thus, governments must balance openness to digital nomads with policies protecting local communities [6].

According to the World Economic Forum, well-designed digital nomad policies can help diversify local economies, enhance innovation, and boost global competitiveness. Ensuring reliable digital infrastructure, transparent regulations, and inclusive participation can transform digital mobility into a catalyst for sustainable regional growth [7].

In conclusion, both migrant integration and digital nomadism represent interrelated processes shaping the evolution of local economies in the globalised world. Migrants renew human capital and contribute to labor markets, while digital nomads stimulate innovation and international cooperation. Together, these phenomena foster dynamic, inclusive, and resilient communities capable of sustainable growth in an interconnected global environment.

References:

1. Tsymbaliuk, D. I. *Economy and Society. Integration of Migrants: Conceptual Characteristics and Dimensions*. 2024. No. 69. URL: <https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0072/2024-69-72>
2. Khomyak, A. *Integration of Migrants into European Societies: Integration Policy and Public Opinion*. Bulletin of NTUU “KPI”. Political Science. Sociology. Law. 2019. No. 3 (43), pp. 139–146. URL: <https://visnyk-ppsp.kpi.ua/article/view/195706/196051>
3. Slipetska, Yu., & Bula, S. Integration of Refugees/Migrants in EU Countries: Problems and Prospects. *Scientific Papers of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Political Science and Public Administration*. 2025. No. 1(77), pp. 176–185. URL: [https://doi.org/10.32689/2523-4625-2025-1\(77\)-25](https://doi.org/10.32689/2523-4625-2025-1(77)-25)
4. Kovalenko, I., Meliakova, Yu., & Kalnytskyi, E. Digital Nomadism as a New Mode of Identity: The Experience of Philosophical Reflection. *Bulletin of Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University*. 2024. Vol. 2, No. 61, pp. 40–41. URL: <https://doi.org/10.21564/2663-5704.61.304563>
5. Digital Nomads Significantly Enhance Local Economies Across Regions. *Digital Nomad*. 2025. URL: <https://digitalnomad.gg/>
6. Open Global Trusted. *How Do Digital Nomads Affect Local Socio-Economic (Cultural) Development?* 2025. URL: <https://doi.org/10.29352/mill0219e.41164>
7. World Economic Forum. We Bring Together Government, Businesses and Civil Society to Improve the State of the World. 2024. URL: <https://www.weforum.org/>



The paper “Integration of Migrants as a Factor of Sustainable Development of Local Economies” has been developed within the framework of the project “Migrants’ Integration in Local Economies / MILEstone” 01C0070 Interreg Europe program. Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. The Interreg Europe programme authorities are not liable for any information contained herein.