

Social Innovation Approaches to Support Integration of Non-EU Migrants in Rural Central Europe: Lessons Learned, Conclusions Drawn

Serhii Svyharets, Tim Leibert, Roman Mikhaylov, Lucia Mrazova
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig, Germany.

Abstract:

In recent years many rural regions of Central Europe have witnessed a massive inflow of non-EU nationals turning them into new migration destinations. The majority of these regions were not prepared for this change and international migrations became a hot-button topic. However, as the negative consequences of demographic change are getting more prominent in rural Central Europe, these regions should search new ways to stimulate the integration of the newly-arrived migrants. This can be done with the help of social innovations. This paper provides a literature overview on the aforementioned topics, as well as an analysis of the results of Arrival Regions (Interreg Central Europe) project that has tested nine different social innovations approaches to support integration of non-EU nationals in rural Central Europe. The results of the project show that social innovations are an effective and easy-to-implement way to support integration of non-EU nationals living in rural Central Europe.

Key Words: Rural Regions, Central Europe, New Migration Destination, Integration, Non-EU Migrants, Social Innovation.

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