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Desk Research

Migration in Cordoba, Dublin and Malaga



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea

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Introduction

Activity 1. Development of the theoretical-practical content of the Values Toolbox

After the kick-off meeting held in Málaga on May 30, 2023, it was decided to prepare a desk research on migration and values of the European Union. The objective of this study is to know the reality of migration in each of the cities participating on the project and to collect the necessary information to prepare a Field Research that adapts to the needs of the project and the target audience.

In subsequent meetings, a common index was agreed with the aim of unifying the reports and being able to draw general conclusions. Within each investigations three main themes would be addressed:

1. Profile of migrants in the corresponding city.
2. Barriers that these people encounter in the host city.
3. Resources, organizations or agencies that work on the integration of migrants in the city.

Below are the complete desk research for each city participating in the project: Cordoba, Dublin and Málaga.

Cordoba, Spain

Profile of Migrants in Cordoba

The foreign population resident in Cordoba has experienced a relatively significant decrease over the past year, according to the latest data published by the National Statistics Institute (INE) as of 1 January 2022.

According to the figures, the number of foreigners registered in the province fell from 21,845 to 21,289 in the year-on-year comparison. The total population of the city of Cordoba is 319,515. The majority of residents of another nationality live in the capital (8,153, where the fall was 5.2%).

It must be said that all these figures correspond to people who have registered in the province of Cordoba.

By nationality, the Romanian and Moroccan nationalities account for 35.1% of the total number of foreigners registered. They are followed by Colombians (1,178), English (1,103) and Chinese (991).

The first group is the most numerous, with 4,702. Most of them live in Palma del Río (732). This is due to the fact that many seek their fortune as day labourers in the citrus fruit campaign in this locality. The other municipalities where the Romanian population is concentrated are the capital, with 579, and Lucena, where, curiously, the number of Romanian residents is similar: 515.

As for those from Morocco, they have established their place of residence in Cordoba, where on 1 January last year there were 789; and in Lucena (324). In addition, almost 200 (192) live in Rute.

For its part, the Colombian community is also becoming increasingly important in the province. Fair immigration policies and economic opportunities have made it one of the most attractive destinations for South Americans, who also have another important reason: language.

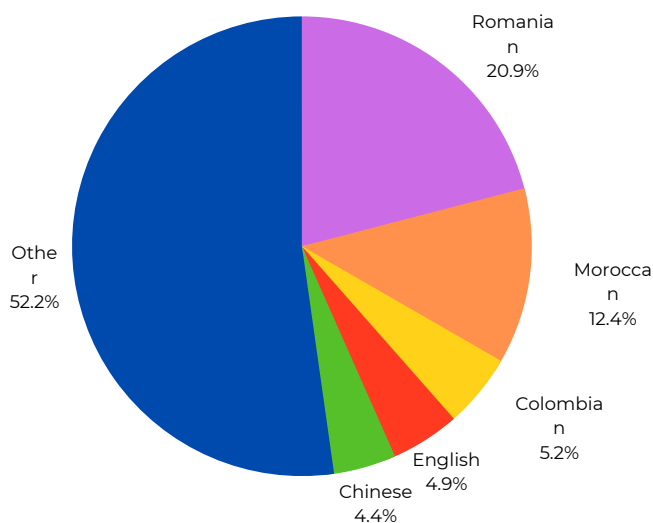
In this case, the main centres are concentrated in the capital, where 529 Colombians live, and Lucena, where 202 live. The rest are spread throughout the province.

From South America, a significant number of Venezuelans (683), Paraguayans (621) and emigrants from Ecuador (427) are also settling in the province, according to the INE. Most of them live in the city of Córdoba.

Another notable group is the British, who on 1 January 2022 numbered 1,090. The majority have their homes in the municipality of Iznájar, where 396 inhabitants from the United Kingdom live; and in the capital, where there are 218.

Finally, the last group worth mentioning is the Chinese: 988 have their home in the whole province; they have also decreased with respect to 2021, when they exceeded a thousand. In their case, almost all of them live in Cordoba (62.2%, 617). The rest are scattered throughout the towns, with Lucena standing out, where there are 54.

Figure 1. Migration in Cordoba by nationality of origin, 2022



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by INE (2022)

By gender. Today, according to statistics updated up to January 2022, there is a higher number of immigrant women in the province.

Figure 2. Migration in Cordoba by gender, 2022

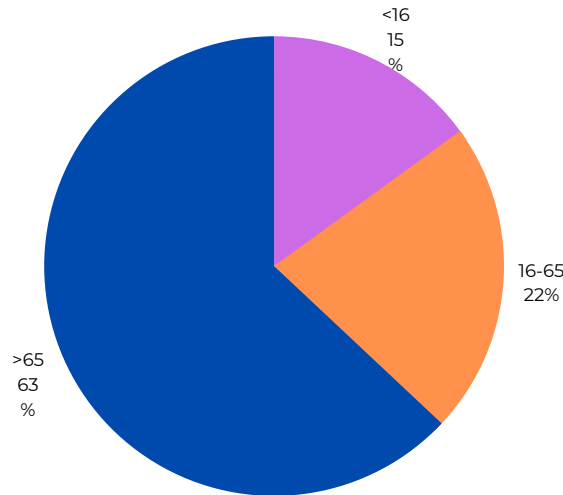


Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by INE (2022)

By age. According to data from the Continuous Register of the National Statistics Institute (INE), the foreign population in Cordoba on 1 January 2022 was 21,289.

Of these, 63% were of potentially active age (between 16 and 64 years old), 15.1% were under 16 years old and 22.1% were over 65 years old.

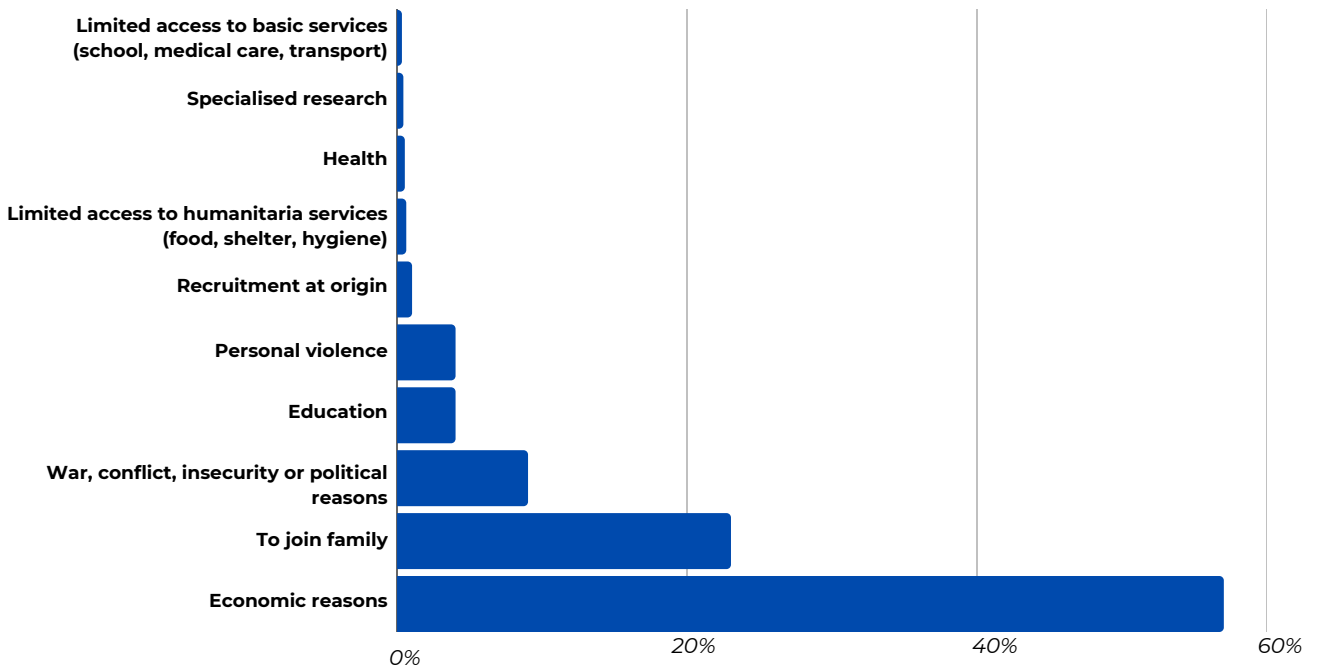
Figure 3. Migration in Cordoba by age, 2022



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by INE (2022)

Reason for the movement, according to the study A Look at Migration in Andalusia: Profiles, Perceptions and Experiences of Migrant People published by The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Junta de Andalusia, here are the main reasons for migrants to come to our city.

Figure 4. Main reason for leaving the country of origin, 2022



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by INE (2022)

Barriers in the host city

There are several difficulties that create complications in integrating into the new place of reception. Here are the most common ones:

- **Cultural and linguistic barriers:** Immigrants may face difficulties adapting to a new culture and learning a new language.
- **Access to basic services:** Immigrants often have difficulty accessing health, housing, education or employment services.
- **Legal difficulties:** Migrants may face difficulties in obtaining the necessary legal documentation to work or reside in the country.
- **Family separation:** Separation from family can be emotionally challenging for immigrants.
- **Economic hardship:** Some migrants may face economic hardship when seeking employment or settling in a new country.
- **Discrimination:** They sometimes suffer from discrimination that makes it difficult for them to access all the above in general.

Resources, organizations or agencies that work for the social integration of migrants

There are many organisations and associations that have among their objectives the help and integration of the migrant population in Cordoba. Here we will mention the most relevant ones in terms of their age, outreach and popularity:

- Asociación Pro-Inmigrantes de Córdoba (Immigrant Association of Cordoba) (APIC)
- Córdoba Acoge
- Cruz Roja Española (Spanish Red Cross)
- Córdoba Solidaria (Cordoba in Solidarity)
- Federación de Asociaciones de Inmigrantes y afines de Córdoba (Federation of Immigrant and related Associations of Cordoba) (FEDAIC)

Also, the Municipal Intercultural Mediation Programme as an initiative of Cordoba City Council directs and offers various resources available to anyone who needs them. The actions carried out are:

- Assistance to migrants and refugees.
- Support to Community Social Services Centres (CSSC).
- Collaboration and coordination with public and private entities.
- Detection of discriminatory situations and barriers in the exercise of rights.

In summary, we can say that there are several public and private resources in the city of Cordoba where the problem of immigration is the main focus. Many of them have a long history of working for the integration of immigrants. Even so, there is still a long way to go and there are still needs and problems to be solved in relation to this issue.

Dublin, Ireland

The profile of applicants has remained quite similar in recent years. Between 2017 and 2021, applicants have tended to be male (64 per cent on average), and 25 per cent of applicants were under the age of 18 for the same period.

For understanding Irish migrant context, it is important to recognize the difference between an asylum seeker, a refugee and an international protection applicant: an 'asylum seeker' is a person who has made an application to be a refugee. An 'international protection applicant' is a different term but refers to the same situation. The Irish Refugee Council generally uses the phrase 'person seeking protection' or 'international protection applicant' when speaking to a wider audience that may not be familiar with these terms we use the phrase 'asylum seeker'.

A travel document and passport is a crucial form of identity, without it a person may struggle to show that they are from the country they say they are from. In 2022, 70,000 people applied for protection in Ireland, from Ukraine and around the world. Only a small proportion of those did not have a document. The Irish Refugee Council believes that we should be careful about overstating the number of people in an undocumented situation on arrival in Ireland and that it is a widespread phenomenon. It is also worth noting, that where reports state that people did not provide a document, we recommend caution around an automatic assumption that it was destroyed, there are reasons why a person may not produce a document on arrival. According to the **Article 31 of the Refugee Convention**, a person seeking refugee status must still have their application processed even if he or she has entered a state illegally. The International Protection Act states that a person who is at the frontier of the State (whether lawfully or unlawfully) may make an application for international protection. This rationale exists because there is no visa to claim asylum, and it is very difficult for a person from a refugee-producing country to get a visa.

Recognition rates compared:

- In 2022, 35% of decisions made in Ireland resulted in a person being given refugee or subsidiary protection. As a comparison, the average EU recognition rate across all member states for 2021 was 34%. The EU recognition rate for the month of November 2022 (most recent monthly statistics available from the EU Asylum Agency) was 39%.

Application rates compared:

- In 2021 Ireland received 0.4% of the EU's total asylum applications. For the month of November 2022 Ireland received 0.1% of the EU's total asylum applications. It is also worth noting that the vast majority of the world's refugees are not in the EU but other countries around the world.

In relation the refugees from Ukraine, there are many factors that explain the increase in number:

- The situation in Ukraine is deteriorating.
- Filippo Grandi, the Director of UNHCR stated, in January 2023: "I was appalled by the level of destruction I saw as a result of Russian missiles and shelling. Civilian infrastructure like power plants, water systems, kindergartens and apartment buildings have been damaged or destroyed. Civilians, including children and the elderly, have been killed or fled their homes, having their entire lives uprooted by these senseless attacks."
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated in its February 2023 report: "Since the Russian Federation's 24 February invasion of Ukraine, the number of people in need of humanitarian aid and protection increased from approximately 3 million people to nearly 18 million, and hostilities and fighting spread across the country. Throughout the year, millions of Ukrainians endured intense hostilities, which killed and injured thousands of civilians, forced millions from their homes, destroyed jobs and livelihoods, and left many struggling to access food, water, health care, education, a safe place to live, and other essential services. For people in the east of the country – in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts – this only further exhausted their coping capacities, already limited by the years of fighting in the region."
- As of 10 February 2023 there are 8,054,405 refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe. There are 73,002 refugees from Ukraine in Ireland (0.9% of the total number of refugees). As a comparison the number of (Ukrainian) people receiving temporary protection in a sample of other countries is: Czech Republic 485,775; France 118,994; Germany 881,399; Finland 49,290 or Lithuania 73,606.

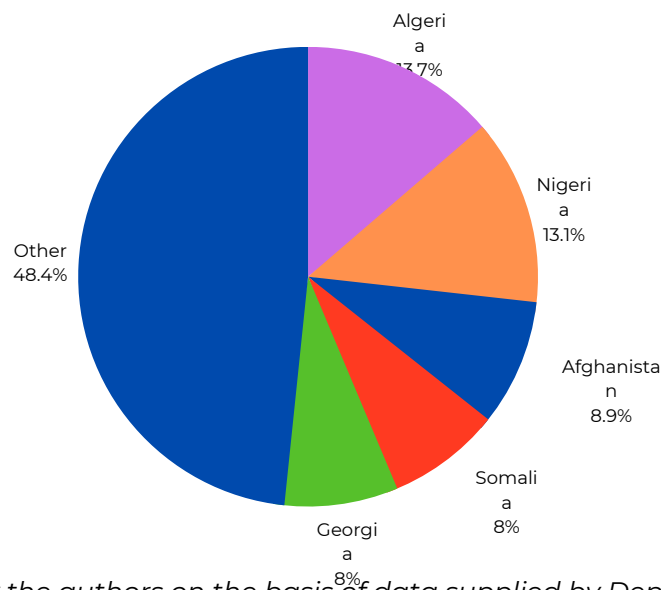
Below is set out the number of applications for International Protection made to the Irish Government and the decisions taken from 2019 to 2023:

Decision Year	Refugee Status Grants	Subsidiary Protection Grants	Permission to Remain Grant	Refusal All	Total Decisions
2019	951	163	421	1,065	2,600
2020	1,032	153	311	614	2,110
2021	1,105	95	1,140	16	2,356
2022	1,926	95	2,789	1,140	5,950
2023	647	40	287	512	1,486
TOTAL	5,661	546	4,948	3,3347	14,502

Profile of Migrants in Dublin

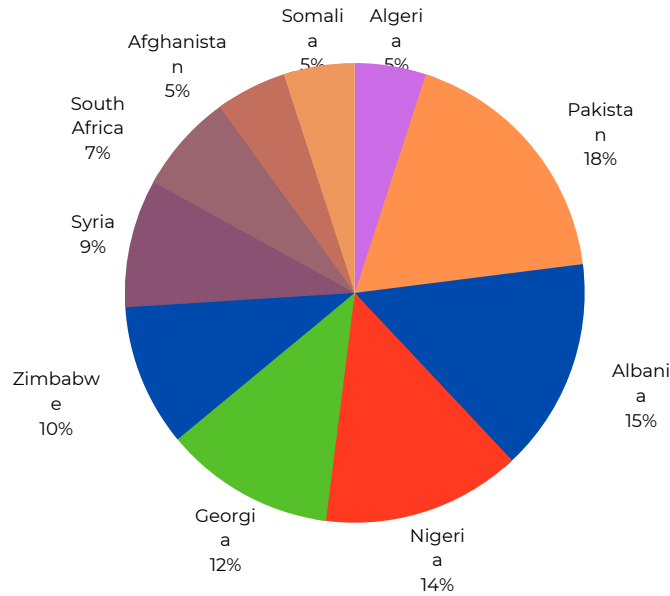
Below is an indication of where International Protection Applications to Ireland come from.

Figure 5. Applications for International Protection (top 5 nationalities), 2023



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by Department of Justice, Ireland (2023)

Figure 6. Asylum Applicants in Ireland by nationality, 2012-2021



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by Eurostat (2022)

Malaga, Spain

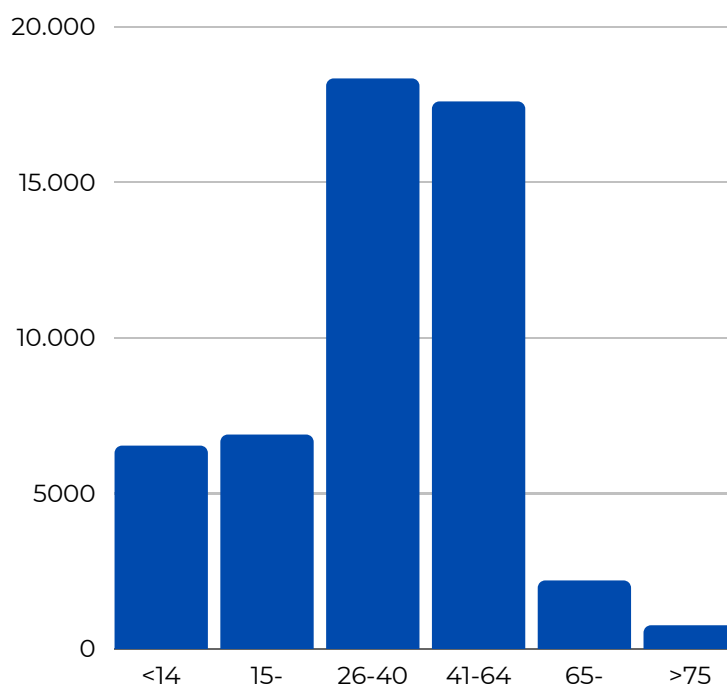
Profile of Migrants in Malaga

According to the last report on migration published by Málaga Council (2022), there are 52,224 migrants in the city. They represent 9.01% of the total population in Málaga.

Regarding the social characteristics of the migrant population, we can highlight the following:

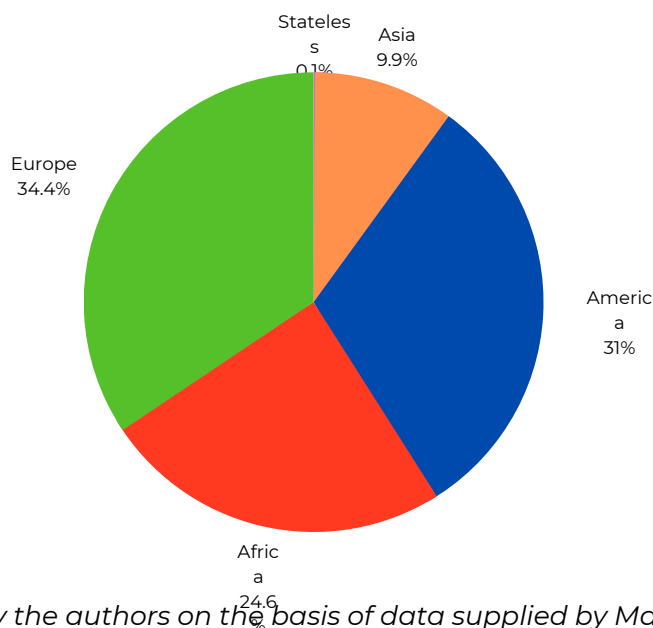
- 50.81% of them are women (49.19% men).
- 68.73% are between 26 and 64 years old.
- 34.4% of migrants are European and 31%, American.
- The two most common nationalities are Moroccan and Ukrainian. It is important to note that Málaga hosts 94% of the Ukrainian refugees in Andalusia as the city has one of the four Reception, Care and Referral Centers for Ukrainian refugees in Spain.

Figure 7. Migrants in Malaga by age, 2022



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by Malaga Council (2022)

Figure 8. Migrants in Malaga by continent of origin, 2022



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data supplied by Malaga Council (2022)

Barriers in the host city

When talking about the social barriers faced by the migrant population, we are referring to the problems they encounter in integrating into the host country or city. In this sense, the main problems they encounter are:

- **Labour integration.** A study by the Bartelsmann Foundation (2016) pointed out that the unemployment rate among the migrant and refugee population was much higher than among the local population. The study highlights that the migration policies of European countries focus on the reception of migrants, but not on their integration into the labour market.
- **Xenophobia and racism.** Discrimination based on ethnicity or country of origin is a social problem that migrants face in some host countries. In European countries, this problem is particularly prevalent against asylum seekers or refugees.
- **Changes in their culture and lifestyle.** Intercultural contact may involve a clash between different values and norms held by members of two different cultures. In relation to this, migrants go through a process called acculturation, which refers to the behavioural and psychological changes that the migrant develops while living in another culture. In this sense, there are four types of attitudes:
 1. Assimilation. Migrants abandon their traditional culture and assume the culture of the host society.
 2. Integration. Migrants blend the local culture with their own.
 3. Marginalisation. When there is a rejection of both cultures.
 4. Separation. The individual is only involved in the norms of their country of origin.

In relation to this, according to a study by Zlobina, Basabe and Páez (2005), one of the biggest cultural clashes is the scale of authoritarian values. Spain has a low index, while most Latin American and African cultures (which account for 56% of migration in Málaga) are characterised by a fairly high distance from power and an important aspect of politeness. In this way migrants consider the local population to be less hospitable, in contrast to their original culture. Along these lines, Latin American and African cultures also give great importance to values of tradition, following the norms established by religion or by the traditions of ancestors; and to values of conformity, without questioning established norms or social expectations

Resources, organizations or agencies that work for the social integration of migrants

In the city of Málaga we can distinguish different types of organisations working with the migrant population. The first distinction refers to their target group: refugees (CEAR), migrants from any origin (Málaga Acoge, ACCEM or Asociación Adintre) or migrants from Morocco (CODENAF or Asociación Marroquí). It is important to note that there are many resources aimed particularly to Moroccan migrants, as it is the most common nationality among migrants in Málaga and they face more difficulties in integrating into Málaga's culture than migrants from Latin America, with whom we share the same language and the hispanic culture, and migrants from other European countries with whom we share the European values.

Another distinction refers to the type of activities that the organisations carry out: first reception (CEAR), labour integration (Fundación Arrabal or Fundación Don Bosco) or social intervention (CODENAF or Asociación Marroquí).

Although many of these organisations provide training for migrants, most of them are focused on the labour and social integrations, with themes such as legal advice or public aids. There is no information about trainings focused on values, social norms or cultural aspects of the host city.

Conclusions

Below are the main conclusions of the Desk Researchs. It is important to note that there are great similarities between the reports from Cordoba and Malaga as they are two cities in southern Spain, located about 160km away, with a very similar migratory context.



Profile of migrants in the host cities

Cordoba and Malaga share a very similar profile, with the majority of migrants being women between 26 and 64 years old with a large population of Moroccan origin. In the case of Dublin, due to its migration context, only applicants for International Protection and asylum have been taken into account, who, in this case, come mainly from Algeria, Nigeria, Pakistan and Albania.

Barriers in the host city

The main problems encountered by the migrant population are very similar in the three cities:

- Difficulty in finding a job and economic difficulty.
- Difficulty adapting to the new host culture.
- Discrimination based on ethnicity or nationality



Resources in the host city

The three cities have numerous resources for migrants, both at the institutional level and from the NGOs. Some of them are first reception centers and the vast majority focus their work on labour integration or offer legal and administrative help.

In summary, in the three cities there are a large number of resources focused on addressing the first barrier detected, with numerous organizations and programs that address this type of project. However, a lack of resources has been detected to address the difficulty of adapting to a new culture with new traditions, new social norms and new values.

In this sense, we believe that the development of a Toolbox is especially relevant so that trainers have the necessary resources to be able to address this barrier.

European Values for the inclusion of young migrants

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ASIDE



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