



European Economic
and Social Committee

Ideas and proposals
for the Working Group on Migration
of the Conference on the Future of Europe

EESC Members: Marjolijn Bulk, Aurel Laurențiu Plosceanu

The EESC, as an active partner on the Conference on the Future of Europe representing the organised civil society, has identified concrete proposals regarding topics on Migration, as listed below.

1. Link the Pact on Migration and Asylum with the Global Compact on Migration

The new Pact on Migration and Asylum should make specific reference to the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as a multilateral precursor to a proposal for international migration management. Moreover, due regard for the individual rights enshrined in the 1951 Geneva Convention, especially non-refoulement, should be taken.

Related EESC opinion: SOC [649](#) - A New Pact on Migration and Asylum

2. Enhance new paths for legal migration at EU level

EU migration policy should pay more attention to regular channels for immigration, safe pathways for asylum or the inclusion and integration of non-EU nationals in the EU through the adoption of specific legislative proposals.

Related EESC opinion: SOC [649](#) - A New Pact on Migration and Asylum

3. Prevention of criminalisation of humanitarian actors

Call for sustained efforts to prevent the criminalisation of humanitarian actors who perform much-needed search and rescue operations.

Related EESC opinion: SOC [649](#) - A New Pact on Migration and Asylum

4. Adopt specific objectives for member states to monitor Action Plan on integration and inclusion implementation

Integration and inclusion tools listed in the Action Plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027 are mainly in the hands of national, regional, and local authorities. Action at EU level is complementary and designed to promote, facilitate, and coordinate collaboration. Global and/or specific objectives for Member States should be adopted. Gender aspects should be highlighted in the different sections on the sectoral areas. And the value of work in general should be a thread running through the Action Plan, as work in all its different forms is a key aspect of integration and personal development. The EESC emphasises the importance of civil society in general for integration into the local way of life, as well as the specific role of unions and employers' organisations.

Related EESC opinion: SOC/668 - Action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027

5. Promote migrants' anti-discrimination policies in employment

Migrants face difficulties getting promoted and accessing higher positions even after accumulating years of work experience and they are often exploited, e.g. when employers fail to respect labour rights, especially in the agricultural and care sectors.

It is important to provide support and specific guidelines to national employment agencies and stakeholders in the employment sector to develop anti-discrimination policies and promote participation at all levels. It is also crucial to recommend national policies that ensure greater and smoother access for third country nationals to all employment sectors by easing visa procedures.

*Related EESC opinions: **Summary report of sixth European Migration Forum** (available on the event [webpage](#)); SOC668 - Action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027*

6. EU funding for migrants' integration

The Commission should make access to funding on migrants' inclusion and integration easier, for instance by creating a dedicated integration instrument.

Related EESC opinion: SOC 668 - Action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027

7. Smooth asylum procedures regulation

The asylum procedures regulation (APR) to be conducted in other Member States and not exclusively in the country of first entry. "Mandatory solidarity" should not take the form of "mandatory relocation" under the APR provisions, and people should be enabled to apply for asylum in EU Member States without the need to cross EU borders.

Related EESC opinion: SOC 670 - Screening regulation, amended proposal revising the asylum procedures regulation and the amended proposal revising the Eurodac regulation

8. Open Schengen to Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia

Calls for full application of the Schengen acquis of the Member States Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia. Along with the Commission, it calls for swift and decisive action from the Council in this regard.

Related EESC opinion: [SOC 697](#) - Communication on a Strategy for the future of Schengen and Amendment of the Regulation establishing the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism

9. Include CSOs in the Schengen Forum

The Schengen Forum can provide political impetus to the safeguarding and development of the Schengen area, but it should not entail a return to Schengen's intergovernmental past, the functioning of which was prejudiced by intergovernmentalism and lack of transparency. Other EU institutions, as well as the Committee, should be kept informed at all times and be able to attend as participants.

Related EESC opinion: [SOC 697](#) - Communication on a Strategy for the future of Schengen and Amendment of the Regulation establishing the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism

10. Include all parts of civil society in developing migration policy

Every single part of European society must be involved in policymaking and in changing the narrative on migration, starting first and foremost with cities and local and regional authorities and primarily involving migrants and refugees themselves, without leaving civil society organisations to implement projects and ensure the integration and inclusion of migrants on their own.

*Related EESC opinion: **European Migration Forum** (available on the event [webpage](#))*

11. Integration of migrant women into the labour market

Call for establishment of better systems for assessing educational credentials and providing gender-specific support programmes that can facilitate migrant women's entry into the labour market.

Related EESC opinion: [SOC 641](#) - Integration of women, mothers and families with a migrant background in the EU Member States and target language levels for integration

12. Support to migrant female victims of violence

Call to all Member States to ensure migrant female victims of violence have equal access with native-born women to appropriate services, support and facilities. Immigrant victims of domestic violence should be able to confidentially apply for legal immigration status independently of the perpetrator.

Related EESC opinion: [SOC 641](#) - Integration of women, mothers and families with a migrant background in the EU Member States and target language levels for integration

13. Protection of unaccompanied minors

- Call to the European Commission to draw up a Directive on the protection of unaccompanied minors that serves the best interests of the child;
- Request to the Member States to ensure that undocumented migrant children are protected first and foremost as children, under national child protection systems.

Related EESC opinion: [SOC 634](#) - The protection of unaccompanied migrant minors in Europe

14. Ratify and comply with ILO Conventions related to sectors where migrants are often employed

Comply with ILO Conventions 29 and 105, as well as the domestic work (C189), labour inspection (C081 and C129), migrant workers (C097 and C143), and private employment agencies (C181) conventions.

Related EESC opinion: [REX 395](#) – Combating forced labour in the EU and the world