

CIVACT - EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND INTERCULTURALITY



CONTEXT

The **CivAct** project aims to disseminate solidarity, stimulate debate on EU policies and values and promote the participation of all citizens, refugees and migrants, in the creation of narratives that foster intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and the creation of fairer and more inclusive societies. For Europe, the integration of migrants and refugees, as well as the promotion of inclusive citizens, is a major challenge. Faced with the exacerbated xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination that threaten social cohesion, it is intended to respond to these challenges through a set of activities capable of promoting citizens' capacities and skills.

The analysis of new narratives in comparison with current narratives is important in order to deconstruct false understandings and work on the reality of facts and numbers. Next, we present three myths worked and deconstructed by the group of Volunteers of the CivAct project, with University students.

MIGRATION NARRATIVES

Europe cannot accept more migrants and refugees

- Values such as Solidarity and Humanity cannot be forgotten and must be practiced.
- The European identity is not threatened by the influence of other cultures that arrive with the migrations, because the European identity is composed by the diversity and constant exchange among several different peoples and cultures.
- In a Europe of 500 million inhabitants, the reception of refugees and migrants does not reach 1% of the European population

Most migrants move from the poorest countries to the richest countries

- Of the international migratory movements, the most significant part (more than 35%) takes place between developing countries.
- International migrants from developing "South" countries living in countries of the "developed" North are about 82 million, corresponding to one third of international migration and 1% of the world's population.
- Regardless of their provenance (rich or poor countries), people tend to move to neighbouring countries, and /or to countries with historical and cultural links.

Destination countries do not benefit from migrations

- About 2/3 of international migrants are part of the labour force, and 3 out of 4 work in the services sector (ILO, 2015).
- Migrants contribute to greater social and economic dynamism as they are a young workforce in an increasingly aging population.
- Greater job creation: Migrants create new jobs in areas such as trade, catering and new services, which also serve the needs of the community itself.

TO RETAIN:

- ✓ More Policy Coherence is needed
- ✓ Migration is not a problem, but a solution
- ✓ The political plan for migration must be put into practice
- ✓ Greater Education for Migration is needed

WHAT TO DO IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE?

- ✓ Inform yourself and inform those you know, helping to break down myths and subjective perceptions about migrants (migrants and immigrants), such as reading the book [Migrações e Desenvolvimento](#);
- ✓ Broaden your horizons and create links: go to cultural and other types of events promoted by immigrant communities in your area of residence, such as the [Festival TODOS](#);
- ✓ Help directly: contact and learn more about migrant associations and migrant support organizations, contribute and get involved in your actions, contact [Casa do Brasil](#) in Lisbon;
- ✓ Make political pressure: send a letter to Portuguese MEPs or the European Parliament on the European Union's role in the area of migration and the reception of refugees, see the [parlamento.pt](#) website.

This document was prepared based on the study "Migrations and Development", by Patrícia Magalhães Ferreira.

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