

Mid-term event PISTE

## International policy and scientific conference

### Migrating in small- and medium-sized towns: experiences, challenges, perspectives for participation

13-14 March 2023

**Day one – 13 March (14,00-20,00)**

Location: [Blue Refugee Center](#), Thessaloniki, Greece

#### 14,00-14,30 Welcome

- Roberto Pella (President of the Confederation of Towns and Municipalities of Europe and 1st Vice-president of the National Association of Italian Municipalities) (*online*)
- Dimitris Papastergiou (Mayor of Trikala and President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece)
- Gabriele Puccianti and Hortensia Velez-Paton (DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission) (*online*)
- Eduardo Barberis (coordinator of the PISTE project, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy)

#### 14,30-15,00 Keynote speech

- Ruth McAreavey (Newcastle University, UK) *Diversity, inclusion and participation: Mobilising the benefits of international migration to small and medium towns*

#### 15,00-16,00 Session 1:

##### ***Migrating in small- and medium-sized towns: socio-economic dynamics and experiences***

Chair: Stijn Oosterlynck (University of Antwerp, Belgium) - *Speakers will have 15 minutes to present.*

##### Presented papers

- Fabio De Blasis, Federico Rossi (University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy) *The incorporation and political participation of migrants in small- and medium-sized towns. Insight from the project PISTE*
- Anna Krasteva (Policy and Citizens' Observatory: Migration, Digitalisation, Climate, Bulgaria) *Migration is a Small Post-Communist Town from Crisis to Local Citizenship: the example of Harmanli at the triple border of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey*
- Loukia-Maria Fratsea (Harokopio University, Greece) *Delineating the socio-spatial trajectories of Bangladeshi migrants in small towns and rural localities in Greece*
- Dimitrios-Rafail Tservenis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), *Migrant incorporation in small towns and rural areas of Crete and Sardinia: a comparative analysis*

##### Contributed papers

- Alice Lomonaco (University of Bologna, Italy), Elena Giacomelli (University of Bologna, Italy), Chiara Davino (IUAV Venice, Italy), *Welcoming Spaces: Migration as a Source of Local Welfare? Some reflections on declining Italian regions*
- Michele Bianchi (University of Parma, Italy) *Migrants in the European Economy of Rural and Mountain Areas. A Cross-national Investigation of Their Economic Integration*

## 16,00: coffee break

### Poster session

#### Invited presentations:

- Eglé Dagilytė, Margaret Greenfields, David Smith, Gargi Ghosh, Anna Dadswell, Chantal Radley (Anglia Ruskin University, UK) *Agricultural towns in the UK after Brexit: Investigating older EU migrants' needs, challenges and opportunities*
- Mairéad Finn, Paula Mayock (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) *The housing experiences of immigrants in a 'new immigrant gateway': an exploration of process in an era of 'super-diversity'*
- Aikaterini Gkoutziouli (University of the Aegean, Greece) *Immigrant reception and identification centers. Case study Kara Tepe, Lesbos*
- Rosa S. Groen (The Hague University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands) *How small to medium-sized cities and businesses deal with EU Mobile Citizens while sharing success stories*
- Chiara Pagliuca (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy) *Informal and formal settlements of seasonal migrant workers: between perceptions and (re)actions in the agricultural context of Saluzzo*
- Pinelopi Vergou (University of Thessaly, Greece) *Social segregation, Education and the city: Some empirical findings on refugee's housing and school education in Greek cities*

## 16,15-17,15 Session 2:

### **Migrating in small- and medium-sized towns: policy challenges**

Chair: Athanasia Andriopoulou (University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy) - *Speakers will have 15 minutes to present.*

#### Presented papers

- Andrea Pettrachin (Collegio Carlo Alberto, Italy) *Understanding (the failure of) policy learning in integration policy in small European localities: a network-centred perspective*
- Babette Wyckaert, Hans Leinfelder, Pascal De Decker (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) *Why integration policies should include a greater spatial element: focus on newcomers' spatial capital in small- and medium sized towns*
- Fiona Costello (University of Cambridge, UK), Louise Humphries (GYROS, UK) *"The only place I feel welcome": the role of multilingual community-based support and advice in the context of welcome, community cohesion and integration support*
- Stijn Oosterlynck, Ona Schyvens (University of Antwerp, Belgium), Eduardo Barberis, Federico Rossi (University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy) *Small cities, large conflicts: far-right parties and the politics of integration policy-making in two small European cities*

#### Contributed papers

- Magda Bolzoni (Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy), Davide Donatiello (University of Turin, Italy), Leila Giannetto (European University Institute, Italy)

### 17,15-18,30 Session 3:

#### **Migrating in small- and medium-sized towns: future socio-economic perspectives and policy innovations**

Chair: Ubaldo Ragnoni (Municipality of Fermignano, Italy) - Speakers will have 15 minutes to present.

#### Presented papers

- Will Jones (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), *Digital participation platforms for refugees*
- Gaëlle Mortier, Stijn Oosterlynck, Peter Raeymaeckers (University of Antwerp, Belgium) *Buddy programmes for newly arrived migrants and the impact on social network expansion: Perspectives of coordinators and volunteer buddies*
- Margherita Asquasciati, Claudia Priano (Municipality of Fontanigorda, Italy) *Providing services in inner areas: challenges and solutions*
- Guido Belloni, Roberta Marzorati (Codici Ricerca e Intervento, Italy) *Improving Forced Migration Reception and Integration in Small and Medium-Sized Towns: reflections from practice in regional scale projects in Italy*
- Agnieszka C. Wierzbicka (Wrocław University of Technology / University of Zielona Góra, Poland) *Inclusiveness of temporary reception centres for Ukrainian refugees in small towns in Poland. Case Study of Karpacz and Zielona Góra*

#### Contributed papers

- Andrea Membretti (University of Turin, Italy), Fabio Lucchini (eCampus University, Italy), Monica Gilli, (University of Turin, Italy), Mia Scotti (CREA, Italy) *When home and work are not enough. The challenge of international migrants' agency in the Italian Alps (online)*

### 18.30-19.00 Closing session.

Chair and discussant: Alba Angelucci (University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy)

- Asya Pisarevskaya, Peter Scholten (Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands) *Cities of migration: towards a better understanding of the diversity of urban diversities in Europe*

### 20,00 Dinner

## Day two – 14 March (9,00-11,30)

Location: [Blue Refugee Center](#), Thessaloniki, Greece

### 9,00-10,15 Session 4:

#### **Promoting participation in small- and medium-sized towns: experiences, plans and innovations**

Chair: Alekos Anastasiou (HumanRights360, Greece) - Speakers will have 15 minutes to present.

#### Presented papers

- Christina Kindler (Municipality of Bebra, Germany) *Barriers for people with a migration background's participation in smaller municipalities: experiences from Bebra*
- Martina Todisco (Second Tree, Greece) *Community engagement for refugees' political participation in Ioannina*
- Luca Apollonio (Municipality of Sassinoro, Italy) (online)
- Iraklis Dimitriadis, Paola Bonizzoni (University of Milan, Italy) *Migrating in small- and medium-sized towns: experiences, challenges, perspectives for participation*
- Keina Espiñeira (University of A Coruña, Spain), Sara Miellet (Utrecht University, the Netherlands) *The role of citizen-migrants engagements in realising Welcoming Spaces. A comparative analysis in various European shrinking localities*

### 10,15-11,15 Final roundtable:

#### ***Integrating and participating in small towns: specificities and policy suggestions***

Chair: Katrin Grossmann (Fachhochschule Erfurt, Germany)

- Elizabeth Beloe (NeMO, Germany)
- Stijn Oosterlynck (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
- Apostolos Papadopoulos (Harokopio University, Greece)
- Irene Ponzo (FIERI, Italy)
- Christos Zefklis (Municipality of Voio, Greece) (TBC)
- Agnessa Solovieva (Municipality of Ninove, Belgium)

### 11,15-11,30 Wrap-up and closure

- Eduardo Barberis (University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy)

*A special thanks to the Blue Refugee Center of Thessaloniki and Solidarity Now for hosting PISTE Mid-Term Conference. More information about Solidarity Now can be found on their official [website](#).*

#### **Scientific Committee:**

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