

# A place-based approach to migrant integration

Main findings from the Exploratory Research Activity  
'International migrants in Functional Urban Areas'

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*9 December 2021*

# Exploratory Research Activity

## International migrants in FUAs

### An **interdisciplinary** research project

- JRC team: Carlotta Fioretti; Paola Proietti; Guido Tintori
- Database and maps: Mario Marin; Miguel Torres
- Experts for case studies:

Athens - Nikos Karadimitriou (University College London); Thomas Maloutas (Harokopio University); Liège - Jeremy Mandin (Liège University); Malmö - Erica Righard (Malmö University); Pieter Bevelander (Malmö University); Paris - Marco Cremaschi (Sciences Po); Venice - Paola Briata (Polytechnic of Milan)

# Policy context

- The **integration of migrants** is a **priority** for the European Commission
- Main support of the EC: financial instruments and funding schemes which explicitly target the migrant population – **people-based measures** (e.g. Asylum Migration and Integration Fund)
- Synergies with the **other EU funds** encouraged
- Which EU funds are used to support immigrant integration and how?

# Urban and territorial development in the EU Cohesion Policy

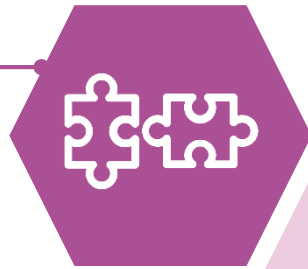
- The **European Regional Development Fund** promotes **Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)**, through **integrated strategies** to tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas
- **Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)** may be used to implement urban or territorial strategies that rely on investments from different funds.
- **Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)** paves the way for local stakeholders and civil society to get more involved in urban and rural development strategies.

# The integrated place based approach

Urban and territorial strategies promotes an integrated and place-based approach meaning:

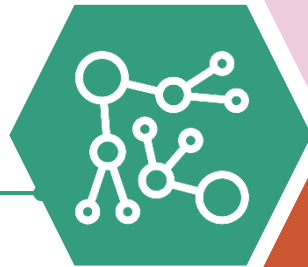
## Cross-sectoral

- Integration of different policy areas



## Territorial focus and integration across scales

- From the neighbourhood to the functional urban area



## Multi-level governance

- Involvement of the various level of government, including the local one



## Multi-stakeholder governance

- Involvement of various stakeholder, and citizens participation



# Research questions

**Place** has a **role to play** in the multidimensional **process of exclusion and in inclusion of migrants**.

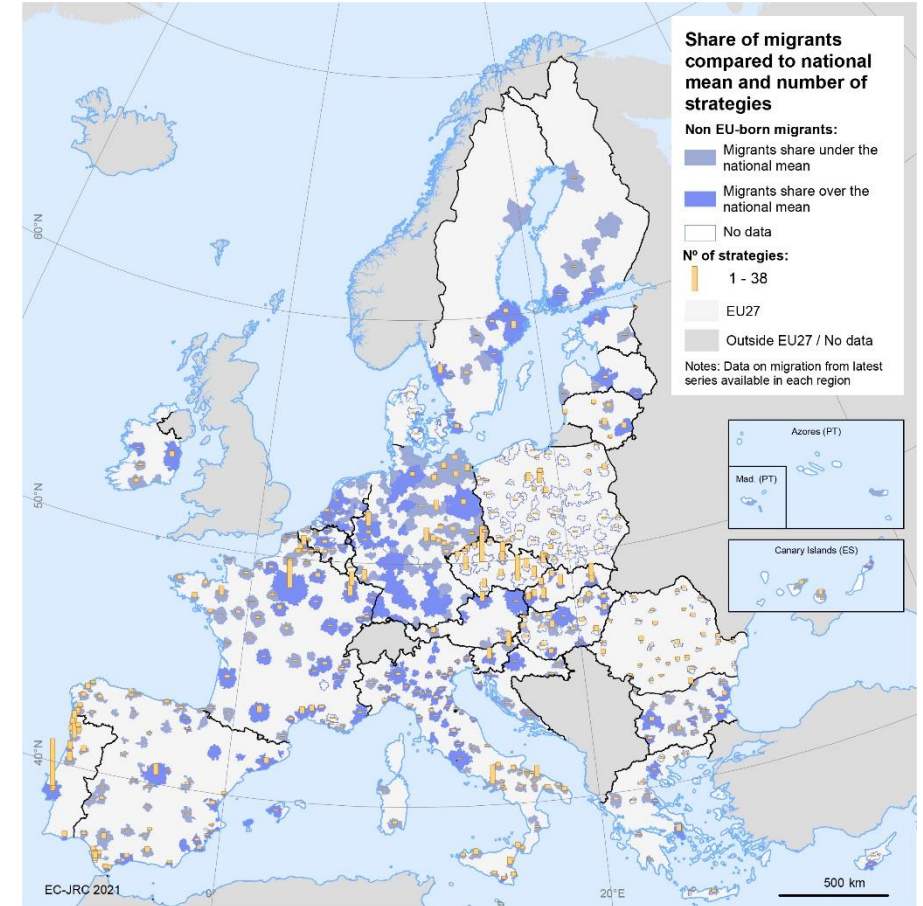
- Can **EU place-based policies** foster migrant integration?
- How did urban and territorial strategies were used during **2014-2020 programming period**? Did they contributed to migrant integration, and how?
- Are **functional urban areas** (as strategic planning spaces) suitable for developing place-based solutions to the challenge of migrant inclusion?

# Functional Urban Areas (FUAs)

- FUAs: Spatial configurations not characterised by administrative boundaries, but by **functional relations**.
- EC/OECD definition of FUA: **densely populated urban areas and adjacent municipalities with high level of commuting** towards the core.
- A spatial scale that allows to size those aspects of (migrants') daily lives that **transcend neighborhood/municipality boundaries**. Especially considering that migrants are living also in peripheral areas and towns outside urban cores.
- EU urban strategies **are encouraged to target functional urban areas**

# 1. Analysis of strategies and migrants in FUAs at EU level

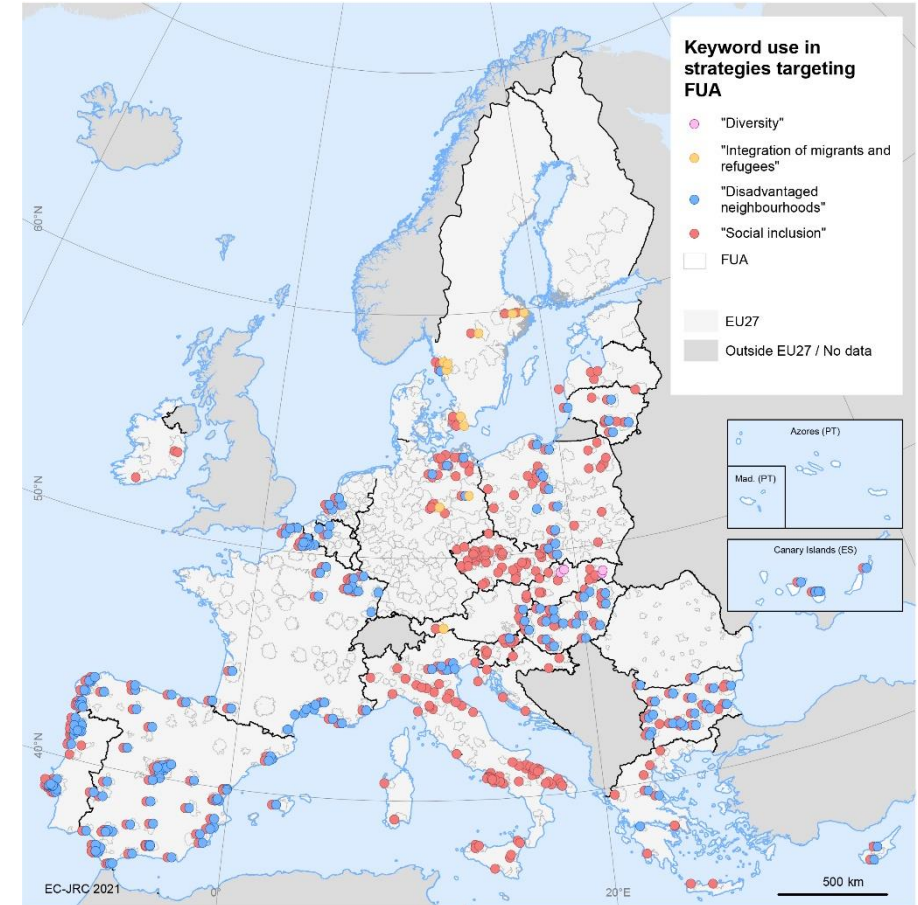
- Analysis **at the level of FUAs** with **EU-27 coverage** using:
  - **EUROSTAT** (socio-demographic data)
  - **STRAT-Board** (data on EU urban and territorial strategies during 2014-2020)
- **988** (out of 1900) urban and territorial strategies target areas contained in FUAs
- 30% target **cities**, 18% **neighbourhoods**, 16% **FUAs** (aggregation of municipalities) and 25% other **functional territories**





# Characteristics potentially associated with the objective of migrant integration

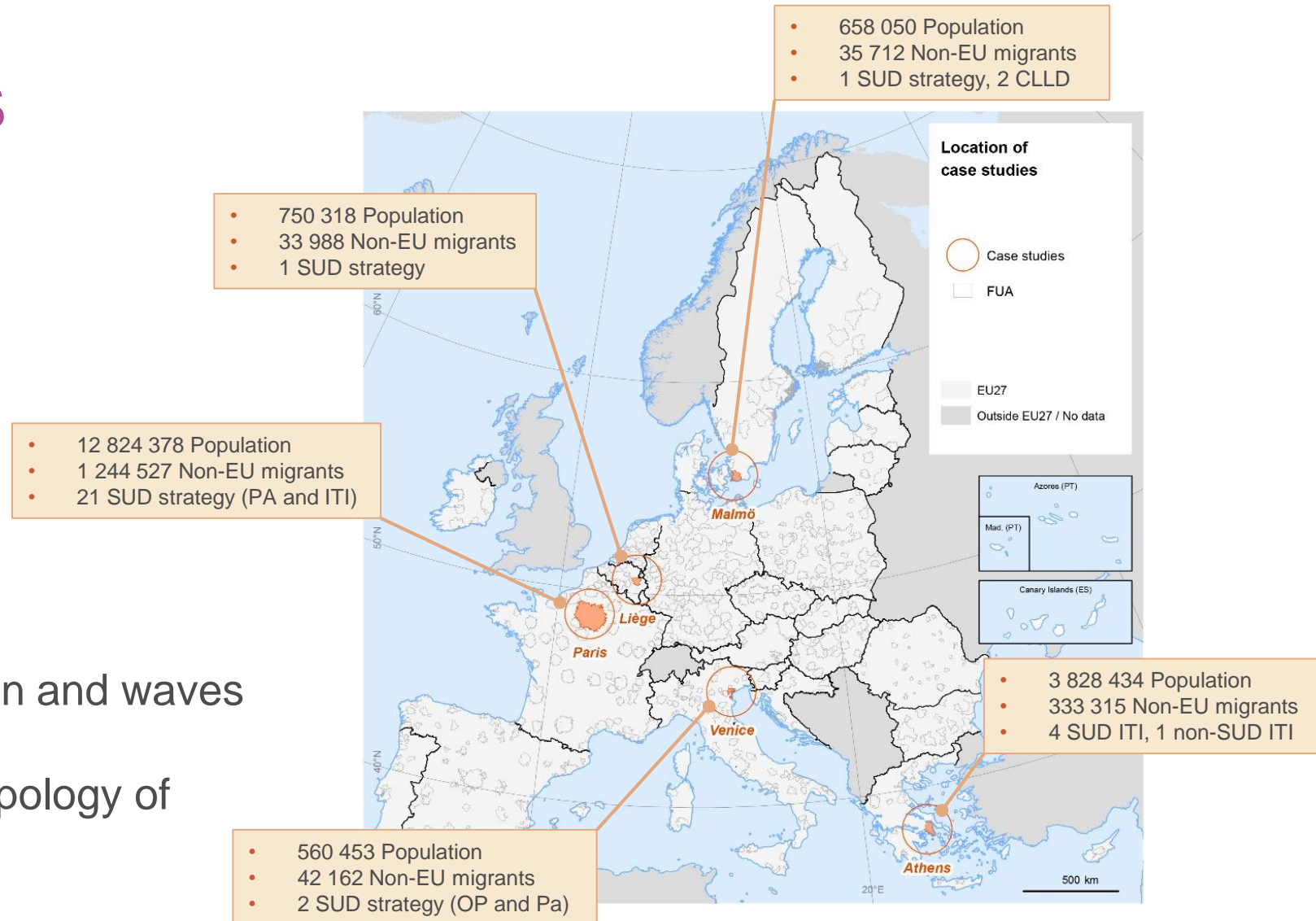
- Second most recurrent investment priority 9b **providing regeneration of deprived communities (33% of strategies)**
- **39%** of strategies mobilise the **European Social Fund** (especially ITI and CLLD)
- Among the **keywords**: **social inclusion** (619), **disadvantaged neighbourhoods** (237), **integration of migrants and refugees** (25).
- The keyword **disadvantaged neighbourhoods** is associated with strategies targeting **neighbourhoods (45%)**, **cities (34%)** and **FUAs (13%)**.



## 2. Case studies

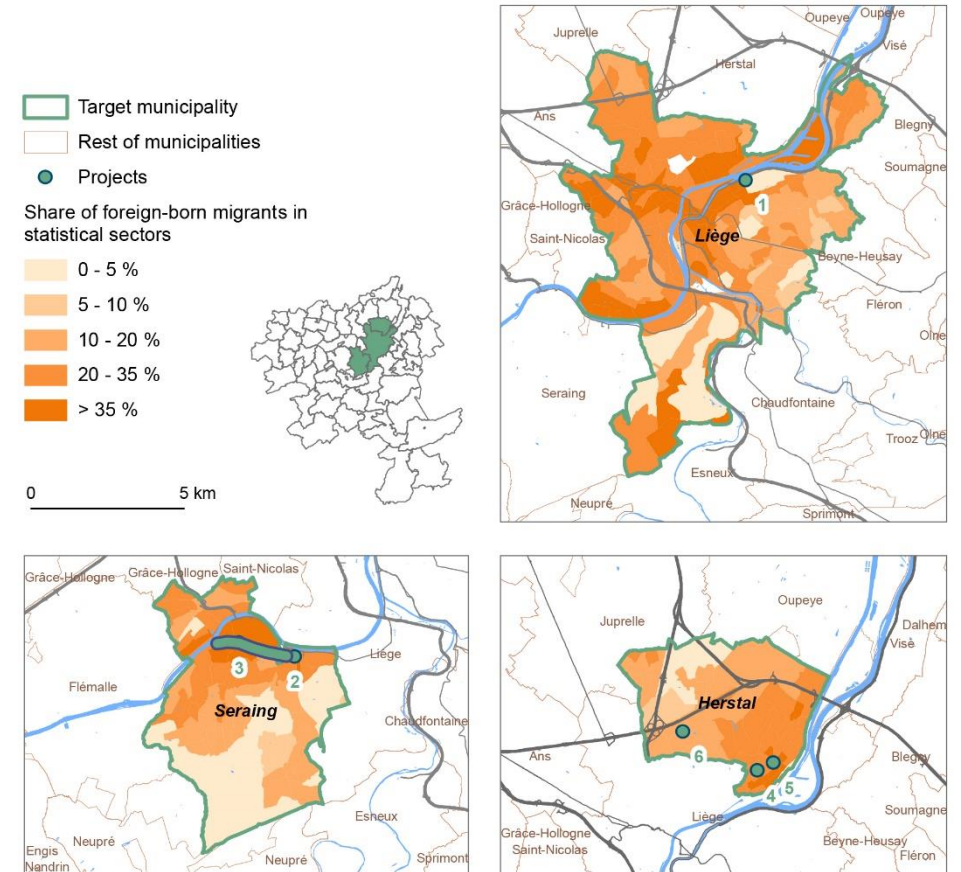
- **Athens, Greece**
- **Liège, Belgium**
- **Malmö, Sweden**
- **Paris, France**
- **Venice, Italy**

- Different local contexts
- Diversity in the composition and waves of migrants
- Different in number and typology of strategies



# Territorial analysis + policy analysis

- What is the relationship between the **areas targeted by the strategy** and the **areas with a higher presence of migrants**?
- Do the strategy and its projects **explicitly or implicitly address migrant integration**, ethnic diversity, or intercultural policy?
- Do the strategy and its projects address **relevant issues in respect to migrant integration** in that context?
- Are there **migrant-related actors among the stakeholders involved** in the policy process or during the preparation and implementation of the strategy?



# The 5 cases: main findings

## Spatial target on migrants



In the majority of cases strategies and projects **target areas associated with indicators of socio-economic and spatial disadvantage and where high percentage of migrants live.** Also when they focus on FUAs

## Thematic focus on migrant integration



Several cases revealed a **potential indirect benefit for migrants** (improvements that matched with migrants needs in the FUA)

A few strategies did have **an explicit focus** on migrant integration.

## Involvement of migrants



**Migrants** themselves and migrant-based associations **were rarely explicitly involved** in the design, implementation and monitoring of the strategies and projects.

# Conclusions and recommendations

- **Working at the scale of the FUA has an added value.**

To better analyze patterns of socio-spatial disadvantage (e.g. detection of micro-pockets of disadvantage); to work on topics that transcend administrative boundaries (e.g. transport); to adopt an outward looking approach to neighborhood regeneration.

- **Cross-sectoral integration is the key.**

Strategies and project are more effective when they are able to integrate different policy actions, and funding streams (e.g. ERDF with ESF).

- **There are still barriers to the inclusion of migrants in the governance system.**

To this scope methodological support and capacity building measures for managing and local authorities should be provided.

- **A combination of the place-based approach with a people-based approach is recommended.**

Urban strategies risk to be less effective in intercepting the most vulnerable (e.g. transit migrants, homeless), a combination of the two approaches has to be considered to the direction of leaving no place and no one behind.



# For more information

The online version of this publication is available at:  
<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thematic-analyses/en>



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# Thank you



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