



## Refugee Welfare

L.S.,

Today is World Refugee Day, a time to reflect on the past year. It seems that in Europe the year was marked by an escalating tendency of people to dissociate themselves from refugees. Instead of being compassionate and welcoming, Europe closed borders and people were even forcibly sent back to unstable regions. It is, perhaps more than ever, challenged to defend human equality and to restore its care for the importance of every single life.

Although there is an obvious necessity to regulate borders and control the flow of “incomers”, Europe must also be aware of its moral duty to offer asylum to those in need. Equally, there is a limit on the number of “prosperity driven” economic migrants Europe can accommodate. The key is to offer safe passage to everyone who is legally entitled to come and to avert entrance of all others. If realized, there would be less incentive for people to put their lives at risk and human smuggling would diminish.

Based on solidarity, protection has traditionally been granted to anyone fleeing persecution. It entitles to refugee status and to reception of welfare. In order to efficiently use public funds, either integration or future return is set as a target. To optimize reaching such goals, Refival proposes a rural [incubator approach](#).

In contrast to refugees, (for as long as Universal Basic Income is not introduced worldwide) economic migrants cannot rely on limitedly available social benefits. They will need to be able to support themselves and their options to relocate will hence primarily depend on job availability.

With the Balkan route [closed](#) and the Libyan route [open](#) a problem arises. A majority of migrants arriving to Italy is neither entitled to refugee protection nor can be easily employed, while those who deserve asylum are facing a closed Turkish-Greek border and are no longer able to apply. Furthermore, facing substantial gaps in economic development inside of the European Union and between the EU and its neighbors, the question emerges what could be offered to people who want to improve their living standards by resettling to more prosperous areas and reasons to allow this.

A few examples to put European migration into perspective: Each year, solely in case of Germany, freedom of movement within the borders of the European Union means an additional absorption of [300-400,000 people](#) relocating from other EU countries. – In 2015, [2.5 million non-EU citizens](#) applied for an EU residence permit without necessarily moving to the most prosperous countries. – As part of this, Poland granted residence permits to [500,000 Ukrainians](#) to replace its own workforce, who left for the UK.

Looking at the European demographics and taking into account the scale of the internal migration, Europe will nonetheless likely need to continue to externally compensate for its ageing population. Perhaps, this is where economically motivated migrants from outside of the EU may be of great use to the Union. At the same time, to achieve this, their reception cannot be random, but will need to be matched with the demand for increasingly specialized labor at the European job market.

Investment in training the potential workforce outside of the European Union can simultaneously improve local economical perspectives as well as generate a base of sufficiently qualified people available for the European labor market. In this way, economically motivated, irregular migration can be more efficiently controlled.

Managing migration is not just a government task. Due to increasing and more dynamic job requirements, the private sector would benefit from switching from cherry picking employees to pro-actively [developing](#) its workforce. Businesses will need to invest in people via “on demand” skills development. Refival expects companies to accept greater Corporate Social Responsibility via strategically outsourcing tasks to deprived areas or disadvantaged people and via offering digital apprenticeship to future employees from abroad. Using this logic, Refival proposes to [improve the balance](#) between urban and rural Europe. It wants to revitalize deprived areas via “[inclusion sourcing](#)” and offer an equal upward mobility path to all disadvantaged people.

Your support is much needed. In order to succeed with my refugee integration initiative, I currently seek for a larger organization interested in hosting Refival. If you are a potential private or public sector partner who is willing to cooperate, please contact [me](#).

Kind Regards,

Johannes Cornelis (Hans) van Nieuwkerk  
(Concept Developer & Initiator)

[www.refival.org](http://www.refival.org)

[www.docs.refival.org](http://www.docs.refival.org)

[Further Documentation](#)