

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the present study is to present and evaluate policies and social practices regarding the social inclusion and integration of migrant populations in Greece over the last decade. In particular, the study investigates, through an extensive desk research and a qualitative analysis, the impact of policies and social practices on the social inclusion of migrant populations in Greece, as well as the challenges that still remain to be addressed. The conclusions of this work would identify both successes and areas for improvement -potential obstacles and remaining actions to be implemented- in order to foster a successful integration of migrants in the future. Our work will hopefully contribute to a better-informed public debate and to a better-targeted migrant integration policy making in Greece.

The book, which is the outcome of the research study commissioned by the Joint Research Centre, is structured in 5 main sections. The first section sets out the aim of the study and presents its contents. Section 2 provides the contextual framework of the study, namely conceptual definitions, profile of the migrant population in Greece and the institutional framework regarding the status and the integration of recent migrants. The extensive section 3 gives a detailed account of the scientific evidence produced by EKKE's rich body of projects on migrant-related issues over the last decade, covering a broad range of topics. Section 4 presents the findings of the qualitative research carried out in the island of Lesbos and in Athens, comprising 15 in-depth interviews and a focus group discussion with representatives of various stakeholders involved in the reception and integration of migrants and refugees. Finally, section 5 sums up the main conclusions drawn for the primary and the secondary research and puts forward a set of recommendations and policy proposals.

The authors of the present report are: Amalia Frangiskou (section 4.2.), Georges Kandylis (sections 2.1., part of section 3 and section 4.2.), Alikí Mouriki (sections 2.2, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 5), Nikos Sarris (section 2.3 and 4.2.), Theoni Stathopoulou (section 4.1.), Maria Thanopoulou (section 4.2.), Joanna Tsiganou (sections 3 and 5) and Christina Varouxi (sections 3 and 5). Additionally, the following research assistants actively participated in the desk research (section 3): Grigoris Gkougkousis, Dimitris Turlidas, Eleftheria Koutsoumba and Yannis Zafras. The study was coordinated by Alikí Mouriki, who also edited the present publication.