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## FOREWORD

Migration is a normal social phenomenon; people are leaving their home countries for many reasons, economic wealth-being, life-threatening conditions, social change, or political persecutions. The refugee crisis in Europe makes us rethink how new incoming cohorts of people can be supported not only for humanitarian reasons but also to ensure them a long-term integration and become economic and social contributors to the receiving countries.

From an economic point of view, migration is beneficial due to the incoming labor force brought into the receiving countries, filling the gaps existing in some industries across Europe. Migration inside EU, from a member state to another is normal, free movement of workers is encouraged and supported by specific measures. Migration flows coming from outside EU, have created new challenges for member states: how many immigrants can be received in each country? A great debate arose around the calculation of a quota of incoming migrants to be acceptable. In 2018, 634,700 people applied for international protection and lodged in the EU, a 10% decrease compared with 2017, the main countries of origin were Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Iran. The first five receiving countries are Germany (222,560 refugees), Italy (128,850 refugees), France (99,360 refugees), Greece (58,650 refugees), United Kingdom (33,780 refugees)<sup>1</sup>.

From a social perspective, the migration creates housing issues, cultural and ethnic diversity rises communication problems, and not all receiving countries have been prepared to face all these challenges. The recent trends of migration reveal that migration becomes much more diverse in terms of the origins of migrants, both globally and in EU the migration is intra-continental, the overall number of refugees is on the rise worldwide. Also, thousands of migrants return annually to their country of origin voluntarily or enforced. Talented and highly skilled migrants become attractive to many countries; the competition for talents increased<sup>2</sup>. Social security systems of receiving countries seem to be under pressure, and new solutions must be identified. Healthcare is important not only for residents but especially for new incoming people, some being vulnerable and fragile, budgetary allocation must increase.

Statistical data on migration are collected and disseminated in Europe at national and, sometimes, sub-national level. Steps to monitor and control this phenomenon were done, institutional and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/welcomingeurope/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/welcomingeurope/default_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> UNDESA *International Migration Report 2017*; UNHCR *Global Report 2017*; Standard Eurobarometer 90 Autumn 2018; Pew FactTank *Many worldwide oppose more migration*; IOM *Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration 2017*.



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legal frameworks have been developed by the European Union (EU) to ensure that migration data are of high quality, harmonized across countries, and easily accessible. A continuous process of political dialogue is in place to ensure that the frameworks keep pace with increased demands for information and knowledge.

Some of the above challenges have been in the core of our authors' concerns and, to some extent, bring new perspectives and even prospective solutions. Current issues reunite authors from various countries such as Romania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq. The authors' status is also diverse, from senior researchers to early-stage researchers and Ph.D. students studying in Romanian universities. Interesting topics have been developed in well-balanced articles which will ensure a different perspective to our consequent readers.

The JEDEP journal is committed to hosting promising PhD students and their innovative work, therefore, a new section was established – *Promising PHD researchers* . Enjoy your reading!

Editor-in-chief,

Prof. Manuela Epure, PhD