

The Economic Implications of the EU Labour Migration Framework for Low and Medium-Skilled Migrants in the Central Mediterranean Region

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The Central-Mediterranean region is a pivotal nexus for both regular and irregular economic migration. Existing research on labour migration reflects narrow economic perspective rooted in neoclassical frameworks, neglecting the complex interplay of sociological, demographic, and political factors that shape international migration. Furthermore, most empirical datasets disproportionately focus on legal migration inflows to OECD countries, excluding the critical role of unauthorised labour migration and limit research to countries which are members of the organisation.

This research seeks to investigate the economic implications of low- and medium-skilled migration in the Central-Mediterranean region through the lens of the European Union's labour migration framework. The research explores three interconnected questions: (1) How does the EU labour migration framework affect the entry and employment prospects of low- and medium-skilled economic migrants? (2) Is there a link between legal avenues between the legal avenues for low and medium skilled migrants and irregular migration in the Central-Mediterranean region? (3) What are the labour market implications of low and medium-skilled economic migration on receiving states?

Using a mixed-methodology approach that integrates economic analysis with sociopolitical and demographic perspectives, this research seeks to examine the effectiveness of existing EU migration policies in fostering inclusive and sustainable labour markets for low and medium-skilled migrant workers. It also evaluates how legal and irregular migration channels interact, shaping regional migration dynamics. This research aspires to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the economic and policy implications of migration, informing future labour migration frameworks that balance economic efficiency with human dignity.