



## **VOICES: Migration Stories for Inclusive Policies**

**(VOICES - 101196241)**

### **D9: Third Policy Recommendation for the LAPAR**

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#### **Background Context:**

*As part of the third international event of the EU co-funded project “VOICES”, held in Thessaloniki, Greece in September 2025, university students from across Europe were tasked with developing policy proposals to support the integration of migrants at the local level, with a particular focus in Rosarno, Italy in order to serve as reference for other rural municipalities in the Europe facing with migration issues and where migrant voices are often silenced. This final recommendation reflects a participatory, interdisciplinary approach and will be included in the Local Action Plan Against Racism of Rosarno. The Plan will be adopted by the Municipality of Rosarno, along with other institutional actors from the Calabria Region. The following document presents the insights and recommendations gathered from the interviews conducted in Thessaloniki, Greece.*

#### **Policy Recommendations:**

##### **A. Adoption of Community and Cultural Heritage Preservation Centers**

**Identified Problem:** Migrants face a serious risk of losing their cultural roots and heritage language, especially when isolated from others from their home countries. This cultural disconnect is compounded during their initial settlement period by the absence of immediate support networks with shared language and culture and increases feelings of isolation.



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**Proposed Action:**

- Establish centers offering multilingual services and regular cultural events that engage migrants in their native languages and traditions, helping to maintain a strong cultural identity.

**B. Strengthening Support Systems for Single-Parent Migrant Families**

**Identified Problem:** Migrants, particularly single-parent households, face an increased risk of poverty, social exclusion and limited access to essential services. In many cases, they rely solely on charitable organisations and NGOs for survival. While NGOs provide emergency assistance, the absence of consistent public support creates a long-term vulnerability. This situation highlights a systemic gap in public welfare provision for migrant families, which can lead to intergenerational cycles of poverty and hinder children's integration into society. To address these challenges, this policy seeks to establish comprehensive, public-led social safety nets specifically designed to protect single-parent migrant families, while also fostering collaboration between state institutions and civil society.

**Proposed Actions:**

- The establishment of a family support scheme targeted at single parent migrant families that provides direct access to financial assistance including housing support and childcare subsidies.
- The inclusion of emergency housing options that offer temporary safe accommodation for families at risk of homelessness following divorce, separation or the sudden loss of income is important.

**C. Establishment of a Women's Work & Integration Hub**

**Identified problem:** This section addresses the gender dimension of migrant integration. Women experience migration differently from men, often carrying the double responsibility of providing care within the family while also seeking employment and social participation. Structural barriers such as legal dependency on spouses, lack of diploma recognition, and limited childcare disproportionately affect women, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion, and invisibility. Highlighting gender in integration policy is essential because:





1. **Women's autonomy** is a prerequisite for equality. If residence status or employment is connected to their spouse, women become dependent.
2. **Women's skills are underused.** Many migrant women are highly educated, yet "deskilled" by bureaucratic recognition barriers.
3. **Women act as multipliers of integration.** Supporting women leads to stronger outcomes in children's education, health, and community participation. Addressing these barriers is therefore not only a matter of gender equality but also of economic efficiency and social stability.

#### **Proposed Action:**

- **Creation of a Municipal Women's Work & Integration Hub**

The Hub would be run by a small municipal team and implemented through partnerships with NGOs, universities, and/or volunteers. It would provide practical solutions for women in four main areas: qualification recognition, bridging jobs, legal & psychosocial support, and childcare access. The Hub could offer advice on residence permits, divorce, custody, and rights through volunteer lawyers. Volunteer psychologists or a partner NGO working in the field could provide psychological support, trauma counselling, and social work. Workshops on entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities (e.g., starting a childcare service, small catering, or handicrafts) could empower women to become more autonomous and independent.

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