



## Effective communication and intercultural messaging in times of crisis

9 – 10 May 2016

### Suggested Reading

#### ➤ REFUGEES AND THE ECONOMY

##### 1. The Refugee Surge in Europe: Economic Challenges, IMF, January 2016

This study found that in the short term, the refugee surge is likely to result in a modest increase in GDP growth in the main destination countries (Austria, Germany, and Sweden). The impact of the refugees on medium and long-term growth depends on how they will be integrated in the labour market. In order to open up the refugees' path to the labour market, policies should aim at: minimising restrictions on taking up work during the asylum application phase, facilitating wage subsidies to private employers, granting temporary exceptions to minimum or entry level wages, encouraging self-employment, including through access to credit, and facilitating skill recognition.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2016/sdn1602.pdf>

##### 2. Impact of refugees on the economy, Migration Policy Debates, November 2015

Published in November last year, the Migration Policy Debates issued by the OECD assesses the possible economic impact of the refugee crisis in Europe, stressing that while there will obviously be short-term costs arising from such large flows, there will also be sizeable economic and public-finance benefits, provided that refugees are integrated into the labour market.

The study is based on data from first three quarters of 2015, and on projections related to the number of refugees expected by the end of last year. It analyses the possible economic impact both on public finances and the labour market.

<http://www.oecd.org/migration/How-will-the-refugee-surge-affect-the-European-economy.pdf>

##### 3. For an Open Europe – by Thomas Piketty, September 2015

This article explains why Europe should look at the so-called “migratory-crisis” as an opportunity rather than a problem. It emphasises on the possible benefits of migration, including to revert the negative demographic trends related to the population growth, as well as to react to the economic crisis. The article presents Germany's attitude as a model to follow.

<http://fusion.net/story/195478/for-an-open-europe/>

#### **4. Findings of a study from the Oxford economics on the impact of the Refugee crisis on Germany, The Independent, September 2015**

A study from Oxford Economics, a UK-based forecasting and analysis firm, estimated the impact that 1 million new asylum-seekers will have on Germany. The researchers found that if Germany accepted an extra 1 million refugees over the next three years, it “could raise GDP by 0.6% by end-2020 and reduce inflationary pressures.”

That boost to Germany’s GDP, according to the Oxford Economics research, would come thanks to a “rise in the labour supply” which would also “ease growing supply bottlenecks in the labour market and ease wage pressures.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/germanys-economy-will-grow-faster-because-of-the-million-refugees-it-is-helping-study-finds-10505647.html>

#### **5. Refugee innovation, University of Oxford, July 2015**

This study by the Oxford refugee studies centre examines refugee innovation in five countries: Uganda, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, and the United States. These illustrative cases present a range of contexts: advanced industrialised, middle income, and developing economies. They also cover a range of phases of the refugee cycle: mass influx, protracted situations, and resettled populations. Bottom-up innovation is presented as the way in which crisis-affected communities can engage in creative problem-solving, adapting products and processes to address challenges and create opportunities.

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/publications/other/refugee-innovation-web-5-3mb.pdf>

#### **6. The fiscal impact of immigration in the UK, Migration Observatory (University of Oxford), March 2015**

This briefing paper produced by the Migration Observatory of the University of Oxford provides an overview of the existing estimates on the impact of immigration on government finances for the UK and other countries, and explores the conceptual and methodological issues related to estimating the fiscal impact of immigration.

Analysing how the long-term fiscal sustainability of the UK might change over a 50-year period, the Office for Budget Responsibility suggests that higher net migration reduces pressure on government debt over time. This result is based on the fact that incoming migrants are assumed to be more likely to be of working age than the population in general.

Cross-country evidence for the years 2007-2009 suggests that the fiscal impact of migration in the UK (+0.46% of GDP) was more positive than the fiscal impact of migration in 16 other OECD countries.

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/fiscal-impact-immigration-uk>

## **7. Refugee economies: rethinking popular assumptions, University of Oxford, June 2014**

This study by the Oxford refugee studies centre examines the economic lives of refugees from the standpoint of the people themselves rather than their economic impact on the host state. The study is based on extensive qualitative and quantitative research in Uganda, conducted using participatory methods. It challenges five popular myths about refugees' economic lives.

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/publications/other/refugee-economies-2014.pdf>

A factsheet explaining in details the concept of “refugee economies” and making recommendations for the promotion of an enabling environment for refugees' economic activities is downloadable here:

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/research-in-brief-refugee-economies/@@download/file>

## **8. Positive economic impact of UK immigration from the European Union: new evidence, University College London, November 2014**

Released in November 2014, this article informs about a research of the University College London, that found both European and non-European immigrants to the UK more than pay their way. Non-Europeans living in the UK since 1995 brought £35 billion worth of education with them. Those who arrived between 2000 and 2011 were less likely than native Brits to be on state benefits, and no more likely to live in social housing. Unlike natives, they contributed a net £5 billion in taxes during that period.

See more at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/1114/051114-economic-impact-EU-immigration#sthash.G73wnBaZ.dpuf>

See also a video interview about this research, with Professor Christian Dustmann and Dr Tommaso Frattini <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/1114/051114-economic-impact-EU-immigration/#video>

## **9. How Refugees stimulate the economy, La Trobe University (Australia), June 2013**

This article collects the views of citizen of Sierra Leone who got asylum in Australia and analyses the contribution of the refugees to Australian economy. According to the Refugee Council of Australia, 65% of current enterprises are comprised of refugees from non-English speaking backgrounds. A good illustration of the entrepreneurial characteristic that refugee arrivals bring is shown in the 2000 Business Review Weekly's annual “Rich 200” list. It revealed that five of Australia's eight billionaires were people whose parents migrated to this country as refugees. However, the general perception is still that migrants and refugees are a burden for the host societies, with the exception of rural Australia where the contribution of young refugees to the farming sector has been felt as a positive outcome of the migration phenomenon.

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2013/opinion/how-refugees-stimulate-the-economy>

## 10. Reporting Asylum and Refugee issues

For further reading we suggest this useful collection of resources on facts, figures and legal issues related to asylum-seeking, as well as a list of technical terminology defining the difference between asylum-seeker, refugee and illegal immigrant. It is developed by the UNHCR and the National Union of Journalists.

<https://www.nuj.org.uk/documents/reporting-asylum-and-refugee-issues/>

### ➤ REFUGEES SUCCESS STORIES

#### 1. Office of Refugee Resettlement: Successful stories of individuals who resettled in the USA

The Office of Refugee Resettlement launched a website to present stories of individuals who have resettled in the United States. This collection includes “Refugee Voices” series from the 2011 ORR National Consultation, part of ORR’s commitment to raising the voices of refugees to the forefront of every discussion, and featuring those voices at every turn.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/success-story>

#### 2. Successful initiatives from Germany

*Wir Machen das* is an independent German network originated from 100 women from the worlds of art, academia and public life. The group is allying numerous initiatives, individuals and institutions around the goal of facing up to the challenge of worldwide migration with humanity and expertise. The website below collects stories and examples of successful initiatives to promote a better and faster integration of migrants/refugees.

<http://wirmachendas.jetzt/en/category/initiatives/>

#### 3. How refugees are using Google Maps, social media to cross borders, Global News (Canada), September 2015

This article relates the more and more widespread use of new tech tools by migrants as a way to stay in communication and map their road to a better life.

The so-called “digital refugees” use a variety of free messaging tools – including Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp and Viber – to share directions and information about road blocks. Facebook is often used as a place to share information about “safe” people smugglers and accommodation, as well as tips on how to avoid the police, according to the Irish Times.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2219299/how-refugees-are-using-google-maps-social-media-to-help-cross-borders/>

Another inspiring example in this field is the MASELTOV project on empowering Immigrants with mobile assistance.

See more at: <http://www.maseltov.eu/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4W3wDt52K0>

#### **4. Applying Tools Learned at Yale SOM to Positively Impact the Syrian Refugee Crisis**

“As a young professional with a heavy finance background and coming from a developing country known for its failed socialist cronyism economy, I was, and still am, a big proponent of free markets and capitalism. However, my time at Yale taught me valuable lessons in the 21st-century business world. Perhaps most significantly, I learned the importance of capturing the essence of the human element, with equal interest given to the economic value in whatever venture or engagement in which I get involved.” This is the story of a Syrian Refugee educated in Yale who managed to convince Obama’s administration to increase the cap of refugees for 2016-2017.

<http://som.yale.edu/blog/applying-tools-learned-yale-som-positively-impact-syrian-refugee-crisis>

#### **5. Syrian Refugee women challenging stereotypes**

Hosted on the Help Syria webpage, this is a collection of short portraits of Syrian women presenting themselves through their talents rather than their refugee status.

<http://www.helpforsyria.org.uk/syrian-refugee-women-challenging-stereotypes/>

#### **6. - Refugees in Germany launch paper for fellow newcomers**

This article relates about the initiative of a group of refugees in Germany who founded an Arabic newspaper with helpful information and stories of hope for helping fellow newcomers.

Called “Abwab”, the newspaper is made and run by refugees who work virtually, via Skype and Dropbox, sharing files and discussing editorial angles. Its volunteer contributors are both Syrians and Iraqis, while its layout designer is based in Turkey.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/01/refugees-germany-launch-paper-fellow-newcomers-160108091719134.html>

#### **7. DUNE VOICES**

This is a platform that collects stories about people and their communities: <http://www.dune-voices.info/public/index.php/en/>

#### **8. I AM YOU**

I AM YOU is a non-profit organization that coordinates volunteer relief operations at Europe's borders, focusing on the Greek islands. They protect human rights and provide carefully selected volunteer teams with special skills, including translators, medical personnel and experienced relief workers. They also arrange study visits for global opinion shapers. These include entrepreneurs, artists, journalists and politicians that work hand-in-hand with our volunteers.

<http://www.iamyouse.se/journal/>