
Drei der unzähligen Facetten des Themas Migration in Europa wurden in Referaten behandelt und werden auf den nächsten Seiten kurz vorgestellt: Transnationalisation, Citizenship and Human rights sowie Participation and Inclusion.

Darüber hinaus wurde den Teilnehmenden mit verschiedenen Workshops Einblick gegeben in die komplexen Ursachen- und Wirkungszusammenhänge von Migrationsprozessen in Europa und den damit verbundenen Herausforderungen für die Soziale Arbeit.

Nebst diesen fachlichen Diskussionen kam in den zwei Tagen der persönliche Austausch zwischen den Studierenden der verschiedenen Hochschulen nicht zu kurz. Die eigenen Migrationserfahrungen und Mobilitätsmöglichkeiten wurden in Form eines World Cafés diskutiert.

Es bleibt zu hoffen, dass der grenzüberschreitende fachliche und persönliche Austausch von Studierenden und Dozierenden auch nach diesen zwei intensiven Tagen fortgesetzt wird.

Mit welchen Herausforderungen ist die Soziale Arbeit konfrontiert, wenn es um Migrationsprozesse in Europa geht? Studierende und Dozierende verschiedener Hochschulen aus der Schweiz, Deutschland, Spanien und Italien haben sich in Bern zum Austausch getroffen.
Human rights are inherent entitlements that come to every person, whereas civil rights can be enjoyed only by citizens of a respective state. Various constitutions and numerous documents on human rights distinguish between these two concepts, thus leading to further dilemmas. To give an example, the right to participate in policy formulation and decision making is a human right; nevertheless, non-citizens often cannot exercise it. Here we see that in the view of the present-day realities of global mobility and international migration, the traditional concepts of citizenship have become out-of-date.

International migration and growing mobility thereby undermine the idea of citizenship, according to which every state is sovereign to grant its citizens political membership. The changing relations between individual countries, as well as between citizens and state, require that both policymakers and science re-think the concept of citizenship.

During the last years, the ageing process in Europe increased the demand for new workforce in the social, health and domestic sectors. This has been a massive pull factor of migratory in-flows from abroad, and this tendency is foreseen to continue lasting over the coming years.

The possibility to attract workforce from abroad has been a big opportunity for Western societies, making it possible to satisfy emerging social needs. At the same time, new unbalances have arisen, both in the countries of arrival and origin.

Among the main risks in the arrival countries, one should mention:
- the increasing stagnancy of social policies, as care work can increasingly be delegated from the Public Sector to families
- the low level of skills associated to the care sector, due to the scarce public investment in training and tutoring
- as the social and health sectors are concerned, a widening gap in the labour market, due to the scarce skills recognition of many foreign workers

Analogue unbalances are recorded in the countries of origin. As recently stressed by the European Commission, migration may discourage economic and social reforms, as remittances may act as a disincentive to making claims from the state. At the same time, new social needs are emerging, mainly due to the feminization of migratory flows (that is associated to the demand of care labour and health professionals in the western societies): one can mention the phenomena of minors left behind, orphan pensioners, old migrants returning home with few social networks.

Can countries of the North and the South only be competitors fighting for getting the new «gold» represented by the (scarce) workforce in the labour sector or can they collaborate for reducing transnational unbalances and achieve a transitional welfare? And how can social workers in Western countries contribute to concretely setting up win-win solutions? In Italy, best practices from NGOs and Social Cooperatives may provide some suggestions.
Participation and inclusion are recent terms in the field of migration studies. They have been used before in other areas like disability, youth or ageing studies. These terms refer to populations that are suffering from some forms of marginalization and that are not enjoying full citizenship in society. In the area of migration, they can contribute to enlarge the debate about migrants place in the societies where they live. They introduce broader perspectives with respect to the classical and very normative term of integration.

Most scholars distinguish three dimensions to citizenship: belonging, rights and participation. These three dimensions are closely related. Following this perspective, we can define inclusion as a situation where individuals are considered by others and consider themselves as being at the same time part of a community and unique. In other words, inclusion means simultaneously belonging and singularity. Participation is the possibility for individuals to influence, through their opinions and actions, the decisions about the common future of a community. Participation is closely related to inclusion. Inclusion is a condition for participation and participation can reinforce inclusion.

One of the main obstacles to the inclusion and participation of immigrants is that they are not considered full members of a community. Thus, their opinions and actions are not really taken into consideration by dominant groups in a community. In most European countries, new integration policies reflect the official perception of immigrants as «outsiders» that need to prove that they deserve their right to inclusion and participation.