

Main Message

Cohesion is negotiated locally, but the local level has the weakest position in Europe's multi-level policy and fund design.

Research Approach and Methods

AIM explored how institutions moderate different patterns of intra-EU mobility and migration:



- Case cities in DE, IT and RO
- 70 expert interviews
- 4 workshops from local to European level

3 Local Difficulties in Policy Implementation

Halle (Saale)

City in the East-German state Saxony-Anhalt with tight public budget

Third-party funded projects mitigate neighbourhood conflicts and support marginalised groups in acute problem situations. However, a mismatch of eligible content of funding schemes, time-limitation, bureaucratic burdens, and missing flexibility and financing for staff limit the local level to act.

Bologna

University city and economic hub in the north Italian region Emilia-Romagna

Social care for marginalised groups is outsourced to NGOs cooperating with each other and authorities. Although constant networks are a foundation for success, funding schemes do not cover the effort. Involved actors are left in financial and private precarity.

Cluj-Napoca

Post-socialist and rapidly growing city in northwestern Romania

The city must reorganise its integration policy due to the influx of migrant groups. However, responsibilities amongst the country's political levels are unclear. In the ongoing negotiations, NGOs take on advocacy for newcomers. They inform authorities and facilitate participation.

Key Distortions across Cases

Long term goals, like cohesion, are pursued by time-limited funding programmes.

The local level is not able to provide basic funding for the actors involved.

NGOs inform and enable participation, but have no power in political discourse.

Recommendations to Foster Cohesion in Europe

Current distortions prevent multi-level policies from gaining momentum at the local level. We recommend:

Revise

fund development towards more transparency and local participation!



Cover

ongoing local networking as part of staff financing in projects!



Recognise

the crucial role of NGOs as policy collaborators!

