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Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Faculty of Political Science and Sociology

Executive Summary of Bachelor's Thesis

Implementing migration objectives of the Agenda 2030: The Role of Civil Society Organizations and their recent perspectives

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In 2015, the UN General assembly managed to engage 195 nations to agree with an agenda that aimed to change the world for the better, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The subject of migration had also been gaining importance due to the context at the time and thus was better addressed in comparison to the Millennium Development Goals. However, what differentiated the agenda was that it included the intention to create a platform for participatory and multistakeholder processes.

This would mean that all types of actors from states to civil society organizations were meant to work jointly to tackle a wide range of development issues based on the principles of "universality, inclusiveness and partnerships". (Appave & Sinha (Eds.), 2017, p.12)

The main research question that this work wants to address is whether or not the agenda is efficient on implementating of its migration objectives through its multistakeholder application in the levels of local non-governmental actors such as civil society organizations (CSOs). For this we also wanted to understand why the Agenda 2030 considers the role of civil societies as vital for the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, understanding the importance of the work of civil societies as well as its limitations will be integral to the analysis.

An initial theoretical analysis of the agenda and the role of civil society is developed thorough traditional research of the legal regulation and academic studies. The center of the paper revolves around the development of a hypothetical-deductive method of analysis that uses semi-structured interviews to provide practical-empirical support.

Through the coding of the interviews of the 3 subjects of study (CSOs of different size in capability and resources, from small to medium), there have been identified different themes that provide insight over the perspectives of the CSOs themselves over the 2030 Agenda and its migration objectives. Most of the themes detected relate us the general unfamiliarity about the agenda, followed by a lack of guidance that consequently creates a situation of implication without knowledge from the CSOs point of view. In the localization of this CSOs they have remarked a trend of no actual institutionalized feedback between them and the public authorities. Meanwhile, there are themes that also show us the limitations and the opportunities for those CSOs, even from small ones as some of the studied subjects are. CSOs can help diminish the trend that follow migration studies regarding the lack of reliable data, therefore showing their capacity to increase knowledge-based migration policies. Though politization of migration impedes some of

these positive effects, as can also be the divisive role of media in some instances, this indicate that the academic theory is right to deem CSOs as democratizing factors and the reason they are included in the 2030 Agenda as such. But on the other hand, we also find that, in this case, there is a lack of implementation as well as efficiency in this multistakeholder approach towards local civil society organizations.

This work could complement further investigation on the aspects of cooperation between global agreements on migration and local civil society. It could also help questioning why there is still this gap between theory and practice. With this final perspective we would like to encourage this research stream as well as reflection over the capacity for change that civil society organizations can bring to the table.

Reference:

- Appave G. & Sinha N. (Eds.). (2017). Migration in the 2030 Agenda, 65 years of the International Organization for Migration. *The UN Migration Agency*. Geneva, Switzerland: International Organization for Migration (IOM). https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration_in_the_2030_agenda.pdf

Main relevant references of the work:

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- Delgado Wise, R. & Toksöz, G. (2018) Migration, civil society, and global governance: an introduction to the special issue, *Globalizations*, 15:6, 733-745, DOI: 10.1080/14747731.2018.1503840

- Steffek, J., Nanz, P. (2008). Emergent Patterns of Civil Society Participation in Global and European Governance. In: Steffek, J., Kissling, C., Nanz, P. (eds) *Civil Society Participation in European and Global Governance. Transformations of the State*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230592506_1