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

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Introduction

The role of civil society organizations in development and migration policy gained momentum in the Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals. It gave space for dialogue and cooperation between all levels of government with diasporas and non-governmental organizations. One of the central ideas of the Agenda is its multistakeholder approach that grants civil society a partner role in the design of the SDGs.

Within this "holistic approach" there is the idea to engage in a wide range of actors in all aspects of implementation. A high degree of engagement is needed between local actors and all levels of government, so the later can be fed up with expertise and knowledge from the relevant realities experienced on the ground.

Methodology

→ Definition of concepts of migration accepted studies.

→ Study the Agenda 2030 as well as its migration objectives → how that translates at the state level.

→ Hypothetical-deductive method of analysis→ observation particular case → Identification of a problem →Induction process: refer problem to theory→ formulate hypothesis → deductive reasoning to prove hypothesis.

→ Semi-structured interviews→ 3 subjects of different levels (small to medium sized CSOs)→ Coding of interviews by themes→ Identification of patterns.

Is the Agenda 2030 efficient on the implementation of its migration objectives through its multistakeholder application in all levels of non-governmental actors such as civil society organizations?

Apparent lack of implementation of migration objectives + collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Hypothesis → The Agenda's guidance, now, is not sufficiently applying its own ideals regarding its multistakeholder approach. CSOs don't have enough to say on the design nor implementation of the objectives.

Results

Challenges for CSOs	Results comparison
Government reluctancy over full implication of CSOs in migration policy development	Unfamiliarity of the 2030 Agenda. There is indeed a clear lack of active cooperation. Presumed reluctancy upon results. + Implication of the CSOs without knowledge.
Co-optation and financial dependency limiting agency of CSOs	Less instances of co-optation but clear financial dependency limiting agency CSOs
Political priorities over knowledge-based policy development	Politization on the rise and context prioritization ensuing double standards over knowledge-based policy
Lack of reliable data	CSOs capable of providing data but lack of retroactive channels with public administration.
Public awareness subjected by politization more than factual information	Actors with anti-immigrant narrative on the rise
Media's role in amplifying negative connotations, serving anti-immigrant rhetoric	Extension of double standards and prejudices as seen in the case of Ukrainian refugees (2022)

REGARDING CSOs
❖ Democratizing factors → calling out deficiencies of the system
❖ Capacity to pioneer changes even from their local position to all levels of government

Conclusions

❑ Results show an initial perspective over small-medium CSOs capacity within the Agenda. Lack of application of holistic approach.

❑ Context of migration difficult implementation→ politization.

❑ The role of CSOs even local ones confirm strengths and limitations described academic theory.

Reference (to know more): Vidal, M. E. (2018): Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners. *The International Organization for Migration (IOM).* International Organization for Migration 17, route des Morillons,1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland. https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners