



CSF Fact Sheets: Taking down myths and promoting evidence based debate

The **EU-Russia Civil Society Forum** was established in 2011 by non-governmental organisations as a permanent common platform. At the moment, 151 NGOs from Russia and the European Union are member of the Forum. It aims at development of cooperation of civil society organisations from Russia and EU and greater participation of NGOs in the EU-Russia dialogue. The Forum has been actively involved in the questions of facilitation of visa regime, development of civic participation, protection of the environment and human rights, dealing with history, and civic education.

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5 Points on the Current Migration Crisis

Point 1: Money Can Be Better Spent

The Hungarian government has spent 70.9 million euros and mobilised 4,700 soldiers to build a barbed wired fence as a response to the growing flow of migrants. This amount of resources would have been enough to keep in the country 4,000 doctors that have left the country in the last decade; or to buy train tickets to Germany for no less than 146,500 migrants; or to pay 40 million hours of Hungarian language courses to those migrants wishing to stay.

Point 2: Proportionality Matters

Big countries are not those facing the biggest migration burden in relative terms: Slovenia, with a population of about 2 million of inhabitants and an army of about 7,300 soldiers, have seen in one week more than 50,000 migrants going across its territory.

Point 3: Immigrants Make Societies Safer

One common simplistic argument against migrants is that they are a threat to social peace and a cause for growing criminality rates. However, research shows that crime does not increase but it is reduced in neighbourhoods with a high percentage of immigrants. Immigration has also no negative impact on levels of violent crimes.

Point 4: Immigration is a Part of the Solution and not of the Problem

European fertility rates are a threat to economic development and stability of the social welfare. Migration cannot solve the so-called "demographic trap" by itself but must be one of the policy tools to bear in mind when addressing it.

Point 5: Blocking Migration is bad for Economies

The gains of reducing barriers to migration are found to be greater than reducing barriers to goods trade or capital flows. As a matter of fact, migrants usually produce a surplus in hosting economies if one compares what they produce and what they consume out of their economic activity.

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