



International Conference

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Understanding TCN Political Participation in Greece

Background:

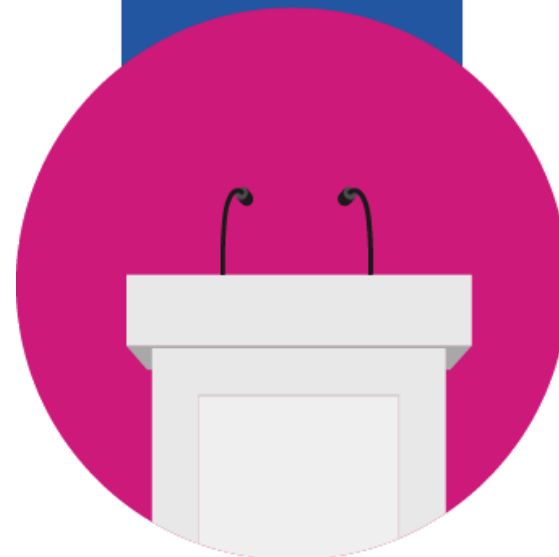
- TCNs in Greece: 910,523 (as of May 2022), including legal migrants, refugees, and EU citizens.

Nationality Breakdown:

- Non-EU migrants: Largest group from Albania
- EU migrants: Predominantly from Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Cyprus.
- Refugees: Mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Regional Distribution:

- 41% in Attica, 18% in Macedonia/Thrace, 12% in Peloponnese, Western Greece, and the Ionian region.
- TCNs concentrated in urban centers; efforts to disperse to rural areas ongoing.



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Greek Legal System and Challenges Faced by TCNs

Migration Legislation:

- Historical perspective: Limited laws until 2016; modified based on European Directives.
- Six units of legislation covering *legal migration, reception, social integration, asylum seekers' protection, asylum services, and appeals authority.*

Challenges Faced:

- Complicated residence permit procedures causing frustration and insecurity among TCNs.
- Heavy economic burden associated with permits.



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Challenges to TCNs' Political Participation in Greece

- **Formal Participation Gaps:** TCNs in Greece lack the right to vote and stand for election at any level despite international conventions guaranteeing these rights.
- **Legislation Gaps:** Greek legislation regarding TCN political participation ranks critically **unfavorable** on the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX).
- **Importance of TCN Participation:** Experts stress the importance of TCN political participation for their inclusion and representation.



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Civil Society Organizations and Recommendations

•Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

- NGOs actively promoting human rights and political participation.
- International organizations and local NGOs bridging migrants and Greek state.

•Recommendations:

- Streamline residence permit processes for TCNs to enhance security and reduce frustration.
- Foster collaboration between government institutions and CSOs for more effective support and advocacy.
- Encourage community engagement through MICs and similar initiatives, promoting social cohesion



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Opportunities and Obstacles for TCN Political Participation

- ✓ **Opportunities for Councils/Forums**
- ✓ **Obstacles for Councils/Forums:** Obstacles can be systemic, organizational and individual
- ✓ **Organizational Costs:** Organizational costs include material and non-material factors
- ✓ **Opportunity Cost:** TCNs face opportunity costs, like giving up time or work for better representation and coordination.
- ✓ **TCNs' Willingness:** Challenges like linguistic fluency, naturalization costs, and time constraints.



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Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Benefits of TCN Participation:** Active political and civic participation by TCNs offers multiple advantages, including representation, rights protection, and increased resilience.
- **Need for Initial Support:** TCNs require initial support for coordination, especially considering systemic challenges that may not be immediately influenced.
- **Recommendations and the base that the establishment of the migrant council started:**
 - ✓ Reduce Organizational Costs
 - ✓ Incentivize Second-Generation Migrants
 - ✓ Provide Meeting Venues
 - ✓ Create CSO Networks
 - ✓ Consider Incentives
 - ✓ Ensure Gender Sensitivity
 - ✓ Promote Cultural Awareness



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