

IMPACTS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION: CASE OF GREECE

Introduction

The intention of this study is to identify some of the approaches to assess the impacts of irregular migration flows in Greece. Additionally, the impact of investing in renewable energies shall be identified.

Migration is a basic human right like life itself, and indeed a challenge. Irregular and forced migration, in addition to jeopardizing the integrity of those who are forced to make the decision to migrate, is a burden covered by transit countries as well as those of arrival.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the average expenditure per refugee is 6,000.00 euros a year, this according to estimations based on the one established in 2009 by Spain.

This includes temporary items for food, clothing and housing, transportation, medical expenses, basic education, language training and vocational training, etc.



Methodology

To establish relationships and impacts, statistical models are taken to contrast migration flows with public expenditure in Greece. The methodology approach is the identification of impacts and relationships between dependent and independent variables in time series, assuming a model of ordinary least squares (OLS) to establish a model of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA). This model allows us to evaluate different variables, their impacts and potential projections in a common framework.

The correlation to be investigated is the following:

$f(\text{refugees}) = f(\text{spending public health, public safety spending, population under poverty line, people at risk of poverty, public deficit})$. The timelines between 1990 and 2020 have been taken to carry out the impact assessment.

Correlations

The model shows that the independent variable (number of refugees) is related and can be explained in 49% by dependent variables. It must be taken into account that migration processes and effects are multivariate and of multidimensional nature. The purpose of this case is to generate an assessment of possible impact on the variables that have been identified.

The results show the following:

-0.43%

With an increase in the number of refugees, public spending on health can be affected by a decrease of 0.43 percent of the intended.

0.04%

With the increase in the number of refugees the proportion of GDP that can be used to increase public safety is 0.04 percent.

Public deficit increases

The public deficit, which is the difference between the incomes of the state and its costs, increases.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF INVESTMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY?

All immigration policies should focus on successfully integrating immigrant flows. It is proposed to invest in renewable energies to guarantee the fundamental rights of irregular and forced migrants as refugees. Renewable energies, in turn, become an investment for power generation for the country. A correlation was performed between the production of renewable energy from Greece and the other studied factors. The correlation between renewable energy production, proportion of GDP of health and security, proportion in poverty and proportion of population at risk of poverty and public deficit, indicates the following:

GDP allocated to health ↑ **GDP allocated to security ↑**

The relationship between public deficit and renewable energy generation is positive.

The relationship between renewable energy production and population in poverty and population at risk of poverty is negative.

Some of the explanations for the results of the correlation between renewable energy production and the variables identified include:

- Given increased renewable energy production, the conditions to allocate more resources to other areas such as health and safety are generated, not to mention areas such as education, among others.
- Investment in renewable energy generation leads to an increase in demand for the working population, this implies increased contracted population, increased chance of purchasing power and a reduction in the poverty of the country as well as a reduction of the population at risk of poverty.
- The public deficit may increase given the need for investment by the state for renewable energy generation, however, this spending becomes an investment given the return of both economic and social benefits that it brings.

Conclusions

It must be remembered that the establishment of direct causalities by specific variables is difficult, however the approach already indicates some potential for impact. According to our estimates, investments in renewable energy contribute to the ability to target funds to health and safety issues. Population at poverty decreases as well as population at risk of poverty. This as a result of increased jobs, increased incomes, the revitalization of personal and family economy, and thus the revitalization of the economy of the country.

According to Sir Paul Collier (Oxford), with an integration process, the refugees can become a benefit to the country and the region. That is why investing in them and integrating them becomes a necessity for the country, not only from the human rights perspective, but from the economic point of view.