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**Housing and integration of migrants
in European Mediterranean countries:
A scoping review**

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: It has been stated that housing plays a major role in the process of integration of migrants and refugees into a society, as housing location, accessibility, affordability and habitability among other factors, have direct impact on the ability of inhabitants to seek employment and access education and healthcare. However, there seems to be little literature about the integration outcomes and the improvement of wellbeing after different housing policies and housing solutions have been implemented. This research aims at reviewing the existing literature regarding housing interventions of any kind for migrants in European Mediterranean countries, with a focus on inclusion related outcomes.

Methods: A scoping review was performed including different sources of information.

Results: The review analysed 26 records -comprising 103 housing projects- with various study designs. The housing interventions were categorised into eight main types: collective accommodation, camps, squats, flatsharing, full apartments in only-migrants buildings, full apartments in mixed population buildings, financial support for housing, and other non-material interventions. Each type of intervention showed different integration outcomes and good practices associated with it, which have been categorised into 13 domains.

Conclusions: Measuring integration is complex due to various factors, including the absence of a consensus definition and its multifaceted nature. This review reveals heterogeneous and scant outcome measures and employing Ager and Strang's integration framework facilitates categorisation and understanding. The reviewed good practices often lack supporting evidence, but frequently noted integration facilitators include stable housing and support in employment, education and social relations. Overall, while widely recognised as vital, robust evidence on housing interventions' impact on migrant integration is lacking, calling for further research.

RESUMEN

Introducción: Se ha afirmado que la vivienda desempeña un papel fundamental en el proceso de integración de migrantes y refugiados en una sociedad, ya que su ubicación, accesibilidad, asequibilidad y habitabilidad, entre otros factores, tienen un impacto directo en la capacidad de los habitantes para buscar empleo y acceder a la educación y la atención médica. Sin embargo, parece haber poca literatura sobre el impacto de diferentes intervenciones de vivienda en la integración y la mejora de calidad de vida. Esta investigación tiene como objetivo revisar la literatura existente sobre intervenciones de vivienda de cualquier tipo para migrantes en países europeos del Mediterráneo, con un foco en los resultados relacionados con la inclusión.

Métodos: Se realizó una revisión exploratoria -scoping review- que incluyó diferentes fuentes de información.

Resultados: La revisión analizó 26 documentos -incluyendo 103 proyectos de vivienda- con diversos diseños de investigación. Las intervenciones en vivienda se categorizaron en ocho tipos principales: alojamiento colectivo, campos de refugiados, ocupaciones ilegales, pisos compartidos, apartamentos completos en edificios exclusivamente para migrantes, apartamentos completos en edificios de población mixta, apoyo financiero para la vivienda y otras intervenciones no materiales. Cada tipo de intervención mostró diferentes resultados de integración y buenas prácticas asociadas, que se han categorizado en 13 dominios.

Conclusiones: Medir la integración es complejo debido a diversos factores, incluida la falta de una definición consensuada y su naturaleza multifacética. Esta revisión revela medidas de impacto o resultados heterogéneas y escasas, y el uso del marco de integración de Ager y Strang facilita su categorización y comprensión. Las buenas prácticas revisadas a menudo carecen de evidencia que las acompañe, pero algunos facilitadores de integración frecuentemente mencionados incluyen una vivienda estable y apoyo en el empleo, la educación y las relaciones sociales. En general, aunque ampliamente reconocida como esencial, falta evidencia sólida sobre el impacto de las intervenciones de vivienda en la integración de migrantes, lo que hace necesario realizar más estudios en el tema.



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1. Research question and objectives

1.1.1. Context

There is a general acknowledgment that housing policies contribute to integration of displaced populations (UNHCR, 2020). However, these claims are often site-specific or not accompanied by supporting evidence and there is inconsistency on the approach taken to analyse the issue by the different stakeholders involved in these studies. Therefore, there is a knowledge gap on how integration of migrants is affected by housing interventions to guide good practices described in successful housing projects or policies for migrant population.

The focus of this Masters Thesis is to explore the existing knowledge and evidence on housing interventions outcomes related to the integration of migrants arriving to the European Mediterranean countries.

1.1.2. Research question

How do housing interventions affect integration for migrants in the European Mediterranean countries?

1.1.3. Objectives

This research aims at reviewing the existing literature regarding housing interventions of any kind for migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented or irregular migrants and internationally displaced population, in European Mediterranean countries, with a focus on integration related outcomes.

The specific objectives are:

1. To identify indicators in housing interventions to assess the integration of migrants and thus their improved life conditions and, if possible, categorising them
2. To review best practices and recommendations regarding housing interventions for migrants
3. To map available evidence on the effectiveness of housing interventions to foster inclusion of migrants

1.1.4. Structure of the study

This study is structured as follows. After this introduction to define the objectives, Section 2 summarises previous knowledge related to migrants and housing. Section 3 presents the methodology adopted to perform this scoping review, adhering to Cochrane standards. Section 4 presents the results and categorises the findings, complementing them with the discussion in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 concludes and Section 7 includes the bibliography.



2. Review of previous knowledge

2.1. Increasing migration in Europe and the Mediterranean countries

Since 2014, European citizens have been engaged in an intensifying discussion about migration. This is the result of an unprecedented increase in the number of refugees and other migrants entering Europe. 1.9 million immigrants entered the EU from non-EU countries in 2020 (Eurostat, 2023b) and 196,034 illegal crossings were registered in EU borders (International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 2022), with more than 160,000 people reaching Europe through Mediterranean routes alone annually (Torelli & European Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.). Overall, there are approximately 23.7 million non-EU citizens living in the EU as of 1 January 2021 (Eurostat, 2023b).

Patterns of migration tend to be very fluid and to change rapidly. Nevertheless, the central Mediterranean route has been one of the most consistently busy; the route to Greece has undergone significant changes; and, since 2017, the western Mediterranean route to Spain has been used much more than in previous years (Frontex, 2023).

As a consequence of their geographical position and the Dublin Regulation – which sets the procedures for asylum applications in the European Union – countries of first arrival Italy, Greece, and, to a lesser extent, Spain have been most affected. The growth in the number of arrivals has created the perception of an unmanageable crisis and made the public increasingly aware of the issue.

2.2. Tensioned cities and current challenges

Tensioned cities due to imbalanced population and lack of adequate housing solutions increase the vulnerability of displaced populations. Cities are both arrival, departure, and transit hubs of mixed migrations. Pragmatism and proximity with citizens make cities faster solution-builders than states. Mediterranean cities are at the frontline of refugee and migration integration response, as most refugees and migrants move to urban centers hoping to find a sense of community, safety, and economic independence.

In recent decades, the increasing population diversity of Mediterranean cities coincides with growing socio-economic deprivation and urban fragmentation. National and international migration have had a huge impact on the redefinition of the Mediterranean urban space and current segregation processes, linking migration with poverty. Housing markets, new urban economies, and urban planning produce residential segregation and, on the other way round, spatial planning can promote urban integration.

The most visible challenges are related to climate change, urbanization, and financial crisis, together with more political and social instabilities, most prominently in the Southern rim of the Mediterranean. Many urbanization issues are related to rigid housing regulations. The impossibility to address these challenges exacerbates social inequalities and social polarization through gentrification and ghettoization, eventually producing the segregation of poverty in



certain neighbourhoods. As a result, racism, xenophobia, stigmatization of vulnerability, and the normalization of exclusionary practices continue to be challenging in cities.

Social housing policies with an urbanism and communitarian approach are urgent hand in hand with intercultural approaches to promote social cohesion. There is a need to build strategies to prevent segregation and disproportionate deterioration in certain city areas where migrants and poverty tend to concentrate. Social policies and urban planning are also palliative of the effects of climate change in current cities, and more sustainable than building cities from scratch, which bears huge financial and environmental costs.

2.3. Positive potential of integrated migrants

Migration can be a positive force for prosperity, innovation, and sustainable development in a globalized world. It can boost productivity and local economic development and strengthen urban-rural economic and social linkages (UN-Habitat, 2019). Proper societal integration of migrants leads to wide-ranging benefits, including economic contributions, entrepreneurial activity, job creation, and cultural enrichment in host countries (United Nations, 2023). However, migration can also create social, cultural, and economic challenges for receiving communities, especially when resources are already limited. Effective policy interventions and strategies are essential to ensure migrants and refugees have access to adequate housing, health services, education, and employment opportunities, thus maximizing the positive impact of migration while mitigating potential challenges (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2018).

As UN-Habitat emphasizes, “urban migration, when well-planned and well-managed, has a positive impact on cities and communities, but non-discriminatory policies and systems must be in place that are responsive to population changes and ensure the rights of adequate standards of living for all urban dwellers”.

2.4. The right to housing

International human rights law, which sets out the obligations that states must respect, recognises the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing (UN-Habitat & Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2009). Despite the central place of this right in the global legal system, 1.6 billion people or 20 per cent of the world's population (UN-Habitat, 2020) currently live in inadequate housing. Millions of people live in conditions that are dangerous to life or health, in overcrowded slums and informal settlements, or in other conditions that do not respect their human rights and dignity. Millions more people suffer forced evictions or are threatened with forced eviction from their homes every year.

The right to housing (Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing & United Nations, n.d.), as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, is enshrined in several international human rights instruments. The most widely recognised are the 1948



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25.1) and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11.1). Since then, other international human rights treaties¹ have recognized or mentioned the right to adequate housing or some of its elements, such as the protection of the home and privacy, and the recognition of this right intensified especially during the 1990s. Indeed, during this period numerous governments adopted or revised their housing policies to include various dimensions of human rights.

In 1996 the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) used this momentum, and as a result, the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda constituted a framework in which human settlements development met the process of human rights development in general and the right to housing in particular.

It should be noted that the right to adequate housing is not the same as the right to property, but is broader, as it encompasses non-property rights and aims to ensure that all people have a secure place to live in peace and dignity, through different forms of security of tenure.

The right to adequate housing, in turn, encompasses other freedoms and entitlements, such as protection against forced eviction and arbitrary destruction of the home, the right to privacy and family, the right to choose one's residence and freedom of movement, non-discriminatory and equal access to adequate housing, or participation in decision-making related to housing in the community, among others.

2.5. Housing in the Agendas for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by the United Nations, sets out in Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, the following target 11.1: "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services (...)."

In addition, the achievement of a good part of the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals is directly related to people's access to adequate housing. For example, Goal 1 (target 1.5: "Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters"), Goal 6 (target 6.2: "Achieve access to adequate and

-
- ¹ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, art. 21.
 - 1962 International Labour Organisation Convention No. 117 on Social Policy (Basic Aims and Standards), art. 5(2).
 - -1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5(e)(iii).
 - 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 17.
 - 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 14(2) and 15(2).
 - 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 16(1) and 27(3).
 - -1989 International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, arts. 14, 16 and 17.
 - 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, art. 43(1)(d).
 - 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, arts. 9 and 28.



equitable sanitation and hygiene (...)", Goal 7 (target 7.1: "Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services"), among others.

The right to housing contributes to many other economic, social and cultural aspects of the development of individuals, households and communities. Inadequate housing has a negative impact on urban equity and inclusion, urban security and livelihood opportunities, and has negative health implications.

The New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in 2016 in Quito, captures in more than 20 points the relevance of the right to housing and its link to sustainable urban development².

"We commit ourselves to promoting the role of affordable and sustainable housing and housing finance, including social habitat production, in economic development, and the contribution of the sector to stimulating productivity in other economic sectors, recognizing that housing enhances capital formation, income, employment generation and savings and can contribute to driving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation at the national, subnational and local levels." (Paragraph 46 NUA).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction also considers housing a key issue, as some 23 million people have been made homeless as a result of disasters. It addresses the right to adequate housing by promoting *the incorporation of disaster risk assessments into the development and implementation of land policies, including urban planning, assessments of land degradation and informal and non-permanent housing*, the incorporation of disaster risk assessment and management into rural development planning and management, and the revision of existing building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices, or the development of new codes, at the national or local level.

Additionally, the United Nations promoted the "Housing at the Centre" approach, a housing policy framework that places housing as a central element in achieving sustainable urban development and improving living conditions for all. It emphasizes the importance of providing affordable, accessible, and adequate housing options, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized populations such as migrants and refugees, to create inclusive and equitable cities (UN-Habitat, 2015).

2.6. Definition of adequate housing

Adequate housing must provide more than just four walls and a roof. The Habitat Agenda (1996) already stated that *"Adequate shelter means more than a roof over one's head. It also means adequate privacy; adequate space; physical accessibility; adequate security; security of tenure; structural stability and durability; adequate lighting, heating and ventilation; adequate basic infrastructure, such as water-supply, sanitation and waste-management facilities; suitable environmental quality and health-related factors; and adequate and accessible location with*

² Paragraphs 13a; 14a; 36; 88; 95; 104; 114b; 119; 144; 31-34; 46; 77; 99; 105-109; 111-112; 140.



regard to work and basic facilities: all of which should be available at an affordable cost." (parag. 60).

For its part, the UN Human Rights Committee clarifies that the right to housing should not be interpreted narrowly from shelter, but should rather be considered as "the right to live in security, peace and dignity"(UN-Habitat & Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2009).

Several conditions must be satisfied for a particular form of housing to be considered to constitute "adequate housing". These elements are as fundamental as the basic supply and availability of housing.

For housing to be adequate, it must meet at least the following seven criteria. These elements are just as fundamental as the basic supply and availability of housing:

- Security of tenure: housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.
- Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure: housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage or refuse disposal.
- Affordability: housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.
- Habitability: housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards.
- Accessibility: housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not taken into account.
- Location: housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.
- Cultural adequacy: housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

2.7. Housing challenges for migrants in the European Mediterranean region

There are several problems and challenges that migrants and refugees face regarding housing in Europe that often arise due to social, economic, and policy factors and can significantly impact the living conditions and integration experiences of migrants and refugees.

Some of these barriers are faced by other vulnerable groups too, or even the general population, such as housing unaffordability, housing supply/demand mismatch in economically



attractive areas, a stagnant housing market and rising construction costs, and bottlenecks in public housing” (Eds Sybille Münch & Anna Siede, 2022), but others are specific for migrants.

Housing costs in many European cities are high, and migrants and refugees often face financial constraints that make it difficult to afford adequate housing (Bijak et al., 2018). Migrants find housing more difficult to pay for: “Around 25 per cent of them struggle to meet housing expenses, compared to 19 per cent of residents from other EU Member States and 9 per cent of national citizens” (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021)

Migrants and refugees in Europe frequently encounter discrimination and segregation in the housing market, leading to limited housing choices and unequal access to housing opportunities. They may be disproportionately concentrated in certain neighborhoods or low-quality housing due to discriminatory practices and social exclusion (Düvell & Vollmer, 2019).

Due to their tenure difficulties and temporality of many of the housing solutions provided, migrants and refugees often experience housing insecurity, such as short-term leases or informal housing arrangements. This instability can negatively affect their sense of stability and belonging in the host country (Bijak et al., 2018).

This may be aggravated in some European countries, where access to social housing is restricted for migrants and refugees, particularly for those with temporary or uncertain legal status (Pugliese & Sciarba, 2019). In other cases, renting accommodation to irregular migrants may be a criminal offence, or tenants may be required to submit documents that, as irregular migrants, they do not possess or cannot obtain (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021).

However, the lack of information about housing options, complex bureaucratic processes, and housing regulations often creates challenges in accessing suitable housing, even when national and local laws do not hinder individuals from seeking it.

Language barriers and unfamiliarity with local housing systems can make it challenging for migrants and refugees to navigate the housing market, understand their rights, and access housing support services (Düvell & Vollmer, 2019). Also, when accessing the private market, they may suffer discrimination due to their background. A survey in Spain from 2016 revealed that when trying to rent an apartment, the response of real estate agents and homeowners was negative for foreign-born applicants 86.7 per cent of the times (Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (M2CM), 2017).

Moreover, due to economic constraints, migrants and refugees may resort to overcrowded living conditions or sharing accommodations with multiple households, which can negatively impact privacy and well-being (Bijak et al., 2018). They are more likely to be overcrowded than others (36% of migrants compared with 17% of the non-migrant population) (Eurostat, 2022). Even the temporary shelters that are provided by cities are often overcrowded and do not cater to the specific needs of groups such as women and girls (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021).

These challenges highlight the need for comprehensive and inclusive housing policies and social support systems that address the unique needs of migrants and refugees in Europe.



2.8. Housing as a vector for migrants' integration

It has been stated that housing plays a major role in the process of integration of migrants and refugees into a society, as housing location, accessibility, affordability and habitability among other factors, have direct impact on the ability of inhabitants to seek employment and access education and healthcare (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021). Ensuring access to safe and appropriate housing for refugees and asylum seekers is necessary in order to meet one of the fundamental human needs before any further integration in the host country can be considered (Fóti et al., 2019).

For example, Ager and Strang characterised housing as a core domain in integration (Ager & Strang, 2008) ; (Flatau et al., 2015) observed “housing plays a fundamental role in the journey of refugees following resettlement in a host country”; and (Wessel et al., 2017) noted that “Access to housing is considered to be an essential step on their path to social inclusion, and it is often a precondition for the full enjoyment of social and civil rights and social services”

However, there seems to be little literature about the specific integration outcomes of migrants and refugees after different housing policies and housing solutions have been implemented.

There have been some attempts at researching the causality of this relationship, such as the impact in integration of housing programmes in China (Zheng et al., 2020). But, in general, when case studies are presented as good practices there seems to be a great variability in methods and scarcity in evidence.

Furthermore, according to the United Nations, most of the existing policies aiming to improve societal integration through housing solutions in the European Union are often short/medium-term in focus, when policies supporting housing provision can and should support the medium- and long-term integration of migrants and refugees (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021).



3. Methods and data

3.1. Research question

How do housing interventions affect integration for migrants in the European Mediterranean countries?

The research question is developed under a PICO framework³, where P stands for population, I for intervention, C for comparison or control group (not applicable in this case) and O for outcome.

- Population: migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers and internationally displaced people.
- Intervention: all kinds of interventions related with facilitating or promoting the access to housing, or the enhancement of shelter conditions.
- Outcome: enhanced integration of migrants within their host communities or settlements and thus improved life conditions.

See section 3.4 for definitions.

3.2. Approach to the scoping method

As (Munn et al., 2018) identify, scoping reviews are particularly useful as a tool to 'determine the scope or coverage of a body of literature on a given topic and give clear indication of the volume of literature and studies available as well as an overview (broad or detailed) of its focus' (p. 2). In contrast to a systematic review which is ideally suited to those research questions which seek to address the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness or effectiveness of a certain treatment or practice (Pearson, 2004).

These are some of the key purposes and advantages of performing a scoping review, that were considered for selecting this method for this research:

- Mapping the Literature Landscape, to identify the types of available evidence in a given field and to identify and analyse knowledge gaps: Scoping reviews provide an overview of existing literature, helping researchers understand the extent and distribution of research on a specific topic (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005).
- Clarifying Research Questions: Through scoping reviews, researchers can refine their research questions and objectives. By gaining a comprehensive understanding of the existing literature, researchers can fine-tune their research goals and avoid duplicating previous work.
- Inclusive of Diverse Study Designs: Scoping reviews encompass a broader range of evidence, such as quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies, and may include grey literature, thus offering a comprehensive view of the research topic (Colquhoun et al., 2014)

³It can be also framed as PEO (Population, Exposure, Outcome)



- Identifying Relevant Studies and Evidence: Scoping reviews are useful for locating relevant studies and evidence scattered across different disciplines and databases. They ensure a thorough search process, enhancing the likelihood of capturing diverse perspectives and findings on the topic (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005).
- Assessing Feasibility or as a precursor of a full Systematic Review: Conducting a scoping review can help researchers assess whether a full systematic review is feasible or necessary. It allows them to gauge the quantity and quality of available evidence and make informed decisions about the next steps in the research process (Grant & Booth, 2009).
- Publication Potential: Scoping reviews are valuable contributions to the academic literature. They are increasingly recognized and published in reputable journals.

Given the nature of the research question, that intersects topics from different disciplines, it was clear that the review should include different sources of information (i.e. academic and grey literature) to have a more comprehensive perspective and not leave out important evidence.

Grey literature refers to information or research materials that are not published through traditional commercial publishing channels, meaning they are not widely accessible through standard bibliographic databases or commercial publications. Instead, grey literature typically includes a wide range of materials produced by organisations, government agencies, academic institutions, think tanks and NGOs, which may not undergo the same rigorous peer-review process as formally published academic literature.

Grey literature is valuable because it can fill gaps in knowledge, provide up-to-date information, and offer insights into research and data not available through conventional publishing channels. As grey literature is not indexed in standard academic databases, finding relevant materials require searching specialized repositories, institutional websites, government portals, and other sources beyond traditional literature databases.

	2022	2023								
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Ago	Sep
<i>Background search</i>										
<i>Develop research protocol</i>										
<i>Conduct initial searches to refine protocol</i>										
<i>Review and register Protocol</i>										
<i>Refine search strategy and inclusion criteria, conduct searches and eliminate duplications</i>										
<i>Screening, quality assessment</i>										
<i>Data extraction and synthesis of results</i>										



<i>Risk of bias assessment and discussion</i>										
<i>Writing up report</i>										
<i>Review and Submit</i>										

Figure 1. Chronogram

3.3. The search protocol and strategy

Guided by (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005) framework for scoping reviews, the following process was implemented. Initially, a broad literature search was conducted to gain insight into the existing body of knowledge concerning migrants and housing. Subsequently, a scoping strategy document was formulated, serving as the designated search protocol (see Annex 1). To ensure rigor, the search protocol underwent a peer review process by a colleague/tutor with expertise in evidence synthesis.

A scoping question was refined: How do housing interventions affect integration for migrants and internationally displaced population in the European Mediterranean countries? This was then developed into a search string and inclusion and exclusion criteria were defined to guide the structured literature search.

3.4. Eligibility criteria and definitions

All reports, publications and papers from National and International Agencies, NGOs and scientific literature have been considered. Other pieces of information such as news, web pages, blogs, or opinion articles were excluded from the search.

Time period considered goes from year 1990 to the present date.

Geographic scope includes all European Mediterranean countries. Broader reports that include within their scope all or some Mediterranean countries (such as reports at the European Union level) are also considered.

Although initially it was considered to include all European countries, the first reviews of literature showed a great difference among countries, specially between northern European and Mediterranean countries. Migrant profiles as well as migration policies in Nordic countries, UK and Germany mainly are greatly different from those of Mediterranean countries, namely time frames -with migratory peaks decades earlier and thus more established migrant populations with second, third and fourth generation living in the host country- and thus different current challenges. So, for population, policy and challenges similarity, the scope was performed on European Mediterranean countries.

For these same reasons, other non-European Mediterranean countries were excluded from the review, as their migratory phenomena and challenges are widely dissimilar.

Main languages included in the search were English and Spanish.



Population: migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers and internationally displaced people.

At the international level, no universally accepted definition for “migrant” exists (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2019). For the purposes of this research, the definition of migrant from the International Organisation for Migration will be considered: “An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons”

This includes all the following denominations or distinctions:

- Asylum-seeker: a person that has left their home country and has yet to receive residential status in the current host country or elsewhere
- Refugee: a person that has international protection and residential status in a host country.
- Undocumented migrant: individual who has either entered a country without inspection, or entered with valid visas but those visas have expired
- Third country national: individuals who are generally not refugees and who are stranded in a country that is not their own, generally in transit and/or applying for visas. In the European Union, TCN is defined as “any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of TFEU and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).”
- Newcomer: a newly arrived person to a host country.
- Migrant: broad term that includes anyone who has left one country to live in another.

Intervention: all kind of interventions related with facilitating or promoting the access to housing, or the enhancement of shelter conditions.

Housing was broadly defined and included any type of housing and accommodation, including long term, temporary and emergency shelter, and all kind of housing tenure. When issues such as the neighbourhood and the location of housing was mentioned as impact on refugees, in order to be included in the review, papers needed to also specifically highlight the role of housing itself. Thus, excluding articles that described or analysed only location, spatial distribution or segregation, without including any housing intervention or description of the same. In addition, broad urban or demographic policies (such as quotas or 'national distribution' criteria) and urban developments or city-wide or territorial interventions, with no description of specific housing programmes or projects, were also excluded.

Outcome: enhanced integration of migrants within their host communities or settlements and thus improved life conditions. To measure the outcomes, the selected literature and case studies were assessed looking for direct and indirect indicators for integration, or any other indicators that describe enhanced living conditions and inclusive communities. This included qualitative descriptions as well as descriptors. If retrieved, effect measures will also be included.



Integration and inclusion are two related concepts that pertain to the social, cultural, economic, and political participation of individuals or groups within a society. While they are often used interchangeably, they have slightly distinct meanings:

Integration: refers to the process by which individuals or groups who have migrated to a new country are encouraged and supported to participate fully in the social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of the host society. It involves the removal of barriers and the creation of inclusive policies and practices that enable migrants to engage and contribute to the host society while retaining their cultural identities and values.

Inclusion: it goes beyond mere participation and emphasizes the active involvement and recognition of migrants in decision-making processes and activities. It entails creating a sense of belonging, respect, and value for migrant individuals and groups, irrespective of their background, and promoting equitable opportunities and access to resources and services.

These outcomes can also be described by other terms that indicate factors of integration and inclusion, such as community cohesion (Tom Archer & Mark Stevens, 2018).

For the purpose of this research, in order to describe a good practice, the definition of the United Nations for integration was considered, that encompasses the nuances of both terms, and thus all the terms that indicated these kinds of outcomes were accepted: “the two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community. It entails a set of joint responsibilities for migrants and communities, and incorporates other related notions such as social inclusion and social cohesion” (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2019).

3.5. The search strategy

An exhaustive and iterative literature search approach was employed. Given the broad nature of the topic, which encompasses multiple disciplines and areas, a comprehensive search strategy was deemed necessary. This entailed exploring various databases as well as grey literature sources.

First of all, a scope of available databases was performed to determine the more appropriate ones to include in the search. The research topic lays at the intersection of migration issues (social sciences databases) and housing (urban studies databases) so the first exploratory analysis included databases in those two areas as well as other more generalist databases (table 1).

Table 1. Summary of relevant databases:

TYPE	NAME
GENERAL	inDICES (includes previous ISOC)
GENERAL	Scopus
GENERAL	Web of science



GENERAL	Google scholar
GENERAL	Science Direct
GENERAL	Springer
GENERAL	SciELO
HOUSING/URBAN	HUD USER Bibliographic Database
HOUSING/URBAN	Urban Studies Abstracts
GENERAL	EBSCO MEGA FILE
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Periodicals Archive Online
SOCIAL SCIENCES	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Sociological Abstracts

Preliminary searches were conducted to screen the type of results retrieved, where it was confirmed that in the most specific databases it was difficult to find papers that addressed migrants + housing + integration outcomes. At the same time, two international experts on migrants housing issues -from United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)- were consulted to assess the validity and appropriateness of such databases for this research question, as well as their expertise regarding grey literature.

Based on the results of this exploratory research, one main comprehensive database was selected to perform the structured search: Web of Science. In addition, a deep search was performed among the repositories of a number of key organisations and institutions related to housing and urban issues, migration and/or development and human rights that included Europe within their scope (See table below).

Table 2. Repositories selected to perform the search of gray literature:

NAME	LINK	SCOPE
Brookings Institute reports, Cities & Regions	https://www.brookings.edu/topic/cities-regions/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Urban Institute reports	http://www.urban.org/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	https://www.lincolnst.edu/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies	https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
MC2CM (Mediterranean City to City Migration Project)	https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/projects/mc2cm	Europe
IMCPD	https://www.icmpd.org/	Europe
Anna Lindh Foundation	https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/intercultural-dialogue-hub	Europe
GRITim (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)	https://www.upf.edu/web/gritim/working-series	Europe
Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities programme	https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities	Europe
UN-Habitat	https://unhabitat.org/gccm-cities-and-migration	Worldwide (incl Europe)



UCLG	https://www.uclg.org/en/issues/migration	Worldwide (incl Europe)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	https://www.iom.int/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS)	www.jips.org	Worldwide (incl Europe)
European Migration Network (EMN)	https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn_en	Europe
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	https://www.unhcr.org/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
European Union Agency for Asylum	euaa.europa.eu	Europe
Migration Policy Institute (MPI)	https://www.migrationpolicy.org/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)	www.ippr.org	UK
Centre for Migration and Policy Research (CMPR)	https://www.swansea.ac.uk/geography/research-and-impact/cmpr/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Migration Policy Centre (MPC)	https://migrationpolicycentre.eu/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS)	http://cmsny.org/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)	https://www.ifri.org/en	Europe, France
German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)	www.diw.de/	Germany
Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	www.diis.dk/en/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Migration Observatory (University of Oxford)	https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/	Europe, UK
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	https://picum.org/	Europe
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	https://ecre.org/	Europe
United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)	https://gcm.unu.edu/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CREAM)	https://www.cream-migration.org/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS)	https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/startpage.html	Europe
University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)	https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/	Europe
European Housing Forum (EHF)	https://www.europeanhousingforum.eu/	Europe
European Federation for Living (EFL)	https://ef-l.eu/#	Europe
housing europe	www.housingeurope.eu	Europe
European Observatory on Homelessness	https://www.feantsaresearch.org/	Europe
European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)	https://enhr.net/	Europe



European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)	https://eukn.eu/	Europe
European Policy Centre (EPC)	https://epc.eu/en/	Europe
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	www.oecd-ilibrary.org	Worldwide (incl Europe)
European Institute for Comparative Urban Research (Euricur)	https://ees.kuleuven.be/eng/euricur/#publications	Europe
Joint Research Centre JRC Publications Repository	https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/	Europe
Urban Land Institute (ULI) - Europe	https://europe.uli.org/	Europe
Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East, and Africa (HFH EMEA)	www.habitat.org/emea/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
International Housing Partnership (IHP)	http://internationalhousingpartnership.com/	Worldwide (incl Europe)
European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City	https://housingnotprofit.org/	Europe

The search string defined for Web of Science was “(housing OR shelter) AND (migrant* OR refugee*)”. No search terms were added related to integration because the previously described exploratory searches showed that different papers described integration outcomes and their factors with multiple terms, and thus defining these terms beforehand could risk leaving appropriate documents out of the retrieved results.

Figure 2 illustrates the search process. The initial search, after removing duplicates, returned 3412 records that were considered for inclusion. The titles and abstracts of all retrieved records underwent screening, applying the pre-defined exclusion criteria, resulting in the exclusion of a significant number of entries (n = 3241).

- 1608 records were discarded for discussing completely different topics (e.g. microbiology, ecology, maternal health, etc)

- 937 records were discarded for geographic scope

- 695 records were discarded for not incorporating one of the three main issues of this research: either didn't include migrant population, or housing/urban interventions, or didn't assess inclusion or integration.

- 16 records were discarded because, even discussing the three key elements described before, didn't include case studies or specific interventions and thus couldn't perform evaluations or make conclusions. Instead, they covered more theoretical aspects, general challenges or state of the art.

- 35 records were discarded for other causes such as different language or wrongly coded records.

At the same time, the screening of the repositories of grey literature sources described in table 2 provided 70 reports (see annex 2).

After the screening process, the remaining documents were read in their entirety. To facilitate the analysis, a pre-designed data extraction table was utilized, incorporating elements



such as: country the document relates to, study aims, integration outcomes, key findings, etc. 18 additional publications were identified through the reference lists of the included papers. Following this process, a further 183 records were discarded for not meeting all inclusion criteria and thus 26 documents were finally included in the scoping review: 17 reports and 9 academic papers.

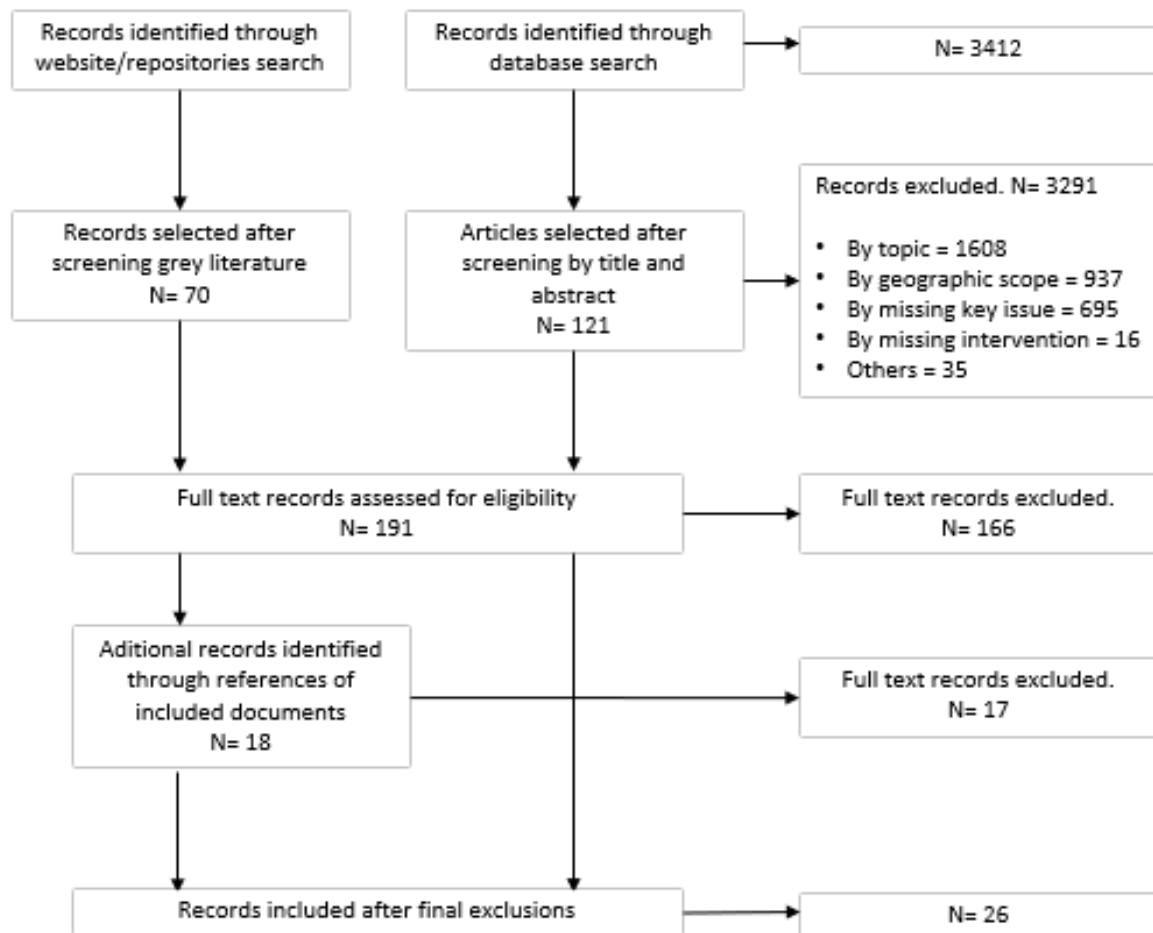


Figure 2. PRISMA flow chart of paper selection



4. Results

4.1. Characterisation of findings

A total of 26 records, including 103 projects or housing interventions in the European Mediterranean countries, were assessed. The "PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) flowchart" for the selection of sources of evidence presented in the previous section (Figure 2) showcases the selection process.

Details of each of the 26 records included in the scoping review can be found in the Summary of Findings (SoF) (Ryan R et al., 2016), table 4, following Cochrane guidelines to provide an overview of the main focus and type of evidence for each of the sources for this scoping study. Information is provided on each paper according to: publication type, study title, main author(s)/institution, publication year, countries of focus, aims of the study/report – where possible this has been extracted from the paper verbatim-, number of projects/examples analysed, type of intervention(s), methodology and summary of outcomes and good practices noted. All outcomes and good practices will be further detailed later.

As shown by Table 3, the vast majority records consist in narrative reviews (17), corresponding to the 17 reports included. These constitute ad hoc assessments of selected evidence, with a high risk of bias of the author(s) elaborating the corresponding report. Of the other 9 selected journal articles, the most frequent study design was qualitative (5), which may include a mixture of qualitative methods (e.g., direct observation and interviews) or the use of one single method. This was followed by studies which used and integrated a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (3). Finally, there was 1 study based on reviews of literature.

Table 3. Type of publications and research methodology

Publication type	Report	17
	Journal article	9
Methodology	Narrative Review	17
	Qualitative	5
	Mixed methods	3
	Literature Review	1

It is observed a general difference also between the content of the academic papers and the reports reviewed. Academic papers focus on description of the interventions or their results and outcomes. Reports generally include some kind of recommendations or extraction of general good practices and are more policy oriented.

Table 4. Summary of Findings (SoF) table

ID	Pub. type	Study title	Authors/ Institution	Pub. Year	Scope of paper	Countries of case studies analysed	Nº of projects analysed	Type of housing intervention	Methodology	Study design	Outcomes	Good Practices
1	Journal article	From camps to social integration? Social housing interventions for asylum seekers in Greece	Kourachanis, N	2019	Greece	Greece	1	6	Qualitative research	Structured interviews	Hou (3), Gov (1), Gen (2)	Hou (1), Hea (1), Bri (1), Lin (1), Lan (1), Gov (1)
2	Journal article	The impact of housing on refugees: an evidence synthesis	Brown, P et al	2022	Worldwide	Cyprus	n-a	1	Literature Review	Scoping review	Hou (2), Bri (1), Bon (1)	
3	Journal article	Housing and Social Policies for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors in Greece	Kourachanis, N	2021	Greece	Greece	n-a	1, 2, 3	Qualitative research	Structured interviews	Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (1), Rig (1), Gen (2)	
4	Journal article	The 'Badlands' of the 'Balkan Route': Policy and Spatial Effects on Urban Refugee Housing	Bird, G et al	2021	Greece and Serbia	Greece, Serbia	n-a	1,2	Mixed methods	Literature review + semi-structured interviews + direct observation	Hou (6), Saf (1), Rig (2)	
5	Journal article	Security Net and Ambassadors for Social Inclusion? The Role of Intermediaries in Host-Refugee Relationships in Homestay Programs	Brinker, L D	2021	Spain	Spain	1	4	Mixed methods	Direct observation + data analysis + structured interviews	Bon (2), Lin (1), Saf (1)	Emp (2), Bri (1), Bon (1), Lin (1), Lan (1), Rig (1), Gen (1)
6	Journal article	Housing Commons vs. State Spatial Policies of Refugee Camps in Athens and Thessaloniki	Tsavdaroglou, C et al	2020	Greece	Greece	41	2, 3	Mixed methods	Direct observation + spatial analysis + semi-structured interviews	Hou (6), Hea (2), Bri (3), Bon (1), Saf (1)	Hou (1), Saf (1)
7	Journal article	Reframing social mix in affordable housing initiatives in Italy and in the Netherlands. Closing the gap between discourses and practices?	Costarelli, I et al	2019	Italy and Netherlands	Italy	2	6	Qualitative research	Semi-structured interviews	Bri (2)	Bri (2), Gov (1), Gen (1)
8	Journal article	"It's Neighborhood, Not Buildings": Spatial Anchors to Morals and Persons in a Portuguese Housing Project	Mourao, A	2017	Portugal	Portugal	1	5	Qualitative research	Direct observation + structured interviews	Hou (3), Emp (2), Edu (1), Bri (1), Bon (3)	Emp (2), Edu (2), Hea (1), Lin (1), Rig (1)

ID	Pub. type	Study title	Authors/ Institution	Pub. Year	Scope of paper	Countries of case studies analysed	Nº of projects analysed	Type of housing intervention	Methodology	Study design	Outcomes	Good Practices
9	Journal article	The social consequences of the denied access to housing for refugees in urban settings: the case of Turin, Italy	Bolzoni, M et al	2015	Italy	Italy	4	3, 1	Qualitative research	Structured interviews	Emp (2), Edu (1), Hea (1), Bon (1), Lin (1), Rig (1), Gen (2)	Gov (1), Gen (1)
10	Report	EMN inform 2022: Organising flexible housing in the context of international protection	European Migration Network (EMN)	2023	Europe (incl. Medit)	2 Spain, France	2	7, 4	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (2), Gen (1)	Hou (1), Emp (1), Lan (1), Gov (1)
11	Report	The Path Ahead for People Fleeing Ukraine: IOM Toolkit on Facilitating Pathways to Inclusive and Cohesive Societies	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	2022	Europe (incl. Medit)	Greece	1	7, 8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence		Hou (3)
12	Report	Promising practices in the provision of essential services to migrants	Mosca, D. UN Migration Network	2022	Worldwide (incl. Europe and Medit)	Portugal	1	8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Gov (1)	Emp (1), Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (1), Lin (1), Lan (1), Gov (2)
13	Report	Long-term sustainable housing solutions for the intercultural city - Policy brief	Devan Kanthasamy, T, et al. Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities programme	2022	Europe (incl. Medit)	France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2 Italy, Greece	5	6, 7	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), N.I (1)	Emp (4), Hea (1), Bri (1), Lin (1), Rig (1), Gov (2)
14	Report	Includ EU: Regional and local expertise, exchange and engagement for enhanced social cohesion. Housing Brief	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	2021	Europe (incl. Medit)	2 Greece, 3 Italy, Slovenia, 2 Spain	8	1, 4, 6, 7, 8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), Bon (2), Gen (1), N.I (2)	Hou (5), Emp (3), Edu(3), Bri (6), Lin (2), Lan (3), Rig (1), Gov (3), Gen (1)
15	Report	Doing More with Less: A New Toolkit for Integration Policy	Benton, M; Embiricos, A. Migration Policy Institute	2019	Worldwide (incl. Europe and Medit)	Portugal	1	8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Gov (1)	Bri (2), Lin (1), Lan (1), Rig (1), Gov (2)
16	Report	Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion: From Bright Spots to System Change	Patuzzi, L; Benton, M; Embiricos, A. Migration Policy Institute	2019	Europe (incl. Medit)	France, Greece	2	4, 5, 6	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), Bri (1), Bon (1), N.I (1)	Emp (1), Edu (1), Hea(1), Bri (1), Lan (2), Gov (2)

ID	Pub. type	Study title	Authors/ Institution	Pub. Year	Scope of paper	Countries of case studies analysed	Nº of projects analysed	Type of housing intervention	Methodology	Study design	Outcomes	Good Practices
17	Report	Housing out of reach? The reception of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe	European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	2019	Europe (incl. Medit)	3 France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia	6	1, 5, 6, 7, 8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), Gen (2)	Emp (2), Bon (1), Lan (1), Gen (1)
18	Report	Migration and Housing pathways to social inclusion	Housing Europe	2018	Europe (incl. Medit)	2 Italy, France	3	5, 6	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), Lin (1), Gen (1)	Emp (3), Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (2), Bon (1), Lin (1), Rig (1), Gov (2), Gen (1)
19	Report	Global migration. Resilient cities at the forefront	100 resilient cities	2016	Worldwide (incl. Europe and Medit)	2 Greece, France	3	1, 4, 7	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), Emp (1), Bon (1), N.I., (2)	Hou (1), Hea (1), Lan (1), Gov (2)
20	Report	Digital Humanitarianism: How Tech Entrepreneurs Are Supporting Refugee Integration	Benton, M; Glennie, A. Migration Policy Institute	2016	Worldwide (incl. Europe and Medit)	Portugal and Spain, France	2	4	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence		Hou (1)
21	Report	Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Homelessness. The Humanitarian Crisis and the Homelessness Sector in Europe	European Observatory on Homelessness	2016	Europe (incl. Medit)	3 France, Italy, Portugal	5	1, 7, 8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (5)	Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (2), Rig (1)
22	Report	Housing and segregation of migrants - Case study: Terrassa, Spain	van Heelsum, A. Eurofound	2009	Spain	Spain	1	6	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (4), Lin (1), Saf (1)	Hou (3), Emp (1), Bri (4), Bon (2), Lin (1), Lan (3), Saf (1), Rig (1)
23	Report	Housing policies promoting integration and community cohesion at local level	International Centre for Migration Policy Development	2008	Europe (incl. Medit)	3 Spain	3	6	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (3), Gen (2), N.I (1)	Hou (2), Emp (2), Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (2), Bon (3), Gov (1), Gen (1)
24	Report	Housing and integration of migrants in Europe	Bosswick, W; Lüken-Klaßen, D; Heckmann, F. Eurofound	2007	Europe (incl. Medit)	Spain, 2 France, Italy	4	6, 7, 8	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (3), Bri (1), N.I (1)	Hou (2), Bri (1), Gov (2)
ID	Pub. type	Study title	Authors/ Institution	Pub. Year	Scope of paper	Countries of case studies analysed	Nº of projects analysed	Type of housing intervention	Methodology	Study design	Outcomes	Good Practices

25	Report	Housing for migrants and refugees in UNECE region. Challenges and practices	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	2021	Worldwide (incl. Europe and Medit)	Italy, France, Serbia, Spain, Greece	5	1, 5, 7	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (6), Emp (1), Bri (1), Saf (1), Gen (1), N.I (1)	Hou (4), Emp (4), Hea (3), Bri (3), Lan (1), Rig (1), Gov (2)
26	Report	The Curing the Limbo Project Journal n°1	Levente Polyak. UIA Urban Innovative Actions	2018	Greece	Greece	1	6	Narrative Review	Ad hoc assessments of selected evidence	Hou (1), N.I (1)	Hou (1), Emp (2), Edu (1), Hea (1), Bri (2), Lan (1), Rig (1), Gov (3), Gen (1)



As can be seen in table 5, the example of housing projects presented in the studies and reports represented notable geographic diversity and included examples from 8 different countries, although the majority of them (85%) were implemented in France, Greece, Italy and Spain. Studies represented a range of localities within these countries; while some of them included interventions in one unique location, most of the examples provided were implemented in multiple cities at once or in several locations within an only city.

It is worth noting that the scope of most of the reports in this review included more countries, and interventions, than those represented above, as shown in table 5. But only the examples located in the European Mediterranean countries are being analysed.

Table 5. Geographic distribution of findings

Geographic scope of papers	Europe (including Mediterranean)	11
	Several mediterranean countries	2
	Single mediterranean country	8
	Worldwide (including Europe and Mediterranean)	5
Countries of case studies/projects	France	16
	Greece	13
	Italy	13
	Spain	12
	Portugal	5
	Serbia	2
	Slovenia	2
	Cyprus	1
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Location of intervention	multiple cities	29
	multiple locations	24
	unique location	9
	n-a	1

Regarding the nature of the interventions, 8 main categories are presented in table 6. Around one third of the examples analysed provided full apartments, be it in mixed population buildings (27%) or in buildings reserved for the migrant beneficiaries of the projects (8%). 21% of examples corresponded to community shelters of any form, 4% to camps and 4% to squats. Around one third (27%) of the projects analysed didn't involve the material provision of housing, mainly interventions involving only financial support (15%), flatsharing (8%), or other such as innovative management programmes or digital platforms (15%).

As can be seen in Table 6, 30% of the examples reviewed were long term interventions. While the majority of the cases analysed (69%) were temporary interventions, ranging from 3 to 18



months in case of programmes providing accommodation, and as short as a one-time payment in some financial-only interventions. It must be noted that in the case of interventions regarding financial support only, these were marked as temporary because that was the nature of those projects and the support was time-bounded, but in these cases that didn't mean the tenant was evicted or discontinued from their apartment; on the contrary, these measures were intended to help find a long term accommodation despite the economic support being temporary. However, the continuity in such accommodation was dependent on the tenant's capability of securing the financial means and thus being economically independent.

Table 6. Characterisation of housing interventions

Type of housing intervention	Community shelters, reception centres	16
	Camps	3
	Squats	3
	Flatsharing	7
	Full apartments in only-migrants buildings	6
	Full apartments in mixed population buildings	20
	Financial support for housing	11
	Other non material interventions	9
Timeframe	Temporary	43
	Long term	19
	n-a	1

Below, a description of the key findings in relation to integration outcomes and good practices noted for each type of housing intervention will be provided, gathered from all documents analysed.

All mentions to outcomes or good practices were thoroughly extracted from each of the papers reviewed -and for each of the projects or programmes presented, when applicable- including literal wording. These indicators, descriptions and/or descriptors were later translated into common labeling: e.g. "increased exchanges/meetings with locals" was the designated term to encompass wordings such as "connected more quickly to neighbors who are permanent residents or long-term immigrants" or "co-housing offers—and normalises—numerous opportunities for informal encounters". Finally, these outcomes and good practices were classified in domains following Ager and Strang's model (Ager & Strang, 2008) as described below.

4.2. Classification of integration outcomes

Ager and Strang's conceptual framework for integration is a model designed to understand and assess the process of integration among migrants. This framework, developed in their study "Understanding integration: A conceptual framework" (2008), identifies ten core domains that collectively represent different aspects of integration. These domains provide a structured approach to analysing and evaluating integration outcomes. The framework builds on their earlier



work from 2004, where they proposed these domains as key areas reflecting normative understandings of integration.

A Conceptual Framework Defining Core Domains of Integration



Figure 3. Ager and Strang's Framework for Integration (2008)

The ten core domains within Ager and Strang's framework are as follows:

1. **Housing:** the availability of suitable housing and the quality of the living environment for migrants impact their physical and mental wellbeing, their sense of security and stability, chances for social connection, and access to further services and opportunities. Within this dimension, a specific aspect has been reported separately in this report: housing/settlement location.
2. **Employment and employability:** employment fosters economic self-reliance, offering a means for generating income and thus is viewed by both policy analysts and migrants as a fundamental element that supports integration. Additionally, jobs play a significant role in (re)establishing valued social roles, enhancing language and overall cultural proficiency, and establishing social connections.
3. **Education:** provides skills and competences to become more constructive and active members of society. For children and families with children, schools are the most important place to interact within communities and establish relationships that support integration.
4. **Health and Well-being:** Migrants' physical and mental health, including access to healthcare services and overall well-being is a necessary aspect to further advance in other integration domains. It is key for active engagement in a new society.
5. **Social bridges:** Establishing inter-groups connections with those of other national, ethnic or religious populations is essential to achieve the 'two way' interaction at the heart of many definitions of integration, to broaden cultural understanding, ease potential tensions and enhance social cohesion.



6. Social bonds: networks and relationships with other individuals, both migrant and host community members, contribute to feeling “settled” and promote psychological wellbeing and a sense of belonging.
7. Social links: the extent to which migrants engage in and contribute to the civic and political life of their host society, as well as migrant’s involvement in formal political processes and state services.
8. Language and cultural knowledge: the ability of migrants to acquire and use the language of the host society is crucial for effective communication and participation. And cultural knowledge and sensitivity, being both important for migrants and for host communities, includes practical information for daily living, customs and identity, background and expectations.
9. Safety and stability: lack of violence, harassment, dangers or threats and feelings of security within the host society are necessary to feel “at home”. So is continuity in places, communities and relationships.
10. Rights, citizenship (and responsibilities⁴): the extent to which refugees are provided with the basis for full and equal engagement within society.

By categorising integration into these ten domains, the framework provides a comprehensive approach for the assessment of migrants' overall integration process. In this research, this framework has been used to analyse the impacts of housing interventions on different aspects of migrants' lives.

In addition, in this research three other categories have been added to the assessment:

11. Governance: since a good governance in all aspects concerning housing interventions (implementation, regulatory frameworks, roles and responsibilities) is key for success, especially in holistic and multidisciplinary programmes like those regarding integration.
12. General integration comments or appreciations: to gather overall evaluations of programmes and general integration measures.
13. Other relevant outcomes not related to integration

At the same time, good practices noted in each of the housing interventions have been registered and classified according to the previously described categories.

This information will be presented in tables 7 to 14 and further explained afterwards.

⁴ First described as rights and citizenship by (Ager & Strang, 2008) and later expanded to responsibilities by (Ndofor-Tah et al., 2019)



Table 7. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 1

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES		GOOD PRACTICES	
Housing	13	12	1	I: increased accommodation	8	GP: professional support in housing process (search and contracts)	1
				I: adequate facilities/amenities	2		
				I: good/adequate quality	1		
				I: privacy (separate rooms)	1		
				I: bad/inadequate quality	4		
				I: insufficient capacity	3		
				I: overcrowded	3		
				I: lack of facilities/amenities	2		
				I: inappropriate/unwelcoming aesthetics	1		
				(Location of housing)	2	1	1
				I: reduced access to amenities, services and support	1		
				I: easy accessibility by public transport	1		
Employment and employability		2	5	I: economic self-sufficiency	1	GP: professional support to find employment	2
				I: increased employability	1	GP: incentives to employers	1
						GP: provides job in housing/integration project	1
						GP: training to enhance employability	1
Education	1		4	I: lack adequate access to education	1	GP: education facilities	3
						GP: educational activities/training	1
Health and wellbeing	1		4	I: lack adequate access to health services		GP: basic health services	2
						GP: Arabic-speaking volunteer doctors	1
						GP: psychosocial support	1
Social bridges	2	1	4	I: enhanced participation	1	GP: includes community spaces and services	2
				I: lack adequate access to social support activities	2	GP: cultural/recreational activities	1
						GP: incentives for tenants to participate/lead activities	1
Social bonds	1			I: isolation and loneliness	1		
Social links							
Language and cultural knowledge			3			GP: language training	2
						GP: interpretation and translation	1
Safety and stability	1		1	I: high risk of violence, abuse, harassment. unsafe	1	GP: fire safety measures implemented	1
Rights citizenship and responsibilities	3		3	I: feeling of imprisonment	1	GP: legal and administrative support	3
				I: lack of access to legal support	1		
				I: restricted mobility rights	1		
Governance			4			GP: multistakeholder	3
						GP: ppp	1



General appreciations	3	2	3	I: enhanced social integration and independent living I: replicated in other places I: lack of acquired skills or means to live independently	1 1 3	GP: personalised support and tailored pathways	3
Others		2		I: regeneration of degraded areas or buildings	2		

Table 8. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 2

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES		GOOD PRACTICES
Housing	6			I: overcrowded	3	
				I: bad/inadequate quality	1	
				I: inappropriate/unwelcoming aesthetics	1	
				I: lack of facilities/amenities	1	
(Location of housing)	3			I: reduced access to amenities, services and support	2	
				I: (isolated location) adds to stigmatization	1	
Employment and employability						
Education	1			I: lack adequate access to education	1	
Health and wellbeing	3			I: lack adequate access to health services	1	
				I: psychological problems and trauma	1	
				I: exposure to pollution and danger	1	
Social bridges	1			I: lack adequate access to social support activities	1	
Social bonds						
Social links						
Language and cultural knowledge						
Safety and stability	2			I: high risk of violence, abuse, harassment. unsafe	2	
Rights citizenship and responsibilities	2			I: lack of access to legal support	1	
				I: restricted mobility rights	1	
Governance						
General appreciations	2			I: lack of acquired skills or means to live independently	2	
Others						



Table 9. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 3

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES	GOOD PRACTICES
Housing	1	2		I: good/adequate quality	1
				I: privacy (separate rooms)	1
				I: overcrowded	1
(Location of housing)		1	1	I: better access to key services, amenities, and opportunities	1 GP: located in city centre/embedded in urban tissue
Employment and employability	1			I: high unemployment	1
Education	1			I: lack adequate access to education	2
Health and wellbeing	1			I: lack adequate access to health services	2
Social bridges	1	3		I: social mix	1
				I: enhanced participation	1
				I: feeling of familiarity, sociability and acceptance	1
				I: lack adequate access to social support activities	1
Social bonds		2		I: sense of belonging	2
Social links	1			I: difficulties to access social services/institutions	1
Language and cultural knowledge					
Safety and stability			1		GP: provide safe spaces for LGBTQ
Rights citizenship and responsibilities	2			I: lack of access to legal support	1
				I: failure to obtain citizen rights	1
Governance					
General appreciations	2			I: lack of acquired skills or means to live independently	2
Others					

Table 10. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 4

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES	GOOD PRACTICES
Housing		2	1	I: good/adequate quality	1 GP: digital platform
				I: increased accommodation	1
(Location of housing)			1		GP: located in city centre/embedded in urban tissue
Employment and employability		1	2	I: increased employability	1 GP: professional support to find employment
					2 GP: training to enhance employability
Education			2		GP: professional support to promote schooling
					1 GP: undefined education support
					1



Health and wellbeing						
Social bridges	1	1	I: mutual cultural learning	1	GP: cultural/recreational activities	2
					GP: incentives for tenants to participate/lead activities	1
					GP: sensibilization of host community	1
Social bonds	5	1	I: increased exchanges/meetings with locals	3	GP: mediation in conflict resolution	1
			I: strengthened bonds and social networks	2		
Social links	1	1	I: increased and enhanced access to social services/institutions	1	GP: support to enrol in services/institutions	1
Language and cultural knowledge		2			GP: integration/cultural guidance	1
					GP: language training	1
Safety and stability	1		I: safe and stable	1		
Rights citizenship and responsibilities		1			GP: legal and administrative support	1
Governance		3			GP: coordination and knowledge sharing	1
					GP: multistakeholder	2
General appreciations	2	2	I: enhanced social integration and independent living	1	GP: personalised support and tailored pathways	2
			I: replicated in other places	1		
Others	1		I: increased and enhanced city/neighbourhood services	1		

Table 11. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 5

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES	GOOD PRACTICES	
Housing		8		I: increased accomodation		4
				I: good/adequate quality		2
				I: adequate aesthetics		1
				I: adequate facilities/amenities		1
(Location of housing)		2		I: better access to key services, amenities, and opportunities		1
				I: easy accessibility by public transport		1
Employment and employability	2		4	I: high unemployment	1	GP: professional support to find employment
				I: precarious jobs	1	GP: provides job in housing/integration project
					1	GP: training to enhance employability
Education	1		3	I: low schooling rates	1	GP: professional support to promote schooling
						2
					1	GP: support with shcoolwork
						1



Health and wellbeing		3			GP: sexual-health counselling	1	
					GP: basic health services	1	
					GP: psychosocial support	1	
Social bridges	1	2	I: ghettoization	1	GP: includes community spaces and services	1	
					GP: sensibilization of host community	1	
Social bonds	2	2	1	I: collaboration/mutual assistance	1	GP: reunite family members	1
				I: increased exchanges/meetings with locals	1		
				I: isolation and loneliness	1		
				I: mistrust and disappointment	1		
Social links		1			GP: institutions on site	1	
Language and cultural knowledge		1			GP: integration/cultural guidance	1	
Safety and stability		1			GP: fire safety measures implemented	1	
Rights citizenship and responsibilities		1			GP: legal and administrative support	1	
Governance		3			GP: multistakeholder	2	
					GP: coordination and knowledge sharing	1	
General appreciations							
Others	1			I: regeneration of degraded areas or buildings			

Table 12. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 6

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES	GOOD PRACTICES		
Housing	16	12		I: affordable decent housing	4	GP: incentives to owners	3
				I: good/adequate quality	4	GP: networking/liasing/mediating with owners	3
				I: increased accommodation	4	GP: information on housing rules	2
				I: improves previous housing conditions	2	GP: professional support in housing process (search and contracts)	2
				I: internationally recognised (award, selected as GP)	1	GP: mixed typologies	1
				I: overcoming exclusion tendencies of owners	1	GP: provides guarantees	1
(Location of housing)	1	1		I: better access to key services, amenities, and opportunities	1	GP: located in city centre/embedded in urban tissue	1
Employment and employability		11			GP: training to enhance employability	6	
					GP: professional support to find employment	3	
					GP: undefined employment support	2	
Education		4			GP: educational activities/training	2	



				GP: support with schoolwork	1	
				GP: undefined education support	1	
Health and wellbeing	5			GP: psychosocial support	4	
				GP: undefined health support	1	
Social bridges	5	20	I: social mix	3	GP: cultural/recreational activities	6
			I: diversity	1	GP: sensibilization of host community	6
			I: enhanced community perception	1	GP: incentives for tenants to participate/lead activities	5
					GP: includes community spaces and services	3
Social bonds	6				GP: mediation in conflict resolution	3
					GP: support to improve social relationships	2
					GP: migrants trained as mediators	1
Social links	2	5	I: enhanced participation	1	GP: support to enrol in services/institutions	3
			I: high number of civic associations	1	GP: participatory and consultative processes	2
Language and cultural knowledge	7				GP: language training	5
					GP: integration/cultural guidance	1
					GP: interpretation and translation	1
Safety and stability	1	1	I: increased police presence	1	GP: safety and security training	1
Rights citizenship and responsibilities	5				GP: legal and administrative support	5
Governance	1	17	I: lack of institutional involvement	1	GP: multistakeholder	11
					GP: holistic approach	3
					GP: coordination and knowledge sharing	1
					GP: includes data collection, monitoring, evaluation	1
					GP: ppp	1
General appreciations	11	6	I: replicated in other places	3	GP: personalised support and tailored pathways	6
			I: positive evaluation by different stakeholders	3		
			I: enhanced social integration and independent living	2		
			I: reduced number of beneficiaries successfully exiting the programme	2		
			I: lack of acquired skills or means to live independently	1		
Others	4		I: recovery of depopulated areas	2		
			I: increased and enhanced city/neighbourhood services	1		
			I: regeneration of degraded areas or buildings	1		



Table 13. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 7

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES		GOOD PRACTICES	
Housing		4	15	I: increased accommodation	3	GP: professional support in housing process (search and contracts)	5
				I: improves previous housing conditions	1	GP: networking/liasing/mediating with owners	3
						GP: provides guarantees	3
						GP: digital platform	2
						GP: incentives to owners	1
						GP: information on housing rules	1
(Location of housing)		1	1	I: better access to key services, amenities, and opportunities	1	GP: located in city centre/embedded in urban tissue	1
Employment and employability			5			GP: training to enhance employability	3
						GP: economic support for job equipment	1
						GP: undefined employment support	1
Education							
Health and wellbeing			1			GP: psychosocial support	1
Social bridges			1			GP: sensibilization of host community	1
Social bonds		2		I: increased exchanges/meetings with locals	2		
Social links							
Language and cultural knowledge			5			GP: interpretation and translation	2
						GP: language training	2
						GP: integration/cultural guidance	1
Safety and stability							
Rights citizenship and responsibilities							
Governance			5			GP: multistakeholder	2
						GP: ppp	2
						GP: includes data collection, monitoring, evaluation	1
General appreciations		2		I: enhanced social integration and independent living	2		
Others		3		I: lessons learned applicable for settlement of other vulnerable groups	1		
				I: recovery of depopulated areas	1		
				I: regeneration of degraded areas or buildings	1		



Table 14. Integration outcomes and good practices for Housing Intervention 8

	-	+	GP	OUTCOMES	GOOD PRACTICES			
Housing (Location of housing)	3	8	I: increased accommodation	2	GP: networking/liasing/mediating with owners	3		
					I: overcoming exclusion tendencies of owners	1	GP: digital platform	2
							GP: professional support in housing process (search and contracts)	2
							GP: incentives to owners	1
Employment and employability		3			GP: undefined employment support	2		
					GP: adaptation to professional profile	1		
Education		2			GP: professional support to promote schooling	1		
					GP: undefined education support	1		
Health and wellbeing		1			GP: undefined health support	1		
Social bridges		3			GP: incentives for tenants to participate/lead activities	1		
					GP: sensibilization of host community	1		
					GP: sociocultural mediators	1		
					GP: undefined social integration support	1		
Social bonds	1		I: increased exchanges/meetings with locals	1				
Social links	1	2	I: increased and enhanced access to social services/institutions	1	GP: institutions on site	1		
					GP: participatory and consultative processes	1		
Language and cultural knowledge		5			GP: interpretation and translation	2		
					GP: integration/cultural guidance	1		
					GP: language training	1		
					GP: undefined language support	1		
Safety and stability								
Rights citizenship and responsibilities		1			GP: legal and administrative support	1		
Governance	2	7	I: enhanced local management	1	GP: multistakeholder	3		
					I: increased service use and enhanced user experience	1	GP: holistic approach	2
							GP: include monitoring and evaluation	1
							GP: includes data collection, monitoring, evaluation	1
General appreciations	1	1	I: enhanced social integration and independent living	1	GP: personalised support and tailored pathways	1		
Others	1		I: recovery of depopulated areas	1				



4.2.1. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 1: collective accommodation (community shelters, reception centers)

As seen in table 7, there were 27 mentions to negative outcomes related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, 20 mentions to positive outcomes -although most of them were linked only to the fact of providing a bed/shelter to people who didn't have one and not with improving their integration prospects nor, many times, their wellbeing- and 33 mentions to good practices were noted.

Most outcomes, positive and negative, were related to housing itself. The most frequently reported positive outcome was increased accommodation, such as "By the end of 2018, there were a total 5,207 places in CPH established in 12 regions"(European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), 2019), "In 2014-15, the number of places in SPRAR projects increased from 3 000 to more than 20 000"(European Observatory on Homelessness, 2016) or "6 shelters for UMC with 131 places" (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021). Although there was one relatively positive appreciation on quality –"significantly improves the housing and social conditions of the beneficiaries [in relation to camps]"(Kourachanis, 2019), most descriptions reported bad quality – "lowered standards" (European Observatory on Homelessness, 2016) , "poor-quality or 'dilapidated' buildings which frames the residents in a poor light" (Brown et al., 2022)-, inadequate facilities, insufficient capacity or overcrowded situations –"over 7,000 refugees accommodated in Vathy RIC on Samos, which has an official capacity of 648" (Bird et al., 2021).

There is some variability in the support received by residents in these interventions, depending on the project. Some project examples – such as "Welcommon"(United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021)- describe good practices implemented regarding support within the project to enhance employment, health, education or social activities. But many centers or shelters just provide accommodation with no support, or restrict mobility, and these projects mention more negative outcomes in these areas such as isolation –"People living in Greek island RICs do not see their living arrangements in terms of reception; but rather incarceration"(Bird et al., 2021)-, loneliness or lack of access to services.

In general, appreciations in the papers reviewed see these interventions as "temporary solutions that do not promote the prospect of social integration"(Kourachanis, 2021).

4.2.2. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 2: camps

As seen in table 8, there were 20 mentions to negative outcomes related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, with no positive outcomes in any of the project examples provided and no good practices described either.

Camps are reported to be overcrowded –"population of Moria, on the Island of Lesvos, and its surrounding area grew from 7,467 people in July 2017 to 20,000 in January 2020" (Bird et al., 2021)-, with bad quality shelter –"unsuitable tents, containers and makeshift shelters" (Bird et al., 2021)-, lack of facilities, lack of access to services or activities and located in isolated areas. Restricted mobility rights and lack of legal support lead to sense of imprisonment, feelings of insecurity and risk of violence are reported –"high risk of gendered, homophobic, and transphobic



based violence, sexual abuse and harassment”(Tsavdaroglou & Lalenis, 2020) -, and residents suffer physical and psychological damage –“All refugees when leaving the camps have psychological problems and trauma” (Tsavdaroglou & Lalenis, 2020).

According to the papers reviewed, these solutions do not facilitate integration and the situation is worsened because "seemingly temporary camps often become permanent fixtures"(Bird et al., 2021).

4.2.3. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 3: squats

As seen in table 9, there were 10 mentions to negative outcomes related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, 8 mentions to positive outcomes and 2 good practices were noted.

Being mostly self-organised housing arrangements, instead of externally funded and implemented projects, there seem to be little extra activities or support services. And thus, negative outcomes are mostly related to this lack of access to education, job opportunities, institutions, legal support, etc. In some cases, this is countered by the location of squats, frequently embedded in the urban tissue and close to the city center, and thus “located within a short walking distance of schools, hospitals, employment opportunities, and public services” (Tsavdaroglou & Lalenis, 2020).

Regarding personal relations and social wellbeing, outcomes are more positive. There is social mix reported, as well as enhanced participation and feelings of familiarity and belonging: “taking decisions together, learning from each other and challenging national, political, religious or other identities” “we feel like we are part of it, we can shape it, we can participate in activities” “There are no walls between refugees and solidarity people, or between different nationalities. Here we are all equal and there is respect and absolute freedom of expression and speech” (Tsavdaroglou & Lalenis, 2020)

However, general integration outcomes reported point that resident’s situation isn’t improved to be able to live independently or legalise their situation -“none of the squats analysed here did participants manage to obtain the recognition of residency” (Bolzoni et al., 2015)

4.2.4. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 4: flatsharing

As seen in table 10, no negative outcomes were noted related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, while there were 14 mentions to positive outcomes and 17 mentions to good practices noted.

Most of this intervention’s positive integration and social outcomes stems from the interactions derived from the relationship established between the local host and the migrant guest. Homestay initiatives offer a way to provide migrants secure and stable accommodation, while also facilitating their entry into local social networks and promoting reciprocal cultural exchange: “the programme enables refugees to create strong ties with hosts” “hosts introduced refugees to their friends, families, or others” (Brinker, 2021),“co-housing offers—and normalises—numerous opportunities for informal encounters”(Patuzzi et al., 2019)



In some projects, the intervention is reinforced with additional external support such as intermediaries, conflict mediation or help with access to services, but these functions may arise as well from the relationship between flatmates: “Locals living with refugees—often students interested in affordable housing and keen on engaging in intercultural dialogue—act as ‘buddies’: they help newcomers deal with administrative issues, access education and employment, grow their social networks, and improve their language skills. Such arrangements may even help alleviate the aftereffects of trauma for those who experienced harrowing journeys” (Patuzzi et al., 2019), “refugees who live with a family, and not in a reception center, tend to find a job more easily through their adoptive family”(100 resilient cities, 2016)



4.2.5. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 5: Full apartments in only-migrants buildings

As seen in table 11, 6 negative outcomes were noted related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, 13 mentions to positive outcomes and 20 mentions to good practices noted.

As happened with intervention type 1, the most frequent positive outcome was related with the provision of accommodation itself -e.g: “90 places”(European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), 2019), “28 housing units and a capacity of about 56 people”(Whelan & Pittini, 2018)- with some mentions to adequate quality such as high design and construction standards or similar aesthetics to the rest of the area (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021). And some positive outcomes were noted regarding interpersonal relationships, like facilitating the reunion of family members (European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), 2019).

However, regarding social integration the outcomes were more negative, with mentions to segregation, low schooling and employment rates – “[...]high levels of failure and dropout. In 2010 only 5.2% of respondents had completed high school, with 14.3% illiterate”, “Unemployment reached an impressive 45%, compared with 11% nationally “(Mourao, 2017)- and feelings of isolation, loneliness or mistrust.

4.2.6. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 6: Full apartments in mixed population buildings

As seen in table 12, 1 negative appreciation was found within the papers reviewed and this had only to do with bad governance of one of the projects presented, not with negative integration outcomes of the intervention itself. On the other hand, there were 40 mentions to positive outcomes and 100 mentions to good practices noted.

Regarding housing, the most frequent positive reports, besides the increasing of accommodation places, were good quality houses as well as affordable and adequate -e.g the Curing the Limbo project in Athens (Devan Kanthasamy & Koumis, 2022)-, with some good results also in enhancing relationship with owners – “[...] overcome the exclusion tendencies of landlords”(Bosswick & Lüken-Klaßen Doris; Heckmann, 2007).

Several positive outcomes are reported in social integration: social mix – “residents from 19 different countries including Italy” (Whelan & Pittini, 2018)-, diversity -which does not only refer to ethnicity or income levels, but includes age, life styles and personal preferences (Costarelli et al., 2019)-, enhanced community perception – “perceived by the wider community as productive and generous neighbours” (Patuzzi et al., 2019)-, enhanced participation -be it social activities, decision making or in management of the project (Whelan & Pittini, 2018)- and overall higher involvement within the host community.

At the same time, most frequently reported good practices had to do with facilitating these social interactions with the organisation of cultural and recreational activities -such as sport activities, movie nights, language exchange, walks to garden or cooking activities(Costarelli et al., 2019)-, sensibilization with host communities -with trainings, local media campaigns to combat



stigmatization (International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 2008) or Arabic courses for locals (van Heelsum, 2009)-and incentives for tenants to participate in community activities and/or community services. Also, most projects report good practices in other areas such as external support to enhance employment conditions, education, languages, health or legal aid.

Most projects presented in the literature as good examples of this kind of intervention highlight the importance of a holistic approach (Devan Kanthasamy & Koumis, 2022; Polyak, 2018) and, for this matter, the desirability to convey multistakeholder partnerships to design and implement the programmes (Costarelli et al., 2019; Devan Kanthasamy & Koumis, 2022; Whelan & Pittini, 2018).

General appreciations point to positive indicatives such as the project being replicated in other places (Devan Kanthasamy & Koumis, 2022; European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), 2019) or receiving positive evaluations from stakeholders –“[...]internationally recognised as good practice and as a basis for drawing lessons for future programmes with regard to integration measures for minority populations”(International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 2008) . And two mentions were found on positive integration outcomes overall –“ With regard to social integration and cohesion, the programme proved to be especially successful”(International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 2008), On the other hand, two evaluations report that some beneficiaries do not achieve the goal of social integration and independent living (Kourachanis, 2019), and rather become stagnant or dependent on the programme.

4.2.7. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 7: Financial support for housing

As seen in table 13, no negative outcomes were noted related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, 12 mentions to positive outcomes and 33 mentions to good practices noted.

This type of intervention, while not providing a shelter directly, provides economic support to beneficiaries to be able to access housing within the private market, in the form of rental subsidies (100 resilient cities, 2016; International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021), complementary services like insurance or real state costs (European Migration Network, 2023), one-time payments (100 resilient cities, 2016), or other. Economic incentives may be given to landlords also in order to increase the housing stock, but this is not exclusive from this kind of intervention, as it was also noted as good practice in other types of housing interventions.

As with other housing interventions, many of the programmes described as successful in the literature include other support activities to enhance the beneficiaries’ employability in order to secure their own income, language and cultural training, or psychosocial support, among others.

Some positive general appreciations were found regarding integration, noting that entering the general private market allows to “connect more quickly to neighbors who are permanent residents or long-term immigrants” (100 resilient cities, 2016) and promotes independent living (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021).



4.2.8. Integration outcomes of Housing intervention 8: Other non-material interventions

As seen in table 14, no negative outcomes were noted related to this type of intervention within the papers reviewed, while there were 9 mentions to positive outcomes and 33 mentions to good practices noted.

Besides the direct provision of housing or shelter or the financial support required to access an adequate home, other interventions were found that also facilitates de access to adequate housing. These are mostly related with innovative management (Benton & Embiricos, 2019), municipal, urban and territorial plans (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021) or social and digital platforms to match supply and demand for migrants (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021). In the majority of cases these innovative initiatives were presented in conjunction with some other intervention from the previously described, so it must be noted that the integration outcomes mentioned are more difficult to be attributed only to this specific intervention.

There are some positive outcomes, however, that are directly related. For example, in the case of programmes that include a territorial distribution of migrants, it is reported to have a positive impact in the recovery of depopulated areas or the regeneration of degraded areas or buildings (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021).



5. Discussion

5.1. In relation to specific objective 1: Identifying indicators in housing interventions to assess the integration of migrants and thus their improved life conditions and, if possible, categorising them

There are some challenges and limitations to measure integration of migrant population, in general, and even more to measure the direct impact of specific interventions, due to a variety of interrelated factors.

First of all, as stated in the first section of this review on context, there seems to be no widely agreed-upon definition of the social integration of migrants (Kourachanis, 2019). In the European Union, there is no common understanding of integration that that universally applies across all countries and, in fact, there is considerable debate on whether integration is primarily a process, an outcome both (Jean-Pierre Gauci, 2020). This absence of definition also means that defining 'success' in integration is complicated, as well as the collection of data to measure that integration.

Attempts have been made to overcome this challenge, such as Ager & Strang's Framework for Integration, which is the most cited example in academic literature on housing. In their previous work (Ager & Strang, 2004) they described the goal of identifying potential indicators with respect to those domains, but, recognizing the complexity of this task, finally presented the 10 domains, with evidence from several data sources in support of their inclusion, "as a means to facilitate discussion regarding perceptions of integration that is accessible"

Also, several sets of indicators -quantitative and qualitative- have been defined to measure integration. In the European Union, the first attempt was the Zaragoza declaration in 2010 that agreed on a set of common quantitative indicators, which was later expanded (Eurostat, 2023a). The European Commission, jointly with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has been releasing since 2015 the report "Indicators of immigrant integration, Settling In", which also presents a set of quantitative indicators (OECD and European Commission, 2023). Likewise, a set of qualitative indicators was presented by the International Organisation on Migration (Tropp & Morhayim, 2022).

However, even where those indicators have been considered, many times there is scarce data available or a lot of data missing (Migration Policy Group (MPG), 2016)

Furthermore, these indicators are generally measures of whole populations, not specific for integration outcomes of migrants, but they may be used to measure these outcomes by group comparison: migrant population vs local population; migrants before and after an intervention, migrants with access to an intervention vs without, and so forth.

Even so, integration can mean different things to different individuals and communities. Subjective perceptions of integration may not always align with quantitative measurements, so quantitative analysis should be always accompanied by qualitative assessments.

Secondly, integration is not a one-time outcome, but rather a process that evolves over time and this requires a more longitudinal approach to research. Regarding housing, there are several studies on housing pathways or trajectories of migrants (Balampanidis, 2020; Brown et al., 2022;



Eskela, 2018; Grp et al., 2018; Manting et al., 2022), that can be very indicative of the level of integration achieved over a long period of time. These studies, while very interesting on their own, have not been included in this review. On one hand because they didn't address specific housing interventions and thus were out of the inclusion criteria. And on the other hand, because they don't establish if those housing pathways lead to different integration outcomes or, on the contrary, were other integration or discrimination conditions that lead to the described housing pathways.

Integration is a long-term process that unfolds over years, making it challenging to attribute changes solely to housing interventions within a short observation period.

Third, it is difficult to measure integration due to specific interventions because indicators or markers of integration are also means to achieve integration (Ager & Strang, 2008). There are a number of key areas (mainly employment, housing, education and health) which are widely suggested as indicative of successful integration. However, as Ager and Strang state, it is problematic to see achievement in those areas purely as a "marker" of integration. Because, while they may serve as such, they are also a potential means to achieve integration. So sometimes the direction of the relationship may not be clearly established.

Moreover, many factors influence integration outcomes, such as pre-migration experiences, education, policies, discrimination, and the overall economic climate, so isolating the impact of housing alone is challenging. And, at the same time, many housing projects, programmes or policies that seek integration of migrants include some other type of support (legal aid, social assistance, mediators, training), adding more confounding factors to the analysis.

This can be tackled with appropriate study designs to measure the outcomes of specific interventions, such as Randomized Control Trials, case-control studies, etc. This topic will be further discussed in section 4.3.

Appropriateness of using Ager and Strang's Framework

It can be observed and has been repeatedly stated in the literature that social integration is influenced by a wide range of parameters. Ager and Strang's conceptual framework for integration constitutes a valuable approach for measuring and presenting outcomes of housing interventions for multiple reasons and is one of the most cited references for this matter in housing studies.

It provides a structured basis for analysing outcomes. This structure aids in organising data, identifying key indicators within each domain and presenting good practices, as shown in this review. It also allows for comparative analysis across different interventions, which enhances the ability to discern patterns and trends in integration outcomes related to housing interventions.

It facilitates a comprehensive approach and ensures that housing interventions' impacts are assessed across a range of factors, both material and immaterial. Housing interventions can influence multiple dimensions simultaneously, and this framework facilitates understanding those interconnected effects.

For example, as they explain, regarding housing outcomes: "Indicators of appropriate housing that were developed during the course of this study included a range of measures of the



physical size, quality and facilities of housing, along with the financial security of tenancies and, where appropriate, ownership. During the course of fieldwork in communities, however, discussions seldom focused upon such aspects of housing conditions. Rather, respondents were concerned with the social and cultural impacts of housing. Established local residents and refugees each valued the continuity of relationships associated with being 'settled' in an area over time" (Ager & Strang, 2008)

Finally, using a recognized framework enhances the clarity of reporting and communication. Results can be effectively conveyed to promote a better understanding of an intervention's impact. Furthermore, the use of an established framework ensures consistency in research methodology and terminology, making it easier to build upon and replicate studies over time.

5.2. In relation to specific objective 2: Reviewing best practices and recommendations regarding housing interventions for migrants

In the context of social issues, a "good practice" refers to proven methods, strategies, or interventions that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to achieve positive outcomes in addressing specific social challenges. These practices are based on sound evidence, adhere to ethical principles, and are adaptable to diverse contexts, making them valuable models for addressing social problems and promoting social well-being (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2002).

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has emphasized good practices are central to evidence-based policy-making and have the potential to inspire and inform social interventions and programmes that effectively improve the lives of individuals and communities. Identifying and sharing good practices is vital for advancing knowledge, guiding policy decisions, and promoting evidence-based solutions to complex social issues.

In the projects presented in the literature as good examples or successful interventions, there are certain features frequently mentioned as good practices, although little is said regarding their related positive outcomes or evidence of their effectiveness.

There seem to be no proper evaluations of housing projects and programmes in the academic literature or national and international organisations' reports. Among the journal articles reviewed in this research, there is one good evaluation in (Kourachanis, 2019) . Regarding reports, when examples of interventions are presented as good practices, no specific outcomes, measures or data are generally included, but rather the individual assessment or appreciation of the author(s) of the report.

Conducting a programme evaluation requires dedicated (financial) resources and a considerable amount of time, as well as careful and meticulous planning. It involves numerous steps to generate valuable data for analysis and insights that can guide future programme development. This is often difficult in programmes and projects that are already tensioned by enormous time and budget constraints and increasing demand. Therefore, rather than treating evaluation as an afterthought or a secondary concern, it is imperative to integrate impact evaluation into the initial project development phase (Tropp & Morhayim, 2022). There are already guidelines for performing



quality evaluations of projects and programmes regarding integration outcomes, such as those presented by (Tropp & Morhayim, 2022), that can be used.

Having in mind these limitations, the features reported as good practices in the projects and papers reviewed were listed in detail and categorised for each housing intervention when presenting the results (tables 7 to 14).

5.3. In relation to specific objective 3: Mapping available evidence on the effectiveness of housing interventions to foster inclusion of migrants

As it was presented in the introduction of this review, it is generally acknowledged within the field of housing and migration that housing plays a major role in the process of integration of migrants and refugees into a society (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2021), with even international organisations presenting housing as a major vector for integration. For example, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) states that "housing is a key determinant of integration, providing migrants with a safe and stable place to live, as well as access to essential services and opportunities" (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2022) and UN-Habitat affirms that "housing is a key enabler of integration, providing migrants with a place to live, work, and raise their families" (UN-Habitat, 2022).

In the review of literature performed, both within the 26 papers analysed for housing interventions and within the broader literature search performed previously, different affirmations aligned with this statement have been found from different authors. However, these affirmations were not accompanied by supporting evidence of specific outcomes derived from specific housing interventions or policies. Here is an overview of the statements and evidence found in this regard.

Ager and Strang characterised housing as a core domain in integration (Ager & Strang, 2008). (Flatau et al., 2015) observed, "housing plays a fundamental role in the journey of refugees following resettlement in a host country".

(Ribera-Almandoz et al., 2022) stated that "In the fields of migration and refugee studies and housing research, it is well documented that access to appropriate housing is an essential vector of settlement and socioeconomic integration". They cite as references (Kissoon, 2010), that states that the lack of housing leads to homelessness, poverty and social isolation -although they analyse pathways rather than interventions and compares UK's and Canada's asylum seekers reception programmes-; (Phillips, 2006) that acknowledges "There is general agreement that housing is a key pillar of integration for refugees (Ager & Strang, 2008), yet it remains an area for which there is little attention in housing studies"; and (Rose, 2001), who affirms that "Refugees who have access to adequate housing are more likely to be able to find employment, learn the language, and participate in their new community" out of a sample of 400 refugees in Montreal.

There seems to be a broader consensus or some pieces of evidence on the negative consequences of the lack of adequate housing for migrants. And thus, some authors focus more on housing as a precondition for further integration.

For example, the abovementioned paper by Kissoon 2010, or both international reports mentioned at the beginning of this section: the World Migration Report 2022 notes that "the lack



of adequate housing can be a major obstacle to integration, leading to social exclusion and marginalization" and UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022 affirms that "the lack of adequate housing can make it difficult for migrants to access essential services, such as education and healthcare, and can lead to social exclusion."

(Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2018) highlighted "Not only does not having a home undermine the ability of a newcomer to find a job or regularly attend training, but in many cities housing represents a necessary step towards integration and legality. Without a formal address, it is impossible to access certain municipal services, and in some countries, it prerequisite for obtaining a residence permit or to reunite with one's family".

(Esser, 2001) described housing as "a central element of structural integration of immigrants into the host society. As such, it is mutually related, in a weaker or stronger way, to other dimensions of integration, such as integration into the labour market. Although housing is no sufficient condition for the integration into other dimensions, lacking access to adequate housing may produce exclusion from other social subsystems. Consequently, the requirements of equal opportunities and equal access to housing are crucial for the whole process of integration".

(Wessel et al., 2017) noted that "Access to housing is considered to be an essential step on their path to social inclusion, and it is often a precondition for the full enjoyment of social and civil rights and social services". (Fóti et al., 2019) also affirmed "Ensuring access to safe and appropriate housing for refugees and asylum seekers is necessary in order to meet one of the fundamental human needs before any further integration in the host country can be considered".

Although all these statements were not accompanied by supporting evidence of specific outcomes derived from specific housing interventions or policies, as introduced in the first section of this scoping review, there have been some attempts at researching the causality of the relationship between housing interventions or programmes and integration of migrants, such as (Zheng et al., 2020) that performed a statistical analysis on social integration indicators in relation to a specific housing intervention (affordable housing programmes) over a broad set of data of migrant population in China and found a positive correlation. However, no studies of this kind were found in the geographic scope of this review, probably derived in part of the limitation in indicators and data exposed in section 4.1, and is a very interesting proposal for future research in this topic in the European-Mediterranean region.

Added to the limitations to measure integration of migrants described in section 4.1, it is worth noting that, regarding evaluation of effectiveness of interventions targeting integration, only a limited number of studies on integration initiatives are robust enough to prove that differences in outcomes were caused by the intervention (Benton & Embiricos, 2019). Although a few Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), often described as the gold standard of evaluation, have been conducted within the integration field (Hainmueller et al., 2018; Lebigier-Vogel et al., 2015), the majority of these are limited to preliminary studies or experiments exploring the impact of minor changes in the delivery of public services on integration outcomes (Benton & Embiricos, 2019).

However, there are other aspects of housing interventions that have been successfully evaluated with solid research methods, including randomized control trials. For example, health outcomes related to housing interventions (Aubry et al., 2019; Bovell-Ammon et al., 2020; Chum et



al., 2020; Towe et al., 2019), health, psychologic and economic outcomes related to housing interventions (Yakubovich et al., 2022), psychologic, employment, housing and education outcomes derived from housing interventions (Bassuk et al., 2014; Peng et al., 2020), or other. These study designs could be easily replicated with migrants to measure integration outcomes and would be highly desirable to provide a stronger body of evidence to inform better policy and programme design.

Questions also remain about the impact of practices and projects highlighted and celebrated in the grey literature. As mentioned in section 4.2, projects and programmes presented as successful examples, as well as their features mentioned as good practices, are usually not accompanied by evaluations, metrics, or outcomes. Hence, doubts remain about whether the good practice examples identified by various works ever had a sustained and measurable impact on integration and community cohesion (Tom Archer & Mark Stevens, 2018).

Another point made by other authors is the changing conditions surrounding migration, population, cities and urban development, which makes the scarce evidence available from good practices reported years ago, obsolete. As (Tom Archer & Mark Stevens, 2018) state: “There are examples of good practice where housing interventions appear to have had a positive impact on integration, access to housing and services, extending housing choice, and smoothing community relations. Nonetheless, this evidence relates to housing policies and practices from a different era, and there is a paucity of evidence about how housing bodies can intervene now, in what is a changed housing market, public policy regime and an age of ‘super-diversity’”

5.4. Other considerations

There is a broader body of research on the relationship between housing segregation and the integration of migrants (Andersson et al., 2018; Arbaci & Malheiros, 2010; Iglesias-Pascual, 2019; Phillips, 2010). The nuances of this relationship are not clear: causality can’t be clearly established, as some papers point out, whether interventions and policies that promote segregated areas lead to poor integration of migrants, or vice versa, if poor integration policies lead to segregation patterns.

Also, some papers note that many times are migrants themselves who choose to live in segregated areas ((Winke, 2018)), with one paper even pointing that migrants living in neighbourhoods with low population mix have higher life satisfaction (Coates et al., 2013). But, again, it is not clear if migrants that choose segregated areas do so freely or conditioned by social and economic conditions.

These papers were not included in this review because they didn’t target specific interventions but rather analysed geographical areas, and thus didn’t meet the inclusion criteria. Nevertheless, I thought it was worth mentioning these mixed results on this topic as some of the interventions assessed in this review targeted specifically the dispersion of migrants (such as Programme Emile (Devan Kanthasamy & Koumis, 2022), or Agenzia Casa (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021)), and population mix was consistently reported as a positive indicator across the papers reviewed.



5.5. Limitations and recommendations for further research

This scoping review has several limitations that may impact the findings and conclusions presented. A rigorous and iterative search was employed to identify articles, different literature sources were included to capture a broader range of evidence and expert stakeholder consultation was utilized to ensure appropriate sources were being included. However, it is possible that relevant literature may not have been identified for different reasons.

Different sources of information were included to provide greater representativity and a thorough search of grey literature was performed. However, due to time constraints derived from the nature of this research within a Masters' studies curriculum, only one database was selected as the most comprehensive for this topic and searched for academic literature. Replicating the search in other databases may capture additional records. From the preliminary research on migration and housing databases, a first recommendation for future research would be to include, besides Web of Science, Scopus as a second generalist database, Urban Studies Abstracts for housing research (included in EBSCO megafire) and the Social Science Premium collection of Proquest for integration and migration studies.

Regarding the inclusion and exclusion criteria, only English and Spanish language articles were included and valuable research published in other languages may be missed. The geographic scope was limited to European Mediterranean countries due to similarities in context so that the conclusions extracted could be generalised to all the area analysed, which may have left out relevant evidence from other countries out of the analysis. The preliminary searches showed that there may be a few solid studies in other parts of the world (Zheng et al., 2020) so it would be very interesting for future research to expand this study to Europe or Worldwide to capture them. In that case, the possible generalisation of the findings should be deeply discussed.

Furthermore, as noted in section 4.3, replicating those solid studies found in other limited areas outside of the scope of this study for Europe or European Mediterranean countries would provide very valuable evidence currently lacking in this topic and area.

Finally, publication bias should be taken into consideration. In the same way that this scoping review has not found the strong evidence that it was hoping to find on the impact on housing interventions in migrants' integration, it is plausible that some other previous research, study or programme evaluation has been performed with negative or non-significant results. Even more considering all the challenges previously described to measure integration, housing intervention outcomes and confounding factors. This may have led these hypothetical studies to remain unpublished, or been published in journals with lower impact factor and less accessible. It is important to advocate for measures to overcome publication bias and give the deserved relevance to negative or non-significant results, provided that research methodology is solid and demonstrates its rigor, validity, and contribution to knowledge.



6. Conclusions

It is widely accepted within the field of urban studies and migration that housing is a vector for integration of migrants. This scoping review aimed at gathering the evidence available in the European Mediterranean countries to support this affirmation, by analysing integration outcomes derived from housing interventions within the scope of the study. However, the evidence found was scarce and not robust enough to underpin the abovementioned statement.

Measuring integration is complex for several reasons: there's a lack of agreed upon definition, it is multifactorial, it can be considered both a process and a result, and it is continuously evolving. Assessing the integration outcomes achieved by a specific intervention entails additional challenges, as it is difficult to establish causality and isolate the intervention-related outcomes from other contextual factors, as well as from other integrating elements usually present in housing interventions. Nevertheless, this could be achieved with the appropriate study designs and evaluations.

Using (Ager & Strang, 2008) framework for integration has proven to be a useful approach, as it allows to characterise highly diverse evaluations, measures or assessments found in the literature and categorise findings so that they are easier to comprehend and it facilitates comparability and scalability. This framework was used both to categorise integration outcomes related to the housing interventions reviewed and to classify features from the housing projects and programmes included presented as good practices to achieve the desired integration outcomes. Overall, outcome measures found were scarce and highly heterogeneous.

The good practices presented in the examples reviewed were -in general, with some exceptions- not accompanied by supporting evidence or related outcomes, but rather an ad hoc assessment of the author(s) elaborating the report. Notwithstanding, some of those features were consistently mentioned in several papers as facilitators of integration: especially those practices aimed at life normalisation, such as stable and quality housing conditions and support in employment, education and social relations in order to achieve the means to live independently and establish social connections.

Finally, there were no robust studies or solid evidence found that reflected the impact of housing interventions in the integration of migrants in the European Mediterranean region. Further research would be recommended to assess evidence available in the rest of Europe and Worldwide, and to perform studies that assess the effectivity of housing interventions to promote the integration of migrants.



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8. Annexes

SCOPING REVIEW PROTOCOL

Review title:

The influence of housing for the integration of migrants in the European Mediterranean region: a scoping review

Original language:

English

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Conflict of Interest: none

Registration (registry):

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1. Context, research question and objectives

1.1. Context: Displaced people and housing

Increasing migration in Europe and the Mediterranean countries

Since 2014, European citizens have been engaged in an intensifying discussion about migration. This is the result of an unprecedented increase in the number of refugees and other migrants entering Europe. 1.9 million immigrants entered the EU from non-EU countries in 2020¹ and 196,034 illegal crossings were registered in EU borders², with more than 160000 people reaching Europe through Mediterranean routes alone annually³. Overall, there are approximately 23.7 million non-EU citizens living in the EU as of 1 January 2021⁴.

Patterns of migration tend to be very fluid and to change rapidly. Nevertheless, the central Mediterranean route has been one of the most consistently busy; the route to Greece has undergone significant changes; and, since 2017, the western Mediterranean route to Spain has been used much more than in previous years⁵.

As a consequence of their geographical position and the Dublin Regulation – which sets the procedures for asylum applications in the European Union – countries of first arrival Italy, Greece, and, to a lesser extent, Spain have been most affected. The growth in the number of arrivals has created the perception of an unmanageable crisis and made the public increasingly aware of the issue.

Tensioned cities due to imbalanced population and lack of adequate housing solutions increases vulnerability of displaced population

Cities are both, arrival, departure, and transit hubs of mixed migrations. Pragmatism and proximity with citizens makes cities faster solution-builders than states. Mediterranean Cities are at the frontline of refugee and migration integration response, as most refugees and migrants move to urban centres hoping to find a sense of community, safety, and economic independence.

In recent decades, the increasing population diversity of Mediterranean cities coincides with growing socio-economic deprivation and urban fragmentation. National and international migration have had a huge impact on the redefinition of the Mediterranean urban space and current segregation processes, linking migration with poverty, housing markets, new urban economies, and urban planning produce residential segregation and, on the other way round, spatial planning can promote urban integration.

The most visible challenges are related to climate change, urbanization, and financial crisis, together with more political and social instabilities, most prominently in the Southern rim of the Mediterranean. Many urbanization issues are related to rigid housing regulations. The impossibility to address these challenges exacerbates social inequalities and social polarization through

¹EUROSTAT (2022). Migration and migrant population statistics. (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/SEPDF/cache/1275.pdf>)

² ICMPCD. Migration Outlook 2022: Twelve migration issues to look out for in 2022. Origins, key events and priorities for Europe (<https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/56783/file/ICMPD%2520Migration%2520Outlook%25202022.pdf>)

³European Council of Foreign Relations (2017)

⁴EUROSTAT (2022). Migration and migrant population statistics. (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/SEPDF/cache/1275.pdf>)

⁵Frontex. <https://frontex.europa.eu/we-know/migratory-routes/central-mediterranean-route/>

gentrification and ghettoization, eventually producing the segregation of poverty in certain neighbourhoods. As a result, racism, xenophobia, stigmatization of vulnerability, and the normalization of exclusionary practices continue to be challenging in cities.

Social housing policies with an urbanism and communitarian approach are urgent hand in hand with intercultural approaches to promote social cohesion. There is a need to build strategies to prevent segregation and disproportionate deterioration in certain city areas where migrants and poverty tend to concentrate. Social policies and urban planning are also palliative of the effects of climate change in current cities, and more sustainable than building cities from scratch, which bears huge financial and environmental costs.

Housing as a vector for migrants' integration

It has been stated that housing plays a major role in the process of integration of migrants and refugees into a society, as housing location, accessibility, affordability and habitability among other factors, have direct impact on the ability of inhabitants to seek employment and access education and healthcare⁶.

However, there seems to be little literature about the integration outcomes and the improvement of wellbeing of migrants and refugees after different housing policies and housing solutions have been implemented.

Furthermore, according to the United Nations, most of the existing policies aiming to improve societal integration through housing solutions in the European Union are often short/medium-term in focus, when policies supporting housing provision can and should support the medium- and long-term integration of migrants and refugees⁷.

The proposed research aims at gathering existing evidence regarding integration of migrants after housing interventions have been implemented.

1.2. Research question

How do housing interventions affect integration for migrants and internationally displaced population in the European Mediterranean countries?

The research question is developed under a PICO framework⁸, where P stands for population, I for intervention, C for comparison or control group (not applicable in this case) and O for outcome.

Population: migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers and internationally displaced people.

At the international level, no universally accepted definition for "migrant" exists⁹. For the purposes of this research, the definition of migrant from the International Organization for Migration will be considered: "An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within

⁶United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2021). Housing for migrants in UNECE Region: practices and challenges

⁷United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2021). Housing for migrants in UNECE Region: practices and challenges

⁸It can be also framed as PEO (Population, Exposure, Outcome)

⁹ Glossary on Migration, International Organization for Migration, 2019 (https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf)

a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons”

This includes all the following denominations or distinctions:

- Asylum-seeker: a person that has left their home country and has yet to receive residential status in the current host country or elsewhere
- Refugee: a person that has international protection and residential status in a host country.
- Undocumented migrant: individual who has either entered a country without inspection, or entered with valid visas but those visas have expired
- Third country national: individuals who are generally not refugees and who are stranded in a country that is not their own, generally in transit and/or applying for visas. In the European Union, TCN is defined as “any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of TFEU and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).”
- Newcomer: a newly arrived person to a host country.
- Migrant: broad term that includes anyone who has left one country to live in another.

Intervention: all kind of interventions related with facilitating or promoting the access to housing, or the enhancement of shelter conditions.

Outcome: enhanced integration of migrants within their host communities or settlements and thus improved life conditions.

1.3. Objectives

This research aims at reviewing the existing literature regarding housing interventions of any kind for migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented or irregular migrants and internationally displaced population, in European Mediterranean countries, with a focus on inclusion related outcomes.

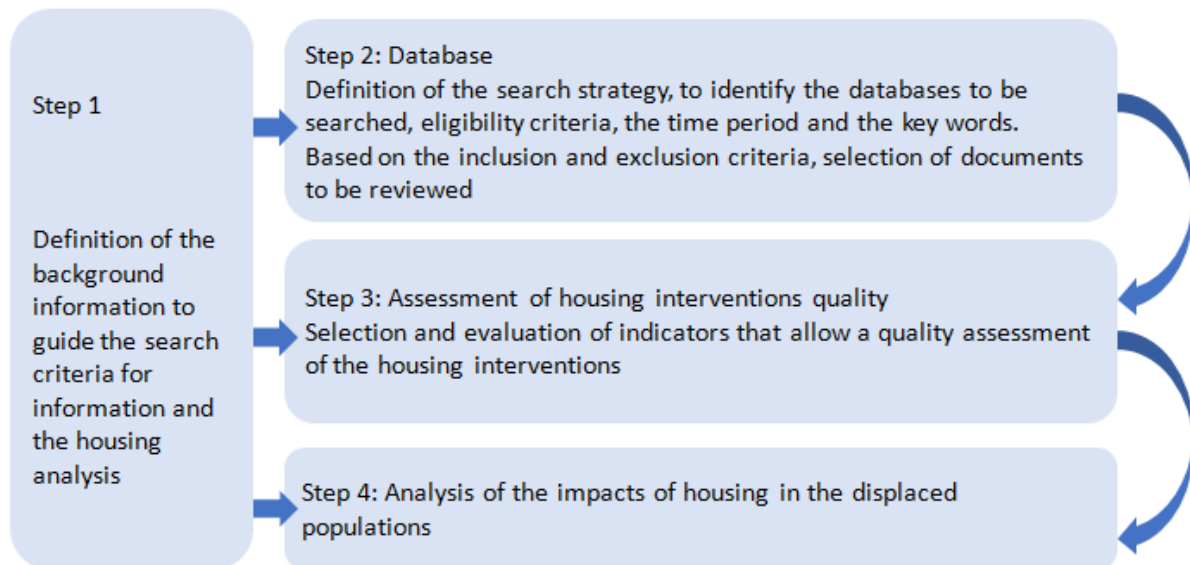
As specific objectives, the research will focus on:

- Reviewing best practices and recommendations regarding housing interventions for migrants
- Identifying indicators in housing interventions to assess the inclusion of migrants and thus their improved life conditions and, if possible, categorizing them
- Mapping available evidence on the effectiveness of housing interventions to foster inclusion of migrants

2. Methods and data

2.1. Approach

The study is based on the analysis of published information and includes four steps (Figure 1). First, definition of the background information to define the research question. Second, definition of a search strategy, to identify the databases to be searched, the time period and the key words. Third, assessment of housing interventions quality: selection and evaluation of indicators that allow a quality assessment of the housing interventions. Fourth, analysis of the impacts of housing in the displaced populations



2.2. Methodology

A structured literature search will be performed.

- Eligibility criteria:

All reports, publications and papers from National and International Agencies, NGOs and scientific literature will be considered. Other pieces of information such as news, web pages, blogs, or opinion articles will be excluded from the search.

Time period considered will be from year 1990 to the present date.

Geographic scope will include all European Mediterranean countries. Broader reports that include within their scope all or some Mediterranean countries (such as reports at the European Union level) will also be considered.

Main languages included in the search will be English and Spanish.

All papers that meet these requirements and reference to the population, intervention and outcome previously described will be included.

- Search strategy:

The database to be searched will be Web of Science, as well as International Organisations', governments', research institutions', think tanks' and NGOs' repositories (see table in Annex). Other possible sources may be included if deemed appropriate.

Key words will be defined for each database or repository.

String used for Web of Science database will be: housing AND (migrant* OR refugee*)
These terms will be translated for the other aforementioned databases or repositories.

- Quality assessment:

To measure the outcomes, the selected literature and case studies will be assessed looking for direct and indirect indicators for integration, or any other indicators that describe enhanced living conditions and inclusive communities. This will include qualitative descriptions as well as descriptors. If retrieved, effect measures will also be included.

- Data extraction and synthesis

The included documents will be presented in a table including source, authors, year, geographical scope and type of document. This table should include no less than 20 references, or else the inclusion criteria shall be modified.

A descriptive synthesis of the gathered information will be performed, including (but not limited to):

- a description of the set of retrieved documents
- a summary or characterization of the types of housing interventions encountered
- an analysis of descriptions and descriptors used to indicate integration
- a discussion on the information available on the topic and possible gaps in evidence

