

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

The number of forcibly displaced people around the world has reached 68,5 mln people (UNHCR 2018), which is more than the whole population of France. Out of 68,5 mln nearly half are internally displaced people (IDPs), those who had to leave their home due to various reasons, but have stayed within the borders of their country. About 25,4 million people worldwide are refugees (UNHCR 2018), those who fled their country because of war or fear of persecution. In 2015, the EU witnessed a massive influx of refugees who seek asylum. Interestingly, Sweden – the small Scandinavian country – registered 162 877 asylum applications, and received the highest number of refugees per capita in the EU. Currently the state faces major challenges related to lack of housing, educators and jobs for so many newcomers.

Since it is only the beginning of huge migrations, the EU member states should look for solutions in order to help accommodate as many newcomers as possible. Refugees, often traumatized, have to settle down in a completely new socio-cultural and economic context. They need to find an apartment, learn the local language, adapt to the new culture and most importantly support themselves financially. Thus, scholars and policy-makers have sought ways how to integrate so many refugees into the labor markets. Entrepreneurship, in other words, setting up one's own business, seems to be one of the possible solutions to help newcomers have a job.

The refugee entrepreneurship is a relatively new and underdeveloped research area, i.e. it has been treated as a part of broader immigrant entrepreneurship, despite the special legal status of refugees regulated in the *1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*. Legally, refugees differ from immigrants in many aspects (e.g. restricted mobility, access to financial state assistance, etc). Also, convention refugees and quota refugees differ. Economically, refugees are forced to flee their home country due to war or persecution; hence they have different motivations and experience than immigrants. These aspects have impact on the entrepreneurship of newcomers.

This research project is dedicated to the conditions under which refugees engage in entrepreneurship and has two main objectives: (1) to explore how the refugee admission category to the host state impacts their entrepreneurship, and (2) to examine the conditions under which refugees set up their own business in the host country. The research plan includes the analysis of documents, laws and state policies on refugee entrepreneurship; quantitative examination of rich and high quality data from Swedish Invandrarindex dataset (covering 2562 newcomers, who arrived in Sweden between 2011 and 2017); and interviewing refugees and individuals providing assistance to refugees. The study will exploit the rich context and data availability in the case of Sweden as a hosting country.