

Social Research Call

Title:

Finding Pathways to Empower Migrants and Refugees in Educational Context



Acronym: Future for All

Project leader: Paulo C. Dias

Host organisation: Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculdade de Filosofia e Ciências Sociais, Braga

Main purpose of the project: *Future for All* aims to promote the educational inclusion of migrant and refugee students in Portuguese basic and secondary schools. It seeks to evaluate interaction of refugee students in their classes; identifying specific challenges and barriers, considering the existing support mechanisms and practices, acknowledging different profiles of inclusion; to inform policymakers, schools and teachers of the results and evidence-based practices to promote inclusion of refugee students in Portuguese educational context.

Design/methodology/approach: Using a Whole Social Network Analysis (WSNA) the project features a digital platform for data collection and analysis, hosting surveys for students and teachers, gathering sociometric and demographic data, and providing real-time insights into network cohesion, centrality, and isolation.

Potential results: The project is expected to identify different profiles of inclusion and exclusion among refugee students. It provides data-driven insights into challenges and influencing factors, informing practical recommendations for schools, teachers, and policymakers. Overall, findings will promote more inclusive policies and reduce disparities in school success.

Social relevance of the research: This research addresses urgent societal challenges linked to migration, discrimination, and education. It responds to growing segregation and hate speech faced by refugee youth in schools. Ultimately, it contributes to building more equitable and cohesive learning environments. Fostering empathy and intercultural dialogue can reduce educational and social inequality. It directly contributes to SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Originality/value of the project: The project uses WSNA nationally, beyond usual self-report surveys, integrating a digital platform for real-time and long-term analysis. Mapping social networks uncovers hidden exclusion factors. It proposes innovative strategies for inclusive education reform. After research, the platform supports schools' self-evaluation and inclusion efforts. Combining WSNA and analytics creates a robust, scalable method.