



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Migration and integration are global problems. Taking into account internal migration, around three percent of the world's population are migrants. In absolute figures these are approximately two hundred million people. Against this backdrop, there is probably no country in the world – notwithstanding the numerous differences – that does not experience some form of migration. And there is a large number of countries, in which the problems of migration – and the issues of integration closely associated with this – are very high up on the political agenda.

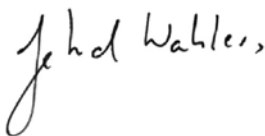
There have been many different experiences of how to practically deal with these challenges. Often migration is suppressed, sometimes it is tolerated, but frequently it is ignored. Under certain circumstances, migration can be responsible for social and economic problems. In other instances, it can also help solve these issues. As a general rule, all types of migration pose questions for integration, which every country must address at a political level. Migration and integration can almost always be seen in the same context. Migration controls are led by interest (or disinterest) towards integration. Denying integration seldom solves the causes of the problems, whereas successful integration often goes unnoticed.

In view of greater mobility and the rapid growth in the world's population, migration must be increasingly thought of, and understood, in global terms. The search for solutions – particularly in OECD countries – is already an urgent one, even without taking into account the prediction that the global population will cease growing from the middle part of the twenty-first century. Against this backdrop, it may be helpful to consider the experiences of other countries and evaluate which parts are transferable. Germany is already a country of net inward migration. Therefore, an international dimension is a crucial contribution to this debate, one in which the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung will certainly be expected to participate.

Alongside the countries cited as examples in this edition, I also wish to draw particular attention at this point to our regional program, "Social Regulatory Policy in Latin America" (SOPLA). Thanks to our broad network of excellent contacts, on which we can draw on for our projects in this program we have been able to produce a comprehensive study of the migration problems facing thirteen Latin American countries. In cooperation with universities and independent think tanks, we have analyzed the political, social and economic causes of emigration, as well as the incentives, which make countries such as Chile or Costa Rica attractive for migrants.

The results of this study entitled "Migración y Políticas Sociales en América Latina," which has already been widely acclaimed, clearly indicate that regulatory policy with a strong focus on social and market economy is vital and the best tool for tackling issues of migration. The fact that, in Latin America, it is often public healthcare and educational opportunities that are seen as the strongest drivers of migration, is a prominent trend that has emerged from the analysis of each country. A further incentive is a functioning, and thus, reliable judicial system, which respects individual property rights in particular, as well as properly-regulated, market economic structures. Again and again, it is a lack of economic rules and inequality of opportunity that encourages people to leave their homes and families.

I am convinced that the topic of immigration and integration policy should receive considerable attention as part of our political discussions. It is not just the debates on this issue – which are, at times, polemical – in Germany as well as in our neighboring country, France, that show how much is at stake. Looking abroad, even beyond the borders of Europe, can help enrich the debate in Germany. In the coming issues of *KAS International Reports*, we shall report on integration and migration phenomena from different parts of the world.



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