

Abstract

The research aims to explain and analyze the impact of the European immigration policies on “transit” countries during the refugee crisis. To get a better representation, the research focused on Turkey and Morocco, two countries located at the gate of Europe. The emergent need to respond to the refugee crisis, caused by the Syrian civil war in 2011, influenced the European political sphere and modified its immigration policies to control the flux of migrants. Those policies had directly impacted Turkey and Morocco. Through the process of securitization, the study will analyze the impact of the externalization of borders and its policy implications on both countries. Then, it will emphasize the humanitarian aspect of the immigration policies implemented by both countries with the use of a policy evaluation. Finally, through data gathered from interviews with workers in the migration field and migrants in Turkey and Morocco, the study will compare how both countries integrated their migrants with the use of the socio-economic integration concept. As findings, the research concluded that the European immigration policies had impacted Turkey and Morocco both positively and negatively. Several agreements between the EU and those two countries improved their relationships but, the externalization of borders had also changed the migration trends in both countries. Migrants are now settling in both countries which makes them receiving countries and not only transit countries. Then, the Moroccan and Turkish governments implemented new policies to manage their important flux of migration which had raised humanitarian concerns. However, those new policies fostered the migrant’s integration. As the research will analyze through interviews, both countries face challenges such as language barriers, housing, and healthcare but they are both improving the access to social services. In conclusion, the European immigration policies focused mostly on the security and danger from outside but also, allowed Morocco and Turkey to improve their approach to migration.