

## Call for Papers for a Special Issue at *Soziale Welt* (2024)

### **Civil society activation and public support towards refugees in times of high immigration: Trends and developments across time, between groups and countries**

#### **Guest editors:**

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A well-known and crucial aspect of immigrant integration is the interaction with members of the host society. Such contacts, if positive, have impact on structural integration such as the placement on the labor market, acculturation such as a language acquisition, but also for identification such as a sense of belonging and identification with the host society itself. The host society, especially its civil society, also plays a vital role for the intake and accommodation of newcomers on the macro level. Especially the years 2015 and 2022 showed that an active civil society can alleviate the pressure high numbers of immigrants in a short period of time put on the welfare state.

Thorough analyses of previous immigrant inflow show however, that the support of the host society as well as the activation of the civil society is usually not stable over time and can in some instances become polarized. As an example, the intake of refugees in Germany 2015 on the one hand led to a longstanding activation of parts of the civil society to help these newcomers but on the other hand added to the rise and establishment of the xenophobic AfD in the German party system. Consequently, high inflows of immigrants bear the power to affect public opinion and civil society in different ways.

With the recent inflow of Ukrainians in 2022, it is still to be determined how support in the general population and the activation of civil society might develop in the long-run. To date, such activation seems to be predominantly positive in many different European countries. Besides high rates of public support as well as volunteers that help with accommodating refugees, we also saw for the first time an activation of the European Union's directive 2001/55/EG (Mass Influx Directive) which granted Ukrainian easier access to vital institutions such as language and integration courses.

This special issue aims at bringing together empirical – quantitative and qualitative – work that offers new insights into support for refugees on the micro and the macro level in times of high immigration. By analyzing either dynamics over time for one arrival group or providing comparisons between different immigrant cohorts or different country contexts, the contributions add to the understanding of the reactions to sudden influx' of refugees and help to identify pitfalls and drivers of support. Our definition of civil society activation ranges from attitude and cognitions towards behavior(-al intentions) such as positive interactions with the host society, volunteering as well as hostile assaults. The contributions should not be limited to the influx of Ukrainian refugees to Germany, but may also cover past migration movements, e.g., from Syria and the Middle East or Yugoslavia to European countries in general.

Specifically, we invite – but do not limit – contributions that address the following topics and approaches either among the general population or the civil society:

- 1) (Longitudinal) dynamics in support for immigrants
- 2) In-depth analyses tracing mechanisms of support and/or civil society activation
- 3) Case studies addressing actors of civil society
- 4) Comparative analyses of drivers for support between different cohorts of arrivals
- 5) Cross-country comparisons in drivers for support and/or civil society activation

### **Submission information and review process**

We seek theory-driven empirical contributions based on quantitative or qualitative data that offer insights that address the questions raised above. Please indicate your interest by sending an extended abstract until March 31, 2023 to [civilsocietyactivation@dezim-institut.de](mailto:civilsocietyactivation@dezim-institut.de) (Subject: “Abstract Special Issue Civil Society Activation”). The abstract should contain the motivation and the research question, the theoretical framework and tentative hypotheses as well as a detailed description of the data and methods in no more than 500 words. It is not yet necessary to present results.

The editors’ decision on whether to invite full papers will be made by May 15, 2023. The deadline for submission of full papers (in German or English, 8,000 words) is 31 January 2024. All manuscripts will be thoroughly reviewed in a double-blind peer review process.

For enquiries and information about the Special Issue, please contact the editors Jörg Dollmann ([joerg.dollmann@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:joerg.dollmann@uni-mannheim.de)), Jannes Jacobsen ([jacobsen@dezim-institut.de](mailto:jacobsen@dezim-institut.de)) or Sabrina J. Mayer ([sabrina.mayer@uni-bamberg.de](mailto:sabrina.mayer@uni-bamberg.de)).