



EuroMemo Group conference 2015

Workshop 3

Labour markets, demographic change and migration ***coordinators: Marcella Corsi and Mahmoud Messkoub***

The recent tragic events of the deaths of hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean have turned, yet again, the spotlight on the question of migration and how to control it. Indeed, the European progressives should make it clear that multiculturalism and the flow of ideas have always been a source of enrichment: if we shut ourselves off from the outside world, we will lose our vitality and fade away. The history of the 20th century is written in the ink of immigration. Current popular debate on migration also neglects the economic contribution of migrants from Turkey, North Africa, Eastern and Southern Europe to the postwar reconstruction of the Western Europe well before the creation of the EU and its expansion since the 1980s. The anti-immigration sentiments have reached a point that even the principle of free movement of labour within the EU is being questioned by some EU members. The importance of migration to the long term prosperity of the Europe should not be underestimated given its declining birth rates and population ageing, and the potential decline in labour force. It is in this context, and the broader humanitarian commitments of the EU, that the 2015 Euromemo conference would invite progressive economists and social scientists to contribute to the debate on the migration issues and policies of the EU and its member states.