

# BREXIT AND COVID-19: TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE OF IMMIGRATION POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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## ABSTRACT

This paper guides that how COVID-19 and Brexit has transformed the immigration policies of European Union. This research explores how dual crises and events have been impacted on the migration norms and rules, regional stability, national independence, economic and security requirements. Due to pandemic the free movement in EU was disrupted by taking the measures on travel bans and instant border controls. While Brexit also ended the free movement of UK and EU in context of more affecting the migration patterns or policies, jobs or citizen's basic right for example asylum or refugee rights. This study focuses on the key policies of EU like Schengen agreement and Dublin regulation and examines how recent actions and steps have been taken which has addressed the health, labor shortages and also humanitarian concerns. The findings have showed that with the help of successful migration policies the assistance is balancing the basic humanitarian values, economic needs and regional cooperation. By comparing the Pre and Post crises policies, the study concludes that EU should work more closely on their immigration policies for their effective progress in future and also balancing the national and shared priorities to maintain their regional stability and unity all across the EU countries.

**Keywords:** EU immigration policy, COVID-19, Brexit, migration governance, Dublin regulation.

## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit have substantially effected the immigration policies of the European union, reforming the landscape of migration governance under the EU bloc. Due to these two major events like global and health related and other one is regional and political have compelled the overall European countries to reframe their approaches in the context of immigration, asylum and labor movement. During the pandemic caused an unparalleled border closures and enhance the health security concerns, there are also some foremost issues arisen after Brexit about sovereignty, employees shortages and the end of

free mobility between the United Kingdom and the European Union (De Ville 2019).

The global dissemination of COVID-19 pandemic in the starting 2020 provoked fast and special shifts in policy, due to which EU member states acted to curbed the virus's spread. At the national level the government enforced travel restrictions, halted visa processing, and instituted rigorous health screenings at borders. Because of these actions not only established Schengen framework of open movement inside the EU was triggered but it also brought the further investigation towards the role of external migrants, specifically in

important sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and transportation (European Commission 2020.) As the pandemic progressed, the EU has been coordinated the response through some programs like the COVID-19 Digital Certificate, but there was also a tensions escalated between the desire for cooperative action and national interests in border management (Geddes 2021.) Brexit added some major changes in EU migration policy. In January 2020, after UK left the EU the end of free movement which was an essential part of EU integration it triggered the relations of EU and UK countries with each other (E. Guild 2020). The UK introduced a point based immigration system high lightening the more high skilled labors, reshaped the immigration patterns and affecting the industries in some areas like Hospitality, agriculture and construction which relied on EU workers and led to labor shortages as well (Commission. 2020). Brexit also sparked on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens' rights in the EU, it was resulted that new agreement was made to protect them (Portes 2020).

As a EU commitments with the impacts of COVID-19 and Brexit, it was balancing the all factors like health security, needs of labor and national sovereignty, it is still remaining a big challenge for it collective immigration policies.

### BACKGROUND:

During the dual crisis Brexit and COVID-19 pandemic, the nature of the immigration policy in the European union has been changed or it transformed them. Both events have faced challenges or are forcing European Union to adapt that approach which is more beneficial for managing migration borders, free movement of people, which are the key important factors of the Union's individuality and organization

### THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IMMIGRATION:

In 2020 there was a chaotic situation in the world because of COVID-19, it also disrupted the global stability and pressurized on public health systems. Because of rapid spread of the virus, many EU states or countries immediately implemented emergency border closures and posed some restrictions on that travel which are non-essential. Since the establishment of the

Schengen area was established in 1995 the freedom of movement inside the EU was highly distracted, it was raising questions about what would be the future of EU collaborative work on certain crisis or its more integration.

Some member states introduced very short time internal border controls, but is impacted directly on their labor migration and refugee resettlements. During that time the European commission issued some guidelines for management of borders to making sure that only important workers or essential goods can continue to travel across borders, but condition was that, states have to follow public health measures or SOPs. By high lightened the crisis it also prominated the fractures related to migration within the Europe. Like some countries specifically from southern and eastern Europe, felt the pressure or burdened by both crisis the health emergencies and their ongoing issues related to their external borders.

### BREXIT AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF MIGRATION FLOWS:

At the same time, after a concept of Brexit there is an another layer of complexity to the immigration policies of the EU. In January 2020, the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from EU was formalized, came to an end to the free movement of people between the EU member states and the UK. This change had far-reaching implications for migration patterns, along with labor markets across the Europe. After that EU nationals residing or living in the UK and British citizens also allowed to live EU countries, but they faced the legal requirements for that, which also altered their rights to study, work and permission in public services.

UK government introduced the new system of immigration after post brexit, itas made to decrease the dependency on low skilled migration from the Europe and instead they were more focused on high skilled workers from all over the world. In response, some EU countries adjust or set their immigration policies so they can retain talent and can also do compensate for their potential loss of labor in some key sectors specially like construction, healthcare and agriculture.

## POLICY SHIFTS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT:

In context of both COVID-19 and Brexit, the EU faced a reanalysis of their migration governance and also its external borders. The pandemic also heightened the existing debates about to solidarity and burden sharing, particularly with the irregular migration and asylum seekers. Several countries of southern EU such as Greece, Italy and Spain during pandemic faced more pressure or burden from migrants. This led to enhanced the stress to their resources and it also demands for fairer or equal sharing of migrants among all the EU countries.

The European commission proposed the new idea about the New Pact on migration and asylum in September 2020, their motive was to address all the challenges by reinforcing external borders and increase their co operation with non EU or third countries on the management of migration. The aim of that Pact emphasized a equilibrium between solidarity and responsibility, encouraging EU member states to help to relocate migrant or offer a financial and operational support to those struggling. However, new pact also faced severe criticism about not fully addressing the humanitarian concerns, but heavily focusing on external borders controls to the countries outside the EU.

The biggest change was during both these crisis the migration policies was focusing on security, health concerns during pandemic and Brexit led to strict rules or restrictive stance on migration due to political pressure. At the same time, it was also hard for the EU to stand with their values of helping other countries or nations and protection of human rights.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To overview the immigration policy of EU.
2. To identify the specific policies which EU initiated during the COVID-19 and Brexit?

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- Q1: What is the immigration policy of EU?
- Q2: What are the frameworks of their policies, which EU proposed during COVID-19 and Brexit?

## METHODOLOGY:

This study uses a qualitative method of analysis to examine prevailing views as informed by the literature. It dwells on comparative analysis of the European Union's immigration policy, with a doctrinal research approach taking an in-depth analytical strategy. Secondary sources of data consisting of books, research papers, archives, and journals have been used in this study. A purposive sampling method was used to identify appropriate data and materials for analysis. The study makes heavy use of internet sources, archival materials, and historical research articles. Data have been examined via a policy analysis approach, contrasting various policies, and analyzed additionally through a systematic content analysis of secondary literature. Ethical principles have been followed to the letter, with each of the sources correctly cited and credited in accordance with standard practice. One of the limitations of this research is the time factor, which limited access to direct sources.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The modifications of immigration policy regulations in the intraeurope have notable importance for a multitude of reasons. Immigration, specifically in the EU has been a primary concern in structuring the political, economic and social terrain of the region. Regional members are facing elevated pressure from both humanitarian disastrous crises and economic refugees. This requires to develop logical, adjustable and durable immigration policies has become more immediate than before. The importance of this study extends to its evaluation of the equilibrium between state sovereignty and the Collaborative governance of the EU. Immigration has been a kind of source which enhanced tensions between partner countries, some countries are calling for stricter regulations and others are calling for more openness of the policy. Humanitarian strategies. By the exploration of these conflicts, the research high lightened the factors on how immigration policy persuades the union of EU and its capability to function as a consolidated political entity. These challenges, directly impacts the role of main EU institutions or their potential to implement or renew the policies that impact the complete bloc.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The study on transformations the terrain of immigration policy in the European Union targets to facilitate a in depth analysis of the development, Hurdles and anticipated reforms under this policy domain. It would be initiated by navigating archaeological development of immigration policies in the EU. Tracking that, in this we can see how some agreements like Schengen Agreement and the Dublin Regulation played their role to structure the unified strategy to regulating migration. With the help of archaeological context it establish that how political, economic and humanitarian deliberations can implement the formulation of policies with the passage of time. And how the major global exhibitions persuades them, including refugee issues and EU magnification. By scrutinizing both present difficulties and forthcoming transitions. This study will help out the thorough awareness that how the European Union's immigration policy is altering in a quickly evolving International environment.

## RESEARCH GAP:

Research gap of this topic is the comparison of immigration policy of EU (EUROPEAN UNION) after Brexit and COVID-19, what are the shifts in their immigration policies.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

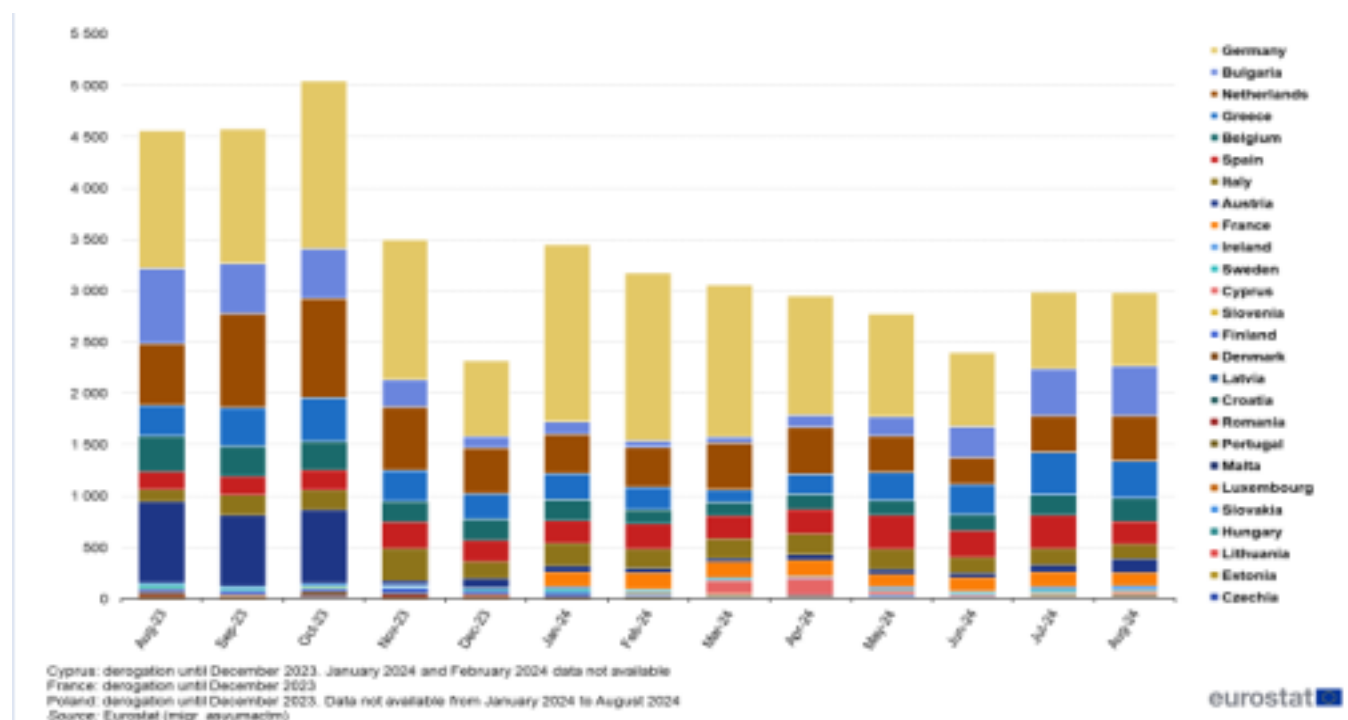
The immigration policy of the European Union (EU) is a complex and evolving subject that has garnered the attention of researchers or scholars. This literature review looks at findings from a selection academic articles gather the main ideas, key themes and debates which surrounds the EU immigration policy.

## 1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS:

The EU immigration policy is totally relying on rules and regulations, it simply aim is to harmonize the immigration policies or practices across the all EU member countries or states (Guild 2023). İlköğretim online these laws are important creating a common immigration policy, which is integral to the EU acquires. The common European asylum policy (CEAS) has transferred the locus of the policy of asylum, rules from individual countries to EU institutions, aiming that for enhancing the harmonization in their border control and process of asylum (Hatton, 2017)

however, due to differing priorities of member countries or their abilities to manage the immigration very effectively, these policies is often hindered (A. a. Dönmez 2020)

**Figure.1**-Unaccompanied minors who applied for asylum in the EU, August 2023-August 2024.





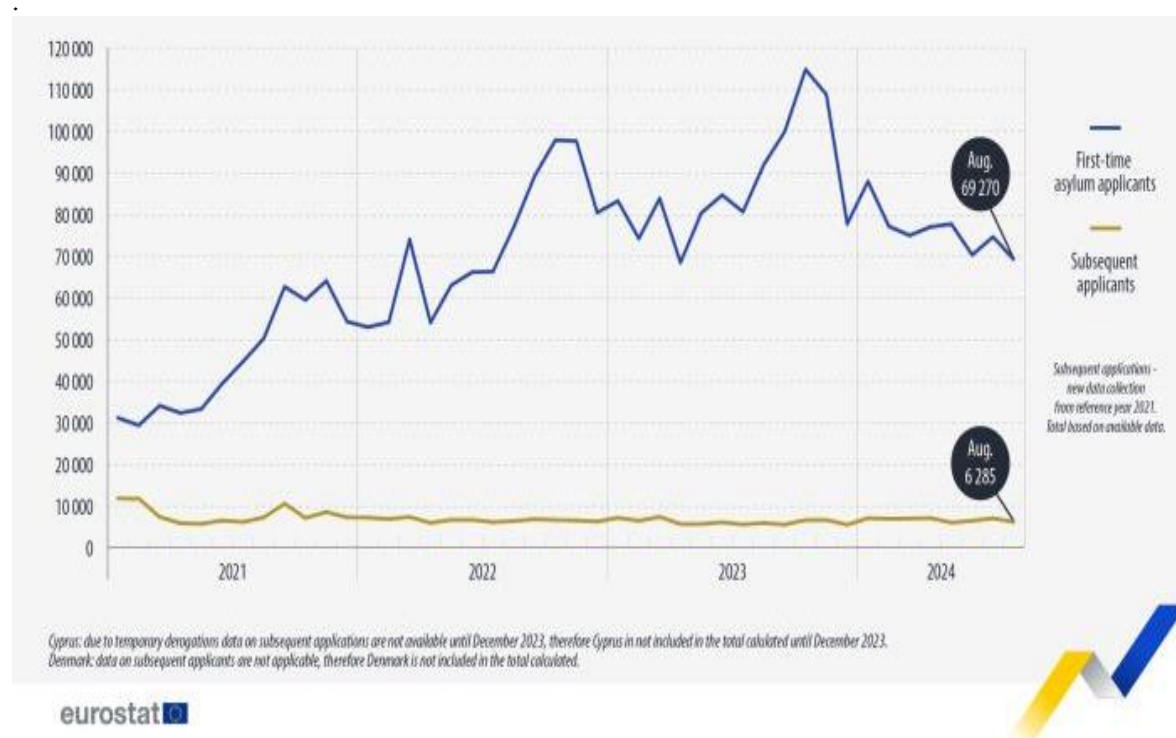
## 2. INTEGRATION POLICIES AND CHALLENGES:

The collaborative policies especially in the EU can play a vital role for the immigrants in EU societies. Guzi et al. discussed that by liberal external immigration policies the labor market participations can be shifted among the non EU or third countries immigrants, while internal policies restrictions will hinder, in case of EU it may hinder its integration with each other (Martin 2022.) This is supported by Helbling et al. who said that internal border restrictive

immigration policies may inadvertently impact on their integration, it will not lead to better collaboration outcomes and it may instead in favor of the migrants from some countries over others (Helbling 2020) .

Ritzen and Kahanec, he said the immigrants more integration will complicate some factors like social and economic, highlighted a long term immigration policy that focuses on education and immigrants training (Ritzen 2017).

**Figure.2**-First-time and subsequent asylum in the EU, January 2021-August 2024(number of applicants)



## 3. SOCIETAL ATTITUDES AND POLITICAL DYNAMICS:

Immigration policy of EU can be influenced by the public attitudes towards the immigration. Kentmen-Çin and Erişen they explored about some anti-immigration sentiments can lead to opposition against the EU collaboration, especially in case of rising populism (Kentmen-Çin 2017).

As discussed by Erişen et al. emotional reactions can impact to immigrations, it also plays an crucial role in forming the public support for the co operation of EU on immigration and countering the policies of terrorism (Erişen 2020). According to Jalušič and Bajt, the interplay between societal behaviours and

responses towards the immigration policies is more portrayed in the EU, they worked on the policies of cooperation in education and their implications for the immigrants children who travels in the EU (Jalušič 2022).

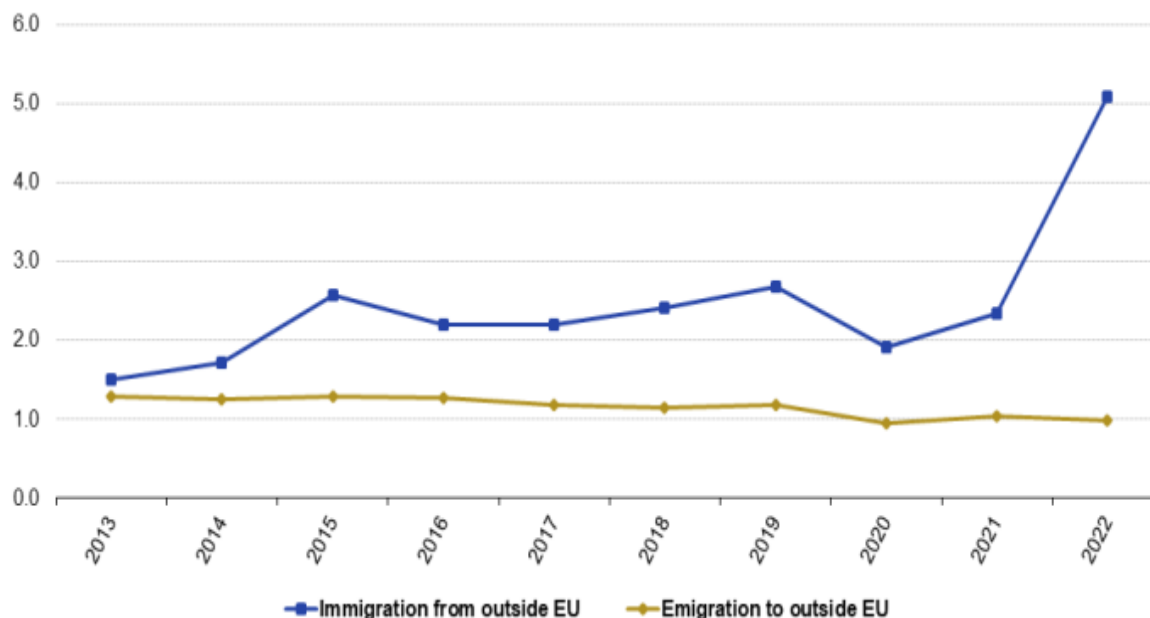
## 4. REGIONAL DISPARITIES AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES:

EU member states have different immigration integration because of their different historical , cultural etc perspectives .Lukic and Tomašević identify the specific immigration integration regimes inside the Europe, spotlighting the disparities between the older and newer EU member states (Lukić 2020).

By the work of Gregurović and Župarić-Iljić, this is supplemented, who noticed the comparasion of integration policies challenges due to the diverse contexts in which they are operated (Gregurović 2018). The requirement is to focus

on more cohesive approach towards immigration which considers these differences in the region is severe for long term stability of EU and social cohesion.

**Figure 3.**Immigrants from outside EU and emigrants to outside EU, 2013-2022 (million)



Note: Cyprus (2013-2019) migration data include the United Kingdom in the composition of the EU. Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and Liechtenstein did not include refugees from Ukraine who benefit from temporary protection in their population and migration statistics.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr\_imm5prv, migr\_imm12prv, migr\_emi3nxt and migr\_emi5nxt)

eurostat

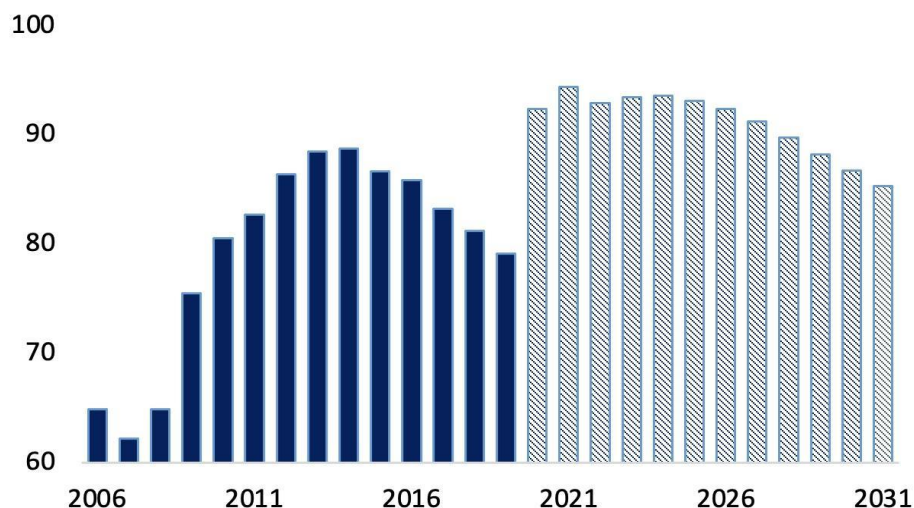
## 5. THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC FACTORS:

Bisin et al. introduced the demand of the labor market will shape the policies of immigration , because economic factor impacts highly on transforming the immigration policies of EU, according to that EU members states adjust or set their policies to grab the attention of skilled

labor, while managing the public sentiments towards the immigration (Bisin 2011).

Furthermore, the economic factor in EU integration is also more highlighted by H Cres and M trede, who stated that better organized immigration will benefit to the EU's economy, particularly in resolving the labor shortages in particular sectors.

Figure.4-Impact on Economy of EU due to COVID-19:



<https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/eu-economy-after-covid-19-implications-economic-governance>.

This chart is showing the effected economy of European Union before Brexit and COVID-19 and after these dual crises. So there were some surges and ups and downs in their economies and how much time it will take to recover.

## 6. SECURITY CONCERNS AND IMMIGRATION POLICY:

By highlighened the terrorism and lightening the refugee crisis like Syrian refugee crisis, security concerns matters a lot. The study of Carrera et al. discussed about in the immigration policy of EU, how seriously security considerations have led to rigorous border controls in the EU and focus on surveillance measures in the immigration policy of EU, at the expense of humanitarian concerns (Crès, 2018). This debate between security and humanitarianism is ongoing theme in the literature, some scholars said that there must be balanced of equal approach that should respects the human rights and also addresses the security concerns (Stępką 2023).

## 7. IMPACT OF GLOBAL EVENTS:

In context of conflict between EU countires and economic crisis or downfall they have their heavy impacts on the EU's immigration policy. For example, let's take an example of Syrian refugee crisis (Balla, 2023). These were the crisis which make or force people to again focus on the reevaluation of asylum policies in the EU

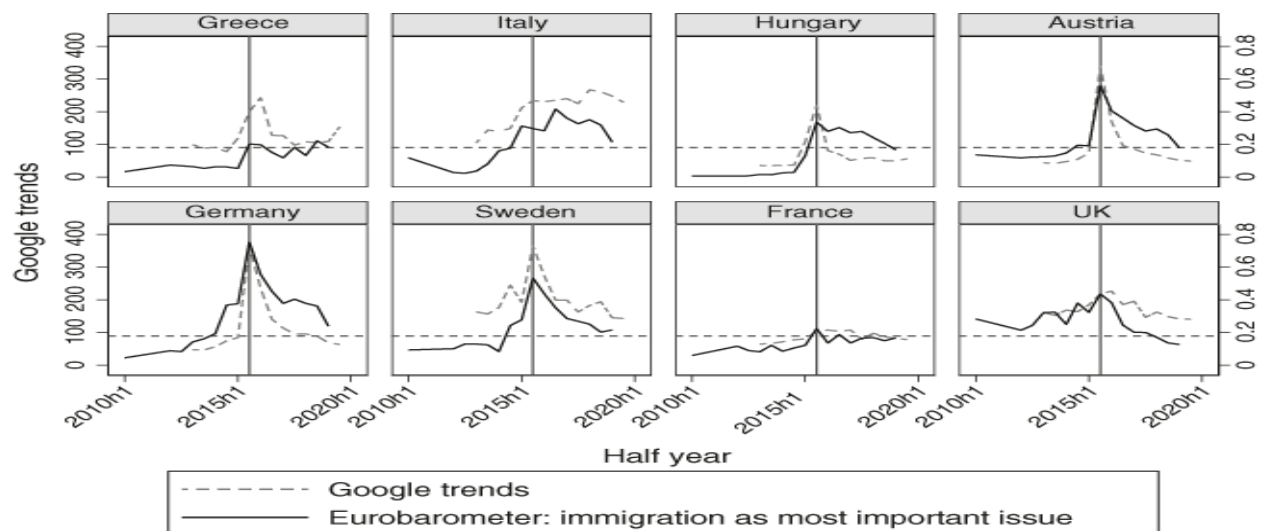
and also hit the important political debates inside the EU, related to how EU countries can share their burdens with each other (Sahin-Mencutek 2024). These responses to such crises are revealing the escalated tensions between the countries on their national interests and responsibilities or duties of EU collectively (Milazzo 2023.).

The response of the EU over the refugee crisis have been characterized by a focus on burden-sharing among the EU member states (Hiero 2023). .according to Ferrara, he argues that EU member states not only have a basic duty to admit refugees but also have some obligations to collaborate and maintain internal borders, which are highly crucial for fostering the solidarity inside the Union (Ferrera 2023). Gerhards and Dilger, that work was appreciated by them, but they highlighted contentious debates which surrounds the allocation of refugees EU member states and also the rise of influenced the populist parties in the EU that challenges that EU's integration approach towards refugees admission (Gerhards 2020).

Moreover , for the better understanding of EU's approach the interchange of immigration policy is critical. Gropas and Triandafyllidou, emphasizes the importance of integration of the migrants in the host societies, he also argued that the integration policies must be effective it would be essential for the sustainable success of strategies of immigration within the Europe (Triandafyllidou 2023). This is extremely relevant in the shadow of demographic changes and needs of labor market across all EU

member states, which more necessity the advanced comprehensive approach towards immigration that can balance the all humanitarian obligations along with the economic considerations. Like the war in Ukraine, The EU's immigration policy's emerging nature has reflected in the current developments. Oleksiewicz noticed that the during Ukraine war, there is need of changing

the immigration policies of EU because there was an influx of Ukraine refugees in the EU ,to solve the modern migration challenges there must be more adaptation and flexibility in EU immigration policies (Oleksiewicz 2023). This situation is highlights the persistent conflict between the humanitarian concerns and political facts of governance of immigration inside the EU.



<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/coming-to-terms-with-the-european-refugee-crisis/refugee-crisis-in-the-eu-and-its-member-states-our-approach-in-context/E3BD58FB13DE7316E8AB42214314FF8B>

In this diagram it is shown that the European Union countries deals with refugee crisis and like Germany has faced a lot of refugee crisis and after Sweden and Austria also faced it . So half of the years how much these EU countries have suffered with refugee crisis.

Over the ongoing implications of Brexit and during the time of COVID-19 pandemic, the EU has faced a lot of challenges or changes in their immigration policies. During these crises there were many new designs of policies which focus on the interconnection of their governance, economic recoveries and public health concerns or responses in context of the EU. This literature review will help to understand the articles of many scholars that can be helpful to analyze the EU's immigration policy frameworks in opposite to these both crises.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, it has highly impacted on a reconfiguration of governance

structures of the EU specially in immigration policies. Ladi and Wolff argue that the response of the EU against it, would be characterized with a new approach arrival of "collaborative Europeanization," because according to him it more important that member states must be worked with each other in order of cooperation, which can be compared with the times of Eurozone crisis that was previously "coercive Europeanization". According to some scholars or researchers ,the shift will fully a new or favorable approach because it will make the member states more engaged, it will be a cooperative work ,they can take involve or participate or can ordinate actively in policy formulation, reflecting a more co ordinate governance model for EU (Ladi 2024). There was another scholar who discusses that during pandemic European commission has changed their frameworks they followed the other more effective frameworks for their immigration policies, for the better management of crises and demonstrating their reconfiguration rule of their strategic purpose (Felder 2023). Furthermore, this flexibility was also supported by Wolff and Ladi, they said that EU has increased its capacity in response of the cries in the EU during that



time, also suggested that the wave of COVID-19 and economic policies has also fosters the new phase of collaborative policies activities specially for EU (Wolff 2024).

The pandemic has hit the EU's economy very badly, which forced the EU to take the strong actions so that they can help their members states for recoveries. Fabbrini, highlighted the factor of funds with the help of this EU can make a big change in their economies. There was the creation of "Next Generation EU" recovery fund, it was a financial plan used for countries for their dealing purpose on the economic and social challenges which was caused by the COVID-19 (Fabbrini 2021). According to them these funds would be beneficial for the recovery of EU or be helpful for the more integrated fiscal frameworks that will help in member states economic recovery efforts (Capati 2023). Capati also mentioned that the pandemic has given a chance to EU the need to focus on changes in the fiscal governance policies if the EU or its member states. These crises has impacted on economy so according to them it's time to make unified approach and as soon as possible try to achieve their economic recoveries (Capati 2023). He gave his statement by analyzing the whole crises in the EU. Challenges created by the pandemic will have the big debates over solidarity and their integration in fiscal policies or among EU member states.

More addition in context of economic recovery, the EU's public health policy is a main concern and during pandemic it has been faced some criticism because of its previous public health policies and according to some researchers or scholars it must be focus on more united integration and coordinated approach towards their public health policies (Greer 2020). Gontariuk et al. in 2021, they noticed that due to Covid-19 pandemic EU has adapted some changes in their public health policies which is making the EU less collaborative and less united, they were making different strategies , which is making the coordination EU with it member state more challenging (Gontariuk 2021). This gap in their coordination is pushing them to adapt a more cohesive and more integrated strategy inside the EU, which must be effective in future, specially in the light of

lessons which EU has, during the pandemic crisis.

After the brexit in 2016 it has made the EU's policies landscape more difficult or complicated as well, particularly in an area of economic recovery and public health concerns. Mileusnic, discusses that, after brexit the impact on EU's economy is combined with the pandemic, the EU should rethink again or rivise their financial policies and their co ordination with it member states working together (.Mileusnic 2022). These dual crises has shift the focus towards the taking an action for a most collaborative approach on their economies and public health concern (Martin-Domingo 2022). They need to adopt more federal approach to governing, it will be more effective .These challenges are showing or giving a sign for more collaborative strategy to EU's policies for making it more fruitful and it also balances the every needs of each country with a more collective action.

The EU's policy for the development during the pandemic is showing its interest towards the more integration between EU member states. Burni et al. argue that the focus of EU during the initial wave of COVID-19 in Europe was emphasizing the working together, it was about the more European solidarity between European union countries in their developmental policies. (Burni (2021). This unified approach is more beneficial or important in challenging areas which EU has faced in the post-brexit era, they will tackle it with collaboration, where all member states of EU will come together and solve the problem and recover their economies.

During the both crises COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit, EU's policies was modified and they were showing a mix of economic , social and political considerations, EU should be focused on in these factors. According to some scholars, this literature will review the different academic views or studies on these policies by some scholars or researchers, also promenading the implications for its member states and the EU's stability, which would be beneficial for EU, which would impact on EU's integration for future.

The EU has started some initiatives or responded very quickly during the times of COVID-19 pandemic, their motive was to focus on health and their primary focus was recovery of economies and resilience facility, which was

giving a big financial aid or facilities to EU or its countries during the pandemic crisis. It was all made for the better economy of EU and making a more co operation or coordination between EU member countries , that's why this step was taken (Jonsdottir (2022) . According to some scholars they said that this pandemic is very much needed for the more co ordination of EU with its member state so it is helpful in this way, that make them more closer, they are more focused or closed on health crisis and its management. All countires are called for strengthening their relations they started an agency named European centre for disease and control (Anderson 2020). This helps in controlling or managing the health concerns like introducing vaccines medicines or its research etc. Somehow it was challenging for the EU to fulfills the needs of a single countries with their goal, it was a little bit tricky during that time, especially in distribution of vaccines in countries and deciding the rules on vaccines imports due to chaos (Jonsdottir, p. 2022).

Brexit, or UK withdraw from the EU, it has created a major challenges for the EU inside their own borders and also with the globe or world. It forced the EU to modify their policies on some key areas which can make them more feasible that was trade, security and immigration. Some scholars believed that brexit has given a chance to EU to or it member countries to do work more closely in certain areas and to strengthen their core values and norms and also facing the challenges together which has been emerged by brexit(S. & Sweeney 2021). Major focus was on agriculture like The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), decision taken by UK to work or make their

own policies in agricultural area separated from the EU. (Baines 2020).

This change led to a big change in how much EU agricultural or trade policies are highly effected (Roederer-Rynning 2019). Brexit negotiations have proven how the relations between UK and EU can be complicated it is untangle to economic relationship between them. Futher more may be new trade agreements or trade deals can change their relations or economic landscape in a good way in future (Stack 2020).

Brexit had strongly impacted on societies in context of economies, agriculture etc, especially in area of migration. UK wanted to make their own point based system after the brexit, which has been showed that EU's economy was greatly affected the workers and also raised the concerns about the economic growth (Dönmez 2020).

During the Brexit EU campaign it was perceived as a political issue EU' migration was also effected and their policies are also changed today after brexit there is no collaboration between them, also the UK is no longer a part of EU specially in their free movement of people (Schmidtke 2021).

The combination of the COVID-19 and Brexit has made to rethink again on the policies or their sustainability and how to make it more resilient in a better way. This pandemic realized them to think on sustainability on areas like building design and city planning etc, this can give a lesson to learn for making policies more sustainable and lessons learned from the crises (Tokazhanov, 2020) Even with these dual crises EU maintained their stronger sustainability and they are also protecting their environment. These are the key areas of EU for moving forward with full of motivation (Tleuken 2021).

1. **TABLE:** Comparison Of Immigration Policies Of Eu Between Before And After Of Brexit And Covid-19.

CATEGORY	POLICIES BFORE BREXIT AND COVID-19	POLICIES AFTER BREXIT AND COVID-19
1. <b>Focus on National Sovereignty vs. Collective Governance</b>	The immigration policy of EU has a goal to create an united approach among all EU members.this can be done by Common European Asylum Policy (CEAS) , which is setting some standards for the cooperation and rules for asylum among EU nations. This policy is in favor of fairness and supports the free movement of people and there must be fundamental rights are protected (Charter of Fundamental Rights Articles 18, Charter of Fundamental Rights 67, 78, 79 n.d.).	Brexit forced towards more national control of EU countries, with the help of EU moved towards point-based system for immigration .But during the time period of COVID-19 all EU countries handled crisis independently by setting their own border controls and restrictions across the boreders, which was impacting the cooperation among EU countries (TFEU Articles 67 and 45 n.d.).
2. <b>Humanitarian vs. Security-Driven Policies</b>	The EU member countries were engaged with asylum policies and showed the burden-sharing responsibility among member states,especially with the case of Syrian refugee crisis (TFEU Articles 78 and Charter of Fundamental Rights Articles 18, Charter of Fundamental Rights Articles n.d.)	After the COVID-19, there was a shift noticed towards health and security, by focusing on border controls for taking measures for public health risks. Brexit added to the differences, UK focused on prioritize the migration policy instead of refugees (TFEU Articles 77 and 35 n.d.).
3. <b>Integration Policies and Challenges</b>	EU policies focused on those policies which integrates people like providing education and better job opportunities, its aim is to enhance harmony and cooperation among EU member states (TFEU Articles 79(4) n.d.).	COVID-19 and labor shortages has shifted the priorities towards attractive skilled workers for filling the job gaps which have been seen, Brexit also contributed for emphasizing the immigration based the economic needs (TFEU Articles 79(1) n.d.)
4. <b>Burden-Sharing and Solidarity</b>	The immigration policies of EU ,especially in Asylum policy they tried to share equal asylum seekers fairly across the member states but some countries have resisted due to some reasons (TFEU Articles 80 and 18 n.d.).	Brexit has badly impacted on burden sharing responsibility systems, and COVID-19 exposed unequal abilities and cooperation among EU members, which moved towards more divided actions which has been taken by EU member countries (TFEU Articles 80).
5. <b>Economic Imperatives in Migration Policy</b>	Economic considerations was focused for fullfilling of economic needs like addressing demograohic challenges and gaps noticed in labor shortages, they added some factors which can grow their economies (TFEU Articles 79(1) n.d.).	Brexit and COVID-19 prioritize the focus on skilled workers, the EU and UK made policies which can reduce the labor shortages with paying the less attention to low skilled migration (TFEU Articles 79(1) and Ireland n.d.).
6. <b>Health and Safety Concerns</b>	Firstly, immigration policies of EU were evolving around security and economy the public health concerns were incorporated explicitly(TFEU Atricle 77 and Schengen Code 2016).	COVID-19 has made the health and safety more important for EU member states, by border crossing restrictions and stricter rules for immigration .which was about public health safety measures. (TFEU Atricle 77 and EU 2020).
7. <b>Public Sentiment and Political Dynamics</b>	Anti-immigration views and rise of populism criticized on the EU immigration policies but the EU has promoted inclusivity and burden sharing responsibility for EU member countries, which would be good for EU member countries .It would be fair (TFEU Articles 79).	Brexit and COVID-19 boosted the talks taking place on populism, caused more resistance to immigration rules and skepticism on EU working together on solutions(TFEU Article 79(1) and Ireland n.d.).

8. <b>Legal and Institutional Shifts</b>	EU's immigration policies have been influenced by the laws created for their collaboration of every EU country's rules collectively and emphasizing the EU oversight and standardization (TFEU Articles 67 and Regulation. Regulation (EU) No 604/ Dublin Regulation 2013).	Brexit and COVID-19 created the more flexibility or more unity in EU immigration policies like national level adaptations and balanced the EU integration with individual countries controls over the handling crises (TFEU Articles 79(1), Ireland and EU 2020).
9. <b>Perceptions of Free Movement</b>	According to EU, free movement is a core principle, so they imposed some travel restrictions or limits between those countries which are counted in Schengen Area (Article 21 and Schengen Code 2016).	COVID-19 stopped the free movement temporarily by focusing on health security risks or measures. and on the other hand Brexit also added more restrictions, they ended the automatic right for the EU citizens to work or live in UK (TFEU Articles 21, EU and Ireland 2020).
10. <b>Refugee Quotas and Resettlement</b>	The EU worked hard to convince or set refugee Quotas but there were some countries like Hungary and Poland resisted (TFEU Articles 80 and Regulation 2013).	COVID-19 and Brexit has reduced the concept of long term resettlement, they were some national governments supporting local or domestic issues and also weakening the refugee quotas (TFEU Articles 78(3) and Regulation 2013).
11. <b>Border Management</b>	By opening of internal borders, EU shows efforts to secure the external borders and it takes help from some agencies like Frontex (TFEU Article 77 and Regulation 2016).	Both crises made the stricter border controls due to their effectiveness, COVID-19 temporarily reopened the internal borders for the sake of health reasons and also Brexit made the UK to set their own policies by their own choice (TFEU Articles 77, EU and Ireland 2020).
12. <b>Labor Migration Strategies</b>	Labor immigration policies highlighted the filling of demographic gaps, also these labor migration strategies also enhancing a long term or sustainable integration if migrants (TFEU Articles 79(1) n.d.).	Brexit and COVID-19 shifted the focus towards the highly skilled labors or workers to minimize the gaps of labor shortages in critical sectors like healthcare and agriculture. Often sidelining the low skilled migration (TFEU Articles 79(1) and Ireland n.d.).
13. <b>Public Funding and Resource Allocation</b>	The fundings of EU immigration policy were used for long term collaborative programs and for the management of borders (TFEU Articles 78(2) and Regulation EU No 513/2014 Asylum 2014 2014).	Fundings shifted towards crises management like COVID-19 health and economic recovery and Brexit adjustments, along with less focus on integration (TFEU Articles 80 and Assistance 2020).
14. <b>Emotional and Political Polarization</b>	Immigration talks were politically charged but often it contains a broader talks related to the EU's integration and more inclusiveness (TFEU Articles 79 and Charter of Fundamental Rights Articles 18 n.d.).	COVID-19 and Brexit has created intensified polarization, the anti-immigration views grew faster or stronger, it was highly fueled by the fears of job competition after post Brexit and health measures during the times of Pandemic (TFEU Articles 79 and Charter of Fundamental Rights Articles 18 n.d.).

#### DATA ANALYSIS:

Before Brexit and COVID-19 EU prioritized the united or collaborative approaches in immigration policies through some initiatives like Common European asylum system (CEAS). Its basic aim is to align some national rules with EU standards and promotes the unity or cooperation among EU member states also

opened the free movement across the EU members countries. EU has signed some treaties which makes them more close to work together like TFEU and the Charter of fundamental rights. After Brexit UK has adapted the point-based systems, more indulged with national control. COVID-19 enhanced the pressure by controlling the closing borders of countries by



their own rules. Which made the co operation or unity among EU members' states more hard. Humanitarian commitment was valuable before Brexit and COVID-19, the EU's main focus was on helping the refugees and shared the burden-sharing responsibility during the crises. Like Syrian refugee influx. This was grounded in rules of TFEU and the Charter of Fundamental rights. After COVID-19 the policies was transformed the landscape or more closed towards health concerns or with security by imposing the stricter borders control for managing or achieving the safety measures related to public health risks. Brexit also changed the priorities they were more focused on economic migration than helping these refugees. Integration strategies pre-brexit and COVID-19, immigration policies emphasized on long-term sustainable goals in context of education and job opportunities, to promote the social cohesion between them. Afterward, COVID-19 the economic fallout and labor shortages make them move to more pragmatic approaches , more concentrating on attractive skilled labors or workers for more specific jobs. Brexit amplifies or reshaped the selective immigration based on their economic leverages. Pre-Brexit and COVID-19 the EU aimed to distribute asylum seekers fairly across all EU member countries, through some resisted. Brexit made this system weaken, COVID-19 has proven that how countries individually handled the crisis with less attention on cooperation. Migration policies has goals like to reduce or fill the economic gaps in labor market and demographic challenges. Post Brexit and COVID-19 shifted the focus on more skilled workers instead of low skilled workers , Economic challenges from these dual events has enhanced the attention towards those policies which has an aim to solve labor shortage in critical areas.

The EU Pre COVID-19 period, was concentrating on the economic and security concerns or issues not on public health. But after the COVID-19 the priority of EU was changed they were started to more focus on public health issues and making the safety top priority, it was leading to more restrictions on travel or stricter health measures. Before Brexit and COVID-19, rising populism and anti-immigration views was influencing the EU

policies, however EU maintained the narratives of inclusivity and shared responsibility among EU member states. Afterward, these events they intensified the populist approach because it was on its peak, their ideas was started to grow, like there were some oppositions to immigration and doubts to EU-wide solutions. Legal Frameworks of immigration policies of EU rules was about the unity and standardization. But Brexit and COVID-19 , these both events created the more flexibility in EU immigration policies like country specific approaches, balancing the EU integration with member states autonomy specially in case of crises management. The EU valued the free movement but was not in favor of internal migration before these dual crises. However the pandemic imposed some restrictions or limits for temporarily, or control the movement for the sake of health concerns, on the other hand Brexit ended the automatic right of EU citizens to live or work in UK. With the help of refugee Quotas EU tried to sought the distribution of asylum seekers. But countries like Poland and Hungary refused that or resisted. Post Brexit and COVID-19 they showed less attention towards political support for large scale resettlement, and with national governments they were addressing the domestic challenges over the refugee Quotas. Efforts of EU before Brexit and COVID-19 were enhancing the strength of external borders instead of internal borders open by taking the help from some agencies like Frontex.

Dual crises led to stricter borders controls. COVID-19 to achieve measures related to health they made some short-term restrictions while UK wanted to create or set their own border policies. Labor migration policies have made the balance for needs of workers with strategies for long term integration. After crises the stronger focus was shifted from low skilled workers or labors towards high skilled labors, for filling the gaps created in labor shortages. Before these events public supported some fundings for projects for border management and integration programs like the Asylum, Migration and integration Fund (AMIF), Later on that funding was shifted to COVID-19 recovery and all the changes related to Brexit. Immigration debates of EU was politically charged but also focused on EU's solidarity and its inclusivity. Brexit and COVID-19 made these debates more polarized



and with a lot of fears for job competition and health risks it was highly fueling the anti-immigration views.

### CONCLUSION:

It is concluded that Brexit in 2016 and COVID-19 in 2020 has heavily impacted on the immigration policies of EU or its member states, like they were more closed to free movement and more solidarity but after that they shifted towards more practical concerns. Brexit made them realized their more borders controls which should be followed strictly, on the other hand COVID-19 was pushing them to focus on health and security issues which was emerging during that time period. After these dual crises EU has changed its priorities in their policies they were focusing on those things which priorities their interests in economic recoveries, skilled workers or their migration and public health concerns. After that it is considered as a big challenges but they are working hard with each other along with their cooperation or as a union but also trying to maintain their national independence, but these are also ongoing struggles which they are facing .To look forward,EU has to look forward for the more unified approach and shifts towards more flexibilities in their policies, so they can address the challenges more effectively in future.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To go for more effective migration policies which creates the fairness and consider the needs of all migrant groups.
2. To provide more fundings for migrant integration programs which helps the migrants to settle in and build stronger social cohesion.
3. Improve EU teamwork among EU countries so that they can easily address the shared migration challenges.

### PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Conduct more research on the ground for the better collection of EU data and understand the migration policies.
2. Talk to stakeholders, including the migrants, policymakers and community groups to gather their ideas and suggestions.
3. Create or implement more effective plans or communication strategies to enhance awareness about EU migration policies and their effects.

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