

## MIGRATION DRIVEN BY CRISES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Purpose:** This article examines the evolving trends and key research areas in crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable development, with the goal of identifying recent challenges, emerging themes, and future directions. It aims to bridge the gap between academic insights and practical policymaking by highlighting the dynamic relationship between migration issues and sustainable practices.

**Design/methodology/approach:** A systematic review of publications indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases was undertaken to analyze trends, identify leading contributors, and highlight emerging research themes. The analysis focuses on publication outputs, citation patterns, and thematic shifts influenced by global crises, particularly the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Findings:** The study reveals a substantial growth in research output on crisis migration, reflecting the increasing global relevance of this topic. Russia, Germany, and the UK are identified as leading contributors, with the US producing the most widely cited works. Recent literature demonstrates an expanding focus on pandemic-related challenges, with terms such as "Covid", "pandemic", and "health" prominently featured. Central themes include the experiences of Syrian refugees, Afghan migrants, and women, alongside growing attention to regional issues in Germany, Russia, Poland, and the role of asylum seekers. These findings illustrate the multidimensional nature of crisis migration and underscore its intersection with sustainable development goals.

**Originality/value:** This study provides a detailed analysis of the current state of crisis migration research, emphasizing its response to contemporary global challenges, such as health crises and forced displacement. The findings offer a roadmap for future academic inquiry while delivering actionable insights for policymakers aiming to incorporate sustainable development principles into migration responses. By addressing both established and emerging themes, this article contributes to a more nuanced understanding of migration dynamics in a rapidly changing world.

**Keywords:** crisis migration, refugee migration, migration challenges, sustainable development.

**Category of the paper:** Literature review.

## 1. Introduction

Crisis migration, particularly when driven by conflict, persecution, or environmental catastrophes, has become one of the most pressing challenges in the field of migration studies and sustainable development (Black, 2018; Estevens, 2018; Hugo, 2008; Raleigh, 2011). As populations are displaced due to war, natural disasters, or political instability, the impact on both host and origin regions is profound, affecting social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Given the magnitude and complexity of migration in crisis situations, it is essential to understand the dynamics at play in order to design policies that can both manage migration flows and contribute to long-term sustainable development. This is particularly important as migration is not just a result of crisis events but also an important factor in shaping regional and global development trajectories (Black, 2018).

This study provides an overview of the literature on crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable regional development. Using a systematic review approach, it evaluates recent trends, key subject areas, and the most commonly used terms in research publications from Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases. The focus of this paper is to address research questions related to current research trends, subject areas, and keywords in crisis migration and sustainable development, as well as to explore recent issues, challenges, and emerging future trends in this field. This paper seeks to answer important questions regarding the relationship between migration and sustainable development, the factors influencing the displacement of populations, and the ways in which these phenomena are studied and understood in contemporary scholarship.

The primary aim of this study is to map out the growing body of literature on crisis migration, refugee migration, and sustainable development by examining the period from 1989 to 2022, utilizing data from the WoS and Scopus databases. In doing so, this study identifies the key research topics and geographical regions that have been central to the discussion in recent decades. The focus on crisis migration and refugee flows has intensified, particularly in the aftermath of significant global events, such as the Syrian civil war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Furthermore, this paper highlights the shifting terminology used in the literature, such as the introduction of terms like "pandemic", "Brexit", and "Syrian refugee", in response to these events, while also noting the lack of attention to more recent crises, such as the displacement resulting from the 2022 war in Ukraine.

This systematic review aimed to evaluate the key trends in academic literature on these interconnected topics and to identify gaps in the research, especially concerning the underrepresentation of certain refugee groups in mainstream studies. The study highlights that while research interest in crisis migration and sustainable development has surged, the literature on some of the most current refugee crises, such as the Ukrainian migration crisis, is still underdeveloped, potentially due to delays in publication and indexing in major academic

databases. The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the scope of migration research, introducing new dimensions such as health crises, border management, and migration governance.

Several scholars have addressed the complex relationship between migration and sustainable development. Castles (2010) and Martin (2022) discussed migration as both a cause and a consequence of sustainability challenges, noting its influence on economic inequality, environmental change, and social stability. More recent works, such as those by Betts (2011) and Zetter (2018), have examined the implications of crisis-induced migration for host countries, particularly in terms of policy responses and the integration of migrants. These studies suggest that crisis migration presents both opportunities and risks for host regions, depending on the political, economic, and social context in which migrants arrive.

However, despite this growing body of literature, research gaps remain in addressing the long-term impacts of crisis migration on sustainable regional development. Pécoud (2014) and Hynie (2018) have argued that while migration can offer developmental benefits, these outcomes are often contingent on effective management and integration strategies. Moreover, recent trends highlight that while much attention has been focused on the Middle East and South Asia, emerging crises in Eastern Europe, such as the displacement caused by the war in Ukraine, have yet to receive adequate scholarly attention.

In addition to addressing these gaps, this paper draws on the work of scholars such as McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou (2021), who noted that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered the migration landscape, with new keywords and areas of focus appearing in the literature, including "health", "hygiene", and "pandemic migration". The research further explores how these events have led to an increased focus on migration governance, border control, and the socio-political dimensions of migration, as well as the role of international institutions in managing these crises.

Using WoS and Scopus data, this paper addresses research questions related to the current trends, subject areas, and terms in research publications on crisis migration, refugee migration, and sustainable regional development. In particular, this study highlights recent shifts in the field, such as the impact of geopolitical events like BREXIT, migration resulting from wars in Syria and Afghanistan, and the European Union's role in managing refugee crises. These shifts point to the evolving nature of migration studies and underscore the need for continued exploration of the intersection between migration, sustainability, and policy in times of crisis.

The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of literature on crisis migration and sustainable development, offering valuable insights into the directions of future research. Furthermore, this paper seeks to provide actionable recommendations for policymakers, NGOs, and international organizations working to address the challenges posed by migration in crisis contexts. By synthesizing current research and identifying gaps in the literature, this paper aims to guide future studies and provide a foundation for policy interventions that align migration responses with sustainable development goals (OECD, 2020). This study employs a novel approach to provide a comprehensive overview of the evolving landscape of crisis migration

research. It offers valuable guidance for future studies and practical insights for policymakers seeking to integrate sustainable practices into migration responses, effectively addressing both ongoing and emerging global challenges.

## 2. Material and methods

The article has undertaken to carry out a systematic literature review (SLR). SLR is involving an orderly, reliable synthesis of selected and collected research findings carried out so far. It can be the basis for building a new conceptual model or theory and mapping the development of a specific research field over time (Snyder, 2019). SLR is a process that involves a thorough bibliographic analysis of collected searches on a given topic that meet predetermined eligibility criteria to obtain answers to formulated research questions (Mengist et al., 2020). Our study consisted of three stages:

1. The first stage was carried out on February 14, 2023. It focused on two databases Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus, and a group of inquiries regarding the issues of crisis migration and sustainable regional development, presented in detail in Figure 1. These queries were entered separately into the WoS and Scopus databases.

- 1.1. Web of Sciences, as a publisher-independent global citation database, covers almost 1.9 billion cited references from over 171 million records. It contains documents, described as the highest-quality and most impactful publications, identified from 1900 (Clarivate, 2023).

Downloaded files result in a total number of 61 obtained documents. As part of this database, half of the documents were available as open access. Most of the documents were articles – 34 documents. Most of them were published in English (57 documents), Russian (2 documents), Slovenian (2 documents), and Czech (1 document). The authors of the documents represent a very diverse international group among which are representatives of Slovenia (6 documents); England, Germany, and Romania (6 documents each); Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, and Spain (3 documents each); Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, and South Africa (2 documents each); Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Israel, Latvia, Luxembourg, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA (1 document each).

1.2. Scopus is a source-neutral abstract and citation database, that provides leading journal articles. It contains documents identified from 1970, covering over 1,8 billion cited references. 35% of the included documents are related to the field of social sciences (Elsevier, 2023a).

From this database, a total number of 84 documents were obtained. As part of this database, nearly 60% of the documents were available as open access. Most of the texts were also articles – 65 documents. Most of them were also published in English (67 documents), and the others were released in the following languages: Russian – 8 texts, Slovenian – 2 texts, French, Polish, and Spanish – 1 text each. Most authors of documents represented: Russian Federation and United Kingdom – 12 texts each; Germany – 10 texts; Romania – 7 texts; Italy and United States – 6 texts each; Slovenia – 5 texts; Austria, Poland, and Slovakia – 4 texts each; Australia, Netherland, Norway, Spain, and Sweden: 2 texts each; Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates – 1 text each.

2. The second stage was to remove duplicates. In the case of both databases, 7 texts were duplicated. After removing them, 131 texts were qualified for the next stage (WoS: 54, Scopus: 77).
3. In the third stage, an analysis of the obtained documents using the VOSviewer program was undertaken. The software tool enables the construction and visualization of bibliometric networks and visualizes co-occurrence networks of given terms from scientific literature (Leiden University, 2023). It is effective e.g. for analyzing large amounts of scientific data. In addition, word cloud visualization was also used at this stage using the WordArt program.

The fully structured literature review process and the quantitative results obtained after the stages of selection are presented in Figure 1.

<b>Stage 1</b>  Positive selection within the title/ or title, abstract and keywords	Entries	WoS	Scopus
	"migration crisis" AND "regional development"	4	1
	"migration crisis" AND "sustainable development"	7	8
	"migration crisis" AND "socio-economic development"	2	1
	"migration crisis" AND "sustainable development goals"	2	3
	"migration crisis" AND sustainability	14	10
	"migration crisis" AND "regional policy"	1	4
	"migration crisis" AND "labour market"	12	21
	"migration crisis" AND "aid mechanism"	0	0
	"migration crisis" AND "economic situation"	3	6
	"refugee migration" AND "regional development"	2	2
	"refugee migration" AND "sustainable development"	2	3
	"refugee migration" AND "socio-economic development"	1	0
	"refugee migration" AND "sustainable development goals"	0	0
	"refugee migration" AND sustainability	5	5
	"refugee migration" AND "regional policy"	1	2
	"refugee migration" AND "labour market"	5	17
"refugee migration" AND "aid mechanism"	0	0	
"refugee migration" AND "economic situation"	0	1	

<b>Stage 2</b>  Negative selection within the acquired texts	<b>Sum (stage 1):</b> nWoS: 61, nScopus: 84 Duplicate removal nWoS: -7, nScopus: -7 <b>Sum (stage 2) :</b> nWoS: 54, nScopus: 77
<b>Stage 3</b>  Review of texts qualified for the study using VOSviewer and WordArt	<b>Sum (stage 3):</b> nWoS: 54, nScopus: 77

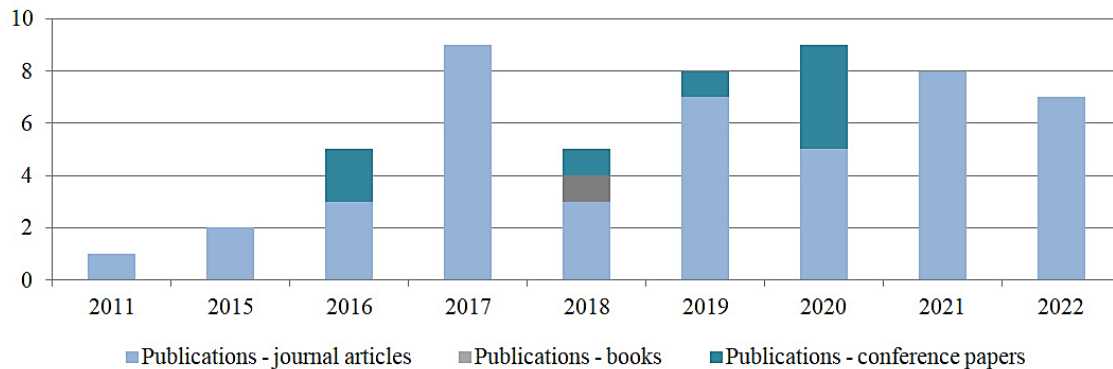
**Figure 1.** A structured literature review process and quantitative SLR results.

Source: own elaboration.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Web of Science

As part of the WoS database, among the publications meeting our criteria, there were documents published between 2011 and 2022. The biggest publication wave achieved its peak in 2017 with 9 publications, and in 2020 also with 9 publications. Figure 2 presents the increased number of publications indexed in WoS within the researched area.



**Figure 2.** Number of publications indexed in WoS within the researched area 2011-2022).

Source: own elaboration.

After omitting the terms used in stage 1 of this study, within the titles of indexed documents, the most frequently appearing words turned out to be: market, policy, public, global, education, union, European, and labour. The titles contain also words referring to the great challenges of the 21st century - concerning spreading diseases: Covid (the word appeared twice), pandemic and HIV (both appeared once), the subject of economic integration: union (5 times), EU (3 times), BREXIT and Schengen (both appeared once), and people-to-people conflicts: war (appeared once). These words are shown in smaller font in Figure 2a, which presents the graphic visualization of words reflecting the frequency of occurrence of given words.

The articles appeared in print in 36 different journals, 8 conference proceedings, and 1 book. Within the journals, the most common were: Sustainability (5 texts), Mirovaya Ekonomikal Mezhdunarodnye Otnosheniya (3 texts), Sustainability, Baltic Region, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues, and International Journal of Environment Research and Public Health (2 texts each). Figure 2b presents a word cloud for journal names of publications indexed in WoS.



a)

b)

**Figure 3.** World cloud as map pin icon shows the most often appeared a) terms in titles, and b) journal names of publications indexed in WoS.

Source: own elaboration using WordArt program.

The VOSviewer tool was used to determine the number of authored texts and cooperation between the authors of the publication. The minimum number of documents of an author was selected as 2. Of the 136 authors, only 3 meet the thresholds: M. Banaś, C. Dustmann, and F. Fasani, of which the last two people collaborated once in conducting research and writing (Table 1).

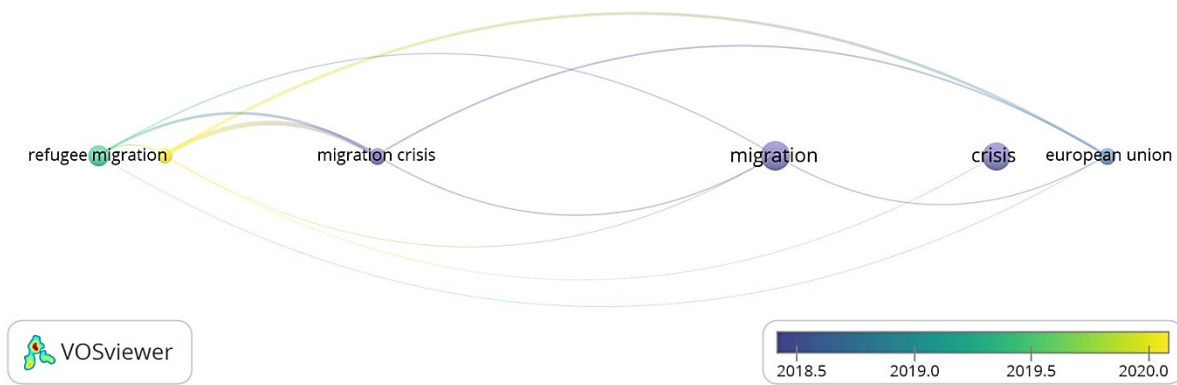
**Table 1.**  
Top three authors cooperating in contributing to research area within WoS

Author	Documents	Citation	Total link strength
Banas, M.	2	0	0
Dustmann, C.	2	0	1
Fasani, F.	2	0	1

Source: own elaboration.

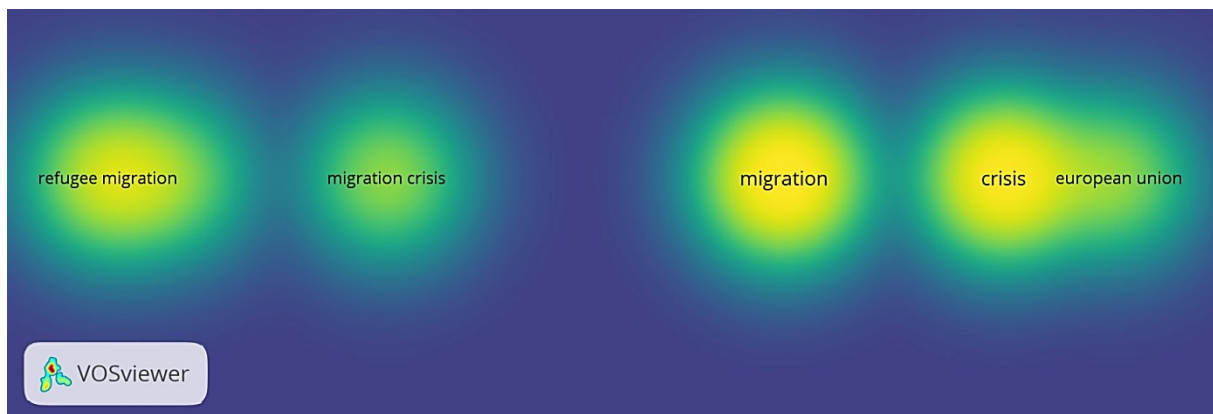






**Figure 5.** Overlay visualization based on WoS data.

Source: Own elaboration.

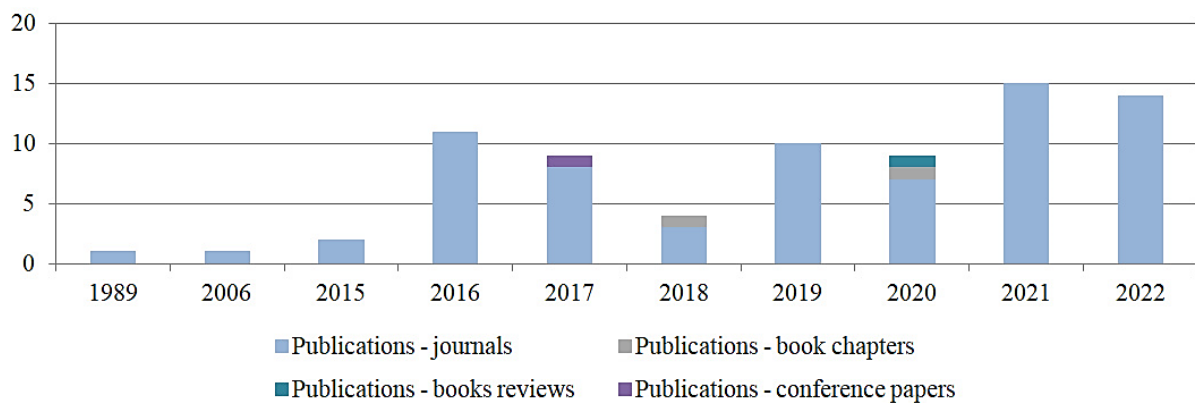


**Figure 6.** Density visualization based on WoS data.

Source: Own elaboration.

### 3.2. Scopus

As part of the Scopus database, among the publications meeting our criteria, there were documents published between 1989 and 2022. The biggest publication wave achieved its peak in 2016 with 11 documents, and in 2021 with 15 publications. Figure 7 presents the increased number of publications indexed in Scopus within the researched area in the period under review.



**Figure 7.** Number of publications indexed in Scopus within the researched area (1989-2022).

Source: own elaboration.



The VOSviewer tool was used to determine the number of authored texts and the co-authorship of the publication. The minimum number of documents of an author was selected as 2. Of the 177 authors, 4 meet the thresholds: F. Fasani, T. Frattini, M. Roman, and G. Tyldum. The authors' productivity in terms of citations was also listed. F. Fasani and T. Frattini were the most frequently quoted – they scored respectively 93 and 90 citations. Table 2 shows the co-authorship within the scope of the Scopus database.

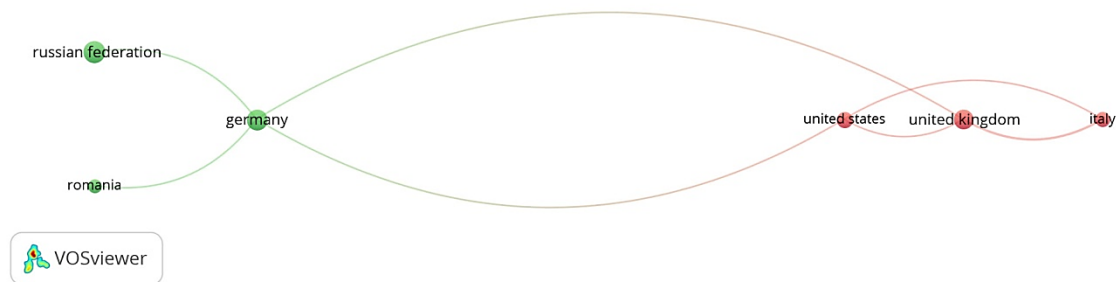
**Table 2.**

*Co-authorship within the scope of the Scopus database*

Author	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
Fasani, F.	2	93	1
Frattini, T.	2	90	1
Roman, M.	2	12	0
Tyldum, G.	2	3	0

Source: own elaboration.

The obtained data also made it possible to check countries' cooperation according to the co-authorship of the publications. The minimum number of documents of a country was selected as 5. Of the 37 countries, 6 meet the threshold (Figure 9) – they are countries with high productivity in terms of research work. This diagram shows that Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom were types of bridges connecting scientists dealing with the issue of crisis migration and sustainable regional development. The geographical distribution of publications indicates that most publications on the subject of migration come from Russia, Germany, and United Kingdom. However, most cited papers come from the United States (Table 3).



**Figure 9.** Map of relationships showing cooperation between authors from different countries, based on Scopus data.

Source: own elaboration.

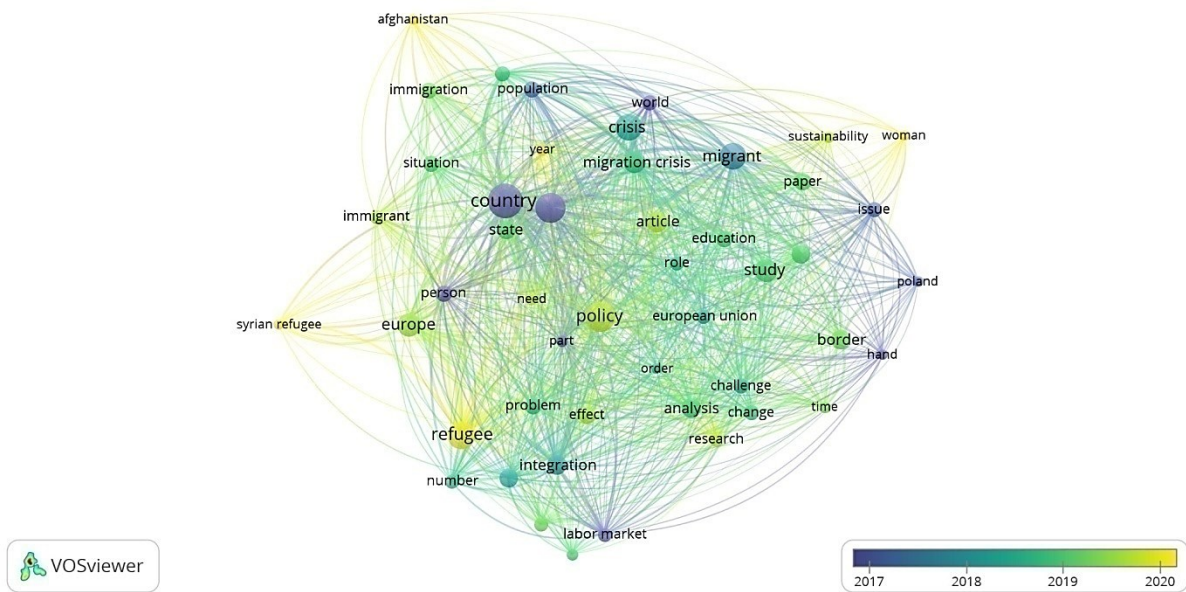
**Table 3.**

*Country cooperation within the scope of the Scopus database*

Country	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
Germany	11	45	4
Italy	6	102	3
Romania	5	13	1
Russian Federation	13	17	1
United Kingdom	10	103	4
United States	7	134	3

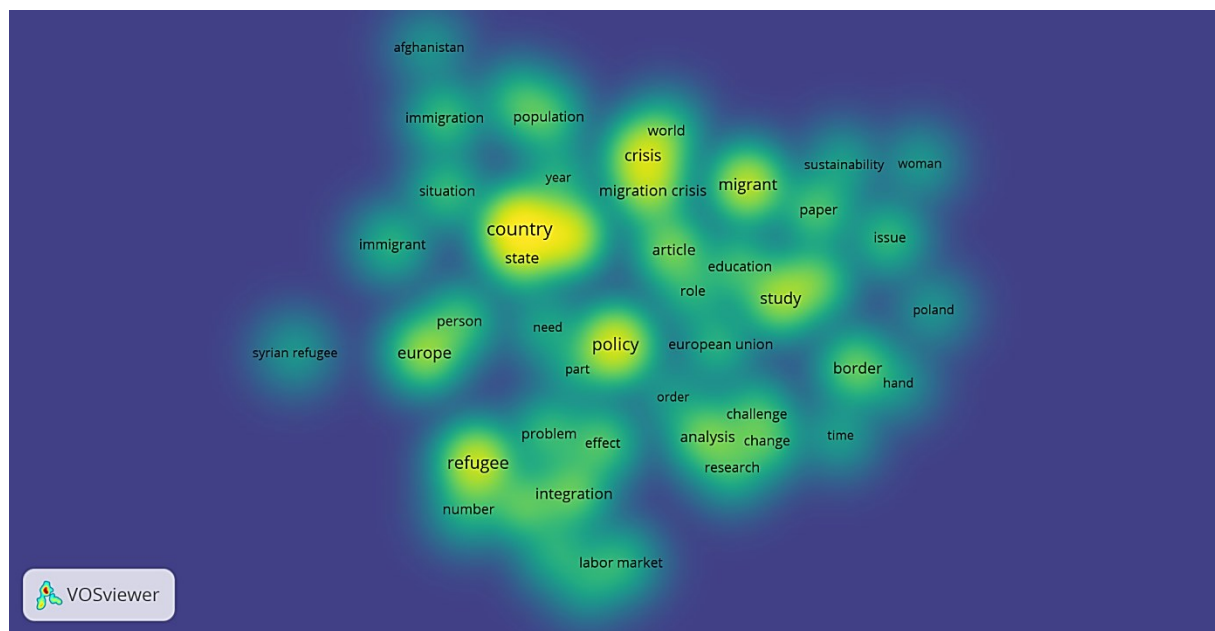
Source: own elaboration.





**Figure 11.** Overlay visualization based on Scopus data.

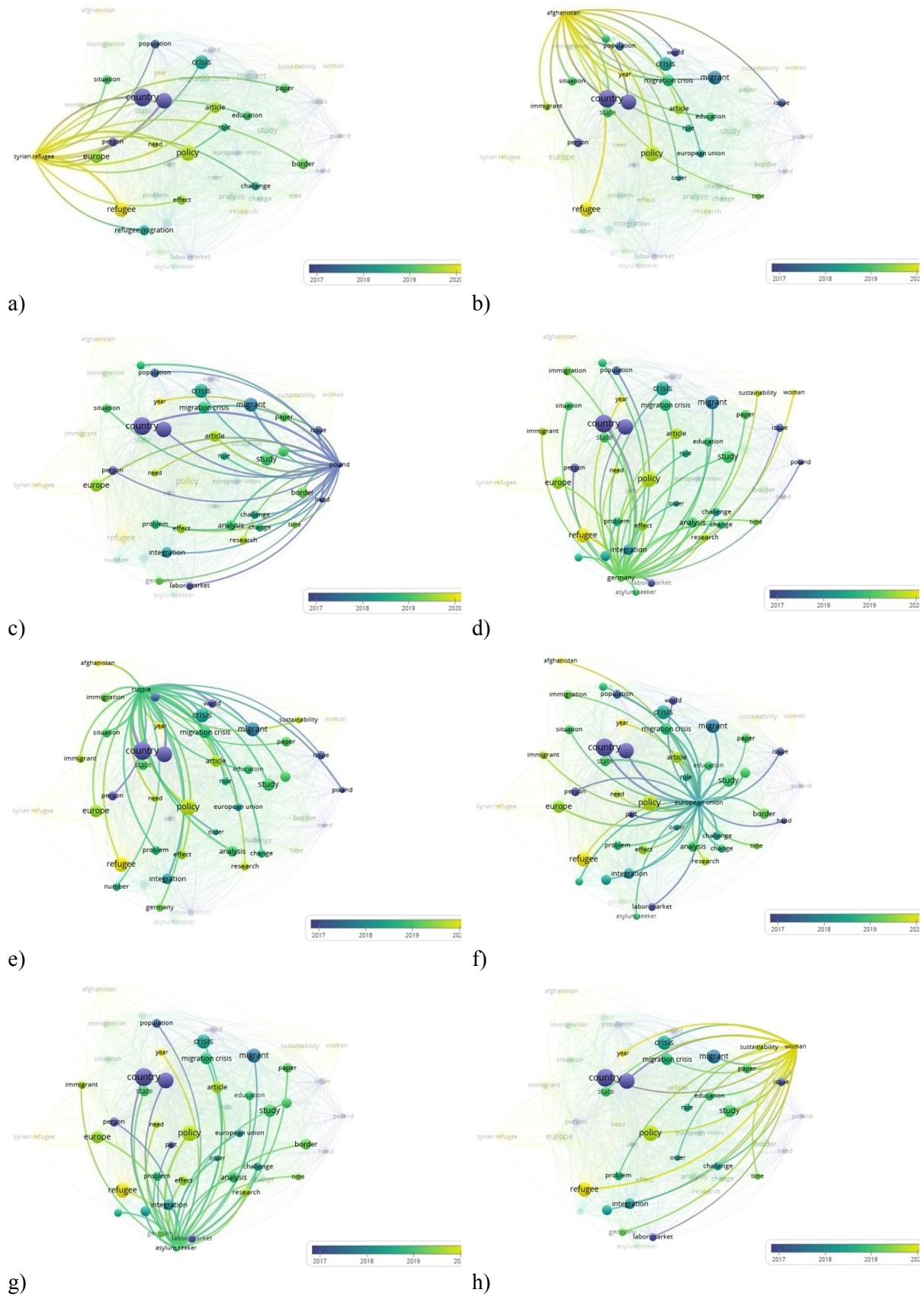
Source: Own elaboration.



**Figure 12.** Density visualization based on Scopus data.

Source: Own elaboration.

Comparing the items listed as the newest (elements marked in yellow and bright green on Figure 11) and the least explored (Figure 12), the following items were qualified for further analysis: Afghanistan, Syrian refugee, Poland, Germany, Russia, European Union, asylum seeker, and women. In Figure 13a-h, maps of detailed connections for the listed terms are presented. Among them, the term Poland, although it is not often represented in texts indexed within Scopus, can be seen that it was chosen as the subject of researchers around 2017. On the other hand, the term women, which belongs to relatively new research topics, is directly related to the terms sustainability and Germany.



**Figure 13.** Relationships between items: 10a. Syrian refugee, 10b. Afghanistan, 10c. Poland, 10d. Germany, 10e. Russia, 10f. European Union, 10g. Asylum seeker, 10h. women, and other items selected for the study based on Scopus. Source: Own elaboration in VOSviewer program.

## 4. Discussion

The findings of this study reveal a clear upward trajectory in the volume of research on crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable development between 1997 and 2022 (WoS) and 1989 to 2022 (Scopus). This surge in publications highlights the growing recognition of migration as a critical area for research, particularly given its increasing complexity and its close ties to sustainable development objectives. Castles (2010) and Koser (2007) have long argued that migration and development are inextricably linked, with migration both influencing and being shaped by broader socio-economic and political dynamics. The upward trend in publications may also reflect the broader global political and environmental crises, which have made migration a focal point for academic inquiry, policy discussions, and public debate.

This study shows that the most frequent contributors to research on these topics come from Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom, with the highest number of citations originating from the United States. This geographic trend aligns with previous research, which found that migration studies often focus on regions heavily impacted by refugee inflows and those that are central to international migration policies (Scholten, Penninx, 2016). However, recent shifts in global migration patterns, such as the Syrian and Afghan refugee crises, have increasingly driven research towards specific refugee groups, as documented by Betts and Collier (2017) and Zetter (2021).

A particularly striking finding from this study is the relative lack of research on the Ukrainian refugee crisis, despite its significant scale following the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This may be attributed to delays in indexing articles in databases such as WoS and Scopus, which can take weeks or months to include new publications (Elsevier, 2021). These delays may also reflect a lag in the availability of relevant studies, as research on the Ukrainian refugee crisis is still in its early stages. As highlighted by Pécoud (2014), it is essential for migration scholars to rapidly respond to such emergencies in order to document and analyze emerging trends in real-time. However, as geopolitical priorities often influence which crises receive the most attention (Pécoud, 2014), it is also important to ensure that all migration crises are adequately represented in academic discourse.

This study reveals several important trends in the literature on crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable development. Key areas of focus include the intersection of migration and public health, the gendered dimensions of crisis migration, the impact of European migration policies, and the relationship between migration and sustainable development. Below, these trends are discussed in greater detail, along with an expanded exploration of recent research.



#### **4.1. Migration and health in the context of global crises**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on migration patterns and has significantly reshaped research into migration and health. In particular, the pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of migrant populations, whose health and wellbeing are often compromised due to inadequate access to healthcare, overcrowded living conditions, and limited resources. The increased use of terms such as “pandemic”, “health”, and “hygiene” in migration studies underscores the growing recognition of the need to integrate health considerations into migration management (McAuliffe, Triandafyllidou, 2021). Migrants, especially those in temporary accommodation or refugee camps, face heightened exposure to infectious diseases due to poor sanitary conditions and lack of healthcare infrastructure (Hynie, 2018).

As McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou (2021) argue, the pandemic exacerbated the vulnerabilities of migrants by restricting access to essential health services and increasing discrimination and stigmatization. These challenges have prompted a call for more comprehensive policies that address the health needs of migrant populations, particularly in times of crisis. Scholars such as Koser (2007) and Castles (2010) stress the need for migration governance frameworks that prioritize health equity and provide essential services to migrants during health crises. Recent literature also suggests that migration policies should integrate health preparedness strategies to mitigate the impacts of future pandemics on migrant communities (Scholten, Penninx, 2016).

#### **4.2. Gendered dimensions of crisis migration**

Research on the gendered aspects of crisis migration has seen considerable growth in recent years, with a particular focus on the vulnerabilities of women and children in refugee and conflict settings. As Hynie (2021) notes, women refugees are often exposed to higher risks of sexual violence, exploitation, and discrimination, particularly in conflict zones. These vulnerabilities are further compounded by cultural and structural barriers that limit women's access to resources, legal protection, and integration opportunities (Zetter, 2021). Refugee women are often subject to gender-based violence, including sexual assault, forced marriages, and trafficking, exacerbating their already precarious situations.

This growing body of research emphasizes the need for gender-sensitive policies that consider the specific needs of women and children in refugee settings (Al-Husban Adams, 2016). Such policies must address issues such as access to healthcare, legal protection, and safe living conditions. Zetter (2021) underscores the importance of including gender considerations in refugee assistance programs, particularly in post-conflict settings where women often face heightened risks. Moreover, studies by Pécoud (2022) have suggested that gender-sensitive migration policies can improve both the short-term wellbeing and long-term integration of refugee women (Denaro, Giuffrè, 2022; Gammage, Stevanovic, 2019).

### **4.3. Regional migration and European politics**

Migration within and towards Europe continues to be a central focus of academic research, especially in relation to the ongoing crises in Syria, Afghanistan, and other conflict-affected regions. The European Union (EU) remains a key destination for migrants and refugees, which has led to the development of complex migration policies. Scholten and Penninx (2021) provide a comprehensive analysis of the political challenges faced by European states in managing migration flows. They argue that the EU's migration policies, which emphasize border control and the enforcement of asylum procedures, are often at odds with the need for effective integration programs.

Recent research indicates that EU policies have been both a source of protection and a cause of friction within host societies. For instance, while the EU's refugee relocation scheme was intended to share the burden of asylum seekers more equitably, it has faced significant political resistance in many member states, especially in countries like Hungary and Poland. Betts and Collier (2017) suggest that regional migration policies must balance the protection of refugees with the integration of migrants into local labor markets, education systems, and social structures. This balance is critical for achieving long-term social cohesion and stability in host countries.

Moreover, the European migration context is further complicated by the rise of far-right populism, which has influenced migration policies in many European countries. Research by Koser (2020) explores the political dynamics of migration in Europe, arguing that nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiment often shape policy decisions, with detrimental effects on migrant and refugee populations. Given the complexity of migration governance in Europe, there is a need for more research into how regional migration policies can be reformed to better meet the challenges of refugee integration while respecting human rights and international law.

### **4.4. Sustainability, migration, and development**

In recent years, scholars have increasingly explored the intersection between migration governance and sustainable development, particularly in relation to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Betts and Collier (2017) argue that migration can be an engine of economic development, both in host countries and countries of origin, provided that migration governance frameworks are designed to foster integration and support the long-term development of migrant populations. However, achieving this vision requires overcoming significant obstacles, such as resource constraints, political opposition, and the need for international cooperation.

Recent studies by Pécoud (2014) emphasize the importance of developing sustainable migration practices that contribute to both the economic development of host countries and the wellbeing of migrants. These practices include promoting social inclusion, improving access to education and healthcare, and ensuring that migrant labor is integrated into the local economy.

Such policies not only improve the lives of migrants but also benefit host societies by boosting productivity and fostering social cohesion.

Moreover, sustainable migration practices can play a key role in achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). By ensuring that migration is managed in a way that benefits both migrants and host communities, governments can contribute to the achievement of these goals, while also fostering greater global solidarity in addressing the challenges posed by migration.

**Table 4.**

*Key research trends in crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable development*

Research trend	Key findings	Key authors
Migration and health	Focus on the intersection of migration and public health, particularly during global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns include the spread of diseases, inadequate healthcare access, and the heightened vulnerability of migrants. Significant attention is given to migrant health needs, mental health challenges, and the role of healthcare systems in managing the influx of migrants during health crises.	Mladovsky et al. (2012), McAuliffe, Triandafyllidou (2021), Bojorquez et al. (2021), Willen et al. (2021), O'Donnell (2018).
Gendered dimensions of crisis migration	Gendered vulnerabilities in crisis migration, with women and children facing higher risks of sexual violence, exploitation, and discrimination, particularly in refugee camps or conflict zones. The importance of addressing gender-specific needs in migration policies and the development of protective measures is highlighted.	Hynie (2018), Zetter (2021, 2007), Lama, Hamza, Wester (2021), Denaro, Giuffr�, (2022), Gammage, Stevanovic (2019), Ghosh (2009).
Regional migration and European politics	In-depth exploration of migration trends within Europe, including the political challenges surrounding asylum seekers, border control, and refugee integration. The impact of EU policies, such as the Schengen Agreement and the Dublin Regulation, on migration patterns is analyzed. Research also touches upon the rise of nationalism and political resistance to refugee policies in various EU member states.	Scholten, Penninx (2021), Betts, Collier (2017), Maruszewski, Kaczmarczyk (2020), G�rny, Kaczmarczyk (2020)
Sustainability and migration governance	Examination of the relationship between migration and sustainable development, particularly how migration can be incorporated into long-term development strategies that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focus on the importance of inclusive migration governance and the role of migrants in contributing to the socio-economic development of host countries, without overburdening local resources.	Betts, Collier (2017), P�coud (2014), Rother (2019), Martin (2022), Castles (2009), Al-Husban, Adams (2016), Holliday et al. (2019), Adger et al. (2019)
Economic impacts of migration	Research on the economic contributions of migrants to host economies, including the labor market, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. The studies analyze how diversity within the workforce can drive economic performance and competitiveness, with a particular emphasis on migrant workers in key sectors. Issues of remittances and migration's impact on global trade are also addressed.	Dustmann, Frattini (2014), Clemens (2013), Borjas (2017), Al-Husban, Adams (2016)
Climate change and migration	Exploring the role of environmental factors in migration, particularly in the context of climate change. Research examines how environmental degradation and extreme weather events drive migration flows, particularly in vulnerable regions. The implications of climate-induced migration for policy and security are considered.	McLeman (2013), Black et al. (2011), Lama, Hamza, Wester (2021), Pigu�t, P�coud, De Guchteneire (2011), Kaczan, Meyer (2020).

Cont. table 4.

Urbanization and migration	The interplay between migration and urbanization, focusing on the challenges and opportunities presented by the influx of migrants into cities. Studies examine urban infrastructure, housing, social services, and the integration of migrants into urban communities, with special attention to the development of inclusive urban policies.	Sassen (2013), Moser (2020)
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Source: own elaboration.

Generally, the research highlights several emerging trends in the study of migration and sustainability. There is a growing recognition of the intersection of health and migration, with particular attention to migrant health vulnerabilities during crises. As McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou (2021) note, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical need for robust health systems to address the specific vulnerabilities of migrants, particularly during global health emergencies. Gendered impacts are also a prominent focus, with the need to develop policies that consider the specific needs of women and children in migration settings (Ghosh, 2009; Hynie, 2018; Zetter, 2021, 2007). Zetter (2021) emphasize that women refugees face heightened risks of violence and exploitation, necessitating gender-sensitive policy responses.

Furthermore, the relationship between migration governance and sustainable development is gaining traction. Betts and Collier (2017) highlight the potential for integrating migration policies with broader sustainable development frameworks to achieve long-term socioeconomic benefits for both migrants and host communities.

However, important gaps remain in the literature. As noted by McLeman (2018), there is a lack of research on the impacts of migration induced by environmental factors, particularly climate change. Black et al. (2011) further argue that climate-induced migration is often underrepresented in global policy discussions despite its increasing relevance. Moreover, the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, with its significant migrant flows, has not yet been sufficiently addressed in the academic literature. This is likely due to the time lag in publication indexing in databases such as WoS and Scopus, as previously observed by McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou (2021).

This underscores the importance of timely research responses to emerging migration crises. Sassen (2013) emphasizes the need for agile and adaptive governance frameworks that can respond effectively to the multifaceted challenges of global migration. Such frameworks must integrate health, gender, and sustainability dimensions to address the complex realities faced by migrants and host communities alike.

By addressing these gaps, future research can contribute to the development of more effective, humane, and sustainable migration policies.

## 5. Summary

The purpose of the article was to define current trends, subject areas and terms in research publications on crisis, refugee migration and sustainable development, as well as recent issues, challenges and future trends in this area. In the case of both databases, there is an upward trend in the number of documents, which allows for a conclusion about the increase in research interest in this topic in the period 1997 to 2022 for WoS and 1989 to 2022 for Scopus. Publications within the database Scopus indicate that most documents of the issues studied come from Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. While the most cited papers come from the United States.

The changes occurring over the last two years, primarily the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (December 2019), have been marked by the appearance in scientific texts of the words: Covid, pandemic, hygiene and health and within the area of international integration: union, European Union, BREXIT and Schengen, as well as migrations resulting from conflicts between given social groups: war, Syrian refugee and Afghan. The lack of a topic dedicated to Ukrainian refugees, related to the war started by Russia, which has been ongoing since February 24, 2022, was observed. This may be related to the fact that a publication appearing in print is not immediately indexed in WoS and Scopus, and may be associated with a longer period between its publication and actual appearance in the databases. However, according to the information provided by the Journal Article Publishing Support Center (Elsevier, 2021), it takes 4-8 weeks from the publication of the issue to the indexing of the text. In the case of Scopus, the document is usually indexed within four days (Elsevier, 2023b). However, when analyzing the entries (asked questions and answers) of scientists active within Research Gate, one can get the impression that indexing takes a little longer, even up to two months. It can also mean that texts devoted to this issue appear mainly in journals not indexed or awaiting acceptance by WoS or Scopus.

Recent trends indicate research interest primarily in topics: Syrian refugees, Afghan and women. Key aspects that can be possible directions for further research conducted contain also terms: German, Russia, Poland, and asylum seeker.

The results of our research may prove helpful to the scientific community, and the indicated trends may contribute to directing their work on the above-mentioned issues and obtaining significant results. In addition, they may also prove helpful for state authorities responsible for implementing policies related to population migration and for introducing sustainable practices - the implementation of sustainable development goals.

### 5.1. Limitations of the study

The limitations of this study include the following, using:

- only two databases → which eliminated many high-quality documents that are indexed in databases less popular in social sciences, or databases from which it is currently not possible to easily obtain files for analysis as part of the soft tool used,
- databases where not all publications on crisis migration, refugee migration and sustainable regional development are indexed → which eliminates many high-quality works published in regional journals,
- databases in which the dominant language of publication is English → which eliminates many high-quality texts published in less popular languages,
- narrow search criteria (stage 1) → which may exclude some of the documents devoted to the studied area (it is however one of a characteristic feature of SLR).

In general, this study offers a comprehensive review of the current state of research on crisis migration, refugee movements, and sustainable development. It highlights several key trends, including an increasing focus on health and gender in the context of migration, the continuing prominence of European migration patterns, and the integration of migration governance with sustainability. However, important research gaps remain, particularly regarding the Ukrainian refugee crisis and the longer-term impacts of crisis migration on host regions. As migration crises continue to unfold worldwide, it is crucial for both researchers and policymakers to address these gaps and ensure that migration is integrated into sustainable development frameworks in a timely and effective manner.

Further research is needed to deepen our understanding of these interconnected issues and to inform more effective, humane, and sustainable migration policies.

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