

Transnational Solidarity Organisations with Asian and non-Asian Migrants in Eight European Countries: Searching for the Commons¹

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Abstract

With migration waves from Asia increasing in the past decade, numerous studies focus on how civil society organizations have responded. However, there is a lack of systematic research on the solidarity approach different organizations follow and whether specific types of solidarity approaches are related to constituency groups of Asian origin. Using primary systematic data from the TransSOL (EC Horizon 2020) research project, the paper first examines specific organizational features (such as activities, aims, etc.) of Transnational Solidarity Organizations

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(TSOs) aiming to support migrants (among them Asian) in eight European countries. Moreover, the chapter investigates the main solidarity approaches (top-down, bottom-up or mutual-help oriented) and the values adopted by TSOs addressing the needs of constituency groups from Asia and those catering to the needs of non-Asian constituency groups. The indicative findings aim to shed light on distinct features of commons among TSOs supporting Asian and non-Asian migrant groups across European contexts.

Introduction

Recent reports point to the considerable increase of Asian populations' mobility towards North American and European countries (UN DESA 2019) mainly due to acute events like wars, unsafe political regimes and instability, economic crises, or natural disasters. People on the move have enhanced needs as they confront exclusion across economic, political and cultural domains. Overall conditions of socio-economic exclusion and deprivation are considered as one of the most important drivers for civil society formation and engagement (Lahusen, Zschache and Kousis 2021). To that end many solidarity movements have risen in the last decade throughout Europe, mostly during the recent 'refugee crisis' at the local and national levels, primarily in countries which were first in facing migrant-refugee inflows (della Porta 2018; Milan 2019). These solidarity movements appear at the international or transnational level including formal or informal groups with transnational features, or within the migration community itself, as self-help groups standing for each other through networking, communication and mutual support (Zamponi 2017; Gordon 2020; Kanellopoulos et al. 2020; Fernandez G.G., Lahusen and Kousis 2020; Loukakis and Maggini 2020; Lahusen et al. 2021). Although in some cases the provision of solidarity can become particularistic by targeting specific nationalities of migrant communities and excluding others, it mostly appears with universalistic values, promoting equality and shared rights (Lahusen 2020). Using digital media for communication, connectivity and networking most civil society entities of our times seem to be particularly supportive to vulnerable social groups (Nedelcu and Soysüren 2020).

Despite the increase of solidarity movements in Europe, there seems to be little evidence on the organisations engaged in transnational solidarity activities for migrants in general and specifically for Asian migration groups. Although research examining the macro and micro level determinants of international movements of people is rich (Faist 2010), the role of organisations, including those offering transnational activities, has received relatively little attention in migration studies (Castles, Haas and Miller 2014; Pries 2008). Understanding some of the main features of these organisations and their solidarity approaches is important as specific approaches (e.g. bottom-up or horizontal solidarity approach) might be more inclusive for the integration and empowerment of migrants in the host countries (Lahusen et al. 2021). Moreover, research comparing organizations offering transnational solidarity activities to Asian migrants and migrants of other origin are even scarcer.

To fill the aforementioned gaps in literature, the paper offers a web-based organisational analysis² of Transnational Solidarity Organisations (TSOs) aiming to support migrants and refugees in eight European countries, i.e. Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, and the UK, in the context of the TransSOL research project.³ The paper offers fresh and important empirical insights on a relatively under-researched issue by focusing on specific organisational features and the type of solidarity approach that TSOs follow and how these are related to different constituency groups including those of Asian origin. It should be noted that solidarity approaches usually appear as four main types: a) mutual-help/mobilising for common interests, b) support/assistance between groups (both with a bottom-up orientation) as well as c) help/offer support to others and d) distribution of goods and services to others (both with a top-down orientation) (Fernandez G.G. et al. 2020; Kousis et al. 2020). Those oriented towards a top-down, vertical, charity and object centered model seem to be the oldest ones, while the shift to the more horizontal empowerment-based solidarity appears to have increased during the last decade. The top-down orientation of solidarity seems to be more paternalistic focusing on the distribution of goods and services that resembles the philanthropic approach, while the horizontal approach emphasizes collaboration for common interests, primarily capturing bottom-up solidarity practices by supporting beneficiaries through interaction, integration, activation, empowerment, mutual and shared responsibility (Lahusen et al. 2021).

The paper is based on an innovative method applied in the TransSOL project called Action Organization Analysis (AOA) which examines the organisations, their structural and political features, and their activities online. Through AOA the data collected systematically from organizational websites is not only unmediated by official reports or conventional media but is also updated. The unit of analysis is the TSO, a collective body targeting economic and social wellbeing for its beneficiaries and having at least one aspect of transnationality. The aggregate dataset is based on content analysis of organisational information from the websites of TSOs derived for the eight European countries under study in the fields of migration, unemployment and disabilities (Kousis et al. 2020).

To that end, the undertaken analysis in the paper uses primary systematic data of the TransSOL project following an exploratory approach, to investigate specific organisational features (such as the type of activities, the main values and aims) as well as the solidarity approach that TSOs follow. Concerning the latter the paper compares the solidarity approaches employed by TSOs supporting migrants from Asian countries, with those used by TSOs aiming to support migrants from non-Asian countries. This is a key feature of TSOs' organisational structures, barely examined in migration studies, as organisations applying a commons (bottom-up) oriented solidarity approach are more likely to enhance the integration of migrants compared to those with a top-down decision-making structure. Rare are works on this issue reflected in recent research

² The results presented in the chapter have been obtained within Work Package 2 of TransSOL (2016).

³ More information about the TransSOL (European paths to transnational solidarity at times of crisis: Conditions, forms, role models and policy responses) project can be found at: <http://transsol.eu/>

comparing TSOs across the fields of unemployment, migration and disability illustrating that unlike the unemployment sector, where horizontal solidarity is more diffused, the migration field is characterized by vertical solidarity, while the disability one by a more even distribution between solidarity approaches (Fernandez G.G. et al. 2020).

During the last decade a significant number of Asian nationals immigrated due to acute events such as wars and political instability. However, it should be noted that there is a great diversity in the nationalities of Asian migrants moving to Europe and other continents as well as notable differences in the main reasons for their movements (Platonova and Urso 2013). Specifically, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan were the top origin countries of refugees in the world and specifically in Europe (IOM 2020). For instance, in 2016, first-time asylum seekers applying for protection in European Union member-states reached the record number of 1.2 million. Of these, around 30% had origins in Syria (Eurostat 2017).

Under such a framework it is important to explore, in a comparative perspective with non-Asian TSOs, to what extent TSOs supporting Asian migrants aim to provide a commons (bottom-up) oriented solidarity approach that contributes to migrants' integration and empowerment, as well as to what extent they apply top-down solidarity by distributing goods and services.

In the sections that follow we first offer a literature review on the characteristics of the Asian migration in the countries under study. Secondly, we describe the method and the variables used for the analysis while in the section following the methodology, we present the findings by comparing TSOs supporting Asian migrants with those supporting migrants from non-Asian countries. In the last section we discuss the main conclusions of the chapter along with the limitations of our analysis and possible avenues for further research.

Describing Asian Migration: Pool Countries, Destinations and Reasons of Displacement

Playing a dominant role in global migration, Asia is one of the largest source regions worldwide, sending immigrants mainly to Europe, to Canada and the United States. Countries such as India, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam but also Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan are some of the major migrant-pools, significantly increasing migration flows in recent decades (IOM 2020). The factors contributing to such high-level mobility have always been multiple, including among others colonization, geopolitics, economic adequacy and safety. Historically, developments influencing migration displacements can either be acute events such as political instability, economic crises, weather related natural disasters or long-term developments (demographic changes, technology advances etc.). According to the 2020 World Migration Report (IOM 2020) in 2018 the Syrian Arab Republic was the origin of the largest number of refugees globally (6.7 million), while Philippines had the largest number of disaster displacements (3.8 million). Moreover, the last decade examples of acute events in Asia relate to

inflows not only from the Syrian Arab Republic but also from Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen etc. Among other reasons forcing Asian populations to migrate is family reunification (Pakistanis and Vietnamese), educational opportunities (Chinese and Korean) and employment seeking (Indians and Filipinos). Regardless of nationality, some of the most skilled migrants seem to come from Asia along with refugees, asylum seekers and the most deprived ones (Platonova and Urso 2013).

Globally, India has the largest number of migrants living abroad (17.5 million), with China being the third major provider (10.7 million) (IOM 2020). Apart from separate countries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) seems to also be another major migrant-source mainly for economic and labour integration reasons.⁴ In regard to their destination, Asian migrants mostly reside in the United States, Canada and the European Union, with the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France receiving migrants mostly from their former colonies (e.g. India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Vietnam) (Platonova and Urso 2013). According to the UN DESA (2019) data, the last two decades Asian migrants (born in Asia) residing specifically in Europe have doubled. In the sections to follow, the paper aims to contribute towards understanding the different solidarity approaches TSOs take in addressing the needs of Asian migrants across eight European countries, including the UK and France.

Commons and Solidarity Organizations as a Means to Support and offer Protection for Migrants

Migration flows and refugee crises along with deprivation and precarity are considered some of the most important drivers for civic engagement and collective action (Lahusen et al. 2021). The 'refugee crisis' of 2015-16 has contributed notably to the importance and growth of solidarity organisations (della Porta 2018; Milan 2019). Trying to cover the policy deficit many solidarity movements arose at the national level (Bernát, Kertész and Tóth 2016; Hamann and Karakayali 2016; Zamponi 2017; Goździak and Main 2020; Kalogeraki 2020), at the international and transnational level (Fernandez G.G. et al. 2020; Kanellopoulos et al. 2020; Loukakis and Maggini 2020; Lahusen et al. 2021) and within migrants themselves in an attempt to create commons and ensure self-protection. Having digital technology on their side (Earl and Kimport 2011; Bennett and Segerberg, 2012; Nedelcu and Soysüren, 2020) such solidarity movements across global regions, especially European ones, aim to cover refugees' and migrants' needs during difficult times. In this context an increasing number of national, international/transnational and self-help entities -among them associations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), grassroots movements and voluntary solidarity organisations- have risen in European countries to protect migrants' rights, promote their social inclusion, and fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination (Van der Leun

⁴ According to Eurostat data, in 2015, around 371 thousand people with the citizenship of an ASEAN country (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) resided on a long-term basis in the EU (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU-ASEAN_cooperation_-_key_migration_statistics).

and Bouter 2015; della Porta 2018; Kousis et al. 2020; Fernandez G.G. et al. 2020; Fernandez G.G., Nicole-Berva and Nadler 2021). To that end, migration organizations provide migrants with actual every-day support (such as food, health care, language lessons, housing and employment opportunities), try to spread awareness and enhance people's sensitivity on the problems of migrants and refugees, or put pressure on policy makers aiming to achieve migration policy changes. Seeking representation opportunities for migrant populations many of the migration civil society entities focus on advocacy to ensure a migrant-governance that will respect and promote migrants' rights (Rother 2020). In regard to migrants themselves, populations on the move, traditionally and in terms of self-protection, develop networking strategies along with collective forms of communication and action based on self-help and solidarity, claiming their rights 'to the city' and struggling with precarity in all terms (Trimikliniotis, Parsanoglou and Tsianos, 2015). For this purpose, 'mobile commons of migration' struggle to create common spaces based on shared knowledge, mutual support, connectivity, solidarity and care among 'moving' populations (Papadopoulos and Tsianos, 2013). This type of practice and activities of migrants fits in what we named before as bottom up – horizontal solidarity type as they put emphasis on the collaboration for common interests and try to support the member of their communities through interaction, integration, activation, empowerment, mutual and shared responsibility (Lahusen et al. 2021).

In the following sections, first we describe in detail the Action Organisation Analysis, an innovative method that we used for the purposes of the TransSOL project as well as the sampling procedures, and we give some examples of "typical" TSOs. In the findings section we provide the results of the comparison between the TSOs targeting Asian migrants and the rest of TSOs. We examine their Activities, Aims, Values and Solidarity Approaches, trying to investigate, whether and to what extent Asian TSOs differ from the rest of TSOs.

Action Organization Analysis: Offering Unmediated Large Scale Data

The paper uses fresh data derived from a new approach, namely Action Organisation Analysis in the context of the TransSOL project (Kousis, Giugni and Lahusen 2018; Kousis and Lahusen 2021; Fernandez G.G., Kousis and Lahusen 2022), which highlights the increasing importance of mapping organisations, their features and activities online following earlier works (Earl and Kimport 2011; Bennett and Segerberg 2012). Building on protest event analysis (Tilly 1978) and political claims analysis, AOA aims to identify and encompass a 'population' of unmediated online digital activism by both formal, but more importantly, informal groups. Using the organisational website as source in the data collection, limitations of mediated sources (e.g. public registers and official reports, or news coverage by conventional mass media) are avoided. Compared to conventional sources these include not only formal but also informal initiatives and organisations. Even though resource-rich organisations may have more developed and updated websites, the hubs-retrieved websites approach offers the best available information on an extensive number of informal and grass-roots organisations in each country,

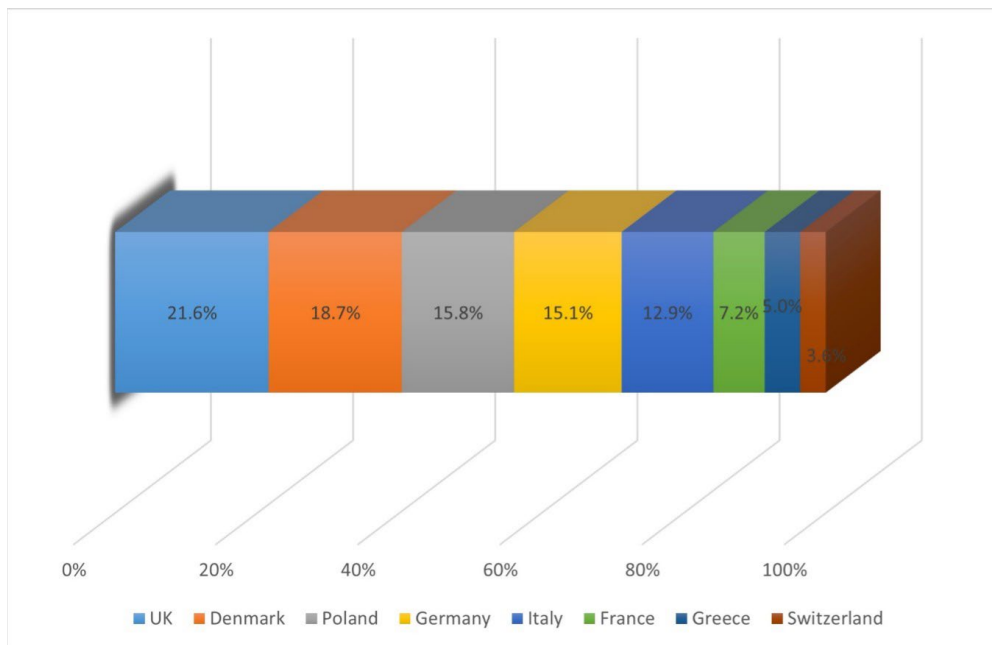
not available from conventional sources (Kousis and Lahusen 2021). Accordingly, the hub-website approach has been selected due to its advantage in providing large numbers of organisational links on TSOs and the best possible coverage of the main categories of (non-protest) action types at the transnational, national, regional and local level, related to urgent needs, economy, energy and environment, civic media and communications, alternative consumption/lifestyles, self-organized spaces, as well as art and culture (TransSOL 2016).

The aggregate dataset is based on content analysis of organizational website information derived from the eight countries participating in the project in the fields of migration, unemployment and disabilities. The unit of analysis is the TSO which is defined as a 'specific formal or informal group of initiators/organisers who act in the public sphere through solidarity events with visible beneficiaries and claims on their economic and social well-being' (Kousis and Lahusen 2021, 622). TSOs of the research sample were transnational in terms of at least one of the following categories: a) Organizers with at least one organizer from another country, or supranational agency, b) Actions synchronized/coordinated in at least one other country, c) Beneficiaries with at least one beneficiary group from another country, d) Participants/Supporters with at least one participating/Supporting group from another country, e) Partners/collaborating groups with at least one from another country, f) Sponsors, with at least one from another country or a supranational agency, g) Frames with cross-national reference/s, h) Volunteers with at least one volunteer group from another country, i) Spatial at least across two countries (at the local, regional or national level). Moreover, TSOs under study were neither operated nor exclusively supported by corporate, state, or EU-related agencies and were solidarity-oriented in terms of at least one of the following categories: a) mutual-help/mobilizing or collaborating for common interests, b) with support/assistance between groups (both bottom-up oriented/ horizontal solidarity approach), c) helping/offering support to others, d) distributing goods and services to others (both top-down oriented, vertical solidarity from above). Finally, they were active at any time within the period of the recent global economic crisis (i.e. at least between 2007 and 2016). The total sample consisted of 2,408 TSOs for the three issue sectors under study (migration, unemployment, disabilities) in the eight European countries participating to the project. The selected TSOs have been analyzed through their websites with the use of an analytic coding scheme which quantified their characteristics on their: activities, actions, aims, solidarity approaches and values.

For the purpose of the present paper we used data from 848 (out of the 2,408) TSOs, active in the migration field. Out of the 848 the 139 were Asian-Migrant Related TSOs, addressing needs of constituency groups from Asia. Those organisations included Asian migrants as beneficiaries of their actions or offered support to Arabic and/or Afghan speaking migrants -as reflected through the languages on their websites. The rest 709 TSOs were Non-Asian-Migrant TSOs also active in the migration field but without the above features. For a more profound understanding of the organizations targeting Asian migration, the descriptive analysis sheds light to the main characteristics (activities,

aims, values, solidarity approaches) of both groups, the Asian-Migrant related (AMR) and the Non-Asian-Migrant related (NAMR) TSOs, in a comparative perspective.

Figure 1 AMR TSOs' Country of origin (%)



N=139, Source: TransSOL Research Project

The majority (72.1%) of the 139 TSOs aiming to support Asian migrants are based in the UK, Denmark, Poland and Germany, while a minority is located in Italy, France, Greece and Switzerland. Such a pattern is expected given the size of the host country and their respective number of migrants.

A typical example of AMR TSOs included in our sample is the Centre France-Asie, a formal organization in France offering French lessons to migrants from Asia in order to assist their social integration (<http://centrecfa.mepasie.org>). Another example is The Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation, a registered charity in London, which seeks to build links between female refugees and combat isolation and social exclusion (<http://mewso.org>). Finally, we also included organizations such as the Danish committee for aid for Afghan refugees (dacaar) in Denmark, a Danish non-political, non-governmental, non-profit humanitarian organisation working to improve the lives of the Afghan people, especially vulnerable, disabled, displaced and women (<http://www.dacaar.org/>).

Migration TSOs' Analysis: Findings on their Activities, Aims, Values and Solidarity Approaches

Despite the increase of Asian populations' mobility towards west countries, our data revealed the prevalence of the NAMR TSOs, as in our sample TSOs targeting Asian migrants seem to be a small part (16%) of those active in the migration field (139 out of 848). Apart from the AMR TSOs underrepresentation in our sample, all TSOs were examined in terms of their qualitative features, critical for their role in assisting migrants/refugees.

In regard to their activities, the analysis reveals significant differences in no more than three fields: As seen in Table 1, environment and alternative consumption actions seem to appear twice as often in TSOs targeting Asian populations than the TSOs targeting non-Asian migrants. Moreover, economy related activities, such as seminars or vocational training, which aim to enhance migrants' labour inclusion, score ten percent higher in AMR than in NAMR TSOs. However, our findings -in line with the literature- reveal that both TSOs groups score considerably high (more than eight out of ten) in activities related to urgent and basic needs. Those activities assist migrants in their every-day needs by providing free food/meals, clothing, housing and medical care along with legal assistance and free language lessons, necessary for the migrants' communication with the authorities. The next most prominent activity-category is related to the public dissemination of the problems and issues migrant communities face, aiming to spread awareness and raise people's sensitivity. Sharing migrants' needs seems to be a strategy both TSOs groups employ to support their beneficiaries, enhance their visibility and put policy pressure to bring about changes. Interestingly only a few organizations (from both groups) are dealing with issues such as trafficking, or self-organized spaces. Although, AMR and NAMR TSOs' activities in general follow a similar pattern, NAMR TSOs are less active in almost every activity field except that of lobbying and preventing hate crimes.

Table 1 TSOs Activities*

TSOs Activities	AMR TSOs n=139	NAMR TSOs n=709	Chi-square score
Basic/Urgent Needs	87%	84%	.479, p=.489
Dissemination in the public sphere	73%	67%	1.550, p=.213
Economy	55%	45%	3.954, p=.047
Culture	47%	41%	1.666, p=.197
Interest Group representation, advise state bodies and lobbying	19%	25%	2.631, p=.135
Alternative consumption	13%	7%	4.470, p=.035
Activities related to preventing hate crime	12%	16%	1.654, p=.189

Environment	12%	6%	4.905, p=.027
Activities related to stop human trafficking	8%	8%	.012, p=.914
Other	5%	3%	1.058, p=.304
Self organised spaces	4%	3%	.083, p=.773

*Dummy variables, multiple answers allowed

Moving on to the level of actions, Table 2 shows that most of the TSOs under study conduct their activities at the sub-national level, regardless of the beneficiaries they target. Comparing the two groups, AMR TSOs seem to operate in a higher level (and therefore are more transnationally oriented) than NAMR: significant differences are reported in the supra-national level (European and global) where TSOs targeting Asian migrants are considerably more active than NAMR TSOs. NAMR on the other hand seem slightly more active at the local level. The level of action, however, should also be examined in relation to the TSOs networking, but mainly to the country they are based in and the opportunities available in each level.

Table 2 Level of Actions*

TSOs Scope of actions	AMR TSOs n=139	NAMR TSOs n=709	Chi-square score
Local	67%	73%	2.403, p=.121
Regional	40%	40%	.003, p=.959
National	40%	31%	4.109, p=.043
European	20%	13%	4.015, p=.027
Global	19%	10%	7.969, p=.005

*Dummy variables, multiple answers allowed

With respect to the aims TSOs promote in general, three different clusters arise: the charity related, the one focusing on rights and equality and the one focusing on social movements and collective identities. The charity related cluster includes organizations that mostly target towards every-day relief related activities aiming to help others, promote health education and welfare, reduce poverty, facilitate job finding, etc. AMR TSOs seem to score a bit higher in the charity related cluster than the NAMR TSOs. Similarly AMR TSOs seem to score higher in four out of six aims in both two other clusters (right-based/equality related and social movements/collective identities related). However significantly higher is the score (57.8% versus 43.9%) of the NAMR TSOs aiming to increase tolerance and mutual understanding. The aims almost equally present in both TSOs groups are: helping others (68.3% AMR TSOs/ 66% NAMR TSOs), promoting and defending individual rights and responsibility (41.7% AMR TSOs/ 40.8% NAMR TSOs) and promoting self-managed collectivity (9.4% AMR TSOs/

9.2% NAMR TSOs). Overall, despite some differences in the scores, the two TSOs groups seem to share the same aims, focusing on migrants'/refugees' wellbeing, empowerment, social and labour inclusion and equal treatment, along with their visibility and a wider political change. High scores in the charity cluster are indicative to the increased needs migrants/refugees face and the urgency of their nature. However high score in the other two clusters are indicative of the TSOs universalistic values aiming to promote equality and shared rights along with their commons' orientation through mobilization and collective action.

Table 3 TSOs Aims*

Cluster	TSOs Aims	AMR TSOs n=139	NAMR TSOs n=709	Chi-square score
Charity aims	To promote health, education and welfare	56.10%	46.40%	4.392, p=.036
	To reduce poverty and exclusion	30.90%	36.50%	1.587, p=.208
	To help others (e.g. charity aims)	68.30%	66%	.284, p=.594
	To facilitate the return/enter to the jobmarket/into employment and to promote long-term/lasting employment	30.20%	23.30%	3.037, p=.081
Right based - equality aims	To combat discrimination /to promote equality of participation in society	62.60%	68.50%	1.882, p=.170
	To increase tolerance and mutual understanding	43.90%	57.80%	9.015, p=.002
	To promote social exchange and direct contact/integration in society/local communities	67.60%	59.90%	2.889, p=.089
	To promote and defend individual rights and responsibility	41.70%	40.80%	.045, p=.832
	To improve the pay and working conditions/ to promote equal and just pay	8.60%	6.20%	1.110, p=.292
	To promote self-determination, self-initiative, self-representation and self-empowerment	30.90%	21.40%	5.919, p=.015
Social Movement - collective identity aims	To promote and achieve social change	34.50%	39.90%	1.415, p=.234
	To promote democratic practices/ equal participation	23.00%	18.80%	1.348, p=.246
	To promote self-managed collectivity	9.40%	9.20%	.005, p=.945
	To promote collective identities and community responsibility/empowerment	17.30%	12.40%	2.389, p=.122
	To promote collective (protest) action and/ or social movement identities	8.60%	12.70%	1.811, p=.178
	To promote and achieve political change	19.40%	17.20%	.394, p=.530

*Dummy variables, multiple answers allowed

Following the trend above, Table 4 shows that the vast majority of both TSOs groups under study adopts a top-down, service-oriented solidarity approach, i.e. by helping or offering every-day support or through distributing goods and services to cover migrants' enhanced needs. Most obvious differences can be spotted in the rest of the solidarity approaches as more AMR TSOs follow the collaborative solidarity scheme, which promotes networking and collaboration between different migrant groups in order to help their beneficiaries. Moreover, one third of AMR TSOs group (contrary to the one fourth of NAMR TSOs) promotes participatory solidarity as it is depicted by the mutual-help approach mobilizing for common interests. That said although both groups seem to mainly focus in assisting and covering migrants' needs through a vertical and from above solidarity approach, TSOs targeting Asian migrants seem to score higher in the mutual-participatory based and bottom-up solidarity approaches, indicative to their commons orientation and to the general shift of the TSOs towards an horizontal solidarity approach which serves beneficiaries through their empowerment and their social and economic integration. This more inclusive approach seems to be more supportive of Asian migrants to become part of the host country.

Table 4 TSOs Solidarity Approaches

TSOs Solidarity Approaches	AMR TSOs n=139	NAMR TSOs n=709	Chi-square score
Mutual-help/mobilising for common interests	33.8%	23.3%	6.887, p=.009
Support/assistance between groups	43.2%	34.8%	3.490, p=.062
Help/offer support to others	82.7%	84%	.151, p=.697
Distribution of goods and services to others	64%	55.3%	3.616, p=.057

*Dummy variables, multiple answers allowed

Finally with respect to the values that TSOs promote, Table 5 shows that almost two thirds of the solidarity organisations of both groups promote humanitarian and philanthropic values such as solidarity, altruism, truthfulness, honesty, sincerity, trust and dignity. Slightly less than the half of both groups promote values related with empowerment and participation such as multiculturalism, mutual understanding, individual and community empowerment. Both groups of TSOs similarly promote values related to rights such as equality, civil or human rights and liberties. Diversity and sustainability is supported by significantly less TSOs (10.8% AMR and 13% NAMR) while economic virtues and community values are rarely supported by both TSOs groups.

Table 5 TSOs Values*

TSOs Values	AMR TSOs n=139	NAMR TSOs n=709	Chi-square score
Humanitarian/Philanthropic	68.3%	65.2%	.545, p=.461
Empowerment and participation	45.3%	48.2%	2.542, p=.111
Rights-based ethics	42.4%	39.8%	.637, p=.425
Diversity and Sustainability	10.8%	13%	.041, p=.839
Economic virtues	2.9%	3.4%	.000, p=.985
Community and Order	2.2%	1.7%	.323, p=.570

*Dummy variables, multiple answers allowed

Concluding Remarks

After decades of Asian migration to Europe and only a few years following the huge refugee influx from the Middle East and Afghanistan in 2015-16, solidarity organisations focusing on these migrants seem to differ in their experiences across Europe. Given the mass Asian migration wave and civil society's response to cover the corresponding policy deficit, our research, based on an innovative method applied in the TransSOL project and using an aggregated dataset from eight European countries aims to fill the gap of literature in terms of the solidarity approaches employed and their relation to constituency groups of Asian origin.

For the purpose of the paper we examined the TSOs' organizational features related to the goals of commons in a comparative perspective (those targeting Asian and those targeting non-Asian migrants), in order to document the general tendencies of their organizational profiles and detect any possible differences between the two groups. Our first indicative finding is that in our random sample of the 848 TSOs active in the migration field, those centring on Asian migration (AMR TSOs) are significantly under-represented (16%), despite the increased migration wave from Asia the last decades.

Moving on in investigating TSOs' distinct features of commons, our findings reveal that although some minor differences in specific organizational aspects and features have been noticed, these differences do not seem to affect their general portrayal, showing that migrant and refugees populations in Europe, regardless their origin, face similar problems (e.g. covering basic and urgent needs such as food, housing, clothing, health care, etc.); hence organizations trying to deal with them have similar aims and values and provide with comparable activities.

In general, in terms of the solidarity approach employed, both AMR and NAMR TSOs of the eight European countries participating in the research, mostly aim to provide top-down relief and every day support to socio-economically vulnerable migrant

beneficiaries in order to cover their basic and urgent needs. Given the nature of the field, inevitably, most of the TSOs of the sample mainly adopt philanthropic roles, i.e. top-down, vertical solidarity approaches. Nevertheless, as the findings indicate, a considerable number of AMR TSOs (larger than that of NAMR) does adhere to a participatory, bottom-up solidarity orientation that accords with the basic principles of the commons' orientation achieved through mutual-help practices and mobilization for common interests. So there is some preliminary indicative evidence that whilst most AMR TSOs (as all TSOs of the sample) focus on remedying urgent needs, some of them are likely to encompass more inclusive horizontal solidarity practices that aim to enhance migrants' integration and empowerment. This tendency was noticed more among the AMR than the NAMR TSOs.

This common, horizontal and participatory orientation is also reflected in TSOs' activities, aims and values. With respect to the former, AMR TSOs differ significantly in conducting activities related with alternative consumption and environment, along with actions related to migrants' economic integration, while NAMR TSOs are more engaged in political activities such as lobbying. Apart from the activities that cover migrants' everyday urgent needs' which score considerably high in both TSOs groups, the next most prominent activity for both groups is related to the public dissemination of migrants' issues, the increase of migrants' visibility, the spread of awareness to both people and the state and the rise of political pressure. As seen, AMR and NAMR TSOs' activities in general follow a similar pattern with slight differences. However, NAMR TSOs of our sample have proven to be less active in almost every activity field except that of lobbying and of preventing hate crimes. Moreover examining the level TSOs seem to be more active, we found that AMR operate in a higher level NAMR, finding indicative of their transnational orientation.

In regard to TSOs aims, although findings indicate that those related to charity are more prevalent among AMR TSOs than NAMR TSOs, a more thorough look reveals that AMR TSOs score higher in most aims of all three clusters. Overall, a substantial number of TSOs from both groups emphasize aims related to equality/rights' protection and to mobilization/collective action and identities. Despite some noticed differences, the two TSOs groups seem to share the same aims, focusing mainly on migrants' survival and wellbeing and then to their empowerment/equal treatment and their inclusion/mobilization. Similarities are noticed also in the values the two TSOs groups promote: the main focus of both groups in humanitarian and philanthropic values seems to be in accordance to the charity-related aims, the top-down solidarity approach and the activities targeting migrants' basic and urgent needs which in turn are indicative of the global migration phenomenon. However, almost half of the TSOs in both groups promote values related with empowerment and participation such as multiculturalism and mutual understanding, while next come the values related to migrants' rights, equality and liberties. Those values are in line with the bottom-up, horizontal, participatory, and commons oriented solidarity approach, present in both TSOs group but more prevalent among TSOs targeting Asian migrant populations.

In studying TSOs targeting Asian migrants however, the heterogeneity of Asian migration as a phenomenon should also be considered: Asian migrants come from different ethnic and cultural groups and end up migrating for considerably different reasons (Platonova and Urso 2013). Some become economic migrants, while others leave their countries forcibly in order to save their lives. Given this large diversification in Asian migration, a more specific dataset on Asian migrant TSOs in future research could reveal more refined patterns of TSO organizational features, approaches and activities.

Limitations and Suggestions for Further Research

The aforementioned findings about TSOs supporting Asian migrants should be treated as indicative rather than representative of the European countries under study. It should be noted that the TransSOL project examined the migration civic organizations field as a whole and did not center specifically on Asian migrant organizations. As the TransSOL project focused on migrant and refugee-related solidarity organizations in general, future studies could centre exclusively on Asian migrant-related organizations and its special characteristics.

Concerning the method applied, it should be noted that AOA excludes organizations without websites or hubs/subhubs connections. Therefore, specific migrant organizations mostly informal which purposely avoid online media exposure but are active in supporting migrants -such as grassroots, ad-hoc created organisations mostly using social media accounts- were not included in our dataset. The analysis may therefore have excluded such self-help groups, created by migrants themselves who seek to network and form a commons' oriented approach.

In regard to future studies, given the notable differences among the diverse Asian nationalities and their main reasons to migrate, research on TSOs aiming to support specific Asian nationalities might be particularly important for understanding how the commons orientation is shaped in accordance to the peculiarities of different Asian nationalities. Such diverse experiences include, TSOs targeting: refugees from Syria or Afghanistan who are forced to leave their homes, immigrants from Pakistan and Vietnam who primarily move for family reunification, immigrants from China and Korea who come to Europe for educational reasons or Indians and Filipinos immigrants who primarily leave their country for labour integration.

Moreover, future studies based on qualitative research (such as in-depth interviews, biographical analysis) with Asian migrant-beneficiaries/participants, or representatives of TSOs by and for Asian migrants could also shed additional light on how they perceive TSOs supporting activities, aims, values and solidarity approaches as well as on the extent to which the basic principles of commons are adopted.



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