



# GOVERNING IRREGULAR MIGRATION: STATES, ACTORS AND INTERMEDIARIES

Co-organised by the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens and the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), European University Institute, Florence

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Venue: Aegli Zappeiou  
Garden of Zappeio, Athens

8 - 9 July 2015

## RATIONALE

The loss of over a thousand human lives in the effort to cross the Mediterranean during April 2015 has once again drawn media and political attention to the challenges that the EU is facing in its efforts to govern irregular migration and asylum in the region. However, what seems to be still wanting is our (experts’ and policy makers’) understanding of what drives people to put their lives at risk in search of a better future. What are the motivations that are so strong or what is the information they have? How do they organise their journey and how do they respond to changing policy practices (e.g. more intensive enforcement at the border, or a more expansive rescue operation at sea)? How much do they know and how accurate is their information? How much are they in control of their own destinies and how much do they accept contingency and risk?

Irregular migration governance takes place in a “moving sand” environment. Geopolitical and economic challenges in Asia and Africa are multiplying and population flows are inextricably mixed with both irregular economic migrants, people fleeing war and violence, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable persons. New actors are emerging: international organisations, transnational civil society and private actor networks, smuggling and other criminal organisations, along with state authorities. Policy makers and experts strive to integrate into their analysis and implementation this dynamic context, often neglecting however the crucial nodal point of irregular migration management, notably the migrant her/himself and her/his motivations, plans and actions.

With the kind support of



The IRMA project (Governing Irregular Migration: States, Actors and Intermediaries) seeks to fill this knowledge gap through an in-depth analysis of the interaction between states, other actors and irregular migrants during the “journey” of this last from departure, to arrival, settlement, further migration or return (whether forced or voluntary). The project concentrates on the case of Greece, as a forefront country under irregular migration pressures for the past 25 years and includes three irregular migration systems (EU-Balkans, case study on Albania; EU-Eastern Europe, case studies on Georgia and Ukraine; and EU-Asia, case studies on Afghanistan and Pakistan).

This conference marks the completion of the IRMA project and aims to present its findings on Greece as well as place the Greek case study in its international governance and policy context.

## PROGRAMME

### Wednesday, 8 July

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Thanos Dokos** | ELIAMEP

**Anna Triandafyllidou** | EUI and ELIAMEP

09.30 – 11.30

#### *Managing Irregular Migration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

The interface between irregular migration policy and migrants' strategies

**Anna Triandafyllidou** | EUI and ELIAMEP

Evaluating migration policy effectiveness

**Mathias Czaika** | IMI, Oxford University

Migrants' decision-making in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan

**Dinuk Jayasuriya** | Australian National University

11.30 – 12.00

**COFFEE BREAK**

#### *Migration systems in a Comparative Perspective: Southeastern and Eastern European Dynamics*

12.00 – 13.30

#### *Western Balkans and the European Union*

Chair:

**JuliVullnetari** | University of Southampton

Albanian Migration to Greece: a process left unfinished

**Eda Gemi** | ELIAMEP

Bosnian migration to Austria: between labour migration and transnational mobility

**Sanda Uellen** | University of Vienna and ICMPD

- 13.30 – 14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30 – 18.00 ***Eastern Europe and the European Union***  
**Iordanis Psimmenos** | Panteion University  
 Chair:  
 Chain migration and social capital in Georgian migration to Greece  
**Michaela Maroufouf** | ELIAMEP  
 Georgian Migration in Europe  
**Irina Badurashvili** | Georgian Centre of Population Research
- 16.00 – 16.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.30 – 18.00 [Continuation of panel]  
 The Dynamics of Ukrainians migration in Greece: routes, decisions and practices  
**Marina Nikolova** | ELIAMEP  
 Ukrainian migration to the EU: Policy, practices and prospective  
**Yana Leontieva** | Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

#### Thursday, 9 July

- 09.30 – 11.30 ***Governing Irregular Migration in a Globalised World***  
 Chair: **Nadina Christopoulou** | Greek Council for Refugees  
 Smart Borders and Civil Liberties in the EU  
**Julien Jeandesboz** | University of Amsterdam  
 Disciplining the Transnational Mobility of People: Lessons from the Pacific region  
**Marie McAuliffe** | Australian National University
- 11.30 - 12.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 12.00 – 14.30 ***Migration systems in a Comparative Perspective: Southeast Asia and the European Union***  
 Chair: **Apostolos Papadopoulos** | Harokopio University  
 Pakistani irregular migration to Greece: Between Scylla and Charybdis  
**Michaela Maroufouf** | ELIAMEP  
 Migration from Pakistan to Europe  
**Maegan Hendow** | ICMPD  
 Europe is elsewhere: Afghan irregular migrants in Greece  
**Angeliki Dimitriadi** | ELIAMEP  
 Experiences and conditions of irregular Afghan migrants in the Netherlands  
**Katie Kuschminder** | Maastricht Graduate School of Governance
- 14.30 End of conference