

Irregular migration: the position of Türkiye in the Mediterranean basin

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The EuroMedMig Policy Papers Series aims to promote knowledge exchange and dialogue among actors working on a particular topic on Mediterranean Migration, comprising of international and Mediterranean organizations, stakeholders, civil society organizations, policymakers and politicians at all levels of government.

This Policy Paper is a summary of the National Workshop entitled “Irregular Migration: The position of Turkey in the Mediterranean Basin” organized by Migration Research Center at Koç University, on June 2nd 2022 and held at Koç University, Istanbul. The agenda and list of participants of this Workshop are in sections V and VI respectively.

The main objective of this Policy Paper is to summarize the premises put forward during this National Workshop with the purpose of sharing what was considered as substantial policy-relevant arguments and recommendations for the development of MedMig policies.

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I. Conceptual framework of the National Workshop

This policy paper is the outcome of a national workshop organized in Istanbul, Türkiye, by the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoç) as part of the EUMedMig project: "[Mapping Mediterranean and European migration studies](#)" (September 2019 - August 2022), funded by the Erasmus program and the Jean Monnet network (Ref: 611260-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-RESEAU EPPJMO). The workshop aims to highlight one of the prominent topics in migration studies, i.e., irregular migration, covering the Mediterranean basin. The workshop was held in a hybrid format (both online and in-person attendance) on the 2nd of June 2022. 2. (This policy paper uses Türkiye, formerly known as Turkey, as the official country name that has been changed in the United Nations, and by extension in the international community, since early June 2022).

Over the last four decades, conflict, political turmoil and economic devastation in Afghanistan and, more recently, over a decade those in Syria, have produced many irregular migrants and refugees, first traveling to neighboring countries (Iran and Pakistan in the case of Afghanistan; and Türkiye, Lebanon and Jordan in the case of Syria), and then trying to enter Europe through a migration corridor formed in the Eastern Mediterranean. Faced with the policies of "Fortress Europe", the vast majority of these migrants and refugees enter Europe without any authorization and consequently find themselves in an irregular migratory context. This National Workshop, as part of the EUMedMig project, brought academics and experts working on the issue of irregular migratory flows that affect the larger geography of the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe by focusing on two critical areas: borders and structure/agency.

The national workshop's rationale was to stress various topics while putting irregular migration at its center. To achieve this, the workshop brought together policymakers and researchers, covering a wider Mediterranean area from different geographical contexts and scholarly point-of-views. The workshop began with the concept of irregular migration by focusing on its problematic dimension since it has been co-used with other terms like 'illegal migration' and its frequent utterance in public discourse and policy-making. Such varying interpretations of irregular migration result in different adaptations which alters the meanings attached to it and how the migrants have been interpreted/seen. Therefore, one of the main agendas of the workshop was to take the concept from different angles while integrating the critical socio-political aspect and focusing on the terminology used in academics and on the policy side. Following the terminological clarification by unveiling conceptual variations, then the workshop focused on case and comparative perspectives by centering irregular migration in the context of the Eastern Mediterranean migration route by presenting studies from the relevant countries (sending, receiving and transit), actors (NGOs) and the migrants' side (agency). As a whole, the workshop focused on the mobility of irregular migration along with general meanings and consequences for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The workshop and the speakers addressed the following questions:

- What is the general trend of irregular migration in the Mediterranean basin?
- How does irregular migration affect the Mediterranean region compared to protracted and unprotracted cases?
- How did Türkiye's role in irregular flow provoke an important international debate, particularly concerning the European Union's policies?
- What is the role of the EU on Türkiye's position on the question of irregular migration?
- How has the trajectory of irregular flows from Türkiye affected the Mediterranean region? What are the future scenarios?
- What are the concepts of "success" and "failure" means in irregular migrants?
- How do borders and smuggling situate positions in irregular migration studies?

II. Summary of the National Workshop: Guiding arguments

The workshop was opened by the director of Migration Research Center at Koc University (MiReKoc), Ahmet İçduygu, with a brief introduction of the EuroMedMig Research Network. Prof. Ricard Zapata, GRITIM-UPF and Jean Monnet EuroMedMig Coordinator emphasized the main objectives of the Jean Monnet program, which are to be incorporation of issues of policy concern, involvement of multiple voices in problematizing Mediterranean migration, and promoting interaction between different areas of concern about Mediterranean migration among academy in a broad sense, young students and policy makers.



EuroMedMig National Workshop Day

The workshop helped define irregular migration by focusing on the conceptual and socially constructed meaning of what is meant by "irregular migration". The first session focused on the mobility aspect of irregular migration by presenting regional data on

migrants entering the countries irregularly (over-staying visas and irregular employment). The same session also focused on factors affecting irregular migration from the nexus of actors (smugglers, rescue operations, migrants) and locations (border and cities). The second session, however, focused on the agency aspect within specific structures, and each panelists emphasized the actor-oriented aspect within the context of irregular migration by presenting first-hand experience on the format and approach of rescue operations, humanitarian actors' role in irregular migration and the general NGO activities, focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean by presenting case studies from Türkiye and Greece. The workshop explored the following main themes that have shaped the question and design of this working paper and policy recommendations:

2.1. Setting the conceptual definitions, contextualizing the geography: Irregular migration in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean region covers a larger context, including its connection to Asia and Africa with Europe. Therefore, migration studies should consider this connection of the larger Mediterranean in terms of geography. For instance, while recent years presented Türkiye as the most refugee-receiving country in the world and emphasized Türkiye and mobility towards Europe, Türkiye is part of the larger Mediterranean region with multiple connections at stake. This larger geography is also connected to the historical setting. By taking the Mediterranean as a category of analysis, even though there are numerous studies, there is not any clear description of the geographical area where the three continents meet, even though much of the migration that happens in the Mediterranean has actually been shaping the global migration agendas.

The geographical relation is also connected to history when discussing migration. For instance, 'illegal immigration' is a new concept invented in the 1930s, occasionally applied during the 1960s and the 1970s, which was popularized during the mid-1980s and 1990s, and more recently in new immigration countries (Russia, Türkiye) it has been used as one of the discourses since the 1990s. The debates related to irregular migration have been a booming topic since the late 1990s. Yet, it has been three decades since the Mediterranean and the Middle East have been affected by the process of irregular migration. Throughout this time frame, different terms were adopted, such as 'illegal migration', which was more often used back in the 1980s; while the term 'undocumented migration' is preferred in the US. In contrast, irregular migration has been adopted more recently, along with other terms like 'mixed' or 'transit migration'. Furthermore, irregular migration's overlapping nature with other concepts and study areas like smuggling also needs to be taken into account when discussing irregular migration. (İcduygu, 2007).

Concerning the conceptual definition of irregular migration, as a migration scholar who has worked for decades in the field of irregular migration, Prof. Franck Duvein from the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University, highlighted what "irregular" means during his keynote speech entitled "Irregular migration: defining, descriptive, explanatory, normative, and discursive dimensions." Both in the literature and the policy orientations, the concept is contested and loaded, and as more terms are adopted, the meanings attached become more unclear. This is due to the fact that the terminology varies as different concepts like illegal migration, undocumented migration, clandestine migration, unauthorized migration, irregular migration, transit migration, 'sans papiers', 'nelegalni', 'sin papeles' etc., also conflated with forced migration/refugees and transit migration. While each term has its specific connotation,

they have been developed within a particular context and reflects a specific discourse. That is why the language adopted matters. In addition, irregular migration is connected to the legal construction of identity, and legal status is the main denominator for irregular migration, for instance, the introduction of travel documents and immigration legislation (Anderson et al., 2000). Therefore, legal status can be taken as a defining point of reference since what is or who is ir/regular have been decided politically and then they are enshrined in law. Considering the concept as social, political and legal constructs, they can also be deconstructed socially, politically and legally. Numerically, irregular migration is relatively small, but it triggers disproportionate social and normative attention in the Global North. It is a globally observed phenomenon that affects both rich and developing countries.

The themes and orientations in the literature tackling irregular migration contextualize the concept from various sociological scholarships like taking it as social problems, notably social injustice (for e.g., Chicago school), ethnic minorities, law and order and security (for e.g., Foucauldian) human behavior, human agency and social movements (for e.g., Marxist, Durkheimian) migration studies and political philosophy. In terms of terminology, two criteria can be applied: ethical responsibility and adequacy to reflect the phenomenon. Therefore, the language adopted is highly important since each term has its own connotation and has been developed within a specific context and reflects a specific discourse.

Departing from the terminology, there are four aspects in determining an immigration status: exit, entry, residence, and employment. Each can be regular or irregular with possible combinations and scales that determine semi-regularity or semi-compliance. What we see as patterns in irregular migration can be summarized as irregular and transit migration herald migration transition; mostly legal arrival and visa overstaying; irregular arrival and asylum application; correlation of rejected visa applications; rejected asylum applications; more restrictions/controls drive people underground, more criminal tactics; mixed flows; biographic breaks; short-term versus long term strategies; semi-legality/mixed statuses; originating from neighboring versus distant countries; high response rates to regularization programs. Further on, the geographies (zones), scope, patterns, dimensions (economic, social, normative), as well as policy implications and possible solutions were presented. For instance, for the economists, they are largely positive about irregular migration because: (1) irregular migrants avail themselves to regions, industries and jobs which otherwise struggle to get the workers they need, hence they display the flexibility indigenous workers lack; (2) they enable the survival of otherwise uneconomic businesses; (3) enable to offer goods and services to classes that would otherwise not be able to afford these; (4) they free indigenous people from housework, primarily women and enable them to join a country's workforce; (5) they enable quick labor market adjustment to ever-changing economic trends.

In brief, migration is an inherent element of human history, culture, and progress. The current social and political constitutions of the nation-state are ill-equipped to deal with mobile populations, which has led to irregular migration. It should be noted that irregular migration is a minor phenomenon, but it is of course, can be a disaster for the individual. Irregular migration is a strong illustration of the ills and failures of society and is a significant injustice of this century. Sustainable migration policies are required, which should be developed by all stakeholders.

2.2. Irregular migration and mobilities in the Mediterranean Basin

This session focused on the mobility and migration nexus. For the past decade, one of the irregular mobility areas at the Mediterranean route has occurred at the Greek-Türkiye border zone, both via land and sea crossings. The critical studies on security and borders theorize on borders' operationalization within and beyond the geopolitical limits of sovereign territories (Balibar, 2004; Bialasiewicz, 2008, 2012; Bialasiewicz et al., 2009; Casas-Cortes et al., 2011, 2013, 2016; Coleman, 2007; Newman, 2006; Rumford, 2006, 2008; Walters, 2004, 2006; Weizman, 2007, 2011). In similar line of thinking with the above constructed meanings attached to what is meant by irregular migration, the nexus of mobility and irregular migration at the border zone (Hess, 2010) presents another critical theoretical and analytical debate. The borderland approach critically argues a confronted approach by third states' autonomous policy change and interest whose effects occur in the premises of the border area (Del Sarto, 2021). The border is seen as fragmented, diffused, stretched, mobile and deterritorialized (Coleman, 2007; Rumford 2006; Walters 2016). Border areas are where refugees and migrants are stuck as opposition to mobility, i.e., the mobility is de-activated. In such border zone space, mobility control and high circulations can affect migrants to be stuck in transit, 'stranded', 'on standby', or 'in limbo' (Hess, 2010; de Genova, 2021; Collyer, Düvell and Haas, 2012; Papadopoulou-Kourkoula, 2008). In such deactivated mobility, zones of hyper circulations arise where new economies, state officials, humanitarian actors and migrants' mobility intersect.

Applying the borderland and mobility aspect of irregular migration for the case of Türkiye, the mobility aspect can be taken into account in relation to national and international context: the aftermath of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, EU-Türkiye migration diplomacy (Okyay and Zaragoza-Cristiani, 2016; Adamson and Tsourapas, 2019), Türkiye's *de facto* open border policy' (Karadağ and Bahar, 2022) and pushbacks from Greece as the new 'normal'.

Apprehensions and 'illegal' sayings have been on the rise according to data for 2020. When interpreting numbers, comparative Greece and Türkiye's number of rescued migrants in the sea by the Turkish Coast Guard and arrivals to Greece presents a similar picture:

Figure 1. Rescued Migrants in the sea by Türkiye and Arrivals to Greece 2019-2021

Number of rescued migrants in the sea by Türkiye (Turkish Coast Guard, 2022)	Arrivals to Greece (UNHCR, 2022)
60 802 (2019)	74 613 (2019)
20 380 (2020)	15 696 (2020)
23 676 (2021)	9 157 (2021)

Source: Turkish Coast Guard and UNHCR

We explore the ways in which these numbers matter, or do not. Scholars mostly look at three categories of irregular migrants: those entering the country irregularly, over-staying visas, and irregular employment. Yet, it is particularly difficult to have accurate numbers of irregular migrants because documentation requires apprehension of irregular migrants. In some cases, migrants who entered legally but overstayed their visa are not counted, yet, this is also an important category as those who overstay their visa are subject

to certain securitization processes. For instance, in Türkiye, it is likely that many migrants who are considered as regular may work irregularly. This complicates their status and raises the question of how actors understand and interpret irregular migration differently. Then, this creates the need for a more anti-categorical approach based on geopolitical aspects which highlights the necessity for more critical inquiries and self-reflective migration studies.

Apart from the borders, the cities themselves are important part of the migrant mobility diagram. In general, the factors affecting irregular migration can be an economic/political situation in the neighboring regions; migration pressure; visa policies of the neighboring countries; asylum policies; border policies; migrant smuggling; and deportation, and readmission procedures. Within the nexus of actors and location, cities emerge as critical areas. Some cities are hubs and foster connections which actually shape irregular migration. Among which, infrastructure, connectivity existence of informal economy networks of migrants, established patterns of corruption and anonymity. City examples with the nexus of actors and locations - smugglers, rescue operations, migrations and cities, can be given from Karachi (Pakistan), Istanbul and Izmir (Türkiye), Mombassa (Kenya), Tijuana (Mexico), Port of Bossaso (Somalia), Nairobi (Kenya); Khartoum (Sudan). A city perspective to irregular migration is critically important as some cities provide the habitat for an informal economy network where migrants can survive for a while and get a chance to achieve further mobility. The cities also host infrastructure, connectivity, the existence of informal economy networks of migrants, established patterns of corruption and anonymity.

2.3. Irregular migration: agency and structure

Agency and structure debate has been discussed from the EU level, state level and agency level by taking into account pro-refugee and refugee-led organizational formulations. Migration to Europe presents five persistent challenges and fundamental right concerns: (1) strict border management; (2) inadequate living conditions in reception centres; (3) restrictive asylum procedures; (4) leaving unaccompanied children vulnerable; and (5) immigration detention. The Mediterranean remains the deadliest migration route with more than 24,000 dead or missing since 2014 (May 2022) (IOM, 2022).

In terms of rescue operations, in line with the above part where intersectionality occurs with the mobility element at the border zones, rescue operations arise as a critical element affecting the mobilities in the Mediterranean crucially. EU's three pillars of rescue operations focus on (1) preventing exit from North Africa and Türkiye; (2) support from the Southern European countries to the rescue operations in the Mediterranean and (3) providing conditions to accommodate the rescues ones not in the EU but in the African countries while monitoring continues in these countries.

Pushbacks, on the other hand, have been referred to as the new 'normal'. The Aegean Boat Report registered 324 cases of pushbacks (involving 9,741 people in total) in the Aegean Sea in 2020. Yet, this number increased to 629 pushbacks (involving 15,803 people in total) in the year 2021. In 2021, out of 629 cases of pushbacks, 201 boats were pushed back through life rafts, representing 5,220 people (one-third of the total pushbacks). (Aegean Boat Report, 2021). Focusing on the position of Türkiye in the Mediterranean basin, search and rescue operations between 2015-2020, although the period is not long, can be divided into three distinct periods with different practices, political imaginaries, and Modus Operandi in both Türkiye and Greece located in each

side of the Aegean. The first period of 2015-2017 is characterized by military surveillance and humanitarian infrastructure rationales, which resulted in the multiplication of state and non-state actors. The 2018-2020 period was marked by an increased surveillance technology, and the year of 2020 became a turning point with Türkiye briefly opening the border and Greece responding violently to migrants, new asylum applications in Greece were stopped, and xenophobic discourse peaked. Due to attacks on NGOs and their operations, since 2020, there has been no longer any civilian presence, and the expulsions have become regular. The present circumstances whereas present operationalization in total apathy and further let normalization of anti-refugee sentiments in both Türkiye and Greece.

From the agency perspective, civil society's role has a crucial role in joining the voices of the agency to the major actors in shaping irregular migration policies. Additionally, new academics and young scholars are emerging in the field work by bringing new case studies and ethnographic studies to the surface. Following this, an important structural characteristic of the Mediterranean irregular migration regime is the restrictive policies at the EU borders that lead to particularly negative consequences for migrants. These policies negatively impact the overall health and conditions of migrants which can actually be considered similar to the level of torture. Furthermore, many NGO operations conducting rescue operations at sea have now been shut down, at least temporarily, due to them being sued in the courts. The elimination of civil society from grassroots mobility also hinders the push for accountability, and means less surveillance of actors' activities. Whereas, advocacy exposes the medical and humanitarian consequences of restrictive migration and asylum policies and inadequate state responses; mitigates the impact of policies such as emergency response, health care in detention, and monitoring of detention conditions; it promotes a humanitarian approach that focus on the human needs vis-à-vis the legal status/reason to migrate/choice of destination; it presents models of care and innovation, and by making a vulnerability assessment it refers vulnerable cases towards relevant actors (medical and protection). Last but not least, advocacy also enables speaking-out the ongoing realities, inequalities, injustices and human rights violations.

Limiting advocacy and decreasing civil actors from the ground, a highly crucial condition is also less discussed: the health of migrants. Structural governance and policies affect the health of individuals, and the health of migrants deteriorates because of the poor conditions that they are forced to live in. Considering the particularly high number of mental health pathologies such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) cases, depression, adjustment disorder symptoms, and anxiety disorder, structural policy of abandonment, and poor sanitary conditions of accommodation deteriorate the health conditions of migrants. Thereby, solving these issues cannot be achieved by increasing the number of psychologists or doctors but by closing the camps and providing better living and humane conditions. Some of the major needs in the health area can be summarized in the following bullet points:

- Population in the move is exposed to complex vulnerability: discontinuation of care, specialized medical needs (SRH, NCD, sexual/violence, mental health...), legal and social issues;
- A population trapped in a European country have difficulty or even no access to health care (primary and secondary level) and to social/protection services;
- Mental Health pathologies and the violence has increased due to living conditions in reception center (Greek island hotspots), in the official and unofficial camps;

- Migration restrictive policies (both national and international) increased vulnerability, especially for the most sensitive persons: children, unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, victims of violence etc.

Against such negativities, agency aspect has been presented through taking Refugee-led Organizations (RLO) or Entities into account from Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye. International community's claim in support of refugee entities focus on the local context: The status of the RLOs varies according to the policies of the host states and the Social Capital by looking at the refugee community and the very naturally established bond amongst members of the same place/same religion/same community. This raises the questions of the shape of the organized bodies and the services they are providing; the space made possible for them to be active as a way to understand the politics that affect their mobilization; and the kind of relationship established with the wider community. Refugee-led organizations are established organizations while refugee-led initiatives are a different type of initiative that is not necessarily formal. The institutionalization of refugee-led organizations that is demanded by international donor structures changes the natural bonds that are formed within refugee-led organizations. The agency of the RLOs is related to social protection, service provision (education, health), safeguarding (culture, identity), and providing a space to act. Their role raised the questions of (1) the governance of the refugees vs. governance of refugee communities; (2) the importance of the participatory approach and engaging with the refugees; and (3) to what extent the localization agenda is possible to strengthen refugees on the ground and give their agency to act.

The localization of aid strengthens local humanitarian actors' capacities. This shapes our understanding of the fractured refugee community and the evidence to play an effective role in the humanitarian response. Localization is considered as a pragmatic measure that minimizes the "transaction costs" of aid. It is conceived of as a way of making aid more efficient by bypassing intermediary brokers, particularly international NGOs with expensive transaction costs.

III. Concluding remarks: Final recommendations

Migration needs and has to be considered an inherent element of human history, culture, and progress. While the current system is not well functioning to better address solutions for mobile populations, irregular migration is globally observed and affects rich and developing countries. Irregular migration is also a reflection of the ills and failures of our current societies, and the partial exclusion of mobile populations represents a major injustice. Instead, sustainable migration policy approaches, based on the integration of all stakeholders and consensus principles, are suggested.

While states take efficient border control and management as a tool to prevent and control irregular migration, the effects cause proliferation of migrant smuggling, human trafficking and thousands of migrants to die or gone missing. There are possible solutions to the problematic aspect of irregular migration. These include amnesties and regularization programs; introducing more legal migration channels; redirecting immigration control funds to development aid; continuing political integration; liberalization of migration to generate economic growth large enough to ease migration pressure; freedom of movement and sustainable migration policy. Furthermore, the existing legal and administrative measures should also co-exist with efforts based on international cooperation. Especially, regional cooperation has a higher role in minimizing

the negative consequences of irregular migration and can contribute to regional development efforts by enabling legal pathways. This can also lead to investing on human capital, ensuring economic growth and respecting migrant dignity, even though the existing research considers the relationship between migration and development as not linear. International cooperation whether bilateral, regional or internationally should comply with human rights standards, respect human dignity and safety. It should also be added that such cooperation efforts can come in multiple variations, not only state-to-state but also include various actors such as civil society, private sector, local administrations, and private sector.

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V. National Workshop program



EuroMedMig National Workshop – MiReKoc – Koc University

« Irregular Migration: The position of Turkey in the Mediterranean Basin »

Date: 2nd June 2022

Time: 14h-17.45h (Istanbul)

Location: Hybrid format: Koç University (Istanbul) and online via Zoom

Sessions

14:00h – 14h15 **Welcome**

Moderator: Birce Altıok

- Ricard Zapata-Barrero, GRITIM-UPF and Jean Monnet EuroMedMig Coordinator
- Ahmet İçduygu, MiReKoc, Koc University

14h15 – 15h00 **Irregular Migration: An Overview**

- Franck Duvell, Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University

15h00 – 16h15 **First round table: Irregular migration and mobilities at the Mediterranean Basin**

Moderator: Ahmet İçduygu, MiReKoc, Koc University

- Chiara Maritato, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society at the University of Turin
- Ayselin Yıldız, Department of International Relations, Yasar University
- Deniz Sert, Department of International Relations, Ozyegin University

16h15 – 17h30 **Second round table: Irregular migration: Agency and structure**

Moderator: Birce Altıok, MiReKoc, Koc University

- Sibel Karadağ, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Kadir Has University
- Apostolos Veizis, Executive Director at INTERSOS Hellas- Humanitarian Organization
- Oroub El-Abed, Lead Researcher at the Centre for Lebanese Studies
- Mustafa Hoshmand, Türkiye - Country Research Coordinator at the Centre for Lebanese Studies

17h30 – 17:45h **Concluding Remarks**

- Ahmet İçduygu, MiReKoc, Koc University

VI. List of Experts (presented in alphabetical order)

- **Birce Altıok**, MiReKoc, Koç University, Türkiye
- **Frank Duvell**, Osnabrück University, Germany
- **Ourub El-Abed**, Center for Lebanese Studies, Türkiye
- **Mustafa Hoshmand**, Center for Lebanese Studies, Türkiye
- **Ahmet İçduygu**, MiReKoc, Koç University, Türkiye
- **Sibel Karadağ**, Kadir Has University, Türkiye
- **Chiara Maritato**, University of Turin, Italy
- **Deniz Sert**, Özyeğin University, Türkiye
- **Apostolos Veizi**, INTERSOS Hellas, Greece
- **Aysel Yıldız**, Yaşar University, Türkiye
- **Ricard Zapata-Barrero**, GRITIM-UPF and Jean Monnet EuroMedMig Coordinator, Spain

Speakers' brief biographies (in alphabetical order)



Birce Altıok is coordinator and post-doctoral researcher at Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc). She completed her doctoral research in Political Science and International Relations at Koç University in 2021. In her doctoral study, she examined forced migrant groups' access to the realm of activism practices in Turkey and Greece in the post-2010 period. She received the 2022 APSA Migration & Citizenship Section Best Dissertation Prize for "Refugee Activism and

State Policies in Comparative Perspective: Contentious Voices from Greece and Turkey." Previously, she obtained her MA in Human Rights Studies from Columbia University (2011) and BS in Global and International Affairs from Binghamton (SUNY) and Boğaziçi University (2010). She has previously involved in various research projects funded by TÜBİTAK, Erasmus+, Cost Action and Horizon. She is currently affiliated as a post-doc researcher in the H2020 project titled "Key Inclusive Development Strategies for LifeLongLearning" (2020-2023), and project researcher at the Tübitak-funded project "Foreign Students in Turkish Higher Education: Structure, Institution and Actor Interactions in Policy-Making Processes" (2022-2024). She previously worked on collecting data as one of the country members of the Cost Action titled "International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network" (2017-2021). She has publications on foreign policy, social cohesion, and civil society. Her research interests include forced migration, refugee activism, migrant education, higher education, and state migration policies.



Franck Duvell is senior researcher at Osnabrück University, Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (since 2020). Previously, he was head of the migration department at the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research, Berlin (2018-2020). Since 2006 he was senior researcher and from 2013 to 2018 associate professor and at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford. Franck also worked for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD),

Nicolaas Witsen Foundation, University of Exeter and University of Bremen and did consultancies for the International Organization for Migration (IOM, GIZ, SEO Amsterdam Economics and OSCE and provided evidence to the EU Council, Council of Europe, British parliament, Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management and many others. He has over 25 years of experience in conducting and leading research, analysis and policy advice. He is an expert on international migration and in particular irregular, transit and forced migration, migration governance and international relations in the field of migration. His studies specifically focus at the countries on the periphery and in the wider neighbourhood of the EU. He conducted more than 25 research projects and has published 10 books and over 60 research articles in internationally renowned journals.



Oroub El-Abed is a lead researcher in Jordan and co- investigator at the Centre for Lebanese Studies on several research projects studying several communities (locals and refugees) with intersectional approaches in the Middle East. She was earlier a British Academy post-doctoral fellow conducted research on cultural development amongst marginalized communities in the south. Oroub completed her PhD in Political Economy of Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Her research work has been focused on refugees and vulnerable minorities in the Middle East. She has taught several courses on development, livelihood and forced Migration issues at AUC/Egypt, SOAS/London and Jordan University and Study abroad programmes/Amman. She has consulted for several UN and international NGOs and published articles in the area of development (education and employment) and forced migration in the Middle East. She has published a study on the socioeconomic community development surrounding neolithic sites in southern Jordan (2019) and has few articles in the pipeline on refugees. She is the editor of a book on refugee youth that has been accepted by McGill and Queen University Press (2023) and her book (based on her thesis) is being prepared for submission to publisher studying refugee-citizens Palestinian origin Jordanian living in urban settings of the capital Amman and striving for their basic rights (2022). She is the author of *Unprotected: Palestinians in Egypt since 1948* (2009).



Mustafa Hoshmand originally from Afghanistan, is based in Istanbul, Türkiye. Currently, Mustafa is Türkiye - Country Research Coordinator at the Centre for Lebanese Studies on the Refugee-Led Organizations research project. Mustafa holds a Master's degree in Quantitative Economics from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Yildiz Technical University in Türkiye. His research interest lies in Development Economics, migration, and Institutional Economics. Mustafa's Master's dissertation is entitled *Is Poppy Still the Cause of Conflict In Afghanistan? An Empirical Analysis of Provincial Data*, where he empirically analyzes the causal link between conflict and opium in Afghanistan. His experience with refugees began in 2016 when he started to volunteer with a local NGO, working on the wellbeing and empowerment of refugees in Istanbul. He also served as a project manager within that same NGO and provided volunteer interpretation services to many other NGOs in Türkiye.



Ahmet İçduygu is professor at Koc University, Istanbul Türkiye, in the Department of International Relations and the Department of Sociology. He is also the Director of the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc). He holds a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University. He is an elected member of the Science Academy in Türkiye. In addition to his own individual research projects, Prof. İçduygu has conducted various research projects for the international organizations such as IOM, UNHCR, EU, OECD and ILO. His main research and teaching focus on migration studies, theories and practices of citizenship, international organizations, civil society, nationalism and ethnicity, and research methods.



Sibel Karadağ is an Assistant Professor at Kadir Has University, Department of Political Science and Public Administration specializing in migration and border studies. Karadağ received her PhD in Political Science and International Relations from Koç University in 2020, with the dissertation titled “Monitoring Migration, Governing Borders in the Aegean Sea: An Ethnographic Study of Practices, Subjectivities and Narratives.” After completing her doctoral research, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at MiReKoc within the Horizon 2020 ADMIGOV project. During the 2018/2019 academic year, she was a Fulbright Fellow at Yale University. Her research interests lie mainly in critical security and border studies, migration and mobility, politics of humanitarianism, sovereignty and citizenship, and social and political theory. She has presented her work at universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, and Spain as well as at international conferences such as ISA and EISA. In addition to numerous project reports, her research has been published in academic journals, including Geopolitics, Turkish Studies, and Comparative Migration Studies. Karadağ received her BA in Social and Political Science (2010) and MA in European Studies (2012) from Sabancı University as well as an MSc in Social Policy (2012) from LSE with the Jean Monnet Scholarship.



Chiara Maritato is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Cultures, Politics and Society at the University of Turin. Previously she was Assistant Professor at the Center for Southeast European Studies (CSEES) at the University of Graz and post-doctoral Visiting Fellow at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS). Her research interests include the EU's externalization of border control, transit migration and the institutionalization of migrants' forced immobility, the governance of religious institutions in Turkey and within Türkiye-originated diaspora communities in Europe. Her latest publications include: “Claiming for Moral Superiority while Bargaining with Mobility. Türkiye-EU Migration Diplomacy in the post-2016 Euro-Mediterranean space (De Europa 2021), “Pastors of a dispersed flock. Diyanet officers and Türkiye's art of governing its diaspora” (Italian Political Science Review 2020).



Deniz Sert is a Professor at the Department of International Relations, Ozyegin University, Istanbul. Before joining OzU, she was a Senior Research Associate at the Migration Research Center, Koç University, MiReKoc. An expert on migration issues in Türkiye and globally, she has taught and researched at several institutions domestically and abroad. She received her BA in International Relations from Koç University, an MSc in European Union Policy Making from the London School of Economics, and an MPhil in Political Science from the City University of New York. She got her PhD in Comparative Politics from the City University of New York. She has published extensively on international migration within Türkiye and its regions. She is holding a Jean Monnet Chair on Migration and Mobility, CHARM (2019-2022). She is also an editor at the IOM's renowned SSCI journal, *International Migration*.



Apostolos Veizis (MD) is currently the Executive Director of INTERSOS in Greece. Prior to that worked at the HQ of Médecins Sans Frontières - Greece as Medical Director, Programs and Institutional Relations Director and Director of Medical Operational Support Unit (SOMA) from 2004 until 2021, as Head of Mission, Medical Coordinator and Medical Doctor for Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Albania, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Türkiye from 1995 to 2003. Participated in assessment, emergency assignments and evaluations in Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Zambia, Malawi, Uzbekistan, North Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Cyprus and Tajikistan. He is Advisory board member of the Lancet Migration European Regional Hub. Participated and had announcements in international and national medical congresses, events and contributed to publications of relevant articles.



Ayselin Yıldız is a Faculty member of International Relations and UNESCO Chair on International Migration at Yasar University (Izmir/Türkiye). She held research fellowships at Wageningen University, University of California Berkeley and University of Pittsburgh. Her research and publications focus on migration and refugee studies, Türkiye-EU relations and external relations of the EU. She has conducted various EU funded research projects and also works as consultant to IOM and Council of Europe. She offers trainings to policy practitioners on “migrant smuggling, human trafficking, strengthening capacity of readmission centers, EU migration governance, and intercultural communication”. She is the author of the book *The European Union’s Immigration Policy: Managing Migration in Türkiye and Morocco*.



Ricard Zapata-Barrero is a Full Professor at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain). He is also Director of [GRITIM-UPF](#) (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration) and the Master Program in Migration Studies. He is a member of the Board of Directors the European Network IMISCOE (International Migration and Social Cohesion in Europe) and Chair its External Affairs Committee. Coordinator of [EuroMedMig](#) and of [EUMedMi](#) Jean Monnet Network. Moreover, he is currently a distinguished visiting scholar at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) (until June 2022). He is currently working on interculturalism as a policy paradigm for diversity policies, Mediterranean migration, urban resilience and migration governance. For publications see website: <https://www.upf.edu/web/ricard-zapata/>.