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ABSTRACTS COLLECTION FROM THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF THE SEA-EU OBSERVATORY FOR MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SEA-EU OBSERVATORY FOR MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS¹

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THE EU PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM: NAVIGATING THE CROSSROADS OF GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EUROPE'S BORDERS

In a time of growing global instability and increasingly complex migration dynamics, the 2024 International Forum of the SEA-EU Observatory for Migration and Human Rights, held in Algeciras (Cadiz) on 7th and 8th November 2024, served as a timely and urgent space for critical reflection.

¹ Since 2019, the SEA-EU Observatory for Migration and Human Rights is a multidisciplinary forum for dialogue and debate about immigration and the protection of fundamental rights in Europe, focusing on human mobility across the sea. It is part of the SEA-EU, an European Commission's initiative that unites nine universities across Europe —Cadiz, Western Brittany, Kiel, Gdansk, Split, Malta, Algarve, Naples, NORD—, which is focused on promoting learning and research on all those issues of interest related to the sea. The team leading the Observatory is composed by Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo, Director, Prof. Dr. D. Alejandro del Valle Gálvez, Scientific Coordinator, Dra. Lorena Calvo Mariscal, Coordinator, and Prof. Yan Zao, Coordinator.

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Centered on the theme “The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: New Challenges for Migration Management and Human Rights at Europe’s Borders”, the forum brought together scholars, experts, and practitioners from the SEA-EU Alliance to address the evolving landscape of European migration governance and its human rights implications.

The event focused on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, an initiative proposed in 2020 and advanced through legislative developments in subsequent years, as a lens through which to explore the challenges, contradictions, and ambitions of European migration policy. Through a rich and diverse programme of lectures, round tables, and academic communications, the forum encouraged rigorous examination of the Pact’s legal, ethical, political, and social dimensions.

A MULTILEVEL EXPLORATION OF MIGRATION AT EUROPE’S EDGES

The forum opened with welcoming remarks by institutional leaders from the University of Cádiz and the SEA-EU Alliance, followed by an inaugural lecture delivered by Professor Alejandro del Valle Gálvez, Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “Migration and Human Rights in Europe’s External Borders”. Professor del Valle Gálvez offered foundational reflections on the EU’s external border policies, interrogating how the Pact aligned (or failed to align) with the Union’s proclaimed values of solidarity, justice, and fundamental rights.

The first round table, moderated by Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo, examined “Borders and Human Rights in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum”. Dr. Tanja Ellingsen explored the theme of resilience in the face of the instrumentalization of migrants, while Dr. Lorena Calvo Mariscal analyzed the external dimension of the Pact and its implications for cooperation with third countries. Mr. Enrique del Álamo Marchena critically assessed the Pact through the lens of climate migration, highlighting inconsistencies in EU climate and migration policy. Dr. Marita Brcic Kuljis reflected on the enduring tension between State sovereignty and human rights within the migration framework.

The second round table, moderated by Dr. Jesús Verdú Baeza, addressed



“Maritime Migration and the Challenges of the New Pact”. Participants tackled the urgent and often tragic realities of sea crossings, rescue operations, and jurisdictional dilemmas. Dr. Damian Spiteri evaluated the human rights implications of the Pact from the perspective of Malta, while Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo questioned whether the Pact advanced a truly humanitarian vision or continued a securitized paradigm. Ms. Marian Bellido Lora provided a detailed analysis of maritime rescues in the Western Mediterranean and the gaps between legal obligations and practical implementation.

Human Rights in the Shadow of Strategy

On the second day, the third round table, moderated by Dr. Lorena Calvo Mariscal, shifted the focus to “Diversity and Social Justice in the European Context.” Here, participants explored societal responses to migration and the ethical concerns emerging in the digital age. Dr. Elżbieta Czapka and Dr. Jakub Potulski presented on public attitudes in Poland, revealing the social limits of tolerance. Dr. Daniela DeBono interrogated the State’s duty of hospitality in reception systems, while Dr. Yan Zhao argued for greater inclusion of migration-related diversity in social work education. Dr. Anita Lunić raised pressing ethical concerns regarding the use of artificial intelligence in migration management.

A session dedicated to individual academic communications, moderated by Dr. Michel Remi Njiki, showcased a range of additional perspectives. Dr. Olena Nihreieva explored development rights under occupation, while Dr. Flavia Arrigoni highlighted grassroots integration initiatives through the Casa Argentina Association. Mr. Víctor Herraiz Jagerovic examined the implications of digital border technologies, including biometric data extraction and dialect recognition in asylum procedures. Ms. Cristina Castilla Cid analyzed the main developments in the new EU regulatory framework to tackle migrant smuggling.

Reflections from Algeciras: Europe at a Threshold

Held at the southern edge of Europe, the forum’s setting in Algeciras, across from the African continent and on the shores of the Strait of Gibralt-

tar, symbolized both the physical and symbolic borders of the EU. Throughout the forum, participants reaffirmed the importance of anchoring migration policy in the principles of justice, human dignity, and international cooperation. The discussions consistently emphasized that an effective and humane approach to migration requires addressing root causes, safeguarding rights, and resisting simplistic or security-driven narratives.

The forum concluded with a visit to the Baelo Claudia archaeological site, a gesture that underscored the enduring presence of human mobility across centuries in the region. In doing so, it also reinforced the forum's core message: that migration, far from being an anomaly, is a historical and human constant.

The contributions collected in this volume capture the intellectual depth, interdisciplinary breadth, and critical urgency of the 2024 forum. They offer a nuanced and multifaceted engagement with one of the EU's most consequential policy arenas, and they serve as both a scholarly record and a call to action for all those committed to the defense of human rights at Europe's borders.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TOWARDS INSTRUMENTALIZATION OF MIGRANTS: IS THE EU'S PACT ON ASYLUM & MIGRATION A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION?

Tanja ELLINGSEN³

In the summer of 2024, and after four years of negotiations, the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was finally endorsed (EU Commission, 2024). The pact is expected to regulate, harmonise, and coordinate Member States' management of irregular arrivals, and thus be an important protective measure towards "instrumentalized migration". While mass migrant population flows across nation-states primarily have been seen as a humanitarian crisis, there has in recent years been an increasing awareness that migration also is used as an intentional tool of aggression by various countries and actors. In

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2021, Belarus president, Alexander Lukashenko, flew in thousands of migrants and asylum seekers, primarily Kurds from Iraq and Syria, as well as some Afghans, to his country with promises of easy access to the European Union. The incident was later referred to by EU-president Ursula von Leyen as “a hybrid attack to destabilize Europe”, making it clear that Europe could not accept that kind of behaviour and should take precautionary measures against these types of threats in the future. This is easier said than done, as such measures potentially come at the expense of international humanitarian law, leaving liberal democracies between a rock and a hard place –having to choose between securing their borders or meeting their international humanitarian obligations. Based on an overview of various cases of “instrumentalization of migrants”, and the dilemmas that targets are facing, this presentation will discuss potential alternative strategies target states can meet this type of aggression with, and in particular whether the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum could be a step in that direction, making EU countries more resilient towards instrumentalized migration.

THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE EU'S PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM. NEW PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Lorena CALVO MARISCAL⁴

This presentation analyses the emerging trends in the external dimension of the European Union's Pact on Migration and Asylum of 2024, specifically focusing on the proposed establishment of extraterritorial “hubs” or centres for processing asylum claims outside EU territory. In particular, it examines the Italy-Albania Protocol of 2024 as a test case for this novel migration and asylum cooperation approach. The overarching aim is to assess these proposals' legal and political implications within the framework of EU and international law.

The first section contextualises the broader strategy pursued by the EU

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and its Member States since the 2015 refugee crisis to externalise migration control. This has included formal and informal agreements with third countries, such as Turkey, Libya, Tunisia, and others, often focused on border management, return operations, and capacity-building initiatives. These forms of cooperation, sometimes lacking transparency and legal accountability, reflect a shift towards containment policies and risk undermining fundamental rights safeguards.

The second section explores how the EU's 2020 Pact on Migration and Asylum articulates this external dimension, notwithstanding its primary focus on internal reforms. The context surrounding the Pact explicitly promotes enhanced cooperation with third countries to prevent irregular arrivals, facilitate returns, and support local asylum systems. Following the Pact's formal adoption in May 2024, a joint letter by fifteen Member States called upon the European Commission to reinforce such external cooperation mechanisms, including the return of asylum seekers whose claims are “unfounded” and of asylum applicants to countries considered safe to “centres” located in the territory of third countries.

The third section delves into the specifics of the Italy-Albania Protocol, which establishes asylum processing centres on Albanian territory under Italian jurisdiction. This bilateral agreement allows Italy to transfer individuals rescued in international waters to facilities in Albania, where their asylum claims are processed under Italian law. The Protocol raises significant legal concerns, particularly concerning Article 6, which mandates that Albanian authorities prevent any unauthorised entry into Albanian territory, potentially infringing on asylum seekers' right to access protection. Moreover, the initiative revives elements of the EU Commission's 2018 non-paper on disembarkation platforms but departs from it by preserving the sending state's jurisdiction over asylum proceedings.

Finally, the concluding section addresses the legal and human rights challenges arising from such extraterritorial models. Notably, the Rome Civil Court's October 2024 decision invalidating the accelerated border procedure for nationals of Bangladesh and Egypt underscores the tension between domestic practices and EU asylum law. The case illustrates how current legal standards under Directive 2013/32/EU prohibit the designation of safe countries of origin if exceptions apply. However, the upcoming 2024 Proce-



dure Regulation erases this threshold. Nonetheless, processing asylum claims in third countries risks violating the principle of non-refoulement and other core guarantees under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

THE NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN A CONTEXT OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY: THE LACK OF COHERENCE BY THE EU ON CLIMATE MOBILITY

Enrique DEL ÁLAMO MARCHENA⁵

According to the European Commission's Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, who was responsible of the Commission's work on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, described the Pact as a “house of three floors” with its respective layers. Thus, the first floor concerns the external dimension whose target is to strengthen the external borders's management. The second floor should intensify the cooperation with third countries, especially in the area of returns and readmissions, and counter-smuggling. Lastly, the third floor is focused on the shared responsibilities aspects by Member States.

The combination of these three dimensions pursues a change of paradigm in the Common European Asylum System, undermined since the so-called refugee crisis in 2015-2016. Notwithstanding that the Pact—with its nine regulations and one directive—seems to address the weak points that collapsed the regular application of the European policy on migration and asylum (through a new approach of the principle of solidarity and with the inclusion of crisis and majeure force situations, for instance), it fails in the task to project the migratory phenomenon as structural.

Paying attention to the normative structure dedicated to the external borders's control and the cooperation with third countries, it appears that the Pact understands migration from a point-in-time crisis management approach, taking migration governance as an isolated agenda away from other forms of administration, including Europe's environment, social, or external policies.

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This perception triggers the absence of response to the long-term future displacement of persons exacerbated by climate change.

This communication intends to explain that the vision of the Pact jeopardizes the principle of coherence in which the migratory policy —ad intra and ad extra— must be developed affecting other policies such as environment and the fight against climate change.

THE PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM – BETWEEN STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Marita BRCIC KULJIS⁶

In September 2020, the European Commission introduced the Pact on Migration and Asylum as a “new beginning” designed to empower Member States to address the increasingly complex challenges of migration flows toward the European Union. At the outset, the Commission states that its aim is to “build a system for long-term migration management and normalization, fully based on European values and international law”.

The framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum encompasses two primary objectives: a) to introduce a common European framework for improved migration and asylum management; and b) to establish new mechanisms for solidarity and integration.

These objectives underscore the European Union’s approach to migration. The plan aims to define management mechanisms that help prevent new migration and refugee crises. The Pact primarily focuses on safeguarding the EU’s external borders while also fostering a solidarity model among Member States.

In 2024, following extensive negotiations, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU officially adopted the Pact on Migration and Asylum, or more precisely, a package of ten legislative acts.

In this presentation, I will analyze the European Pact on Migration and

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Asylum, focusing on the relationship between State sovereignty and human rights.

EVALUATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE EU PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM: PERSPECTIVES FROM MALTA

Damian SPITERI⁷

The 2024 EU Pact on Migration and Asylum introduces significant changes to migration management and asylum procedures in Europe. This presentation examines the implications of unified border procedures and the adoption of a flexible solidarity mechanism from a Maltese perspective, focusing on their impact on human rights.

It will focus on examining how the EU Pact's unified border procedure affects the efficiency and fairness of asylum processing in Malta, including its impact on detention practices and the protection of vulnerable groups; and the effectiveness of the EU Pact's flexible solidarity mechanism in alleviating Malta's asylum system pressures and ensuring equitable burden-sharing among member states while maintaining human rights standards.

The study employs a comprehensive review of the Pact's provisions and their application in Malta, analyzing both policy documents and empirical data. Key findings reveal that the unified border procedures and flexible solidarity mechanisms present both opportunities and challenges for Malta. While the Pact aims to streamline asylum processes and ensure fair distribution of responsibilities, it also raises concerns about potential human rights violations and the effectiveness of solidarity measures.

This presentation will discuss these challenges in detail and offer recommendations for improving the alignment of the EU Pact with human rights standards. The insights provided aim to contribute to a clear understanding of how the Pact affects smaller member States and to propose actionable solutions for addressing identified issues.

⁷ Lecturer, University of Malta.

THE NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM: A HUMAN OR A SECURITISED APPROACH?

Ángeles JIMÉNEZ GARCÍA-CARRIAZO⁸

The Central Mediterranean route exemplifies the ongoing tension between humanitarian imperatives and securitisation in EU maritime migration management. This presentation will critically examine how international legal frameworks, operational strategies, and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum shape search-and-rescue (SAR) practices and migrant protection at Europe's southern frontier.

Firstly, the analysis will outline the interplay of human rights law and refugee instruments with the Palermo Protocol's anti-smuggling provisions, as well as the obligations imposed by SOLAS and SAR conventions to coordinate rescues and deliver survivors to a "place of safety". Secondly, it will trace the shift from Italy's Mare Nostrum —a State-led, protection-centered SAR operation— to Frontex's Triton mission, which reprioritizes border control over life-saving efforts. Subsequent EU naval operations (Sophia, Themis, Iri-ni) will be evaluated for their strategic focus on disrupting smuggling networks rather than direct humanitarian assistance, revealing fragmented Member State solidarity and contested mandates.

Thirdly, the "human dimension" will be reconsidered through the lens of the *M/V Saiga* jurisprudence, which upholds that maritime security measures must respect human dignity and life. This case study underscores how EU practices oscillate between emergency humanitarianism and securitised deterrence without addressing structural migration drivers.

Finally, the presentation will assess the New Pact on Migration and Asylum's efficiency-driven mechanisms, questioning their capacity to reconcile humanitarian principles with security objectives. It argues that, unless the EU transitions from reactive symptom management toward policies that tackle root causes and reinforce fundamental rights, Mediterranean SAR will continue to swing between rescue and restriction, leaving human rights pre-

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cariously balanced at Europe's maritime borders.

A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PACT IN MARITIME RESCUES

María DE LOS ÁNGELES BELLIDO LORA⁹

With an alarming increase in irregular arrivals —more than 47,000 migrants in Spanish territory, 72% of them in the Canary Islands— which has led to significant saturation of reception centers and considerable difficulties in land and sea border control, the Canary Islands has consolidated its position as a central point in the Atlantic migratory route. In this context, the presentation examines the potential impact of the European Union's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, described by the President of the European Commission as an “effective, fair, and strong” solution to the European migration challenge.

Although Search and Rescue (SAR) operations are not the central focus of the Pact, they are recognized as a key area for achieving migration management objectives. The alarming increase in incidents and shipwrecks at sea is highlighted, along with the lack of uniformity and coordination in responses, which has resulted in fatal consequences and revealed the risks of discretionary state action.

In this complex context, the New Pact seeks to promote a more coordinated approach based on solidarity and the equitable sharing of responsibilities among member states. A key instrument is the Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation, which allows states with “recurrent disembarkations” from SAR operations to benefit from solidarity measures. However, doubts are raised about its practical implementation, highlighting the ambiguity in the legal definition of “safe place”, which has permitted disembarkation in territories questioned by NGO, UNHCR, and IOM reports regarding the protection of migrants' rights. Additionally, there is concern about the tendency to delegate

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SAR responsibilities to third States to mitigate migratory pressure, a practice that the Pact does not address with sufficient force.

While the Pact emphasizes the protection of lives and solidarity as fundamental pillars, its actual effectiveness in improving SAR operations and migration management will be seen over time and in practice.

THE LIMITS OF TOLERANCE: ATTITUDES OF THE POLISH SOCIETY TOWARDS MIGRANTS

Elżbieta CZAPKA¹⁰

Jakub POTULSKI¹¹

A deeper understanding of attitudes towards migrants is key to the development of more effective, fair and sustainable migration policies. Attitudes influence how migrants are integrated into society and shape the discourse around migrants' rights.

The attitudes of Polish society towards migrants are complex and have evolved over time, influenced by a range of historical, social, and economic factors. While Poland has a long and rich history of migration, its recent experiences with migrants, particularly from Ukraine, have introduced new dynamics into the discourse. The arrival of Ukrainian migrants has changed perceptions. Many Poles have welcomed them, seeing similarities in culture and language. Attitudes towards migrants from outside Europe are more mixed. Concerns about cultural differences, security, and economic competition have led to scepticism and resistance.

The presentation will discuss the results of research conducted to date on the attitudes of Poles towards migrants, including refugees. The analysis of data indicates that attitudes towards migrants are shaped by a multifaceted interaction of demographic factors, economic perceptions, cultural dynamics,

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political rhetoric, and social identity. Targeted interventions, such as education and community engagement, have the potential to enhance perceptions and contribute to the development of more inclusive migration policies.

INCLUDING MIGRATION-RELATED DIVERSITY IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Yan ZHAO¹²

Social work is a profession that works to promote social justice through service provisions and valuing the importance of human relationship. This presentation aims to contribute to the second theme of the Observatory for Migration and Human Rights by addressing how to include perspectives of migration-related diversity into social work education in a changing context Norwegian/Nordic welfare State with a discursive shift from “user involvement” to “co-creation of services” (Brandsen, Steen and Verschuere, 2018; Christensen and Fluge, 2016; Torfing et al., 2016).

This change entails that the future social workers shall not only act as case workers out of an individualist approach, but also have competencies that builds on community-based, collectivist approaches, such as social mobilizations, empowerment, collaboration with the civil organizations (Halås and Zhao, 2025).

With the postcolonial critique of the profession’s Eurocentric hegemony (Midgley, 1983; Righard, 2018; Zhao, 2024), there is also a need to include a decolonial perspective in social work educations that can contribute to deconstruct “the westernness/whiteness” and “the otherness” of the welfare State services. To illustrate these arguments, I will use several ongoing courses/educational projects as examples. The first is the course based on practice study (Bachelor 1st Year) —where the students are working with different groups of service users through voluntary engagements in their free time. One example is to act as mentors to children with migrant and refugee background through a mentoring program “Nightingale”. The second is a

¹² Professor, NORD University.

selective course about multicultural competences and global perspectives of social work (Bachelor, 3rd year). And the third one is to involve master students in a collaborative project on “Health party” (Zhao, 2021; Hedlund et al., 2024) with two voluntary organizations as part of their research training and knowledge development.

STATE OBLIGATIONS OF HOSPITALITY IN RECEPTION SYSTEMS

Daniela DeBONO¹³

This presentation critically examines the concept of hospitality in relation to the first reception practices for irregular migrants at the external borders of the European Union, with a specific focus on Italy and Malta. It posits that current first reception protocols, which prioritize state security interests over person-centred care, fail to adequately provide humane treatment to newly arrived migrants.

The study argues that the framework of hospitality offers a valuable lens for analyzing the inherent tensions in state reception processes for migrants located between security imperatives and humanitarian care obligations/human rights. Drawing upon anthropological and philosophical studies of hospitality as a concept and as practice, the article proposes that hospitality practices, enacted as care, humanitarian and access to human rights, towards even “unknown and uninvited strangers” is imperative, and that it is an obligation for all states to ensure that this is enacted and not hindered by state practices and systems.

Through case studies and ethnographic examples, the article discussed the challenges posed by the securitization of reception systems to the enactment of hospitality, by which, it is argued states fall short of international human rights standards. This can be partly addressed by the inclusion of additional safeguards and the incorporation of civil society actors in the operations, thus ensuring that communities are allowed to enact their obligation

¹³ Associate Professor, University of Malta.



to hospitality. A hospitality framework builds on human rights as minimal standards of treatment, but shifts the focus to community and cultural practices of relating to strangers. This offers another perspective on states' ethical responsibilities toward irregular migrants built on communitarian principles.

ADDRESSING ETHICAL CONCERNS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Anita LUNIĆ¹⁴

This presentation explores the ethical challenges of employing artificial intelligence (AI) in migration management. In the first part, an overview of the ethical issues arising from the deployment of AI in migration management is provided. As research has shown, there is a vast array of possible unethical consequences and human rights violations, including discrimination, bias, and privacy breaches, that could occur if the so-called “algorithmic-driven humanitarianism” (Ahmad, 2020) is not properly overseen and if ethical standards are not followed. The second part of the presentation focuses on the key ethical principles that should guide the use of AI in migration management, with particular emphasis on the principle of fairness.

RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER OCCUPATION

Olena NIHREIEVA¹⁵

Armed conflicts force migration all over the world. Natural resources

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remain one of their main reasons both internationally and internally. Occupation of the territory entitles the occupier to exploit its natural resources, but at the same time obliges it to maintain and ensure legal order and civil life of local population. Moreover, provided with a certain discretion in this regard the occupying power is limited by the law of occupation.

Unfortunately, many of its provisions are vague and outdated. It can be suggested that the law of occupation regarding the exploitation of natural resources of the occupied territories serves more to protect the interests of the occupier and the ousted government, but does not take into consideration the interests of local population. As it seems among them a right to development is one of the essential. However, to develop the territory under occupation may require investments that could be provided by the exploitation of its natural resources. Yet, these activities fall under a full control of the occupier who is required to be only an administrator and a usufructuary of such resources.

On the one hand, this legal status limits its powers to over-use public property under its jurisdiction. On the other hand, it enables the occupier to manipulate the purposes of its exploitation and to impede economic development of the territory and its population. In this regard, in order to protect its rights local population should be more involved in the occupant's decision-making. External mechanisms of control over the occupiers' activities are needed to ensure that natural resources are exploited in the interests of local population favoring economic growth of the territory under occupation. In our view, the last factor can be decisive in order to prevent further depopulation of such territories and migration crises on the borders of neighboring countries.

CASA ARGENTINA IN CADIZ ASSOCIATION: TOGETHER IT'S BETTER

Flavia ARRIGONI¹⁶

¹⁶ Lecturer, University of Cadiz.



The main objective of this presentation is to introduce the Casa Argentina in Cadiz Association, constituted in Cádiz (Spain), on February 2, 2024. It is an association and non-profit organization, under the provisions of Article 22 of the Spanish Constitution, in Organic Law 1/2002, of 22 March, regulating the Right of Association and other schemes in force dictated in development and application of that, in Law 4/2006, of 23 June, of Associations of Andalusia, as well as in the normative provisions concordant.

Information and council are provided to the partners through different Departments: 1. assistance to newcomers, seniors, and inclusion; 2. culture and sport; 3. job information; 4. legal information; 5. health and 6. communication and social networks.

Various activities have been organized in coordination with the Argentinian Consulate in Cadiz, the Ibero American House in Cadiz, the Historical Archive of Cadiz, as well as other migrant associations and diverse gastronomic establishments to promote the knowledge of different aspects of the Argentinian culture.

Partners can be Argentinians as well as people with another nationality interested in promoting the knowledge of Argentinian culture.

We have a website where useful information is provided, and the various events organized are promoted (<https://casaargentinaencadiz.es/inicio/>).

TECHNOLOGICAL BORDERS IN ASYLUM: DATA EXTRACTION, DIALECT RECOGNITION, AND CONSENT UNDER THE NEW ASYLUM PROCEDURES REGULATION

VÍCTOR HERRAIZ JAGEROVIC¹⁷

This presentation analyses, from critical migration and border studies, philosophy and legal analysis, the practices of smartphone data extraction and speech and dialect recognition employed by the German Asylum Authority. First, the presentation argues that both practices constitute virtual administrative borders that are part of a new technological infrastructure

¹⁷ Ph.D. Candidate, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

that poses several risks to asylum seekers. Secondly, the presentation delves into the new in force, but not yet applicable, Asylum Procedures Regulation analysing the asylum seeker's enhanced obligation to collaborate with asylum authorities in relation to technological practices and the detrimental procedural consequences of non-compliance with this obligation. Lastly, it examines whether the consent given by asylum seekers to the smartphone data extraction and speech and dialect recognition practices, in view of the obligation to collaborate and the detrimental procedural consequences linked to its non-compliance foreseen in the Asylum Procedure Regulation, is meaningful enough to be considered valid.

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN EU AND WESTERN SAHEL COUNTRIES TO TACKLE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS: LESSONS FROM MALI AND NIGER

Cristina CASTILLA CID¹⁸

Nowadays, migrant smuggling is one of the most serious security challenges faced by the European Union. Until now, this phenomenon has been particularly addressed in external action policies, that is, through the external dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ) and certain missions of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP).

The aim of this presentation is to explore the EU's regulatory framework for dealing with this criminal phenomenon. First, I will give a brief outline of the case study that concerns the European Union's presence on the territory of Mali and Niger, as this shows the scope of the problem. Secondly, I will address the doctrinal discussion on the European Union's External Action in the fight against serious and organised crime, and particularly when it comes to countering migrant smuggling. In conclusion, a joint analysis of the two blocks will lead to a series of questions about the points of disagreement that may exist between the theory of European Union law and the effective deployment of certain Community instruments on the territory of a third country.

¹⁸ Ph.D. Candidate, University of Cadiz.