



MAGYC

Migration Governance and Asylum Crises

Minutes of the  
workshop in Bratislava  
Michaela Ciefova

**MAGYC:** The MAGYC (**Migr**Ation **G**overnance and **AsYlum C**risis) project seeks to assess how migration governance has responded to the recent “refugee crises” and has since been influenced by it, and how crises at large shape policy responses to migration. This four-year research project (2018–2022) brings together twelve international partners: the Hugo Observatory from the University of Liège (Coordinator), Sciences Po, the University of Economics in Bratislava, the GIGA institute of Global and Area Studies, Lund University, the IDMC, SOAS University of London, the University of Milan, the Lebanese American University, the University of Macedonia, Sabanci University, IfPO/CNRS.

**Website:** [www.themagycproject.com](http://www.themagycproject.com)



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**Lead author:** Michaela Ciefova, University of Economics in Bratislava

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**Contributing author(s):**

Paula Puskarova, University of Economics in Bratislava

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**Version History:**

Version No.	Date	Changes
1	November 2020	Initial version submitted as deliverable to the European Commission

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## Minutes of the workshop in Bratislava

In order to boost the synergies between work packages and collect feedback existing working papers, the MAGYC project partners have set up the MAGYC workshop series. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the University of Economics in Bratislava hosted the workshop and due to the challenging situation linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was held in a hybrid format. The local team and few pre-registered invitees met in person, while the researchers from partner institutions and broad public joined using the MS Teams platform. Altogether, nine presentations were included in the program, some thereof presenting papers already ready to be submitted, others their work still in progress or with preliminary results. The workshop illuminated several overlaps amongst work of different teams, hence creating a basis for an even more intense future cooperation. Moreover, the discussion opened several avenues how to harmonize the research and deliver a cohesive Deliverable 5.2 (Completion of case studies). The workshop was chaired by Paula Puskarova, the Vice-Rector for research and doctoral studies and institutional lead of the MAGYC project at the EUBA.

### Workshop outline

Due to COVID 19 pandemic restrictions, the number of people who could attend the workshop in presence was restricted. Participants who physically attended the workshop are listed in the Attendance Sheet (Annex C). Approximately 15 participants joined the meeting online via the MS Teams platform. These included:

- EUBA MAGYC team members;
- EUBA researchers not directly involved in the MAGYC project;
- researchers from partner institutions within the MAGYC project;
- researchers not involved in the MAGYC project.

Following the registration, the participants were welcomed by Paula Puskarova, the chair of the workshop and the institutional lead of the project.

There were two last-minute changes in the program.<sup>1</sup> Firstly, the presentation by Maurizio Ambrosini (University of Milan) and the presentation by Samet Apaydin and Meltem Müftüleri-Baç (Sabancı University) were exchanged due to minor technical difficulties. Secondly, François Gemenne's (University of Liège) presentation was moved to the second presentation slot, due to conflicting schedules. Instead, Paula Puskarova presented her and Natalia Bohacikova's joint paper, followed by a presentation by Fiona Adamson and Veysi Dag (SOAS University of London). Overall, four presentations were streamed in the first part of the workshop, which was concluded by a discussion, followed by a short coffee break.

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<sup>1</sup> The program and the invitation as distributed prior to the workshop are attached as Annex B to this report.

### D5.3. Minutes of the workshop in Bratislava

In the second block, five papers were presented. EUBA's researchers presented their research results linked to the conducted field work in Finland (Mikulas Cernota), Vienna (Andrej Privara), and an outline of the planned field work in Berlin (Mykhaylo Kunychka), as well as a follow-up of the Deliverable D5.1 Maps of Asylum Seekers's Sites, presented by Martin Labaj. As already stated above, the presentation by Paula Puskarova and Natalia Bohacikova, originally planned for the second round of presentations, was switched with François Gemenne's contribution. After the presentations, another discussion followed.

The workshop was closed by Paula Puskarova, who expressed her gratitude to all the participants.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Abstracts of the presentations are attached as a separate Annex A.

## Annex A: List of abstracts

### **Italian immigration policies and the pandemic: new closures and an unexpected opportunity for the regularization of immigrants**

*Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan*

In spring 2020, the Covid pandemic provided the Italian government with an opportunity to propose a new regularization measure. The regularization of irregular immigrants was mainly justified by a shortage of labour in Italian agriculture, but this claim was not supported by employers' associations. The moral aspect diverged from the economic reason cited to legitimize the proposal. The final outcome of political negotiations consisted in a compromise, which was included in the so-called "Restart decree", n.34 of May 2020 (article 103): employers can regularise immigrant workers (hired off the books) in agriculture, fishing, livestock farming, care and domestic services, and these workers can obtain a six-month residence permit. The same permit is granted to newly hired immigrants in the same sectors, again under employers' choice. An important point is that immigrant workers can subsequently renew their permit if their employers offer them a new contract, and they can also change employer and sector, under a new contract. Once approved, the regularization encountered many obstacles in its implementation. The consequence, at the conclusion of the procedure (15 August 2020), was a number of applications lower than expected: 207,542 applications, mainly for domestic and care work (85 percent). Agriculture, in practice, has almost disappeared from the reasons for regularization, despite initial claims. On the other hand, the possibility of regularization for more than 200,000 immigrants has had no parallel in any Western country in recent years, and it has been achieved through a Parliament in principle largely hostile to immigrants, and under a government deeply divided on this issue. A moral economy argument has prevailed, at least partially: immigrant workers in some essential sectors deserve the legal status of residents and a regular employment contract.

### **Turkish Perceptions of the EU Migration Deal Based on the Turkish Parliamentary Debates**

*Samet Apaydın & Meltem Müftüleri-Baç, Sabancı University*

Since 2011, Turkey has unexpectedly become a host country to the largest refugee population in the world, leading to a major change in its migration governance structures. The presence of 3.7 million Syrian refugees in Turkey led to intense internal political debates over the Turkish responses to the Syrian crisis as well as policies to be adopted to deal with this unprecedented flow of people. This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the Turkish Parliamentary debates over the Syrian refugees, and assesses how the Turkish migration deal with the EU has highlighted the existing political cleavages in the country. The paper analyses the political deliberations in the Turkish Parliament, the main legislative body in Turkish politics by utilizing multiple keywords with regards to Turkish migration deal. The paper's extensive coding of the Turkish Parliamentary debates reflects the divide among the five main political parties in the Parliament- the AKP, CHP, MHP, İyi Party and the HDP over the refugee issue. In addition, the political discourse utilized in these deliberations reveal these parties' political preferences and ideologies, albeit over the refugee issue. The paper contributes to the MAGYC objectives by demonstrating the extent to which migration governance challenges are projected onto political deliberations at the domestic level, and illuminating the domestic-foreign linkages over

migratory policies. It needs to be noted that while the Syrian refugee crisis did not lead to the emergence of these political cleavages in Turkey, it has, nonetheless, highlighted the already existing cleavages and unexpectedly also deepened them with regards to these political preferences and ideologies.

**« Take them home if you want them! » How the Citizens Platform for Refugees in Brussels provided a home for hundreds of migrants**

*François Gemenne, University of Liège*

The article seeks to document an uncommon grassroots initiative to provide assistance in migrants, which has been on-going in Brussels since 2017. As migration governance often focuses on the national or international levels, this piece describes an example of local governance, where a group of local citizens organized themselves on Facebook to provide food and shelter every night to hundreds migrants who were sleeping in a park of Brussels. Our article investigates in particular the motivations of the citizens who decided to welcome migrants in their home, through an inquiry based on 30+ interviews of people who agreed to host migrants. We find that the motivations to engage in such activities were diverse : to repair an injustice, to accomplish what was perceived as a civic duty, or as a way to exert their citizenship. On this basis, our article seeks to highlight possible ways to explore different avenues of local governance of migration and asylum, using the citizens' motivations as a guide. In particular, it compares the initiative in Brussels with other similar initiatives taken in other European countries, and seeks to identify common patterns in the motivations of citizens involved.

**Mapping the Kurdish Refugee Diaspora in Europe**

*Fiona B. Adamson & Veysi Dag, SOAS, University of London*

Adamson and Dag presented their research, which seeks to map the Kurdish population of Western, Northern and Southern Europe; the constraints that Kurdish refugees experience in the integration process; the organisational structures of Kurdish communities; and the impact of diaspora organisations on Kurdish refugee reception and integration. The presentation explained the reasons for the focus on diaspora organisations and the Kurdish refugee population, and presented the research design and data collection, which consisted of a combination of ethnographic research, participant observation and more than 230 interviews with refugees, asylum seekers and members and leaders of diaspora organisations. The data collection was conducted between March and August 2019, and the research was designed to compare Kurdish refugee integration in metropolitan cities with border cities or rural areas, as a means of examining the impacts of established diaspora organisations on integration processes. The presentation included a mapping of Kurdish populations and organisational structures in Europe, a typology of Kurdish organisations and networks, and their roles in the integration process, and a discussion of access to housing as an integration issue. Adamson and Dag discussed their planned deliverables, which will include a report summarising the Kurdish refugee diaspora case study.

## **Mapping Asylum Seekers' Sites in Europe**

*Paula Puškárová & Martin Lábaj & Natália Zagoršková & Michaela Čiefová, University of Economics in Bratislava*

The paper is based on our previous research, the aim of which was to map concentration of asylum seekers and refugees, i.e. the locations of asylum seekers' sites in Europe. The notion of asylum seekers' sites is considered an umbrella term, since it comprises different facilities, such as arrival centers, accommodation centers, detention centers or similar. Refugees are relocated foremost to remote places, where they have poorer access to labor market, and which are marked by low level of economic development and radicalism/nationalism (Rodriguez-Pose 2018). The research raises question whether refugee camp placement policies are shaped by welfare regimes. The maps demonstrating the findings have been drawn using the online tool Datawrapper.

## **Introduction to Migration and Asylum Seekers Governance in Berlin Municipality**

*Mykhaylo Kunychka & Andrianna Baleha, University of Economics in Bratislava*

The number of refugees seeking asylum protection in Europe has grown considerably in the last five years. In 2015 more than 1 million refugees and migrants crossed the borders of Germany, the biggest refugee destination in the European Union, in order to flee conflict and persecution. This paper will assess how refugees and asylum seekers are treated in the municipality of Berlin. The migration governance conducted by the local State office for refugee affairs will be examined as well. At a time of migration crisis that heavily passed across Europe, it is critically important to understand the practices and approaches for asylum seekers integration on the example of Berlin - refugees high concentrated area. Housing services offered by local units for refugees and asylum seekers will be studied. According to German authorities the housing is a key issue in the long process of migrant integration as it provides a balance in in the private space of targeted group.

## **Analysis of determinants influencing the migration decisions of asylum seekers in the federal state of Vienna**

*Andrej Přivara, University of Economics in Bratislava*

This paper is a synthesis of findings that resulted from empirical research conducted in non-profit organizations, with asylum seekers and with representatives of the City of Vienna. The findings capture a wide range of issues that asylum seekers have already faced. With regards to the position of asylum seekers in the labour market, an important finding was that they could not (unless with certain exceptions) enter the market legally. We also mention the causes of discrimination against educated immigrants who have already been granted asylum. In the field of education, we draw attention to the fact that a high percentage of children who come to the federal state of Vienna aged nine and over do not complete compulsory schooling. At the same time, however, in the field of education, we positively evaluate the results achieved within the Integration program. This paper also evaluates the relationship between asylum seekers and the local population of the host country. We point out the causes of conflicts between the two communities. We also pay attention to the determinants of choosing Austria as the host country.

In this context, we describe the asylum application process, the course of the asylum process and the factors influencing the result of the asylum application. At the end of the paper, we present the reasons why those who have been granted asylum in the federal state of Vienna are not interested in going to another country.

### **Practical implications of migration crisis 2015 in Finland**

*Mikuláš Černota & Mário Štefka, University of Economics in Bratislava*

The study contains key points from research made in Finland in February 2020. Main goal of the study was to analyse and describe the application Finnish asylum process and refugee integration under the pressure of mass migration from 2015. We have also focused on influence of NGOs on the integration process and their status. We have identified an endangered group of so-called Paperless refugees, which is phenomenon of 2015 migration crisis and needs furthermore research attention. Proper healthcare and specifically mental healthcare prove to be crucial in process of integration of asylum holders, but the importance level rises even more for people who are still asylum seekers. Collection of data was conducted in personal interviews and through access to regional and European statistics. In total numbers, we have made 12 official interviews with municipality representatives, NGOs, volunteers, and of migrants/refugees. Several strong points were identified too, such as excellent education provided, housing administration and proper access to information.

### **Mapping refugee sites in Greece: hoaxes and realities / a tale of discriminated islanders**

*Paula Puškárová & Natália Boháčiková, University of Economics in Bratislava*

Literature exhibits decent amount of evidence that asylum seekers are associated with threats. “They” take our jobs (economic threat), they ravage our streets (security threat), they exploit our resources (environmental threat). In this paper, we aim to examine how these perceptions shape refugee concentrations and policies targeted at spatial redistribution across Greek municipalities. A primary qualitative research with the use of semi-structured interviews has been conducted in late 2019 primarily in Thessaloniki and Athens. The sample of the research involved two groups: a) representatives of state bodies and local authorities and b) independent volunteers and members of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). We control for the role of external factors such as economic crisis and boom of AirBnB, and find that the perceptions might lead to failure of relocation programs and the aggravation of the quality of living between islands and mainland refugee populations. Our results further point to the role of civic engagement, particularly the third sector that compensates for government system failures.



**Invitation to the**

# **MAGYC WORKSHOP**

**“Towards more sustainable migration  
governance“**

**Date and time:** 25 September 2020, 9:30 CET

**Venue:** EUBA, 3rd floor conference room (building 2)

# Workshop Programme

- 9:15- 9:30 Registration of the participants
- 9:30 - 9:35 Opening of the workshop  
*Paula Puskarova, Vice-Rector for Research and Doctoral Studies, Institutional Lead*
- 9:35 - 9:50 The pandemic and immigration policies in Italy: new closures and an unexpected opportunity to regularization of immigrants  
*Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan*
- 9:50 - 10:05 Examining the relationship between liberalizing and securitizing discourses vis-a-vis migration issues in the Turkish Grand National Assembly  
*Samet Apaydin & Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Sabancı University*
- 10:05 – 10:20 Opening home to migrants. Insights from a massive grassroots experience in Brussels.  
*François Gemenne, University of Liège*
- 10:20 - 10:35 Mapping the Kurdish 'Refugee Diaspora' in Europe  
*Fiona Adamson & Veysi Dag, SOAS University of London*
- 10:35 - 10:45 Discussion  
10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 - 11:15 Mapping Asylum Seekers' Sites in Europe  
*Paula Puskarova & Martin Labaj & Natalia Zagorsekova & Michaela Ciefova, University of Economics in Bratislava*
- 11:15 - 11:30 Introduction to Migration and Asylum Seekers Governance in Berlin Municipality  
*Mykhaylo Kunychka & Adrianna Baleha, University of Economics in Bratislava*
- 11:30 - 11:45 Analysis of determinants influencing the migration decisions of asylum seekers in the federal state of Vienna  
*Andrej Privara, University of Economics in Bratislava*
- 11:45 - 12:00 Practical implications of migration crisis 2015 in Finland  
*Mikulas Cernota & Mario Stefka, University of Economics in Bratislava*
- 12:00 - 12:15 Mapping refugee sites in Greece: hoaxes and realities / a tale of discriminated islanders  
*Paula Puskarova & Natalia Bohacikova, University of Economics in Bratislava*
- 12:15 - 12:25 Discussion  
12:25 - 12:45 Closing remarks and networking  
12:45 - 13:45 Lunch

## About the MAGYC Project

The MAGYC (Migration Governance and asYlum Crises) project seeks to assess how migration governance has been influenced by the recent “refugee crises” and how crises at large shape policy responses on migration. The general objective of the project is to appraise policy responses in light of the ‘crisis’ and assess their efficiency for the long-term governance of migration.

Funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (Grant agreement number 822806), the MAGYC project is coordinated by the Hugo Observatory of the University of Liège, and brings together 12 international partners. It will run from November 2018 until October 2022.

## About the University of Economics in Bratislava

The University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA) is the largest and oldest public higher education institution in the Slovak Republic in the area of economics, business, management and international relations. The EUBA has more than 10 000 students at its 7 faculties and it is the largest centre of education and research in these disciplines in Slovakia. Its faculties prepare students for careers in state administration, embassies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as in private multi-national corporations. The university is engaged in international cooperation with over 350 universities and higher education institutions worldwide.

## Additional and Contact Information

- The working language of the workshop is English.
- The workshop will be available in form of live streaming. To obtain the link, please contact Michaela Ciefova at [michaela.ciefova@euba.sk](mailto:michaela.ciefova@euba.sk) at least one day prior to the workshop.
- For more information, please contact Michaela Ciefova at the email address stated above.
- MAGYC website: <https://www.magyc.uliege.be/>
- EUBA website: <https://euba.sk/en/>
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (The MAGYC Project)

University of Economics in Bratislava  
Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava  
Slovak Republic

Annex C: Photo documentation







