



Policy-Roundtable

On Norms and Values in Europe's Migration and Refugee Policy - The Way Forward

3 May 2021, Online
9:30-11:30 am (CET)

Background

What is at stake in the debate on a cosmopolitan future of the European Union? Is it to identify one cosmopolitan idea that is compatible with the specific circumstances of all different levels within the EU? Particularly when it comes to migration policies, European values are often a site for political conflict, an invitation to sustain the ongoing debate on their content and their political implications. For example, the Common European Asylum System is a tangible demonstration of how the specific value of solidarity translates into a legislative framework to bind member states through the law – and still, its interpretations come apart, ranging from an insistence on implementing a binding refugee relocation scheme, to a justification of financial alternatives and various opt-out mechanisms.

However, cosmopolitanism is not part of the European values listed in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. It is rather a concept that had always been implicitly present in the Charter, namely the idea that every human being is worthy of moral and political concern. Furthermore, it is not clear, if materializing cosmopolitanism can be achieved through a uniform and standardized set of policies. Empirical investigations conducted within the NOVAMIGRA project demonstrate that, in the aftermath of the 2015 EU 'refugee crisis', cosmopolitan values and practices were and still are widespread amongst societal actors, and that their condemnation as utopian rather come from the European political institutions. It is the aim of the policy event to understand this kind of dialectic that the European Union is grappling with in the context of its refugee and migration policies.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 770330.

Format and Agenda

The **policy event** is the opening event of [NOVAMIGRA's final conference](#). While the final conference on 4-5 May 2021 aims at a discussion of NOVAMIGRA'S insights and key findings with academics from the field of migration research, it is the aim of the policy event on 3 May 2021 to facilitate a meaningful debate between the NOVAMIGRA project and policy makers in the EU. The policy event is organised as an online event and open to the general public.

After a general introduction by the NOVAMIGRA team, three spotlights will highlight key findings of the project. In the second part the relevance and meaning of these insights and findings to practitioners are discussed with three policy makers from the EU with an outstanding expertise in the relevant fields.

The **tentative agenda** is as follows:

20 min	Welcome and introduction (Prof. Andreas Niederberger, project coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen; Dr François Boucher, senior research fellow, KU Leuven)
15 min	3 Spotlights: NOVAMIGRA partners present key findings of their research activity. 1) Value Discourses in EU Migration Policy: The Example of Solidarity (Dr. Angeliki Dimitriadi, senior research fellow, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy) 2) Values on the Ground: Valuing Gender Equality: Ideas, Practices and Actors in Integration Courses (Dr. Brigitte Suter, associate professor, Malmö University) 3) A new Idea(l) for Europe – Cosmopolitan Scenarios (Dr. Martin Deleixhe, senior researcher, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne)
60 min	Roundtable: Policy makers and NOVAMIGRA researchers discuss key findings of the NOVAMIGRA project (TBA)
10 min	Concluding thoughts and way forward (Prof. Andreas Niederberger, project coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen)

Registration

To register for the event, click on the following link and submit your information on the Evento platform:

<https://evento.renater.fr/survey/policy-event-0bqdn1z>

The online event will be held through zoom. The dial-in information will be communicated shortly before the meeting.



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Solidarity:

NOVAMIGRAS report on *“Value Discourses in EU Migration Policy: The Example of Solidarity”*, zooms in on one of the values most prominently referred to in the institutional discourse: solidarity. Although all institutions involved in EU migration policy-making invoke it continuously, we observe that the meanings ascribed to solidarity come apart during the “refugee crisis”. Between 2014 and 2017, the institutions cite the value to justify a growing range of often conflicting policy options. But we also find a common trend to how institutions’ understanding of solidarity changes. Initially understood as unconditional by the majority of institutions, solidarity is increasingly bound to the responsibility of member states to “do their fair share” and implement applicable procedures and border protection measures.

Gender Equality:

NoVaMigra studies the on-the-ground dynamics around specific values in depth. For example, we focus on one value often held to be particularly important in the context of Europe’s “refugee crisis”: gender equality. Our report on *“Valuing gender equality: Ideas, Practices and Actors in Integration Courses”* discusses integration course teachers’ experiences in conveying the value of gender equality in Germany and Sweden. We find that, although teachers were adamant about the general importance of gender equality, they often expressed ambiguity about how to convey it to integration course participants, citing a political climate where gender equality has been instrumentalised in political discourse to justify restrictive approaches to immigration. We develop specific policy recommendations on teaching gender equality in a neutral and inclusive way, specifically by referring to national and international legislation and rights documents.

Cosmopolitan Scenarios:

In *“A New Idea(l) for Europe. Report on the future of cosmopolitanism in Europe”*, we present detailed discussions about what the idea of European cosmopolitanism implies for current challenges facing the EU’s migration and refugee policy. In one of the scenarios, the European Union could double down on the idea that what makes it stand out as a transnational polity is the fact that it is driven by a political cosmopolitanism. It would argue that the exact content of its norms and values is open to discussion but that it cannot allow their egalitarian and universalist core to be compromised. Consequently, it would adopt a more proactive stance in the management of migration, emphasize the need for European solidarity and assert its authority over the issue. This leads to three possible political innovations. We will explore:

- the proposal to grant a universal right to hospitality within the European Union, which would require revising the Union’s foreign policy to roll back the outsourcing of its border controls to third countries
- a revised flexible mandatory scheme that would scrap the possibility for member states to discharge their duties by sponsoring the return of migrants
- the possibility of granting European citizenship to asylum seekers to empower migrant voices and fuel a critical form of cosmopolitanism



Useful Advice

- Please use your clear name when logging into the *zoom* webinar.
- Please note, if you log in before the webinar starts (13:30 CET) you will be directed to the waiting room. You will be directed to the webinar automatically as soon as it begins.
- We recommend to start the *zoom* application 5 minutes before the start of the webinar.
- For further information on how to participate in video meetings with *zoom* please have a look on: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>.
- As attendee, you will be able to see and hear the talk but you will not be able to turn on your video/microphone. However, you will be able to write questions on the Q&A function.
- Please write your questions as the talks are progressing. We will gather them and the chair of the session will then moderate them after the talks.
- Please keep the questions short and to the point and indicate which panelist you are addressing.
- Please do not record the event.

Contact information

For any question before or after the event, please contact Berit Schlierkamp & Andreas Hoene, University of Duisburg-Essen (info@novamigra.eu).

During the webinar you may pose your questions through Q&A function.

About NOVAMIGRA

Several, partly interconnected crises have profoundly challenged the European project in recent years. In particular, reactions to the arrival of 1.25 million refugees in 2015 called into question the idea(l) of a unified Europe. What is the impact of the so-called migration and refugee crisis on the normative foundations and values of the European Union? And what will the EU stand for in the future?

NOVAMIGRA studies these questions with a unique combination of social scientific analysis, legal and philosophical normative reconstruction and theory.

This project:

- Develops a precise descriptive and normative understanding of the current “value crisis”;
- Assesses possible evolutions of European values; and
- Considers Europe’s future in light of rights, norms and values that could contribute to overcoming the crises.

The project is funded with around 2.5 million Euros under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme for a period of three years.

For more information on the NoVaMigra project please visit www.novamigra.eu or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



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