



Conference Programme: Potentials and Challenges from the Migration Crisis

Venue: Xenodoxeion Bageion, Omonia Sq. 18, 10552

- **Day 1 (Thursday, 25 October), h. 9:00 -20:00**

9:00 – 10:00	Registrations
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Welcome Speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter Alia - Bageion Foundation - Europe for Citizens office in Athens, Ministry of Interior
10:30 – 12:00	<p>Panel Discussion 1: The rise of racism, xenophobia and intolerance in Europe: the issues of identity of the receiving communities and the refugee and migrant groups.</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>Current flows of refugees and migrants in Europe are accompanied by a wave of xenophobia and intolerance in the receiving countries. Extreme groups and parties or extreme positions that reappeared with the European crisis, target and scapegoat displaced people that arrive in Europe in search of safety and satisfaction of basic human needs. Anti-migrant domestic agency puts forward the alleged danger of newcomers altering ethnic identity. Displaced people attempt to keep an identity that travels with them to the new places. What are the realities of the societies and individuals and how can identities be inclusive? The aim of the discussion is to illuminate the nature of identity and analyse degree and depth of mutual influence.</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antal Orkeny (Professor, Eotvos Lorand University of Budapest) - Kostis Papaioannou (former Secretary General for Transparency and Human Rights; Golden Dawn Watch) - Eleni Takou (Deputy Director and Head of Advocacy of HumanRights360)
12:00 – 13:30	Discussion in groups with the audience: Assessing and categorizing the findings of the panels.
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch Break
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Comparative understanding and analysis of the current flows in relation to past population movements that are already integrated: understanding migrants' movements as a constant human phenomenon.</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>There is a variety of reasons that make populations move. From seasonal migration in search of more favourable weather and economic conditions to the movement from villages to urban centres, and from forceful removals due to war and prosecution to mobility in search for a better life,</p>



	<p>collective identities are shaped by migration experiences. Recent European history, offers a variety of paradigms for understanding the migration phenomenon and the process of newcomers' integration in the new setting. Building on the knowledge offered by these past experiences, the panel will provide insights for re-conceptualising the current predicament and placing the contemporary migration flows in historical perspective.</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Athanasia Anagnostopoulou (MP, former alternate minister of Education, Professor at Panteion University)- Dr. Karolina Czerska (Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University)
17:00 – 18:45	<p>Panel Discussion 3: Policies of Greek governments and the European Union for facing and solving the refugees' and migrants' inflow issues</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>Since the first days of the current crisis, the flow of migrants and refugees has ignited a hot debate in Greece, bringing to the fore a wide range of opinions, from overtly racist to highly tolerant and from completely uninformed to well-grounded ones. In addition, apart from domestic political arguments from all, towards all sides, there has been a great deal of criticism to the European Union. The panel will discuss the EU policies towards the crisis, the EU agreement with Turkey and the difficulty of the EU to follow a joint strategy for receiving and hosting.</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ilias Klapas (Secretary General of the Ministry for Migration Policy)- Gesine Schwan (President of the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform and professor at Free University Berlin)- Lefteris Papagiannakis (Vice-mayor for migration, Municipality of Athens)
18:45 – 20:00	<p>Discussion in groups with the audience: Assessing and categorizing the findings of the panels.</p>

• **Day 2 (Friday 26 October), h. 9:00-19:00**

9:00 – 10:30	<p>Panel Discussion 4: Refugee and migratory flow and the respect to Human Rights: obligations and responsibility of the receiving countries towards human beings</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>It is agreed among nations that people are inherently entitled to human rights with universal applicability. Experience from current refugee and migratory flows shows that the externalisation policies render displaced people more vulnerable and expose them to human rights violations like refoulement, collective expulsions, arbitrary detention, ill treatment and more. This discussion aims at the analysis of the obligations and responsibilities of the receiving countries and the European Union towards refugees and migrants according to international and European humanitarian principles, values and laws.</p>
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	<p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eleni Spathana (lawyer, former advisor to the Greek minister for migration policy)- Vasilis Papastergiou (lawyer, vice president of the Greek Union of Human Rights)- Eleni Koutsouraki (lawyer)- Maria Giannakaki (Secretary general for Human Rights at the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights)
10:30 – 13:00	<p>Panel Discussion 5: The process, pace and degree of integration of refugees and migrants in the hosting societies.</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>The argument of low or slow integration is often put forward by anti-migrant voices in the receiving societies. Newcomers are supposedly unsusceptible to societal and cultural integration and are self-ghettoed in order to preserve their own lifestyle, ignoring and even challenging the values of the host countries. History and experience show that this is an exaggerated myth exploited by intolerant societal actors. This discussion explores the various models of integration and adaptation of displaced people and tries to shed light to the realities of starting a new life as a stranger in a strange land.</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nikos Chrysogelos (Former MEP, President of Wind of Renewal social cooperative)- Ahmed Moavia (President of the Greek Forum of Migrants)-
13:00 – 14:30	<p>Panel Discussion 6: The impact of refugeeship and migration in the psyche of the individual: the trauma of forced displacement</p> <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>The journey away from the homeland to Europe is full of risks, dangers, harsh conditions and difficult decisions and dilemmas. It is a flight in the dark, full of terror and hope. The process of reaching a refuge inflicts serious wounds in the psyche of the displaced scarring their conscious and unconscious. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression due to displacement are oftentimes exacerbated by prolonged detention, insecure residency status, complexity of formal procedures, restricted access to services and lack of opportunities to work or study. This panel analyses the impact of the burdened past, the traumatic journey and the difficult conditions in the hosting countries.</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dimitris Christopoulos (President of the International Federation for Human Rights, professor at Panteion University of Athens)- Igor Stiks (writer, professor at the Faculty of Media and Communications, Belgrade)- Elena - Olga Christidou (Psychologist, psychotherapist; Scientific responsible for the Greek Programme for Certification of Victims of Torture (METADRASI))
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Lunch Break</p>



INTER ALIA

Civic Action Meeting Point

16:30 – 19:00

World Cafe – Structured session for discussing and collectively elaborating policy recommendations with a view to address key questions raised during the conference on the prospects and challenges resulting from the migration crisis.