Tackling Migration in Border Regions

Drawing some lessons from Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) to support Co-Development processes

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Berlin Wall

Photo: REUTERS, All Rigths Reserved, © CAMBIO 16, EIG Multimedia S.L., Madrid (Spain)
Map of Europe, as British people see it. In: 12 Maps Only British People Will Find Funny

Image: Crossing the Borders project, CESCI, Budapest, 2015
Europe and refugees have a long history:

- **1492**: expulsion of Jewish people from Spain
- **1685**: persecution of protestants (*Huguenots*) in France
- **1933-1945**: persecution of Jewish, Roma, etc., under the Nazi regime
- **1939**: persecution of Republicans in Spain
- **1940**: Exodus of Belgium and French people
- **1945**: the Iron Curtain: 60 Million refugees
- **1956**: persecution of Democrats in Hungary
- **1962**: repatriation of Algerian French (1 Million)
- **1968**: persecution of Democrats in Czechoslovakia
- **1991**: victims of ethnic purge in Yugoslavia

(Translated into English and updated from *L'Europe et la crise des réfugiés*, European Commission, DG Communication)
EU Immigration Policy

• Background: Tampere European Council 1999

• Political Progress
  A. The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum (2008)
  C. The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (November 2011)

• EU Acquis on Immigration and Integration
  1. Shared competences
  2. EU Legal Instruments on Immigration: Directives & new proposals (Trilogue)
  3. Fight against illegal immigration. Supporting Directives

• Unaccompanied Minors

• Immigrants‘ Integration: EU Agenda and Tools

• European Migration Network, EU Immigration Portal, Migration Management Funding

(Source: EU Immigration Policy Outline)
Common EU Approach to Managing Immigration

- Immigration for the purpose of studies or research
- Immigration for the purpose of work
- Immigration for the purpose of family reunification
- No immigration without integration
- Tackling irregular immigration
- Dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries
- EU funding to support the management of immigration
- A common approach to asylum

(Source: Migration and Asylum – Building an open and safe Europe, European Commission)
(Photo: Rights Status Unknown, not to be shared or published)
Migration, Refuge and Asylum in the EU

• No EU country can be left alone to address huge migratory pressure

• EU agenda on migration sets out internal and external policies involving all actors: MSs and institutions, int’l orgs, civil society, ...

• Structural limitations, but better managed collectively

• Attention to main „hotspots“ and relocation schemes

• Financial support, including EU-Turkey agreement, Trust Fund for Syria, Humanitarian Aid and International Cooperation in third countries.
Melilla Wall

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Five EU Member States received three quarters of asylum applications in 2015.

- **Sweden**: 162,450
- **Germany**: 476,510
- **Austria**: 88,160
- **Hungary**: 177,135
- **Italy**: 84,085
- **Other 23 EU countries**: 333,260

Source: Eurostat.
Gaza Wall

Photo: REUTERS, All Rigths Reserved, © CAMBIO 16, EIG Multimedia S.L., Madrid (Spain)
Turkey Wall

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Immediate response

- Triple the capacities and assets for the Frontex joint operations Triton and Poseidon in 2015 and 2016.
- Activation of the Emergency system under Article 70(3) of the Treaty to better distribute Asylum seekers in Europe.
- A new “Hotspot” concept: under the coordination of the Commission, EASO, Frontex and EUROPEPOL will be working on the ground in frontline Member States to swiftly identify, register and fingerprint migrants arriving and coordinate returns.
- Mobilising additional € 60 million in emergency funding for frontline Member States.
- A € 50 million resettlement scheme to transfer 20,000 persons to Europe in a safe and legal manner.
- Information pooling by Europol with the contribution of all EU agencies to dismantle criminal networks, Frontex and EUROPEPOL to develop profiles of vessels traffickers that could potentially use.
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations in the Mediterranean to capture and destroy boats.
- Migration to become a specific component of ongoing Common Security and Defence policy (CSDP) missions already deployed in Niger and Mali, which will be strengthened on border management.
- Establishment of pilot multi-purpose centre in Niger in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR.
- Deployment of European Migration Officers to EU delegations in key countries of transit.

Reducing the incentives for irregular migration

283,532 detected irregular border crossings in 2014 (164% increase on previous year)
- An Action Plan to step up investigation and prosecution of criminal networks of smugglers, to help disrupt them, bring the perpetrators to justice and seize their assets.
- A return handbook to align return practices in all Member States.
- Stronger partnerships with Third Countries in the field of smuggling and return.
- A stronger engagement of EU delegations in key countries.
- Stronger role of Frontex in return operations, also by establishing a dedicated department to support Member States in implementing the Return Directive.

Saving lives and securing the external borders

Out of the 24,000 migrants rescued in the Channel of Sicily since the beginning of 2015, nearly 7,300 persons were saved by means deployed by Frontex
- Revised proposal on Smart Borders.
- Finance initiatives to strengthen the capacities of countries in North Africa to intervene and save lives of migrants in distress.
- Reflection on the establishment of a European System of Border Guards.
- Stronger role of Frontex.

The way forward

A strong asylum policy

626,715 asylum applicants in 2014 (45% increase on previous year)
- Full implementation of the Common European Asylum system through a new monitoring mechanism.
- Evaluation of the Dublin system by mid-2016 in view of its revision.
- Decisive initiatives to fight abuses of the asylum system.
- Reflection on the establishment of a single asylum decision process to guarantee equal treatment of asylum seekers throughout Europe.

A new policy on legal migration

17 million Schengen visas issued in 2013
2.3 million residence permits issued in 2013
- Review the Blue Card directive.
- Establishment of a dedicated platform of cooperation with Member States, businesses and trade unions on economic migration.
- Cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers.
- Reflect on the development of an “expression of interest system” which would use verifiable criteria to automatically make an initial selection of potential migrants.
- Maximising the development benefits for countries of origin.
Strategic directions proposed by a consortium of EU foundations and think-tanks

a) Create political will to develop a forward-looking EU strategy
   A1. Reflective capacities and strengthen dialogue between and within MSs
   A2. Consolidate joint actions to build success stories
   A3. Deliver on agreements to build trust

b) Develop coherent and fair mechanisms to better manage flows
   B1. Improve stability and opportunities in the regions of origin
   B2. Create safe passages and improve asylum processes
   B3. Shares responsibilities across the EU

c) Promote work and education focused integration
   C1. Apply a social investment perspective to integration
   C2. Encourage and enable early employment and education
   C3. Strengthen social belonging

d) Mobilise society to promote inclusivity
   D1. Increase intercultural dialogue and respect
   D2. Promote open, evidence-based dialogue
   D3. Support bottom-up approaches

(Source: Vision Europe Summit, Building Common Ground: Towards strategic migration and refugee policies in Europe, Lisbon, 22 November 2016)
Main proposal for citizens: tolerance, understanding, trust, interculturality...

Thank you very much for your attention!