ATLAS OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE

A critical geography of migration policies
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Introduction

This second edition of the Atlas on asylum and immigration policies in the European Union cannot ignore the dramatic events that have taken place at its borders, on a daily basis, throughout 2012. Each year hundreds of migrants die, through drowning or exhaustion, stranded at sea on overcrowded and ill-equipped vessels. Migrants fleeing countries in crisis or at war are unable to use legal routes, as a result of tightened surveillance of European borders, especially to the south and east. International law is often applied restrictively, or not applied at all. The beginning of the 21st century, marked by the global economic crisis, has brought little hope of improvement: policy makers, lacking solutions, promote the militarization of borders and the reinforcement of controls. This hostile climate is illustrated by mass arrests of immigrants in the streets of Athens and Rabat, as well as declarations made by political leaders, across Europe and neighbouring States, on the “dangers” presented by immigration.

For the past 10 years, the Migreurop network has been closely following this tragic demonstration of the selfish approach of European States to the movement of migrants and has regularly alerted EU bodies to violations of migrants’ human rights. The fieldwork on which this publication is based has enabled us to discover, measure and comprehend the factors that have marked European asylum and immigration policies since the 1980s. For example, increasing obstacles to obtaining “Schengen” visas from consulates; tightened controls at internal and external borders and their relocation to neighbouring countries, including Libya, Turkey and Ukraine; the creation of the European agency Frontex and the gradual increase in operations aimed at intercepting “illegal” migrants; the construction of walls, as in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in northern Morocco and along the Evros River in the northeast of Greece; the multiplication of means of detaining migrants; the regular organization of “charter” flights for deportations; and the marked reduction in the exercise of the right to asylum. All these processes create ever greater obstacles to legal immigration into EU territory.

The measures taken by European States to control migratory flows do not operate independently: they are linked by various mechanisms, with detention centres playing a pivotal role. Frontex, which co-ordinates surveillance operations at the EU’s external borders and organizes joint flights for deportees (euphemistically referred to as “joint returns operations”), is also in charge of establishing links between various control units. The same applies to computer networks such as the Visa Information System (Vis), the Schengen Information System (Sis) and Eurodac.

Thus, in response to a supposed “migratory risk”, the European border system follows an increasingly reticular pattern, with the establishment of surveillance measures all along the routes taken by potential migrants. These developments are causing the conventional border model to be called into question. The combination of various methods of control sometimes makes us forget this, while allowing the EU to drive forward its networking logic on a large scale.

This publication is structured around four main themes:

- Migration: globalized but impeded
- Controlling international migration: towards greater protectionism?
- Detention at the heart of asylum and immigration policies
- Impact on departure and transit areas

On each theme, the Atlas brings together texts, maps, charts, graphics and photographs in an attempt to change the way borders are traditionally represented, to contribute to an understanding of the displacement and externalization of controls, to reveal the infrastructure established to serve European migration policies and to illustrate the deployment of security measures around migration, based on observations in Europe and beyond.
A critical chronology of European migration policies

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
“Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. (...) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”

Legal Framework

Conclusion of the UNHCR Executive Committee
It provides “memorandum request to a third State”) if it appears that a person, before seeking asylum, had close ties to the [State].” However, “a country can refuse to admit asylum on the sole ground that the refugee could apply for asylum elsewhere” (30th session)

New York Protocol
Restoration of the right of asylum

Rome Treaty
- Creation of six-country EEC
- Freedom of movement for workers

Schengen Agreement between five member states
- Internal “Schengen” Area of free movement
- Abolition of internal border controls

Dublin Convention
Establishing a single procedure applicable to an asylum applicant (to avoid “asylum shopping”)

Schröder Agreement (Implementation of the 1985 agreement)

Maastricht Treaty
Establishment of the European Community (EC)

The EU postpones the total suppression of border controls.

Schengen Convention
It applies to 12 member states.

EU summit

Dublin Convention
It applies to 12 member states.

Schröder Agreement
Adoption of the UNHCR Executive Committee of the concept of “first country of asylum” (30th session)

Adaptation by the UNHCR Executive Committee of the concept of “first country of asylum” (30th session)

Resolutions to harmonize asylum and immigration policies
- On “safe countries”
- On notions of “manifestly unfounded” (asylum) application and “deliberate fraud” against asylum
- Restricting family reunion and the entry of workers

Tampere Convention
Decision on “asylum reform”

Schengen Convention 1.

Amsterdam Treaty
Implementation: 1999-2004
The immigration and asylum issue switches from inter-governmental co-operation to developing common EU policies over five years.

Amsterdam Treaty comes into force
Setting common norms by 2004
- Asylum
- The movement of people
- The integration of migrants

Proposal by the Commission for a Directive on asylum “Procedures”
It will take over five years for the rights of asylum seekers to be set on an European, non-discriminatory basis.

Schengen Convention
Decision on “asylum reform”

Proposal by the Commission for a Directive on asylum “Procedures”
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Proposal by the Commission for a Directive on asylum “Procedures”
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1. The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that was established in 1993 with the Treaty of Maastricht. It aims to promote peace, prosperity, and democracy in the region.
2. The Euro was introduced in 1999 and replaced the national currencies of the participating countries.
3. The Schengen Agreement is a treaty between countries that abolished internal border checks and created a free movement area.
4. The Single Market is a concept that allows for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor within the EU.
5. The Lisbon Treaty, signed in 2007, aimed to modernize the EU and make it more effective in achieving its goals.
6. The Eurozone refers to the countries that use the euro as their currency.
7. The euro Crisis of 2008-2009 was a severe financial crisis that affected many countries in the eurozone.
8. The Eurozone Crisis of 2010-2012 was a continuation of the eurozone crisis that began in 2008.
9. The Eurozone Crisis of 2012-2013 was another phase of the crisis that continued until 2014.
10. The Eurozone Crisis of 2014-2015 was the final phase of the crisis that ended in 2015.