

Migration & Security



Novel and important signals to watch: threats

European divergence: Central and Eastern Europe hold increasingly negative views on migrants

- All Europeans overestimate the proportion of immigrants, but Central and Eastern Europeans are more negative than others. [EUI](#), [Frontex](#), [ECFR](#), [OSCE](#)
- 65% of the Polish population is against accepting refugees, even when losing EU funds. Research increasingly shows a divided Europe. [ISP](#), [Reminder Project](#)
- How can Member States reduce societal tensions over migrants?

Push factors 2.0: climate change, water scarcity and population bulge

- Climate change is reshaping the map of liveable areas worldwide, with unclear consequences for Europe: [Carnegie Europe](#), [Clingendael](#), [Economist](#)
- Estimates of environmental displacement diverge, but are high: 25, 200 million or 1 billion. [EPS](#), [KAIROS](#), [The Diplomat](#), [Project Syndicate](#)
- Is a separate climate refugee status necessary?

Weak signals of violent migrant behaviour

- Nigerian migrant gangs exploit other migrants. Swedish cities hit by inner-city gangs of (recent) migrants. [Politico](#), [OSCE](#), [WODC](#), [Vice](#)
- IS still among migrants and may use ideologically proximate groups Sahel, foreign fighters in the Balkan. [Global Initiative](#), [Frontex](#), [Guardian](#), [Politico](#)
- How can Member States' policies become more adequate in preventing crime?

The other side of the security coin: resilience in Western Europe over migrant acceptance and integration is strong

- 61% of the population interacts with migrants and Europeans overwhelmingly see integration as a 'necessary investment in the long run'. [EUI](#), [Eurobarometer](#)
- Research highlights that perceptions about migrants in the Northern/Western Europe have improved rather than worsened with increasing contact. [EUI](#)
- Can Northern and Western European countries build on this social capital to improve integration practices?

Long-term trend: migratory pressures set to increase

Multi-factor assessment of 10 year trend

Trend table		 Migration	Trend Refugees	Trend Irregular migrants
Baseline	Refugee/migration flows to Europe		▲	▲
	Refugee/migration flows worldwide		▲	—
Factors contributing to migration	Economic opportunities in EU		—	—
	Conflicts and violence		▲	▲
	(Permissive) migration policies from EU		Not relevant	▼
	Level of corruption		▲	▲

▲ Up

— Stable

▼ Down

■ Increase pressure

■ Decrease pressure

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Novel and important signals to watch: the international order

Top recipient countries (Greece and Italy) side with traditional opponents of the European migration system

- Greece refused to take back 95% of refugees from Germany in contravention of the Dublin Regulation. [Politico](#), [Mixed Migration Hub Trend Bulletin](#)
- The new Italian government uses similar language as the *Visegrad* Group, supports detention and blocks update to 'Dublin'. [EU Observer](#), [2](#), [Politico](#)
- Does this 'coalition of convenience' signal a more intergovernmental migration policy?

EU externalization of borders increasingly circumvents normative obligations

- The externalization of borders allows a divided Europe to circumvent obligations to migrants it would have on European soil. [EU migration Law Blog](#), [ECFR](#)
- No safe, legal entry routes for migrants and asylum seekers into Europe have been created, leading to infringements of basic rights. [Migration Policy Institute](#)
- Will European policies post-Valetta structurally undermine the normative basis of the migration system?

US withdrawal from the global order on migration?

- US declined to pledge humanitarian aid funds during a recent pledging conference on Syria, endangering 'protection in the region'. [CIS](#)
- US withdrew from UN Global Compact on migration, while Trump picks to head WFP and IOM hold anti-immigrant views [Foreign Policy](#), [Devex](#), [The Guardian](#)
- Who will uphold the normative order and lead policy response if both Europe and the US change their position?

The other side of the security coin: the UN Global Compacts as a new basis of action?

- Global Compacts draft aimed at basic rights of migrants, strengthening the 1951 framework, and set new standards of actions [Chatham House](#), [Devex](#), [IRIN](#)
- Latin American, African and some Asian states push for reform, the EU is divided. [NewsDeeply](#), [Mediterranean Affairs](#)
- Will the Global Compacts serve as the new normative basis and guideline for action?

Long-term trend: International order under stress

Multiyear regime analysis of migration and refugee regime

Norms	Trend	Rules	Trend
Irregular migrants are to be protected in line with basic human rights, especially when their individual situation requires protection.	▼	UNHCR as main mandated coordination point for refugees and IOM for migrants (including irregular migrants).	—
Westphalian organization of refugee system: refugee outside one's own national borders.	—	Refugee and migration policy is less nationally organized and increasingly Europeanized.	▲
Non-refoulement: no state shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee (and irregular migrants) in any manner whatsoever to territories where life or freedom would be threatened.	—	Dublin regulation (ensuring asylum in one MS only, if possible in country of arrival)	▼
Detention of asylum-seekers should be a measure of last resort.	▼	Asylum status is decided upon on a case by case basis (and among others upon the EU list of safe third countries).	—
Refugee definition = person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country and cannot return (1951 refugee convention + 1967 Protocol).	▼	'Valleta-principles': prevent irregular migration, refugees status is sought within 'the region', solid and equal sharing system in Europe, less irregular migration, improve legal migration routes, stimulate integration and participation.	▲

▲ More compliance — Same/mild pressure ▼ Under pressure



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