

CONTAIN, DISTRIBUTE, OBSTRUCT (CONDISOBS) Governing the Mobility of Asylum Seekers in the EU



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ABOUT

CONDISOBS will provide a unique and comprehensive analysis of the three key measures that were undertaken after the so-called “refugee crisis” to govern asylum seekers’ mobility in the EU, which is to say hotspots, relocation schemes and border controls. With its findings, the study will contribute to current debates on the reform of the Common European Asylum System by providing policy recommendations based on solid empirical evidence, which will be communicated through a comprehensive dissemination plan targeting both academic and non-academic audiences.



RESEARCH PROJECT

What is commonly described as the “refugee crisis” of 2015 should rather be interpreted as the failure of the EU asylum regime to confine incoming migrants in the first country of entry, where an asylum application must be examined according to the Dublin regulation. To address this failure, the EU and its member states relied on three key measures:

- the “hotspot approach”,
- relocation schemes;
- the reintroduction of border controls in some border points within the Schengen area.

CONDISOBS intends to investigate whether these measures have been successful in achieving their expected results, namely the containment of incoming migrants in the first country of entry through hotspots and the reduction of “secondary movements” through the policy of relocation and the strengthening of border controls.

To what extent do hotspots, relocation, and border controls resolve, or rather perpetuate, the failure of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to govern asylum seekers’ mobility? What are the main effects produced by these measures? How do the mechanisms to control asylum seekers’ mobility put in place by the CEAS interact with the borderless space promoted by the Schengen system, in the light of the recent transformations under analysis? Which recommendations can be drawn by such an empirical study for the future of the CEAS and the Schengen area?

Through an extensive multi-sited study involving semi-structured interviews with a range of actors in Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Luxembourg, CONDISOBS will attempt to answer these questions in order to understand how the EU asylum regime has been reconfigured in the wake of the so-called “refugee crisis”. By doing so, CONDISOBS will not only contribute to scholarship on asylum, migration and borders in the European context, but it will also provide a significant political contribution on the reform of the CEAS and on the future of the Schengen agreement.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Peer-reviewed articles
- Academic presentations
- Three policy briefs:
 - one on hotspots
 - one on relocation schemes
 - one on “secondary movements”
- One comprehensive policy paper based on the findings of the research
- Short pieces in websites and blogs
- A blog providing information on the research and its results
- A public workshop on the future of the CEAS



INFO & CONTACTS

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Principal Investigator: Lorenzo Vianelli
University of Luxembourg
Department of Geography and Spatial Planning

lorenzo.vianelli@uni.lu
<https://uni-lu.academia.edu/LorenzoVianelli>



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SOCIAL SCIENCES

