

MAPS CONFERENCE hosted by University Goce Delchev – Shtip
23rd September 2021, Shtip

**OUTSOURCING AND COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES –
DECONSTRUCTING THE FORMAL AND THE INFORMAL IN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICIES**

The conference is convened by Ana Nikodinovska Krstevska and Olga Koshevaliska,
University Goce Delchev – Shtip, as part of the MAPS Jean Monnet Network.

PROGRAMME

9.00 – 9.30 Arrival and Welcome

MISKO DIZDROV, Vice-Rector for teaching and students, University Goce Delchev – Shtip
H.E. ANDREA SILVESTRI, Ambassador of the Italian Republic in North Macedonia
MONICA SANDRI, UNCHR Representative in North Macedonia

Chair: **ANA NIKODINOVSKA KRSTEVSKA**, University Goce Delchev – Shtip

9.30 -10.45 Panel 1: Externalization of EU Asylum and Migration Policy: Questioning the Legal

Video presentation: [All in North Macedonia, Macedonia-timeless.com](http://Macedonia-timeless.com)

This panel will discuss externalization of EU asylum and migration policies and their impact upon human rights, but it will also debate some critical aspects on migrations at sea. It will question EU's policy approaches as regards to cooperation with third countries, identifying human rights obligations owed to third-country nationals, assessing policy instruments, and determining the adequacy of accountability mechanisms available in case of potential violations. It will examine the concept of 'externalization' and the transfer of legal responsibility for examining asylum claims to third states through bilateral instruments. Moreover, it will explore core issues such as criminal jurisdiction, the principle of 'non-refoulement' and obligation to assistance and the prohibition of illegal access to the territory, through the prism of Italian and EU policy.

Chair: **MARIA GAVOUNELI**, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (MAPS Network)

- 1) **VIOLETA MORENO – LAX**, Queen Mary University London (MAPS Network): *The Hard Implications of Soft Law: Undermining EU Constitutional Principles through the Informalisation of External Migration Cooperation*
- 2) **LILIANA HAQUIN SAENZ, ESTER DEL NONNO and MEHTAP KAYGUSUZ AKBAY**, University Jean Moulin Lyon III (MAPS Network): *The Externalization of the Asylum: A Process to Limit Asylum?*
- 3) **GEMMA ANDREONE**, National Research Council, ISGI – Rome: *Critical aspects on migration at sea: questioning national and European policies?*

10.45 -11.00 Coffee Break

Video presentation during break: A walk through the eternal city - Skopje, Macedonia-Timeless.com

11.00 - 12.30 Panel 2: Migration and asylum in Western Balkan countries: Shaping public perceptions and exploring the ‘security – rule of law’ dichotomy

Since the Refugee crisis in 2015, migration and asylum have remodeled the agenda of Western Balkan countries, impacting deeply upon the individual and the society, but also upon state security and the rule of law. In that regard the panel will discuss different perceptions of migrants and asylum seekers in the Balkans, and it will look at episodes of hate crime on grounds of refugee or migrants’ status on the Balkan route, pointing out the existing standards for prevention and protection and key challenges. Moreover, the panel will discuss EU’s collaboration and solidarity towards North Macedonia in the field of asylum and migration, raising questions about effective solidarity towards third countries, as well as it will examine the process of screening procedures on borders in North Macedonia, tracing possible shortcomings and good practices in reference to protection of human rights.

Chair: **GABRIELA OANTA**, University of ‘A Coruña’ (MAPS Network)

Exhibition of art posters on Asylum and Migration from students of the Academy of Fine Arts, University Goce Delchev – Shtip under mentorship of **JANA JAKIMOVSKA**

- 1) **MAJA SAVIC BOJANIČ**, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (MAPS Network): *Solidarity or Crisis? How Personal Migration Experiences Shape Popular Perception on Forced Migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina?*
- 2) **ZHANETA POPOSKA**, University Goce Delchev – Shtip: *Hate Crime Against Migrants along the Balkan Route*
- 3) **ANA NIKODINOVSKA KRSTEVSKA, OLGA KOSHEVALISKA and ELENA MAKSIMOVA**, University Goce Delchev – Shtip (MAPS Network): *EU Solidarity and Cooperation in Asylum and Migration with North Macedonia*
- 4) **ALEKSANDAR DIMOVSKI**, FRONTEX Human Rights Trainer and **MILICA SHUTOVA**, University Goce Delchev – Shtip (MAPS Network): *Border Cooperation and Human Rights Issues: the Just and the Unjustifiable*

12.30-13.30 Lunch break

Video presentation during break: A walk through the city of light - Ohrid, Macedonia-Timeless.com

13.30-14.45 Panel 3: Migration and Asylum in North Macedonia: Balancing Rights, Freedoms, Obligations and Security

This panel represented by experts from the main stakeholders in North Macedonia in migration and asylum, will discuss policies, perceptions, challenges and shortcomings in migration and asylum in the country, as well as cooperation with the European Union and third countries and organizations. It will be referred to the UNCHR work worldwide and in North Macedonia concerning international protection of refugees and fundamental principles. Attention will be given to the Macedonian asylum and refugee protection system outlining current challenges, shortcomings, and perspectives. Furthermore, the challenges and the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemics will be discussed, both in relation to protection and adaptability of actions conducted by IOM – Skopje to protect and assist migrants and assist people on the move while not being present in the camp, as well as, in general, in relation to protection of human rights of migrants and refugees in North Macedonia and the Balkan Route and the challenges that it brings to stakeholders.

Chair: **GIUSEPPE CATALDI**, University of Naples 'Orientale' (leader of the MAPS project)

Media presentation of the situation in Afghanistan, **IVANA MITEVA** – Student in Journalism and Media studies at University Goce Delchev - Shtip

- 1) **CRISTINA BUNEA**, UNHCR in the Republic of North Macedonia: *Fundamentals of Refugee Protection and UNHCR*
1. **IRENA ZDRAVKOVA**, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association: *Asylum and refugee protection in North Macedonia: Experiences and Challenges*
- 2) **VANJA LAZARIDIS**, IOM – Skopje: *Addressing COVID-19 challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans*
- 3) **MERSIHA SMAILOVIKJ**, NGO Legis: *The Challenges of the Balkan route during the COVID-19 pandemic*