The loss of over a thousand human lives in the effort to cross the Mediterranean during April 2015 has once again drawn media and political attention to the challenges that the EU is facing in its efforts to govern irregular migration and asylum in the region. However, what seems to be still wanting is our (experts’ and policy makers’) understanding of what drives people to put their lives at risk in search of a better future. What are the motivations that are so strong or what is the information they have? How do they organise their journey and how do they respond to changing policy practices (e.g. more intensive enforcement at the border, or a more expansive rescue operation at sea)? How much do they know and how accurate is their information? How much are they in control of their own destinies and how much do they accept contingency and risk?

Irregular migration governance takes place in a “moving sand” environment. Geopolitical and economic challenges in Asia and Africa are multiplying and population flows are inextricably mixed with both irregular economic migrants, people fleeing war and violence, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable persons. New actors are emerging: international organisations, transnational civil society and private actor networks, smuggling and other criminal organisations, along with state authorities. Policy makers and experts strive to integrate into their analysis and implementation this dynamic context, often neglecting however the crucial nodal point of irregular migration management, notably the migrant her/himself and her/his motivations, plans and actions.

The IRMA project (Governing Irregular Migration: States, Actors and Intermediaries) seeks to fill this knowledge gap through an in-depth analysis of the interaction between states, other actors and irregular migrants during the “journey” of this last from departure, to arrival, settlement, further migration or return (whether forced or voluntary). The project concentrates on the case of Greece, as a forefront country under irregular migration pressures for the past 25 years and includes three irregular migration systems (EU-Balkans, case study on Albania; EU-Eastern Europe, case studies on Georgia and Ukraine; and EU-Asia, case studies on Afghanistan and Pakistan).

This conference marks the completion of the IRMA project and aims to present its findings on Greece as well as place the Greek case study in its international governance and policy context.
**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 8 July**

08.30 – 09.00  Registration

09.00 – 09.30  Welcome and Opening Remarks  
**Thanos Dokos**  |  ELIAMEP, Athens  
**Anna Triandafyllidou**  |  EUI and ELIAMEP

9.30 - 11.30  **Panel I: Managing Irregular Migration in the 21st Century**  
The interface between irregular migration policy and migrants' strategies  
**Anna Triandafyllidou**  |  EUI and ELIAMEP  
Evaluating migration policy effectiveness  
**Mathias Czaika**  |  IMI, Oxford University  
Migrants' decision-making in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan  
**Dinuk Jayasuriya**  |  Australian National University, Canberra

11.30 - 12.00  **COFFEE BREAK**

12.00 – 13.30  **Panel II: Migration systems in a Comparative Perspective: Southeastern and Eastern European Dynamics**

A. Western Balkans and the European Union

Chair:  
**Juli Vullnetari**  |  University of Southampton

Albanian Migration to Greece: a process left unfinished  
**Eda Gemi**  |  ELIAMEP, Athens

Bosnian migration to Austria: between labour migration and transnational mobility  
**Sanda Uellen**  |  University of Vienna and ICMPD

13.30 – 14.30  **LUNCH BREAK**

14.30 – 17.30  B. Eastern Europe and the European Union

Chair:  
**Iordanis Psimmenos**  |  Panteion University, Athens

Chain migration and social capital in Georgian migration to Greece  
**Michaela Marousof**  |  ELIAMEP, Athens

Georgian Migration in Europe  
**Irina Badurashvilli**  |  Georgian Centre of Population Research

The Dynamics of Ukrainians migration in Greece: routes, decisions and practices  
**Marina Nikolova**  |  ELIAMEP, Athens

Ukrainian migration to the EU: Policy, practices and prospective  
**Yana Leontieva**  |  Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague

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1 Coffee will be available during the whole session.
Thursday 9 July

09.30 - 11.30  **Panel III: Governing Irregular Migration in a Globalised World**

Chair: Nadina Christopoulou | Greek Council for Refugees, Athens

Smart Borders and Civil Liberties in the EU
Julien Jeandesboz | University of Amsterdam

Disciplining the Transnational Mobility of People: Lessons from the Pacific region
Marie McAuliffe | Australian National University, Canberra

11.30 - 12.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

12.00 – 14.30  **Panel IV: Migration systems in a Comparative Perspective: Southeast Asia and the European Union**

Chair: Apostolos Papadopoulos | Harokopeio University, Athens

Pakistani irregular migration to Greece: Between Scylla and Charybdis
Michaela Maroufof | ELIAMEP, Athens

Migration from Pakistan to Europe
Maegan Hendow | ICMPD, Vienna

Europe is elsewhere: Afghan irregular migrants in Greece
Angeliki Dimitriadi | ELIAMEP, Athens

Experiences and conditions of irregular Afghan migrants in the Netherlands
Katie Kuschminder | Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

14.30 End of conference

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**SPEAKERS**

- Badurashvilli Irina
  - Director, Georgian Centre of Population Research, Tbilisi
- Christopoulou Nadina
  - General Secretary, Greek Council for Refugees, Athens
- Czaika Mathias
  - Senior Research Officer, International Migration Institute, Oxford University
- Dimitriadi Angeliki
  - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens
- Dokos Thanos
  - Director-General, ELIAMEP, Athens
- Gemi Eda
  - Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens
- Hendow Maegan
  - Research Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna (ICMPD)
- Jayasuriya Dinuk
  - Adjunct Fellow, Australian National University, Canberra
- Jeandesboz Julien
  - Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam
- Kuschminder Katie
  - Post-Doctoral Researcher and Migration Studies Project Manager, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance
- Leontieva Yana
  - Research Fellow, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague
- Maroufof Michaela
  - Junior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens
- McAuliffe Marie
  - Sir Roland Wilson Scholar, Australian National University, Canberra
- Nikolova Marina
  - Junior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens
- Papadopoulos Apostolos
  - Professor in Rural Sociology and Geography, Harokopeio University
- Psimmenos Ioannis
  - Associate Professor, Panteion University, Athens
- Triandafyllidou Anna
  - Professor, EUI & ELIAMEP
- Uellen Sandra
  - University of Vienna and ICMPD
- Vullnetari Juli
  - Lecturer, University of Southampton