Η Διακυβέρνηση της Μη-Νόμιμης Μετανάστευσης: Κράτη, Δρώντες & Μεσάζοντες

Actors and Factors in the Governance of Irregular Migration

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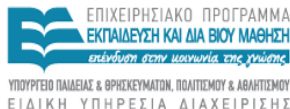
European University Institute and ELIAMEP

Irregular migration: a puzzle that defies policy

- Faster transport, constantly connected

- Are they so poor in their own countries? Inequality, relative deprivation, hope

- How is it that policies cannot control migration?

  - Strong motivations

  - Intermediate actors

  - Agency

Turning the concept upside down: Beyond irregularity

– Mixed motivations rather than mixed flows.

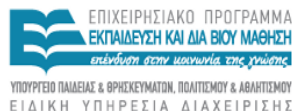The state's viewpoint vs **the migrant's perspective**

– A closer look on:

- Intermediate Actors – employers, smugglers, NGOs, travel/employment agents, social workers, ethnic networks
- The power of information

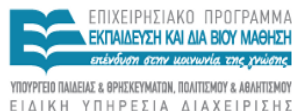# The case of Greece: Irregular migration and asylum seeking pathways – 5 countries of origin

Albania

Ukraine, Georgia

Pakistan, Afghanistan

Methodology: Desk research, Interviews with stakeholders, migrants in GR and in transit or at origin

Before the journey:

- Economic motivations pervasive

- Insecurity as a catalyst

- More or less realistic hopes – diffuse or specific knowledge

- Finding contacts is easy / networks though differ

Turning Plans to Action

- Aspiration and capability (mobilise resources)

- Dealing with risk and uncertainty

- Policies as hurdles to overcome

- The "law in the mind"

- Mobilising capital: at home, abroad, on the road

Now that I am here… information is crucial

- The impact of internal fencing: controls in public places and dealing with everyday ris

- Return and/or detention (Afgh, Pak)

- Is legal status within reach? Assessing one's chances and making choices (Ukr, Geo)

- Navigating policies to secure a job (Alb)

Returning on Moving on: Caught in a Trap?

- Undocumented status: **Life… interrupted**

  - The experience of Afghans and Pakistanis

  - The experience of Ukrainians and Georgians

Defying the policy, still planning to move on: A matter of resources – is irregular migration a class matter?

Concluding Remarks: Focus on the migrant not the policy (codification system)

- Information is crucial but needs to be tailored to the needs of the target population and reach them through credible channels.

- General control or management policies are not effective. They increase costs, risks and divert flows rather than achieve sustainable results.