



Migrant reception and accommodation in the context of criminalization of assistance

Venue: NIA Athens

24 January 2020, 10:00-17:00

This workshop tackles different aspects of migrant reception and accommodation in Greece. Since the long summer of 2015, migration has been at the heart of the political agenda and the public discussion in Greece as well as in the EU. Solidarity groups, local and international organizations continue supporting local facilities on Greek islands and cities, as well as search and rescue operations against the background of increasing tensions and frictions among the receiving communities and criminalization of assistance to the extent of violating the EU and international human rights norms.

As a dialogue meeting, this event aims to bring together international and local civil society organizations, practitioners, and researchers who are working on issues related to migrant reception and accommodation in Greece. It is based on the work of the Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum ([ReSOMA](#)) that aims to provide ready-to-use evidence on policy, policy perceptions and policy options on migration, asylum, and integration at the EU level.

The event is hosted by the Netherlands Institute at Athens in the context of NIA-IMES-VU Winter School titled “Migration in the Margins of Europe”. It is designed as a series of interactive panels that will be attended by Winter School participants as well as invited stakeholders. Speakers from migrant organizations, advocacy groups, researchers and think tanks will share their first-hand experiences and evidence that concerns migrant reception and in particular the challenges that NGOs face in migrant reception, direct and indirect criminalization of assistance, strategic litigation against criminalization cases in Greece and across the EU.



Program:

09:30 – 10:15 registration
10:15- 10:30 Welcome and Introduction of ReSOMA <i>Zeynep Kaşlı (Erasmus University Rotterdam)</i>
10.30 – 12.00 Panel I: NGOs role in local reception <i>Moderator: Katerina Rozakou (Panteion University)</i> The impact of EU policies on criminalisation of solidarity Marta Gionco (PICUM) Update and the prospects on detention and reception in Greece Spyros Apergis (Amnesty International, National Commission for Human Rights) The role of NGOs in reception and on relevant case law at domestic courts and ECtHR Vassilis Kerasiotis (HIAS)
12:00 – 12:30 coffee break
12:30- 14:00 Panel II: Criminalisation of Assistance and Strategic Litigation in the Mediterranean <i>Moderator: Spyridon Koulocheris (GCR)</i> Strategic Litigation: framing claims to stop policing of humanitarianism Lina Vosyliute (CEPS) Carmine Conte (MPG) Criminalization of assistance in Greece Basil Roth (Lighthouse Relief) Litigation against the results policies of criminalization of assistance (death at sea) By Omer Shatz
14:00- 15:00 Lunch break



15:00- 16:30 Panel III: Frontex Strategic Litigation workshop

Moderators: Mariana Gkliati (Leiden University, Free University Amsterdam) and Jele Klaas (Public Interest Litigation Initiative)

Possible strategic litigation concerning the involving of Frontex

Discussion on legal routes and courts, and how to build coalitions