

# Migrant Trafficking Networks. Where Is the Human Ethics?

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## Abstract

*The purpose of this paper is to present the result of the research aiming to answer the difficult and controverse question: Migrant Trafficking Networks. Where is the Human Ethics? Presenting the data, the International and European legal environment, as well as pointing out the action of the International Migration Organization. Although all efforts to give the protection needed to the migrants, prevent the worst violence and crimes committed against and millions of human beings. While legal and political governance instruments, the context is serious involving millions of persons, being a global reality requiring a serious and effective (re)action by all direct or indirect enrolled in this worldwide reality. The challenge is in the top of priorities to the International Community, to the States and their Governments. Are the International and European Laws being applied? The International Community is being able to give the need answer to this complex and critical reality? There is Human Ethics in the migration governance? Which is the result of the migrant trafficking networks fighting? These are some questions that were the support of our research that we try to analyze and summarize in this paper.*

**Keywords:** migration, trafficking, ethics, international law, governance.

**JEL Classification:** K33, K37, K38, K40

**DOI:** 10.62768/PLPA/2025/14/3/11

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| <b>Please cite this article as:</b><br>Campina, Ana & Carlos Rodrigues „Migrant Trafficking Networks. Where Is the Human Ethics?”, <i>Perspectives of Law and Public Administration</i> 14, no. 3 (October 2025): 589-606. | <b>Article History</b><br>Received: 20 May 2025<br>Revised: 18 July 2025<br>Accepted: 27 August 2025 |
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## 1. International Migrations Nowadays

According to Li, X., *et al.*<sup>3</sup> the “Human migration is responsible for forming modern civilization and has had an important influence on the development of various countries. There are many issues worth researching, and “the reason to move” is the most basic one.” Nowadays migration is one of the most subjects studied and debated, mainly due the worldwide context involving millions of human beings and influencing, in all dimensions, in all states in the world. World Migrations Flows are a reality needing all political / governmental, economic, social attention, and especially the

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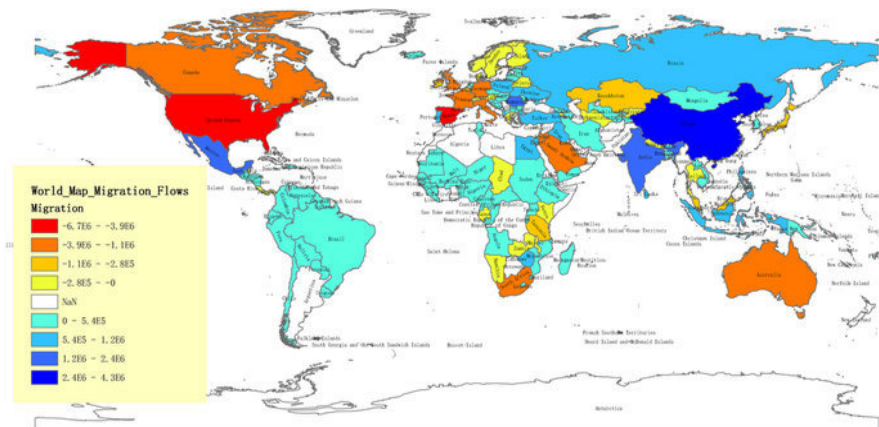
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<sup>3</sup> Xiaomeng Li, Hongzhong Xu, Jiawei Chen, Qinghua Chen, Jiang Zhang & Zengru Di. 2016. „Characterizing the International Migration Barriers with a Probabilistic Multilateral Migration Model”. *Scientific Reports*. 6. Article number: 32522. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep32522>.

authorities focus aiming to put the international law in practice to protect millions of human beings who are being explored and the main “instrument” of the International Organized Crime. However, there is a dangerous misunderstanding and misinformation of this phenomenon, needing a permanent action for social education and supervision activities avoiding (re)actions out of the law, by the nonsense or undesired and unsubstantiated reasons.

## WORLD MAP – MIGRATION FLOWS



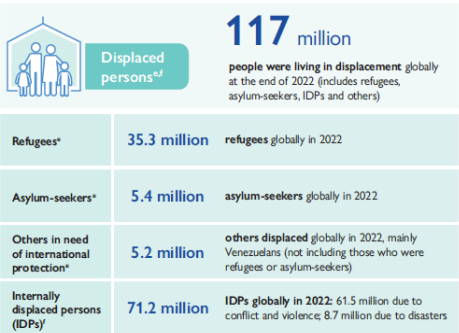
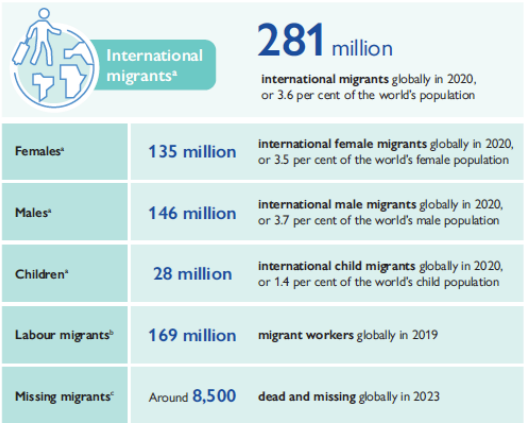
Source : Li, X., Xu, H., et al.<sup>4</sup> (2016).

Understanding the migrations implies to identify the different legal status within the migrations – *migrants*, *international migrants* and *refugees*. Within international law and according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM): “a *migrant* is a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. [...] The person’s legal status is defined if: the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the cause for the movement are; or what the length of the stay. [...] A *refugee* is a person who is outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and requires international protection.”

The official characterization of the named global crises of migrations is based on the conflicts, wars and civil wars, armed violence, environment disasters, epidemics and pandemics, as well as other crisis, that forced more than 82 million people to leave their homes, their communities, their states, due their economic downturns, political instability and the most different criminals compel large population movements under criminal actions, objectives and missions.

<sup>4</sup> Xiaomeng Li, Hongzhong Xu, Jiawei Chen, Qinghua Chen, Jiang Zhang & Zengru Di, *op. cit.* (2016).

**Key migration data  
at a glance**  
(latest available)

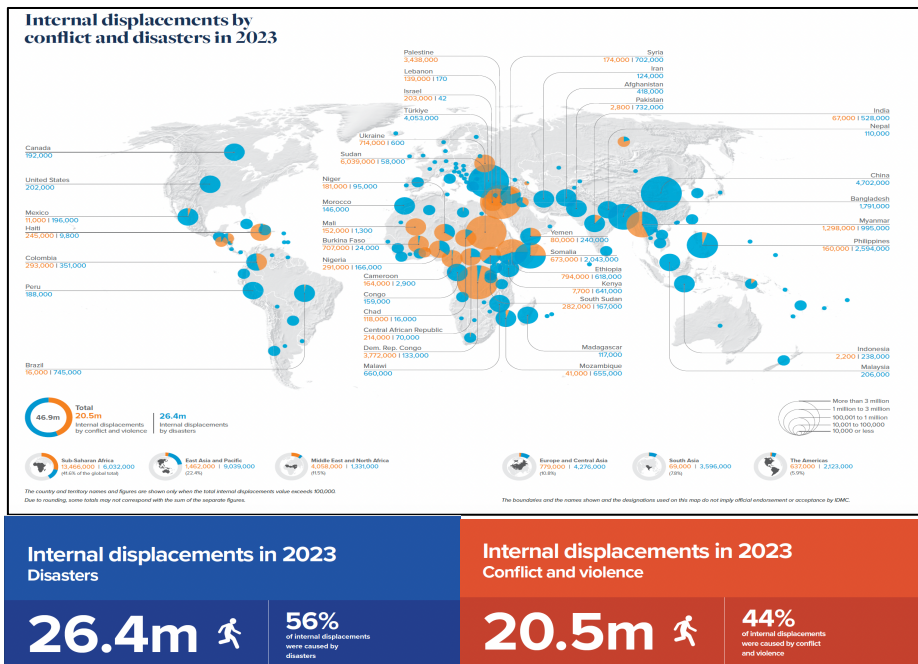


Source: McAuliffe, M. and L.A. Oucho (eds.)<sup>5</sup>, 2024.

This last available worldwide data presents the dimension and relevance of the characterization that cannot be ignored, representing the huge number of human beings needing protection, close work by governments, international organizations and communities. Within this context, it's important to analyze the *Internal Displacements*

<sup>5</sup> McAuliffe, M. and L.A. Oucho (eds.), 2024. *World Migration Report 2024*. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva. pp. 4-5, <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024>.

that can be defined as the “forced movement of people within the country they live in” - by conflict and/or disasters in 2023.



Each year millions of people are forced to escape from their homes, including in the context of conflict, violence, development projects, disasters and climate change, and remain displaced within their countries of residence. According to this data, there were 75.9 million internal displaced people worldwide in 2023 what represents a crisis which provoke millions of human beings unprotected by their own state, who is frequently “invisible” persons, to whom there is no strategy or action to help or protect them neither by their own state or by other states or international community. Meaning the *migration* and the *internal displacement* involving millions of human beings represent an enormous problem concerning the Human Rights absent protection or violation.

## 2. International Law for Migration

According to Chetail<sup>7</sup> “the role of international law in the field of migration is complex and frequently misunderstood. This complexity is inherent in the dual nature of migration as a question of both domestic and international concern. On the one hand,

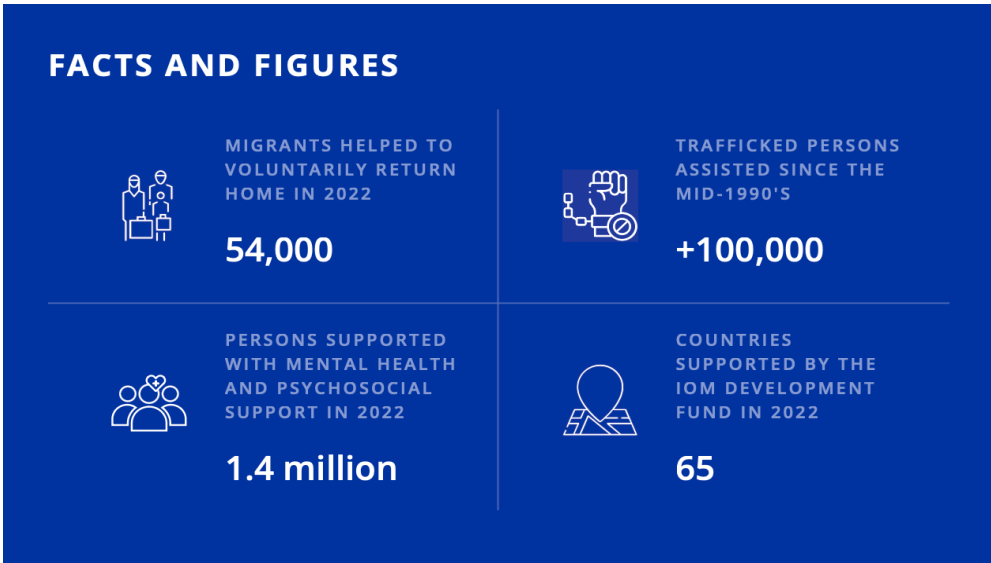
<sup>6</sup> IDMC – Internal Displacement monitoring centre, (2024). Global Report on Internal Displacement. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/>.

<sup>7</sup> Vincent Chetail. 2019. *International Migration Law*, Oxford University Press, p. 70 et seq.

any discussion about migration inexorably starts by acknowledging the centrality of territorial sovereignty and the correlative right of states to control and regulate the movement of persons across their borders.” Meaning that the legal context is complex but real, however there is a complexity regarding the international, regional and each state legal order interconnexion, (re)action and positions/behaviors. It’s vital to be aware of the large number of ratified human rights instruments according to the United Nations Treaty Collection, as well as, by the different International Organizations, as African Union, Council of Europe, ASEAN or European Union. This last International Organization, European Union, is facing emergency of migration, due the higher level of migrants in the different legal status who are out of legal and authorities’ control, so without the needed protection from European Union and from the State Members.

### 3. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization is integrated in the United Nations System “as the leading intergovernmental organization since 1951 humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all with 175 member states and presence in 171 countries”. According to this data published by IOM is undoubtable the urgency global action by all “actors” in international community to implement the “safe, orderly, and regular migration while supporting the world’s most vulnerable” by the dialogue between IOM Member States, United Nations Agencies, other International Organizations and including the migrants themselves.<sup>8</sup>



Source: IOM (2024) <https://www.iom.int/>

<sup>8</sup> International Organisation for Migration (IOM), <https://www.iom.int/>.

As these IOM Facts and Figures data, more than the numbers the relevance is what it represents, as the humanitarian crisis the world faces, and the emergency of the IOM action accomplish its Constitution<sup>9</sup> providing a “framework for the purposes, functions, legal status, finance, membership and other issues necessary for the functioning of the Organization.” As Reichel<sup>10</sup> reflects, “operations in the context of crises have always been part of IOM’s activities, especially when large numbers of refugees were involved. In fact, the organization portrays its own history as one tracking man-made and natural disasters in which it provided help to migrants.”

However, for a long period “the organization’s activities were restricted to migration management, that is, the logistical support for migration at the request of member states.” It’s possible to state that there is an effective effort of IOM to attend this humanitarian action, more than involve the Member States, other States and other International Organizations within the management of migration but assuming a certain responsibility in migration governance attending the millions of human beings needing protection and act against international organized crime, although all difficulty involving this parallel reality that affects not only the migration but the states and all humanity in a crisis which impact cross all dimensions of the international community. “In sum, our theoretical conjecture thus holds that IOM’s task expansion will be marked by both push factors on the part of the organization and pull factors on the part of powerful member states.”<sup>11</sup>

#### **4. European Union (EU) and Migration(s)**

According to Arne Nleemann and Natasha Zaun<sup>12</sup> “since the beginning of its cooperation on external migration policy, the EU has developed a host of bilateral cooperation frameworks (such as readmission agreements, the Mobility Partnerships, the Common Agendas for Migration and Mobility, the EU-Turkey deal, etc.), regional cooperation frameworks (such as the Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process), and an intercontinental framework (the Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment).” The migration in, to and from Europe is contemporary to the beginning

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<sup>9</sup> IOM Constitution of 19 October 1953 of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (former designation of the Organization), which entered into force on 30 November 1954, the amendments adopted on 20 May 1987 by the 55th Session of the Council (Resolution no. 724), which entered into force on 14 November 1989, the amendments adopted on 24 November 1998 by the 76th Session of the Council (Resolution No. 997), which entered into force on 21 November 2013 and the amendments adopted on 28 October 2020 by the Fourth Special Session of the Council (Resolution No.1385), which entered into force on 28 October 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Reichel, E. 2019. *Navigating between Refugee Protection and State Sovereignty’ in Dingwerth and other. International Organizations Under Pressure: Legitimizing Global Governance in Challenging Times*, Oxford, p. 85.

<sup>11</sup> Christian Kreuder-Sonnen, Bernhard Zangl. 2025. „The politics of IO authority transfers: explaining informal internationalisation and unilateral renationalisation”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, Volume 32, Issue 4: 954–979. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2024.2325008>.

<sup>12</sup> Arne Nleemann and Natasha Zaun, 2023. „Introduction: EU external migration policy and EU migration governance: introduction”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 49(12), 2965–2985. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2023.2193710>.

of the times, but “the twenty-first century is the century of the migrant, being global mobility a highly stratified phenomenon, from the global tourist to the undocumented employee, and from human trafficking to refugees forced to leave their country of origin because of climate changes, poverty or wars”<sup>13</sup>. Based on the research of Estevens<sup>14</sup> “recent migration crisis has been difficult to tackle, and its future seems to depend on two critical uncertainties: the evolution of political and social instability (...) and the future of the EU. In a time of globalization, a blurring in the notions of border and a push towards a transformation in the concepts of citizenship and sovereignty could be expected. (...) However, globalization of migration led to increasing irregular migration flows and has resulted in the reinforcement of border control, has awoken growing nationalist narratives, and strengthened the separation between the national and the other. These tensions between global and national levels show that globalization is still an ongoing process with many resistance forces.”

The panorama of EU is the following:



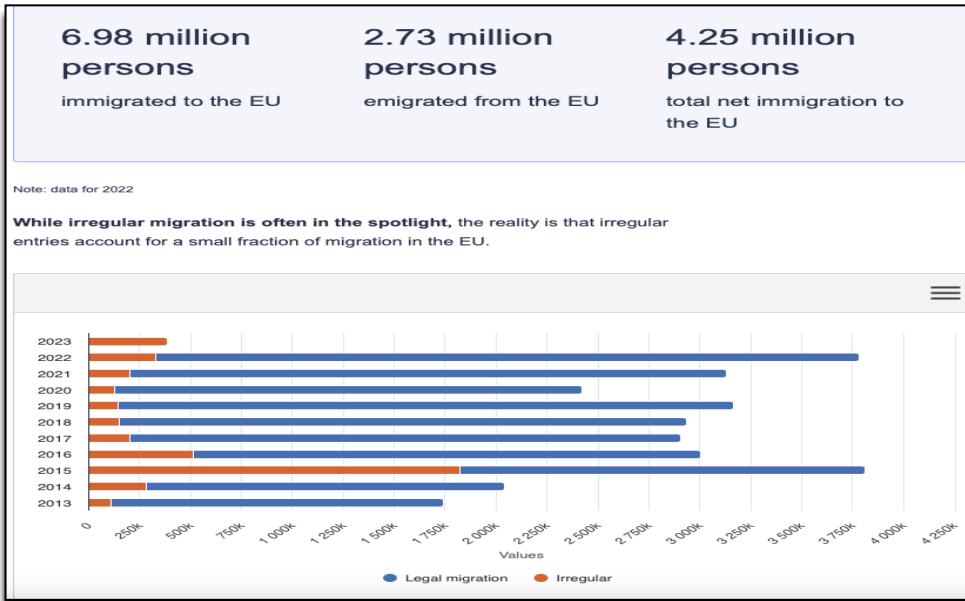
Source: Eurostat Database on Migration and Asylum 2024

Along 2023 the refugees in EU countries issued 673,000 first instance asylum decisions, 53% of these decisions were positive 152,000 persons received refugee status; 129,700 were granted subsidiary protection status; 75,400 received humanitarian status. It's important to identify that about 43,700 final decisions were issued following an appeal, including: 5,800 decisions granting refugee status; 1,700 granting subsidiary protection status; 10,400 granting humanitarian status. So, in global analysis, EU

<sup>13</sup> Stephen Castles & Mark J. Miller. 2009. *The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 85.

<sup>14</sup> João Estevens. 2018. „Migration crisis in the EU: developing a framework for analysis of national security and defence strategies”. *Comparative migration studies*, 6(1), article 28. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-018-0093-3>.

Member States granted protection to at least 375,100 people in 2023. However, it's relevant assume these are the official data but the non-official is other serious problem, generating a scenery of millions of illegal migrants which governance / managing by the political powers, authorities (EU and EU member states) in connection to the international community needs (re)action(s) to protect these human beings. "For the benefit of immigrants and hosting communities, prevention of marginalisation, discrimination, urban segregation and social disruption are essential to ensure social stability"<sup>15</sup>.

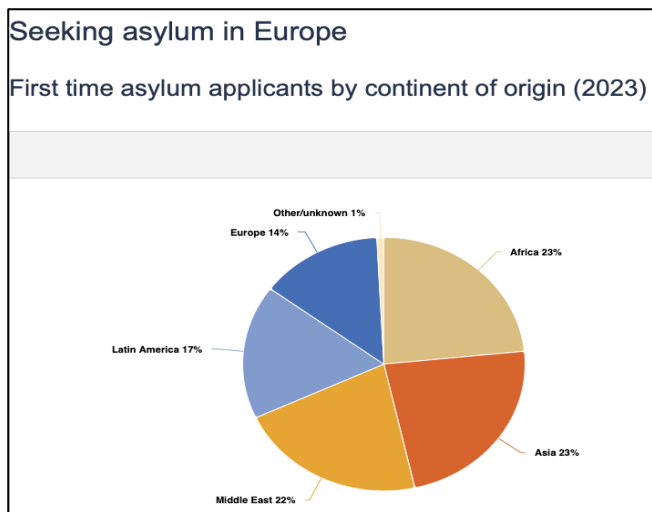


Source: [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-of-life/statistics-migration-europe\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-of-life/statistics-migration-europe_en)

The European Commission at the end of 2023 proposed a new legislation to prevent and combat the migrant smuggling, serious problem with the worst consequences. The aim was requesting a strengthening of all tools at the EU's disposal to effectively combat migrant smuggling. These tools mainly concern an update of the 20-year-old legislative framework (the 2002 facilitation package), strengthening the role of EU agencies (Europol particularly), and intensifying cooperation with partner countries to tackle the issue globally. So, it was identified three actions need: 1) a Directive on preventing and countering the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and stay in the EU. This Directive aimed to strengthen the EU legislative framework on migrant smuggling aims combat criminal networks; harmonize penalties; extend jurisdiction; reinforce resourcing; improve data collection; 2) a Regulation to reinforce Europol's role in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings;

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 2023.

3) a call to action for a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling.<sup>16</sup>



Source: Eurostat Database on Migration and Asylum 2024

The EU institutions and EU member states are “intensifying efforts to establish an **effective, humanitarian and safe European migration policy**”, as well as the EU “adopts legislation and defines specific programs. Over the past few years, the Council and European Council have built up a strong response to migratory pressure. (...) By April 2024, 53 270 irregular arrivals were registered. The breakdown per migratory route is as follows: Central route: 16 068 arrivals; Eastern route: 17 315 arrivals; Western routes: 19 887 arrivals. (...) “The action plan is scheduled for implementation from 2021 to 2025. This timeframe allows planning and allocation of ordinary budgetary resources, corresponds to our partners’ planning instruments in the humanitarian and development field and facilitates proper co-ordination and complementarity with the planned actions. The structure of the action plan reflects a total of four pillars: human rights, democracy, the rule of law, transversal pillar focuses on co-operation.”<sup>17</sup>

There is a wide and controverse debate within the EU member states, institutions and citizens, mainly as a reaction to the multifaceted situation of EU migration, approved the *Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management*<sup>18</sup>. As a Regulation – that must be complied with fully by member states – is being discussed and strategically defined by the Governments to be accomplished immediately, but it is

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\\_STU\(2025\)765777](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_STU(2025)765777), accessed on 10 June 2025.

<sup>17</sup> European Union (2024). Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management. (Official Journal of the European Union, L series, 2024/1351, 22.05.2024).

<sup>18</sup> Official Journal of the European Union, L series, 2024/1351, 22.05.2024

enrolled in a challenging discussion. In fact, “...the internal and external dimensions of migration are inextricably linked: working closely with partners has a direct impact on the effectiveness of policies inside the EU”<sup>19</sup>. In near future the EU member states are doing the needed legal adjustments concerning the migration management, but the effective results can be evaluated only in months. Finally, by the perspective of political and legal position and behavior, “the increase in immigration flows should reinforce integration policies and narratives to avoid the rise of right-wing populism in response to unbalanced immigration within extreme right-wing and Eurosceptic parties that find in the post economic crisis context new discontent electorate willing to support a conservative approach to migration issues”<sup>20</sup>.

## 5. Worldwide Migrants Without Rights?

The globalization and, in the same sense, the recent world economic crisis have generated a new scenery within the migration from the poorest states to richer states in a non-stoppable and, at the same time, a serious reality. Since the 70's (XX) the state receptors started to impose different obstacles to the regular migration that generates a “services market” within the migration where appear different intermediates who facilitate those goods and services that migrants cannot achieve to the legal channels. So, with this context, it's undoubtable that facing the abuse by third parties, being possible to convert in serious victims of the most severe criminal behaviors<sup>21</sup>.

Considering the “risks of historical romanticization, depoliticization and deflection of personal guilt and responsibility” it's important to be aware “how memories of war and rescue can nourish political critique and subversive humanitarianism engage in symbolic battles over the present-day treatment of migrants. This reinforces the view of citizen humanitarians as political actors and agents of history intervening in the present and future.”<sup>22</sup> Meanwhile, although being, or not, within international law for migration, it's always different the reaction of each States to the movement of populations from other countries/societies looking for other societies and better conditions of life or to escape to the hardest context in their own states. The “(de)limiting their access to rights, as well as the (in)possibility of exercising their rights, attributing them a status of limited citizenship or even that of “non citizenship”. As a global problem, the question arose of immigrant access to law and justice”.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Chris Jones, Romain Lanneau, Yasha Maccanico. 2022. *Access denied: secrecy and the externalization of EU migration control*. E-Paper. Heinrich Böll Stiftung European Union, *Democracy, Statewatch*, p. 13, <https://www.statewatch.org/media/3781/secrecy-and-externalisation-of-migration-control.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Ulrike M. Vieten, Scott Poynting. 2016. „Contemporary far-right racist populism in Europe”. *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 37(6): 533–540. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07256868.2016.1235099>

<sup>21</sup> Laura Zúñiga Rodríguez (Dir.), Julio Ballesteros Sánchez (Coord.). 2017. “*Criminalidad Organizada Transnacional: una amenaza a la seguridad de los estados democráticos*”. USAL. Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, p. 80 et seq.

<sup>22</sup> Thea Rabe, Heidi Mogstad. 2024. „On the Right Side of History: How Memories of World War Two Nourish Subversive Humanitarianism”. *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, Vol. 14, Issue 3, Article 7, DOI: 10.33134/njmr.813.

<sup>23</sup> Corrado, Leda Rita Corrado (dir.). 2015. *Le uguaglianze: diritti, risorse, sfide per il futuro: Giovani*

However, the migrants should regularize their legal situation to access to the social, economic, civil and political rights, but this is not “so easy” neither a reality to millions of migrants. This is the problem and the (re)solution is one of the most urgent but hardest challenges to the states and international community. Consequently, there is no / deficient protection or there is violation of Human and Fundamental Rights with the most serious consequences.

## 6. UN 2030 Agenda and Migration

The global phenomenon of migration impacts of most global people through family ties, economic exchanges and cultural connections, being estimated that 258 million people are international migrants, meaning about 3 percent of the world’s population.<sup>24</sup> Regarding the sustainable development, migrants and their communities is a fundamental “performer” in countries of origin, transit and destination, producing more than 9% of Global GDP<sup>25</sup>. Migrants often bring significant benefits to their new communities in the form of skills, strengthening the labour force, investment and cultural diversity, contributing to positive development outcomes. However, if migration is poorly managed, it can also negatively impact development; migrants can be put at risk, communities can come under strain and development gains can suffer. As much as migration has an impact on development, migration is also affected by development. The development contexts in which people live, where they move to, and the places they go through to get there play a role in shaping people’s resources, aspirations, motivations and opportunities to migrate. Conflict, climate change, labour markets and other development-related factors can all impact the drivers and nature of migration.

The United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* provides an overarching framework to address this complex and dynamic relationship between migration and development and to better understand how migration and migrants can shape development outcomes and vice versa<sup>26</sup>.

“With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its guiding principle “Leave no one behind”, the international community has set itself the goal of improving the living conditions of poor and marginalized groups. In many cases, these groups include migrants and refugees. A sophisticated review process has been set up to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Here, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) play a decisive role. Migrants and refugees were explicitly included from the outset.”<sup>27</sup>

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*studiosi si confrontano sul conflitto intergenerazionale*. Nouvelle édition [en ligne]. Milano: Ledizioni, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.4000/books.ledizioni.2421>.

<sup>24</sup> UNDESA. 2017. *The International Migration Report 2017*, <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/international-migration-report-2017-highlights>.

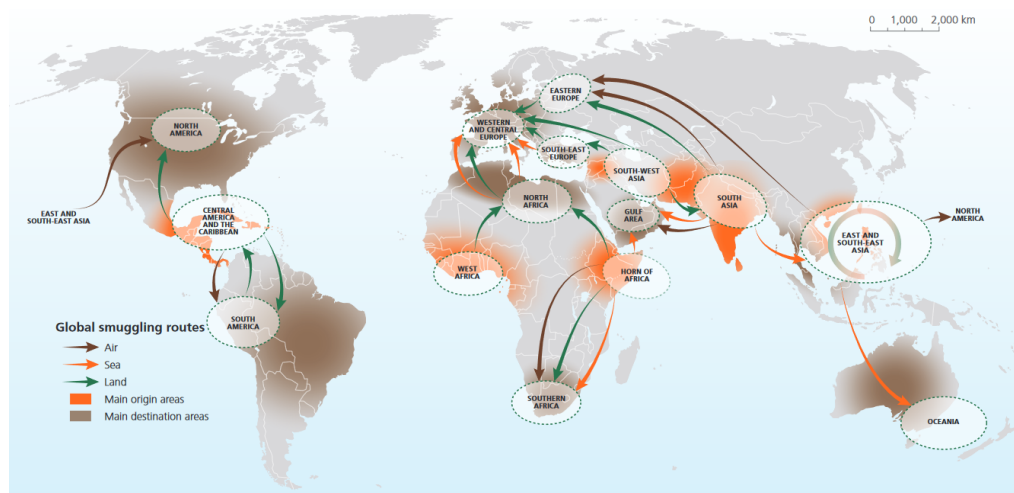
<sup>25</sup> IOM UN Migration (2018). “*Migration and the 2030 Agenda*”, [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg\\_en.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> IOM UN Migration. 2023. *Annual Report 2023*. <https://www.iom.int/msite/annual-report-2023/>.

<sup>27</sup> Koch, A., Kuhnt, J. 2020. *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: making everyone count migrants and refugees*



Source: Migration, Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda  
<https://www.iom.int/migration-sustainable-development-and-2030-agenda>



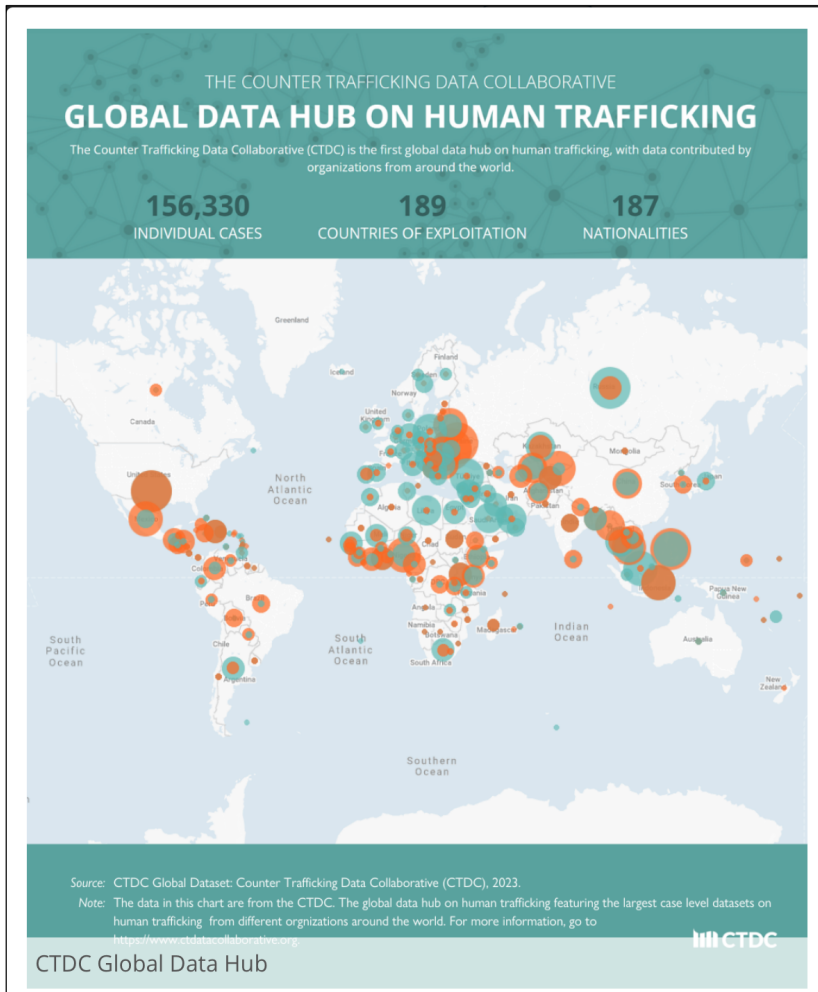
Source: UNODC, *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants*, 2018, p. 11

The international migration governance “assumes a variety of forms, including the migration policies and programs of individual countries, inter-State discussions and agreements, multilateral [forums] and consultative processes, the activities of international organizations, as well as relevant laws and norms”.<sup>28</sup> Finally, the greatest criticism to the 2030 Agenda is the need of more action to implement the SGD into results, improving the migration, mainly by the state’s efforts and develop the capacity to generate better conditions to migrants, developing a positive and productive

in the sustainable development goals. German Development Institute. [www.die-gdi.de](http://www.die-gdi.de). DOI: 10.23661/bp11.2020.

<sup>28</sup> IOM UN Migration (2018). “*Migration and the 2030 Agenda*”, [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg\\_en.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf).

governance of migrations.



Source: CTDC Global Dataset: Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CDC), 2023 - <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>

EU Commission declares that “going after smugglers, not the smuggled” aiming to specifically target the criminal networks that facilitate migrant smuggling. European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas said smuggling is “one of the most pressing and brutal challenges of our times”, adding that the EU “must take steps to ensure this heinous crime is properly and uniformly criminalized. Migrants turn to human smugglers, despite the risk of drowning, as they fear they have no other chance to enter the EU.”<sup>29</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Natasha Mellersh. 2023. EU Commission proposes new anti-smuggling laws, *Infomigrants*, <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/53556/eu-commission-proposes-new-antismuggling-laws>.

## 7. Where Is the Ethics in the Migrant's Treatment?

It is not easy to reach a consensus on migration relations, all the more so given the diversity and relevance of the ethical questions that this phenomenon raises: the status of the irregular migrant or the refugee; knowing what the criteria for admitting immigrants are and whether they are admissible; asking about the obligations of states towards immigrants; whether there should be ethic limits for states in relation to highly qualified immigrants from less developed countries; or whether states have the right to exclude potential immigrants. (...) In an increasingly global world, the granting of fair rights to all human beings is based on the right to dignity that everyone has<sup>30</sup>.

In fact, at all dimensions – *global, regional and national* – it is developed the most different legal mechanisms to protect the migrants, however, the human behavior is *translated* in an opposite position.

While the international migration ethics being a recent scientific subject, as presented and discussed above, this is inherently part of the reality since the beginning of the humanity. More than a philosophical perspective needed and presented, but not the main topic, understanding the treatment of the migrants, by all actors, involving the most different ethical concerns and responsibilities, including the most different power [in]equalities<sup>31</sup> is mandatory.

Considering the multiple narratives and the diversity of representations of migrations worldwide, frequently harm and violate the human ethics, more and more it's undoubtable there is an emergent reply: to combine the criticism with respect; portray everyone as ethically concerned and reflective human beings<sup>32</sup> aiming the effectively ethical treatment of migrants.

There are severe social conflicts threatening the social cohesion to the pacific, prosper and health International Relations and, consequently, the societies. The "sustainable" globalization based in a global political, economic and social order in an unequivocal changing request a reply adjusted to the needs of the human beings in general, and the migrants in particularly, within the ethics treatment.

Based on the research and this paper, it's possible to state there is an alarming ethic crisis on the social treatment, as well as the political management of migrations needing an emergent intervention.

In a world where the human freedom is depending on the most different requirements, most of them above the law, "cross borders" is frequently the beginning of the lost of human treatment. The ethics of migration should be the "first stone" of the "construction" of the global society effectively assume the problems, work hard to

<sup>30</sup> Figueiredo, P. (2016). *União Europeia, Imigração e Ética*. Monografia Mestrado em Estudos sobre a Europa. Universidade Aberta, p. 67.

<sup>31</sup> Joanna Jordan, Sarah Moser. 2020. „Researching migrants in informal transit camps along the Balkan Route: Reflections on volunteer activism, access, and reciprocity”. *Area*, 52(3): 566–574. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12614>.

<sup>32</sup> Synnøve Kristine Nepstad Bendixsen and Marie Sandberg. 2021. „The temporality of humanitarianism: Provincializing everyday volunteer practices at European borders”. *Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics*, 7(2): 13–31. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17356/ieejsp.v7i2.734>.

decrease the hardest violences against equal human beings, under an international, regional and national law and governance for the human rights. This is not utopic; this is a reality needing a convergence between theory / discourses and practice. It's urgent to assume all the difficulties and problems that international migration faces and, within the international community, define a strategy and action concerted with states / governments, international organizations and all needed structures, from the most different areas of the world, international institutions and societies, considering the difficulties to prevent and the combat of the international organized crime.

However, if there isn't a collective worried and a global ethic awareness for this problem, affecting millions of human beings, it's easy to proof the law is not enough to solve this ethical problem with migrants, as well as they are received and treated, mainly in the destination states, without ethics.

## **8. Conclusions**

We developed wide research aiming to answer "Migrant trafficking networks. Where is the human ethics?" understanding the data published by the United Nations, European Union and International Organization for Migrations, characterizing the reality; having in consideration the legal environment and the effective answers adjusted to the requirements, interpreting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (aims and action need), as well as the international migration governance. Although all legal frameworks – International and European Law – as the most relevant methodologies and instruments developed to combat the global migration worst problems, from the lacking States protection/abandon to the smuggling and trafficking conducting to death mainly by the International Organize Crime.

The crime of human trafficking is complex and dynamic, taking place in a wide multiplicity of contexts being seriously difficult to detect by the authorities. One of the greatest challenges in developing targeted counter-trafficking responses and measuring their impact is the lack of reliable, high-quality data related to the scale of human trafficking and the profile of victims. Comprehensive solutions to the world's biggest challenges – from poverty and inequality to climate change, and conflict – are all inextricably linked to migration. Migration is a complex and dynamic process affecting a wide range of actors, from border control agencies to universities, employers, hospitals and foreign investment agencies. At times, it can rapidly change in unpredictable ways (as in Europe today), putting pressure on existing policies and institutions. However, as history has proven, migration is a fundamental driver of human progress, and no country is unaffected. Policies and institutions are essential to capitalize on the potential of migration, and effective migration governance frameworks can make a major contribution towards protecting the welfare of migrants, the countries they travel to, and their homelands.<sup>33</sup> Only a few core elements of international law

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<sup>33</sup> The Economist Intelligence Unit. 2016. *Measuring well-governed migration: The 2016 Migration Governance Index*. London, [https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our\\_work/EIU-Migration-Governance-Index-20160429.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our_work/EIU-Migration-Governance-Index-20160429.pdf).

would apply, such as the non-refoulement principle, the right to seek protection, or to family reunification, as well as the more general idea that all human beings (including therefore irregular migrants) should have access to the protection of fundamental human rights.<sup>34</sup> Yet immigration and admission do raise fundamental ethical issues. This is even more the case at a time when restrictive migration policies lead to outcomes that are ethically or morally questionable.<sup>35</sup> There is a central relevance of the “...the need for states to adopt — and rely on — an ethical code for international migration management. The migration policy makes for an ethical context characterized by moral dilemmas, insofar as it is difficult to irrefutably know if the decision to “allow or deny entry” of newcomers is good or right. This highlights the need for an applied ethics approach drawing a normative map in a world in motion; then proposes an ethical code of practice regulating state behavior at three levels: *admission policies*, *diplomatic relations with sending states*, and *inter-European state relations*.”<sup>36</sup>

Migrant trafficking networks are growing day by day with an efficacy that states, and international community cannot prevent or combat. The international migration flows and routes are growing due the conflicts, wars and problems in the most different areas of the world.

“The topic of migration raises many challenging ethical questions. Most migrants want little more than to make better lives for themselves. If people wish to migrate across borders, why shouldn’t they be able to? States exercise power over borders, but what, if anything, justifies this power? Is it morally permissible for states to prevent their citizens from exiting the country and to exclude prospective migrants from entering? If states are justified in excluding some and accepting others, how should they decide whom to admit?”<sup>37</sup> Questions we maintain specially for the always first aim. Protect each human being migrant rights cannot be analyzed and debated without an explicit discussion of how they influence the impact of migration for receiving countries, migrants, and their countries of origin — which calls for a political economy approach to migrants’ rights.

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