

A scenario workshop for stakeholders on the dilemma of secondary movement among EU Member States

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As a crucial part of Work Package 7 the University of Amsterdam, along with FIERI and ICMPD, organized three scenario workshops for stakeholders on pressing issues regarding the Common European Asylum System. The first workshop has been held in Amsterdam and focused on the dilemma of secondary movement in the EU. With a good mix of local, national and international policy-makers and the inclusion of refugee voices as represented by the European Migrant Advisory Board, we had fruitful discussions on the future of the CEAS and in particular the issue of secondary movement.



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The four scenarios that formed the core and which were used to foster the debate were based on two key variables that are perceived to be most critical as well as most uncertain. The first variable was the level of migration pressure, hence, the volume of mixed migration flows. The second variable was the extent and form of European integration, meant as the level of cooperation among EU Member States in asylum governance. Crossing these two variables resulted in four scenarios. After the participants were divided into four groups. Each discussed and elaborated one scenario. It became clear that most features of those scenarios are already to be seen in the current asylum policy framework in the EU. After the groups evaluated the plausibility of the proposed scenarios and made suggestions for adjustments, each group switched to discuss a second, diagonally opposing, scenario in order to broaden the discussions and better to identify the overall relevant challenges. This time the stakeholders made a more detailed timeline in which they schematically evaluated how each scenario might crystallize during the decade ahead.

One of the concluding insights from of this workshop was the fact that the media, traditional media and increasingly social media, are the main narrators in the debate on asylum and migration in the EU. As one stakeholder noted: “the media fuels the fire” in many cases. In the case of asylum policy, the media highlight the inefficiency of the EU's solution which may well have self-fulfilling effects. Hence, it might serve the future of the CEAS if the EU were to more forcefully pursue a positive evidence-based narrative, showcasing contributions to its citizen's well-being.