

NOVAMIGRA

Norms and Values in the European Migration and Refugee Crisis

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ABOUT NOVAMIGRA

Several, partly interconnected crises have profoundly challenged the European project in recent years. Among them especially the reactions to the arrival of 1.25 million refugees in 2015 called into question the idea(l) of a unified Europe guaranteeing the rights of refugees and implementing norms and values many see contained in the Community *acquis*. The still ongoing debate about the distribution of refugees within the EU, the further development of the Dublin system and discussions about "deals" with Turkey and North-African states showed and show deep divides about the values Europe should realize.

There is an urgent need to stabilize and reunite Europe with common norms and values to find appropriate, morally right and feasible solutions to the multiple crises it faces. The EU's ability to overcome its crises, particularly in the context of migration and integration policies, will not only depend on its provision of material benefits to states and individuals, it must also credibly claim the ability to establish conditions for legitimacy and justice within and beyond Europe.

With a unique combination of social scientific analysis, as well as legal and philosophical normative reconstruction and theory, NOVAMIGRA will develop a precise descriptive and normative understanding of the current "value crisis", assess possible evolutions of European values, and consider Europe's future in light of rights, norms, and values that it should aim at and that could contribute to overcoming the crisis.

NOVAMIGRA'S MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Providing a precise and comprehensive understanding of core values/norms in Europe, their current transformation and possible evolution
- Explaining the way values/norms motivate or affect relevant political, administrative and societal agents with regard to migration and the integration of migrants and refugees into European societies, and studying, if, how, and why this has changed with the refugee crisis since 2015
- Developing a rights-based democratic perspective for the EU and its member states, which takes into account differences in European values/norms that became visible in the refugee crisis, and the possible evolution of values, but also reflects Europe's global responsibility

NoVaMigra's overall strategy is to provide significant impact on academia, policy-making, and society. It combines the expertise of a multidisciplinary and international team of experienced researchers and an Advisory Board composed of relevant stakeholders in politics and society. NoVaMigra transmits its insights into the political debate and development of immigration/asylum and of integration policies. It outlines a comprehensive strategy for relevant stakeholders on the European, national and regional level aiming at overcoming the deep divergences in Europe regarding migration, integration and refugees.



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POLITICAL AND SOCIETAL IMPACT:

NoVAMIGRA studies European values in the context of on-going debates about the influx of refugees and asylum seekers to the European Union. This gives the project a concrete dimension removing from merely abstract disputes. It aims at providing policy-makers and civil society with a rich empirical and ethical basis, on which to ground their policy-making and programmatic activities. Its engagement with politics and society takes on the following forms:

- a series of **international conferences, workshops, brainstorming sessions and informal dialogues** ensuring constant exchange with academics, policy makers, stakeholders and the wider public
- **Policy Research Alerts and Policy Papers** on key issues in the European migration/refugee debate and in the discussion on the reform of the EU
- The **NoVaMigra Newsletter** provides the latest news on the project and related activities
- The **NoVAMIGRA's Ph.D. platform** offers helpful insights, advice and inspiration for Ph.D. students in the field of refugee law, global migration, integration and social cohesion.
- The **NoVAMIGRA website** provides background information and materials as well as access to the **No-VaMigra Value Landscape** (interactive tool which will be elaborated during the project)
- NoVAMIGRA **fosters dialogue with relevant stakeholders** from academia, policy-making and society.

Please contact us if you would like to join the networks or if you need further information on the project.

The website will soon be available at:
www.novamigra.eu

RESEARCH

NoVAMIGRA conducts research in four related areas:

- Looking at **European integration and European values** it specifies the “grammar” of values, norms, rights, and moral principles as they are contained in European law. On this background, it reconstructs the European Human Rights System, Community *acquis* and the Charter of Fundamental Rights – and in a broader historical perspective, it examines the role of values in the preparation of the Charter and its implementation in the enlargement of the EU. Gender equality and women’s rights are a particular focus in this research.
- Analysing controversies about and decisions on EU migration/refugee policies especially during the peak of the refugee crisis 2014-2017 NoVAMIGRA considers **Values in European migration and refugee policy**. It examines policies and measures on the EU level and relates them to the surge of right-wing populism in many member states and the emerging self-understanding of some European countries as immigration societies.
- Complementing the research on migration policies NoVAMIGRA also focuses on **Value agents and their practices in civil society**. It provides a comprehensive picture of value agents and value transmission practices in migration and integration contexts in European societies and in the external transmission of European values to potential migrants/refugees coming to Europe.
- Searching for a **cosmopolitan perspective for Europe** NoVAMIGRA finally adopts a normative perspective. It explores to what extent cosmopolitanism belongs or could belong to European norms and values and it develops a vision of how the European multilevel system could be shaped such that it guarantees universal human rights, including gender equality, and democratic participation for its citizens without denying their validity for non-Europeans (within and beyond Europe).



NoVAMIGRA's research design on three levels.

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