

# #Refugeecrisis: Who's Talking, and About What?

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This paper conducts a mapping of civil society actors engaged in the debate on EU refugee policy. It seeks to shed light on the nature and focus of the debate, the actors involved and the resulting challenges. Three main trends are visible. First, although refugee policy has become mainstream across different types of actors, these actors rarely form coalitions or produce common policy recommendations. Second, short-term focus in policy commentary and analysis obstructs longer-term research and foresight. Third, whilst the plurality of actors engaged in the debate creates opportunities to complement specialized immigration knowledge with foreign policy expertise, it is also challenged by competition between actors, insufficient resources, or a divergence in the uses and understandings of key terms.

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# Why Map Civil Society Actors in EU Refugee Policy?

After a decade of relatively steady numbers of asylum applications, there was a significant increase in people seeking asylum in the European Union in 2015.<sup>1</sup> Since then, media outlets and civil society actors have described the situation unfolding across Europe in a number of different ways, depending on the perspective and political analysis at work: “refugee crisis,” “migrant crisis,” “migrant smuggling crisis,” “protection crisis” and “solidarity crisis,” to name a few.

Whatever the most appropriate term may be, all actors certainly agree that the current humanitarian and political situation is not normal, requires action and adds yet another hurdle to EU political unity. Due to a shared sense of urgency and to the political attention focused on the “refugee crisis,” there has been a significant growth in commentary and debate, making it increasingly difficult to keep track of not only major policy events, but also the venues in which EU refugee policy is being debated and the civil society actors engaged in refugee policy. But tracking the players in ongoing policy debates can shed light on the substantive fault lines of these discussions. Who is talking, and about what? Do stakeholders talk to each other? Do they identify intersections between different country and disciplinary perspectives? What are the networks in which civil society actors are organized? Do these networks help civil society actors to have their voices heard by policymakers?

This essay seeks to answer these questions by mapping civil society actors\* – advocacy and humanitarian NGOs, think tanks, foundations, universities – engaged in EU refugee policy. We seek to identify the actors and to analyze who they are and what they are focusing on. We discuss actors, topics, coalitions and networks, and venues of debate on EU refugee policy. Therefore, we rely on desk research and expert consultations. Our mapping is not equivalent to a geographic map. It does not serve as an exhaustive actor list or a ranking. Rather, it is a European map of large scale: while many details are lost, what becomes visible are the shades of a bigger picture, regarding the nature of the debate, the actors involved and the resulting challenges.

\* Civil society in the EU includes forces that oppose the reception of asylum seekers altogether. When discussing civil society actors, this paper refers to actors interested in a sustainable asylum system that aligns with international legal minimum standards.

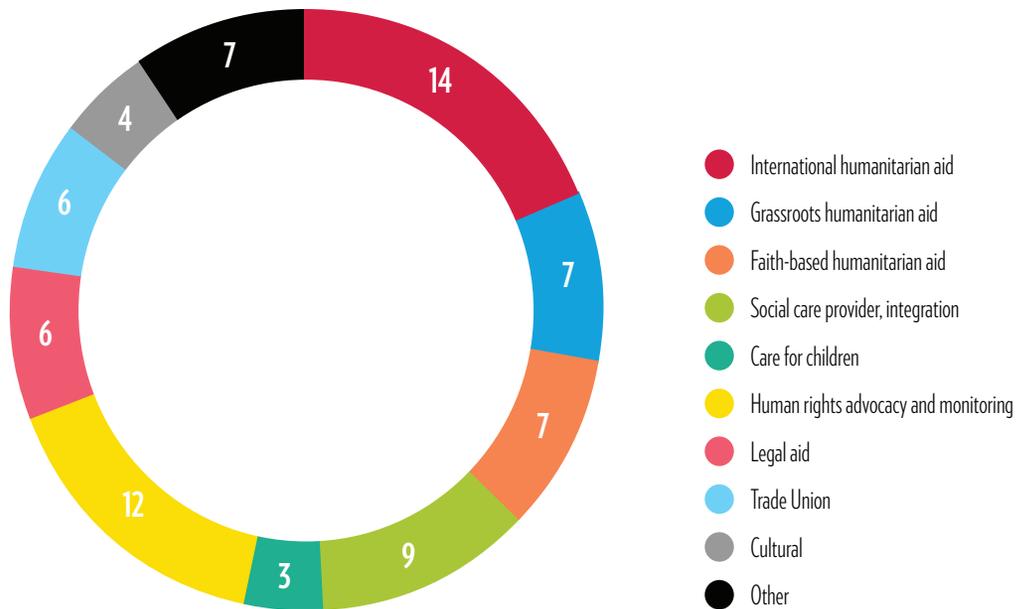
# What Are the Main Takeaways?

- Refugee policy as a mainstream concern: For a long time, migration and asylum law and policy had been fields for a relatively small group of immigration lawyers, NGO activists and academics. Now, these fields have become a mainstream concern of foreign and EU policy.
- Lack of coalitions and consortia: There is a lack of coalitions and consortia between different civil society actors as well as between civil society organizations of the same type (e.g., think tanks). There is also a divide between policy actors and the “operational” civil society organizations that are active in on-the-ground assistance to migrants. There is a lack of formats producing common policy positions or recommendations, particularly on a European scale.
- Short-term focus: Given the speed of political and legal developments at both the domestic and EU level, as well as insufficient resources to cover such increasingly vast ground, there has been a focus on short-term commentary and analysis, to the exclusion of longer-term research and of formats that encourage foresight and out-of-the-box thinking.
- Opportunities created by actor plurality: Actor plurality can complement highly specialized perspectives on the EU asylum system with new insights and help overcome a legalistic bias that is not always conducive to innovative thinking. On a more practical level, actor plurality offers new opportunities for forging networks and building coalitions that bundle resources and enable a broader dissemination of policy recommendations across different networks. Given the existence of thematic and geographic “bubbles,” wider networks have a clear advantage when it comes to “selling” a credible, common and coordinated position of civil society actors.
- Challenges of actor plurality and new networks: Varying degrees of institutional prioritization of maintaining independence, competition between similar actors, insufficient resources and differences in language can hamper the willingness and ability to form coalitions and networks, despite the multiple opportunities for doing so.

# Who Are the Actors?

## Non-Governmental Organizations

For an overview of the types of NGOs engaged in the European debate on the “refugee crisis,” we aggregated information from three sources: the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, Twitter and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) reports. Many of the NGOs are humanitarian organizations (international, grassroots or faith-based), followed in number by human rights advocacy and monitoring organizations and social care providers. The actors are listed in the annex below.



**Chart 1: NGOs, Aggregated and Typologized**

Sources: Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, Twitter, Research Mission of EESC

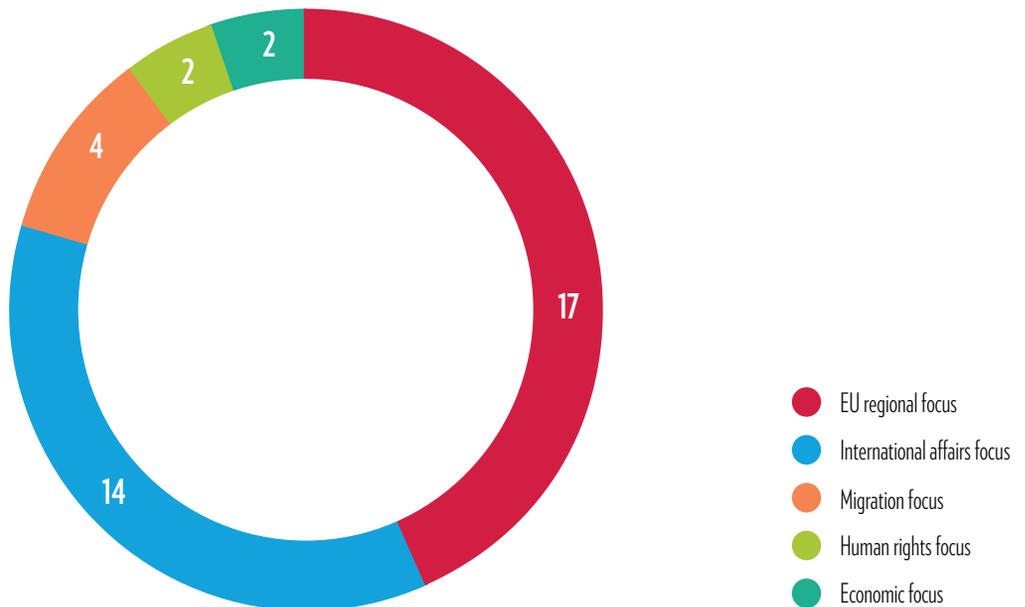
Two things stand out. First, there is an apparent mismatch between the types of NGOs that seek to reach specialized policy publication channels and those working with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants on the ground. This mismatch comes with particular challenges. To what extent should and can expertise in hands-on humanitarian assistance be integrated into policy debates? Operational organizations working directly with migrants have unique insights and intelligence regarding circumstances on the ground. But there is also skepticism about the idea of humanitarian actors becoming policy actors. Médecins Sans Frontières, for instance,

frequently went beyond criticizing the humanitarian failures of refugee reception, issuing statements about refugee law and European law compliance.<sup>2</sup>

Second, there is a grassroots or start-up scene of NGOs responding, with a humanitarian impetus, to pressing needs and insufficient state presence. This development also comes with challenges and opportunities. Established actors may be able to benefit from the entrepreneurial dynamism, unorthodox ideas and more bottom-up approaches of newer organizations. On the other hand, the needs of coordination become more urgent, and tensions between professionals and volunteers more likely. For policy debates, the challenge is to determine whether ideas that are effective in on-the-ground assistance to refugees (e.g., the use of technology for coordination) can also be valuable in governmental policy.

## Think Tanks

For an overview of think tanks engaged in the European debate on the “refugee crisis,” we again started with the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog. Based on the actors listed in the blog, asylum seems to have become a mainstream topic for international affairs think tanks. Institutions that do not specialize in migration and asylum are increasingly contributing to the debate on refugee policy. However, there is an imbalance in the geographic distribution of think tanks, with most think tanks based in Brussels. The actors are again listed in the annex below.

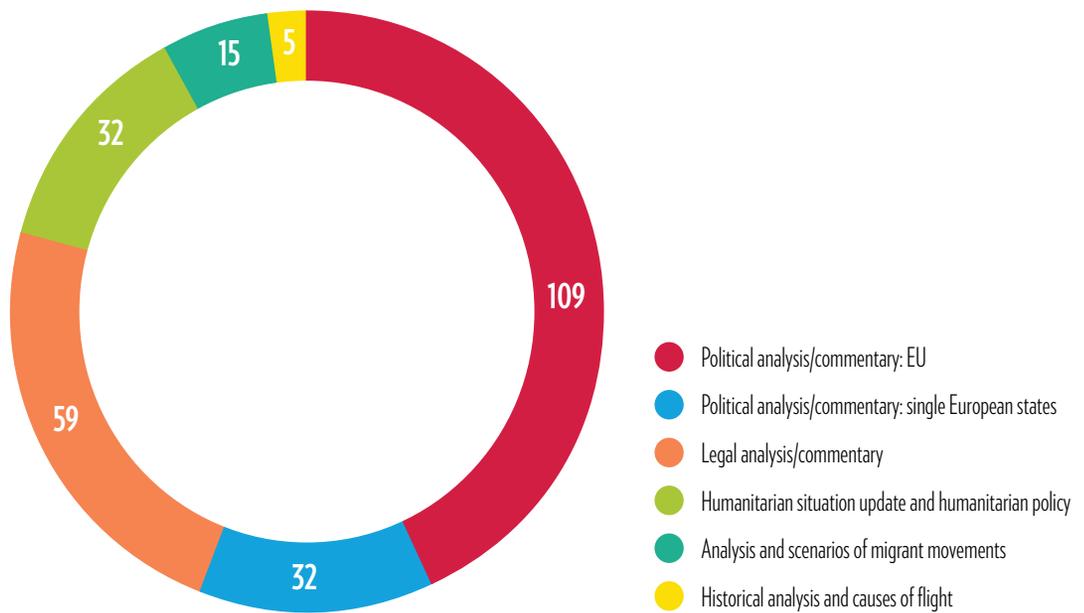


**Chart 2: Think Tanks, Aggregated and Typologized**

All institutions listed as having publications and events on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016 (tag: “European Union”), and by European Parliamentary Research Service

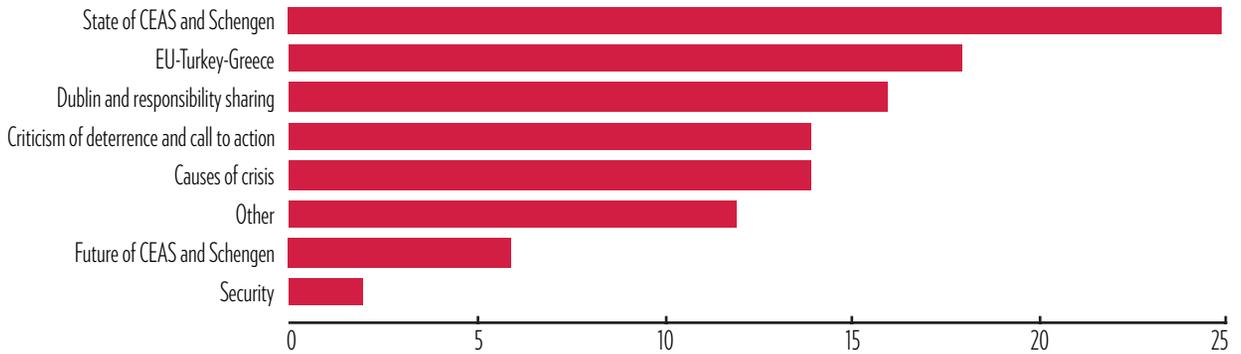
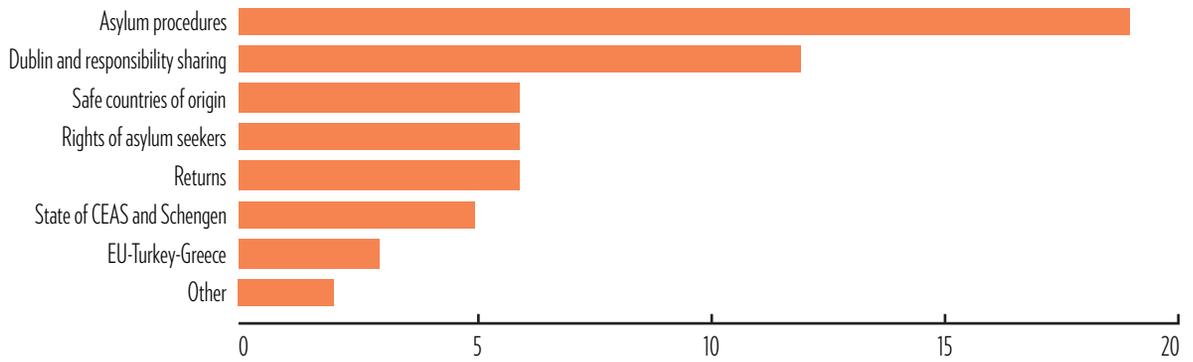
# What Are the Topics?

To get a sense of the topics discussed, we tagged the 251 English-language publications featured on the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog (tag: “Special Focus: Europe”) over the past year. We chose to first broadly differentiate between the following categories: political analysis of EU topics; political analysis of particular member states’ topics; humanitarian situation updates; legal analyses; and publications taking a historic perspective and examining longer-term reasons for flight. We then created sub-categories for each of these categories.



**Chart 3: Overview of Publication Topics**

Mentioned on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016  
(tag: “Special Focus: Europe”)



**Charts 4-5: Publication Topics Focus**

Mentioned on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016 (tag: “Special Focus: Europe”)

Three trends are apparent from an examination of the publication topics. First, most publications comment on current events and legislative developments, or assess acute needs. Scenarios of future policy trade-offs and of long-term reform processes are seldom discussed. Second, the emphasis of the publications is mostly internal issues in the EU or in member states. Only the recent deal between the EU and Turkey has led to a flurry of publications on external aspects of EU migration policy. Third, some potentially relevant disciplinary perspectives are absent or underrepresented in policy debates. This includes economic and sociological perspectives in particular, which tend to take place in academic fora.

The reason for a focus on short-term issues is not only the increase in political and legal developments, but also insufficient resources. In expert consultations, many NGO workers said that they are stretched thin. Staff of domestic NGOs often have to cover both domestic EU political and legal developments. In turn, non-specialized think tanks may lack the necessary information channels to learn what is “in the pipeline.” For both, the pace of events makes it difficult to pause and take stock. Longer-term and out-of-the-box thinking gets pushed aside. Besides, some observers of the Brussels scene of civil society organizations voiced frustration about think tanks depending on, and adopting the language of, EU institutions, making it hard to develop independent positions and to take into account the political preferences of multiple member states.

# What Are the Networks and Coalitions?

We identified networks and consortia by means of background conversations and web searches. There are four notable patterns.

First, most formal networks and coalitions are composed of only universities or only NGOs, rather than of NGOs and think tanks, or of NGOs, think tanks and universities. Second, think tanks are surprisingly absent from the list. For a long time, they have neither formed consortia nor issued common positions on EU refugee policy – a situation that has only somewhat changed with the creation of the Vision Europe Consortium, composed of think tanks. Vision Europe, however, is not a standing consortium on EU refugee policy; rather, it picks one topic each year, and it will deal with EU refugee policy only in 2016, rather than on a regular basis. Third, common statements and positions are infrequent even among NGOs. The European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration (EPAM), a network of some 30 NGOs working on migration and asylum, is an exception. But even EPAM functions more as a coordination and exchange network than as a platform for joint recommendations.

Finally, there is a divide between policy analysts and practitioners working on the ground, and between established actors and “newbies.” More-formal networks assemble policy analysts and established actors. Among humanitarian aid workers in Greece, this has led to the observation – true or not – that exchange formats in Brussels have become too one-sided and have lost touch, that a “richer” and “more inclusive” mix of stakeholders – including volunteers, lawyers, researchers and humanitarian and refugee organizations – could be beneficial to policy debates.<sup>3</sup>

The reasons for the lack of formal networks are manifold. Established human rights organizations like Amnesty International are keen on remaining independent from government funding, and they stay away from formal coalitions with organizations that make demands regarding issues on which no official position yet exists. Besides, insufficient staff resources, clear “negotiation mandates” in NGOs and competition among them can hamper the building of coalitions and consensus. More so than NGOs, think tanks compete for public funds. For those with a project-funded business model, it is difficult to spontaneously form coalitions when their preparation and follow-up are not funded. Universities face similar problems, to the extent that some of their work relies on third-party funding.

Think tanks and NGOs may also have to bridge differences in language. Many specialists working on migration and asylum are lawyers, who, unlike non-specialists and political scientists and economists, are wary of the possible legal meaning of particular terms. For example, in a common statement issued in March 2016, a group of think tanks argued that “it is important to control the EU’s external borders so that only refugees fleeing war and persecution [...] can enter and potentially remain in the EU” – a

statement that asylum lawyers would consider legally questionable because it suggests that people who do not qualify as refugees, but have other mandatory human rights-related protection needs, are not allowed to enter the EU and apply for protection.

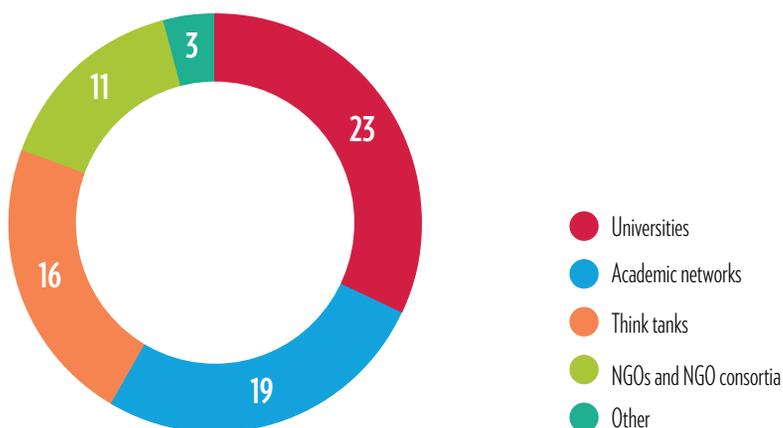
**Table 1: Types of Networks and Consortia**

NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe	Academic network	European network of migration and integration scholars, hosting conferences and seminars
Netzwerk Flüchtlingsforschung	Academic network	Network of German researchers from multiple disciplines, geared at academic exchange
Odysseus Network/ Odysseus Monnet Network for Immigration and Asylum Project	Academic network	Network of legal scholars researching EU immigration and asylum, with annual policy conference, blog and online database
Rat für Migration	Academic network	Multidisciplinary network of more than 100 academics, serving as a platform for publications by individual members
Refugee Law Initiative	Academic network	Collaboration of several London-based universities with affiliated university and think tank researchers in the UK and other EU countries
Crossing the Mediterranean Sea by boat: Mapping and documenting migratory journeys and experiences	Research consortium	Collaboration between University of Warwick and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, monitoring current refugee flows at Greek shores
International Migration Policy And Law Analysis	Research consortium	Transnational multidisciplinary research project on comparative immigration policy, involving researchers from Australia, the Netherlands, the US and the UK
Integration, Transnational Mobility and Human, Social and Economic Capital Transfers	Research consortium	Transnational research consortium of universities and government think tanks: European University Institute, Working Lives Research Institute, Real Instituto Elcano, International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Migrating out of Poverty	Research consortium	Collaboration between university centers in the UK, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Bangladesh and Singapore
Common Borders	European Citizens' Initiative	Initiative that seeks to set up a network of individuals and organizations to help collect the 1 million signatures needed for a European Citizens' Initiative
Robert Bosch Expert Commission to Consider a Realignment of Refugee Policy	Expert commission	Multi-stakeholder commission developing recommendations for reform of German policy

NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Vision Europe	Think tank and foundation consortium	Consortium of seven major think tanks and foundations that host working groups and an annual closed-door summit
New Pact for Europe	Think tank and foundation consortium	Consortium of seven organizations organizing EU-wide debate on reform of the EU, with migration a potential topic of the upcoming cycle
Expert Council of German Foundations on Migration and Integration	Expert commission and foundation consortium	Collaboration of seven German foundations, including an academic expert body and a think tank
European Programme for Integration and Migration	Foundation consortium	Consortium of 12 foundations collaborating on grant-making and networking
European Legal Network on Asylum	Network of lawyers	Transnational network of some 500 lawyers and legal counselors from across Europe, coordinated by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles
European Resettlement Network	Issue network	Multi-stakeholder transnational network of organizations and individuals working on refugee resettlement, coordinated by, among others, the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency
Assessment Capacities Project	NGO consortium	Collaboration of three international humanitarian NGOs, creating humanitarian needs assessments
European Council on Refugees and Exiles	NGO membership organization	European go-to advocacy NGO specializing in asylum, with 90 members in 38 European countries
European Network of Migrant Women	NGO membership organization	Umbrella organization for migrant-led women's organizations
European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration	NGO network	Network of 29 NGOs and a think tank working on migration and asylum, with quarterly meetings and working groups
International Council of Voluntary Agencies	NGO membership organization	Global network of humanitarian NGOs seeking to make humanitarian action more effective and principled
START Network	NGO network	A network of 27 operative humanitarian NGOs

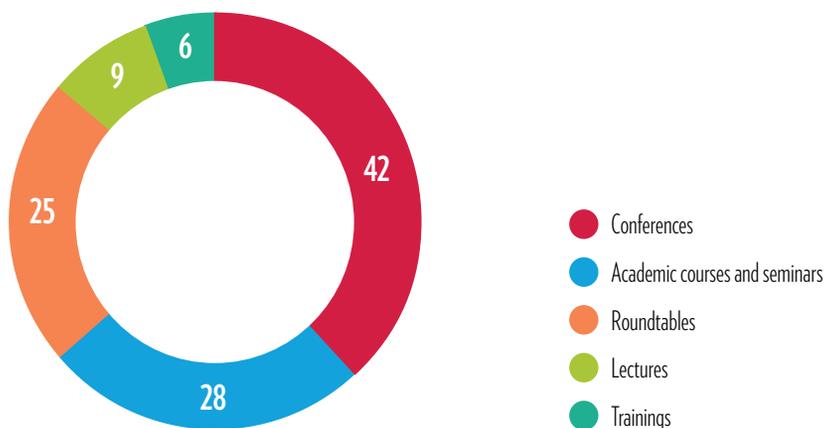
# What Are the Venues?

What are the venues in which civil society actors engage with each other, beyond more-formal networks? Who acts as the convener? Increased political attention has led to a huge increase in events dedicated to debating EU refugee policy. Based on the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, the majority of events are academic conferences and open-door roundtables conducted by think tanks.



**Chart 6: Types of Convener**

Mentioned on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016



**Chart 7: Types of Events**

Mentioned on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016

Below is a list of major regular venues organized by or involving civil society actors for debating EU refugee policy. This list is also based on web searches and expert consultations. With the exception of EPAM’s quarterly meetings and working groups, all of the venues are conferences.

Notably, few events have outputs beyond the discussion itself or documentation of said discussion. Few events seek to produce common recommendations, statements or discussion papers. This is also true for multi-stakeholder formats. What is more, think tanks convene few events. There is only one regular venue convened by think tanks.

It is unclear to what extent stakeholders truly talk with each other in search of common ground. The increase in political developments has made it more difficult for civil society to keep pace and for larger events to be well-timed. Besides, policymakers and NGOs have grown increasingly frustrated with each other. The demands of NGOs are seldom different from the demands they made before the “refugee crisis” – and for good reason, from their perspective. But it is precisely this consistency that makes them appear antiquated and maximalist in the view of some policymakers. In addition, some policymakers perceive NGO workers as having little understanding of the purported political constraints or as being unable to show that understanding in public given an NGO’s mandate.

Table 2: Major Regular Venues Organized by or Implicating Civil Society Actors for Debating EU Refugee Policy

NAME	CONVENER	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	OUTPUTS
Berliner Symposium zum Flüchtlingsschutz	Consortium of NGOs, social care providers and churches	Conference	Annual public multi-stakeholder conference, primarily German participants	Berlin	Conference documentation
ECRE Annual General Conference	European Council on Refugees and Exiles	Conference	Public/closed-door European NGO conference with policy and administrative items	Various	News item
ECRE Regional Conference	European Council on Refugees and Exiles	Conference	Closed-door conference for ECRE members from specific regions	Various	Internal
EPAM quarterly meeting and working groups	European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration	Meeting, workshops	Working-level coordination and strategy meeting of EPAM member organizations	Brussels	Internal

NAME	CONVENER	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	OUTPUTS
European Migration Forum	EU Commission	Conference	Annual European multi-stakeholder conference	Brussels	News item
UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs	UN Refugee Agency	Conference	Annual exchange forum between NGOs and UNHCR (no EU focus)	Geneva	Report
Vision Europe Summit	Vision Europe think tank, foundation consortium	Conference	Annual European multi-stakeholder conference, 2016 on “Redesigning European Migration and Refugee Policy”	Various	Summit declaration

# Actor Lists

Table 3: Think Tanks, Aggregated and Typologized

All institutions listed as having publications and events on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, March 2015 to March 2016 (tag: “European Union”), and by European Parliamentary Research Service

EU REGIONAL FOCUS	INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOCUS	MIGRATION FOCUS	HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS	ECONOMIC FOCUS
Carnegie Europe	Barcelona Centre for International Affairs	International Centre for Migration Policy Development	Danish Institute for Human Rights	Bruegel
Center for Eastern Studies	Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales	Migration Policy Centre	European Society of International Law	Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung
Centre for European Policy Studies	Chatham House	The Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration		Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
Centre for European Reform	Clingendael			
Jacques Delors Institute	German Council on Foreign Relations			
European Council on Foreign Relations	EGMONT Royal Institute for International Relations			
European Policy Centre	Finnish Institute of International Affairs			
European Stability Initiative	Instituto Affari Internazionali			

EU REGIONAL FOCUS	INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOCUS	MIGRATION FOCUS	HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS	ECONOMIC FOCUS
Foreign Policy Centre	Institut français des relations internationales			
Foundation for European Progressive Studies	Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies			
Friends of Europe	Overseas Development Institute			
FutureLab Europe	Polish Institute of International Affairs			
Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy	Brookings Institution			
Institute for European Studies	German Institute for International and Security Affairs			
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik	Global Public Policy Institute			
Policy Network				
Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies				

## Table 4: Non-Governmental Organizations Mentioned on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog

All NGOs mentioned with publications and events, March 2015 to March 2016 (tag: “Regional Focus: Europe”)

Amnesty International	Human rights advocacy
Assessment Capacities Project – Action Contre la Faim, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children International	Humanitarian
European Council on Refugees and Exiles	Human rights advocacy, asylum focus
Human Rights Watch	Human rights advocacy
Hungarian Helsinki Committee	Human rights advocacy
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre	Humanitarian aid
Jesuit Refugee Service	Human rights advocacy, asylum focus
Norwegian Refugee Council	Humanitarian aid
Red Cross EU Office	Humanitarian aid
Right to Remain	Human rights advocacy, asylum focus
Statewatch	Human rights

## Table 5: Non-Governmental Organizations Mentioned on Twitter

Based on 3,722 tweets that were published on March 23, 2016, and that mention the term “refugee crisis” (or its equivalent in foreign languages) or respond to a tweet that mentions the term. Actors that do not appear on Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog are shaded in gray.

ActionAid	Development
Amnesty International	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
British Humanist Association	Other

CARE	Humanitarian aid/development
Care4Calais	Humanitarian aid
Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre	Social care provider/integration
Eurocities	Other
European Council on Refugees and Exiles	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Free Gaza Movement	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Human Rights Watch	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
International Council of Voluntary Agencies	Humanitarian aid
Irish Refugee Council	Legal aid
Médecins Sans Frontières	Humanitarian aid
Norwegian Refugee Council	Humanitarian aid
Oxfam	Humanitarian aid/development
Refugee Action Scotland	Humanitarian aid
Save the Children	Humanitarian aid/development

**Table 6: Non-Governmental Organizations Listed on the Country Reports of the European Economic and Social Committee**

COUNTRY	NAME	TYPE
Austria	Helping Hands	Social care provider, integration
Austria	The Integration House Vienna	Social care provider, integration
Bulgaria	Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Social care provider, integration
Bulgaria	Foundation Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Bulgaria	Foundation for Access to Rights	Human rights advocacy and monitoring

COUNTRY	NAME	TYPE
Bulgaria	Help the Needy Foundation	Social care provider, integration
Bulgaria	Legal Aid Centre “Voice in Bulgaria”	Legal aid
Croatia	Centre for Peace Studies	Legal aid and integration assistance
Croatia	Croatian Baptist Aid	Faith-based humanitarian aid
Croatia	Trade Union Matica	Trade union
Croatia	Trade Union NHS	Trade union
Croatia	Trade Union SSSH	Trade union
Germany	Arbeiterwohlfahrt	Social care provider, integration
Germany	Condrobs	Care for children
Germany	Passau verbindet	Grassroots humanitarian
Greece	Chorio tou Oloi Mazi	Grassroots humanitarian
Greece	Greek Council for Refugees and Migrants	Legal aid
Greece	Iliaxtida	Grassroots humanitarian
Greece	Paksis	Care for children
Hungary	Hungarian Helsinki Committee	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Hungary	Diaconal Department of the Evangelical Church of Hungary	Faith-based humanitarian aid
Hungary	Forum for the Co-operation of Trade Unions (SZEF)	Trade union
Hungary	Hungarian Interchurch Aid	Faith-based humanitarian aid
Hungary	Maltese Charity Service	Faith-based humanitarian aid
Hungary	Menhely (Shelter) Foundation	Grassroots humanitarian
Hungary	Migration Aid	Grassroots humanitarian

COUNTRY	NAME	TYPE
Hungary	MIGSZOL Szeged	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
International	CARE	International humanitarian aid
International	International Rescuee Committee	International humanitarian aid
International	Jesuit Refugee Service	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
International	Médecins Sans Frontières	International humanitarian aid
Malta	Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants	Social care provider, integration
Malta	General Workers Union Malta	Trade union
Malta	Malta Emigrants' Commission	Social care provider, integration
Malta	Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS)	International humanitarian aid
Poland	Adulis Foundation	Cultural
Poland	Afryka Inaczej	Cultural
Poland	Foundation for Somalia	Other
Poland	Fundacja Inna Przestrzen	Cultural
Poland	Helsinki Foundation of Human Rights	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Poland	Multicalenie Foundation	Cultural
Poland	Ocalenie Foundation	Social care provider, integration
Poland	refugee.pl Foundation	Social care provider, integration
Poland	Refugees Welcome Association	Other
Slovenia	ADRA Slovenia	International humanitarian
Slovenia	Mirovnis institut and Humanitas	Human rights advocacy and monitoring
Sweden	Church of Sweden	Faith-based humanitarian aid

COUNTRY	NAME	TYPE
Sweden	Ensamkommandes förbund	Care for children
Sweden	Islamic Relief	Faith-based humanitarian aid
Sweden	Kontrapunkt	Cultural
Sweden	Läkare i världen	International humanitarian
Sweden	Swedish Muslim Youth	Faith-based humanitarian aid

**Table 7: Universities Mentioned on the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, Twitter and the European and Social Committee**

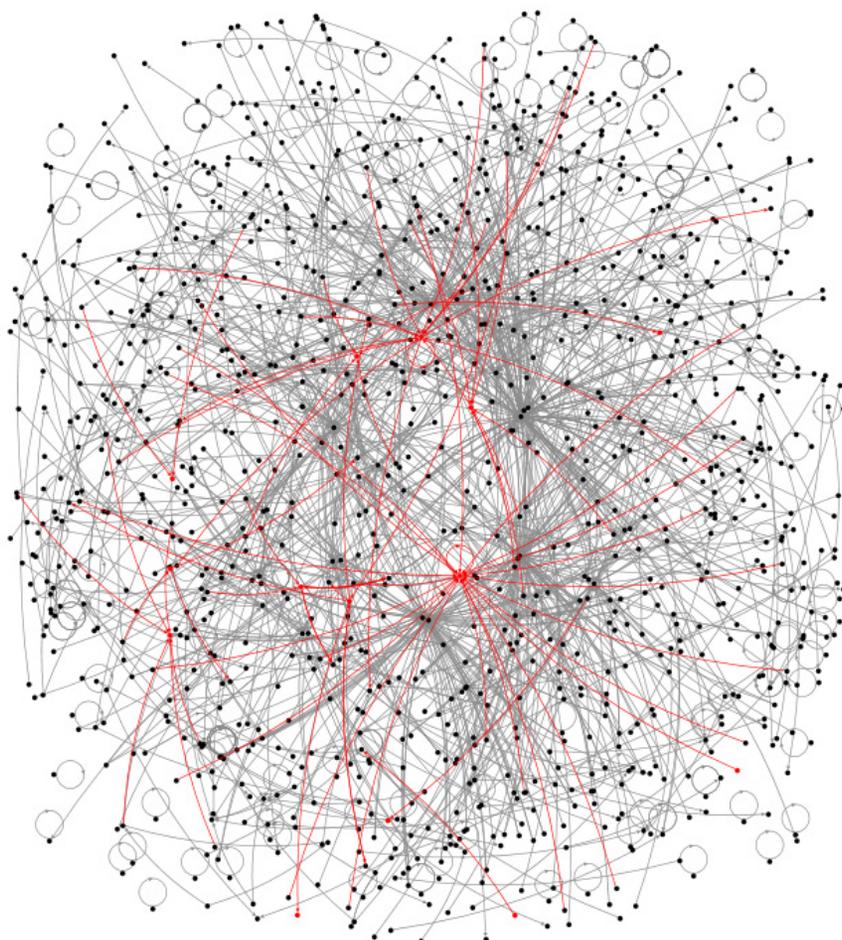
Below is a list of universities that were mentioned on the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, Twitter and the actor list created by the European Parliamentary Research Service. Individual researchers were recorded not by name, but by the institution for which they are working.

Denmark	Aarhus University
Hungary	Central European University's School of Public Policy
Italy	Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet on Migrants' Rights in the Mediterranean
Italy	European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
Luxemburg	University of Luxembourg's Center for Research in Economics and Management
Netherlands	Radboud University Nijmegen
Netherlands	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Norway	Oslo University College
Portugal	Universidade de Coimbra
Sweden	Malmö University's Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare

Sweden	Uppsala Universitet
Switzerland	Graduate Institute Geneva's Global Migration Centre
United Kingdom	Coventry University
United Kingdom	London School of Economic and Political Science's Human Rights Blog
United Kingdom	London School of Economic and Political Science's Research Online
United Kingdom	University of Dundee
United Kingdom	University of Essex's School of Law
United Kingdom	University of Oxford's Center on Migration, Policy, and Society
United Kingdom	University of Oxford's Faculty of Law
United Kingdom	University of Oxford's Human Rights Hub
United Kingdom	University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Center
United Kingdom	University of Southampton's Centre for Banking, Finance and Sustainable Development

# Methodology

The point of departure for our mapping was always the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog, which is maintained by Elisa Mason, an independent researcher. About every week, the blog publishes a list of events and publications with a regional focus on Europe. We then complemented the blog with another resource, a list by the European Parliamentary Research Service’s on think tanks (“What think tanks are thinking – Europe’s Migration Crisis”), which mentions 14 additional institutions. As neither the Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog nor that list features non-English-speaking



**Chart 8: Digging Through Twitter**

A visualization of 1,422 tweets that were published around March 23, 2016, and that mention the term “refugee crisis” (or its equivalent in foreign languages) or respond to a tweet that mentions the term. Circles indicate tweets that find no echo. Tweets by civil society actors are marked in red. (Graphic: NodeXL)

actors as well as actors that do not publish or organize events, we also examined Twitter. We probed Twitter on three separate days (March 23, 26 and 30) and used multiple keywords, which were automatically translated by the Twitter search network into multiple languages. The resulting tweets were scanned for accounts belonging to members of civil society organizations. Based on 3,722 tweets that mention the terms “refugee” or “refugee crisis,” “migrant crisis” and “asylum,” we identified an additional 21 civil society organizations.

Scraping Twitter fails to spot civil society organizations that do not conduct social media outreach – operational civil society organizations in particular. Therefore, we complemented the list of civil society actors with a list created by the European Economic and Social Committee, a EU consultative body that seeks to connect EU institutions with civil society. In late 2015 and early 2016, delegations of the committee visited 11 EU member states to meet operational civil society organizations working with migrants and to catalog their problems, needs, failures and successes in order to provide advice to EU policymakers. The country reports list 54 civil society organizations, providing a snapshot of civil society organizations that are active for migrants on the ground, but not necessarily directly involved in EU policy debates.

Finally, we included insights gleaned from non-attributable consultations with more than 20 civil society actors and policymakers.

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## Endnotes

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- 1 Eurostat (codes: “migr\_asyctz” and “migr\_asyappctza”).
- 2 Médecins Sans Frontières, “Obstacle Course to Europe: A Policy-Made Humanitarian Crisis at EU Borders,” December 2015, [http://www.msf.org/sites/msf.org/files/msf\\_obstacle\\_course\\_to\\_europe.pdf](http://www.msf.org/sites/msf.org/files/msf_obstacle_course_to_europe.pdf).
- 3 “Humanitarian Europe?: Report on a roundtable meeting on the humanitarian and policy responses to the 2015 refugee and migrant movements through Lesvos, Greece and into the European Union,” December 9, 2015, <http://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Lesvos-Roundtable-Report.pdf>.

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