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Introduction: Developing Strategies for Stability and a Sustainable Shared Development in Euro-Mediterranean Migrations

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Introduction: Developing Strategies for Stability and a Sustainable Shared Development in Euro-Mediterranean Migrations

Guest Editor Emanuela C. Del Re

This special issue on migration offers a collection of contributions from prominent scholars, academics, and researchers from Europe, Africa, and the United States who provide a unique multilevel and prismatic analysis of this fundamental social phenomenon.

In her introductory essay, Emanuela C. Del Re provides a wide and vivid picture of the several dimensions of migration flows in the current global scenario and, in particular, in the Mediterranean. She proposes new interpretations of this complex phenomenon, analyzing its multiple aspects and characteristics and the push factors and policies and responses of the countries of origin, transit, and destination. Del Re suggests new approaches and strategies to deal with the issue of migration, urging the EU member states and EU institutions to adopt management policies for stability and sustainability that are welcoming and that respect human rights.

Mustafa Attir, director of the Center for Applied Social Research at the Libyan Academy of Graduate Studies in Tripoli, provides an exclusive and thorough insight into migration issues from within the key country of Libya, stressing critical aspects and perspectives, with an interesting diachronic analysis of the evolution of migration flows and its impact on Libya and the Mediterranean.

Nicolamaria Coppola, a PhD candidate at Sapienza University of Rome, examines migrations from a gender perspective. He asserts that migration can be empowering for women, and at the same time it may exacerbate vulnerabilities, including abuse and trafficking, particularly when migrants are low skilled or irregular.

Federico Donelli, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Political Science at the University of Genoa, writes about Syrian refugees in Turkey from a security perspective. He analyses the nexus between security and migration in Turkey and examines the social, economic, security, and foreign policy effects of refugees on the Turkish republic.

Germano Dottori, a lecturer at the chair of Strategic Studies at Luiss-Guido Carli University in Rome and a member of the Scientific Board of *Limes* magazine, analyzes the influence of political orientations in the development of migration policies in the European Union. He lists the forces shaping the political orientations regarding mass migration across Europe, and he shows how they combine and affect the policies being adopted. Dottori focuses on the economic and political positions underpinning progressive, liberal options for an open-door policy and their opposing views.

Leila Hudson, an associate professor at the University of Arizona, observes and explores the migration dynamics of the Syrian refugees in Europe. Highlighting and describing the routes

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Syrians follow in their journey to Europe, she writes that by the time Syrian people arrive in large numbers on the southern shores of Europe, they have already endured much trauma and have made critical decisions that limit their ability to return to Syria or even to neighboring Arab countries

Yannis Ktistakis, an assistant professor in public international law at Democritus University of Thrace (Greece) and Boğaziçi University in Istanbul (Turkey), examines immigration controls and their conformity with human rights and investigates whether expulsion procedures conform with human rights.

Marxiano Melotti, a professor and researcher at Niccolò Cusano University, Rome, describes the island of Lampedusa as a stage on which to perform not only political narratives are transmitted, but also where creative and artistic narratives are explicitly tied to migration and destined to shape public images of the island in an attractive way.

Toni Mileski, a professor and researcher at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, focuses on the initial period of the refugee and migrant crisis. He examines the measures, activities, and deficiencies of the institutions involved in the crisis, including the inhumane treatment of refugees and the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Macedonia to deal with the illegal crossings at its southern border.

Hedvig Morvai, executive director of the European Fund for the Balkans in Serbia, and Dragan Djokovic, a political adviser to the government of Serbia, analyze the effects of the closing of the Balkan migratory route, focusing on the political dimension and on emerging populist narrative.

Padraig O'Malley, John Joseph Moakley Professor of Peace and Reconciliation at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston, and founding editor of the *New England Journal of Public Policy*, describes the conflicts and other interrelated causes—including violence, climate-related disasters, poverty and political oppression—that have led to a global-migration and population-displacement crisis. He presents data on migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons and exposes the rise of extreme nationalist tendencies in the West—in particular, Europe, where several measures to stem the flow of refugees have been imposed.