

MEDAM - Dahrendorf Forum Policy Dialogue

Perceptions of Migration in Europe. Implications for Policy-Making

Date and time: Thursday, 15 November 2018, 13:15 - 14:30

Venue: CEPS, 1 Place du Congrès, 1000 Brussels

Policy-making on immigration and asylum is often motivated by prevailing public attitudes. At the same time, public opinion can be shaped by how political actors frame the issues and challenges at hand. Since the onset of the 'refugee crisis' in 2014, irregular migration has been of particular concern to people across the EU and has remained high on the political agenda. In many EU member states, negative sentiment among some social groups is perceived to be on the rise, thus motivating the adoption of restrictive policies. Have European citizens really become less accepting of immigration over the past few years? Or is it that the perceptions of policy-makers have changed? How have policy-makers' perceptions and public opinion interacted to produce particular policy outcomes, and what lessons can we draw?

The policy dialogue, organised jointly by MEDAM and the Dahrendorf Forum, brings together European researchers and policy-makers for an exchange of research results and policy ideas on issues related to public and political perceptions of immigration.

Agenda

12:30 – 13:15 Registration and Sandwich Lunch

13:15 – 14:00 Panel Debate "Perceptions of Migration in Europe. Policy Implications"

Esther Ademmer and Tobias Stöhr / MEDAM, IfW, Kiel / "Public attitudes and the refugee crisis: evidence from survey and social media data"

Lenka Drazanova / OPAM, EUI, Florence / "Europe divided? Attitudes to immigration ahead of the 2019 European elections"

Josefin Graef / Dahrendorf Forum, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin / "Responding to Populist Narratives of Migration"

Discussant: Monica de Coninck, member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, Belgian Minister of Labour in 2011-14

14:00 – 14:30 Q&A with the audience

About MEDAM

The Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration is a practical research project aimed at producing informed economic perspectives on migration. With a view to strengthening Europe's ability to act in this field, MEDAM intends to fill the gaps in policy research on asylum and migration and to develop recommendations for decision-makers at the national and European levels. Funded by Stiftung Mercator, the project brings together researchers from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence and the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. More information can be found at <http://www.medam-migration.eu/>

About the Dahrendorf Forum – Debating Europe

The Dahrendorf Forum is a joint initiative by the Hertie School of Governance and the London School of Economics and Political Science, funded by Stiftung Mercator. It honours the legacy of the late politician, social scientist and former Director of the LSE Lord Ralf Dahrendorf (1919-2009). Since its creation in 2010, the Forum's main aim has been to provide a space for open discussion between academics, policy-makers and relevant practitioners in government and administration, encouraging constructive reflection on the mid- to long-term strategic challenges facing Europe. The recent project cycle "The future of Europe: Strategic options for an era of uncertainties" (2017-2019) has two working groups: one located in London looking at the future of European governance (Co-Chairs: Kevin Featherstone and Iain Begg of the European Institute at LSE) and the other in Berlin examining Europe's societal change, politics and the public sphere (Co-Chairs: Andrea Römmele and Helmut K. Anheier of the Hertie School of Governance). More information about the project can be found at <http://www.dahrendorf-forum.eu/>

Selected publications

Himmrich, Julia, A 'Hybrid Threat'? European Militaries and Migration, [Dahrendorf Forum Working Paper No. 02](#), April 2018.

MEDAM, "Flexible Solidarity: A Comprehensive Strategy for Asylum and Immigration in the EU", [MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies 2018](#), Kiel: IfW, June 2018.

MEDAM, "Sharing Responsibility for Refugees and Expanding Legal Immigration", [MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies 2017](#), Kiel: IfW, June 2017.

Sus, Monika, and Franziska Pfeifer (eds.). [European Union in the World 2025: Scenarios for EU Relations with its Neighbours and Strategic Partners](#). Dahrendorf Forum Report, May 2016.