



Mercator Dialogue on  
Asylum and Migration

## MEDAM Seminar

# When to take a risk: Why do African Migrants Undertake Risky Migration? Evidence from Gambia

**Date and time:** Tuesday, 5 February 2019, 11:00 - 12:30

**Venue:** CEPS, 1 Place du Congrès, 1000 Brussels

Irregular migration to Europe through the sea, though risky, remains one of the most popular migration options for many Sub-Saharan Africans. Policymakers have scaled up their efforts to deter potential migrants from embarking on this dangerous route. However, these efforts must address the relevant factors in the decision-making process of the potential migrants. Do the latter actually know how risky their intended voyage is? Do they have realistic expectations regarding their chances of being granted asylum after their arrival? If not, are their migration intentions affected by more accurate information?

These questions will be addressed at the next MEDAM Seminar with Catia Batista, Professor of Economics at the Nova School of Business and Economics in Lisbon. Prof. Batista will present recent findings of her research on the incentives to migrate in face of a risky migration route and uncertain asylum prospects. Her empirical analysis draws on a lab-in-the-field experiment conducted in rural Gambia.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion of the results and possible implications for EU and national policymakers in the area of migration.

### Agenda

10:30 – 11:00 Registration and coffee

11:00 – 11:30 Why do African migrants undertake risky migration? Evidence from Gambia  
Presentation by Prof. Catia Batista, Nova School of Business and Economics

11:30 – 11:45 Discussion of the presentation and implications for policymaking

11:45 – 12:15 Questions and answers

12:15 – 13:00 Sandwich lunch

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This MEDAM Seminar is organised by CEPS.

Chair and contact person: Andreas Backhaus, [andreas.backhaus@ceps.eu](mailto:andreas.backhaus@ceps.eu)

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## 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/>.

## Latest publications produced under MEDAM

Lananti, L. and R. Thiele. "Foreign Aid Can Dampen Migration If It Improves Public Services", MEDAM Policy Brief, December 2018

Barslund, M., N. Laurentsyeva and M. Di Salvo. "[The impact of refugees on the labour market: a big splash in a small pond?](#)", CEPS Working Document, CEPS, Brussels, October 2018

MEDAM. "[MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies 2018](#)", Kiel: IfW, June 2018

Barslund, M. and L. Ludolph. "[Migrants in the Mediterranean: Easy and difficult solutions](#)", CEPS Commentary, CEPS, Brussels, October 2017

Laurentsyeva, N. and A. Venturini. "[The Social Integration of Immigrants and the Role of Policy – A Literature Review](#)", Intereconomics, No 2017/5, pp. 285-292

Barslund, M. and L. Ludolph. "[Mediterranean migrants: Little help on offer for Italy](#)", CEPS Commentary, CEPS, Brussels, July 2017

MEDAM. "[MEDAM Assessment Report on Asylum and Migration Policies 2017](#)", Kiel: IfW, June 2017

Lücke, M. and C. Schneiderheinze, "[More Financial Burden-Sharing for Developing Countries that Host Refugees](#)", G20 Insights Policy Brief, G20 Insights, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel, March 2017

