

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
**"THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION.
MAPPING THE RIGHT EU POLICIES"**

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2015, SOFIA BULGARIA
Sofia Hotel Balkan/ former Sheraton Hotel

Working languages: Bulgarian and English /simultaneous translation/

Day 1: 16 November 2015

10:30 - 11:00 Registration and coffee

11:00 - 12:30 PANEL 1. INSTITUTIONAL READINESS OF THE EU IN LIGHT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS. IS THE UNION WELL-EQUIPED TO DEAL WITH COMPLEX CHALLENGES?

Among the topics for discussion are:

- Is the EU equipped to tackle the complexity of risks and threats at its doorsteps and what are the lessons learned from the responses to the refugee crisis so far?
- What is EU's latest Agenda on Migration and its status of implementation?
- How suitable are migration quotas and redistribution mechanisms as instruments for dealing with the influx internally?

Opening words:

Marko Arndt, Head of "Konrad Adenauer Foundation" Sofia

Vít Novotny, Senior research officer at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Eva Paunova, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

Daniel Smilov, Programmes Director at the Centre for Liberal Strategies

Moderator: Vessela Tcherneva, Programmes and Sofia office director at ECFR

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 - 15:00 PANEL 2. IN SEARCH OF A COMMON RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS: NATIONAL VS. COMMUNITY APPROACH.

Among the topics for discussion are:

- Public perceptions of migration.
- Mapping the refugee crisis and its political, economic and cultural dimensions.
- The refugee crisis in numbers – costs, funds and burden-sharing in the MS.
- Blue Card – curse or a blessing for EU's labor market

Nikola Kovacevic, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

Radu Musetescu, Associate Professor and Head of Department International Business and Economics, Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest

Shaun Riordan, Senior Visiting Fellow, Clingendael

Moderator: Jordan Bozhilov, Founding Chairman of Sofia Forum for Security

15:00 WRAPING UP DAY 1

Day 2: 17 November 2015

09:00 - 09:30 Registration and coffee

PANEL 3. THE REFUGEE CRISIS – A CRISIS OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE’S INTEGRATION POLICY

Among the topics for discussion are:

- Migration as a positive contribution to European economic growth.
- Existing integrational policies at national and EU levels and their effectiveness.

Boris Stanimirov, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee, National Assembly

Mariyana Stoyanova, Bulgarian Red Cross

John M. Nomikos, Director of the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS)

Moderator: Krassimira Temelkova, Standart News

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 PANEL 4. THE PUBLIC DEBATES AND THE MORAL IMPERATIVE OF THE CRISIS: OPPORTUNITY TO REINSTATE TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN VALUES

Among the topics for discussion are:

- Discussing values: receiving societies meet immigrants.
- Legal and moral obligations of receiving countries.
- Communications strategies in times of crisis – what role to public diplomacy?

Marta Szpala, Senior Fellow, Central European Department, Centre for Eastern Studies, Poland

Betina Zhoteva, Spokesperson at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ognyan Minchev, Executive Director at Institute for Regional and International Studies

Moderator: Irina Nedeva, Bulgarian National Radio

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 WRAPING UP DAY 2 AND FAREWELL