

ABOUT:

MORE critically examines the Returns and Readmissions policy of the EU and the UK, as priority response to administrative irregularity among third-country nationals. This policy approach has resulted in narrowing pathways meant to safeguard the rights of migrated populations across Europe. Increasingly restrictive interpretations of the Returns Directive, along with intensified efforts to expedite deportations, have led to severe human rights violations, without making any meaningful progress in effectively addressing the phenomenon of irregularity. The project analyses how the dynamics of the securitisation of borders, economic interests and political imperatives have converged to promote returns policies. It evidences their consequences on the daily lives of irregularised migrants, their families, communities and the European society at large. Moreover, it explores other approaches beyond return that tackle the structural causes of irregularity and provide dignified alternatives.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



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Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives

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OBJECTIVES:

1 Develop

a critical in-depth analysis of the returns and readmission policy, including its motivation, rationale, and implementation.

2 Generate

up-to-date knowledge on public opinion of the return and readmissions policy, alternative strategies, and its implications on the political debate.

3 Provide

an in-depth ethnographic assessment of the implementation and consequences of the Returns and Readmissions policy.

4 Research

alternative approaches to detention and deportation and assess their potential replicability to propose pathways for their implementation.

METHODS:

Policy analysis

Through document reviews and expert interviews, MORE will explore the political rationale behind the EU and UK's preference for returns and readmissions policies.

Public opinion analysis

MORE will compare public support for these policies and alternatives across the EU and UK using existing survey data.

Multi-sited ethnographic research

Through and in-depth, multi-sited ethnographic research MORE will provide a unique ground-breaking analysis of the lived experiences of migrants at risk of detention and deportation. Moreover, it will deepen into the 'making of policy' through an ethnographic approach to implementing state-agents.

Participant observation
and in-depth interviews with irregularised migrants at risk of return.

Focus group discussions,
interviews, and participatory sessions with returnees and their communities.

Focus groups and interviews
with state agents, including police forces, detention staff, and immigration agents.

MAIN OUTPUTS:

Revision

of the assumptions, the rationale and supporting data that have led to the implementation of detention and deportation as the preferred mechanisms for addressing administrative irregularity among foreign citizens in the EU and the UK.

Identifying

and assessing existing alternative governmental and grassroots approaches to administrative irregularity among foreign nationals, upscaling key strategies of resistance and resilience implemented on the ground that effectively address administrative irregularity and its consequences.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT?

- Policy-makers at the EU, regional and national levels
- Local, national and EU-level civil society actors
- People at risk of return
- Researchers working in the fields of migration and policy