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CoSME
COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP
FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

IntoME
Integration of Migrants in Europe

Jean Monnet
Centre of Excellence
UNIVERSITY OF TUSCIA

Summer Training School 2025 | 30 June – 4 July

Integration Policies in Europe: Testing Community Sponsorship and Competing Models

Venue | **Complesso di San Carlo** | Room 6
University of Tuscia | **DIKE Dept.** | hybrid mode

OPENING ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues and Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to the CoSME-IntoME Summer Training School (STS), an intensive five-day course jointly organised by the PRIN Project 2/2022 on Community Sponsorship for Migrants in Europe (CoSME) and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the Integration of Migrants in Europe (IntoME).

This 5th edition of the STS aims to provide Master's and PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, practitioners and experts with a conceptual and practical toolbox to expand their knowledge of community sponsorship and competing models in Europe along the following key dimensions:

- The EU's contribution to the design and standard-setting of sponsorship-based pathways;*
- The complex relationship between admission, reception and integration in sponsorship schemes in Europe;*
- The impact of fragmented status and rights on durable solutions for beneficiaries;*
- The principles and values that underpin the creation of a common European sponsorship model.*

The afternoon sessions will feature training activities aimed at facilitating interaction and discussion among all participants. With the assistance of the School's trainers, you will have the opportunity to engage in collective brainstorming on the challenges of scaling up legal and complementary pathways and community sponsorship.

We hope that the STS will be an enriching and productive experience for all.

Enjoy it!

Daniela Vitiello and Mario Savino



COURSE COORDINATORS

Daniela Vitiello
Mario Savino

PROJECT MANAGER

Giulia Del Turco

TRAINERS

Prevail Adewale-Alfred
Nicolò Acquarelli
Alessia Bastianelli
Giampiero Cassola
Francesco Damosso
Tamta Gventsadze
Marilù Porchia

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TEACHING PROGRAMME

30 June | 9.30 – 10:00 | Opening Address

Daniela **VITIELLO** | P.I. of the PRIN 2022 CoSME (UNITUS DIKE)
Mario **SAVINO** | Coordinator of the JM CoE "IntoME"

30 June | 10.00 – 13:00 | Definition and Approaches to Community Sponsorship and Complementary Pathways

Legal and administrative frameworks for migrant and refugee sponsorship in Europe and beyond Europe

Christopher **HEIN** | LUISS 'Guido Carli' University

Conceptualising community sponsorship in the EU: An autonomous complementary pathway or a component of legal pathway?

Chiara **BERNERI** | The Open University

1 July | 10.00 – 13:00 | Procedural Fairness and Non-Discrimination in Humanitarian and Labour Pathways

Due process (and due proceeding) in private sponsorship of refugees program: The case of Canada (through the lens of Italy)

Luca **GALLI** | University of Milan

Labour pathways for refugees: A legal and operational appraisal

Daniele **ALBANESE** | Talent Beyond Boundaries





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TEACHING PROGRAMME

2 July | 10.00 – 13:00 | *Community Sponsorship and Legal Pathways in North-South and South-South Perspective*

A North-South market-driven refugee resettlement model: The case of Australia

Cristina MILANO | University of Tuscia

A South-South legal pathway: Private sponsorship programmes for Syrians in Argentina

Marilù PORCHIA | University of Ferrara

3 July | 10.00 – 13:00 | *Private-Public Partnership for Mass Displacement: the case of Ukraine*

Temporary protection and solidarity mechanisms: Law, policy, and practice

Viktoryia VAITOVICH | Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Responsibility-sharing options in cases of large-scale displacement: Insight from Poland

Joanna MARKIEWICZ-STANNY | University of Zielona Góra

4 July | 10.00 – 13:00 | *Towards a European Model of Community Sponsorship*

Models of responsibility-sharing within the New Pact and the EU integration tools

Daniela VITIELLO | University of Tuscia

Fashion or feature? A decade of community sponsorship in Europe

Petra HUECK | Vrije Universiteit Brussel



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TRAINING SESSIONS

TRAINING SESSION 1 – Policy paper

Topic: *The Union Resettlement Framework and Humanitarian Admission Programmes*

MONDAY 30th JUNE – TUESDAY 1ST JULY

Participants will be divided into working groups to draft a **policy paper on effective implementing strategies for the Union Resettlement Framework (Regulation (EU) 2024/1350), considering the perspectives of countries of origin and countries of destination.** Resettlement and humanitarian admission are key elements of a sustainable and comprehensive approach to managing migration. In line with the High Level Committee's recommendations and the preliminary contributions set out by the Member States, the Commission will present its proposal for the Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Plan in autumn. The Union Plan will serve as a strategic tool to further embed the Union's resettlement and humanitarian admission efforts within comprehensive partnerships and dialogues with key third countries. After the Commission has made its proposal, the Council and the Member States will finalise the Union Plan. They will work towards adopting it by the end of 2025, so that it can be implemented in time for the 2026–2027 period.

With this in mind, each group will be asked to propose ideas to the European Institutions with a view to inspire the decision-making process. In doing so, they should pay particular attention to the challenges of defining the goals, the beneficiaries and the challenges ahead. To this end, each group may use as a model the policy paper on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *State of play on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum*, COM(2025) 319 final.

Before the start of the plenary session, team leaders should share the policy papers with the trainers via email: cosmeprin@gmail.com. Please note that further reading materials are provided [here](#).



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TRAINING SESSIONS

TRAINING SESSION 2 – Roundtable

Topic: *The Promises of “Early Integration”: Understanding How the Path Shapes Refugees’ Integration Prospects*

WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY – THURSDAY 3rd JULY

Participants will be divided into working groups to engage in a collective brainstorming (first day) and plenary roundtable (second day) on the promises of “early integration”. The integration of asylum seekers in EU Member States is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, representing a pivotal challenge in the development of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ). This is a “legal space” in which the fair treatment of third-country nationals shall be ensured, the principle of non-discrimination shall be respected, and greater inclusion and social cohesion shall be pursued at all levels of governance. The term “early integration” refers to national strategies and policies that foster the integration of asylum seekers from day 1, while they await a decision on their status. Indeed, it has been demonstrated that a lack of early integration measures can jeopardise the success, inclusivity and bidirectionality of refugee integration, while often complicating the return of failed protection seekers (see, OECD, *Les clés de l’intégration. Les réfugiés et autres groupes nécessitant une protection*, 2016). “Early integration” has been conceptualised at the EU level in the aftermath of the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis and then further developed for the primary reception of Ukrainian refugees following the outbreak of the war.

With this in mind, each group will be asked to contribute to a collective brainstorming session on strategies for expanding early integration policies at the EU level, and in particular within the remit of the *EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027* (COM(2020) 758 final). Before the start of the plenary session, team leaders should share the outcomes of the first round of collective brainstorming with the trainers via email: cosmeprin@gmail.com. Please note that further reading materials are provided [here](#).



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VENUE



Department of Legal, Social and Educational Sciences (DIKE), University of Tuscia – VITERBO

Viterbo is a medieval city located at the foot of the Cimino Mountains, to the northwest of Rome. Of Etruscan origin, the town was captured by the Romans around 310 BC. In 774, it was included among the Lombard towns of Tuscany and, in the 11th century, Matilda of Tuscany gave it to the pope. An independent commune and episcopal see since 1193, Viterbo was the site of three centuries of disputes between the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire before becoming a papal possession in 1396. In 1257, Viterbo became the capital of Catholicism when Pope Alexander IV moved the papal court there to avoid civil unrest in Rome. However, the city declined in importance again after the papacy was moved to Avignon in France in 1309. Although almost 70 per cent of the town was destroyed in World War II, Viterbo was one of the first Italian towns to complete post-war reconstruction.

Viterbo lies in the heart of the ancient Etruscan region and there are indelible and interesting remnants of that civilisation all over the area, along with Roman remains. The area was known as Tuscia and is scattered with Roman and Etruscan artefacts, such as necropolises, streets, bridges, ancient thermal spas, amphitheatres (Sutri and Ferento) and villas (Calvisiana and Varroniana). Signs of a glorious past are visible everywhere in towns such as Tarquinia, Tuscania, Vulci, Cerveteri, Veio, Faleri, Sutri and Ferento. Nearby attractions include the famous Monster Park at Bomarzo and the 'impossible' town of Civita di Bagnoregio, which is perched on a mesa surrounded by unusual canyons.

Viterbo's medieval quarter has many alluring lanes, which are lovely to wander through by day and in the evening, when the light is suffused and the air is romantic. There are also several great museums, beautiful churches and pretty piazzas to enjoy. However, Viterbo is indelibly linked to the popes, which remains its historical claim to fame. It is known as 'La Città dei Papi' – the City of Popes – and its biggest attraction is, unsurprisingly, the Papal Palace.





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SPEAKERS



Legal and Administrative Frameworks for Migrant and Refugee Sponsorship in Europe and Beyond

The contribution aims at introducing the topic by linking community sponsorship to the broader dimension of policies which promote legal access of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to the destination countries. This entails a brief reconstruction of the evolution of those policies on the global and the European levels, as well as a reflexion on models of cooperation between States and civil societies and the underlying interests on both sides. The cooperation requires a legal and administrative basis, in international, regional and national instruments. Regarding the EU, the recent Framework Regulation on Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission is analysed, questioning the innovative approach and the feasibility of implementation. European and non-European experiences and programmes are evaluated with respect of the 5 principal steps included, or need to be included, in the respective national or supra-national policies: determination or "selection" of beneficiaries; admission to the territory; reception, integration including family reunification; return and repatriation. Each step requires a definition of the modalities of cooperation between public and non-State-actors, the responsibilities, the envisaged numbers of migrants and refugees to whom the action is addressed, and the financing of activities.

The suspension of the main resettlement and humanitarian programmes in the United States as from early 2025 may call for new orientations on how "to fill the gap". The whole concept of community sponsorship may be subject to a new definition, after more than half a century during which the US had assumed worldwide a leading role.

CHRISTOPHER HEIN



Christopher Hein has been a contract professor since 2015 at LUISS Guido Carli University, Department of Political Science. His main fields of teaching and research include migration and asylum policies and law, international human rights law, EU policies on forced displacement, international protection, and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. He has also taught at La Sapienza University in Rome, the University of Pisa, and Universidad Carlos III in Madrid. As an international civil servant, he worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Latin America, Pakistan, North Africa, Geneva, and Italy. From 1990 to 2015, he served as Director of the Italian Council for Refugees (CIR). He has authored numerous publications in English, Italian, German, French, and Spanish.



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SPEAKERS



Conceptualising Community Sponsorship in the EU: An Autonomous Complementary Pathway or a Component of Legal Pathways?

This lecture explores the concept of community sponsorship of refugees within the European Union, examining how it is defined and understood at the EU level. It pays particular attention to whether community sponsorship should be seen as an independent complementary pathway, a component of legal pathways, or potentially both. The discussion begins by situating the topic in the international context and reviewing the EU's overall approach to community sponsorship. It then delves into several critical areas, including the legal frameworks that underpin sponsorship schemes and the potential for discriminatory practices. The lecture ultimately aims to assess whether a flexible interpretation of community sponsorship could enhance its implementation and effectiveness across EU Member States.

CHIARA BERNERI



Dr Chiara Berneri Law Lecturer at The Open University (UK), which she joined in September 2021. Her interests focus on EU law, International Law, Human Rights and Constitutional Law. Her research focus lies, in particular, at the intersection between immigration law, human rights, state sovereignty and citizenship. Chiara holds a law degree from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy), an LLM in European Union law from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD from City, University of London. Chiara published two books with Hart Publishing, the latest in 2024, entitled 'Private Sponsorship of Refugees in Europe'. She also published in leading journals, such as the European Journal of Migration and Law and the European Journal of Law and Economics.



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SPEAKERS

LUCA GALLI



Due Process (and Due Proceeding) in Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program: The Case of Canada (through the Lens of Italy)

Canada is usually referred to as an inspirational model for any legal system wishing to implement resettlement procedures and, in particular, complementary pathways characterized by an effective involvement of civil society. Indeed, the success of the Canadian *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program* is witnessed by its own numbers: more than 45 years since its beginning and more than 300,000 refugees assisted, which are the results of the involvement of an articulate social base of sponsors willing to take charge for the relocation, reception and integration of the beneficiaries.

This lecture is therefore aimed at highlighting the strengths of this resettlement system, stressing out how a clear regulatory basis, a correct implementation of due process and procedural fairness, and a precise definition of public and private responsibilities could play a key role for the prosperity of community driven relocation mechanisms. However, the Canadian experience is not without critical issues, ranging from excessively time-consuming selection procedures to a degeneration into a broader family reunification mechanism. Thus, an analysis of the Canadian model certainly demonstrates a strong interest, whether in terms of best practices to be replicated or flaws to be prevented in designing new pathways for refugees' protected entry.

*Luca Galli is a Researcher of Administrative Law at University of Milano, where he holds the course "Digital Transition, Proceedings and Drafting of Public Administration Documents" (2024-2025). In 2018, he received a PhD in Administrative Law, with a thesis on human rights protection before the administrative judges, at the University of Milano-Bicocca, where he also taught courses on "Environmental Law" (2020-2023) and "Public competitions for recruitment in civil services" (2021-2023). He also has been a visiting student at UC Berkeley School of Law (2011), visiting scholar at Sciences Po-Paris (2016-2017) and he got an LLM at McGill University-Montreal (2019-2020). He has published two books, *La coprogrammazione e la coprogettazione dei servizi di integrazione dei migranti [Co-programming and co-design of migrant integration services]* (2022) and *Rethinking integration contracts. The role of administrative law in building an intercultural society* (2021).*



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Labour Pathways for Refugees: A Legal and Operational Appraisal

Millions of refugees possess valuable skills but often remain trapped in first asylum countries with limited opportunities, limited access to work and risking the loss of their qualifications and perpetuating their vulnerability. Labour mobility Pathways emerge as a complementary solution to traditional resettlement, offering refugees safe and legal access to the job market in third countries. These Skills-Based Pathways are supported by growing international consensus, as highlighted in global policy documents like the Global Compact on Refugees. They enable refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency and integrate, while host countries benefit from their skills and businesses find motivated workers. Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB), the first global organization aiming at unlocking labor mobility pathways for refugees, has pioneered this field since 2015, demonstrating through its Talent Catalog and pilot programs the immense potential of connecting skilled refugees with global labor demands, fostering a demand-driven approach. Studies show that including refugees in the labor market leads to increased productivity, employee engagement, and improved company reputation. The lesson will explore the main features of labour mobility pathways in different countries, highlighting their diverse operational models. It'll also delve into the guidelines developed by the Global Task Force on Refugee Labor Mobility, which aim to ensure the effectiveness, sustainability, and expansion of these vital programs. Despite an increase in work permits issued, global opportunities remain limited. Key challenges include difficulties in obtaining documentation, recognition of qualifications, and a lack of resources for training and support. Labour Pathways are still developing but represent a promising approach to addressing migration crises, promoting integration, and creating a win-win situation for refugees, host countries, and businesses.

DANIELE ALBANESE



He leads EU Programs at Talent Beyond Boundaries, advancing labor mobility for refugees and displaced talent across Europe. His work focuses on sustainable employment and socio-economic inclusion. He serves on the Boards of ICMC Europe / SHARE Network and the COSME research project, advising on migration governance. With field experience in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East, he designs practical solutions for forced displacement. At Caritas Italiana, he coordinated humanitarian corridors, labor and education pathways, and was focal point for the Africa-Europe Human Mobility Network. He has published with ISPI and others on EU migration policy and served on the board of Consorzio Communitas, promoting refugee integration and local development.



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A North-South Market-Driven Refugee Resettlement Model: The Case of Australia

The Australian Community Support Program (CSP), formally established in 2017, provides a means for resettlement of up to 1,000 sponsored refugees annually, with particular focus on individuals who are considered "work ready" and possess "functional English". Although the program sets out a formal structure for community involvement in refugee resettlement, it has also posed various questions of program design and implementation. Notably, reliance upon private funding instead of government-supported posts, coupled with emphasis upon economic self-sufficiency, has contributed to uncertainty among some commentators regarding whether or not the CSP is an authentically additional path or rather marks a trend toward market-oriented outsourcing of protection of refugees. High visa application and processing fees could also limit access, de facto charging a fee of access to individuals possessing adequate financial means or well-funded sponsors. Moreover, the choice criteria – giving priority to candidates of economic value and language ability – have induced concern for equity and inclusion, particularly concerning regard for the most vulnerable. This trend appears to be part of a wider policy inclination that is driven towards rapid integration and economic utility, at the expense of potentially humanitarian interests. These results underscore the importance of ensuring that complementary channels such as community sponsorship do, in fact, expand protection space and are accessible, inclusive, and rights-based substitutes for traditional asylum regimes.

CRISTINA MILANO



Cristina Milano obtained her Master's degree in Law cum laude from LUISS Guido Carli University. In 2021, she also obtained a II Level Master's Degree in "International Protection of Human Rights – Maria Rita Saulle" at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", with a mark of 110/110 cum laude. In 2025 she got her Ph.D. in EU Law, focusing on the interplay between the EU readmission policy and international law. Her main areas of research interest include: EU immigration and asylum policy, EU external action on immigration and asylum, border management, children's rights.





SPEAKERS

MARILÙ PORCHIA



A South-South Legal Pathway: Private Sponsorship Programmes for Syrians in Argentina

Argentina is the first and, so far, the only country in Latin America to implement community sponsorship programmes, initially through the Syrian Programme and later through the Special Programme for those displaced by socio-natural disasters. Unlike traditional sponsorship models focused solely on refugees, both schemes included individuals with broader protection needs. Flexibility in defining protection, as seen in Europe's response to Ukrainian displacement, enables sponsorship in mass displacement scenarios. However, safeguards are needed to ensure that it remains a protection-oriented tool. This implies respect for the principle of complementarity: in Argentina, private sponsorship is implemented in the absence of a public resettlement programme, effectively delegating the State's responsibility for the reception and integration of forcibly displaced persons to civil society actors. This allows the State to use community sponsorship as a means to reduce costs and increase its ability to select preferred refugees, reflecting a migration control approach similar to that of the Global North. Therefore, for Argentina's community sponsorship model to be replicated in other Latin American countries, it is essential to ensure accessibility, clear role definitions, due process, and additionality—preventing governments from replacing resettlement with private initiatives.

Marilù Porchia is a Research Fellow at the University of Tuscia, where she is a member of the CoSME Project and serves as a Contract Professor of International Law at the DEIM Department. She holds a Ph.D. in International and European Law from the University of Ferrara. Her research focuses on asylum law, migrant detention, torture prevention mechanisms, access to justice, and human rights. She was admitted to the bar in 2018.





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SPEAKERS

VIKTORIYA VAITOVICH



Temporary Protection and Solidarity Mechanisms: Law, Policy, and Practice

On 4 March 2022, the Council of the European Union activated the 2001 Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in response to the displacement from Ukraine. With more than 4 million individuals currently registered under Temporary Protection (TP) or equivalent regimes in the EU and associated countries, this unprecedented measure allowed rapid access to protection and status, the provision of socio-economic rights, and the opportunity for individuals to choose the country of application for protection. The use of the TPD has been accompanied by solidarity measures, including the provision of financial assistance to EU Member States and associated countries by the EU, and the coordination of the response in the framework of the Solidarity Platform, launched by the European Commission. Currently valid until March 2026, the TP regime is set to be extended for the fifth consecutive year – until 4 March 2027 – as per the Commission's June 2025 proposal. This lecture will critically examine the unprecedented activation and ongoing extension of the TP regime, outlining the persisting implementation gaps as well as the lessons that could be applied to improve the protection standards for various groups of displaced persons.

Dr Viktoryia Vaitovich is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Previously, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Milan and worked as a Policy Officer at the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) in Brussels. A lawyer by training, she holds degrees in Political Science, European Studies and Sociology. She obtained a joint PhD in Migration Studies at Université Paul-Valéry-Montpellier 3 in France and the University of Porto in Portugal, where she was also a Horizon 2020 Marie Curie doctoral fellow. Viktoryia's research is in the areas of migration and labour, refugee protection, and EU integration.



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SPEAKERS



JOANNA MARKIEWICZ-STANNY



Responsibility-sharing Options in Cases of Large-Scale Displacement: Insight from Poland

The lecture examines responsibility-sharing mechanisms for the reception of refugees during large-scale displacement, using the case study of Ukrainians hosted in Poland under temporary protection. The following issues will be discussed during the classes: the legal status of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and its specificity in comparison with the legal norms applicable to other Ukrainians residing in Poland. In this context, the nature and characteristics of the Polish approach to mass displacement will be presented. Therefore, on the one hand, a mechanism of spontaneous support for refugees by Polish society, unprecedented in scale, will be analysed. This particularly concerns offering them free accommodation, which was financially supported by the state for about two years. In addition, temporary protection means almost national treatment in terms of access to education, healthcare and relatively easy access to the labour market. On the other hand, it should be noted that the Polish model assumes a high level of independence for Ukrainians in Poland, as evidenced, among other things, by the withdrawal in May 2024 of benefits paid to private entities providing accommodation and food to Ukrainians, as well as the introduction of fees for collective accommodation.

At the same time the challenges for integration stage of Ukrainians will be presented, namely: increasing commercialisation of aid and assistance services, difficulties in access to Polish language education and exams for adults, lack of formal representation of Ukrainians in relations with the authorities, low recognition rate of diplomas and qualifications.

Joanna Markiewicz-Stanny is a doctor of law, assistant professor at the Chair of Theory, Philosophy and History of Law in the Institute of Law Studies of the University of Zielona Góra. Author of several dozen scientific works in the field of international human rights law, international labour law and migration law, published in Poland and abroad. She conducted research at the invitation of the Universities of Uppsala, Perugia and Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University in Turku. Cooperating researcher of Migration Law Research Centre in the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Member of the editorial boards of "Dyskurs Prawniczy i Administracyjny", "Marine Policy", international advisory boards of the journals: "Zbornik radova Pravnog fakulteta", "Kenyatta University School of law Journal on Childrens Rights".



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SPEAKERS



Models of responsibility-sharing within the New Pact and the EU integration tools

The reform of both the New Pact of Migration and Asylum and the EU Integration Toolkit contributes to redefining solidarity as a three-dimensional principle, embodying not only the old-fashioned principle of responsibility-sharing among Member States (art. 80 TFEU), but also a refreshed form of external responsibility-sharing with third countries belonging to the European neighbourhood, and the emergence of transnational solidarity among individuals, cutting across nation-states. The application of solidarity differs between these diverse categories of subjects, i.e. Member States, third countries and individuals. In this sense, the reform multiplies the models of responsibility-sharing, bringing about a paradigm shift in the traditional understanding of the relationship between solidarity and responsibility. In terms of solidarity among Member States and between them and EU institutions, the new Pact on Migration and Asylum (in particular Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 on asylum and migration management) adopts a 'flexible solidarity' model. Regarding solidarity with third transit countries, the reform strengthens the EU's 'self-centric solidarity' model, expanding the scope and significance of financial contributions to support third countries in achieving EU goals. Regarding the 'transnational solidarity' among individuals, recent crises (pandemic, Ukrainian war, etc.) seem to have led to the emergence of forms of inter-individual solidarity, mostly based on 'functional cleavages' cutting across the Member States, the role of which as a source of social obligations/redistribution and as identity 'makers'/'markers' remains to be explored.

DANIELA VITIELLO



Daniela Vitiello is an Associate Professor of EU Law at the University of Tuscia, where she teaches EU Law (in Italian) and Human Mobility (in English). She is the Principal Investigator of the PRIN 2022 project "Towards a European Model of Community Sponsorship for Refugees" and Work Package Leader of WP3 in the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence IntoME. She also co-convenes the ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law. Daniela coordinates the UNITUS International Master's Programme in European Studies on "Security and Human Rights", serves as the Rector's delegate for the UNHCR-led UNICORE project, and co-delegate for the Italian University Network for Peace (RUNIPACE). She has published extensively on the EU's area of freedom, security and justice, including a monograph on Frontex. She serves on the editorial boards of several journals and blogs and is scientific coordinator of the AISDUE case law review.



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Fashion or Feature? A Decade of Community Sponsorship in Europe

This lecture explores the evolving landscape of community sponsorships in Europe, drawing on a decade of implementation and experimentation. Building on her 2019 article, the author examines how approaches to sponsorship have diversified within the broader framework of resettlement and complementary pathways. These developments highlight the growing roles of local communities, civil society actors, citizens, employers, and universities. Based on research and interviews with key policymakers and practitioners at EU and national levels (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, and the UK), the lecture takes stock of major achievements and considers the future trajectory of community sponsorship. Do new policy and legal frameworks offer a solid foundation for resilience, or do these programs remain vulnerable to political and economic shifts? In a context marked by political polarization, the rise of populism, anti-migration sentiment, housing shortages, compassion fatigue, and funding gaps, sustainability is at risk. Meanwhile, global needs for legal pathways grow, and evidence shows the promise of expanding such programs. The U.S. is retreating from resettlement and development, while the EU has remained a strong backer—especially financially. Will this support continue under the European Pact on Migration and Asylum? While grassroots engagement is robust, scaling up depends on many unknowns. Students will ultimately be asked: are community sponsorships a temporary “fashion,” or a lasting “feature” of Europe’s migration framework?

PETRA HUECK



Petra Hueck studied international law (Utrecht) and cultural anthropology (Leuven) and has over 30 years experience in international development, asylum and migration. During 2005-2024 she was the director of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Europe office in Brussels, being responsible for policy, research and program activities in the areas of migration and asylum, migration and (rural) development, refugee resettlement and complementary pathways, labour migration and local integration. In 2012, she co-founded the Share Network, an inclusive multi-stakeholder network that fosters the piloting and creation of complementary pathways and community sponsorships, welcome, inclusion and active participation of newcomers. Over the years she has participated in high level global and European migration governance processes and been a member of several advisory and consultative bodies (EUAA, FRONTEX). She has (co) authored numerous publications and articles and speaks Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish.



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