

*Proje Tanıtımı***RESPOND: Avrupa ve Ötesinde Kitlesele Göç Olgusunun
Çok katmanlı Yönetişimi Projesi¹****N. Ela Gökarp Aras²****Öz**

RESPOND: Avrupa'da ve Ötesinde Kitlesele Göçün Çok Düzeyli Yönetimi Projesi (RESPOND, #770564), 2015 Mülteci Krizi'ne yönelik politika ve uygulamalara ilişkin kapsamlı bir araştırma projesidir. Avrupa Birliği (AB) tarafından Horizon2020 Programı kapsamında Aralık 2017- Mart 2021 tarihleri arasında desteklenen RESPOND, 11 ülkeden 14 ortağı bir araya getirmektedir. Ülkeler arası karşılaştırmalı araştırmalar yoluyla makro, mezo (orta) ve mikro düzeylerde kitlesele göçün yönetimine ilişkin derinlemesine bir anlayış sağlamayı amaçlamaktadır. AB'nin, üye devletlerin ve üçüncü ülkelerin göç yönetim kapasitesini ve politika tutarlılığını artırmak amacıyla yönetim uygulamalarını eleştirel olarak analiz etmektedir. Bu proje tanıtımıyla, RESPOND'un genel hatları ve projenin önemli çıktıları ortaya konulmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Göç Yönetişimi, Kitlesele Göç, Mülteci Krizi, Avrupa Birliği, Türkiye

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Project Presentation

RESPOND: Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond Project

Abstract

RESPOND: Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond Project (RESPOND, #770564) is a comprehensive research project on responses to the 2015 Refugee Crisis. RESPOND is funded by the European Union (EU) under the Horizon2020 Programme from December 2017 to March 2021 and brings together 14 partners from 11 countries. It aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the governance of recent mass migration at macro, meso and micro levels through cross-country comparative research; to analyse governance practices critically to enhance the migration governance capacity and policy coherence of the EU, the Member States and third countries. This presentation provides the general feature and the important outcomes of RESPOND.

Keywords: Migration Governance, Mass Migration, Refugee Crisis, European Union, Turkey



Being an important destination, transit and source country in the field of migration, Turkey plays a vital role in research projects carried out in the field of migration and asylum. RESPOND: Multilevel Governance of Mass Migration in Europe and Beyond Project ¹ (hereafter RESPOND, #770564) is one of the comprehensive and long-term projects in this field. RESPOND was carried out in December 2017 and March 2021; however, the Project still continues its research, production, and publications with its rich empirical data by the consortium member institutions and scholars.

RESPOND is funded by the European Union (EU) under the Horizon2020 Programme to enhance the governance capacity and policy coherence of the EU, its Member States (MS) and neighbours. It is a comprehensive study of migration governance in the wake of the 2015 refugee crisis, one of the biggest challenges the Union has faced since its establishment. The crisis foregrounded the vulnerability of European borders, the tenuous jurisdiction of the Schengen system and broad problems in the multilevel governance of migration and integration. One of the most visible impacts of the refugee crisis has been the polarisation of politics within the EU MSs and the (in)coherence in Member States' response policies to the crisis. In this framework, RESPOND probes policy-making processes and policy (in)coherence through comparative research in the source, transit, and destination countries. RESPOND addresses how policy (in)coherence between the EU and its MSs and between states differentially positioned as transit, hosting and source countries affects migration governance. Specifically, it analyses the reasons behind the apparent policy incoherence by delineating interactions and outcomes between national refugee systems and the EU.

Bringing together 14 partners from 7 disciplines, RESPOND aims to:

- provide an in-depth understanding of the governance of recent mass migration at macro, meso and micro levels through transnational comparative research;
- critically analyse governance practices to enhance the migration governance capacity and policy coherence of the EU, its member states and third countries.

¹ The general information about the Project is gathered from the official website as well as from some of the publications of RESPOND, which are available at <https://respondmigration.com/>



RESPOND focuses on the Eastern Mediterranean route, especially the mass migration triggered by the Syrian Civil War from 2011 onward. The countries included in the Project and the target refugee populations have been selected accordingly. The selection is also guided by the significance of the chosen countries as the source, transit, and destination countries. The source countries we study are Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The transit countries we study are Turkey, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Hungary. And the destination countries we study in are Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Austria. Although the main focus of this Project is on the Eastern Mediterranean Route, in order to deepen our comparative understanding, the Project also looks at the Western and Central Mediterranean Routes through macro-level analysis of the Sub-Saharan Region countries, in particular Morocco and Libya, as well as the North-Eastern borders of the EU through Ukrainian migration to Poland. All of these routes and relevant third countries are important for migration and the EU external policy governance.

RESPOND argues that collective forms of migration management now operate beyond states or multigovernmental agencies but engage meso and micro-level actors. Therefore, RESPOND pays close attention to outlining and analysing responses to the recent mass migration at meso and micro levels along with macro level and provides a distinct way of understanding migration governance as a web of responses given by the various actors involved, including refugees themselves. This approach overcomes the pitfalls of a linear understanding of policy-making and implementation processes and explains the co-constitutive relations/interactions between macro, meso and micro levels.

RESPOND studies migration governance through a narrative which is constructed along with five thematic fields: (1) Border management and security, (2) Refugee protection regimes, (3) Reception policies, (4) Integration policies, and (5) Conflicting Europeanization. Each thematic field reflects a juncture in the migration journey of refugees and is designed to provide a holistic view of policies, their impact, and the affected actors' responses. The work plan of RESPOND is organised around 11 work packages (WPs) – of which 8 have research tasks. RESPOND employs a genuinely interdisciplinary approach to explore all of these dimensions, using legal and policy analysis, comparative historical analysis, political claims analysis, socio-economic and cultural analysis, longitudinal survey analysis, interview-based analysis, and photo-voice techniques. RESPOND appears as an innovative research project with its “multilevel research design” and “learning from refugees” approach.

RESPOND's consortium consists of renowned universities and institutes from a wide variety of source, transit and destination countries for studying mass migration. From 11 different countries, there are 14 partners: Uppsala University (Sweden/ Coordinator), Swedish Research Institute in İstanbul (Turkey), İstanbul Bilgi University (Turkey), Özyeğin University (Turkey), Glasgow Caledonian University (the United Kingdom), University of Gottingen (Germany), University of Cambridge (the United Kingdom), University of Florence (Italy), University of Warsaw (Poland), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Lebanon Support (Lebanon) and Hamurabi Human Rights Organisation (Iraq).

While Uppsala University in Sweden undertakes the coordinator role within the Project, Turkey- has the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers (around 4 million) globally and is a critical migration governance actor within the international migration system- is represented by three institutions. Those institutions and their research teams are given below:



Swedish Research Institute in İstanbul (Dr. N. Ela Gökalp-Aras/ Principal Investigator, Dr. Zeynep Şahin-Mencütek, Dr. Elif Çetin and Justyna Szalanska)



İstanbul Bilgi University (Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya/ Principal Inverstigator and Aslı Aydın-Sancar)



Özyeğin University (Dr. Susan Rottmann/ Principal Investigator and Serkis Cengiz Kurumlu)

The Advisory Board of RESPOND is represented by Prof. Dr. Anders Bäckström, Prof. Dr. Peter Scholten, Prof. Dr. Murat Somer and Prof. Dr. Daniel Tarschys; while Prof. Dr. Hannah Bradby undertakes the Ethnics Advisor role.

RESPOND generated a new dataset drawn from research in 11 countries. The empirical data is obtained from interviews (with more than 535 refugees and 220 stakeholders) and a survey study (with 1,600 Syrian refugees in Turkey and Sweden) supported by legal and policy documents analysis. Based on this empirical research, the project partners have produced 78 thematic country reports and 6 comparative thematic reports in the sub-fields of governance (border management and controls, reception, protection and reception) and several reports on specific sectors (e.g., housing, labour market, public health). For each sub-field and sector of migration governance, three dimensions are examined: actors, laws and policies, and narratives. 16 of those reports include

Turkey, while 10 reports are directly focusing on Turkey.² In addition, RESPOND produced 19 Policy Briefs³, and 2 of them focus on the border management, protection, reception and integration in Turkey. In the three years of the Project, 6 newsletters⁴ are produced along with 23 Media Outputs.⁵ In order to cover the recent developments in the consortium countries, RESPOND also has a blog⁶ fed by the consortium partners and 16 blog posts are about Turkey.

In terms of events, RESPOND hosted the “Unpacking the Challenges & Possibilities for Migration Governance” international conference on 17-19 October 2019 at the University of Cambridge.⁷ The Digital Art Exhibition (Displaced Bodies and Hearts)⁸ and the Other Stories Exhibition⁹ were organised by the Project. On 20 October 2020, the “EU’s New Migration Pact: A Remedy?” online panel discussion was conducted. The RESPOND Final Conference, “Governing Migration in Europe and Beyond: New Perspectives and Lessons Learned”¹⁰ was organised on 20-21 November 2020 as an online event due to the pandemic conditions.

Within the framework of RESPOND, two advice hubs¹¹ started their activities in Turkey and Iraq on 1 December 2018. This model is developed in two transit countries with the aim of providing legal and practical advice to refugees in transit conditions.

In addition, RESPOND provides 11 Country Profiles¹², where all the country-specific materials can be accessed. Each country profile is also provided with Country Posters¹³ that provide an infographic for the countries.

The latest open-access publication of RESPOND is the edited volume, “RESPONDing to Migration: A Holistic Perspective on Migration Governance”.¹⁴ This volume has one specific chapter about Turkey focusing on border

² The reports are available at <https://respondmigration.com/wp-blog>

³ The policy briefs are available at <https://respondmigration.com/policy-briefs>

⁴ The newsletters are available at <https://respondmigration.com/newsletters>

⁵ The multimedia outputs are available at <https://respondmigration.com/multimedia-outputs>

⁶ The blog is available at <https://respondmigration.com/blog-1>

⁷ Further information about this conference is available at <https://respondmigration.com/conference-1>

⁸ The further information about this exhibition is available at <https://exhibition.respondmigration.com/>

⁹ The further information about this exhibition is available at <https://respondmigration.com/other-stories-exhibition>

¹⁰ Further information about this conference is available at <https://respondmigration.com/online-conference>

¹¹ Further information about the advice hubs is available at <https://respondmigration.com/advice-hubs-1>

¹² The country profiles are available at <https://respondmigration.com/country-profiles-1>

¹³ The country posters are available at <https://respond-conference.eu/#posters>

¹⁴ The edited volume is available at <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1581191&dswid=3537>

management, protection, reception and integration. In addition, based on the research and findings for Turkey, one Turkish open-accessed book is published by Bilgi University: “Türkiye’de Mültecilik: Koruma, Kabul ve Entegrasyon”.¹⁵ Another open-access book will be published in 2022 by Springer Open as a part of the IMISCOE Research Series, “Temporariness, Complexity and Agency: Reception, Protection and Integration of Syrians in Turkey”. The “Global Migration: Consequences and Responses Report”¹⁶ provides a comprehensive overview of the comparative analysis and the essential findings. In addition to this report, the most recent publication, “A Crisis Mode in Migration Governance: Comparative and Analytical Insights”¹⁷, published in 2022, is available as an open-access article based on the above-mentioned report. There are also numerous other publications by the consortium partner organisations and their researchers. More about the Project and its achievement can be found at the website of RESPOND: www.respondmigration.com.

¹⁵ This book is available at <https://bilgiyay.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/korumakabulveentegrasyon.pdf>

¹⁶ This report is available at <https://respondmigration.com/wp-blog/comparative-report-on-respond-research>

¹⁷ This paper is available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-022-00284-2>