

## EDITORIAL

### Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Pathways and Perspectives<sup>1</sup>

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On first sight, building legal pathways and perspectives in terms of safe, orderly and regular migration suits labour migration but is not necessarily a topic to be covered by a journal on humanitarian migration (see for the terminology Roßkopf, 2021; 2020, MN 66-172). However, as was stated before, recognizing that motives of forced and voluntary migration are all too often intertwined in migratory decisions is key for solving refugee problems (Roßkopf, 2022: 1). Therefore, it does not take us on surprise seeing the subject of the 2018 UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration appear in several UN documents dedicated to the fate of those forcibly displaced.

Accordingly, UN General Assembly's 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (UNGA 2016) confirms:

"Though their treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks, refugees and migrants have the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. They also face many common challenges and have similar vulnerabilities, including in the context of large movements." (para. 6)

"We intend to expand the number and range of legal pathways available for refugees to be admitted to or resettled in third countries. In addition to easing the plight of refugees, this has benefits for countries that host large refugee populations and for third countries that receive refugees." (para. 77)

The 2018 UN Global Compact on Refugees, seeking for solutions and trying to expand access to third-country solutions, calls for complementary measures to resettlement for admission of refugees to third countries:

"Other contributions in terms of complementary pathways could include humanitarian visas, humanitarian corridors and other humanitarian admission programmes; educational opportunities for refugees (including women and girls) through grant of scholarships and student visas, including through partnerships between governments and academic institutions; and labour mobility opportunities for refugees, including through the identification of refugees with skills that are needed in third countries." (UN, 2018: 10 [footnotes omitted]).

A semantical separation of the two migratory groups becomes even more blurred when looking at the grey zone of irregular migration and the respective risks. Offering safe, orderly and regular pathways mitigates these for both groups. Legal pathways may prevent or relief pressure pushing individuals and populations on life-threatening roots and exposing them to traffickers and smugglers. In the best scenario, they might even fight

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root causes for irregular migration by providing perspectives for a meaningful and secure living here and there. In the worst case, if linked in bi- or multilateral treaties on migration management, they might not only close doors for humanitarian migration as the prize bargained for increased options for regular migration. When creating a brain drain, it even has all the potential to further destabilize sending countries creating push factors for the remaining population.

This issue of the QRP, thus, mainly summarizes contributions, discussions, findings and conclusions from the 68<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Association for the World Refugee Problem (AWR) on the subject of “Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Transnational Skill Partnerships”. It was held at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt on 24-26 May 2023 and gathered expertise from science and practice, from receiving and sending States.

The topic of safe, orderly and regular migration will remain a subject for further exploration by AWR and coverage by the QRP. The upcoming 69<sup>th</sup> International AWR Conference in 2024 will complement the former one and specifically analyse complementary pathways for humanitarian migration. The Editorial Board would invite everyone interested to contribute to this interdisciplinary and international discourse.

## References

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