

Title: **Contemporary refugee migration in Europe: From protection of refugees to challenges to tolerance, integration and social inclusion**

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In the last years Europe faced increased migration flow of refugees from conflict zones in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan etc. In 2015 most of refugees fleeing war and devastation, joined also by other migrants from Asia and Africa in a search for better live, used the so called Balkan refugee route. Countries of Western Balkans became transit countries for people on the road to Germany, Austria, Sweden etc.* and at the same time also countries of origin for numbers of asylum applicants (e.g. people from Kosovo, Albania). People entered EU by crossing the border between Turkey and Greece, risking their lives in unsafe boats, paying to smugglers over 1000 € per person. Many died in their attempts to reach safety and better life. After entering Greek islands, they were transported to mainland and continued their journey to FYR Macedonia, Serbia, and Hungary until mid-September 2015 when the fence on the border was build, then the flow redirected from Serbia to Croatia and from there to Hungary, which reacted by setting a new fence on the border with Croatia. At this point refugees and migrants were transferred through Slovenia to Austria and later to Germany and northern Europe. With the increased numbers of people entering EU and passing through country to country it became obvious that EU does not have a common approach and solution. Border controls were re-imposed inside the Schengen area and even fences placed on the internal borders between EU member states (e.g. on the border between Hungary and Croatia, parts of the border of Slovenia and Croatia). The whole situation significantly determined political and public discourse, increased intolerance, xenophobia and islamophobia.

Described migration situation represents an opportunity to address this issue and connected phenomena from various perspectives (e.g. analysis of lives of refugees, the road to the countries of destination, reasons for selection of specific countries; integration of refugees in immigrant communities, (dis)advantages, difficulties, expectations; the rise of intolerance, xenophobia, islamophobia connected to the immigration of refugees and its reflection in public/media/political discourse; analysis of policymaking process connected to immigration of refugees; reactions of countries facing increased migration flow; asylum policies in EU countries etc).

About the author of the workshop proposal

Aleš Bučar Ručman, PhD, assistant professor of sociology, vice-dean for international cooperation, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor. His latest book is titled *Migrations and Crime: The perspective beyond stereotypes and prejudice* (2014; Publishing House of Research Center of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts). External researcher of Slovenian Migration Institute, Research Center of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2014 he received a fellowship of Japanese foundation for a research of lives of European immigrants in Japan and their experiences with crime, he is the guest editor of a journal *Two homelands* (forthcoming issue 1/2016, dedicated to (formal) social control of migrations and immigrants).

*According to the data of Slovene Police most of the people transiting through Slovenia wish to go to Germany, Sweden and Austria (in the first flow of refugees from 17–24 September 2015, 81,4 % of people declared Germany as the country of destination, followed by Sweden 5,3 % and Austria 2,6 %). These conclusions were confirmed by the field research conducted by Aleš Bučar Ručman in refugee centres in Slovenia in November 2015.