

According to estimations, almost two million Syrian refugees are currently living in Turkey. Even though it has been a country of emigration, immigration and transit for a long time, this is certainly an extraordinary moment in Turkish migration history both in terms of size and of the characteristics of the current refugee flow. At the same time the EU demands from Turkey, as it did from other neighboring states, to better protect the borders and to stop the “intrusions” into the Schengen territory.

Securing the Gates of Europe: Migration and Border Management in Turkey



Edirne Detention Center

Since the beginning of this year around 50.000 migrants already arrived via Turkey on the Greek islands. Therefore it is assumed, that the EU will increase its pressure on Turkey. In the last few years, we have thus observed new strategies such as the signing of readmission agreements, the construction of new detention centers or the encouragement to improve legal and administrative infrastructure in order to combat the so-called illegal migration. Yet as we observed recently, Turkish migration and border management policy is not shaped solely by EU demands. National political and economic concerns, as well as the ongoing wars in the Middle East have certainly a tremendous impact on the transformation of this panorama.

Didem Daniş is a migration researcher from Istanbul. In her talk, she will discuss the impact of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Syria for Turkish border management regime, as well as the role of the EU in shaping Turkish migration and asylum policies. Furthermore, she will also show how migrants and refugees mobilize various social networks in a situation of insecurity and vulnerability.

Cavidan Soykan is a legal sociologist and human rights activist at Mülteci-Der (Association for Solidarity with Refugees) from Ankara. She will reflect overall on some of the problems that the human rights NGOs encounter on the ground in relation to the asylum system and then address to the possible solutions for the well-being of refugees in Turkey.

Moderation: Ilker Ataç and Gerda Heck

**Friday July 10th, Versammlungsraum, Mehringhof,
Gneisenastr. 2a, 10961 Berlin, 7 p.m.**

The event will take place in English with German translation

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