

CALL FOR A RESEARCHER

Eroding the Rule of Law: Racism and Migration in Europe

Application deadline: 13 December 2024 (23:59 CET)

In very few areas is the erosion of the rule of law in Europe more visible than in the EU and in the approach(es) to migration ‘management’ by Member States (MS). In response to movement to and within Europe, MS have adopted securitised discourses and restrictive policies. The recently agreed upon Migration Pact institutionalises the arbitrary and de facto detention of migrants at EU borders, employing accelerated procedures and the legitimisation of return mechanism which emphasises convoluted meanings of a ‘safe third country’ to expedite and justify repatriations. The Schengen Borders Code reform risks exacerbating fundamental rights violations against people on the move and on those perceived as migrants, in particular racialised persons, and the Facilitator’s Package which is currently under negotiation expands policing and surveillance across the EU as well as criminalises support for migrants.

These ‘criminalisation’, ‘externalisation’, and ‘securitisation’ diverge from the rule of law principle which is one of the fundamental values upon which the European Union is based on. They contrast the principle of non-refoulement, access to justice, fundamental rights and civic space, the right to dignity, non-discrimination and equality, prohibition of torture, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

While civil society actors decry the end of asylum in Europe, EU Member States argue that this ‘new’ approach to migration is meant to stop ‘irregular migration’. Yet, borders are mirrors that reflect and represent exclusionary attitudes and racialised anxieties. They are technologies of race-making that reflect the anti-immigrant discourse and attitudes in Europe often targeting groups and migrants defined in and through racial lenses. As Achiume has argued, contemporary borders are structured by ‘imperial inequity’, are ‘inherently racial’ and ‘privilege whiteness’, with race operating as a means of enforcing these neocolonial borders. As such, to understand migration governance in Europe, one must adopt a decolonial and racial justice lens.

ENAR’s Research and the Role of the Consultant

To better understand how migration policies disproportionately affect racialised communities, particularly refugees and migrants, ENAR has collaborated with researchers and NGOs over the past five months. Field research was conducted in the Italian-French, Czech-German, German-Austrian, Slovenian-Croatian, and Basque border regions, with additional focus on the internal dynamics within France, Cyprus, and Greece. This

research aimed to explore how racism and racialisation operate to discriminate against and exclude migrant communities, providing critical insights into how these systems impact people on the move across Europe.

Building on the findings from the first phase of data collection, the second phase of this report seeks to compile and analyse these insights, illustrating how migration is both a key indicator of the erosion of the rule of law and a new proxy for structural racism. By centering racism and colonialism in Europe's migration policies, this report intends to propose a racial justice framework for migration governance.

Application Requirements:

ENAR is seeking a highly skilled research consultant with expertise in applying decolonial, anti-racist, and intersectional frameworks. The consultant will work under the supervision of ENAR's Policy Adviser on Migration and Law Enforcement to compile and analyse findings from field researchers.

The consultant's role will involve delivering high-quality reports and policy briefs to support ENAR's anti-racism advocacy in the migration field. Candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Strong understanding of migration-related legal frameworks, human rights, anti-racism, and familiarity with international human rights instruments and EU directives.
- Proven research experience with the ability to produce clear, concise policy briefs accessible to policymakers and other stakeholders.
- Expertise in decoloniality, anti-racism, and intersectionality to analyse the impacts of migration policies on racialised communities.
- Experience with critical discourse analysis, including the examination of migration policies and public narratives in the EU.
- Ability to analyse complex legal documents, policies, and socio-political contexts to identify inconsistencies, contradictions, and trends related to racial violence and rights restrictions in the context of migration.
- Strong writing skills in English, with experience producing reports for international audiences.
- Demonstrated ability to work efficiently under tight deadlines and manage tasks effectively in high-pressure situations, maintaining a high standard of quality and attention to detail.

Compensation

The consultant will receive a fee of **€6,000 to €8,000** for **40 working days** between **January and March 2025**, depending on experience. This fee covers the time and expertise required for compiling, analysing, and delivering actionable insights that will influence migration policy and public discourse.

How to Apply

Please submit the following documents by **Friday, December 13, 2024 (23:59 CET)** to jobapplication@enar-eu.org:

CV: A detailed CV outlining your relevant experience and qualifications.

Motivation Letter: A brief cover letter explaining your interest in the role and how your expertise aligns with the work.

Written Outputs: Two samples of your previous work:

- A research study demonstrating your research and analysis skills.
- A policy brief highlighting your capacity to produce clear, actionable policy recommendations.

We encourage racialised applicants or those with lived experience of migration to apply. Please ensure all documents are in English, as the work outputs will be in English.

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