

WELCOME TO THE MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE

Annual Activity Report, 2023



migrationpolicycentre.eu

 #EUI_MPC



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am happy to share with you our Annual Activity Report that documents the work of the Migration Policy Centre in 2023 across all of our main areas of activity: research; training; and policy dialogue.

As you will see from the report, our research links different types of migration, geographies, levels of policymaking, and policy issues. We think that migration cannot be analysed comprehensively and regulated effectively without studying and understanding these important inter-connections.

It was an exciting and busy year. A particular highlight was the launching of one large-scale EU-funded project as part of the Horizon Europe programme and then receiving funding for another that will begin in 2024. We're honored to lead these robust scientific endeavors with our partner organisations. Martin Ruhs is leading the project 'Protecting Irregular Migrants in Europe' (PRIME) while Andrew Geddes will lead the project 'Innovating to Enhance Policy Dialogues on Migration Policies and Practices' (INNOVATE).

In addition to showcasing the scope of our activities, this report aims to underscore our Centre's foundation of partnership and collaboration. It's been a very generative year on that front. We've greatly appreciated the opportunity to develop our partnership with UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight to advance research on child migration as well as our ongoing cooperation with leading organisations at the interface of migration research and policy, including the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography.

We hope that you find this activity report useful. We also hope you can join us online or in person for one of our upcoming seminars or trainings. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you want further information.

Best wishes,

Andrew Geddes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Geddes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PASSION LED US HERE

SECTION 1

Our goals and impact

1. ADVANCE ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

We conduct both theoretical and empirical research, drawing on a range of disciplines and methodologies. Our work makes connections across various forms of migration, diverse geographic locations, and different levels of policymaking.

Key impacts

65	3210	56	€ 800K
Publications	Citations in academic publications	Press appearances	Generated to fund new research

2. CONVENE POLICY DIALOGUES AND PARTNERSHIPS

We build broad partnerships and bring people together to discuss the intersection of academic research, public debate, and policymaking.

Key impacts

49	1502	32
Events and seminars	Participants	Partner organisations

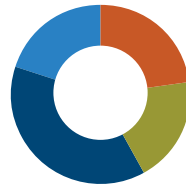
3. TRAIN AND TEACH RESEARCHERS, POLICY OFFICIALS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, AND STUDENTS

Our interactive training courses bridge research and practice and help participants build connections across disciplines and geographies

Key impacts

- 4** Training courses
- 81** Participants
- 31** Countries represented

Sectors represented



- 23%** Civil Society
- 19%** Public Sector
- 38%** International Organisations
- 20%** Academia

Our digital reach

60K



Website

20K



Blog

1.6K subscribers



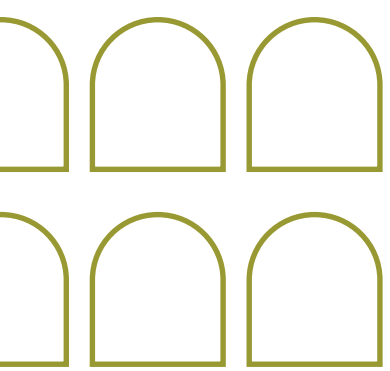
6.7K followers



5.9K followers



3.1K followers





SECTION 2

What we research and why

MOBILITY PRACTICES AND PROCESSES

We explore how and why people move, examining the impact that things like international aid, smuggling networks, and technology have on migration. We integrate community perspectives, employ interdisciplinary approaches, and strive to bridge the gap between policy discourse and lived experiences.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » revealed migrants' agency and resilience within smuggling networks;
- » explored the economic and political challenges African countries face in cooperating on the return of irregular migrants from Europe, emphasizing the need for sustainable reintegration policies;
- » shown through experimental data that interpersonal counselling can have large effects on if individuals choose to migrate and how to do so safely;
- » mapped the permeability of land borders, revealing high levels between both rich and poor countries.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » conduct comparisons of smuggling networks globally to identify organizational structures and dynamics influencing mobility;
- » investigate factors determining migration choices, emphasizing the role of agency and comparing policy actors' perceptions;
- » analyse different mobility data to assess visa overstayers in the Schengen area and develop a model to identify third countries contributing most to visa overstaying.

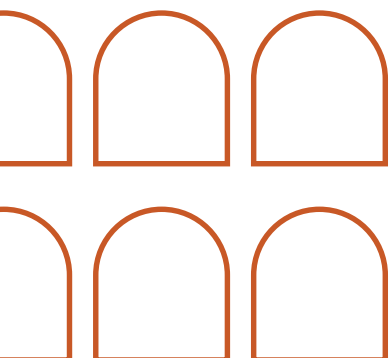
Explore more

Featured publications

- » [Roads, Rails, and Checkpoints: Assessing the Permeability of Nation-State Borders Worldwide](#) - Emanuel Deutschmann, Lorenzo Gabrielli, and Ettore Recchi
- » [Refugee protection in the EU: Building resilience to geopolitical conflict](#) – Silvia Carta, Helena Hahn, Tobias Heidland Pawel Kaczmarczyk, Mattias Lücke, Karolina Lukasiewicz, Mehari Taddele Maru, Marta Pachocka, and Martin Ruhs
- » [Global human smuggling : buying freedom in a retreating world](#) - Luigi Achilli and David Kyle, editors

Related research projects

- » IT tools and methods for managing migration flows
- » How migration decisions are made: diverse aspirations, trajectories, and policy effects
- » Global Mobilities Project



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Migration governance refers to the wide set of policies that regulate human movement. We work to understand the global variations of these policies and identify the complex economic, political, and social consequences that result from them.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » Continued to track Ukrainian migration in Europe after the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, identifying why policies need to be gender informed, how policies could facilitate integration, and what an effective return policy could entail.
- » Identified several fundamental issues that create obstacles in effective and sustainable Africa-Europe partnerships on migration.
- » Revealed the persistent role that criminal groups play in shaping migration governance and demonstrated the impact of that typical categorizations of human movement (e.g. forced/voluntary migrants, regular/irregular) have on policies.
- » Demonstrated that despite the COVID-19 pandemic establishing the importance of migrants as essential workers, this did not result in long-term shifts in migration policy.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » Identify the role that national institutions have in shaping the conditions of irregular migrants and compare how policy responses vary across Europe.
- » Conduct empirical research in Southern Europe and North Africa to explore crime's influence on migration governance and develop new theoretical frameworks to understand the role of crime in migration governance.

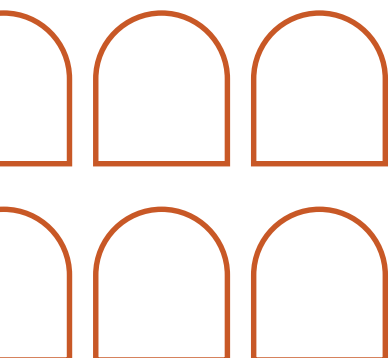
Explore more

Featured publications

- » [Time to address the absence of 'gender' in the temporary protection directive and its recent implementation](#) – Iuliia Lashchuk
- » [A global network of scholars? The geographical concentration of institutes in migration studies and its implications](#) - Lorenzo Piccoli, Didier Ruedin and Andrew Geddes

Related research projects

- » [Measuring Irregular Migration](#)
- » [Global Asylum Governance and the European Union's Role](#)
- » [Ukraine Research Network and Ukraine Policy Tracker](#)



RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

We investigate migrants' access to basic rights, specialized protection for vulnerable groups like children, and factors influencing acceptance and belonging in host communities.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » explored the inherently political role of civil society organizations providing healthcare to irregular migrants;
- » mapped protection standards from international refugee and human rights law that migration control policies should adhere to, analyzing if and how they are being followed;
- » highlighted a general lack of integration of migrants in small and medium-sized European communities, where interactions remain limited to necessary exchanges, hindering the development of lasting relationships;
- » identified the adverse effects of migration containment policies, exercised by EU countries of destination in collaboration with African partner countries, on migrants' fundamental rights.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » measure the legal rights of irregular migrants in Europe, compare how rights differ on paper versus in practice, and conduct hundreds of in-person interviews to understand the conditions and experiences of irregular migrants in Europe;
- » better explore and communicate how policies can respond to the gender needs of migrants by using the case of Ukraine as an example of promoting an attention to gender across all aspects of migration policy and management.

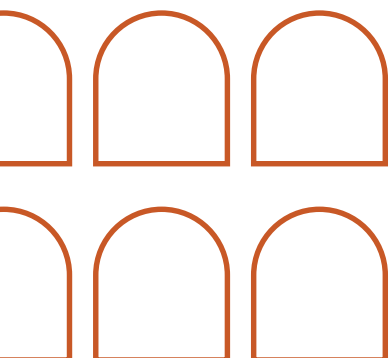
Explore more

Featured publications

- » [Making space: Encouraging interactions between recent migrants and long-term residents in smaller communities](#) - Caitlin Katsiaticas and Leila Hadj Abdou
- » [Cultural policies of the European Union](#) - Marina Keda and T.V. Solomenna

Related research projects

- » Migrant Integration in Small Communities
- » Protecting Irregular Migrants in Europe



LABOUR MARKETS AND WELFARE STATES

We investigate the link between migration, labour markets, and welfare states, analysing migrant labour laws in practice and on paper, the fiscal effects of labour migration, determinants of labour supply and demand, and the impact of welfare policies.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » provided insights into the financial impact of EU migrants in various welfare systems in Europe, revealing that EU migrants (EU citizens who move to different parts of the EU) contribute positively to the economies in Western European countries, with no significant differences observed across different welfare regimes;
- » highlighted the discrepancy in job expectations for recent Ukrainian forced migrants in Europe, who are assigned roles similar to those of previous Ukrainian labor migrants despite differences in education and qualifications;
- » showed that greater reciprocity in national social protection measures reduces public opposition to EU labour immigration, particularly among the unemployed.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » identify the factors that contribute to the reliance on migrant labour in essential sectors across European countries.
- » understand irregular migrants' employment opportunities and working conditions and how they compare to those of migrants with regular status.

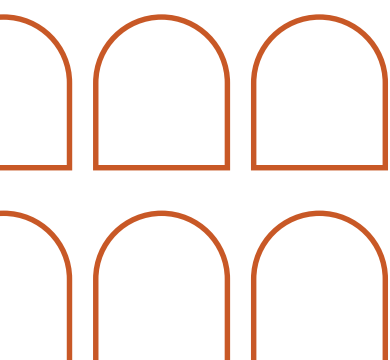
Explore more

Featured Publication

- » [Free Movement versus European Welfare States? Variations of the Fiscal Effects of EU Migrants across Welfare State Regimes](#) – Marcus Österman, Joakim Palme and Martin Ruhs

Related research projects:

- » [Migrants and Systemic Resilience: A Global COVID19 Research and Policy Hub](#)
- » [Free Movement of Workers and European Welfare States](#)



PUBLIC ATTITUDES

We conduct polling and survey experiments to understand attitudes to migration. Our research explores how and why individuals' and countries' attitudes differ and then uses this data to identify better ways to communicate about migration.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » identified that there are two factors that primarily impact individuals' attitudes to immigration: higher education leads to more positive attitudes while older age leads to more negative attitudes;
- » explored the role of political trust in shaping policy preferences for asylum and refugee protection policies, finding that individuals with lower levels of trust in European political institutions are less supportive of policies providing unlimited or unconditional protection and more supportive of restrictive refugee policies;
- » found that school-based educational programs about migrants can lead to students having more positive attitudes and demonstrating more generosity towards immigrants;
- » utilized survey experiments to track changes in attitudes toward Ukrainian and Syrian refugees over time;
- » identified the use of emotions as a tool to enhance communication about migration policy.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » conduct empirical tests on different communication strategies to identify for the first-time what changes attitudes to immigration and then add survey data to our Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration;
- » identify if people think asylum decisions are fair and if they think AI should be used in asylum decisions.

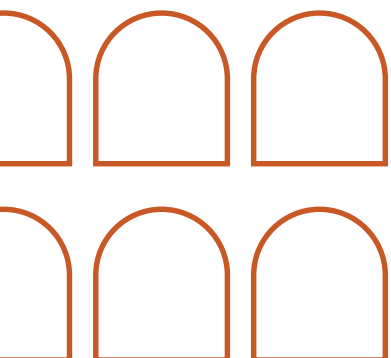
Explore more

Featured Publications

- » [The dark side of solidarity: ambivalences and double standards in the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Italy](#) - Magda Bolzoni, Davide Donatiello, and Leila Giannetto
- » [Which individual-level factors explain public attitudes toward immigration?: A meta-analysis](#) - Lenka Dražanová; Jerome Gonnot; Tobias Heidland, and Finja Krüge
- » [The reverse backlash : how the success of populist radical right parties relates to more positive immigration attitudes](#) – James Dennison and Alexander Kustov

Related research projects

- » Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration
- » Enhancing Migration Narrative to Develop Further Union's Long-term actions
- » Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees



LINKING EVIDENCE POLICY AND DEBATE

We work to translate academic research into actionable policy insights and connect the dots between research, public debate, and policymaking.

Highlights: This past year our work has

- » convened more than 100 migration policymakers and practitioners to discuss the intersection of research and policy;
- » studied if and when policymakers apply data and evidence, finding that trust is a critical component for this to happen;
- » explored the importance of everyday beauty in refugees' lives and then outlined more holistic refugee policy frameworks;
- » announced four pledges at the Global Refugee Forum to help advance the goals of the Global Refugee Compact and improve protection for other categories of migrants.

Upcoming Priorities: Over the next year we are working to

- » understand how policies shape migrants' behaviour and decisions and how European and African policymakers take migrants' behaviour and decision-making processes into account;
- » create the 'Migration Research to Policy (MR2P)' Collaboratory to increase collaboration between researchers and policymakers;
- » evaluate cross-country policies on irregular migrants, exploring regularization programs, rights protection, enforcement, and ethical considerations, while offering strategies for policymakers to enhance rights protection for irregular migrants and meet host country needs.

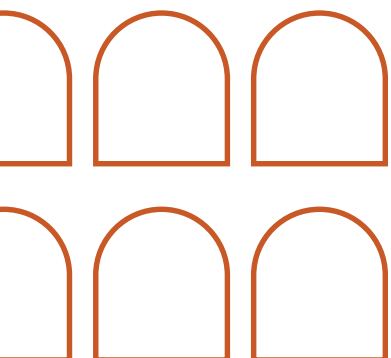
Explore more

Featured Publications

- » [Exploring the EU's status quo tendency in the migration policy field: a network-centred perspective](#) - Leila Hadj Abdou and Andrea Pettrachin
- » [Beauty and beautification in refugees' lives and their implications for refugee policy](#) – Stephanie Acker

Related research projects:

- » Innovating to Enhance Dialogues on Migration Policies and Practices
- » The ethics of migration policy dilemmas
- » Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration



ACADEMIC PROJECTS

In 2023, the MPC's activities were organised around 18 projects:

Project Name	Acronym	Key MPC research theme
Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees	AFAR	Public attitudes
Citizenship, Migration and Mobility in a Pandemic	CMMP	Mobility practices and processes
Diffusion of Migration Control Practice	DoMiCop	Mobility practices and processes
How migration decisions are made: diverse aspirations, trajectories, and policy effects	DYNAMIG	Mobility practices and processes
Enhancing Migration Narrative to Develop Further Union's Long-term actions	E-Mindful	Public attitudes
Ethics of Migration Policy Dilemmas	Dilemmas	Linking evidence, policy, and debate
Free Movement of Workers and European Welfare States	freeEUmove	Labour markets and welfare states
Global Mobilities Project	Global Mobilities	Mobility practices and processes
Global Asylum Governance and the European Union's Role	ASILE	Migration governance
IT tools and methods for managing migration flows	ITFLOWS	Mobility practices and processes
Measuring irregular migration	Mirrem	Migration governance
Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration	MEDAM	Public attitudes
Migrant Integration in Small Communities	Whole-COMM	Rights, protection and inclusion
Migrants and Systemic Resilience: A Global COVID19 Research and Policy Hub	Mig-Res-Hub	Labour markets and welfare states
Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration	OPAM	Public attitudes
Protecting irregular migrants in Europe	PRIME	Labour markets and welfare states
Ukraine Research Network and Ukraine Refugee Policy Tracker		Migration governance
Foster rights-based migration governance-systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region	ICMPD	Migration governance

In 2024, MPC will launch three new projects:

Project Name	Acronym	Key MPC research theme
The Orders and Borders of Global Inequality: Migration and Mobilities in Late Capitalism	MIGMOBS	Mobility practices and processes
Innovating to Enhance Dialogues on Migration Policies and Practices	INNOVATE	Linking evidence, policy, and debate
Global Strategy for Skills, Migration, and Development	GS4S	Labour markets and welfare states



SECTION 3

Training

OVERVIEW

- » **Who they are for:** We train early to mid-career policy makers, diplomats, members of civil society and international organisations, journalists, and academics who work on a range of migration issues.
- » **Our approach:** Our training activities bridge advanced research with the practical experiences of participants. We create a collaborative environment to discuss rigorous evidence, share new ideas, and think critically about global migration policy debates.
- » **What they offer:** We provide participants with the opportunity to step back from their day-to-day challenges and organisational perspectives, engage with and apply research to their scenarios, and build connections with individuals from across the world.



I came here expecting a “standard” course with plenary sessions and classic exercises; I was really surprised by the quality of the sessions, their simplicity (at first sight) and how well they are grounded to actual actions and not purely scientific/academic. The high level of the participants and the trainers is also the biggest asset of this training.

Participant in Migration Communication Strategies executive education course

2023 TRAINING OVERVIEW

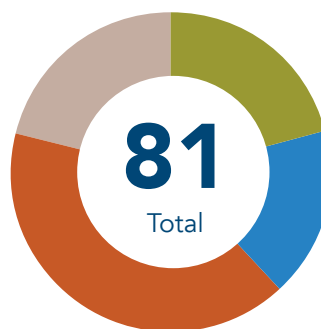
Dates/Formats

- » Dilemmas of migration governance: 20 Sept - 22 December | Residential
- » Migration summer school: 26 June - 7 July | Residential
- » Effective migration management: 9 - 11 October | Residential
- » Migration communication strategies: 16 - 19 May | Hybrid

Key statistics

Participants

- 17 Migration Communication
- 14 Effective Migration Management
- 33 Summer School
- 17 Masters Seminar



Gender



Sector



Course Descriptions

- » **Migration communication strategies: effective approaches to depolarise the debate** Migration is increasingly controversial and difficult to discuss. As a result, there is growing uncertainty about what type of communication strategies on migration are most effective in changing attitudes. This training responds to that. The first part of the training focuses on the factors that shape how people perceive and react to migration. The second part applies these factors to migration communication campaigns, explaining what strategies are most effective and why.
- » **Effective migration management: putting policy into action.** From policy decisions to service design, managing migration poses an array of practical, political, and ethical challenges. This executive training course works to give individuals a comprehensive understanding of the different stages and types of migration and the variety of tools to manage competing interests and priorities. The course explores decision-making, challenges and opportunities with political processes, policy design, evidence, and implementation.
- » **Migration Summer School.** Our annual two-week summer school combines insights from political, economic, sociological, legal, and anthropological approaches to give participants an in-depth understanding of migration. Participants attend lectures, interactive workshops, and debates, in addition to having time for independent study and research. It is a unique opportunity to network with other participants from around the world and have access to some outstanding scholars in the field.
- » **Dilemmas of migration governance.** Deciding how to manage migration involves making difficult choices that balance different interests and ethical principles. This Master's seminar encourages participants to think about the complex challenges, competing priorities and ethical dilemmas in regulating international human mobility. There is no one answer to how these dilemmas should be resolved but research helps us understand the issues, analyze impacts, and explore different options.



This training was an amazing learning experience and a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and views with colleagues from different countries and organisations

Participant in Effective Migration Management executive education course



SECTION 4

OUR TEAM

Academic staff

[Andrew Geddes](#), Professor and Director of the MPC

[Martin Ruhs](#), Professor and Deputy Director of the MPC

[Caitilin Katsaficas](#), Assistant Part-time Professor

[Caitlin Procter](#), Part-time Professor

[Carlotta M. Minnella](#), Research Fellow

[Clare Fox-Ruhs](#), Visting Fellow/ Part-time Assistant Professor

[Ettore Recchi](#), Part-time Professor

[Federica Infantino](#), Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow

[Hirotaka Fujibayashi](#), Max Weber Fellow

[Isabela Atanasiu](#), EU Fellow

[Luliia Lashchuk](#), Max Weber Fellow

[James Dennison](#), Part-time Professor

[Leila Giannetto](#), Research Associate

[Leila Hadj Abdou](#), Part-Time Assistant Professor

[Lenka Dražanová](#), Research Fellow

[Lorenzo Piccoli](#), Research Fellow

[Luca Bernasconi](#), Research Assistant

[Luigi Achilli](#), Part-Time Assistant Professor

[Marina Keda](#), Jean Monnet Fellow

[Mehari Taddale Maru](#), Part-time Professor

[Meltem İneli Ciğer](#), Jean Monnet Fellow

[Stephanie Acker](#), Research Associate

Administrative Staff

[Valentina Bettin](#), Head of Secretariat

[Claudio Mazzetti](#), Executive MPC Manager

[Floriana Nappini](#), Project Manager

[Marita Schaaser](#), Administrative Officer

[Victoria Signorini](#), Administrative Trainee

Academic visitors

[Alexander Kustov](#), Short-term Visitor

[Beth Ginsburg](#), Visiting Fellow

[Cansu Civilek](#), Visiting Fellow

[Carolina Zuccotti](#), Short-term Visitor

[Corrado Fumagalli](#), Visiting Fellow

[Cristof Roos](#), Junior Professor

[Daniel Drewski](#), Visiting Fellow

[Diego Caballero Vélez](#), Short-term Visitor

[Elina Jonitz](#), Short-term Visitor

[Els De Graauw](#), Short-term Visitor

[Giulio Di Blasi](#), Visiting Fellow

[James Hampshire](#), Short-term Visitor

[John Carlaw](#), Short-term Visitor

[Juan Roch](#), Visiting Fellow

[Kseniya Homel-Ficenes](#), Short-term Visitor

[Maria Schiller](#), Short-term Visitor

[Mariapia Mendola](#), Visiting Fellow

[Marshia Akbar](#), Short-term Visitor

[Mauro Lanati](#), Visiting Fellow

[Natalie Welfens](#), Short-term Visitor

[Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik](#), Short-term Visitor

[Sona Kalantaryan](#), Visiting Fellow

Web Unit

[Andrius Romaška](#), Academic Assistant

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

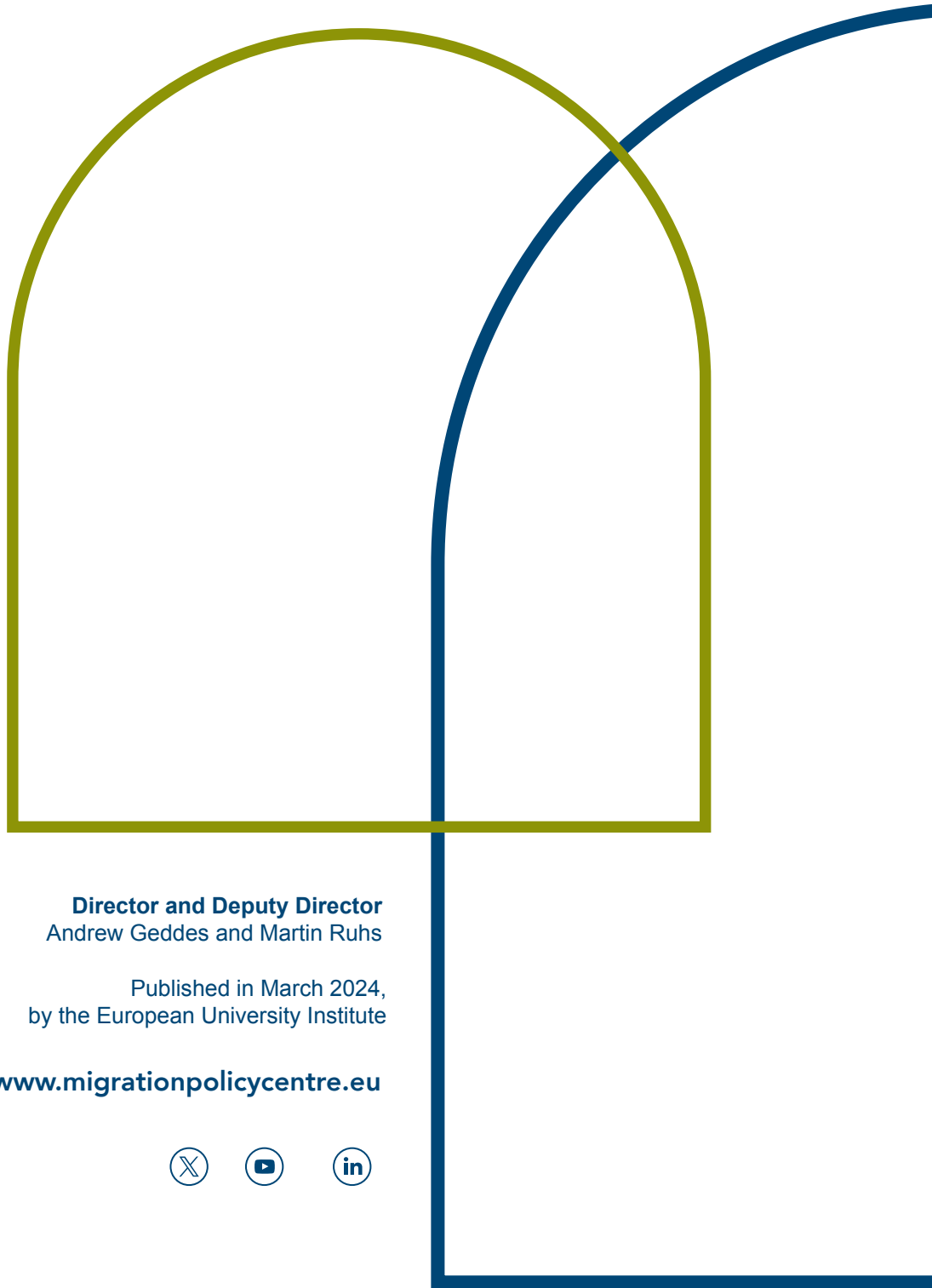
We work with a range of partnerships to conduct research, convene dialogue, and advance the use of evidence.



International
Labour
Organization



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



Director and Deputy Director
Andrew Geddes and Martin Ruhs

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