



A Study of Migrant Returns
and Readmission Policies

Draft for press release

A New Horizon Europe Project on Migrant Returns and Readmission Policies

GAPs: De-centring the Study of Migrant Returns and Readmission Policies in Europe and Beyond (#101094341)

www.returnmigration.eu

[@GapsReturns](https://twitter.com/GapsReturns)

GAPs is a new [Horizon Europe project](#), awarded a grant from the European Commission (EC) to conduct a comprehensive multidisciplinary study on the drivers of return policies and barriers and enablers in international cooperation on returns. GAPs is an interdisciplinary three years project (2023-2026), co-coordinated by Uppsala University and Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) with 17 partners in 14 countries across four continents.

The research examines the disconnects between expectations of return policies and their actual outcomes by de-centring the dominant, one-sided understanding of return policymaking.

GAPs will

- scrutinise the shortcomings of the EU's governance of returns;
- analyse enablers and barriers of international cooperation, and
- shed light on the perspectives of migrants themselves to understand their knowledge of return policies, aspirations and experiences.

GAPs combines its de-centring approach with three innovative concepts:

- *return migration infrastructures* to analyse governance fissures;
- *return migration diplomacy* to understand how relations among EU and members states and with third countries hinder or facilitate cooperation on returns; and
- *a trajectory approach* that uses a socio-spatial and temporal lens to understand *migrant agency*.

By taking a close look at governance, cooperation and actor's agency, GAPs aims to contribute to improve return policies and practices and the situation of migrants by providing tools and information and exploring alternative pathways about returns, both at the national and European level. The project will develop wide-ranging and innovative tools, including the creation of an interactive data repository on returns, a return cooperation index, return governance indicators, policy briefs and workshops, a digital storytelling and video series, the launching of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as well as open access publications. *The project will look for strong collaboration with several stakeholders influence and influenced by returns policies and practices both in the EU member states and the concerned third countries*

Consortium members

1. Uppsala University (Sweden)
2. Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) (Germany)
3. Stichting Radboud Universiteit (Netherlands)
4. Ozyegin Universitesi (Turkey)
5. Hammurabi Human Rights Organization (Iraq)
6. Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul (Sweden/Turkey)
7. Hashemite University (Jordan)
8. National Centre for Social Research - EKKE (Greece) (Greece)
9. Association Migration Internationale (Morocco)
10. Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada)
11. University of Nigeria (Nigeria)
12. Bilim Organization for Research and Social Studies (Afghanistan)
13. University of Warsaw (Poland)
14. Migration Matters (Germany)
15. University of Sousse (Tunisia)
16. Science-Policy Interface Agency (SPIA) (Germany)
17. University of Glasgow (UK)