

***Valuing Refugee Policy. A Cross-Country Study on the Preferences for Refugee Policy in Europe***

Everyone in Europe is aware of the tide of forced migrants seeking refuge in Europe. Everyone is aware of their dire situation and the necessity to provide them with help and shelter. The media provide current information about the Refugee Crisis, but also instigate fear that the displaced people will be an economic and welfare burden on the economy, and that they increase the danger of terrorism. With some notable exceptions (e.g. Sweden, Germany), the response of most government has been to tighten the border control and to make the asylum conditions restrictive. In most cases, however, the citizens have been supportive of the forced migrants and willing to help them. What they mean by 'help' and who they are willing to help remains, however, unclear.

The project aims at measuring European citizens' preferences for various policy options in the context of the Refugee Crisis. Our overarching research question is how economic, cultural, humanitarian and terrorism related concerns intertwine in the citizens' preferences for policies aimed at refugees. We will use an experimental design on representative national samples of 10 European countries that will assign a monetary value (tax increase) to various policy scenarios, and will test how forced migrants' attributes influence the preference for a given policy, and how this choice is affected by providing information about the humanitarian and terrorist issues, and about the official government policy.

The results will contribute to the knowledge about how economic and cultural concerns related to immigration fare in the context of humanitarian and security-related concerns. They will also allow to understand how the Refugee Crisis can be managed maintaining political legitimacy of the domestic and international actors, without sacrificing the principles of humanitarianism.