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## **WOULD AN IMPROVEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION SOLVE THE MIGRANT CRISIS?**

“Humanity is rallying to finally recognize that assisting is not a choice. It is a collective responsibility,” by Ger Duany.<sup>1</sup>

Over the last few months, millions of people have fled their homes in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, escaping from war, disaster, and other crises. The daily flow of men, women and children has become one of the largest refugee exoduses since World War II. Refugees or migrants are seeking asylum and a better life in the European Union, while travelling thousands of miles and facing many forms of danger.<sup>2</sup> “Global trends, such as climate variability, demographic change, financial and energy sector pressures or changing geo-political factors”<sup>3</sup> are changing the humanitarian landscape.

This article discusses the connection of humanitarian action and the current situation referred to as the “migrant crisis” in Europe. Due to the newly faced circumstances of human suffering, a reshaping of the way of delivering humanitarian aid is unavoidable. Humanitarian action is defined as “life-saving services, and [it] facilitates the return to normalcy for people and communities affected by natural and man-made disasters.”<sup>4</sup> It has to satisfy acute needs and face the challenge of fulfilling the demands to promote a “sustainable and resilient development”<sup>5</sup> in crisis-prone countries.

### **DISPLACEMENT REACHING THE HIGH POINT**

The global number of people who are forced to migrate is the greatest ever recorded. In 2014, about 59.5 million people worldwide – refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, and various other types of migrants – were obliged to leave their

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<sup>1</sup> C. Trigger, *UNHCR Presents Nansen Refugee Award to Afghan Refugee Teach*, UNHCR, 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/561299146.html> (accessed 7.10.2015).

<sup>2</sup> A. Divac, *Satisfying Basic Needs and Providing Dignified Temporary Conditions for Refugees from the Middle East* (Joint project PAH and Ana & Vlade Divac Foundation, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> UNOCHA, *World Humanitarian Summit 2016 – Concept Note*, 2013, <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/WHS%20Concept%20Note.pdf> (accessed 7.10.2015).

<sup>4</sup> InterAction, *Humanitarian Action*, n. d., <http://www.interaction.org/work/humanitarian> (accessed 7.10.2015).

<sup>5</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015*, 2015, p. 107, <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/reports> (accessed 2.10.2015).

countries in search of safety.<sup>6</sup> The “nation of the displaced” would be the “24<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.”<sup>7</sup> The wording “European migrant crisis” has been spreading in the media since the beginning of 2015. The situation is due to a combination of the deteriorating situation in the source countries and of the current struggle of the European Union to cope with the flow of migrants.<sup>8</sup> Migration is influenced by various pull and push factors. The push factors within the crisis-prone countries lead to displacement of “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.”<sup>9</sup> The economic and social situation of the European Union is acting as pull factor and presenting the European Union as attractive destination for migration. Further push and pull factors during the summer of 2015 drove many migrants to leave their countries and take diverse migration routes by boat, train, bus, or on foot. The announcement of the Macedonian government that it would change the policies concerning entering the country by migrants,<sup>10</sup> and Angela Merkel’s publicly announced decision to welcome refugees despite the Dublin Protocol.<sup>11</sup> Through this announcement, Germany grew as possible destination for migrants. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling is growing “even larger than the illicit trade in drugs and weapons.”<sup>12</sup> The movement at the borders has increased: irregular border crossing, migrants crossing the border, the lack of capacity to support as well as register the migrants arriving at the borders.<sup>13</sup>

One of the main factors significantly contributing to the displacement is the Syria Crisis. Syria “was declared an L3 emergency [...] due to on-going violence and displacement,”<sup>14</sup> and it is the world’s biggest internal displacement crisis with 6.5 millions of internally displaced people (30 per cent), and 10.8 millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance (42 per cent). Almost 3 million refugees have fled to

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, *World at War: Global Trends – Forced Displacements in 2014, 2015*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> “German minister expects far more than 400,000 asylum seekers this year”, Reuters, 11 August 2015, <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKCN0QG1SY20150811> (accessed 2.10.2015).

<sup>9</sup> OHCHR, *Questions and Answers about IDPs*, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/Issues.asp> (accessed 12.01.2016).

<sup>10</sup> Equaltimes, *The Anguish of Migrants in Macedonia, 2015*, <http://www.equaltimes.org/the-anguish-of-migrants-in?lang=en#.VhVsIEKnZd1> (accessed 14.10.2015).

<sup>11</sup> A. Hall, J. Lichfield, “Germany opens its gates: Berlin says all Syrian asylum-seekers are welcome to remain, as Britain is urged to make a similar statement”, *Independent*, 24 August 2015, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-opens-its-gates-berlin-says-all-syrian-asylum-seekers-are-welcome-to-remain-as-britain-is-10470062.html> (accessed 1.10.2015).

<sup>12</sup> R. Lyman, A. Smale, “Migrant smuggling in Europe is now worth billions”, *New York Times*, 4 September 2015, [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/04/world/europe/migrants-smuggling-in-europe-is-now-worth-billions.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/04/world/europe/migrants-smuggling-in-europe-is-now-worth-billions.html?_r=0) (accessed 2.10.2015).

<sup>13</sup> M. Feher, M. Moffett, “Hungary cracks down on migrants at Serbia border”, *The Wall Street Journal*, 15 September 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/hungary-declares-migrant-crisis-situation-1442311633> (accessed 3.10.2015).

<sup>14</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015, 2015*, p. 54, <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/reports> (accessed 2.10.2015).

neighbouring countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq. 95 per cent of Syrian refugees are hosted in these five countries.

## RESHAPING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Anchored on four pillars of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, humanitarian action aims to give assistance and protection to people in need, providing life-saving services. “For an age of unprecedented mass displacement, we need an unprecedented humanitarian response,” said United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Antonio Guterres,<sup>15</sup> but will an improvement in humanitarian action solve the migrant crisis?

This article will answer this question by describing the adequate tools, services and standards of humanitarian techniques as well as the ways for improving humanitarian action, since optimum management and coordination of the assistance and protection chain will help and alleviate the suffering of the people in need.

## WAYS AND MEANS OF CHANGE

Solving the migrant crisis does not mean bringing the crisis to an end or stopping people from fleeing their countries. To do that, humanitarian action would have to be able to combat the roots of the migration, which is not its responsibility and goal.<sup>16</sup> It does not have the mandate to deal with or tackle the reasons of the current crisis. The term of solving the migrant crisis is referring to the ability of humanitarian action to change the migration crisis in Europe and cope with the situation. How can humanitarian action be improved to do its duty in the current setting?

## FUNDING AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Humanitarian action depends on funding and financial support to offer sufficient response. And the “timeliness, cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of response”<sup>17</sup> has to be improved. Cash interventions are a cost-effective way of delivering aid and they are increasing. They ensure the beneficiaries’ autonomy and dignity; they give them a choice and flexibility and boost the local economy. Through cash interventions the model of humanitarian response can be transformed: the World Food Programme (WFP) provided almost “all of its food assistance to Syrian refugees (98%) through food vouchers in cooperation with credit-card companies in 2014.”<sup>18</sup>

For instance in Syria, where 10.8 million people are in need, half of them children, the Comprehensive Regional Strategic Framework (CRSF) was developed in

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<sup>15</sup> UNHCR, *World at War...*, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup> Inter Action, *Humanitarian Action*, op. cit.

<sup>17</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report...*, op. cit., p. 65.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 91.

May 2014.<sup>19</sup> It provided an analysis of needs, capacities, gaps and shared objectives to bring together governments, donors, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations within Syria. Based on this analysis, a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)<sup>20</sup> and a Regional Refugee Response Plan (also called 3RP)<sup>21</sup> for 2015 have been launched. Their aims are to protect affected people in accordance with International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Human Rights Law. The goal is to provide life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance to people in need, prioritizing the most vulnerable, to strengthen resilience, livelihoods and early recovery of communities and institutions, to harmonize coordination modalities through enhanced joint planning, information management communication and regular continuous monitoring, and to improve the response capacity of all humanitarian actors assisting people in need. In order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need throughout Syria, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted the resolution 2165,<sup>22</sup> to direct relief delivery through the help of additional border crossing into the conflict lines.

### RISING NEEDS, DECREASING RESOURCES

In the countries of transit, through which four million Syrians have fled war and persecution and in which they become refugees, the situation is very grave.<sup>23</sup> Even while the host governments continue to show great generosity to Syrian refugees – providing access to education and health care among other services – their countries feel keenly the social and economic impact which is endangering their own stability and development.

In the transit and host countries, the resources required to assist the refugees are becoming scarce. Due to funding shortfalls, it is almost impossible to meet the needs of the more than 1.8 million people at the borders who rely on food assistance, or the more than 1.7 million people who will need assistance to get through the coming winter. With the help of governments, private donors, international funds and other institutions and organizations, USD 1.68 billion have been received. However, this means that the work of the United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations is only up to 37 per cent funded, with a gap of USD 2.85 billion. Underfunding is impacting all sectors and the host as well as source countries. This year, due to the lack of funding, reductions in food assistance of up to 30 per cent have been necessary. Furthermore, refugees and vulnerable members of impacted

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<sup>19</sup> UNOCHA, *Comprehensive Regional Strategic Framework for the Syria Crisis*, 08 May 2014, p. 3–8, <http://www.syria.unocha.org/sites/default/files/CRSF%20-%20Framework%20Documents%20May%208.pdf> (accessed 3.10.2015).

<sup>20</sup> OCHA, *2015 Syria Response Plan*, December 2014, [http://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Syria/RM\\_Syria\\_20141217\\_upd20150223.pdf](http://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Syria/RM_Syria_20141217_upd20150223.pdf) (accessed 3.10.2015).

<sup>21</sup> 3RP, *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015–2016 in Response to the Syrian Crisis*, <http://www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3RP-Report-Overview.pdf> (accessed 3.10.2015).

<sup>22</sup> UNSCR, *Resolution 2165 Middle East*, S/RES/2165 (7216<sup>th</sup> meeting, 2014), <http://UNSCR.com/en/resolutions/2165> (accessed 2.10.2015).

<sup>23</sup> 3RP, *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan...*, op. cit., p. 8–11.

communities miss out on cash and in-kind assistance to meet their most basic household needs. Regarding the education sector and the No Lost Generation Strategy, 714,000 children were out of school in the 2014/15 school year. Chronic underfunding in the livelihoods and social cohesion sector signifies that many refugees in host communities are unable to support themselves and their families. Programmes that could strengthen their resilience remain also dramatically underfunded, despite strong support by the international community. While 28 per cent of the overall appeal is for the resilience-building component, only 14 per cent have been received. Meanwhile, resilience has a crucial role and it is necessary to reinforce it in order to reduce the pressure to immigrate.<sup>24</sup>

Without increased access to resilience investments, the level of individual vulnerability will rise and development gains in host communities will be lost. Underfunding is impacting all countries, as well. To prevent further negative consequences for refugees and host communities, humanitarian partners are calling for more funds to be given primarily to the host countries' governments.

### SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VULNERABLE

In 2014 the demands and needs caused by the crisis became particularly high, and 2015 as well as 2016 are going to make the need of sufficient humanitarian action even greater. The target group encompasses people of different incomes, poverty levels, with varying access to resources and diverse vulnerabilities.<sup>25</sup> The factors are linked: in a conflict or a disaster, poverty makes more vulnerable.

States must therefore make some decisions and take action, knowing that the situation in Syria is the direst humanitarian and development crisis, threatening regional and global security. It is also necessary to ensure solidarity and international responsibility-sharing with refugee hosting countries, to enhance refugee protection in the region and beyond, to facilitate access to livelihoods, to alleviate suffering, restore dignity and reduce local social tensions. One way is to set up reception centres "close to conflict areas outside Europe, where refugee camps already exist," said Donald Tusk, Polish politician and President of the European Council, in order to spread information about Europe's immigration rules.<sup>26</sup> Gerard François Dumont, a French geographer, recalls what happened in 1979 during the Cambodian refugee crisis in the camps in neighbouring countries, Malaysia and Thailand. The refugees could seek and demand asylum in a country of their choice without leaving the camps.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> FICR, *Politique Relative à la Migration*, [http://www.ifrc.org/Page\\_files/89393/migration%20Principles\\_French.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/Page_files/89393/migration%20Principles_French.pdf) (accessed 1.10.2015).

<sup>25</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report...*, op. cit., p. 15.

<sup>26</sup> IDMC, *Leaving No One Behind: Internal Displacement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25 September 2015, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2015/leaving-no-one-behind-internal> (accessed 1.10.2015).

<sup>27</sup> G.F. Dumont, "L'Europe à des marges de peuplement", *Le Monde*, 17 September 2015, [http://www.lepoint.fr/monde//Gerard-francois-dumont-l-europe-a-des-marges-de-peuplement-17-09-2015-1965507\\_24.php](http://www.lepoint.fr/monde//Gerard-francois-dumont-l-europe-a-des-marges-de-peuplement-17-09-2015-1965507_24.php) (accessed 2.10.2015).

Such a measure would solve the current identification and registration problem in the hotspots at the frontline countries in Europe.

## REGISTRATION AND MONITORING

It is especially important to set up “identification and registration centres” (hotspots) in the countries of first arrival, to establish effective common rules, to share data on migrants (fingerprints or other identification methods) in order to register them, to monitor their flow and to track their mobility. Humanitarian action should be able to locally meet the basic needs of the refugees and provide dignified temporary protection for the vulnerable (like for example a joint project with a Serbian foundation and Polish Humanitarian Action).<sup>28</sup> Decent reception conditions are indispensable to make sure that, once in Europe, refugees and migrants are properly informed and therefore able to exercise their rights to seek asylum without undue impediment.

Partnerships among the countries and organizations are necessary to build this sufficient humanitarian response. They help pool resources, share practices, skills and create synergies. Strikingly important actions are: “real-time sharing of information on situation assessments”, “enhancing [...] intervention strategies”, “exchanges [of knowledge and expertise] to develop best practice and share sectorial expertise” to ensure that a straightforward approach for further crises is created.<sup>29</sup>

## SIGNIFICANCE OF INFORMATION

Information is the key tool for planning and response in a crisis situation. More data on humanitarian action would enhance response planning and ensure preparedness as more information could be taken into account. The information is needed by organizations in the source and host countries to guarantee appropriate planning and assisting in critical situations. Partnerships are necessary to share data and knowledge.<sup>30</sup> Due to new technological developments such as mobility tracking, flow monitoring and registration can be improved and help to handle the flow of migrants across various territories. Several aspects have to be improved to guarantee a successful coordination as well as humanitarian response such as “covering needs across borders and including non traditional caseloads”<sup>31</sup> and create regional refugee response plans.

Globalization and digitalization give many possibilities in humanitarian action, as more people have access to the Internet and smartphones.<sup>32</sup> Migrants are facing dif-

<sup>28</sup> A. Divac, *Satisfying Basic Needs...*, op. cit.

<sup>29</sup> European Union, *Joint Statement by the Council and Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, European Parliament and European Commission* [2008] 25(1) Official Journal of the European Union, p. 3.

<sup>30</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report...*, op. cit., p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> K. Gelsdorf, *Global Challenges and their Impact on International Humanitarian Action*, OCHA Policy and Study Series, January 2010, p. 4.

<sup>32</sup> UNOCHA, *World Humanitarian Summit 2016...*, op. cit.

ferent needs nowadays: for instance, one of the most needed improvements in refugee camps are hotspots where migrants could keep in touch with their families or friends.<sup>33</sup>

The response needs to be focused on the first signs of a crisis to be able to save lives as well as prevent escalation.<sup>34</sup> It is also more cost-effective. For instance, since a protracted and recurrent crisis is a norm, traditional short-term operations have become long-term actions.<sup>35</sup>

### APPEAL FOR LEGAL MIGRATION POSSIBILITIES

The situation at the borders of potential host countries also needs to be tackled to combat the migrant smuggling business on the Mediterranean Sea, to improve registration and handling of newly arriving migrants as well as to alleviate the burden of the countries on the external borders of the Union. For example, organizations such as Europol, Frontex, EASO and Eurojust agreed to cooperate to collect information on the “smugglers’ modus operandi” and to tackle the situation of human trafficking effectively.<sup>36</sup>

In the hosting countries, the European Union has to open legal and safe access channels for refugees who decide to come to Europe, in order to protect them. This is the only way they will not have to risk their lives, or rely on people smugglers (the Frontex operation Triton in the Mediterranean Sea, the EU Navfor Med operation whose aim is to identify, capture, dispose of vessels used by smugglers). This situation also makes it necessary for governments to issue visas, lift air transit visa obligations and to implement measures to support family reunions. To meet this urgent challenge, the EU could use the mechanism provided by Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons, which was adopted precisely to grant immediate protection “in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons from third countries who are unable to return to their country of origin.”<sup>37</sup>

<sup>33</sup> “Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg pledged refugee camp Internet access”, BBC, 27 September 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34373389> (accessed 2.10.2015).

<sup>34</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report...*, op. cit., p. 94.

<sup>35</sup> UNOCHA, *Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow – Managing the Risk of Humanitarian Crises*, OCHA Policy and Study Series, 2014, <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OCHA%20SLTT%20Web%20Final%20Single> (accessed 1.10.2015).

<sup>36</sup> “Pan-European operation dismantles migrant smuggling network with 77 arrests”, EUROPOL, Press releases, 2015, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/pan-european-operation-dismantles-migrant-smuggling-network-77-arrests> (accessed 8.10.2015).

<sup>37</sup> Migreurop observatoire des frontières, *Open Letter to President of the French Republic on the Reception of Refugees and Migrants in France and in Europe*, 10 September 2015, <http://www.migreurop.org/article2644.html> (accessed 6.10.2015).

## EU AGREEMENT AS A STEP FORWARD?

Furthermore, the EU admits that its asylum procedures are inadequate to face the biggest migration since the Balkan wars of the 1990s. An EU agreement could ease the migrant crisis in five key areas.<sup>38</sup> The first one consists in agreeing on asylum rules, starting with the suspension of the Dublin regulation for all asylum seekers, irrespective of their nationality. It is an unfair, unequal and inefficient mechanism to expect the EU country where a migrant first arrives to process the migrant's asylum claim. The German government, for instance, was publicly announcing during September 2015 to welcome migrants regardless of the Dublin Regulation. The second area is related to National Asylum Quotas (taking into account the size of the economy, population, the average number of asylum applications); EU ministers agreed in September 2015 to relocate 120,000 migrants across the 28-member block. The third key area concerns tackling migration at its source with more ambitious EU foreign policy (ending the war in Syria would make a huge difference), to encourage the rich Arab gulf countries to do more and help Syrian refugees, to create more local jobs to reduce the flow of economic migrants (from sub-Saharan Africa). The fourth key area is associated with legalization of migrant paths: the EU will set up a pilot centre in Niger to inform would-be migrants about its rules and their possible options. EU could also set-up a "blue card" European scheme for the highly skilled foreign professionals to get jobs in the EU (according to the EU labour market). The last possible action would be sending the migrants back, while knowing that in 2014, the EU countries ordered 470,000 people to leave, and only deported 192,445. There is pressure to agree on a list of safe countries of origin, which will be a legal basis for sending more migrants home (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia).

## PROACTIVE AND HOLISTIC APPROACH

Above, we have discussed what needs to be done and what can be done to improve humanitarian action. In regard to the migrant crisis itself, we state that all humanitarian action can change is the response to the impacts of conflicts.<sup>39</sup> The urgent situation of crisis within a political, economic and geographic context requires that we create a sustainable and durable approach towards "rising humanitarian needs with limited resources"<sup>40</sup> – for now and in the future. Since most humanitarian crises are predictable, the traditional way of responding has to be changed into a proactive and holistic approach.<sup>41</sup>

More and more, we hear a call for increased effectiveness, joint assessments, and transparency in financial allocation, for creating strategic clusters and taking capac-

<sup>38</sup> "Migrant crisis: How can EU respond to influx?", BBC, 7 September 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34139348> (accessed 6.10.2015).

<sup>39</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report...*, op. cit., p. 116.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 8.

<sup>41</sup> UNOCHA, *Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow...*, op. cit.



ities into account. The aid has to be tailored to match the specific criteria of the situation. The Global World Humanitarian Summit 2016 has taken a step to face the challenge and adapt to the changing situation, to focus on prevention and better distribution of “resources today to save lives tomorrow.”<sup>42</sup>

### JOINT SOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Additionally, the responsibility of the European Union as a community in the domain of humanitarian aid has been mentioned. Europe “has failed to find an effective common response, and people have suffered as a result”<sup>43</sup> of the lack of committed participation. Consequently, the union has to “mobilize full force around the crisis” and implement a “common strategy, based on responsibility, solidarity and trust.”<sup>44</sup> All of the member states have to be encouraged to face the human tragedy and to show tolerance by tailoring the system to the new needs of migrants.

While humans are risking their lives at sea to reach a safe shore, European countries need to agree on “fundamental changes to allow for larger resettlement and humanitarian admission quotas, expanded visa and sponsored scholarships and other ways to enter Europe legally.”<sup>45</sup> As stated by Jean-Claude Juncker, “pushing back boats from piers, setting fire to refugee camps, or turning a blind eye to poor and helpless people: that is not Europe,” and it is not how Europe is supposed to face the migrant situation. As President of the European Commission, Jean Claude Juncker calls for “honesty, unity and solidarity.”<sup>46</sup>

### WOULD AN IMPROVEMENT OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION SOLVE THE MIGRANT CRISIS?

Could an improvement in humanitarian action solve the migrant crisis in Europe? The authors try to answer this question as increasing numbers of people flee their homes with Europe as destination. The European migrant crisis is characterized by a coincidence of the deteriorating situation in the source countries and the current struggle of the Union to cope with the flow of migrants. This article describes the conjunction of humanitarian action and the topical situation in Europe. A reshaping of humanitarian aid is needed to tackle the situation. Solving the crisis does not mean ending it, what is needed is a battle against the roots of migrations. The article shows the possible areas of improvement such as funding and financial support, it discusses the issue of rising needs and decreasing resources as well as shared responsibilities. It focuses on issues concerning the European Union, for instance registration and monitoring of migration flows, and it makes an appeal for legal migration routes

<sup>42</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>43</sup> A. Guterres, *Statement by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres on Refugee Crisis in Europe*, UNHCR, 4 September 2015, <http://www.unhcr.org/55e9459f6.html> (accessed 11.10.2015).

<sup>44</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>45</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>46</sup> J.C. Juncker, *Time for Honesty, Unity and Solidarity*, European Commission, 9 September 2015, [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-15-5614\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-5614_en.htm) (accessed 2.10.2015).

that would put a stop to tragic passages over the sea or at borders. Additionally, the article touches upon the responsibility of the European Union as a community that should offer humanitarian aid. An agreement on common steps to tackle the crisis and respond to its consequences has to be reached. Tolerance and encouragement to face the crisis and tailor the system to new needs of the migrants is indispensable. While humans are risking their lives at sea, the opportunity to reach safety on a rational way is not given in an adequate amount. Humanitarian crises are predictable, and the problems they bring about are easy to foresee, so the traditional response by humanitarians has to change and a proactive as well as holistic approach is needed.

**Keywords:** humanitarian action, migrants, refugees, migration crisis