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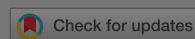
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Articles

From halt to hurry: external and domestic influences on Ukrainian asylum policy

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Abstract

The European Union (EU) and Ukraine have cooperated on asylum policy for many years with the aim of introducing EU and international standards in Ukraine. Reforms, however, were developing slowly and have accelerated only after 2010. This timing represents a puzzle because the reforms advanced most significantly in a situation when Ukraine's orientation toward the EU became more reluctant again while it

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influence did not play a role in this particular policy sector, which was thus de-coupled from the broader macro-level developments.

Keywords: Ukraine European Union Russia asylum policy reforms

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Notes

1. Detected illegal border-crossing between/at border-crossing points with the purpose of irregular migration at the EU eastern borders reported by Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania: 2012: 366/6; 2013: 1565/156; 2014: 1868/109; 2015 (January–June): 1131/79 (FRONTEX [2015a](#), 40–41; [2015b](#), 16); According to FRONTEX ([2015a](#), 28), most illegal border-crossings of non-regional migrants take place at the Slovakian–Ukrainian border. Ukraine is among the countries that report the highest numbers of illegal border-crossings between border crossing points at the EU eastern borders (FRONTEX [2015a](#), 18–19). See also <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/migratory-routes-map/>.
2. Number of new asylum seekers in Ukraine: 1443 in 1996; 2716 in 1997; 1667 in 1998; 1739 in 1999; 1893 in 2000; 916 in 2001; 535 in 2002; 1367 in 2003; 1364 in 2004; 1700 in 2005; 1600 in 2006; 1500 in 2007; 1500 in 2008; 890 in 2009; 1500 in 2010; 890 in 2011; 890 in 2012, see <http://unhcr.org/refugees/ukraine>.
3. Per Kyiv, Ma
4. Person February 28, 2008.

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5. In general, (initial) gaps between rule adoption and implementation are no exception in the field of migration and asylum (see for instance Freyburg et al. [2015](#)). Among the identified reasons are decoupling strategies used by the authorities or a lack of implementation capacity. In the given case, implementation has been addressed during the meanwhile successfully concluded second phase of the VLAP, starting in 2014.

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