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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... Reforms, however... timing represent... situation when Uk... while it increase... ngly hostile toward... an Customs Union... plained by paying r... erate with some de... responding to sector... tionality. On the other... n ended a period of unproductive political muddle and facilitated the adoption of EU rules. Russian

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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).

2. Number of illegal border-crossings at the EU eastern borders: 1667 in 1998; 1700 in 1999; 1364 in 2004; 1700 in 2009; 1500 in 2010; 89 in 2011; 1131 in 2012. <http://www.fronetx.eu>

3. Personal communication with the author, Kyiv, March 2015.

4. Personal communication with the author, February 28, 2008.

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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