



COST Workshop on Climate Migrants, 18 October 2013, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.

The workshop was organized by working group II of the COST action network, focusing on law and policy issues concerning climate change induced migration. The focus of this workshop in Thessaloniki was on EU perspectives on environment-induced migration, on human rights based approach to strategies and policies as well as on case studies in international law, displacement and reallocation. We started off discussing international legal frameworks and cases under the European Law regime concerning climate change and migration (Moreno-Lax; Mayrhofer; Ammer) which again highlighted the fact that soft law and common law cases have dramatically shaped decisions of courts and policies (Okeowo). Nevertheless, the international and regional legal framework for protecting migrants and seeking reparations for losses is developing, for example, in the post 2015 international climate, development and disaster risk reduction agreements (Thorp). The importance of policy strategies on the international and domestic level for policy strategies on reallocation and property rights were exemplified through case studies from Alaska and Bangladesh (Bronen; Simperingham) and added with suggestions for climate change adaptation policies (Cubie). Legal and political responsibilities of stakeholders are still better to be defined among the many stakeholders in the area of climate change induced migration (Gromilova). The same is true for thinking and moving terms away from climate change refugees to environmental migrants (Becker) or 'climigrants' (Bronen) as was suggested. Eventually, the times on looking at the impact of climate change only for people in the South, is history. Reallocation, preventive strategies and policy adaptation is a global phenomenon and a challenge for governance institutions and agencies everywhere in the world when dealing with the consequences of climate change. The case studies on the difficulties of adaptation policies from the United Kingdom (Ochs) and Bangladesh (Naser) highlighted these facts and the situations, difficulties and political avenues in these different parts of the world have more in common than expected.

The organizers of the workshop want to thank all participants at this workshop for their very active engagement and excellent papers presented.

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