



The EU's securitisation of migration: The European Trust Fund for Africa and the Erosion of Development Policies in Libya

Andreas HAGLUND (SE) – Prof. MORENO-LAX

Abstract

This thesis examines the question how the EU's migration governance since 2011 has resulted in the proliferation of ad hoc instruments, and the extensions of a securitised understanding of mobility (the migration-security nexus) into various policy fields. Following the refugee crisis of 2015, the transition to an over-prioritisation of migration management has only intensified. Member States' priorities for low migration numbers have become dominant in the field. One of the products of this transition has been the European Trust Fund for Africa (EUTFA), created by the 2015 Valetta Summit on Migration. In short, the EUTFA is mainly financed by the European Development Fund, which at its core should be used for combating poverty, and in the long run eradicate it – following the same direction as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. However, the EUTFA has effectively re-oriented development funds toward tackling the root causes of migration and halting irregular migration flows across the Mediterranean Sea. The erosion of development policies is especially traceable within the EUTFA projects in Libya, where the development goals are not even present. As the country continues to be torn apart by civil war, so does the rising instability and the constant deterioration of human rights for Libyans, but more importantly migrants in detention camps. The EU has several projects funding the Libyan authorities in charge of migration, such as the migration facilities as well as the Libyan coast guard, both of which have been to a certain extent complicit to human rights violations as well as smuggling. The EU has recognised this but maintains its approach. The underlying hypothesis therefore matches the findings: there is an ongoing erosion of development policies in Libya, via the EUTF, in a system where the EU is not only capitalising on the instability in Libya to curb migratory flows and satisfy its stakeholders (the Member States), but is actively contributing to it. It has shown the overall acceptance for ad hoc instruments within the institutions, as this continues to be an issue even with the new Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). The exceptionality of the EUTF such as in its rules of procedure and the changing nature of a policy that should be directed towards the recipient country's needs, is what has set this dangerous precedent.