



## **Constructing a New EU-Mali Migration Partnership: A Need to Understand the Strategy and the Risks of Externalizing 'Our' Crisis**

Elise CUNY (FR) – Supervisor: Elspeth GUILD

### Abstract

This thesis is dedicated to the understanding of the EU's migration strategy in Mali. The recent turn taken by the New Migration Partnership Framework questions the intentions of the EU in Mali. The objective of this research is to understand why now, why Mali, and how. This leads to consider the role of discourses, the interaction between actors and the use of funds. These three elements in interaction guide a reflection on the meaning and implementation of the new strategy of the EU in Mali. The core element is the prioritization of migration that did not constitute the primary field of cooperation in the past. This tendency has implications on the internal organisation of EU actors, but also on Mali's perception .

The research takes into account the unusual migratory context that the EU is experiencing, from which ensues a particular political pressure to take action on the institutional level. The modifications of the funds and of the relations between actors can be interpreted as consequences of such pressure, creating a window of opportunity for some sectors. However, by indulging in an internal crisis, the EU is taking the risk of degrading its relation with Mali by reducing it to migration. This phenomenon of crisis' externalization should not be guiding the EU's relations with third countries, in particular with partners in a situation of political and territorial fragility, such as Mali.