

PICUM QUARTERLY October - December 2015

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BORDERS

EU / Operation ‘Sophia’ launched to destroy boats and vessels of smugglers

The EU started a new operation in the southern Mediterranean on 7 October 2015 with the aim of intercepting smugglers. The military mission EUNAVFOR Med, dubbed ‘Operation Sophia’, allegedly after a newborn rescued on a boat earlier this summer called Sophia, involves six naval vessels in international waters off Libya with the power to stop, board, seize and destroy smugglers’ boats. The UN Security Council gave its approval to the operation on 9 October. The UN mandate given to the naval task force was not mandatory for the European Union to take action but gives the operation more legitimacy. Several civil society organisations expressed concern that the operation will lead to migrants and refugees taking even riskier routes.

Sources: [ECRE](#), 1 October 2015; [BBC](#), 7 October 2015; [France 24](#), 9 October 2015

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / “State of play” of measures taken to address the situation at the external borders of the EU

The European Commission issued on 30 November 2015 a [document](#) outlining the state of play of measures taken to “address the refugee crisis”. The document includes a list of actions endorsed by the informal meeting of heads of state and government on 23 September 2015 and again on 15 October 2015. It also reiterates the EU’s commitment to boost financial resources devoted to the crisis by €1.7 billion, resulting in a €9.2 billion total for 2015 and 2016.

Source: [European Commission Press Release](#), 30 November 2015

FOCUS PAPER / Fundamental rights guidance for member states on the obligation to provide fingerprints

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published a focus paper in October 2015 which looks at the measures that authorities can use to include biometric data on newly arrived asylum seekers and migrants for border management purposes in the Eurodac database. Eurodac is a database of fingerprints the European Union set up to facilitate the application of the Dublin regulation by determining what member state is responsible for an asylum application. The paper aims to help EU member states and EU institutions and agencies to avoid fundamental rights violations when collecting fingerprints. The paper, among other things, concludes that despite refusal to provide fingerprints, member states have the duty to respect the principle of non-refoulement. The deprivation of liberty in order to collect fingerprints should only be used in exceptional circumstances, and not against vulnerable people. To read the paper, click [here](#).

EUROPEAN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU-AFRICA / Valetta summit on migration agrees on action plan

EU and African leaders held a summit from 11 to 12 November 2015 in Valetta, Malta. The summit aimed to strengthen cooperation in the area of migration and address current challenges and opportunities. The European and African heads of state or government agreed on a [political declaration](#) and [Action Plan](#) for cooperation in the area of migration, with sixteen priority initiatives to be launched before the end of 2016. Among others, the action plan highlights the special protection needs of migrant women and children and the need to give special attention to unaccompanied children. However, [African civil society](#) criticised the plan for being one sided and Eurocentric. Several Europe-based organisations expressed concern about the increasing emphasis placed on deportation and readmission as part of development cooperation and criticised the plan for not sufficiently addressing regular migration channels. In the context of the plan's aim to 'fight irregular migration', leaders agreed to tackle smuggling and trafficking in human beings and to carry out information campaigns in countries of origin, transit and destination about the potential dangers of smuggling. For more information on the Valetta summit including background documents, click [here](#).

Sources: [ECRE Weekly Bulletin](#), 13 November 2015; Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) [Press Statement](#), 12 November 2015

EU-TURKEY / Heads of state or government agree on close cooperation on migration management

EU heads of states or government held, on 29 November 2015, a meeting with Turkey's government to further develop EU-Turkey relations and to discuss issues relating to migration management. The summit concluded with a joint [statement](#) detailing bilateral commitments and proposed actions in several areas. In particular, Turkey and the EU agreed to activate and implement the [Joint Action Plan](#) approved on 15 October 2015 to step up cooperation on deporting migrants who are considered to not be in need of international protection; preventing travel to Turkey and the European Union; and ensuring the application of the established bilateral readmission provisions. EU and Turkey leaders also agreed that the [EU-Turkey readmission agreement](#) will become fully applicable from June 2016.

Source: [European Council Press Release](#), 29 November 2015

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / Adoption of work programme for 2016

The European Commission adopted, on 27 October 2015, its [2016 Work Programme](#). While maintaining a strong focus on "tackling people smuggling and dismantling human trafficker groups" and on "returning more people who are not in need of international protection", the work programme includes proposals for developing new initiatives concerning channels for regular migration. The Work Programme also includes new initiatives on 'Border Management', with the aim of progressing towards a European Border and Coast Guard building on a "significantly reinforced Frontex". Modified proposals for the '[EU Smart Borders Package](#)' will also be presented by the Commission in 2016.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

FRANCE / EUROPE / Migrants and refugees described as security risk following Paris terrorist attacks

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris, France during which 128 people were killed on 13 November 2015, some politicians and groups have associated refugees and migrants, particularly those who are Muslims, with potential terrorist threats. Marine Le Pen, President of the right wing French Front National, called for the deportation of undocumented migrants in her response to the attacks. The Finance Minister of Bavaria, Germany, Markus Söder (Christian-Social Union, CSU) was quoted by media saying that 'uncontrolled migration' cannot continue. Poland's new government stated that the agreed refugee quotas would need to be reviewed after the attacks and that Poland was not ready to accept the quota. Yet a clear statement of principle was given by European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, who warned on 15 November while attending the G20 summit in Antalya, Turkey, that refugees and migrants should not be mixed up with terrorists. Two undocumented workers, Ahmed and Nordine T., who lived in the building in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, where a police raid took place on the 18 November with the aim of finding the perpetrators of the Paris attacks, suffered injuries from a shooting during the raid. After being treated in hospital, both were immediately detained due to being undocumented.

Sources: [The Guardian](#), 14 November 2015; [EU Observer](#), 15 November 2015; [Welcoming America](#), November 2015; [TWC News](#), 16 November 2015; [New Europe](#), 24 November 2015; [L'Humanité](#), 24 November 2015; [Le Figaro](#), 23 November 2015.

FRANCE / Administrative Court in Lille orders interim relief measures to improve conditions in Calais

The Administrative Tribunal of Lille, in its [ruling](#) n. 1508747 of 2 November 2015, ordered the application of interim relief to ensure human dignity, the right to respect for life, the right to freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to asylum, for people living in the camp surrounding the Jules Ferry centre in Calais. In particular, the judge noted that, due to insufficient access to water and toilets, and lack of waste collection, migrants in the camp were exposed to a risk of inhuman and degrading treatment. The judge therefore ordered the prefect of Pas-de-Calais and the commune of Calais to, within eight days from the ruling and with a penalty of 100 Euro per day in the event of failure to comply with the order, install 10 additional water points and 50 latrines, set up a trash collection system, install mobile rubbish containers, clean the site and install one or more routes for emergency access. The prefect of Pas-de-Calais was also ordered to identify unaccompanied children in distress to be adequately accommodated.

Source: [European Database of Asylum Law](#) (EDAL), 2 November 2015

GERMANY / SWEDEN / Police report that hundreds of thousands of migrants disappeared

Both German and Swedish police have reported that hundreds of thousands of migrants have disappeared in their countries. According to the German federal police, nearly 25,000 people who arrived in Germany are irregularly staying in the country without having registered with migration authorities. In recent months, Germany made headlines as one of the EU member states welcoming most refugees and migrants. However, the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz, paragraph 59) criminalises irregular entry. For this reason, the German Federal Police has filed charges for irregular entry in 118,185 cases between January and August 2015. Over 99% of the cases are eventually shelved but the police is obliged to press charges first. Swedish police stated that about 14,000 irregular migrants who had been awaiting deportation have disappeared. On 12 November, Sweden announced a 10-day temporary border control to carry out checks of arriving refugees and migrants.

Sources: [Sputnik News](#), 27 November 2015; [Der Spiegel](#), 30 November 2015; [RT News](#), 2 December 2015; [The Atlantic](#), 12 November 2015; [Die ZEIT](#), 27 October 2015

USA / Bill of rights for undocumented Americans

The undocumented migrants' rights group United We Stay, in the United States, published a Bill of Rights for Undocumented Americans on 5 November 2015. In reference to the Bill of Rights of the nation's founders, which

consists of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights for Undocumented Americans also includes ten points demanding, among others, a path to citizenship, protection from detention and deportation when undocumented migrants report a crime, access to services such as medical care and access to education. To view the Bill of Rights for Undocumented Americans, click [here](#).

Source: [United We Stay](#), November 2015

HEALTH CARE

EUROPE / REPORT / Study concludes that restrictive integration policies may negatively affect migrants' health

The SOPHIE project has released a report entitled "[Social and Economic Policies Matter for Health Equity](#)," concluding that restrictive integration policies may have negative health consequences for migrants. SOPHIE, a collaborative research project coordinated by the Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (Public Health Agency of Barcelona), looked at the impacts of various social and economic policies on health inequalities, including the effects of integration policies on migrants' health. In its chapter on migrant health, the study compares the difference in health status between native-born and foreign-born residents of three European countries (the Netherlands, France and Denmark). It found that inequalities in living conditions and self-rated health between these populations and native-born residents were highest in Denmark. To read the report, click [here](#). To find out more about the project, click [here](#).

VIDEOS / Videos on the importance of access to vaccination for all children and antenatal care for all pregnant women

Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World, MdM) published two videos on 29 October 2015, on the need to ensure that all children can access vaccinations, and all pregnant women can access antenatal care. MdM provides health care services to people who have limited or no access to the regular health care system, including undocumented migrants, in clinics across Europe. Data collected in 2014 from 23,040 patients who visited MdM clinics, indicates that only one third of the children seen had been vaccinated against mumps, measles and rubella and only slightly more (42.5%) had been vaccinated against tetanus. More than half (54.2%) of the pregnant women surveyed in MdM clinics had no access to antenatal care, and the vast majority were without health coverage (81%). The video on antenatal care throughout Europe is available [here](#). The video on access to vaccination throughout Europe can be viewed [here](#).

LABOUR AND FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS

IRELAND / Investigation exposes trafficked and abused undocumented migrant workers in fishing industry

A year-long investigation conducted by The Guardian into the Irish prawn and whitefish fishing industry uncovered the exploitation of undocumented Ghanaian, Filipino, Egyptian and Indian fishermen working on boats in Irish ports. They reported a large number of abuses such as being confined to vessels, lesser pay than the Irish minimum wage, extreme sleep deprivation, working for days or nights with only a few hours' sleep and no proper rest days. The Guardian stated that some migrant workers appear to have been trafficked on to trawlers for labour exploitation.

Source: [The Guardian](#), 2 November 2015

NETHERLANDS / Government raises awareness on domestic work regulation

The Dutch government has decided to launch a public campaign in order to raise awareness of the rules governing domestic work. According to the Dutch government's estimates, almost one million (13%) Dutch households use external help at home. Specific rules regulate service provision in the private home but according to a 2014 report, this regulation is not generally known and therefore a lot of infractions take place. The campaign's aim is to advise individuals who employ a domestic worker how to make a contract describing the mutual obligations and rights. Information on the campaign and a model contract can be found [here](#) (in Dutch).

Source: Stichting Los Newsletter, Volume 5 No. 21, 26 October 2015

REPORTS / Training tool for law enforcement officers and engaging the private sector in ending human trafficking

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) published the report, “Human Trafficking - How to Investigate It: Training Manual for Law Enforcement Officers,” in cooperation with EF (Expertise France) and FIIAPP (Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas), as part of a project to enhance national, regional and transnational law enforcement cooperation on trafficking. The project focused on four countries -- Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Turkey - and focused on data and intelligence gathering and analysis to improve the knowledge-base on trafficking in human beings; systematic information sharing within and among the four countries; and building the capacity of frontline agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors and others to identify situations of trafficking in human beings and offenders. To access the report, click [here](#). [La Strada International](#) and [SOMO](#) published the [resource guide](#) “Engaging the Private Sector to End Human Trafficking for NGOs” on 16 October 2015 on the occasion of the annual European day against trafficking in human beings, observed on 18 October. The guide elaborates ways in which forced labour and human trafficking can be tackled when cooperating with the private sector. Businesses are identified as playing a key role, since the private sector can be responsible for the exploitation of workers and coercive recruitment practices, but can also play a crucial role in helping to prevent it. More information can be accessed [here](#).

SWITZERLAND / Petition for the effective implementation of domestic workers convention

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189) entered into force in Switzerland on 12 November 2015 after the country ratified the convention the year before. The Swiss organisations 'Women in Development Wide Schweiz' (Switzerland) and the national 'Platform for Undocumented Migrants' (nationale Plattform zu den Sans-Papiers) are now calling for rapid and effective implementation of the convention. For this reason they have launched a petition which is available in [German](#) and [French](#). The organisations demand, among other things, the possibility for undocumented domestic workers to get a permit to stay and work; access to social security and labour courts for domestic workers; and to ensure that domestic work is subject to labour law.

Source: [Sans- Papiers Switzerland](#), December 2015

UK / POLICY BLUEPRINT / Labour inspection key for combatting labour exploitation

A [policy blueprint](#), entitled “Combatting Labour Exploitation through Labour Inspection”, released by Focus on Labour Exploitation ([FLEX](#)) in October 2015 highlights the importance of labour inspections to avoid severe labour exploitation. Although the UK Modern Slavery Act imposing penalties on perpetrators of modern slavery offences came into force in 2015, the report suggests that efforts made to tackle labour exploitation can only succeed with a focus on victim-centred labour inspection. The government estimates that in the UK, 13,000 people could be victims of modern slavery. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Source: Focus on Labour Exploitation [Press Release](#), October 2015

UNDOCUMENTED WOMEN

IRELAND / Ireland signs the Istanbul Convention

Ireland became the 26th state to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ('Istanbul Convention') on 5 November 2015. Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald called for preparation of a package of reforms to allow Ireland to ratify the Convention. The Department of Justice indicated that legislation on domestic violence should be published in 2016. According to Women's Aid, a non-governmental organisation working to end domestic violence, Ireland has only one third of the family spaces in shelters that would be required under the Convention. Additionally, one in five women reports having experienced sexual or physical violence since age 15, and 38,000 calls are made to helplines by women each year in Ireland.

Sources: [Belfast Telegraph](#), 4 November 2015, [The Irish Times](#), 6 November 2015

GERMANY / Campaign raises awareness of situation of undocumented women

The German association In Via, which advocates for the rights of youth and women, has launched a campaign raising awareness of the situation of undocumented women. The campaign, entitled "Mittendrin. Ohne Rechte" (Among Us. Without Rights), demands protection of the fundamental human rights of women and explains why they become irregular, and how they often work under exploitative conditions as domestic workers and care providers or are victims of trafficking and forced labour. The campaign offers press material, videos and information brochures (in German). To find out more, click [here](#).

UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

EU / Members of the European Parliament sign declaration on investing in children

428 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) signed a declaration on investing in children on 7 December 2015. The written declaration ([number 0042/2015](#)) calls upon the European Commission to introduce specific indicators on children at risk of poverty; it also urges EU member states to use EU funding to implement the Commission Recommendation '[Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage](#)'. A group of 11 MEPs had launched the initiative at the European Parliament to collect signatures to support the declaration. A European Parliament resolution of 24 November 2015 on reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty ([2014/2237\(INI\)](#)) was adopted in plenary by 569 votes to 77 with 49 abstentions. It recognises, among many other issues, that migrant children are over-represented in the group at risk of poverty, and the situation is worse for undocumented migrant children. The declaration is available in 23 languages [here](#).

Source: [Eurochild](#), 7 December 2014

EU / Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child

The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) released a [Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child](#), jointly prepared with the Council of Europe, to shed light on the role of European legal standards in securing the enjoyment by children of their universal rights. The handbook is designed for non-specialist legal professionals, judges, public prosecutors, child protection authorities, and other practitioners and organisations responsible for ensuring the legal protection of the rights of the child. There is a section on non-discrimination based on nationality and immigration status. There is also a chapter dedicated to European migration and asylum law, which highlights numerous rights of the child. The Handbook is available in English and French [here](#). Publication of the handbook in other EU official languages is planned for 2016.

GLOBAL / Global campaign against unfair treatment of children

UNICEF launched the global #FightUnfair Campaign which aims to engage a community of advocates and to empower them to speak out about the most unfair situations that children face today. Information about the campaign, including ways to engage, can be found [here](#). Among the facts highlighted by the campaign is that one in five refugees and migrants arriving in Europe is a child. At the same time, UNICEF has released a new report entitled '[For Every Child, a Fair Chance: The Promise of Equity](#)', laying out UNICEF's equity agenda. The report outlines many of the milestones achieved for the world's poor and marginalised children to date, as well as many of the remaining gaps. Migrant and refugee children are recognised as a vulnerable and marginalised group of children. The report is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian [here](#).

GERMANY / Study finds that many schools would not enroll undocumented children

Although German schools have been explicitly exempted from the duty to report undocumented migrants, including children ([Residence Act § 87](#)) since 2011, the right to education has not yet been implemented by a high number of primary schools. This is the finding of a study entitled "It must not depend on papers" („Es darf nicht an Papieren scheitern"), released in October 2015, that was commissioned by the Max Traeger Foundation (Max-Traeger-Stiftung), and authored by Prof. Dr. phil. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Dr. phil. Dita Vogel and Barbara J. Funck. The study included staff at 100 primary schools in all federal states of Germany who were asked to provide information regarding the possibility of enrolment for children without residence papers. In 62% of the primary schools investigated, enrolment was found to be impossible. Proposals for action include an amendment in all

federal states' education laws (Landesschulgesetz) on the right of undocumented children to attend school, as well as further regulation to prohibit schools from reporting data instead of leaving it to up to schools whether or not they report an undocumented person. The study can be accessed in German [here](#). Sources: [Press Release](#) University of Bremen, October 2015; [Bildungsklick](#), October 2015

PORTUGAL / National campaign to regularise children of Cape Verdean origin

The Portuguese High Commissioner for Migration, Pedro Calado, launched a campaign in cooperation with the Cape Verdean embassy to regularise the status of children of Cape Verdean origin. This would affect hundreds of children, many of them born in Portugal. The initiative is carried out with support of the Foreigners and Border Service (Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras, SEF) and the Directorate-General for Education (Direcção-Geral da Educação). Pedro Calado stated that the initiative might be extended to other migrant communities in the future. Source: [Publico](#), 9 November 2015

UK / Dental X-rays inaccurate and unethical to determine age

The British Dental Association (BDA) has issued a clear [warning](#) to dentists that X-rays should not be taken or routinely used in order to help judge the age of young asylum seekers, calling the practice 'inaccurate' and 'unethical'. The BDA has consistently argued that dental x-rays are an inaccurate method for assessing whether individuals have attained the age of 18 years, and that as the process confers no direct health benefit it is both inappropriate and unethical.

Source: [Migrants' Rights Network](#), 24 November 2015

DETENTION AND DEPORTATION

CZECH REPUBLIC / UN / High Commissioner for Human Rights criticises detention of migrants in Czech Republic

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, strongly criticised the detention of migrants and refugees in the Czech Republic in a statement on 22 October 2015. The country's own Minister of Justice, Robert Pelikán, described the facility Bílá-Jezová, as being "worse than in a prison." Migrants are detained in conditions which have been described as degrading, and according to reports, are routinely strip-searched by authorities, and charged a daily 10\$ fee for their detention. To read the statement, click [here](#). Source: [New York Times](#), 22 October 2015

MEXICO / Government prohibits immigration detention of children while deportations of migrants increase

The Mexican government introduced a prohibition of immigration detention of children in the official regulations for the National Child Rights Law on 2 December 2015. Article 111 of the law states that at no time will migrant children or adolescents, regardless of whether or not they are travelling with adults, be deprived of their freedom in immigration stations or in any other immigration detention centre. Article 111 also explicitly requires that Mexico adopts and implements mechanisms to prevent children accompanied by their parents or guardians from being detained for immigration purposes. According to a [report](#) of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), 130,000 children were apprehended between 2010 and 2014 by both, US and Mexican authorities and 40,000 deported back to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The overall number of deportations from the United States and Mexico to these Central American countries grew from about 145,000 in 2010 to over 200,000 in 2014. This is also due to the launch of the Southern Border Plan (Plan Frontera Sur). The plan was launched in August 2014 after Barack Obama declared the unprecedented numbers of unaccompanied children arriving at the US border an "urgent humanitarian situation".

Sources: [International Detention Coalition](#) (IDC), 5 December 2015; [El País](#), 13 October 2015

EUROPE / New toolkit and reports on detention of stateless people

The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) has published a toolkit as well as several country reports and personal stories about stateless persons in immigration detention. The resources are part of a three-year project to map the extent of the issue, to create advocacy tools and to train lawyers and NGOs to protect stateless persons from arbitrary detention. The toolkit discusses the decision to detain stateless persons, arbitrary detention, legal frameworks and alternatives to detention. The country reports discuss how to protect stateless

persons from immigration detention in the Netherlands, Malta and Poland. The toolkit and country reports are available [here](#). In September, ENS also launched its report “No Child Should be Stateless” revealing that thousands of children are still growing up stateless and are therefore excluded from the protections and rights that nationality offers to citizens. Children of undocumented migrants are recognised as a high risk group. The report concludes with a series of recommendations designed to guide action to more effectively address – and ultimately end – childhood statelessness in Europe. To view the report, click [here](#).

UK / Report finds death of 84-year-old awaiting deportation “wholly unacceptable”

A report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) for England and Wales, Nigel Newcomen, investigates the circumstances of the death in detention of an 84-year-old man suffering from a serious health condition. Alois Dvorzac, a naturalised Canadian citizen who was suffering from dementia, arrived in Britain on 23 January 2013 on the way to his native Slovenia to visit his daughter when he was stopped by UK Border Agency staff and detained at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. He died as a result of coronary heart disease on 10 February 2013 after being shackled for five hours. The PPO noted that restraints on elderly detainees might amount to a breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Sources: [The Guardian](#), October 2015; [Independent](#), October 2015; [Independent](#), February 2014

USA / Migrants protest detention conditions with hunger strike

Migrants in detention facilities across the United States went on hunger strike in November to protest the conditions of their detention. In early November, about 500 women at the T. Don Hutton Detention Centre in Liberty, Texas began a hunger strike to protest against conditions ranging from extended detention (up to a year and a half in some cases), arbitrary and excessive bonds and the use of offensive and degrading language by staff. By mid-November, 40 to 50 detainees refused food at a time, in a “rolling” hunger strike. At the Adelanto detention centre in California, 90 detainees began a hunger strike on 4 November 2015 and released a list describing their [complaints and demands](#). At the same facility, an additional 300 detainees refused food for more than a week to protest the conditions of their detention, which included limited access to health care, poor food and harassment by guards.

Source: [The Take Away](#), 2 November 2015; [Al Jazeera](#), 12 November 2015

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

DATABASE / Tool to find help if fundamental rights are violated

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) launched on 6 October 2015, ‘Clarity’, an interactive tool which helps people to find the right organisation to help with their fundamental rights issues. The tool is currently a beta version that covers 14 countries. The pilot version of Clarity provides information in English about bodies, such as equality bodies, national human rights institutions and complaints bodies, which may be able to provide assistance in situation of rights’ violations. To access the tool, click [here](#).

GUIDE / How the EU Victims’ Directive can be used to ensure access to justice for undocumented victims of crime

On the occasion of the deadline for EU member states to transpose the EU Victims’ Directive on 16 November 2015, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) published a guide on how organisations can use the Directive as a tool to ensure the rights of undocumented victims of crime. The guide, which is available in English, French and Spanish, also informs policymakers, law enforcement and other official actors how the Victims’ Directive relates to undocumented migrants as a specific category of victims. The guide is available [here](#).