



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON
UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Beyond Irregularity: towards a sustainable approach to dealing with irregular migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe

The overarching objective of the “**Beyond Irregularity: Towards a sustainable approach to dealing with irregular migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe**” project is to create an evidence base which will enable individual governments, the EU and others to better manage irregular migration from Sub-Saharan African countries and transit in Morocco to the EU, and to institutionalise a dialogue about these issues between them.

The project’s specific objectives are to:

- Analyse recent trends regarding irregular migration between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe through collaborative action-oriented research
- Enhance through training and collaborative research the institutional capacity of governments and civil society actors in countries of origin and transit to better manage irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking
- Strengthen the protection of migrants’ rights in transit countries
- Raise awareness about the risks of irregular migration and exploitation by trafficking networks
- Provide a strategic and sustainable framework for dialogue and cooperation around irregular migration and trafficking between EU member states and countries of origin and transit.

The project is focused on three specific case studies. Each case study will address some of the common misconceptions about irregular migration and trafficking, enhance understanding of the complex individual motivations to migrate, help formulate innovative policies that go beyond traditional security responses such as border controls and policing and thus promoting irregular migrants’ rights.

Case study 1: Victims of trafficking – Nigerians in the UK

This case study will gather detailed evidence on the methods and routes used by traffickers to transport individuals from Nigeria to the UK. Civil society actors and relevant government departments in the UK will develop a comprehensive prevention strategy to stop women being trafficked into prostitution in the UK. This has a particular focus on preventing women being trafficked prior to the Olympics in 2012.

Case study 2: Irregular migrants from sub-Saharan Africa in transit in Morocco

Researchers will explore migrants' experiences and intentions at each stage of irregularity. Interviews will be conducted with asylum seekers, visa overstayers, clandestine entrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, apprehended irregular migrants and vulnerable migrants. **Along with our Moroccan partner, PICUM will work with civil society actors and the Moroccan government to strengthen the protection of migrants' rights while in transit.**

Case study 3: Returnee irregular migrants in Nigeria and Morocco

The research will explore migrants' motivations for remaining in the EU and inhibitors to return at each stage of their experience as an irregular migrant, as well as their future migration intentions. **PICUM will work with civil society actors and relevant government departments in Nigeria and Morocco to establish social and professional reintegration schemes.**

Outputs

Guided by an advisory panel of experts, the project will deliver a number of tailored outputs in 2011–13, including:

- four policy briefings and three case study reports;
- running training sessions with partners;
- holding four stakeholder seminars;
- designing a toolkit for civil society actors to improve the level of support they provide for irregular migrants and victims of trafficking;
- hosting a major international conference in Brussels.

To ensure the sustainability of the research, **PICUM will be responsible for co-establishing a permanent Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Irregular Migration Research and Advocacy.** Research institutes and civil society actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region will be invited to join.

The project is coordinated by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) and PICUM is one of several project partners. PICUM's role in this two-year project will end on 30 June 2013.