

NOVAMIGRA Consortium

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NORMS AND VALUES IN
THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION
AND REFUGEE CRISIS

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About NOVAMIGRA

Several, partly interconnected crises have profoundly challenged the European project in recent years. In particular, reactions to the arrival of 1.25 million refugees in 2015 called into question the idea(l) of a unified Europe. **What is the impact of the so-called migration and refugee crisis on the normative foundations and values of the European Union? And what will the EU stand for in the future?**

NOVAMIGRA studies these questions with a unique combination of social scientific analysis, legal and philosophical normative reconstruction and theory. This project:

- Develops a precise descriptive and **normative understanding** of the current “value crisis”;
- Assesses possible **evolutions of European values**; and
- Considers **Europe’s future in light of rights, norms and values that could contribute to overcoming the crises.**

The EU’s ability to overcome its crises, particularly in the context of migration and integration policies, will not only depend on its provision of material benefits to states and individuals, it must also credibly claim the **ability to establish conditions for legitimacy and justice within and beyond Europe.**

NOVAMIGRA aims at providing policy-makers and civil society with a rich empirical and ethical basis on which to base their policy-making and programmatic activities.

The project is funded with around 2.5 million Euros under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme for a period of three years.

Main Objectives

NOVAMIGRA’s overall strategy is to significantly impact academia, policy-making, and the wider society. It outlines a **comprehensive strategy** for relevant stakeholders on the European, national, and regional level aimed at overcoming the deep divergences in Europe regarding migration, integration, and refugees. The project aims at:

- Providing a precise and comprehensive **understanding of core values/norms in Europe**, their current transformation, and possible evolution;
- Explaining **the way values/norms motivate or affect relevant political, administrative, and societal agents** with regard to migration and the integration of migrants and refugees into European societies, and studying, **if, how, and why this has changed** with the refugee crisis since 2015; and
- Developing a **rights-based democratic perspective for the EU** and its member states, which takes into account differences in European values/norms that became visible in the refugee crisis, and the possible evolution of values, but also reflects **Europe’s global responsibility.**

Networking Opportunities

NOVAMIGRA fosters **dialogue with relevant stakeholders** from academia, policy-making, and the wider society through:

Research

NOVAMIGRA conducts research in four related areas:

European integration and European values: NOVAMIGRA specifies the “grammar” of values, norms, rights, and moral principles as they are contained in European law (European Human Rights System, Community *acquis* and the Charter of Fundamental Rights). Gender equality and women’s rights are a particular focus.

Values in European migration and refugee policy: The project examines policies and measures on the EU level and relates them to the surge of right-wing populism in many member states and the emerging self-understanding of some European countries as immigration societies.

Value agents and their practices in civil society: It provides a comprehensive picture of value agents and value transmission practices in migration and integration contexts in European societies and in the external transmission to potential migrants/refugees coming to Europe.

A cosmopolitan perspective for Europe: The project explores to what extent cosmopolitanism belongs or could belong to European norms and values and it develops a vision of how the European multilevel system could be shaped such that it guarantees universal human rights.

- ▶ A series of **international conferences, workshops, brainstorming sessions, and informal dialogues**;
- ▶ **Policy Research Alerts and Policy Papers** on key issues in the European migration/refugee debate;
- ▶ The **NOVAMIGRA Newsletter** with the latest news on the project;
- ▶ The **NOVAMIGRA Ph.D. platform** for Ph.D. students in the field of refugee law, global migration, integration, and social cohesion; and
- ▶ The **NOVAMIGRA website** and the **NOVAMIGRA Value Landscape**, an interactive tool which will be provided in 2019.