



Policy Roundtable: Quality Newspapers vs. Populism Media and attitudes towards immigration in Europe

22 February 2021 / 9:00-11:00
online event

Background

Much of the current debate about immigration, far-right populism and the future of the EU is centred on the increasingly complex relationships between media and political attitudes. Political attitudes including the norms and values held by the public are to some extent shaped by news media. At the same time, pre-existing attitudes of citizens influence their choice of media.

While research on populism is mostly about the negative attitudes towards Europe, immigration or the “elites”, the NOVAMIGRA policy paper “Quality Newspaper vs. Populism” focuses on news media that strengthen pro-immigration attitudes among the European public. This is relevant because positive attitudes towards immigration are predictors of positive attitudes towards the European Union.

We show that quality newspapers constitute a “media membrane” which is often impervious to the demonizing rhetoric of far-right populists. For precisely this reason, the free press has come under attack from governments controlled by populist leaders. Against the backdrop of large and growing differences within the EU with regard to civil liberties, the policy paper aims to identify, compare and contrast media discourses on refugee and immigration policies across a range of EU Member States.

The policy roundtable aims to discuss the outcomes of the NOVAMIGRA study, its direct implications and policy recommendations as well as current developments. Stakeholders will engage by bringing in their own perspective on applied policies and programmes/initiatives, discussing the role of media in Europe as a “continent of immigration”.

Relevant NOVAMIGRA publications

- NOVAMIGRA Study: Quality Newspapers vs. Populism: Shaping pro-immigration attitudes in five EU Member States, 2020. NoVaMigra - Deliverable. <https://doi.org/10.17185/duublico/71553>.
- EU Policy Brief (short version): Quality Newspapers vs. Populism: Shaping pro-immigration attitudes in five EU member states, 2020. NoVaMigra Policy Brief. <https://doi.org/10.17185/duublico/71554>.



This project has received funding from the European Union's
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Participants

We will present and discuss the NOVAMIGRA study “Quality Newspaper vs. Populism” and its implications as well as current developments at the intersection of news media and immigration issues. We therefore invite experts and practitioners who are interested in the connections between the future of the EU and the ethos of independent journalism. The discussions will benefit from approaches/viewpoints from journalists, NGOs like Reporters Without Borders; policy makers (EU level), NOVAMIGRA consortium and other relevant EU projects. To better ensure frank discussions and engagement on the policy options and their potential further development, Chatham House Rules will be applied.

Agenda

8:45-09:00	Technical On-Boarding
09:00-09:10	Welcome and introduction to NOVAMIGRA (Andreas Niederberger, project coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen)
09:10-09:25	Presentation central implications and recommendations of the NOVAMIGRA study “Quality Newspaper vs. Populism” (Volker M. Heins, University of Duisburg-Essen)
09:25-09:40	External input on “Facts and Figures on the situation of press freedom in the EU” (Christoph Dreyer, Media Relations Officer, Reporters Without Borders)
09:40-10:30	Roundtable: Immigration: still a wedge issue in the EU? What’s the role of journalists in shaping the conversation about Europe? Beyond “fake news”: new horizons of cooperation between journalists, academics and policy makers? How do we defend press freedom in the EU? Confirmed participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Berard, Press Officer Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Spokesperson’s Service of the European Commission• Christoph Dreyer, Media Relations Officer, Reporters Without Borders• Rebecca Harms, Executive Board European Centre for Press and Media Freedom and former Member of the European Parliament• Sándor Zsiros, European Affairs Correspondent, Euronews Brussels• Volker Heins, University of Duisburg-Essen Moderation: Martin Deleixhe, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne
10:30-10:45	Questions & answers (opportunity for the passive participants to raise questions through the chat function)
10:45-11:00	Concluding thoughts and way forward (Andreas Niederberger, project coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen)



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Registration and Contact information

Please confirm your participation by sending an email to: info@novamigra.eu. The policy roundtable will be organized as virtual event through Zoom. Dial-in details will be shared with the participants some days before the event.

For further questions, please contact Berit Schlierkamp and Andreas Hoene (info@novamigra.eu).

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 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.

All NOVAMIGRA publications as well as further information on the project can be found on the project website. Please visit www.novamigra.eu or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



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