

Invitation

wiiw seminar series

'Policy Perspectives for European Integration'

Heinz Faßmann

Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs, University of Vienna

The European Asylum Crisis

Thursday, 3 December 2015, 5 p.m.

wiiw, Vienna 6, Rahlgasse 3, lecture hall

(entrance from the ground floor)

Abstract

Heinz Faßmann will present an overview of the current asylum flows from the main countries of origin in the MENA region to Europe based on available statistics. Furthermore, the demography and the qualification of the asylum seekers to Austria and Germany will be investigated. In the focus of the presentation will be a discussion of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and the question why the system has failed and how it can be re-implemented. The EU has been working on the creation of a Common European Asylum System since 1999 and attempts were made to improve the legislative framework. Between 1999 and 2005 several legislative measures were adopted with the purpose of harmonising the common minimum standards for asylum. In that respect, the Asylum Procedures Directive, the Reception Conditions Directive, the Qualification Directive, the Dublin Regulation and the EURODAC Regulation have to be mentioned. Finally, an outlook for the European and national policy reactions will be presented.

Heinz Faßmann is Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs at the University of Vienna. He studied Geography and Economic and Social History in Vienna and worked as a scholar at the Institute for Advanced Studies (Sociology Department). Later he switched to the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Between 1996 and 2000, he was C4 Professor for Applied Geography II (Geoinformatics) at the Technical University of Munich. Since 2000 he has been Professor of Applied Geography, Spatial Research and Spatial Planning at the University of Vienna. In 2011-2015 he was Vice-

Rector for Human Resources Development and International Relations of the University of Vienna. Heinz Faßmann is a Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Expert Council for Integration at the Ministry for Europe, Integration and International Affairs and a Member of the Expert Council of the German Foundations on Integration and Migration (Berlin). He was awarded (among others) the Bruno Kreisky Prize for the Political Book 1999 and the Cardinal Innitzer Prize for Social Sciences 2010.

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The wiiw seminar series '**Policy Perspectives for European Integration**' is the continuation of three earlier wiiw seminar series: 'Crisis management in Central, East and Southeast Europe: What is to be done?'; 'Policy options for the post-crisis economy in Central, East and Southeast Europe'; and 'EU in Crisis'. In this series, our emphasis is on issues that affect the future of the European Union: we look at the policy perspectives which may emerge after the crisis and affect the EU and its neighbourhood. Reforms of the EMU, the closer fiscal and economic cooperation of the Member States, bail-out schemes, solutions to the prevailing debt problems in the Southern Rim of the Union, the controversial relations between the EU and Russia affecting border countries and, furthermore, migration policy challenges within the EU and with neighbouring regions are topics we expect to remain of utmost importance in this and the coming years. Policies impacting on the further integration of the new Member States and future enlargements of the EU will remain an integral part of the discourse in this seminar series as well.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Landesmann
Scientific Director wiiw

Dr. Sándor Richter
Organiser