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# The Role of Return in European Migration Management

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# The regulation of return

- EU Return Directive 2008/115/EC
  - The framework
- A European Agenda on Migration of 2015
  - The role in the migration system
- The Partnership Framework of 2016
  - The prioritisation of it

# The role of return in the current migration regime

- The aims of the Norwegian government is to
  - receive fewer asylum seekers that are not eligible for protection
  - enact return faster
  - establish the identity of applicants earlier

- Assumptions about the relationship between assisted return and enforced returns
- Assumptions about the relationship between arrivals and returns

# Assumptions about the relationship between assisted return and enforced returns

The screenshot shows a news article from VG (Verdens Gang) with the headline "Listhaug vil bruke 100 mill. ekstra på asyl-retur". The article features a photograph of Minister of Immigration Sylvi Listhaug. The text discusses the government's plan to allocate an additional 100 million NOK for assisted returns in 2017. A bar chart titled "Klassen av asylsøkere i Norge" shows the number of asylum seekers in Norway from 2008 to 2016, with a significant increase in 2016. The article also includes a quote from Listhaug: "Vi ønsker jo at de fleste returnerer frivillig, men det er ikke bare rett til lovlig opphold i Norge. Men det er heller ikke å holde trykkløst opp, spesielt for å unngå et eventuelt oppgjør med Norge. Det er noe jeg er veldig glad for å kunne si."

«We would like as many as possible to return voluntarily if they do not have the right to a legal stay in Norway» (Minister of Immigration Sylvi Listhaug, VG 21 September 2016)

# Detering migration

“But there is a need to keep the pressure up, especially to send a strong signal that Norway is not a suitable country to travel to if you do not have a legitimate asylum claim. Return is also about upholding the legitimacy of the asylum institute».

# A European Agenda on Migration of 2015

- «One of the incentives for irregular migrants is the knowledge that the EU's return system – meant to return irregular migrants or those whose asylum applications are refused – works imperfectly»



### **Transnationalism from above and below: Migration management and how migrants manage**



MIGMA examines premises for and changes in European migration policies by looking at how EU and European states attempt to return Nigerian migrants. Realizing how penetrable and ungovernable European borders are, negotiations and agreements with rejected asylum seekers and other states will become increasingly important in the time to come.

MIGMA will offer a theoretically informed empirical exploration of the legal framework that binds states in how they approach migration and of the centrality of agreements in contemporary 'migration management', and how migrants affect and are affected by these.

MIGMA is headed by professor May-Len Skilbrei, collaborating with researchers from Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and the University of Bergen (UiB).

MIGMA is a four year project and is financed by the Research Council of Norway.

Check the University of Oslo website for more information:  
<http://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/english/research/projects/migma>



- Look for more on return here:
- <http://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/english/research/projects/migma/>