



Activity report 2020

migreurop_

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I- Introduction

Even before Covid-19 took on a global dimension, 2020 looked as if it would be ominous for exiles in Europe and elsewhere.

At the time where pushbacks are widespread at the internal and external borders of European Union, the European Court of Human Rights legitimized them through a judgment on February 13th, reporting that the applicants had “placed themselves in an illegal situation” by attempting to cross the border of Melilla outside the authorized border post. In acting this way, they had supposedly decided not to use the existing legal way authorizing access to Spanish territory on a regular basis. Despite the fact that this misleading argument seems to ignore that black people are being hunted down in order to prevent them from reaching the border posts of the enclaves, we can rightfully question the effectiveness of those “legal paths” in the context of the European policy increasingly focused on distancing the unwanted.

A few days later, the Greek-Turkish border offered an illustration of this issue. After the Turkish President’s decision to unilaterally suspend the informal EU agreement of March 2016, thousands of exiles were pushed to the Greek border, which is becoming the “European shield” according to the President of the European Commission. The only response of the Greek police, supported by the Frontex Agency, was violence, pushbacks, humiliation and ill treatment.

Since then, weeks and months are passing with information each time more revolting: permanent pushbacks of exiles in the borders between Slovenia and Croatia, Bosnia and Croatia, accompanied by increasingly extreme violence; extended barriers to the external borders of the EU and the use of devices, every day more sophisticated in order to prevent them from bypassing it (thermal cameras, drones, acoustic devices, floating barriers); the expansion of personal data files and their interoperability, the use of private boats for the pushbacks and to turn back these people to places where they risk suffering from inhuman or degrading treatment, funding so-called coastguards whose primary role is to prevent their arrival on the European coasts, no matter the price. Even if the list is much longer, it does not move those who should ensure the respect of the European law and European values. And for good reason: the European Commission and the European Union that it represents are the keystones of this hostile security policy by pushing, inciting and financing the actions of the member states and the state “partners” against migrations. In addition to this endemic violence, sanitary violence is added. The Covid-19 pandemic was used to implement repressive and discriminatory measures against migrant people. Confinement, destitution, stigmatization are the words that come up most often to describe the situation of exiled people during this period.

Future prospects do not hold out any hope for a change. The presentation of the Asylum and Immigration Pact by the European Commission on September 23rd 2020, suggests a much worse situation to come. In addition to this institutional violence, which has been assumed and denounced on many occasions by institutional and associative actors, including Migreurop’s network, there is a systematic violation of the fundamental rights of exiles, including the principle of non-refoulement, the basis of the right to asylum, the right to an effective remedy, and the right not to be sent back until the application for protection has been examined. The legislative proposals presented in this Pact would only confirm and generalize those practices, with the harmful consequences that we know today.

It’s in this context and in this political situation that Migreurop continued to decrypt and denounce in 2020, through its various actions such as the missions in Samos and in Tunisia, the dissemination of tools intended for a wide audience – among which the video of the hotspot approach, the analysis notes of 4

pages about “the two faces of HCR” and “the use of data and new technologies to control mobility” – the drafting reports about specific themes, including the one about detention with a focus on four European countries, as well as the daily work of the network with its members and partners, thanks to the action of its employees.

As we write these lines, the Afghan debacle and the EU's fear of a new "migration crisis" is being used as a pretext to strengthen policies of outsourcing asylum and migration control. Exiles – Afghan or not – will continue to attempt to cross borders at the risk of their lives. They will encounter ever more insurmountable barriers along the way, but also actors of solidarity, who, despite their minority positions and the criminalization to which they are subjected, do everything possible to support the exiles and defend their rights.

With you, partners, friends, sympathizers, Migreurop will continue to accomplish the goals set for itself since its creation: decrypt, make it known and denounce the European policies of immigration and asylum, especially enclosure, the diverse forms of expulsion, border closure and the externalization of migration controls practised by the European Union and its members. But also to make a dissonant voice heard in the European context, a voice that proclaims loud and clear that another migration policy is possible. A policy based on the freedom of all to come and go, which is respectful of human rights.

The co-presidency

II- The Migreurop Network

The Migreurop network was created during the European Social Forum in Florence in 2002 and was officially constituted as an association in 2006. The network is now composed of 51 associations and 42 activists and researchers from 17 countries in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East.

It aims to document and analyse the consequences of European migration policies on the rights and living conditions of people at all stages of the exile journey (border closures and obstacles to mobility, administrative detention, different forms of expulsion, externalisation of border control and asylum). It seeks to inform and raise public awareness, and to defend the rights of exiled people. In this sense, Migreurop took a stand in 2010 against the confinement of migrants and for the closure of all [foreigners' camps](#), and in 2013 for [the freedom of movement for all](#). Migreurop, through its analysis, thus contributes to the defense of the rights of migrants by developing common strategies with all its members and partners.

The network's work is built upon **four key actions**: identification, deciphering, awareness-raising to denounce and fighting the battle.

- **Information gathering**: collecting information about the obstacles to the mobility of foreigners, a reality which is difficult to grasp due to a desire for concealment on the part of the public authorities, but also because of the geographical scale of European migration policies and their consequences. Collecting information is possible thanks to the expertise of its Euro-African members and through the organisation of field missions.
- **Analyses**: deciphering and naming the manifold realities of distancing exiles, embodied by a set of measures which constitute points of forced interruption along migration routes: from preventing people from crossing a border, entering a territory, to "house" arrest – either legally

or by police harassment – and confinement in camps, formal or informal. This analysis is based on the thematic and geographical working groups of the network.

- **Awareness-raising:** to make known the non-welcoming Europe and its camps, by creating explanatory resources such as Analysis Notes, Atlases, reports or videos, and by organising awareness-raising events in order to inform as widely as possible about the major themes and geographical areas of interest of the network.
- **Denounce:** Taking action by all means to combat European policies of non-reception of migrants. For example, at the judicial level via third-party interventions or by supporting our members in litigation cases, including in front of national, European and international policy-makers. Plus structuring a network of partnerships between Euro-African civil society organisations in order to promote exchanges between groups, with multiple practices and objectives, which can occasionally act together in order to mobilize.

III- Organisational structure

a. Management Bodies

Evolution of the networks' work

The network bodies were reformed at the last General Assembly of the network in June 2019 by merging the Board of Directors and the Bureau into a single body, the Council. The aim of this reform was in particular to reinforce the involvement of the members of the network and to strengthen the links between bodies and members of Migreurop not sitting on the Council. To achieve this, specific posts have been set up within the Council (a co-presidency and 'sub-groups': Secretariat, Human Resources, Finances and network life). In October 2020, a Council meeting took place to assess the work of the new bodies. It was also an opportunity to launch a broader discussion about the evolution of the network's core work and about the development of new strategies to continue denouncing European policies that infringe on the rights of migrants. This evaluation also eased the continuation of the reflection initiated during the 2019 Strategic Meeting which focused on the dynamisation of the network and the internal restructure. Likewise, it helped to formalize the project, led by the 'network life' of organising thematic webinars exclusive for Migreurop's members. The first webinar of the project was organised in February 2021 on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Meetings

The Migreurop Council usually meets every two or three months, with at least two in person Council meetings per year. Due to the health context, the meetings of the Council that had to take place during the Sabir festival in Italy (May 2020) and in Morocco (December 2020) had to be replaced by fully remote meetings though in a more regular basis (in 2020, the Council met virtually five times) and shorter in duration (3h30 of meeting instead of one-day).

Members of the Council

During the meeting on 9-10 June in Madrid in 2019, the General Assembly decided to merge the Board of Directors and the Bureau into a Council, which comprises eight associations and three individual members:

- [AMDH](#) (Morocco)
- [AMDH](#)(Mauritania)
- [ARACEM](#) (Mali)
- [ARCI](#) (Italy)
- [ASGI](#) (Italy)
- [FASTI](#)(France)
- [GISTI](#) (France)
- [La Cimade](#) (France)

Individual members: Elsa Tyszler, Filippo Furri and Charles Heller.

b. Members

Migreurop currently comprises 51 associations and 42 individual members (activists and/or researchers), based in 17 countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, including two observer members: the European Association for the Defense of Human Rights (AEDH) and Secours Catholique (France).

In December 2020, the Belgian association “Le Monde des Possibles”, also member of Ciré, Picum, and the Belgian initiative "Liège hospitalière", has joined the network. Established in 2011, this association develops citizen initiatives in the form of cultural action, training, as well as political appeals against inequalities and all forms of exclusion.

➔ See the complete list of members by country in Annex 1.

c. The core team

Migreurop has always had a small team with salary to keep the network functioning. Since 2018, it has expanded and has now three full-time permanent positions: Brigitte Espuche (Operations Coordinator since February 2015), Camille Bossé (Finance Officer since January 2018), and Anna Sibley (Operations Coordinator since February 2018).

d. Finances

Table of funding sources	2019	2020
Private funding	253,757	205,200
CCFD Terre Solidaire	30,000	30,000
Fondation Un Monde Par Tous	15,000	20,000
Secours Catholique	35,000	15,000
European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)	36,789	
Global Fund for Human Rights	13,000	19,922
Thanks for Nothing	100,968	90,278
Fondation Abbé Pierre		10,000
Emmaüs France	10,000	5,000
European United Left	13,000	15,000
Public funding		
Others	28,330	24,290
Subscriptions and donations	16,480	18,838
Atlas sales and royalties	7,819	3,265
Cost transfers	3,192	1,692
Bank interest	839	495
Write-back of depreciation and provisions	1,024	882
Voluntary contributions	70,221	72,226
	8,000	2,000
	62,221	70,226
Total	353,332	302,598

The total budget for 2020 is €302,598, meaning a decrease of €50,000 compared to 2019 (€353,332). This difference is explained by the Covid-19 pandemic and the global health context that led to the cancellation or postponement to 2021 of many activities, such as the field mission in the Balkans, the volunteering mission in Morocco and various meetings planned between the members of the network (bodies, thematic meetings, etc ...). Travel and mission expenses were therefore particularly low in 2020 (€576 compared to €27,600 in 2019).

Nonetheless, the network's own resources have covered these postponed activities with contributions almost as high as the previous year (€11,640 in 2020 compared with €12,295 in 2019, the latter being the year of the General Assembly where contributions are usually higher). Donations were almost

twice as high as the previous year (€3,555 in 2019 and €7,198 in 2020), which was the result of a call for donations launched in December 2020.

Despite the extremely difficult health and political context, the year 2020 ended with a surplus result of €6,147, which has allowed to secure Migreurop's working capital, and granted the network a relative financial security over six months. This is far from negligible at a time of dramatic decline in funding available to the associative sphere.

Supports in 2020:



e. Mailing lists

To facilitate the exchange of information between Migreurop members and the dissemination of its analyses and findings to a wider audience, there are eleven working group lists and six public mailing lists within the network:

Working group lists		
Members of the Council	migreurop-conseil@rezo.net	28 subscribers
All members of the network	migreurop-membres@rezo.net	171 subscribers
Information exchange and monitoring of cases of the externalisation of European migration policies in Africa	externalisation-afrique@rezo.net	27 subscribers
“Mapping” working group	migreurop-map-camps@rezo.net	36 subscribers
“Detention” working group	migreurop-mob-close-the-camps@rezo.net	36 subscribers
“Freedom of Movement” working group	migreurop-lc@rezo.net	46 subscribers
“Communication” working group	migreurop-com@rezo.net	7 subscribers
“Gender” working group	migreurop-genre@rezo.net	20 subscribers
“Criminalisation of solidarity” working group	Migreurop-criminalisationsolidarite@rezo.net	58 subscribers

"Frontex" working group	migreurop-gtfrontex@rezo.net	17 subscribers
"Atlas Freedom of Movement" working group	migreurop-atlas2021@rezo.net	34 subscribers
Open mailing lists		
"General" mailing list on all of the network's working topics	migreurop@rezo.net	1283 subscribers
Issues relating to confinement of foreign nationals	migreurop-enfermement@rezo.net	142 subscribers
Frontex Agency	migreurop-frontex@rezo.net	193 subscribers
Readmission agreements and other forms of deportation	migreurop-read@rezo.net -	152 subscribers
Migration dynamics in Eastern Europe	migreurop-est@rezo.net	66 subscribers
Hotspot approach	migreurop-hotspots@rezo.net	76 subscribers

f. Impact of the health context

In 2020, the Covid-19 crisis had a significant impact on the activities of the Migreurop network that had to rethink its working methods and how best to maintain links with the members. All international gatherings planned to take place in 2020 (study-day on the criminalisation of solidarity planned during the Sabir festival in Lecce (Italy) in May 2020; the European Social Forum on Migration, scheduled to take place in Lisbon in September 2020; meetings of the network bodies initially scheduled in Italy in May 2020 and in Morocco in December 2020) were cancelled or postponed because they could not be held in person.

In addition to the international gatherings, all planned interventions and trainings were cancelled, which has also had an impact on the dissemination of our publications because the network has not been able to distribute them during public events. Plus, the field mission planned in the Balkans was postponed to the beginning of 2021, and finally the volunteer mission planned in Morocco in 2020 in partnership with GADEM, a Moroccan association member of the network, was canceled because the civic service did not allow for volunteer missions to take place outside Europe.

The health crisis has also affected the network's salaried team residing in France, which had to adapt to several lockdowns in place from March 2020 by changing its working habits. Migreurop employees worked remotely from 13 March to 1 July, when Migreurop's premises reopened, but remote work was maintained and systematized (an average of three to four days per week), and meetings continued to be held exclusively remotely.

This period was actually a challenge for Migreurop however the network was able to adapt to this unique context by strengthening other activities, such as the creation of deciphering tools, and by multiplying the time of virtual exchanges with members, who have invested a lot in the network's projects.

IV- Investigation and information gathering

In order to obtain direct or indirect information, the network relies on its Euro-African members and on the organisation of field missions (project managers or volunteers). In 2020, Migreurop continued

its investigations on various themes of interest to the network, such as the externalisation policies of the European Union and its Member States, the role of Frontex – with the creation of a working group on the subject (see VII - Capacity building) –, the criminalisation of solidarity, the control of mobility and tracing of migrants and migratory movements, as well as the evolution of migrants detention practices. The context of 2020, including the exacerbation of violence against migrants, in particular on the Greek-Turkish border in March, and the manifold consequences of the health crisis on the rights of exiles, has strongly impacted the work of the network. In 2020, Migreurop has focused on the island lockdown in Greece, in Malta – where a volunteer mission was organised–, but also on the migration policies in the Balkans, as part of the preparation of a three-month exploratory mission in different countries across the region in 2021.

a. Malta: from disembarkation to extended confinement of exiles

Volunteer mission in partnership with "Échanges & Partenariats":

Zoé Dutot, travelled to Malta in October 2020, within the Aditus association, as part of a civic service volunteer on behalf of Migreurop. During her internship at Migreurop in the second half of 2019, Zoé had already the opportunity to work on the Maltese context. Thus she had followed for the network the project led by the Legal Clinic of Sciences Po Paris, and the mission organised in *situ* in January 2020, in partnership with the Gisti, member of the network. The purpose of the mission was to analyse the legal framework for detention of migrant people on the move in the archipelago, the evolution of the national migration policy, the challenges related to Malta's geographical position, the management of its SAR zone and its relations with its European neighbours (*ad hoc* relocations among the various Member States of the European Union) and African neighbours (such as Libya). A legal analysis was drafted and submitted to Sciences Po, which served as basis to draft a joint Gisti/Migreurop analysis report.

b. Balkans: EU influence in national migration policies

Field mission in partnership with Gisti, ASGI and CCFD-Terre Solidaire:

Sophie-Anne Bisiaux was entrusted to carry out a three-month mission to the Balkans to investigate the externalisation of European migration policies in this region and its consequences on the multiple violations of rights of migrants, and to understand the impact of the health crisis on migrants in the region. The mission was originally scheduled for the 2nd half of 2020 but had to be postponed to January 2021 due to the pandemic. The preparatory work for the mission started in 2020, in close cooperation with the partners of the mission (Gisti and Asgi, members of the network and CCFD-Terre Solidaire), and with students of the Legal Clinic at Sciences Po. Their project was launched in September 2020 and it focused on studying the border between Croatia and Slovenia, chain refoulements, police and political cooperation between the states involved, cases of detention and violence against exiles, as well as the role of civilians at the local level.

V- Analysis and decoding tools

a. News and Analysis Briefs

Since 2012, Migreurop has been publishing four-page Briefs in several languages on themes or geographical areas of interest to the network. Between two to three Briefs are published each year with the aim of spreading information in the format of short analysis of the various dynamics studied to as many people as possible.

- **Brief "[Protect and control: the Janus face of the UNHCR](#)" (May 2020):** through the analysis of the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), presented as an international humanitarian agency, Brief #11 shows that this UN agency is first and foremost at the service of donors. This makes of the UNHCR a tool for the control of human mobility in partnership with the European Union in the implementation of security oriented migration policies, in particular through the use of the emergency transit mechanism (ETM). This Brief has been translated into [English](#).
- **Brief "[Data and new technologies, the hidden face of mobility control](#)" (December 2020):** This Brief analyses the ambiguous role of new technologies which, disguised as pragmatic humanitarianism, also serve to track migrants through the massive gathering of personal data. It explores the financial assistance programme sponsored by Mastercard in Greece, UNHCR's partnership with Microsoft and the use of applications like WhatsApp and Skype by international agencies such as IOM or UNHCR. Thus this Brief shows how UN agencies and some technology companies contribute more or less actively to control and manage migrations. This Brief has been translated into [English](#) and [Italian](#).

b. Short video about hotspots at the EU's external borders

To adapt to new awareness-raising tools, and make analyses accessible to a wider audience, Migreurop has produced a short video (2 minutes) in Motion design on hotspots, which has been a central topic of investigation for the network since 2015, a year of total crisis of European migration policies. The objective of this short-film is to explain from both an educational and militant perspective the "hotspot approach" that paved the way to screening camps in deprivation of liberty camps on the borders of Europe (Greece, Italy). The video, published on social media in March 2020 in [French](#) and [English](#), goes back to the inception of hotspots in 2015, the distortion of their proclaimed function (not reception but sorting and detention), and their particular character in both countries: deportation antechambers in the case of the Italian hotspots and deterrence of arrivals by the inhumanity of the Greek hotspots. These camps are truly the shame of Europe. A 'parallel' second video on freedom of movement, the sole alternative to detention of migrants as advocated for by the network, is being prepared to be launched in the autumn 2021.

c. Report "[Locked up and excluded: informal and illegal detention in Spain, Greece, Italy and Germany](#)"

A report about detention in closed camps in four European countries (Spain, Italy, Greece and Germany) was published in English in December 2020. A French researcher familiar with the network,

Céline Cantat, was hired to conduct the investigation and write the report. She worked in collaboration with Olivier Clochard, coordinator of the "mapping" group of the network, who prepared with the assistance of his students, a map locating the detention system of each country.

This report shows that Europe has moved in a few years from "rationalization/concentration" detention (fewer camps but macro-camps, with increased capacity, between 2011 and 2016) to "precarious" detention, with an increased use of informal or *de facto* detention, either directly outside any legal frameworks or by circumventing existing legal provisions during short periods with the aim of the deportation to another country or just across the border. The report has been published on our website in [English](#) and [Spanish](#); translations of the Executive Summary are also available in [French](#) and [Italian](#).

d. Mission reports

Joint Gisti-Migreurop report: "Samos hotspot: inferno at the Greek-Turkish border" (April 2020)

An observation mission to the island of Samos was organised by Gisti in October 2019, in collaboration with Migreurop. This mission (from May to October 2019) was based on the research of Mathilde Albert, a volunteer at the association Lawyers without Borders (France) for the network Migreurop on the island of Samos. Her observations shed light on situation in the Vathy hotspot, which was against human dignity and in disregard of fundamental rights. The Vathy hotspot – less known than that of Moria in Lesbos at the time – is truly an open-air prison where migrants are confined to appalling conditions. This joint [mission report](#) was published in April 2020 to denounce the humanitarian disaster and lawless situation faced by exiles in hotspots. It was also published in [English](#).

Joint FTDES-Migreurop report: "Policies of non-acceptance of migrants in Tunisia : humanitarian actors at the service of European security policies " (June 2020)

Sophie-Anne Bisiaux, an individual member of the network, was recruited to carry out an observation mission to Tunisia during three months, from October to December 2019, on the extension of the *hotspot* approach in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The objective of this mission was, in partnership with our Tunisian member the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES), to report on the situation of migrants in Tunisia, through the monitoring of people disembarked in ports, the practices and conditions of detention and the role of UN agencies such as UNHCR and IOM. The mission focused on non-reception policies in Tunisia (including pushback practices at borders, undignified conditions of accommodation for exiles and obstacles to the right to asylum), as well as the role played by the European Union and humanitarian actors in the securitized management of migration in Tunisia. A [report](#) was written following this mission, and it was based on more than 90 interviews with exiles based in Tunisia, representatives of local and international organisations and organisations, researchers, and journalists. The report was published in June 2020 and widely disseminated, among our members and on the general list of Migreurop as well as on social networks. A [press article](#) was notably published and circulated thanks to the support of our funder and partner CCFD-Terre solidaire, on the occasion of International Refugee Day on 20 June 2020.

e. Press releases

In 2020, the network published eleven press releases, in some cases in cooperation with its members and partners, addressed to journalists, Migreurop supporters and the general public:

- "Freedom for Hamza Haddi and Mohamed Haddar", 3 February 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [German](#), [Italian](#)) - *Collective action*
- "European Court of Human Rights: Spain and the European Union (EU) will be able to make the protection of European borders prevail over the right of asylum", 21 February 2020([French](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#)) - *Collective action*
- "European Union's complicity in Human rights violations at the Greek-Turkish border " March 2, 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#)) - *Collective action*
- " A coalition to "shield" migrants and refugees against violence at the borders ", 5 March 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [German](#), [Arabic](#) and [Greek](#))
- "Xenophobia and racism are killing at the Greek-Turkish border! So is the European Union! ", 13 March 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#)) - *Collective action*
- "EU-Turkey: sharing cynicism", 18 March 2020 (French, [English](#), [Spanish](#))
- "Deaths in the Mediterranean are not inevitable!", 22 April 2020([French](#), [English](#) and [Italian](#))
- "Hundreds of NGOs and individuals demand the revocation of Libya's SAR zone", 29 June 2020 ([French](#)) - *Collective action*
- "In Calais, Abdulfatah Hamdallah was the latest victim of European migration policies", 28 August 2020([French](#), [English](#)) - *Collective action*
- "Call for the immediate evacuation of Moria", 18 September 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#), [Greek](#), [Italian](#)) - *Collective action*
- "Deaths and disappeared at European borders: irresponsible states designate new responsables, parents!", 1 December 2020 ([French](#)) - joint press *release Loujna-Touankaranké/Migreurop*
- "Frontex, 15 years of impunity: the outlaw agency must disappear!", 8 December 2020 ([French](#), [English](#), [Italian](#))

g. Monitoring and information tools

In recent years, Migreurop has set up monitoring and information sharing tools for its members that are disseminated within the network: a bi-monthly press review is published [online](#), archived on our site, and shared with the members of the network as well as with subscribers to the Migreurop general mailing list. Additionally, a newsletter containing the main activities of the members of the network is shared with the members four times per year. Finally, a section has been created on the [network's website](#) to promote the work and submissions from the field from volunteers.

VI- Information and awareness-raising

a. Participation in events organised by members

Migreurop was invited by ASGI, an Italian member of the network, and the *Research Social Platform* on Migration and Asylum (ReSOMA), to Rome on 27 January to participate in a meeting on the liability of Frontex and litigation avenues that could be considered. This seminar helped to remember previous actions in the framework of the Frontexit campaign, but also to reflect on new litigation opportunities

(right to compensation for victims of distress at sea, preliminary rulings in case of violation of rights in personal data transmission, bad practices to be denounced via "whistleblowers", control of the legality of Frontex's activity, etc.).

Migreurop also participated in the 2020 edition of the Sabir Festival of Mediterranean Cultures organised by ARCI, an Italian member of the network. The event had been originally scheduled to be held in Lecce (Italy) in May, but it was finally organised on line from 3 to 12 June. Several online conferences and trainings took place with the participation of civil society, members and MEPs. Various members of Migreurop participated in round tables, in particular on the issues of freedom of movement and externalisation of migration policies.

Finally, Migreurop was invited to speak on the "Frontexit" campaign and about new perspectives of mobilization against the EU agency, Frontex, during the one-day event organised online by La Cimade, member of the network, on December 11, 2020. The title of the event was "Impunity: the urgency to change trend", this event was carried out in partnership with the Centre for Research and Information for Development (CRID).

b. Participation in events organised by partners of the network

Throughout 2020, Migreurop participated in various events organised by partners of the network: invitation to an evening debate in Creil by the Collectif Solidarité Migrants de l'Oise, the Chahut and the Friends of *Le Monde Diplomatique* to present the multiple violations of migrants' rights as a result of European migration policies (January 2020); remembrance of those perished and lost at sea and at land borders, organised in Oujda (Morocco) by Watch the Med - Alarmphone and the association "Pioneers Volunteers" (February 2020); [symposium](#) organised by the association "Dessine-moi un mouton" at the Necker Hospital addressed to health professionals who treat people after a complex migratory journey, intervention on "Greece, Morocco and Libya: violence against exiled people" (March 2020); webinar on migrant tragedies in the Mediterranean, organised by the Maghreb Migration Observatory, intervention about the abandonment of the EU in the Mediterranean region and the strategy of 'left-to-die' at sea as a form of deterrence of arrivals (July 2020); webinar organised by the Arab Institute of Human Rights on the rights of migrants in Mediterranean countries in the context of Covid-19 (October 2020); webinar organised by the Civil Society Action Committee on one of the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, "save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants" (October 2020); webinar on the militarization of borders in Israel, organised by Stop the Wall-Europe, the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine and Stop Wapenhandel, with the support of the Transnational Institute, intervention on the militarization of European borders (November 2020); [filmed debate organised](#) in Kaaitheater (Belgium) by the association Justice4Mawda on the case of Mawda, a little girl who was shot dead by the police in May 2018 near Mons (December 2020); presentation of the Migreurop report "Exiled locked up and excluded: informal and illegal detention in Spain, Greece, Italy and Germany" during a webinar organised by the Left on the European Pact (on Migration and Asylum (December 2020).

c. Training sessions for volunteers and Masters

For each session of volunteering activities, the association *Échanges & Partenariats* organises a three-week training to prepare future volunteers before their departure to the hosting organisations, with thematic interventions about the comprise to international solidarity, non-violence in conflict zones, migration or intersectionality. As part of the training of the #23 session, the Migreurop coordinators participated on 5 October 2020 to present the network's analysis on European migration policies, providing a theoretical framework for volunteers who, in 2020, were heading for missions related to migration issues, and in particular reception ("Welcoming cities"), in connection with the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OCU).

Migreurop also engages regularly in Master courses to present the network and actual developments around European migration policies. In 2020, the coordinators of the network participated online in the Master in Migrations and Interethnic Relations (MIRI) of Paris 7 Diderot to present Migreurop and its analysis on the latest developments in migration ("hotspot approach" and progressing detention of exiles, externalization of borders and asylum) as well as Migreurop's different actions and mobilizations to support migrants. An online presentation of the 3rd edition of the "Atlas of Migration in Europe" in a Master class of Mexico was also carried out in November 2020.

VII- Capacity building through Working Groups

Group "Criminalisation of solidarity"

A new working group on the criminalisation of solidarity was created within the network in 2019. It emerged after the General Assembly of June 2019, when the topic was defined as a priority for the next two years, in order to further support mobilizations of the network's members. In 2020, the group started to work on a categorisation of cases where solidarity is criminalized and aimed to work on solidary migrants, who -despite remaining invisible- are the real targets of criminalization. They are often prosecuted for crimes much more serious than non-migrant activists (such as human smuggling and trafficking of human beings) and face sentences requiring heavier prison terms.

A database gathering criminalisation cases is in process of development, in collaboration with the Belgian association Solidarity Watch. The first step has been the development of a form to identify and fill in the various cases, in particular the type of group or individual prosecuted, the act of which they are accused of, measures taken against these persons to criminalise them and the mobilisation of civil society against these criminalisations. The network had also planned to organize an international conference on this topic in May 2020 during the Sabir festival (Lecce, Italy), but due to the current health crisis, the 6th edition of the Sabir festival was held online and the public conference was postponed to 2021.

Frontex Group

The working group on "Frontex" was set up in 2020, following the meeting organised for members of the network in the framework of the meeting of its bodies in December 2019 in Paris. Coordinated by ASGI and Statewatch, two member associations very active on the subject, this working group aims to

put together expertise and actions against the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, with a view to terminate its mandate in line with the Frontexit campaign.

The working group is particularly interested in Frontex's external actions, including its collaboration with African countries in the context of the "reactivation" of the Canary Islands route via Western Sahara and West Africa in 2019, and the future of Operation HERA. The group also focuses on the structural impunity of Frontex, in the midst of an existential crisis which started (in particular in October 2020) with accusations of complicity in pushbacks in the Aegean Sea and the several investigation that emerged since then (cf. Migreurop [press release](#) of December 2020). The group works to keep their members informed via a quarterly newsletter on Frontex, coordinated by ASGI, and aims to publish a 3rd edition of the Frontex Note in 2021.

"Website" Group

An *ad hoc* working group was created in 2020 to lead a revamp of the network's website. The group received the help of a service provider during the first phase of brainstorming this project. The working group identified the key points in the current site that need to be improved, and it also identified the main challenges of redesigning the website, in particular the way whereby the articles are classified, the need to set up a strong search engine and the problem of structuring the site on the different available languages. The objective of this redesign is to strengthen the network's visibility and make our tools more accessible to the general public by relying on 'lighter' site, reducing the information display on the home page, a simplified menu and a more efficient search engine that would improve the accessibility to the information available on the site. Due to the health context, the project has run into a small delay, but the new site should be online during the summer of 2021.

"Freedom of movement" group

The "freedom of movement" group was split into two distinct groups to better focus on various projects launched in 2020: one group was in charge of leading the preparation of short film on freedom of movement (in a similar fashion of the hotspot video) and defined both the objectives of the video and ideas to be used. Another group was set up to continue the task of coordination of the draft of the Atlas on freedom of movement. The publication is coordinated by the French researcher, Sara Casella Colombeau, a member of the network, and composed of Migreurop researchers, cartographers and associations members of the Network. Several meetings of the members have contributed to create discussions around the content of the Atlas. These encounters have also helped to develop reflections on the various arguments in support of freedom of movement and have become the basis to draft the texts that will be included in the Atlas. The latter group then organised itself into sub-groups in charge of the different sections of the atlas: "historical aspects of freedom of movement", "existing regional spaces of free movement", "freedom of movement of goods and others than persons", "autonomy of migrations and solidarity: freedom of movement in facts", and "the contradictory imaginaries of freedom of movement". The publication of this Atlas is planned for 2022.

Mapping Group

The mapping group was involved in various projects in 2020, including the production of visuals accompanying the two Analysis Notes (see V - Analysis and decryption tools). The group was also involved in the brainstorming process of the Atlas on freedom of movement and the maps to be produced to illustrate the different texts. Finally, the group is strongly engaged in the Atlas-cinema

project, led by the artists' collective "Etrange Miroir". This collective is also Migreurop's partner on the *Moving Beyond Borders* project (2015), and has been working since 2019 on the "Atlas-cinéma"-a project to display in public spaces maps made by Migreurop and animated by "Etrange Miroir". To develop this project, which will be disseminated in the second half of 2022, several creative workshops will be prepared, including one which was already organised in Nantes in October 2020 to explore different visualization techniques (for example, the representation of data by robots or the creation of new typographies for maps), storytelling (writing workshops to move from "we" to "I" and enhance the capacity to share a more intimate universal), and sound production. Three more workshops will be held in 2021.

VIII- Mobilizations

a. International Coalition against Violence at the Greek-Turkish Border

In response to the massive rights violations at the Greek-Turkish border -which reached a new tipping point in March 2020 when Turkey opened its borders, and Greece decided to proceed with the suspension of the right of asylum, and use real ammunition against at exiles at the border (cf. Report of Forensic Architecture on this subject)- Migreurop launched a coalition with the aim of denouncing this violence and lodge a complaint against Greece and the European institutions. Around twenty European organisations have joined this coalition. A first online meeting was organised in April 2020 attended by associations, researchers, lawyers and activists who form the coalition. The aim was to launch a reflection on the role of the coalition and the gradual implementation of actions, channelled thanks to the establishment of working groups. One of the objectives of this coalition is to investigate pushback cases at this border (both along the Evros River and in the Aegean Sea), arbitrary use of detention, violations of the right of asylum in Greece, and the renegotiation of the informal EU-Turkey statement concluded in March 2016.

b. Launch of the French dynamic of the European Social Forum on Migration (online, June 2020)

This first edition of the European Social Forum on Migration (ESFM) had been planned to take place in Lisbon in September 2020 but it was postponed to March 2021 due to the health context and had to take place via online means. It was very important for a Euro-African network like Migreurop, involved in working on the consequences of European migration policies and engaged in processes at global Fora, to participate actively. The network therefore intervened in June 2020 during the launch of the French dynamic at the first edition of the European Social Forum for Migration (ESFM), alongside the CCFD-Terre Solidaire, the Centre for Research and Information for Development (CRID), and the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OCU). During this (online) kick-off meeting, Lydie Arbogast, in charge of European issues at La Cimade, member of the network, presented a state-of-play at European level. Migreurop wanted to share its expertise on European migration issues, strengthen its knowledge on similar interrelated topics, multiply synergies between members and partners at French and European level, and finally, explore new partnerships. The network has also accepted to join the international committee in charge of preparing this first edition of the ESFM.

c. Participation in collective actions

During this year, Migreurop has reinforced links with the members and partners providing support or/and engaging in several collective actions:

- The network supported the international campaign "[Free El Hiblu 3](#)" launched in March 2020 to demand the release of three adolescent asylum seekers, suspected of having being involved in the detour -in 2019- of the Turkish vessel "El Hiblu". This vessel had rescued them at sea but it was prepared to forcibly return them to Libya. After convincing the captain to disembark them in Malta, they were accused of terrorism, facing a life sentence.
- Signature of [the open letter](#) proposed in July 2020 by Statewatch and the Osservatorio Solidarietà addressed to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to request the repeal of the Libyan Search and Rescue zone due to its irregularity and tragic consequences.
- Participation in July 2020 in the "[Remote control](#)" campaign launched by Borderline Europe - the network's German partner - to denounce the EU's shameful collaboration with Libya on migration.
- Support for the solidarity campaign launched in August 2020 by [Borderline Europe](#) to demand the release of Moroccan activists Hamza Haddi and Mohamed Haddar, arrested and imprisoned in Greece in July 2020, accused of being smugglers and facing a heavy prison sentence.
- Joint writing of an [opinion column](#) in August 2020 in support of Abdulfatah Hamdallah, a Sudanese exile victim of European migration policies, who was found dead on a beach in Sangatte on August 19, 2020.
- Signing of the [op-ed](#) launched by a collective of academics and European organisations demanding the evacuation of the overcrowded and unsanitary Moria camp on Lesbos, Greece, in September 2020.
- Signature of the joint declaration launched in October 2020 by [Agora Europe](#) (a space for dialogue bringing together academics, politicians, artists and citizens) on the need for rescue at sea.
- Participation in the dynamic of the collective "Abolish [Frontex](#)" formed by several activists and organisations aiming to put an end to the mandate of the European agency.
- Participation in October 2020 in a meeting of the consortium "[From the sea to the city](#)", a transnational alliance composed of civil society organisations and solidary municipalities that seek to bring together initiatives based on solidarity to support migrants at every stage, from rescue at sea to conditions of access to accommodation or medical care in solidarity cities.
- Participation in the "[Sciabaca&Oruka](#)", project led by the Italian association, ASGI (member of the network) which aims to study the obstacles to freedom of movement in the ECOWAS area and to identify possible avenues of litigation before national and international courts.
- Participation in the workshop organised in December 2020 by Statewatch to exchange views and identify the needs of the participating associations in the area of personal data gathering at all stages during the migration journey. It also aimed to improve the knowledge of the regulations involved in the setting up of interoperability of EU databases.

Annex 1 – List of associate members of Migreurop¹

GERMANY Border Monitoring Europe

BELGIUM CIRE Coordination et Initiatives pour et avec les Réfugiés et Etrangers | CNCD 11.11.11 Centre National de Coopération au Développement | LDH Ligue des Droits Humains | SAD Syndicat des Avocats pour la Démocratie | Le Monde des Possibles

CYPRUS KISA

EGYPT EFFR Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights

SPAIN Andalucía Acoge | APDHA Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía | CEAR Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado | ELIN | IRIDIA | Red Acoge | Federación SOS racismo

FRANCE ACORT Assemblée Citoyenne des Originaires de Turquie | ACT UP | ANAFE Association Nationale d'Assistance aux Frontières pour les Etrangers | ATMF Association des Travailleurs Maghrébins de France | La Cimade | FASTI Fédération des Associations de Solidarité avec Tout-e-s les Immigré-e-s | FTCT Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des deux Rives | GAS Groupe Accueil et Solidarité | GISTI Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés | IPAM Initiatives Pour un Autre Monde | JRS France Jesuit Refugee Service | MRAP Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples

ITALY ARCI Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana | ASGI Associazione Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione | Melting Pot

LEBANON Frontiers

MALI AME Malian Association of Expellees | ARACEM Association des Refoulés d'Afrique Centrale au Mali | The House of the Migrant Gao

MOROCCO ABCDS-Oujda Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité | AMDH Association Marocaine des Droits Humains | Chabaka | GADEM Groupe Antiraciste d'accompagnement et de Défense des Etrangers et Migrants | Pateras de la vida

MAURITANIA AMDH Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l'Homme

NIGER AEC Alternatives Espaces citoyens

PORTUGAL SOLIM Solidaridade Imigrante

UNITED KINGDOM Statewatch | Barbed Wire Britain Network

SWITZERLAND Solidarité sans frontières | Vivre ensemble

TUNISIA FTDES Forum Tunisiens des Droits Économiques et Sociaux

TURKEY HCA/RASP Helsinki Citizen Assembly Refugee Advocacy Support Program

EUROPE Emmaus Europe

Observer members: AEDH (Association Européenne pour la Défense des droits de l'Homme) | Secours Catholique (France)

¹ For confidentiality reasons, our list of individual members is not made public.

Annex 2 – Migreurop in the media

Different and various media – written press, online outlets or audiovisual – address questions to and demand comments of the network for their pieces dealing with the subjects that the Network works and researches, but also to echo the activities of Migreurop.

Migreurop quoted in the press

- Enric Llopis (14 January 2020), ['Todo lo que envuelve a los CIE es opaco y muy arbitrario'](#), Rebelión [ES]
- François-Xavier Gomez (14 February 2020), [Un feu vert européen aux expulsions express de migrants](#), Libération [FR]
- Emma Wallis (20 February 2020), [Back to Mauritania: Frontex repatriates migrants arriving on Canary islands](#), InfoMigrants [EN]
- Gabriel Sánchez (25 February 2020), [Manuel Carmena, cargos electos del PSOE y un centenar de juristas exigen al gobierno en un manifiesto que no aplique las devoluciones en caliente](#), El Diario [ES]
- Embedded Cartography (26 February 2020), [Les frontières tuent!](#) Mediapart
- Leslie Carretero (6 March 2020), [Situation on the Turkish-Greek border: 16 associations to file a complaint against the EU and Greece](#), InfoMigrants [EN]
- Marie Verdier (6 March 2020), [Migrants : l'Europe donne la priorité à la sécurité aux frontières](#), La Croix [FR]
- Yanna Oiseau (4 May 2020), [Le business de l'enfermement d'étrangers](#), Ballast [FR]
- Andrea de Georgio (9 July 2020), [A Ventimiglia per i migranti le frontiere sono ancora chiuse](#), Internazionale [IT]
- Mauro Armanino (17 August 2020), [Il camaleonte e i colori del Sahel](#), Comune Info [IT]
- Hèctor Serra (27 August 2020), [Polizones a bordo de barcos: la "carga" de la Europa fortaleza](#), Público [ES]
- Clothilde Facon (2 September 2020), [L'« Europe forteresse » et le Liban](#) Contretemps [FR]
- Chloé Maurel (3 September 2020), [Lesbos, scandale européen](#), La vie des idées [FR]
- Migreurop (30 September), [Réfugiés en Grèce : sauver les camps de Pipka et Kara Tepe](#), le Courrier des Balkans [FR]
- Andres Gil (1 December 2020), [Una red europea de ONG denuncia "detenciones informales e ilegales" de migrantes en España, Italia, Grecia y Alemania](#), El Diario [ES]
- Jairo Vargas (21 December 2020), [El Gobierno negocia el despliegue de la OIM en Canarias con la vista puesta en la repatriación de los migrantes](#), Público [ES]

Publications and member interviews

- Barak Kalir and Céline Cantat (9 March 2020), Fund but disregard: the EU's relationship to academic research on mobility, Crisis magazine [EN]
- Émilien Urbach (9 March 2020), [Charles Heller : « L'UE ne se met d'accord que sur la militarisation des frontières »](#), L'Humanité [FR]
- Guillaume Naudin (17 March 2020), [L'Union européenne fait-elle tout ce qu'elle peut faire pour les migrants ?](#), interview with Emmanuel Blanchard, RFI [FR]
- Philippe Wannesson (21 April 2020), [Tunisie - politiques migratoires européennes - délit de solidarité](#), le Blog de Médiapart [FR]

- Françoise Bahoken and Nicolas Lambert (July 2020), [Méfiez-vous des cartes, pas des migrants](#), AntiAtlas Journal [EN]
- Charles Heller (18 October 2020), [Pour un pacte européen aux côtés des migrants](#), Libération Opinion Article [FR]
- Philippe Wannesson (29 October 2020), [Comment expulser plus et plus vite vers l'Afghanistan](#), le Blog de Médiapart [FR]
- Sara Casella Colombeau (16 October 2020), [Sans-papiers : « L'invisibilité des régularisations pose des défis aux militants »](#), Alternatives Economiques [FR]

Migreurop and its members in the audiovisual media:

- Interview with Zoé Dutot (8 January 2020), Fréquence Paris Plurielle, [L'externalisation des frontières de l'Europe au Niger et au Rwanda](#) [FR]
- Intervention of Olivier Clochard (7 March 2020), France Culture, [Erdogan et le chantage migratoire](#) [FR]
- Interview with Brigitte Espuche (7 March 2020), Fréquence Paris Plurielle, [A la frontière UE / Turquie](#) [FR]
- Participation of Migreurop and the Migrinter Laboratory in the preparation of [Le Dessous des Cartes, Flux migratoires, une longue histoire](#) (12 september 2020) [FR]
- Participation of Lucie Bacon (1 October 2020), France Culture, [À l'horizon des migrations](#) [FR]
- Participation of Claire Rodier (26 November 2020) France Culture, [Migrants : le démantèlement est-il une politique ?](#) [FR]

Annex 3 - Interventions and interviews of Migreurop members

- Filippo Furri and Thomas Lacroix, « [Les “villes accueillantes” s’organisent en réseau mondial](#) », online magazine De Facto, February 2020 [FR]
- Sara Casella Colombeau, « [Les régularisations, composantes des politiques migratoires](#) », Gisti, Plein Droit, March 2020 [FR]
- Elsa Tyszler, « [Masculinités et féminités à la frontière maroco-espagnole. Miroirs d’un contrôle migratoire racialisé et généré](#) », Anthropologie & développement, 2020 [FR]
- Brigitte Espuche, « [Frontex, l’agence européenne d’expulsion](#) », Gisti, Plein Droit, June 2020 [FR]
- Filippo Furri, Thomas Lacroix and Louise Hombert, « [Migration and municipal militancy in the Mediterranean](#) », EuroMedMig Working Paper Series, September 2020 [EN]
- Charles Heller et Bernd Kasperek, « [The EU’s pact against migration](#) », Open Democracy, October 2020 [EN] ; French translation by Isabelle Saint-Saëns for the magazine [Mouvements](#), October 2020 [FR]
- Sophie-Anne Bisiaux, « [La Tunisie, terre d’accueil... des politiques européennes](#) », Plein Droit, June 2020 [FR]