



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

MACERATA 17 -20/09/2014

TITLE: EUROPEAN UNION AND NORTH AFRICA:

ROUTES, REGULATION AND PERSPECTIVES FOR A GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND MOBILITY.

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ABSTRACT:

In the context of globalization of migration, the EU situation appears quite peculiar. The increasing decline of the birth rate could further decrease the active population with the need for "imported" workers ; at the same time, the pressure of migration led to a greater rigor and to a partial closure. The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum of 2008 formed the basis for the development of a common policy; however, a real common policy on immigration doesn't yet exist, and there isn't a convergence of principles by national governments reluctant to surrender their sovereignty.

The issue of migration is of crucial importance in the EU, which has no alternatives; in the future, without flow of immigrants, the population will age to the point of preventing an adequate professional and generational exchange; at the same time, a constant wave of migration or even increasing, could threaten to destroy permanently the precarious social and welfare systems and the cultural identity of citizens. Nevertheless, the strategic and economic importance of migrations highlights the need for them to be seen as essential elements of an indirect economic and geopolitical strategy. In this perspective, the current situation in North Africa provides an opportunity for both parties. The EU has proposed a series of new measures to better manage the flow of migration from North Africa, seeking to develop a "mobility partnerships" as well as "comprehensive approach" to migration towards the southern Mediterranean countries, which represents the strategic framework necessary to bring added value and to provide a valid support for national policies in this area, in order to ensure coherent, efficient and effective actions.

ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Simona Epasto is Professor of Economic and Political Geography at the Department of Cognitive Sciences, Educational and Cultural Studies of the University of Messina. Lawyer and economist, her research is mainly focused on issues relating to the current geo-political and geo-economic dynamics.