

NEWSLETTER 17

AUGUST 2021



FINAL NEWSLETTER

Vocal Europe Belgium

The TAS – Migration Labs aims to support the fundamental principles of EU citizenship and to promote an improvement in civic and democratic participation at EU level, reaffirming values of solidarity, intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and combatting existing stereotypes on migration and minorities. Our activities are mostly directed at young adults, political decision makers and other stakeholders from partner countries. The tasks envisage to raise awareness of EU policy-making processes, in particular migration, and to boost opportunities for social and intercultural participation and volunteering.

**MORE ABOUT THE
PROJECT**

ACTIVITIES

WE SUCCESSFULLY FINALISED ALL ACTIVITIES

The TAS Migration LABS project started in March 2020 and reached its successful end in August 2021. All partners managed to organize 5 workshops in their respective countries which resulted in formulation of recommendation papers by each group of young participants. Additionally, partners organized Multiplier events in the final stage of the project implementation to strengthen dissemination of project results and concluded their cooperation with European Solidarity Corps Volunteers. Finally, an international conference was held in Brussels and concluded the efforts of the entire project team and participants.

FINAL CONFERENCE



Vocal Europe organized a Final Conference on August 10th 2021 in Brussels. This international event titled "Voice for Youth: Migration Labs results" had a hybrid form as the participants could join both virtually and in person. Despite challenges related to organization of such hybrid event during constantly changing restrictions related to COVID-19, the event was a real success and managed to reach its objective: to introduce the project results and learning outcomes from the workshops, to present the recommendation papers prepared by youth in 5 partner countries and to give an opportunity to young participants to exchange their opinions and experiences.

As part of the agenda, expert panel took place where high-level guest speakers from the ranks of relevant stakeholders and policy-makers could address the recommendations and share their position. Consequently, young representatives from each partner country presented their recommendation papers in more detail which led to a very fruitful discussion in the last session.

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PROJECT INSIGHTS

MULTIPLIER EVENT

On August 18th 2021, Vocal Europe organized a Multiplier Event titled "Migration Labs results: experts' view." The goal of the event was to conclude the efforts for re-aching out diverse audiences and to target experts with various backgrounds related to migration and youth. Project results were introduced, recommendation papers pre-pared by youth from partner countries were presented and invited experts shared their opinions from a professional perspective. [READ MORE](#)



BIG THANKS TO OUR EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS VOLUNTEERS

August was the final month of our 3-months long cooperation with 2 ESC Volunteers, Jasmin Wachau and Jason Chalkidis. They were able to gain new knowledge about project management ad topics related to migration, EU migration policy and civic or youth engagement. They actively contributed to the implementation and dissemination of the TAS LABs project and to the activities of Vocal Europe. [READ MORE](#)



MONTHLY FOCUS



IOM REPORTS ON THE RISE OF MIGRANT DEATHS ON MARITIME ROUTES TO EUROPE IN 2021

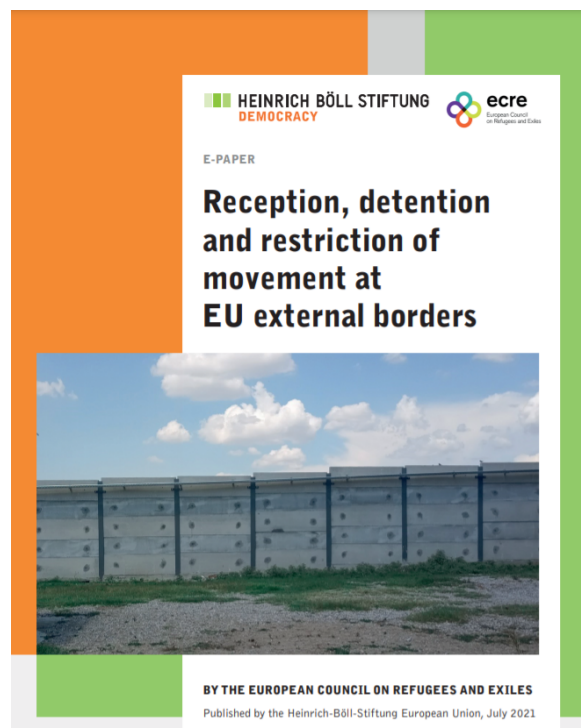
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published a report with statistics recording more migrant deaths on maritime routes to Europe this year. "In the first half of 2021, at least 1,146 people lost their lives on maritime routes to Europe.¹ This is a substantial increase compared to the fatalities recorded in the same period in 2020 (513) and 2019 (674)."

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON REFUGEES AND EXILES REPORTS ON RECEPTION, DETENTION AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT AT EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

"In order not to amount to arbitrary deprivation of liberty, detention should be based on a clear legal basis, imposed when less coercive measures are not adequate, as short as possible, subject to a review, and carried out in adequate conditions of detention. Given these stringent requirements, Member States often fail to qualify detention in border settings as such."

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Ocean Viking faces a new standoff at sea: disembarkation is urgently needed

A press release from SOS Mediterranee informs about the Ocean Viking waiting for a place of safety in international waters of the central Mediterranean with 553 survivors on board and no solution for their disembarkation in sight. Amid lack of maritime assets and of effective coordination, hundreds of people are reported in distress these past days and SOS MEDITERRANEE calls on maritime authorities to assign a place of safety without further delay and on EU Member States to reactivate a disembarkation and relocation mechanism supporting coastal states in coordinating disembarkations.

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Refugee resettlement numbers yet to recover amid pandemic

A new report by UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and the World Bank, said that 64,000 asylum-seekers started new lives abroad in host countries in 2019, but only 22,800 did so last year and the downwards trend has continued in 2021.

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Fatima Abdel Jawad - Volunteers in Lebanon help elderly Palestinian refugees to register for the COVID-19 vaccine on the Ministry of Health's platform (file photo).

