



Odysseus Network

Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe

Who's Who – Participants

Executive Master in EU Migration & Asylum Law

Odysseus Academic Network – Cohort 2025 / 2026



BEAUMONT Marine

Nationality: Belgian

Education: Master's in Public and International Law

Short Bio: Marine Beaumont is a Public and International Law graduate (Universite Libre de Bruxelles, 2023) serving as legal counsel for asylum and migration matters at the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders).

Contact: beaumont.marine@gmail.com



BLOMA Ieva

Nationality: Latvian

Education: Master's in European Studies

Short Bio: Ieva works for the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), where she is a member of the Strategic Analysis Team and carries out data analysis and research on asylum-related migration in the EU. In addition, she manages the EUAA foresight activities.

Contact: ievabloma@hotmail.com



BOFFA Mireille

Nationality: Maltese

Education: Master's in Law

Short Bio: Mireille Boffa is a human rights lawyer specializing in asylum and migration law. She currently serves as a legal and policy officer in the Asylum Unit of DG HOME at the European Commission. Her field experience includes working with NGOs in Belgium and Malta, where she provided legal representation to asylum seekers, refugees, and third-country nationals in return procedures, including those in reception and detention centers. She has also drafted human rights cases and advocacy materials.

Contact: mireilleboffa@gmail.com



ERÇETİN ERKOÇ Ayşe

Nationality: Turkish

Education: Bachelor's in Law

Short Bio: Ayşe Ercetin Erkoc is a Turkish migration and asylum lawyer who began her career advocating for LGBTI+ refugees, sex workers, people living with HIV, and male survivors of conflict-related violence. She specialized in case review and reporting on gender-based violence and discrimination before co-founding a law and consulting firm.

Contact: av.ayseercetin@gmail.com



FERRARO Marzia

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in European Law

Short Bio: Marzia Ferraro holds a Master's in European Law specializing in migration law (Sapienza Università di Roma, 2024). She combines research expertise with field experience, having interned at the Territorial Government of Rome's Immigration Office and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and served as Project Assistant in Tunis implementing cooperation projects for an Italian NGO. She currently seeks opportunities in migration governance, policy, and research.

Contact: ferraromarzia@yahoo.it



GAMBERALE Gaia

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in Law

Short Bio: Gaia Gamberale is a legal professional and field researcher working on migration, asylum, and human rights in Greece. She collaborates with the Border Violence Monitoring Network and Mobile Info Team, focusing on detention conditions, border policies, and legal support for people on the move. She has prior experience with the European Commission and international NGOs.

Contact: gaia.gamberale@proton.me



GRZANKOWSKA Natalia

Nationality: Polish

Education: Master's in European Studies

Short Bio: Natalia Grzankowska is a young professional working in the field of return and reintegration within EU structures. She graduated in cultural anthropology from the University of Aberdeen (UK 2021) and in Interdisciplinary European Studies from College of Europe in Natolin (PL 2022). Her interests include topics related to international migration and development, as well as the emergence of legal spaces which she explored in her master thesis on shifting borders and exclusion zones in the context of the crisis at the Polish border with Belarus.

Contact: natalia.grzankowska@coleurope.eu



KUEHLKE Sigrid

Nationality: German

Education: Master's in International Development & Cooperation;
Master's in Political Anthropology

Short Bio: Sigrid Kuehlke gained substantial hands-on professional experience in asylum and migration, both during her humanitarian field work, mainly in Africa, and during her last experience at municipal level in Germany in charge of case management and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. She has notably been working with DG ECHO/ European Commission, providing advisory services to country offices, headquarters and other key humanitarian stakeholders. One of her advisory positions was on Forced displacement and migration for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Contact: sigrid.kuehlke@gmail.com



MEJIA LACHOWICZ, Dagmara

Nationality: Polish-Ecuadorean

Education: Master's in International Relations & Political Science

Short Bio: Dagmara Mejía Lachowicz brings over 15 years of experience in diplomacy and humanitarian work, having collaborated with various NGOs and United Nations agencies, including IOM, OHCHR, and UNHCR, across Latin America and Central Asia. She has been with UNHCR for more than 12 years, and currently serves as the Head of UNHCR Field Office for the northwest of Mexico

Contact: dagmara123@hotmail.com





LEOTTA Ruggero

Nationality: Italian

Education: LL.M. in International Human Rights Law
Master's in Law

Short Bio: Ruggero Leotta is a Research Assistant at the University of Groningen, where he contributes to the AIWitness project on criminal justice, fundamental rights and artificial intelligence. He previously worked at the Italian Ministry of Justice, serving as a trainee at the Migration and Asylum Court. Ruggero holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Groningen and a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Catania, both with theses focused on non-refoulement and European asylum law.

Contact: ru.leotta@gmail.com



MACERATA Eleonora

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in Advanced Migration Studies

Short Bio: Eleonora Macerata holds a Bachelor's in Political Science, International Relations and Human Rights, and a Master's in Advanced Migration Studies. Based in Denmark, she researches homeless migrants and mental health, focusing on how EU homeless migrants are systematically denied basic services. She works as a social worker at two night shelters including one serving predominantly migrant populations.

Contact: Elemace@gmail.com



MONTELEONE Matilde

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in International Relations

Short Bio: Matilde Monteleone holds a Master's in International Relations specializing in security studies and European affairs (Università di Bologna, 2020). Since 2021, she works at the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in the Operational Planning Division, coordinating strategic cooperation with EU Member States and third countries on irregular migration, returns, cross-border crime, and coast guard operations. She focuses on enhancing operational effectiveness within the European Integrated Border Management framework and supports Frontex's implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, particularly screening and border procedures.

Contact: matilde.monteleone@gmail.com



MORGAN Andrea C.

Nationality: Peruvian

Education: LL.M in Human Rights

Short Bio: Andrea Morgan is a Peruvian lawyer specializing in asylum and migration governance through multidisciplinary approaches that integrate legal, gender, and human rights frameworks.

Contact: carmen.kotlarik@gmail.com



PATERGNANI Vittoria

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in Law

Short Bio: Vittoria Patergnani holds a Master's in Law (Università degli Studi di Torino, 2025). Her Master's thesis examined the application of pre-removal detention and its alternatives, and she recently authored a blog post on alternatives to detention under the Commission's proposed Return Regulation. She is currently an Odysseus trainee and volunteers as legal counsel at Cecchi Point in Turin, providing free migration law advice.

Contact: vittoria.patergnani@edu.unito.it



POPA Bianca

Nationality: Romanian

Education: Master's in Law

Short Bio: Originally from Romania, Bianca Popa earned her law degree with a specialization in European law from the University of Vienna (2024). She currently serves as a legal advisor at Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst, one of Austria's largest refugee support NGOs, where she counsels women on integration matters involving family, social, and administrative law. Her experience includes direct social work with human trafficking survivors in shelter settings and project management roles.

Contact: bianca.popa.15@gmail.com



SAPIR Anne

Nationality: Belgian

Education: Adv. LL.M in Public International Law
Master's in Law

Short Bio: Anne Sapir is a refugee protection expert with over a decade of experience at UNHCR, HIAS, and refugee-led organizations managing legal protection programs mainly across Israel/Palestine. Her expertise spans resettlement, complementary pathways, and refugee protection frameworks. Now based in Europe, she serves as Student Coordinator for the Odysseus Executive Master program.

Contact: annesapir@gmail.com





VAZ SHIMBO Renata

Nationality: Brazilian/Portuguese

Education: Master's in Literature

Short Bio: Renata Vaz-Shimbo is a student in Law (University of London) currently based in Luxembourg. Her research interests focus on gender-related issues within the context of asylum and migration, with particular attention to the specific challenges faced by women in these circumstances.

Contact: revshimbo@gmail.com



VERIKOKIDI Zinovia

Nationality: Greek

Education: Master's in International Trade and Investment Law

Short Bio: Zinovia Verikokidi has interned at NATO's Information & Documentation Centre and the Meijers Committee, and served as Just Access e.V.'s representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, focusing on accountability for forced migration. Her experience includes paralegal work in commercial and intellectual property law.

13

Contact: zinovia.verik@gmail.com



VAN BEURDEN Marthe

Nationality: Belgian

Education: Master's in Law; LL.M. in International Human Rights & Humanitarian Law

Short Bio: Marthe Van Beurden has worked with UNHCR, RefugePoint, and the UN in Ethiopia, Rwanda, and the Central African Republic, specializing in resettlement, complementary pathways, family reunification, and child protection. Previously, she practiced as a lawyer in Belgium focused on asylum and migration law.

Contact: marthe@van-beurden.be



VOLPE Marta

Nationality: Italian

Education: Master's in Political Science

Short Bio: Marta Volpe holds a Master's in Political Science (Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2023) and is currently a trainee at the Council of Europe with the Division on Migration and Refugees. She previously worked for the Odysseus Network, contributing to the research and educational activities. Prior to this, she worked at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, where she coordinated legal aid projects for asylum seekers and contributed to policy analysis and advocacy work.

14

Contact: martavolpe32@gmail.com