



**ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(ATINER)**

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PRESS RELEASE

RE: A Round-Table Discussion on “*The Current Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean Basin*” Monday 21 March 2016, Titania Hotel, 52 Panepistimiou Avenue, Athens, Greece

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) organized a round-table discussion on:

“The Current Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean Basin”

The event took place on **Monday 21 March 2016**, at **17:30**, Titania Hotel, 52 Panepistimiou Avenue, Athens, Greece. The discussion was monitored by **Dr. Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) & Honorary Professor of Economics, University of Stirling, U.K.

The first part of the roundtable discussion included the presentations of three research works still in progress by:

1. **Dr Anna Gansbergen**, Research Associate, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany. Refugee Related Organizations in Greece and their Cooperation Networks in the Context of the European Asylum Regime.
2. **Dr Georg Neubauer**, Senior Scientist, Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria. The Role of Interoperability for the Management of the Refugee Flow.
3. **Dr Valia Kasimati**, Head, Tourism Research Unit, ATINER & Editor, Athens Journal of Tourism. Migration Flows and their Impact on the Greek Tourism.

The speakers made reference on aspects related to the current refugee crisis by providing an overview of the current situation using the most recent data available. **Dr Anna Gansbergen** initiated the discussion with the presentation of her research results on organizational actors related to asylum issues. Based on empirical fieldwork in Athens, consisting of expert interviews with representatives of organizations related to refugees, she provided a description of their role and cooperation networks. Afterwards, **Dr Georg Neubauer**

emphasized on the lack and importance of exchange of information between mainly tactical and strategic actors managing a refugee crisis, by presenting a concept for a systematic analysis of these processes. **Dr Valia Kasimati** referred to the impact of the migration flows on a main aspect of the greek economy, the tourism section. She provided data on migration flows by sea and presented their effect on tourist arrivals on greek island regions.

The second part of the roundtable discussion included important interventions from the representatives of four countries which are directly involved and affected by the refugee crisis. These included:

1. **Mr Darko Angelov**, Ambassador, FY Republic of Macedonia's Embassy to Greece.
2. **Mr Jan Bondy**, Ambassador, Czech Republic's Embassy to Greece.
3. **Mr Peter Michalko**, Ambassador, Slovak Republic's Embassy to Greece.
4. **Ms Feyza Barutcu**, Counsellor, Turkey's Embassy to Greece.

Following these information interventions, speakers from the audience made important contributions giving a world perspective to the forced migration crisis in the Mediterranean Basin.

The list of events organized by ATINER is available on: <http://www.atiner.gr/events.htm>. For further information, please contact Fani Balaska or Stavroula Kyritsi at info@atiner.gr or by phone at 210 3634210.