

European Humanitarian Roundtables 2016 – South

3-4 February 2016 - Faculté de Droit et de Science Politique, Aix-en-Provence

Participants & Speakers Bios

Khelil Aïtout

Fondation Mérieux

Maja Antonic

International Relations Adviser, Croatian Red Cross

Ms Antonic has been employed by the Croatian Red Cross for the last nine and a half years. Before, she had volunteered for several years during her studies mainly focused on international activities. At the moment, she holds a position as International Relations Advisor of the Croatian Red Cross being also in charge of international cooperation and communication. Her main focus is on providing support to all departments, organizing, coordinating and preparing meetings, conferences and presentations. She had the privilege of representing the Croatian National Society at international meetings in the country and abroad. She had also been appointed as focal point for the organization of two important international meetings that were held in Croatia, one for youth from all European countries and the other one for the Mediterranean National Societies.

Sophie Borel (speaker)

NOHA General Manager

Ms. Sophie Borel has worked 15 years in the field in the human rights and humanitarian action sectors, managing a wide range of projects and programmes. From DRC, to Lebanon, Yemen, Cambodia and Jordan, Ms. Borel has worked with a number of governmental and non-governmental organisations, of which the United Nations, Save the Children and the European Commission. More recently, she managed The Carter Center's operations in DRC. She specialises the development of training programmes in the human rights and humanitarian sectors, with a focus on local civil society strengthening. She has designed, coordinated and implemented a wide range of training and capacity building programmes based on state of the art adult learning methodologies for humanitarian and human rights actors. Ms. Borel is currently the General Manager of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA).

Fiona Cauchi

Principal Durable Solutions Assistant, UNHCR Malta

Ms Cauchi graduated in International Development Studies in 2008 with a thesis on mixed migratory flows. During her studies she completed a work placement in Malta with a government entity, focusing on identifying vulnerable asylum seekers in detention. Before moving to Malta permanently in 2009, she was involved in development projects in Tanzania. She interned with a development organization for some time before being engaged by UNHCR as a Durable Solutions Assistant in 2010. Working on resettlement and integration, Fiona has experience on a wide range of protection-related issues in the Mediterranean. In 2014, she piloted the *Befriend* mentorship project which will be launched on a larger scale soon. In 2012, Fiona embarked on a Masters in Law at the University of London, specializing in Human Rights Law, developing her knowledge of refugee law, children and women's rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Alexander Chuplygin

Deputy Head of Mission, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marta Collu

Advisor Humanitarian Aid Office – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Since January 2016, Marta Collu works at the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) as Advisor on Humanitarian Aid. Previously (2009/2015), she was Advisor for Humanitarian Aid at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). She supports AICS and the Directorate General for Development Cooperation in the preparatory activities for the World Humanitarian Summit, including the preparation of the Italian position paper for the WHS. She also participates in the meetings of the EU Council Working Group on Humanitarian

Aid (COHAFA). During the semester of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council (2014), she helped organizing the programme and the activities of the same Group, advising on thematic priorities with special regard to the protection of persons with disabilities as well as women and children. She also carried out monitoring, evaluation and communication activities. From 2004 until 2009 she worked at the Italian MFA, Directorate General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies Ministry, supporting ILO activities on project management and research on migration.

Erika Conti

Policy Officer, Protezione Civile.

Véronique De Geoffroy

Director of Operations, Groupe URD

Ms De Geoffroy has a Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Law from Aix Marseille University. She has contributed to the structuring of the URD group since 1998 and as a Director of Operations, she is coordinating the different research and training activities. She focuses particularly on issues of quality, efficiency of humanitarian aid and coordination. She participates in numerous evaluations (cluster evaluation for IASC, evaluation of the IDP approach for the ICRC, etc.). She conducts trainings and coordinates and participates in innovative research about the quality of humanitarian aid (COMPAS Qualité, Sigmah, CHS, etc.). She is also the coordinator of the INSPIRE Consortium which supports DG ECHO in the elaboration and application of its humanitarian policies. She has worked as a project manager with a number of NGOs in different countries between 1992 and 1997 (Colombia, ex-Yugoslavia, DRC, Angola).

Paolo Dieci

President, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) and Link 2007

Mr Dieci is currently a member of the National Council for the International Cooperation in Italy. He has undertaken field missions for the identification and evaluation of humanitarian and development projects, on behalf of NGOs and international organizations in more than 20 countries, in Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Latin America and spent more than five years in the Horn of Africa. He is author of various articles and publications on the impact of humanitarian aid, particularly in the Horn of Africa and in the Balkans. He teaches Project Cycle Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and Current Trends in the humanitarian and development aid in the Master courses on International Cooperation at the Universities of Pavia, Kenyatta (Nairobi) and Bethlehem.

Marie-José Domestici-Met (speaker)

NOHA Aix-Marseille Director

Marie-José Domestici-Met is Professor in Public and International Law. She has been the promoter of the first Academic diploma in Humanitarian Action. Soon after, she became one of the negotiators of the NOHA agreement (December 1993). She has been running the relevant Master since then; and the Institute for International humanitarian studies at the Aix-Marseilles University (Faculty of Law) since 2004. She has a background in Law (PhD in International Law, Agrégation des Universités en Droit Public), and also in Political Sciences (Master) and in History (Bachelor, with a Minor in Political Sociology). Outside University, and in parallel, she has a clinical experience in Law, as a Barrister for 15 years, with a specialization in Public law and Land Property. Her Field experience in Humanitarian action goes back to Bosnia-Herzegovina, when she was involved in post-war return of refugees, property restitution, elections supervision (1998-2000). Her legal research articulates around two different but complementary streamlines: one is public order and imperative norms of international law, and the other one is operationalization of protective norms through pro-active action, namely humanitarian and human rights projects. Both topics, indeed, contribute to protection of the human being. For her educational activities, Pr Domestici-Met has received a Jean Monnet Chair ad personam (2010), she has been tasked with running an AMU project of Excellence (HUMAN'AIX A*MIDEX) (2013) and has been granted the French Palmes académiques (2014). She has been nominated as Chair of the French National Humanitarian Law Implementing Body (2012).

John Gera

Director of Search and Rescue Unit, SOS Malta

Joost Herman (speaker)

NOHA President, NOHA Groningen Director

Joost Herman is professor of Globalisation studies and humanitarian action. He studied History and International Law in Leiden and conducted PhD research at the Institute for Human Rights at the University of Utrecht into the protection of minority groups in Central and Eastern Europe. He joined the University of Groningen in 1995, became University Reader in International Relations and International Organization in 2003, and professor in 2012. He is one of the founders of the international Master's degree programme Network On Humanitarian Action (NOHA) and financial director of the NOHA Network. Herman is Director of the Institute for Globalisation Studies Groningen (GSG).

Anne Héry

Head of Advocacy and institutional relations, Handicap International

After a Masters degree in development policies, Anne Héry has been working 10 years for the Organisation of Economic Development and Cooperation in Paris. She joined Handicap International in 2003 as a delegate for institutional relations in Paris office, liaising with networks, coalitions and with public development and humanitarian stakeholders. Between 2010 and 2013, Anne worked as advocacy director for Secours Islamique France. She is now Director of Advocacy and Institutional Relations for the Handicap International Federation. In the course of her work in the humanitarian sector, she has been travelling on the field in Africa, in Asia and in the Middle East to collect data and produce advocacy material. She has been involved in different networks and coalitions at international level to convey advocacy messages on arms, humanitarian action or disability and development.

Snezhana Ilieva

Professor, Department of Social, Work and Educational Psychology, Sofia University

Laurence Lochu-Louineau

Desk officer for Humanitarian Affairs at the Crisis Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Patrick Mifsud

First Counsellor, Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Mifsud is a member of the diplomatic service of Malta. Over his 24-year career, Mr Mifsud has occupied various positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Valletta and has also served at several Diplomatic Missions including in Madrid, Tunis, Paris and Brussels. Mr Mifsud is currently engaged within the Development and Humanitarian Affairs Unit at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and is a delegate of Malta to the Working Party of the Council of the European Union on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA), which convenes in monthly meetings in Brussels.

Leonor Nieto (speaker)

Head of Unit for Strategy, Co-ordination and Inter-Institutional Relations, European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

Official of the European Commission since 1995, Ms Nieto worked in the Directorate General for Environment in the areas of enforcement of Community environmental law and environmental governance. In 2002, Ms Nieto moved to the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) to deal with legal/general policy matters and inter-institutional relations. Since June 2010, Ms Nieto is Head of Unit ECHO A.1 in charge of Strategy, Coordination and Inter-Institutional Relations.

Takis Neophytou

Director, Cyprus Red Cross

Mr Neophytou received his basic education in his hometown, Kyrenia, Cyprus and then continued his studies in Scotland, Germany and the United States in fields relevant to disability. His 35-year professional engagement with people with disabilities, increased his social and humanitarian sensitivity, and, therefore in 2007, after his early retirement, he decided to work with the Cyprus Red Cross and was appointed as the Director General of the Society. Since then, among other, he has contributed in the recent recognition of his

Society by the International Movement and his current work interests focus on the reorganization and upgrading of Cyprus Red Cross and the successful mitigation of the consequences of the financial crisis and of the recent increased arrivals of refugees in the country.

Antoine Peigney

International Operations Director, Croix-Rouge française.

Maria Pisani

Lecturer, University of Malta

Ms Pisani is a Maltese academic and activist. She is the co-founder and director of Integra Foundation, Malta. Maria holds a BA and MA in Youth & Community Studies, and a PhD in Adult Education. She is a lecturer with the department of Youth and Community Studies at the University of Malta. Maria also lectures on the MA in Humanitarian Action, Department of International Relations, and is a University of Malta representative in the NOHA Association. Maria also coordinates the Centre for Critical Migration Studies with The Critical Institute.

Alain Robyns

Consultant Technical Adviser, Caritas Luxembourg

Mr Robyns has worked in the humanitarian aid sector for over 20 years. He is technical advisor for Caritas Luxembourg, implementing projects for the most destitute and affected people across the world including refugees, IDPs and migrant workers. Mr. Robyns has also worked over nine years in the field for the EU Humanitarian Aid Directorate (ECHO) in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Middle East, and in the Horn of Africa. For the last year, he has been working on the Syrian crisis for the UNHCR in Lebanon and JRS in Syria and Turkey. Mr. Robyns studied international trade and in 1998 was graduated from Aix-Marseille University, each year since then he has been giving lectures to NOHA students on humanitarian aid topics.

Marco Rotelli

Secretary-General, INTERSOS.

With his background in Political Sciences and International Relations, Marco served long and short operation assignments in many of the major crises since the early 2000s, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan and South Sudan, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Indonesia, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CAR, Cameroon and Nepal. Marco is interested in the contemporary challenges of humanitarian access and operations, principled aid and civil-military interactions. He has acquired an extensive experience of humanitarian practice, specifically from the NGO perspective with experience and connections with relevant stakeholders: communities, the UN system, the EU, and bilateral actors.

Nicole Sarsero

First Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs, Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Sarsero graduated from the University of Malta with a 'B.A. in European Studies' and furthered her education with a 'M.A. in Human Rights and Democratisation'. Ms Sarsero has been working as a diplomat within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta for the past three years. Ms Sarsero has been responsible for the humanitarian dossier and has been attending the Council of the European Union's Working Party for humanitarian aid.

Jean Saslawsky

Secretary General, International Network of Doctors of the World / Médecins du Monde (MDM)

Mr Saslawsky has worked with humanitarian organizations for the past 20 years. After two years as Field Administrator in Bosnia and Georgia, he joined the headquarters of Action Contre la Faim (ACF). He then joined MDM in 2000 as head of the institutional funding unit. Jean has been the Treasurer of the European humanitarian NGO network VOICE from 2004 to 2010. Jean Saslawsky is a lecturer on project cycle management and on funding of humanitarian projects at the International Institute of Humanitarian Studies of Aix-en-Provence and at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve.

Kathrin Schick

Director, Voice

Ms Schick has an educational background in Social Anthropology and Business Administration from Oslo University. She worked in Norwegian organizations such as the Norwegian Red Cross and Norwegian People's Aid, as well as for the Directorate for Immigration of Norway, focusing on refugee issues and programs in South America. She subsequently gained field experience in Guatemala as Protection Officer for the UNHCR and consultant for CARE International. As Deputy Secretary General of the SOLIDAR network, Kathrin Schick worked for seven years mainly on EU development policies and education campaigns. In 2001, Kathrin became VOICE Director, her current position.

George Simon

Professor, Roma Tre University.

Robert Smith (speaker)

Head of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat's Geneva Office

Robert Smith is the Head of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat's Geneva office, leading the WHS Global Consultation and other European-based parts of the process. Previously he was chief of OCHA's Common Humanitarian Action Planning Section, which coordinated strategic humanitarian response plans and monitoring for the major humanitarian crises. Before joining OCHA, he worked with Oxfam, CARE, IRC, WaterAid and other NGOs in emergencies and development for 10 years, mostly in Africa (DR Congo, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Congo-Brazzaville and Angola, plus Brazil). Robert completed a Ph.D. in Development Studies at the University of London, researching land tenure issues, and has published three peer-reviewed articles in top social-science journals. He comes originally from Boston, USA.

Svoboda Tosheva

Professor, South-West University

Dr Tosheva is an economist, graduate of the Higher Institute of Economics "K.Marx" (at present University of National and World Economy) Sofia, Bulgaria. She specialized in the area development economics and worked for more than 20 years in the Institute for developing countries of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She did research on several topics in the area of socio-economic co-operation and assistance of Bulgaria to developing countries for the purpose of economic growth and solving poverty problems. She also did research on statistical measurement of displaced population and refugees. At present, she is an invited professor of finance at the South West University "Neofit Rilski" in the city of Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. She has also considerable experience with the NGO sector, being a volunteer of ADRA Bulgaria, participating in its projects. She delivered lectures to young people in the area of economic empowerment and participated in a project for aid to Roma population in Bulgaria.

Dina Vardaramatou

Programmes Coordinator and Head of Athens Polyclinic, Praksis

Ms Vardaramatou is a social worker/sociologist with a MA in Social and Community Work Studies. She has carried out research on trafficking in persons, genetic screening, social inclusion, sexual rape, gender-based violence. Scientific Advisor of Project Empowerment of Socially Excluded Women in Georgia (2003-2005). President of the Board of the NGO Centre of Research and Action on Peace (2003-2006), General Secretary (2012-Ongoing). Project Coordinator of Stop Trafficking of People Now (STOPNOW, 2000-2009), and founder and coordinator of the Galatsi Group (ad hoc group of stakeholders – working on anti-trafficking issues, 2002-2009). Member of the Committee of Social Agencies, Ministry of Health (2008-2012). Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Observatory Against Gender-based violence (2007-2012). Member of the Executive Board of the Association of Women of the Mediterranean Region (AWMR), international NGO (1996-1998). She has extensively worked with socially or/and economically excluded groups such as victims of trafficking, drug users, people from vastly different and cultural backgrounds. She is currently working as PRAKSIS Athens Programmes Coordinator and PRAKSIS Athens Polyclinic Coordinator. The Polyclinic offers legal, medical and social services to socially or/and economically excluded people such as immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, homeless etc.