

ROBERTO FORIN

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Migration policies, drivers of migration and the link between migration and development.

Protection, assistance and policy response to vulnerable people in mixed migration flows

Cultural and social aspects of transnational mobility and its impact on group identity and social transformation

PROFILE

Extensive knowledge of EU migration and refugee legal and policy frameworks acquired through related professional experience and through collaborative projects with several academic institutions specialising in migration issues

Consolidated experience in strategic program management, advocacy and external positioning, particularly in the field of population movements and related protection issues

Strong leadership, teambuilding and representational skills acquired through a variety of managerial positions. Demonstrated track record of successful funding applications (DFID, SIDA, ECHO)

Consolidated experience in data collection and information management, as well as research quality assurance and editorial support

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MIXED MIGRATION CENTRE (MMC)

May 2018 / to date – Deputy Director – Geneva, Switzerland

- As deputy director of MMC, contribute to the overall strategic direction and management of the centre, including fundraising, proposal development and global expansion of the MMC programme
- Lead on managing cross-regional / global research projects, ensure research quality assurance and consistency, contribute to the development of the annual research agenda
- Lead on global advocacy and policy development on mixed migration in close cooperation with the regional MMC coordinators and the DRC Representation in Brussels
- As of June 2021 Acting Head of MMC EU, leading on strategic management, programme implementation, representation and fund-raising.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT (ICMPD)

May 2017 / May 2018 – Research Coordinator -Anti-Trafficking Programme – Vienna, Austria

- Coordination of seven country research assessment on “Trafficking along Migration Routes: Identification and Integration of Victims of Trafficking among Vulnerable Groups and Unaccompanied Children (TRAM)” along the Western Balkans route
- Led on quality assurance by providing technical and editorial support to a team of five country researchers based in Greece, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Germany, Austria, Finland and Sweden, consolidating overall regional report
- Acted as Migration Expert for ICMPD, in particular on human trafficking in conflict and other humanitarian settings, as well as on the protection of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean region in high level meetings with governmental authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and donors

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

April 2016 / April 2017 - Deputy Head of Mission – Athens, Greece

- Definition, planning and supervision of ICRC programme in Greece, including: migration detention, incl. protective custody for UAMs; support to the Hellenic Red Cross in the provision of “Restoring of Family Links” (RFL) services to migrants; missing migrants programme and forensic support to competent Hellenic authorities
- Representation of the ICRC towards a wide range of interlocutors, such as governmental, civilian and police authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and donors; secured 2 million GBP DFID contribution to 2016 budget

December 2015 / March 2016 – Migration delegate for Greece and Italy – Paris, Rome, Athens

- Based in the ICRC Regional office for Europe in Paris, monitored the political and humanitarian developments in Italy and in Greece with relation to migration through regular field trips and collaboration with the Italian and Greek Red Cross societies.
- Start-up of the ICRC Mission in Athens, incl. programming, human resources and representation with national authorities

MEDECINS DU MONDE SUISSE (MDM)

October 2015 / November 2015 – Field Coordinator, Refugee Emergency Response – Thessaloniki, Greece

- Leadership and supervisory management of MdM Suisse operations in Northern Greece, including stewardship of resources, staff safety and security, program quality and accountability, and performance management
- Monitored the political and humanitarian situation affecting migrants and vulnerable host populations in Greece, defined the appropriate humanitarian response and developed the advocacy strategy
- Represented MdM with the Greek government, donors, international organizations, and other NGOs

HUMANITARIAN POLICY GROUP, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ODI)

September 2015- Independent Consultant – Foggia, Italy

Project title: “Libya: Understanding the needs of civilians”

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with migrants and asylum seekers to address the following: a) mapping flows of migration across and through Libya; b) understand the needs and coping mechanisms of those flows and c) determine the role played by key humanitarian organizations (international, regional and local) in meeting the needs of this population as well as shortcomings

MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE (EUI)

April 2015 / October 2015- Research assistant – Oxford/Florence/Foggia

Project title: “The Anti-Politics of Anti-Trafficking”. EU-funded research project investigating European and Italian anti-trafficking discourse and policy, using the case study of exploited migrant labourers working in the agricultural sector in Puglia

- In collaboration with research manager, carried out desk research, designed research methodology including questionnaires, interview guidelines and analysis plan
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with national- and local-level anti-trafficking actors, farmers employing migrants and migrant workers
- Collated and analysed findings; drafted journal articles, policy briefs and articles for public media

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) - 2008 / 2014

May 2013 / August 2014 - Deputy head of sub-delegation, Goma – North Kivu – DRC

January 2012 / January 2013 – Head of sub-delegation, El Fasher – Sudan

October 2010 / October 2011 – Head of office, Khan Younis, Gaza – Occupied Palestinian Territory

- Contributed to the development and coordinated the implementation of ICRC's protection and assistance strategy, programmes and activities in the area of responsibility
- Represented and positioned the ICRC with government authorities, military, security services and armed opposition groups. Ensured coordination and networking relationships with Red Cross movement partners, UN, other INGOs/NGOs, as well as embassy and donor representatives; secured significant SIDA contribution to North Kivu 2014 budget

January 2009 / May 2010 – Protection delegate – Port au Prince – Haiti

December 2007 / December 2008 – Protection delegate – Villavicencio, Meta – Colombia

- Monitored adherence to International Humanitarian Law by all the parties to the conflict and promoted the protection of civilians through humanitarian dialogue with governmental authorities and armed groups
- Regularly visited detention facilities and advocated for improvement of the conditions of detention through engagement with responsible authorities
- Supervised, implemented and evaluated all humanitarian activities and programmes in the area of responsibility, including relief, livelihood and health interventions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) – 2005/2007

October 2006 / June 2007 – Protection coordinator – Northern Bar El Gazal – Sudan

October 2005 / June 2006 – IDPs Protection officer – El Fasher – North Darfur – Sudan

- Supported and orientated IOM planning processes, to streamline protection (prevention and responsive actions) throughout spontaneous IDP returns and organized returns programming

- Designed and coordinated large-scale mixed-methods assessment on voluntary return/relocation of returnees (surveys and focus group discussions)
- Organized, assisted and monitored IDP movements to ensure appropriate standards of safety and dignity during the return process and the protection of vulnerable groups

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

September 2014 / July 2015 - University of Oxford, Department of International Development (ODID)

- MSc in Migration Studies (International Migration, Forced Migration, International Human Rights and Refugee Law, Globalisation and Social Transformation, Methods of Social Research). Final dissertation on "Migration in countries in crisis: the case study of Libya in 2011", supervised by Prof. Hein De Haas. Final mark: 2:1 honours degree

January 2005 / January 2006 – Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy

- MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management (Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Geopolitics, Conflict Theories). Awarded a full scholarship by the Sant'Anna School. Dissertation on the monitoring and verification mechanism for IDP voluntary return in Darfur.

October 1998 / December 2002 – University of Pavia, Department of African Studies

- “Laurea” in Political Sciences (African Studies, International Relations, Contemporary History, Social Sciences). Dissertation on the pro-independence armed group MFDC (Mouvement des Forces Democratiques de la Casamance) in the Senegalese region of Casamance, incl. 4 months fieldwork and archival research. Final mark 110/110.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, PRESENTATIONS

- June 2022: “Smuggling trends and dynamics in West and North Africa”, 4MI data analysis presentation for Rabat Process member states, Brussels, Belgium
- March 2020: “Mixed Migration Future Scenario Building”, capacity building workshop for Khartoum Process member states, The Hague, The Netherlands.
- Feb/March 2020: “Mixed Migration futures: demography, climate change, securitization and future mixed migration flows”, presentations/closed door discussions at DFID (London), Swiss FDFA (Berne), DEVCO (Brussels), ICMPD (Vienna).
- March 2019: “Mixed migration drivers, protection for people on the move and migration policies in the Mediterranean Sea”, closed doors discussion organized by the Canadian Permanent Mission in Geneva for other permanent missions’ representatives, Geneva, Switzerland
- February 2019: “Mixed migration, data collection, evidence-based migration policies & humanitarian responses”, community of practice presentation, EU Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy
- April 2018: “Migration as a solution: human mobility and globalization”, Global Conversations, School of Economics, University of Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
- February 2018: “Trans-Saharan migration: ‘crisis’ or structural phenomenon?”, keynote speech at the conference “Avoiding the Sandstorm in the Sahel”, Istituto Affari Esteri Internazionali (IAI), Rome, Italy
- November 2017: “The challenge of migration for Italy and Europe: how to face the risks and seize the opportunities” paper presented at the conference “La politica estera dell'Italia, le proposte del PD”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Roma, Italy
- December 2016: “What’s next for migrants in Greece? EU containment strategy and access to durable solutions” paper presented and the workshop “Migration Governance: Addressing the Challenges in Providing Protection and Human Security for the Most Vulnerable”, The Hague Institute for Global Justice, La Hague, Netherland
- September 2016: “Migration in Greece: reflections from the field”, talk presented at the workshop “Hope and courage” organized by the Circle of European Communicators, Athens, Greece
- June 2016: “(Un)deservingness and the crisis of the international protection system: the case study of Greece 2016”, paper presented at the International Workshop, “Understanding and Managing Migration in Africa: multidimensional perspectives”, University of Pavia, Italy

PUBLICATIONS

- Mixed Migration Review 2022. Highlights. Interviews. Essays. Data.”, Horwood, C, Frouws, B. & Forin, R. (Eds.), Mixed Migration Centre, November 2022 (available [here](#))
- “Italy migration diplomacy: hanging out with the wrong crowd?”, Forin, R., Mixed Migration Centre, November 2022, (available [here](#))

- “Expectations following Biden’s promises: what effect on mixed migration?” Forin, R. & Molina, V., Mixed Migration Centre, February 2021 (available [here](#))
- “I raccoglitori di pomodori, moderni “schiavi”? Una riflessione sulle rappresentazioni dell’agricoltura italiana”, Howard, N. & Forin, R. In “Braccia rubate dall’agricoltura. Pratiche di sfruttamento del lavoro migrante”. A cura di Ippolito, I., Perrotta, M., Raeymaekers, T., 2021 (available [here](#))
- Mixed Migration Review 2020. Highlights. Interviews. Essays. Data.”, Horwood, C, Frouws, B. & Forin, R. (Eds.), Mixed Migration Centre, November 2020 (available [here](#))
- “The wrong side of history? A missed opportunity to lead on a human-rights-led response to mixed migration between Turkey and Greece”, Forin, R. & Frouws, B., March 2020 (available [here](#))
- “Mixed Migration Review 2019. Highlights. Interviews. Essays. Data.”, Horwood, C., Forin, R. & Frouws, B. (Eds.), Mixed Migration Centre, November 2019 (available [here](#))
- “Migrant workers, ‘modern slavery’ and the politics of representation in Italian tomato production”, Howard, N. & Forin, R., 2019, Economy and Society, 48:4, 579-601 (available [here](#))
- “Everyone’s prey: Kidnapping and extortionate detention in mixed migration”, Horwood, C. & Forin, R., Mixed Migration Centre, July 2019, (available [here](#))
- “Italy’s New Asylum Legislation: toward a better migration management?”, Brenner, Y., Forin, R., Mixed Migration Centre, February 2019, (available [here](#))
- “The closing door: mixed flows from Central America facing restricted access to protection”, Brenner, Y., Forin, R., Horwood, C., Mixed Migration Centre, December 2018, (available [here](#))
- “Mixed Migration Review 2018. Highlights. Interviews. Essays. Data.”, Horwood, C., Forin, R. & Frouws, B. (Eds.), Mixed Migration Centre, November 2018, (available [here](#))
- “The Tomato Conundrum”, The Progressive Post, October 2018, (available [here](#))
- “The “Shift” to the Western Mediterranean Migration Route: Myth or Reality?”, Brenner, Y., Forin, R., Frouws, B., Mixed Migration Centre, August 2018 (available [here](#))
- “Trafficking Along Migration Routes to Europe: Bridging the Gap between Migration, Asylum and Anti-Trafficking”, Forin, R. & Healy, C., ICMPD Regional Research Report, June 2018, (available [here](#))
- “What are the protection concerns for migrants and refugees in Libya?”, Healy, C. and Forin, R., ICMPD Policy Brief, November 2017 (available [here](#))
- “Stemming the flow: refugees, migrants and the EU containment strategy”, Refugee Review Journal 2017:3, (available [here](#))
- “La sfida delle migrazioni per l’Italia e l’Europa: come affrontarne i rischi e coglierne le opportunità”, MondoDem – Laboratorio di Politica Internazionale, November 2017, (available [here](#))
- “EU migration policy at a crossroads: how to avoid being on the wrong side of history”, Open Democracy, February 2016, (available [here](#))

LANGUAGES

Italian & French: Mother tongue / English: Oral & Written fluent / Spanish: Oral & Written fluent