



CEI International Conference “Breaking Down or Re-Building The Walls: Migration Crisis, Refugees and Security in Southeastern Europe” in Bologna, Italy (17 September)

The CEI International Conference, [“Breaking Down or Re-Building The Walls: Migration Crisis, Refugees and Security in Southeastern Europe”](#) took place in Bologna, Italy on 16 September. Scholars and young researchers from three CEI countries, namely Slovenia, Croatia and Italy, as well as from Greece gathered at the University Residential Centre of Bertinoro to reflect upon new analytical approaches to the complex dynamics enacted in Europe by the “migration crisis”. The Conference was a complementary event of the [CEI International Summer School](#).

Several internationally renowned speakers were invited to the event, organised in cooperation with the Institute for Central-Eastern and Balkan Europe (IECOB), the CEI and the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Bologna. The invited researchers highlighted different perspectives on the topic and framed the complex situation specifically through the *lens* of Southeastern Europe, the most challenged region since the rise of the Western Balkan migration route in 2015.

The Conference opening was marked by a discussion on the global challenges, characterising the phenomenon at the core of the debate. The morning session was devoted to the study of political and cultural dynamics involving the refugee crisis and security issues during the last years, in an attempt to understand the transformation of the complex dynamics in drawing national (and all-European) borders from a South-East European perspective. Experts on the topic focused on contradictions of the migration policies implemented by the various political actors in the rise of the “Balkan Route”.

Political outcomes of the crisis in the emergence of far-right extremism in South-East Europe were at the center of discussions in the afternoon sessions. In particular, participants examined the practices involving politics of new born fear and the manipulated representation of “others”, enacted by far-right political groups in the area.

The final session was introduced by a presentation of new interpretive paths towards a possible solution of the contradictory situation experienced by the EU in the last years. The final debate led into a fruitful reflection and opened possibilities for future collaborations and joint projects.

More information available [here](#)