

Refugee protection in the EU:

German, Italian and Polish ruling political parties' perceptions of refugee protection as a global public good

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Abstract

In recent years, scholars and policy-makers in asylum and migration fields have tried to understand to what extent Member States differ each other in cooperating at EU level. In order to understand the dynamics behind European cooperation in migration and asylum, recent research has been focused on identity, security, populism, etc. When it comes to refugee protection, the same "*problématique*" arises, why some Member States are reluctant to contribute to refugee provision in the EU? Accordingly, this research seeks to assess why EU burden-sharing in refugee protection has fallen under the situation of the refugee crisis in some Member States, in order to do so, a public goods perspective is applied. In this regard, this research attempts to analyze how political parties in the governments of some Member States perceive "refugee protection" as a global public good, so, by applying a public good analysis, some dynamics behind refugee protection cooperation in the EU can be understood.

Member States' national interests in asylum and migration differ each other, accordingly, in order to obtain interesting insights, Germany, Poland and Italy are selected as case studies. The analysis of governments' perceptions of refugee protection as a global public good in these countries during the period 2013-2018 will provide us useful information about the factors that may explain collective action in the EU.

Accordingly, not only this research project may reinforce and develop further public goods and collective action theoretical frameworks in analyzing refugee protection in the EU, but it may provide the empirical analysis left in assessing refugee protection as a pure/impure global public good and its costs/benefits for Member States.

This research will provide a much-needed empirical analysis of how public goods and collective action approaches can be used in analyzing and interpreting the current refugee crisis in the EU. Many scholars have attempted to use these frameworks in order to understand Member States' different positions in refugee and migration policy-making, but further empirical research in this field is left. Due to its multidisciplinary nature, not only will this research be interest to researchers in the field of refugee and migration studies, but also to the fields of political parties, EU public policy/policy-making and economics, allowing to see how an economic based framework can explain a political event so far.