

# MIGSOL

MIGRATION SOLIDARITY AND ACTS OF CITIZENSHIP  
ALONG THE BALKAN ROUTE

## Migration Solidarity and Acts of Citizenship Along the Balkan Route



Center for  
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### Project Duration:

August 2017 - July 2019

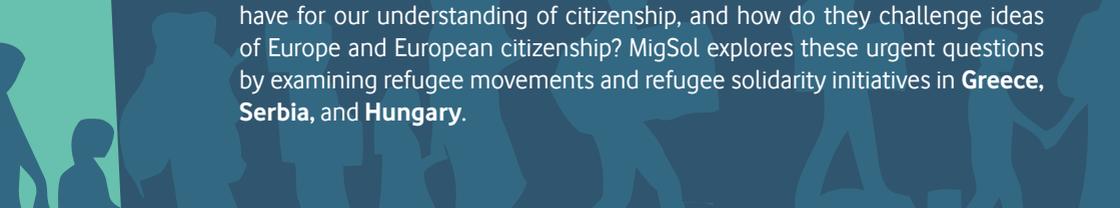
### Project Description

MigSol is a 24-month research project that examines solidarity with and by migrants and refugees along the Balkan route. MigSol's key aims are:

- To explore how acts of citizenship by refugees, and acts of solidarity with refugees, challenge formal understandings of rights and belonging at the national and European level;
- To assess the implication of solidarity initiatives by and with refugees for the notion of European citizenship;
- To rethink citizenship and political participation through a cross-local exploration of issues of mobility, mobilisation, identity and belonging in contemporary Europe.

The so-called Balkan route recently emerged as a crucial passageway towards western and northern Europe for hundreds of thousands of refugees and as an imagined geography highlighting the boundaries of "Europe". Refugee movements provide a powerful standpoint from which to observe the territorial and symbolic geography of the EU and to question the separation that has been produced between Europe's imagined inside and outside and between European citizens and non-citizens.

Refugee mobilities have been met by calls to reinforce and secure Europe's borders, but also by countless instances of solidarity by groups of citizens, activists and refugees themselves. What implications do these solidarities have for our understanding of citizenship, and how do they challenge ideas of Europe and European citizenship? MigSol explores these urgent questions by examining refugee movements and refugee solidarity initiatives in **Greece, Serbia, and Hungary**.





## Field sites & Methodology

MigSol relies on ethnographic fieldwork with selected pro-refugee and refugee-led groups in **Greece, Serbia, and Hungary**.

These countries have been chosen as key stages along the Balkan route where the lines of movement of people traveling towards Europe form and progress. They thus allow the study of movement as a key factor shaping alternative political struggles and acts of citizenship. They also hold different relationships to the EU. Greece and Hungary belong to the Union, yet they have very distinct political histories and hold different positions relative to Europe and its border regime. Serbia, a non-EU country, finds itself at a strategic crossroads between Europe and non-Europe, with implications for the way it manages its borders and for understandings of citizenship, identity and belonging.

These sites thus provide important perspectives for studying the capacity of cross-border links between refugees and volunteers to contribute to non state-centric political subjectivities, which could challenge exclusionary regimes of citizenship. The ethnography will be centred on observation and interviews with individuals and groups involved in migration and asylum politics in a broad sense.

## Dr. Céline Cantat

Céline Cantat is a Marie Curie Individual Fellow at the Center for Policy Studies, Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She holds a PhD in Refugee Studies from the University of East London, United Kingdom. Céline's research focuses are primarily concerned with migrant activism and pro-migrant solidarities in European contexts.

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## Center for Policy Studies Central European University

The Center for Policy Studies (CPS) is an academic unit within Central European University dedicated to providing independent public policy analysis and promoting greater use of social science research in policy making. Research focuses on intersecting inequalities, policies for social inclusion and social justice, integration of minorities and migrant populations, territorial development and social cohesion, governance and policy actors.

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