



# newsletter

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## HGRA activities

### 1st HGRA Dissemination Conference– Rome

On November 5, 2025, Sapienza University of Rome and UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union, in collaboration with Gulf of Sidra University, organised the first dissemination conference. The conference offered a platform to reflect on the project's achievements and explore ways to strengthen Libyan higher education's role in addressing migration challenges.

Participants included representatives from Sapienza University of Rome, UNIMED, University of Barcelona, Luiss University, European Training Foundation, INDIRE – the Italian National Erasmus+ Agency, IOM Italy – UN Migration, and UNHCR Italy, alongside the external evaluator of the project and the Libyan university partners.

More here: <https://hgraproject.eu/2025/11/13/hgra-dissemination-conference-in-rome-highlights-the-role-of-libyan-universities-in-addressing-migration-through-higher-education/>

### Training for Trainers Week in Tunis

From December 1-4, 2025, the HGRA Project ran an intensive Training for Trainers week in Tunis, led by Sapienza University of Rome. The training marked a key milestone in a broader process to equip Libyan partner universities with the practical tools needed to design and develop their own Master's programmes in Migration and Development, in the framework of Work Package 4.

The Training for Trainers involved 4 academic and administrative staff per each Libyan partner university. The programme was structured around four core modules: Economics, Research Methods, Health, and Law.

More here: <https://hgraproject.eu/2025/12/17/hgra-training-for-trainers-week-in-tunis/>



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## HGRA activities

### 2nd Dissemination Conference– Online

On January 15, 2026, Gulf of Sidra University successfully hosted an online dissemination conference, bringing together academics, researchers, and policymakers to discuss the role of migration research in addressing contemporary challenges.

Overall, the conference served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement, and the promotion of collaborative, evidence-based approaches to migration research within the HGRA Project framework.

More here:

<https://hgraproject.eu/2026/01/28/gulf-of-sidra-university-hosted-online-dissemination-conference/>

### 3rd Dissemination Conference and Final Conference– Barcelona

On January 22, 2026, the University of Barcelona hosted the Final Conference of the project, aiming to present and review the project's achievements and set the basis for future cooperation in the field of migration.

Participants included representatives from the partners institutions, UNIMED, University of Barcelona, Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Zawia, the University of Tripoli, the University of Tobruk, Gulf of Sidra University, Sebha University, and the Higher Institute for Science and Technology Sabratha, alongside external stakeholders, such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the University of Exeter, Scholars at Risk (SAR) and The Hague Institute for the Innovation of Law (HiIL).

More here: <https://hgraproject.eu/2026/01/30/libyan-universities-at-the-forefront-of-migration-studies-a-three-year-path-of-cooperation-and-capacity-building/>



# newsletter

## Project results- a look at what we've achieved together

*As the project draws to a close, we look back on three years of work and the results we've achieved. Results built to last well beyond the project's end.*

### **Collection Data Update on Migration Studies in Libya**

Analysis of the academic state of migration studies in Libya, assessing universities' roles through data collection, stakeholder engagement, and a survey of over one hundred academic participants.

### **Workshops on Institutional Reforms**

Three interactive workshops at the University of Zawia advanced migration through research, dialogue, and collaboration. They explored academic challenges, fostered interdisciplinary exchange, and produced recommendations on databases, curricula, capacity building, and networking to strengthen universities' role in migration studies.

### **HGRA Network Set up**

National network providing a platform to enhance research capacity, coordinate approaches, and leverage project results for future academic and societal initiatives.

### **Libyan Migration Research Network Set Up**

Informal network within and beyond Libyan higher education institutions, aimed to contribute to the study and better understanding of the phenomena of human mobility with particular interest in migration and refugee mobility.

As part of the Network's activities, a Call for Contributions was launched to collect insightful inputs capable of stimulating broader analysis and research through knowledge sharing. The Call remains permanently open, and contributions are published in the dedicated section of the project website: <https://hgraproject.eu/contributions>



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## Project results- a look at what we've achieved together

### Workshop on International Cooperation

On July 9, 2024, University of Zawia organised a workshop aimed at exploring the ways in which international cooperation can address migration challenges in higher education institutions in Libya. It consisted of a roundtable and a training session in which four lecturers presented their work, followed by a debate on migration in higher education institutions in Libya.

### Workshop on Status and Integration of Migrants

On January 28, 2025, Sebha University organised a workshop aimed at examining the role of academia in supporting social cohesion under the framework of international conventions. It consisted of two training sessions in which six lecturers presented their work, followed by a debate.

### Workshop on Migration Management in Libya's Higher Education and Research

On October 14, 2025, University of Tripoli organised a workshop aiming to examine how academia can contribute to shaping policies and practices that balance security and human rights. It consisted of three training sessions in which eight lecturers presented their work, followed by a debate.

### 3 Roundtables and 1 online training focused on Specific Needs and Identifying priority issues on Migration Policy

1st Roundtable. 4th of July 2024. Introduction to standardization of European Higher Education: Bologna process and the Dublin descriptors.

2nd Roundtable. 21st of January 2025. Discussion in groups about each identified macro-area.

3rd Roundtable. 24th of February 2025. Validation Roundtable focused on identifying Master's Modules.

Online Training. 20th of October 2025. Discussion about the content of the modules and collection of inputs for the final training materials.



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## Project results- a look at what we've achieved together

### **Training Materials for Training for the Trainers Modules and Final Syllabus**

Training materials and final syllabus of a Master's Program in Migration and Development delivered to Libyan partners, deriving from the Training for Trainers week held in Tunis from 1 to 4 December 2025.

### **Design of the Master course in Migration Management**

Designing Teaching Modules for a Master Programme in Migration and Development, tailored to Libyan higher education institutions, ensuring consistency with current EHEA standards and facilitating current and future partnerships and networking with EHEIs, in alignment with the Bologna Process and Dublin Descriptors.



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## Exploitation

*Thanks to the HGRA project, partners started incorporating the project's objectives and expertise into the university and research agenda.*

### **Dedicated space for discussion on migration**

The project has served as a catalyst for universities to launch new initiatives and engage in similar projects, indeed openness, interest and willingness in addressing migration-related issues have increased significantly. The project created, for the first time, a dedicated space for discussion on migration, while fostering trust between universities and their local communities, an essential achievement that provides a solid basis for long-term sustainability.

### **A Euro-Mediterranean community of migration experts**

The knowledge, methodological tools, and pedagogical resources exchanged during the project's lifetime created a coherent development pathway which constitutes one of the highest-value legacies of HGRA. The training materials, together with the comprehensive Master's syllabus, represent an essential outcome handed over to Libyan universities as a long-term educational asset, which universities intend to use not only for the future Master's programme, but also for internal short courses and seminars.

HGRA's workshops and activities promoted a collaborative, working-group culture. This has created a reliable pool of experts for future collaborations, research activities, publications, events, and projects. In this sense, a genuine Euro-Libyan community has been established.

### **Community Service and Development Center Workshop – Sebha (October 2025)**

In October 2025, the Community Service and Development Center at Sebha University organised a public workshop in Sebha City focusing on migration from a health and education perspective at the local level. This workshop addressed the challenges faced by migrant communities and host populations in southern Libya, particularly in relation to Access to healthcare, Education of migrant and displaced children and Social inclusion and local service provision.

The conceptual approach of the workshop was aligned with the HGRA project's focus on human security, migration governance and institutional responses, translating European-Libyan dialogue into a practical community-oriented initiative.





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## Exploitation

### Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Migration (2025)

Sebha University established a Preparatory Committee for a national and international conference on migration and its implications for Libya and neighbouring countries, scheduled to be held in 2026.

Within this framework, the HGRA project was actively used as a reference platform to strengthen the scientific profile of the conference. In particular, discussions were held on the inclusion of HGRA European partners as keynote speakers, in order to bring European expertise in migration governance, higher education and research into the Libyan academic and policy dialogue.

### Migration in university curricula– Zawia University

Some departments of the Zawia University have implemented topics related to Migration in their curricula such as:

- Libyan Demography (Geography Department)
- Migration to northern Africa after the second World war (History Department)
- The impacts of Migration on Libyan society (department of Sociology).
- Illegal Immigration and Its Impact on Libyan National Security (Faculty of Law)
- Migrations through Libya as health challenges. (Community Department)



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## Recent reports and academic publications

**Ammari, Fadoua. "Crise migratoire en Libye: impasses d'une coopération asymétrique."**

January 2026 – *Mondes & Migrations* 1 (2026): 43–49.

<https://journals.openedition.org/mondesmigrations/4208>

The article presents Libya as both a transit space and a bargaining tool in Euro–African migration governance, arguing that EU externalization has deepened dependence on unstable local dynamics.

**Elboiashi, H., and Abdelhakim M. Embaya. "Economic corruption and its impact on achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Libya."**

2025 – *International Journal of Financial, Administrative, and Economic Sciences* 4.2 (2025): 248–266.

<https://afs.academy.edu.ly/ar/publications/1328/download-file>

Using 1990–2019 time–series data, the authors find that economic corruption significantly undermines sustainable development outcomes in Libya.

**Eaton, Tim, and Lubna Yousef. "How migrant smuggling has fuelled conflict in Libya"**

2025 – Chatham House

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2025/02/how-migrant-smuggling-has-fuelled-conflict-libya>

The paper shows how migrant smuggling and trafficking have become embedded in Libya's conflict economy and argues that enforcement–focused responses have addressed symptoms more than causes.

**UN Security Council, United Nations Support Mission in Libya; Report of the Secretary–General**

5 December 2025 – United Nations

The report reviews recent political, security, human rights and humanitarian developments in Libya, while also updating on the activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).



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## Recent reports and academic publications

### **UNHCR-IOM Joint Annual Overview- Migrant and Refugee Movements through the Central Mediterranean Sea in 2024, published on 7 October 2025**

7 October 2025 – UNHCR/IOM

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/119012>

The overview shows that the Central Mediterranean remained strongly shaped by departures from Libya in 2024, with 69,746 attempted crossings from Libya to Europe.

### **Sudan Situation: Sudanese Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Libya (As of January 2026)**

23 February 2026 – UNHCR

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/121226>

The update highlights the regional impact of the Sudan war on Libya, estimating more than 552,170 Sudanese arrivals since April 2023.

### **IOM tracks a sharp fall in border inflows to Libya**

12 February 2026 – IOM DTM, Migration Trends at Libya's Borders (October-December 2025)

<https://dtmiom.int/reports/migration-trends-libyas-borders-october-december-2025>

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, after the seasonal peak recorded in the third quarter of 2025, the fourth quarter saw a sharp 44% decline in overall inflows to Libya. The report is useful for showing how quickly border dynamics around Libya can shift across seasons and routes.

### **Climate stress emerges as a migration factor in southern Libya**

January 2026 – IOM DTM, Migration and Climate Change Regional Focus: Southern Libya

<https://dtmiom.int/reports/libya-migration-and-climate-change-regional-focus-southern-libya-december-2025>

A new IOM regional focus links drought, irregular and intense rainfall, extreme heat and advancing desertification in southern Libya to changing mobility patterns and growing pressure on host communities. This is particularly relevant because it connects mobility to environmental stress in Libya's Sahel-facing borderlands.





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## Libyan developments

### **Deadly shipwrecks off Al Khums**

15 November 2025 – Reuters / Libyan Red Crescent

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/least-four-dead-two-migrant-boats-capsized-off-libyas-coast-red-crescent-says-2025-11-15/>

### **Security forces kill sanctioned smuggler in Sabratha**

12 December 2025 – Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/western-libya-forces-kill-notorious-migrant-smuggler-security-agency-says-2025-12-12/>





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## Regional developments

### **Sudan's war continues to spill into Libya**

January–February 2026 – UNHCR

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/121226>

UNHCR reported that more than 552,170 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers had arrived in Libya since April 2023, including 72,511 individuals registered post-conflict as of January 2026. This confirms that Libya is increasingly shaped by the regional consequences of the Sudan war, both as a host country and as a transit space toward the Mediterranean.

### **Neighbouring countries revive coordinated diplomacy on Libya**

26–27 January 2026 – Algerian Press Service (APS Online)

<https://www.aps.dz/en/world/africa/mkwgp9b7-attaf-underscores-importance-of-tripartite-neighbouring-countries-mechanism>

Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt met in Tunis within the Tripartite Neighbouring Countries Mechanism on Libya, underlining that Libya remains a shared regional concern for neighbouring states. Although the meeting was diplomatic rather than operational, it is still relevant to migration governance because regional coordination affects border stability and mobility management in North Africa

### **Southern Libya's Sahel-facing borderlands remain under climate and mobility pressure**

January 2026 – IOM

<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/libya-migration-and-climate-change-regional-focus-southern-libya-december-2025>

IOM's regional focus on southern Libya shows that climate stress is not only an environmental issue but also a cross-border mobility issue for the wider Sahara–Sahel region. The report connects drought, extreme heat and desertification to shifting movement patterns in communities that lie along routes linking Libya to the Sahel and Sudan





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## European developments

### **Frontex: the Central Mediterranean remains Europe's key route**

15 January 2026 – Frontex

<https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-irregular-border-crossings-down-26-in-2025-europe-must-stay-prepared-lyKpVb>

Frontex reported that irregular border crossings at the EU's external borders fell by 26% in 2025, but the Central Mediterranean remained the bloc's most active route. Departures from Libya continued to shape movements toward Italy, while crossings from eastern Libya to Crete more than tripled, showing how pressure is shifting geographically rather than disappearing.

### **The Commission publishes a new European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy**

29 January 2026 – European Commission

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ce0d294e-5dd9-4e2a-bf68-53d9d16fc95a\\_en?filename=European%20Asylum%20and%20Migration%20Strategy.pdf](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ce0d294e-5dd9-4e2a-bf68-53d9d16fc95a_en?filename=European%20Asylum%20and%20Migration%20Strategy.pdf)

The new Commission strategy is built around five priorities: stepping up migration diplomacy, strengthening EU borders, creating a fair and adaptable asylum and migration system, improving return and readmission, and promoting labour and talent mobility. Its emphasis on partnerships with countries of origin and transit is likely to shape future EU engagement with Libya and the wider Southern Neighbourhood.

### **EU and CESVI Foster Cross-Sector Partnerships Through CSR Forum in Libya**

24 January 2026 – Cooperazione e sviluppo onlus (CESVI)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/eu-and-cesvi-foster-cross-sector-partnerships-through-csr-forum-libya-24-january-2026>

An EU–CESVI Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) forum promoted dialogue between civil society and private-sector actors around locally driven initiatives, with the stated aim of encouraging innovative partnerships, diversifying local funding opportunities, and strengthening the longer-term resilience of civil society.