

# European Added Value Assessment on Humanitarian Visas

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# 1. Introduction

- European Parliament **legislative own-initiative reports** drawn up on the basis of Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) are **accompanied by a European Added Value Assessment (EAVA)**
- EAVAs aim at **identifying the impacts and potential EU added value** of proposals made in legislative own-initiative reports, in this case **EU legislation on Humanitarian Visas**
- This EAVA **builds on two externalised research papers** covering legal/fundamental rights aspects (Dr. Violeta Moreno-Lax, Queen Mary University, London) and economic aspects (Dr. Meena Fernandes, Brittny Geny (Milieu Ltd.)

## 2. The impact of the lack of regular pathways to international protection

- **EU and Member States do not offer sufficient regular (and safe) paths** to those seeking international protection.
- This leads to a **denial of fundamental rights** and also **has severe negative impacts on individuals, Member States and the EU.**
- An estimated **90% of those granted international protection reach the EU through irregular means.**
- **This situation has severe individual impacts** in terms of **mortality** due to drowning and starvation peaking at **over 5000 deaths in 2016 and damage to health.**
- It also leads to **high budgetary and economic costs** for the **EU and Member States** in the area of **asylum, border control and the fight against organised crime.**

### 3. The added value of EU Humanitarian Visas

A formalised humanitarian visa system at EU level would:

- ✓ ensure **compliance with EU values**, including fundamental rights
- ✓ offer **safe entry pathways**
- ✓ **reduce irregular migration**
- ✓ **enhance legal certainty, predictability of the procedure, uniform application and implementation** of the rules.
- ✓ result in **increased management, coordination and efficiency in the asylum process**; and
- ✓ **reduce the status quo costs.**

### 3. The added value of EU Humanitarian Visas

- This EAVA looks at **three policy options** that are feasible to adopt EU law on humanitarian visas, namely:
  1. a **'visa waiver' approach**;
  2. **Limited Territorial Visas (LTV) for asylum seeking purposes**; and
  3. **EU-wide international protection application travel permits (EU asylum visas)**
  
- It particularly assesses their impacts on the **individuals** concerned and their **fundamental rights**, the **reduction of irregular entries** into the EU, pre-arrival **security and control**, the **legal changes required** and the expected **costs savings**.

# 4. Comparative analysis of the policy options as opposed to the status quo

	Individual rights perspective	Reduction of irregular entries into the EU	Pre-arrival security control and	Legal changes required	Cost-savings
<b>Policy Option 1: visa waiver approach</b>	+++	++	+	+++	+
<b>Policy Option 2: Limited territorial visas</b>	++	+++	+++	++	++
<b>Policy Option 3: EU-wide international protection application permits</b>	++	+++	+++	+	++

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