THE NEW CONTINENT’S SOLUTIONS TO THE OLD CONTINENT’S NEW PROBLEMS:

IS THE MEXICO PLAN OF ACTION A POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION CRISIS?

The main purpose of this article is to present the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America (Mexico City, 2004) and try to answer the question if the “world’s most sophisticated instrument to protect refugees” (according to UN High Commissioner for Refugees) could be applicable to the European reality.

Therefore, in the first part of the article, a comparative analysis of the refugee situation (including aspects such as gender, religion, language, ethnic origin, etc.) in Latin America and in Europe is conducted. The situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Latin America and in the Middle-East and North Africa, as closely related with migration and refugee crisis on both continents (Latin America and Europe), is also briefly investigated. The author points out, using also statistical data, main similarities and differences of these phenomena in Latin America and Europe (Middle East and in North Africa) and explains possible social, political and economic implications resulting from them. Furthermore, considerations about existing legal instruments implemented in Latin America and Europe are shortly presented (using, *inter alia*, a historical and comparative methodology).

Aforementioned research provides necessary grounds for conducting deep and extensive analyses of the Mexico Plan of Action (MPA). Comprehensive analysis of MPA is especially important due to the fact that MPA makes a crucial link between IDPs and refugees (the author underlines that durable solutions for one group must include the other). The impulse to frame such a linkage was prolonged for decades conflict in Colombia, which has forced the displacement of over 5 million people (generating the world's second largest population of IDPs). Whereas, Syria is the country with the greatest IDP’s population in the world (from where Europe receives also the highest number of refugees) comparative analyses are necessary and the attempt to put Mexican Plan of Action into the European context is justified.

The author demonstrates the outcome of undertaken actions, according to MPA, in Latin America after 12 years from its implementation and investigates if three main pillars of MPA such as 1) Borders of Solidarity; 2) Cities of Solidarity; and 3) Resettlement in Solidarity would be durable solutions also for Europe. Furthermore, the author proposes necessary adjustments of MPA according to European needs and realities. In conclusions, the final answer to the research question is given. Aforementioned analyzes should make a significant contribution to the present state of art as not enough attention has been devoted to the situation of IDPs and refugees in Latin America in the current debate on migration crisis.

Additionally, it is underlined that a real chance to integrate and contribute to their new countries’ development must be given to refugees in order to overcome the crisis. This must happen with the UN collaborative approach, shared countries’ commitments, clear thinking of politicians and legislators with additional funding from third parties.