

INSIDE the deportation gap: social membership of non-deported persons

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Aim

The project “Inside the deportation gap – social membership for non-deported persons” studies the access to social rights of persons who have a deportation order yet who for various reasons cannot get deported. The main focus of the research is the production of social membership in local level public policy making, especially through the discretionary power of street-level bureaucrats.

Research Question

How does discretionary decision-making of street-level bureaucrats influence the access to social rights of persons pending deportation?

Theory

Street-level bureaucrats (Lipsky 1980) have considerable discretionary power in the implementation of policies. According to Lipsky, this makes them policy makers. The research on street-level bureaucracy will be applied when studying the bureaucratic processes related to accessing social rights of non-deported.

The project will also link macrovariables (immigration regime, welfare regime) with microvariables (local bureaucratic practices, discretionary decision-making, notions of deservingness).

Multiple Case Study Design

The project is based on case studies in Austria, France, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. Three policy fields are studied: education, health care and housing/social allowances.

Methods

- Document analysis on formal regulations
- Interviews with experts and street-level bureaucrats
- Interviews with persons pending deportation

