

Binational family policies and practices in Belgium, France & Italy

Challenges of bottom-up actions

Since the end of 1990s and during the 2000s, European Member States have restrained foreigners' access to residence permit and citizenship through marriage. To implement the reforms, new administrative dispositives have been created.

Binational marriages are depicted by policy-makers as:

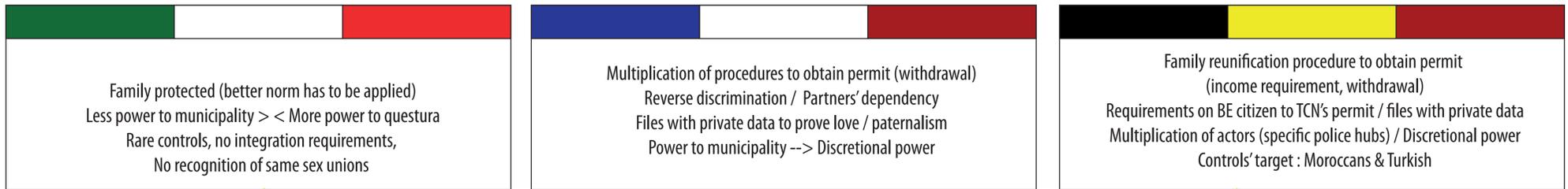
- the main reason for entry and stay in Europe,
- a new migratory chain (i.e. intracommunitarian & kin marriages, etc.)
- a danger to 'national identity' and public security (i.e. "hyphenated identities" (Yuval Davis 2011), fraud, etc.)

Policy makers' debates rely rarely on the analysis of migration law regimes (i.e. illegalisation of foreigners) and international relations (i.e. colonisation & economy) Lack of continuity and recognition: no "ethic of responsibility".

Degradations of legal status' stability and restrictions to mobility illegalize foreigners (TCNs). Cases of couples and their family that live in forced transnational situations (EU route, long-stay visas, ...) Due to TCNs' legal status, couples search for administrative stability: injunction to marry = encounter with administrative dispositive that works as a multi-level border (practices, actors, files, ...)

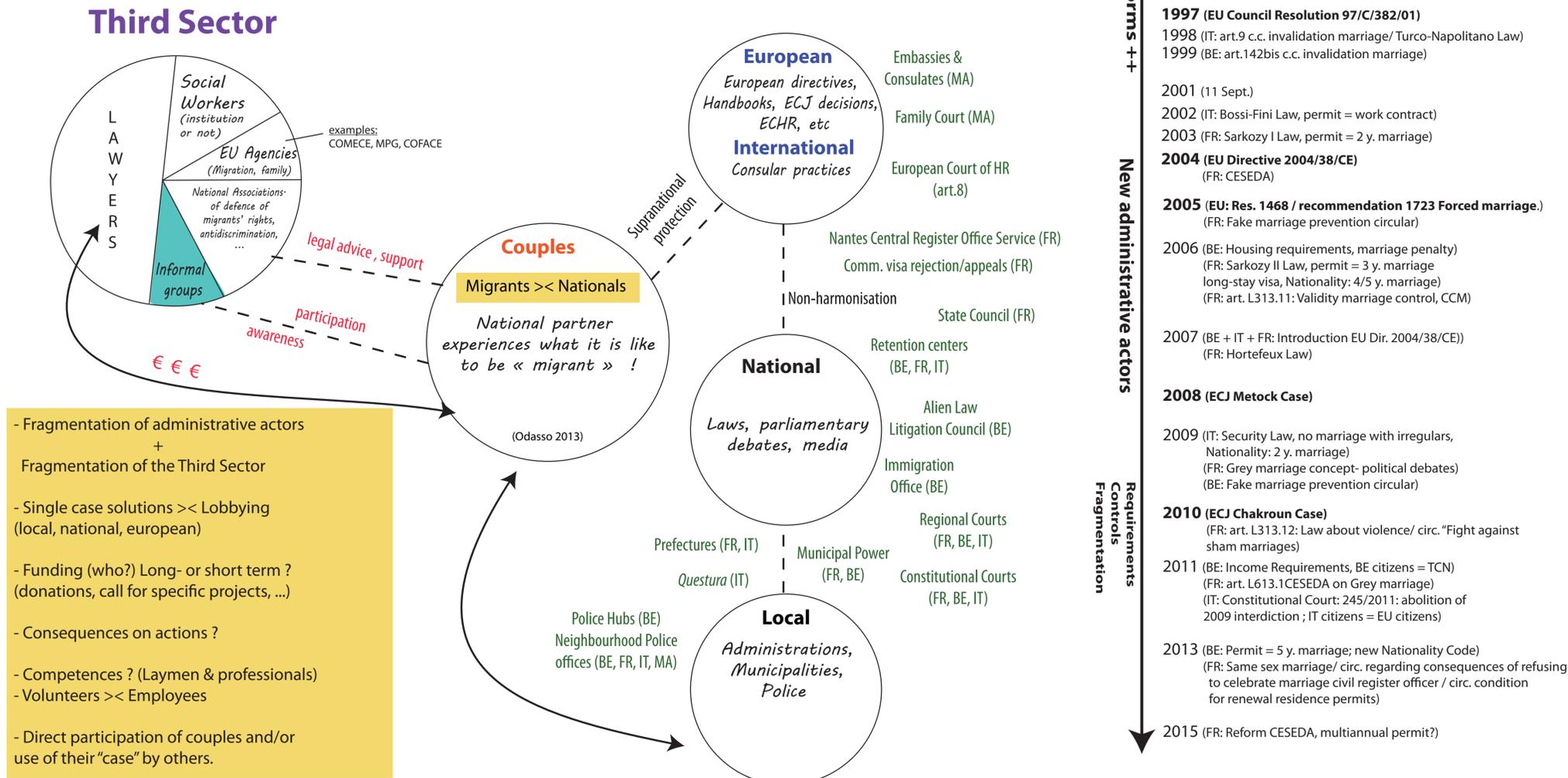
Binational marriages management hides the broader question of NEW BORDERS and BOUNDARIES in European societies.

What are the main constraints and consequences for the members of the couples in Italy, France & Belgium ?



Fragmentation: access to long-term residence differs in EU States --> States' interest > EU harmonisation (?) >> EU supranational protection
New selective instability (i.e.: renewing, withdrawal permit) and dependence between partners (i.e.: unattended consequences: violence, blackmail)
Couples' local experiences help to understand how differently family migration affect the nationals.

Blurred picture: law, practices & actors



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| NGOs, Association//Research & Documentation centre: - ASGI (legal follow-up + legal advice) | Associations: - CARITAS Migrants - ACLI - ARCI - Trade Unions (CGIL, ...) | Informal groups: - Tuttostranieri (online only), * ! intercultural & family relationships: AICEFM |
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| Association//Research & Documentation centre: - GISTI (legal follow-up, support to associations) | Associations: - CIMADE, - SOS femmes, - ARDISH - Amoureux au ban public (previous informal group) * ! intercultural & family relationships: Le furet | Social workers: - Planning familial - Maisons de quartier - Centres sociaux - ANVI (? grey marriage) |
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| Association/Research & Documentation centre: - ADDE (legal follow-up -up + legal advice) - Kruispunt Migratie | Associations: - CIRE, - MRAX, - Rainbow House | Social workers: - Planning familial - Commune, - Police, - Centres sociaux (asbl, gov., | Informal groups: - Esper - Amoureux, vos papiers! (CRER) - Coeurs piégés (? grey marriage) * ! intercultural & family relationships: Kleurrijk |
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Need of coordination at local, national & european levels: rise awareness in public opinion and advocacy. Innovative experience of ECB network (European Conference of Binational Relationships): transfer of actions, practices & legal competences, civic participation, expression of profane citizenships.