



Foundations for Futures Europe

2021 Opening Symposium

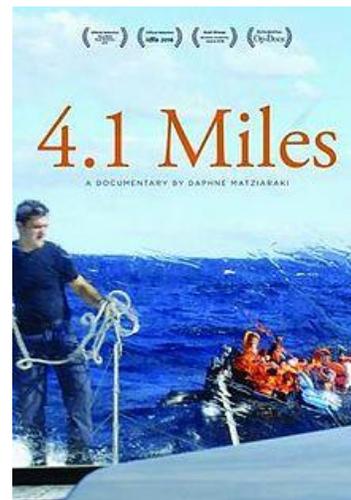
Workshop on Migration in the EU: past, present, future- Greek and Irish Perspectives

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This workshop contextualized EU Immigration policy and how this has developed in recent years by considering documentary evidence and real-world practices. It looked at refugee flows to Greece and discuss the realities facing the EU as it tries to develop a coherent approach in dealing with migration on a scale not previously experienced. It examined the myths and facts about migration to the EU. It then considered how Irish Higher Education through the Sanctuary University movement can advocate for equality of access to Europe's migrant population. Finally, it tried to imagine a Future for Europe in terms of Migration.

The workshop began with introductions of the participants and an outline of what would follow.

Firstly, we watched the short awarded documentary **4.1 Miles** (21' 21"). This is a 2016 short documentary film on the refugee flows from Turkey into Greece which focuses on a Greek Coast captain on the Greek island of Lesbos where thousands of people find themselves after dangerous journeys (just across the Turkish coastline) charged with the task of saving thousands of migrants crossing the Aegean Sea during the so called European migrant crisis. The film was directed by the then novice director Daphne Matziaraki and was followed by Q&A.



The discussion then evolved around the EU realities now (2021) and the concept of “change” since that is what has happened: the main character of the film died short while after; the solidarity on the island has shifted; the EU has changed priorities; the Greek government have been dragging their feet; but the people are still fleeing.

Then we addressed myths and realities about the migration issue and the situation of the migrants and discussed about basic issues of migration policy in the EU.

Clíodhna Murphy connected the good practice of the Sanctuary Movement to the discussion and showcased an example that works and gives hope and opportunity and which should be developed further to be able to boast more effectiveness and achievements.

A short experiential exercise came last, one for which the participants closed their eyes and imagined what they would not be able to if they did not have a passport or other identification papers in their possession. This was an empathy exercise that made us all think about how important identity is. Education, traveling, belonging came up as main themes from this exercise and left us all feeling a little bit closer to what a migrant's situation actually is.

In the plenary we made a summary of our work with the help of the younger participants who contributed immensely and for that we would like to thank them.
