

Abstract

This thesis deals with 'the consequences of the European migration crisis for the maritime world'. The quest of migrants for a better life in Europe unintentionally causes heavy costs. A large part of these costs is borne by the maritime world.

A first challenge for migrants is the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. Migrants usually do this by small boats with hundreds at a time. In many cases a rescue operation must be set up for them. Numerous political and legal decisions have shown that the 'burden' of these rescues often falls on the shoulders of merchant shipping companies. How high are these costs and to what extent can they be recovered through insurance?

Many migrants, once in Europe, also try to cross the North Sea to get to the UK. Migrants usually try to cross the North Sea by slipping along with a ship as a stowaway. This, in turn, involves costs. For whom are these costs, and can they be recovered?

In my thesis I try to sketch a picture of the costs caused by migrants on the one hand and the measures that are taken to avoid these extra costs on the other hand.