

# THE ODYSSEUS ACADEMIC NETWORK

THE ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR LEGAL STUDIES ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE  
A NETWORK CREATED WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ODYSSEUS PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION & CO-ORDINATED BY THE UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES (ULB)



## ALTERNATIVES TO IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN THE EU: THE TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Organised in the framework of the Made Real Project funded by the European Union, (<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus/MADEREALuk.html>), this conference provides a comprehensive understanding of the EU legal framework on alternatives to detention (ATD) for asylum seekers and migrants. While alternatives to detention are still underused in the EU, it presents a range of practices in selected Member States. The results of the research conducted will be presented by the coordination team and project partners, together with interventions from practitioners, judges and academics from several EU Member States as well as representatives from EU institutions and international organizations, at a moment when Member States have to transpose the directive on reception conditions for asylum seekers.

The 1<sup>st</sup> panel analyses the notion of alternative to detention and underlines its relevance in the EU context. The 2<sup>nd</sup> panel discusses the principles and difficulties underlying administrative decision-making and judicial control on both detention and alternatives to detention, taking successively the points of view of the administration and of the judge. The final panel presents the opportunities and challenges raised by the implementation of alternatives to detention in practice.

**Friday 6 February 2015**

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) - Salle DUPREEL – First floor

44, avenue Jeanne - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

<http://ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus/index2.html>

Free entrance upon previous registration by February 2nd: [odysseus@ulb.ac.be](mailto:odysseus@ulb.ac.be)

*The Made Real project was conducted in partnership with:*



Project co-funded by the European Union

## PROGRAMME

- 8.30 – 9.00 Reception of participants
- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome address, by Philippe De Bruycker, Professor ULB & Migration Policy Centre, (RSCAS, EUI), Coordinator of the Odysseus Network
- 9.15 – 9.30 Presentation of the Made Real Project and conference, by Alice Bloomfield (Project manager of the Made Real Project, Odysseus Network)

### Session 1: Introducing the notion of alternatives to detention in the EU policy-making

Chair: Mariette Grange, Senior Researcher at the Global Detention Project

9.30 – 10.00 Introductory report, by Lilian Tsourdi (Researcher ULB and Member of the Made Real Team, Odysseus Network)

10.00 – 10h45 Panel:

- Promoting alternatives to detention of asylum seekers in the EU: the view of the UNHCR, by Andrea Vonkeman (Senior Policy Officer, UNHCR) and Marie Huberlant (Global Detention Strategy Specialist, UNHCR)
- Challenges of Member States in implementing alternatives to detention of asylum seekers, by Vincent Catot (Policy Officer, DG Home, European Commission)
- Alternatives to detention in criminal law: a different perspective?, by Maité De Rue (Deputy Public Prosecutor in Liège, scientific collaborator of the UCL Law department and Belgian member of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture).

10h45 – 11h15 *Coffee break*

11.15 – 11.45 Questions and answers session

### Session 2: Administrative decision-making, judicial control and alternatives to detention

Chair: Valeria Ilareva, (Director of the Foundation for Access to Rights – FAR)

11.45 – 12.15 Introductory report, by Galina Cornelisse (Assistant Professor, VU Amsterdam)

12.15 – 13.00 Panel:

- Detention as a last resort: The Swedish model, by Niclas Axelsson (Specialist of detention issues, Swedish Migration Board)
- The role of the judiciary in implementing alternatives to detention in Lithuania, by Lyra Jakuleviciene (Professor, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius)
- Judicial control of detention and alternatives to detention in Austria, by Christian Filzwieser (Judge at the Austrian Federal Administrative Court)
- Alternatives to detention and the assessment of the risk of absconding, by Sergo Mananashvili (Research Associate, Migration Policy Centre, RSCAS, EUI)

13.00 – 13.30 Questions and answers session

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch break*

### Session 3: Implementing alternatives to detention in practice

Chair: Neil Falzon, Director of Aditus Foundation and Visiting Assistant Lecturer at the University of Malta

14.30 – 15.00 Introductory report, by Alice Bloomfield (Project manager of the Made Real Project, Odysseus Network)

15.00 – 15.45 Panel:

- What makes alternatives work? Focus on the case management model, by Jem Stevens, (Europe Regional Coordinator, International Detention Coalition)
- The case of family housing units in Belgium, by Geert Verbauwheide (Advisor at the Belgian General Directorate Immigration Office)
- The case of bail in the UK, by Adeline Trude (Research & Policy Manager at Bail for Immigration Detainees)
- The case of designated residence in France: Recent evolution and challenges, by Radeck Ficek (Director of the Asylum department, France Terre d' Asile)

15.45 – 16.15 Questions and answers session

16.15 – 16.30 Conclusions, by Philippe De Bruycker