

## **Pro-migrant civil society organisations and the law: Patterns of legal mobilisation at EU borders**

Legal mobilisation, including its use within the pro-migrant movement, has been addressed by scholars from different disciplines. However, its deployment in the socio-spatial dimension of borderlands has received limited attention, despite the increasing use of legal strategies in the real world and the specificity of borderlands as unique sites of contention. This research note contributes to filling this gap through empirical research, prompting a dialogue between socio-legal, contentious politics, migration and border studies. In particular, I present and discuss the preliminary findings of a study on the legal mobilisation of pro-migrant civil society organisations at the Southern European borders. These findings, based on a descriptive quantitative media analysis, provide a first overview of the use of the law by civil society organisations in border areas, making it possible to highlight some trends and suggest some relevant hypotheses to be explored in the course of further research. As such, they contribute to the international migration scholarship and policy community, in that they help to develop the study of political contention around migration, with an innovative focus on the use of the law in border areas. Additionally, they provide fertile ground for strengthening the protection of the rights of people on the move and the promotion of the rule of law, in accordance with the concerns and recommendations expressed by bodies of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe.

Keywords: legal mobilisation; migration; borderlands

## **Introduction**

In this research note I present and discuss the preliminary findings of a study on the legal mobilisation<sup>1</sup> of pro-migrant civil society organisations (CSOs) at the Southern European borders. These findings, based on a descriptive quantitative media analysis, provide an overview of the use of the law by CSOs in border areas, making it possible to highlight some trends and suggest some relevant hypotheses to be further explored in the course of the research.

While legal mobilisation, including its use within the pro-migrant movement, has been increasingly considered by scholars from a number of disciplines, its deployment in the socio-spatial dimension of borderlands has been largely overlooked. This represents a major gap, vis-à-vis the increasing use of this repertoire of contention in the real world and in light of the specificity of borderlands as unique sites of contention. This research note offers an initial contribution to addressing this gap through empirical research, albeit with limitations that will be examined in the following section.. In doing so, it envisions a development of this scholarly field and encourages a dialogue between socio-legal, contentious politics, migration and border studies.

In addition to its scholarly relevance, this article is additionally key to building significant policy and societal contributions, being part of a larger project that, among other things, aims to explain how

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<sup>1</sup> I approach legal mobilisation as ‘the use of law in an explicit, selfconscious way through the invocation of a formal institutional mechanism [by using] a venue within the state to file a claim against another actor. This can be done through administrative procedures, quasi-judicial procedures, and litigation’ (Lehoucq & Taylor, 2020, pp. 178–179). In doing so, I consider both reactive mobilisation in response to state repression and proactive mobilisation focused on the rights of people on the move and those of civil society organisations – while acknowledging some overlap between the two. Cases of defensive litigation, such as criminal defence against charges in a trial, are excluded from the analysis due to their limited heuristic value, as individuals facing accusations are, by necessity, required to defend themselves in court.

legal mobilisation can be used to protect the rights of people on the move and promote the rule of law in borderlands, in accordance with the concerns and recommendations expressed by bodies of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe (for example Council of Europe 2021; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights 2023. For an overview, see Hilpold 2025). This relies on the observation that, in the context of a widespread crackdown on migration in the Global North and the lack of legal and safe channels, civil society organisations have become crucial actors in protecting the rights of people on the move – also by using legal mobilisation tactics – and overall ensuring the compliance of policies with basic human rights, the availability of effective remedies and a judicial oversight on policy-makers. The preliminary findings presented in this research note can contribute to a first, critical reflection on how civil society organisations use the law as a means of political contention and as a human right protection tool in border areas.

### **Literature gap and research design**

Legal mobilisation has been increasingly used as a repertoire of collective action in pro-migrant activism around the world. However, unlike other fields such as civil rights and environmentalism (Taylor and Tarrow 2024), this is a relatively recent trend. As a result, although legal and contentious politics scholars have been studying legal mobilisation for a number of decades (Cummings 2018; McAdam 1982; McCann 1994; NeJaime 2011; Zemans 1983), interest in the use of such strategy in pro-migrant activism has mainly emerged in the 2010s, and the literature contains several significant gaps. The vast majority of scholars have explored this promising field only from a legal perspective (therefore overlooking important aspects of contentious politics), largely focusing on the EU system and on asylum law. Among the most notable studies, some authors have focused on courts – for example, Baumgärtel (2019), who examined the role of supranational courts in protecting fundamental rights, and Passalacqua (2022), who specifically analysed the Court of Justice of the European Union. Others have concentrated on civil society actors, though often without addressing

the specificities of those operating in borderland contexts. For instance, Pijnenburg and van der Pas (2022) explored legal mobilisation along the Central Mediterranean route, albeit without focusing on actors operationally located at this maritime border, while van der Pas (2024) examined cases of both mobilisation and non-mobilisation in Italy and the Netherlands. Beyond the European context, the United States has additionally received significant scholarly attention (for example, Kawar 2015), although literature on what has been defined as ‘immigration lawyering’ has tended to focus more on immigrant integration policies than on migration and border control policies.

Indeed, borders have been largely ignored in the broader legal mobilisation literature: they have only been considered from a policy perspective, focusing on border regimes (Costello and Mann 2020), while overlooking the geo-spatial components and peculiarities of borderlands. As a result, with only few exceptions (e.g. Dziedzic 2024) the specificities of legal mobilisation around migration that takes place in borderlands have remained unexplored, despite their relevance. This is a significant gap, given that borderlands are intricate, spatially embedded social systems that constitute ‘unique and complex sites of social interaction in the contentious governance of migration’ (Author forthcoming)<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, from a contentious politics viewpoint, borders represent distinctive socio-spatial sites of contestation, with different opportunities and constraints for civil society actors, given the ‘power relations between the social structures that constrain migrants’ mobilities’ (Fontanari 2018, 5) and the border infrastructure (Fortarezza 2023).

While socio-legal scholarship has significantly neglected borderlands, migration and contentious politics scholars working on collective action in the borderlands have shown little interest toward legal mobilisation. With only a few exceptions (e.g. Alagna and Cusumano 2023; Trucco 2023;

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<sup>2</sup> This is the case in spite of the processual turn in critical border studies, with a shift from a ‘focus on borders as territorial dividing lines [...] to borders regarded as socio-cultural and discursive processes and practices’ (Brambilla 2015, 15; see also van Houtum and van Naerssen 2002).

Trucco et al. 2023), this scholarship has generally only considered other repertoires of border activism, for instance protests and forms of direct social action (among the others, see Ataç et al. 2016; della Porta and Steinhilper 2021). The paradoxical consequence of this is that a phenomenon situated at the intersection of these distinct strands of literature – socio-legal, contentious politics, migration and border studies – has been largely overlooked by all of them.

This research note represents an initial attempt to address this gap by examining legal mobilisation as one of the potential forms of contention available to pro-migrant civil society organisations within the geo-spatial specificity of borderlands. To make this possible, the article integrates the different strands of literature outlined above, analysing legal mobilisation (socio-legal studies) as part of broader repertoires of activism (contentious politics studies), with a focus on migration in borderland contexts (migration and border studies). In doing so, this article additionally seeks to build a bridge to another well-established body of literature that examines the legal repression and harassment of border – specifically sea rescue – organisations (see, among others, Allsopp et al. 2021; Carrera et al. 2018a, 2018b; Cuttitta 2018, Fekete 2018; Vosyliūtė and Conte 2019), highlighting how legal mobilisation intersects with these dynamics.

Specifically, this contribution offers a first overview of the use of legal repertoires in pro-migrant struggles within the socio-spatial context of Southern European borderlands. Namely, I present and discuss the result of a preliminary, mostly descriptive, desk research aimed at: (a) systematically collecting empirical data and identifying relevant cases; (b) inductively formulating hypotheses to be tested in the subsequent phases of the study. I have focused on three countries located at EU external borders, that is Italy, Spain and Greece, following a most similar system design. For each of these countries, I have considered both their external and internal borders. In the case of Italy, this includes

the Mediterranean Sea border<sup>3</sup>, as well as the land borders with Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland and France. For Spain, I have examined the Canary Islands and Mediterranean sea borders, along with the land borders with Morocco (at the Ceuta and Melilla enclaves) and France. In the case of Greece, the focus is on the Aegean Sea border and the land borders with Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey. The time frame ranges from 2014 – at the outbreak of what would become the so-called refugee crisis – to April 2024.

This preliminary desk research was based on descriptive quantitative media analysis in order to identify cases of legal mobilisation around migration in the concerned borderlands, involving at least one non-legal organisation<sup>4</sup>. For each case, I considered one major national newspaper (*Corriere della Sera* for the Italian case, *El Mundo* for the Spanish case and *eKathimerini*'s English edition for the Greek case), plus two specialised online news outlets (*InfoMigrants* and *The New Humanitarian*) and one news repository (*Google News*)<sup>5</sup>. Keyword combinations were used in the search process,

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<sup>3</sup> I address maritime borders as borderlands in light of the socio-spatial relations among a plurality of actors that take place there.

<sup>4</sup> The rationale behind this requirement is the assumption that legal organisations are, by default, more likely to employ legal mobilisation tactics. Since the preliminary findings presented here were collected as part of a broader study aimed at explaining why some organisations engage in legal mobilisation and some do not, the research focus needs to be on organisations that traditionally employ wider repertoires of contention. This approach allows for an initial step in identifying, among other things, which civil society organisations utilise legal repertoires.

<sup>5</sup> National newspapers were selected based on their circulation – each being among the most widely read in their respective countries – and their political orientation, as all share a liberal-conservative stance. Specialised news outlets were included for their extensive and focused coverage of migration-related issues, while the news repository served as a supplementary source to address potential gaps.

employing three sets of keywords linked in all possible combinations using the logical operator ‘AND’ (see Table 1 for a detailed list).

*[Table 1 about here]*

The advantage of this method over others lies in the possibility of potentially considering a relatively large N of instances of mobilisation across the three cases, allowing their main patterns to emerge – an aspect that proves particularly important at such an early stage of the study. At the same time, however, this study faces significant methodological limitations. Namely, a data collection strategy based on newspaper articles cannot be considered exhaustive, as some cases may not have been reported in newspaper articles, and will therefore require source triangulation for subsequent research phases. Moreover, the hypotheses generated in this study will need to be carefully assessed and tested, ideally through socio-legal, qualitative methods. These considerations call for caution – particularly regarding generalisation, as will be discussed in the conclusion – while underscoring the preliminary, exploratory and hypothesis-generating nature of this contribution.

### **Legal mobilisation in the EU borderlands**

The quantitative media analysis carried out on the sources mentioned in the previous paragraph made it possible to identify 35 cases<sup>6</sup> of legal mobilisation around migration involving at least one non-legal organisation and taking place in the Italian, Spanish and Greek borderlands. They have been included in a dataset (see Table 2), which, for each case, identifies the civil society initiatives

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<sup>6</sup> Although relatively small, this number can still be considered significant and informative given the preliminary and exploratory nature of the research, aimed at providing an overview and generating hypotheses for future studies.

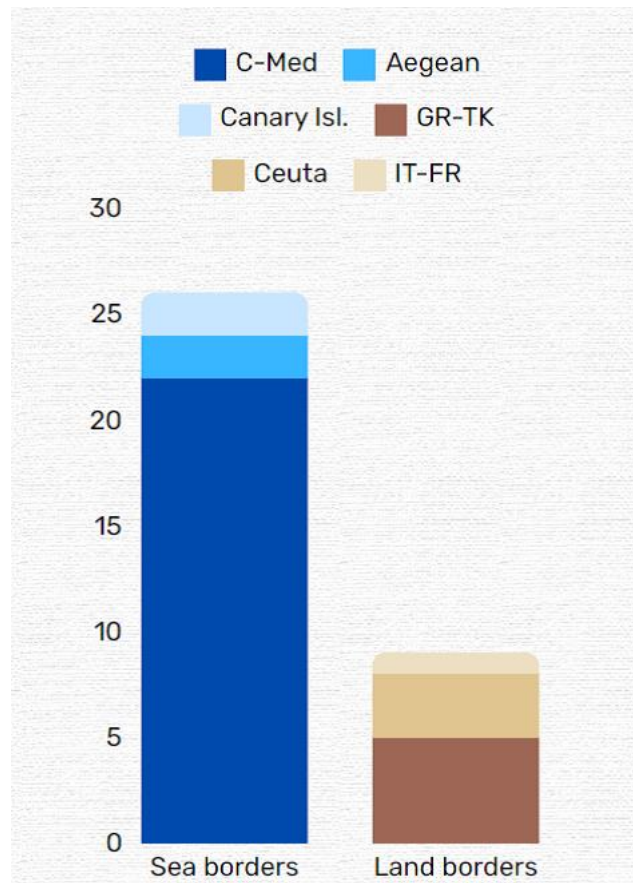
involved, the year in which the proceeding began, the jurisdictional actor, the type of jurisdiction, the issue addressed, the country and the borders concerned.

*[Table 2 about here]*

The analysis of these data allowed, among other things, to focus on three main sets of preliminary findings, related to the type of border, the temporal distribution of cases and the jurisdictions. I will first present each of these findings separately and then discuss their theoretical implications.

Focusing on the different types of borders involved, legal mobilisation seems to be concentrated in sea borderlands, and especially in the Central Mediterranean (i.e. Italy). Out of the 35 cases identified over the period considered, 26 took place at sea borders and only 9 at land borders. More specifically, the sea border cases took place almost exclusively on the Italian Central Mediterranean border (22 cases), while the Greek Aegean Sea border and the Spanish Canary Islands border were only marginally involved, with 2 cases each. The 8 land border cases were distributed as follows: 5 on the Greek-Turkish border, 3 on the Ceuta-Morocco border and 1 on the Italian-French one (see Figure 1).

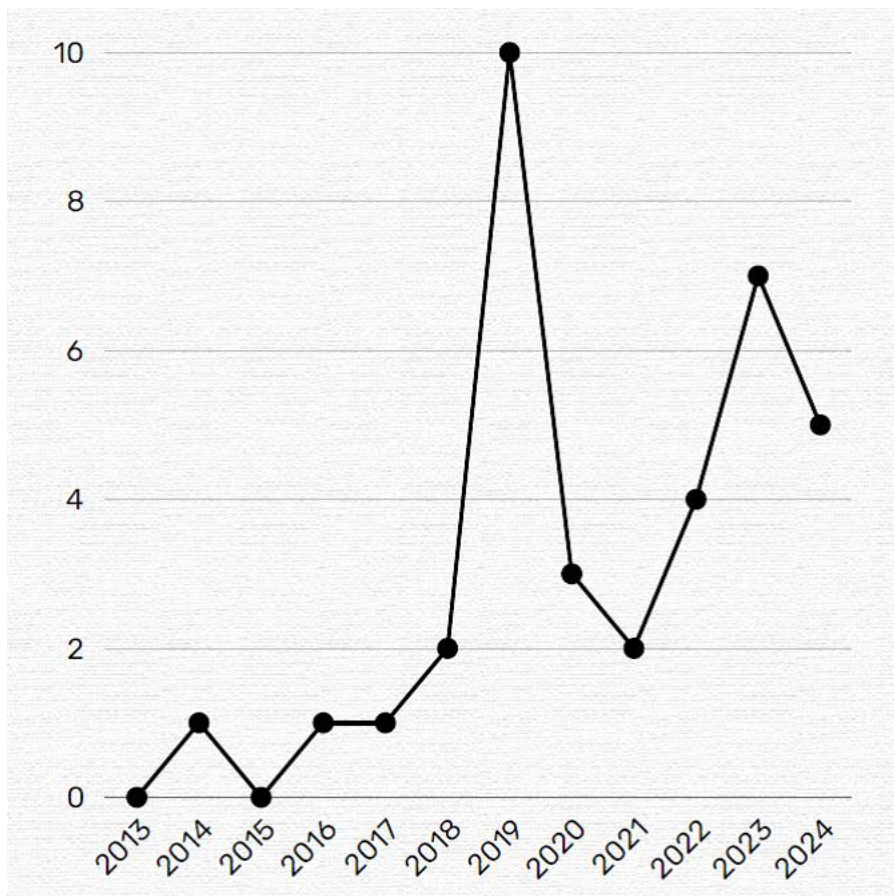
*[Figure 1. Distribution of legal mobilisation cases across the different borders about here]*



The temporal distribution of cases also reveals significant trends. In particular, the data show a direct correlation between increased criminalisation of border solidarity and legal mobilisation. Peaks of legal mobilisation occurred in 2019 (10 cases) and in 2023-24 (7 and 4 cases respectively). Given that the 2024 data cover only the first four months of the year, it is reasonable to anticipate another peak later in the year, as further confirmed by data collected during the second phase of this research – data that, while not yet systematically analysed, clearly indicate this trend (see Figure 2). The border-type finding discussed above already showed that most of the legal mobilisation episodes took place in the Italian borderlands. Linking this element to the empirical observation of peaks, it can be noted that these peaks followed shortly after the intensification of repressive and criminalising policies in the Italian context. In particular, one can think of the extremely harsh policies against sea rescue organisations implemented during the first cabinet led by Giuseppe Conte (2018-19), such as the

‘closed ports’ policy enacted by the then Interior minister Matteo Salvini, and those of the government led by Giorgia Meloni (2022-present), which include the obligation for sea rescue civil society organisations to cooperate with all state authorities (including the so-called Libyan coast guard), the allocation of distant harbours to civil fleet vessels and the prohibition of multiple rescues (cf. Alagna and Cusumano 2023).

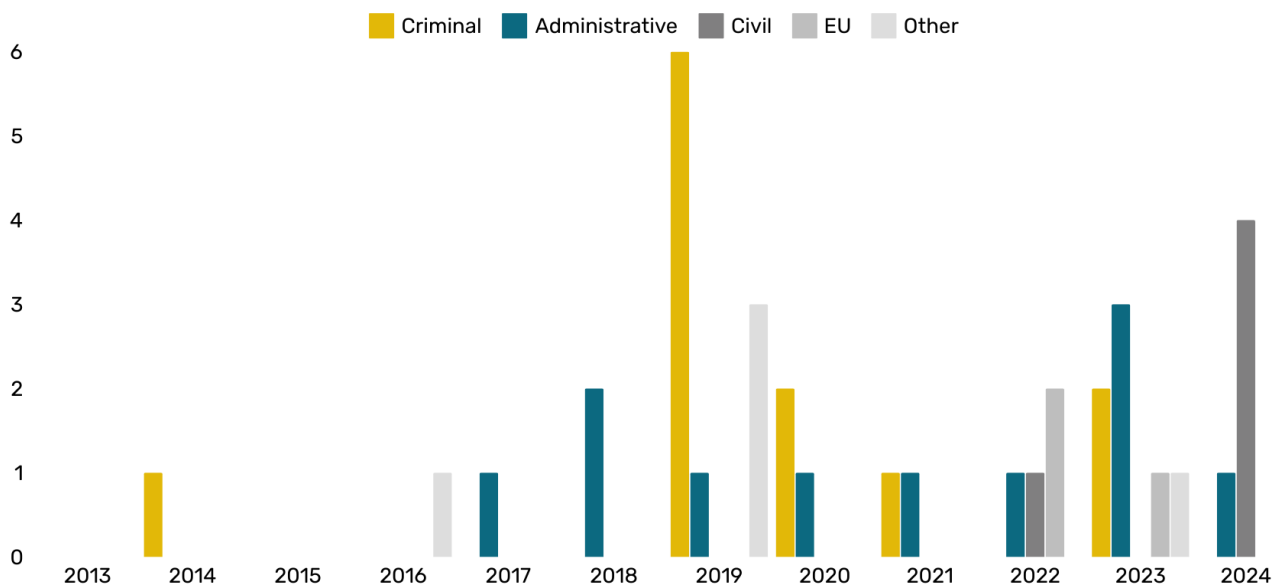
*[Figure 2. Time distribution of legal mobilisation cases about here]*



Finally, an analysis of the jurisdictions involved reveals a widespread use of the criminal and administrative jurisdictions. In total, 12 cases took place in the criminal jurisdiction, 11 in the

administrative, 4 in the civil, 3 in the EU and 5 in other jurisdictions (used as a residual category) over the entire period under consideration. While the distribution of cases across jurisdictions can be relevant in itself, looking at this aspect from a longitudinal perspective can significantly increase its analytical reach. Indeed, a clear pattern emerges in the use of jurisdictions: while criminal cases were by far the most important in an initial phase, they have gradually been replaced by administrative (and civil) cases over time (see Figure 3).

*[Figure 3. The use of different jurisdictions about here]*



These three preliminary findings suggest some promising hypotheses on how and why legal mobilisation tactics are used in the contentious politics of migration in borderlands. To discuss these hypotheses and in accordance with the aim of bridging diverse strands of literature, I will draw on key theoretical frameworks from both contentious politics and socio-legal studies while presenting them.

Firstly, adopting a political opportunity structure approach (Tarrow 1983, 1989), the data on the geographical and temporal distribution of events may suggest that periods and sites of extreme securitisation of migration, executivisation of policies and repression of dissent reduce the political opportunities available to civil society – closing institutional access, rendering potential allies unavailable and increasing the state’s capacity for repression. Paradoxically, however, these same conditions may create indirect opportunities for the use of law. In the Central Mediterranean borderland, particularly during phases of intensified repression and criminalisation, migration policies became fully executive-driven, beyond parliamentary, judicial or public scrutiny. This left people on the move to die at sea or face attacks from non-EU so-called coast guards, while civil society actors were themselves repressed and criminalised. Such a context fosters opportunities for legal mobilisation not only because the scale of human rights and rule of law violations invites legal action (as will be discussed below), but also, arguably, because the narrowing of civic space restricts civil society’s opportunities to engage in political contention through other repertoires. This should not be read as implying that a shrinking civic space benefits civil society actors. On the contrary, empirical evidence shows that it has severe negative impacts on search and rescue efforts, on civil society actors themselves and on the human rights of people on the move. Yet, this dynamic may offer a potential explanation – one that requires further investigation – of the increasing reliance on legal mobilisation by sea rescue organisations as a strategy of resistance in times of heightened repression and closing opportunities.

Secondly, legal stock theories, embedded in the legal opportunity structure approach (Hilson 2002) and positing that the existence of a body of law that can be mobilised favours legal mobilisation, might suggest that international law does in fact create a favourable legal context for mobilising the law. Indeed, the high percentage of cases in the Central Mediterranean borderland may be related to the significant stock of the international law of the seas. This body of law includes, among other provisions: (a) the right of innocent passage, as provided by Article 17 of the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which states that ‘ships of all States, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea’; (b) the requirement that people rescued at sea be promptly disembarked in a place of safety, defined as ‘a location where rescue operations are considered to terminate. It is also a place where the survivors’ safety of life is no longer threatened and where their basic human needs (such as food, shelter and medical needs) can be met’ (International Maritime Organization’s MSC.167(78) - Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea, para. 6.12); (c) the obligation of all seafarers to render assistance to those in distress at sea, based on Article 98 of UNCLOS – which reaffirms the duties established by the 1974 Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the 1978 Search and Rescue Convention. This contributes to the creation of a legal framework that is, overall, more favourable to the activities carried out by CSOs and, indirectly, to the protection of people on the move and mobility rights than existing EU and national legislation. Given the hierarchical precedence of international law over EU and national law, as well as the existence of large areas of sovereignty vacuum in international waters, international law may end up creating a favourable legal environment that can be exploited by pro-migrant civil society organisations in their mobilisation efforts (Vanhala 2012). In this case as well, further investigation will be necessary to evaluate and develop this hypothesis.

Thirdly, elements of internal culture/collective identity and resource mobilisation (Jenkins 1983; Polletta and Jasper 2001; Whittier 2002) suggest that previous socialisation to the law, both through hard criminalisation and administrative repression, may facilitate the engagement of civil society actors in legal mobilisation and the choice of the most appropriate institutional venues. Indeed, this could explain both the direct relationship observed between increased repression/criminalisation and legal mobilisation as well as the shift from criminal to administrative (and civil) jurisdictions. Socialisation to law may have created legal knowledge and awareness within CSOs, facilitated their interaction and connection with legal associations and lawyers and refined their perception of legal

opportunities (including the choice of a particular jurisdictional venue). As with the previous two cases, additional research will be needed to assess and refine this hypothesis.

## **Conclusion**

In this research note I have presented and discussed the preliminary findings of a study on the legal mobilisation of pro-migrant civil society organisations at the Southern European borders. These findings offer an overview of how CSOs use the law in border areas, allowing for the identification of key trends and the formulation of relevant hypotheses for further exploration within this research project. They also (hopefully) provide valuable insights for other scholars. The quantitative media analysis made it possible to identify 35 cases of legal mobilisation around migration in the EU borderlands, carried out by at least one non-legal organisation, and to identify three main related findings.

Firstly, the vast majority of cases concern sea borders, in particular the Central Mediterranean route. Secondly, there is a direct relationship between increased repression of migration and solidarity and the development of legal mobilisation tools. Thirdly, civil society organisations have gradually shifted from the widespread use of criminal jurisdiction to administrative (and civil) jurisdictions. In the final section, I have discussed these findings against the background of different collective action and socio-legal theories, pointing to: (a) how closing political opportunities can paradoxically lead to legal mobilisation; (b) the legal opportunities offered by the international law of the seas vis-à-vis national norms; (c) the role of social, organisational and material aspects in making sense of the existing opportunities and constraints.

These preliminary empirical findings and the hypotheses they suggest contribute to the international migration scholarship and policy community. On the one hand, they help advance research on political contention around migration, by focusing innovatively on the use of law by civil society in

border areas and by productively integrating multidisciplinary perspectives from contentious politics, socio-legal, migration and border studies. By doing so, they contribute to understanding how legal mobilisation interacts with other repertoires of contention within spaces conceived as distinct and complex arenas of social interaction within the contested governance of migration. On the other hand, the analysis of the agency of CSOs and their increased and widespread use of pro-migrant legal mobilisation, especially in extremely violent and contentious borders, provides fertile ground for strengthening the protection of the rights of people on the move and the promotion of the rule of law, in accordance with the concerns and recommendations expressed by key international bodies, as presented above.

Finally, it is important to recall the main limitation of this study in this concluding section too. The inherently preliminary nature of the research means that the findings are far from exhaustive. In particular, relying on a data collection strategy based on newspaper articles may have resulted in some cases going unreported. Furthermore, the use of descriptive quantitative techniques on a relatively small sample considerably limits the generalisability of the findings. Nevertheless, this approach allowed for an initial overview as well as for the formulation of provisional explanations and preliminary hypotheses. Future research, incorporating source triangulation and qualitative techniques, will be essential to confirm, refine or potentially challenge the conclusions of this research note.

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After peer-review.

### **Disclosure statement**

The author reports there are no competing interests to declare.

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Table 1. Keywords combination used in the search process

<b>Source</b>	<b>Keyword Set 1</b>	<b>Keyword Set 2</b>	<b>Keyword Set 3</b>
<i>Corriere della Sera</i>	Migranti	Ong	Ricorso
	Migrazioni	Attivisti	Denuncia
	Politiche migratorie	Associazione	Corte
	Rifugiati	Società civile	Tribunale
	Asilo		
<i>El Mundo</i>	Inmigración	Ong	Tribunal
	Refugiados	Sociedad civil	Juicio
	Inmigrantes	Organización	Litigio estratégico
<i>eKathimerini; InfoMigrants; The New Humanitarian; Google News</i>	Migration	NGO	Charges
	Asylum	Activist	Trial
	Migrant	Civil society	Court
	Refugee		

Table 2. Cases of legal mobilisation around migration in Southern European borderlands (2013- April 2024)

	CSA	Year	Court	Jurisdiction	Issue	Type of mobilisation	Focus of mobilisation	Country	Border
1	Greek Council for Ref. et al.	2014	Aegean Islands	Criminal	Shipwreck and death of 11 people	Proactive	POM	Greece	Aegean
2	Team Humanity + GLAN	2016	ECtHR	Human rights	Facilitators Package	Proactive	POM	Greece	Aegean
3	Greek Council for Refugees	2017	Council of State	Administrative	Turkey as a safe country	Proactive	POM	Greece	GR-TK
4	Amnesty Int., MSF et al.	2018	Nice	Administrative	Pushback of 19 minors	Proactive	POM	Italy/France	IT-FR
5	Greek Council for Refugees	2018	Council of State	Administrative	Free mobility of refugees across Greece	Proactive	POM	Greece	GR-TK
6	Open Arms	2019	Palermo, Agrigento	Criminal	Accused Salvini of kidnapping for impeding disembarkation from OA	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
7	Open Arms	2019	Palermo	Juvenile	Request disembarkation minors	Proactive	POM	Italy	C-Med
8	Open Arms	2019	Rome	Administrative	Entry ban into Italian waters (OA)	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
9	Sea-Watch	2019	ECtHR	Human rights	Entry ban into Italian waters (SW3)	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
10	Mediterranea Saving Humans	2019	Rome	Criminal	Accused Salvini and Piantedosi of abuse of office (Alan Kurdi case)	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
11	Sea-Watch	2019	Rome, Syracuse, Catania	Criminal	Accused Salvini of kidnapping for impeding disembarkation from SW3	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
12	Sea-Watch	2019	Catania	Juvenile	Violation of laws on disembarkation of minors	Proactive	POM	Italy	C-Med
13	Sea-Watch	2019	Agrigento	Criminal	Disembarkation ban in Lampedusa	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
14	Greek Council for Refugees	2019	Athens; Supreme Court	Criminal	Pushbacks to TK	Proactive	POM	Greece	GR-TK
15	Greek Council for Ref. et al.	2019	(unclear)	Criminal	Violence over asylum seekers	Proactive	POM	Greece	GR-TK
16	Sea-Watch	2020	Palermo/CJEU	Administrative/EU	Legitimacy of ships' systematic inspection	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med

17	Caminando Fronteras et al.	2020	Ceuta	Criminal	Return of minors to Morocco	Proactive	POM	Spain	Ceuta
18	Caminando Fronteras et al.	2020	(unclear)	Criminal	Illegal pushback of 42 migrants	Proactive	POM	Spain	Canary Isl.
19	L'Escola + Red Esp. de inmigr.	2021	Ceuta	Criminal	Return of minors to Morocco	Proactive	POM	Spain	Ceuta
20	Coord. de Barrios + F. Raíces	2021	Ceuta	Administrative	Return of minors to Morocco	Proactive	POM	Spain	Ceuta
21	SOS Humanity	2022	Catania	Civil	Violation of the asylum rights of rescued people	Proactive	POM	Italy	C-Med
22	SOS Humanity	2022	Rome	Administrative	Piantedosi inter-ministerial decree and disembarkation ban	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
23	Sea-Watch	2022	CJEU	EU	Frontex's pushbacks in Maltese SAR	Proactive	POM	EU	C-Med
24	Sea-Watch	2022	CJEU	EU	Frontex's denial to release photos of aerial surveillance	Proactive	POM	EU	C-Med
25	Médecins Sans Frontières	2023	Rome	Administrative	Legitimacy of 'distant port' policy	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
26	Emergency	2023	Rome	Administrative	Public access to documents on POS allocation (Brindisi)	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
27	SAR organisations et al.	2023	Crotone	Criminal	Collective complaint after Cutro shipwreck	Proactive	POM	Italy	C-Med
28	Caminando Fronteras	2023	Canary Isl. Prosecutor	Criminal	Death of 39 people at sea	Proactive	POM	Spain	Canary Isl.
29	Alarm Phone	2023	ECtHR	Human rights	Failure to provide food, water and medical help at Evros border	Proactive	POM	Greece	GR-TK
30	Emergency	2023	Rome	Administrative	Public access to documents on POS allocation (Ortona and Livorno)	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
31	Emergency; SOS Hum.; MSF	2023	European Commission	EU	Legitimacy of 'distant port' policy	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
32	SOS Méditerranée	2024	Brindisi	Civil	Impoundment <i>Ocean Viking</i>	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
33	SOS Humanity	2024	Crotone	Civil	Impoundment <i>Humanity 1</i>	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med
34	Sea-Watch	2024	Ragusa	Civil	Impoundment <i>SW5</i>	Reactive	CSO	Italy	C-Med

35	Mediterranea S. Humans et al.	2024	Rome	Administrative	Legitimacy of cession of patrol boats to Tunisia	Proactive	POM	Italy	C-Med
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*Note: POM stands for “people on the move”*