

Climate change as a catalyst for conflict: implications for EU migration policy

Climate change has emerged as a significant factor influencing global migration patterns and contributing to conflicts worldwide. The European Union (EU), as a major destination for migrants, faces challenges in adapting its migration policies to address the complex interplay between climate-induced displacement and conflict.

Climate change exacerbates environmental stressors such as water scarcity, food insecurity, and natural disasters, which can lead to social tensions and conflicts. These conflicts, in turn, force people to flee their homes, resulting in increased migration flows. For instance, prolonged droughts and resource competition have been linked to conflicts in regions like the Sahel, leading to displacement and migration towards Europe [1].

The EU's current migration framework primarily addresses asylum seekers fleeing persecution or war, lacking specific provisions for those displaced by climate-related factors. This gap leaves many climate migrants without adequate protection under existing EU laws. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum, adopted in 2023, focuses on strengthening border controls and streamlining asylum procedures but does not explicitly recognize climate change as a driver of migration. Human rights organizations have criticized this approach, arguing that it overlooks the vulnerabilities of climate-displaced individuals [2].

One of the main challenges in addressing climate-induced migration is the lack of a clear legal definition and status for climate migrants. International law does not currently recognize climate change as a valid ground for asylum, making it difficult for affected individuals to seek protection. Moreover, the EU's emphasis on designating "safe countries" for expedited deportations raises concerns about the safety and human rights of returnees, especially when these countries are also vulnerable to climate impacts [3].

To effectively address the challenges posed by climate-induced migration and conflict, the EU should consider the following policy adaptations:

Incorporate Climate Factors into Asylum Assessments. Recognize environmental degradation and climate-related disasters as legitimate grounds for asylum or complementary protection.

Develop a Legal Framework for Climate Migrants. Establish clear definitions and protections for individuals displaced by climate change, ensuring their rights are upheld within the EU [4].

Enhance Support for Affected Regions. Invest in climate adaptation and resilience programs in vulnerable countries to address the root causes of displacement and reduce migration pressures.

Promote International Cooperation. Collaborate with global partners to develop comprehensive strategies for managing climate-induced migration, including sharing best practices and resources [5].

Climate change acts as a catalyst for conflict and displacement, presenting significant challenges for EU migration policy. By acknowledging the link between environmental factors and migration, and by adapting legal frameworks accordingly, the EU can better protect vulnerable populations and uphold its commitment to human rights.

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UDC 340

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Can artificial intelligence think analytically-critically, sociologically-philosophically?

Abstract

This study examines whether analytical and critical sociological thinking, two dimensions of sociological-philosophical thinking, which is the way of scientific thinking on humans and society, can be a quality of artificial intelligence instruments. Analytical sociological-philosophical thinking is meticulously examining a social phenomenon, event, or problem by separating it into its constituent elements. Critical sociological-philosophical thinking is the examination of the