

“There is no LEGAL way to reach Europe. (...) That’s why it is impossible to enter Europe without the help of people, whom you call ‘smugglers’. Even the ways with the smugglers are risky. But it is necessary that someone helps you. Every story of a refugee is different. But the common problem is the border. There exist different ways of supporting refugees in crossing borders. It needs knowledge, planning and courage. There are different kind of smugglers. You can be cheated, tortured or blackmailed. You have no rights if you go to a smuggler. You cannot ask for special seats like in a plane. But good smugglers are fast, show or lead us a good way, give us shelter and food, know the weather. A good smuggler can neither give you a guarantee for successful border crossing nor a guarantee for your life. But a good smuggler tries to take care of your life. We would prefer not to be dependent on having a smuggler. But we see it as a service, generally paid, which will exist as long as it is illegal to cross borders.”

(Refugee Protest Movement Vienna 2014).

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borderline-europe
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Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

ISBN 978-3-7439-2327-0



9783743923270