

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis analyses the problems of sub-Saharan migrants travelling to Europe through the Sahara Desert. This migration route has been described as one of the most dangerous and deadly, and people from West and East Africa who make the pilgrimage across the Sahara often face brutal conditions. These are caused not only by natural conditions, but also by the political situation in the transit countries, the increasingly securitised borders of the destinations, and the human traffickers and other criminal groups that operate along these routes. The first part of the thesis focuses on these problems that migrants encounter most during their journeys. It first briefly introduces the trans-Saharan migration routes and the reasons why people choose to migrate across the Sahara. Then, the risks faced by migrants during their journey are discussed in detail, supplemented by testimonies of migrants who have been rescued by NGOs during transit or have sought their help themselves. The migration risk analysis looks at the overall issue from several angles. It looks at the natural risks of transport across the Sahara, the dangers caused by human factors in the region, and the problems associated with smugglers and their methods. Last but not least, it discusses the dangers of the securitisation of the Saharan border. In the third part, the thesis examines the circumstances that may increase the chances of migrants encountering more dangerous situations than others, and seeks to answer the question of why this may be the case. To do this, the chapter includes three research studies that have worked directly with testimonies from a wide range of migrants. The first analyses what percentage of migrants experience problems on their journey across the Sahara. Related to this, the chapter continues with research that aimed to uncover the causes of vulnerability of migrants experiencing danger early in their journey, which is followed by a third analysis discussing the vulnerability of migrants travelling across the Sahara to and through Libya.

## **Keywords**

Sahara Desert, Migration, Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Irregular migration

## **Title**

Problems of migration across the Sahara Desert to Europe