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Migration and asylum landscape in Europe/ the EU – the general picture of the so-called 'crisis' of 2014+

- Migration to Europe is not a new phenomenon.
- The scale and pace of migration to Europe intensified and increased significantly in recent years.
- The term 'crisis' is often used in media coverage, political discourse and academic debate to describe the current situation.
- Early signs of the crisis in Europe/ the EU have been observed since 2011 (the outbreak of the Arab Spring).
- The data provided by the UNHCR, IOM or Frontex reveal that the number of people moving to Europe started to grow rapidly **in 2014** on a year-to-year basis.
- So far, 2015 is considered to be the peak year of the crisis in terms of numbers.

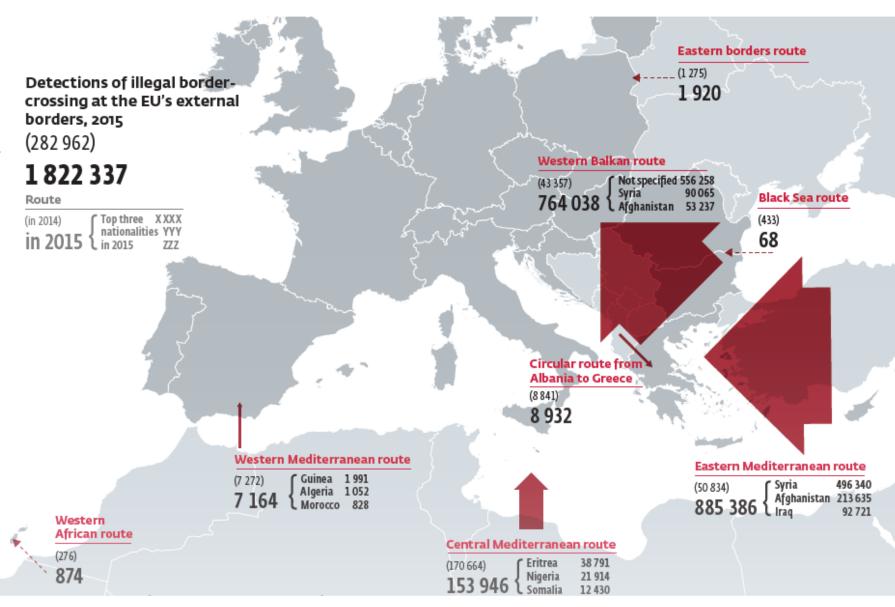
More than 1.8 million detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs along the EU external borders in 2015 (a 6-fold increase when compared with 2014).

Three migratory routes to the EU of key importance due to the highest number of arrivals:

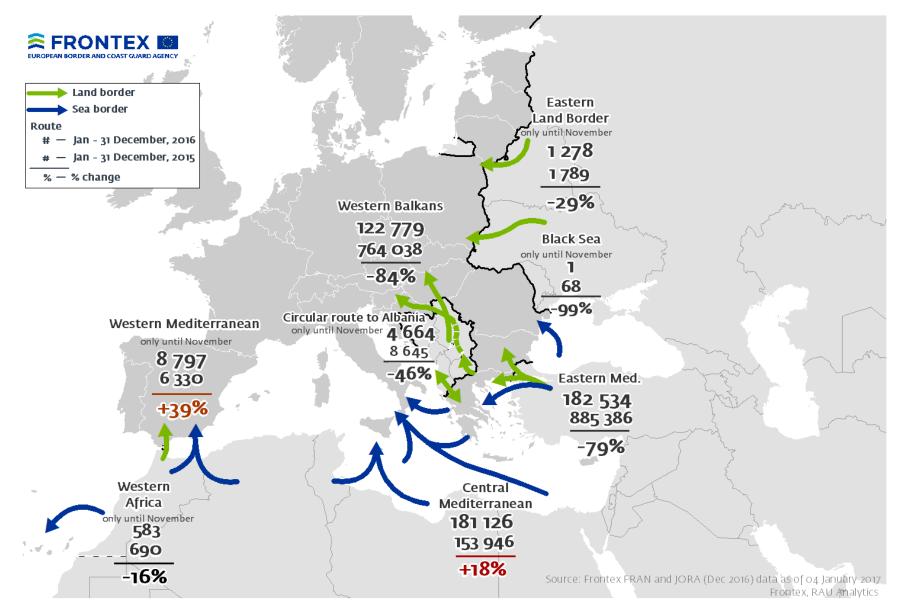
- **1. Eastern Mediterranean** route (885.4 thousand), mostly the arrivals on the Greek islands of the Aegean Sea
- 2. Western Balkan route (764 thousand) with most cases detected mainly on Hungary's and Croatia's borders with Serbia
- **3. Central Mediterranean route** (154 thousand)

Many cases of illegal entry to the EU were not detected and not recorded.

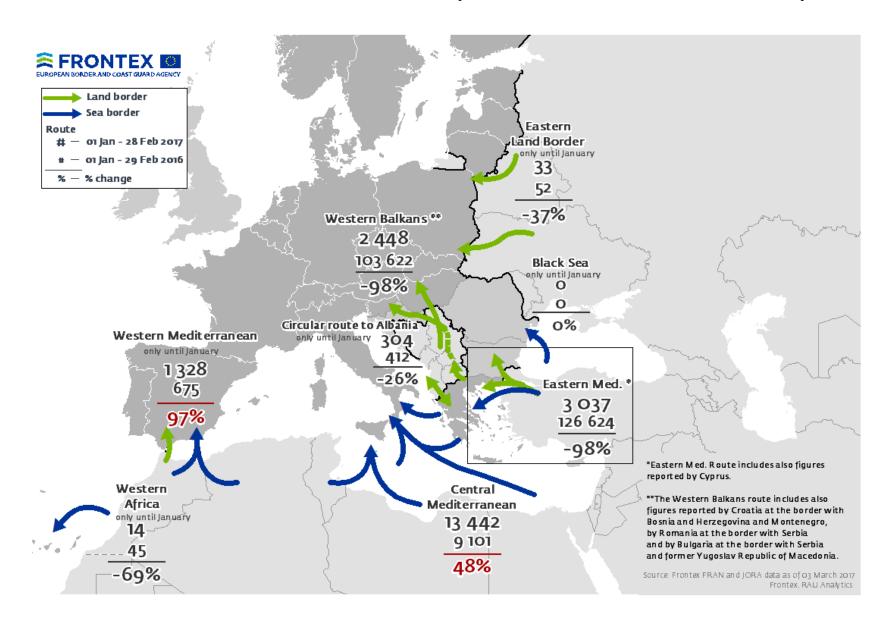
Moreover, many migrants lost their lives or went missing while attempting to reach Europe.

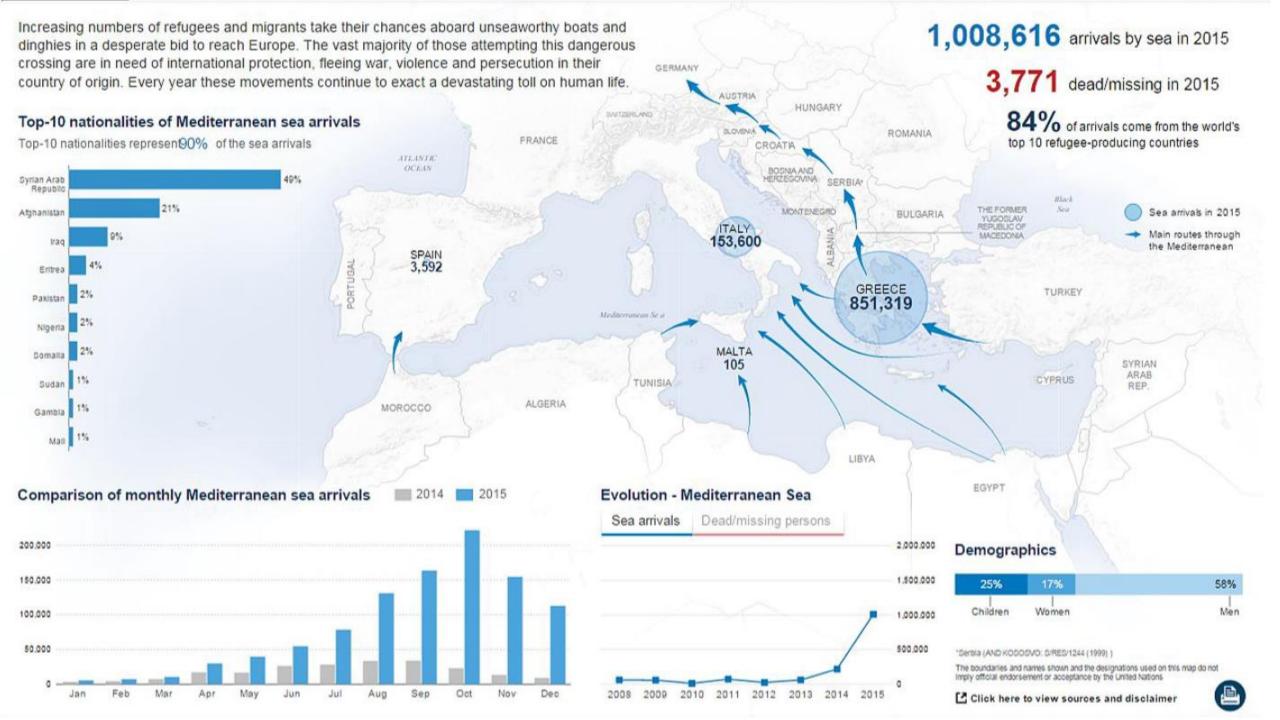


EU external borders, January to December 2016



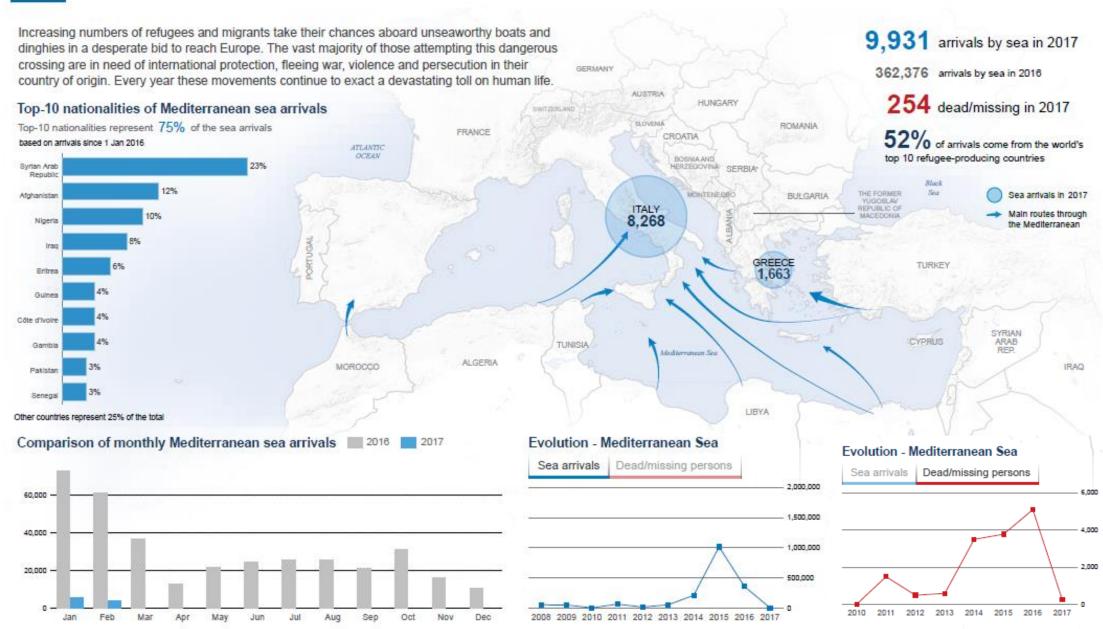
EU external borders, February 2016 to February 2017



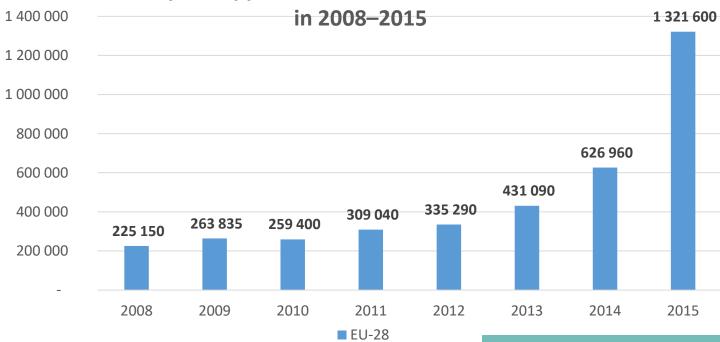




Refugees/Migrants Emergency Response - Mediterranean 7 February 2017



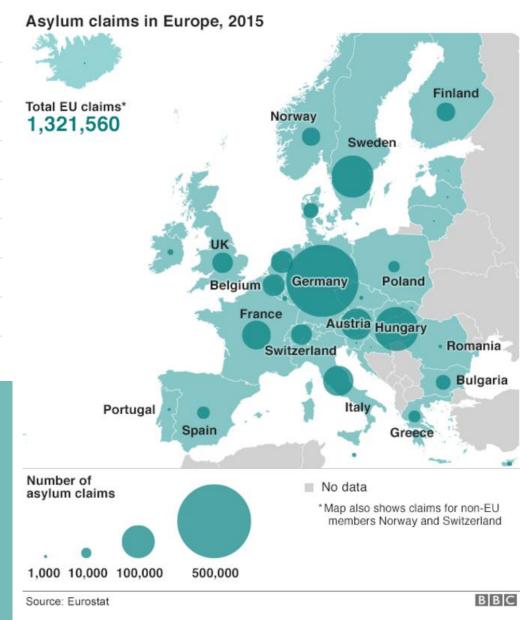




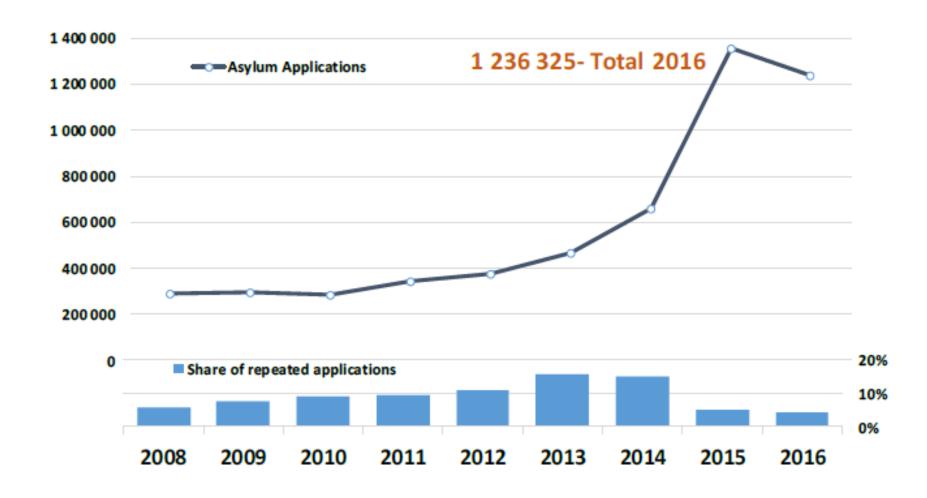
Between 2008 and 2015 the number of asylum claims in the EU-28 increased almost 5-fold, while just between 2014 and 2015 the growth was 2-fold.

The top five main destination countries of applicants of international protection (asylum):

- 1. Germany
- 2. Hungary
- 3. Sweden
- I. Austria
- 5. Italy

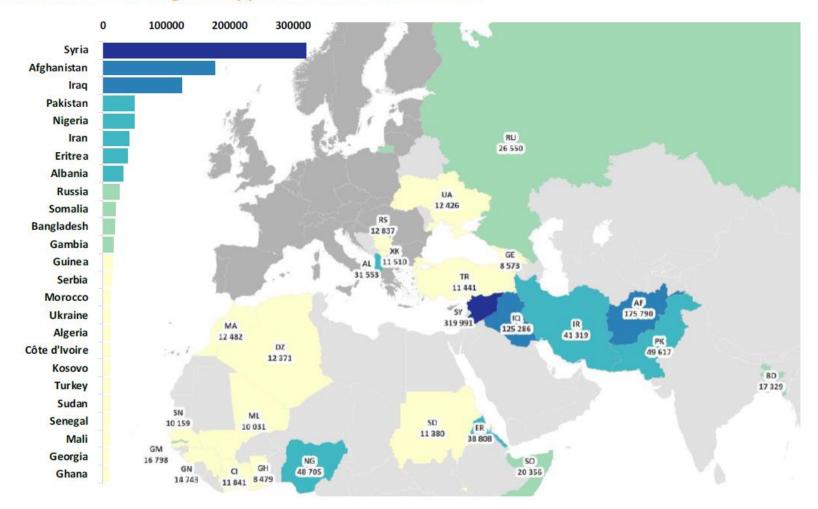


Asylum applications from outside the EU-28 in 2008–2016



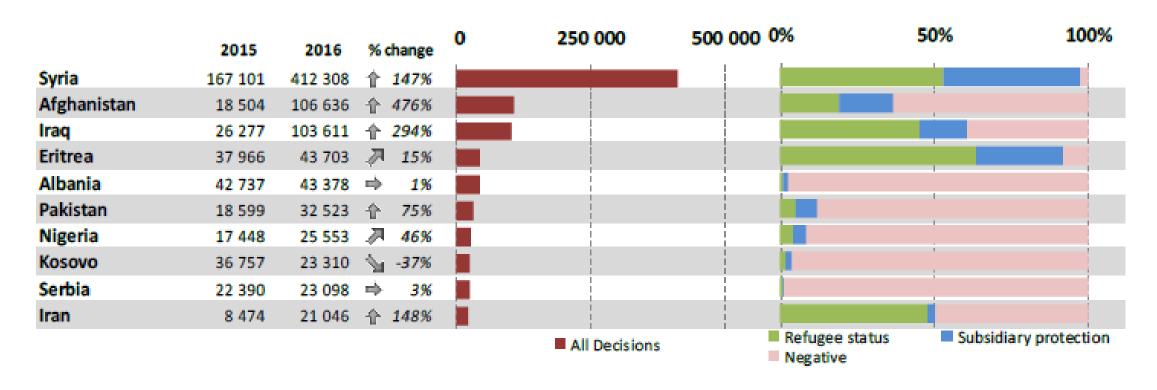
Source: EASO, Eurostat

Main countries of origin of applicants in the EU+ in 2016



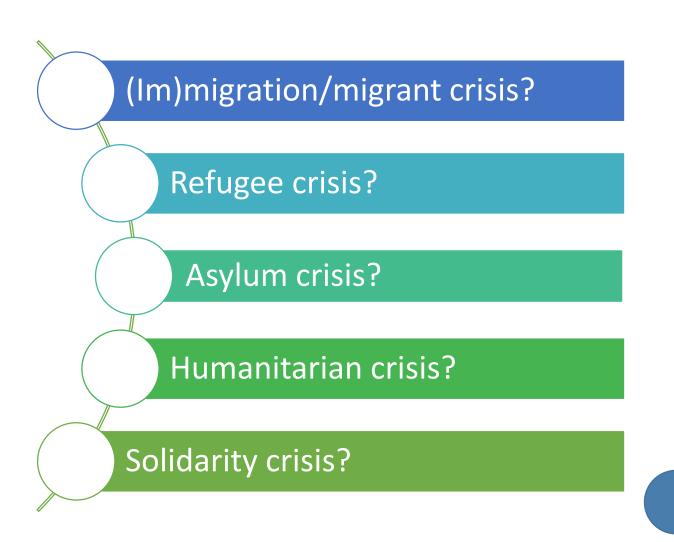
Source: EASO

Number and type of decisions issued in first instance in EU+ countries



Source: EASO

What kind of crisis are we talking about?



Conclusion: a multidemensional crisis

What is the geographical scope of the crisis?

- European crisis?
- EU crisis?
- Mediterranean crisis?





Crisis in the EU

- Migration and refugee crisis affected EU countries unevenly in terms of numbers and consequences:
 - frontline and first reception countries (e.g. Greece, Italy)
 - transitory countries (e.g. Hungary, Croatia, France)
 - target countries (e.g. Germany, the UK, Sweden)
 - countries not affected (e.g. Poland, Slovakia)
- Socio-economic, geographical, political and cultural circumstances of the EU Member States are different.
- EU Member States are diverse in terms of their migration and asylum past experience as well as the existing (if at all) policy tools.
- These factors have had a large impact on both:
 - the official positions taken by the governments of EU MS towards the crisis
 - the attempts to solve them at the EU level

Crisis – different stakeholders

- International organizations
 - UNHCR
 - IOM
 - OECD
- EU (incl. institutions & agencies)
 - EC
 - DG HOME
 - EMN
 - EASO
 - Frontex

- Countries
 - EU members (esp. transit and target countries)
 - Third countries (esp. countries of origin)
- NGOs & Civil society

Who is who?

- The crisis has contributed to the discussion on terminology and language in use.
- People coming recently to the EU are often referred to as:
 - refugees
- but also:
 - asylum seekers
 - asylum applicants
 - people in need of international protection
 - boat people
 - forced migrants
 - irregular/illegal (im)migrants
 - economic (im)migrants
 - terrorists

Conclusions:

• There are multiple terms and definitions in use and complex relations between them



Terminology matters

- Often the question who is who is considered to be self-evident and to not require any additional explanation.
- But the recent crisis has shown that language matters a lot:
 - different terms
 - different conceptual ranges
 - different contexts
 - different emotions
- Definitions used matter for (see e.g. Anderson, Blinder, 2014):
 - data collection (stocks and flows) and analysis
 - public understanding and policy debates
 - designing and implementing public policies
- Different stakeholders (countries, international organizations, research institutions) can use different terms and definitions in their work.

Example: who counts as a(n) (im)migrant?

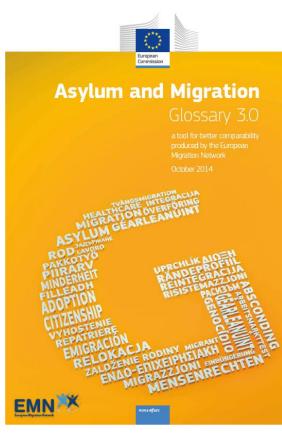
- Terminological problems may refer to the sets of words such as:
 - (international) migrant immigrant foreigner
 - applicant for international protection refugee asylum seeker
 - (im)migrant refugee
- There is no consensus on a single definition of an (im)migrant.
- In general, a definition of a(n) (im)migrant can be based on various criteria or their combinations:
 - citizenship / nationality
 - country of birth
 - place / country of (previous) usual residence
 - length of stay
 - voluntary or forced nature of migration

Example: who counts as a(n) (im)migrant?

- The application of different criteria and definitions results in different sets of data on (im)migration in terms of flows and stocks.
- Groups of people brought together in this way, usually have some common part, but are not identical i.e.:
 - not all foreigners are immigrants (they could be born foreigners in a given country)
 - among immigrants there are citizens of a receiving country, but born abroad
 - some people declaring at least a yearlong stay in a host country ultimately perceive it as a country of transit

Glossaries...

- Some international organizations try to organize and standarize the terminology in use in the field of migration and related issues.
- They propose their Glossaries/ Dictionnaries.
- This is the case of the EU.
- Asylum and Migration Glossary by the European Migration Network (2014):
 - terms are defined in the EU and global contexts (if necessary)
 - sources of definitions are indicated
 - synonyms are presented together with broader, narrower and related terms to map the relations between different terms in use







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International Thesaurus of Refugee Terminology (ITRT) is designed to facilitate information retrieval dexchange. In print since 1988, the Thesaurus has proven an essential resource for librarians and prmation workers. However, the specialized nature of and ongoing evolution in refugee terminology ant that the print editions were soon outdated. In 2002, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees rary and Forced Migration Online (FMO) began discussing how to create a web-based version of the







Hierarchy of sources of definitions in the EU

EU directives/ regulations/ decisions and then any definitions given in European Commission communications

other EU entities (including e.g. Eurostat, Frontex, EASO)

European/ international conventions, treaties and protocols (e.g. on smuggling, trafficking and forced labor from the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the International Criminal Court)

glossaries developed by international bodies, such as: ILO, IOM, OECD, UNHCR

other relevant (EU) projects/ entities

EMN Glossary: various terms in use to talk about the people involved in migration and asylum

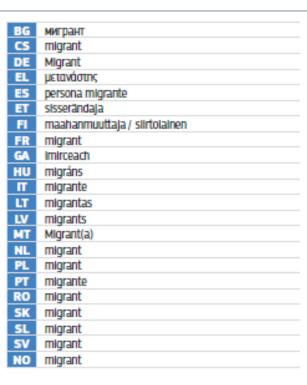
- 1. applicant for international protection
- 2. asylum applicant
- 3. asylum seeker
- 4. displaced person
- 5. economic migrant
- 6. forced migrant
- 7. foreigner
- 8. illegal migrant

- 9. immigrant
- 10. irregular migrant
- 11. migrant
- 12. migrant in an irregular situation
- 13. refugee
- 14. third-country national
- 15. unauthorized migrant
- 16. undocumented migrant

EU & definitions

- Definitions in the field of international migration used in the official documents and statistics of the EU do not always comply with those used by the Member States, which results in difficulties in collection of data that can be compared.
- The EU has taken action to standardize the data gathered, in reference to the United Nations' Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998).
- Since 2008 the annual international migration data collection from the EU Member States is done under the requirements of *Regulation* of the European Parliament and of the Council on *Community statistics on migration and international protection* ((EC) No 862/2007).
- Eurostat requests data from national statistical institutes in the EU within the framework of the Joint Annual International Migration Data Collection.
- Data are sourced from administrative records or national surveys, and in the case of some datasets, statistical estimation methods are applied by Eurostat.

migrant



Definition

In the <u>global context</u>, a person who is outside the territory of the State of which they are nationals or citizens and who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate.

In the EU context, a person who either:

- (i) establishes their usual residence in the territory of a Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another Member State or a third country; or
- (ii) having previously been usually resident in the territory of a Member State, ceases to have their usual residence in that Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months.

Source

Global context: derived by EMN from the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and UNESCO

<u>EU context</u>: Derived by EMN from Eurostat's Concepts and Definitions Database and the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration

refugee

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BG	бежанец
CS	uprchlik
DE	Flüchtling
EL	πρόσφυγας
ES	refugiado
ET	pagulane
FI	pakolainen
FR	réfugié
GA	dídeanaí
HU	menekült
П	rifugiato
LT	pabégélis
LV	bēglis
MT	Rifuĝjat(a)
NL	vluchteling
PL	uchodźca
PT	refuglado
RO	refugiat
SK	utečenec (International law, EU acquis) /
	azylant (national law)
SL	begunec
SV	flykting
NO	flyktning

Definition

In the global context, either a person who, owing to a wellfounded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned before, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.

In the <u>EU context</u>, either a **third-country national** who, owing to a **well-founded fear of persecution** for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the **country of nationality** and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country, or a **stateless person**, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it, and to whom Art. 12 (Exclusion) of Directive 2011/95/EU does not apply.

Source

Global context: Art. 1A of the Geneva Convention of 1951

EU context: Art. 2(d) of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive)

Conclusions

- The analysis of the current crisis situation in Europe/ the EU is **complex**, in part because of the **terminological and definitional maze** in the field of international migration and related issues.
- Consequently, in any research/ study/ analysis conducted in this field one should:
 - choose its context (global, EU or national)
 - indicate the approach(es) adopted of one or more entities (e.g. IOM, UNHCR or EU)
 - use the appropriate terminology
- This determines terms and their definitions to be used and legal frameworks to be applied (e.g. international law, EU acquis or national legislation).
- It **influences** the way of conducting analyses and formulating conclusions as well as designing and implementing migration policy.

Conclusions

- Today's migrant and refugee reality in the Mediterranean and Europe is **not a binary one**.
- Europe/ the EU is facing the large-scale "mixed migratory flows" from the North Africa and Middle East.
- In such a complex reality with different and overlapping categories of migrating people, clear organization of these categories even partial and imperfect is necessary to collect and prepare reliable data and objective material (as much as possible) for academic discussion, research and policy formulation.

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