

# European migrant crisis

Philosophy, Economics and Politics: Current Debates 2019  
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# Overview

Schengen Area and Dublin Regulation

Timeline of the EU migrant crisis 2013-2016

Statistics: How many? Who? From where?

Political consequences of the migrant crisis

Policy proposals



## **The body of Alan Kurdi**

3 years old; 2 September 2015;

Bodrum, Turkey

Author: [Nilüfer Demir](#) from [DHA Agency](#)



**Anti-immigration Rally in Poland  
2015, February 10**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_migrant\\_crisis#/media/File:02015-10-02\\_Der\\_anti-islamische\\_Protest\\_in\\_Polen.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis#/media/File:02015-10-02_Der_anti-islamische_Protest_in_Polen.JPG)

# Schengen Area and Dublin Regulation

Schengen Area: No border checks on internal borders, restricted to the external Schengen borders. Opt-outs: United Kingdom, Ireland, special rights to Denmark

Dublin Regulation: Responsibility for asylum applications belongs to the first member state that asylum seekers entered and in which they have been fingerprinted.

Purpose: to prevent “asylum shopping”, i.e., multiple asylum applications.

Too much responsibility to the EU member states with external borders? Likely yes. Current perspective: The Dublin Agreement was only designed to assign responsibility, not effectively share responsibility.

# The EU migrant crisis

2013-2016, peaking in 2015 when more than 1 million immigrants arrived to the EU.

This figure includes refugees, asylum seekers, and economic migrants.

Part of the Global migrant crisis of 2010's, with more than 60 million forcibly displaced people in the world. 20 million refugees and asylum seekers, including 5 million Palestinian refugees. Rest: displaced within own countries.

Cause? Climatic change, wars (Syria, Lybia, Afganistan + persecution of the civil population in Eritrea, north Nigeria, Central African Republic, Sudan). Facilitation of the Western Balkan route.

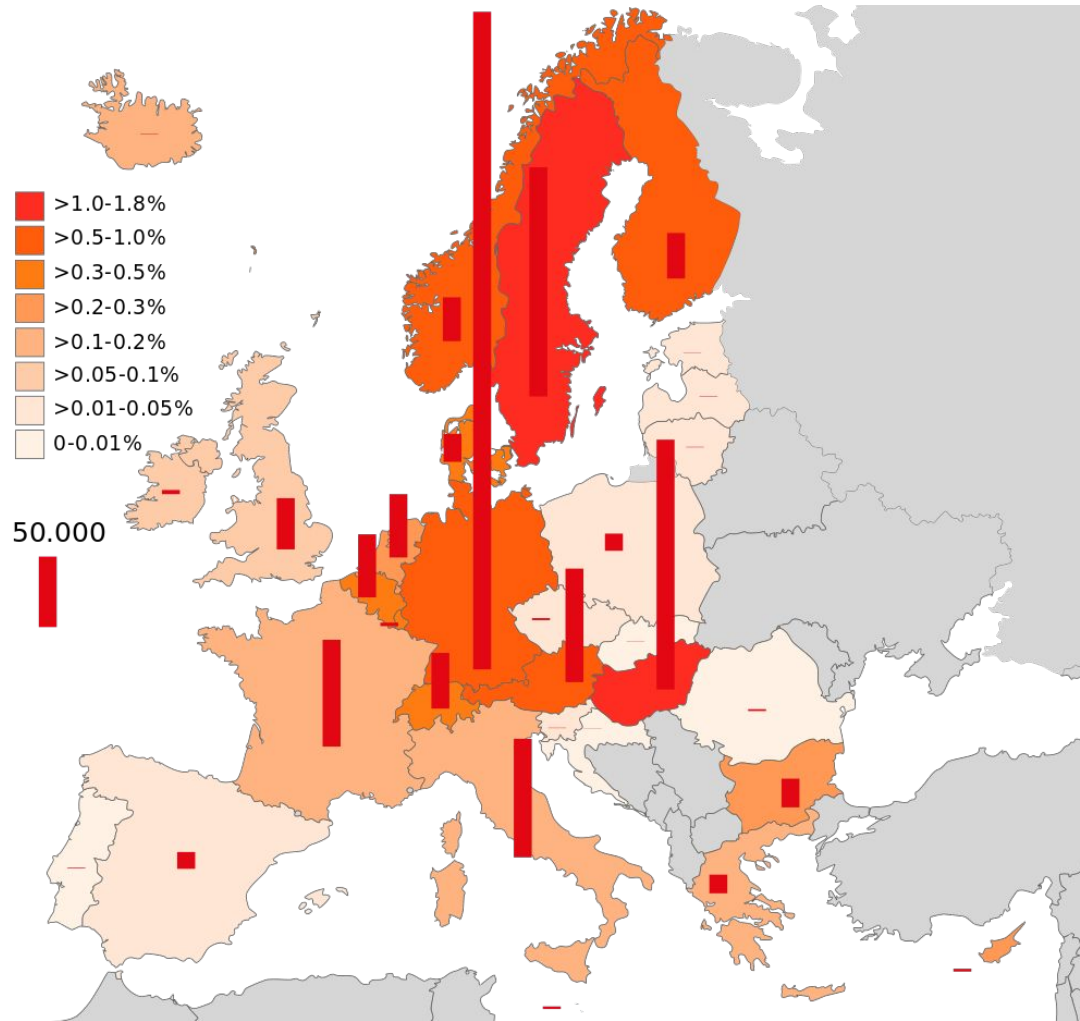
	Arrivals	Dead and missing	Death rate
<b>2019</b>	9 818	207	2,11 %
<b>2018</b>	141 475	2 277	1,61 %
<b>2017</b>	185 139	3 139	1,70 %
<b>2016</b>	373 652	5 096	1,36 %
<b>2015</b>	1 032 408	3 771	0,37 %
<b>2014</b>	225 455	3 538	1,57 %

UNHCR data, as of today

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

Arrivals include sea arrivals to Italy, Cyprus and Malta and both sea and land arrivals to Greece and Spain

## Asylum applicants in EU and EFTA states, January–December 2015.



*Bars* indicates the number of asylum applicants per country.

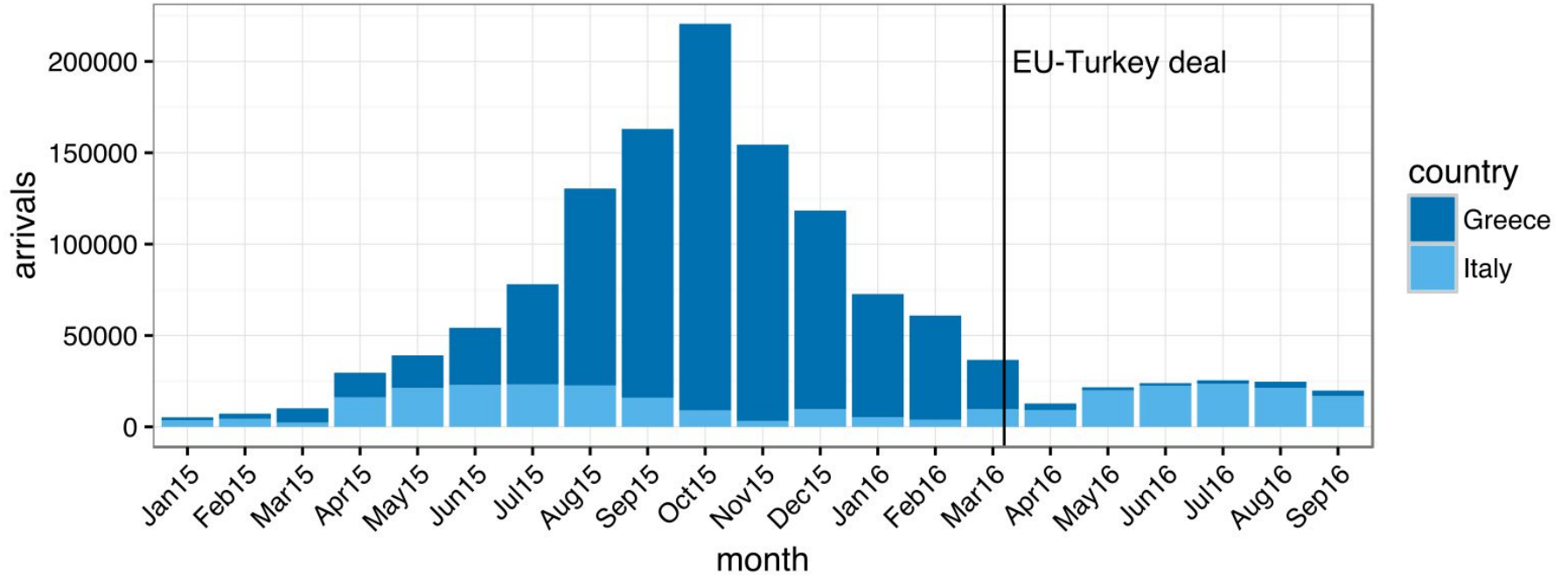
*Colours* indicate the percentage of asylum applicants in relation to the population.

This file was derived from: Refugee crisis in Europe Q1 and Q2 2015.svg Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data (rounded), Eurostat [migr\_asyappctzm], Eurostat (data July-december 2015), CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47344551>

However, the rate of positive decision differed across the EU countries (from 13% (Latvia), 15% (Hungary) to 91% (Bulgaria). Germany 57%, EU-average 52%.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7233417/3-20042016-AP-EN.pdf/34c4f5af-eb93-4ecc-984c-577a5271c8c5> (p.5)



## Mediterranean sea arrivals to Greece and Italy from January 2015 to September 2016

(data: UNHCR)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sea\\_arrivals\\_to\\_Greece\\_and\\_Italy,\\_2015.png#/media/File:Sea\\_arrivals\\_to\\_Greece\\_and\\_Italy,\\_2015.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sea_arrivals_to_Greece_and_Italy,_2015.png#/media/File:Sea_arrivals_to_Greece_and_Italy,_2015.png)



# The EU migrant crisis

Reaction I: Closure of green borders, and effective border controls within the Schengen Area.

Border fences: Turkey/Greece and Bulgaria, Greece/Macedonia; Serbia and Croatia/Hungary; Croatia/Slovenia; Hungary, Slovenia/Austria; Austria and Germany (rail restrictions)

Reaction II: EU-Turkey Deal, 20 March 2016, secured mainly by Angela Merkel and Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Principle: Migrants arriving to Greece will be sent back if not applying and receiving asylum in Greece. EU sends 2300 experts to Greece. Exchange of Syrian refugees (who's rejected by the EU, replaced by another Syrian refugee in Turkey). Promise of visa-free travel for Turkish nationals in Schengen (not yet completed) and restoration of the EU/Turkey accession to the EU.

# The EC Policy Proposal (April 20, 2015)

1. Increase joint operations in the Mediterranean (Triton), within the Frontex
2. Capture and destroy vessels used by smugglers
3. EU-help to process asylum application in Italy and Greece (settlement of hot spots)
- 4. Considerations of emergency relocation mechanisms (quotas)**
5. EU wide voluntary pilot project on resettlement, offering a number of places to persons in need of protection
6. New return programmes of irregular migrants, and enhanced cooperation with third countries (Libya and countries surrounding it)

# Quotas

Key element of the **European Agenda on Migration** proposed on 13 May 2015 by the Commission.

Originally proposed by the EC, backed by Germany, Italy and France, for 160 000 asylum seekers, rejected by the V4 countries.

September 22, 2015: European Union interior ministers meeting in the Justice and Home Affairs Council approved a plan to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers over two years from the frontline states Italy, Greece and Hungary to all other EU countries (except Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom which have opt-outs).

Majority voting principle applied. CZ, HU, PL, SK against, Finland abstaining.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-towards-a-new-policy-on-migration/package-european-agenda-on-migration>

# European Agenda on Migration

No overhaul of the Dublin agreement has been accepted so far.