



The Migration Crisis of 2015

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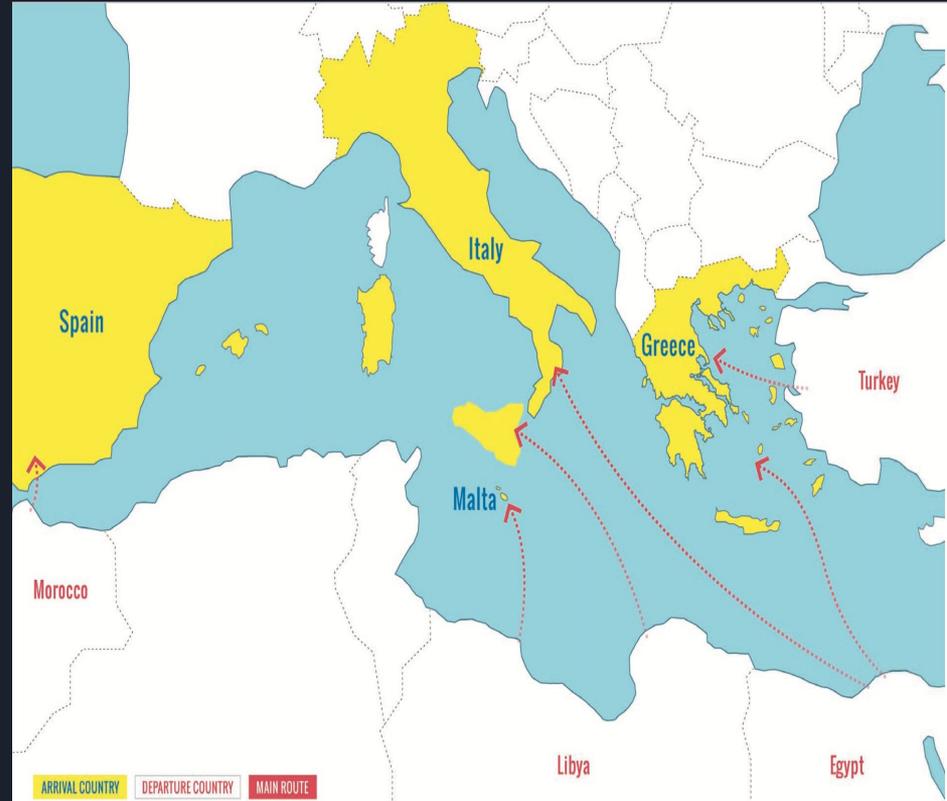


Definitions

- Asylum seekers
- Refugees
- Migrants

What have happened?

- Over 1.3 million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe
- The biggest driver of the migration → the conflict in Syria
- The South-Eastern route
- The Southern route





What have happened?

- Border control, suspending Schengen system of open-border and passport-free travel
- Balkan route officially closed
- The EU-Turkey deal
- The member states became differently affected by the migration crisis



Hungary - the zero-refugee policy

- Only a few thousand asylum-seekers remained in Hungary and most of the asylum-seekers had left Hungary before receiving a decision
- The inflowing asylum seekers were presented as a threat to national security and social cohesion
- Actions to minimize the inflow of asylum seekers
 - bureaucratic hurdles
 - preventing people entering the transit zones
 - a razor wire fence built on the border
- Actions discouraging refugees to remain in the country



Germany - the open-door policy

- August 2015 Germany suspended the Dublin procedure for Syrian asylum seekers
- “*wir schaffen das*” - “we can do this”
- September 2015 Germany started to take in asylum seekers stuck in Hungary, two weeks later having to strengthen controls between Austria
- However, the open door policy didn't last forever
 - The suspension of family reunification
 - Reactivation of the Dublin procedure in October 2015
- The open door-policy was heavily criticised



The relocation scheme

- Uneven division of asylum seekers between the member states and the existence of hotspots created the need for a relocation scheme
- Relocation scheme established to relieve the pressure on Italy and Greece
- 1st relocation scheme: relocation of 40 000 persons
- 2nd relocation scheme: relocation of 120 000 persons
- Decision wasn't made in mutual agreement: Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Czech Republic voted no
- The scheme was accepted using qualified majority



How did the EU respond to the crisis?

New policies based on 4 pillars :

- reducing the incentives for irregular migration by addressing its root causes, improving returns and dismantling smuggling and trafficking networks;
- saving lives and securing the external borders; (Frontex)
- establishing a strong EU asylum policy,
- and providing more legal pathways for asylum-seekers and more efficient legal channels for regular migrants.

Reforming the asylum system and sharing responsibilities between EU countries

European Agenda on Migration => combining internal & external policies, discussion and cooperation with countries of origin

New Pact on Migration and Asylum (2020) => to give a fresh start to the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) reform and to create a new balance between responsibility and solidarity.





Securing EU external borders and managing migration flows

- tightening border controls and improving the ability of the MS to track people entering Europe
- distinguishing regular migrants from refugees and ensuring fair and equal treatment of asylum-seekers

The **EU Agency for Asylum** => making the overall EU migration management system more efficient and sustainable - monitoring whether fundamental rights are being respected

Fostering refugees' integration in Europe

to help migrants integrate into societies in their new home countries

programmes focusing on counseling, education, language and other training such as civic orientation courses and professional guidance

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