Refugees crisis

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Member of the Greek Delegation
CEOM, June 2017, Modena, Italy
What we talked about last year

- Greece was the main entrance of migrants
- The EU – Turkey agreement was signed
- More than 5,000 refugees lost their lives during trip
- A number of EU member States started to put obstacles to refugees’ relocation
How do refugees enter Europe?
Eastern Mediterranean Route
Central Mediterranean Route
Western Mediterranean Route

Sea arrivals to mainland 6,979

Ceuta arrivals 2,542
Melilla arrivals 3,901
Total number of arrivals per Country

- **Spain**: 4,408, 6,046, 22,001
- **Italy**: 153,842, 173,008, 190,001
- **Greece**: 171,785

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Greece</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,408</td>
<td>153,842</td>
<td>856,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,046</td>
<td>173,008</td>
<td>171,785</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>22,001</td>
<td>190,001</td>
<td>40,001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illegal border crossings - land and sea
June 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2017

47,907 in total
June 12th, 2017

27,137 increase in 1 WEEK
Turkey would take back or keep almost all the refugees.

In return, the EU would:

- deliver the long-promised – but never delivered – visa free travel for Turkish nationals to the Schengen zone
- provide 3 billion euro in financial assistance to support the 3 million refugees living in Turkey
- reinvigorate Turkey’s EU accession negotiations
The EU-Turkey Migration Deal: One Year On

- The deal has not totally stopped the flow of refugees, but helped to reduce the numbers.
- The number of deaths in the Aegean has also significantly dropped.

This was not simply a result of the deal but also a result of the closed Balkan route.
Relocations

1,210
Returns due to EU-Turkey Agreement

20,283
Relocations in total

13,825 from GREECE
22% of 66,400

6,458 from ITALY
16% of 39,600
Relocations

18,119 Total persons relocated
12,646 Relocated from Greece (19% of 66,400)
5,473 Relocated from Italy (16% of 33,600)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Relocation from Italy</th>
<th>Relocation from Greece</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>1,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2,402</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>3,446</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1,22</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>1,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>10,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5,374</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>7,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>23,133</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>25,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>5,660</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>8,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>2,284</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>3,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>3,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>3,215</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>3,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1,106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Relocation scheme on a voluntary basis.
The situation in Greece now

- **14,115** people are living in facilities on
  - Lesbos
  - Samos
  - Chios
  - Kos
  - Leros

- **62,434** people are stranded across Greece

*almost double the official capacity!*
Europe Refugee Emergency
Daily map indicating capacity and occupancy (Governmental figures)
As of 07 May 2017 08:00 a.m. EET

Total Mainland
35,247 people
(Official & informal sites, other state run facilities, self-settled, NGOs)
66,341 capacity
(Official, informal, unofficial sites, other state run facilities, NGOs, UNHCR)

Total Islands
12,953 people (Official & informal sites, other state run facilities)
8,613 capacity (Official & informal sites, other state run facilities, UNHCR)
UNHCR accommodation scheme
13,889 people
Earthquake in Lesbos
Greece funding by EU

Total Financial Requirements:
US $525,904,019
## Financial Requirements Summary – GREECE

Financial requirements by agency 525,904,019 (in US dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action Aid Hellas</td>
<td>1,120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency</td>
<td>4,435,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbeiter Samariter Bund</td>
<td>8,296,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armando Aid</td>
<td>112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARSIS</td>
<td>17,662,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Babol</td>
<td>196,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Refugee Foundation</td>
<td>469,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARE International</td>
<td>2,430,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Relief Services</td>
<td>3,383,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens UK Passage Programme</td>
<td>272,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
<td>30,000,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diotima</td>
<td>503,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Centre International</td>
<td>632,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faros</td>
<td>848,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filoxenia International</td>
<td>268,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finn Church Aid</td>
<td>2,688,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Refugee Council</td>
<td>3,212,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of the funding on offer was directed to international aid agencies, not the Greek Government!
“At Diavata, one of the earliest camps at a former army barracks in northern Greece, 40 NGOs were active.”

“In other camps, they were giving yoga lessons but there was no electricity.”
The situation in Italy

- **19,772** migrants have entered by sea since the beginning of **2017**

- Change of composition of migrants:
  - In 2015 → Syrians followed by Eritreans
  - In 2016 and 2017 → migrants from Western African countries
The Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy is now the primary entry point to Europe.

Last year, over 5,000 migrants died in the crossing.
What happens once they arrive?

- Refugees are sent to ports in Sicily or Calabria
- Medical checks
- Legal information
- Vulnerable groups are transferred to the 2,000 reception centers in Italy
- Asylum procedure
- Those not in need of protection are sent back
Arrival Spots

Sea Arrivals by disembarkation site

- Trapani
- Reggio Calabria
- Catania Augusta
- Pozzallo
- Lampedusa
FRONTEX announced that at least 1 million people would wait in northern Africa to cross over to Italy in 2017 and 2018.

The Austrian chancellor Christian Kern announced that in Egypt alone, more than 5 million people were getting ready to emigrate to Europe – most of them through Italy.
Italy funding by EU

- Commission has provided €19 million in emergency funding.
- Commission is providing €560 million for migration and border management from 2014-20 to facilitate reception, returns and relocation in Italy.
Carmelo Zuccaro, an Italian prosecutor is claiming to have evidence that some of the NGOs are colluding with the human traffickers who send the migrants out on flimsy boats to be rescued, with the suggestion that some of the NGOs are encouraging the increase in migrant traffic in order to receive more funding.
Fences....
Fences ...
Fences ...
The situation in Spain

- This border is tightly controlled by Morocco, along with the cooperation of Spain.

- Only 7% of the 4,000 migrants who tried to jump the Melilla fence in 2016, were successful.
Europe’s Position
Only 13,546 relocations have been carried out so far, amounting to just 8% of the total the EU committed to relocate in 2015

- 3,936 from Italy
- 9,610 from Greece

Only Malta and Finland have met their obligations

Hungary, Austria and Poland refuse to participate in the relocation scheme

The Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovakia are doing so on a “very limited basis”

The UK, which can opt out on parts of European asylum policy, has chosen not to participate
Borders ...
A rescue in the open sea cannot be a ticket to Europe, because it gives organized crime every argument to persuade people to escape for economic reasons”

Austrian Interior Minister, Sobotka

Advocacy for the closure of the Western Balkan route used by migrants coming from the Middle East
The European Commission voted in favor of taking actions against Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland for refusing to accept any refugees as part of a bloc-wide relocation scheme.
EU’s actions to stop migrant deaths

- **Frontex**
- **Triton**  @Central Mediterranean
- **Poseidon**  @Aegean Sea
- **Deals** with North African countries
Health Aspects of the Refugee Crisis
Migrants tend to be in relatively good health when their journey begins but ...

- **pre-departure**: possible war traumas
- **during the journey**: travel mode, conditions & journey duration
- **upon arrival at the host community**: living conditions in refugee camps/reception centers
- **at host community**: lengthy stay

+ language & cultural norms
The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases resulting from the current influx of migrant populations is extremely low.

Migrants do not pose a greater threat to public health than international travellers.

Communicable diseases are primarily associated with poverty.
“Their health is at risk, not the health of EU citizens”
Health problems specific to women

Additional problems related to:

- reproductive health
  - complications with pregnancy and childbirth
- exposure to (sexual) violence and abuse
Due to cold temperatures:

- Increased risk of
  - fractures
  - sprains
  - strains
- hypothermia
- frostbite
Many migrants have endured years of physical and emotional trauma, including torture.

- post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- mood and anxiety disorders
- panic attacks

The necessary mental support (counselling) possibly difficult due to the language and cultural differences.
The CARE project, coordinated by the Italian Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (INMP), has been launched on April 2016, with the participation of a consortium, consisting of fifteen partners from five EU Member States.
Future plans of EU on the Refugee Crisis
The 4 Pillars of the EU Agenda

- Developing a new policy on legal migration
- Saving lives and securing the external borders
- Strengthening the common asylum policy
- Reducing the incentives for irregular migration
Short term priorities

- Additional funding to Frontex
- Strengthen the role of Europol
- Activate the emergency system for asylum seekers’ relocation
- Establish a pilot multi-purpose centre in Niger, the Hotspot
Medium - Long term priorities

- Migration is both an opportunity and a challenge for the EU.

- Structural actions that look beyond crises & emergencies in order to help EU Member States to better manage all aspects of migration.
65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2016.

UNHCR said the war in Syria was “the world’s biggest producer of refugees,” about 5.5 million since 2011.

The conflict in South Sudan displaced 1.87 million people.
“By any measure this is an unacceptable number, and it speaks louder than ever to the need for solidarity and common purpose in preventing and resolving crises”

Filippo Grandi
U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
REFUGEES ARE HUMAN BEINGS