

European Migrant Crises?

Europe in the News

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Migration Experiences

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6Uk5TJpEs8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSOIslwMRZY>

Who Is a Refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

Source: UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/>

Who is an asylum seeker?

- When people flee their own country and seek sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum – the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance. An asylum seeker must demonstrate that his or her fear of persecution in his or her home country is well-founded.
- An asylum-seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed.
- Every year, around one million people seek asylum. At the end of 2020, there were approximately 4.6 million people around the world waiting for a decision on their asylum claims*.
 - *UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/asylum-seekers.html>

What was the Schengen Agreement?

Schengen Agreement of 1985

- During the 1980s, a debate began over the meaning of free movement of persons.
- Some Member States felt the concept should apply to EU citizens only,
 - which would involve keeping internal border checks in order to distinguish between citizens of the EU and non-EU nationals.
- Others argued in favor of free movement for everyone,
 - which would mean an end to internal border checks altogether.

What does the EU Schengen Area do?

- abolishes all internal borders in lieu of a single external border.
- common rules and procedures are applied with regard to visas for short stays, asylum requests and border controls.
- cooperation and coordination between police services and judicial authorities have been stepped up.

Amsterdam Treaty-1999

- Schengen is included in the treaty and would apply to all EU member states
- Except: Ireland and UK had an opt-out
 - can take part in some or all of the Schengen arrangements, if the Schengen Member States and the government representative of the country in question vote unanimously in favor within the Council
- In March 1999, the United Kingdom asked to cooperate in police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the fight against drugs and the Schengen Information System (shared data base for public security).
- June 2000 Ireland asked for the same.

Beginnings of the Migrant Crisis

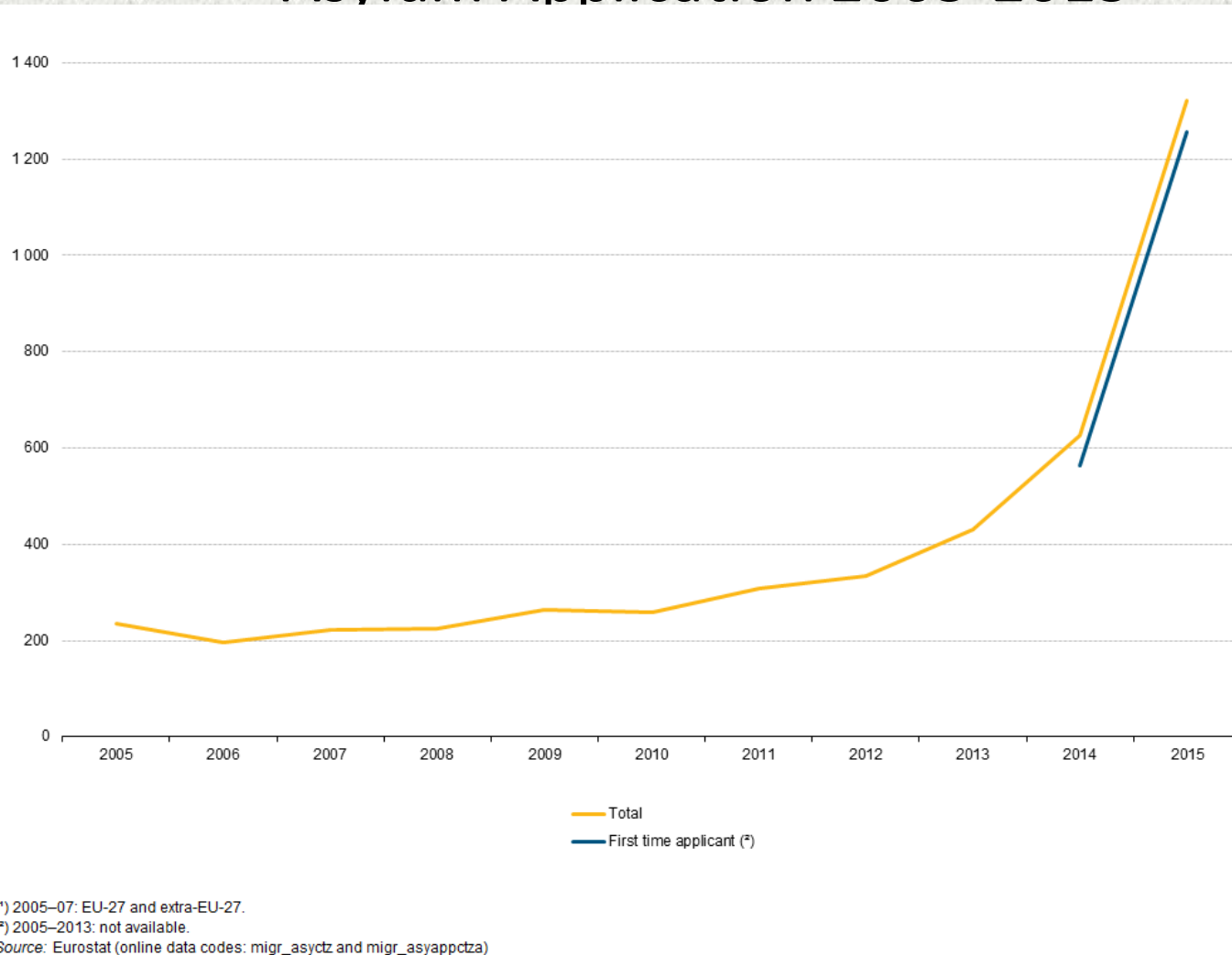
2006-2009 “Cayuco Crisis” Canary Islands, Spain



2013-2014 signals of a problem in Lampedusa, Italy



Asylum Application 2005-2015



2015 Migration Crisis

- 2015–16: there were 1.8 million irregular border crossings into the EU in 2015, an increase of 546 per cent compared to 2014 (Europol, 2016).
- a test of the EU's area of freedom, security and justice
Criminal network of smugglers
An estimated 90 per cent of migrants are brought to the EU by criminal networks (Europol, 2016: 4)
- Europol. (2016) *Migrant Smuggling in the EU*, http://www.europol.europa.eu/content/EMSC_launch.

Legal Structures in Place in the EU

International and Regional Treaties and Conventions

The 1950 Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (known as the European Convention on Human Rights); the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; the 1984 United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and Article 18 of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights (right to asylum).

EU Legislation

The Common European Asylum System (CEAS) was established in 2003. It consists of:

- ***Dublin Regulation (604/2013)*** – Establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining the member state responsible for examination of an asylum application. Generally, an asylum-seeker **must register and go through the asylum process where they entered the EU and remain in that country until a determination has been made** (predecessors: Dublin I, 2000; Dublin II 2003).
- ***EURODAC Regulation (603/2013)*** (recast took effect July 2015) – **Fingerprinting to determine in which EU member state an asylum-seeker arrived.**
- ***Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU)*** – Defines ‘refugee’ and provides for ‘subsidiary protection’. Establishes common grounds to grant refugee or subsidiary protection status. (Third-country nationals may also be granted asylum status on humanitarian grounds, but it is not a matter for EU law for this is a national determination as defined in member state legislation.)
 - Subsidiary protection is when someone does not qualify as a refugee, but are in serious risk of harm if they return home; they are given the protections as a citizen of that country in where they seek assistance.

EU Legislation Continued

- *Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU)* (recast took effect July 2015) – Attempts to standardize rules of processing and detainment; treatment of unaccompanied minors. The rules include such detail as providing access to employment for an asylum-seeker within nine months.
- *Asylum Procedure Directive (2013/32/EU)* (recast took effect July 2015) – Establishes common procedures for granting and withdrawing asylum status.

EU Institutional Support to Deal with Migration

- *European Asylum Support Office (EASO)*, created in 2011
 - provides practical and technical support to Member States and the European Commission
 - provides operational support to Member States with specific needs and to Member States whose asylum and reception systems are under particular pressure
- *European Migration Network (EMN)*, created in 2008-provides information for EU policymaking and informing citizens
- **FRONTEX**: European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU

Policies to Alleviate the Crisis

Agreements with Third Parties:

- EU–Turkey Joint Action Plan and Turkey Facilitation (‘one in one out’ went into effect in March 2016); Turkey Refugee Facility – established in November 2015 at €3 billion, increased to €6 billion in March 2016.
- Trust Fund for Africa – €4.9 billion program 2020; financed by EU budget and member state contributions.

Re-Distribution of Migrants

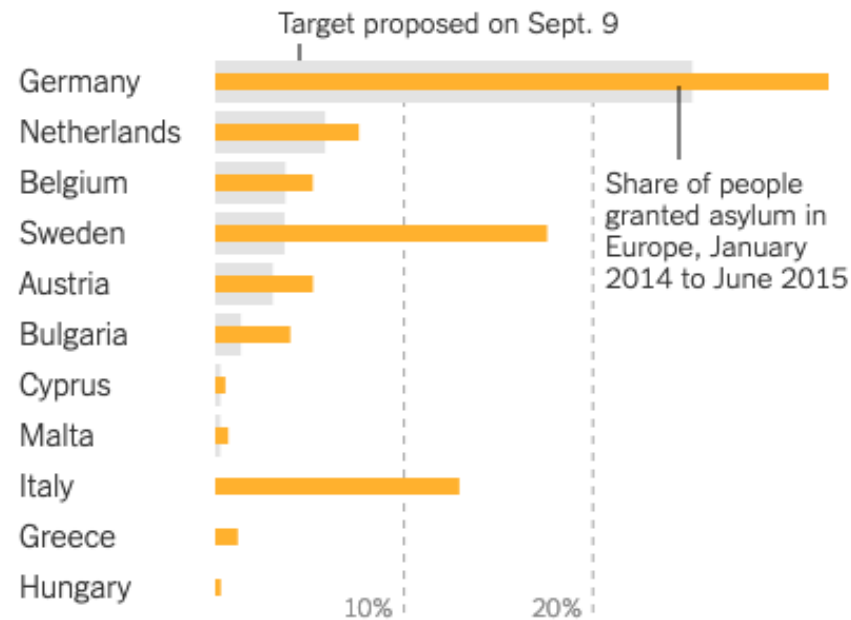
- **Based on the proportions approved on Sept. 22, 2015:**
- Eleven countries would meet the quota
- A country's population and its gross domestic product account for 80 percent of the formula used to calculate the proposed quotas. The European Commission has said that larger populations and economies "are generally considered more able to shoulder greater migration pressures."

2015 Quota Redistribution

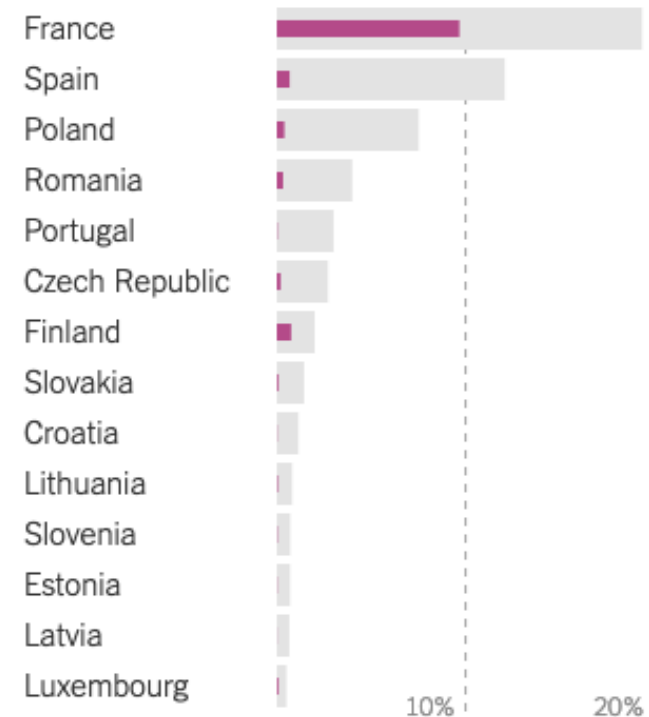
(Denmark, Ireland and UK exempted)

Based on the proportions approved on Sept. 22:

Eleven countries would meet the quota

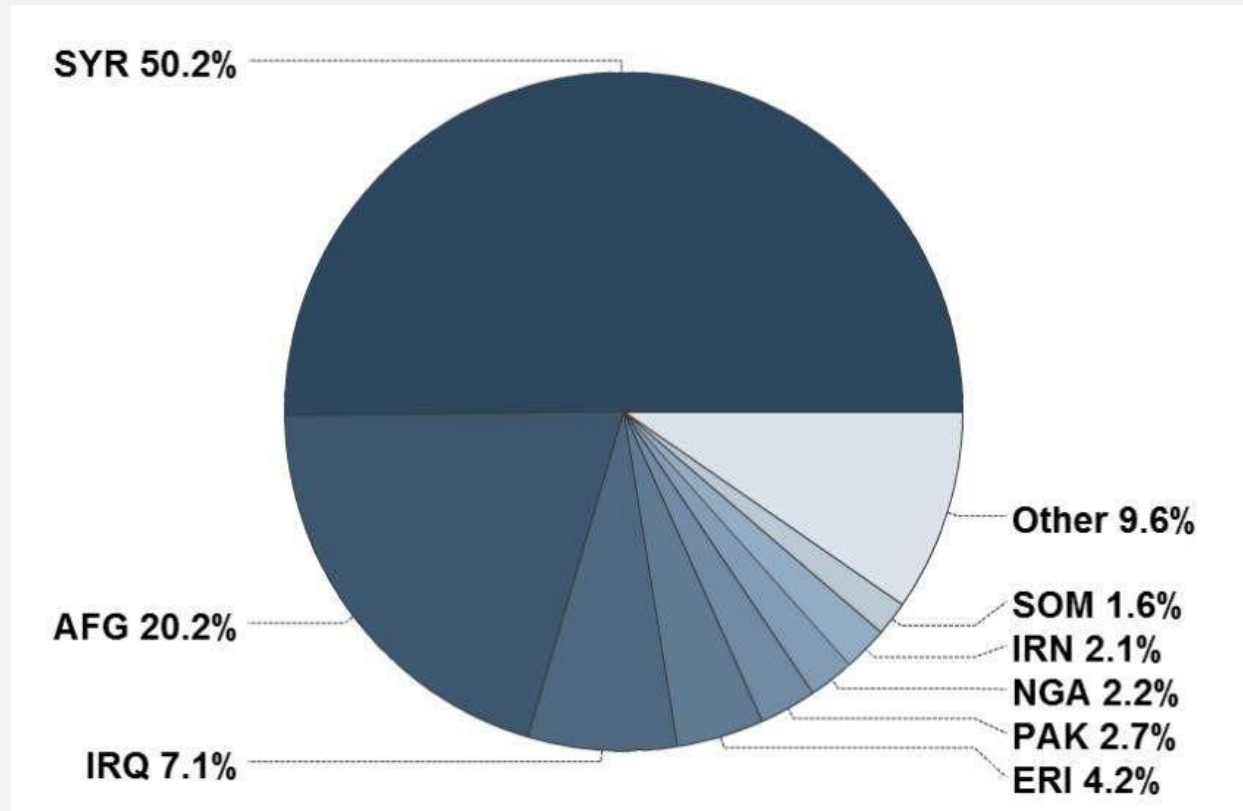


14 countries would have to accept more applications

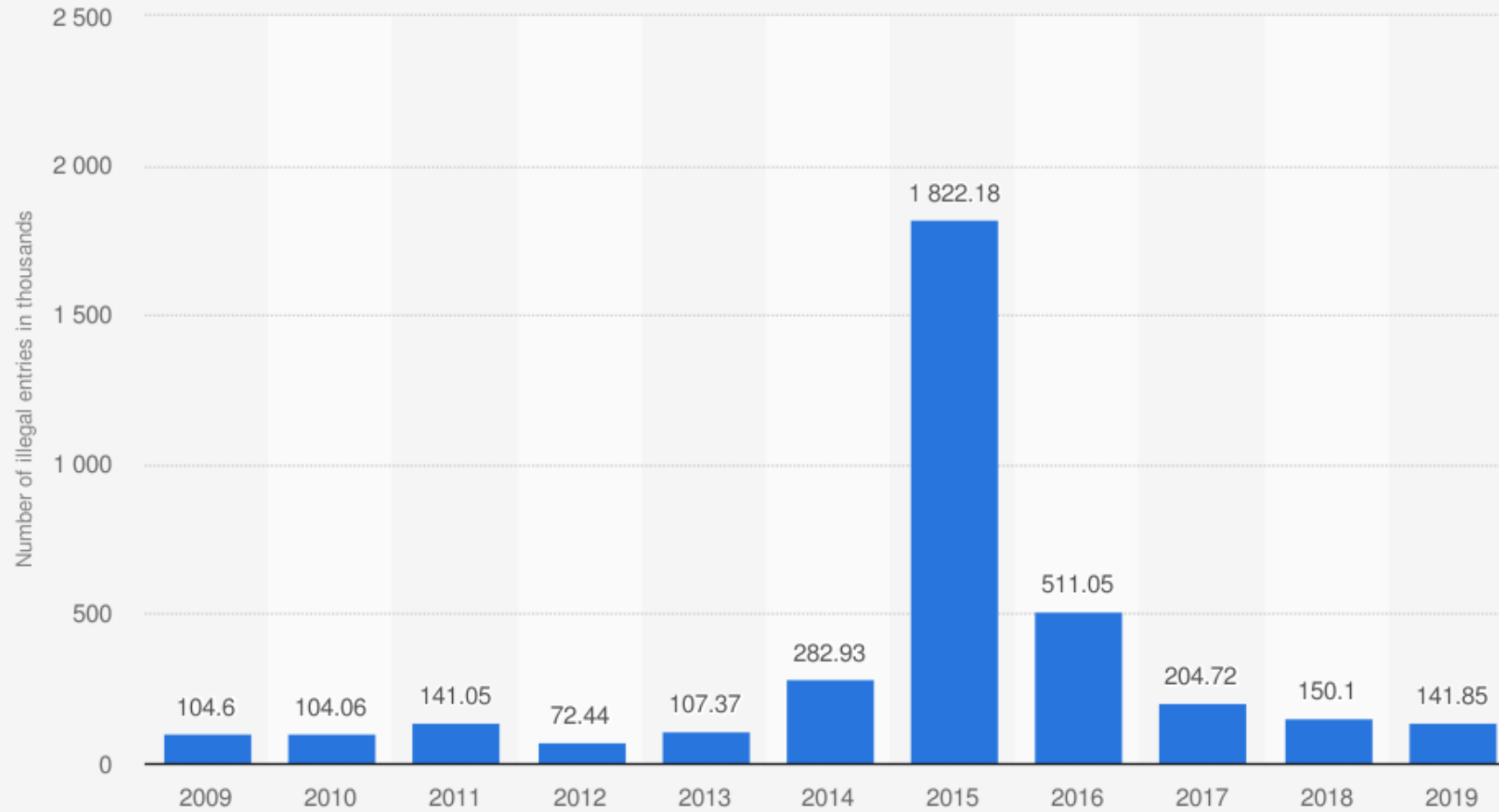


Sources: Eurostat; European Commission. Note: Britain, Ireland and Denmark are exempt from the new relocation plan.

Nationalities of aggregate cumulative arrivals to Europe in 2015



Number of illegal entries between border-crossing points (BCPs) detected in the European Union (EU) from 2009 to 2019 (in 1,000 people)

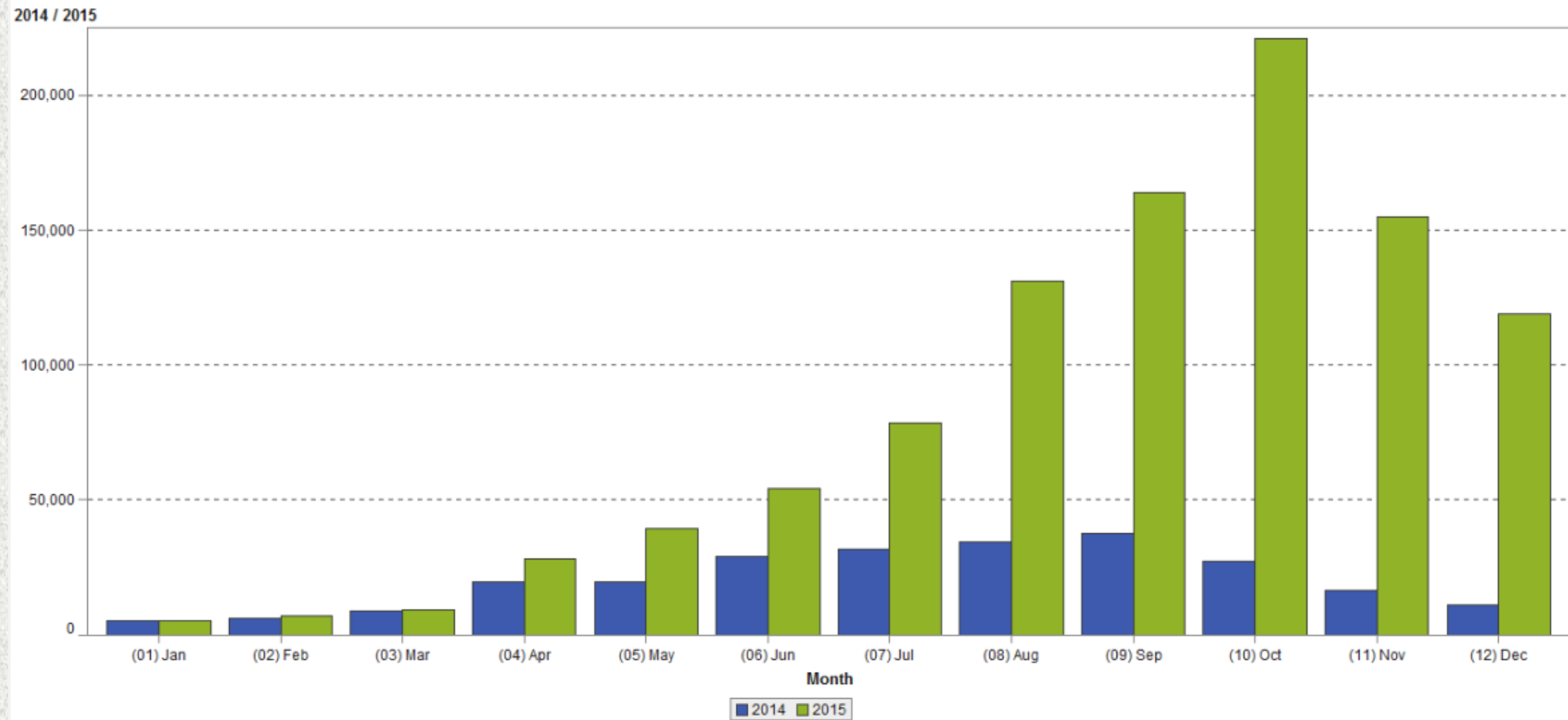


Source
Frontex
© Statista 2020

Additional Information:
EU; 2009 to 2019

Monthly and cumulative arrivals

Arrivals to Europe by month in 2015 versus 2014



Situation 2016-Today

- Migrants continue to come
- Migrants find new routes (Spain and the Canary Islands became a “new hotspot”)
- Covid created a decrease in migration

A Continuing Challenge-Integration of Immigrants into Society

- Left to the national level
- Failure has led to radicalization of Muslims
- Income inequality between “recent” Europeans and “longstanding” Europeans

Ukraine Migration Crisis?

- A crisis is a social construct
- Ukraine: largest flow of refugees in a since year
 - In just 5 weeks: 4 million sought refuge
 - Warsaw grew by one fifth
 - More are leaving Ukraine at a rate higher than since 1990
 - 1.4 million left Iraq in 1991 (after Iraq War)
 - 2.2 million left Syria in 2013
 - 2 million left Venezuela in 2018

1.3 Million Migrants came to Europe in 2015

5.2 Million migrants in 2016

