

## 2. NONMILITARY SECURITY

# MIGRATION CRISIS – RISK ANALYSIS FOR 2017

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### ABSTRACT

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Regular passenger flows across external borders will also grow significantly in the coming years, in particular at the air border, due to increased global mobility. Visa liberalisation processes and local border traffic agreements also lead to greater responsibility for border-control authorities. Movements across external air borders are managed through a layered approach, where the border is divided into four tiers. In this context, the physical border is gradually becoming a second ary layer for risk assessment, meaning that checking and screening start well before passengers cross border-control posts at airports.

### KEY WORDS

Migrant crisis, Frontex, migrats routs, risk analysis.

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The record number of migrants arriving in Greece had a direct knock-on effect on the Western Balkan route, as the people who entered the EU in Greece tried to make their way via the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia into Hungary and Croatia and then towards western Europe. This led to unprecedented numbers of migrants seeking to re-enter the EU through Hungary's borders with Serbia. After Hungary completed the construction of a fence on its border with Serbia in September, the flow of migrants shifted to Croatia. In all of 2015, the region recorded 764 000 detections of illegal border crossings by migrants, a 16-fold rise from 2014. The top-ranking nationality was Syrian, followed by Iraqis and Afghans. Earlier in the year, unprecedented numbers of Kosovo nationals crossed the Serbian-Hungarian border illegally.

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, counted the number of il-

legal border crossings on the Western Balkans route per year. According to their data, we can see a drastic spike from 19.950 in 2013, to 43.360 in 2014, to 764.038 in 2015. Since March 2016, after several countries along the Balkan migrant route closed their borders to migrants, this number dropped to 122.779. The refugees, albeit in smaller numbers still take their chances by boat, across the Mediterranean. This past year has seen a tragic increase in the loss of life with a total of 5.022 dead or missing at sea, marking 2016 as the deadliest year to date. We should note that these numbers are just the part of the migration pattern, and when legal migrants or refugees are added, total number approach 2 million. We should also note that the total number of asylum seekers in Balkan countries is negligible<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/mixed-migration-western-balkans.html>, Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 24-55.

Millions of people have migrated from their homes to other countries in recent years. Some migrants have moved voluntarily, seeking economic opportunities. Others have been forced from their homes by political turmoil, persecution or war and have left their countries to seek asylum elsewhere.

If all of the world's international migrants (people living in a country that is different from their country or territory of birth) lived in a single country, it would be the world's fifth largest, with around 244 million people. Overall, international migrants make up 3.3% of the world's population today<sup>2</sup>.

However, international migrants do not live in one country. Instead, they are dispersed across the world, with most having moved from middle-income to high-income countries. Top origins of international migrants include India (15.6 million), Mexico (12.3 million), Russia (10.6 million), China (9.5 million) and Bangladesh (7.2 million).

Among destination countries, the U.S. has more international migrants than any other country. It is home to about one-in-five international migrants (46.6 million). Other top destinations of migrants include Germany (12.0 million), Russia (11.6 million), Saudi Arabia (10.2 million) and the United Kingdom (8.5 million)<sup>3</sup>.

But absolute numbers don't tell the whole migration story. For example, while the U.S. has the most immigrants in the world, only 14% of the country's population is foreign born. This immigrant share is considerably lower than that in several Persian Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, where three-in-four or more people are international migrants. Moreover, top destination countries like Australia (28% foreign born)

and Canada (22% foreign born) have much larger immigrant shares of their total population than the U.S.<sup>4</sup>.

Migration alters many things in origin and destination countries, but the international flow of money and demographic changes in host nations are some of the most noticeable.

As immigrants make money, they send some back to relatives in their home countries. These remittances have grown to nearly \$600 billion worldwide in 2015. For some countries, remittances are an economic lifeline. For example, about a quarter or more of Central Asian countries' gross domestic product is tied to remittances.

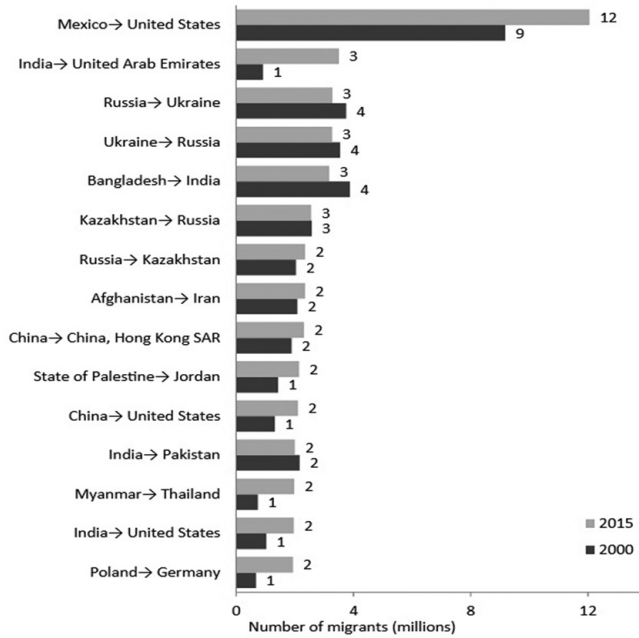
Trends prior to 2015. The route became a popular passageway into the EU in 2012 when Schengen visa restrictions were relaxed for five Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In 2013, some 20,000 people crossed the Hungarian border illegally. Nearly all of them applied for asylum after crossing. They were encouraged by a change to Hungarian law that allowed asylum seekers to be transferred to open holding centres, which they absconded soon after. In July, the Hungarian authorities further amended asylum legislation and strengthened their border controls. Migrant flows from Greece tailed off, but overall numbers rose dramatically again in 2014. Part of the reason for the rise was irregular migration by nationals of the region, especially from Kosovo, who joined the northward march by Syrians and Somalis. On arrival in Hungary, they too requested asylum, and were accommodated in open refugee centres. They left the centres and headed to other European Union countries, particularly Austria and Germany, where many again applied for asylum.

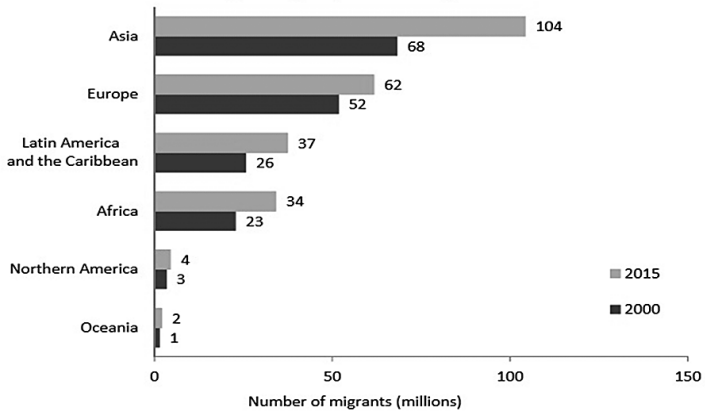
<sup>2</sup> Frontex Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 11-27.

<sup>3</sup> <http://frontex.europa.eu/publications/?c=risk-analysis>, Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network Quarterly, p. 41-59.

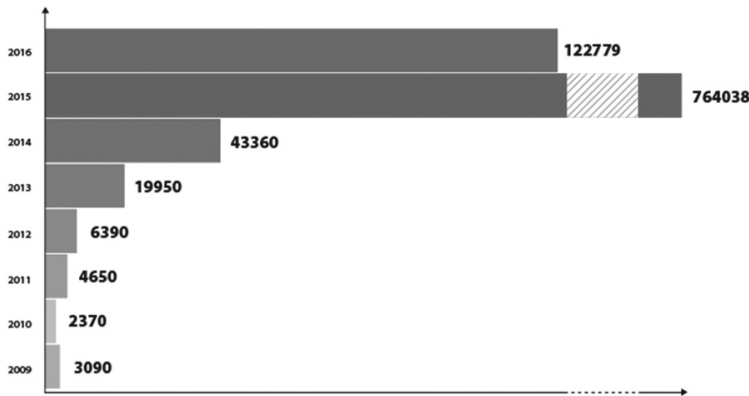
<sup>4</sup> Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 45-72.



Number of international migrants by major area of origin, 2000 and 2015



Source: <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/western-balkan-route/>



Illegal border crossings on the Western Balkans route in numbers.

Source: <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/western-balkan-route/>

## The 2014-2015 Migration Report.

The 2014 Migration Report, which was drawn up by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, was presented by Federal Interior Minister Dr. Thomas de Maizière on 6 January 2016. In addition to comprehensive data on migration regarding Germany, the Report contains a European comparison on migration-related events and on asylum-related immigration. It addresses the phenomenon of irregular migration and provides information on the structure and development of the population with a migration background. Major results of that document are:

- 2014 witnessed the highest level of immigration and the highest net migration since 1992.
- Immigration increased by 19 percent year-on-year in 2014. The number of those moving away rose by 15 percent; the migration surplus is 550,000 persons. The number of immigrants must be expected to rise markedly once more in 2015 as a result of the considerable asylum-related immigration.
- Internal EU migration accounts for 55 percent of total immigration to Germany.

Although the absolute number of Union citizens immigrating to Germany has continued to increase, the share of internal EU migration among total immigration is falling because of the disproportionate increase in asylum-related immigration.

- The year-on-year increase in the number of asylum applicants continued as a result of the increase in the number of trouble spots in the world (+60 percent to 203,000 applicants). The indicators of irregular migration also forecast a rise in this context.
- Immigration gained considerably greater momentum in 2015 too, in particular as a result of the marked rise in the number of people seeking asylum. The first eleven months of 2015 saw the number of asylum applicants (425,000 persons) rise by 134 percent vis-à-vis the same period in the previous year. The number of asylum-seekers registered in the “EASY” system in the same period was much higher (965,000 persons).
- Immigration by specialist workers from countries outside the European Union rose by 13 percent year-on-year in 2014.

- 93,000 young people who had obtained their higher education entrance qualification abroad commenced studies in Germany, this being more than ever before.
- Poland remained immigrants' main country of origin, as has been the case since 1996.
- Immigration from Romania and Bulgaria rose continually since EU accession in 2007.
- The numbers of immigrants from Croatia have also increased considerably since the country acceded to the EU as per 1 July 2013.
- One in five of Germany's inhabitants has a migration background, this figure being as many as roughly one-third among children aged under ten<sup>5</sup>.

The 2015 Migration Report, drawn up by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, was presented by Federal Ministry of the Interior on 14 December 2016. In addition to comprehensive data on migration regarding Germany, the Report contains a European comparison on migration-related events and on asylum-related immigration. It addresses the phenomenon of irregular migration and provides information on the structure and development of the population with a migration background<sup>6</sup>. Major results are:

- 2015 was characterized by the highest level of immigration of individuals seeking protection. 476,649 asylum applications (first and subsequent asylum applications) were registered in 2015 (in comparison to 202,834 asylum applications in 2014). This amounts to an increase of 135.0 per cent in comparison to the preceding year.
- According to the EASY quota system (Initial Distribution of Asylum-Seekers) initially as many as 1,091,900 arrivals of asylum seekers were registered. However, errors in counting and double counting, as well as onward- or return travels could not be excluded when registering in the EASY quota system, since no personal data is recorded in EASY. Only after the completion of the post-registration in September 2016 it became clear, that the number of arrivals was indeed 890.000.
- 2015 witnessed the highest level of immigration and the highest positive migration balance since 1992. In comparison to the previous year, immigration increased by 46 per cent to 2.14 million arrivals. The number of those moving away rose by 9 per cent (approx. 1 million); the migration surplus is 1.14 million persons.
- The number of asylum-seekers reached a historical record in 2015. In this context, an increase of the indicators of irregular migration has been observed.
- In the year 2015, Syria was the main country of origin of immigrants with 326,900 Syrians arriving in Germany, which was by far the largest group of immigrants. This is due to the disproportionate increase in asylum-related immigration within this group of persons. This also applies to the strong immigration from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.
- Internal EU migration remains strong, as it constitutes 39.6 per cent of the whole immigration to Germany. Although Germany has registered an increase in the arrival of Union citizens, the share of the internal EU migration within the entire immigration is declining due to the disproportionate increase in asylum-related immigration.

<sup>5</sup> <http://frontex.europa.eu/publications/>, Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 20-39.

<sup>6</sup> Frontex Annual Risk Analysis, p. 69-72.

- With 99,100 students the highest number of young people who received their entry qualification in a country other than the country they are currently studying in started studying in Germany.
- Family reunification increased by 44 per cent in comparison to the preceding year<sup>7</sup>.

Germany remains the main destination country for migrants in European comparison. Above all one fifth of the population has a migration background. Among children under the age of ten, about one-third has a migration background. In 2016 immigration to Germany declined. This is mainly due to the decline in asylum-related immigration since early 2016. The Federal Government's Migration Report is published on an annual basis by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees<sup>8</sup>.

Mainly migration trends in 2016. 18<sup>th</sup> December was International Migrants Day, and a good day to reflect on just how dramatic a year 2015 has been for migration. Historic levels of displacement, thousands of deaths in transit and an unfolding European asylum crisis have combined with rising xenophobia, growing concerns about migration and security, and frozen policy-making. Can things get any worse – or better – next year? Here are predictions on migration in 2016.

First of all Europe's asylum crisis will get worse. There may not be many people left in Syria who want to escape, but the 3 million outside the country will not be going home any time soon, and neither does the majority want to stay in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey. Nor is there any prospect for dramatic improvements in other countries from which people are heading to Europe in significant numbers, like Afghanistan and

Eritrea. Hungarian walls will not keep them out, any more than will naval patrols in the Mediterranean or capacity-building in transit countries. Expect three million asylum seekers to enter Europe next year – double the number this year – and most of them to head for Germany and Sweden.

Secondly the number of refugees worldwide will rise to yet new historic levels. The Syrian crisis will be compounded by new displacement from Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Libya and Yemen – and these are only the countries that are easy to predict.

Next thing are the climate change won't yet displace significant numbers – wait for 2020 for that. In the meantime there is no obvious opportunity for large-scale returns home to counterbalance these outflows globally (modest returns to Myanmar may be the best we can hope for). The majority of refugees will continue to live in the world's poorer countries.

Migrants will send home more money than ever before. The continued growth of international migration, a structural reliance on migrant labour, and the continued recovery of the global economy, will combine to fuel migrant transfers or remittances of at least \$500 billion. As a result migration will continue to rise on the development agenda. After significant lobbying, the potential for migration to contribute to poverty reduction has been acknowledged in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There will be more women migrants than men. Over the last 20 years the number of women among migrants has increased worldwide, as the global demand for labour has become focused on domestic work, services, hospitality, and sex. In 2016 women will comprise more than half the world's 232 million migrants for the first time. A growing proportion of these women will

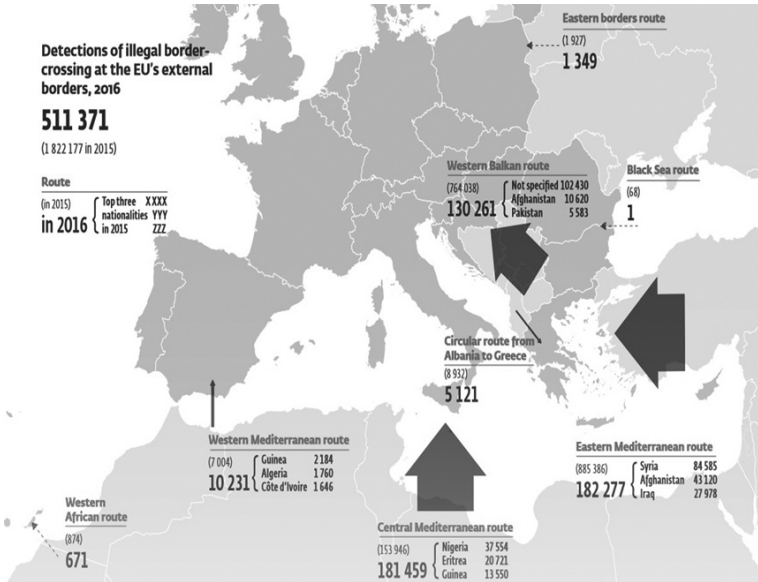
<sup>7</sup> Frontex Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 38.

<sup>8</sup> <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/02/22/balkan-migration-route-ongoing-story/>

migrate independently and as breadwinners for their families. A growing proportion will also be trafficked, and suffer human rights abuses.

The global war for talent will intensify. Continued retrenchment in Europe will place even greater emphasis on employing the best and brightest, but Europe will face

growing competition from new skills magnets like Brazil and China. Expect ageing, conservative, and increasingly xenophobic Europe to lose out in this competition. And expect more innovative policy responses in the US, for example to extend residency rights for tertiary students at the end of their degrees.



Source: <http://frontex.europa.eu/assets>

Refugees are a subset of displaced persons worldwide. The latest UN estimates suggest that more than 60 million, or nearly 1 in 100 people worldwide, are forcibly displaced from their homes, the highest number and share of the world's population since World War II. As of 2015, nearly two-thirds (63%) of the world's displaced population still lived in their birth countries.

The Syrian conflict has dramatically increased the number of displaced people since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011. About one-fifth of the world's displaced, or 12.5 million, were born in Syria. Colombia, meanwhile, has more displaced people than any other country: nearly 7 million, most of

whom are internally displaced because of the country's decades-long conflict.

In Europe, the recent surge of refugees has made some Europeans wary of the immigration situation in their countries. In eight of 10 European nations surveyed in spring, half or more adults in those countries said incoming refugees increased the likelihood of terrorism in their countries. Similarly, half or more adults in five of the 10 countries surveyed said that refugees would have a negative economic impact on their countries, taking jobs and social benefits. As the influx of different races, ethnic groups and nationalities changes the face of Europe, few Europeans say that growing

diversity makes their country a better place to live. In none of the 10 nations surveyed did a majority see increasing diversity as a positive. The same survey found Europeans sharply divided about whether refugees leaving Iraq and Syria were a major threat to their countries<sup>9</sup>.

Cross-border crime. In 2016, during Frontex JOs, 96 tonnes of drugs and 36 tonnes of smuggled cigarettes were seized. Several incidents of illegal fishery and pollution at sea were detected during maritime JOs, as well as a number of stolen vehicles at the land borders. For years, Frontex has been promoting European border management with a special focus on irregular migration flows. Based on its new mandate, the Agency will develop an operational strategy in line with the concept of Integrated Border Management. An important element of border management is supporting Member States in combating organised crime at the external borders, including the smuggling of goods and trafficking in human beings. Smuggling of illicit drugs Cannabis from the Western Balkans and North Africa. According to the EMCDDA European Drug Report 2016, more than 75% of drug seizures in Europe were of cannabis, Morocco being the main provider, although its production is in decline. Spain reported around two-thirds of the total quantity of cannabis resin seized in Europe. In addition, Spain, together with Greece and Italy, has also reported large increases in seizures of cannabis herb in recent years<sup>10</sup>.

In September 2016, in an operation co-ordinated by the Guardia Civil, 19 tonnes of hashish were seized on a cargo ship and 12 persons arrested in the operational area of the JO Indalo. Regarding herbal cannabis, Turkey has been seizing larger quantities of

herbal cannabis than all EU countries combined over the past few years.

Cocaine from South America. According to EMCDDA's calculations for 2014, 1% of the general population and 2% of young adults used cocaine in the EU. However, seizures, increasing from the mid-nineties till 2007, have been declining since 2009. Most of the cocaine is seized by Spain, but trafficking routes to Europe have been diversifying and seizures were recently made in ports of the Eastern Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Sea. However, according to available data, these routes remained of minor importance. Moreover, cocaine is smuggled on pleasure boats and through container shipments, where it is often hidden under legitimate goods, and in air freight. At the air border, organised criminal networks often apply 'swarming tactics', consisting in 'flooding' planes with dozens of couriers per flight in the expectation that a sufficient number of them would slip through controls. As shown by examples from the Netherlands, some countermeasures have proven successful, such as the establishment of joint customs and border guard teams to identify couriers. However, stricter controls on selected high-risk air routes tended to lead to the use of alternative routing.

Heroin from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. According to the EMCDDA, the overall quantity seized in the EU and Norway has declined from around 8 tonnes in 2009 to 5.6 tonnes in 2013, but then increased again to 8.9 tonnes in 2014. Notably, there has been a rapid increase in the size of individual shipments, with seizures of more than 100 kg, exceeding even the total quantity of heroin seizures reported in 2013<sup>11</sup>. Most of the heroin consumed in the EU is produced in Afghanistan and transported along a va-

<sup>9</sup> Frontex Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report, p. 13.

<sup>10</sup> EMCDDA (2016), European Drug Report: Trends and Developments, p. 65.

<sup>11</sup> EMCDDA (2016), European Drug Report: Trends and Developments, p. 84.



riety of routes, including through Turkey and Balkan countries, the Northern route, which heads through Central Asia and the Russian Federation, and the Southern route via the Persian Gulf by sea, sometimes including passages through Africa. The latest annual statistics on seizures showed that more heroin was seized in Turkey than in all EU Member States combined, and the gap in large seizures 26 of 60.

Frontex Risk Analysis for 2017 within most countries of South Eastern Europe points to a number of undetected shipments. On this route, heroin is often smuggled into the EU by criminals posing as individual travelers in small and medium amounts. Regular cooperation between border guards and customs authorities is of particular importance for the detection of drugs smuggled in this way. Smuggling of weapons The terrorist attacks in France in 2015 demonstrated that the effective control of firearms is indispensable to fight terrorism. The perpetrators of the terrorist attacks of January 2015 on the Charlie Hebdo office and a kosher supermarket in Paris and of November 2015 on the Bataclan theatre reportedly used weapons from the Western Balkans. Police investigations have generally shown a wide availability of military grade arms including AK47s, rocket propelled grenade launchers on European illicit markets, especially in the dark net, which is a network that is not accessible through conventional search engines. Many of these weapons are illegally traded from former conflict regions such as the Western Balkans, where around 800 000 weapons are estimated to be in illegal civilian possession in Bosnia and Herzegovina alone. A closer cooperation and information exchange between European law enforcement authorities (both inland and at the external border) and customs authorities is crucial in the effective fight against trafficking of firearms.

Links between migrant smuggling and other cross-border crimes. Many OCGs are involved in migrant smuggling as their main criminal activity. However, according to Europol, many of the OCGs involved in migrant smuggling are polycriminal and so engage in other criminal activities, including document counterfeiting, trafficking in human beings, property crime, drug trafficking, excise fraud, firearms trafficking, and trafficking in counterfeit goods. Other OCGs previously involved in these criminal activities have added migrant smuggling to their portfolio. There are tenuous links between migrant smuggling and terrorism involving the use of migrant smuggling networks and their logistics to support or fund terrorism related activities. At this point, however, there is no concrete evidence that terrorist groups maintain sustained engagement with OCGs involved in migrant smuggling. Nevertheless, it cannot be ruled out that terrorists may be using migrant smugglers' resources to achieve their goals.

Trafficking in human beings. The rise in irregular migration between 2015 and 2016 also led to a greater number of people (including minors and women) who can be easily exploited by smugglers and traffickers. According to a recently published UNODC analysis of global country level data on THB victims and recently arrived regular migrants, trafficking in persons and regular migration flows in the case of some destination countries broadly coincide<sup>12</sup>.

Some irregular migrants are kidnapped, held for ransom, or forced to work against their will to repay their debts to smugglers. For instance, Nigerian irregular migrants rely on migrant smugglers to reach the EU. At the same time, human traffickers frequently lure Nigerian women to Europe for

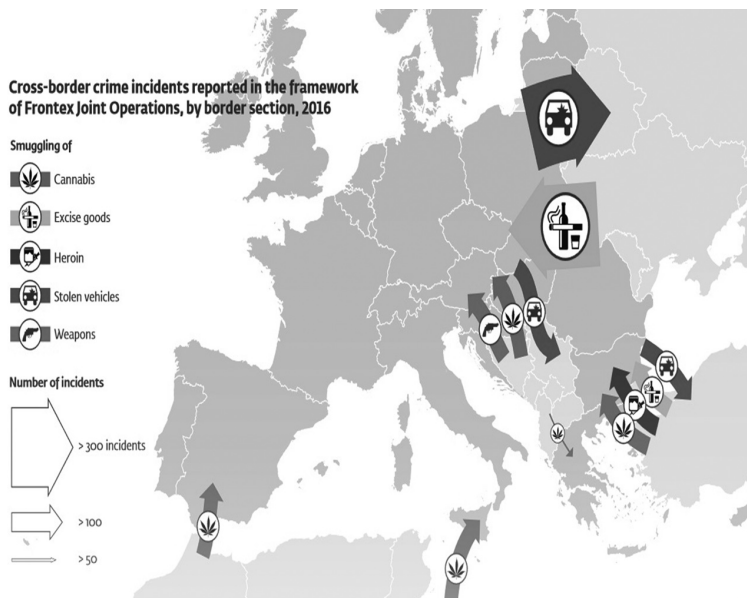
<sup>12</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/mixed-migration-western-balkans.html>

sexual exploitation. Many irregular migrants become victims of forced labour or sexual exploitation at some stage during their journey to the EU. This particularly affects irregular migrants travelling on the Central Mediterranean route via Libya and, to a much lesser extent, those migrating along the Eastern Mediterranean route. Some irregular migrants who try to reach the EU are forced to work at each leg of their journey to pay migrant smugglers. Higher prices of facilitation services also increase the risk of exploitation in countries of transit and arrival. So far, irregular migrants do not appear to be subject to systematic abuse once they reach the EU, even though individual cases were reported. For example, in December 2016, police in northern<sup>13</sup>. Greece freed two asylum seekers, a Syrian and an Iraqi man, who had been locked in a room for more than a week for failing to pay transit fees after being smuggled across the border from Turkey. Exit of stolen motor vehicles. According to Eurostat, the total number of vehicles including cars, motorcycles, buses, lorries, construction and agricultural vehicles stolen in the EU was steadily falling between 1998 and 2013. Among the reasons for the decline were the advanced antitheft technologies developed by the producers and intensified international law enforcement cooperation. Only a small share of the vehicles stolen in the EU is detected at its external borders, often in the context of Frontex Joint Operations. Smuggling of excise goods The majority of excise goods smuggled across the EU's external borders are tobacco products. According to estimates of the European Commission, the illicit trade in tobacco products costs the EU and its Member States EUR 10 billion a year in lost

tax revenues. It should be stressed that it is not only individual consumers and small-scale smugglers from economically weak border regions that try to take advantage of existing price differences. In fact, also large scale criminal businesses illicitly import cigarettes from as far away as Asia, especially to Western European markets.

In 2016, seizures of 28 000 000 illicit cigarettes were reported in the framework of Frontex JOs. Half of this number was reported from Greece, more than 11 million cigarettes were seized at the eastern borders, about 1.2 million on the Western Balkan route and almost 300 000 at the Spanish border.

<sup>13</sup> UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016; available at [http://www.unodc.org/documents/dataandanalysis/glotip/2016\\_Global\\_Report\\_on\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/dataandanalysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf)



Source: <http://frontex.europa.eu/assets>

## Conclusions

Europe has also experienced its own refugee crisis as a destination for Syrians, Afghans, Iraqis and others escaping violence in their countries, with nearly 1.3 million refugees applying for asylum in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland in 2015. The EU struck a deal with Turkey in March 2016 to limit migrants coming through that country. Although that deal has largely halted migration from Turkey to Greece, Italy is on track to receive a record number of refugees this year. Meanwhile, European countries continue to work through a million or more asylum applications, including tens of thousands from unaccompanied minors.

Refugees are persons who cross international borders to seek protection from persecution, war and violence. Their total number has also increased from 50 years ago. Not including Palestinian refugees, there were about 1.7 million refugees worldwide in 1960, and about 16 million

in 2015, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The number of refugees in 2015, however, is slightly less than the early 1990s following the fall of the Berlin Wall. As of 2015, refugees account for only about 8% of all international migrants.

In 2016, the EU experienced another year of intense migratory pressure at its external borders. Member States reported more than 511 000 detections of illegal border-crossing, which corresponds to roughly 382 000 new arrivals from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. This was a significant decrease in comparison with 2015, when over one million migrants came to the EU. However, the overall situation at Europe's external borders remained challenging.

The decrease in arrivals was mainly caused by fewer migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey. This drop was a result of the EU Turkey statement of March 2016

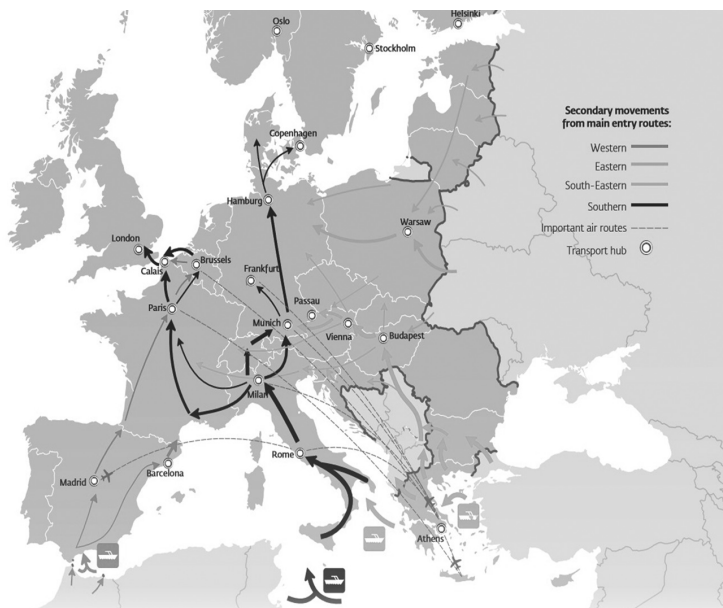
and the introduction of strict border control measures in Western Balkan countries, which effectively closed the Balkan route.

As a result of the EU Turkey statement, migrants who arrived on the Greek Islands after 20 March could be returned to Turkey. Indeed, since April 2016 Frontex supported the Greek authorities in returning migrants who had been issued return decisions. While the number of migrants from Asia and the Middle East decreased, 2016 was marked with an increase in migratory pressure from Africa, in particular on the route from Libya to Italy. Italy saw the highest number of arrivals ever recorded – about 182 000, with a significant increase in the number of migrants from West Africa. Tragically, despite rescue efforts by Frontex, the Italian Coast Guard and Navy, Operation EUNAVFOR Med, and the assistance of many NGO and commercial vessels, several thousands of migrants making the crossing on overcrowded and unseaworthy rubber dinghies lost their lives in the Mediterranean. There was also an increase in peoplesmuggling activities, both on routes leading to and within Europe. Many of the migrants used forged documents, which remains a challenge for border authorities. Moreover, a large number of poorly documented migrants moving within Europe continues to constitute a threat to Europe's internal security. Throughout the year, Frontex (since October 2016 the European Border and Coast Guard Agency) consistently deployed between 1 000 and 1 500 border guards at the EU's external borders. In its maritime operations in the Central Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea, the Agency-deployed vessels rescued 90 000 migrants. At the same time, Frontex officers ensured the registration and identification of thousands of newlyarrived migrants in Greece and Italy. In Frontex operations in Italy, Greece, Spain, Hungary, Croatia and Bul-

garia, 1265 suspected people smugglers were arrested and more than 95 tonnes of illegal narcotics confiscated.

Also in 2016, Europe saw massive movements of people who crossed the external border of the EU illegally and decided to move on to other Member States. Moving within the EU, irregular migrants use a variety of modi operandi and means of transport, which makes the strategic analysis of intraSchengen secondary movements extremely difficult.

Large migration flows, as witnessed during the crisis of 2015-2016, made secondary routes more visible for strategic analysis. The concerted efforts of the countries along the Western Balkan route to close their borders and to end the facilitated travel through their territories resulted in reducing the visible flow of people on the most frequented secondary route through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia / Hungary and further on to Austria and Germany. However, detections reported from Member States showed that these movements continued after March 2016, although at a lower level and in a more covert way. The reinstatement of controls at the internal borders of some Member States led to a diversification in routes and modi operandi. Also, the rise in migration pressure at the Central Mediterranean route brought about changes in the extent to which certain Member States were affected by the migration of undocumented persons on secondary routes within the EU and Schengen area. South-Eastern route: reported attempts to bypass Austria.



Source: <http://frontex.europa.eu/assets>

In 2016, the level of intra Schengen migration of persons coming from the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan route was far lower than in 2015 – even though secondary routes became more diverse<sup>14</sup>.

In 2016, Hungary reported more than 25 000 illegal bordercrossings from Serbia, which is a significant decrease from around 200 000 migrants that crossed this border section in 2015. Croatia, which became the main transit country of irregular migration after Hungary, built a technical obstacle at its border with Serbia in September 2015. It led to a significant decline in irregular migration, from more than 500 000 illegal bordercrossings in 2015 to just over 100 000 in 2016.

Most of these migrants, after having transited Hungary or Croatia, continued to travel to Austria and further on to Germany. In fact, Germany reported most detections of intra Schengen movements of nationalities typically coming through the Eastern

Mediterranean route near the Austrian border. At this location, in 2016, most irregular migrants were detected travelling by train and, to a lesser extent, in private vehicles provided by facilitation networks

Eastern route: number of Russian nationals rising. In 2016, the German authorities detected about 2 000 irregular migrants on intra Schengen movements from Poland. Although the number was lower than in 2015, other reports point to increasing flows from Belarus and Poland to Germany, mainly of Russian nationals of reportedly Chechen origin. Many of these migrants travelled by train from Minsk and entered the Schengen area in the Polish city of Terespol, from where many continued their journey to Germany.

Both Poland and Germany detected a large proportion of Russian nationals in private vehicles, travelling along the European Route E30, which connects Terespol (at the Belarusian border) with Warsaw and Berlin.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/mixed-migration-western-balkans.html>