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Επαγγελματικό Λύκειο
Γαλασίου
Galatsi Vocational School

Erasmus+ KA229

Refugees & Migrants: The Past, The Present and The Future

The situation of Migration in Greece

3d Mobility
Finland, Poorvo 2020

MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE

Source: IOM



SPAIN

SINCE 2015

75,903

2018

16,348



ITALY

SINCE 2015

471,041

2018

16,394



GREECE

SINCE 2015

1,090,337

2018

21,016

MIGRATION & EMIGRATION IN GREECE

Emigration

- Greece throughout almost the whole 20th century was a country that has 'sent' migrants abroad, due to the economic crisis.
- Also during the ongoing crisis in Greece between 2008 and 2013, the phenomenon of human capital flight, commonly known as “**brain drain**”, has grown to large proportions.

Almost 223 thousand Greek residents aged 25-39, whether foreign-born or native, left the country permanently for more advanced economies (Germany, United Kingdom ,United Arab Emirates) in search of employment, better payment and better social and economic prospects.

MIGRATION & EMIGRATION IN GREECE

Migration

There are four large migratory flows to Greece

1. Refugee stream after the Asia Minor catastrophe
2. Migration stream of the '90s
3. 21st century migration
4. Current Refugee crisis

1. REFUGEE STREAM AFTER THE ASIA MINOR CATASTROPHE

The first refugee flows to Greece come after the Asia Minor Catastrophe.

Greeks of Central Asia chased by the war, arrive in Greece (1922).

Later, with the exchange of populations and the Treaty of Lausanne, about 1 million Greeks come to the country.

They settle in areas of Greece.

Initially, in makeshift camps (squares, theaters, etc)

The reception in Greece is not easy and the financial impact is serious.

1. REFUGEE STREAM AFTER THE ASIA MINOR CATASTROPHE



Smyrna. Greeks are waiting to board the ships that will transport them to Greece.

Refugee camp set up in front of the temple of Hephaestus.



2. MIGRATION STREAM OF THE '90S

This wave of immigration came from Albania, Bulgaria and the countries of the former USSR.

The economic migrants during this period reached up to 800,000 - 27% of the population.

The largest percentage was covered by Albanians and was followed by people from other Balkan countries.

3. 21ST CENTURY MIGRATION

Immigrants mainly came from Albania but also from Asian countries (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Africa).

18,000 came to Greece in search of work.

Other reasons were:

- family reunification,
- studies,
- refugees.

Significant number of illegal immigrants: 100,000 per year in the years
2006-2015.

4. CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

2015 is a milestone year

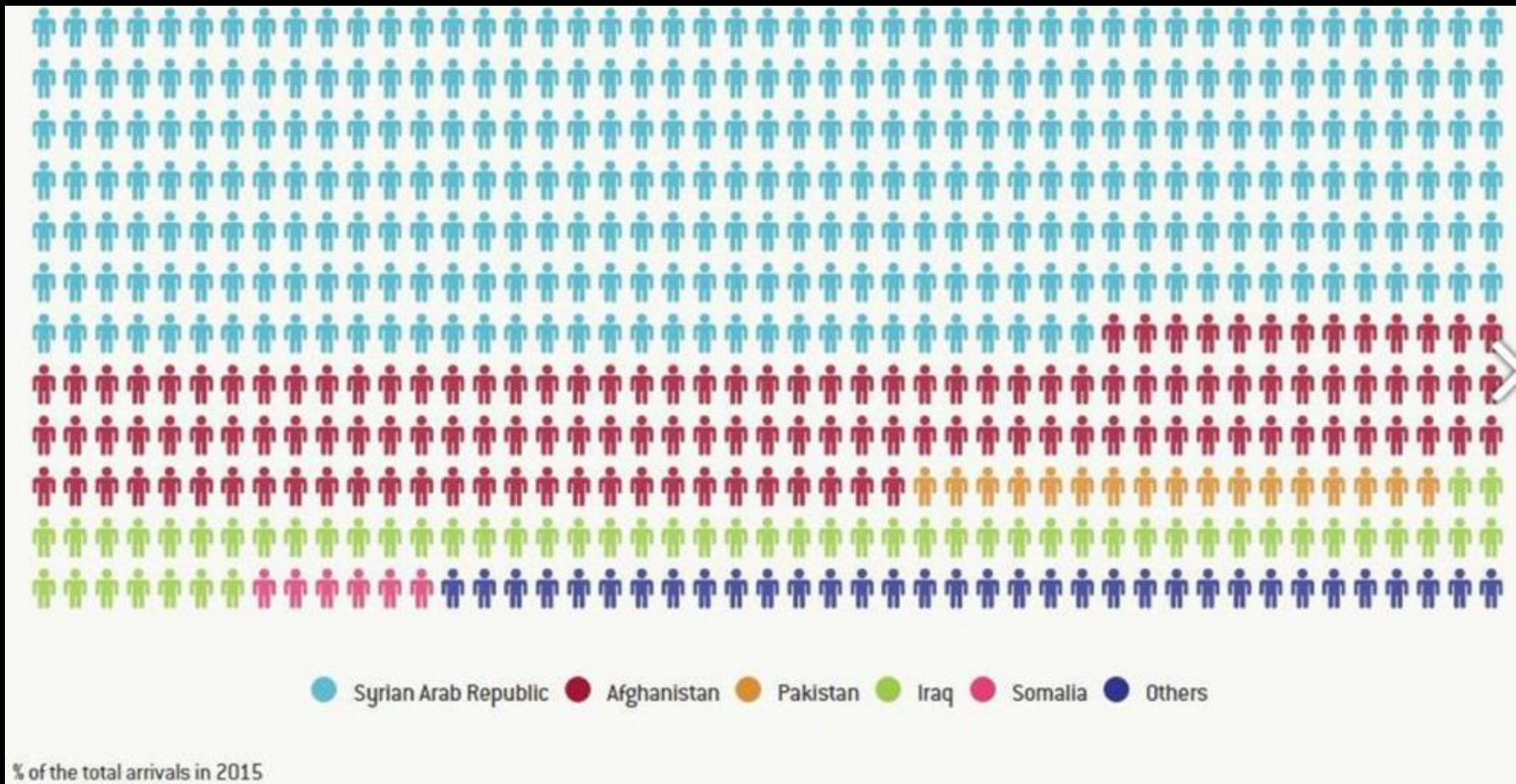
According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 6 million Syrians have fled their country abroad (mainly to EU).

The number of refugees passing through Turkey to Greece increased 20 times from 2014 to 2015.

Syrian refugees:

- **47%** of total flows → **to the EU**
- **56%** → **to Greece**

4. CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS



4. CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

Greece received 26,048 asylum applications only in 2015.

Almost half of the Syrian refugees crossed into Europe in 2015

The characteristic of these flows was that Greece was not a country of destination but a country of transit.

4. CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

From 2015 onwards, **policies and public debate in Europe** have focused on **security** and the **prevention** of migratory flows.

The asylum applications of the Syrians at the end of 2017 reached 1 million.

Yannis Behrakis, 2015



CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS – THE REALITY

The Aegean Sea has been historically important and its islands facilitated contact among the people of the area and between Europe and Asia.

The hotspots on the Greek islands of **Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros** are struggling to manage an Increase in the number of refugees and immigrants crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey these last years.



THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS

MORIA CAMP

The Moria Refugee Camp (Moria Identification Centre) is the largest refugee camp in Europe located outside the village of Moria near Mytilene, on the island of Lesbos.

It is described by Human Rights Watch as an open air prison.

The camp was built to accommodate around 3,000 people, however there were around 20,000 people living in the camp in summer 2020, among whom 6,000 to 7000 were children under the age of 18.







Yannis Behrakis , A refugee keeps warm by an open fire at a makeshift camp on Lesbos, 18 November

THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.

MORIA CAMP

In August 2018, the Moria Refugee Camp was named **“the worst refugee camp ever to be seen”** by the Doctors Without Borders. They described how the refugees were suffering with a lot of difficulties:

- No one was interested in showing them where to sleep.
- The queues for food distribution were very long and quarrels were constantly arising.



THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.

MORIA CAMP

- The food was poor of quality and people suffering from a disease had problem, because from the moment they got there their health deteriorated.
- At night men got drunk and women have reported frequent cases of sexual harassment.
- The toilets were always dirty and flooded.
- The police did not protect people during frequent incidents of violence.

THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.

MORIA CAMP

On the other hand the residents of the nearby village of Moria have complained of increased criminality, including break-ins, vandalism, and looting of houses.

As the refugee crisis is still ongoing, every month hundreds of refugees and migrants cross the Mediterranean sea and land in Lesvos. Thus, the situation has not improved.



FIRE IN MORIA

On 8 September 2020, a fire badly damaged the camp of more than 12,000 asylum seekers, which may have started deliberately to protest quarantine measures, that came after detecting positive COVID-19 cases in the camp.

On 10 September, three Greek ships were sent to help shelter the migrants. The same day, the camp was almost completely destroyed. Most of the refugees were left homeless on the street. During protests demanding their evacuation Greek police fired tear gas at them.



FIRE IN MORIA

Police blocked roads from the camp to prevent migrants entering nearby towns.

Reports suggest many slept in fields after the fire.





"In a frozen moment in time, the bravery and distrust of children are reflected, as well as their readiness to help others in the face of absolute adversity"

Special award, photo of the year 2020 by UNICEF

RIC LESVOS: THE NEW CAMP

The next days were dramatic for the refugees of Moria. They stayed and spent nights on the streets. Some collected reeds and using large pieces of fabric tried to make tents.

The **new camp** built near Kara Tepe, referred to as RIC Lesvos by the Greek authorities, has hidden dangers. The initial hope for change after the destruction of Moria has turned into an endless fear for those living inside the new camp. They fear they've ended up in a new Moria.



THE KARA TEPE REFUGEE CAMP

The purpose of the camp was to provide temporary housing for asylum seekers as they wait for their registration processes. Kara Tepe was from the start the overflow site for Moria Refugee Camp and also provided accommodation to vulnerable families.

Initially, it was mandatory for refugees to spend a minimum of 25 days in the Moria camp before their transfer to Kara Tepe, however due to the overcrowding of the island camps, transfer to Kara Tepe was on a needs basis.



THE KARA TEPE REFUGEE CAMP

The majority of individuals living in the camp are of Afghani, Iraqi or Syrian origin. Asylum seekers spent an average of four months at the Kara Tepe camp. Asylum seekers living in Kara Tepe are able to leave and re-enter the site daily.

The residents of Kara Tepe and the administration of the camp still face a great deal of challenges. Such challenges include: hard access to electricity, limited space and resources for food preparation, restrictions on employment, lack of targeted mental health interventions for youth.

THE ROLE OF NGOS

In Greece, many well-known and established international organizations and NGOs are active in helping refugees and migrants. Some of them are:

- ❖ The organization **Doctors of the World**, is particularly active in the health sector and maintains "open practice" for migrants, refugees and the socially disadvantaged, a homeless shelter, offers medical care and a mobile dental office.
- ❖ The **Hellenic Red Cross** is also heavily committed to help refugees,. It is worth mentioning in particular the campaign "All together we can make it"
- ❖ **DRC (Danish refugee council)** works at nine sites on the Greek mainland providing site management services, along with food, water and sanitation, protection, legal aid, and non-formal education.
- ❖ The organization **Solidarity Now** operates a Solidarity Center in Greece since 2014 and recently started the implementation of the "Step-by-Step" program, in order to stand by the side of unaccompanied minors.

THE ASYLUM APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- ▶ Access to the international protection process is free and open. Every third-country national or stateless person has the right to apply for international protection.
- ▶ The application is submitted to the receiving authorities, who immediately carry out a complete registration.
- ▶ The application for international protection is submitted in person. However, the application can now be submitted electronically through the self-registration application.
- ▶ If someone has entered the country without the legal formalities he will be transferred to a reception and identification center, and if there is no document proving his citizenship and identity, he will undergo reception and identification procedures. In this case, he will be obliged to stay at the center's facilities for as long as the process of examining your application lasts.

COMING TO ATHENS....

- ▶ Families can be transferred to Accommodation structures in Athens, depending on their situation after the completion of the reception, identification and asylum applications.
- ▶ They come by ship to Piraeus and they are transferred to structures in cooperation most of the time of the Greek State with international and European Organizations.
- ▶ Immigrants are accommodated in hotels, in Temporary Accommodation Centers but also in houses funded by the European Union.
- ▶ In Athens, for example, there is a guesthouse for the support of families and single-parent families of asylum seekers.

COMING TO ATHENS....

- ▶ The Refugees' Center offers temporary accommodation to refugee families who are either asylum seekers in Greece, or await relocation to another European country as part of family reunification, and in any case belong to vulnerable groups.
- ▶ The services offered are: Hosting families (including community feeding, clothing and sanitation needs), support, access to health services, social counseling, information and psychological support, vocational guidance, legal advice regarding the process of filing and obtaining asylum, labor issues, access to the education system and related activities, educational support and workshops for the development and promotion of skills, creative, educational, cultural and recreational activities for children and adults.

Unaccompanied children



Unaccompanied children

About **17.000 children** have left their homelands **with or without** their families!

The estimated number of **unaccompanied minors** in Greece in July 2020 was **4558**, of which 92.8% are boys, 7.2% girls and **8.5% under 14 years**.

Their origin is 43% from Afghanistan , 25% from Pakistan and 9% from Syria.

Many of the unaccompanied minors are living in precarious housing conditions or are on the road / homeless.

Unaccompanied children

Their living conditions

After children's registration by the Reception and Identification Service, they will:

- remain in refugee camps and safe zones within them
- be placed in a hostel, either on the islands or inland
- be placed in hotels in various places in Greece
- be in protective custody and in the long run, they will either apply for asylum in Greece, or will be forwarded to another European country, if they are subject to the status of family reunification or relocation.

Unaccompanied children

Their living conditions

- 3 / 4 unaccompanied children continue to be denied access to adequate accommodation
- 1,483 are in long term accommodation
- 783 are in short term accommodation
- 904 are housed in reception and identification centres such as Moria on Lesbos island
- 190 are in open reception facilities in the mainland
- and more than 200 (the highest number in recent years) remain in protective custody at police stations
- Another **1,005 unaccompanied children (1/4) are homeless or live in precarious conditions and face the risk of exploitation, violence and human trafficking.**

Unaccompanied children

Dreams...Goals....Opportunities

Of course unaccompanied migrant minors, just like other children on this planet, have their own dreams and goals...

But unlike other children, the way to achieve these goals is more difficult. Since they face alone this world, without any parental support, mental health problems like depression and suicidal tendencies are more likely to happen, making them less likely to chase their dreams.

Moreover, due to financial issues and lack of understanding regarding how politics and government structures function, it is even harder for them.



Unaccompanied children

Dreams...Goals....Opportunities

- The inclusion of refugee children, in public education remains a dream for many children, who need protection of their rights more than anyone else.
- It is fortunate that there have been several educators, medical staff and social workers who have dedicated their lives to the field of supporting children at risk.
- It is encouraging to see agreements such as the one from Denmark to Greece, (3 million euros), for their support after the catastrophic fire of KYT Moria for the creation of accommodation structures, education, training and integration programs in Greek society, according to the children's age.

Unaccompanied children

Dreams...Goals....Opportunities

- A foster care program under which **104 unaccompanied children** **have already found family care, in accordance with national law and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in cooperation with the relevant state social services**, has enabled the children to **stay in families**, a practice followed for decades from other European Union countries.
- **There is evidence to suggest that this is the best choice for their best interest** and their psychosocial development.

Unaccompanied children

Is there provision of care from the Greek State towards caring for these children?

1. **EKKA**, (Greece's National Centre for Social Solidarity) as the main responsible institution for the referrals of unaccompanied minors to the various forms of hospitality, is making efforts to intensify the filling of vacancies in respective structures.
2. **"Strategic Plan for the Accommodation and Care Of Unaccompanied Minors"**, a program funded by European Union, continues to supported living apartments, accommodation structures-hostels, hotels and safe zones in open accommodation centers.
3. **Municipalities** are making steps in order to strengthen the construction of structures.
4. Finally, alternative forms of child protection are promoted, such as that of **foster care** and the acceleration of **resettlement** and **family reunification** procedures for unaccompanied minors.

Unaccompanied children

What about their education?

Educational Priority Zones / EPZs in primary and secondary schools aims at equal access of all students to the education system through the operation of support actions to improve learning performance, such as the operation of reception classrooms, support classes, summer schools, and classes of teaching the mother tongue of the country of origin of the students.

Non-formal learning activities, organized by NGOs, such as the preparation for Greek language lessons before enrolling in school, supportive teaching during their studies, participation in activities that enhance their cognitive level but also their socialization, are an important contribution.

Unaccompanied children

What about their education?

However, the infrastructure and conditions (especially in the shelters) are insufficient, the lessons are few, there is increased xenophobia and racism, as well as the early school drop out of immigrant children.



THE ROLE OF TURKEY

In March 2016, in a joint EU-Turkey statement, the latter undertook to hold refugees (3.5 million) with 3 billion-year funding.

European Unions tactic: **paying the poor to keep their poorest neighbors**

But ..

At the end of February 2020, Turkey, which hosts around 4 million refugees and asylum seekers, announced it would no longer stop refugees from crossing into Europe, manufacturing a crisis at the Greek-Turkish border.



TURKEY THREATENS TO “OPEN THE GATES”

- While migrant camps on the Aegean islands have reached breaking point and with Turkey threatening to “open the gates”, migrants continue to arrive in Greece in hundreds every week. Most come by boats, but in recent months growing numbers have crossed via the land route across the Evros River.
- On the Greece- Turkey border, smugglers are regularly caught transporting migrants in minibus or trucks. There are many reports about how many people cross this border. According to the UN migration agency the number has risen steadily in recent months from 255 arrivals in May to 4233 in September



TURKEY THREATENS TO “OPEN THE GATES”

Since the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants smuggled by lorry into the UK, there have been many more reports of migrants being stowed away in trucks and vans. A group of 41 people hiding in a truck crossing from Turkey into northern Greece was reported (mostly Afghan men between the ages of 20 and 30, were reported to be in danger of suffocation when they were found).

The responsibility of Europe for the refugees

Europe should take care of refugees and help them, but instead of it, since the end of 2015 Central and Western European countries have decided to close their borders.

On the other hand Greece is the nearest country they can come due to its geographical location. So most of them have no other choice than staying here.



The responsibility of Europe for the refugees

One of the principal aims of the **Dublin Regulation** is to prevent an applicant from submitting applications in multiple Member States. Another aim is to reduce the number of "orbiting" asylum seekers, who are shuttled from member state to member state. The country in which the asylum seeker first applies for asylum is responsible for either accepting or rejecting the claim, and the seeker may not restart the process in another jurisdiction.

Result: Refugees are stacked on Greek islands in very bad conditions.

This is unfair both for refugees who want to find their families in other European countries and for Greece that tries to deal with all this great number of human beings, something that is impossible, regarding the economic situation of Greece.



The responsibility of Europe for the refugees

Trying to stop them coming...

Following the European tactics, Greece adopted political practices (adverse living conditions) aimed at **preventing people from coming here.**

In fact according to the New Humanitarian organization one of the Greek government's first acts in the summer of 2019 was to stop access to public healthcare for newly arrived asylum seekers.

Fortunately, the situation changed on the 31th of January 2020. So now the asylum seekers can have health care provision temporarily to the Public Healthcare System.

The situation in the Aegean islands.

Greek islands are overcrowded during pandemic of COVID-19.

- There is a great risk of COVID-19 spreading in refugee camps.
- The hotspots on the Greek islands are overcrowded. Some suggest transferring people to the Greek mainland or using empty hotel rooms to ensure social distancing, while others opposed to any additional relocation, to avoid creating problems of public order.
- A lot of Greeks are opposed to the possibility of having refugee camps near their towns. Tension between migrants and locals is the biggest problem. So the politicians are afraid of moving some refugees to the mainland of Greece in order to make the situation in Greek islands better.
- Greek government has abandoned Greek islands as Europe has abandoned Greece.

TOWARDS A MORE JUST AND SIMPLE ASYLUM SYSTEM

The situation in Greek islands is intolerable both for the refugees and for the citizens as well. Something has to change urgently. A fair and simple asylum system is needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHPlgeHhGuQ>

ACTIONS MUST HAVE AN EFFECT ..ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE

Action Plan on the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

7 June 2016

Investing in integration policies today will contribute to making Europe a more prosperous, cohesive, and inclusive society in the long run. The European Commission is launching an Action Plan presenting a framework for action and concrete initiatives to support Member States in the integration of the 20 million non-EU nationals residing legally in the EU. Whilst the competence for integration policy lies primarily with the Member States, the EU plays an important role in supporting, developing and coordinating Member States' actions and policies on integration. The Action Plan includes actions supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, education, employment and vocational training, access to basic services, active participation and social inclusion.



SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers) , Ann Hirsch - Jeremy Angier



Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University
Exhibition "Transient Matter: Assemblages of Migration in the
Mediterranean- Lesvos"

<https://blogs.brown.edu/transientmatter/>



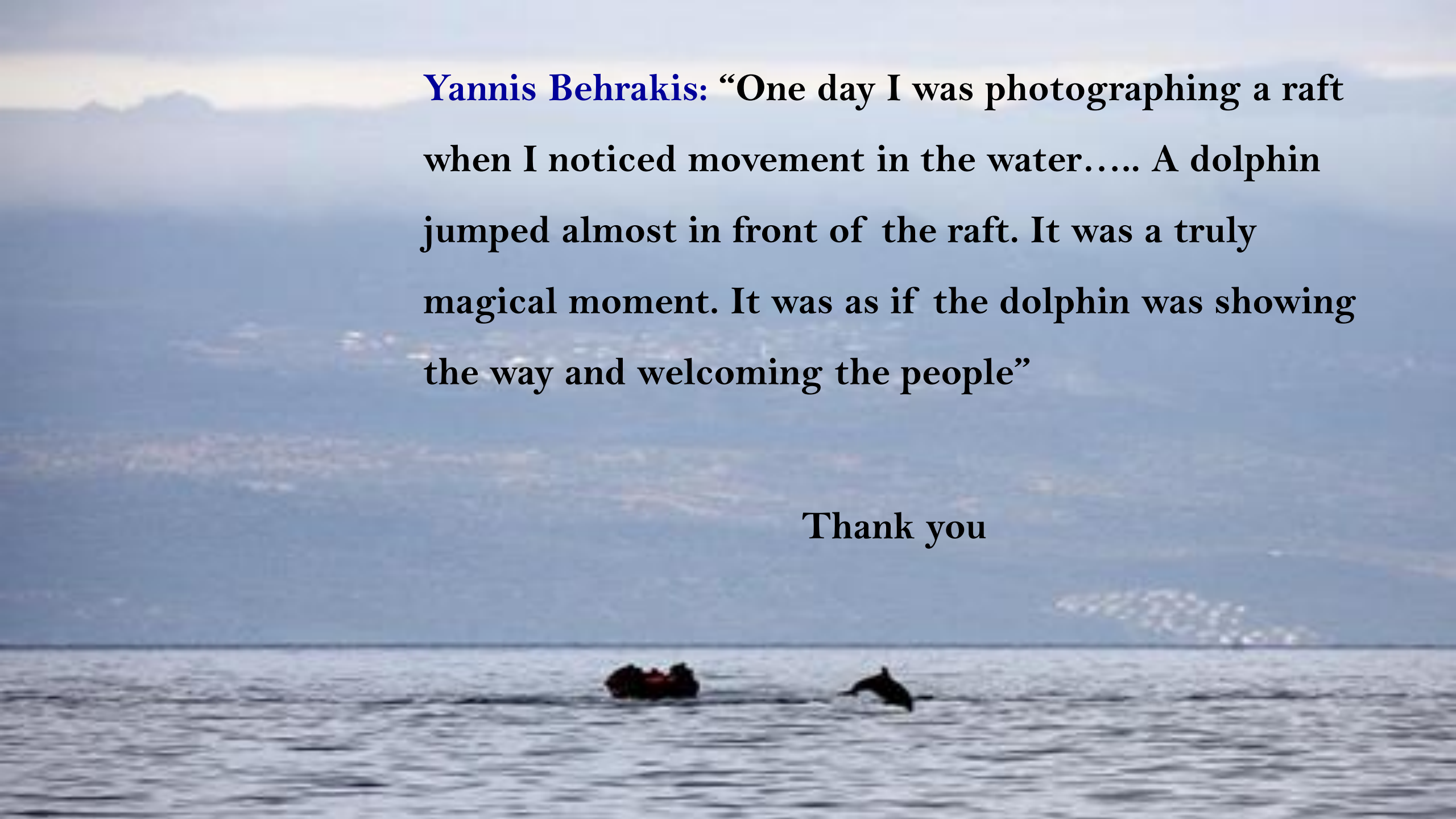
Yannis Behrakis:
(1960-2019)

Guardian photographer of the year
2015

“I have been covering refugees and migrants for over 25 years, but this year has been different: migrants are arriving in my homeland. A couple of boats came every night. Everybody aboard was scared because they didn’t know how the police and locals would react. Small dinghies kept on coming, even when the weather was rough. The Turkish coast is just 4-5 km away”

Yannis Behrakis: “One day I was photographing a raft when I noticed movement in the water..... A dolphin jumped almost in front of the raft. It was a truly magical moment. It was as if the dolphin was showing the way and welcoming the people”

Thank you



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