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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**

**3rd Mobility  
Athens, Greece 2022**

# 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 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.

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the Asia Minor catastrophe

Greeks of Asia Minor 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).

They came to Greece in search of work.

Other reasons were:

- family reunification,
- studies,
- refugees.



## 4. CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

### 2015 is a milestone year

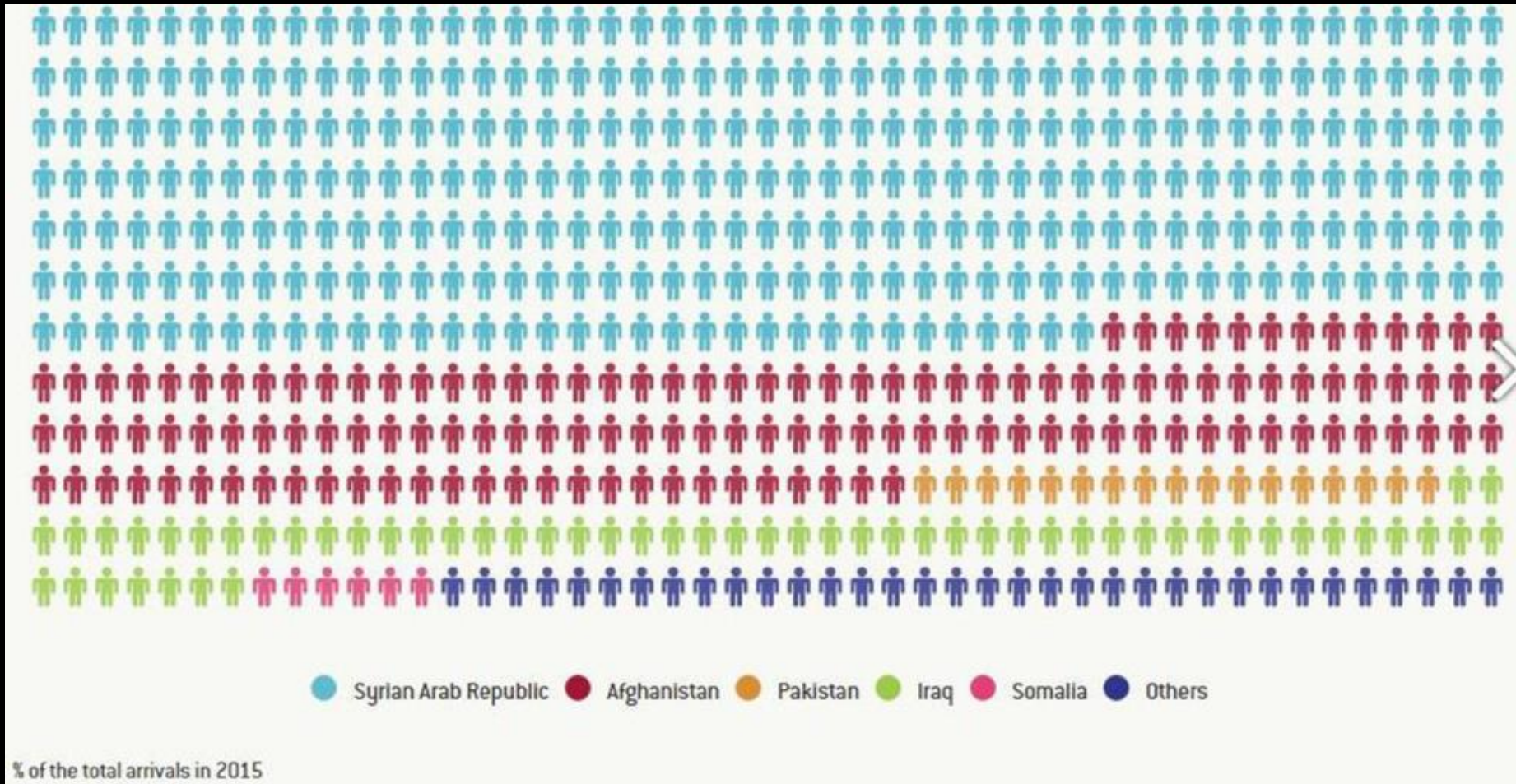
According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 6 million Syrians have fled their country abroad (mainly to EU).

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 this year.

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** were struggling to manage the 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 Identification Centre was 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 3,000 people, however there were 20,000 people living in the camp in summer 2020, among whom 6,000 to 7000 were children under the age of 18.







**A refugee keeps warm by an open fire at a makeshift camp on Lesbos**

**Yannis Behrakis**



# 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.

On 8 September 2020, a fire destroyed almost completely 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.





**"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.

Kara Tepe, a **new camp – a tent city-** was built near.

**Kara Tepe, was officially shut down on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**



# THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.

The Greek migration ministry has said that fewer than 5,400 migrants are now living in the once overcrowded and unhygienic camps on the Greek Aegean Islands.

In April 2020, around 40,000 people were in the camps.

By Info Migrants, Benjamin Bathke. Published on : 2021/09/02



**The new facility on Samos island**

# THE ROLE OF NGOS

International organizations and NGOs that are active in helping refugees and migrants 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

- ▶ Every third-country national or stateless person **has the right** to apply for international protection.
- ▶ If someone has entered the country without the legal formalities he will be transferred to a **reception and identification center**, where he will be obliged to stay for as long as the process of examining his application lasts.
- ▶ Families can be transferred to Accommodation Structures in Athens, depending on their situation after the completion of the reception, identification and asylum applications.

# COMING TO ATHENS....

- ▶ They come by ship to Piraeus and they are transferred to Refugees' Centers.
- ▶ **The services offered there are:**
  - support,
  - access to health services,
  - social counseling,
  - information and psychological support,
  - vocational guidance,
  - labor issues and access to the education system

# Unaccompanied children





# Unaccompanied children

The estimated number of **unaccompanied minors** in Greece in September 2021 was **2148**, of which 92% are boys, 8% girls and 9.5% **under 14 years**.

Their origin is 26% from Afghanistan, 15,9% from Somalia and 15,9% from other countries.

Many of the unaccompanied minors are living in Accommodation Centers ,others in Safe Zones while for some of them the fate is ignored...

# THE ROLE OF TURKEY

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





# 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

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

This is unfair both for refugees who want to find their families in other European countries and for Greece which tries to deal with this situation.



# The responsibility of Europe for the refugees

## Trying to stop them coming...

- The EU has committed **€276 million** (\$326 million) for the new camps on Greece's five Aegean islands.

Those camps are isolated, closed and highly militarized facilities, on which several NGOs have repeatedly raised serious concerns.

- Flows have been reduced due to pushbacks.

Things seem to be under better control but human rights are still being violated.

# ACCORDING TO ...

“In one of the biggest mass expulsions in decades, European countries, supported by EU’s border agency Frontex, has systematically pushed back refugees, including children fleeing from wars, in their thousands, using illegal tactics ranging from assault to brutality during detention or transportation” .  
The Guardian (2021-5-5)

UNHCR warns asylum under attack at Europe’s borders, urges end to pushbacks and violence against refugees  
UNHCR (2021/1/28)

“The EU countries 'pushing back' asylum seekers at sea”  
BBC (2021/7/13)



# TOWARDS A MORE JUST AND SIMPLE ASYLUM SYSTEM

Something has to change urgently.

A fair and human 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/>

“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**  
**(1960-2019)**

**Guardian photographer of the year 2015**

**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



## Participants

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