

The European Response to the Refugee Crisis

The Crisis

When the civil war in Syria broke out in 2011 and the conflicts spilled over in neighbouring countries, an unprecedented influx of men, women and children fled the turmoil and made their way across the Mediterranean sea in the hopes of reaching safe and secure shores.

387,739

no. of migrants that arrived in Europe in 2016

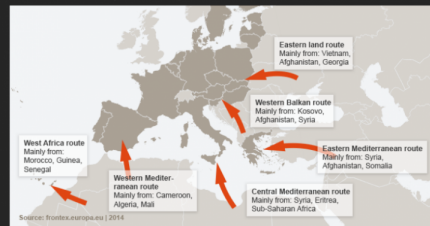
no. of dead or disappeared in the Mediterranean sea trying to cross over to Europe in 2016

5,098

1,234,525

no. of first time asylum seekers in Europe in 2016

Major refugee routes to Europe



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-160315>

The Response

With these startling statistics, Europe has had to devise a strategy on how to manage the waves of people running away from conflicts and how to make their lives better.

The European Migration Agenda (2015)

SHORT TERM

- € 60 MILLION For emergency funding for front line states
- € 50 MILLION For the resettlement of 20,000 persons to Europe
- € 30 MILLION For the Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) in Africa



- Activation of the Emergency system under Article 78 (3) of the Lisbon Treaty for better distribution of asylum seekers in Europe
- Tripling of the capacities and assets of Frontex operations
- Strengthening the role of Europol as an intelligence hub for dismantling criminal networks
- Launching Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations in the Mediterranean to capture and dismantle boats
- Introduction of the Hotspot: which will allow EASO, Frontex and Europol to swiftly identify, register and fingerprint arriving migrants and to assist in investigating and dismantling migrant smuggling networks

EASO - The European Asylum Support Office
Frontex - EU External Borders Agency
Europol - European Police Office

LONG TERM

new legal migration policy strong common asylum policy

- the blue card scheme
- re-prioritization of integration policies
- completion of the Common European Asylum System

saving lives and securing borders

- establishment of European System of border guards
- 'smart borders' - introduction of a database of entry-exit for third country nationals entering the Schengen area

reducing incentives for irregular migration

- An Action Plan to step up investigation and prosecution of criminal networks of smugglers

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/material/docs/summary_asylum_agenda_en.pdf

The EU-Turkey Deal (2016)

- All "irregular migrants" crossing from Turkey to Greece will be sent back
- For each Syrian returned to Turkey, a Syrian migrant will be resettled in the EU
- Turkish nationals to have access to the passport-free Schengen area
- EU will speed up the allocation of €3 billion euros to Turkey in aid to help the migrants



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-3585413>

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