

# Migration Trends and current global and EU policies : focus on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)



**Pascal Reyntjens**  
Chief of Mission IOM CO  
Belgium and Luxembourg

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# Migration: an introduction

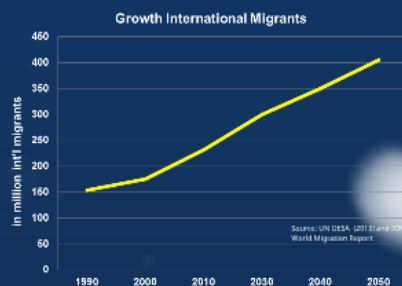
- Migration is essential and inevitable
- Migration can benefit migrants, countries of origin and destination when it is orderly and humane

**232 million** international migrants  
**+ 740 million** internal migrants (living within their home country but outside their region of birth)

**1 billion migrants worldwide**

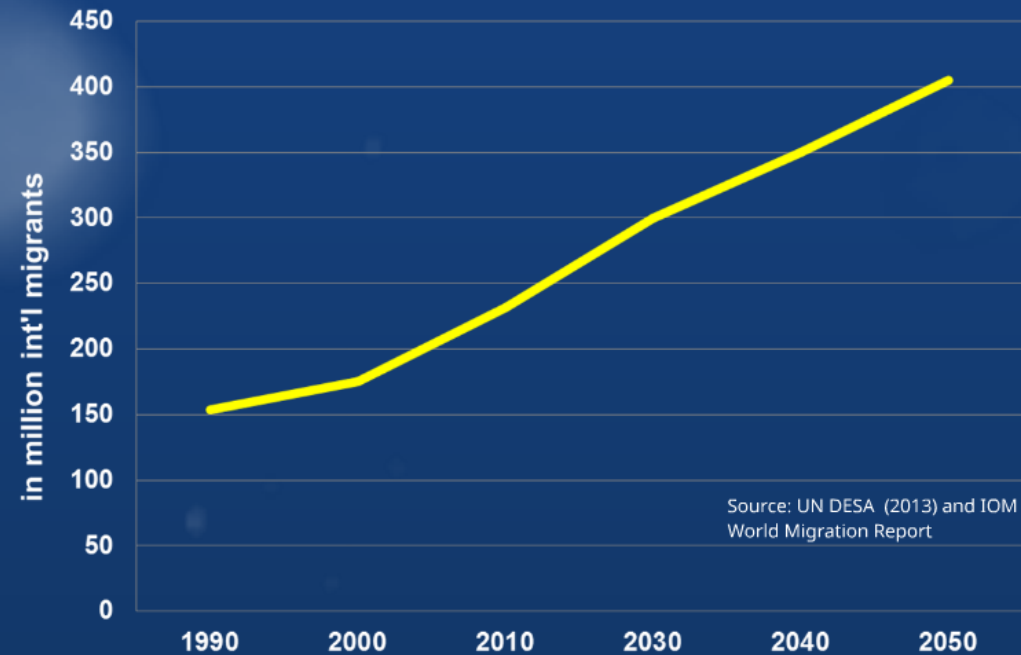
Migration and the UN post-2015 development agenda, IOM, 2013

**Constant evolution of international migration**

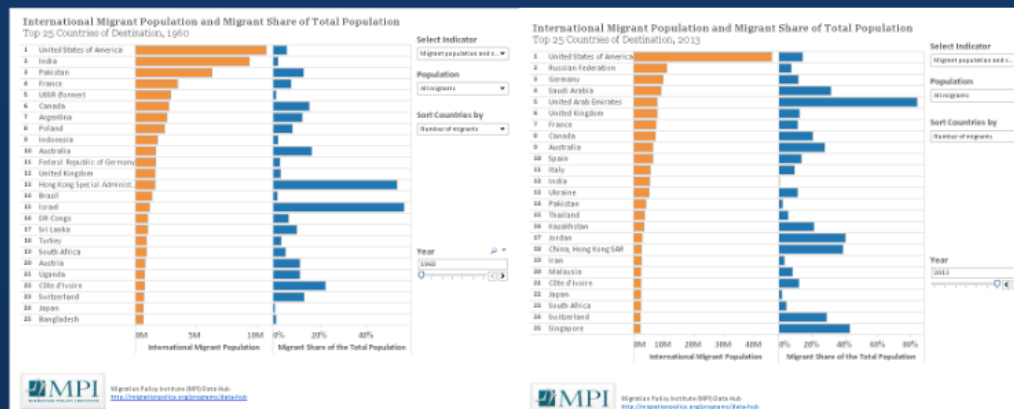


# Constant evolution of international migration

Growth International Migrants



Source: UN DESA (2013) and IOM World Migration Report



1960

2013

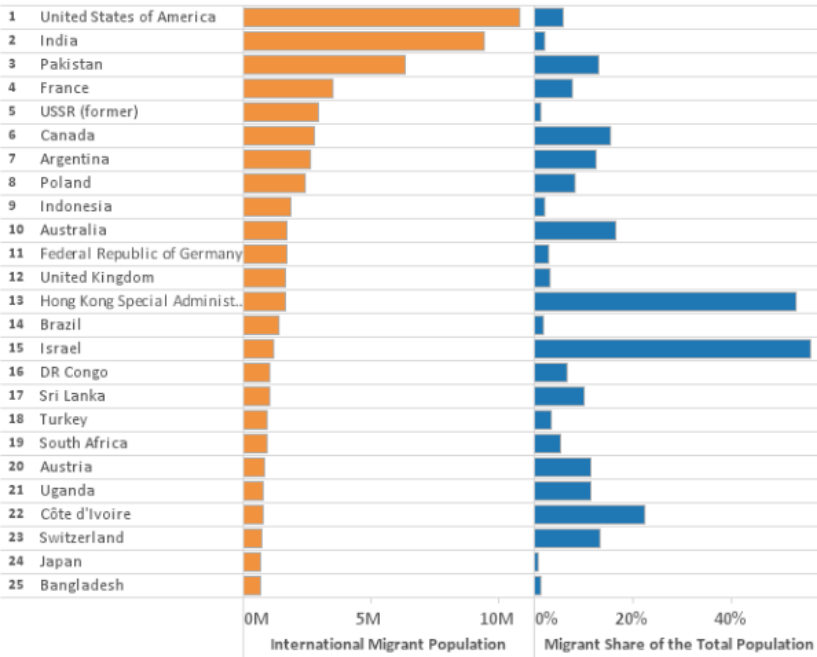


1990

2000

2010

## International Migrant Population and Migrant Share of Total Population Top 25 Countries of Destination, 1960



Select Indicator

Migrant population and s...

Population

All migrants

Sort Countries by

Number of migrants

Year

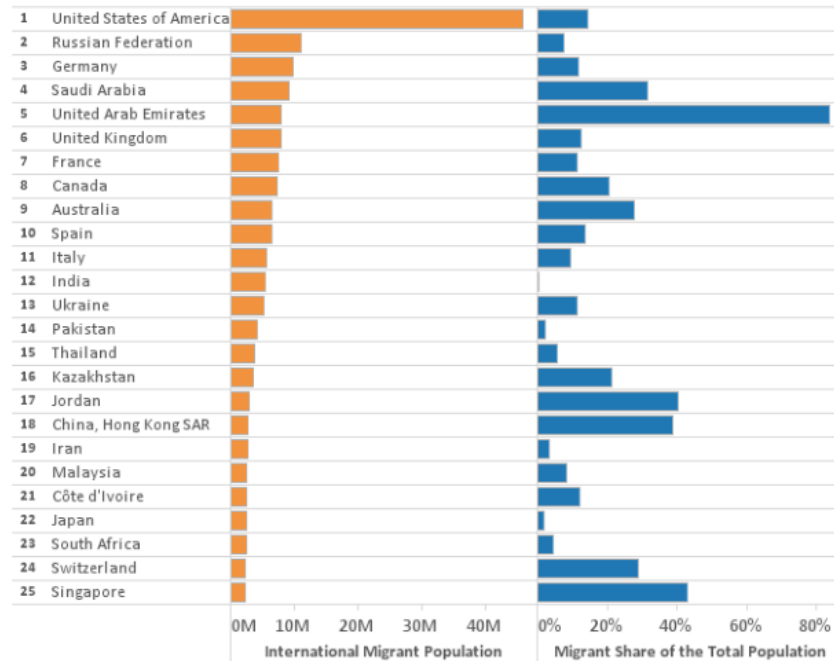
1960

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub  
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

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# Focus on Europe



## Migration in Europe

Europe and Central Asia are among the most important regions in terms of migratory flows.

Germany, Spain, the UK and France host the highest numbers of the estimated 31.9 million non-European Union (EU) nationals residing in Europe.

The two sub-regions combined host 72.5 million migrants, representing 8.7 % of the total population. Despite the economic crisis, net migration remains positive in the major migrant destination countries.

The events in North Africa and the Middle East continue to raise issues in new migration trends in Europe and reconfirm the necessity to adequately address the needs of local groups facing social exclusion and persistent socio-economic fragility which will be more likely to become mobile.

Source: UNHCR, 2015. Countries in Europe and Central Asia.

## Asylum applications (EU 28)



## Mixed migration flows

The concept of mixed migration generally refers to flows consisting of various categories of migrants with different motivations and different protection needs who travel together along the same migration routes, using the same means of transport and relying on the same smuggling networks.



## The Mediterranean

Approximately 267,121 migrants have arrived on Europe's shores on smugglers' vessels between January and August 2015. The vast majority came to Italy and Greece: 107,633 migrants reached Italy (mostly via Libya), while 157,228 migrants reached Greece (mostly via Turkey).

In the same period, the sea had claimed more than 2,373 lives.



## Calais

- Between 8,000 and 5,000 migrants
- 27,000 attempts to cross the Channel so far this year

- Crisis in humanitarian terms but the numbers are not unmanageable
- Nationalities: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria
- Deaths: 10 since February 2015
- Need to ensure that the rights of all individuals are respected
- Information campaigns: need to inform migrants about what they can expect in the UK and what their options are in France

- This includes the option for irregular migrants to return home in a dignified manner with reintegration assistance, if they so choose
- Need for broader, longer-term measures to address the wider phenomenon

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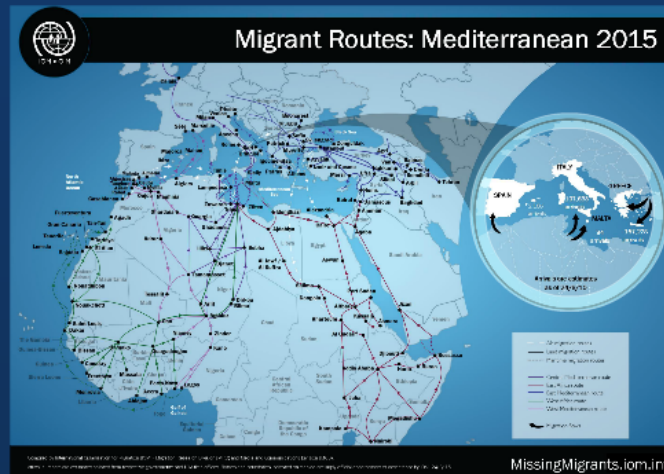
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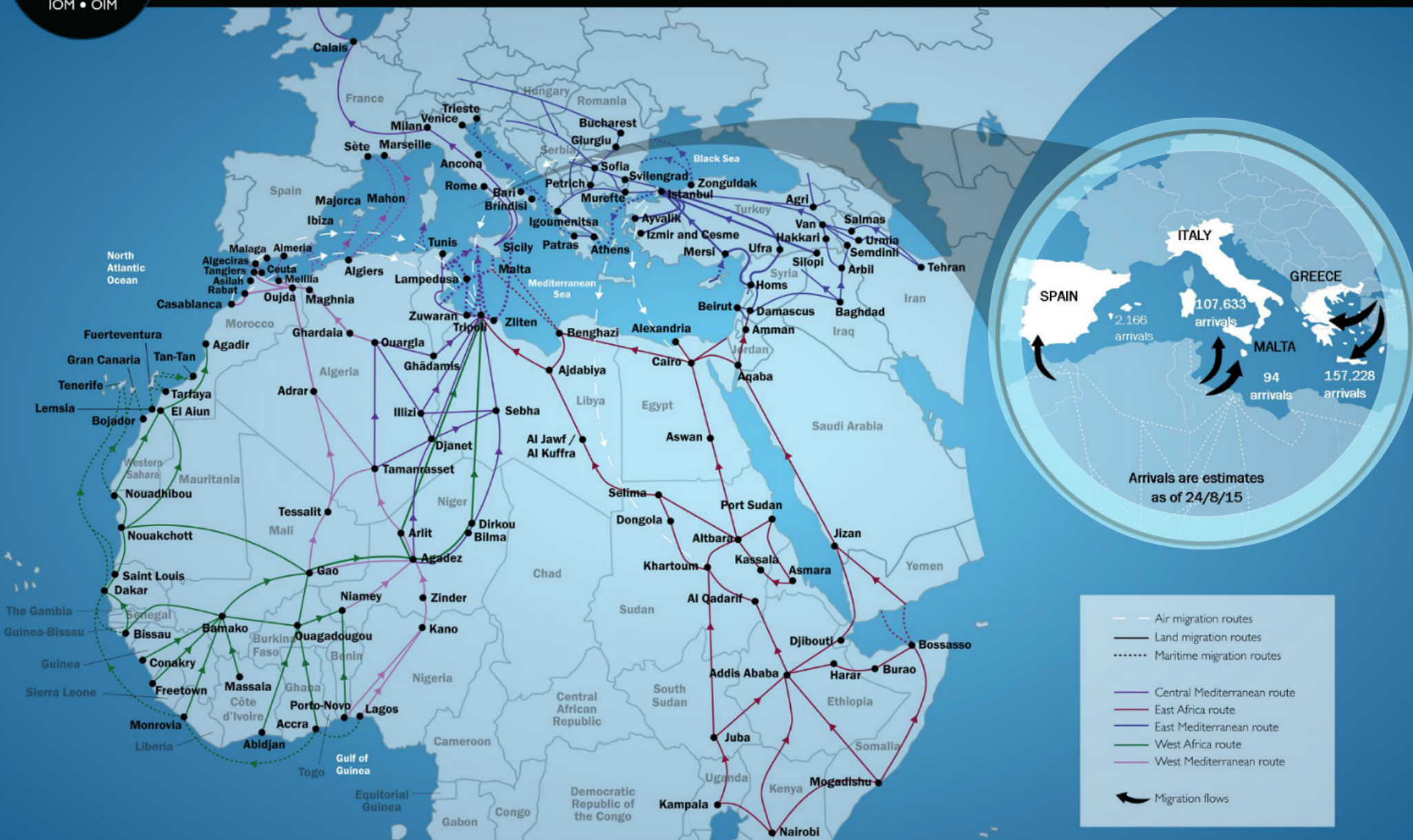
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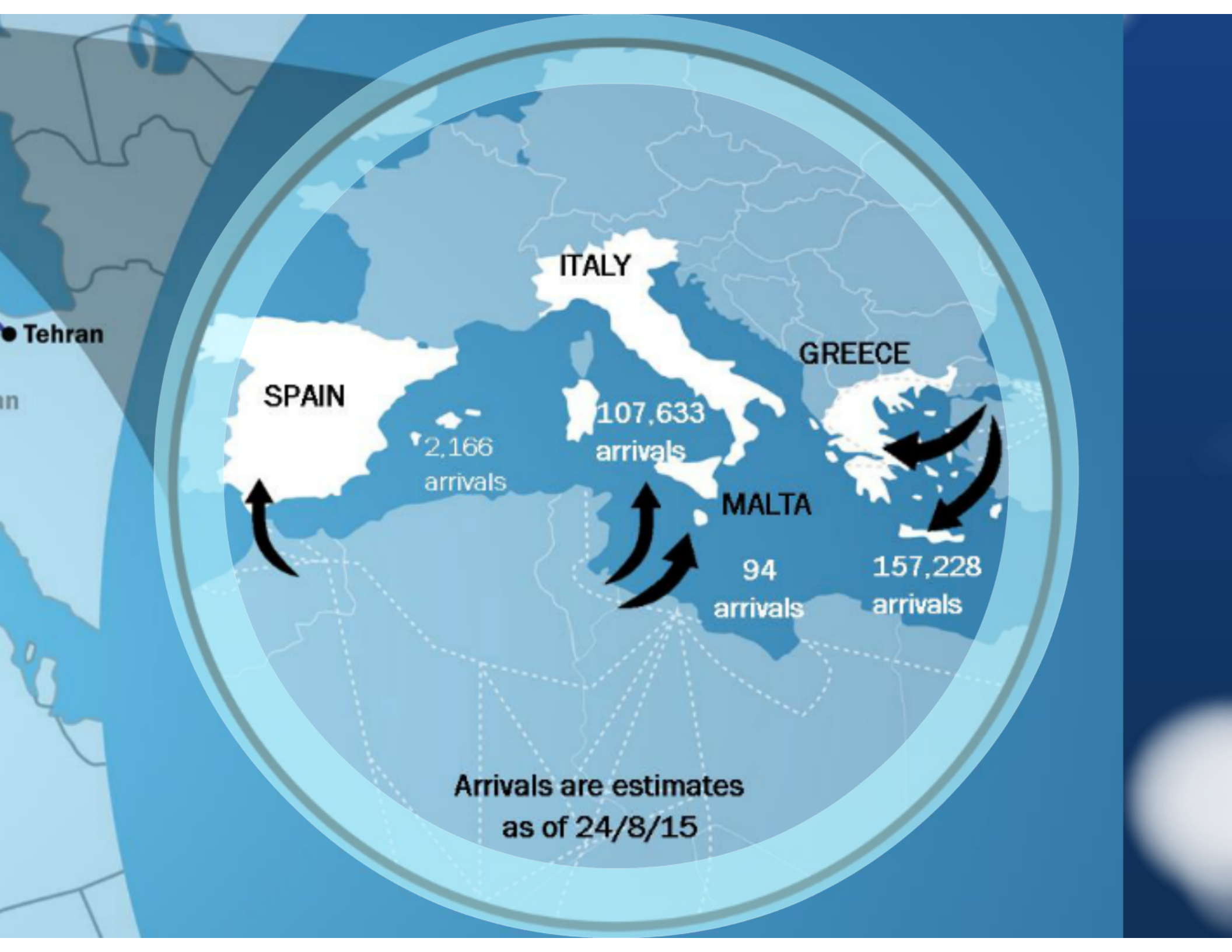
# Migrant Routes: Mediterranean 2015



Compiled by International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Migration Research Division (MRD) and Media and Communications Division (MCD)

Arrival numbers are estimates collated from respective governments and IOM field offices. Names and boundaries indicated on map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. 24/8/15

[MissingMigrants.iom.int](http://MissingMigrants.iom.int)



Tehran

an

SPAIN

2,166  
arrivals

ITALY

107,633  
arrivals

GREECE

MALTA

94  
arrivals

157,228  
arrivals

Arrivals are estimates  
as of 24/8/15

# Calais

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- **37.000 attempts to cross** the Channel so far this year
- Crisis in humanitarian terms but the **numbers** are not unmanageable
- **Nationalities:** Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria
- **Deaths:** 10 since February 2015
- Need to ensure that the **rights of all individuals** are respected
- **Information campaigns:** need to inform migrants about what they can expect in the UK and what their options are in France
  - This includes the option for irregular migrants to **return home** in a dignified manner with reintegration assistance, if they so choose
  - Need for broader, **longer-term measures** to address the wider phenomenon



# Mixed migration flows

The concept of mixed migration generally refers to flows consisting of **various categories of migrants** with different **motivations** and different **protection needs** who travel together along the same **migration routes**, using the same means of **transport** and relying on the same smuggling **networks**.

The **heterogeneity** and **complexity** of mixed flows can be connected to 4 elements:

1. Context of **origin**: **forced** migrants (refugees and asylum seekers) vs. **voluntary**/economic migrants.



"Voluntary" migrants may have been faced with situations of extreme poverty or serious humanitarian crises.

2. Individual **profiles**: **vulnerable** (UAM, VoT, illness, pregnancy) vs. **non-vulnerable** people



Both can be forced and non-forced

3. Individual **motivations**: situations of conflict, violence, poverty, inequality. Can be simultaneous.

4. **Stratification** over time: shift from "migration" to asylum due to conflict, inability to return to the home country.



Mediterranean: level of complexity and heterogeneity is increasing: interconnected geopolitical, institutional and socioeconomic factors.

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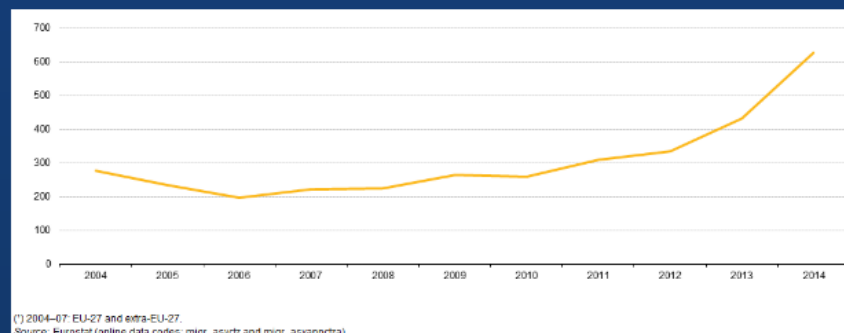
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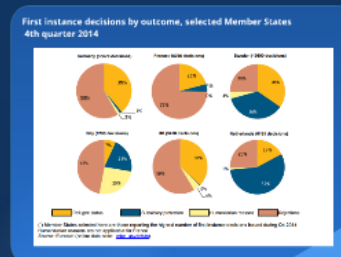
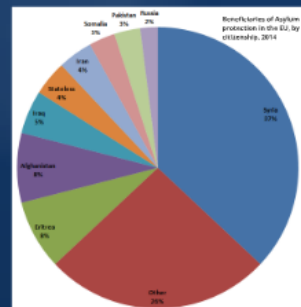
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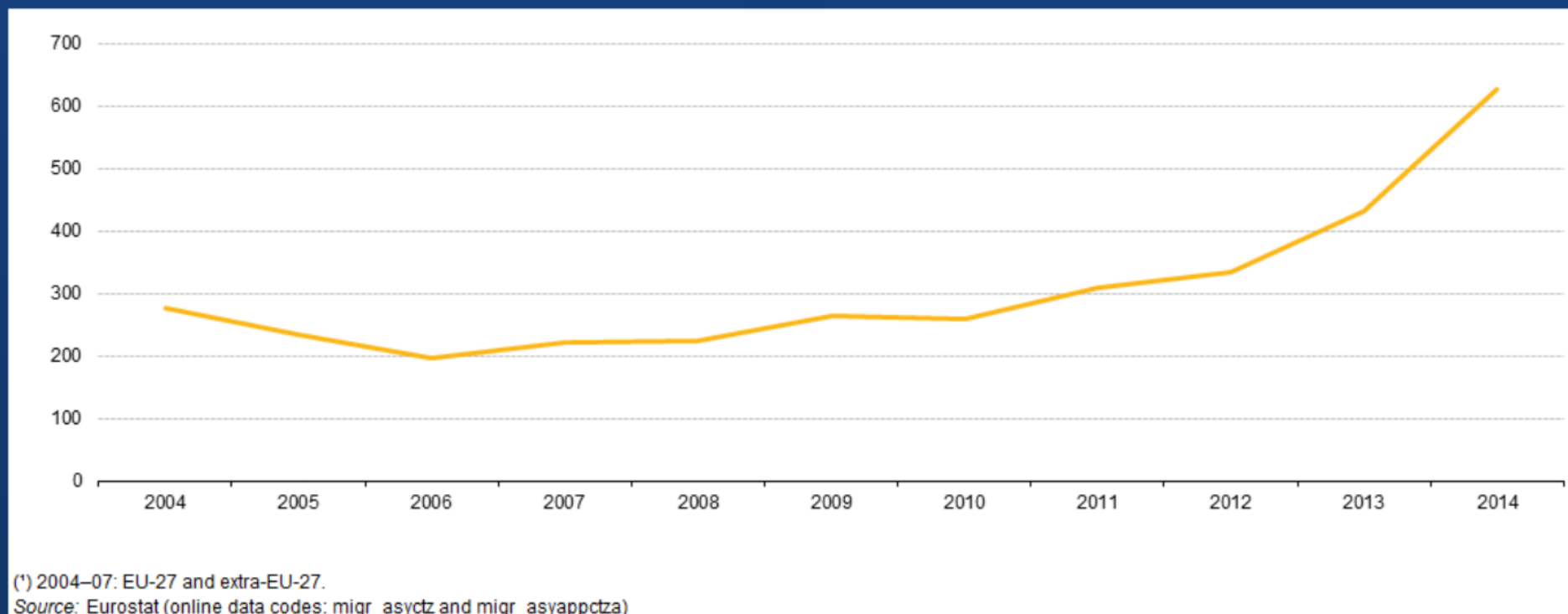
Eurostat 2015



Asylum applications (non-EU) in the EU-28 Member States, 2004-14 (thousands)

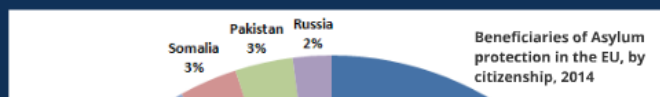
The 27 EU Member States for which data are available granted protection status to around **185 000 asylum seekers in 2014**, up by almost **50%** compared with 2013. Since 2008, more than 750 000 asylum seekers have been granted protection status in the EU.



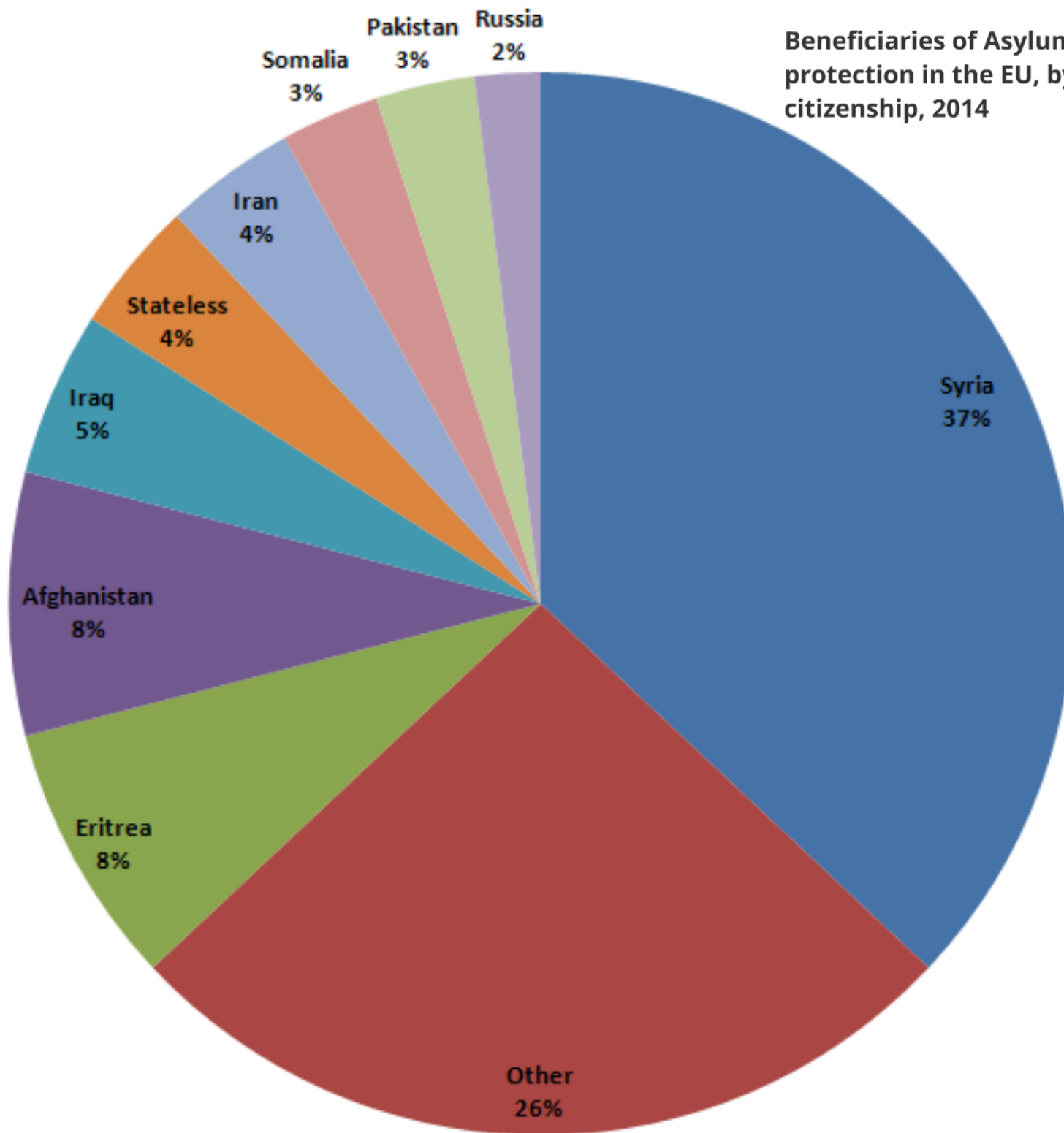


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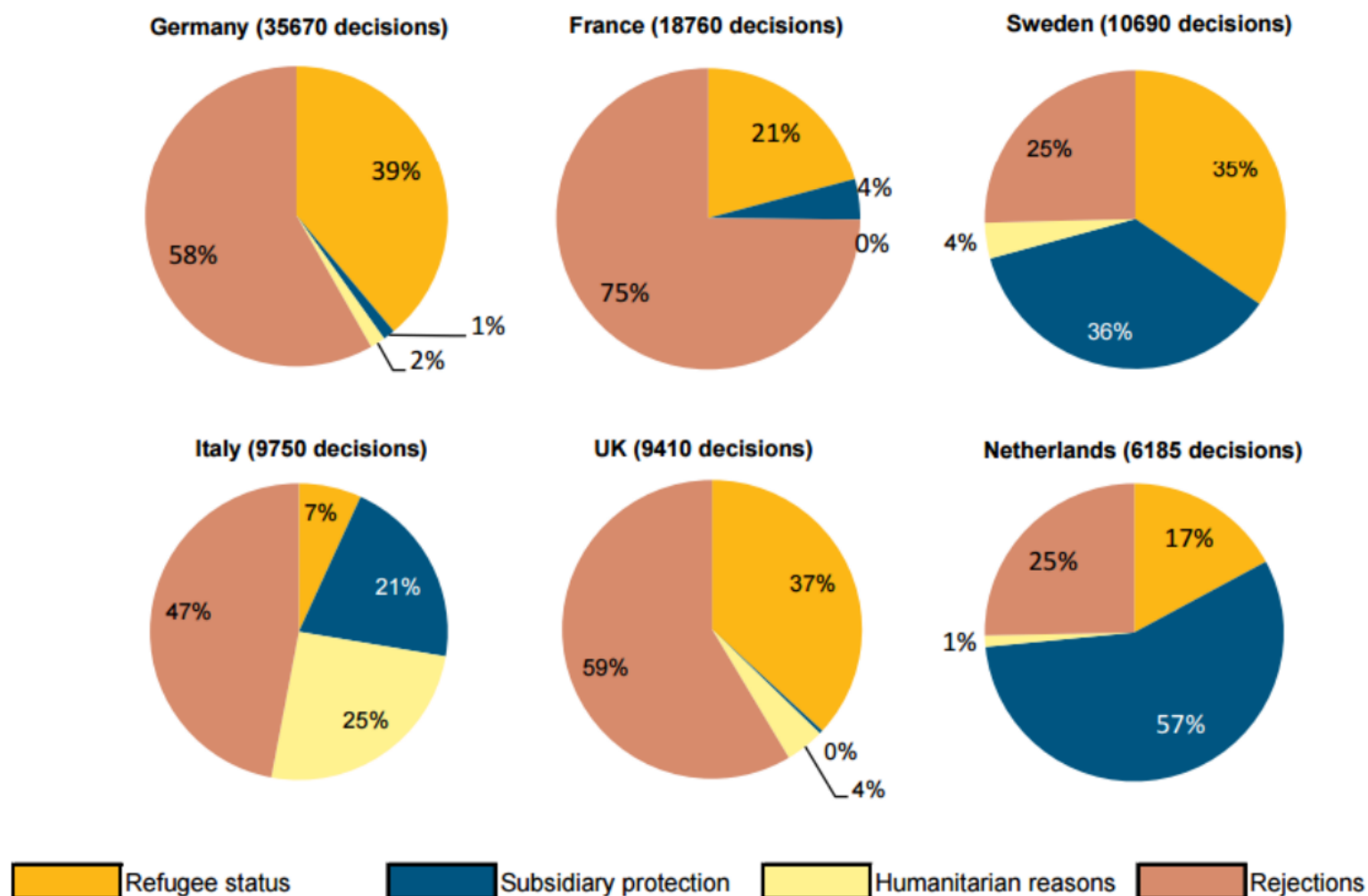


Beneficiaries of Asylum  
protection in the EU, by  
citizenship, 2014



# First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States

## 4th quarter 2014



(<sup>1</sup>) Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q4 2014

Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for France

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr\\_asydcfstq](#))

# Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

## Beneficiaries

For migrants who need to return home but lack the means to do so, AVRR programmes are often the only solution to their immediate plight. Beneficiaries of IOM's assistance include:

- Individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn;
- Unwanted migrants;
- Victims of trafficking; and
- Other at-risk and/or groups, including unaccompanied migrant children, or those with health-related needs.



• Provision of logistical and financial support by IOM to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in the host country and who volunteer to return to their countries of origin or another third country.

• Reintegration is the re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or process.



The reintegration is multidimensional

- Economic
- Social
- Psychosocial

## Key conditions for sustainable reintegration

Individuals need a range of support to achieve sustainable reintegration. Key conditions for sustainable reintegration include:

- Involvement with local community
- Access to livelihoods and employment
- Availability of services and support
- Psychological support to address trauma and mental health
- Support of the community and social network
- If the return is voluntary, the return should be based on the individual's own choice
- A safe and secure environment



## Activities

### In host countries

• Identification of potential returnees  
• Assessment of returnees' needs and wishes  
• Provision of information and advice  
• Provision of financial support  
• Provision of logistical support  
• Provision of medical support  
• Provision of psychological support  
• Provision of social support  
• Provision of legal support  
• Provision of language support  
• Provision of cultural support  
• Provision of religious support  
• Provision of other support



### In transit

• Provision of financial support  
• Provision of logistical support  
• Provision of medical support  
• Provision of psychological support  
• Provision of social support  
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### In countries of origin

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• Provision of other support

## AVRR in the European Economic Area (EEA)

• AVRR continues to receive increased attention at the EEA level

• AVRR programmes are continuously adapting to the changing migration trends

• As migration has become more complex and circular, a more comprehensive approach to return has been required and implemented, as well as cooperative measures and partnerships to implement returns jointly among countries of destination, transit and origin.

AVRR is a complex process that involves many stakeholders and requires a coordinated approach. IOM works closely with governments, civil society, and the private sector to ensure that returnees receive the support they need to reintegrate successfully into their communities.





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# Beneficiaries

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- individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn
- stranded migrants
- victims of trafficking, and
- other vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied migrant children, or those with health-related needs.



# Activities

## In host countries

- Awareness-raising for AVRR
- Gathering of country-of-origin information
- Profiling of diasporas
- Outreach and information dissemination to migrant communities, including referral systems to public services
- Individualized counselling on return and reintegration assistance, including country-of-origin information
- Specialized assistance and referral services to vulnerable individuals
- Temporary accommodation
- Facilitating travel documentation
- Travel arrangements
- Arrangement of escorts, if required

ICM Ireland staff assists a couple at Dublin airport to voluntarily return home. © European Commission 2012



## In transit

- Assistance with travel in transit
- Assistance with escort in transit, if required.

## In countries of origin

- Assistance through immigration and customs on arrival
- Post-arrival reception arrangements, including information and referral to local partners
- Onward travel to the final destination
- Short- and/or medium-term reintegration assistance, including business set-ups, vocational training, formal education, medical assistance and other tailor-made assistance according to the returnees' special needs
- Capacity-building activities with emphasis on:
  - linking return to local development
  - access to services
  - strengthening of local networks
  - improving local capacity to deliver reintegration assistance.

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- As migration has become more complex and circular, a more comprehensive approach to return has been required and implemented, as well as cooperative measures and partnerships to implement returns jointly among countries of destination, transit and origin.

- In the EU, most of the AVRR programmes have primarily assisted **unsuccessful asylum seekers** and those with **temporary protection status**.

- Whilst it is clear that the situation across the EU differs, given the geographical and political specificities, there is now a **need for more effective implementation of the already existing processes and measures** agreed at the EU level.

- IOM is currently operating over **80 AVRR projects** in 28 EU Member States, including Norway and Switzerland.

- Programmes have diversified. Issues such as

- **Assistance to vulnerable migrants and UMCs** has featured prominently on the agenda

- At the same time, **reintegration** strategies targeting **specific countries of origin** and **specific vulnerable groups** have gained importance.

- **Mixed migration** which is very much linked to the EU and requires a versatile response tailored to the individual needs of migrants. IOM, in collaboration with its partners, is firmly engaged in such responses.





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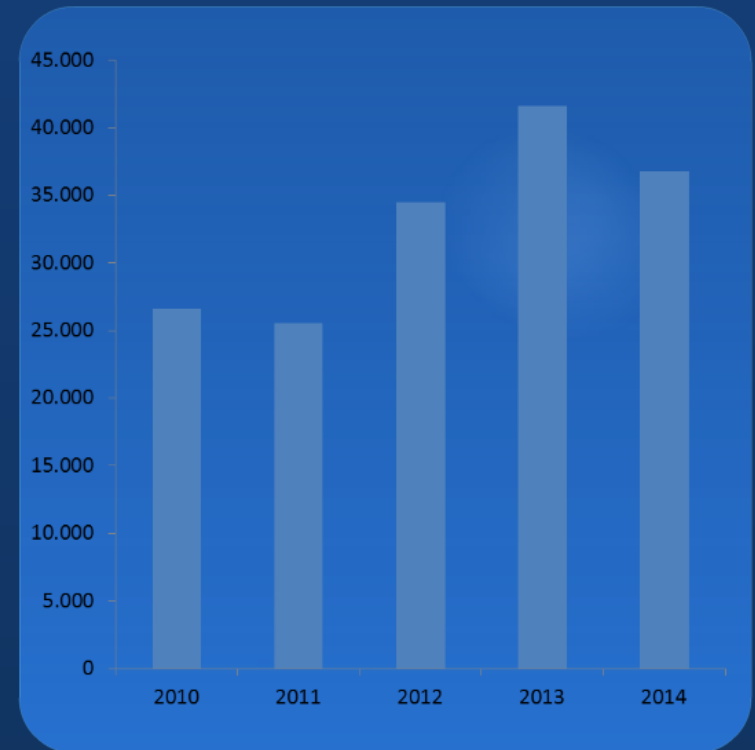
- Involvement/participation of returnee
- Stable socioeconomic environment
- Mitigation of possible security risks
- Psychosocial support to define one's role in community and ensure psychosocial stability
- Follow-up during the first 12 months upon arrival
- Adequate skills training and financial support
- Support of re-establishment of social networks
- Effective access to social protection schemes on the same level as the local population
- A «Do no harm» approach

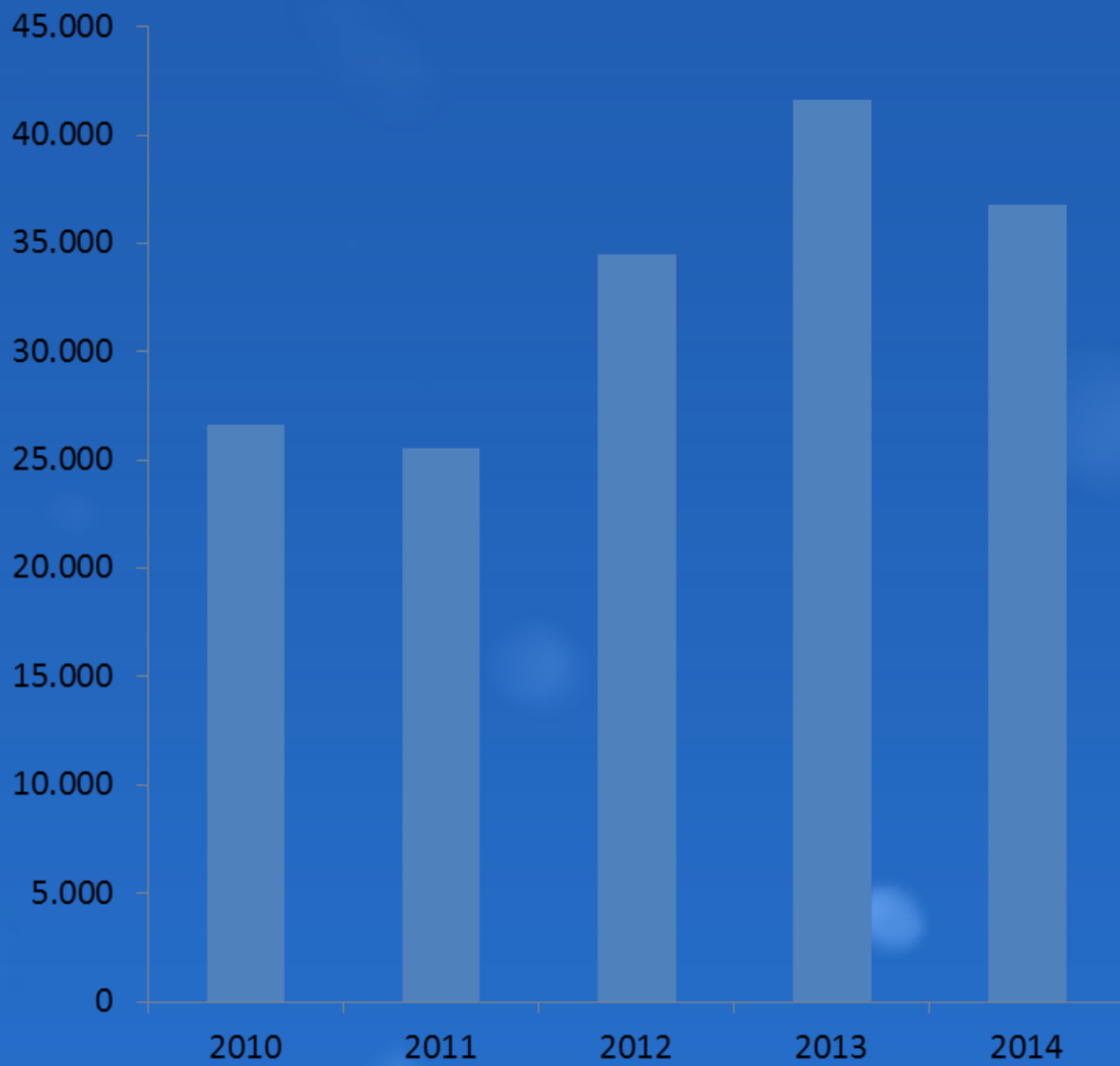
Kwame was assisted to return from Malta and now runs a successful provisions shop. © IOM 2014



# Statistics

- Over 1.1 million migrants assisted since 1979.
- Approximately 35,000 assisted per year.
- 36,800 migrants assisted in 2014.
- 400,000 assisted over last 10 years.
- 89 AVRR projects active within the EEA.





## In a nutshell

- Reintegration should be sustainable, measurable, balanced, complementary and innovative
- Combination defines the success of a project
- Clear indicators and benchmarks and a long-term evaluation
- There is no single solution, local context and migrant profile are key

## The way forward

- Migration cannot be effectively dealt with unilaterally
- Important for governments to harmonise their migration and development policies
- 3 key elements can further shape the dialogue on return:

### 1. Dialogue and cooperation among states

Engaging in bilateral, regional and international dialogue can help countries of origin, destination and transit to build partnerships and cooperatively design and implement effective return migration policies.

### 2. Partnerships with and between other stakeholders

Other stakeholders such as civil society, particularly NGOs, international organisations and other institutions have important roles to play in return policy and practice.

### 3. Reinforcing the sustainability of return

By addressing the needs and concerns of those returning, not only does reintegration assistance help address the factors that compel individuals to emigrate in the first place, but also takes into account the needs of the communities in countries of origin.

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