

# Changing Europe.

## **Introduction:**

As the research started in late 2014 for the thesis, refugee situation was much different than as it is now. The amount of refugees and the rate of flow were totally different to the one we have now here. Along with that the perception of integration of refugee and welcoming them has been changing during the course of time. A lot of things have changed in space of 1 year. A sidelined study seemed to be necessary to accommodate the changes that have occurred.

*“Another weekend, another two thousand-odd immigrants rescued by Italian sailors and coastguards in the Mediterranean. On August 11th the San Giusto, an amphibious transport vessel, landed 1,698 people in Reggio Calabria, a city in southern Italy. The day before, a naval patrol vessel and a frigate disembarked 364 people at ports in eastern Sicily.”* (The economist 2014) This kind of news is very common now days. A lot of people now are getting attention about this heated up migration situation in Europe now. Which sometime leans towards positive and sometime towards negative aspect of reception of asylum seekers.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that an estimated 219,000 migrants crossed the Mediterranean and arrived to European shores in 2014. While various maritime migration routes are used, more than 170,000 of these migrants, nearly 80%, arrived to Italy and Malta by way of Libya and Tunisia. This is the Central Mediterranean route and it is the most heavily trafficked and the deadliest maritime migration route in the world.

Every year, tens of thousands of migrants from poor and war-stricken countries attempt a risky journey by boat for what they hope will be a better life in Europe, according to EU border patrol agency (Frontex), who counts the number of migrants apprehended by border patrols along Europe’s shores. (CONNOR n.d.)

The number of irregular migrant arrivals to Europe in 2014 surpassed the previous record seen in 2011, when a wave of immigration followed the revolutionary

struggles of the media-named “Arab Spring”. There are many indications that 2015 will see the highest number of migrants in the Mediterranean yet. The first five months of 2015 have seen incidents of unprecedented mass arrivals and an estimated 1,800 deaths at sea, revealing sharp increases compared to the same period year before. These figures are expected to continue to escalate if migrant smugglers follow past trends of facilitating increased passages during the summer months when there are calmer conditions at sea. Record numbers of migrants are not only traveling the Central Mediterranean route, but are also arriving to Greece using the Eastern Mediterranean route that passes through the Aegean Sea from Turkey. There are three main routes that are mostly taken by migrants in recent years. (Hammond n.d.)

The eastern route (Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania). Until 2012 this was the main illegal immigration route counting for nearly half of migrants. Today it is now the second most important. Since 2000 nearly 3 million immigrants have entered Europe illegally via Greece. After the building of an 18 km wall along the river Evros - the Aegean Sea is now the crossing point for illegal immigrants. The number of migrants intercepted along this route has tripled over one year: there were 2,863 in the first quarter of 2014, more than 10,445 in the first quarter of 2015. In March 2015 6,493 migrants passed via the various island, mainly those of eastern Greece which lie close to the Turkish coast and the main point of embarkation onto the smugglers' ships. The number of accidents has risen dramatically by 56% from one year to the next and the number of shipwrecks lay at nearly 700 in 2014. The islands in the north (Lesbos, Chios and Samos) are the ones mainly affected with the new "go fast" technique, and the use of small, fast boats. But all of the Greek islands in the Aegean now seem to be concerned. In 2012 the country was successful in some instances in countering the criminal networks of Turkish and Greek traffickers. In 2014 more than 1000 people were intercepted monthly, which marked a sharp rise in their activities. Boats departing from Turkey now cross Greek waters to reach Italy directly. The appearance of "phantom cargo ships", purchased as scrap in Turkey for around 300,000€ and abandoned crewless off the Italian coast has exacerbated this phenomenon. The Syrian crisis has "boosted" the number of this type of trafficking which is difficult to prevent especially in a country that is prey to real economic problems.

The readmission agreements between Greece and Turkey (2002) as well as the one signed between the EU and Turkey do not able to solve the problem since their

implementation remains minimal. Police cooperation has been established in Turkey and now specific action is being taken to monitor "old wrecks" that might be used by increasingly audacious traffickers who do not hesitate to shoot at the police, as seen for the first time recently. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

Since 2013 the central Mediterranean (Libya, Italy, Malta, Tunisia) has become the main path by which illegal immigrants set off towards Europe.

Figures mainly from Italy are spiraling. The number of castaways rescued in 2014 rose to over 170,000, 30,000 of whom were aided by coast guards as well as merchant ships and 70,000 by the Mare Nostrum operation, launched by the Italian government on 18th October 2013 after the drama of Lampedusa. The number of illegal border crossings observed totaled 134, 272 between January and September 2014, in other words six times the 2013 figure and twice that during the Arab Spring. Migrants still come from Sahel, mainly from Libya (90%), now a transit country and also, from Syria via Egypt (5%) where the refugee situation is precarious. Many Eritreans are also established in Libya, as they try to flee the instability and violence that has erupted in their country. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

In the second quarter of 2014 alone 51,000 castaways were rescued in 274 emergency operations managed by the Italian authorities and coordinated by Frontex or which involved nearby merchant ships. We might also note that new pressure is being brought to bear on Apulia and Calabria (10,000 were intercepted in 2014) where Italian Mafia networks, which take advantage of a faltering rule of law, seem to be organizing what is almost trafficking in a labor force from the Western Balkans in the direction of northern Italy and Central Europe. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

The western route (Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Senegal, Sahara). New pressure is emerging from struggling African countries, notably from Mali. But the general trend is towards stabilization thanks to the agreements made between Spain, Morocco and Senegal and the work of the Moroccan and Algerians authorities to counter the trafficking networks. It remains however that there has been a further rise in immigration bids via the sea (6,131 interceptions between January and September 2014), since the narrow Gibraltar Strait makes it easy to use boats of any size. "Group" crossing on borders of the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in Morocco are increasingly spectacular. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

In 2014 the Mediterranean area and the expanses of open sea have therefore become the main routes for illegal immigration to Europe. It is mainly controlled by criminal gangs which adapt themselves to the measures deployed making them fail, using all the laws of the seas to carry out their dirty work in disregard of human life. Most of the 2,641 arrests of smugglers made in the second quarter of 2014 on the Union's external borders took place in the Mediterranean where interceptions increased by 50% over one year. Nearly 112,000 illegal entries were observed at the end of 2014 of which 98,000 came by sea. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

The migrants being pushed towards Europe are fleeing violence and conflict. From Syria to Mali, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Libya - it is not the poorest who take the risk of illegal immigration, but often whole families from the middle classes who have no access to asylum or who encounter restrictive migratory policies. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

These developments are therefore a wakeup call for the European Union. Many moral authorities like the Pope, the UN, NGOs and political leaders have been moved by the number of victims on the external borders of Europe, who are now in the majority. Merchant navy professionals, ship-owners and ships' crews have issued an SOS to the heads of State and government for the to take action in view of the explosion in the number of shipwrecks carrying illegal immigrants which led to the rescue of over 40,000 in 2014. In 2014 in the Mediterranean there were over 15,000 rescue operations at sea. Others are protesting against the increase in immigration driven along by populist movements that are against immigrants but who also want to introduce a more effective border control system. However if it is difficult to build walls and land border controls, it is almost impossible to close off maritime areas completely. The answers provided by the European Union and its Member States to date have not proven effective in stabilizing this rise in migration. (Robert Schuman n.d.)

Given its geographic position as the hub between Europe, Africa, and Asia, the Mediterranean is particularly sensitive to the world's highest numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons since World War II. A joint policy brief presented by the

European University Institute's Migration Policy Center highlighted the fact that the Mediterranean Sea is the most dangerous border between countries that are not at war with each other. The existence of this level of mass migration without the occurrence of conventionally understood state versus state warfare presents significant challenges for state-led response mechanisms. Ongoing multiple (Egypt, Libya, Syria) conflicts along the Mediterranean's shores and in its neighboring regions provide a contextual framework for understanding the record-breaking immigration to Europe. These conflicts involve a complicated and blended array of state-and-non-state-centric entities and issues. Violence in these conflicts most often occurs in an asymmetric fashion in which civilians are often the victims and even the targets of warfare—causing large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons. Especially when So called terrorist organization ISIS targets civilian population with specific ethnicity (Kurd Muslims). (Hammond n.d.)

According to statistics, nearly 300 migrants drowned in 2013 just half a mile off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, and the Italian Coast Guard has rescued thousands from the rough seas off the Sicilian coast. With the number of migrants waiting to travel to Europe by sea suggested by one immigration official to be in the hundreds and thousands Italian leaders are the \$12 million monthly cost of those rescue efforts. (National Geographic Channel n.d.)

Boat migrants comprise less than 10% of the more new immigrants entering the European Union from non-EU countries by air, land or sea each year (By the statistics of 2014). But among those known to have arrived illegally in 2013, over half came by sea – the highest percentage in recent years, according to Frontex. In some years, including 2009 and 2011, roughly half of migrants illegally entering Europe came by sea. In other years, such as 2010 and 2012, majorities of unauthorized migrants crossed by land. (Year-to-year fluctuations in the number of migrants arriving by land versus sea are due to a combination of factors including changing policies, border enforcement and refugee crises.) Things changed in 2015 when more than a million refugees crossed northern Syrian border towards turkey and towards Greece. The numbers kept on increasing every month. (CONNOR n.d.)

Overstaying a legal visa is another way to become an unauthorized migrant in Europe. Some migrants who arrive by sea, land and air may initially live in Europe with legal status but stay longer than their visas allow, becoming unauthorized residents. However, the exact number of migrants in this category is difficult to ascertain. (CONNOR n.d.)

Many migrants travel very long and perilous journeys through several countries before embarking on their final journey by boat, as it happened in 2015 (Due to the war in Syria). The exact number of people who die making the voyage from Africa to Europe is hard to know, but unofficial reports by humanitarian groups estimate as many as 10,000 migrants have died crossing the Mediterranean during the last two decades or so. (CONNOR n.d.)

Many are fleeing potentially dangerous situations at home, and as conflicts around the world have changed, so have the national origins of migrants by sea, for instance. Today, roughly a quarter originates from Syria, often crossing through several countries before taking the final voyage from ports in Egypt or Libya. But there were very few boat migrants from Syria five years ago. At that time, nearly a quarter of boat migrants entering Europe were from Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 10% are from Afghanistan. (CONNOR n.d.)

A large number of migrants by sea come to Europe from countries in sub-Saharan Africa; Eritrea has surpassed Somalia as the leading country of origin in that region. Irregular migration in the Mediterranean is a particularly complex phenomenon as it crosses through and involves the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia. A map of the sea may create the image that the Mediterranean acts as a natural barrier between southern Europe, northern Africa, and the Middle East. However, throughout the history of human civilizations, the sea has provided connective tissue between the three continents just as much—if not more so—than it has acted as a barrier between them. The Mediterranean Sea has witnessed many consequences that arise when diverse empires, ethnicities, religions, and cultures interact. Historically, such interactions have at times led to conflict and warfare and at other times they have led to the sharing of ideas and technologies that progressed humankind forward. Today, there are diverse socio-economic and geopolitical realities present on different sides

of the Mediterranean, yet they are strung together by mass human population movements. Irregular migration flows are a dramatic demonstration of how occurrences on one end of the Mediterranean reverberate across all its shores. (CONNOR n.d.)

Tensions in Europe are high as the immigration influx is occurring at a time when Europeans are particularly concerned with terrorism, foreign fighter transit, and the fragile state of the euro-zone. Less portrayed in the media; however, is the fact that the majority of refugees from the Middle East and Africa migrate to neighboring countries. This information presents important and all-too-often ignored context for evaluating the relative scale of Europe's responsibilities. Often there are questions raised by many European citizens why are many people from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya chose to come to Europe instead of preferring to join countries like UAE, Qatar, and many other countries with similar cultural, religious, literature values? Those countries are also equally prosperous compared to many high-end economies in Europe. (Hammond n.d.)

### **Illegal migration**

One of the most important considerations to make is that migrants crossing the Mediterranean are by no means representative of a single or homogenous group. Rather than using the term "illegal migration" when referring to the Mediterranean crisis, the terms "mixed migration" and "irregular migration" are more accurately used to portray the reality that different types of migrants are subject to different international laws; based on this, they will face different treatments in their host countries. Simply put, irregular migration is a broader-scope term that refers to migrants traveling between countries without authorized travel documentation for doing so. Given the legal rights to which they may be entitled under certain circumstances, many irregular migrants and asylum-seekers may therefore not be considered illegal migrants. (Hammond n.d.)

To address different forms of immigration, Europe's conventional policy framework has been designed to distinguish voluntary versus forced forms of migration. In other words, the question is asked as to whether migrants are choosing to migrate to better their own economic prospects (most commonly referred to as economic migrants), or

whether they are forced to flee their countries of origin out of fears of political, ethnic, religious, or other forms of persecution. Through the international legal principle of non-refoulement this latter group of migrants is protected from being returned to a country where their life and dignity is endangered, and they may be granted a form of asylum. (CONNOR n.d.)

Host countries within the European Union may grant migrants with refugee status (applies to those fleeing persecution in their home country), subsidiary protection (applies to those already outside their home country and unable to return due to possibility of persecution), or authorization to stay for various humanitarian reasons that may be defined by the host country itself. (Hammond n.d.)

To process migrants' applications for asylum their identities must be verified and their reasons for entry must be evaluated. The complicated truth of the matter is that migrants travel to Europe by irregular means from all across West Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East for varied reasons and the distinctions between chosen versus forced forms of migration are increasingly unclear. At what point, exactly, are conditions deplorable enough that emigration is no longer a voluntary option but a necessity? Further complicating the process is the fact that some migrants may also attempt to claim certain nationalities that are privy to better protection, such as Syrians and Somalis. (CONNOR n.d., Hammond n.d.)

Despite these complications, the majority of migrants arriving to Europe via the Mediterranean are legitimately in need of protection as they have fled conflict-ridden countries. In evidence to this, Syrian nationals have become the most commonly reported migrant group, with Eritrean migrants being the second most commonly reported group. There have also been significant numbers of Somali, Afghan, and Sudanese migrants. (Hammond n.d.)

### **Path chosen by Migrants**

The majority of migrants crossing the sea arrive to Europe from Libya; however, most of them are not Libyan nationals. To provide clarity on who exactly these migrants are, irregular migration may best be explained by differentiating the *countries of*



*origin from the transit countries and the destination countries.* (International Maritime Organization n.d.)

Irregular migrants crossing the Mediterranean originate from many different countries throughout West Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. Markedly, Syrian migrants represented 60 percent of all migrant arrivals by sea to Europe in 2014. In addition to providing this high number of Syrian asylum-seekers, Syria also currently holds the world's highest number of internally displaced persons—a figure standing at around 7,600,000. Syria's neighbors—including Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan—have seen an influx of over 3,000,000 Syrian refugees. These figures are the consequence of more than four years of asymmetric warfare (which commonly involves the targeting of civilians) that began in 2011 when mass protests sparked against President Bashar al-Assad. An array of pro-Assad (including Hezbollah) and opposition groups and militias (including the Islamic State) continue to compete for ideological and territorial control. Additionally, the failed status of Somalia and repressive conditions in Eritrea make them major countries of origin of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean. (FRENZEN n.d.)

From their respective countries of origin, many migrants—from West Africa and the Horn of Africa alike—traverse through the Sahara Desert, traveling from checkpoint to checkpoint and paying their way until they reach Libya. Libya is a prime hub for irregular migration in part due to its geographic position between the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. The porous land borders to its south permit undetected entry and its long coastline and close proximity to Malta and the Italian Peninsula provide migrants with an exit strategy. However, it is the combination of its geography with the disintegration of its governance and border security that has created near-perfect conditions for the success of human smuggling networks. (Hammond n.d.)

Since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has descended into near-failed state status. Two main rival governments vie for control: the internationally-recognized governing council elected in 2014, operating from the eastern city of Tobruk, and the coalition of armed groups known as Libya Dawn, which occupy the

western capital of Tripoli. Various other local, tribal, and extremist groups (such as Ansar al-Sharia and the Islamic State) also compete for degrees of power and control.

Libya has the largest proved crude oil reserves and the fourth largest proved natural gas reserves in Africa. These hydrocarbon resources provided Libya with a strong regional economy, and as such it was an attractive destination for economic migrants from other African countries. Many people from sub-Saharan Africa who originally left their country of origin to work in Libya have fled from the country to Europe since 2011. This dynamic is one example of the blending of the economic migrant and refugee categorizations that European officials are used to determining in granting asylum. Others not wishing to emigrate or risk their lives at sea are presented with the economic incentives of participating in the migrant smuggling business themselves. (Panagiotidis 2015)

Libya's security vacuum has allowed criminal human smuggling networks to fill the void and make millions of dollars. After paying smugglers exorbitant amounts to be packed into inflatable vessels or wooden fishing boats, migrants voyage north toward Italy and Malta. The voyages' threats include abuse from the smugglers, drowning at sea, and asphyxiation in over-packed hulls. Most migrants are aware of the risks and they choose to take their chances to better their situations. Once intercepted at sea by Italian, Maltese, or Greek authorities, migrants are sent to migrant reception and detention facilities where they will wait—often for 12 to 18 months—for their identities to be verified and their applications for asylum to be processed. Detention policies vary by country; however, Italy, Malta, and Greece have all faced criticism from the international community for providing inadequate conditions. Many asylum-seekers arriving to Europe have already experienced detention in Libya—where migrants and UN observers have described the conditions as abysmal and inhumane. Strict detention policies in Europe have at times allegedly been unlawfully maintained as a deterrence mechanism. The implementation of stricter border security mechanisms in the past has presented challenging consequences, such as fueling illegal methods of entry and shifting migratory routes in the Mediterranean. (Hammond n.d.)

The majority of migrants do not intend to stay in the European countries in which they first arrive, including Italy, Greece and Malta. These are primarily planned as transit countries while migrants intend to ultimately reside in more northern European countries, where they perceive they will find more opportunities and better treatment. Germany and Sweden currently host the highest number of Syrian refugees in Europe. (International Maritime Organization n.d.)

Europe's Dublin regulations are in conflict with many migrants' aspirations to reside in their planned destination countries. These regulations stipulate that the country through which an irregular migrant first enters the EU is solely responsible for processing that migrant's asylum application. Furthermore, a migrant caught illegally residing in another European country is sent back to the country through which they first arrived. The Dublin regulations have caused frustrations among southern European countries, declaring they face a disproportionate share of responsibility for regulating borders on behalf of Europe as a whole. Given their limited economic and geographic capacities, Italian and Maltese officials in particular have called upon the EU for increased "burden sharing."

### **European response**

Illustrative of Italy's responsibility was its Naval Search and Rescue (SAR) operation Mare Nostrum, which saved the lives of some 150,000 migrants from October 2013 to October 2014. Notably, these rescues were made with regular assistance from the Armed Forces of Malta as well as transiting merchant vessels. Mare Nostrum commenced operations following the October 2013 shipwreck off the coast of Lampedusa (a small Italian island and popular migration hub just 70 miles off the coast of Tunisia), in which more than 350 migrants died at sea. Media attention to this tragedy helped galvanize public support for migrant rescue operations. (FRENZEN n.d.)

Some hailed Mare Nostrum as an essential humanitarian mission, while others argued that it unintentionally facilitated immigration by creating a "pull factor" for migrants. Strong and polarized political opinions emerged as Mare Nostrum's operating costs soared to more than 9,000,000 euros per month. Ultimately, Italy scaled down its SAR operation one year after it was launched. The following month, in November

2014, the EU's border control agency, Frontex, launched Joint Operation Triton. (CONNOR n.d.)

In stark contrast to the SAR mission of Italy's Mare Nostrum, Triton was primarily designed as a border surveillance operation with significantly reduced manpower, reach and scope of operations. This scaled-back response increased concerns that the Mediterranean would further become a mass "cemetery" at sea. Five months later, the record-breaking shipwreck incident in April reignited debates on how best to respond to the situation and prevent the loss of life along Europe's shores. (Panagiotidis 2015)

Humanitarian principles, however, are not Europe's only concerns. The established presence of Islamic State affiliates on Libya's coast has increased the perception that irregular migration from Libyan shores is a threat to European security. The Islamic State released propaganda declaring war on Rome, and threats that terrorists could take control of migration networks were disseminated. These ongoing developments have strengthened perceptions of the Mediterranean as Europe's vulnerable underbelly. (WARNER n.d.)

### **Upcoming challenges.**

European leaders continue to try to find a balanced approach in responding to the migration crisis. Funding for Triton was increased following the shipwreck disaster in April, and various proposals are currently being made from military solutions such as targeting migrant smugglers' vessels on Libyan shores (a drastic movement that would stress the livelihoods of Libyan fishermen and risk significant civilian casualties), to the redistribution of asylum-seekers throughout European member states (which draws northern Europe into an issue which many perceive as a primarily southern concern). (Hammond n.d.)

The option of closing down borders in Europe (and perceiving immigration as a threat) will likely shake two significant pillars behind the European Union's ideology: freedom of movement (represented by member-states of the Schengen area), and respect for international humanitarian principles. The option of opening up borders to accept asylum-seekers (and perceiving immigration as a humanitarian crisis) will likely intensify European preoccupations over economic stability and job security,

and heighten concerns over long-term demographic shifts and fears of foreign fighter transit. (Hammond n.d.)

Trial and error has demonstrated that the treatment of the irregular migration crisis as either a humanitarian crisis or a security threat has proven ineffective and unsustainable. What is evident in moving forward is that the transnational and cross-continental nature of this issue requires a strong multilateral approach. This approach must take into consideration the interconnected nature of the wider Mediterranean basin and its specific socio-economic and geopolitical realities. The former president of Malta and founding member of the Barcelona Process, Professor Guido de Marco, may have said it best when he proposed that, *“there can be no security in Europe unless there is security in the Mediterranean and there can be no security in the Mediterranean unless there is security in Europe.”* At the heart of the irregular migration crisis we are reminded of the Mediterranean’s reemergence as a focal point for world affairs in an age when multifarious hybrid conflicts and their associated borderless threats challenge normative state-centric perceptions on how to address such challenging situations. (CONNOR n.d.)

Considering all these factor the security of the region is very crucial after attack in Paris twice in last year which included Charlie Hebdo killing 10 journalist and another attack in November which lead to death of 150 innocent civilians. Along with that the sexual assault in woman in many different German cities arises many question about integration of asylum seekers in European society. (CONNOR n.d.)

It's a volatile mix that could breed violence. In places like France, Germany and the U.K., there exists seething anti-immigrant and nationalist sentiment that could boil over as new arrivals continue to flow in. Western security officials also fear some among the migrants may have nefarious intentions. (National Geographic Channel n.d.)

Already, authorities in Europe are setting up de facto internment camps in desperate attempts to document the massive flow of people coming into their countries. Some of those arriving are genuine refugees fleeing violence, and perhaps had to give up or destroy their identification papers if they had any hope of leaving their home borders. Others are traditional economic migrants taking advantage of the exodus to achieve

their long-held hopes of making it to Europe. But Europe or the European parliament may not provide the answers these refugees are seeking, sparking a sense of disenchantment that could become dangerous.

Everyday more and more pressure in European society has crept on, and a continued lack of consensus on how to handle the surge of refugees is tearing at the very fabric of the continent. Hungary, for example, has already begun moving away from the Pan-European accord known as the Schengen Agreement that allows people to travel unrestricted across mainland borders. Beyond simply turning away refugees, the Hungarian government has erected razor-wire fencing and deployed riot police to thwart their traveling through the country. Germany and Austria have also instituted stricter border controls. Along with Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark controlling its border against its neighboring countries. Pressure mounts every day on Europe, raising question on sustainability or practicality of European Union and Schengen area.

## **Conclusion.**

Half of Syria's population has been forced to flee its homes and is displaced either within Syria's war-ravaged territory or abroad. Every one is following sadness the unfolding refugee crisis in Southern borders of Europe. "Why is it happening?" "What can we do?" and "How to avoid this in the future?" are important questions for European union and the countries that lies on the radar of the migrants to ask.

Today's increased flow of refugees into Europe, while certainly newsworthy, needs to be kept in historical and practical perspective. (If we are wondering how this might affect our future life in Europe) While this is the biggest migration in such scale since World War II, European history is a long and steady story of difficult refugee movements.

There are refugee crises around the world that equal this event in pain and misery, but go unnoticed because they don't affect the big economies. The big difference with the current story: The refugees are heading to Europe rather than to some other poor, war-torn and dysfunctional region. Crisis-hungry commercial news is looking for something sensational to talk about 24/7. And desperate people in boats and trains entering Europe create dramatic images that catch our attention. As a result public are very much involved in every steps taken in this process by any of the European government. Germany came up with open door policy for Syrian, Afghani and Iraqi application. As many people start to flood inside the Schengen borders it is difficult to systematically register all the people looking for asylum.

Europe consists of roughly a half-billion people. The refugee influx is in the hundreds of thousands. Europe can certainly absorb these people into its societies and workforces. Remember, European business leaders were the ones who favored admitting Turkey (with 75 million people) into the European Union — not because they cared about struggling people, but because a graying Europe has an aging workforce that needs to be revitalized, which is what lots of young, hardworking immigrants can do.

First came a discussion on possible forms of burden sharing of refugees or asylum seekers among European Union (EU) states. In 1994, Germany proposed a system of physical dispersal of temporary protection seekers, under which people would be dispersed among EU countries based on criteria of population, GDP, and size of territory. The proposal was rejected in this form, but a watered-down version did feature in subsequent EU legislation on temporary protection. This version called for states to take into account that responsibility for temporary protection seekers should be "shared on a balanced basis in a spirit of solidarity."

Since then, various mechanisms for distributing refugees or the costs of receiving them have been mooted, and a number adopted. In 1997, the European Refugee Fund was set up to provide financial assistance to EU states receiving large numbers of asylum seekers and refugees.

A number of EU countries have also viewed harmonization of asylum legislation as a means of ensuring a more equitable distribution of asylum seekers among states. The idea is that countries with relatively generous asylum systems attract more asylum seekers, implying that a convergence of laws in this area would lead to a more just distribution. One could classify this as a form of indirect burden sharing, whereby redistribution is achieved by trying to address the causes of the current inequitable pattern of distribution. The goal of burden-sharing was also codified in the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997, although by this time the EU had abandoned the phrase in favor of the looser principle of "promoting a balance of efforts" among states.

Then came the best solution according to contemporary European situation, popularly known as Dublin Regulation. The recast Dublin Regulation establishes a hierarchy of criteria for identifying the Member State responsible for the examination of an asylum claim in Europe. This is predominantly on the basis of family links followed by responsibility assigned on the basis of the State through which the asylum seeker first entered, or the State responsible for their entry into the territory of the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The aim of the Regulation is to ensure that one Member State is responsible for the examination of an asylum application, to deter multiple asylum claims and to determine as quickly as possible the responsible Member State to ensure effective



access to an asylum procedure. The recast Dublin Regulation entered into force in July 2013 and is aimed at increasing the system's efficiency and ensuring higher standards of protection for asylum seekers falling under the Dublin procedure. It contains improved procedural safeguards such as the right to information, personal interview, and access to remedies as well as a mechanism for early warning, preparedness and crisis management. It applies to applications for international protection lodged as from 1 January 2014.

Together with the recast Dublin Regulation, three other legal instruments constitute the "Dublin System": Regulation (EU) No. 603/2013 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the recast Dublin Regulation and Regulation (EU) No. 118/2014 which amends Regulation (EC) No. 1560/2003 laying down detailed rules for the application of the recast Dublin Regulation.

Europe needs immigrant labor as much as the U.S. does. Who else will pick crops, tend gardens, hang drywall and look after children and aging parents? While that's the clichéd image of an immigrant laborer, both Europe and the U.S. can attribute their economic success to smart, innovative and industrious newcomers who contributed mightily to their adopted societies.

These refugees are leaving miserable and dangerous worlds, taking huge risks in the process. And terrible hardships are being experienced at Europe's borders. As usual, Scandinavian countries are admitting more refugees per capita than many other nations (especially Sweden). These countries' acts of national kindness are compassionate and the decent thing to do. But even the most generous immigration policies of small nations like these will not alter the big-picture problem.

Is opening the doors of the developed countries even wider — enough to allow in the tens of millions of people who'd like to swap worlds — the right answer? It cannot be definitely said in yes or no. Personally, I don't want to see tiny countries such as Finland or Iceland overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of refugees, which would fundamentally change their social structures.

The most compassionate and practical approach is to deal with the existing stream of refugees generously and help these immigrants assimilate into First World economies. But then we must focus on making the world they fled more stable and prosperous by changing our approach to the developing world. This can happen both from a trade policy point of view and from a military point of view (since, if we're honest, most wars take place in the poor world and are fueled by rich countries with an eye on more fuel).

With the advent of climate refugees on the horizon and the specter of more societies breaking down in future decades, I fear this relative trickle will become a torrent. Small incidence in 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 can change entire society and governmental policies towards refugees. It may divide society in the name of crime, racism and biasness.

In the name of compassion and decency (as well as our own security and well-being, for those motivated purely by such things), it's time for the rich world to get serious about making life more stable and comfortable in the places so many refugees are risking everything to leave.

Regardless of where we may live, there is no place like home. The challenge before us, along with giving today's refugees a new home, is to make the home they fled more livable. This will surely result in better world and global peace in long run. Hence it required getting all of our European values together, working with consideration of each other's values and people's mandate. As it seems situations like these could not be predicted from the past to future. It is good in everybody's interest that mutual understanding and correlation between government and security agencies will definitely resolve current crisis. In upcoming future, we have to consider much about climate refugee that is not much of significance now but will affect not thousands but millions of people. Further studies can be done to prepare for upcoming future. Which will lead to systematical resolution of similar crisis.