

# // **MIGRATUP - Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows**

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**(migration; refugee flows; territorial potentials)**



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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

# ***Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows***

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**Lead Stakeholder:** Region Emilia-Romagna, Managing Authority (MA) of the Interreg VB Adrion.

**Stakeholders:** Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, MA of the Interreg Cooperation program VA Italy-Slovenia; Region Puglia, MA of the Interreg Cooperation programme VA Italy-Albania; Bratislava Self-Governing Region, MA of the Interact Programme; Ministry of National Economy (Hungary), MA of the Danube Transnational programme; MA of the Balkan-Mediterranean Interreg Programme.



# About the Project

# Aims

- Comparative analysis of the recent migration and refugee flows in the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube macro-regions, and in two countries of interest (Kosovo and North Macedonia)
- Identification of key features determining different degrees of territorial attractiveness
- Evaluation of challenges and opportunities for cities and regions in connection to refugee and migration flows in the two macro-regions
- Mapping of territorial typologies
- Policy recommendations
- Length of the project: one year (July 2017 – July 2018)

# Background

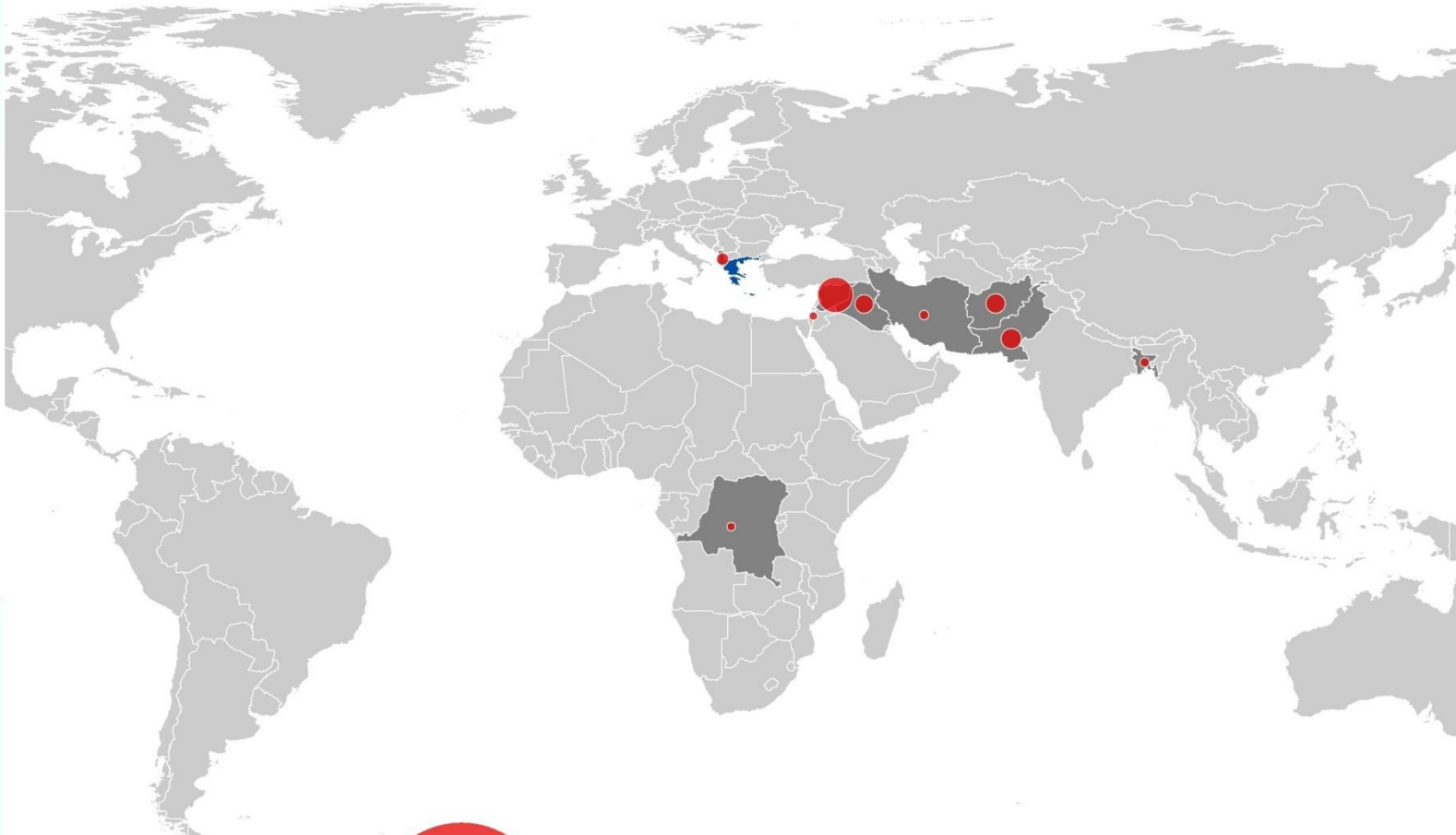
- Notwithstanding the existing potential for multi-level transnational cooperation, there are still numerous obstacles on the way towards a complete integration within EU political and socio-economic structures
- These obstacles are political, economic and socio-cultural
- Existing diverse migration patterns in the macro-regions, connected to regional and global developments
- In the aftermath of the “end” of the Balkan Route (March 2016), challenges still to be tackled:
  - Migrants were and are still able to transit on the route
  - Stranded migrants and asylum seekers
- - Lack of cooperation among EU members
- The team has identified at least four types of migration flows:
  - 1) internal migration in each country
  - 2) internal migration within the macro-regions and the Col
  - 3) **external migration into the macro-regions and the Col**
  - 4) secondary movements

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## Comparative analysis of migration flows

*External migration to the macro-regions  
– irregular and asylum seeker flows*

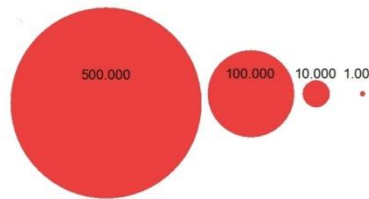
## Greece: Countries of origin for first time asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017





  
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-  Destination Country
-  Countries of origin
-  Other Countries



### Applications according to country of origin

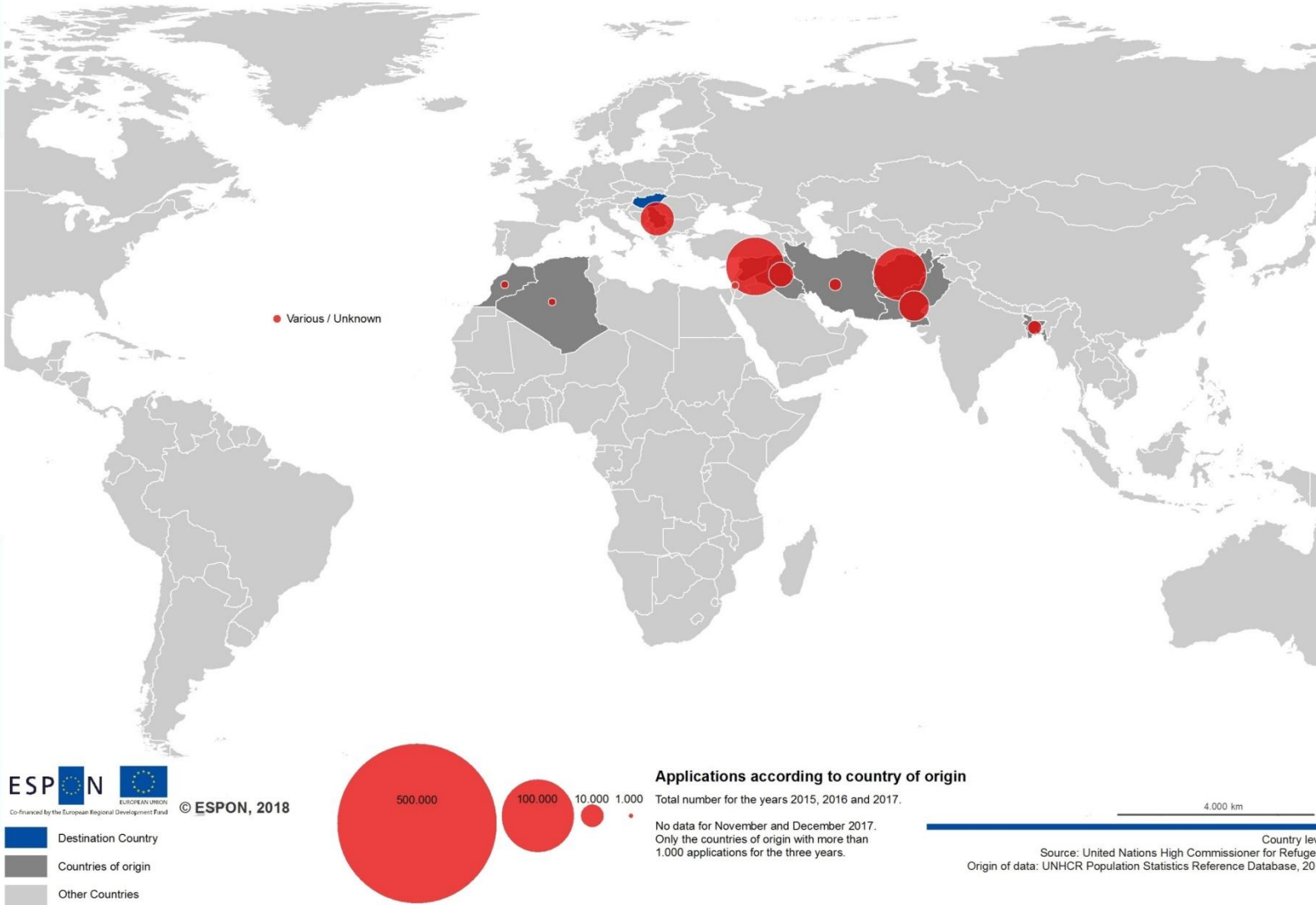
Total number for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

No data for November and December 2017.  
Only the countries of origin with more than 1,000 applications for the three years.

4,000 km

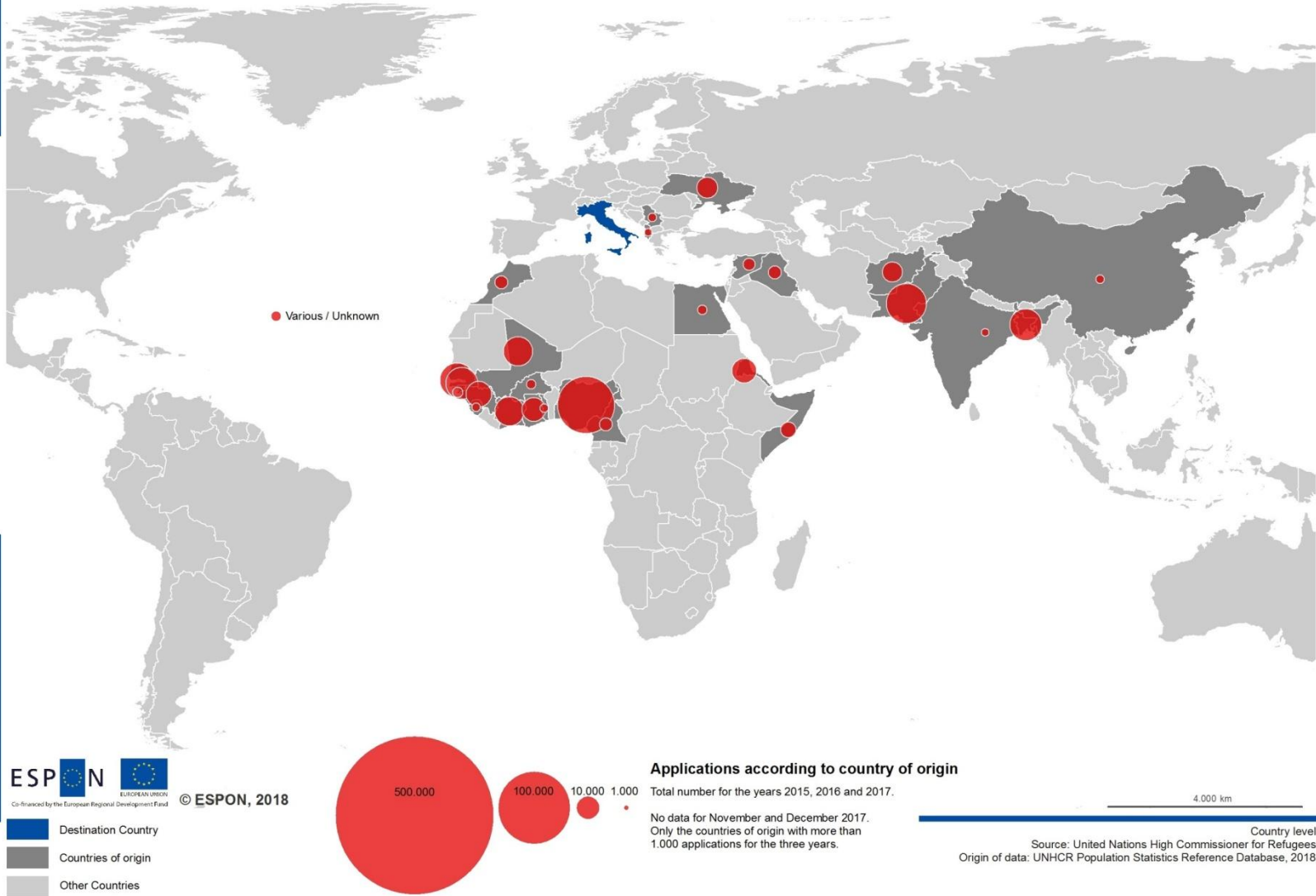
Country level  
Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Origin of data: UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database, 2018

## Hungary: Countries of origin for first time asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017

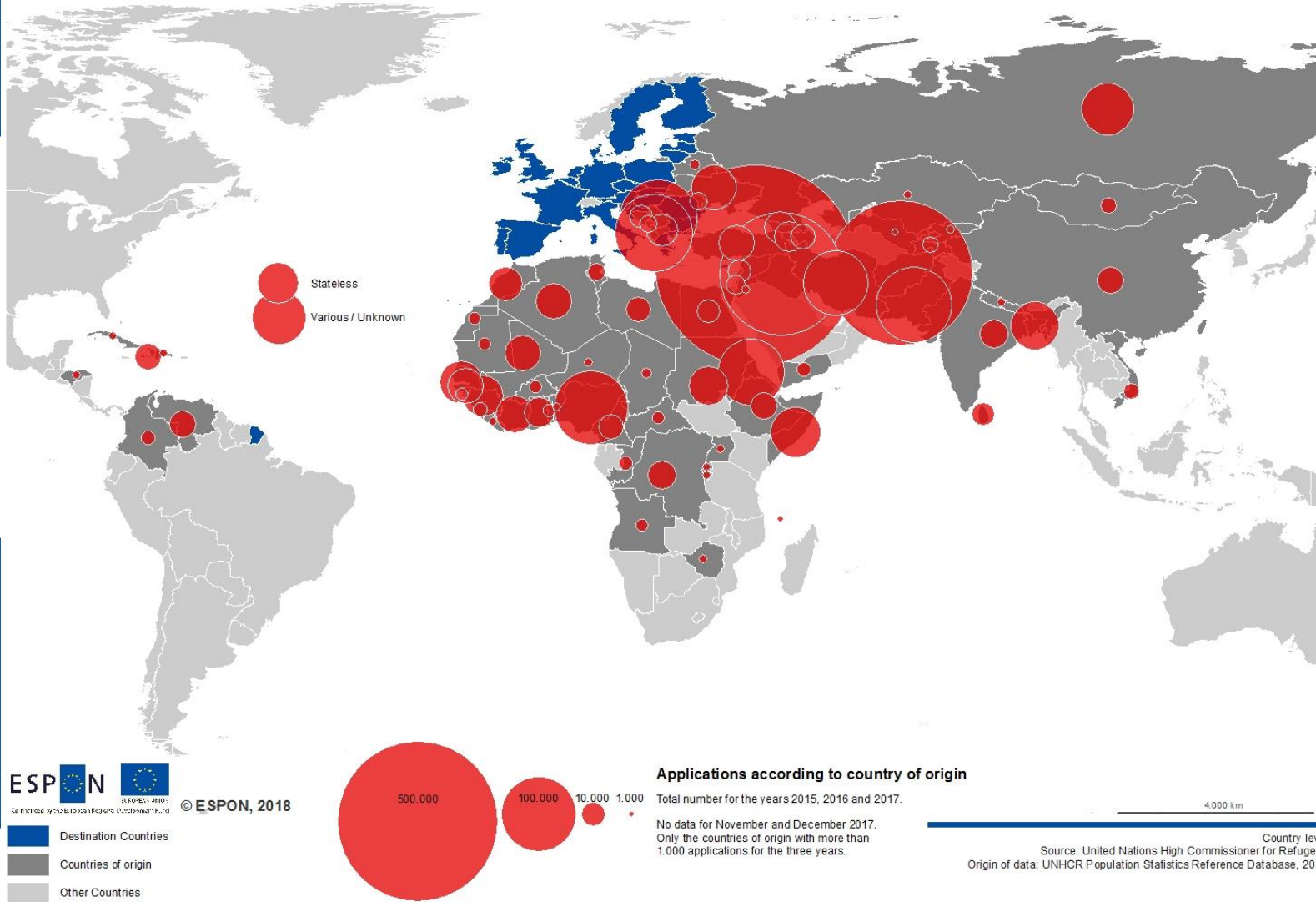




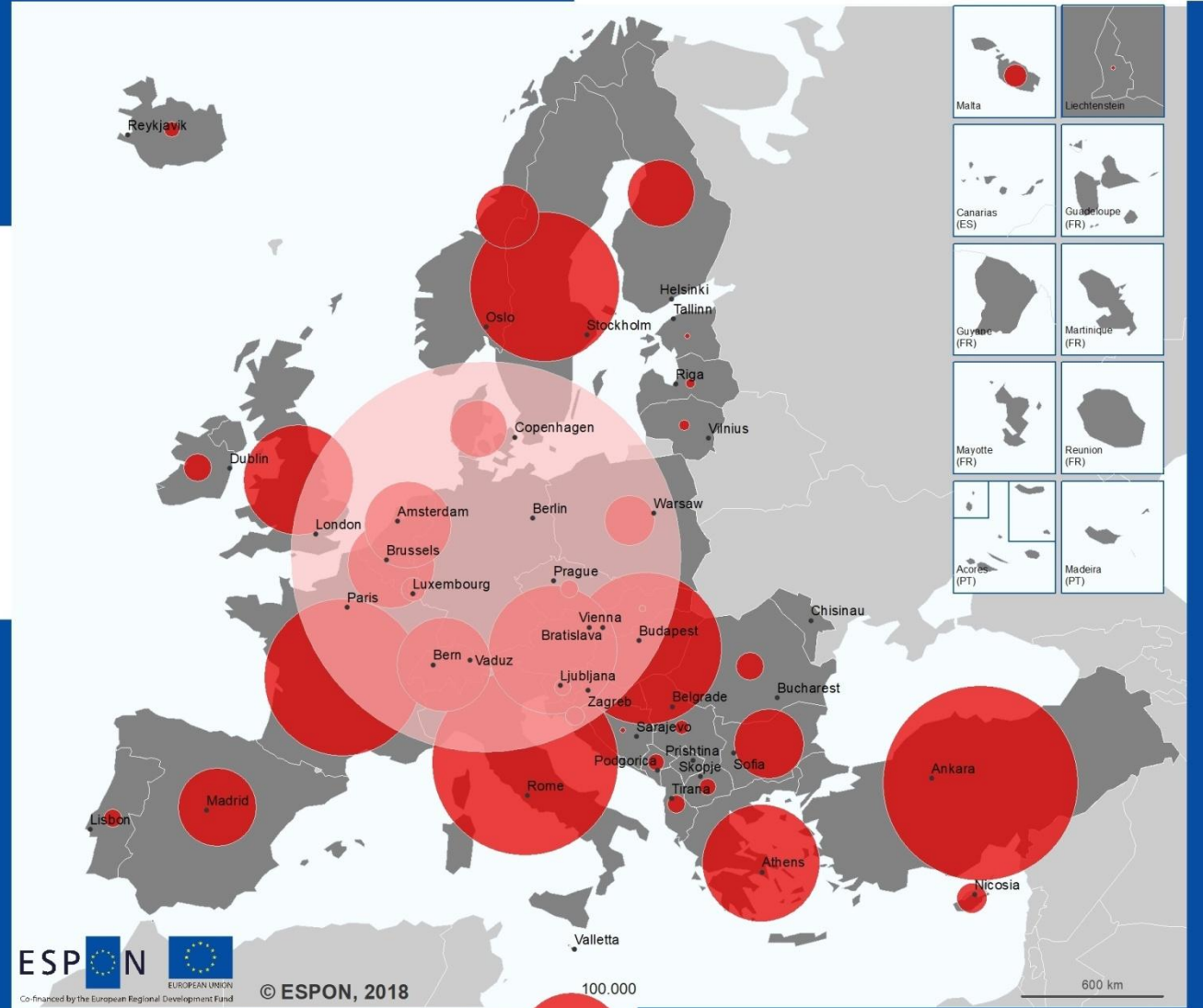
## Italy: Countries of origin for first time asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017



## EU28: countries of origin for asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017



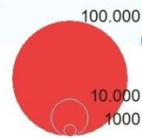
# First time Asylum Seekers, 2015 - 2017



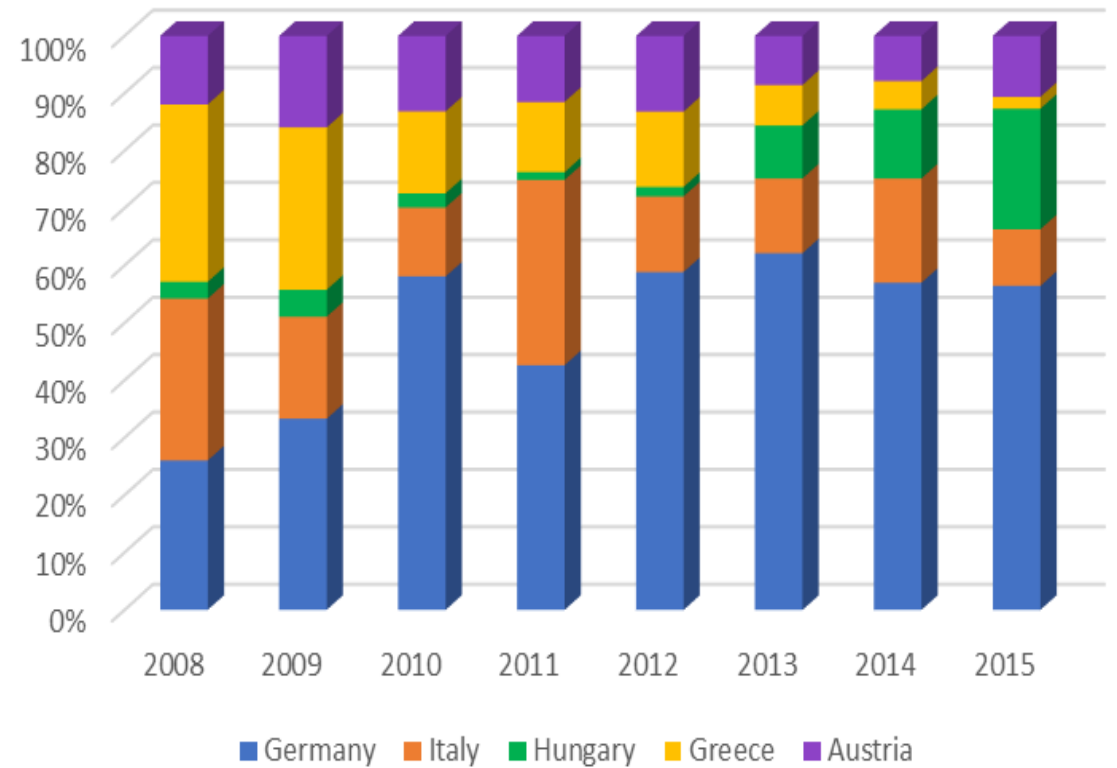
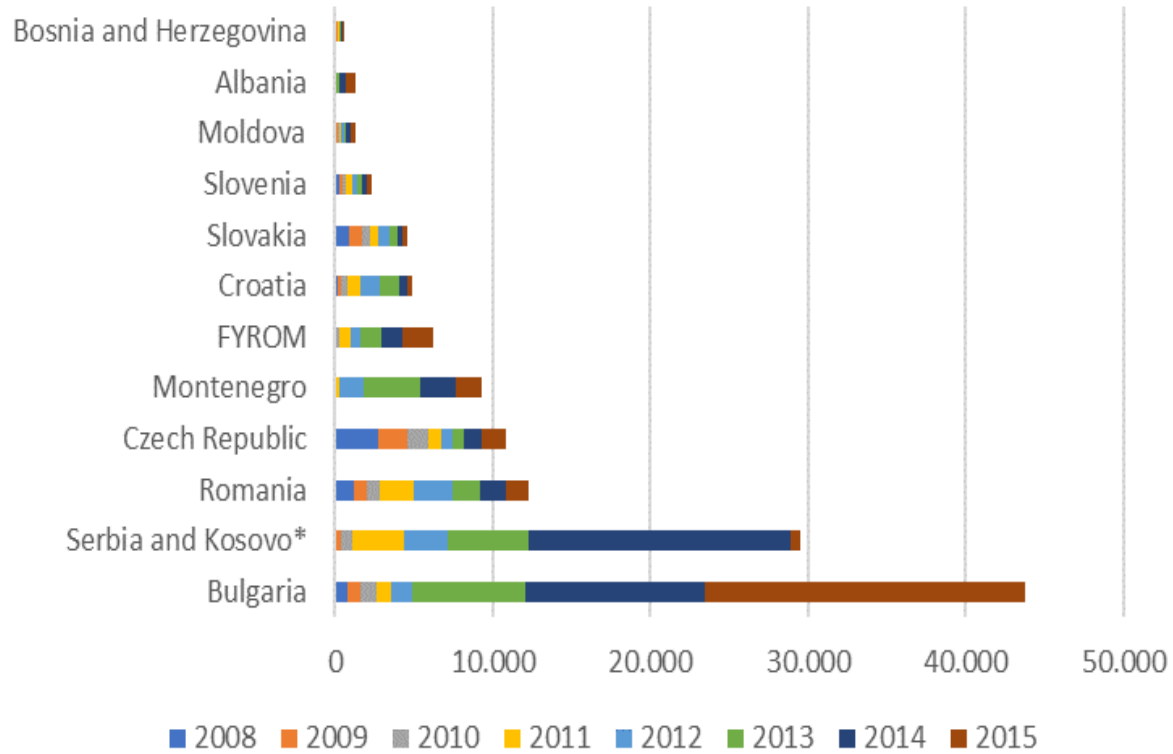
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## Total number of first time asylum seekers for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017

Minimum values in Moldova (0) and then Liechtenstein (231)  
 Maximum values in Germany (1,344,540)  
 The data for Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) are together with Serbia



Regional level: NUTS 0 - SNUTS 0  
 Source: Own elaboration  
 Origin of data: UNHCR  
 (No data for November and December 2017)



## Flow of asylum seekers (source: applied during the year, UNHCR)

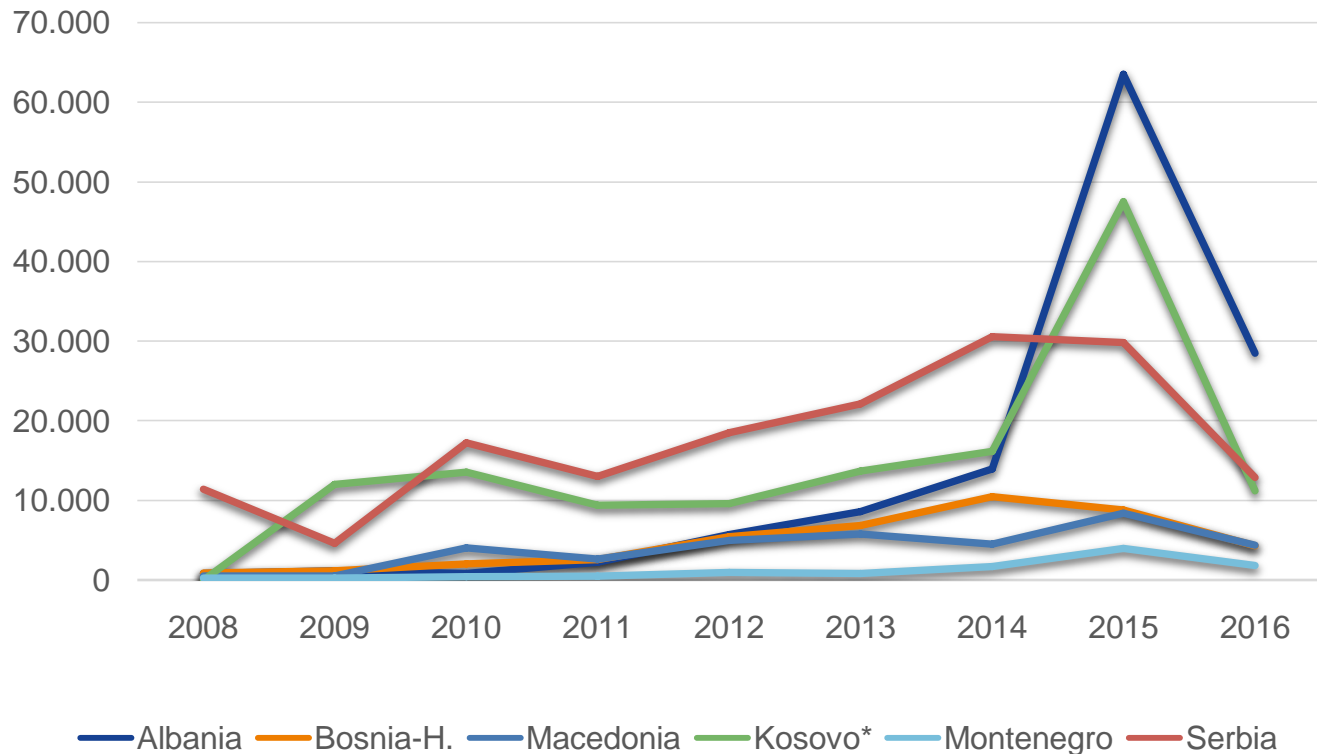
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## Comparative analysis of migration flows

*Secondary movements of rejected asylum applicants – the case of SEE6 countries*

# Asylum applicants (selected countries) to Central and Northern Europe, 2008-2016

Asylum applicants in A, BE, DK, DE, FR, IT, NL, SE



Rejection rate, 2015 (%)

	AL	BA	MK	ME	RS	XK
Belgium	95,0	100,0	97,8	100,0	100,0	95,6
Denmark	100,0	-	-	-	100,0	100,0
Germany	99,8	98,8	99,1	99,0	99,4	99,5
France	85,1	87,5	95,7	93,3	80,6	85,2
Netherlands	100,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	100,0	100,0
Austria	100,0	90,9	100,0	100,0	92,0	96,7
Sweden	98,0	97,6	95,3	100,0	90,1	97,1

# 6

## Case studies



# Eight case studies

- Athens, Greece: *from humanitarian assistance to State response*
- Budapest, Hungary: *a thriving hub*
- Mórahalom, Hungary: *a small town along the border with Serbia*
- Riace; Badolato; Satriano; Sant'Alessio in Aspromonte, Italy: *the "Riace" model*
- Provinces in Emilia-Romagna, Italy: *challenges & opportunities for rural and inner areas in the region*
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia / Slovenia (border area IT/SI): *perspectives from the border area*
- Belgrade and Serbia: *a complex picture*
- Western Balkans area: *a regional analysis of human mobility*



# Recommendations

- Realization of systematic surveys and databases containing socio-economic information about newcomers, which can be accessed and updated at any time by public authorities.
- Establishment of mechanisms for the matching of territorial needs with immigrants/asylum seekers skills, in order to estimate their employability in local markets and manage migration accordingly.
- Further promotion of the territorial dispersal and reception approach for asylum seekers integration, which provides instrumental social contexts for interactions with local residents.
- Implementation of deliberative democracy tools to increase mutual understanding and trust in the social contexts of interaction between locals and immigrants/asylum seekers (e.g. opening of reception centres). These tools, which include public gathering and discussions among key actors are meant to ensure legitimate political decisions for the common good.
- Digitalization of residence change procedures
- Addressing data gaps

# Recommendations from case studies

- Enhanced knowledge of migrants' profile
- Skills assessment and qualification recognition to facilitate matching of skills with available job opportunities
- Special attention should be paid at protecting physical and mental health of both migrants and refugees. The vulnerability of and trauma experienced needs to be early considered
- Cities and small villages are key actors for integration. Both need to have policies that build resilience and promote integration according to the local context.
- Establishment of an EU fund to which municipalities willing to welcome asylum seekers and refugees can have direct access.
- Transport, digital communication infrastructures and job opportunities are fundamental aspects to attract people. Further investments on basic services are needed for long-term integration and for avoiding loss of territorial attractiveness (access to health services; housing; vocational counselling).
- Targeted training (e.g. in tourism, agro-forestal sectors and environmental protection) should be provided both for locals and migrants, as a way to both strengthen social cohesion and respond to specific territorial needs emerged from the interviews

# Latest developments

- Balkan Route today:
  - Still thousand migrants stranded
  - Covid-19 represents a further challenge (e.g. mobility restriction; social tension)
  - Crowded camps; inhuman conditions (e.g. Bihac; Velika Kladusa; Moria)
  - Emergency-type responses (e.g. states of emergency, pushbacks; insecurity within the migrant camps; )
- Regional differences
  - EU countries are still more attractive as destination
  - Migration dynamics likely to continue as we know them (Mediterranean Central Route)

# Concluding remarks

- Mobility is intense and multidirectional
- Not just migration: Growing urbanization vs. depopulating territories and aging population
- From emergency to long-term management
- Lack of data
- Migration: security threats or opportunities?

**// Thank you**

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