

# // Impacts of Refugee Flows to Territorial Development in Europe (MIGRARE)

ESPON Seminar: New narratives for territorial development  
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# Study back ground and set up

1. How does the **distribution of asylum seekers and refugees** look at regional and urban level and how has this been changing over time?
2. How are different European regions and cities **responding** to the refugee inflow?
3. What **skills and qualifications** do the refugees possess? and how does the influx of refugees impact the recipient regions?
4. What are the **main challenges, good policy responses** and **best practices** for successful integration of refugees ?
5. What kind of **impacts would the implementation of new regulation and policy solutions** may generate?

■ **Target groups:**

- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Migrant data considered as proxy where needed

■ **Geographical scope:**

- EU28 + CH, IS, LI and NO
- Consider EU Candidate Countries (i.e. FYROM, TK, ME) and Western Balkans (i.e. BiH, RS, AL, Kosovo)

# 2

## Methodology and study progress

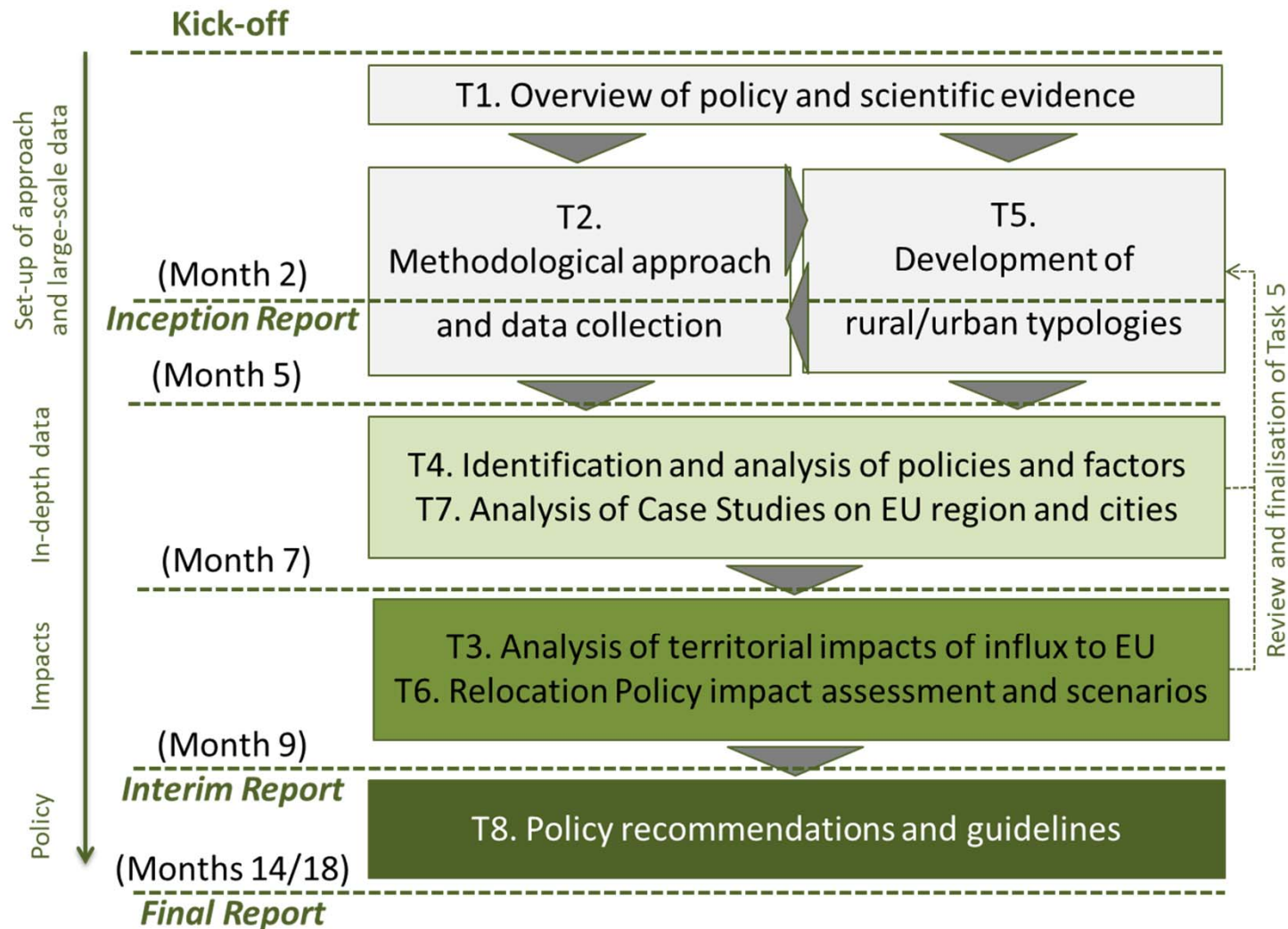
## Framework– Asylum seekers/refugees and territories

		Types of Asylum seekers & Refugees		
		Employability/skills/ training needs	Availability for labour market	Need for social support
Types of Territories	High growing and highly attractive regions	<i>Impacts (econ, soc, pol)</i>		
	Medium growing, attractive regions			
	Depopulating, low income regions			
	Turkish regions			

# Matching AS / refugees profile and territorial features: Impacts at territorial level (economic, social, political)

- Identification of range of impacts (financial economic and social), positive and negative in the short medium and long term
- Analysis of impacts interplay between characteristics/needs of asylum seekers and refugees, characteristics/needs of territories, and policies in place
- Identification of policy options focusing on different options of dispersal policies not necessarily linked with housing
- Assessment of policy options allows to assess the extent to which each option would maximise positive impacts and mitigate the risk of negative impacts
- Input for policy recommendations formulation to address possible bottlenecks to the integration of newcomers

# Project tasks, timing and outcomes

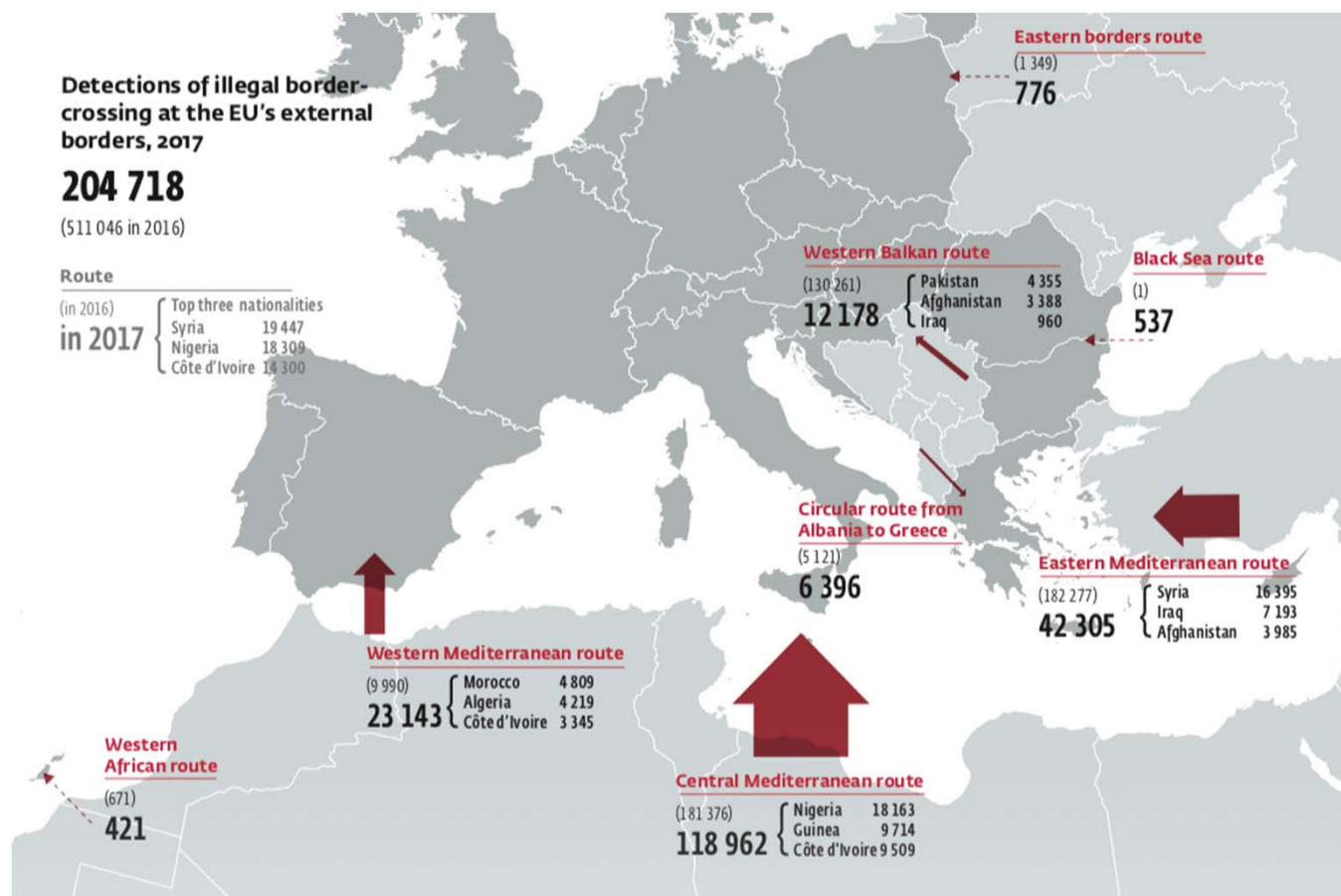


# 3

## Preliminary findings and conclusions



# Inflows and distribution across migration routes



Frontex 2018

The inflow of third-country nationals seeking refugee status in the EU has peaked in recent years (2015/2016) based on the interplay of three main cross-boarding “routes”:

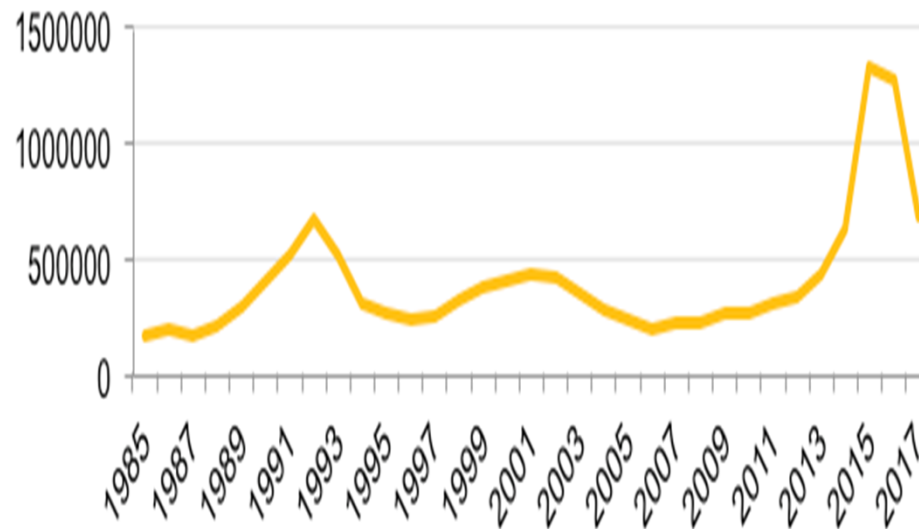
- ☐ The **Western Balkan route 2015**
- ☐ The **Eastern Mediterranean route 2016**
- ☐ The **Central Mediterranean route 2017**

# Distribution of asylum seekers across the EU and the EFTA

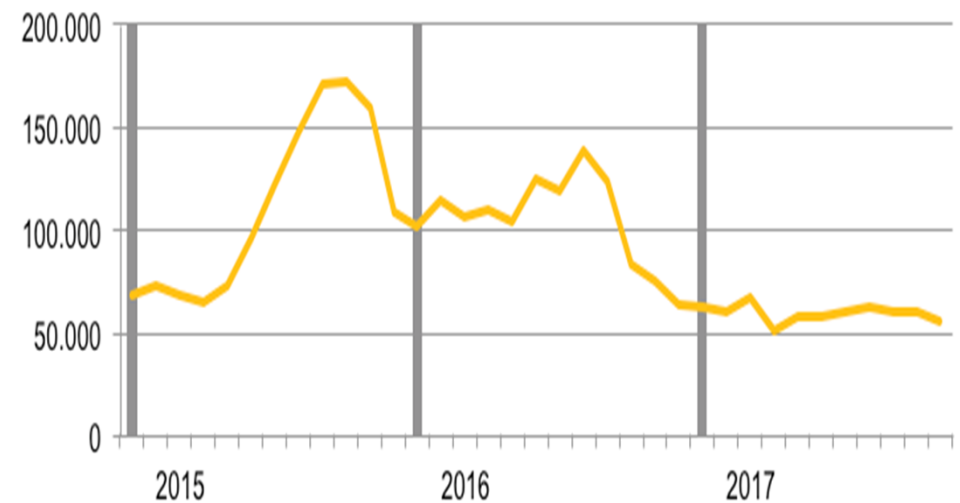
- According to the Eurostat 1.3 million asylum applications were filed in the EU-28 in 2015. Mostly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.
- The number declined in 2016 after the EU- Turkey (March 2016) agreement: almost 400.000 arrivals were recorded in December 2016.
- The distribution of asylum seeker has also changed:
  - in 2015 Austria, Hungary, Germany and Sweden were the top countries registering asylum applications.
  - in 2016 Italy, France and Greece were in fact the top receiving countries in 2016. This identifies a shift from the Balkans towards the Eastern/Central Mediterranean route
- Actions taken with Northern African Countries and particularly Libya in 2016 led to a decline of that route as well towards the end of the year

# Distribution of asylum seekers across the EU and the EFTA

EU-28 Yearly asylum applications, 1985-2017



Monthly Asylum application 2015-2018

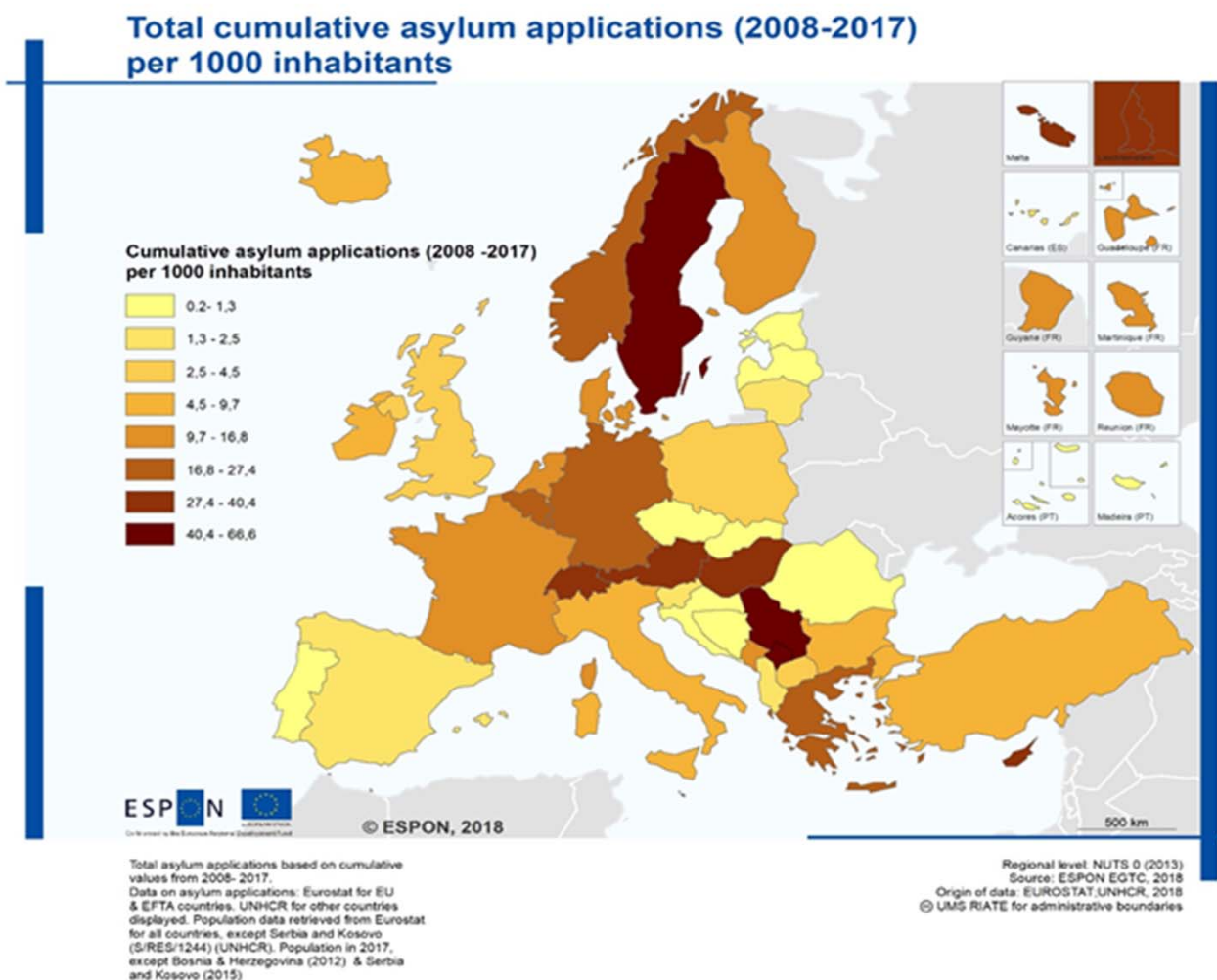


Overall recent data suggest that the number for 2017 is comparable to the level of the 1992 influx of around 650,000 applications (bear in mind that the EU population was much smaller due to the lower number of countries member of the EU)

EUROSTAT

# Patterns of inflows across EU and EFTA countries at territorial Level

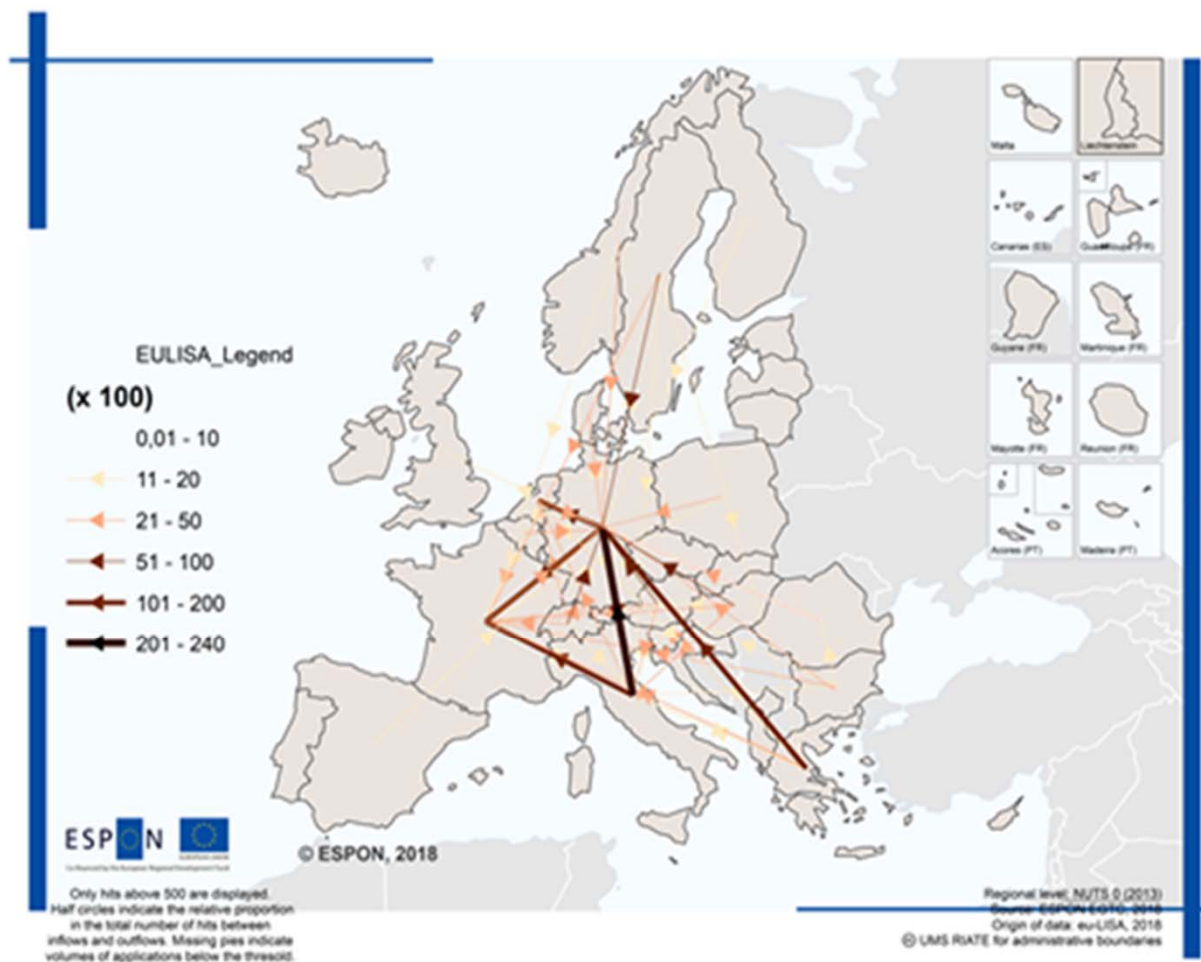
- DE, FR, IT and SE the highest number of applications & positive decisions
- Border countries (E Europe, ES, UK): more negative decisions, but....
- SE, AT, CH, HU: high proportion of applications/population



# Patterns of inflows across EU and EFTA countries at territorial Level

- We have used EU LISA data to intercept the most popular flows of asylum seekers and refugees
- **Asylum seekers have first second and fall back options to log applications**
- Entry countries: Italy, Greece, Hungary
- Germany receive a high number of AS who first applied in Italy and Greece
- Then France receive a high number of application from those that have first applied in Germany

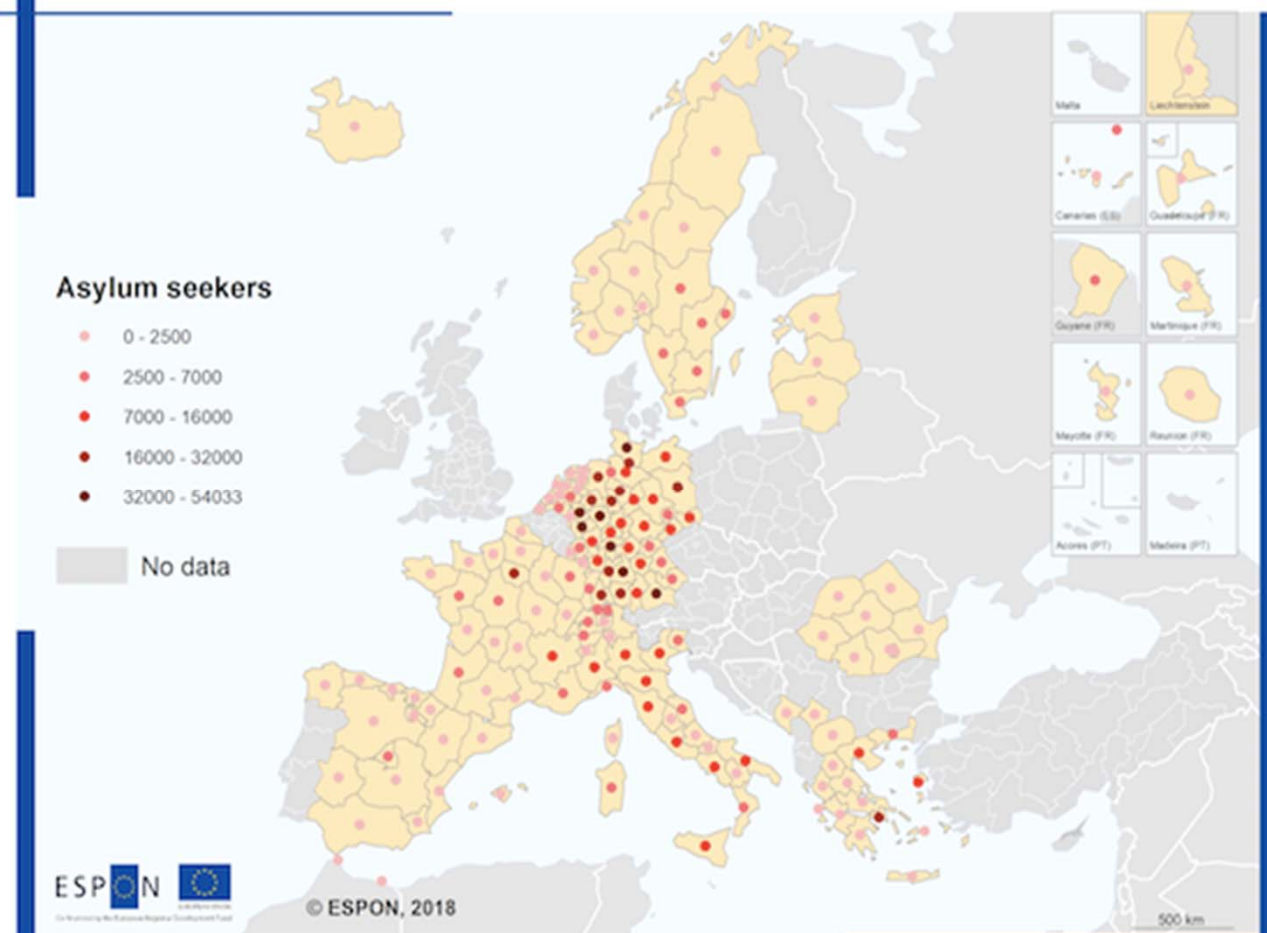
Number of international protection seekers who had previously lodged an application in another country, 2017



# Distribution at territorial Level

- Most regions in Germany and Italy seem to show relatively high number of asylum seekers
- Concentration in Sweden is mainly in the southern part of the country
- In Greece there is also a strong difference between regions
- In general, asylum seekers tend to gravitate to economically dynamic regions (as shown in France, Spain, Germany, and to some extent Italy with the Lombardy, Lazio and Piedmont regions).

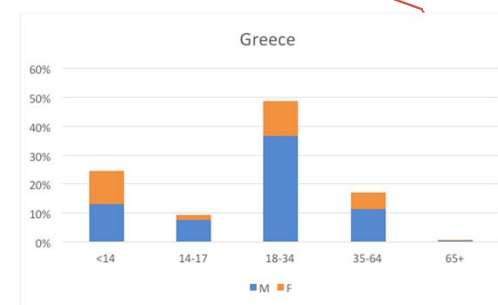
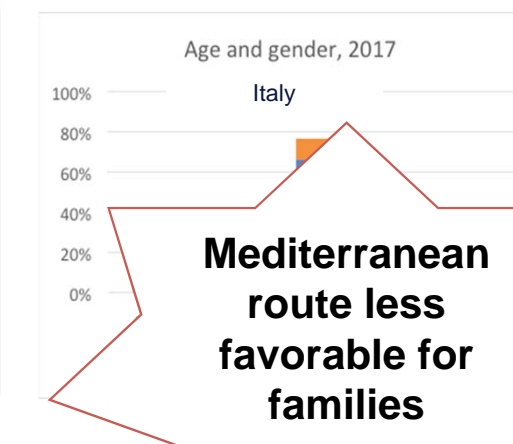
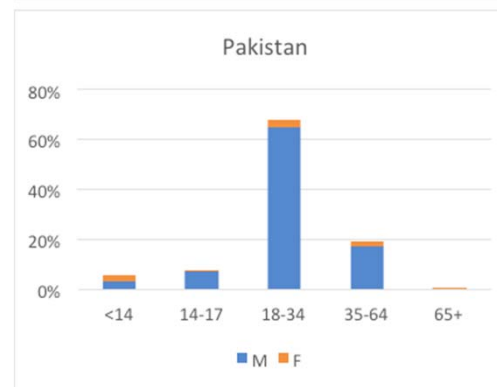
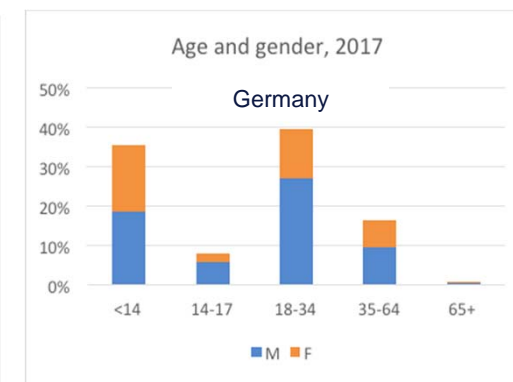
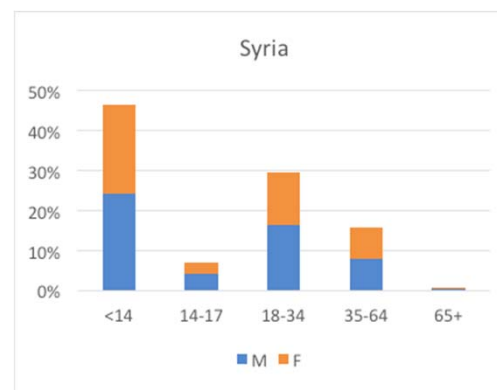
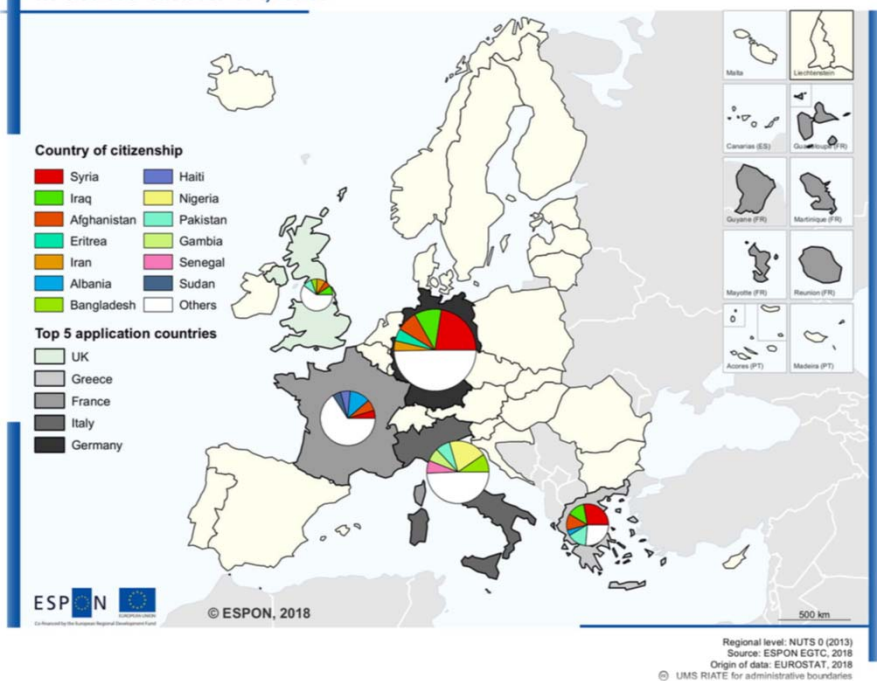
Asylum seekers per NUTS 2 region





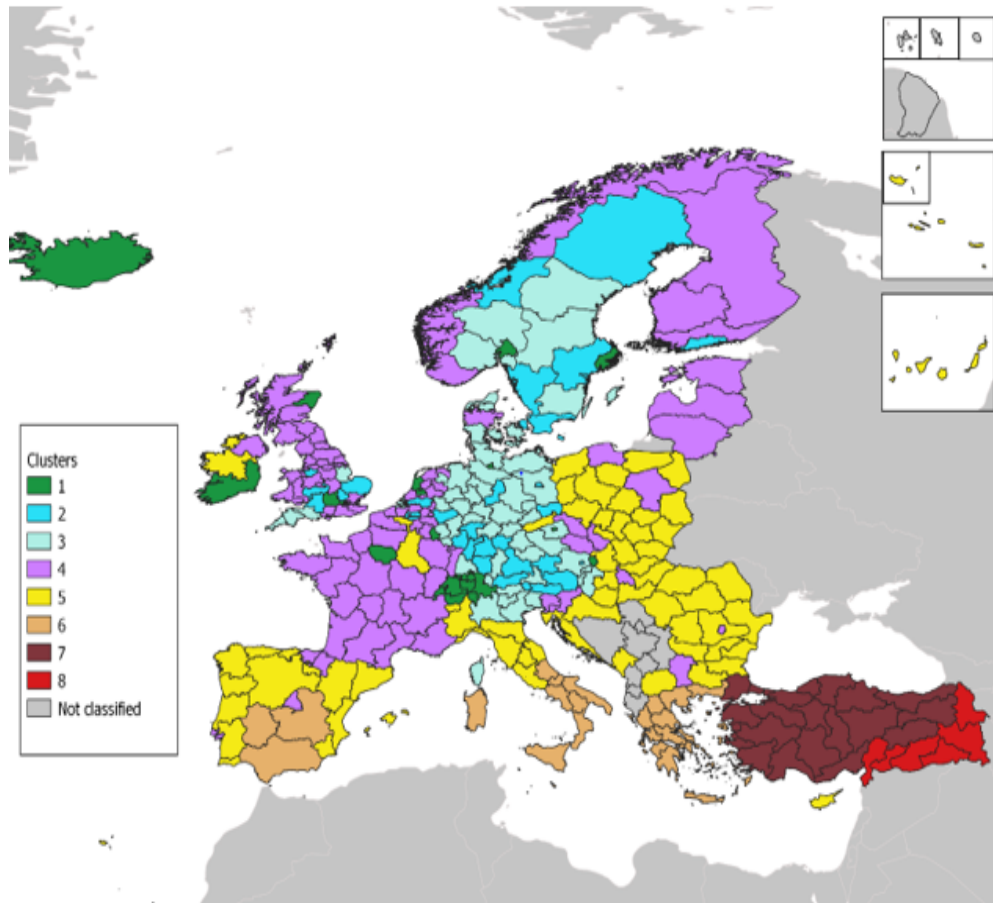
# Profile of AS and refugees

Top 5 countries of origin in top 5 application countries in the EU and EFTA, 2017



# Regions attractiveness and potential absorption capacity

Results of cluster analysis (8 groups) – 2014-2017



Source: Own elaboration

## Cluster analysis

- Classification of 8 different clusters
- **1: highly attractive metropolitan areas and financial poles**
- **2: highly attractive, innovative and growing regions**
- **3: attractive manufacturing regions**
- **4: less attractive, average growing regions with demographic balance**
- **5: growing but depopulating regions**
- **6: lagging behind and depopulating regions**
- **7: Turkish regions with strong demographic and economic dynamics**
- **8. Turkish emigration regions**



# Policy responses

- Some countries have very centralised networks, in which the different branches of the central government play a key role.
- In other cases, regions, provinces and municipalities are involved in the design and the implementation of the migration policy.
- **Housing** is one of the most common policy sectors that is implemented in cooperation with the municipalities
- Relevant policy responsibility delegated to municipalities in exchange for financial compensation.
- access to education for children on the same conditions as for nationals (both asylum seekers and refugees). The schooling is obligatory in most of the countries, even though the maximum age for compulsory schooling can vary.
- Asylum seekers can **access the labour market** within a period that varies across countries. For entering the labour market a work permit or a residence permit may be required, although in some cases they are allowed to work even if the asylum application has not yet concluded. Asylum seekers can also often participate to vocational education and training programmes.

# Assessment of the impacts of asylum seekers and refugees so far

- **Countries reporting a positive impact are mostly those with a significant number of inflows and those located on the Balkan route.** Within a country, the positive impact on public revenues is particularly concentrated in the regions where the reception centres are located. At the same time, most of the countries reported a negative influence on public spending in the sense that public spending increased due to the higher number of inflowing asylum seekers and refugees.
- Nine countries reported a positive influence of recent inflows of asylum seekers and refugees on their **available workforce** in the short term. The long-term impact of these inflows is also expected to be positive for some countries, given that it might include meeting future labour and skill shortages.
- While inflows overall seem to have positive impact on the workforce, many countries reported a **mismatch** between the skills of inflowing asylum seekers and the skills required on local labour markets.
- One potentially positive impact of inflows could be to alleviate the challenge of an **ageing society** across Europe. However, the data collection performed indicates that the impact on demographics is negligible in many countries. **This is attributed to the fact that countries where net migration flows are often negative are not seen as destination points** by the current flows, and only a few asylum seekers and refugees remain in these countries.
- The majority of countries where an impact on **social tensions** has emerged suggest a negative influence of current inflows fuelling social and political tensions. Nonetheless, only a few countries have reported a correlation between the influx of asylum seekers and refugees and an actual increase in **illegal activities**. It must be noted, nevertheless, in most countries there has either been no impact on the level of illegal activities or there was no reliable data available to assess such impacts.
- The **institutional spillover is positive** for most of the countries.

## Next Steps of the study – Challenges and good practices



### 12 case studies

#### Selection criteria

- Refugees and migration trends and patterns.
- Demographic and socio-economic characteristics
- Urban/Rural regional patterns
- Geographical distribution
- Policy approaches and governance systems
- Migration routes

# Concluding remarks

- The volume and paths of inflows varies over time.
- The patterns of flows and stocks across European countries and territories also vary –
- The characteristics of individuals within and across ethnical groups of asylum seekers and refugees also differ and may vary over time. This to be taken on consideration to design policies
- Some ethnic groups are characterised by well-balanced composition of age and gender,
- Similarly, difference may arise in terms of skills and employability across individuals and among different routes and the ethnical groups with which they are composed
- Characteristics of receiving communities and territories also change, depending on a higher absorption and inclusion capacity – in terms of economic and job market performances – of certain destination countries and territories with respect to other arrival countries and territories.
- This factor potentially makes the integration of asylum seekers and refugees more problematic in certain territories more than others.

# // Thank you

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# Consortium



Valdani Vicari & Associati  
ECONOMICS & POLICY



## Type of impacts of asylum seekers and refugees

Categories	Positive Impacts	Selected indicators	Time-frame
<b>Financial</b>	Public revenues	Revenues on social security and taxes (payroll/business) Remittances and diaspora effects (origin)	MT/LT
<b>Economic</b>	Workforce and entrepreneurship	Labour supply, employment, new enterprises, GDP	MT
<b>Social</b>	Reversing shrinking populations, cultural diversity	Change in age cohorts and fertility rates	MT
<b>Political</b>	Normalisation of political dialogue	Low relevance of anti-migrant “votes” and views	ST, MT, LT
Categories	Negative Impacts	Selected indicators	Time-frame
<b>Financial</b>	Public spending	Spending on integration and initial reception measures. Spending for health, housing, basic education. Spending for advanced training, subsidies for inactive people.	ST MT MT/LT
<b>Economic</b>	Excess of low-skilled people	Un-skilled workforce, lower wages	MT
<b>Social</b>	Social tensions	Unemployment, security issues, crime, negative perception	ST/MT/LT
<b>Political</b>	Aggravation of current political tensions	High relevance of anti-migrants “votes” and views	ST/MT/LT

# Selected cases (I)

- **Bilbao** – **Guaranteed democratic participation of immigrant associations** in the development and promotion of the integration and coexistence policies in the different areas of political, cultural, economic and social life.
- **Bucharest** – First phase of **‘Integrated legal and social assistance services** for TCNs’ implemented focusing on ensuring equal treatment of TCNs, integration and prevention of marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable persons.
- Flanders – Centres for General Welfare play a key role as **central ‘hubs’** in the provisions of various sorts of **public services to refugees**. This includes information about housing (counselling), as well as services in the sphere of healthcare (including socio-psychological work).
- **Horgos – Röszke** - **One of only two points of entry** along the HU-RS border, into a so-called transit zone through which one asylum-seeker is allowed to enter per working day with an asylum application intention in a very regulated manner.
- **Kapfenberg** – **“Mobile Advice Austria”** programme providing advice for migrants throughout their integration process together with additional integration support such as “teamteaching” – group language classes for parents and children.
- **Kilkis** – Three-step pilot project implemented by the OMNES volunteer association to provide **dignified housing for the vulnerable groups**, facilitate trust-building between residents and the newcomers and support income and skills generating activities to promote social and economic development of the asylum seekers as well as the local area



# Selected cases (II)

- **Limerick - Multiannual integration plan** identifying five key priority integration themes: language, education and employment; information and communication; access to public services; cultural awareness and anti-racism; and active community participation.
- **Milan – Mobilisation of civil society and creation of a network of public and private services**, integration of services offered to refugees: social housing, psychological and psychiatric services, language courses, services for the integration on the labour market, evaluation of physical trauma, information on voluntary return, integration through art.
- **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur** – A number of large cities with a long history of immigrant settlements (Marseilles, Nice) but also a number of **smaller scale initiatives**. In the Roya valley, within a string of villages, locals act as mountain guides to guide asylum seekers safely through the mountains
- **Sicily – Involvement of local NGOs** in integration efforts of immigrants by providing work, (vocational) training, qualification courses and other services such as childcare and co-working spaces.
- **Schwäbisch Gmünd – Project point for integration and refugees** (PFIFF). Arriving asylum seekers have a “welcome talk” which also serves to find out which skills and educational background they have to find a job or an apprenticeship for them. Asylum seekers are expected to do voluntary work, which shall help them to integrate into the community.
- **Södertälje** – Welcomed more Iraqi and Syrian refugees than UK and US combined. **Two speed integration** in place – children straightaway through education, adults “lagging” behind by a number of years (often integrated through their children).