

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

**Presentation of the main project findings**  
**Vienna, 22.11.18**

# ***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 and Scopes

- Comparative analysis of the recent migration and refugee flows in the Adriatic and Ionian and Danube macro-regions, and in two “countries of interest” (CoI): Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)
- Identification of key features determining different degrees of territorial attractiveness
- Challenges and opportunities for cities and regions in connection to refugee and migration flows in the two macro-regions
- Mapping territorial typologies
- Policy recommendations
- Length of the project: one year (July 2017 – July 2018)

# Background

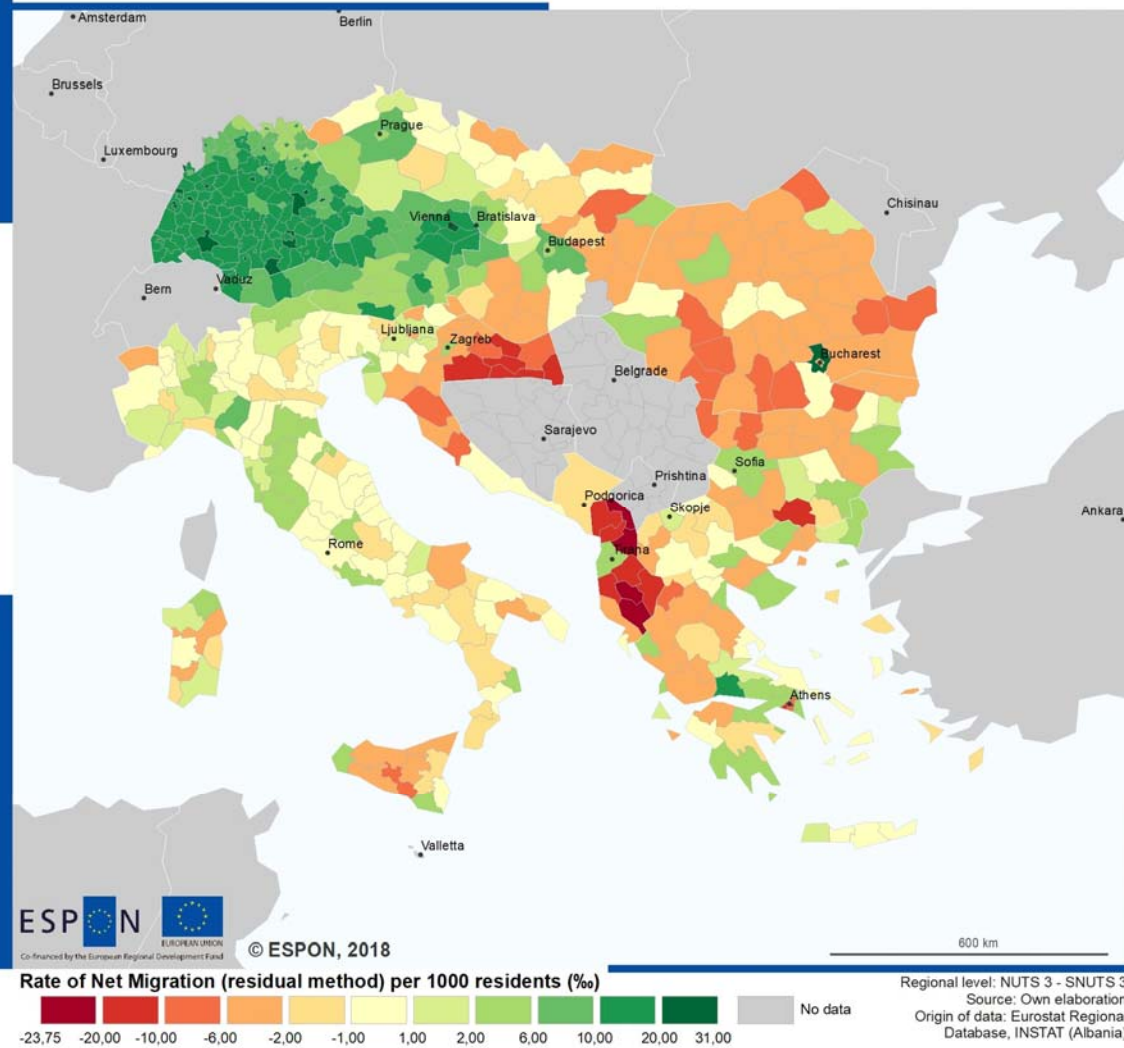
- Notwithstanding the existing potential for multi-level transnational cooperation, there are still numerous obstacles on the way towards a complete integration within EU political and socio-economic structures
- These obstacles are political, economic and socio-cultural
- Existing diverse migration 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
- 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

# 2

## Comparative analysis of migration flows

*internal migration - rate of net migration per 1.000 inhabitants through the residual method*

## Rate of Net Migration, 2015



# Features of internal migration

- Internal migration along the south-north axis, like in the case of **Italy**);
- In **Croatia**, internal migration is prevalently from eastern regions towards either Zagreb or the coastal Istria County in the western part of the country.
- In the majority of cases, it is possible to note centripetal tendencies, corresponding to increasing urbanization, to the disadvantage of rural areas: this is the case of **Albania**; the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)**; **Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244)**, **Romania**, **Serbia**, **Slovakia**.
- In the other countries, internal migration patterns are of a mixed kind because several NUTS 3 display positive values besides the capital (e.g. Kyustendil and Varna in **Bulgaria**; Středočeský kraj in **Czech Republic**; Győr-Moson-Sopron and Fejér counties in **Hungary**; Posavska and Savinjska in **Slovenia**).
- All NUTS 3 territories of **Austria** and **Germany** are characterized by positive and very positive rates of net migration.



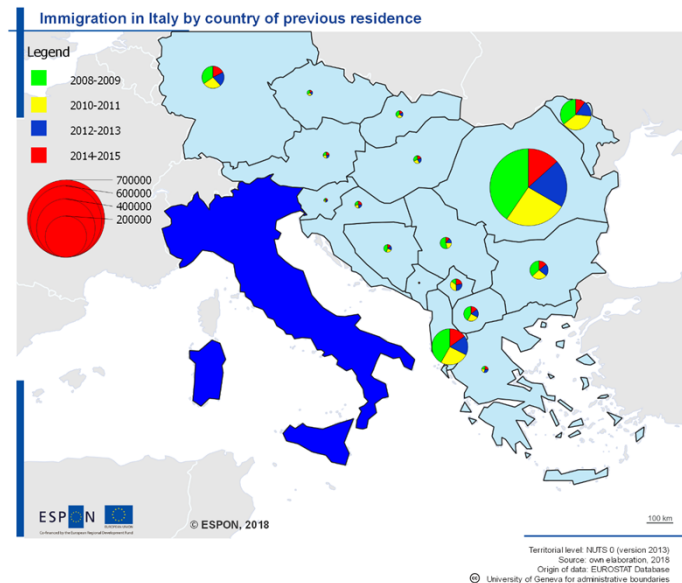
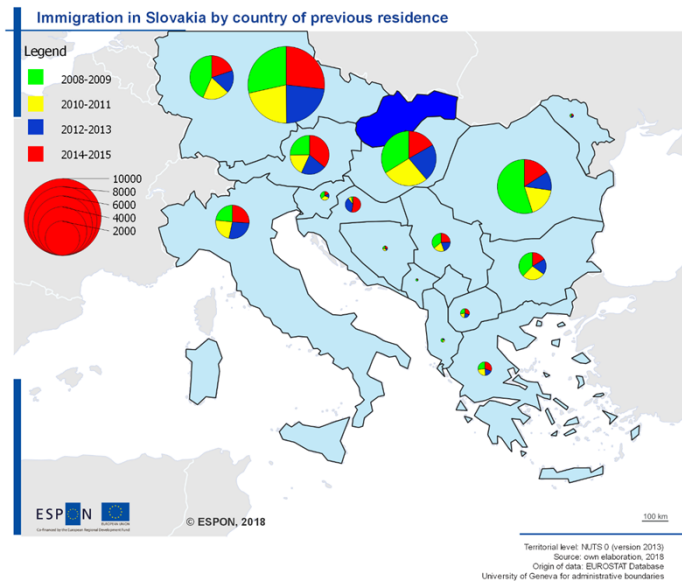
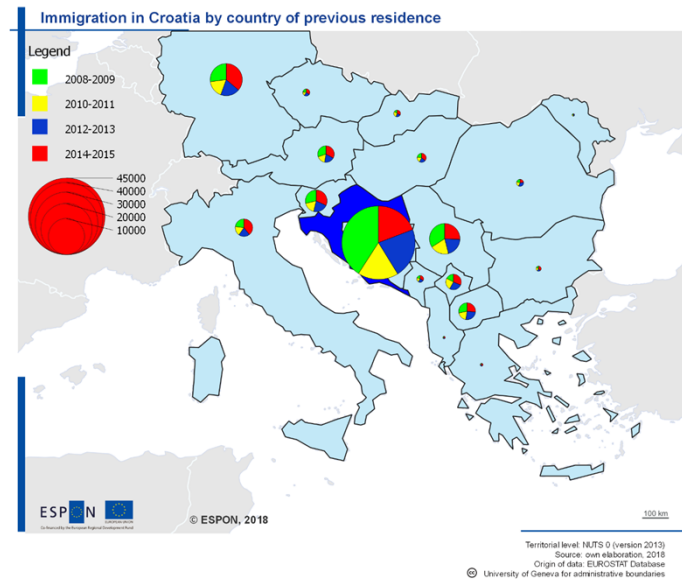
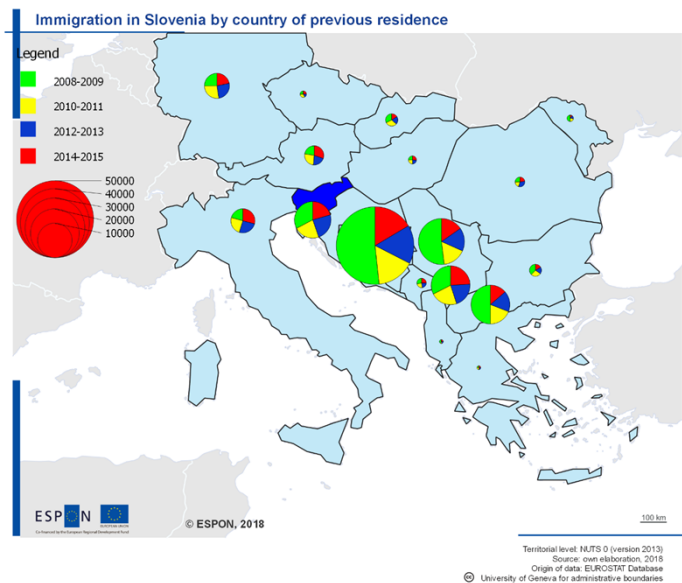
# Urbanization

Municipality	Residents in 2011	Residents in 2015	Trend
Tirana	749.365	834.151	+11,3%
Podgorica	185.953	194.022	+4,3%
Rome	2.752.020	2.872.021	+4,3%
Novi Sad	341.625	350.930	+2,7%
Ljubljana	279.898	287.347	+2,6%
Sofia	1.296.615	1.319.804	+1,8%
Pristina	198.897	202.229	+1,6%
Zagreb	790.017	801.349	+1,4%
Belgrade	1.659.440	1.679.895	+1,2%
Budapest	2.971.246	2.983.733	+0,4%

# 3

## Comparative analysis of migration flows

*migration within the macro-regions -  
changes of residence from one macro-  
regional country to another*

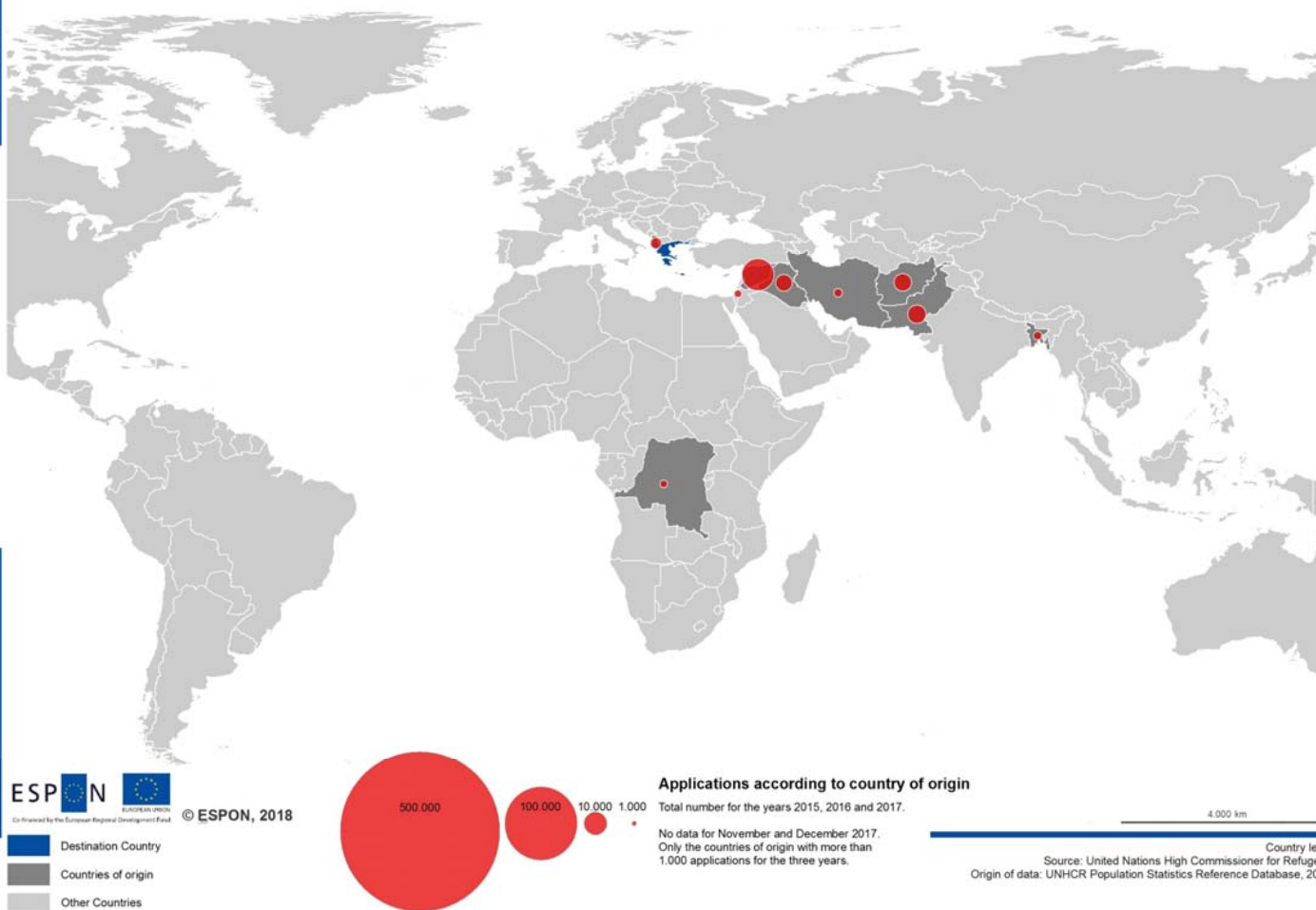


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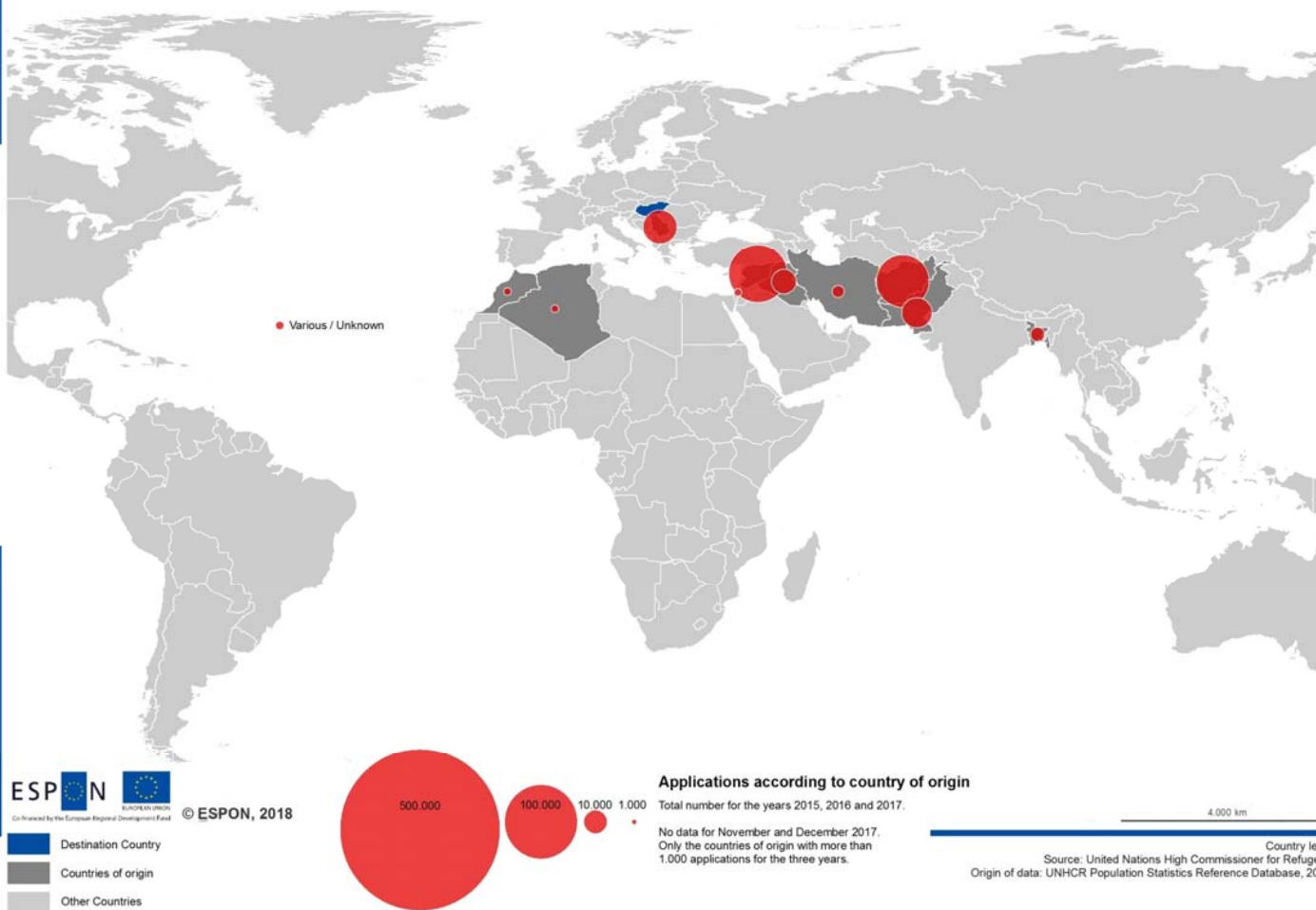
## Comparative analysis of migration flows

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

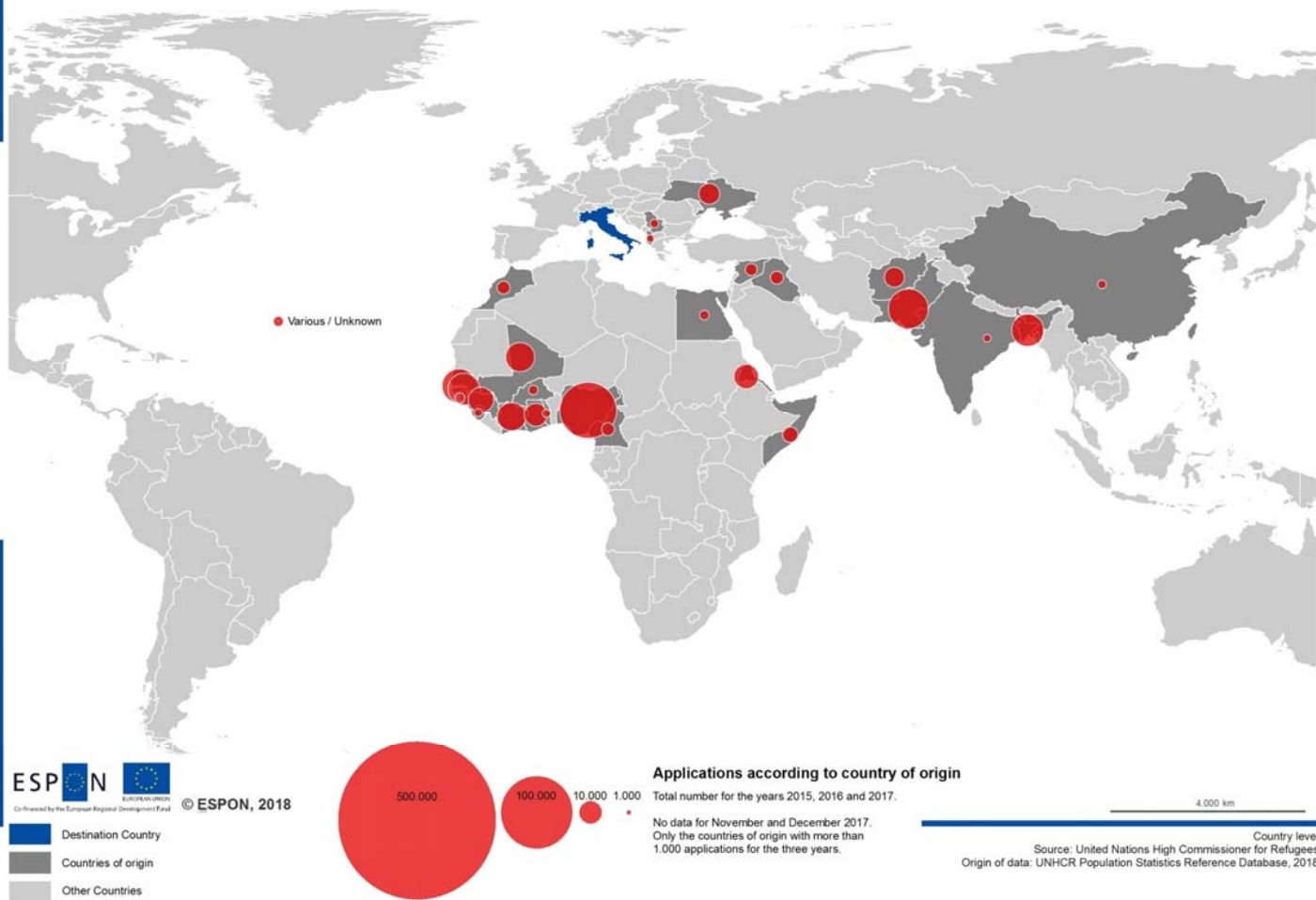
## Greece: Countries of origin for first time asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017



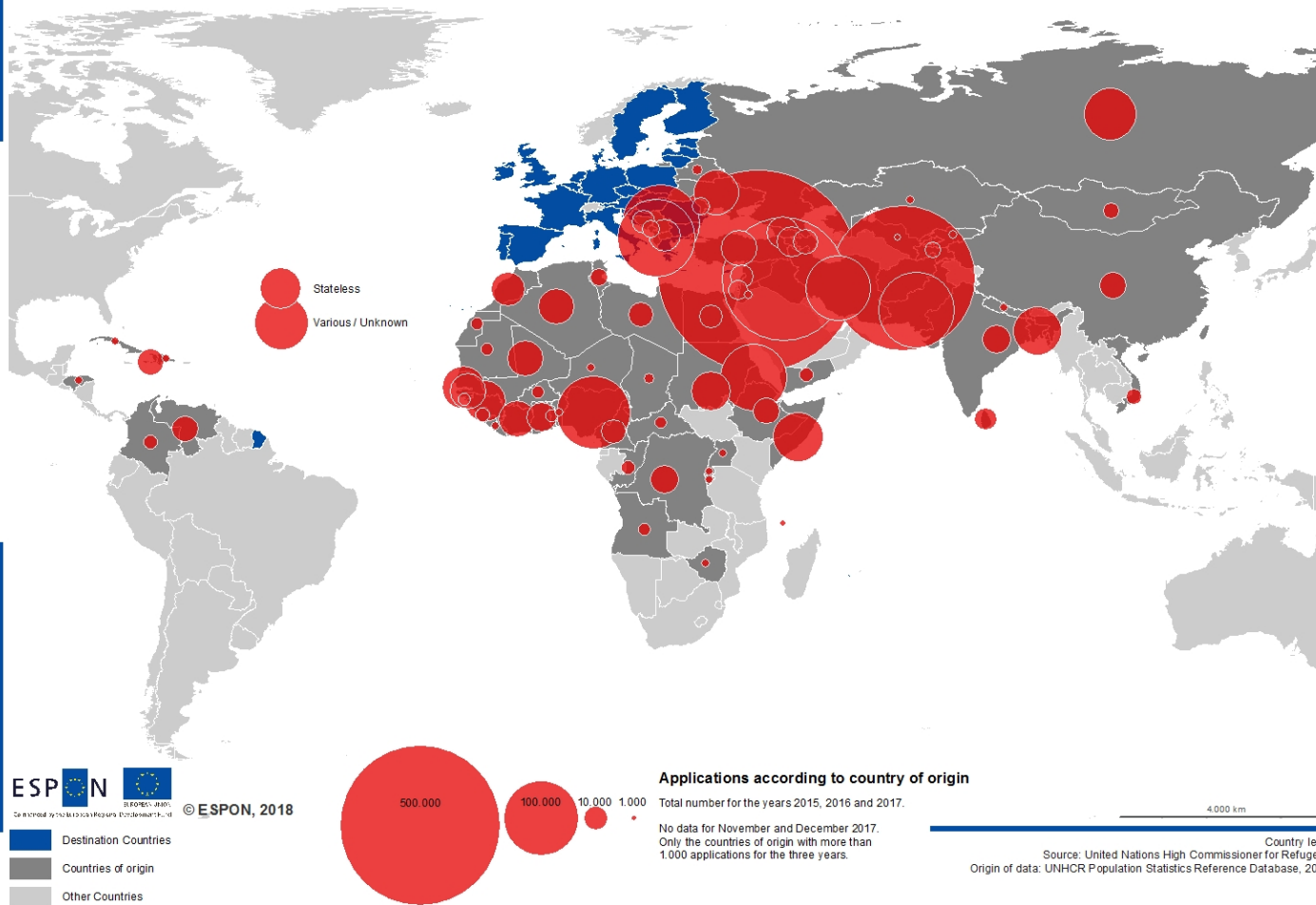
## Hungary: Countries of origin for first time asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017



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

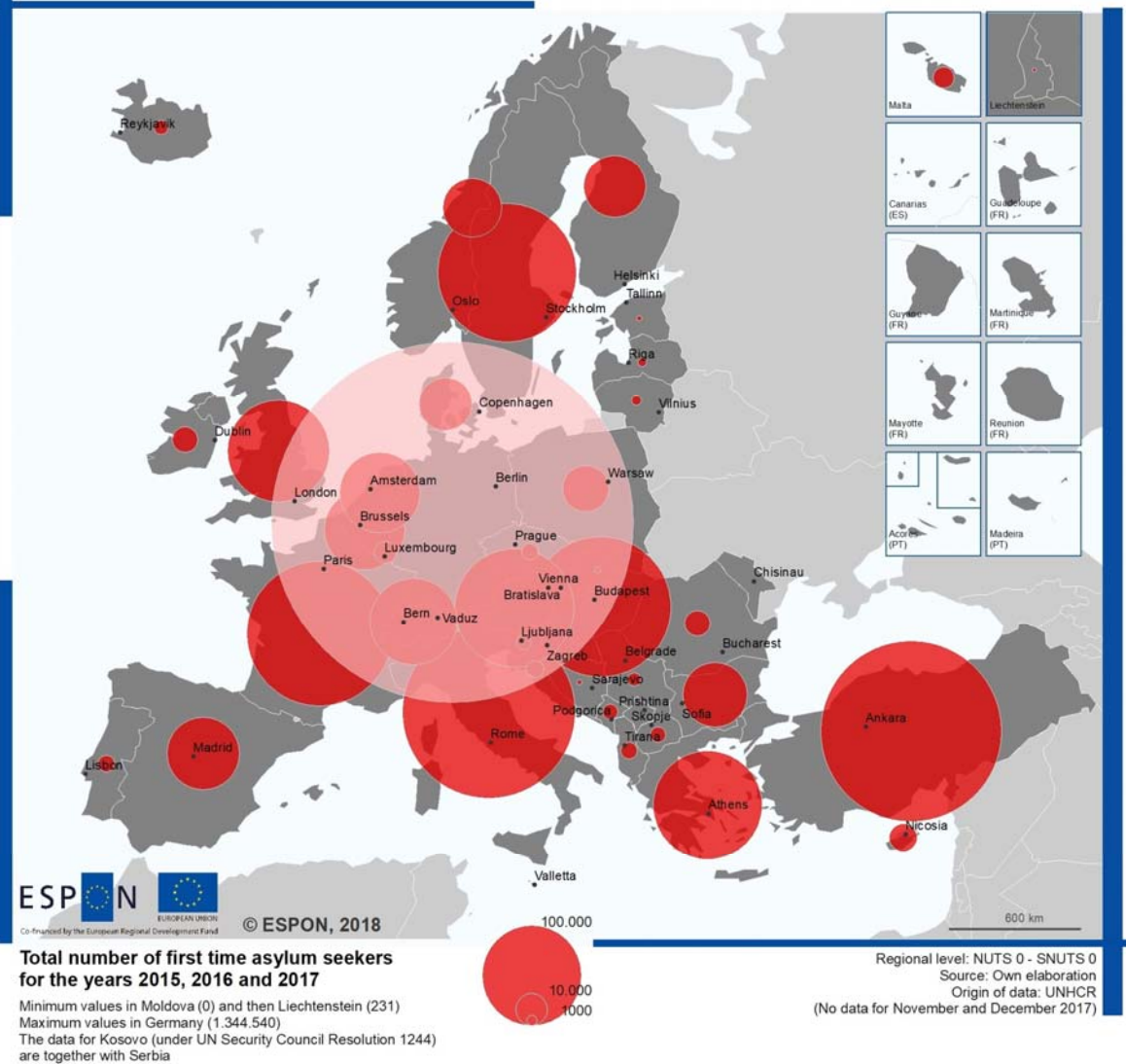


## EU28: countries of origin for asylum seekers, 2015 - 2017





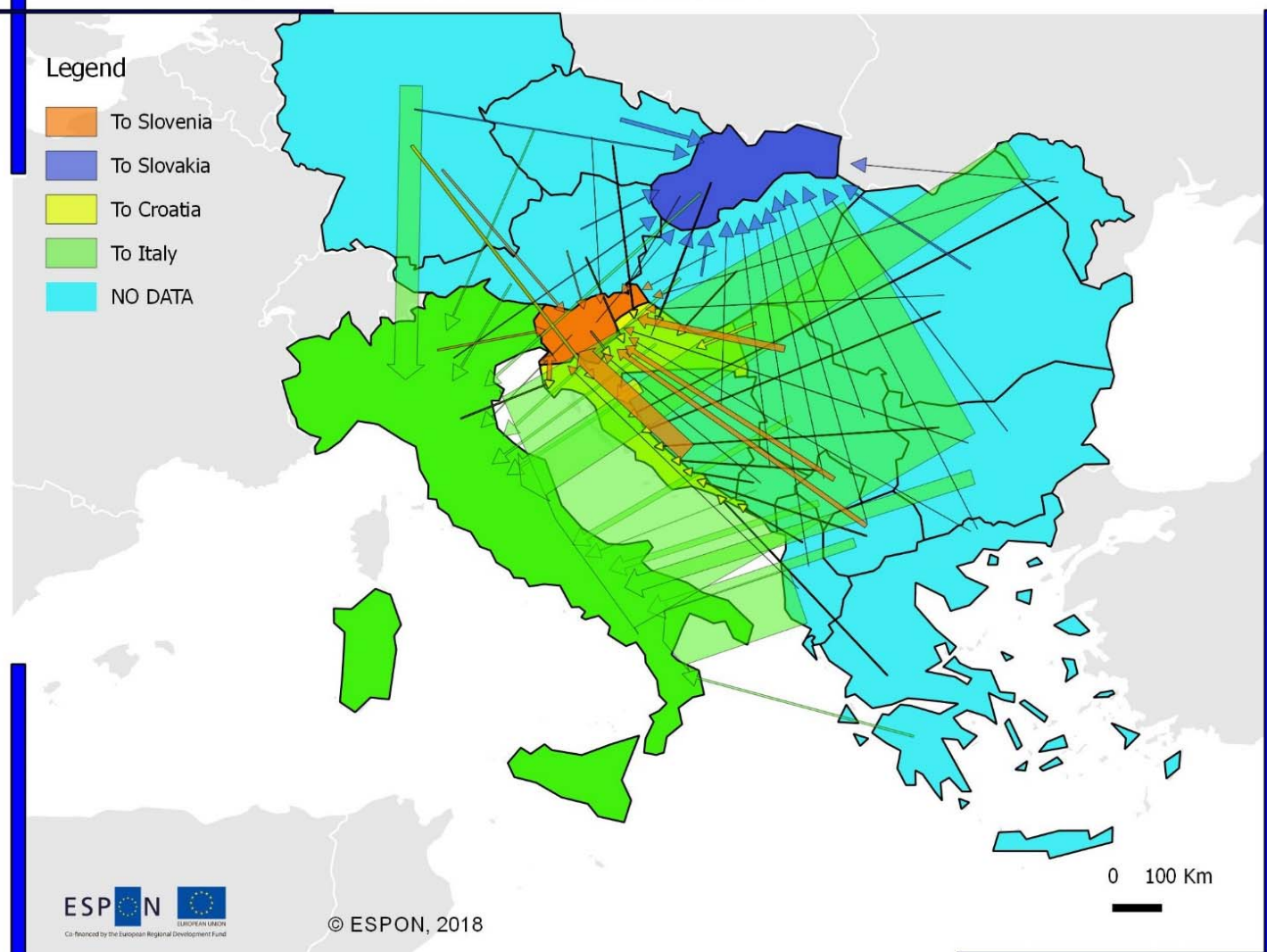
## First time Asylum Seekers, 2015 - 2017



# 5

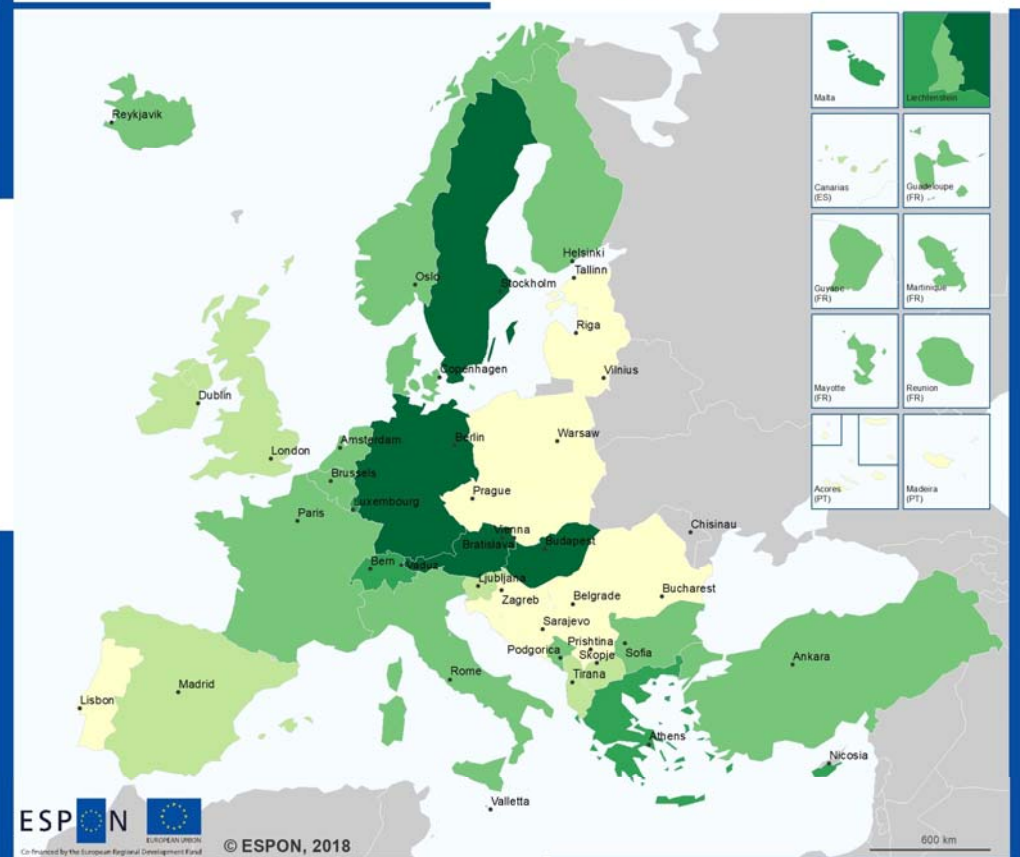
## Comparative analysis of migration flows

## Overview of migration flows within the macro-regions

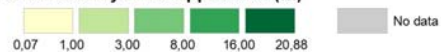


Territorial level: NUTS 0 (version 2013)  
 Source: own elaboration, 2018  
 Origin of data: EUROSTAT Database  
 University of Geneva for administrative boundaries

## First time Asylum Seekers to total average population

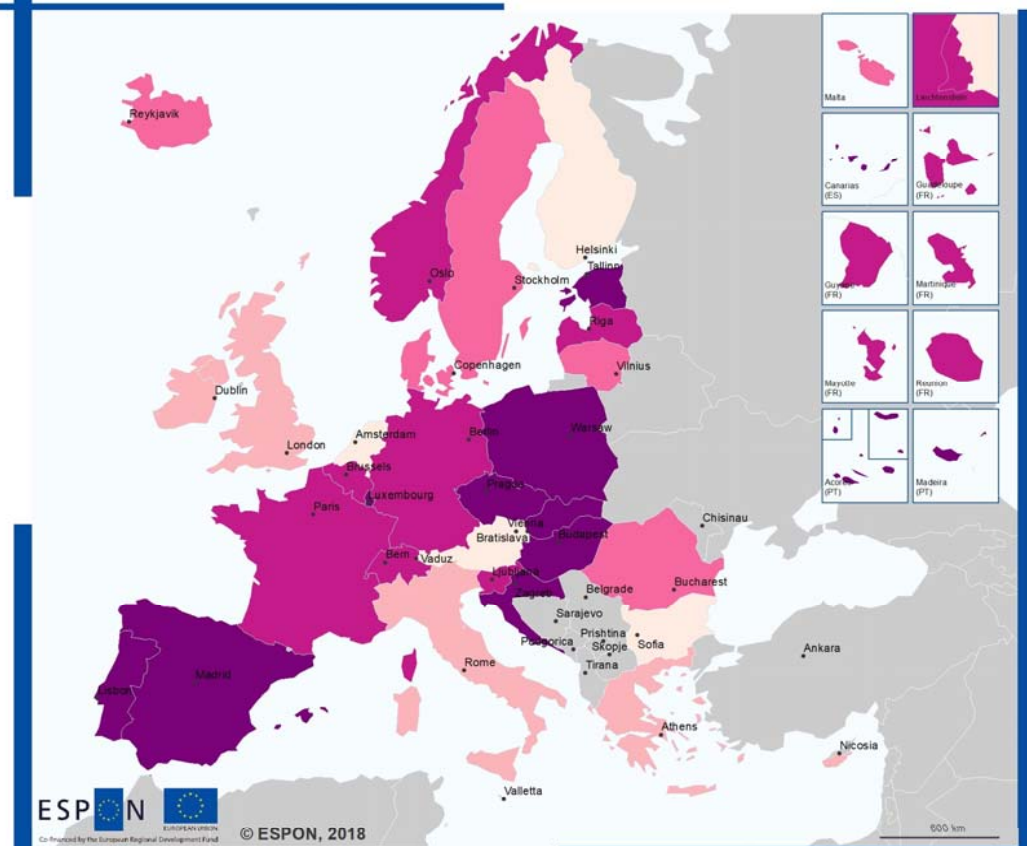


First time Asylum Seekers (years 2015, 2016, 2017 cumulatively)  
to total mid-period population (30/6/2016)  
of the country of the application (%)



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

## Location index for rejected applications, 2014 - 2016



Location index for rejected applications, 2014 - 2016



Location Index,  $LQ_i = (R_i/D_i) / (R_o/D_o)$

Where:

$R_i$  = Number of Rejections for country  $i$

$D_i$  = Number of final decisions for country  $i$

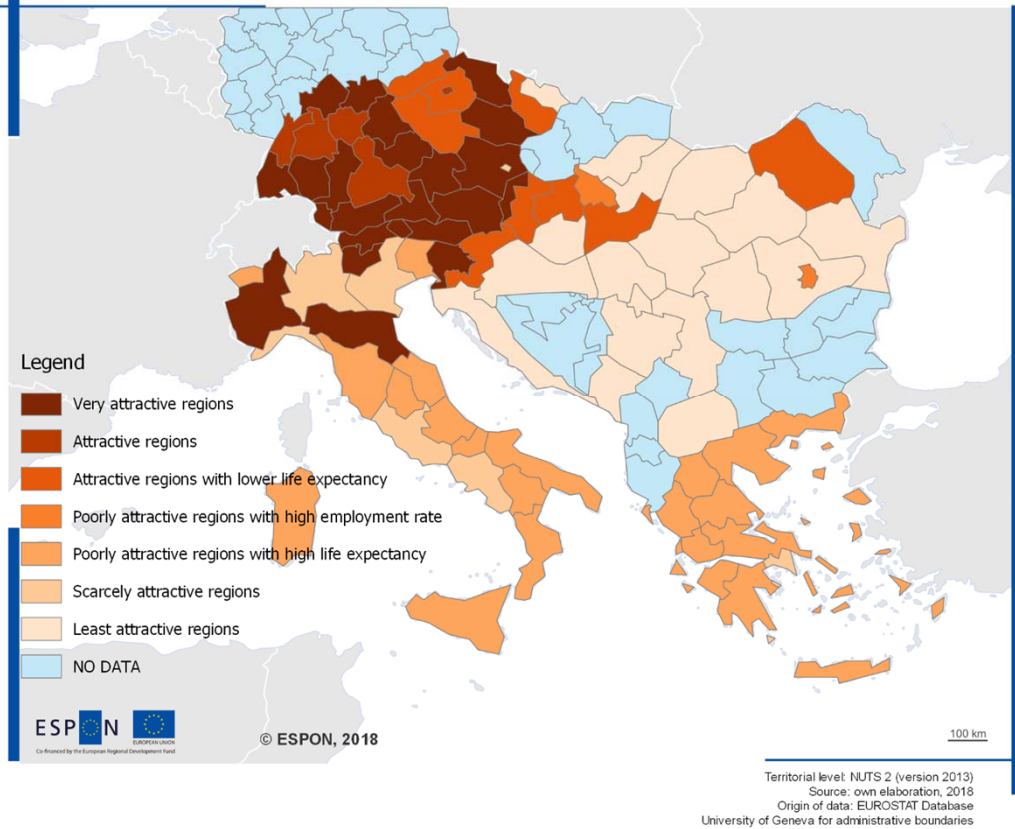
$R_o$  = Number of Rejections for the whole region (39 countries)

$D_o$  = Number of Final Decisions for the whole region (39 countries)

Regional level: NUTS 0 - SNUTS 0  
Source: Own elaboration  
Origin of data: Eurostat Regional Database,  
Italian Ministry of Interior



### Territorial Attractiveness



- Life expectancy
- Employment of the active population (aged 20-64)
- Population density

### Territorial Typologies



- Age structure
- Unemployment index
- GDP ppp per capita

# 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

# 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 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

# Concluding remarks

- Mobility is intense and multidirectional in the macro-regions
- Growing urbanization vs. depopulating territories and aging population
- Demographic challenges are also challenges for territorial cohesion policy
- Need to move from emergency to long-term management of external migration flows
- Lack of data is still a relevant issue

# // Thank you

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This presentation will be made available at: [www.espon.eu/migration](http://www.espon.eu/migration)