

AGTA SCHOLARSHIP GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Migration: a geographical perspective

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1. Migration is geographical

- Migration is a spatial process.
- Individuals, families and groups are linked through informal and formal networks across places.
- Examine the impacts on the micro and macro scales.
- Impacts countries of origin, places traveled through, and the destination countries.

- **Geographers examine:**
 - factors that influence migrant decision making (see resources);
 - spatial trends of migration and how they might be explained;
 - impact of migration upon migrants;
 - impacts on the origin and destination countries that migrants move between;
 - and various economic, cultural, social, and political implications of such movements.

- Differentiate between:
 - *migration*, which has a sense of permanency and involves moves to ‘distant’ places,
 - versus ‘*residential mobility*’ usually assumed to involve shorter-distance moves (e.g. holidays or changing houses).
 - UN defines international migrants as having resided in a different country for at least one year.

2. Migration trends

- Mobility has become such a widespread practice that some talk of the ‘age of migration’.
- Media frenzy yet only approx. 3% of the global population is an international migrant.
- E.g. Daily Mail 2015 ‘Swarm on our streets’.

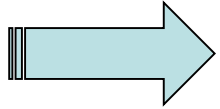
- **Why are the numbers so small?:**
 - Inability of many of the world's poorest to move elsewhere;
 - Inertia: most people 'content' with their circumstances;
 - Role of governments who influence migration across their borders (either entry or exit).
 - E.g. North Korea versus Philippines.
 - E.g. OECD nations and their border controls.

- *Impression* that migration has reached unprecedented levels,
 - true of some origin–destination flows (e.g. Syrian crisis),
 - *yet* major movements of people have occurred for centuries.

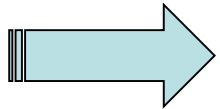
- E.g. Major **international** migration flows:
 - Est. 12 million African slaves taken to the ‘New World’ in C18th & C19th.
 - Est. 12 million economic migrants processed through Ellis Island, New York 1850s-1930s.
 - Est. 250,000 European economic migrants to NZ between 1840-1870. Subsequent assisted migration policies.
 - Australia and the 1 million ‘Ten Pound Poms’.
 - See *Immigration Nation* documentary

- E.g. Major **internal** migration flows:

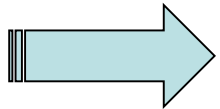
Industrialisation lead to massive rural to urban migration.



Urban overcrowding.



Suburbanisation.



Counterurbanisation (net decline in some cities).

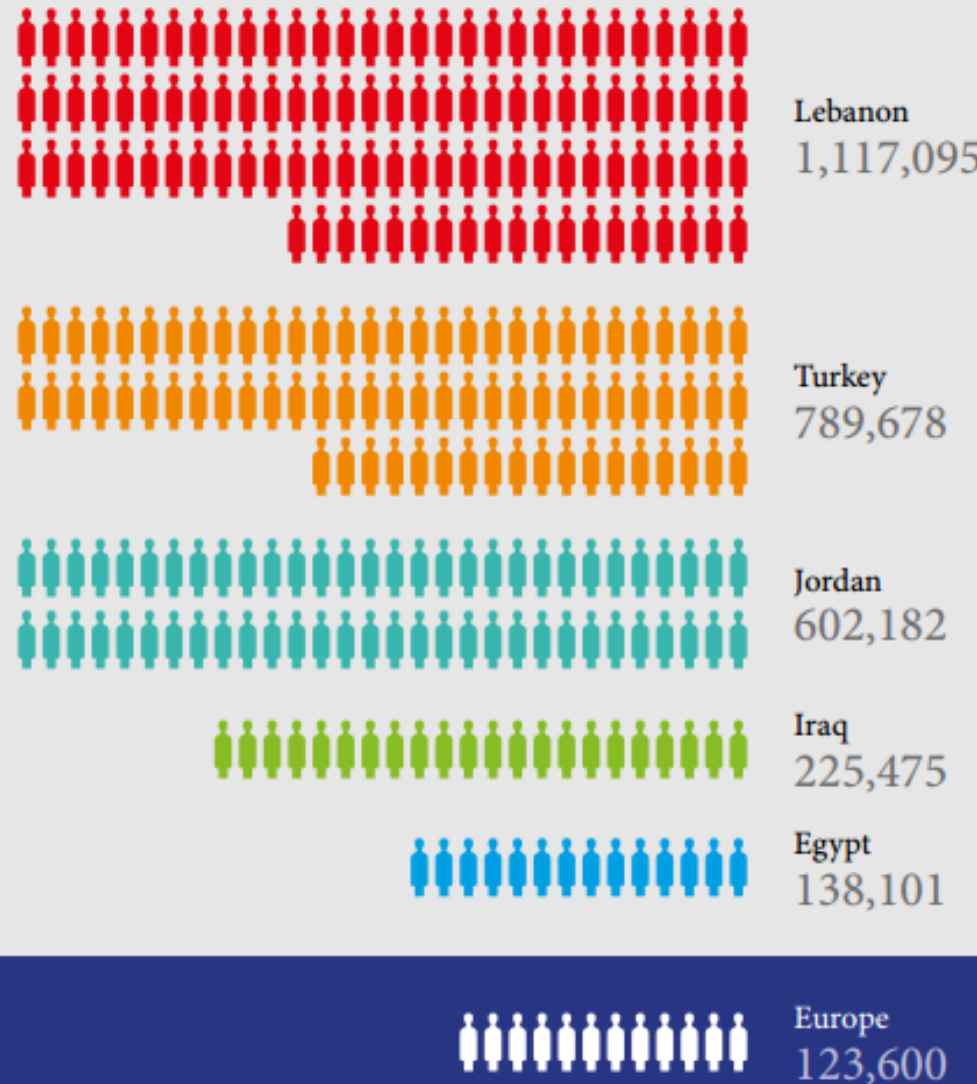


Gentrification of inner city – net in-migration.

N.B. Context important. Processes are not universal.

- In developing countries, voluntary internal migration flow dominated by movement to primate cities. E.g. Lagos, Nigeria – UN estimates population to double in size by 2050.

Figure 1: The number of Syrians in neighbouring countries and in Europe



- Popular impression in many richer countries is that they bear the burden of refugee flows.
- However majority of refugees originate in and remain in the poorest parts of the world.
- Majority of refugee migration within Africa and the Middle East - internally displaced persons or between neighboring countries (Burroughs 2014).

3. Impact of migration upon migrants

- Most international migrations were assumed to be permanent yet far more people move temporarily.
- Focus on ‘mobility’.
- Today, emphasis on the role of ‘circulation’ - large numbers of migrants leading dual lives divided between countries.
- E.g. 1.5 generation in New Zealand
- <http://www.listener.co.nz/uncategorized/the-1-5-generation/>

- For many, migration associated with positive new opportunities and experiences.
- For others, though, migration may be a negative experience, perhaps forced upon them, by circumstances outside their control.
 - Deportations, forced & voluntary repatriation.
 - <http://time.com/4278325/iraq-refugees-return/>
 - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35993767>
- Migration not just about the destination. Also about the journey. Sometimes perilous.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54092#.V1PO2kYXfAE>

- Moving is a potentially stressful event, involving considerable planning and expense. Disrupts existing social networks.
- Longer-distance moves are more likely to lead to greater disruption for the migrants.
 - particularly when moving to a country which uses a different language,
 - or to a place where there are few social contacts or support networks.
 - Assistance E.g. Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre.

- Negative consequences of migration are increased when migration forced or impelled.
- ‘Human trafficking’ most extreme example.
UNICEF - 1 million+ children trafficked yearly in modern slavery.
- Why? Can involve forced prostitution, illicit international adoption or armed forces recruitment.
- Trafficking different to ‘smuggling’. Latter involves migrants ‘voluntarily’ embarking on a move organised by smugglers.
- <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/about/trafficking-of-children.html>

4. Impact of migration upon countries of origin E.g.

- **Remittances** – World Bank official figures \$US 431.6 billion in 2015.
- **Skilled migrants** – ‘brain drain’
 - E.g. Guyana, 2010 approx. 90% of highly skilled lived in OECD nations.
- Often only young & elderly left in communities.
- *Demographic deficit* – aging and birth rates below replacement levels.

5. Impact of migration upon countries of passage

E.g. refugee crisis impact on Turkey, Macedonia, Lebanon, Libya, Greece, Spain

7. Humanise the story. Important to look beyond the macro-processes E.g.

<http://thewireless.co.nz/articles/the-pencilsword-hussam-and-the-death-way>

6. Impact upon destination countries. E.g.

- Sometimes seen as positive or as threatening for destination societies (criminalised, racially stereotyped, constructed as undeserving).
- Irony – citizens often descendants of migrants.
- Segregation versus clustering?
- Benefit to society?
 - E.g. entrepreneurialism
 - E.g. Brexit - core issue being migration
- Examine changes in context.
- Important not to universalise.

Useful websites

- <http://www.forcedmigration.org> Forced Migration Online.
- <http://www.migrationwatchuk.org> Migration Watch.
- <http://www.refworld.org/> UNHCR.
- <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/> UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- <http://www.iom.int/> IOM, International Organization for Migration.
- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues> World Bank
- <https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/World-Migration-in-Figures.pdf> OECD

New Zealand refugee websites

- <https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/refugee-programmes/> Red Cross NZ
- www.refugeeservices.org.nz - Refugee Services
- <http://www.rc.org.nz> - Refugee Council of New Zealand
- <http://thewireless.co.nz/articles/the-pencilword-hussam-and-the-death-way>
- <http://www.doingourbit.co.nz/> Double the quota.

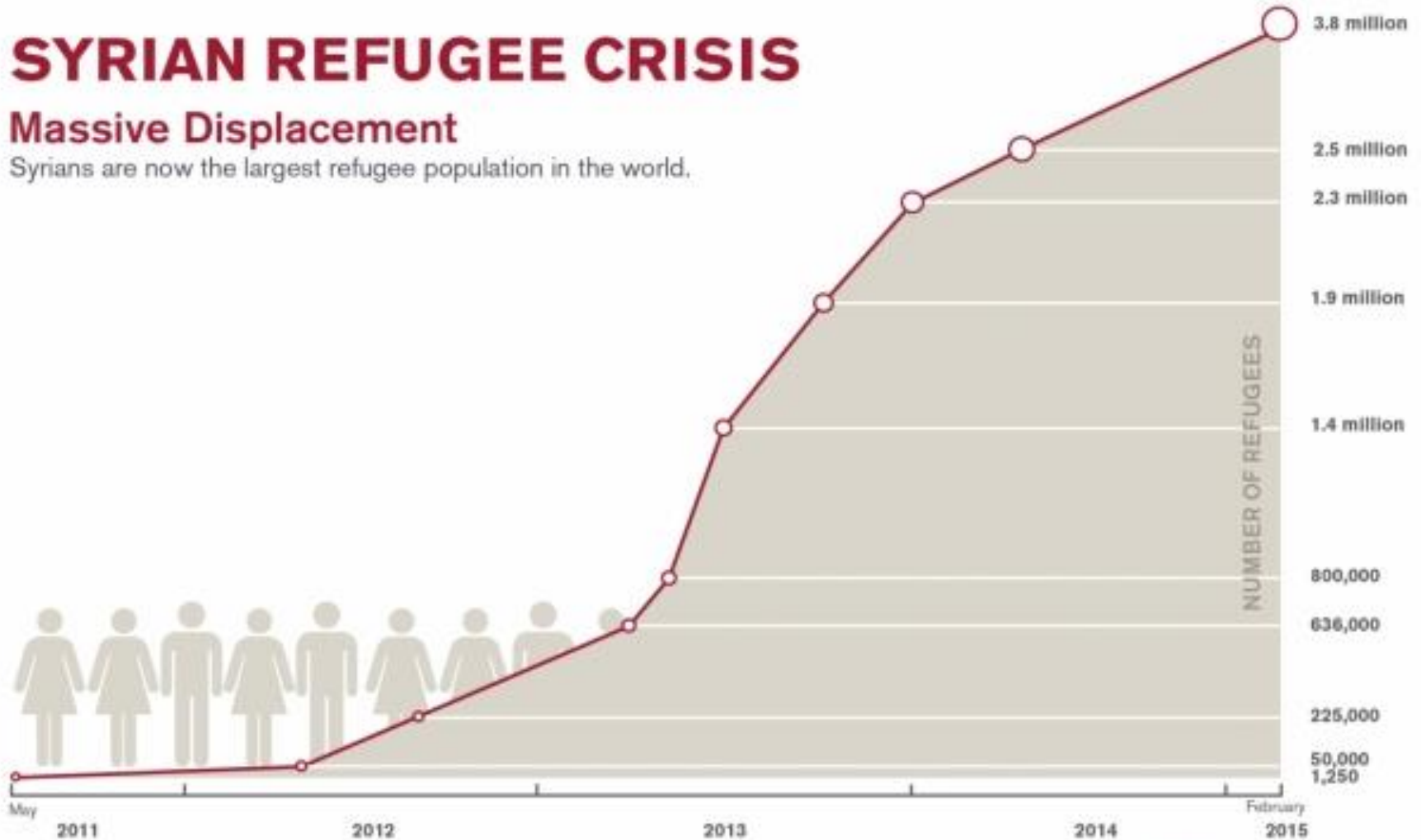
News organisations on refugees and migration:

- <http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/subjects/refugees.html> Al Jazeera.
- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/refugees> The Guardian.
- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/migration> The Guardian.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

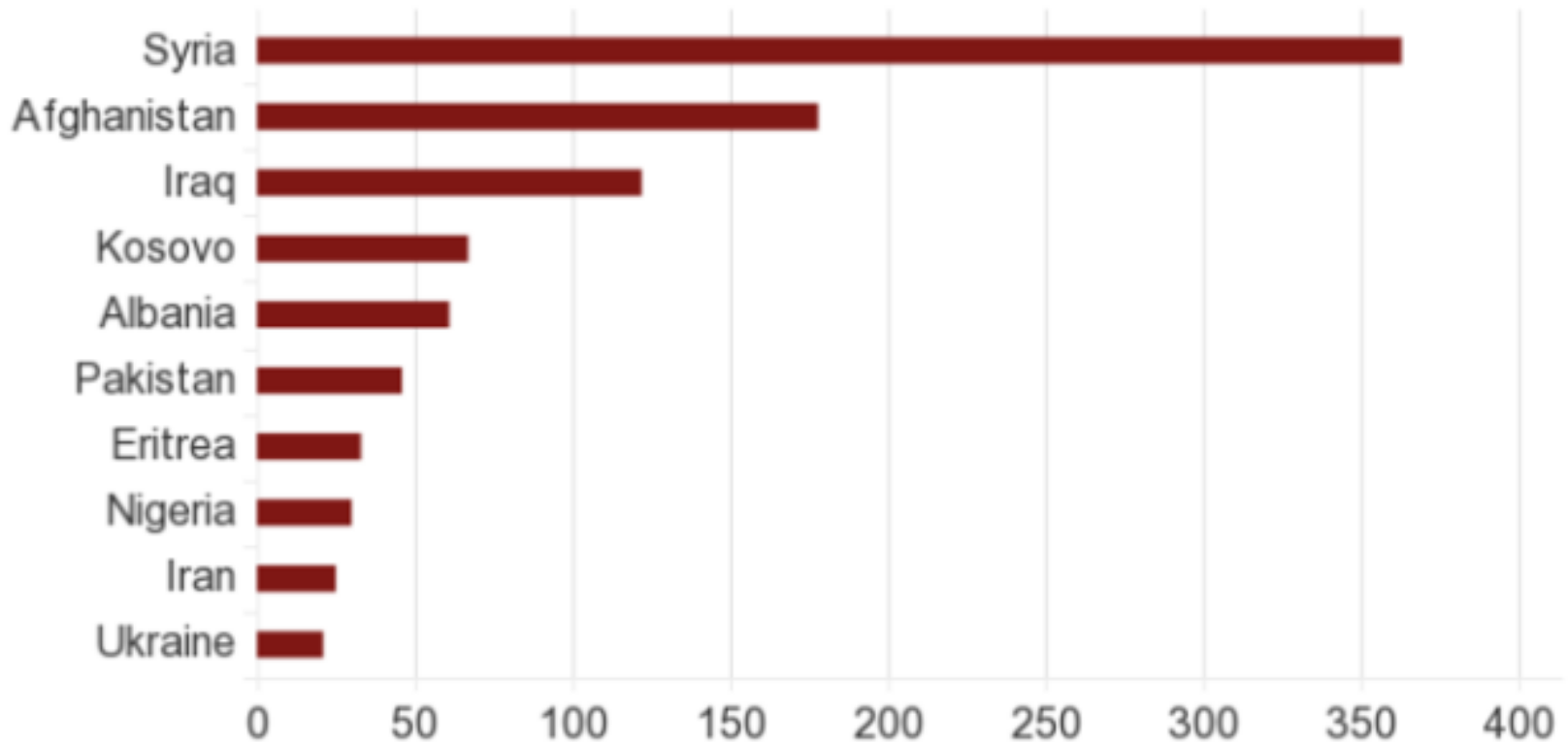
Massive Displacement

Syrians are now the largest refugee population in the world.



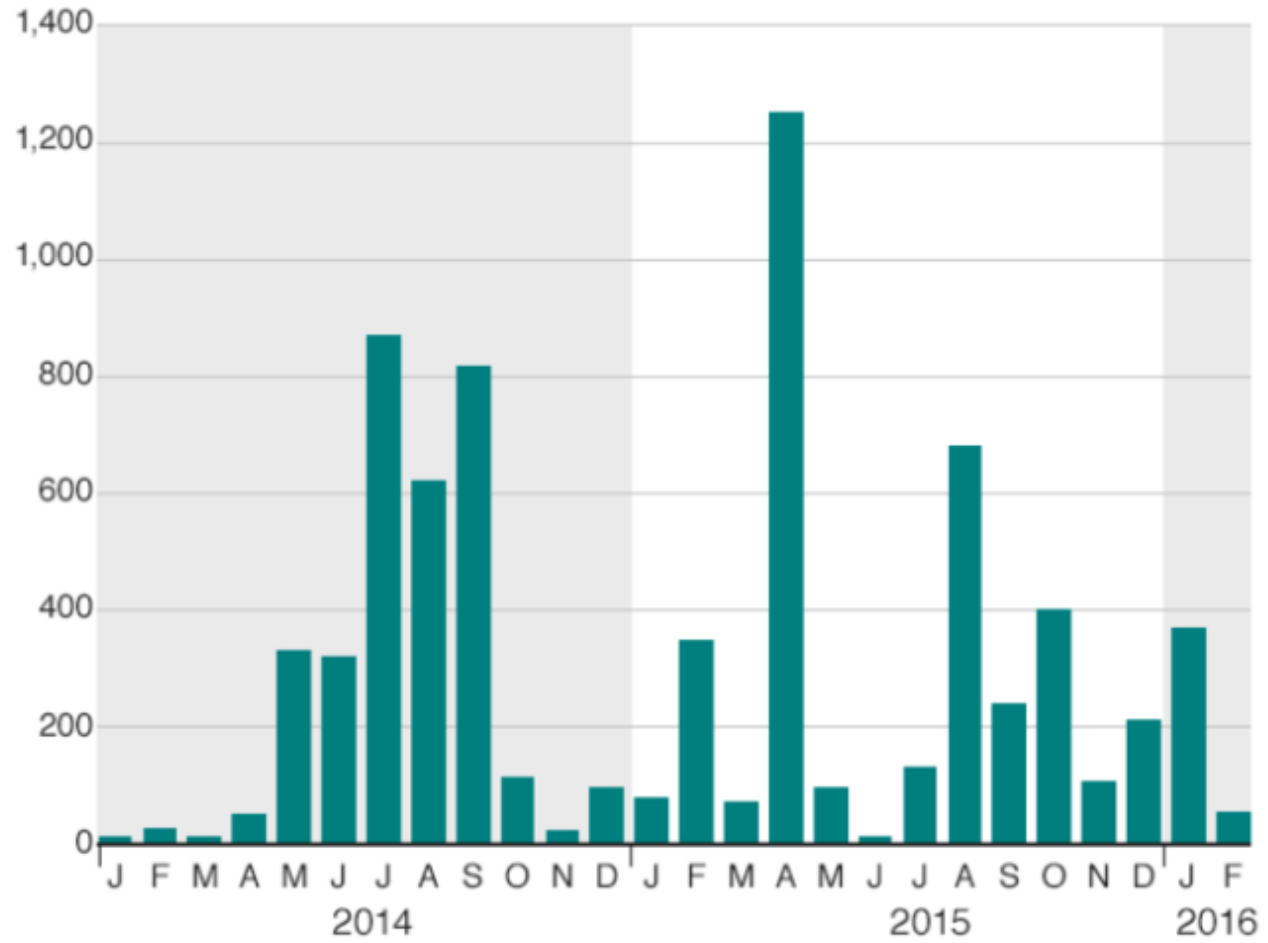
Top 10 origins of people applying for asylum in the EU

First-time applications in 2015, in thousands



Source: Eurostat

Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean by month



Source: IOM



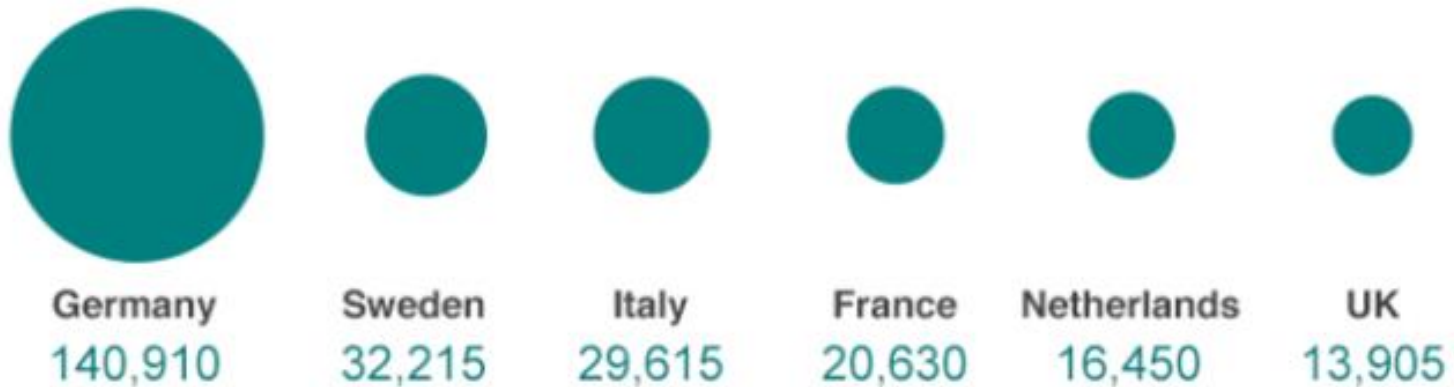
Asylum applications approved 2015



Main nationalities granted asylum

-  1 Syria
-  2 Eritrea
-  3 Iraq
-  4 Afghanistan
-  5 Iran

Total claims granted by country



Source: Eurostat



Geography undergraduate advice.

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