
GENERATING AWARENESS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT ASYLUM AND MIGRATION



INTEGRATION OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS THROUGH URBAN PARTNERSHIPS - **INTEGRA**



This project is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

sofia
development
association



This resource is developed with the purpose and goal of raising awareness regarding issues of asylum, migration and the global refugee crisis as a whole. The questions can be used to generate debate within a variety of different groups ranging from individuals with no prior experience of the subject to those with knowledge and expertise in the field. Deliberation and an exchange of ideas is ultimately one of the first steps towards having well informed policy solutions to many of the problems prevalent throughout the resource. Useful statistics and facts produced by Debating Europe have been included and can be used to inform as well as support discussion on the variety of topics.

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DEBATE QUESTIONS

SOFIA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



1. Should asylum seekers have the right to choose their preferred destination within the European Union or is any shelter better than no shelter?
2. Should EU Member States accepting refugees have a duty to allocate resources towards integrating refugees into the general population?
3. Should the EU implement policy that relocates refugees from Member States with high asylum recognition rates such as Greece or Italy to Member States with lower asylum recognition rates?
4. Is it wrong for EU Member States along the Mediterranean such as Italy to block migrant vessels from its ports? Or is it a necessary step because Italy, despite being on the frontline of the migrant crisis, has not received sufficient solidarity from its European partners?
5. Should border patrol agencies be legally permitted to obtain fingerprint or iris scans of all incoming refugees even without their consent?
6. Should refugees have to go back to their country once it is safe or should they have the option of staying and requesting residency or citizenship in their new country?

7. Should richer EU Member States take more refugees?
8. Should smaller countries be excluded from refugee resettlement schemes?
9. Is there a conflict for EU Member States between helping refugees and helping their own citizens?
10. Should more people house refugees in their home or is it the government's job to look after vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees?
11. Would you host a refugee in your home if you were paid for it?
12. Is deterrence in the form of stricter security measures or poor living conditions an effective approach to minimize the influx of refugees in Europe?
13. Should Europe prioritize asylum claims from individuals with children or minors ahead of those without?
14. Should asylum seekers be legally allowed to work in their host countries? Or would that risk a voter backlash in countries already worried by unemployment and migration?
15. Should refugees' assets be seized if they are unable to pay for their housing?
16. Should climate change be included as a ground on which an individual can claim asylum?
17. Is the refugee crisis eroding Europe's humanitarian values?

ATHENS, GREECE

SHOULD RICHER COUNTRIES TAKE MORE REFUGEES?

POPULATION

GREECE:
11.1 MILLION IN 2016

ATHENS (2016):
665,000 IN THE CITY PROPER
3.75 MILLION IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

ATHENS TODAY IS EXPERIENCING SOME POPULATION DECLINE

WHICH IS COMMON ACROSS GREECE, DUE TO AN AGING POPULATION AND A POOR ECONOMY

FROM 2001 TO 2011, THE CITY'S POPULATION DROPPED FROM 745,000 TO 664,000



ASYLUM SEEKERS

WHILE THE NUMBERS OF ARRIVALS BY SEA FELL AFTER THE EU-TURKEY DEAL, IN 2017 60,000 ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS STRANDED IN THE COUNTRY.

BY MID-NOVEMBER, ONLY 5,654 ASYLUM SEEKERS HAD BEEN RELOCATED FROM GREECE TO OTHER EU COUNTRIES, OUT OF THE 66,400 INITIALLY PLANNED

MORE THAN 15,000 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO GREEK ISLANDS BY A GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT BARS THEM FROM MOVING TO THE MAINLAND UNTIL THEIR ASYLUM PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS REPORTED AN INCREASE IN ATTACKS AND INTIMIDATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS ON THE ISLANDS AND IN THE MAINLAND IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, AND AN INADEQUATE POLICE RESPONSE.

IN A MARCH LANDMARK RULING, THE ECTHR CRITICIZED GREECE FOR FAILING ADEQUATELY TO INVESTIGATE A RACIST ATTACK AGAINST AN AFGHAN NATIONAL IN 2009.

AVERAGE INCOME

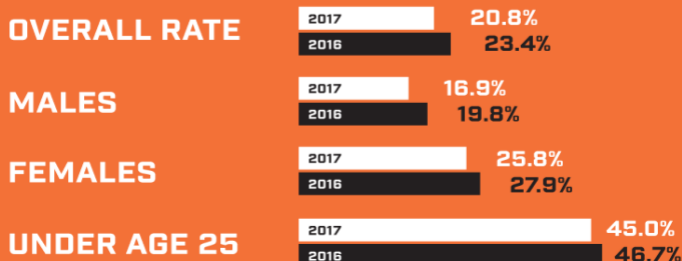
ATHENS METRO AREA (GA) :
€40.535 IN 2016

GREECE:
€20.066 IN 2016

IN 2016, ACCORDING TO EUROSTAT MORE THAN ONE IN THREE GREEKS WERE EXPERIENCING CONDITIONS OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION, INCLUDING 37.8 PER CENT OF CHILDREN AGED UNDER 17, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN THE EU SINCE 2010

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

GREECE: HIGHEST RATE IN EUROPE



REFUGEES IN ATHENS

IN MAY 2017, NEWSPAPER KATHIMERINI MAKES MENTION OF MORE THAN 2,500 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN SQUATS IN ATHENS OCCUPIED BY ANARCHISTS AND SO-CALLED SOLIDARITY GROUPS.

IN NOV 2017, 14 REFUGEES HAVE GONE ON HUNGER STRIKE IN ATHENS, DEMANDING THAT AUTHORITIES RESPECT THE LEGAL LIMIT OF SIX MONTHS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

IN DECEMBER 2017, A PROTEST TAKES PLACE IN ATHENS TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR THE EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS OF SAMOS, LESVOS AND CHIOS, WHERE FACILITIES FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE OVERFLOWING WITH THOUSANDS OF STRANDED ASYLUM SEEKERS.

Refugees and EU solidarity

HOW MANY ARRIVALS?
(JANUARY-JUNE 2017)



Italy

TOTAL ARRIVALS
(1 JAN 2015 - 21 JUNE 2017):

420,478

IN 2016 : IN 2017
181,436 : **85,200**

Greece

TOTAL ARRIVALS
(1 JAN 2015 - 21 JUNE 2017):

1,044,468

IN 2016 : IN 2017
176,906 : **10,199**

Where are they from?

TO ITALY:
NIGERIA, BANGLADESH,
GUINEA, IVORY COAST, GAMBIA

TO GREECE:
SYRIA, IRAQ, REPUBLIC OF CONGO,
ALGERIA, AFGHANISTAN

The EU response

HOTSPOT APPROACH (MAY 2015)

1 PROPER IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION, FINGERPRINTING AND SECURITY CHECKS OF ARRIVING MIGRANTS

2 CHANNELING MIGRANTS INTO FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES (ASYLUM APPLICATION, RELOCATION OR RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)

- STATUS: 4 OPERATIONAL HOTSPOTS IN ITALY (OUT OF 6 PLANNED) AND 5 IN GREECE
- 20,869 PEOPLE RELOCATED SINCE 2015
- EU PRESENCE: EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD, EASO, EUROPOL, FRONTEX

EU FUNDING (IN TOTAL):

Greece

€356.8 MILLION
IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE +

€509.5 MILLION
UNDER THE NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Italy

€147.63 MILLION
IN EMERGENCY FUNDING +

€592 MILLION
UNDER THE NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

AUTUMN 2016 STANDARD EUROBAROMETER

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE EU COUNTRIES

Greece
IMMIGRATION IS THE 4TH (AFTER UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND GOVERNMENT DEBT)

Italy
IMMIGRATION IS THE 2ND (AFTER UNEMPLOYMENT)

Malta
IMMIGRATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

Malta

1,700 PEOPLE (FROM LIBYA, SYRIA, ERITREA AND SOMALIA) APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN 2016; MAJORITY OF THEM IN MALTA ONLY IN TRANSIT

8 OPEN CENTERS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS (2,226 MAX. CAPACITY)

IN 2015 INITIAL RECEPTION CENTRE (IRC) HAS BEEN SET UP

18 MONTHS PROCESSING OF THE CLAIMS CAN TAKE UP TO 18 MONTHS

Challenges

- INSUFFICIENT RECEPTION CAPACITY
- ACCOMMODATING AND PROCESSING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
- PROTESTS, FIGHTS, FIRES, HUNGER STRIKES, REPORTS OF RAPE AND SUICIDE IN CAMPS
- DELAYS IN RELOCATION, ASYLUM
- NO REPORTS YET ON HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Refugee crisis and unaccompanied minors

3,800 UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN ARRIVED IN GREECE, ITALY, BULGARIA BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH 2017

65,565 UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN 2016

69% OF APPLICATIONS IS ACCEPTED (2017)

THERE ARE MORE UNACCOMPANIED BOYS THAN GIRLS

THE MAJORITY OF UNACCOMPANIED BOYS WERE BETWEEN 15 AND 17 YEARS OLD

Austria as a transit and destination country

IN 2015 HAS TAKEN APPROX.

90,000

REFUGEES

ARRIVALS WERE DECREASING TO APPROX.

2,790

IN NOV. 2016

AN AVERAGE OF

150

MIGRANTS PER DAY

A NETWORK OF ASSISTANCE CENTRES FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINOR REFUGEES IS IN PLACE

130,000+

PEOPLE HAVE APPLIED FOR ASYLUM SINCE THE START OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

4,315 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN 2016

RECEPTION CONDITIONS IN AUSTRIA:

88,009

PLACES, IT HAS HOSTED

79,176

PERSONS (END OF 2016)

RECEPTION CONDITIONS IN VIENNA:

20,873

= MAXIMUM CAPACITY

20,509

= ACTUAL OCCUPANCY

IN 2016

14,200

REFUGEE CHILDREN WERE IN SCHOOL, OF WHICH

86% IN PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL AND

14% IN HIGH SCHOOL

Facts about migrant smuggling

1. IT'S THE FASTEST GROWING CRIMINAL MARKET
2. IT'S ESTIMATED TURNOVER WAS BETWEEN €3 AND €6 MILLION (2015)
3. LINKS TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
4. SMUGGLED MIGRANTS ARE 'IN DEBT' WHEN THEY COME TO EUROPE AND ARE EXPLOITED BY CRIMINAL NETWORKS
5. UP TO 10,000 CHILDREN DISAPPEARED AFTER THEY ARRIVED IN EUROPE

Threats

- SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE
- EXPLOITATION BY SMUGGLERS WHO FORCE THEM TO LABOR, PEDDLE DRUGS, PICKPOCKET
- TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)
- PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM
- FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY
- VARIOUS SECURITY RISKS SUCH AS ATTACKS IN ASYLUM CENTERS
- LACK OF HYGIENE AND VULNERABILITY TO INFECTIONS

Refugees and citizens

HISTORICALLY, POLAND HAS BEEN A VERY ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, SINCE THE ETHNIC CLEANSING AND POPULATION MOVEMENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, POLAND HAS BEEN A HOMOGENOUS COUNTRY (96.9% ETHNIC POLISH). TODAY, IMMIGRATION IS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN POLAND.

ECONOMY & SOCIETY

469.51 USD BILLION
IN GDP

27 464 USD GDP
PER CAPITA

453.48 EUR
MINIMUM WAGE

4492.63 ZL (THOUS.)
AVERAGE PAID EMPLOYMENT

7% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

20.2%
OF GDP IN SOCIAL SPENDING

Poles and refugees

211,869 FOREIGNERS
(JANUARY 2016)

65,866 MIGRANTS ARE
FROM UKRAINE

11,747 REFUGEES

3,431 ASYLUM-SEEKERS

COMMITTED TO RELOCATE

6,182

ASYLUM SEEKERS
FROM GREECE AND ITALY

0 PEOPLE
RELOCATED SO FAR

PERCEPTIONS IN THE COUNTRY



ONLY **28%** OF POLES
HAD ANY CONTACT
WITH FOREIGNERS
IN 2016



52% OF THE POLES ARE
AGAINST RECEIVING
REFUGEES FROM
WAR-TORN COUNTRIES

67% AGAINST ACCEPTING REFUGEES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
57% IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

15% OF POLES SIGNIFICANTLY OVERESTIMATE
THE SHARE OF FOREIGNERS IN THE POPULATION
OF POLAND, STATING THAT IT EXCEEDS 10%.

In-focus: Gdańsk

- 5TH LARGEST CITY IN POLAND
- 5,8% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (ESTIMATED)
- 4591,25 ZL AVERAGE MONTHLY GROSS WAGE

REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION POLICY

- ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE CITIES IN POLAND
- HOSTING 15.000 IMMIGRANTS (2016)
- 20 000 UKRAINIANS REGISTERED, AS WELL AS SOME GROUPS FROM CHECHNYA
- HAS DEVELOPED ITS OWN LOCAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS
- HAS A "COUNCIL OF IMMIGRANTS" COMPOSED OF 12 IMMIGRANTS