

**June 2016**

The unprecedented migrant crisis that saw the arrival in Europe of more than 1 million asylum-seekers in 2015 has shown weaknesses in the European Union's institutional and legislative arrangements, as well as deep divisions among Member States when it comes to practising responsibility and solidarity. As a consequence the Schengen area of open borders and free movement of people has been put to the test. The EU has taken several measures to secure its external borders and to ensure fairer burden-sharing among countries, a genuine common asylum system, safer routes for the arrival of asylum-seekers, return of irregular migrants and, in the long term, successful integration of refugees in European societies. This Topical Digest offers a sample of recent publications and graphics, produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service, on migratory challenge.

Common European Asylum System reform

At-a-glance note by Detelin Ivanov, May 2016

The European Commission has set out five priority areas for achieving greater solidarity and fairer sharing of responsibility and for developing safe and legal pathways to Europe as a result of the worst refugee and migration crisis since World War II: a sustainable and fair system for determining the Member State responsible for asylum-seekers; reinforcing the Eurodac system; greater convergence in the EU asylum system; preventing secondary movements; and strengthening the mandate of the EU's asylum agency.



Schengen and the management of the EU's external borders

Briefing by Gertrud Malmersjo and Milan Remáč, April 2016

This briefing looks at the current situation relating to the EU's borders. In particular, it focuses on the proposed changes to the Schengen Borders Code in relation to tightening the entry and exit checks, and the proposal to strengthen Frontex. The briefing provides an overview of some of the evidence available on these topics as well as Parliament's and other EU institutions' views.



Hotspots and emergency relocation: State of play

Briefing by Anita Orav, March 2016

The migration crisis has put enormous pressure on frontline states, such as Greece and Italy. For this purpose the EU adopted a mechanism for temporary emergency relocation of persons in clear need of international protection from those two countries to other EU Member States. The European Commission also launched the 'hotspot' approach to provide assistance along specific sections of the border with the temporary intervention by EU agencies such as Frontex, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Europol.



EU migratory challenge: Possible responses to the refugee crisis

Briefing by Piotr Bakowski, Eva-Maria Poptcheva and Detelin Ivanov, September 2015

This document analyses possible responses to the unprecedented migratory crisis in Europe. Measures at the EU level include harmonisation of national asylum standards, more even distribution of asylum-seekers, providing legal entry channels and preventing illegal border crossing. Solutions also include cooperation with third countries to address the root causes, counter and prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking, and to provide effective return, readmission and reintegration policies for those not qualifying for protection.



Further reading

[European Border and Coast Guard system](#), Briefing by Alexandra Gatto, June 2016

[Combatting migrant smuggling into the EU](#)
Briefing by Gertrud Malmersjo and Milan Remáč, April 2016

[Regulation 604/2013 \(Dublin Regulation\) and asylum procedures in Europe: Implementation Appraisal](#),
Briefing by Gertrud Malmersjo and Milan Remáč, April 2016

[Schengen area: Update and state of play](#),
Briefing by Alexandra Gatto, Pierre Goudin and Risto Nieminen, March 2016

[The economic impact of suspending Schengen](#), At a Glance by Cemal Karakas, March 2016

[The Western Balkans: Frontline of the migrant crisis](#), Briefing by Velina Lilyanova, January 2016

[Economic challenges and prospects of the refugee influx](#), Briefing by Cemal Karakas, December 2015

[Legislation on emergency relocation of asylum seekers in the EU](#), Briefing by Detelin Ivanov, October 2015

[Safe countries of origin: Proposed common EU list](#), Briefing by Joanna Apap and Anita Orav, October 2015

[Third country migration and European labour markets: Integrating foreigners](#)
Briefing by Andrej Stuchlik and Eva-Maria Poptcheva, July 2015

[EU legal framework on asylum and irregular immigration 'on arrival'](#)
Briefing by Eva-Maria Poptcheva, March 2015

[Work and social welfare for asylum seekers and refugees: Selected EU Member States](#)
In-Depth Analysis by Eva-Maria Poptcheva and Andrej Stuchlik, December 2015

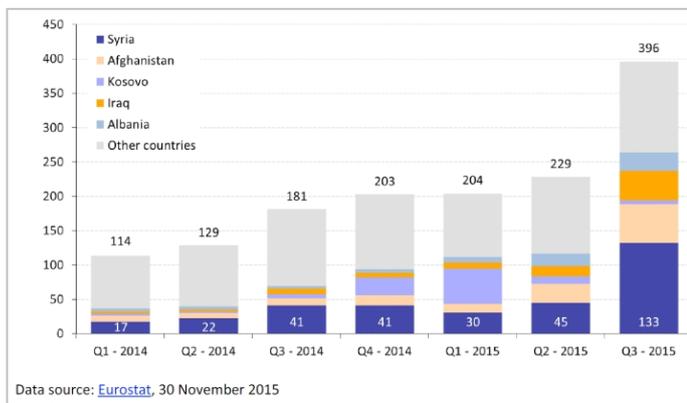
[Fingerprinting migrants: Eurodac Regulation](#), At a Glance by Anita Orav, November 2015

[Gender aspects of migration and asylum in the EU: An overview](#), Briefing by Rosamund Shreeves, March 2016

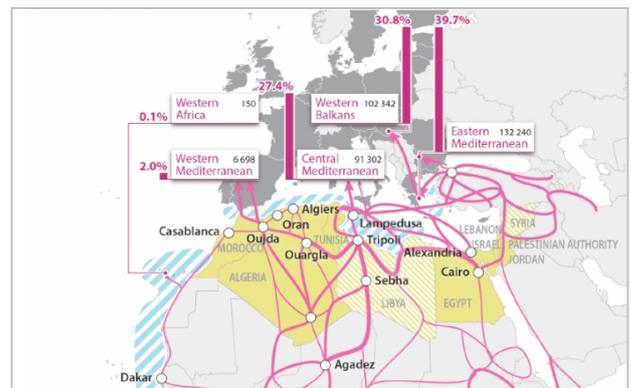
[Integrating migrants and their children through education](#), At-a-glance by Denise Chircop, March 2016

More in the [Graphics Warehouse](#)

Asylum applications in the EU by country of origin (thousands)



Major migration routes in the Mediterranean (2015)



[Members' Hotline](#) | Tel 88100 or 00 32 2 284 8100 | epres@europarl.europa.eu
www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank (Internet) | www.eptthinktank.eu (Blog) | www.epres.ep.parl.union.eu (Intranet)

