

MIGRANT CRISIS



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INTRODUCTION

Immigration has existed during the all history of Humankind.

Migration might cause the dissatisfaction of some native citizens because the word « migration », particularly in this period of election is too frequently associated, in the wrong way, with fear and terrorism. It leads to racism and xenophobia. But, before telling wrong things, we have to know what we are talking about. The definition of migration is : the act or instance of migrating, that's to say to go from one country, region or place to another.

If you move house, you migrate.



The Migrant crisis

We call the migrant crisis the present situation of Europe. Europe is experiencing one of the most significant influxes of migrants and refugees in its history. A huge number of people fled the Middle East and Africa because of civil wars and terror. Their goal : the promise of a better life, at the risk of their lives.

Reasons of migration

Later, people starting to migrate in search of more fertile lands. Today migration still takes place in the world. People are forced to change their place of living, due from natural or man-made calamities.

Immigration is due of many reasons : economic reasons, the research of a better life, far of poverty and disappear, job advert, etc... There are also migrations after natural catastrophes. But here, our subject is the migration as the consequence of political, ethnic, religious intolerance and conflicts nowadays : of the migrant crisis linked of wars in the Middle East and Africa.



The journey and its dangerousness.



In 2015, more than 1 011 700 migrants, arrived by sea in Europe, and almost 34 900 by lands, according to the International Organization of Migration, the IOM.

The journey is long.

For exemple, before arriving in Greece some immigrants have to stay in camp in Turkey during some days, some weeks, some months, even some years.

Some of them continue the trip on foot.

Others, with luck, have already families in a european country and they will join them by plane. They will be directly hosted by associations.

Certain will choose the clandestine way, in trucks for exemple.

The other will take the short voyage from Turkey to the Islands of Chios, Kos, Lesbos or Samos often in rubber boat or small wooden boats. Indeed, Turkey and the greek islands are very close.

The refugees took all different way to join their new hosting place. (cf the map on the next page)

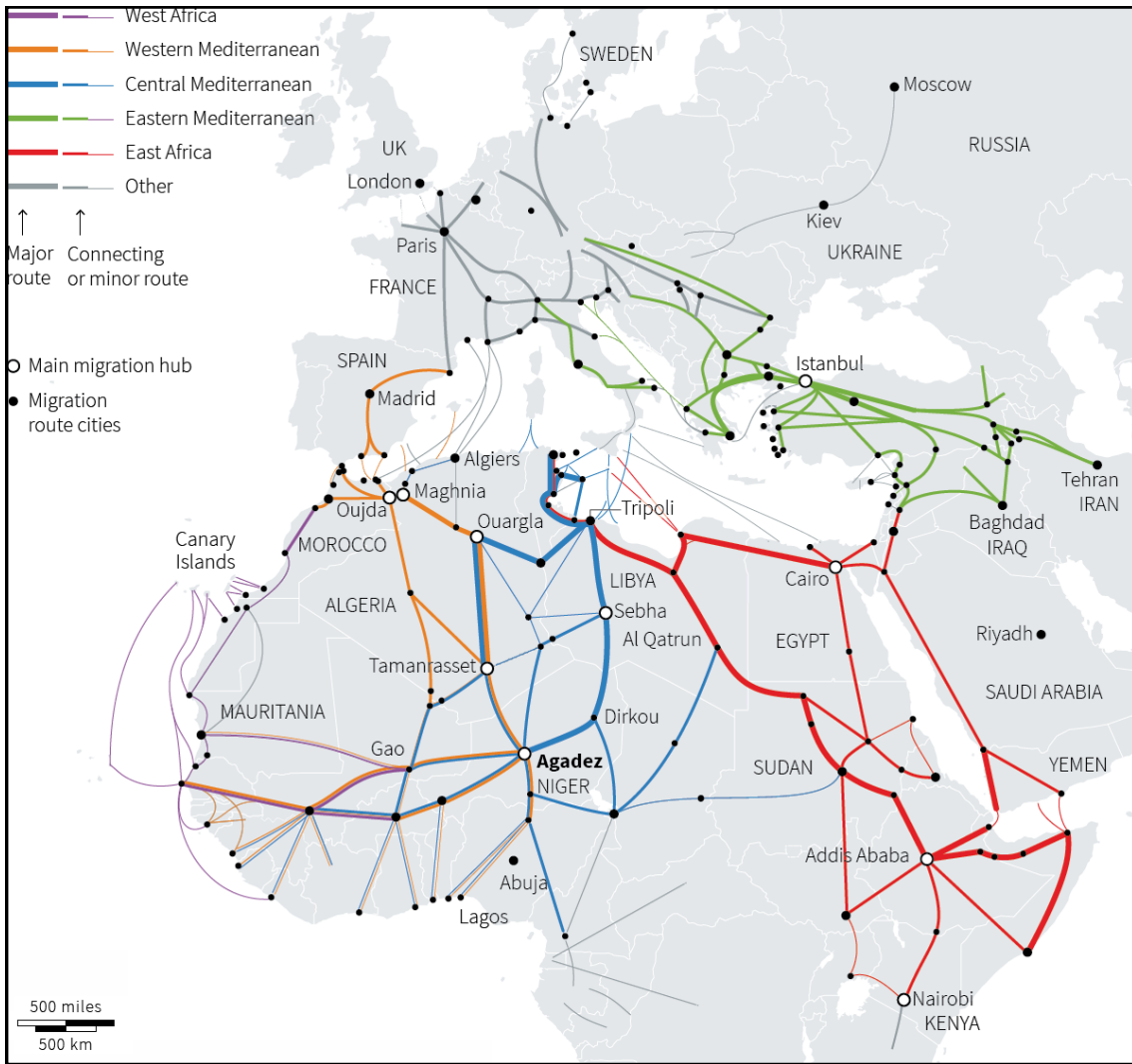
The total number of people believed to have died or disappeared while trying to cross from north Africa to Italy, to more than 1 800 since the beginning of the year. So far, in 2017, over 43 000 migrants have used the central mediterranean route to reach Italy. That's to say that each day, since the beginning of the year, about 315 crossed the mediterranean sea and among these 315, 13 die.

The summer months are usually when most fatalities occur as it is the busiest time for migrants attempting to reach Europe.

The International Organization for Migration calls Europe the most dangerous destination for irregular migration in the world, and the Mediterranean the world's most dangerous border crossing.

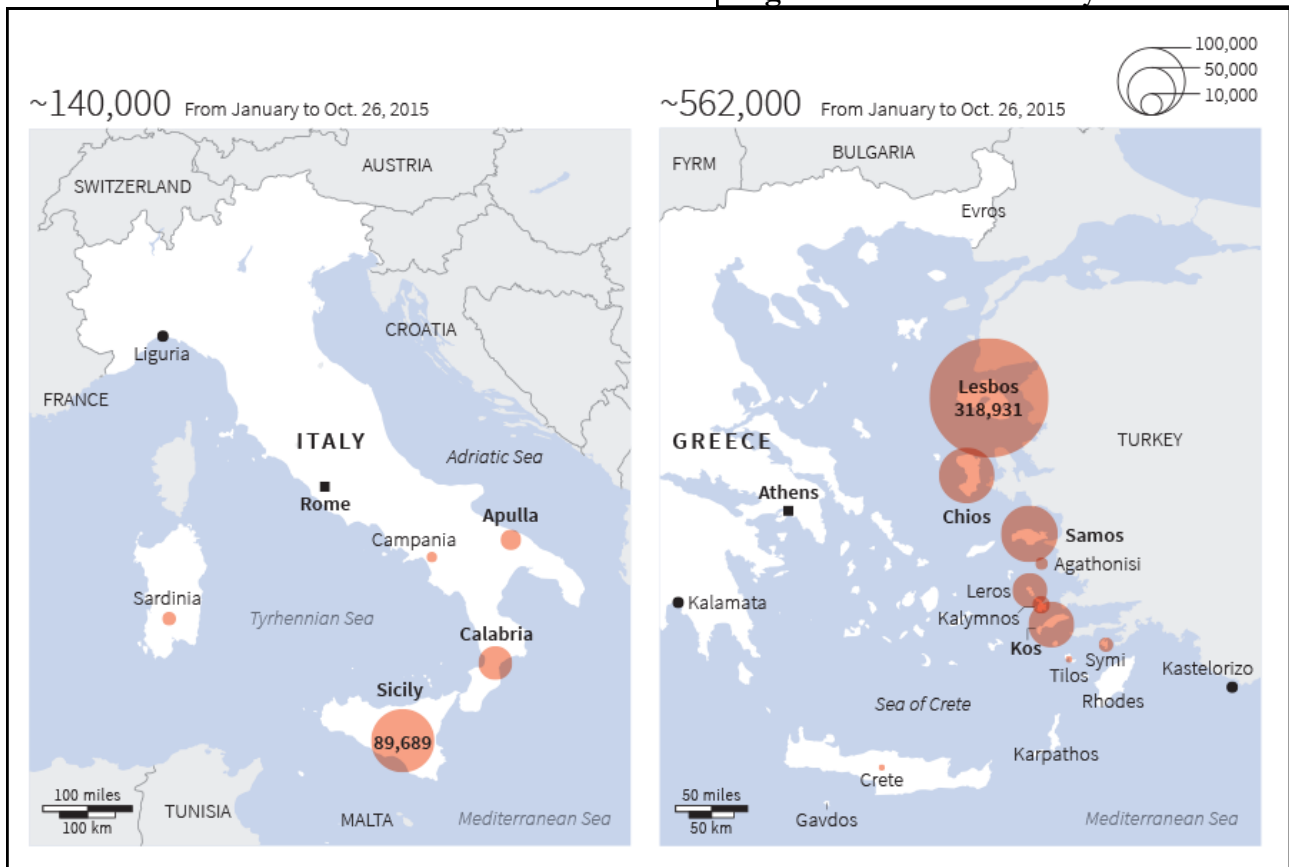
By end of 2015, more than 3,700 migrants and refugees have perished in attempts to reach Europe by boat latest data from the IOM shows. About 800 perished in a single shipwreck in April 2015 alone.





Map of the main migration routes.

Migrant sea arrivals in Italy and Greece.



STATUS

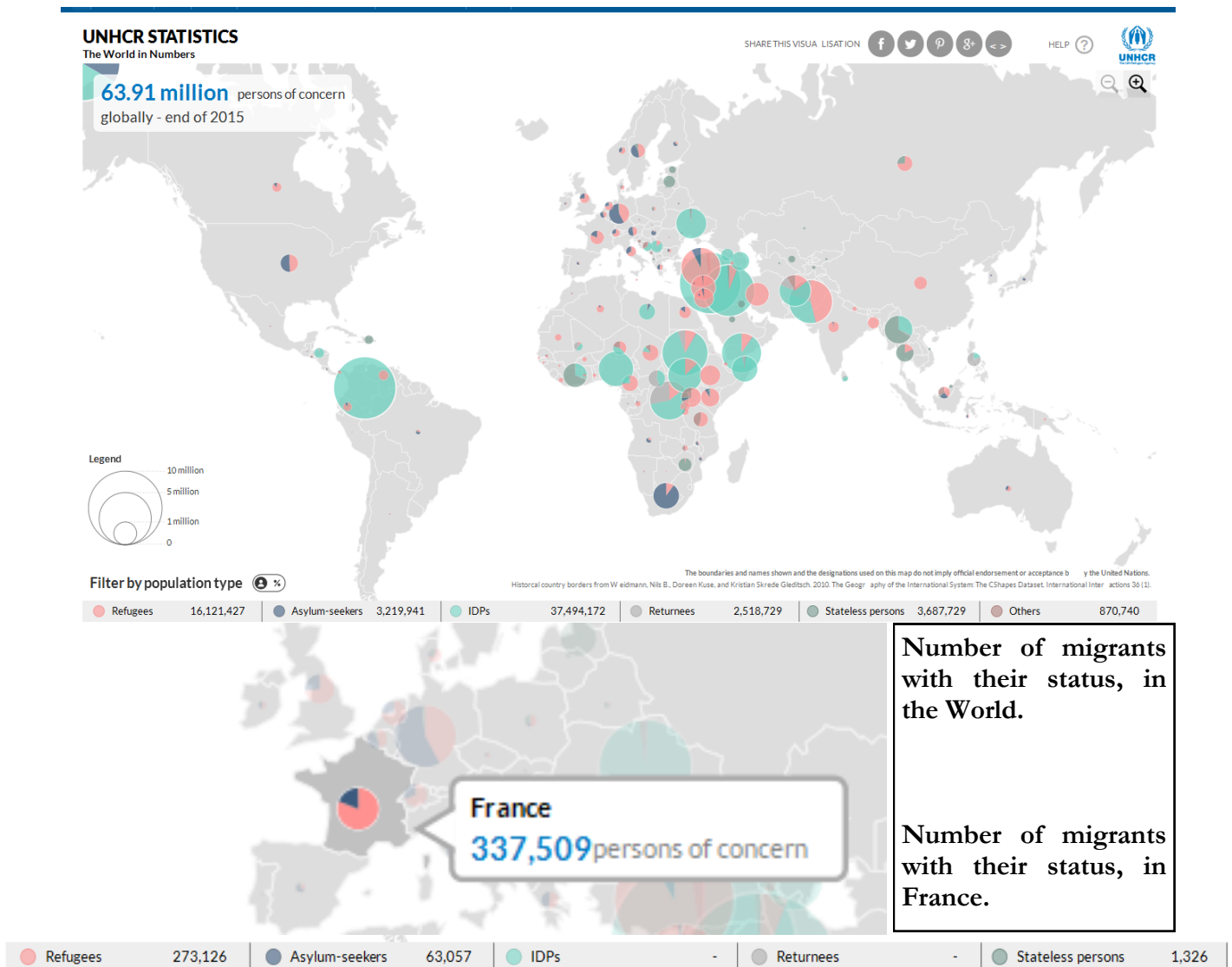
Difference between migrants, immigrant, and emigrant :

- Emigrant: A person who leaves his own country to reside to another.
- Immigrant: A person who comes to one country from another to settle.
- Migrant : A person who moves to a foreign place.

An asylum seeker is defined as a person fleeing persecution or conflict, and therefore seeking international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees;

A refugee is an asylum seeker whose claim has been approved. However, the UN considers migrants fleeing war or persecution to be refugees, even before they officially receive asylum. (Syrian and Eritrean nationals, for example, enjoy *prima facie* refugee status.)

A stateless person is someone who is "not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law".



PROBLEMS

EU member states hardest hit by the economic crisis, like Greece and Italy, have also served as the main points of entry for migrants and refugees due to their proximity to the Mediterranean Basin. Shifting migratory patterns over the past year have also exposed countries like Hungary, situated on the EU's eastern border, to a big sharp in irregular migration.



Journey's problems

Hungary was the first European state which try to block the route of the migrants. This country built up a 175km (110-mile) barrier along the Serbia border. Other countries such as Slovenia and Bulgaria have erected similar obstacles.

Austria has placed a cap on the number of people allowed into its borders. And several Balkan countries, including Macedonia, have also decided only to allow Syrian and Iraqi migrants across their frontiers.



Health's problems

The most frequent health problems include accidental injuries, hypothermia, burns, gastrointestinal illnesses, cardiovascular events, pregnancy- and delivery-related complications, diabetes and hypertension. Female refugees and migrants frequently face specific challenges, particularly in maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health. Besides, faced with violence, terror, and the trip stress, they all need a psychological monitoring. Unfortunately, the lack of access to the health care systems, let the migrant with their diseases and frights.

Hosting problems

Even if they are hosted by associations, the migrants often fell lonely. They can't really speak of their problems.

Besides, they are not really considered as real citizens, although they have real status. They are exposed to all kinds of discriminations as racism or xenophobia, national chauvinism, antogonism.

CONCLUSION



As long as there will be economic gap between developed and developing countries
As long as people will suffer from famine and epidemic,
As long as wars and ethnic conflicts will exist,
As long as religious persecution will take place in the world,
People will change their place of living.

With the migrant crisis, a country shows its ability of opening its minds, of hosting another culture. It shows how it can face problems of desintegration. Actually, it is not easy, and that's why it can be complicated as it can be beautiful.

These people are, as you, humans.

There is blood, as you, flowing in their veins.

They want to have, as you, a happy life.

They are scared, as you, of terror and chaos.

They have, as you, dreams, hopes, and doubts.

They have the right, as you, just to live.

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