

*The EU answer to the humanitarian
migratory crisis in the
Mediterranean*

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Ankara

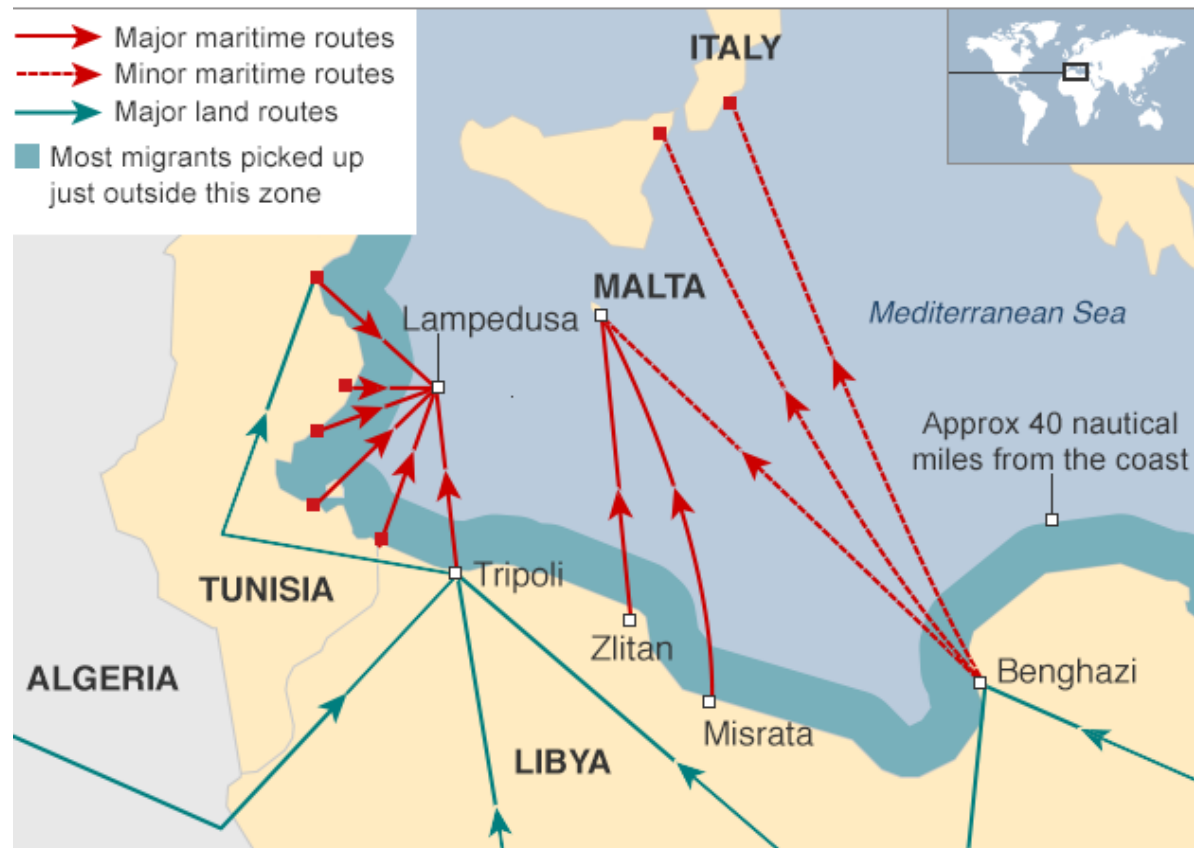
- The migratory situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea
- EU response to the current migratory humanitarian crisis.
- What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

The migratory situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea

- Currently, migration flows at the Mediterranean Sea are mixed flows
- For years, the Central Mediterranean is one of the main routes for immigrants.

Key migration routes from North Africa

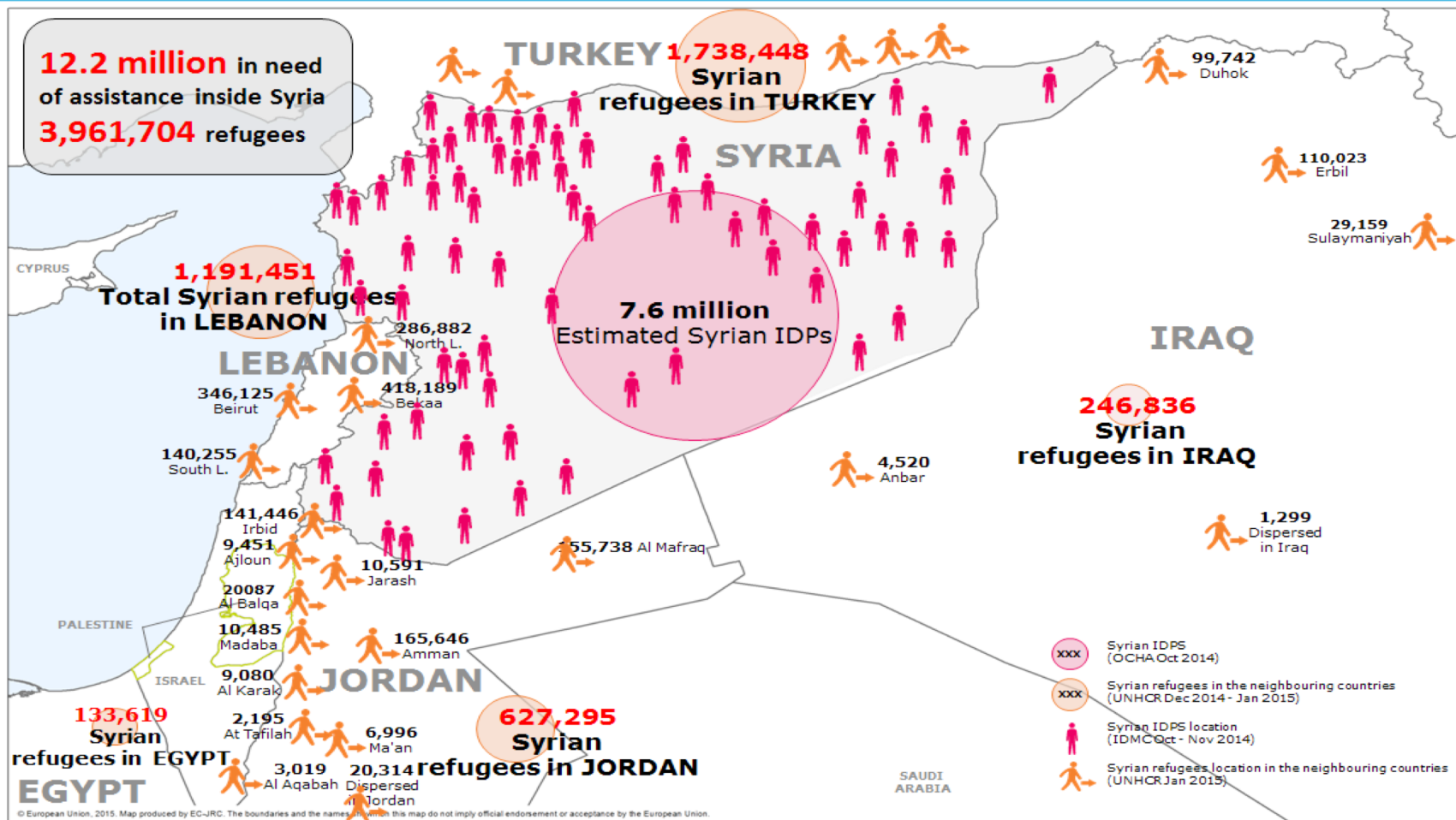
Key migration routes from North Africa



Source: i-Map, Frontex

The migratory situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea

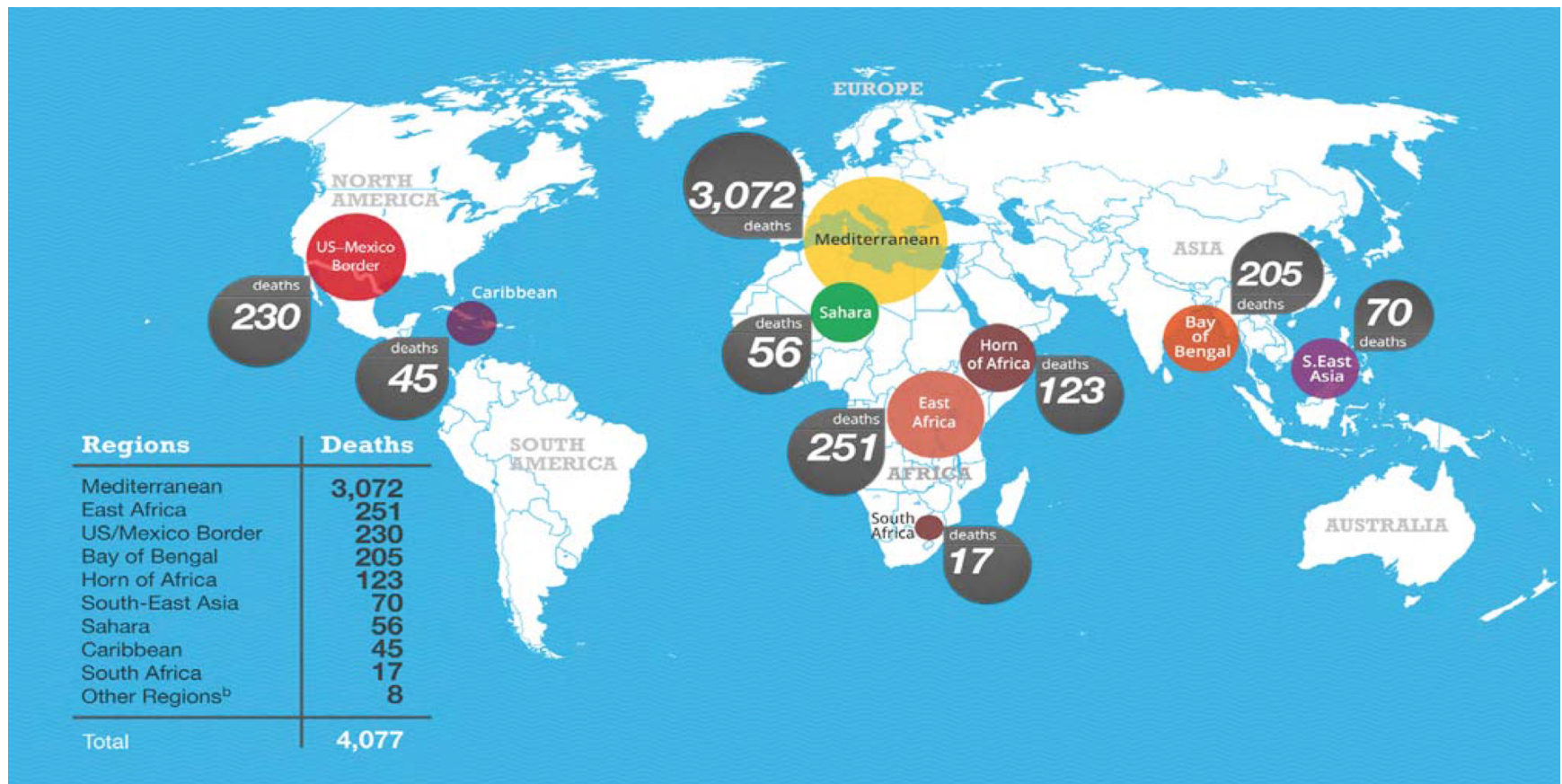
- For many years, the Mediterranean Sea has been the site of many tragedies
- Since 2011, in the wake of the “Arab Spring”, migratory flows have exponentially increased, as well the tragic events.
- The Syrian conflict alone triggered the world’s largest refugee crisis since the Second World War.



The migratory situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea

- 2014, more than 170.000 migrants and refugees arrived through this route, representing 60% of all detections in 2014 (277% increase)
 - 2013: 45.298 immigrants detected
- The Mediterranean Sea is the most dangerous and lethal border in the world
 - Until 2015: 18.400 people died (estimated)
 - 2014
 - Mediterranean: more than 3000 deaths
 - US-Mexico Border: 230 deaths
 - 2015: 3.279

Migrant border-related deaths around the world, January–September 2014



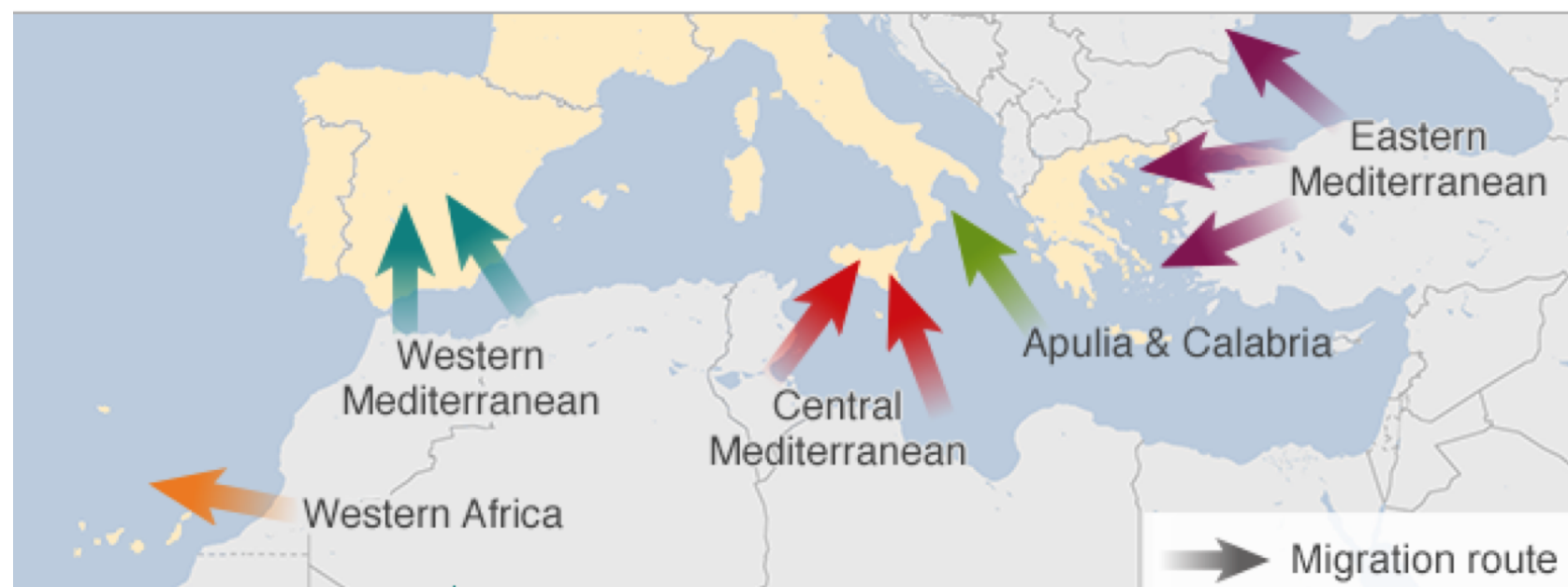
Source: IOM (Fatal Journeys – Tracking Lives Lost during Migration, 2014)

Mediterranean migrant deaths by route

2014



2015



Source: Frontex, IOM

BBC

The migratory situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea

- 2011 : several shipwrecks
- October 2013: 360 people lost the live in Lampedusa
 - Mare Nostrum – Italy
 - EU: Task Force Mediterranean
 - JHA Council Conclusions on “taking action to better manage migratory flows” – Priorities
 - cooperation with third countries in Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa and in the region neighbouring Syria
 - reinforcement of the surveillance of EU external border
 - fingerprinting and identification of migrants
 - Joint operation Triton (November 2014)
- 19th April 2015 (shipwreck 60 miles of Libyan coast): 800 deaths
- More than 100.000 migrants rescued

EU answer the current migratory humanitarian crisis.

- 20th April Joint Foreign and Home Affairs Council: 10-point plan
- 23th April 2015 European Council
 - Increase the search and rescue capacity by reinforcing the EU Triton and Poseidon operations.
 - Fight against smuggling and trafficking in human beings by disrupting their networks, seize their assets (Atalanta like mission) and bring smugglers to justice.
 - Prevention of illegal immigration flows by increasing cooperation with countries of origin and transit to help them to control their borders, implementing readmission agreements and set up a new FRONTEX coordinated return program.
 - Reinforce internal solidarity and responsibility
- 13th May: European Agenda on Migration

European Agenda on Migration: Short-term Measures

- Tripling the capacities and assets for the FRONTEX Joint Operations Triton and Poseidon
- Temporary relocation mechanism
 - 27 May 2015: Council Decision Proposal: relocation of 24.000 asylum applicants from IT and 16.000 from Greece to other Member-States
- EU-wide resettlement scheme
 - Commission Recommendation EU 2015/914 of 8 June 2015: 20.000 resettled refugees in 2 years.
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation to dismantle traffickers 'networks in the Mediterranean
 - Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/778: EUNAVFOR MED

European Agenda on Migration: Medium and long-term priorities

- **Reduce incentives for irregular migration**
 - European Migration Liaison Officers
 - Return
 - Enforce readmission agreements
 - Address root causes through development
- **Secure external borders and save lives**
 - strength FRONTEX
 - help third countries to strengthen their borders security and search and rescue capacities
 - Smart Borders
- **A strong common asylum policy**
 - Improve reception standards
 - Fight against abuse
 - Systematic identification and fingerprinting
 - Eventual revision of Dublin Regulation
- **A new policy on legal migration**
 - Revision of the Blue Card Directive (highly skilled immigrants)
 - Reinforce integration policy
 - Maximise development benefits for countries of origin – remittances

Evaluation of the EU answer

- Disappointing!
- The same and old strategy: reinforce borders control, tackle illegal migration, restricting migration
- Search and rescue: positive, but doesn't address the main causes and will not prevent smugglers
- Targeting smugglers by destroying vessels will not be effective: it could worst the situation and will not detain people and smugglers
- Reinforcement of return: operational and legal constraints
 - Principle of non refoulement
 - “push back operations”: illegal

Evaluation of the EU answer

- Cooperation with third countries of origin and transit: focused on giving assistance to strengthen their migration and border management capacity and to enforce readmission agreements
- Solidarity within the EU and with the third countries: a drop on the Ocean
 - 40.000: relocation
 - 20.000: resettlement
- “New immigration policy”: is old!

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- Strengthening save and rescue Operations:
Saving lives
 - Reinforce Member-States Operations
 - Enhance private save and rescue operations
 - Mandatory exempt from sanctions those private persons who provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need
 - Financial compensation to private vessels

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- Fighting smartly against irregular migration, smugglers and traffickers: open legal pathways to Europe
 - criminal persecution, borders controls or even disrupting smugglers networks: not enough and cannot manage immigration flows
 - EU should create more legal alternatives for refugees to find protection and immigrants to enter legally
 - Humanitarian corridors – humanitarian visas
 - Humanitarian protection through private sponsorship schemes by family members and others
 - Widen resettlement opportunities

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- A Common Asylum System based on solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities within the EU
 - Triggering the Temporary Protection Directive
 - Revising the Dublin Regulation (it shifts the burden to frontline MS and doesn't meet the particular interests of refugees)
 - Relocation

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- Solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities with the most affected third countries
 - Regional Development and Protection Programme for refugees and host communities
 - reinforcing resettlement of refugees
 - global resettlement program to organise the orderly transfer of Syrian refugees

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- **Organising legal migration to Europe**
 - Organise instead of fighting it – a new narrative on migration
 - Recognize the positive contribution of migrants to boost EU's economic growth and sustainability of its social systems
 - Legal pathways for high skilled and not skilled migrants that EU's economy needs

What should the EU do to meet the migration challenges faced by Europe?

- Changes in the EU external Policy - genuine commitment to solve and prevent conflicts
- Engagement in development policies, including a positive nexus between development and mobility.
- Changes in internal policies (common agriculture policy or trade policy), to allow other countries to have a chance to develop themselves and guarantee better live conditions to their populations.

Conclusions

- The migratory humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea is a complex phenomenon and poses huge challenges.
- Only a global approach that addresses root causes of migration and is able to manage lawfully migration flows can provide a long-term solution to the migratory crisis that Europe is facing in the Mediterranean.
- It is time for Europe to change its policies!