

# Migration, Refugees and Asylum-Seekers: Turkey and the EU in a Global Crisis

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### Introduction

For the "Migration, Refugees and Asylum-Seekers: Turkey and the EU in a global crisis" project, we began our research by collecting legal data for migration, refugees and asylum seekers in specific regions such as Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East to see outflows and inflows of the people. Later, we focused on the hotspots of these regions and discussed how these regions deal with the migration issue. This paper aims to illustrate the main reason behind the growing migration issue is the lack of global governance and the existing international system is unable to answer the problem.

### Latin America

#### • The reasons of migration

1. Increased homicide rates – higher than the world average
2. Economic instability of the region – low economic growth

#### • Case of Colombia

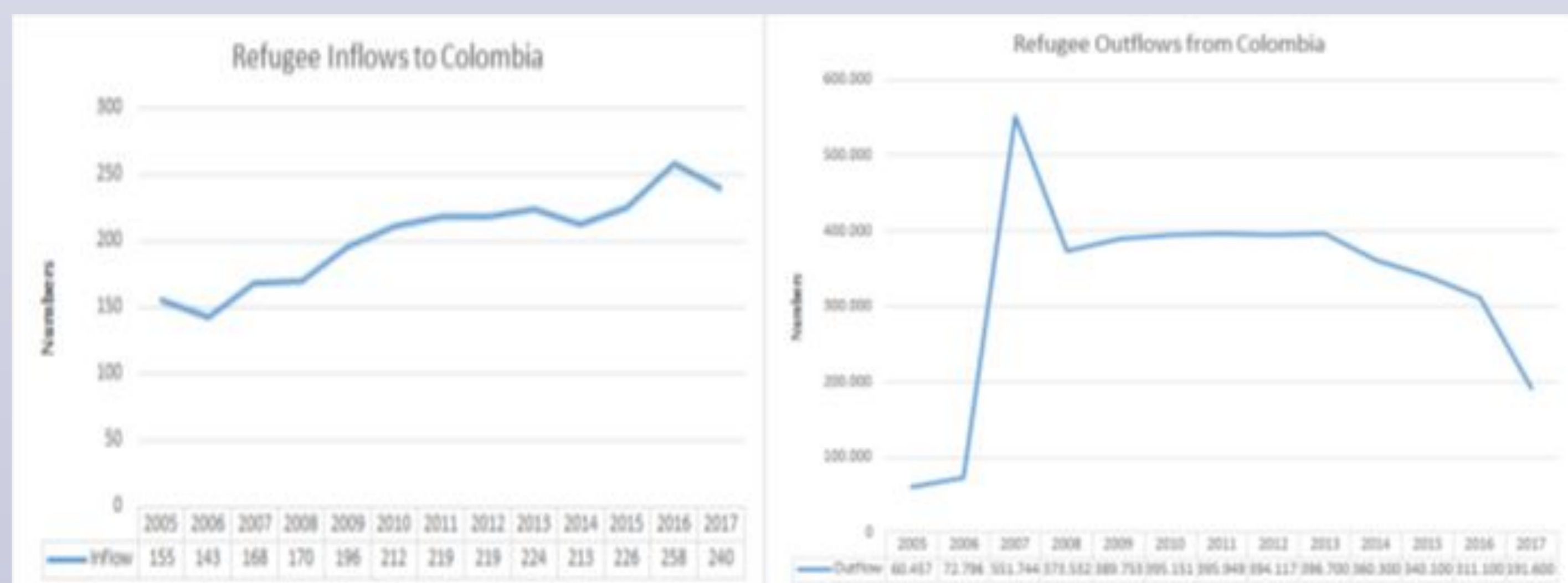
-Main factor: Internal conflict (FARC vs the state)

-The outflow peaked at 2007 with 551.744 refugees.

-Decline after 2014 when country began to be stable with peace negotiations.

-Origin and destinations for refugees:

- 1) Venezuela (973,315)
- 2) USA (687,696)
- 3) Spain (346,936)
- 4) Ecuador (194,733)



#### • Case of Venezuela

-Main factor: Economic crisis under the Maduro administration (hyperinflation, food and water shortages)

-Before the crisis, refugees came from Colombia, between 200.907 and 203.644.

-Outflows are relatively small - illegal crossings may be higher or the tendency to asylum-seeking.

-According to UN International Organisation for Migration report (2018), asylum-seekers and refugees mainly went to: Colombia (600.000), USA (290.224), Spain (208.333) and Chile.

(119.051)

### Europe

For the European Region, we consider the European Union as one of the most important global governance actors due to its migration policy.

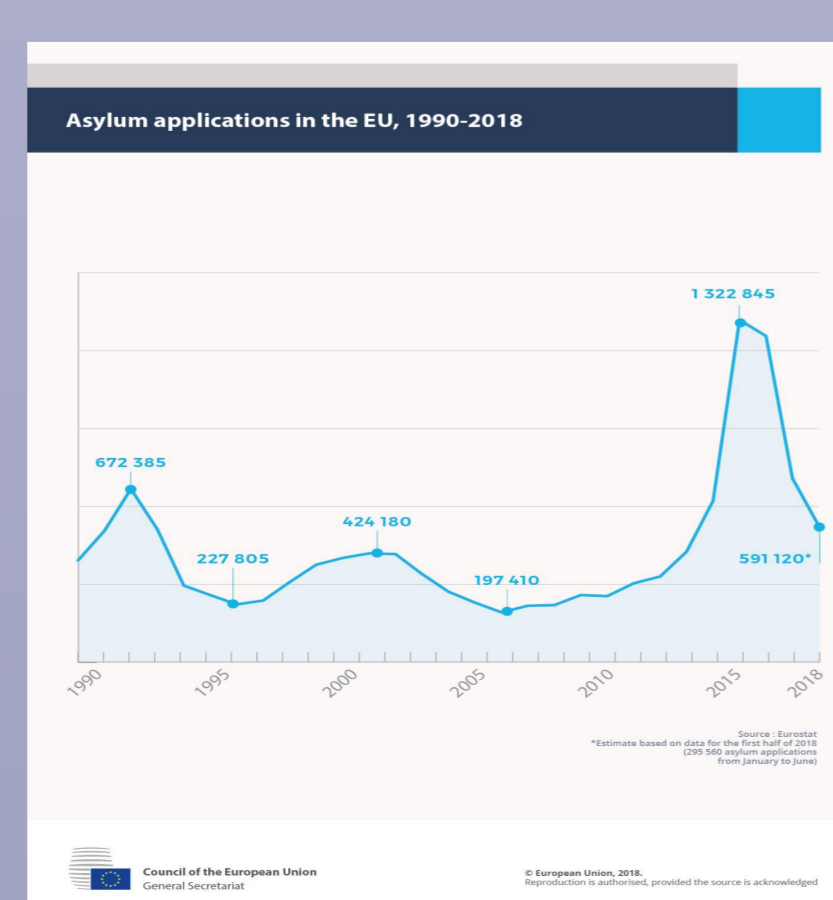
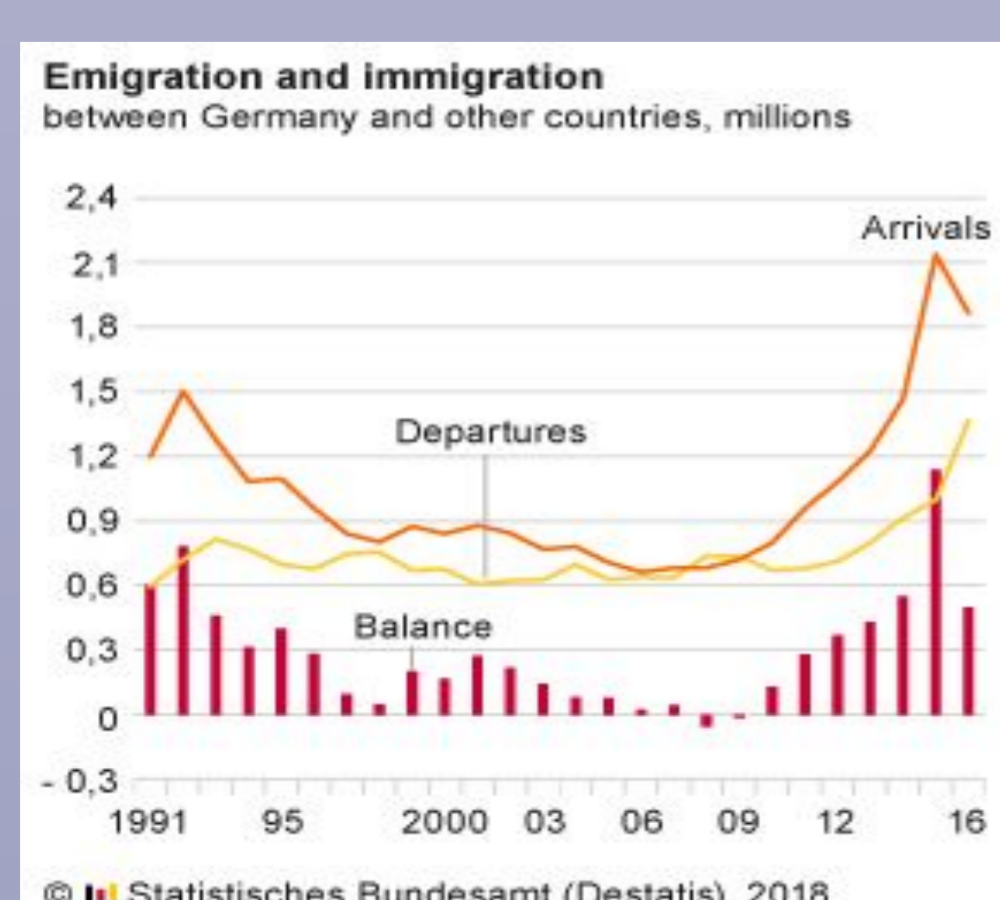
European Commission's agenda on migration sets out a European response involving all actors: EU countries and institutions, international organizations, civil society, local authorities and national partners outside the EU.

**Certain migration policy areas:** reducing the incentives for irregular immigration, saving lives and securing external borders, a strong common asylum policy and a new policy on legal migration.

The EU has adopted rules and frameworks to manage legal migration flows for, asylum seekers, highly skilled workers, students and researchers, seasonal workers, family reunification.

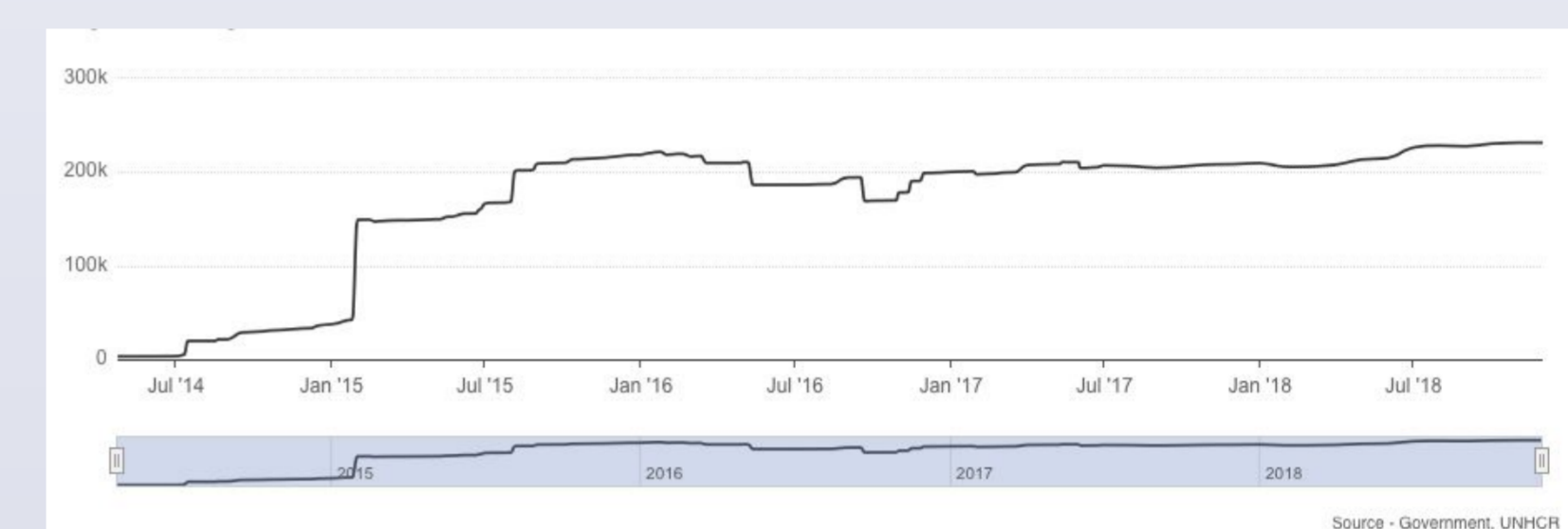
For this project, we considered Germany as a hotspot for the European region due to our collected data.

The North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) is the most popular hotspot of Germany, includes high levels of immigrant population compared to rest of the country and most of the asylum seeker applications were received here.



### Africa

To examine the major migration flows in the African region, the cases of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Congo, Libya, and Cote d'Ivoire were selected. For the refugee outflows, Ethiopia is a hotspot. The primary reason for Ethiopians to seek asylum and refuge is due to violence. Ethiopian troops are attacking villages and civilians had to leave the opposition areas in order to save their lives. Country is also facing with other problems such as high levels of poverty, high unemployment rates, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and in relation to that droughts resulted in famine. Nigerians are one of the largest groups that are seeking asylum in the European Union. The most significant reason to that is terror.



(Graph: Nigerian refugee arrival trend since 2014)

Ethiopia is also a host country for large number of refugees. South Africa is also hosting significant numbers of asylum seekers. The Department of Home Affairs of South Africa states that most of the refugees and asylum seekers are young males between the ages 19 and 36 who are seeking better economic opportunities (Postman, Z.). Uganda also has one of the most generous approaches to the refugees within the region. Refugees are designated settlements where they can find shelters, grow food and start their own businesses. But this hosting model is facing a threat of failure because it is underfunded due to lack of support from the rich countries (Amnesty International).

### Middle East and North Africa

The total number of migrants in the Middle East and North Africa region, including refugees, has reached 34.5 million in 2015. According to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, there is more than 16 million refugees and 60 million displaced persons in the world today, and the MENA region is the largest producer of refugees, with over 6 million refugees. The wars in Syria, Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Yemen highly contributed to this number.

The Syrian Civil War has been the major issue in migration in the region. The Syrian civil war has led to massive amounts of refugee outflow. In fact, the refugees from Syria alone, make up 30% of the refugees worldwide. The United Nations data also suggests that the top destinations of the Syrian refugees within the MENA region, are Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. By the end of 2017, the UNHCR recorded 3,5 million Syrian refugees in Turkey; 992 thousand in Lebanon, and 653 thousand in Jordan. Istanbul, the largest city of Turkey, is estimated to host over 500,000 refugees; making it the largest city in Turkey in terms of refugee population.

With the EU-Turkey migration deal, signed in 2016, Turkey agreed to take back all illegal migrants in Europe. It was thus agreed that all illegal migrants arriving to Europe, would be returned to the transit hub, Turkey. The significance of this agreement was that each migrant ship returned to Turkey, the EU would take in one refugee residing in Turkey. This benefited Turkey in the sense that the European Union agreed to speed up the process of Turkey's membership.

### Conclusion

To sum up, it can be seen that every region has its own hotspots for migration, such as Colombia and Venezuela for Latin America. Similarly, the migration and asylum-seeker flows are generally caused by unemployment, civil wars, the rise of homicide rates etc. However, in terms of connections between regions, one exception is Latin America, whose migration flows are within Latin American countries, to the US and Canada. Trends of Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA and Europe show that migration and asylum-seeker flows converge in Europe because of several reasons, including civil wars, unemployment etc. The main reason behind why migration and asylum-seeking increased in these regions is the lack of global governance and international system. There must be explicit rules of conduct and more cooperation among states. Specifically, as the main title of the project asserts, Turkey needs to establish regional and international cooperation to promote global governance with regards to the EU. Hence, future research has to focus on how global governance might be possible for different regions across the world.

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