



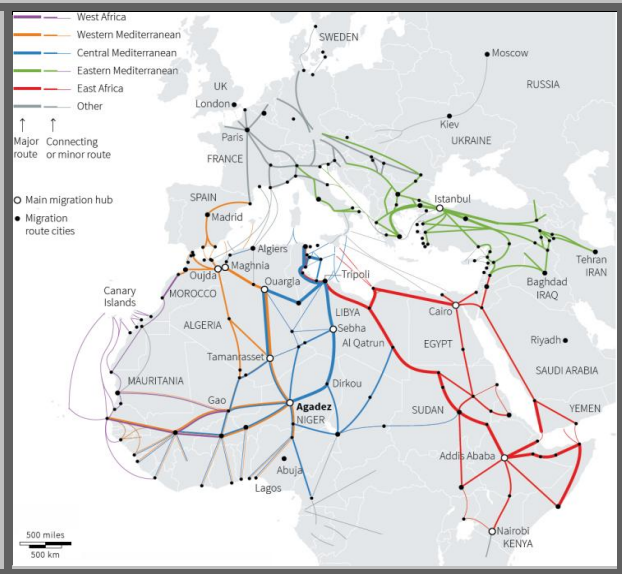
PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



The European Commission presented a *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration*¹ to the European Parliament and the European Council on March 13, 2018. European Agenda on Migration was proposed by the Commission in 2015 to manage the ongoing migration crisis in short, medium and long-term. This report provides a pragmatic assessment of the initiative and highlights the key actions taken before reaching a comprehensive deal on migration by June 2018.

The report presents a comprehensive and factual situation regarding progress made in all dimensions. It specifically emphasizes on the migration trends, asylum, relocation and resettlement of migrants. According to the Commission's report, the overall situation of illegal migration to European Union (EU) was stable but challenging in 2017. The arrival rate dropped by 28% compared to pre-crisis year 2014. Furthermore, the pressure on national migration systems has also decreased. In 2017, EU countries received 685,000 asylum applications, including 160,000 lodged by children. The number of these applications is 43% less than 2016 (See Figure 1). A lot of focus is on the situation along the migration routes.

The four main routes for illegal migration to EU are:

1. Eastern Mediterranean route.

¹ European Commission, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* (Brussels, March 14, 2018), https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180314_progress-report-progress-report-european-agenda-migration_en.pdf.

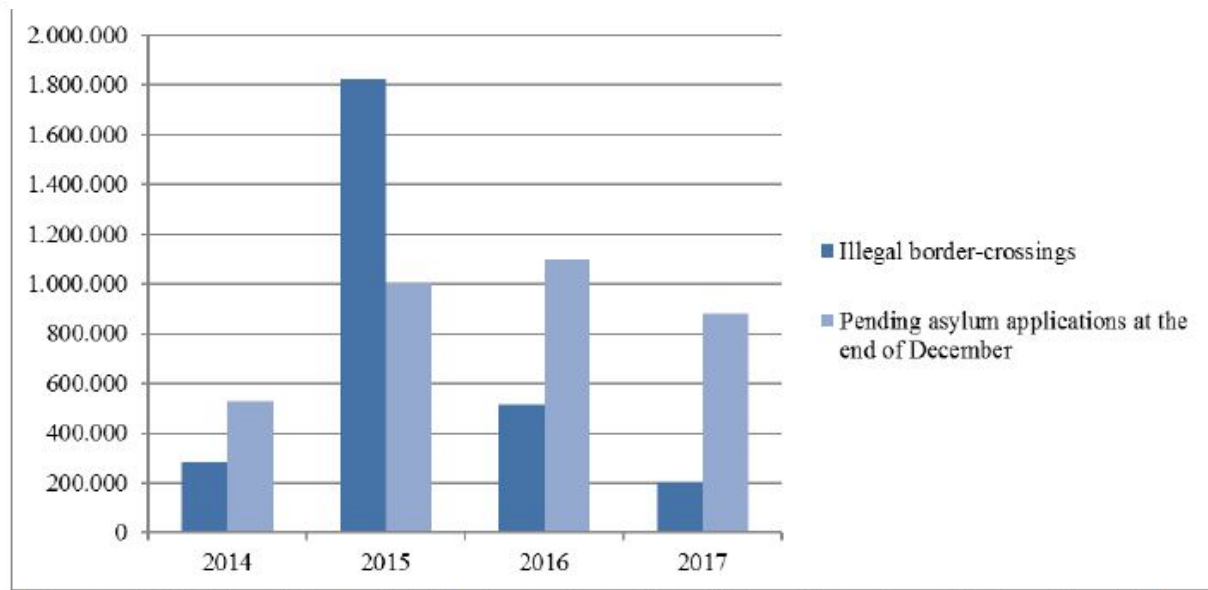
2. Western Balkans route.
3. Central Mediterranean route.
4. Western Atlantic /Mediterranean route.

The report highlights the dynamics of each route in great detail. The *Eastern Mediterranean route* is mainly used by the nationals of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to reach Turkey and Greece. The overall number of arrivals along this route decreased in 2018 as compared to 2016, but a steady increase was recorded in irregular crossings from Turkey to Greece via land border. The *Western Balkan route* showed a relatively stable trend because of strict border control by the Balkan states in collaboration with EU. However, the report points out possible development of new routes or diversions as a result of this effective management. The majority of the illegal crossings were recorded at the border of EU with Serbia.

The *Central Mediterranean route* continues to account for the largest number of illegal migrants from African countries. Due to the Commission's special focus on this route in *Partnership Framework on Migration* and the *Malta Declaration*, a significant reduction was recorded since 2016. The number of arrivals on the *Western Mediterranean/Atlantic route* is increasing since June 2017, and this trend continued in 2018. In 2017, approximately 28,349 migrants had arrived in Spain through this route which is more than double the number in 2016. The top nationalities of the migrants are Guinean, Moroccan, Malian and Ivorian. The report emphasize on the need to continue working on all migratory routes in order to maintain the downward trend in 2018.²

² Ibid.

Figure 1: Illegal Border Crossings at the EU External Border and Pending Asylum Applications (2014 - 2017)



Source (s): European Commission, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* (Brussels, March 14, 2018).

Table 1: Situation Along the Main Migration Routes (2016 - March 2018)

		Main Migration Routes			
		<i>Eastern Mediterranean</i>	<i>Western Balkans</i>	<i>Central Mediterranean</i>	<i>Western Atlantic /Mediterranean</i>
Number of Arrivals	2016	182,227	-	-	10,000 (approx.)
	2017	42,319	-	119 369	28,349
	2018	3,126	-	5 457	3,804
Trend Since 2016		Continued	Relative Stability	Decreasing	Increasing
	%	-	-	65%	17%
Nationality of Migrants (2017-18)		Syrian (32%) Afghani (13%) Iraqi (27%)	Iranian	Eritrean (24%) Tunisian (20%) Nigerian (6%)	Guinean (17%) Moroccan (17%) Malian (15%) Ivorian (13%)
Destination		Greece, Turkey	Albania, Greece	Italy	Spain

Source (s): European Commission, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* (Brussels, March 14, 2018).

By March 7, 2018, the Commission successfully relocated 33,846 migrants to 28 states (member and associated) out of which 11,999 and 21,847 were relocated only from Italy and Greece respectively. The top five receiving countries are Germany, France, Sweden, The Netherlands and Finland. In addition, the Commission also resettled 29,314 migrants to 31 states (member and associated) among which 12,476 are settled under *the EU- Turkey Settlement* and 1,855 under *50,000 Scheme*. The top five settling states are Germany, France, Norway, The Netherlands and United Kingdom (See Table 2). The report illustrates an extensive variety of measures supported by the European Commission, Member States, United Nations, International Organisation for Migration, African Union and other international non-profit organizations for an effective implementation of all the initiatives (See Table 3). Most important among them are the European Agenda on Migration like joint African Union-European Union-United Nations Taskforce, EU-funded UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism, EU Trust Fund for Africa, External Investment Plan and the EU-Turkey Statement.³

Table 2: Statistics on Relocation and Resettlement of Migrants

Sr. No.	Relocation		Resettlement	
	Associated/Member State	Number of Migrants Relocated	Member/Associated State	Number of Migrants Resettled
1.	Germany	10,282	Germany	4,313
2.	France	4,944	France	3,910
3.	Sweden	3,047	Norway	3,500
4.	Netherlands	2,724	Netherlands	3,051
5.	Finland	1,981	United Kingdom	2,200

Source (s): European Commission, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* (Brussels, March 14, 2018).

Table 3: Support Programmes and Financial Assistance (2014 - 2020)

Sr. No	Programme	Funding Agency	Year	Receiving Region/Country /Organization	Amount (Million EUR)
1.	Emergency Assistance	EU	2015	Greece	393
				Bulgaria	172
			2017	Italy	39.92
2.	National Programs	EU	2014 – 2020	Greece	561
				Bulgaria	97.1
				Italy	650
3.	Emergency Support Instrument	EU	2016 – 2017	Greece	440
			2018	Greece	198

³ Ibid.

4.	Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program	EU	2017	Greece	24
5.	Internal Security Fund-Borders	EU	2017	Bulgaria	10.5
6.	The EU-Turkey Statement	EU	2014 (Construction)	Facility for Refugees in Turkey	3000 1850
			2018		3000
7.	The Emergency Social Safety Net		2016	Facility for Refugees in Turkey	1.2
8.	Assistance and Protection Needs	EU	2017	Syria	560
				Lebanon	334
				Jordan	228
9.	Action Plan of 4 July 2017	EU	2017	Italy	35
10.	Emergency Trust Fund for Africa	EU	2018	Libya	115
11.	Mixed Migration Program	EU	2017	Libya	90
12.	Border Management Program	EU Trust Fund	2017	Libya	46.3
13.	Support To Municipalities	EU Trust Fund	2017	Libya	50
14.	EU Trust Fund for Africa	EU	2017	Africa	468.27
15.	External Investment Plan	EU	2017	Africa	9600
		Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	2017	Africa	40
16.	The African Peace Facility	EU	2017	G5 Sahel Joint Force	414
17.	EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities	EU	2017 – 2020	Egypt	60
18.	Support to Migration Policies	EU	2017	Morocco	35
19.	The protection and resilience of migrants, refugees, displaced persons and host communities	EU Trust Fund	2017	Morocco	4.58
20.	Reintegration of Returnees	EU	2017	Afghanistan, Bangladesh	39
21.	European Return and Reintegration Network	13 EU States	2017	Afghanistan, Bangladesh	15

Source (s): European Commission, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* (Brussels, March 14, 2018).

In conclusion, EU has made significant progress in mitigating the migration crisis. Looking forward, EU has to speed up its efforts for sustainable and common migration policy and comprehensive Dublin reforms. Despite an extensive financial assistance, EU is still facing the problem of funding

gaps in EU Trust Fund for Africa. To resolve the funding issue, EU should try to engage more international non-governmental organizations. EU must also encourage member and associated states to increase human resource, financial and technical assistance to External Investment Plan and External Border Protection. Furthermore, the work on EU-Turkey Statement must be accelerated to ensure speedy resettlement.