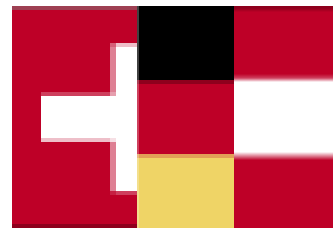


CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES- IRE214

Maya Hadar

Fall 2018

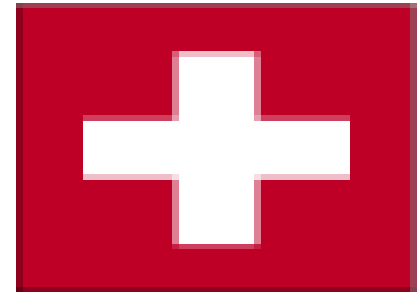
Final Session



On the Agenda for Today

2

- Short Comparative Summary
- Contemporary Challenges
 - European Union Refugees Crisis
- Immigrants in Germany vs. immigrants in Austria
- The final exam
- Feedback



The Alpine Countries



Austria

- EU Member
- Federal Republic (Vienna)
- Occupied by Germany during World War II
- Formerly an empire ruled by the Habsburgs, who controlled much of Europe

Switzerland

- Independent since 1600s (Bern)
- Confederation of 26 cantons
- Politically neutral- haven for foreign industry+ business
- Has not joined EU or NATO
- French, Italian, German, Romansh languages common

• Located in Alps, mountainous terrain

- Diverse economies, foreign operations, manufacturing, tourism
- Democratic government
- Western, Rich, Successful
 - German language & cultural influence

Austria vs. Germany



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Austria

- EU Member
- Federal Republic (Vienna)
- Occupied by Germany during World War II
- Formerly an empire ruled by the Habsburgs, who controlled much of Europe

Germany

- Federal Republic (Berlin)
- Protestant Reformation began here by Martin Luther
- Protestants and Catholics are equally represented
- Large surplus, exporting is very important for the German economy
- Right wing increased in power in recent elections

- Democratic government
- Diverse economies, tourism
- Western, Rich, Successful
- Right wing increased in power in recent elections
- German language & cultural influence

The Refugee Crisis- Context



- **NOT a natural disaster**, has **concrete causes** and was **foreseeable**
- The refugee crisis in Europe is **NOT a new phenomena-** it has been present for years in specific countries (Greece, Macedonia and Italy), but became a topic for massive news coverage for two main reasons:
 1. It has **penetrated from the periphery of Europe to the heart of the European Union**
 2. **Increasing scale of a humanitarian crisis** at the back yard's of the rich and 'enlightened' west

The Refugee Crisis- Context

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- A picture of Aylan Kurdi, a **3 year old child** who **died** in an attempt to reach **European territory**
- This image **attracted global attention** to the problem of **refugees** and reflected the ‘**cruel reality of European’s refugee crisis**’



The Refugee Crisis- Context



- **The Arab spring => a series of pro-democracy social mobilization/uprisings/protests** that enveloped several **largely Muslim countries** (Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt & Bahrain)
 - The events began in the **spring of 2011**, hence the name
 - Ultimately resulted in **regime changes in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya**
 - **Not all** of the movements deemed **successful** in increasing democracy & cultural freedom- for many countries the period since has been hallmarked by **increased instability and oppression** (Syria, Libya)

The Refugee Crisis- Context



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- **The war in Syria => civil war** against president Bashad Al-Asad
 - His family is **controlling Syria for over 30 years**
 - **Syria became the stage of war among Middle East powers**, especially Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Iran and, more recently, Russia
- The Syrian civil war **forced many to leave the country** and seek refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Greece and throughout Western Europe
- For sometime, the militant group **ISIS had declared a caliphate**—a nation governed by Islamic law—in north-eastern **Syria**
- Although **ISIS** has largely been **defeated** in Syria, the oppressive regime of long-time dictator Bashar al **Assad remains in power**

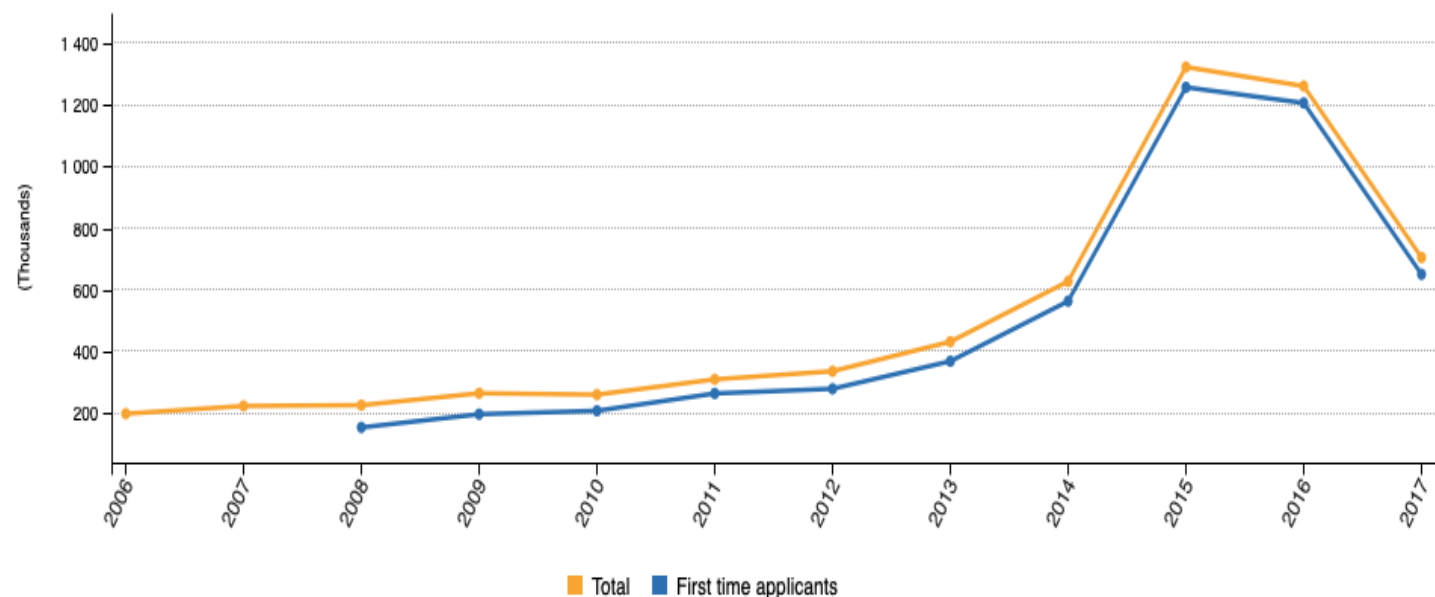
Asylum Applicants



9

- Since the beginning of the "Arab Spring" (2011), the number of people trying to cross the Mediterranean sea and reach Europe has **considerably increased**
- **Applications from citizens of non-member countries =>** a gradual increase within the EU-27/28 up until 2012

Asylum applications (non-EU) in the EU-28 Member States, 2006–2017



Total: 2006 and 2007: EU-27 and extra-EU-27.

First-time applicants: 2006 and 2007: not available.

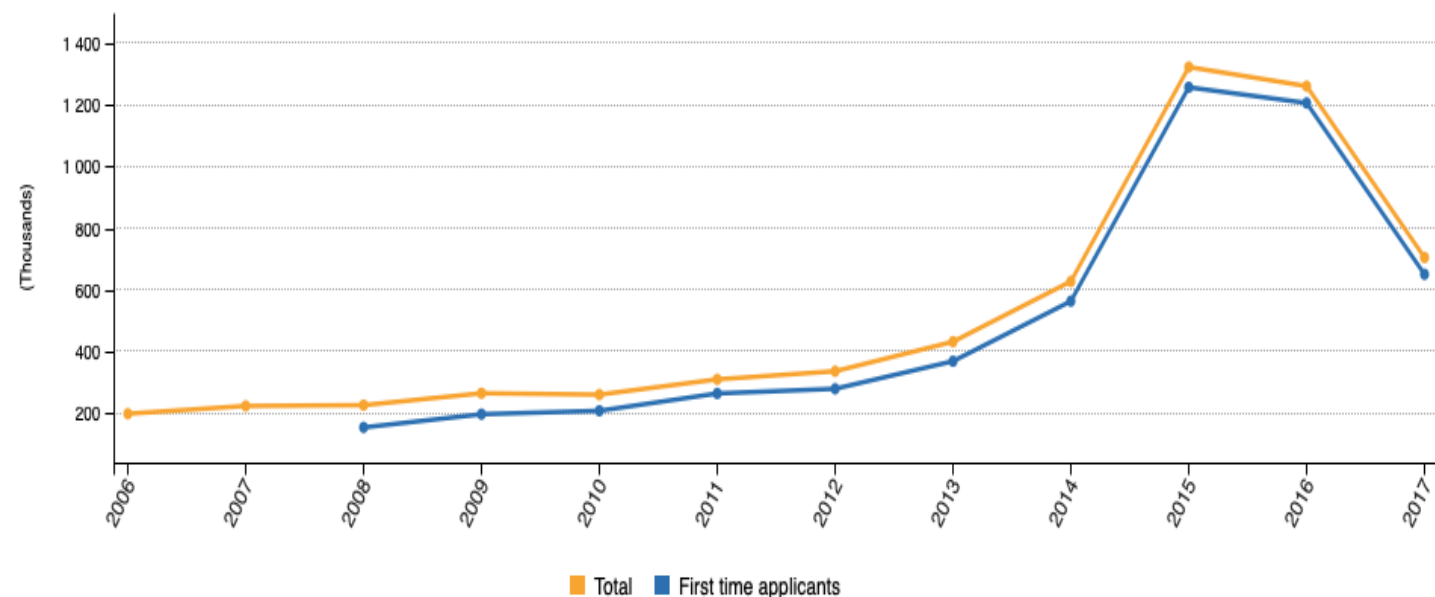


Asylum Applicants

- After 2012 the number of asylum seekers rose at a **more rapid pace** (431k in 2013, 627k in 2014 & around 1.3M in both 2015 & 2016)

- **2015/2016** => The number of asylum applications within the EU-28 was approx. **double** the number recorded within the EU-15 during the previous peak (1992)

Asylum applications (non-EU) in the EU-28 Member States, 2006–2017



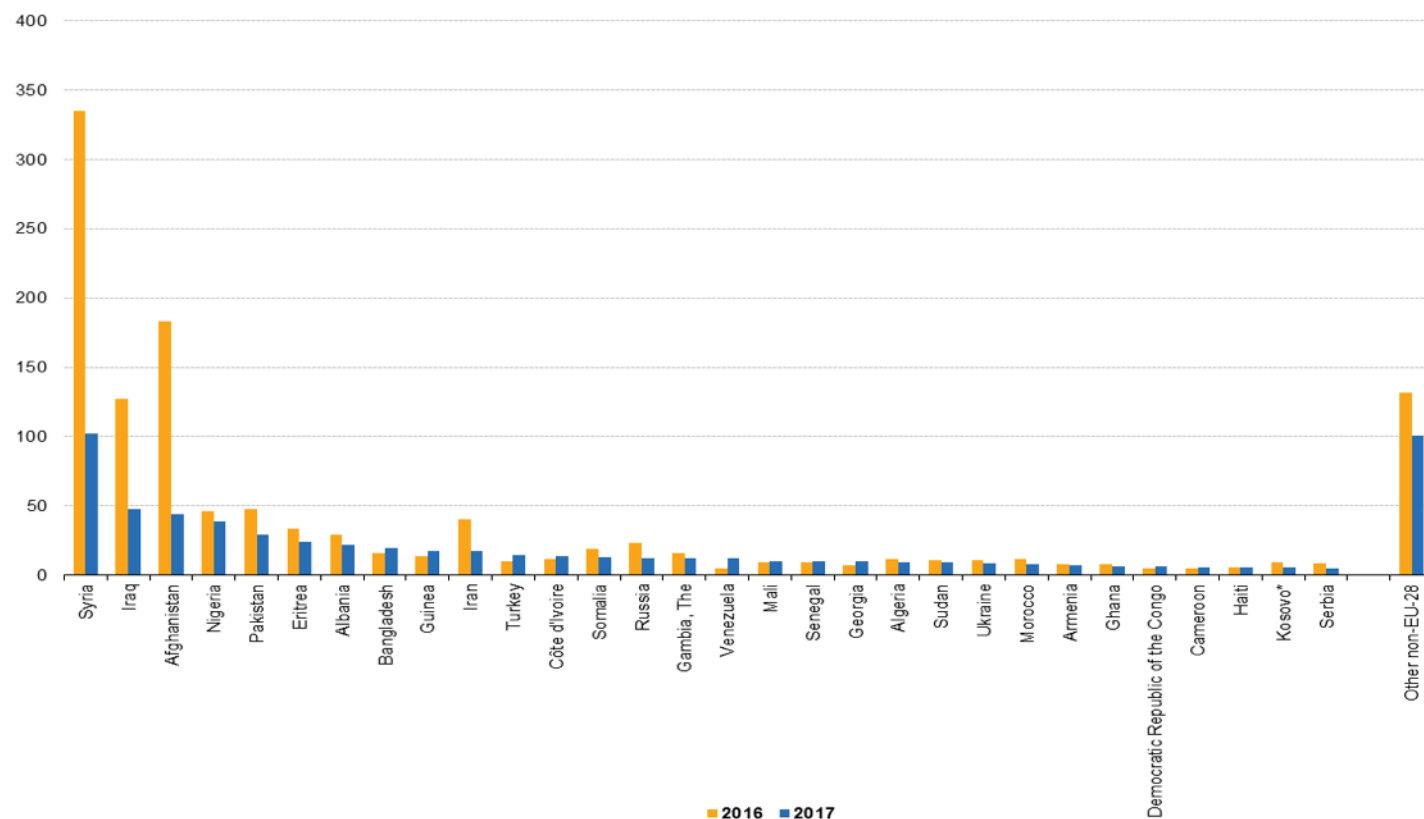
Total: 2006 and 2007: EU-27 and extra-EU-27.

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Asylum Applicants

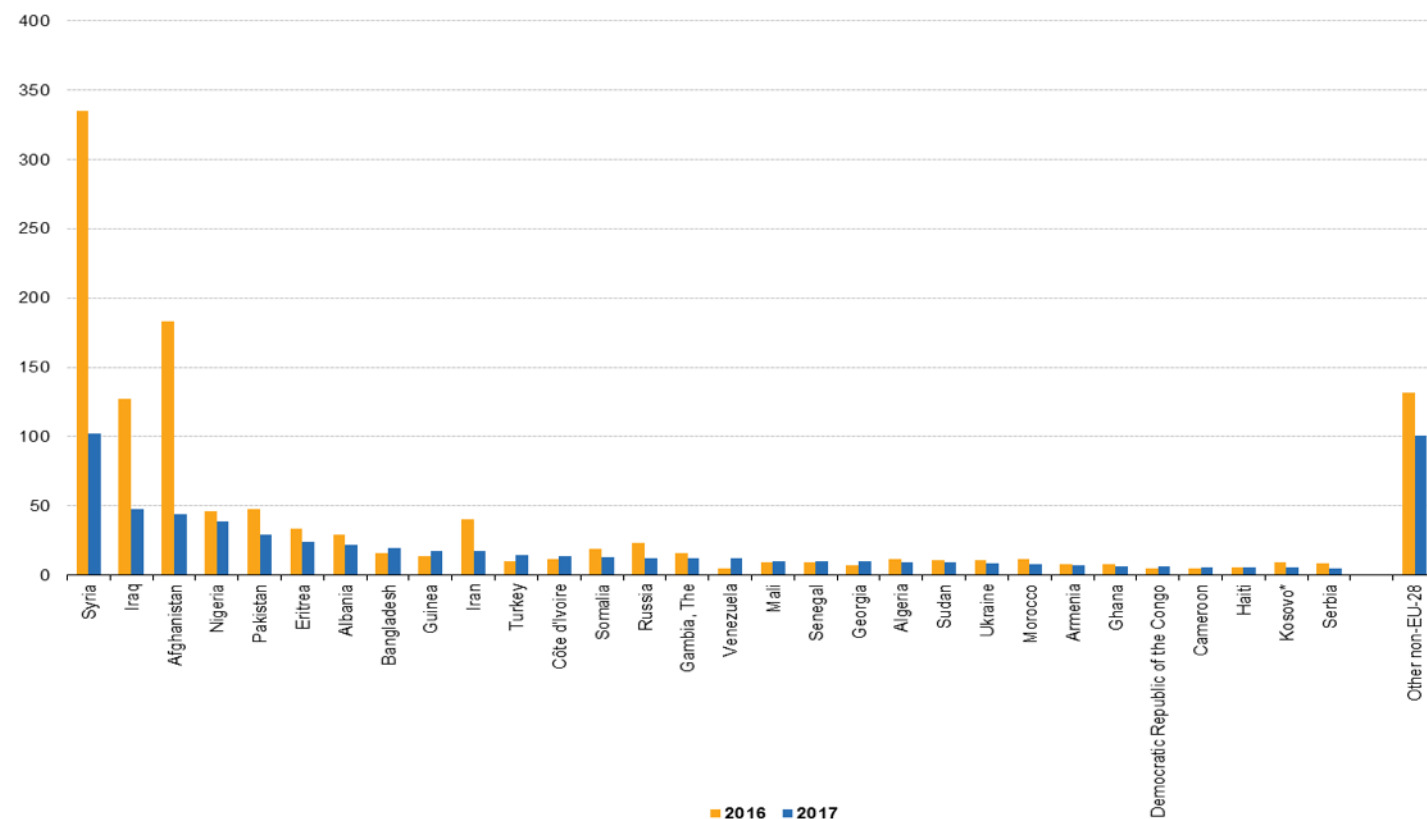
- **2017** => Nearly 705k asylum seekers applied for international protection in EU member states, over **half the number recorded in 2016**
- **Syria** => **main country of origin of Asylum seekers** in EU member states in 2017, a position it has held each year **since 2013**
- Further Asylum seekers: Iraqis, Afghanis, Nigerians, Pakistanis





Asylum Applicants

- 2017 => **Largest relative increase** compared with 2016: Nigerians, Bangladeshi & Guineans
- **Considerable growth in relative terms** in the number of applicants from Turkey, Venezuela, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea & Albania

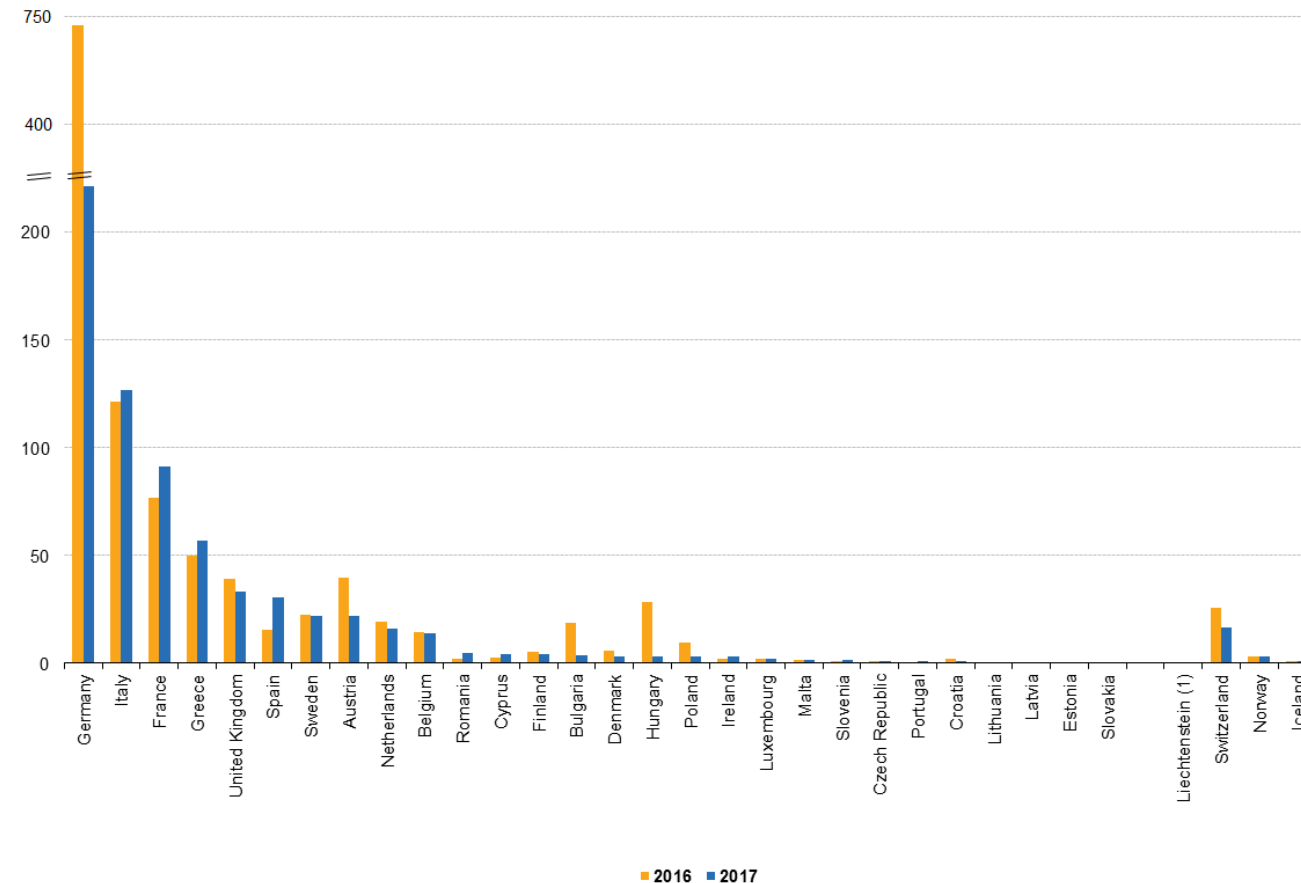




Countries of Destination

13

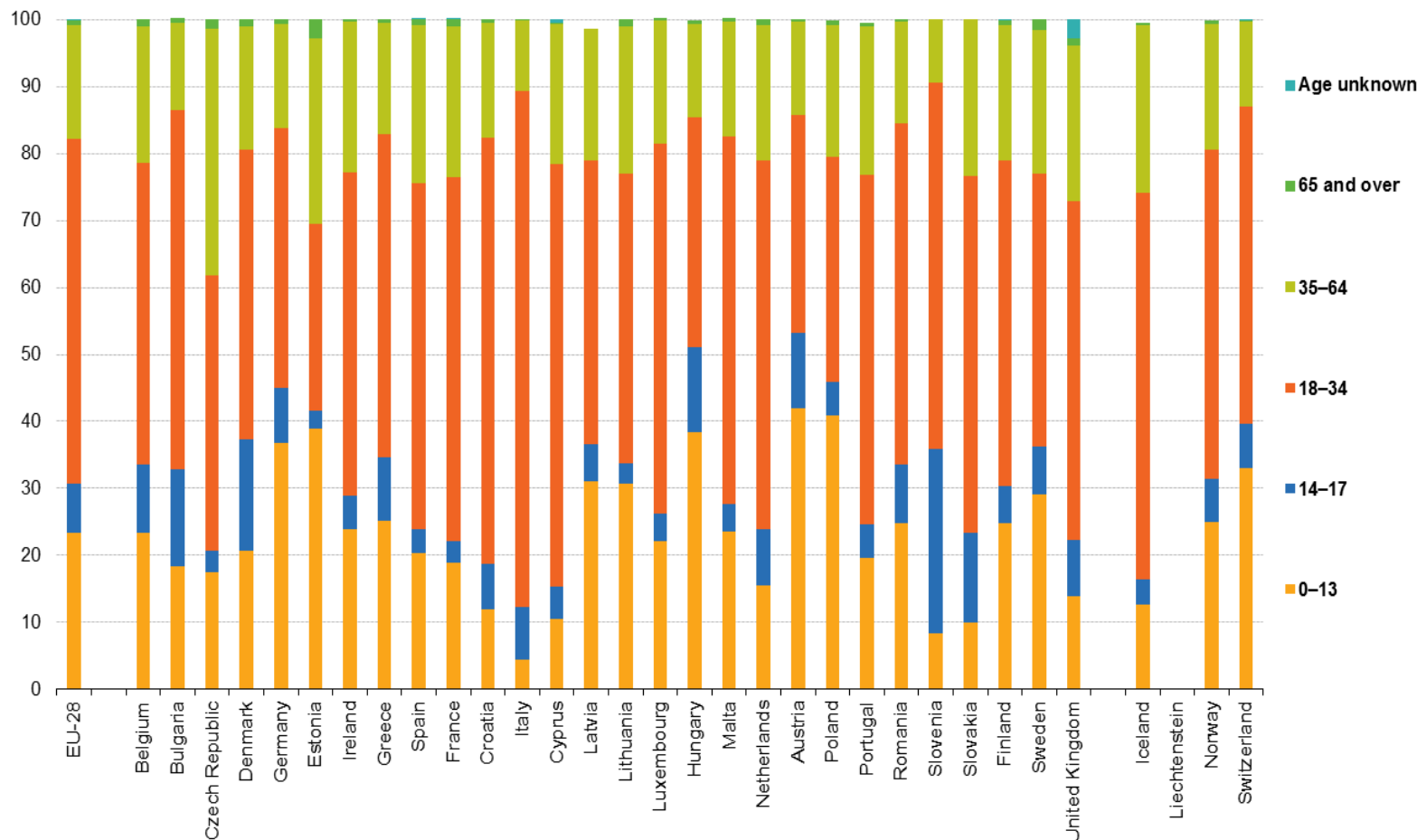
- 2017 => **Germany** (31%), **Italy** (20%), **France** (14%), **Greece** (9%), the United Kingdom (5%) & Spain (5%)
- Larger **increase** in number of **applicants** compared with 2016: Spain (15k), France (14k), Greece (7k) & Italy (5k)
- Larger **decrease**=> **Germany** (520k), **Austria** (18k), the Netherlands (3k) & the United Kingdom (6k)





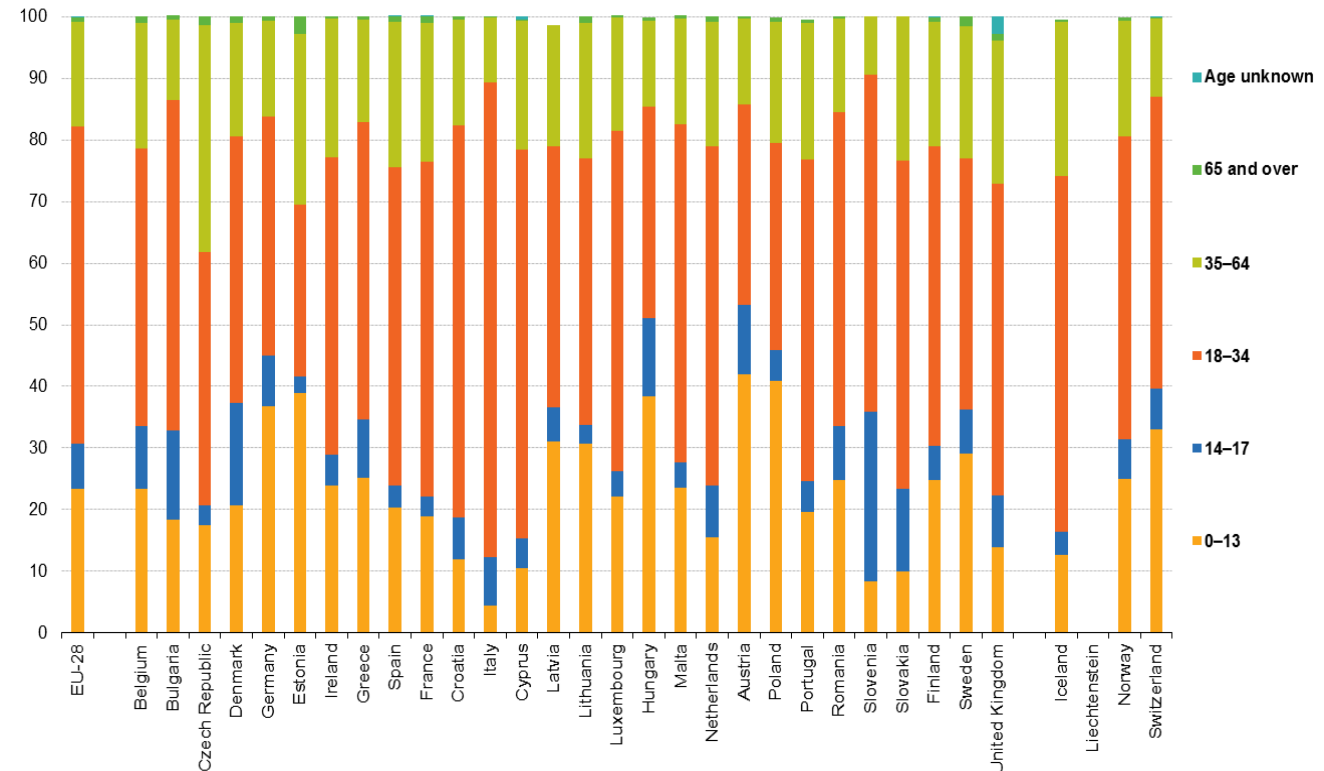
Age & Gender

- More than **four in five** first-time asylum seekers in the EU-28 in 2017 were **under 35** years of age
- Those in the age range **18–34** years accounted for slightly **more than half** of the total number of applicants
- Nearly **one third** were **minors**



Age & Gender

- Exceptions: Austria, Hungary, Poland and **Germany** reported a higher (>45%) proportion of asylum applicants **less than 18 years old**
- This age distribution of asylum applicants was common in almost all of the EU Member States, with the **largest share of applicants being those aged 18–34**



Humanitarian Crisis



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- **Syria's** civil war is the **worst humanitarian crisis of our time**
- **Half of the country's pre-war population** (over 11 million people) has been **killed** or **forced to flee** their homes
- Families are **struggling** to survive inside Syria, or make a new home in neighboring countries, others are risking their lives on the way to Europe
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w>

Who is a Refugee?



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- **The Refugee Convention (1951)** => *“A person fleeing armed conflict or persecution”*
 - Outlines the **basic rights** which States should afford refugees
- Refugees **should not be expelled or returned** to situations where their **life and freedom** would be **under threat**

Who is a Migrant?



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- *"Any person who lives **temporarily** or **permanently** in a country where s/he was **not born**, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country"*
- According to some states, a person can be considered as a migrant even when s/he is **born** in the country
- **UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants** => *"The term 'migrant' ... should be understood as covering all cases where **the decision to migrate is taken freely** by the individual concerned, for reasons of 'personal convenience' and without intervention of an external compelling factor"*

Who is a Migrant?



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- **Dominant forms of migration** can be distinguished according to the **motives** (economic, family reunion, refugees) or **legal status** (irregular migration, controlled emigration/immigration, free emigration/immigration)
- Countries distinguish between a number of **categories** in their migration policies and statistics => such variations indicate that there are **no objective definitions of migration**
- **Common categorization** of international migrants:
 - **Temporary labour migrants (guest workers)**: people who migrate for a limited period of time in order to take up employment and send money home

Who is a Migrant?



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- **Common categorization of international migrants:**
 - **Highly skilled and business migrants:** people with **qualifications** (managers, executives, professionals, technicians) who move within the internal labour markets of trans-national corporations and international organisations, or who seek employment through international labour markets for **scarce skills**
 - Many countries **welcome** such migrants and have **special 'skilled and business migration'** programmed to encourage them to come
 - **Irregular/illegal migrants:** people who enter a country, usually in search of employment, **without the necessary documents** and permits

Who is a Migrant?



21

- **Common categorization** of international migrants:
 - **Forced migration:** in a broader sense, this includes not only refugees and asylum seekers but also people **forced to move due to external factors** (e.g. environmental catastrophes). Similar to **displacement**.
 - **Family members/reunion:** people sharing family ties joining people who have already entered an immigration country under one of the above mentioned categories.
 - Many countries recognize the right to **family reunion** for legal migrants, others—especially those with contract labour systems, deny the right
 - **Return migrants:** people who return to their countries of origin after a period in another country

Who is a Migrant?



22

- **Migrant are NOT refugees** or people who were displaced/forced/compelled to leave their homes
- Migrants are people who **choose when to leave and where to go**, even though these **choices are sometimes extremely constrained**
 - **Voluntary** and **involuntary** migration?



Refugees' arrival in the EU

23

Refugees Welcome

- September 2, 2015 => the discovery of the **body** of young Aylan induced **public discussion** concerning the **refugee crisis** (and life threatening situations on route to Europe)
- **Germany, Sweden and the UK** expressed their wishes to **accept refugees** into their countries and assist them integrate in Europe



Football fans showed their support for the campaign at the 3rd day of the Bundesliga

Refugees' arrival in the EU



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The German plan



- **Providing extra 3 billion euros to states & municipalities, 150,000 additional accommodation places for refugees**
- **650 new positions in the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees to shorten the time until asylum status is granted**



- **Refugees can work/start training 3 months after arrival (instead of after 9 months)**
- **Repartition of refugees by district depending of their wealth and size**

The German Plan



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- **German employers demand:**
 - **Guarantee not to expel workers hired + better recognition of foreign credentials**
 - **Remove the obligation** to prove to the Federal Employment Agency that no German/European worker is suitable for a position they want to entrust a non-European foreign worker
- Budget of €6 billion overall => represents nearly **60% additional expenditure** initially planned (2016)



The German Plan

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Public reaction

- **Middle Class Germans** (students, left wing) **mostly understood** that supporting refugees is not only morally right but also good for Germany
 - Well educated/skilled labour: fill labour gaps => play an important economic role
- **Extreme/right wing Germans** see **refugees** as a **threat-** threatening rhetoric used by extremist to campaign against 'refugees welcome'
 - Attacks against asylum seeker's centers (mainly in the former GDR, specifically in Saxony)
- "Risk" that **economic migrants** from the Balkans will mingle with the flow of **Middle Eastern refugees**

German Motives



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Political considerations

- August 2015 => Merkel: *"humanitarian values"* of Europe, there would be *"no tolerance for those who question the dignity of others"*
 - **Historical (ww2) duty?**
 - Possible **re-election?**
 - **Germany's image**
 - Defender of refugees (unlike other European countries)
 - Example of openness, generosity and solidarity (unlike following the Greek debt crisis)
 - Can easily forget that **Germany is not military involved**



German Motives

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Economic and Demographic Considerations

- Aging population, who will pay the retirement funds?
- Need young workers
- Professional skills rather than a PhD

The need for the European solution:

- Angela Merkel's opening of borders was a **temporary measure**
- Need to find a **European solution** to the crisis => a **European distribution of migrants** (quotas)



An End to the Welcoming Spirit

30

- **Merkel couldn't maintain her policy of openness**
 - **Changing public opinion** following **terror attacks** (Paris) and **crime** (rape events in New Year eve in Cologne) involving immigrants (inducing fear, **racism**)
 - **Massive number of refugees VS. lack of sufficient organization & infrastructure**





An End to the Welcoming Spirit

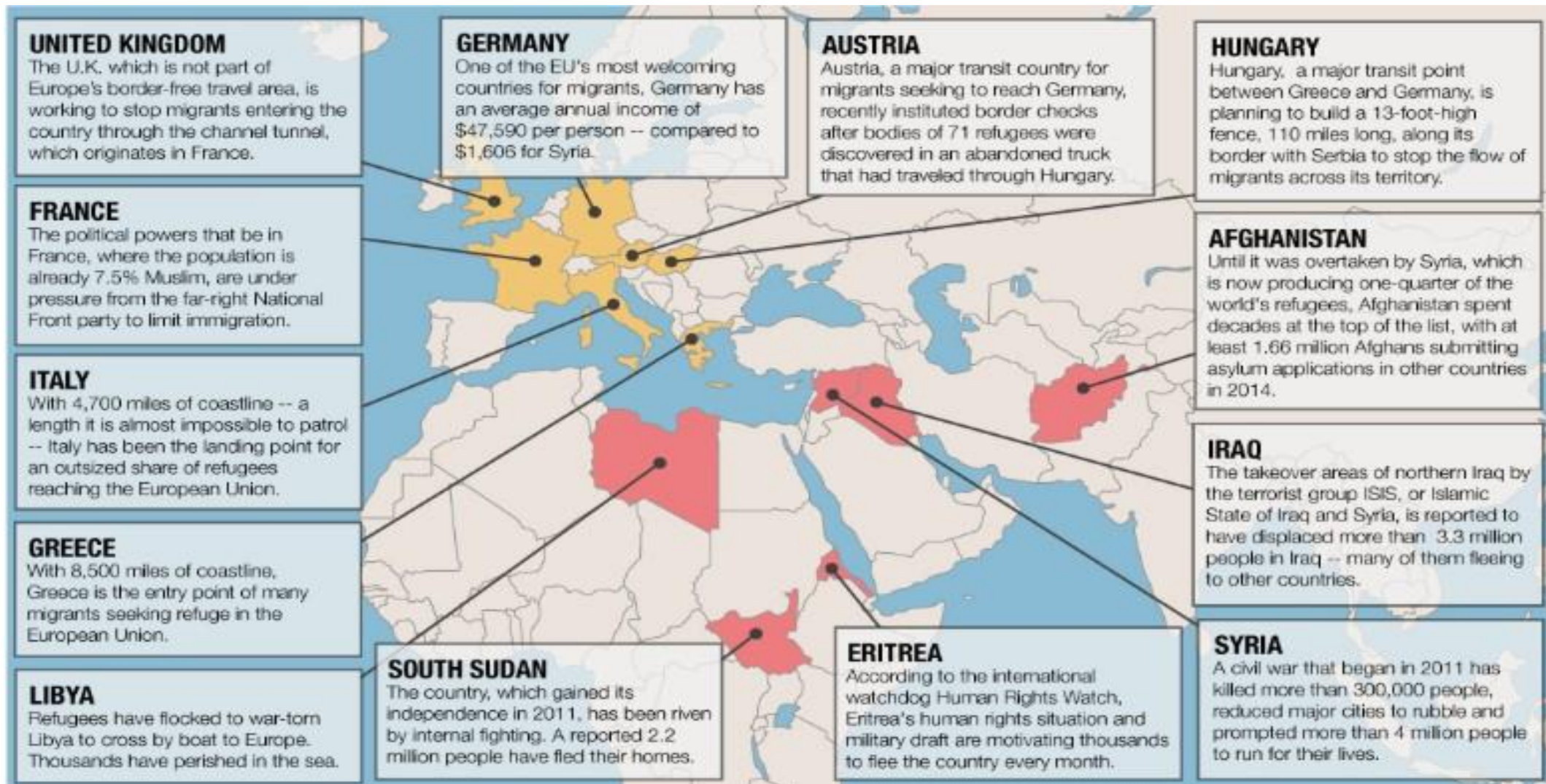
31

- **CDU lost public support**
 - **Rising support** for the '**Alternative for Germany**' right-wing/far-right political party
 - Clear **hostility** and **anti immigrants/refugees voices** in Europe in general (UK, France)
-
- Public opinion is highly dependent on media coverage





The Refugee Crisis- Important Players





How did the Refugees Crisis impact Europe?

33

- Rise of **right wing parties**
- Reinstating **border control/check points** (Denmark, Belgium, Hungary, France, UK, Slovakia)
- BREXIT
- **Terrorist attacks?** => fear that ISIS will disguise terrorists as refugees
- Increased **islamophobia** and **racism**
- **Pact between EU and Turkey**



The EU/Turkey Pact



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- Following a joint **EU-Turkey Action Plan** (2015) a pact was made in order to **end illegal migration from Turkey to the European Union**:
 1. **Irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands after March 2016 will be returned to Turkey;**
 2. For every **Syrian returned** to Turkey from the Greek islands, **another** will be **resettled** to the EU;
 3. Turkey will take any necessary measures to **prevent new sea/land routes** for **irregular migration** opening from Turkey to the EU;
 4. The **EU** will, in close cooperation with Turkey, further speed up the disbursement of the initially allocated **€3 billion** under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The **EU** will **mobilise additional funding** up to an additional **€3 billion** to the end of 2018

Migrants in Austria



Facts & Figures

36

- 8,739,806 people were living in Austria in 2016
- As in previous years, **Austria's population growth** can be attributed first and foremost to a **positive net migration** (balance of immigration and emigration) => international net-migration **gain of 64,676 people**, about 43% less than in the previous year
- Inflow of 174,310 people, outflow of 109,634
- **Negative migration balance of Austrian citizens- 5,044** (increase of migration loss over the previous year)
- **Migration gain of 69,720 people for foreign citizens**



National Level: **Legal Framework**

- **Austria has no comprehensive integration strategy** – a fact that was noted with concern by the **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** in its fourth report on Austria published in March 2010
- In 2010, the government committed to a **National Action Plan for Integration**, after years of NGO consultations, an integration platform, expert reports and panels, statistics and new indicators. This process of policy change has **produced much paper and discussion**, but **few improvements** so far
- **Most initiatives to promote integration are still local and regional projects, limited in time and reach.** These ‘best practices’ **cannot overcome all the obstacles** to integration in the **national legal framework**



National Level: **Impact on Politics**

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- Third country nationals have **no right to vote and to stand for elections** (municipal councils, provincial parliaments, national parliament)
- Political **participation in trade unions and representations of interests is possible but restricted** (Workers' Councils, Student representation)
- Participation through „**Foreigners' Councils**“ (Ausländerbeiräte)
- Traditional route of political participation is **naturalisation (obtaining Austrian citizenship)**



National Level: **Impact on Economy**



39

- Migrants have a **lower annual income** than natives (due to lower skills, low wage industries, high proportion of seasonal work and limited opportunities to join core work force)
- Migrants tend to have **higher unemployment rates** than natives
- Migrants are **increasingly turning to self-employment** by setting up business in services and retail trade (cleaning, restaurants, food, transportation, etc.)
- **Austria has not been able to attract highly skilled migrant workers in large numbers** => limited demand for these skills or due to bureaucratic hurdles



National Level: **Impact on Economy**



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Obstacles to employment

- **Recognition of foreign qualifications**
- **Low educational level**
- **Insufficient language proficiency**
- **No free access to the labour market for non-EU temporary residents**
- **Discrimination**



National Level: **Impact on Economy**

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Education and Qualifications

- **Immigrant pupils rarely attend schools** where they can earn a high school **diploma**, but rather secondary, polytechnic, and vocational schools
- In **special needs schools** the proportion of **foreign children** was almost **twice as high (19%)**, mostly citizens of former **Yugoslavia and Turkey**
- The educational level of the **second generation** has already considerably **adapted** to that of the Austrian population
- There is an urgent need for action with **young people** who have **only completed compulsory school** or have no leaving certificate





National Level: **Impact on Culture**

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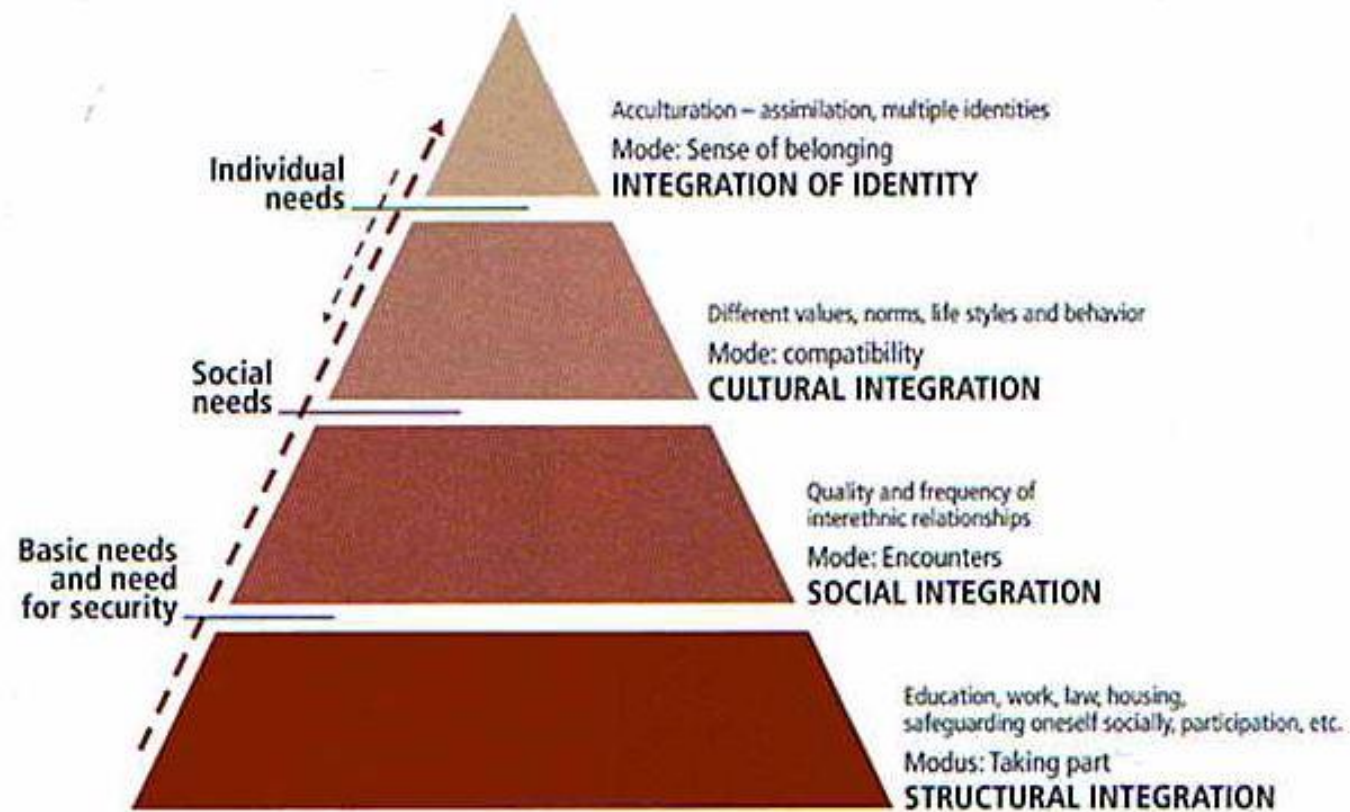
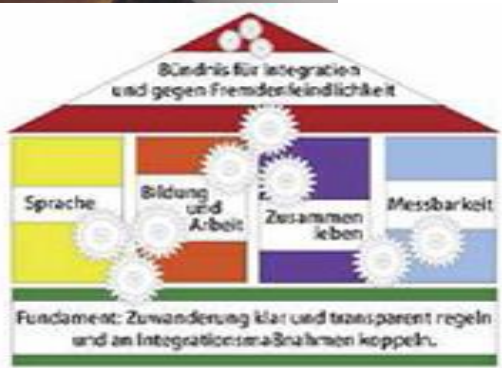
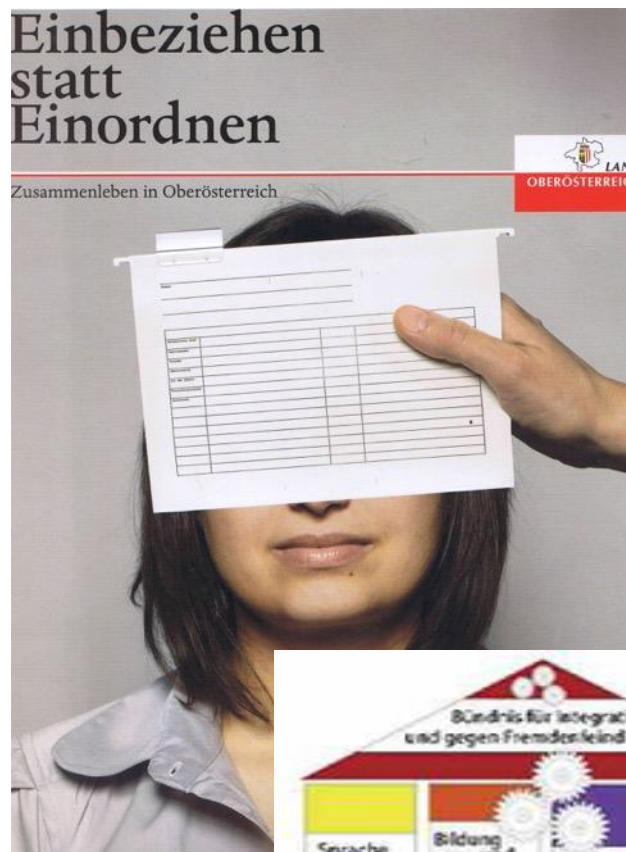
- Role of **food** as indicator for **growing cultural diversity**.
Growing number of Turkish & Asian restaurants
- **Migrants' print media** are **limited** to papers of individual associations
- Fashion: high percentage of **third country nationals** studying **fashion** at the **University of Applied Arts in Vienna**
- **Cultural policy** is still **criticised** for not committing itself to create a sustainable infrastructure for development and establishment of a “**migrant-culture**”





Regional Level: Integration Initiatives

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Based on F. Heckmann and H. Esser, modified by K. Güngör

„Integration and Diversity“: Integration Concept Vienna

Empowerment Concept „Help the people help themselves“

- Legal counseling
- Financial und material help
- Support in case of problems with authorities
- German language courses
- Interreligious dialogue
- Women`s empowerment projects
- Seminars and Workshops
- Reduce information deficits in migrant communities on austrian health, welfare & education system
- Improve German skills
- Increase the take-up rate of education and health facilities
- Foster participation and autonomy of migrants
- Reduce deprivation
- Increase take-up rate of public transfers and cost-free services
- Foster intercultural dialogue

Organisational Level

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Social Obstacles to Empowerment

- Legal und sozial disadvantage
- Political inequality
- Stigmatisation
- Discrimination
- Disqualification
- Xenophobia
- Judgement by appearance
- Automatic exclusion
- Unequal chances
- Verbal aggressions/insults
- Emotional violence



Organisational Level



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Individual Obstacles to Empowerment

- Culture shock
- Life-changing crisis
- Psychological disorders
- Deprivation
- Devaluation
- Regression
- Helplessness
- Anger
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Lack of knowledge
- Identity problems
- Sorrow



The Essay

47

- Structure
- Word limit
- Sources + citation
- Conclusion
- Original work!

The Exam

48

- Posted on IS => 9:00am on Thursday the 20th
- Should upload the form back to IS (specified folder) within 48h (aka until Sunday at 9:00am)
- Please do NOT send the exam to me via e-mail
- Choose to answer 2 out of 3 questions- analysis rather than memorisation
- Further info is specified on the form (page limit, font etc.)
- Original work!

Feedback

49

- What is the one thing/fact/class that interests you the most?
- Your opinion matters!
- Please e-mail me your comments

Thank You For Your
Attention, attendance and
interest in the course!

Questions???

