The European Union's biggest challenges

Financially, socially and ecologically

Structure

Ecological Challenges

- Environmental challenges the European Union will face this decade

  - Climate change/Global Warming

  - Pollution of air, land and water

  - High CO_2-emissions

  - Deforestation

  - The loss of biodiversity

Ecological Challenge Highlighted: Climate Change (and a possible solution)

GREEN
DEAL

Primary Goals

and…

- Climate Neutral Europe by 2050
  - ➤ Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions
  - ➤ Zero pollution of air, soil and water

The EU's Game Plan

- Boosting the economy by using "green" tech
  - ➤ Using environmental problems as opportunities to transition to green energy
- Creating sustainable transport and economy
  - ➤ Using alternative, sustainable fuel for transport + promoting electric vehicles
  - ➤ Sustainable product policy (ensuring products can be recycled and reused) to create a circular economy
- Reducing pollution
  - ➤ Many new initiatives in every sector; i.e. a chemical strategy called "toxic-free environment"

Financial Challenges

- Financial challenges the European Union will face this decade

  - Funding of projects and plans

  - Impact of Brexit on the economy

  - Impact of Covid-19 on the economy

Financial Challenge Highlighted: The impact of Covid-19 on the economy

Facts:

- The pandemic is having a major impact on the economy, disrupting it entirely
- Substantial increase in unemployment worldwide
- Impact on production and consumer-behavior (less supply and demand)
- Impact on manufacturing industries, i.e. the automotive industry in Germany

➢ **The EU's plan for the economic recovery:**

„Next Generation EU"-Recovery Plan aims to address the damage caused by the pandemic

- €750 billion Euros as a recovery measure to reach three main goals

  ➢ Supporting Member States to recover (= financial support for reforms and investments)
  ➢ Kick-starting the economy and helping private investment (helping enterprises with solvency)
  ➢ Learning the lessons from the crisis (investing money into research)

Social Challenges

- Social challenges the European Union will face this decade

  - Demographic change (aging population)

  - Securing societies
    - ➢ Fight crime and terrorism
    - ➢ Increase cyber-security due to digitalisation

  - Health and wellbeing in general
    - ➢ i.e. increase of Alzheimer's disease or diabetes

  - Migration-related problems
    - ➢ Illegal immigration
    - ➢ Integrating migrants
    - ➢ Organization of Asylums

Social Challenge Highlighted: Migration-related Problems in the EU

Why is that significant?

- Strong increase of migrants in the EU
  - ➢ Number of migrants in Europe has tripled in the last 10 years
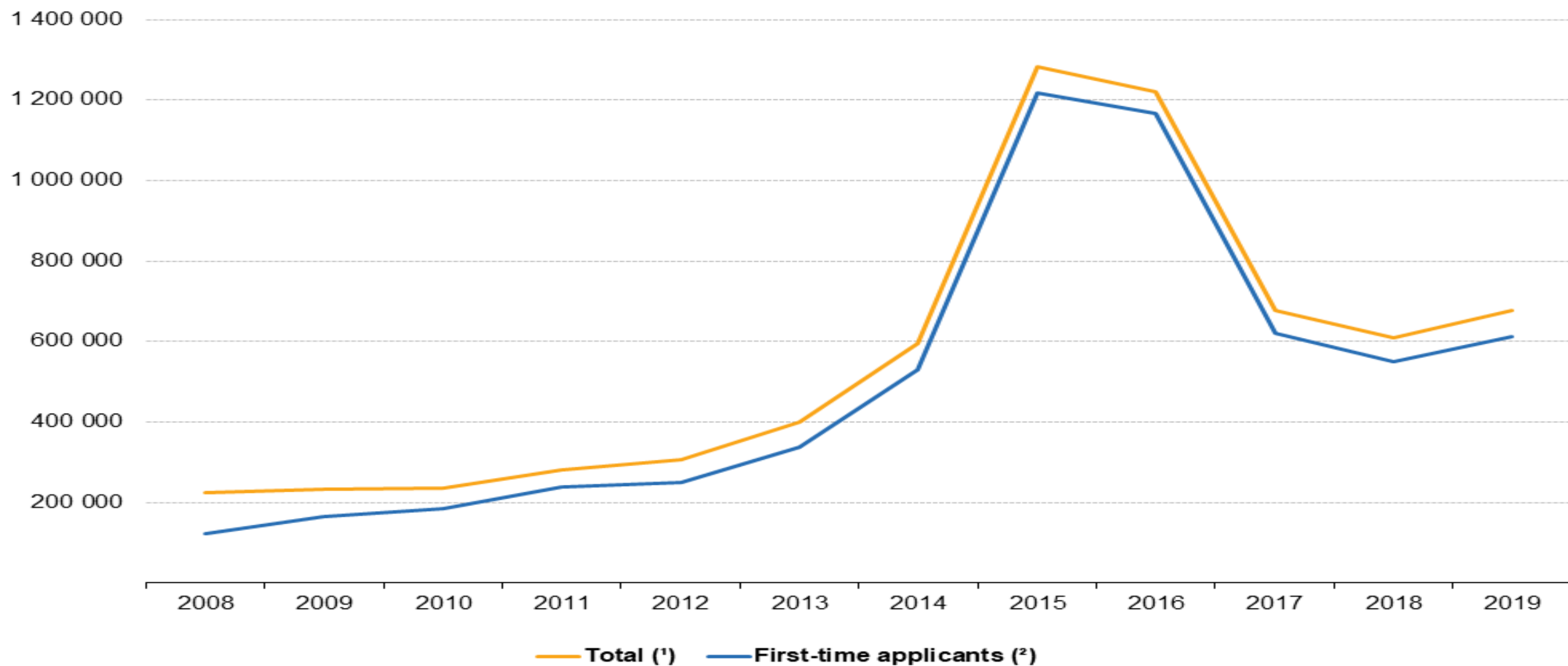 - ➢ Migrants can help solve other problems

What are the main problems?

- Migrants are more likely to experience poverty
- Social exclusion of migrants (-> integration is failing)
- Migrants being unable to apply for asylum

What has to be done to solve these problems?

- The European Union has to reform their policies on:

  - ➢ Migration

  - ➢ Asylum application

  - ➢ Social inclusion

- Migrants should experience more support in/with:

  - ➢ Accessing health care

  - ➢ Education and employment

  - ➢ Language learning

Number of asylum applicants (non-EU-27 citizens), EU-27, 2008–2019

Total (¹)   First-time applicants (²)

(¹) 2008–2014: Croatia not available.
(²) 2008: Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Finland not available. 2009: Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Finland not available. 2010: Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Romania and Finland not available. 2011: Croatia, Hungary, Austria and Finland not available. 2012: Croatia, Hungary and Austria not available. 2013: Austria not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

eurostat

Recapitulation

Take aways from this presentation:

◈ The European Union has to face a number of challenges in the upcoming decade in every field

◈ The contemporary circumstances define a new, unique character for some challenges (Covid-19 for example)

◈ The member states of the European Union are working together in some areas to conquer these challenges (European Green Deal)

◈ Many of the problems are intertwined with each other (one problem may be the cause for another)

Sources

◈ https://wallpaperaccess.com/european-union

◈ https://www.wallpaperflare.com/green-forest-trees-landscape-nature-river-wallpaper-ecology-wallpaper-fk

◈ https://www.versicherungsforen.net/portal/de/veranstaltungen_2/konferenzen_und_messekongresse/finanze n_und_risikomanagement_2019/standardseite_236.xhtml

◈ https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/92-827-5122-8/page014.html

◈ https://www.volkswagenag.com/en/news/stories/2020/06/green-deal--ceo-initiative.html

◈ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12264-Chemicals-strategy-for-sustainability

◈ https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/12/12/eu-releases-green-deal-key-points/

◈ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu_en

◈ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

◈ https://mikejohnson.house.gov/issues/immigration

◈ https://www.eurodiaconia.org/resources/social-policy-toolkit/chapter-ii-social-policies-in-europe-today/what-are-the-key-challenges-for-social-europe-today/#1445169288983-02400664-1da0

◈ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_949

◈ https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/recovery-plan-europe/pillars-next-generation-eu_en