Turkey
A Gatekeeper of Europe?

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1. Introduction – Turkey’s geographical location: transit and/or insulator

2. The March 2016 EU–Turkey statement – Turkey, the ”gatekeeper” of Europe?

3. Is the deal still working? – Conclusions and what to watch out for
Source of the map: National Geographic
38% hosted in five countries

Türkiye hosts the largest number of refugees, with 3.8 million people. Colombia is second with more than 1.8 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Türkiye</td>
<td>3.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

69% originate from just five countries

More than two thirds of all refugees under UNHCR’s mandate and Venezuelans displaced abroad come from just five countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>6.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>4.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>2.4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Migrant numbers

numbers in 2015 numbers in 2018

- Western Mediterranean route: 7,000 → 52,400
- Western Balkans route: 764,000 → 5,200
- Eastern Mediterranean route: 885,400 → 52,000
- Eastern land route: 1,900 → 1,000

Central Mediterranean route: 153,900 → 22,900
EU-Turkey statement (18 March 2016)

1) All new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into Greek islands as from 20 March 2016 not applying for asylum or whose application has been found unfounded or inadmissible will be returned to Turkey.

3) Turkey will take any necessary measures to prevent new sea or land routes for illegal migration opening from Turkey to the EU.
Number of irregular arrivals from Turkey to Greece per month before and after the March 2016 EU-Turkey statement

Source of data: Frontex
6) **3 + 3 billion euros** under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey
   - Humanitarian and development assistance
   - Project-based

❖ In 2020: + 3 billion euros
What was the money spent for?

Examples:

- Over 1.8 million refugees receiving support for their basic needs (~12 USD/month)
- Close to 740,000 refugee children enrolled in school
- 132 new schools built to respond to education needs
- 7.2 million vaccination doses provided to refugee children (not Covid-19 related)
- Around 26.3 million primary health care consultations delivered

Source: EU
Strengthened border controls

Source: El Pais
Is the EU-Turkey deal still working?

- Turkey suspended readmissions due to Covid-19 (2020)
- Greece designated Turkey as a safe third country (2021)
- The number of irregular border crossings remained relatively low (2020, 2021: ~20,000; 2022: 42,800)
  - EU financial support
  - Strict border controls
  - Turkey’s hospitality
What to watch out for?

- Increasing **tensions** in the Turkish society, the refugee issue is becoming politicized.
Conclusion

• The EU has "outsourced" the Syrian refugee crisis
• From the EU’s point of view the deal has been effective, but can be criticized from a normative point of view
• It may not last forever – growing tensions within the Turkish society
• A right combination of "sticks" and "carrots"
Thank you for your attention!

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