

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY: A REFUGEE RELOCATION SYSTEM

What is Relocation?

Relocation is the transfer of persons who are in need of international protection from one EU Member State to another EU Member State.

Two Emergency Proposals

In May the Commission proposed to relocate 40,000 people from Italy and Greece over 2 years (40% of recent applicants).

Member States most affected



Italy:

30 755 asylum applications in 2015

+27%

42 356 irregular border crossings in the last 2 months

+20%



Greece:

7475 asylum applications in 2015

+30%

137 000 irregular border crossings in the last 2 months

+250%



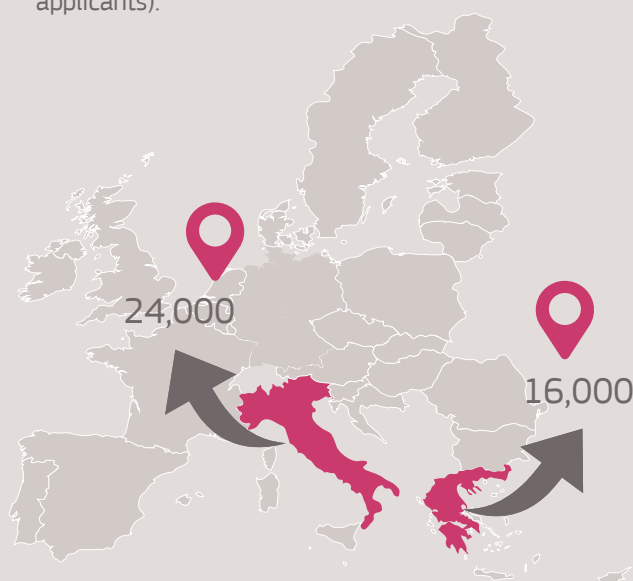
Hungary:

98 072 asylum applications in 2015

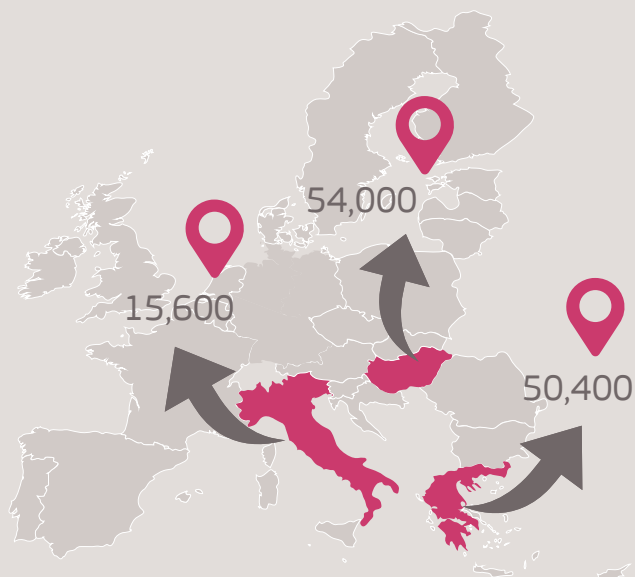
+1290%

78 472 irregular border crossings in the last 2 months

+150%



In September, the Commission proposed to relocate 120,000 people from Italy, Greece and Hungary over 2 years.



Sharing Responsibility

The number other EU Member States should take is based on a distribution key calculated upon objective, quantifiable and verifiable criteria:

- + size of the population (40%)
- + total GDP (40%)
- average number of asylum applications over the previous four years (10%)
- unemployment rate (10%)



Receiving Member States get € 6,000 for each person received

Italy, Greece and Hungary receive € 500 for each person relocated to cover transport costs

Main beneficiaries: Syrians, Eritreans and Iraqis

Relocation can only apply to applicants for which the average recognition rate of international protection at the EU level is above 75%. Currently three nationalities have such high recognition rates: Syrians, Eritreans and Iraqis.

Matching Skills

Each Member State appoints Liaison Officers to match the destination country with refugees' qualifications, language skills, family, cultural and social ties, to help integration.

A Solidarity Mechanism for all Member States

The Commission has also proposed a permanent system, which could be triggered for any EU Member State facing an emergency situation.

The Commission determines whether there is a crisis based on:

- the increase in the number of asylum applicants in the last six months
- the increase in the number of irregular border crossings in the last six months
- the number of asylum applications per capita, compared to the EU average

The number of persons to be relocated will be fixed, not higher than 40% of the number of applications made in the past six months.

The number other EU Member States should take is determined by a distribution key.