

Understanding the migration 'crisis' in Europe

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Migration in Europe

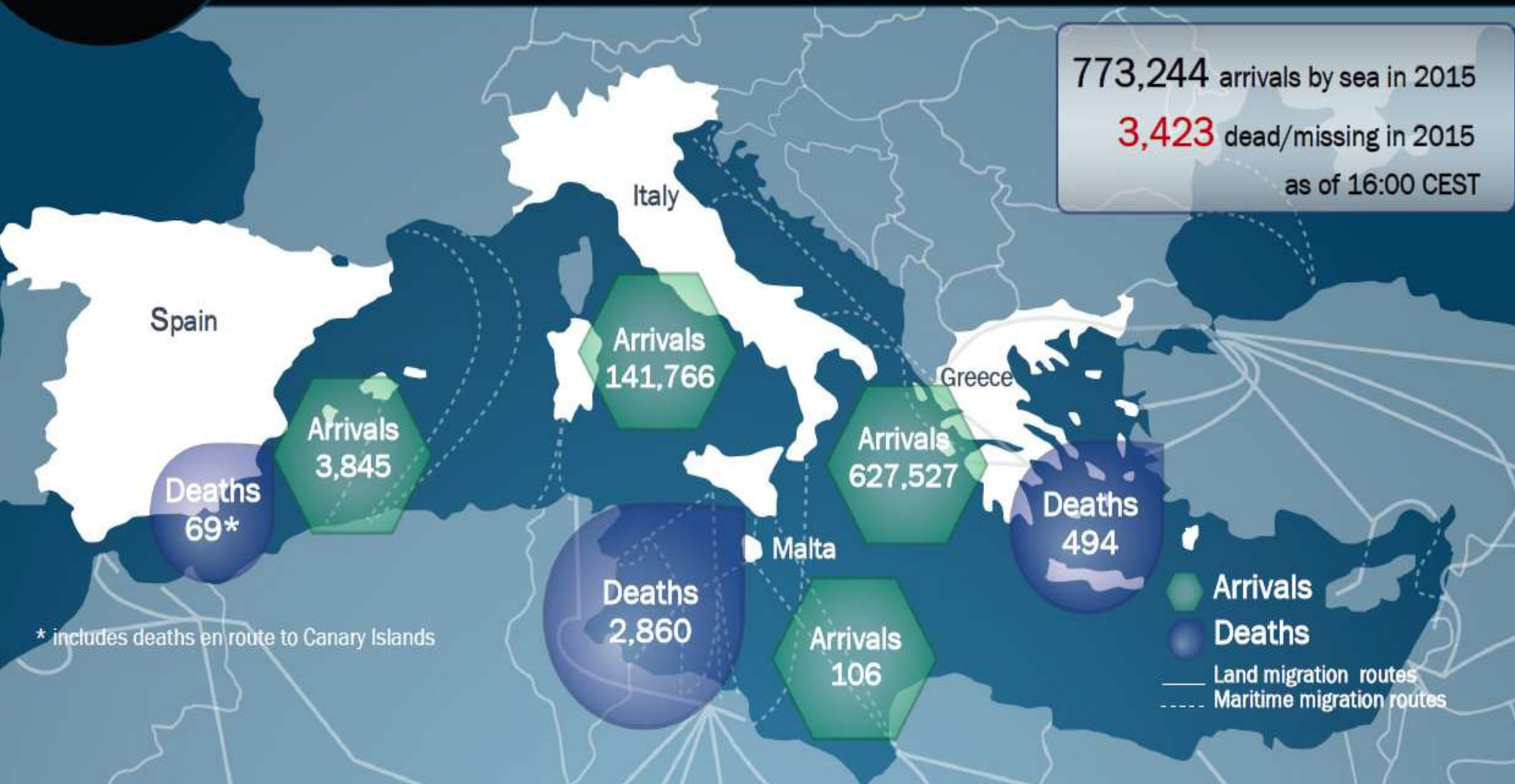
- According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 773,274 migrants are entered Europe in 2015, but exact numbers are unclear
- Numbers increased in October 2015 when 210,000 arrived by sea (increase of 3,000% on October 2014)
- Although not all migrants claim asylum over half a million have done so, according to the EU statistics agency Eurostat
- Germany continues to be the most popular destination for migrants arriving in Europe and has received the highest number of new asylum applications, with almost 222,000 by the end of August (but shift to 'subsidiary protection')
- Large number of people now in transit through the Balkans
- Hungary has moved into second place, as more migrants have tried to make the journey overland through Greece and the Western Balkans, 96,350 applications by the end of July
- 3,423 migrants dead/missing in the Mediterranean (most likely an underestimate)



Mediterranean Update

Missing Migrants Project: 6 November 2015

773,244 arrivals by sea in 2015
3,423 dead/missing in 2015
as of 16:00 CEST



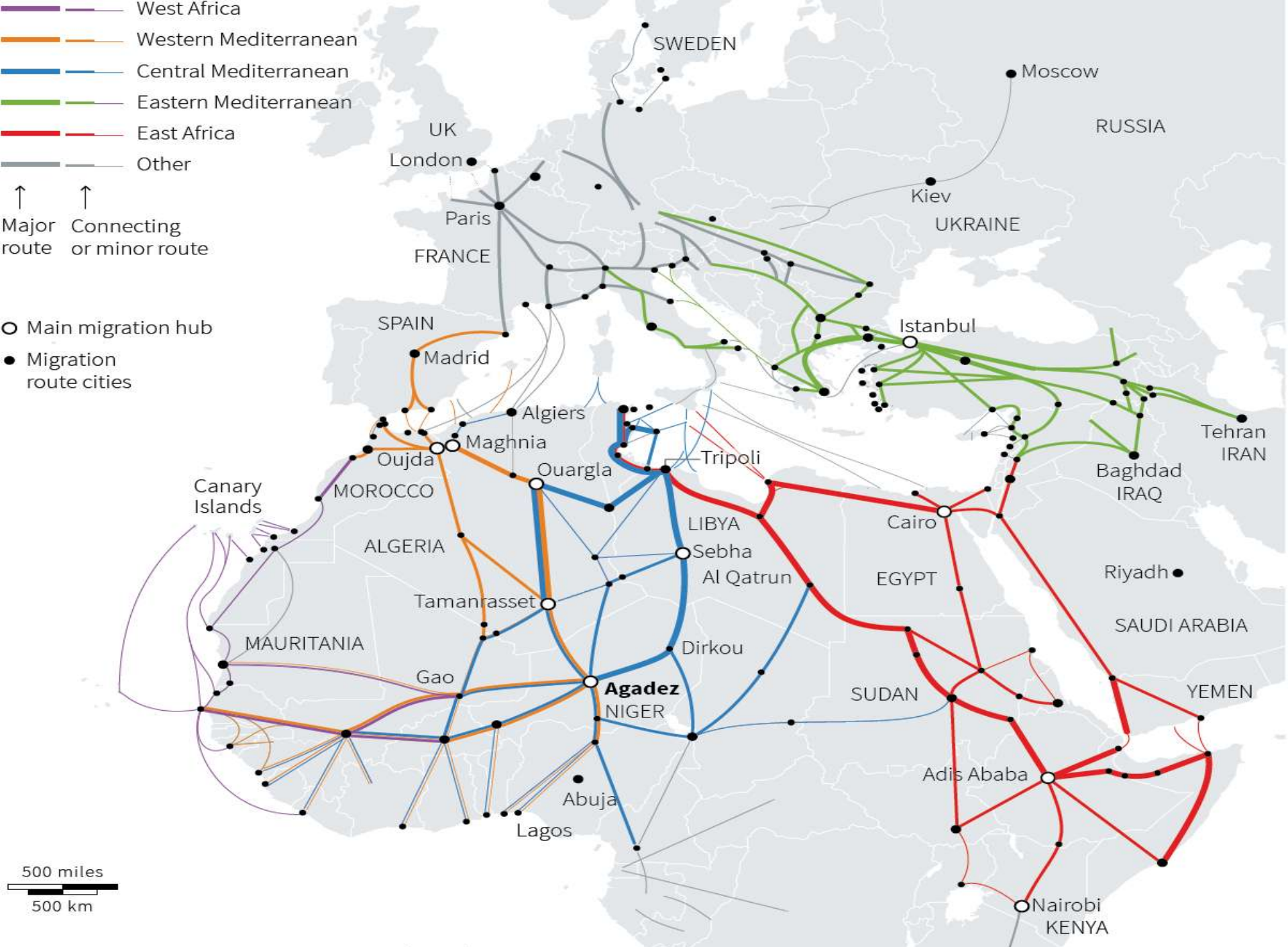
* includes deaths en route to Canary Islands

Arrival figures refer to irregular maritime arrivals only

European Migrant Crisis: Transit Centres

(as of 5 Nov 2015)





- West Africa
- Western Mediterranean
- Central Mediterranean
- Eastern Mediterranean
- East Africa
- Other

SWEDEN
 UK
 London
 FRANCE
 Paris
 SPAIN
 Madrid
 MOROCCO
 Oujda
 ALGERIA
 Algiers
 Maghnia
 Ouargla
 MAURITANIA
 Tamanrasset
 Gao
 Agadez
 NIGER
 Abuja
 Lagos
 LIBYA
 Tripoli
 Sebha
 Al Qatrun
 Dirkou
 EGYPT
 Cairo
 SAUDI ARABIA
 Riyadh
 SUDAN
 Adis Ababa
 KENYA
 Nairobi
 UKRAINE
 Kiev
 RUSSIA
 Moscow
 Istanbul
 IRAQ
 Baghdad
 YEMEN
 TEHRAN
 IRAN
 Tehran

Causes of the 'crisis'

- Conflict is single biggest reason for increased migration to Europe
- 85% come from world's top-ten refugee producing countries (93% of those arriving in Greece)
- The lives of these migrants are characterised by experiences of war, conflict and persecution esp. Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan
- Others migrate due to inability to make a livelihood, for example from countries of West and Central Africa, Bangladesh, Pakistan
- Important to understand the continuum between 'economic' and 'forced' migration → those who leave their country or origin may find themselves in refugee-like situations esp. in Libya
- Important to recognise that forced migrants, like all migrants, do make some choices, albeit within a narrower range of possibilities, but may then be viewed as economic migrants e.g. Syrians
- Important to remember that vast majority of world's refugees (more than 95%) remain in countries and regions of origin

TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2015

Destination

Italy

Greece

Eritrea 37,796

Syria 277,899

Nigeria 19,576

Afghanistan 76,620

Somalia 11,020

Iraq 21,552

Sudan 8,692

Pakistan 14,323

Syria 7,232

Albania 12,637

Origin Country

*Data for Italy 31/10/15 and Greece as of 30/9/15. Data for Greece includes land and sea arrivals. Italy and Greece receive 99% of arrivals in the Mediterranean. Nationalities listed represents **approx.** 87% of all sea arrivals as 30/9/15. Nationalities for Greece are based on land and sea arrivals. This chart is updated monthly.*

A migration crisis or a crisis of solidarity?

- Arrival of migrants and refugees has brought with it serious challenges to the idea of a Common Asylum System and free movement within EU
- Lack of safe and legal opportunities to enter the EU for protection or work associated with large scale irregular migration and effective collapse of external and border internal controls including suspension of 'Dublin Regulation'
- Cascading border closures, beginning with Hungary closing its border with Serbia on September 15th and then border with Croatia on October 16th, has contributed to humanitarian crisis
- Lack of EU / international support for Greek islands where around 7,000 – 9,000 people arrived every day in October (increased deaths)
- Failure to establish a credible-system system for responsibility-sharing across the EU through the relocation of asylum seekers (40,000 places →160,000 but just 854 in practice and 112 relocated)
- Valetta Migration Summit aims to provide long terms 'solutions' to increased migration but concern that focus will be on border controls and readmission agreements rather than creating safe passage or addressing root causes

For further information

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