



Migration Management in Greece

DG HOME

Unit 01

April 2024



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ASYLUM³
ESTHER POZO VERA
VACANT

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COUNTER-SMUGGLING
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HOME.C.5
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PREPAREDNESS
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* The Head of Task Force draws upon units O1, C4, C5 and E2 but depending on needs, it involves colleagues from the entire DG

** The Director of HOME.D is the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in the Commission

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Migration & Home Affairs

Topics



Schengen, borders and visa



Migration and asylum



Internal security



Law enforcement cooperation



International affairs



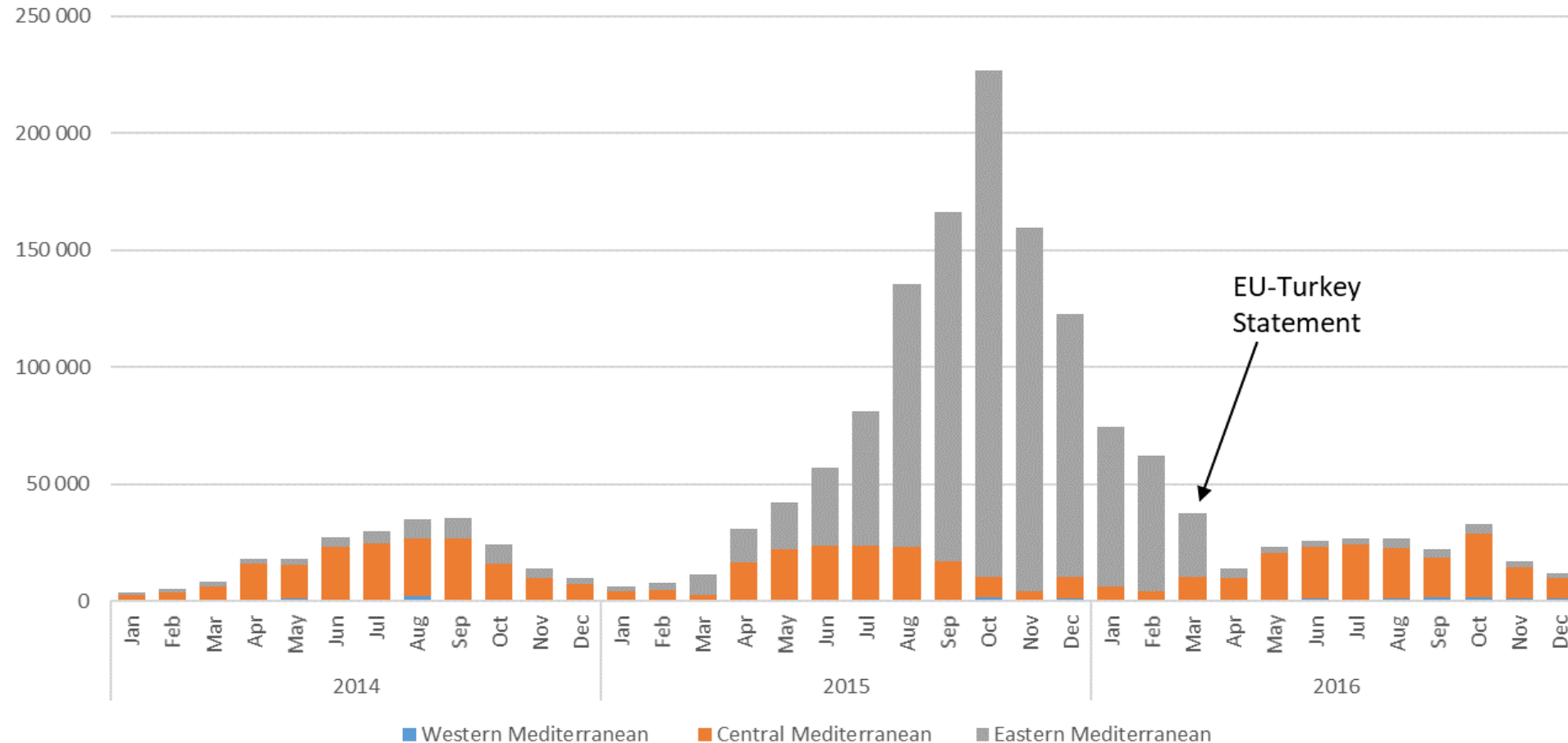
Funding

Hotspot Approach: origin and concept

- 2015: European Agenda on Migration
 - Operational model for support to MS - integrated and complementary workflow of national authorities with EU (and other) actors to manage mixed migratory flows effectively at external border points exposed to high flows
- 2019 EBCGA Regulation
 - ‘Hotspot area’ - an area created at the request of the host Member State, in which the host Member State, the Commission, relevant Union agencies and participating Member States cooperate, with the aim of managing an existing or potential disproportionate migratory challenge characterised by a significant increase in the number of migrants arriving at the external borders
- “Hotspots” areas with reception and identification structures set up in Greece (2015-2016) and Italy (2015-2017)
 - Hotspots as a tool adapted to different national contexts
 - National authorities request and agreement – maintain responsibility
 - Respect of EU acquis
- 2020 Pact on Migration: building on hotspots lessons learned

Migratory flows (2014-2016):

Illegal border crossings on the three main routes in 2014-2016



Migration Management in Greece

- 5 “Hotspots islands”: Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Leros, Chios
- EU Turkey Statement 2016
- Standard Operating Procedures for Reception and Identification Centres (RICs)
- Actors: national authorities (Reception and Identification service, Hellenic Police, Greek Asylum Service, Hellenic Army); EU Agencies and COM; UN Agencies (eg UNHCR; IOM); CSOs

Sequence of procedures

- a) physical ("body") security check of each arriving TCN;
- b) **first medical assessment** upon disembarkation to verify if immediate care is needed and identify individuals with serious vulnerabilities;
- c) **registration of personal data** for all incoming TCN and assessment of nationality;
- d) taking and **transmission of fingerprints** (using EURODAC devices) over 14 years old;
- e) checks against the national and international **security databases** (e.g. SIS II, Interpol, EUROPOL);
- f) full **medical examination** and provision of any necessary care and psycho-social support;
- g) **informing** TCNs about their rights and obligations, and follow-up procedures, including asylum, returns and AVRR, relocation,
- h) identification and targeted assistance to persons with **special needs**, in order to refer them to the appropriate structures and provide them with specialized care and protection
- i) Referrals of those applying for **international protection** to the Regional Asylum Office and of **returnees** to Hellenic Police
- j) Referrals of those who wish to apply for **AVRR** to IOM;
- k) Referrals of **vulnerable** persons to E.K.K.A. (national protection system)

EU operational and financial support

Frontex/EBCGA: support to the national police in screening phase for fingerprinting, identification, registration, debriefing +return

EASO: info provision, vulnerability screening, interviews, registration and matching of relocation candidates

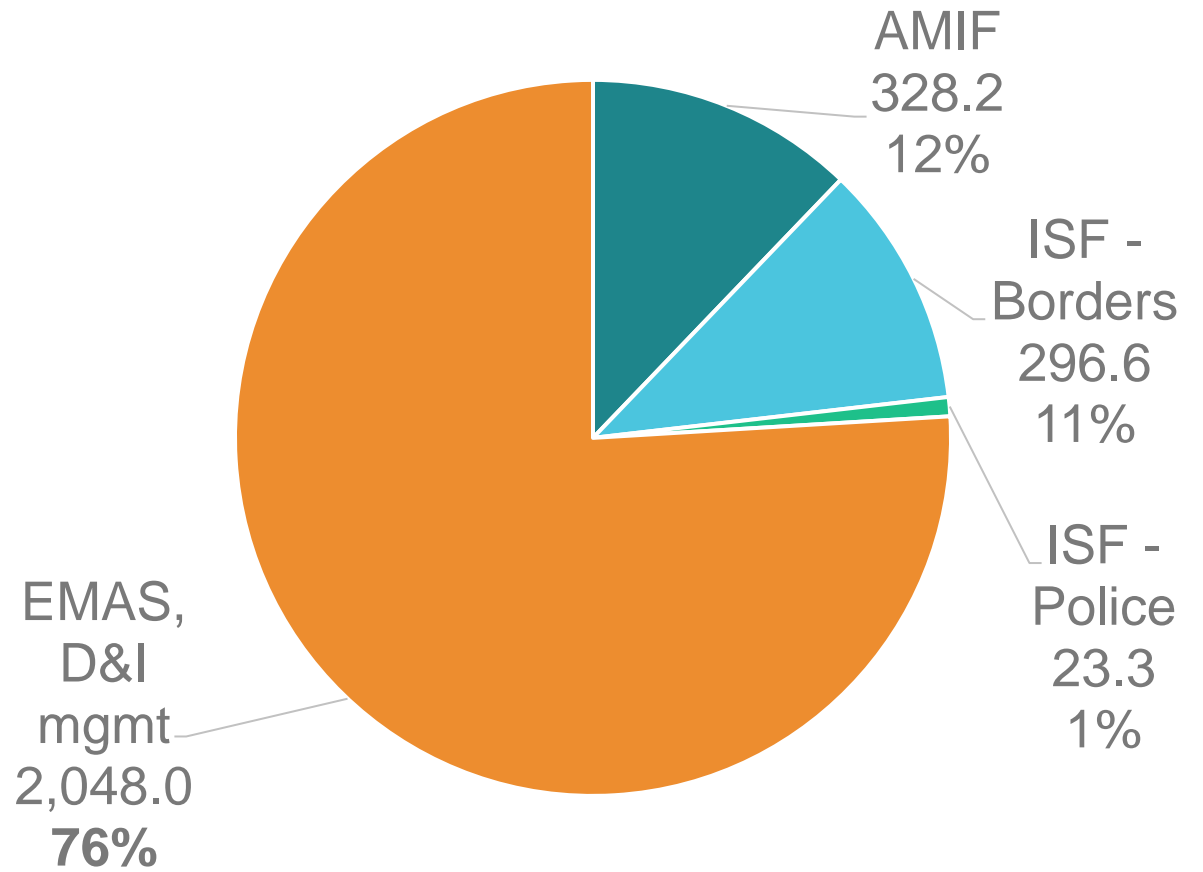
Europol: investigative support to the national investigative and judiciary police on counter – smuggling, trafficking of human being and counter-terrorism / secondary security checks

Commission/DG HOME: operational coordination (e.g. EURTF and voluntary relocation); financial support

Overview of budget allocation

2014 to 2020, Greece benefited from:

- EUR 2.27 billion under AMIF
- EUR 450 million under ISF
- EUR 668.9 million from ESI



Task Force Migration Management

- September 2020: Fire in Moria Reception and Identification Centre

But **also**

- New Pact on Migration and Asylum
- Establishment of Task Force Migration Management in DG HOME
- December 2020: Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding for a Joint Pilot on Lesvos



Memorandum of Understanding

The premise of the Task Force engagement with Greece

- Development and construction of new reception centres
- Improved management of arrivals
- Seamless asylum and return procedures and integration measures
- Reception conditions in line with EU law taking into account international standards and best practices,
- Adequate staff training, capacity and planning, including risk assessment and contingency planning, to ensure the smooth operation of the new centres.

Task Force Migration Management

- Under the MoU, DG HOME's dedicated Task Force for Migration Management assists national efforts to:
 - manage borders,
 - improve reception capacity and living conditions for migrants and asylum seekers,
 - Supporting asylum and returns procedures
 - facilitating integration,
 - Protecting unaccompanied migrant children
 - Ensuring access to healthcare services



New Multi-Purpose Reception and Identification Centres

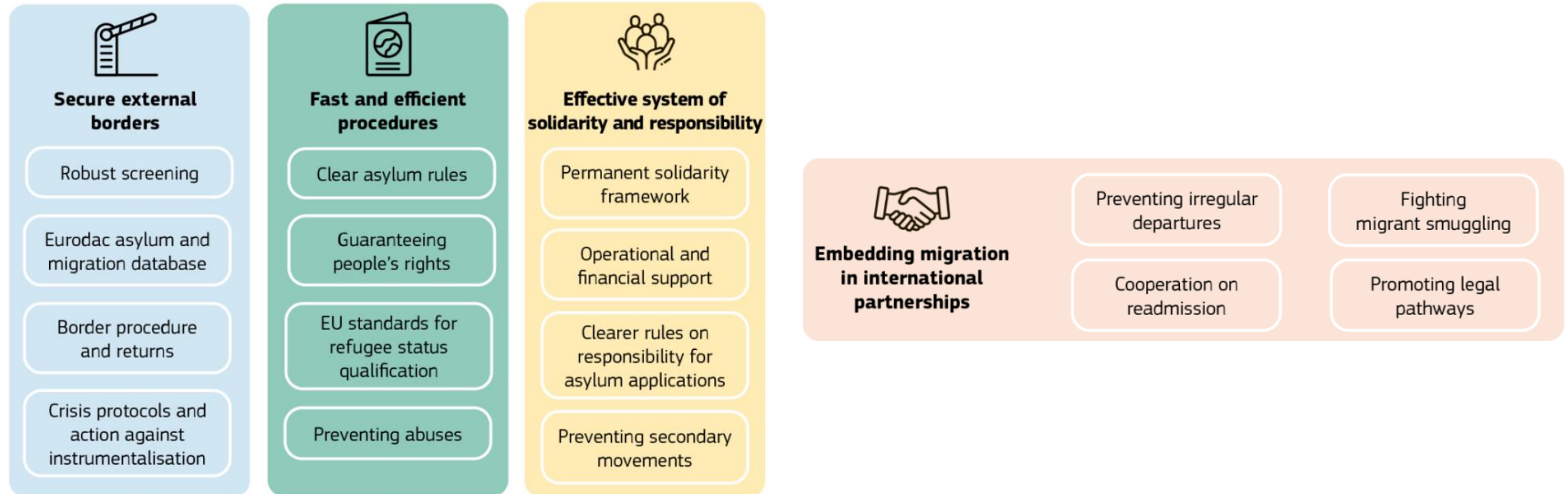
- Established:
 - Samos, Leros, Kos
- Expected
 - Lesvos, Chios

Ukraine Displacement

- March 4, 2022: First activation of the directive for the granting of temporary protection.
- March 28, 2022: Ten-point plan for stronger European coordination in receiving people fleeing from war
- 4.1 million people registered in the EU+, with 50% in Poland and Germany.
- Primary destination countries relative to population size: Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland.
- 60% women, 34% children (78% of children under 13 years old).



Pact on Migration & Asylum



Thank you



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