

Turkey

A Gatekeeper of Europe?

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Structure of the presentation

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.

Türkiye	3.8 million
Colombia	1.8 million
Uganda	1.5 million
Pakistan	1.5 million
Germany	1.3 million

69%

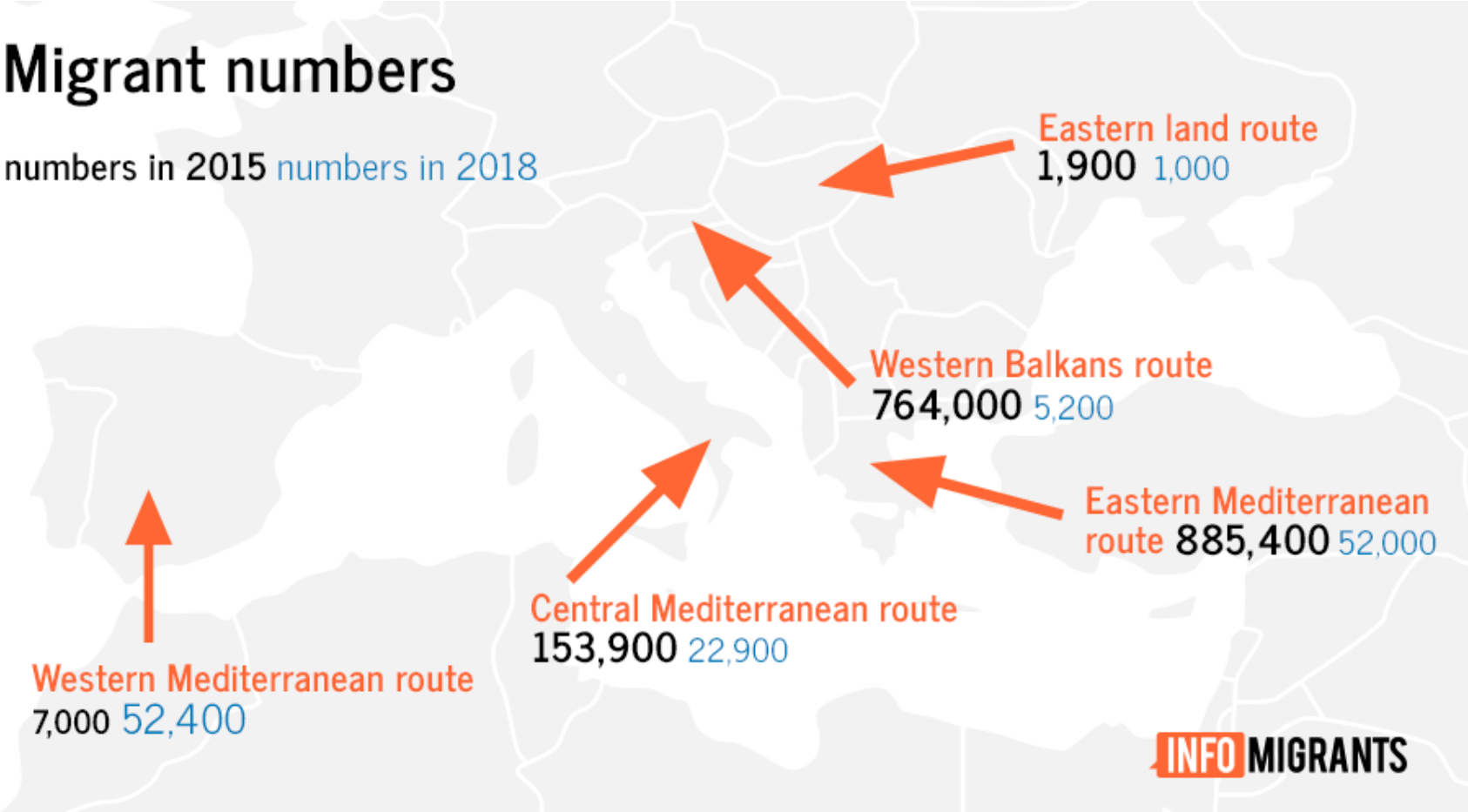
originate from just five countries

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

Syrian Arab Republic	6.8 million
Venezuela	4.6 million
Afghanistan	2.7 million
South Sudan	2.4 million
Myanmar	1.2 million

Migrant numbers

numbers in 2015 numbers in 2018



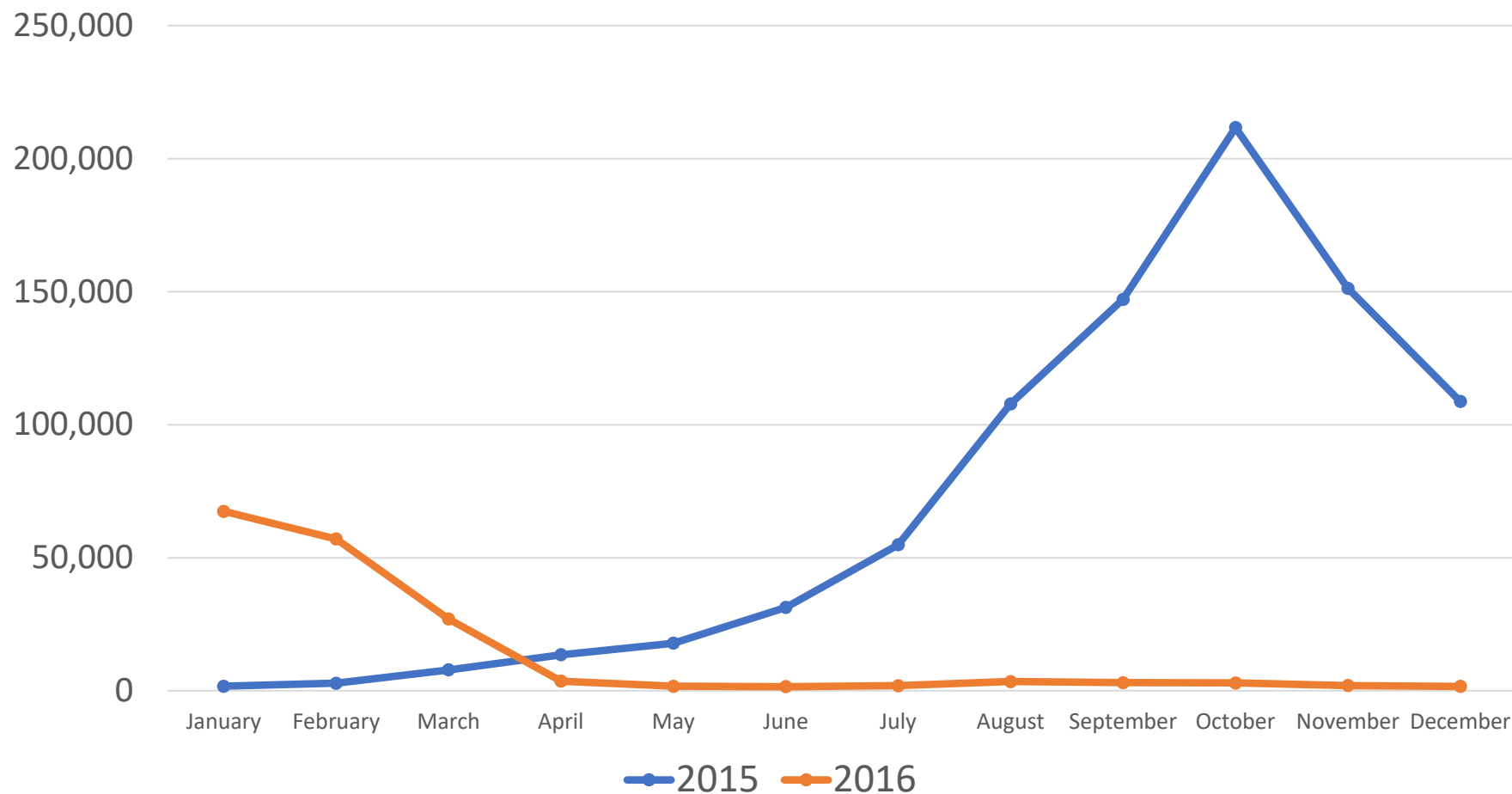


EU-Turkey statement (18 March 2016)

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)

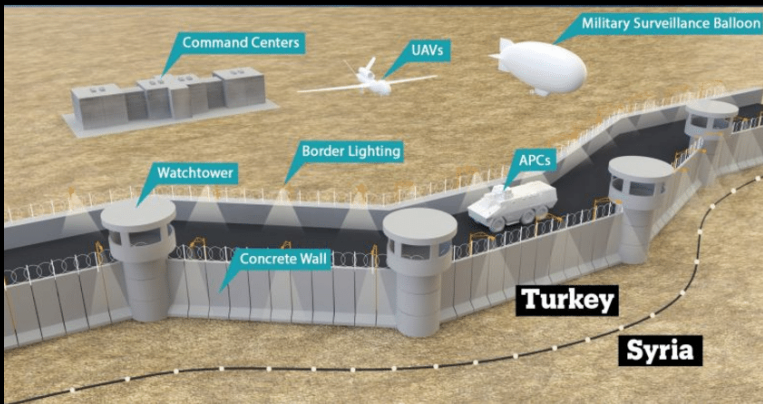
Around 26.3 million primary health care consultations delivered





Source: El Pais

Strengthened border controls



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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