

# Croatia and Recent Migrations

Trigger, Syrian War, Italy as Receiving Country, Germany as Final Destination

Croatia – past migrations and hosting  
migrants from Croatia  
recent migrant wave and new migrant route



Erasmus+

# ARAB SPRING



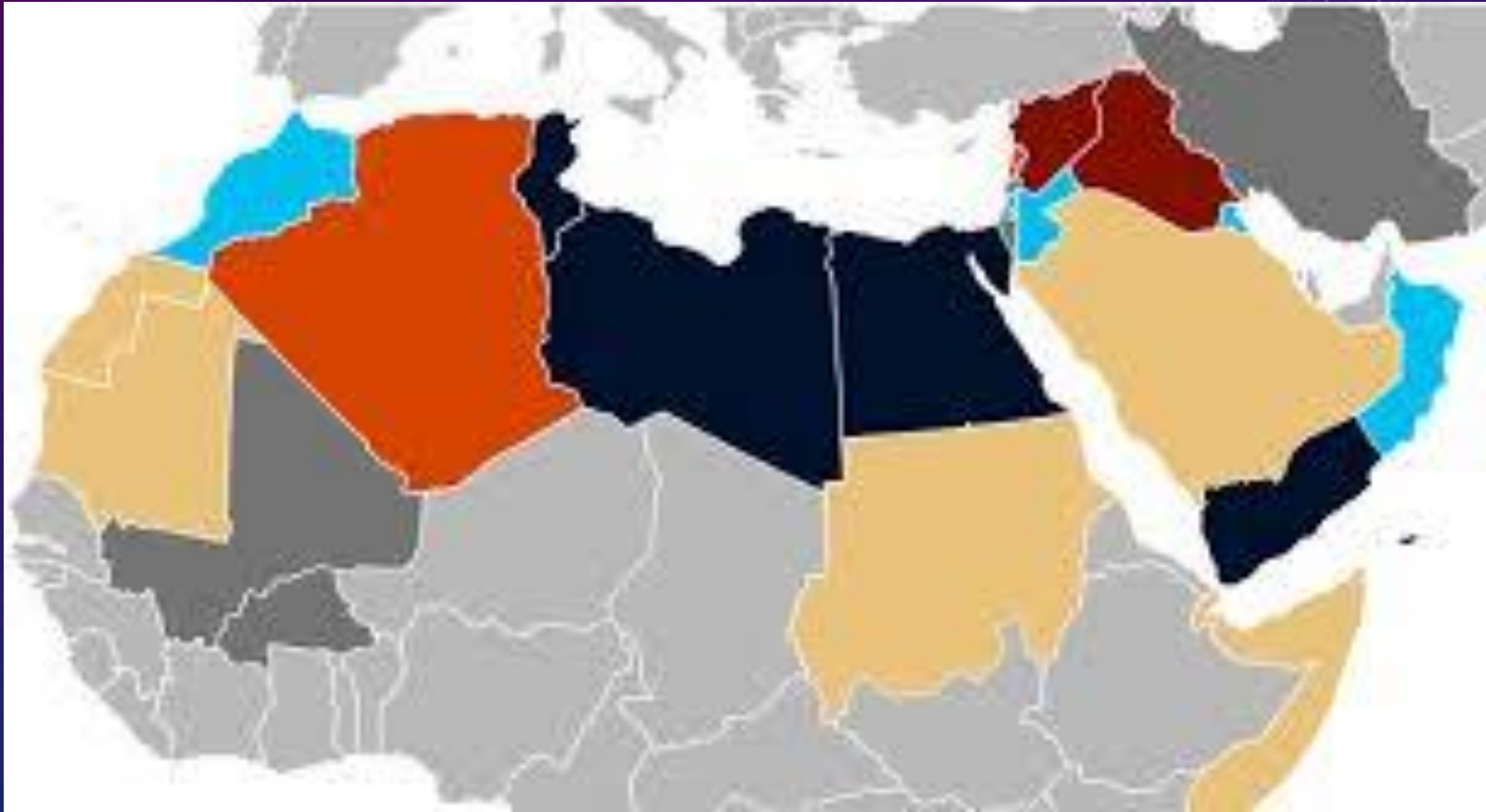
# A RESPONSE TO OPPRESION STARTING IN 2011

- Started in in the early 2011
- Protests in Tunisia, Lybia, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain
- Street demonstrations in Morocco, Iraq, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Sudan...
- Goals: Democracy
  - Free elections
  - Economic freedom
  - Human rights...

Nowadays: wars in Lybia, Syria, Yemen



# COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE ARAB SPRING



# Syrian Refugee Crisis





# POPULATION AND REFUGEE STATISTICS

- Pre-war population was 22 million
- UN identified 13.5 million Syrians needing help
- 5 million refugees are somewhere in the world
- In Turkey over 3.5 milion Syrians

# MIGRATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SYRIA

- Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International:
- Only few people able to leave Syria in beginning of 2017
- 11 million displaced people
- Only 50,000 asylum applications in Europe by Syrians
- Number of Syrian refugees is small compared to how bad the situation in Syria has been



# REGIONAL REFUGEE AND RESILIENCE PLAN

- A new comprehensive 5.5 billion USD plan to help 5-6 million Syrians in neighbouring countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq) in 2019-2020
- So far over 12 billion USD has been channelled to help Syrian refugees

The background of the slide is the flag of Italy, which consists of three vertical stripes of equal width: green on the left, white in the center, and red on the right.

Receiving refugees: Italy

# 8000 ILLEGAL ARRIVALS UNTIL 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

- Illegal immigrants are mostly coming from Tunisia
- Libya follows it
- Many of immigrants that come from Libya are from other countries not affected by war thus they can't look for asylums
- People trafficking: atrocities in Lybia
- Terrible conditions on poor boats: overcrowded, low amount of fuel, no water and food,





# MIGRANTS SAY: WE'LL DIG A TUNNEL TO ITALY

- We do not seek anything through violent ways.
- I can not go back to my country anymore because I would be sent to a multi-year slavery. There is no other choice. We are exposed to different pressures.
- In case they stop us, they come back and beat us, we will cross this border.

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the German flag, showing the black, red, and gold horizontal stripes. The text is centered over the red stripe.

# Immigrants in Germany

# 1991 - 2014

- Germany has a long tradition of receiving refugees and displaced persons
- With the outbreak of the Yugoslav Wars, a large number of refugees headed to Germany and other European countries.
- Only about 5 percent of the asylum applications were approved and appeals sometimes took years to be processed, but many asylum seekers were able to stay in Germany and received financial and social aid from the government.

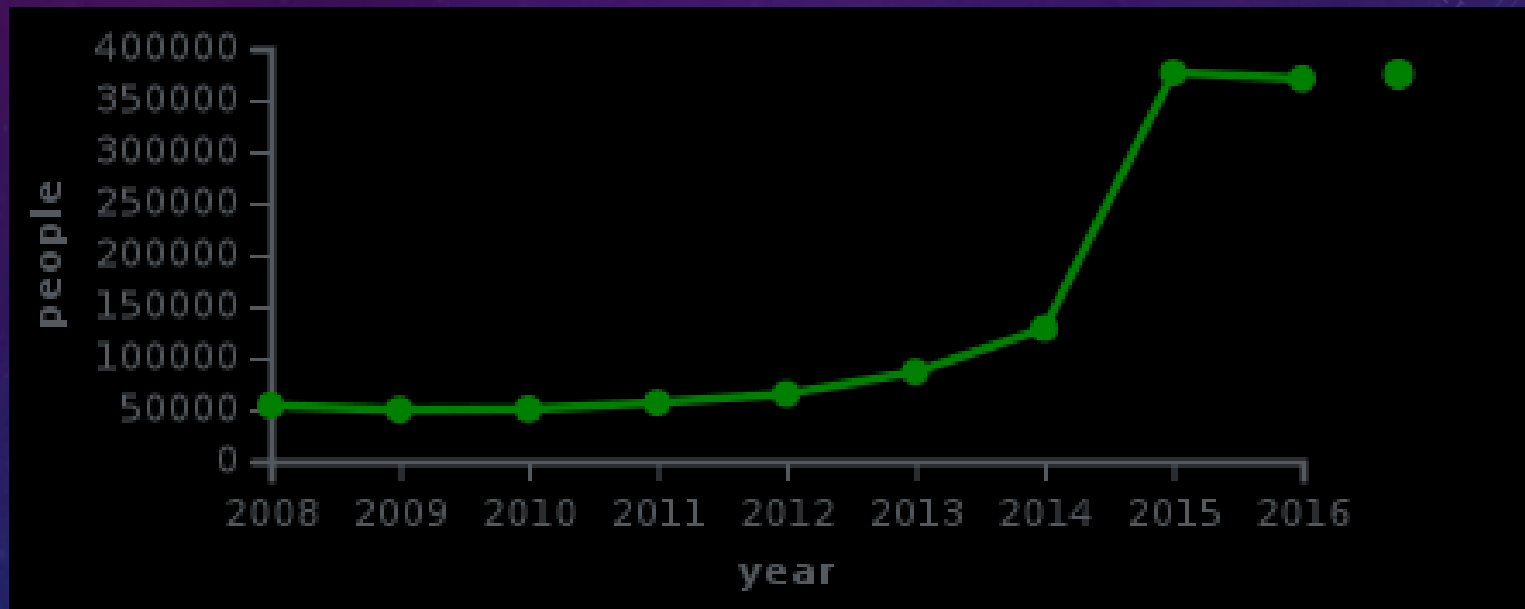
# MIGRATION DESTINATION

- Germany is the second most popular migration destination in the world, after the United States.
- Of all the 27 European Union states, Germany has the second highest percentage of immigrants in its population after the United Kingdom.

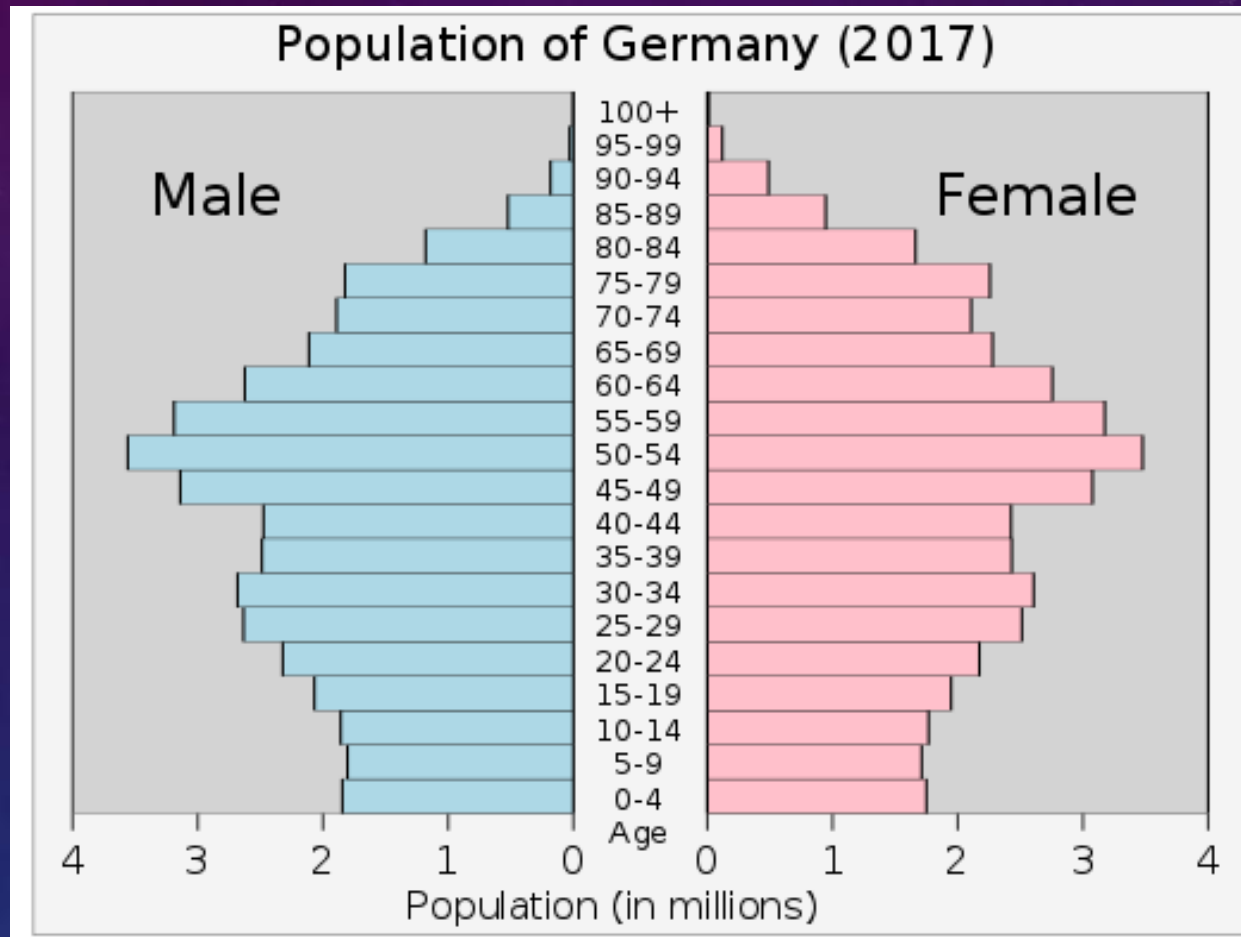


# RISE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATIONS

## Illegal immigrants in Germany 2008 onwards



# GERMAN DEMOGRAPHICS IN 2017



- Graph shows shrinking of German population



# CROATIAN RELATIONS TO REFUGEES

- Croatia – small country in SE Europe with 4 million people
- In its past Croats had to flee from their country and also receive refugees and displaced people
- Since 2015 Croatia on the refugee route from Asia to Europe (Balkan Route, which was recently changed)



# MIGRATIONS TO AND FROM CROATIA IN RECENT PAST

- During Serbian aggression 1991 – 1995 half a million Croats had to flee from Croatia to Germany and Western European countries



# HOSTING MIGRANTS IN RECENT PAST IN CROATIA

- In 1991-95 war Croatia hosted half a million people: refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and people displaced from Cro war zones
- Refugees and displaced people were hosted in hotels, motels, student dormitories and private homes and cottages.
- Most hotels in Croatia were totally devastated for at least next ten years
- Croats live on tourism
- In 1992. Germany received 438 000 refugees from Croatia and BIH
- All refugees had documents and did not travel illegally





# MIGRATIONS FROM CROATIA NOWADAYS

- About 300,000 young, skilled and educated people have migrated from Croatia recently
- Looking for better opportunities: better paid jobs, job security, schooling
- Mostly to Central and Western Europe
- As EU citizens Croats have right to work in the countries of the EU
- Consequence: modest Croatian budget finances education of workers and experts for economies of highly developed countries
- Not enough workers In Croatia to pay taxes and to finance Croatian retirement funds



# MIGRATIONS THROUGH CROATIA IN 2015

- Croatia on the migrant route from Asia to Europe (so-called Balkan route)
- Immigrants from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, China, Somalia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Kosovo
- Less refugees from Syria who are going back to their country
- For immigrants Croatia is just on the road to “promised land” - Germany.
- Banners saying:  
„Just let us go through to Germany!“
- In 2015, 558 724 people passed through Croatia
- In 2019, 1661 refugees were seeking asylum





# ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS



- Croatia guarantees migrants right to apply for asylum and safe life conditions
- Not many migrants want to stay in Croatia - a safe and stable country, but not rich
- Masses want to go on to Germany or Sweden
- No passports, no wish to apply for assylum in Croatia
- Illegal crossings of Croatian borders
- Various hazards:  
mines in corn-fields  
cold and snow in the mountains  
people traffickers  
traffic accidents  
shootings on Croat policemen

# WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN MIGRANTS?

- 60 children of asylum seekers went to school in Croatia in 2017
- In June more children started attending school
- Most of them were in Zagreb and the rest were in Kutina



# NEW SOUTH BALKAN ROUTE

- The lock down of Macedonian, Serbian, Hungarian, Croatian, Slovenian and Austrian borders caused the new route to be formed
- New Balkan route:  
Greece → Albania → Montenegro → BIH → Croatia → Slovenia
- They travel exclusively during night time through the shortest route through Croatia to Slovenia (70 kilometers)
- The refugees mainly come from: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria



# NEW SOUTH BALKAN ROUTE



# FINAL QUESTIONS

- We definitely want to help these people to feel safe and like at home
- Croats wanted to be safe in their homes and in their country, so:
- Why must these people leave their homes?
- What can we do to help that?



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