

Ireland's Response to Recent Trends in International Protection Applications

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Study scope and presentation outline

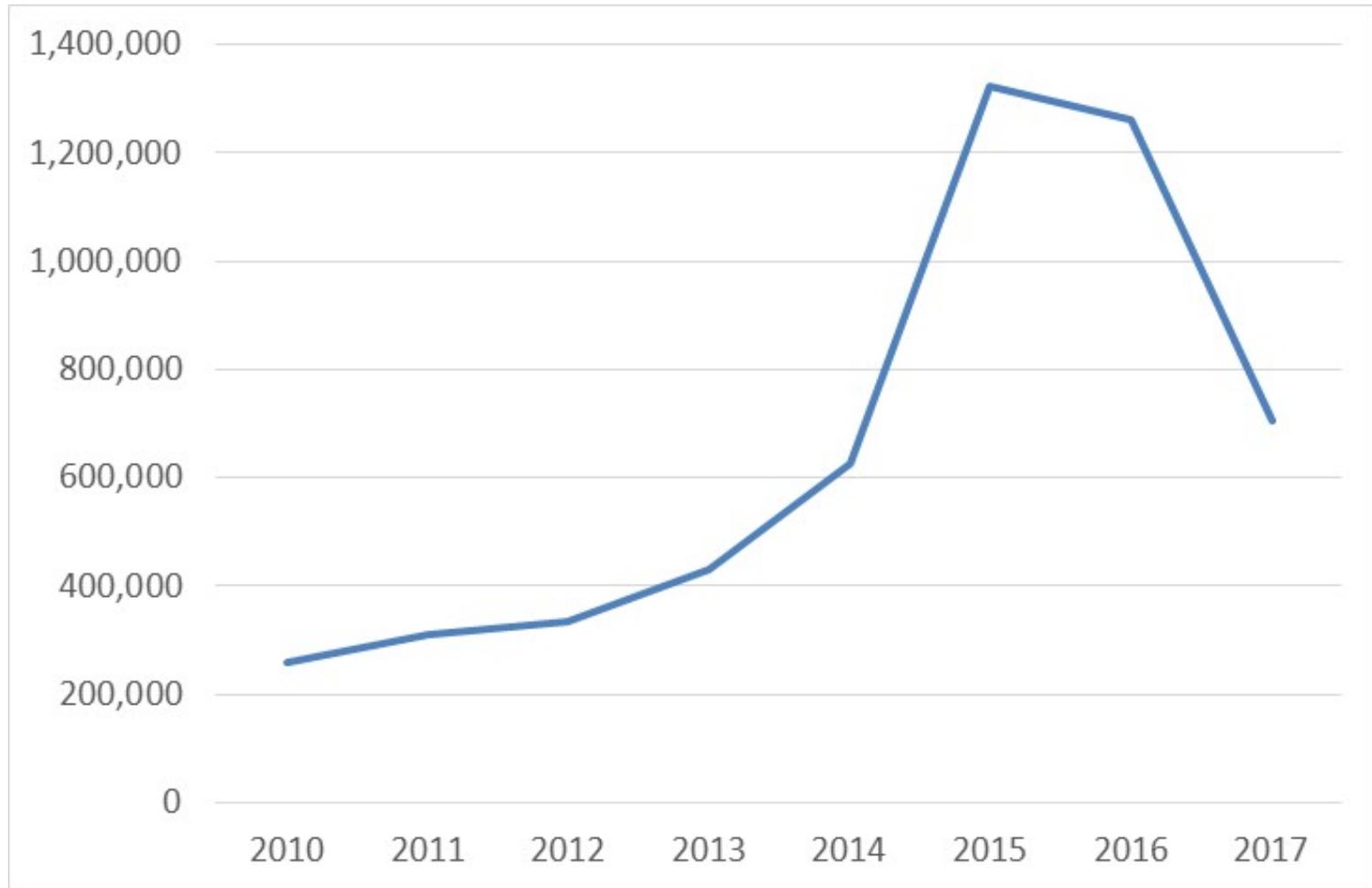
Study scope: EU wide study of changes to national policies and practices in response to changing flows of International Protection (IP) applicants 2014-2016 (the “crisis period”)

International Protection applicants only

Presentation outline:

- EU migration “crisis”: trends, EU & MS responses
- Recent trends in IP applications in Ireland
- Direct responses
- Related developments
- Conclusions

Asylum applicants in EU, 2010–2016



Source: Eurostat

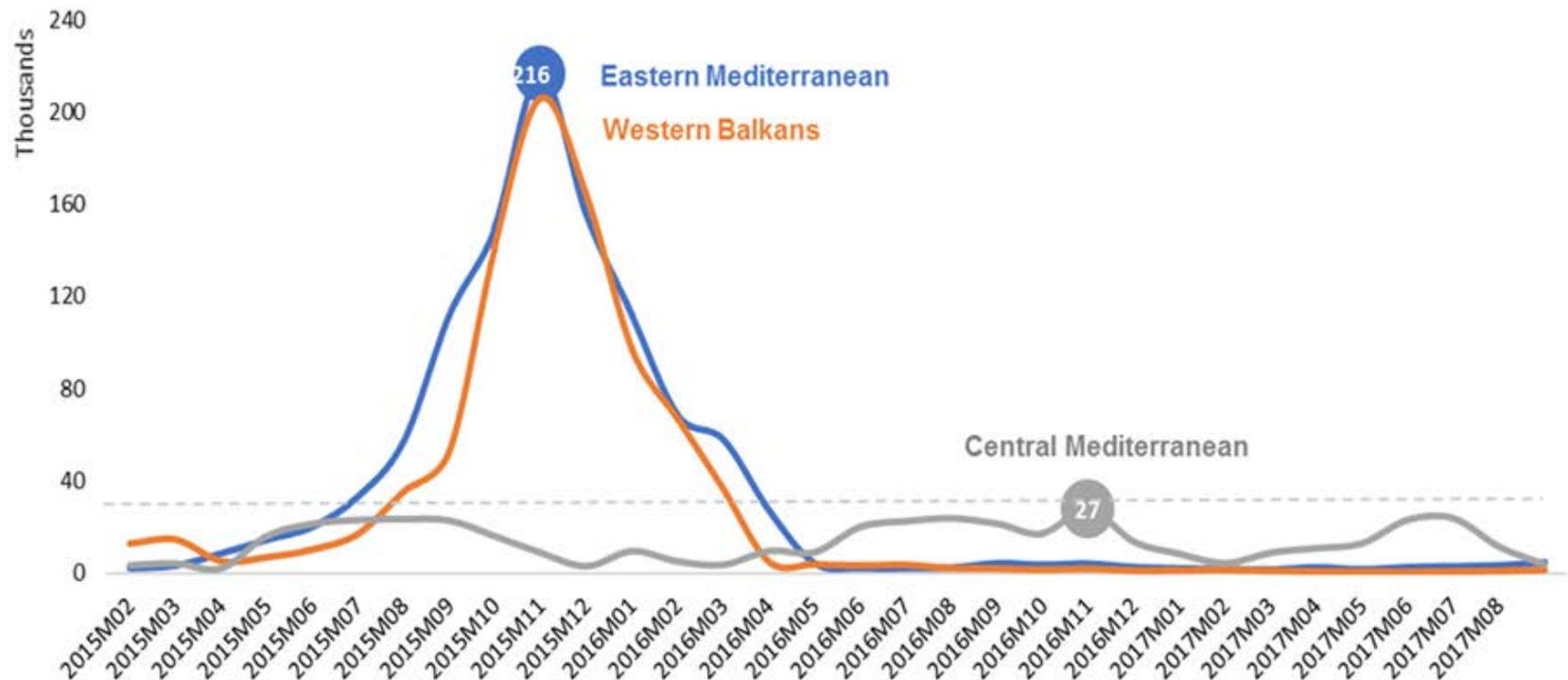
EU response 2015/2016 to the “crisis”

- European Agenda on Migration, May 2015:
 - Relocation programme
 - Developing a common approach to resettlement
 - ‘Hotspots’ approach (for Italy and Greece)
- EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan (2015)/ EU-Turkey statement (2016)
- CEAS reform - (Recast) Asylum Procedures Directive; (Recast) Qualification Directive; (Recast) Reception Conditions Directive; Dublin III Regulation; Revised Eurodac Regulation

Responses in EU MS (EMN synthesis report, forthcoming)

- Significant increase in border control and law enforcement-related measures (legislative)
 - Increased controls at internal and/or external borders: AT, BE, DE, ES, FI, FR, NL, PL, SE, SI, NO
 - Increased cooperation with other MS and third countries to improve border control
- Capacity of reception services increased (AT, BE, DE, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, PL, LU, LV, NL, SE, NO), innovative strategies developed
- Measures to improve the provision of health, social and psychological supports (AT, BE, DE, FI, LV, LU, NL, SE, NO)
- Increased involvement of non-State entities, mainly NGOs
- Tightening of family reunification rules (AT, BE, DE, FI, HU, IE, NL, SE, NO)

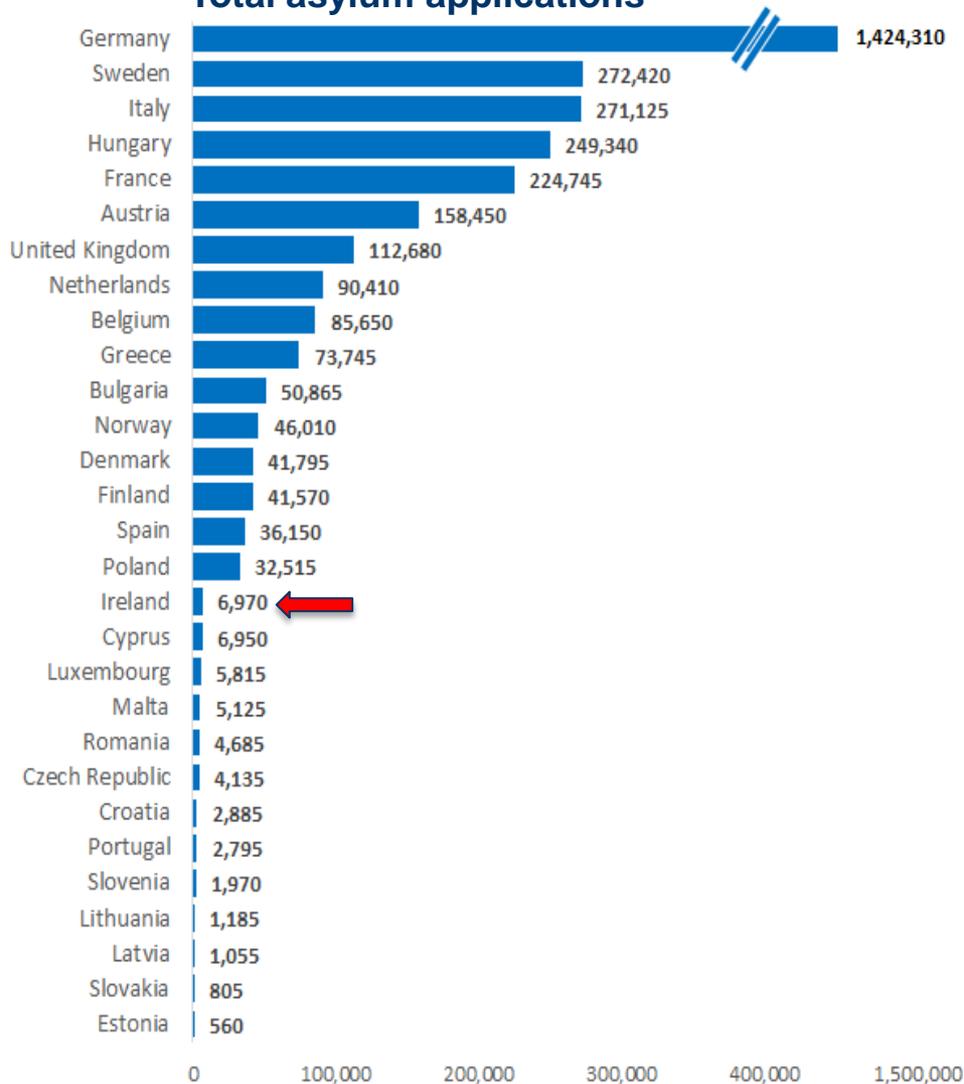
Detections of migrants irregularly present at borders along the three main EU entry routes 2015 - 2016



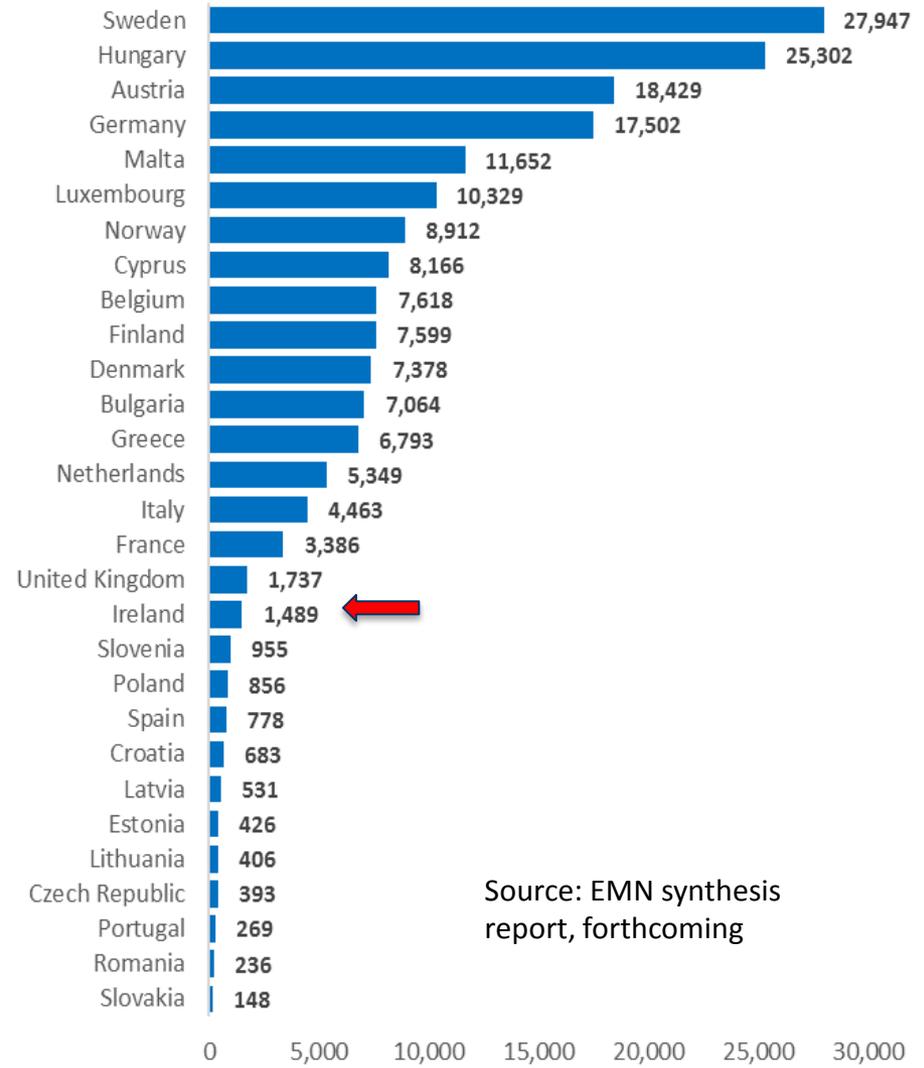
Source: EMN, forthcoming

Trends in international protection applications 2014 -2016

Total asylum applications

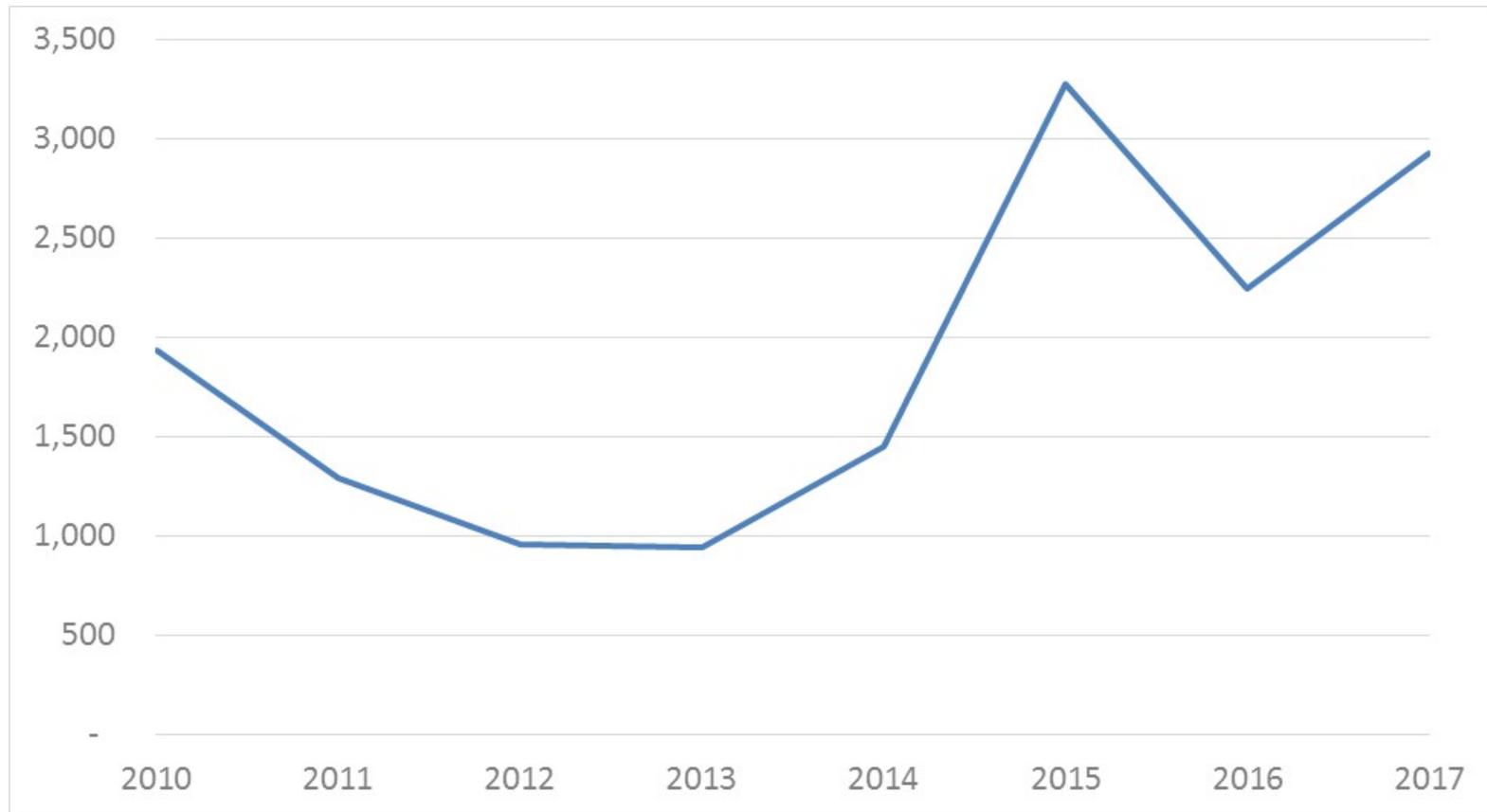


Applications per 1m inhabitants



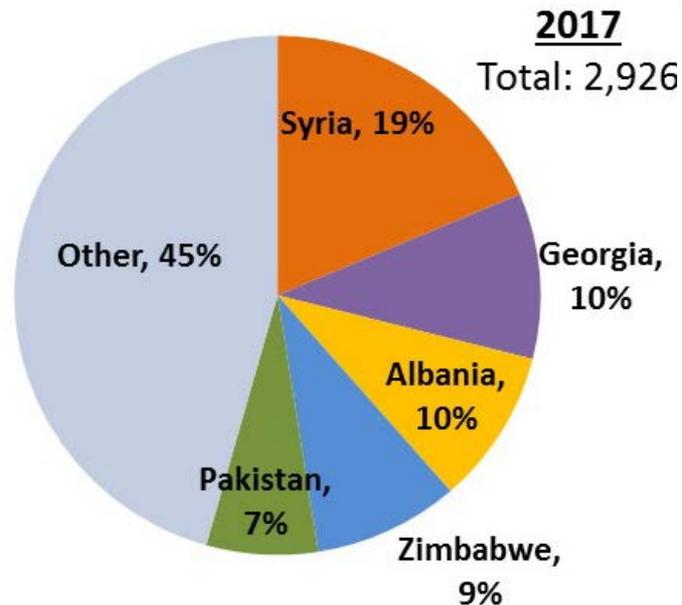
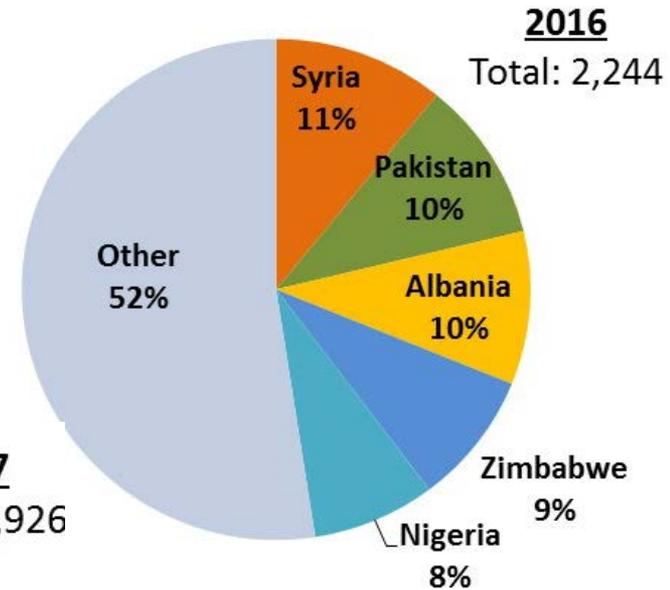
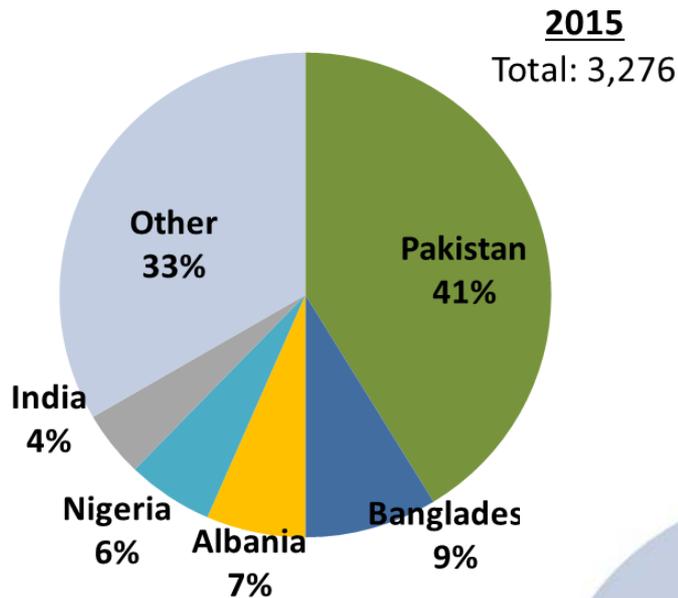
Source: EMN synthesis report, forthcoming

International protection applications in Ireland 2010-2017



Source: Eurostat

Top five countries of origin of asylum applicants Ireland, 2015–2017



Source: IPO

Direct response: Irish Refugee Protection Programme

- Pledges made under EU resettlement programme
- EU relocation programme (including of unaccompanied minors)
- Increased staff and resources: IPO, IPAT, RIA, Tusla
- Cross-departmental taskforce
- Engaging public support through the Irish Red Cross
- Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs)
- Calais Special Project
- IRPP Humanitarian Admission Programme 2 (IHAP)
 - Dependent relatives e.g. minor child for whom the proposer has parental responsibility; vulnerable close family member; (grand) parent
 - Programme refugee status

Direct response: Irish Refugee Protection Programme

EU Relocation

	2016	2017	2018	Total arrived
Greece	240	515	267	1,022

- Focus on families and children. Almost half of arrivals are minors
- Commitment to relocate 20 unaccompanied minors. 6 from Greece so far

EU Resettlement

2015	2016	2017	Committed 2018
163	356	273 (+248)	345 + 600 programme refugees

Source: Immigration in Ireland, Annual Review 2017

Calais Special Project

Commitment to relocate up to 200 unaccompanied minors. 41 had arrived end February 2018. Granted programme refugee status

Direct response: Public, political and civil society engagement

- Increased engagement of general public, political representatives, third-level institutions
- Establishment of Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition
- Integration measures

Related developments: International Protection Act 2015

- Commencement of International Protection Act 2015 in December 2016
- Establishment of International Protection Office and International Protection Appeals Tribunal
- Introduced single application procedure
- Restriction of family reunification for IP beneficiaries and time limits applied
- Transitional measures

Related developments: Processing IP applications

Year	New applications	Outstanding decisions (ORAC/IPO)
2014	1,448	743
2015	3,276	2,582
2016	2,244	1,550
2017	2,926	5,100*

Processing backlog: wait time for first interview for new applicants 18-20 months (IRC 2017, Thornton, 2018). 11 weeks in 2015 and 16 weeks in 2016 (ORAC)

- Staff/resource constraints
- Transitioning to new International Protection Act 2015

* Figure supplied in Immigration in Ireland, Annual Review 2017

Related developments: Accommodation and services for IP applicants

- Occupancy - 96 per cent in April 2018
- Increase in the number of asylum seekers, including relocated applicants
- Higher proportion of applicants opting for state-provided accommodation
- Improvements on foot of McMahon report - reduced capacity
- Housing crisis, delays in removal of persons with DO, procurement challenges
- Increased demand for dental care, mental health services

Conclusions

- Ireland seeing the effects of 2014-2015 EU migration “crisis”, but with a time-lag and on a smaller scale than many MS
- IRPP directly responds to EU developments
- Increased public, political and civil society engagement
- Increased cooperation seen among government departments and other stakeholders (also in other EU MS)
- Inflows coincide with a major overhaul of the IP system
- System for processing applications under pressure with substantial backlog at IPO
- Accommodation system near capacity, due in part to problems facing beneficiaries who wish to move out