

MIGRATION TRENDS IN 2015: A VIEW FROM HUNGARY

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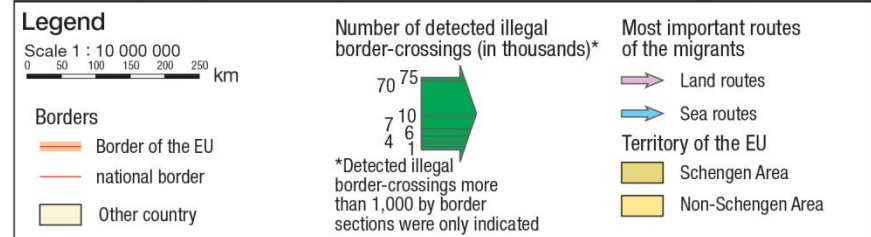
Working Group on Migration of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

- By August 2015, the number of **illegal border crossings** at Hungary's southern flank had risen from a daily several hundred to a **daily several thousand** in a few weeks.
 - The European countries lying south of Hungary along the refugees' route were unable to perform their massive registration and administrative duties.
- Centre of our attention:
 - the ways in which the **economic and social harms** of a massive influx of migrants **can be reduced** as fully as possible, and also
 - to find out whether certain points can be found where massive migration can **contribute to mitigating or even eliminating some of Hungary's aggravating social and economic problems** (e.g. shortage of skilled labour).

Detected illegal border-crossings in the Carpatho-Balkan area
(First half of 2014)



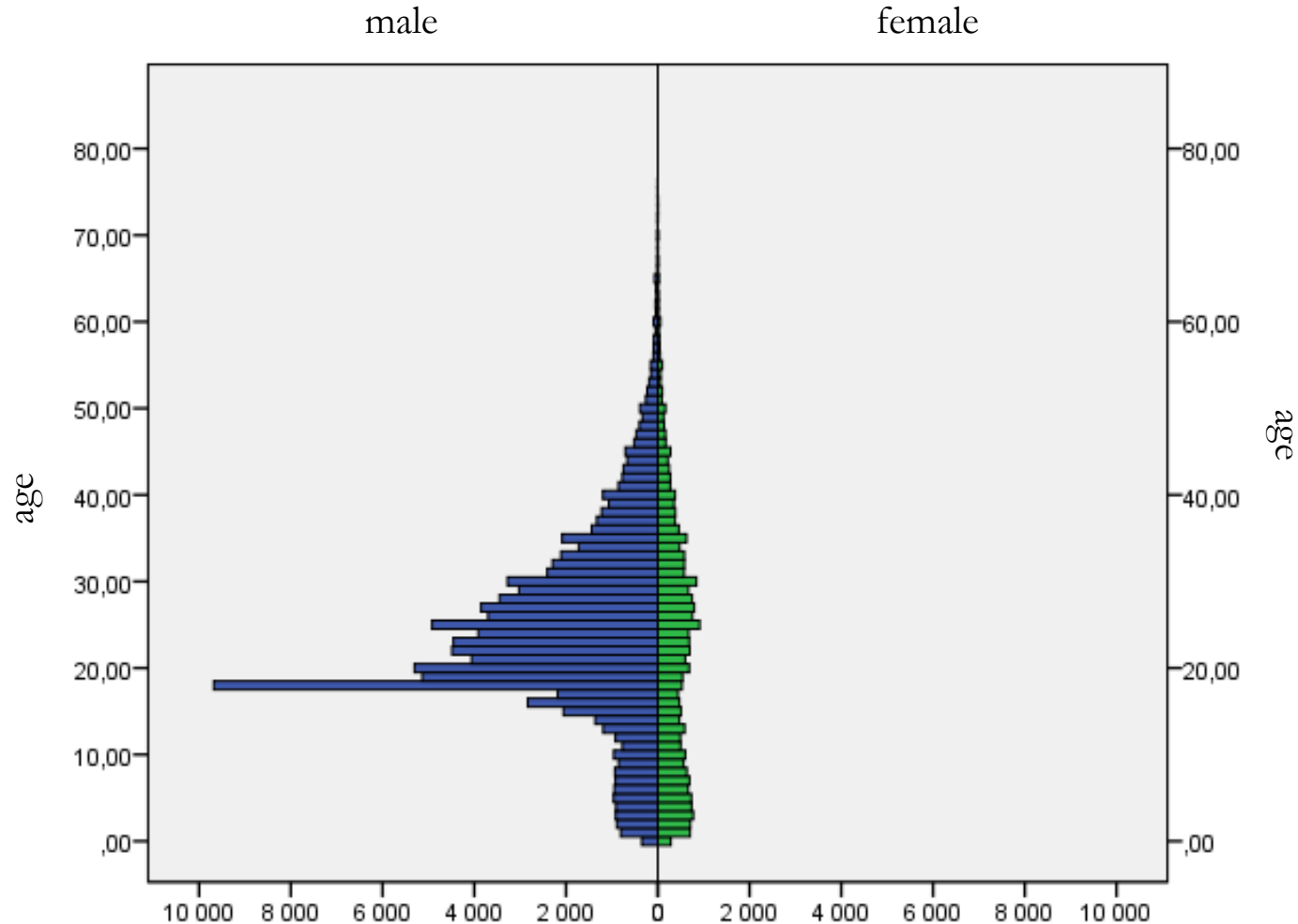
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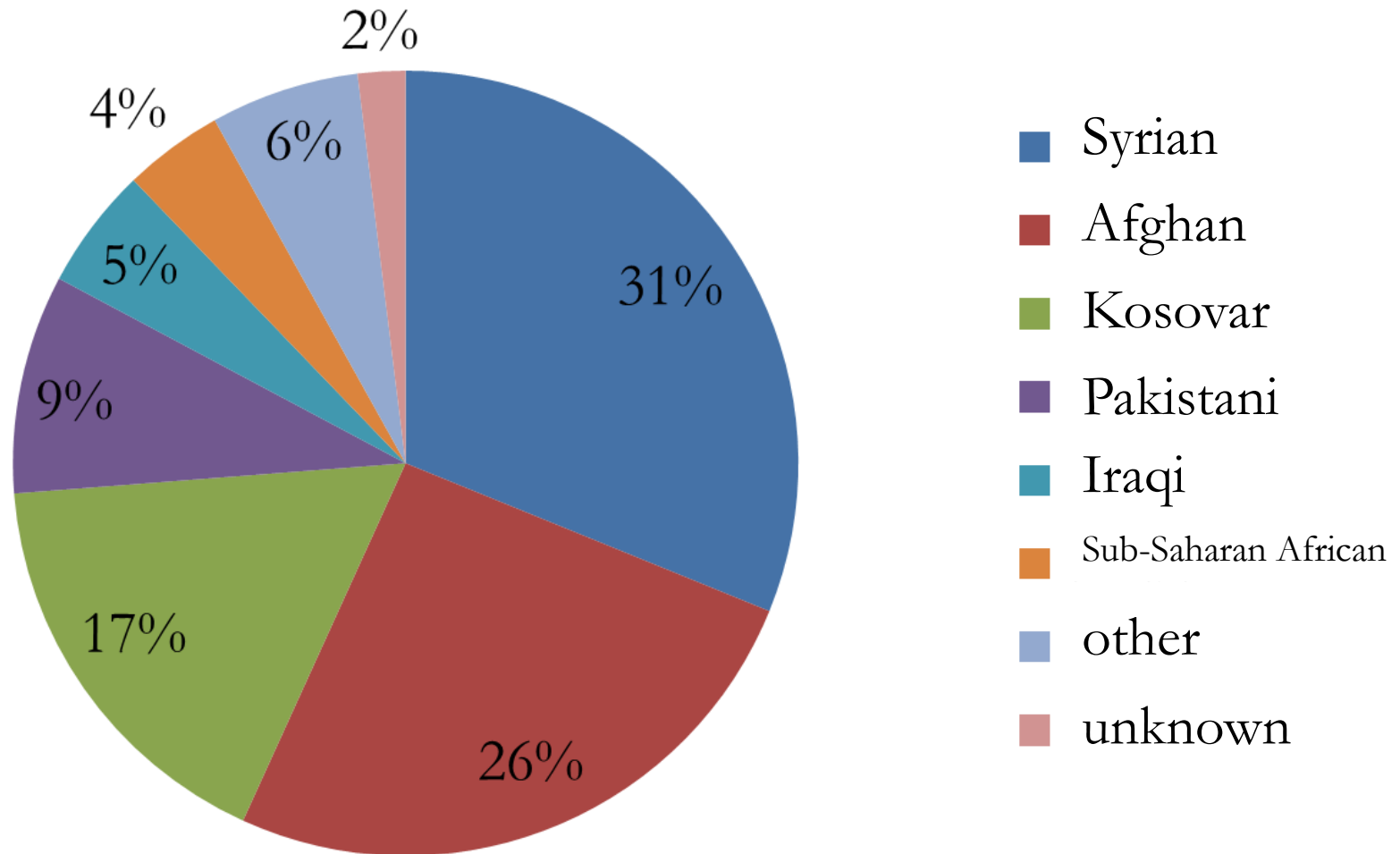
- How far migrants could **integrate into Hungarian society?**
 1. **Between 2010 and 2014** the integration of a few thousand migrants from the Middle East and South-East Asia was **largely successful**.
 2. However, the **Hungarian speakers relocating to Hungary from neighbouring countries** in far greater numbers over the same period have been **far less successful** – not speaking of other arriving migrants mainly from the Balkan region, migrants who have added nothing substantial to the intellectual capital of Hungary's economy.

- **The influx of migrants in 2015:**
 - entirely different structurally
 - far more transiting than immigrational in character
 - **transit integrating** to Hungary at best **fractional**
 - no data covering skills of the migrants.
- Based on registration data:
 - In the first eight months of 2015, the structure of the influx indicates a **sudden rise in the number and proportion of migrants with Syria as their country of origin.**
 - Non-Syrian Arabic speaking migrants
 - Impacts of German political communication
 - Several European countries tend to expect Syrian newcomers to integrate into their respective local societies with greater ease than Afghans.

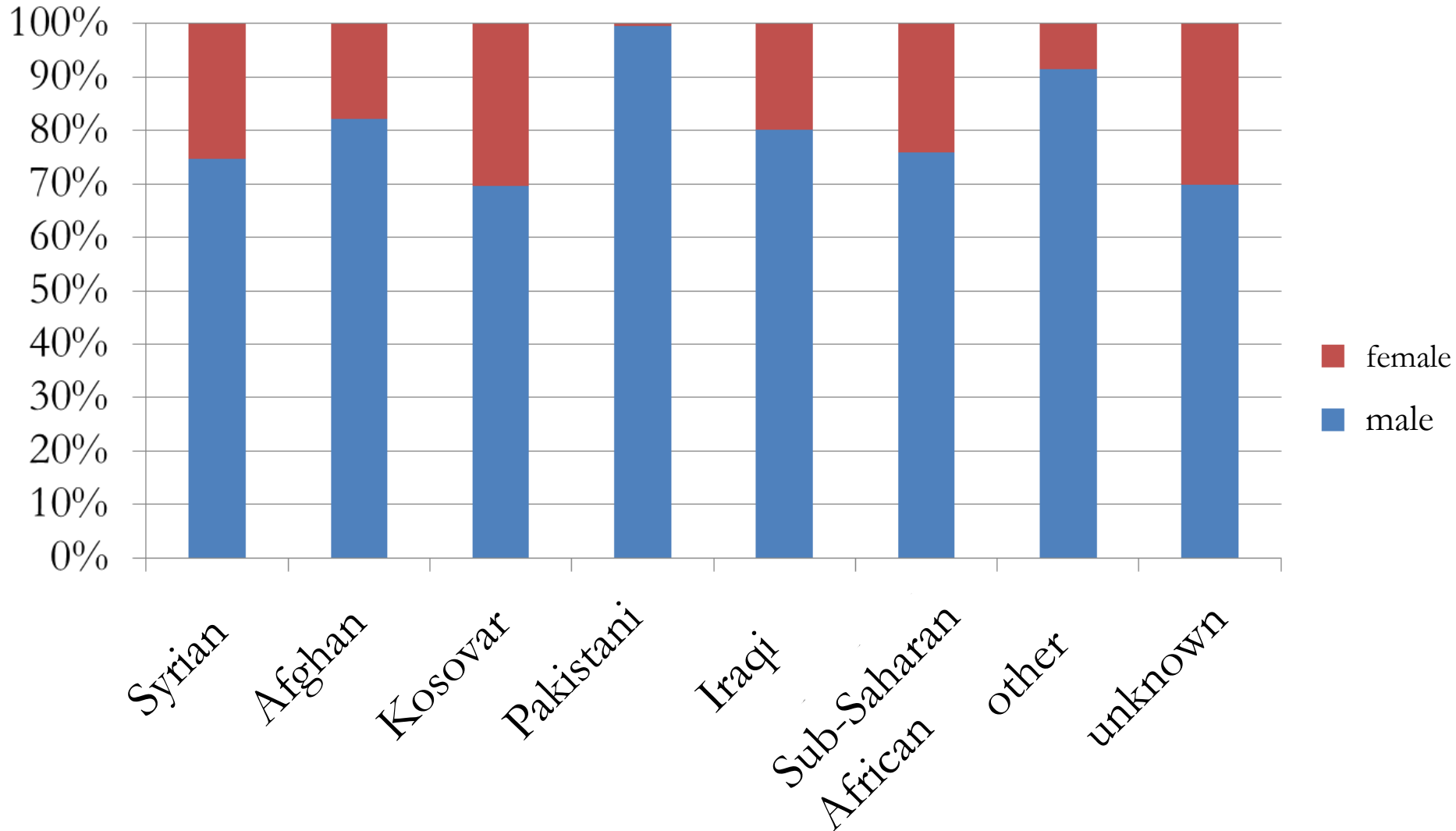
Age Pyramid of the Registered Asylum Seekers in Hungary (Between January 2015 and August 2015)



Nationality of the Registered Asylum Seekers



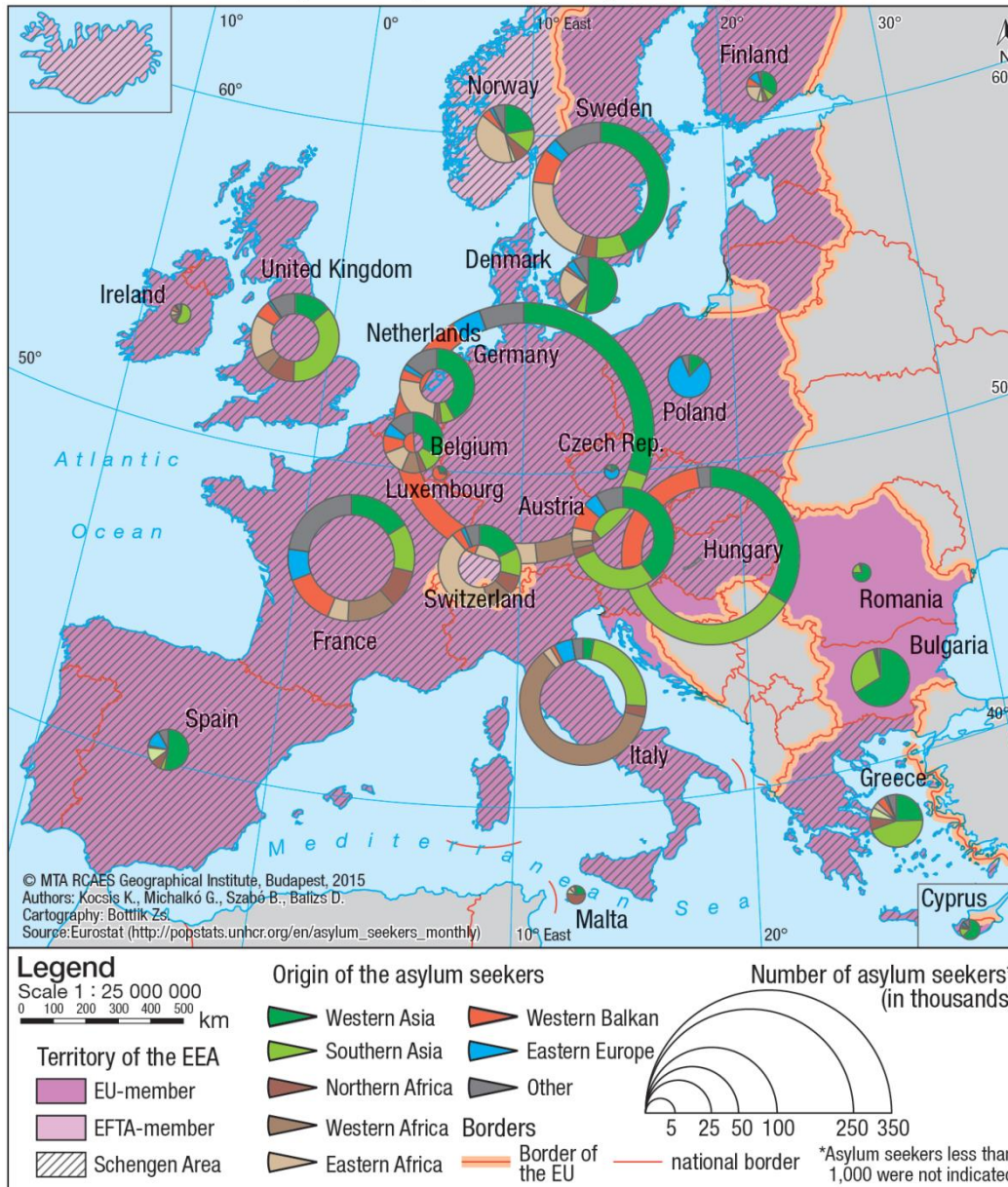
Registered Asylum Seekers by Sex



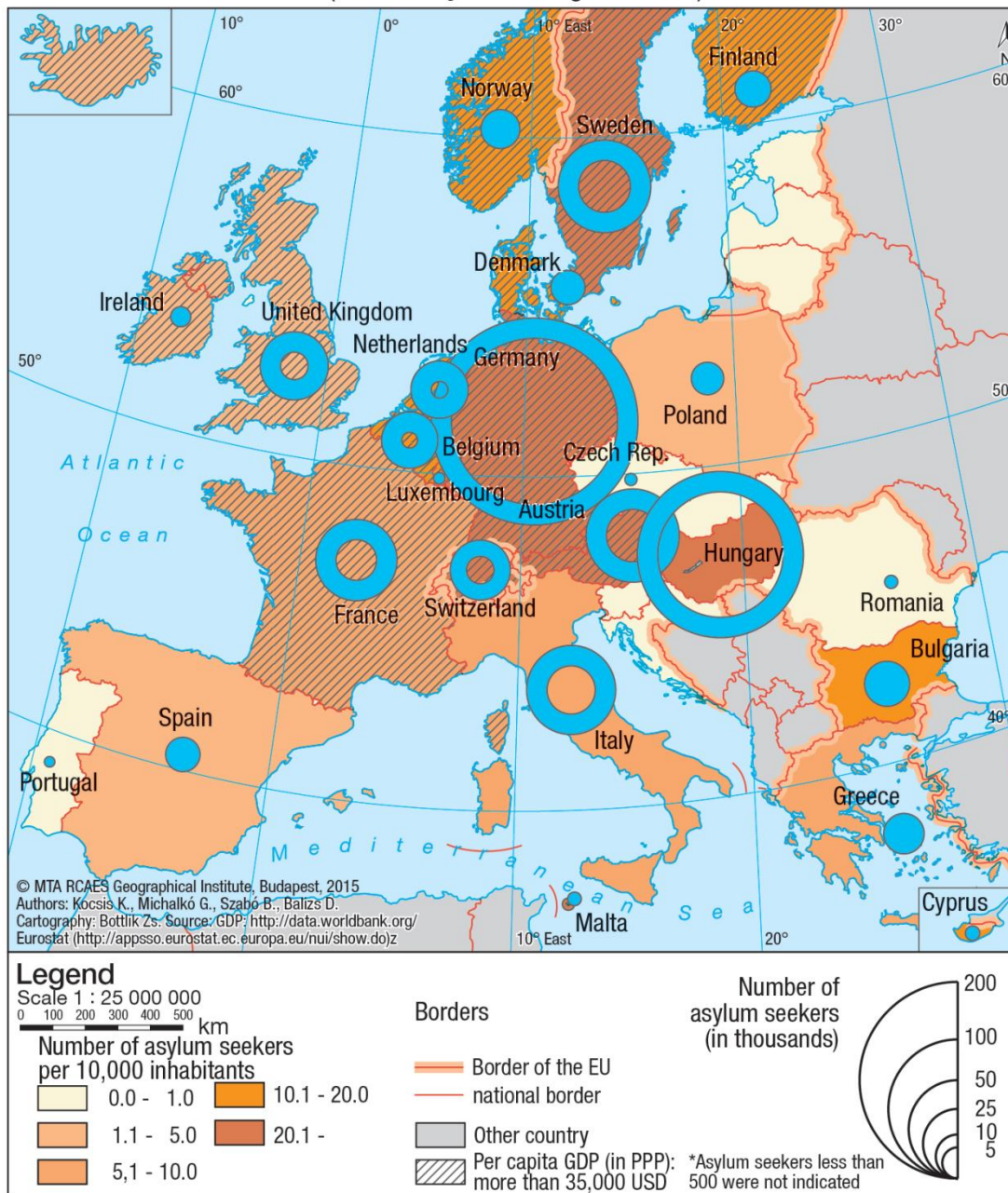


The analysis we have made of immigration routes also indicates that **the volume of immigration cannot be expected to drop.**

Asylum seekers in the European Economic Area by macroregion of origin (1 January 2014 – 31 August 2015)



Asylum seekers in the European Economic Area (1 January – 31 August 2015)



- Survey of **European immigration legislation**:
 - no legal solutions yet entirely in sync with universally accepted European political norms.
 - Neither the European Union as such, nor most West-European governments have moved forward to execute certain legal corrections sufficiently reflective of the new situation, a reluctance that has probably increased the constraint on the Hungarian government to take its steps on its own.
- Western Europe's political and social response to the sudden hike in immigration was at first based rather on **ethical and humanitarian considerations** than on practical political ones.
 - Continuous transformation of West-European, and particularly German and Austrian public opinion regarding immigration in the year 2015.
- More weight could and should be given to the **practical, more specifically, labour market based handling** of the flow of immigration.
- Suitable preparations to fostering Hungary's adjustment should be made in such **other practical areas** as the macro-economic policy, geo-strategy, water supply, public health, culture and religion etc.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND
ATTENTION!**