

Instrumentalisation of Migration and Action Plan on Eastern Mediterranean

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Facts and Figures



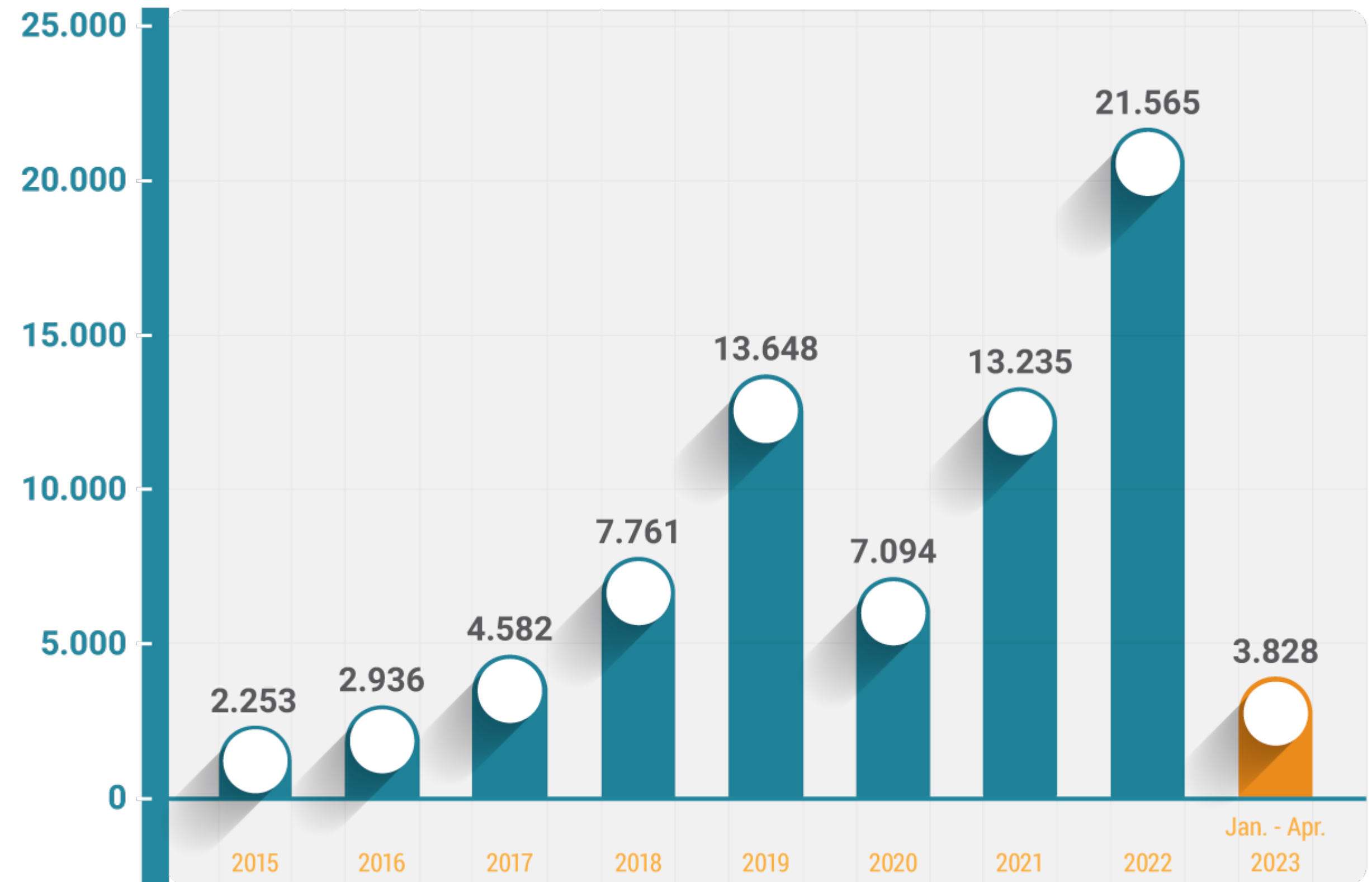
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ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

Facts and Figures

- **Increase of asylum application by 490% since 2017.** In 2021 the new asylum applications were **13.235** while in 2022, **22.565**.
- The percentage of applicants and holders of any type of international protection status in Cyprus, **corresponds to more than 6% of the country's population.**
- **Over 90% of applications are submitted by migrants entering the country through the Green Line.**

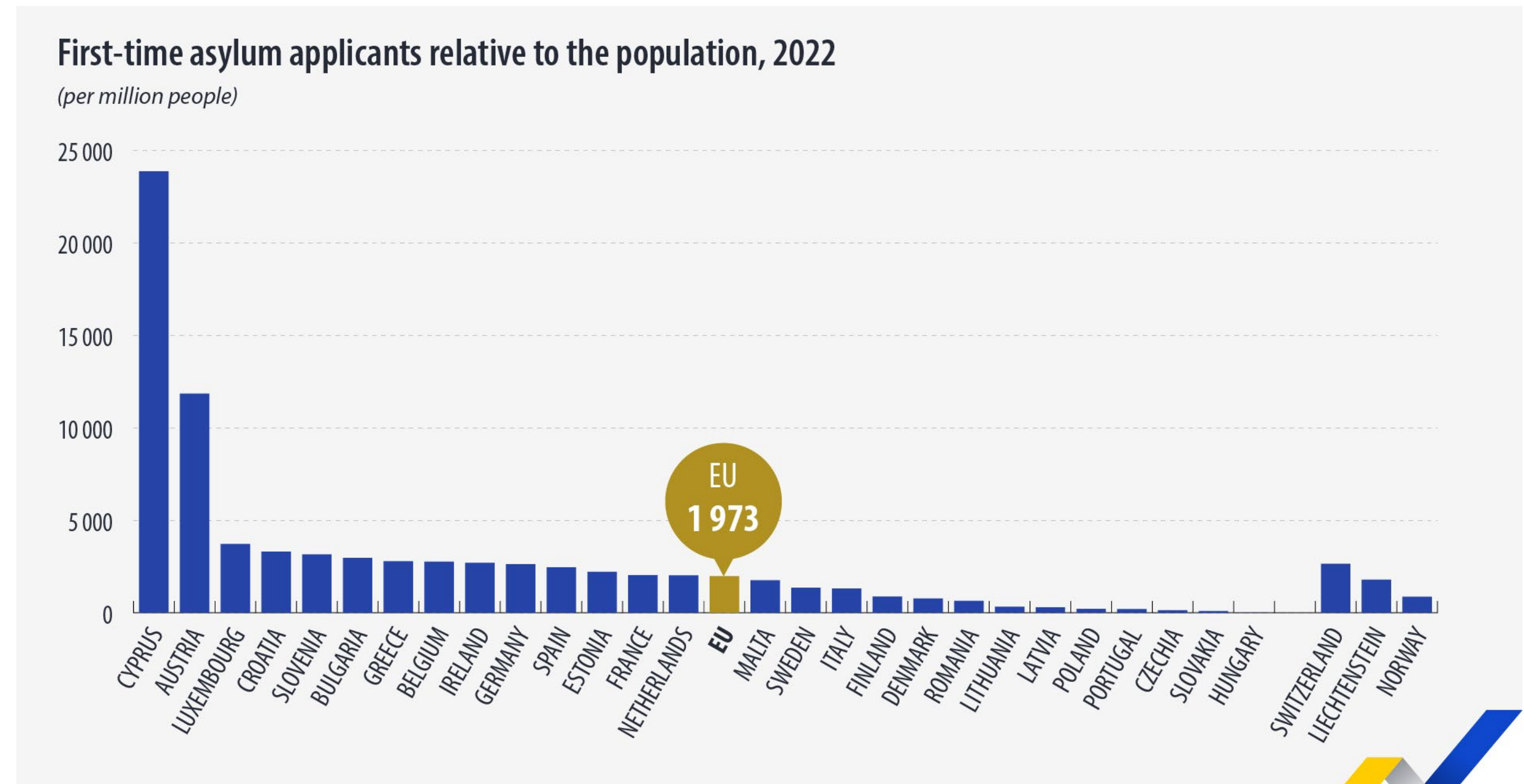


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STATISTICS

Highest number of first-time asylum applicants relative to the population in Cyprus

- Compared with the population of each EU country, **the highest number of registered first-time asylum applicants in 2022 was recorded in Cyprus** (23.864 first-time applicants per million people), double the number of Austria (11.848) and seven times ahead of Luxembourg (3.711)
- In contrast, the lowest numbers were recorded in Hungary (5 first-time applicants per million people), followed by Slovakia (92) and Czechia (127)
- In 2022, the EU-wide average was 1.973 first-time asylum applicants per million people



eurostat

Source: Eurostat

More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20230323-2>



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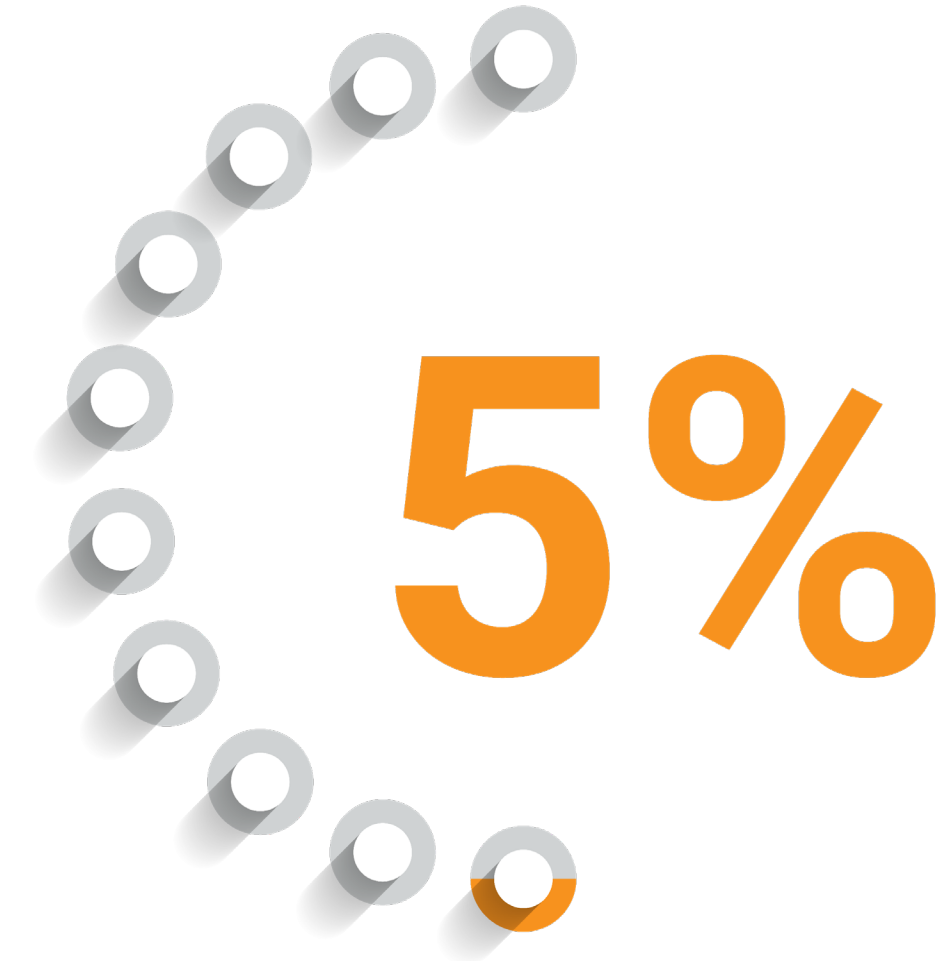
ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

Facts and Figures



95% of irregular migrants enter from the occupied territories across the buffer zone (Green Line) into the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, as a result of the instrumentalisation practices adopted by Turkey.

***Specific routes and trends have been identified** – use Istanbul airport for transit to travel to the occupied area and then cross the Green Line. In 2023, approximately **72%** of irregular migrants who crossed the green line utilized the so-called student visa.



only have arrive by boat either from Turkey or from Syrian-Lebanon at the Cyprus' Republic coastline



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Action Plan on Eastern Mediterranean



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Action Plan

Cyprus' positions focus on a package of actions and measures to prevent illegal crossings of the Green Line through a diplomatic approach towards Turkey:

EU policies, instruments and tools.



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ACTION PLAN

Outreach towards Turkey

- Alignment of **Turkey's visa policy** with the Union's
- **Full implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement** of March 2016
- Implementation of all provisions of the **EU-Turkey readmission agreement**
- Strengthen **FRONTEX cooperation with Turkey**



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ACTION PLAN

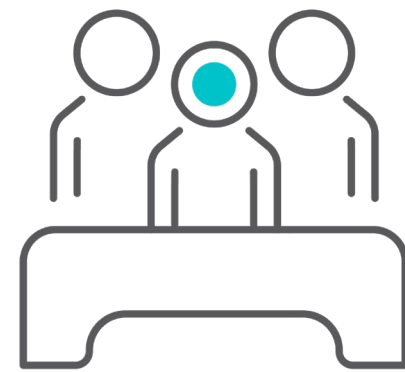
Measures in third countries of origin and transit

01/



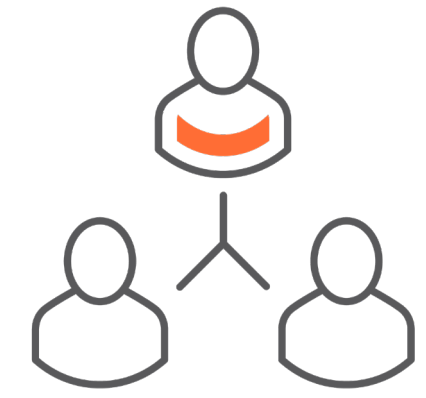
Deployment of liaison officers at the gates of departure airports **for screening purposes** – **establish a pre-flight procedure to identify non bona fide passengers** (emphasis on Istanbul airport)

03/



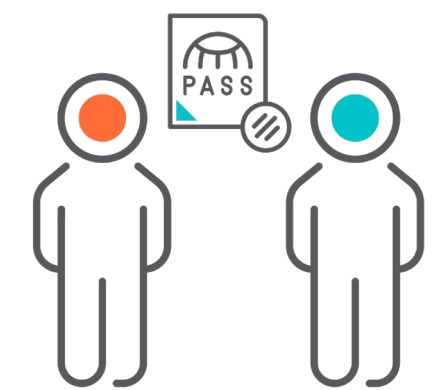
Engage in productive consultation **to tackle the root causes of migration and prevent illegal outflows**

02/



Pursue consultation with specific third countries – **strategic communication and information campaigns** – **discourage migrants to use illegal pathways** to enter the EU

04/



Make use of **available leverages to negotiate additional readmission agreements**



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ACTION PLAN

Consultations with air-carriers

01/



Engage in consultations

with air-carriers

02/



Specific measures

– apply screening of passengers transiting to the occupied area of Cyprus

03/



Inclusion of a sanctions plan

– failure to achieve expected decrease rates could lead to **implementation of specific measures** (e.g. ban of air-carriers to fly over EU territory, deny specific airlines the access to EU airports)



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ACTION PLAN

Other measures

- The General operational cooperation **with Istanbul airport authorities and any other airport**
- Develop and implement a regional programme to **fight the smuggling of migrants** in the Eastern Mediterranean route – emphasis on unaccompanied minors
- Provision of additional **technical, operation and financial support to EastMed MS** – aim to support the effective management of flows and to speed up returns



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Other priorities of the Government



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OTHER PRIORITIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT:

- **Creation of a Deputy Ministry of Migration:**
Institutionally it will collect under one umbrella the various immigration policies and competent departments for a more effective migration management system
- Faster and more efficient system for examining asylum applications – recruitment of new staff and **reinforcement of the Asylum Service** with additional examiners
- Further **enhancement of the judicial process** as to minimize the required timeline for the adjudication of cases
- **Accelerated voluntary returns** and expulsions of non-beneficiaries
- **Construction and upgrading of Accommodation Centres:** Construction of a new Accommodation Centre and the Pre-departure Center, in the area of "Limnes" in Mennogia and upgrading of the Accommodation Center in Kofinou, in order to be able to accommodate more people
- **Strengthening the surveillance** along the ceasefire line with new technology instruments that can be financed by the EU and through constant surveillance of the line by the patrol guards
- Conclusion of bilateral agreements with third countries on the return of their own nationals, with emphasis on the need for **centralized negotiation on the EU side** for the conclusion of corresponding additional return agreements at a higher level

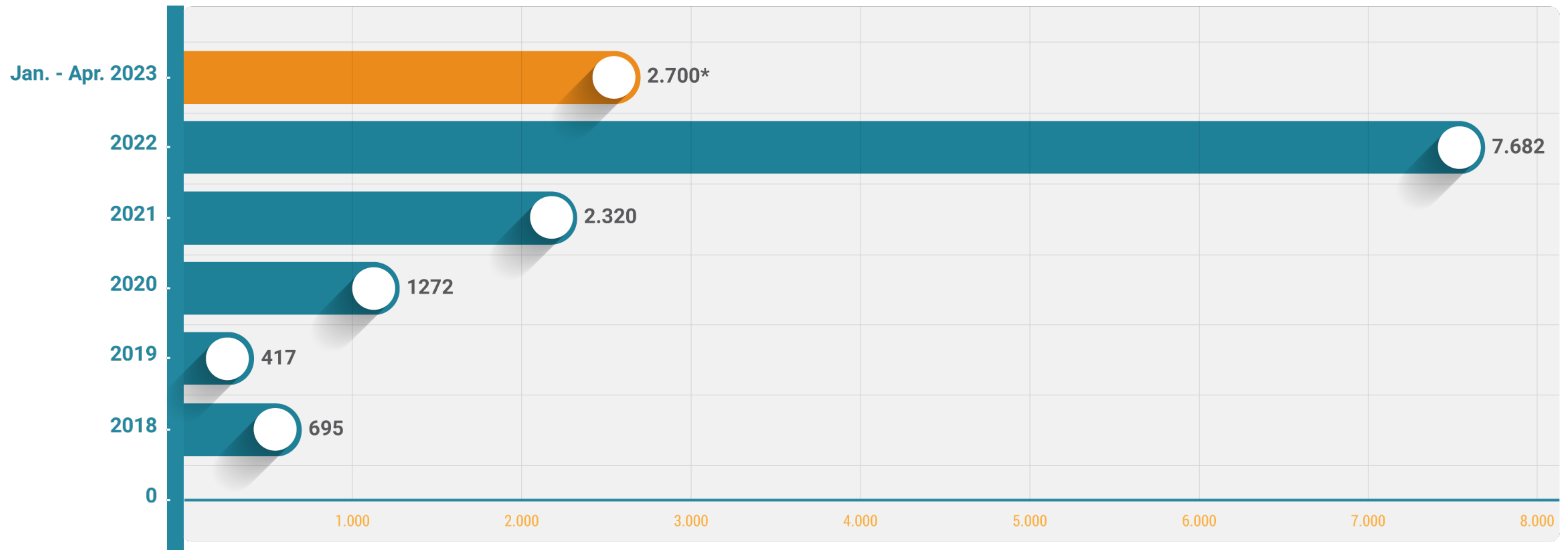


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STATISTICS

2023

Total forced and voluntary returns



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Thank you

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