The Methodist Church
World Church Relationships

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Migration in Europe
The role of churches

Setting the Scene
Jorge Domingues

"Europe is enriched and shaped as it is today because of historical patterns of movement and settlement of people; migration has always been part of human existence.

However, more people than ever are currently on the move as a result of conflicts, environmental degradation, lack of future for themselves and their families.

While most refugees are internally displaced persons or find temporary shelter in neighboring countries, many lose their lives trying to cross borders.

Meanwhile European countries are constantly increasing barriers of security measures for those in need of protection, becoming a 'gated community'".

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, 2014 [1]

The context

- Migration—the movement of people from a place to another—is not a new phenomenon

- Migration patterns are changing: pull and push factors are not sufficient to explain migration causes

  - War, violence, economics, climate, globalization, transnational migration

- Migration is a cycle: departure, journey, settlement, return, journey, settlement, departure

- Services are needed for each step of the cycle

- The following are some numbers by the UNHCR [2]

Unit: million

65.3 million
forcibly displaced people worldwide
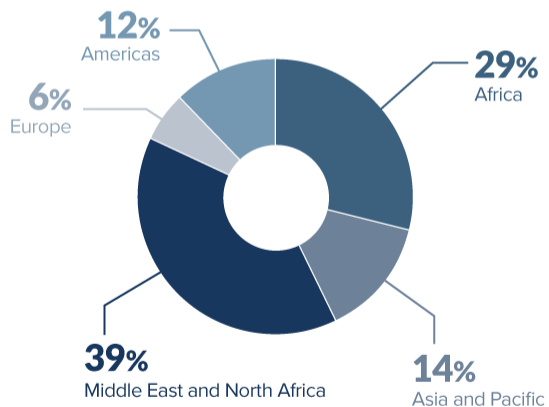
Refugees
21.3 million
16.1 million under UNHCR mandate
5.2 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
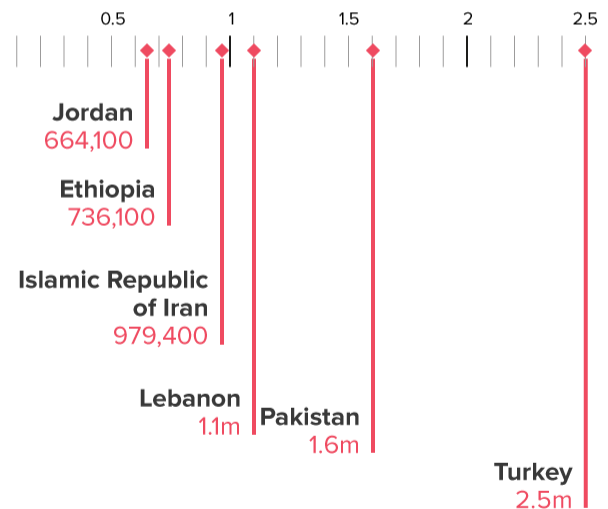
Stateless people
10 million

Where the world's displaced people are being hosted

- 12% Americas
- 6% Europe
- 29% Africa
- 39% Middle East and North Africa
- 14% Asia and Pacific

54% of refugees worldwide came from three countries

Somalia 1.1m

Afghanistan 2.7m

Syria 4.9m

Top hosting countries

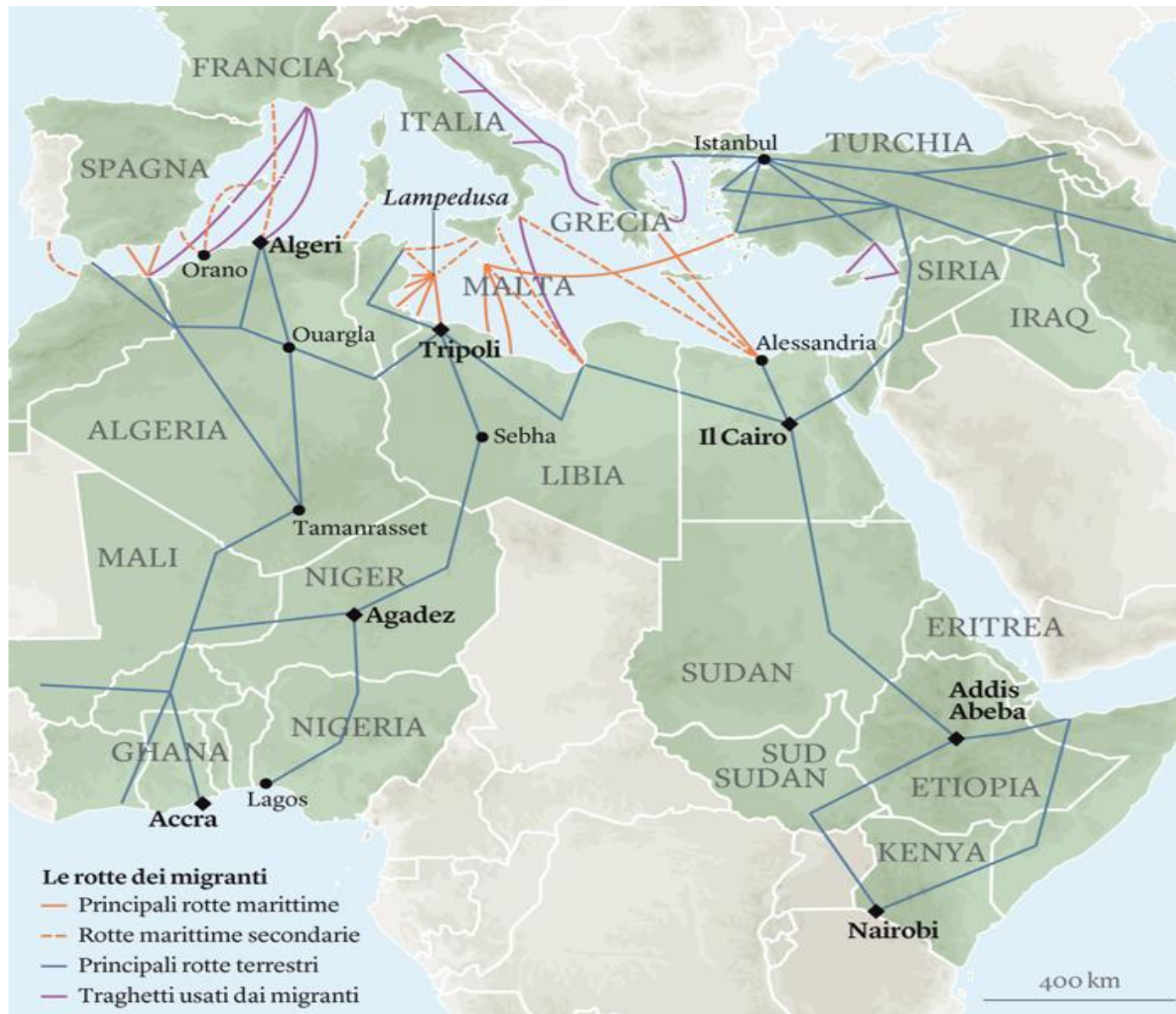| Country	Value
Jordan	664,100
Ethiopia	736,100
Islamic Republic of Iran	979,400
Lebanon	1.1m
Pakistan	1.6m
Turkey	2.5m

Migration in Europe since WWII

- Three waves of migration: [3]

- 1st wave: Postwar labor demand—temporary workers programs and immigration from former colonies (1945-1973)

- 2nd wave: Secondary immigration and permanent settlement—family reunification (1973-present)

- 3rd wave: Irregular migration—first from Eastern Europe, then from unstable areas: Eritrea, Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. (1988-present)

Why people migrate? [4]
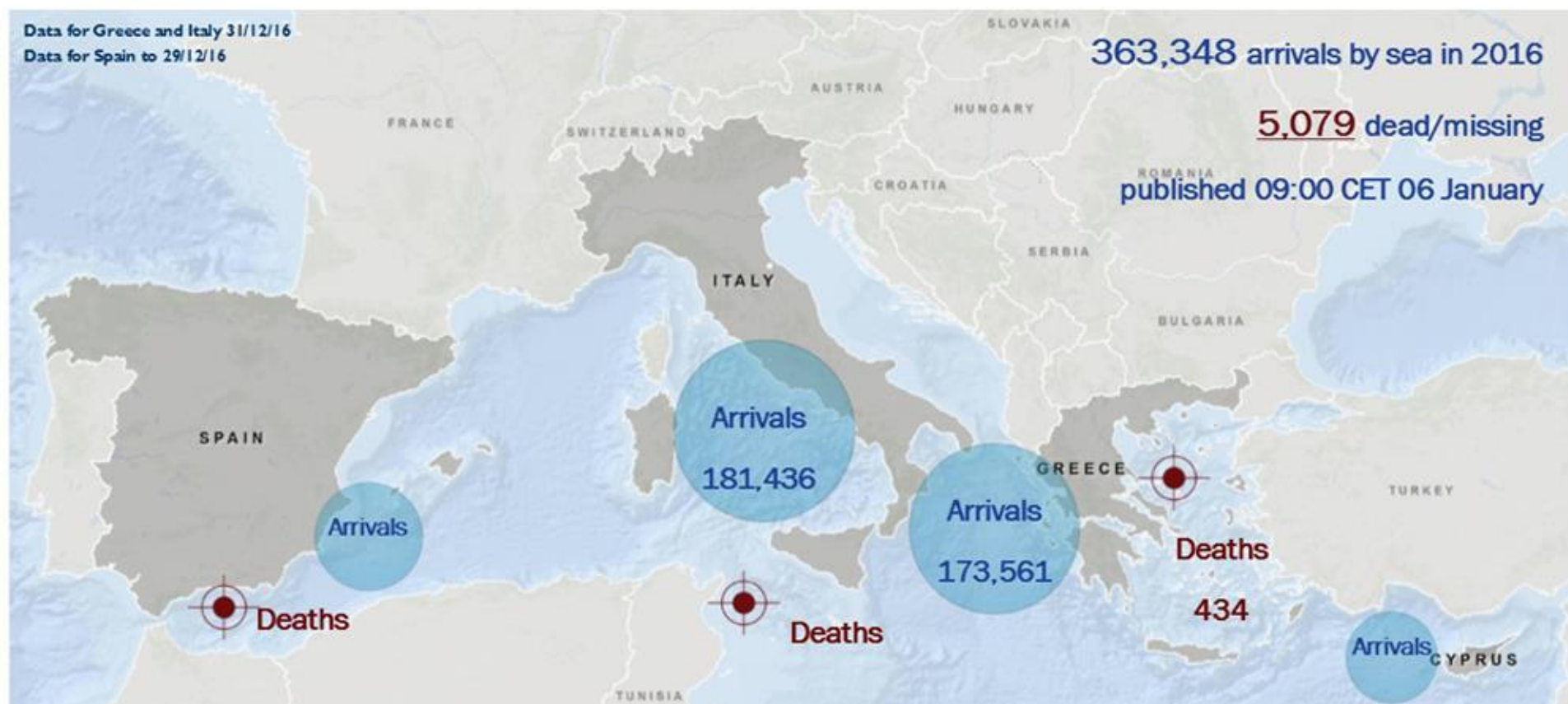
The Mediterranean routes [5]

Le rotte dei migranti
— Principali rotte marittime
-- Rotte marittime secondarie
— Principali rotte terrestri
— Traghetti usati dai migranti

400 km

How they travel

Crossing the desert... [6]

Crossing the sea... [7]

Refugee crisis in Europe [8]

Refugee crisis in Europe [8]

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2015-2016				
	I JANUARY – 27 NOVEMBER 2016		I JANUARY – 30 NOVEMBER 2015	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	173,571	4,223 (Central Med. route)	144,205	3,567 (all Med routes)
Greece	171,875	429 (Eastern Med. route)	739,188	
Cyprus	189		na	
Spain	5,445 (as of 30/09)	63 (Western Med. route)	na	
Estimated Total	351,080	4,715	883,393	3,567

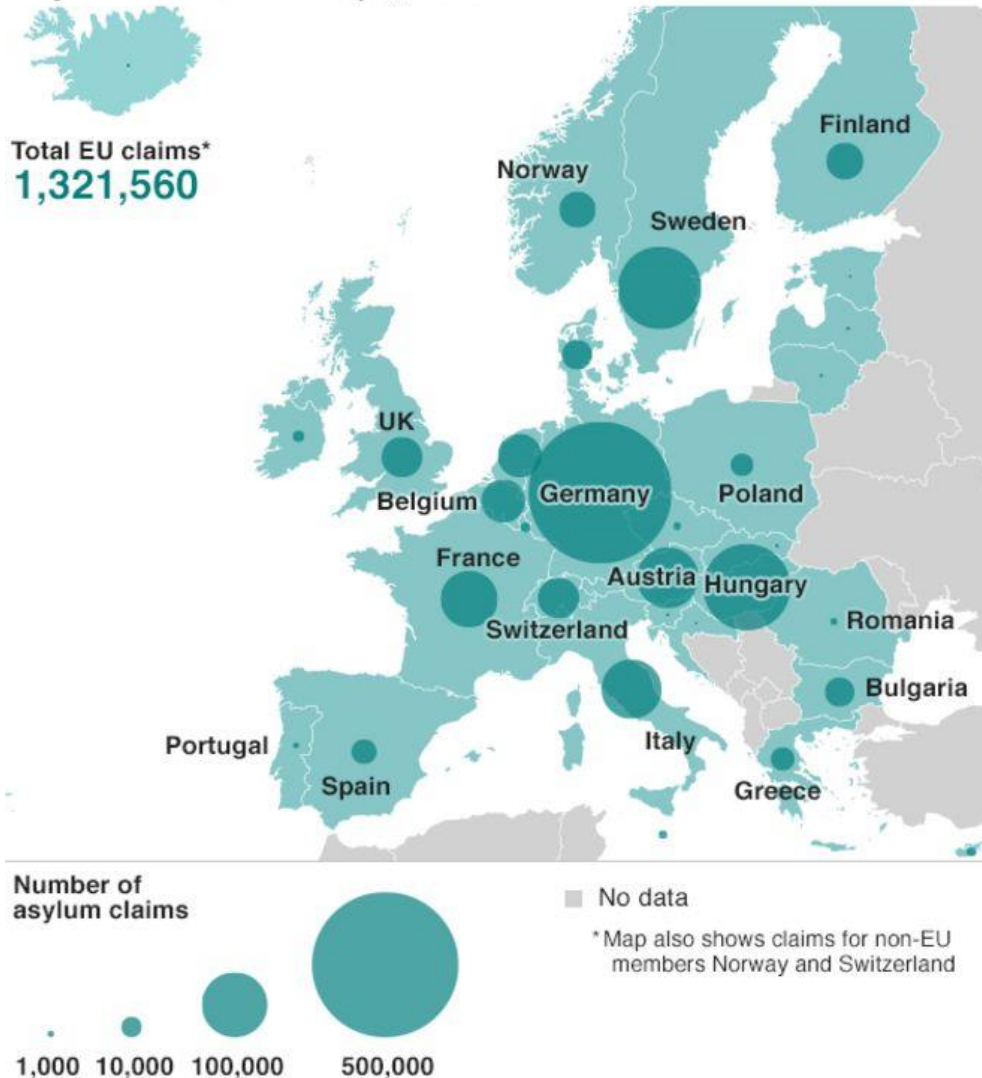Data on deaths of migrants compiled by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
All numbers are minimum estimates.
Arrivals based on data from respective governments and IOM field offices.

Refugee crisis in Europe [9]

Asylum claims in Europe, 2015

Total EU claims*
1,321,560

Number of asylum claims

1,000   10,000   100,000   500,000

☐ No data

*Map also shows claims for non-EU members Norway and Switzerland

Source: Eurostat

BBC

First time applicants in EU

Germany (38%)
Hungary (15%)
Austria (8%)
Italy, France and Sweden (7%).

Compared with the population of each country, the highest rates of registered first time applicants during the second quarter 2015 were recorded in:

Hungary (3,317 per million),
Austria (2,026 per million),
Sweden (1,467 per million), and
Germany (997 per million).

(*Eurostat*, 2015)

Refugee crisis in Europe?

- Global Refugee Crisis: 60 million people displaced; 20 million international refugees—globally the biggest refugee crisis since World War II

- Major countries of origin: Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia

- Major refugee hosting countries:
  Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya

- Significant number of refugees and migrants in Europe

- Largest immigration populations in Germany (2015):
  Poland = 1.9M   Syria = 1.7M
  Russia = 1.1M   Kazakhstan = 1M
  Romania = 0.6M   Czech Rep = 0.5M
  Italy = 0.4M

Challenges posed by immigration [3]

- **Unwanted immigration**:
  foreign workers and immigrants are needed in Western Europe for economic/demographic reasons

- **Contested national immigration policies**:
  despite opposition, receiving countries had social and economic reasons for permitting immigration

- **Anti-immigrant groups**:
  they have limited influence, but the growth of populist and right-wing parties is a new challenge

- **Immigrant assimilation**:
  states have capacity to promote integration, while increased involvement of minorities in local politics advances their interests, rights and assimilation

Migration and religion [10]

- EU religious landscape has changed with increased immigration

- Migrants challenge the process of secularization

- Religion is a positive factor of immigrant assimilation

- Churches have responded to increased immigrant population—supporting integration

- Churches are becoming migrant communities in some countries (more than 5% immigrant members in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and UK)

CCME survey of 35 churches in 19 European countries

Responses by local/national churches

- Sheltering, clothing, food provision
- Welcoming immigrants in the neighborhood
- Highlighting integration issues
- Accompaniment programs, helping with authorities
- Advocacy
- Monitoring arrivals and processing
- Programs for young people
- Language and cultural training
- Humanitarian corridors—visa processing at refugee camps

Mediterranean Hope – Italy [11]

A call from the European churches [1]

- A truly human approach to refugee protection in line with international and European conventions, including legal and secure access to Europe for those in need of protection

- A common European asylum system including decent reception conditions as well as a Common European Resettlement scheme

CCME 2014

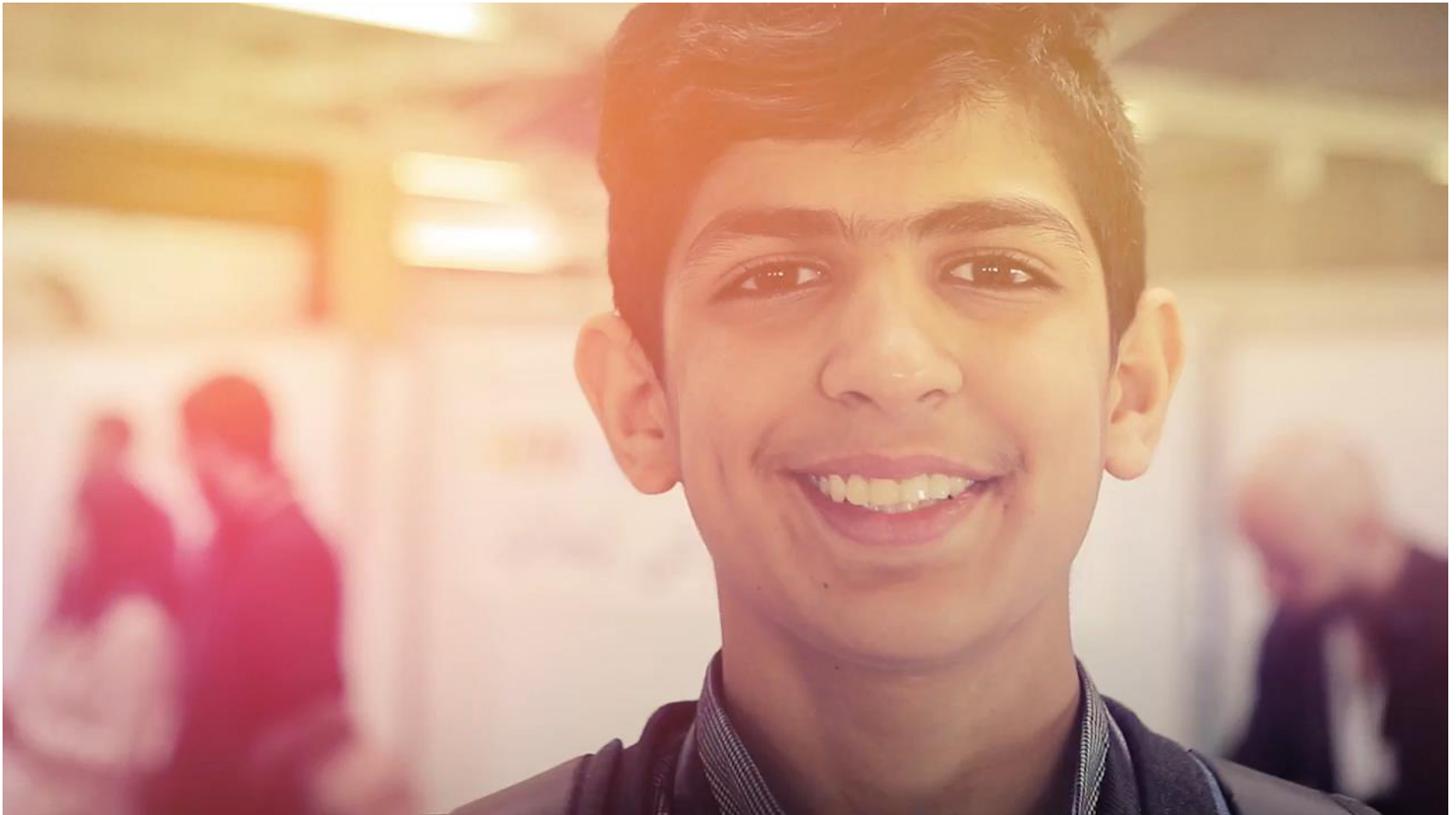# Conclusion: new challenges

- Number of refugees and immigrants is not likely to reduce significantly

- European states have the capacity to address the situation but the political context prevents implementation

- A new global political context in 2017 presents an increased challenge for European churches

Conclusion: new challenges

- Can the churches demonstrate that the situation can be handled in a humane and welcoming way?

- Can the churches influence the political environment?

- Who are the partner organizations to work in conjunction in this scenario?

They are not numbers... [11]

Reference Notes

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2. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Figures at a Glance. http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html
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10. Jackson, D., & Parelli, A. (2016). *Mapping migration: mapping churches responces in Europe.* Geneva, Switzerland: World Council of Churches.
11. Corridoi Umanitari. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.mediterraneanhope.com/corridoi-umanitari-0