

SIRIUS GENERAL MEETING 2015
**European policy network on the education of children and
young people with a migrant background**



**Italian policies on refugees:
the “educational approach”**
Zagreb, 22-23 October 2015

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Migration flows in Italy



Laura Zanfrini, *Immigration in Italy*, in
«Migration Citizenship Education»,
2013, <http://rs.gs/OUO>

- ◆ After being a country of emigration for more than a century, Italy has become **one of the main destination country** of the immigrants flows in European Union
- ◆ «In only ten years – from 1992 to 2002 – foreigners have increased by 264%. In the following years migrants' presence continued to register a frantic growth, up to more than 5 millions in 2010»

Immigration in Italy: from Eastern Europe

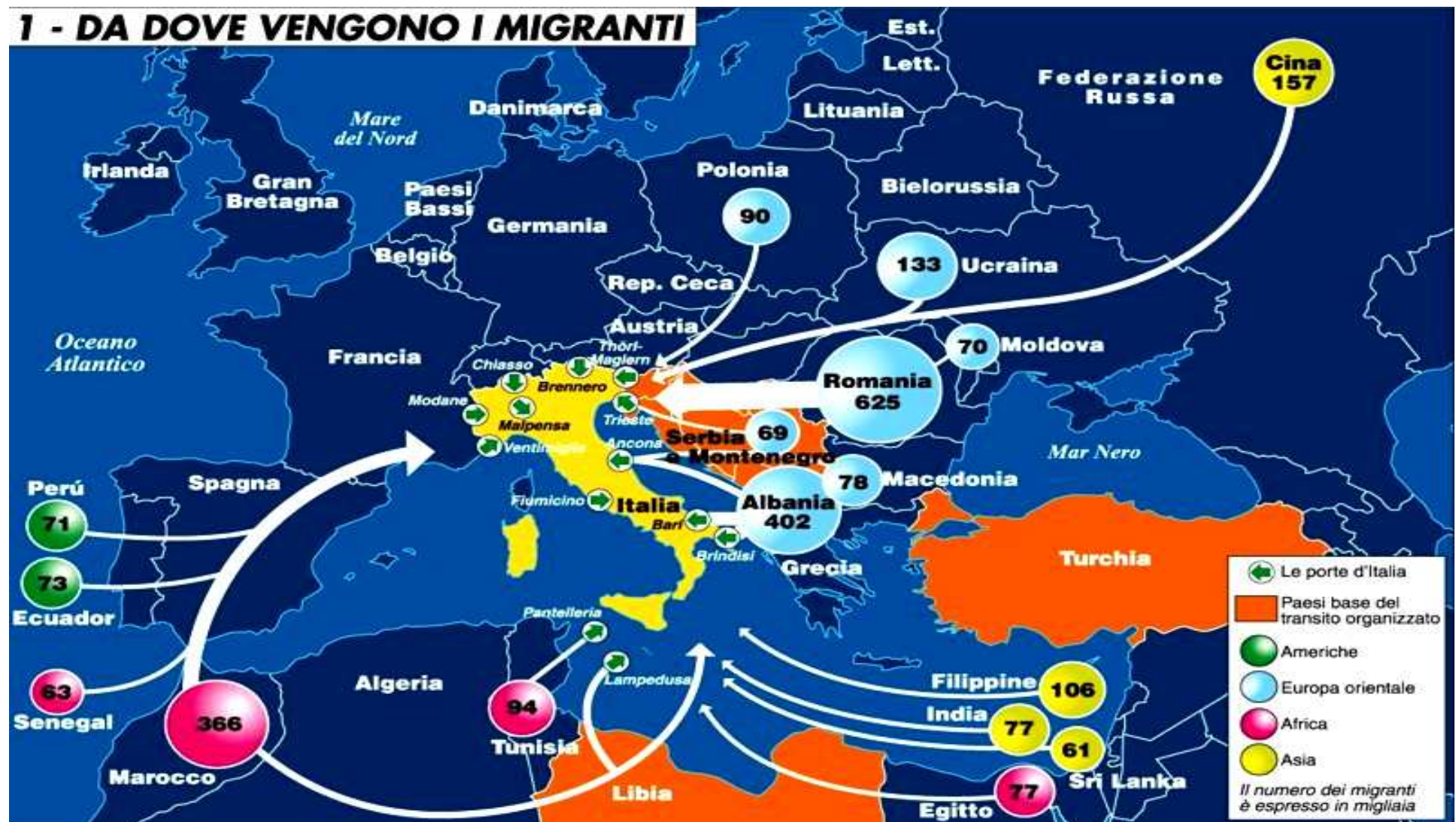
- ◆ 45,7% of immigrants in Italy come from Central and Eastern European countries (including Romania and Bulgaria)
- ◆ 20,5% come from Romania
- ◆ 29,04% in Italy come from EU countries
- ◆ 52% come from Europe (including non EU Member States) (*)

Data 2008, source: Caritas – Migrantes, *Immigrazione. Dossier Statistico 2009*, Idos, Roma 2009, pp. 83-84

(*) We included all EU Member States and the following countries: Albania, Ukraine, Moldova, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia, Switzerland, Kosovo, Montenegro

Country of origin	Number of immigrants	%
Romania	796.477	20,5%
Albania	441.396	11,3%
Morocco	403.592	10,4%
China	170.265	4,4%
Ukraine	153.998	4%
Philippines	113.686	2,9%
Tunisia	100.112	2,6%
Polonia	99.389	2,6%
India	91.855	2,4%
Moldova	89.424	2,3%

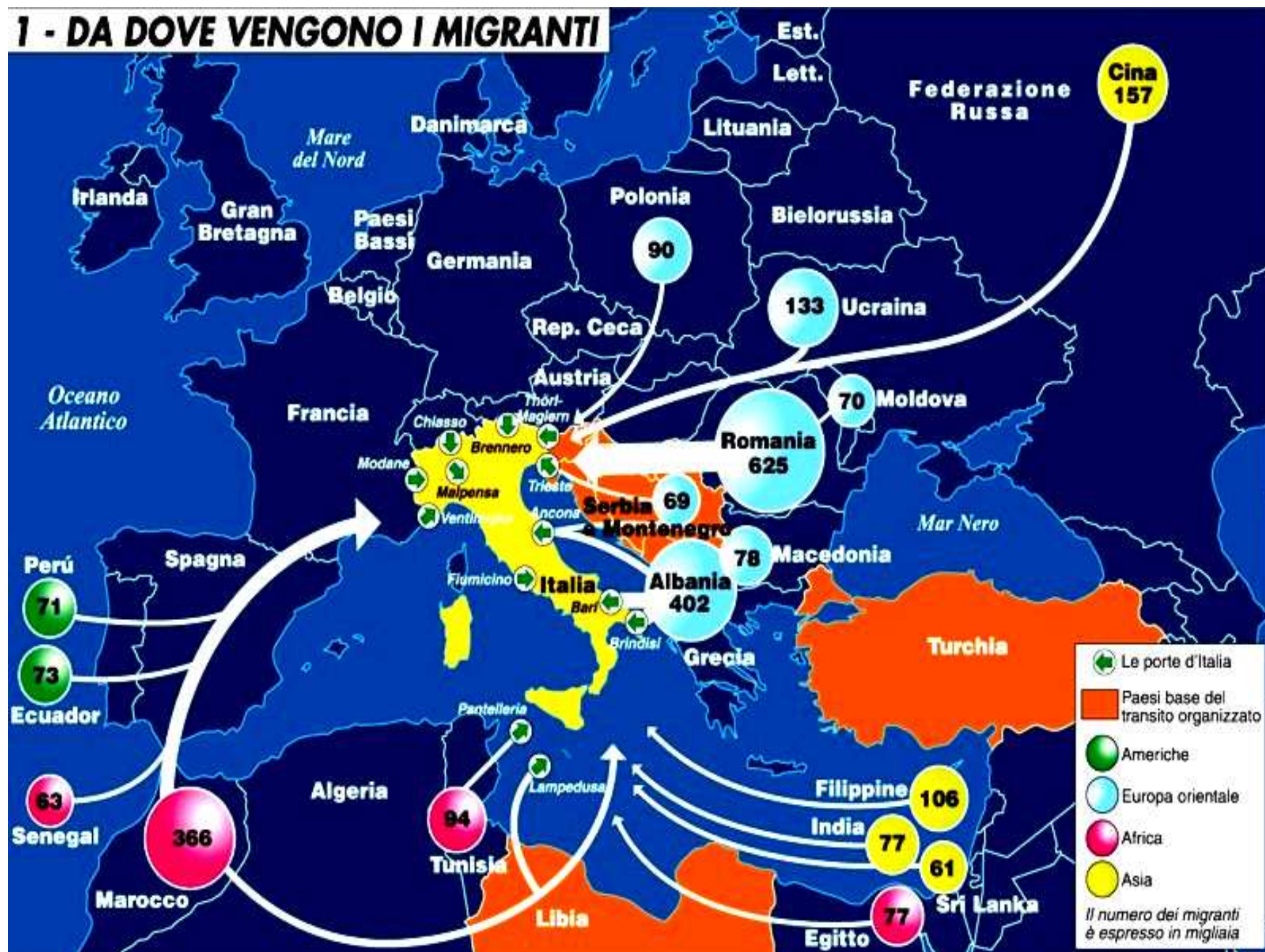
Data 2008, source: Caritas – Migrantes, *Immigrazione. Dossier Statistico 2009*, Idos, Roma 2009, pp. 86-87



Da dove vengono i migranti (Where the immigrants come from). Source:

- Laura Canali, *Da dove vengono i migranti*, mappa, in «Limes. Rivista italiana di geopolitica», n. 2/2009, online in <http://rs.gs/VT0> and <http://rs.gs/f4P>

1 - DA DOVE VENGONO I MIGRANTI



The crisis of “traditional” migration



Laura Zanfrini, *Immigration in Italy*, in «Migration Citizenship Education», 2013, <http://rs.gs/OUO>

◆ «It was only **in 2010** that **new arrivals have started to decline**: in this year, the foreigners presence recorded a modest increase of 69,000 units, whereas in 2011 the augmentation was only of 27,000 units; nothing if it is compared with the hundreds of thousands which were common in the earlier years»

Le Monde: immigrants and refugees

Le Monde

◆ «“Traditional” **migration, fueled by economic pull factors, is declining in Europe**, as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says (...). However, **[forced] migration**, coming from conflict areas or fueled by the effects of climate change, **will increase**»

Jean-Pierre Stroobants, *Immigration: la funeste myopie européenne*, in «Le Monde», May 14th, 2014, p. 20, online in <http://rs.gs/xeC>

Refugees or “mixed” flows?

- ◆ **Mixed flows.** «The concept of **mixed migration** (alternatively known as “migration-asylum nexus”) has developed as a concept over the past two decades, as a response to the increasing acknowledgment that **migration occurs for a variety of motivations** and in a mixture of flows. **While people may move to escape persecution or conflict, their motivations may also include a hope for a better life and economic situation**, and may change based on their point in the migratory process. Further, those **persons migrating for economic reasons may use the same networks and paths as those migrating to escape conflict»**

- EUROMED Migration Project, *Irregular Migration. First Peer-to-Peer Meeting. The Management of Mixed Migration Flows in the last decade: Lessons learnt and options for the future. Background paper*, Budapest 2013, <http://rs.gs/LcP>, pag. 1

The “new” migration (1)



- ◆ Since 2011, new immigration flows to Italy have started. **“New” immigrants come as asylum seekers**, seeking protection as refugees under the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, whereas “old” immigrants came as workers (s.c. “economic immigration”)

Sheltering policies (1)

- ◆ At the end of the 1990s, Italian government created a public network of reception centers for refugees, the so-called “SPRAR” (Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati, *Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees*)
- ◆ Before 2011, however, **the accommodation capacity of SPRAR system was 3.000 places; at the same time, in Italy at least 10.000 asylum seekers arrived every year...**

Source: SPRAR Servizio Centrale, *Rapporto annuale del Sistema di protezione per richiedenti asilo e rifugiati. Anno 2012/2013*, Digitalia Lab srl., Roma 2013, <http://rs.gs/EOq>, pag. 52.

Useful info in English at: Maria de Donato (ed.), *Asylum information database. Country Report: Italy*, AIDA (Asylum Information Database), 2015, <http://rs.gs/2ff>

AIDA data sheet on refugee shelter in Italy at <http://rs.gs/gyJ>

Sheltering policies (2)

◆ In **2012 and 2013** the accommodation capacity of the SPRAR system was increased by **9.356 places**: not enough, if it is compared with the high volume of the refugee flows in the same period (17.352 in 2012, 26.620 in 2013 and 63.456 in 2014)

Source: SPRAR Servizio Centrale, *Rapporto annuale del Sistema di protezione per richiedenti asilo e rifugiati. Anno 2012/2013*, Digitalia Lab srl., Roma 2013, <http://rs.gs/EOq>, pag. 52

The collapse of the SPRAR system



- ◆ The increasing flows of refugees, combined with the lack of an effective accommodation capacity, led to the **collapse** of the shelter system

A new shelter system



- ◆ The SPRAR system couldn't face the new refugee flow; so, italian government created in 2011 **a new emergency network of shelters** and reception centers for asylum seekers and refugees
- ◆ These new shelters are known as "CAS" (Centri di Accoglienza Straordinaria, *Emergency Reception Centers*)

System	Shelters	Capacity
SPRAR	Ordinary system of accommodation and welcoming for asylum seekers and refugees	22.000
CAS	Emergency system of accommodation and welcoming for asylum seekers and refugees	52.000
Prima accoglienza	Reception centers in the ports where refugees land	10.000
Accommodation capacity (tot.)		84.000

Source for the accommodation capacity: Fabio Tonacci, “Sbarchi in aumento solo dell’8%”, i veri numeri sull’emergenza profughi, «La Repubblica», 20 July 2015, pages 14-15

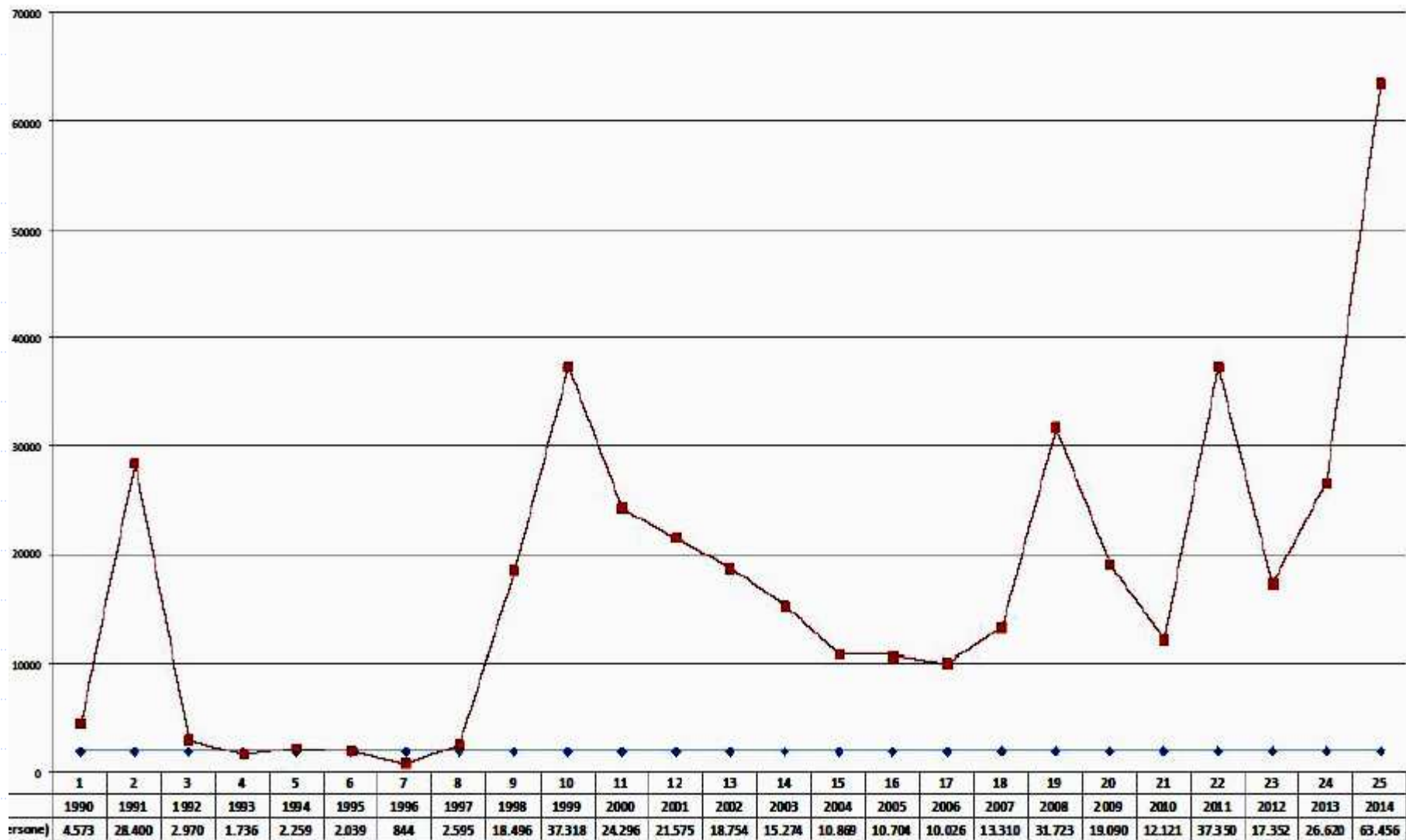
A new challenge for Italy



- ◆ While Italy has already been confronted with relevant flows of economic immigrants, the current “refugee crisis” is something new for the country...

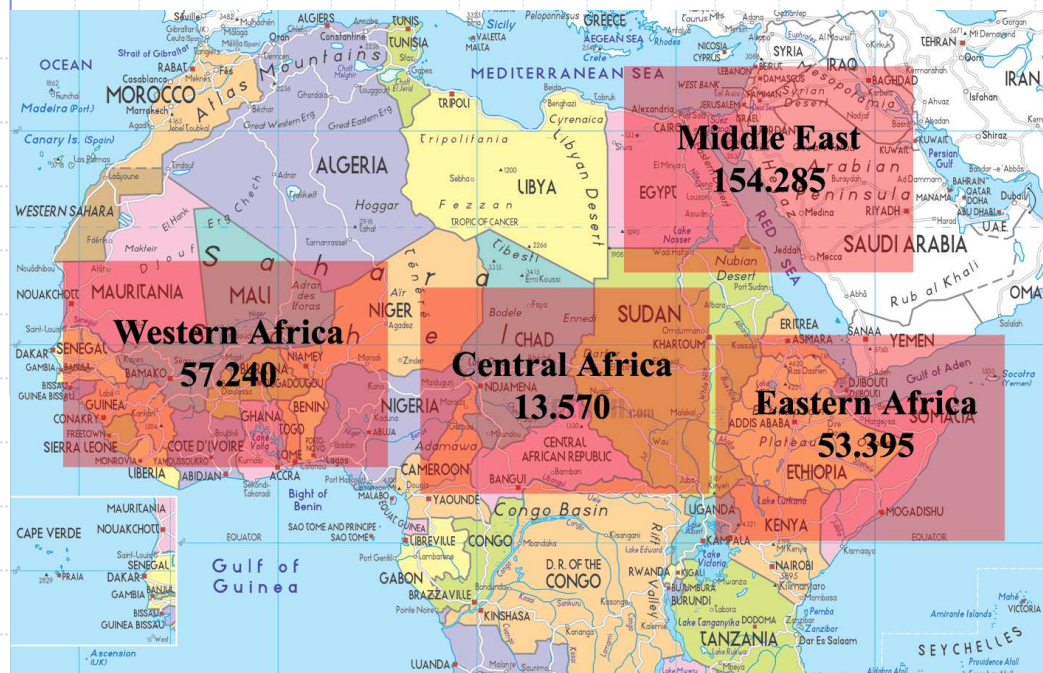
**Source: Ministero dell'Interno -
Dipartimento Libertà Civili e
Immigrazione, *Quaderno statistico asilo
1990-2014*, Ministero dell'Interno, Roma
2015, p. 27, online in <http://rs.gs/SGN>**

Asylum applications in Italy	
Year	Number of applicants
2000	24.296
2001	21.575
2002	18.754
2003	15.274
2004	10.869
2005	10.704
2006	10.026
2007	13.310
2008	31.723
2009	19.090
2010	12.121
2011	37.350
2012	17.352
2013	26.620
2014	63.456



Source: Ministero dell'Interno - Dipartimento Libertà Civili e Immigrazione, *Quaderno statistico asilo 1990-2014*, Ministero dell'Interno, Roma 2015, p. 27, online in <http://rs.gs/SGN>

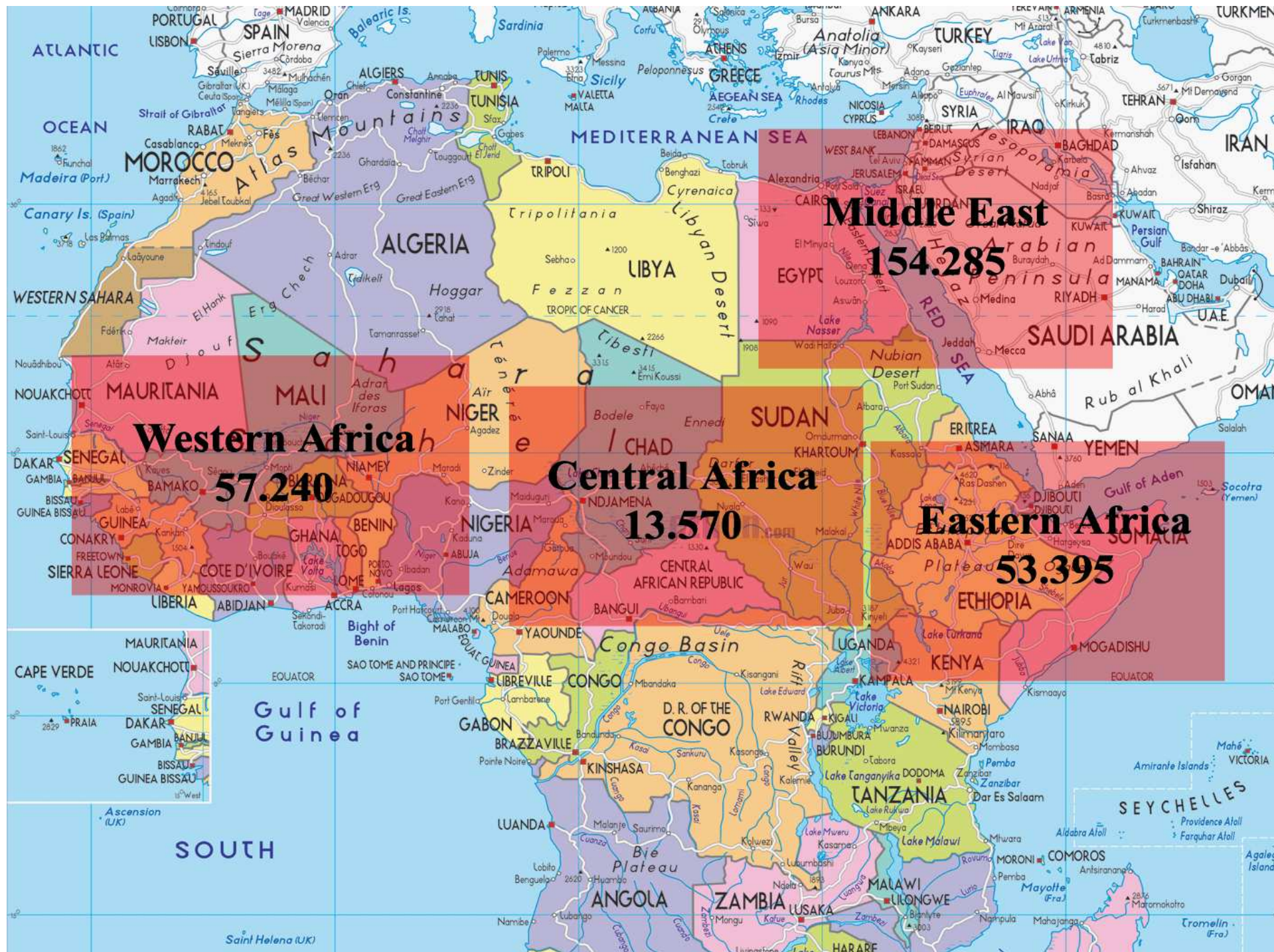
Refugees in Europe: where they come from (2014)



Definitions:

- **Western Africa:** Nigeria, Mali, Gambia, Senegal, Guinea
- **Central Africa:** Congo, Sudan
- **Eastern Africa:** Eritrea, Somalia
- **Medio Oriente:** Syria, Iraq, Iran (without Iran: 143,425)

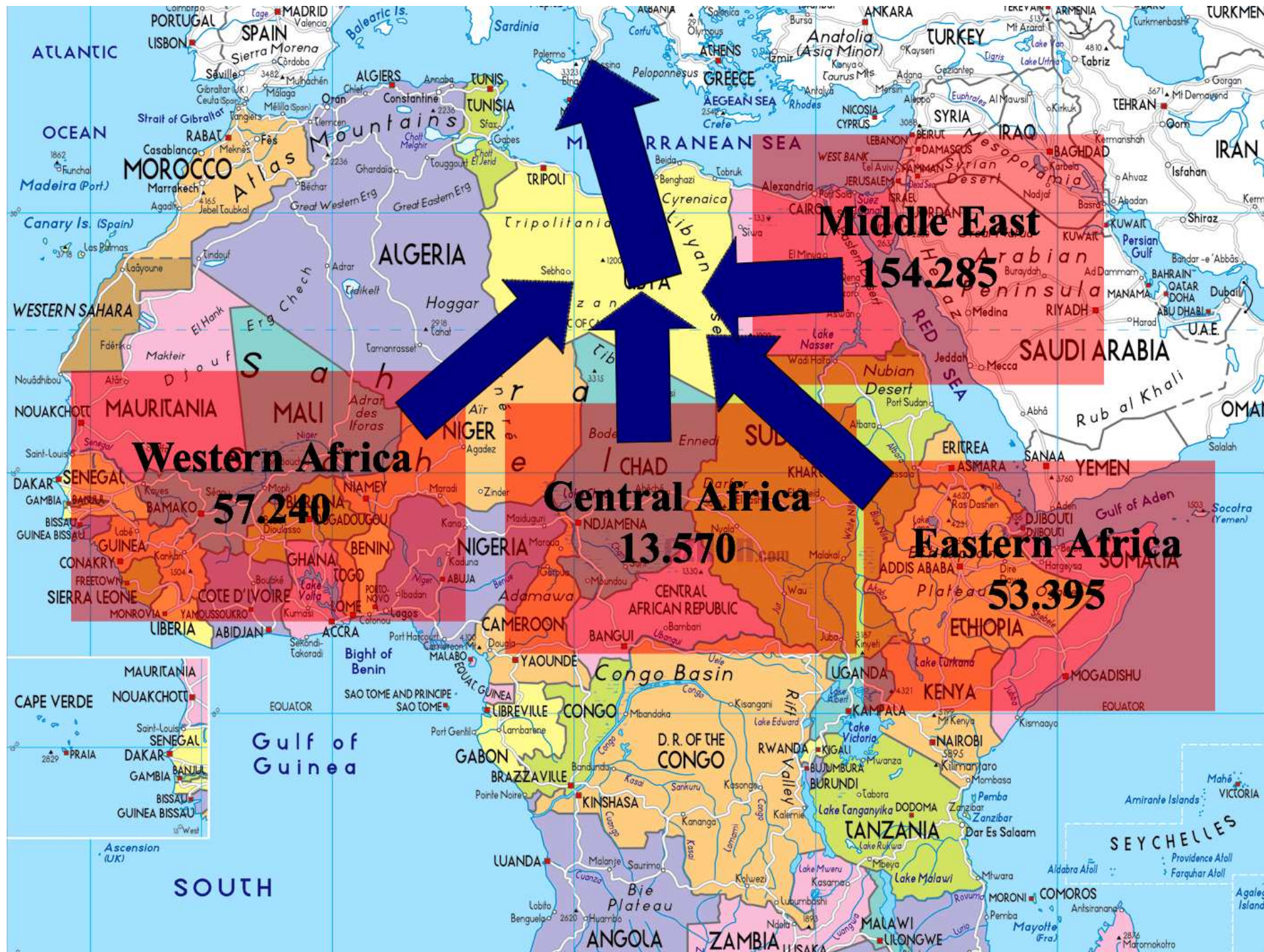
My own elaboration based on: Eurostat, *Asylum statistics: tables and figures*, data updated to 2014, <http://rs.gs/yRE>



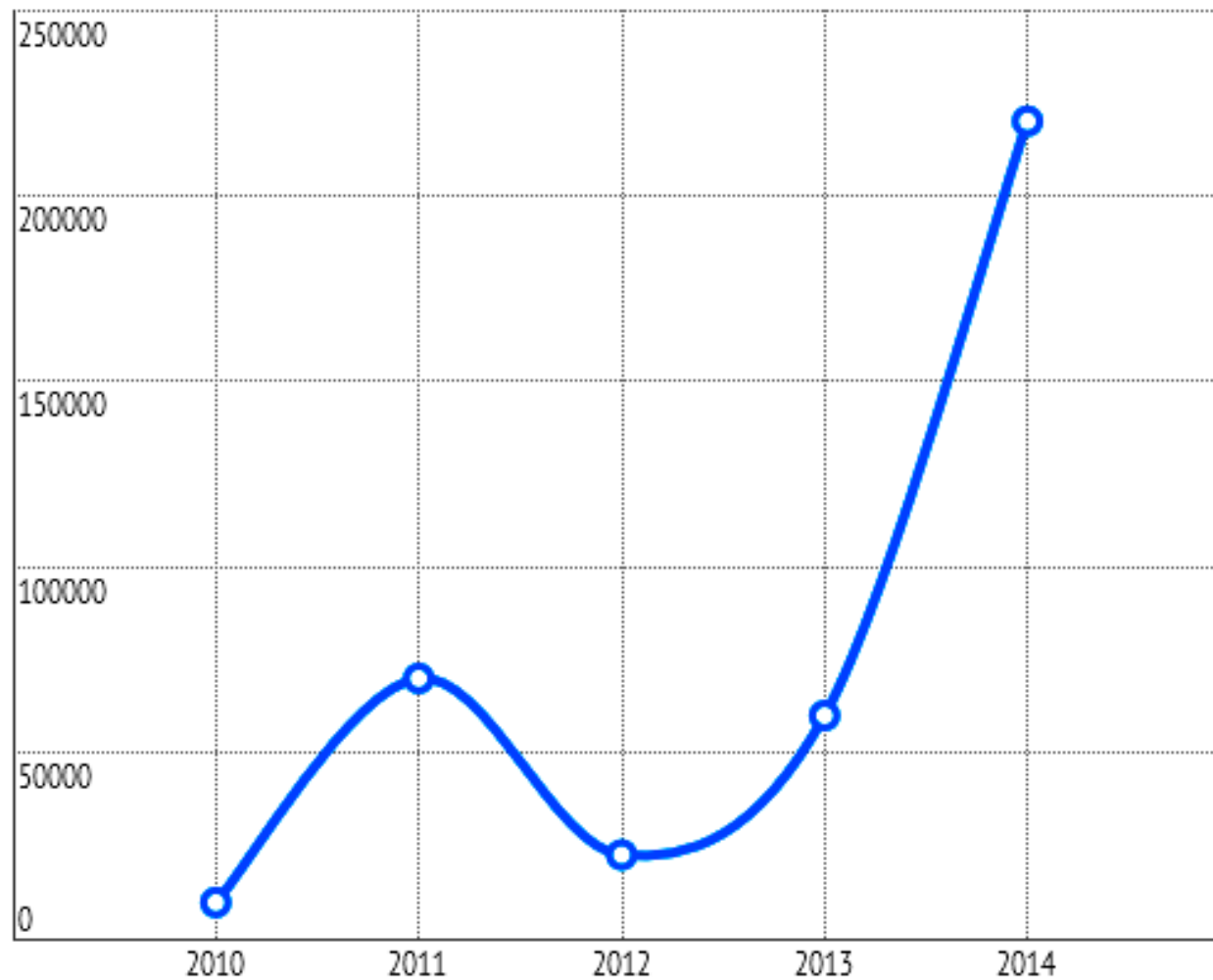
The Mediterranean route



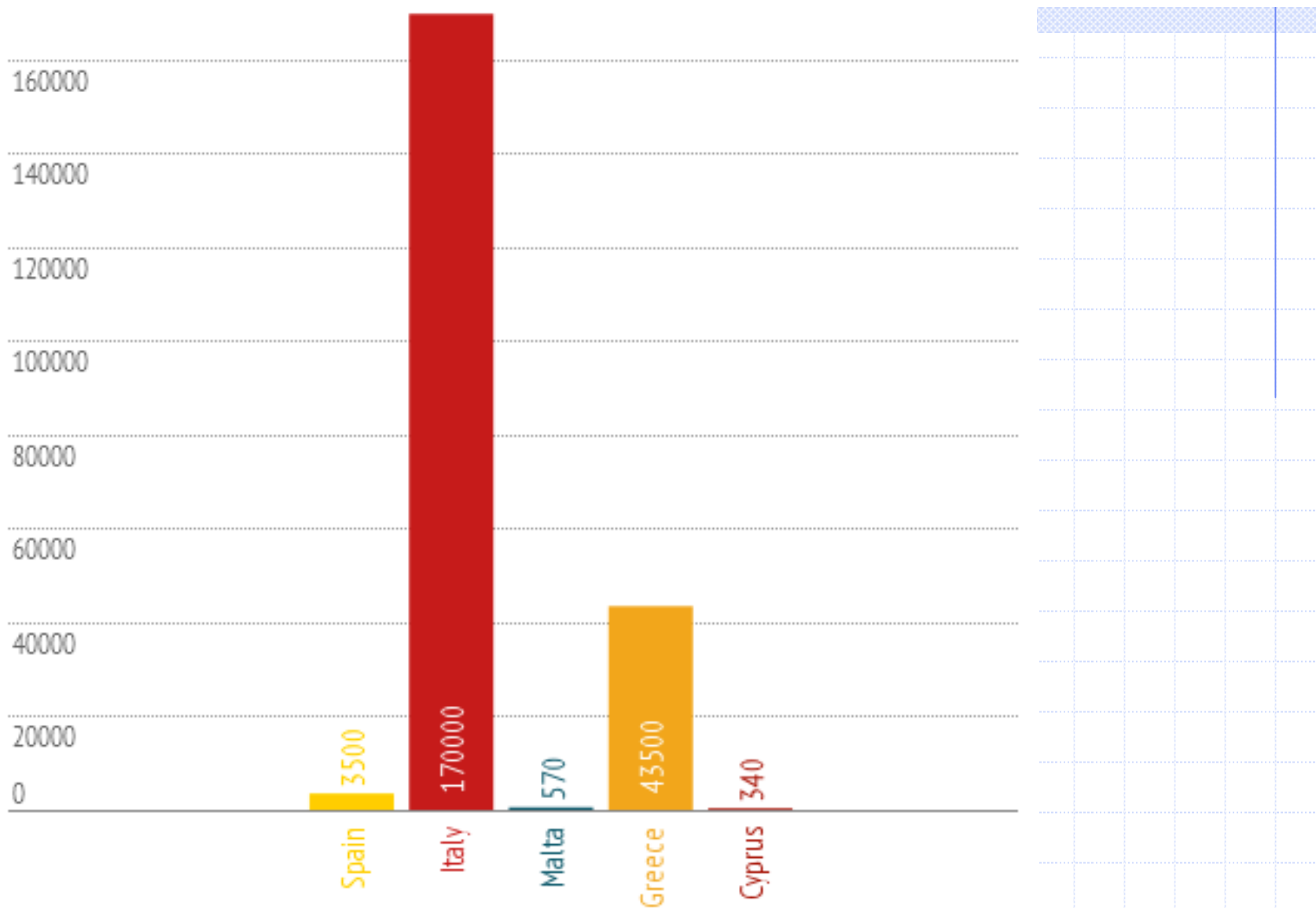
- ◆ In 2014, many refugees landed in Italy, then they tried to go to the northern Europe countries (such as France and Germany)



Sea Arrivals to Southern Europe



Source: UNHCR 2015, <http://www.unhcr.it/risorse/statistiche/infografiche>



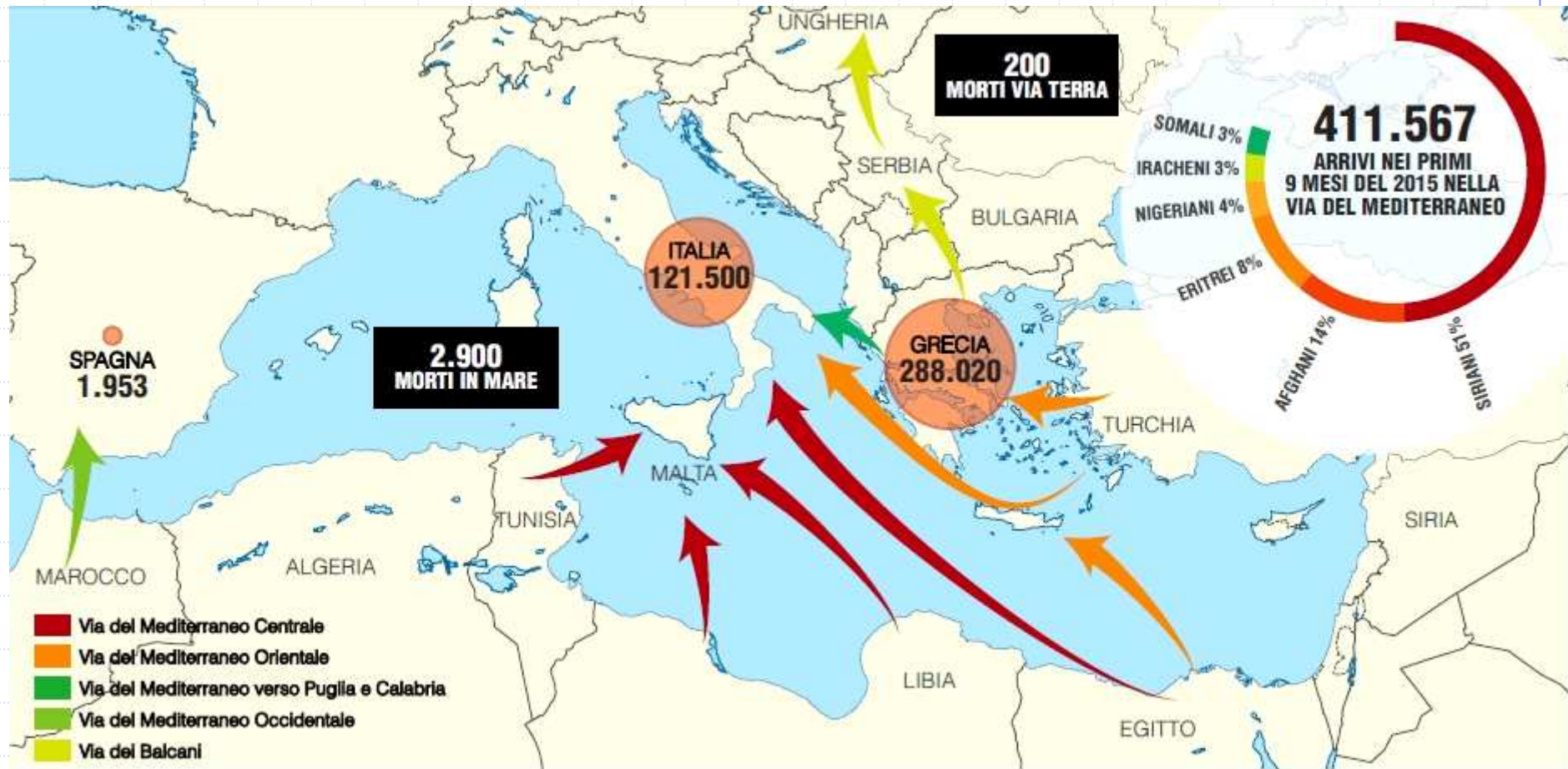
Source: UNHCR 2015, <http://www.unhcr.it/risorse/statistiche/infografiche>. 2014 data

Landings in Italy, 2014

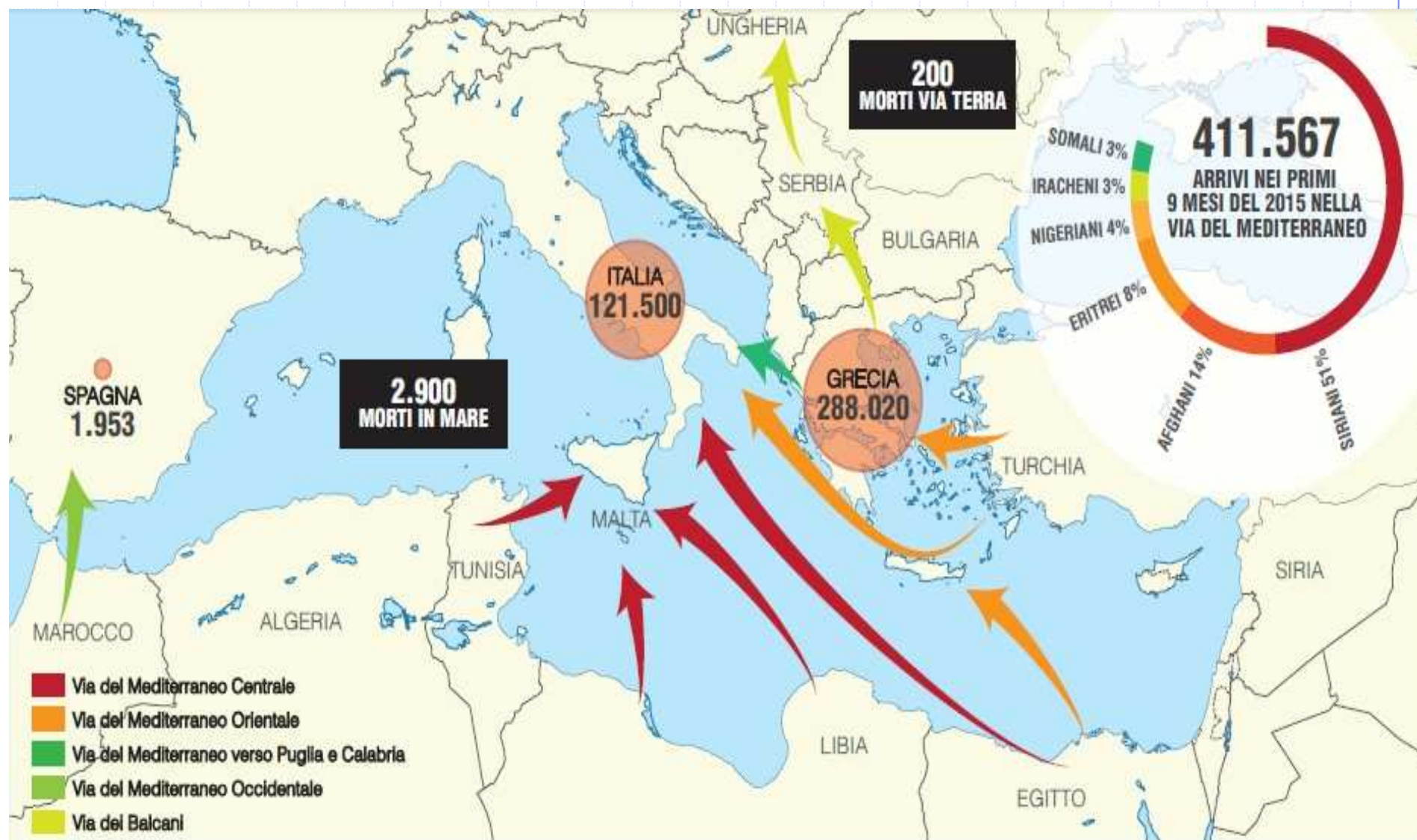
◆ In 2014, 170.000 immigrants landed in Southern Italy

Source: UNHCR 2015, <http://www.unhcr.it/risorse/statistiche/infografiche>

New routes to Europe, 2015



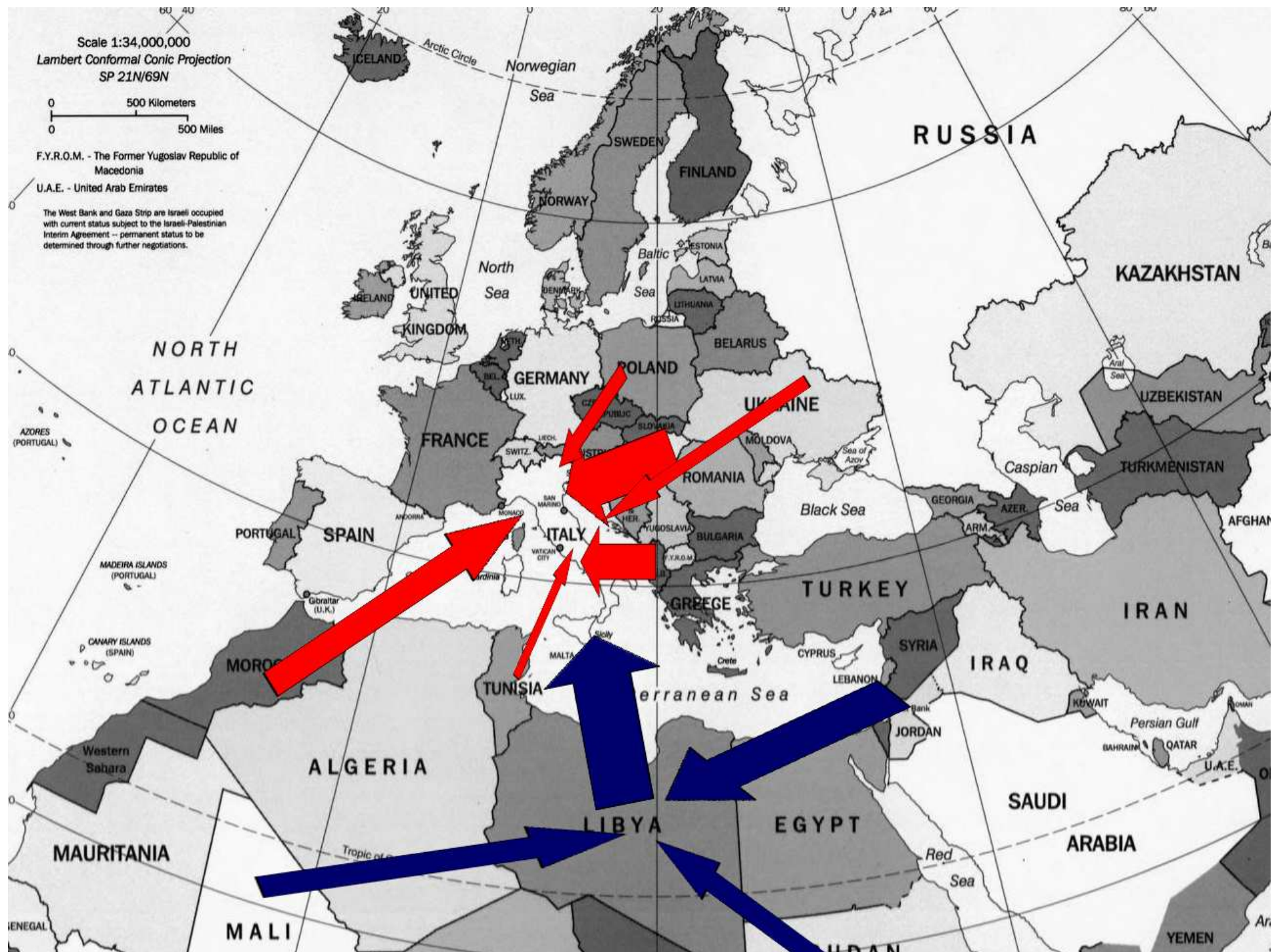
Source: Anci, Caritas Italiana, Cittalia, Fondazione Migrantes, Sprar, *Rapporto sulla protezione internazionale in Italia 2015. Sintesi*, Digitaia Lab, Roma 2015, <http://rs.gs/Ah2>, pag. 4



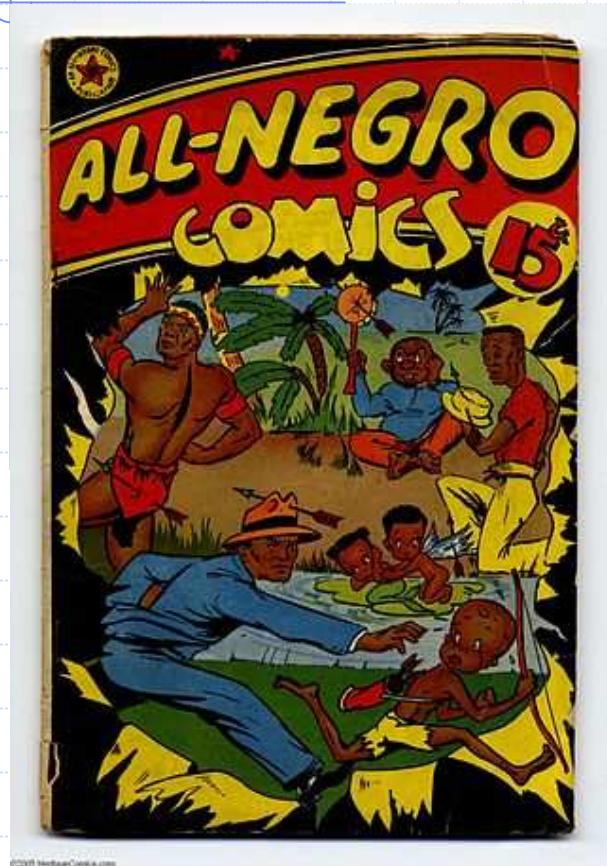
“New” and “old” migration



- ◆ While the “traditional” (economic) immigration mainly came from Eastern Europe, the new refugee flow come from Africa



Popular imagination



- ◆ In the popular imagination, “refugees” are all black and african people
- ◆ Populist parties, like Lega Nord (*Northern League, an anti-immigration separatist movement in North-Eastern Italy*), promoted several campaigns against refugees, and **reactivate colonial stereotypes about Africans**

Colonial stereotypes

- ◆ Lazy people (“they don’t want to work”)
- ◆ Criminals
- ◆ “Primitive” people
- ◆ They carry diseases like Ebola, scabies, etc.
- ◆ They are a sexual danger for “our women”

“Education” and stereotypes



- ◆ These colonial stereotypes are largely spread also among social workers who support asylum seekers and refugees
- ◆ For many social workers, **“education” is often confused with “civilizing primitive persons”** (*the white man’s burden*)

“The Negro is just a child”



Franz Fanon, *Black skin white masks*, Pluto Press Publisher, London 2008 (original version Paris 1952), online at <http://rs.gs/qqE>, pp. 15-16

◆ «It is said that the Negro loves to jabber; when I think of the word jabber I see a gay group of children calling and shouting for the sake of calling and shouting — children in the midst of play, to the degree to which play can be considered an initiation into life. The Negro loves to jabber, and from this theory it is not a long road that leads to a new proposition: **The Negro is just a child.** The psychoanalysts have a fine start here, and **the term orality is soon heard**»

“Colonial” patterns of education

◆ A shelter manager in Florence said: «We have to start with the basics: actually **we are teaching the use of forks and knives (...), and they are learning how to wear shirts and shoes, how to have a shower, how to use toilets...**»

- Interview to a shelter manager, in *“Imparano a usare coltello e forchetta”. Così i migranti sono accolti dalla cooperativa*, «Redattore Sociale», online newspaper, 28 July 2015, <http://rs.gs/gEh>

“Discipline and Punish”

- ◆ In a context of progressive institutionalization, the reception management is confused with surveillance. Sometimes, asylum seekers must face soft forms of imprisonment / detention (it is forbidden to go out of structures, to receive visits, there are strict requirements on the schedules and rhythms of life, invasive control on private life etc.)

Thanks to you all



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