

*The role of Swedish missions abroad in the
processing of applications for family
reunification – challenges and good practices*

Istanbul

The migration sections two main work areas

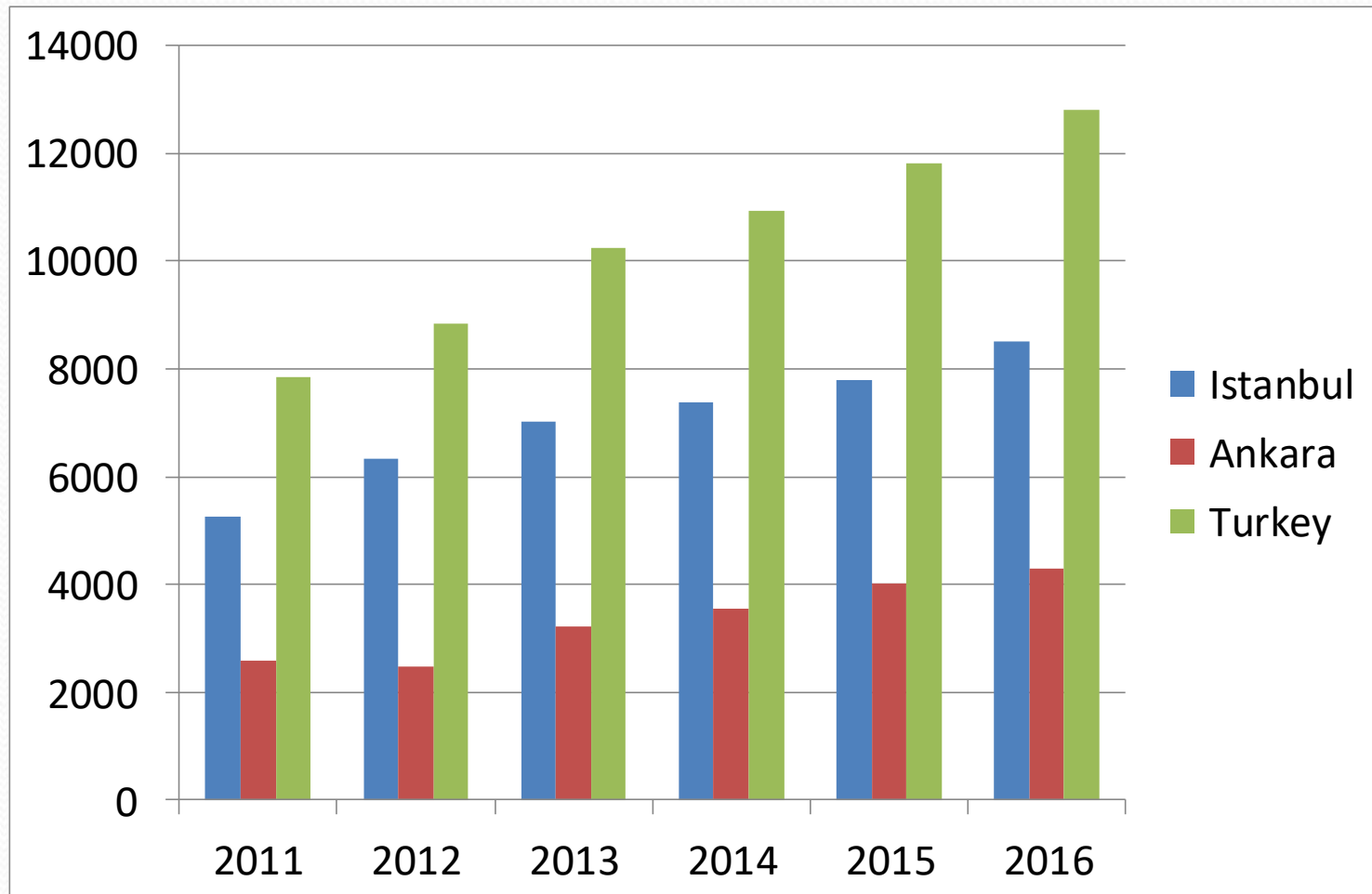
Visas

- Take decision in applications for Schengen visas
- Regular meetings and inspections of the visa service provider (VFS)
- Personal visits
- Handle appeals
- Administrative work and archiving

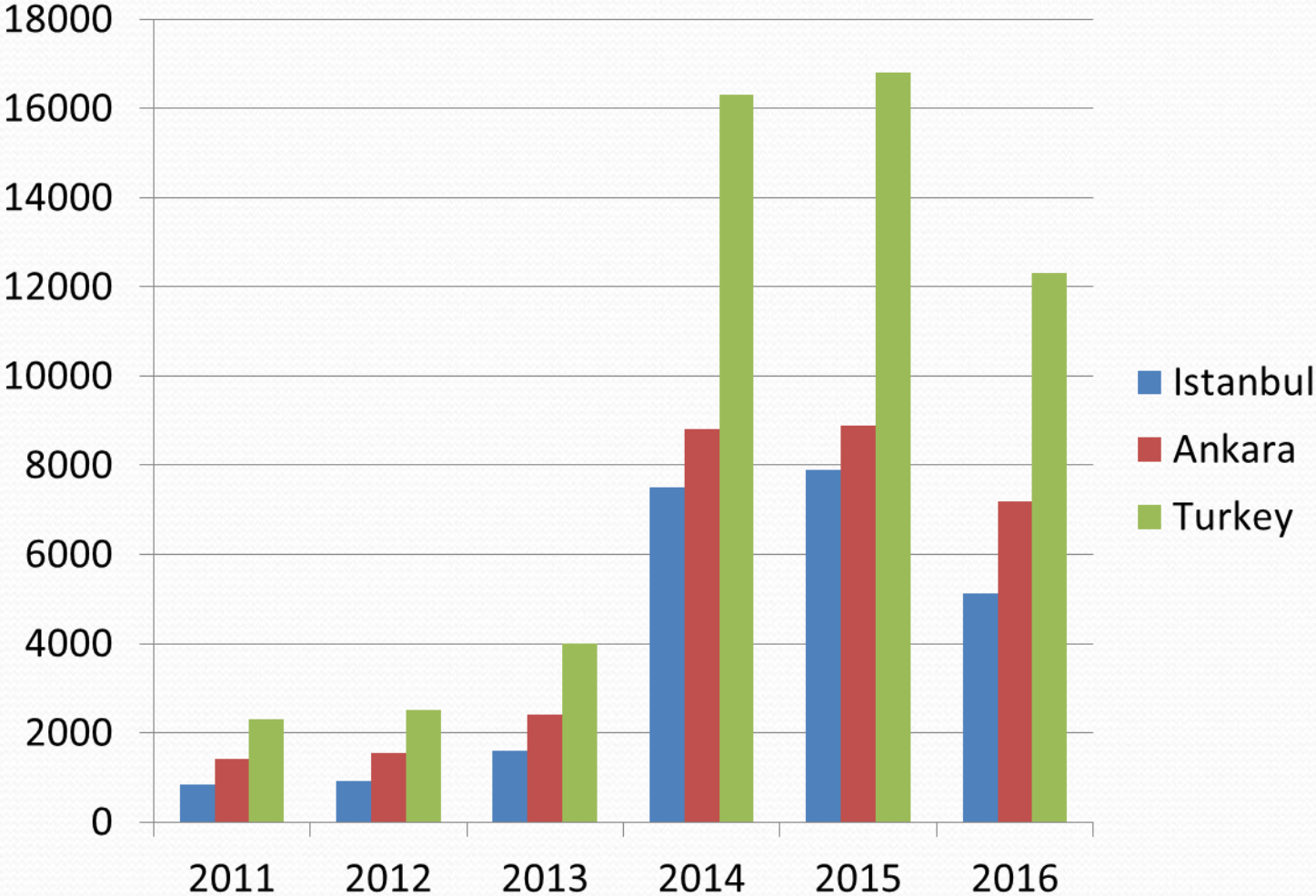
Resident permits

- Recieve applications
- Conduct interviews
- Take biometrics and hand out resident permit cards
- Organize bookings for applications and interviews
- Answer questions on e-mail and phones

Visa applications in Turkey



Number of resident permit applications for family reunification



Some important dates

- **March 2012** The Swedish Embassy in Damaskus closes
- **May 2013** The Swedish Migration Agency take a decision that allow Syrian citizens to hand in their applications in Ankara, Istanbul, Kairo, Amman, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi (from the 18th of January 2017 also Khartoum)
- **September 2013** The Swedish Migration Agency decides that all Syrians that apply for asylum in Sweden will get a permanent resident permit
- **November 2015** Sweden introduce border controls. Discussions are being held between EU and Turkey about a special migrations agreement.
- **January 2016** Turkey decides that Syrians travel to Turkey by boat and air require visa (in practice also massive restrictions by land)
- **March 2016** Migration agreement between EU and Turkey comes into effect
- **July 2016** Sweden adopts a new temporary law that limits the possibility to be granted a resident permit. The temporary law is valid for three years.
- **December 2016** A new office for the migration section is ready in Istanbul.