

The Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014-2016: Austria's Responses

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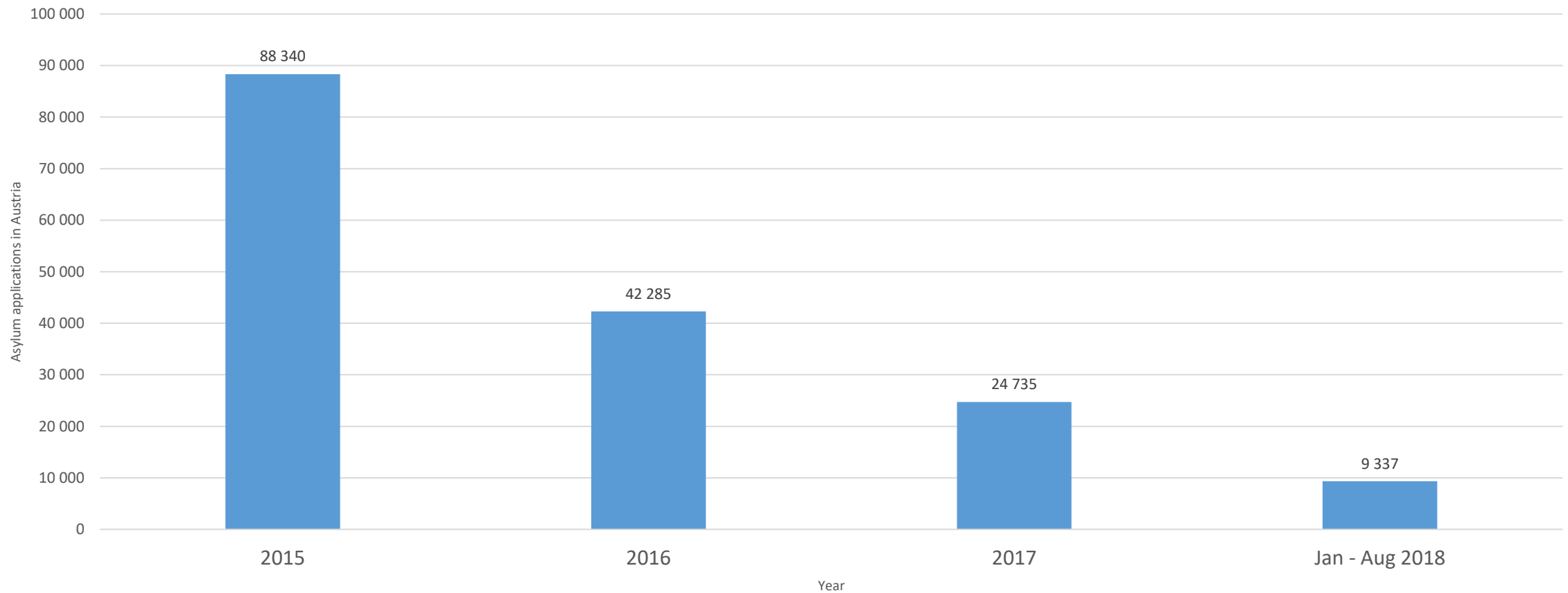


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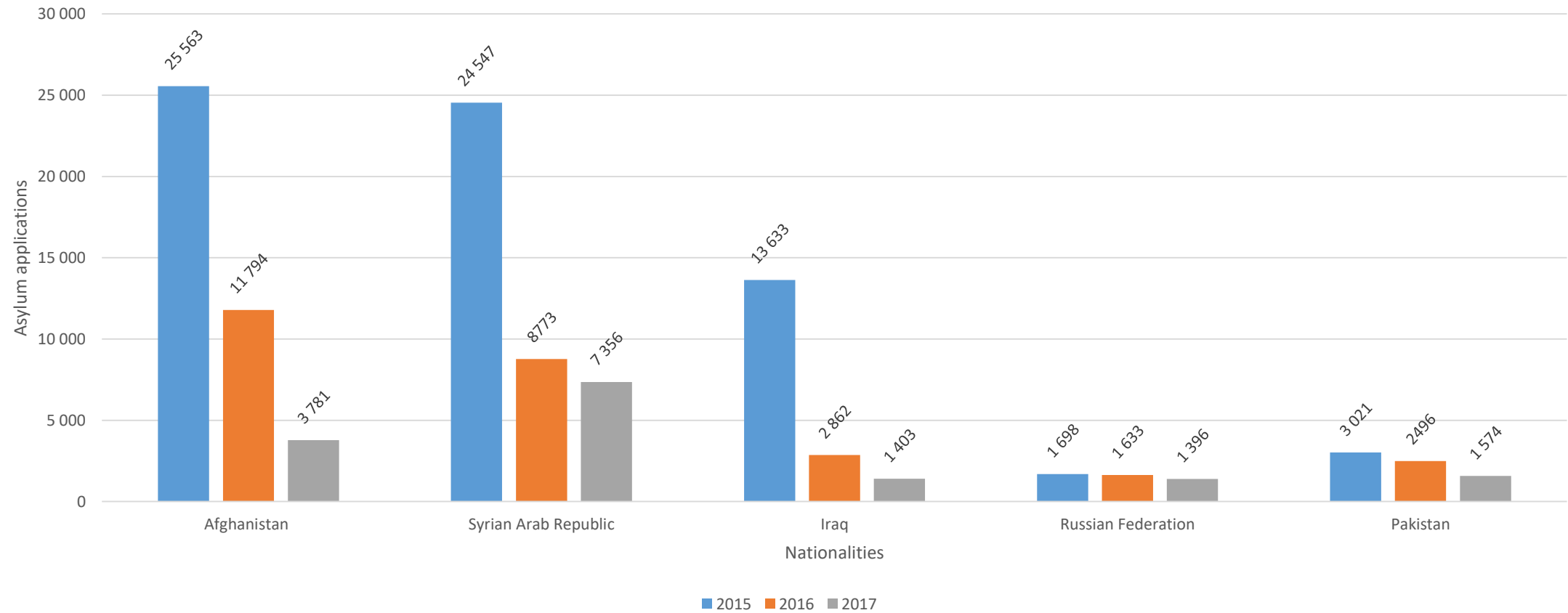
The European Migration Network (EMN) is coordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each EU Member State plus Norway. The National Contact Point Austria in the EMN is financially supported by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Asylum applications in Austria 2015 - August 2018



Source: Federal Ministry of Interior, Vorläufige Asylstatistik August 2018,

Asylum applications – top 5 Nationalities 2015-2017



- July 2014: Emergency plan to accommodate asylum seekers (Mol)
- Sept 2015: Implementation of Border Controls
- Sept 2015: „Integration funding pool“ set up
- Jan 2016: Asylum summit – goal to reduce and control „refugee and migration flows to AT by reasonable means“
- Jan 2016: new boarder management system into operation

Oct 2015: **Federal Constitutional Act** concerning accomodation and allocation of foreigners entered into effect

- accomodation and distribution among AT in equal manner
- Federal State can bypass municipalities when establishing accomodation procedures

July 2016: **Asylum Act** amended

- Granting of asylum limited to initially 3 years, „asylum on time“
- Obligation to evaluate countries of origin at least once/year for change in conditions – in that case withdrawal of asylum status

Family reunification (June 2016) – response to increase 2015

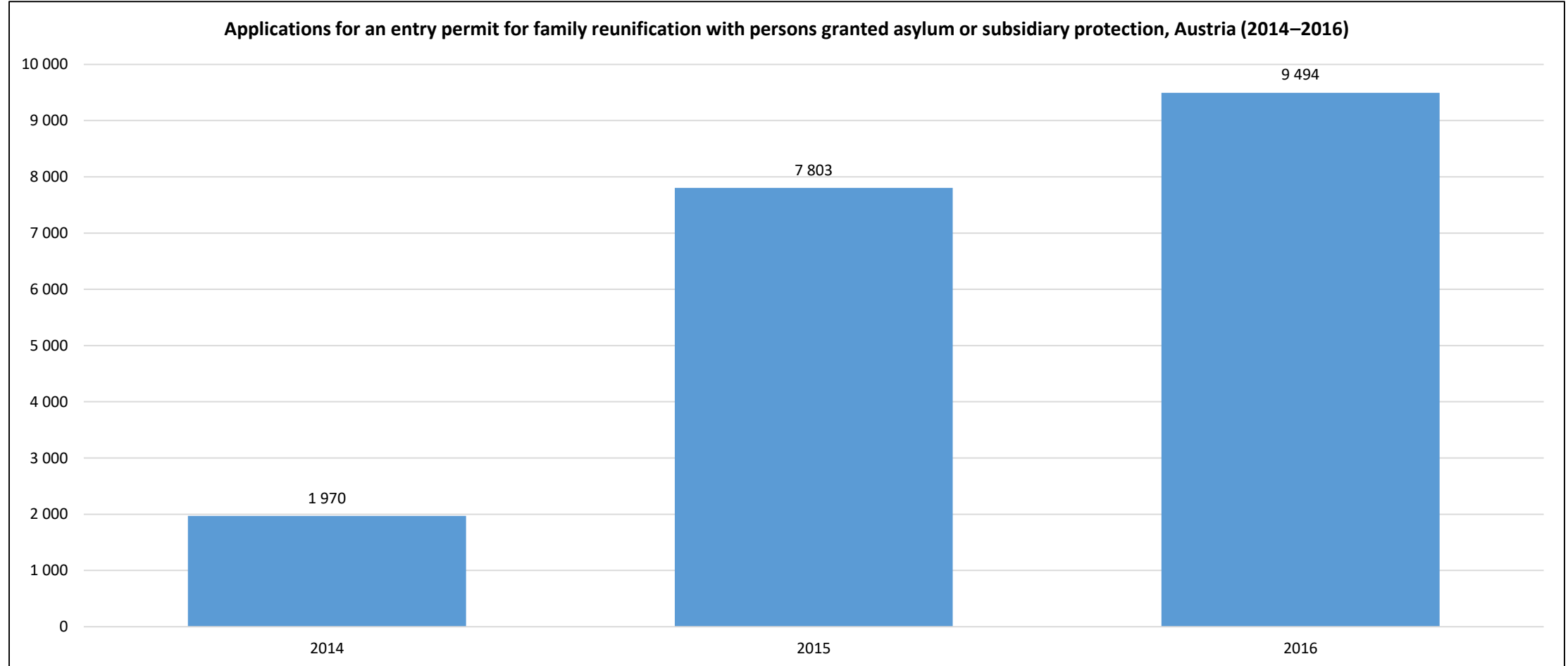
- Asylum – family member can apply within first 3 months
- Beneficiary of Intern. Protection – family member earliest in 3 years after status granted

2016: **Act on Recognition and Assessment of Qualifications** entered into effect

2016: Amendment to **Regulation on Countries of Origin** declared following countries as „safe countries of origin“:

- Algeria, Georgia, Ghana, Morocco, Mongolia, Tunisia.

June 2017: **Integration Act** into effect



Closer cooperation among AT ministries

- „Extended crisis board“ + Coord. board on acute migration situation
- Asylum Task force

Cooperation with neighbouring countries

- Border control support to other member states
- July 2015 cooperation agreement signed with Slovakia
- Agreements with e.g. Hungary and Macedonia to support protection of external EU borders
- Summit meeting on the Balkan route: adoption of Joint Declaration on Managing Migration Flows

Border control

- Introduction of temporary border controls, allowing for checks at all airports and national borders
- Deployment of armed forces
- Installation of new border management system in Dec 2015 at Spielfeld (structured procedures)

Reception centres

- Bypass power of Federal State to make accomodation available in provinces and municipalities
- Appointment of refugee coordinator in Oct 2015
- Support of civil society!

Target number of asylum applications

- Extensive debate on maximum number since Jan 2016
- Agreement on max. 1,5 % of population or 127,000 total

Information initiative in Afghanistan

- Launched in Mar 2016 to „dispel false expectations“

Reinforced measures for reintegration

- AT since 2016 in ERIN network

Personnel – additional staff at

- Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum, Mol
- Mol
- Police
- Federal Administrative Court

Measures planned – implemented?

Planned	Implemented
<p>Visa for particularly exceptional circumstances (Art. 20 Aliens Police Act).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New visa introduced, allowing for granting visa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if necessary for humanitarian reasons, - on grounds of national interests, - because of international obligations
<p>Detention pending removal in cases of “any criminal conviction” (Art. 76 para 2a and 3 subpara 8 Aliens Police Act)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In the framework of assessing the proportionality of detention pending removal criminal convictions are to be considered. ✓ In evaluating the risk of absconding the law now stipulates to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - circumstances such as the foreigner’s failure to comply with the obligation to register, or - the obligation to cooperate.



Measures planned – implemented?

Planned	Implemented
<p>Procedures for withdrawing asylum status after a shorter decision period</p>	<p>✓ If a decision of withdrawing the asylum status is appealed, the time limit for decisions of the Federal Administrative Court now is two months.</p>
<p>The introduction of the new 2017 Integration Act during the first six months involving a number of new measures</p>	<p>✓ Amendment of the Integration Act on March 2017 (effective in June 2017). Since 1 January 2018 all provision of the mentioned act are in force.</p>



Thank you for your attention!

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