

Concept clarification

Migration: Movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions and also for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence which is usually across political borders, hence environmental, political, cultural and economic factors are the chief factors for migration. Migration can take the form of 'emigration' (leaving one country to move to another) or 'immigration' (moving into a new country).

Resettlement: "involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status. The status provided ensures protection against refoulement and provides a resettled refugee and his/her family or dependants with access to rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals. Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country" (cited in UNHCR Resettlement Handbook 2011:3). <http://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf>

Eurocepticism: historically, this term was used in Britain where it was conversely used to represent the older term 'anti-marketeters' who opposed Britain's involvement in the European integration in the 1960s. In view of this, the Oxford English Dictionary defines a 'euroceptic' as 'a person having doubts or reservations regarding the supposed benefits of increasing cooperation between the member states of the European Union; an opponent of greater political or economic integration in Europe (Oxford English dictionary: <http://www.oed.com>).

'Refugee/Migrant crisis: this is the surge of refugees into the European Union through the Mediterranean Sea or southeast Europe since 2015 which has resulted to the death of over 3000 persons and threatened the European borders.. The term became widely used in April 2005 when five boats carrying almost two thousand migrants into Europe capsized in the Mediterranean Sea.

Asylum applicant- means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period. For reasons of simplicity, the term "applicant" has been used in this Release, because the data counts individuals rather than applications, which include in some cases several persons. 'Application for international protection' means an application for international protection as defined in Art. 2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

Within the same month every person being a subject of asylum application is counted only once, therefore repeat applications are not recorded if the first application has been lodged in the same month. However, such a repeat application will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the annual figures, which are based on an aggregation of monthly data, may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection.

In 2014, it is estimated that around 89% of asylum applicants were first time applicants and around 11% were repeat applicants. This proportion has been estimated on the basis of the share of repeat applicants available in the 28 EU Member States, except Austria. These Member States covered 96% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU in 2014. (as taken from the Eurostat news release 53/2015)

Refugee – “A refugee, according to the Convention, is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. The Convention further stipulates that, subject to specific exceptions, refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay. This recognizes that the seeking of asylum can require refugees to breach immigration rules. Prohibited penalties might include being charged with immigration or criminal offences relating to the seeking of asylum, or being arbitrarily detained purely on the basis of seeking asylum. Importantly, the Convention contains various safeguards against the expulsion of refugees. The principle of nonrefoulement is so fundamental that no reservations or derogations may be made to it. It provides that no one shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee against his or her will, in any manner whatsoever, to a territory where he or she fears threats to life or freedom. Finally, the Convention lays down basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, without prejudice to States granting more favourable treatment. Such rights include access to the courts, to primary education, to work, and the provision for documentation, including a refugee travel document in passport form.” (text of the 1951 Geneva convention and 1967 protocol)