

# YOUTH MUN MADRID MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## **Study Guide**

### **COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Topic: Integration of refugees in European countries

## **1. ABOUT THE MODEL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

## **2. ABOUT YOUTH MUN MADRID**

## **3. ABOUT COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

## **4. ABOUT THE TOPIC: Integration of refugees in European countries**

## **5. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **1. ABOUT THE MODEL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The Model of the European Union is a simulation of its main legislative bodies: The European Parliament and the Council of the EU. Both committees, together, will try to solve, through the debate, two problems that especially concern the EU at the moment. You will be playing a role inside one of the committees, so remember to be loyal to what your country or political party defends when the sessions start.

The goal of this research process is that the delegate can identify their country's or political party's position on the issue, in order to build policies and workable solutions. To achieve this, the participant must study history and topicality, its legal framework (treaties, resolutions, agreements, etc.), positions and decisions that have arisen for or against this, groups or blocks that have been created, proposals and solutions that have been presented, among others.

The debate will focus on two topics: EU's response to the Ukrainian issue (European Parliament) and Integration of refugees in the European Union (Council of the EU). You will discuss the causes, consequences, and possible solutions, to get to your proposals. You also must consider documents from other organizations that work in this topic. The resolutions must be signed by both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, so negotiation will be key to end up with a proposal that includes your position.

### **2. ABOUT YOUTH MUN MADRID**

Our mission is to empower tomorrow's leaders sensitized to the problems of the world through the Model United Nations.

This initiative, promoted by the Social Promotion Foundation, was born in 2017 with the aim of raising awareness of global education amongst young people in the Community of Madrid through their participation in the United Nations Models.

The project arises from the need to promote Women's Empowerment so they could be "agents of change" for sustained economic growth, political stability, and social transformation of our country. For this reason, it currently relies on non-profit associations and educational centers with this concern.

The general objective is to favor the construction of a global citizenship aware of the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the engine of universal, inclusive, and transversal change that promote the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The position paper can be sent until 3 May 2022 to the following address:  
[youthmunmadrid@promocionsocial.org](mailto:youthmunmadrid@promocionsocial.org)

**Important:** Send a word document titled with the name of the committee and country you represent, e.g. 'HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA'. The subject of the email should contain the same title ('HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA').

Please note that you can consult the rules of procedure and other supporting documents for submitting the position paper and preparing the Conference on the online platform to which you have access: <https://online.youthmunmadrid.com/>.

**Dress code:**

Delegates' attire must be at all moments appropriate to the relevance of the event. Therefore, compliance with the so-called Western Business Attire is mandatory.

Female: full suit or blazer, with blouse or dress or formal shoe. No jeans or sneakers are acceptable. Cocktail dresses will neither be accepted.

Male: full suit or blazer and formal trousers (no jeans accepted), shirt, tie or bowtie, and formal shoes. Again, neither sneakers nor cocktail clothes will be accepted.

### 3. ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union was originally formed in 1951 under the name The European Coal and Steel Community by six founding countries Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. In 1957, the same six countries signed the Treaties of Rome, setting up the European Economic Community. Over the years, more and more countries decided to join, and The Union reached its current size of 27 member countries.

The Council of the European Union is the institution that defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union. The Council of the EU is formed by 27 national ministers (one per member-state) whose portfolio includes the policy area that is being discussed. The Council is responsible for coordinating member states' policies in specific fields, such as:

- Economic, fiscal and employment policies.
- Education, culture, youth, and sport.

### 4. ABOUT THE TOPIC

#### 4.1 DEFINITIONS

Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy special protection under international law. The UNHCR defines these groups as follows:

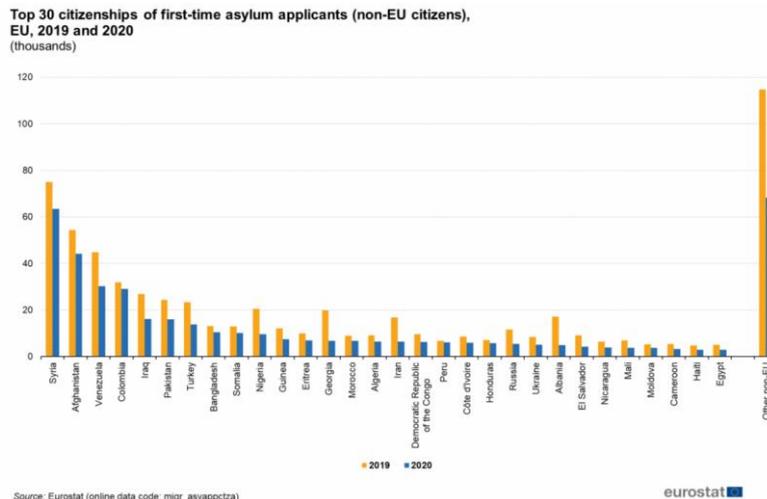
A **refugee** "is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion."

**Asylum-seekers** are "individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for formal refugee status have not yet been determined.

## 4.2 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT REFUGEES

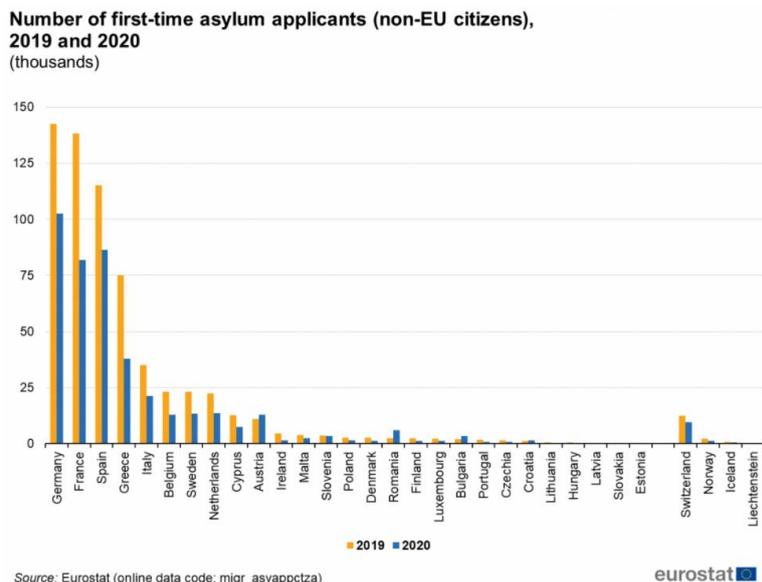
### a) Where do refugees come from?

Syria remains to be the main country of citizenship from asylum seekers in the EU since 2013. In 2020, the number of Syrian first-time asylum applicants in the EU fell to 63 500 from 74 900 in 2019, while the share of Syrians in the total EU first-time applicants increased from 11.9 % to 15.2 %. Afghans accounted for 10.6 % of the total number of first-time asylum applicants, Venezuelans for 7.3 %, Colombians for 7.0 %, while Iraqis and Pakistanis for 3.9 % and 3.8 %, respectively.



### b) Where do refugees go?

With 102.500 applicants registered in 2020, Germany accounted for 24.6% of all first-time applicants in the EU. It was followed by Spain (86.400, or 20.7%), France (81.800, or 19.6%), ahead of Greece (37.900, or 9.1%) and Italy (21.200, or 5.1%).



### 4.3 PREVIOUS LEGISLATION ON ASYLUM

#### a) The Treaty of Amsterdam

The Treaty of Amsterdam granted the EU institutions new powers to draw up legislation in the area of asylum, using a specific institutional mechanism: a five-year transitional period with a shared right of initiative between the Commission and the Member States.

These policies move from intergovernmental cooperation to become part of normal EU decision-making. EU governments must, within 5 years, adopt measures to:

- Prevent and tackle crime while safeguarding the rights of non-EU nationals;
- Strengthen judicial and administrative cooperation;
- Establish standards and procedures for checks at the EU's external borders;
- Establish rules for visas;
- Determine the criteria and mechanisms for handling asylum applications.

The Schengen agreement on passport-free travel within the EU is incorporated into the EU legal system (although the UK and Ireland do not participate in the arrangements).

#### b) The Treaty of Lisbon

The Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force in December 2009, changed the situation by transforming the measures on asylum from establishing minimum standards into creating a common system comprising a uniform status and uniform procedures.

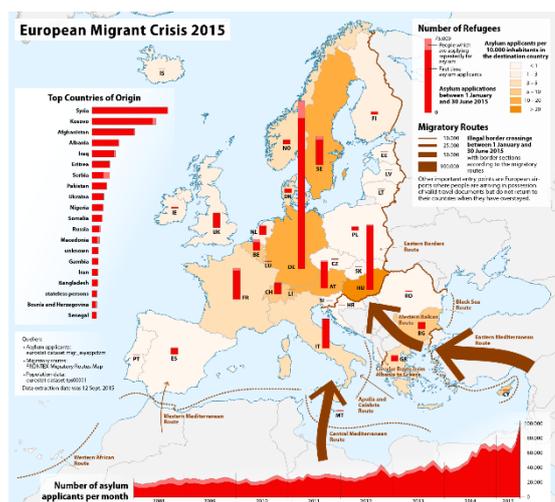
This common system must include:

- A uniform status of asylum;
- A uniform status of subsidiary protection;
- A common system of temporary protection;
- Common procedures for the granting and withdrawing of uniform asylum or subsidiary protection status;
- Criteria and mechanisms for determining which Member State is responsible for considering an application;
- Standards concerning reception conditions;
- Partnership and cooperation with non-EU countries.

### 4.4 THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS OF 2015

#### a) Introduction

The European migrant crisis or European refugee crisis began in 2015, when a rising number of refugees and migrants made the journey to the European Union (EU) to seek asylum, traveling across the Mediterranean Sea or through Southeast Europe.



According to The European Commission, by the end of February 2016, over 1.1 million people – refugees, displaced persons, and other migrants – have made their way to the European Union, either escaping conflict in their country and in search of better economic prospects.

The main reason for displacement were:

- Syrian Civil War
- War in Afghanistan
- Boko Haram insurgency

#### **b) Consequences**

Since the height of the migration crisis in 2015, the EU has implemented measures to control external borders and migration flows better. As a result, irregular arrivals to the EU have been **reduced by more than 90%**. The EU and its member states are intensifying efforts to establish an **effective, humanitarian, and safe European migration policy**.

Based on these priorities, the Council of the EU establishes lines of action and provides the mandates for negotiations with third countries. It also adopts legislation and defines specific programs. Over the past few years, the European Union has built up a **strong response** to migratory pressure.

### **4.5 ROUTES**

#### **a) Eastern Mediterranean route**

The Eastern Mediterranean route refers to **irregular arrivals to Greece, Cyprus, and Bulgaria**. In 2015, high numbers of refugees seeking shelter from Syria's war arrived in the EU via this route. Since then, the number of irregular arrivals on this route has fallen considerably thanks to the cooperation between the EU and Turkey.

#### **b) Western Mediterranean route**

The Western Mediterranean route refers to **irregular arrivals to Spain**, both by sea to mainland Spain and by land to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in Northern Africa. It is mostly used by migrants from Algeria and Morocco but people from many sub-Saharan African countries also try to reach Europe via this route. Following a peak in 2018, Spain has seen a decrease in the number of arrivals, for a variety of reasons. One major factor was the EU's investment in a **close partnership with Morocco** to help strengthen border control and combat trafficking of migrants.

#### **c) Western African route**

The West African route refers to **arrivals at the Canary Islands** in the Atlantic Ocean. This route - with departures from Morocco, the Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Gambia - has accounted for more than half of sea arrivals to Spain.

#### 4.6 EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION

The Agenda presents immediate measures to be taken in order to respond to the crisis situation that exists in the Mediterranean and the various steps that must be taken in the coming years to better manage migration in all its aspects. Concrete measures include:

- Triple capabilities and assets for Frontex joint operations (Triton and Poseidon) in 2015 and 2016.
- Propose for the first time the activation of the emergency mechanism to help member states facing sudden influxes of migrants.
- Resettlement program across the EU to offer 20,000 places.
- Work on a possible operation in the Mediterranean to dismantle smuggling networks and combat human trafficking.

#### 4.7 THE UKRAINIAN MIGRATORY ISSUE

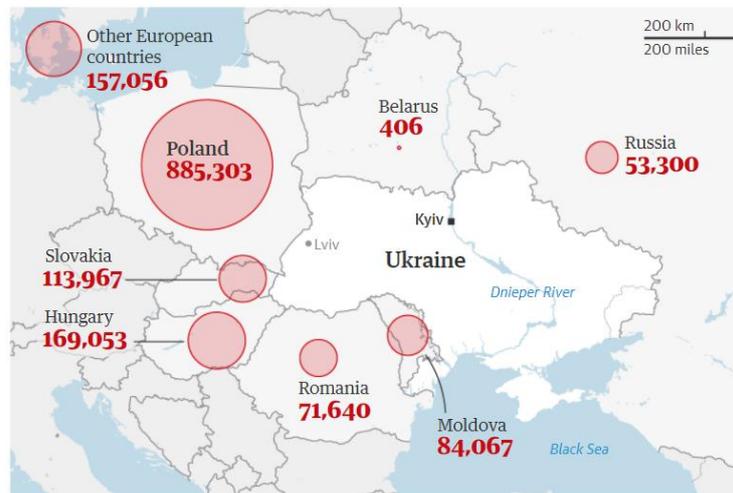
Russia started the invasion of Ukraine the 24th of February, and in less than two weeks, **more than 2,3 million refugees have fled their country** crossing its borders (approximately 5% of the Ukrainian population). Countries like Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Belarus, and other EU nations have demonstrated a strong and immediate response to the migratory crisis taking place in Ukraine, supporting and welcoming the millions of refugees.



The UN has declared that Ukraine has the fastest growing refugee crisis ever since World War II and expects at least 4 million of refugees to leave their country in July 2022. The High Commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, has stated that **this crisis will be a complex situation**. In particular, this is due to the dangerous situations where evacuation is taking place, especially in regions like Mariupol, Kharkov or Odesa.

This situation is putting enormous pressure on the host governments for Ukrainian refugees, as the complicated situation could last for more time than expected. Certain experts in foreign affairs such as Liz Truss, UK's Foreign Secretary, are considering the possibility that this crisis lasts for "a number of years".

That being the case, **the communities of receiving countries may not be prepared** for a long-term establishment of Ukrainian refugees in their nations. This would imply new social and economic measures to be adopted in a very close future, in order to achieve a full integration of the refugees in their countries.



#### 4.8 PROFILE OF REFUGEES AND THE PROBLEM OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

The profiles of citizens that are leaving Ukraine are mostly women and children, as men aged between 18 and 60 have been asked to stay. Because the Ukrainian people are neighbors of countries like the previously mentioned ones, **the mentality has changed** inside their national governments. Hungary, the country where Viktor Orbán legalized pushbacks in 2015 due to the entrance of Syrian or Afghan refugees that were mostly considered to be “terrorists”, is now having open doors for the Ukrainian people.

This attitude reflects the **structural racism** that is attached to the concept of “refugee”. The term had previously been associated with the image of a middle eastern, Muslim male who was unable to adapt to the culture of the country they migrated to, and who created a threat of “terrorist attacks” in the European Union. Now that the portrayal of refugees has changed due to the Ukrainian issue, the **stereotypes and prejudices** linked to their status might disappear, concluding in a change in the paradigm that certain countries had in 2015.

This situation must lead to thinking about how the discourse of “Ukrainians are like us, they have blonde hair, blue eyes, they drive the same car as we do, they are educated. We know who Ukrainians are, they are not violent, they are not “terrorists” should change into “They may or may not look like us, but nonetheless, they deserve our help.”

#### 4.9 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What impact does the current Ukrainian refugee crisis have on your country?
- What can be improved in comparison to the EU’s response to the crisis of 2015?
- What kind of measures could be implemented to achieve a long-term integration of refugees in the European Union?
- How could structural racism within the refugee issue be solved?

## 5. SUGGESTED SITES

### COUNCIL OF THE EU

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/>

### Lisbon Treaty

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/5/the-treaty-of-lisbon>

### Treaty of Amsterdam

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=celex:11997D/TXT>

### Asylum Policy

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/151/asylum-policy#:~:text=The%20Treaty%20of%20Lisbon%2C%20which,uniform%20status%20and%20uniform%20procedures.>

### European Agenda on Migration

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52015DC0240>

### Crisis 2015

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-migration-policy/>

### Migration in Europe

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Asylum\\_statistics#Main\\_countries\\_of\\_destination:\\_Germany,Spain\\_and\\_France](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Asylum_statistics#Main_countries_of_destination:_Germany,Spain_and_France)

### Ukrainian crisis

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472>

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/06/ukraine-fastest-growing-refugee-crisis-since-second-world-war>

<https://theconversation.com/the-ukrainian-refugee-crisis-could-last-years-but-host-communities-might-not-be-prepared-178482>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/10/qa-why-europe-welcomed-ukrainian-refugees-but-not-syrians>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/26/map-which-countries-are-accepting-ukrainian-refugees-interactive>