

# Legal migration pathways across the Mediterranean: Achievements, obstacles and the way forward

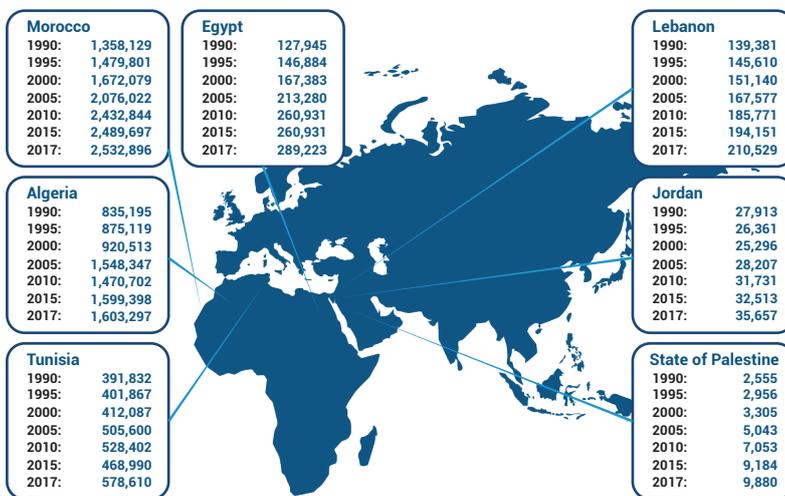
Authors: Cinzia Alcidi, Nadzeya Laurentsyeva, Ahmad Wali Ahmad Yar

## Critical Issue:

Identify obstacles to legal migration and suggest ways to improve migration management.

In 2017, the EU hosted 5.3 million or close to 40% of South Med emigrants.

### Stock of South Med migrants in the EU28 (1990-2017)



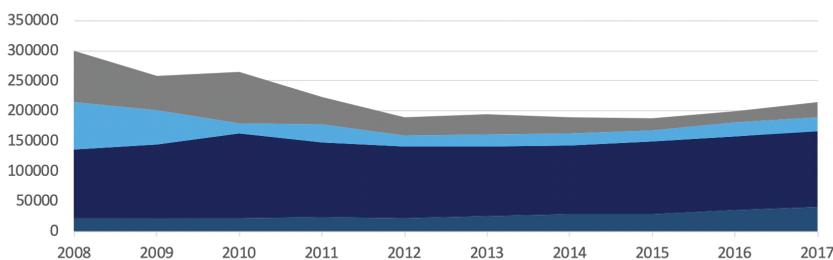
## 1.....

The EU hosts almost 90% of all immigrants from Algeria and Morocco and almost 80% from Tunisia.

## 2.....

From 2008 to 2017, EU Member States issued over 2.2 million first residence permits to South Med country nationals.

### All types of permits



- Education Reasons
- Family Reasons
- Other
- Remunerated Activities Reasons

Source: WGI (2017)

## 1.....

Residence permits issued to South Med nationals for work purposes represented less than one fifth of all delivered permits by EU Member States.

## 2.....

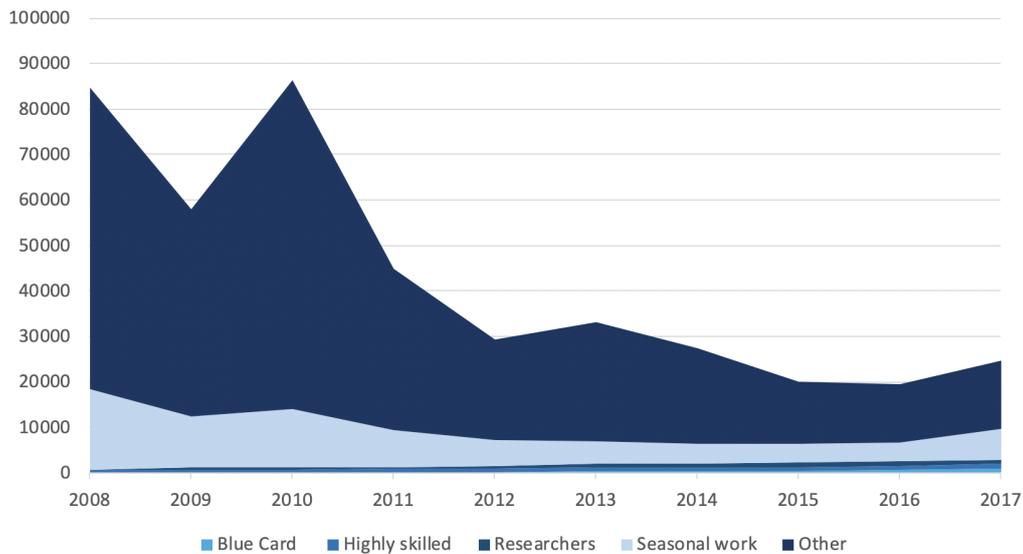
The main legal migration channel for South Med nationals to the EU is through family reunification.

## 3.....

Education represents another important legal entry channel to the EU.

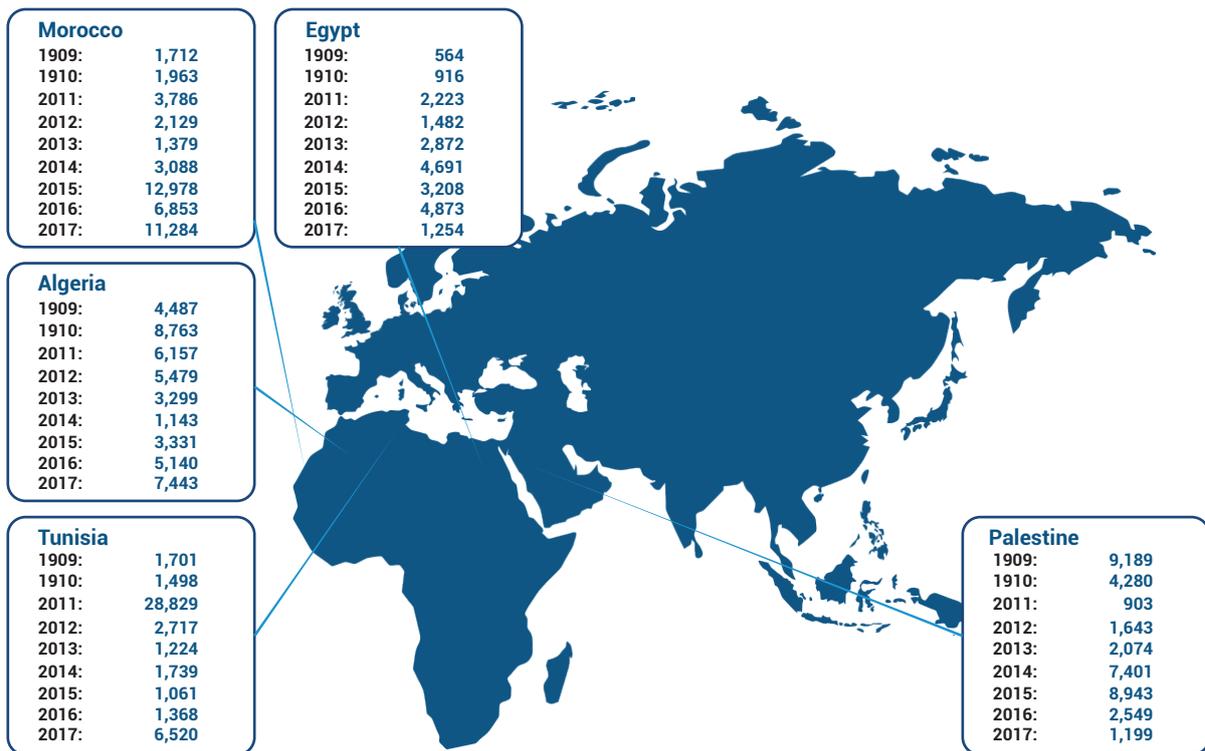
About 18% of all work permits issued between 2008-17 concerned seasonal workers and only 3.6% were issued to researchers and highly skilled migrants.

### Permits for work-related reasons



Source: Eurostat and Frontex

### Irregular Border Crossings



Source: Eurostat and Frontex

Whilst labour migration between South Med countries and the EU declined, the number of irregular border crossings from the region increased.

## Obstacles to expanding legal migration

### The labour matching conundrum:



Lack of financial and human resources for EU based SMEs to hire abroad.



EU employers unaware of existing legal channels.



EU employers reluctant to offer long-term contracts.



South Med national institutions unaware of existing opportunities in the EU.

### South Med skill supply does not always match EU labour demand



1.....

Low quality education and skills mismatch; poorly matched with the needs of the private sector and employability.



2.....

All SEMCs feature large public sectors and under-developed private sectors.

### Policy Proposal

Small-scale projects fostering migration between South Med countries and the EU can have positive effects, if used strategically.

Although direct benefits will be limited to a small number of migrants, such projects could generate positive, longer-term external advantages.

### Conditions for successful implementation



Projects should target capacity building of intermediaries, in particular, labour market institutions in origin countries.



Projects should aim at enhancing information about economic and/or education opportunities abroad.



Information campaigns about legal migration opportunities targeting the diaspora.

if smuggling routes remain accessible to those unable to migrate legally, irregular migration will persist.



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