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# Governing Migration and Asylum in the Mediterranean:

Internal and External Challenges  
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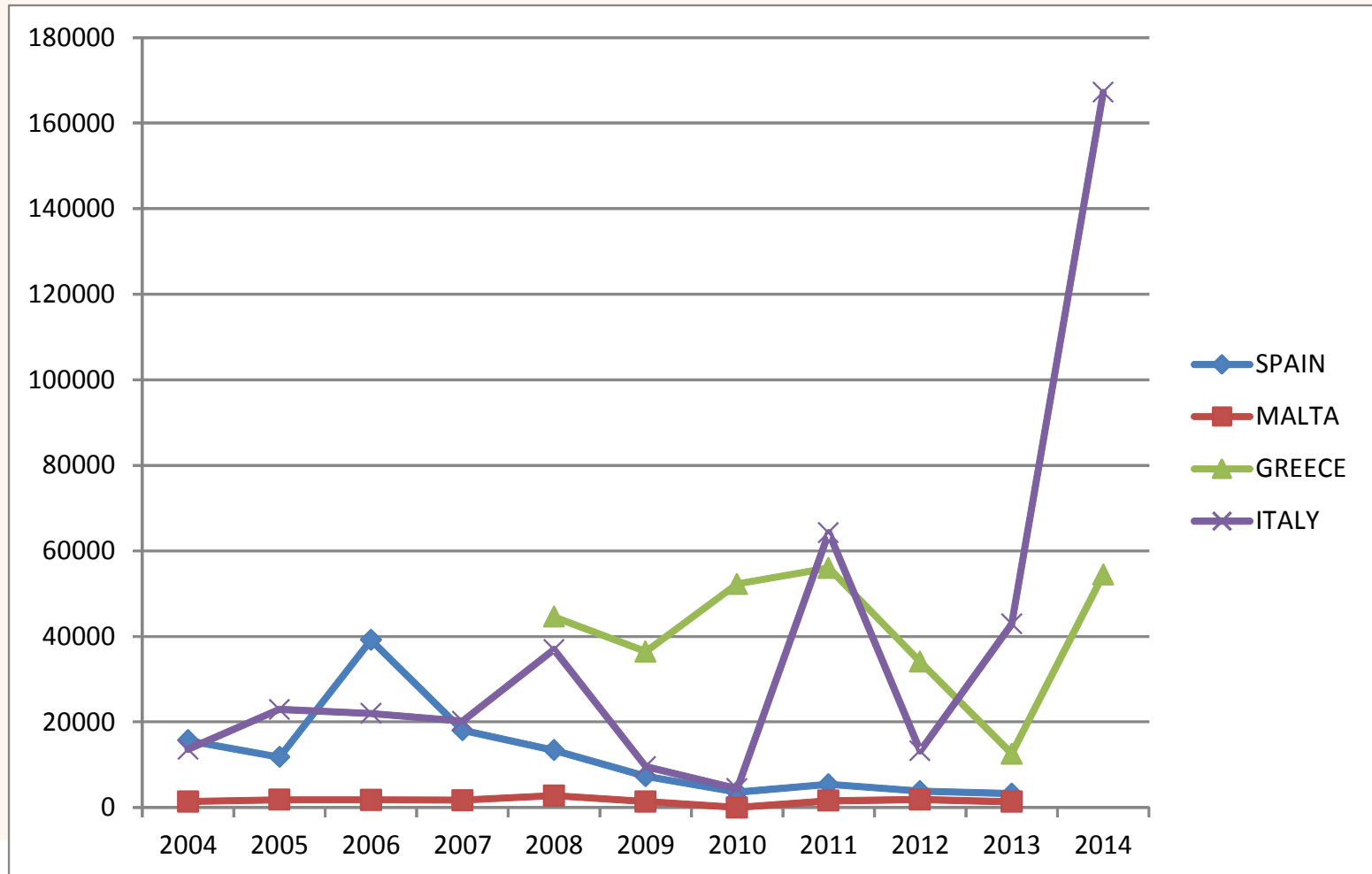


## **Governing migration and asylum in the Mediterranean:**

- Post-Arab Spring or post-Lampedusa?
- Do we have a common Asylum policy?
- Do we have a common policy for managing flows?
- And whose responsibility is it?



# Flows in the Med: The hydraulic principle





## A rather bleak geopolitical context after the 2011 Arab spring positive mood:

- The impact of the Arab spring on asylum seeking and irregular migration flows
- **After 2014:** ISIS and jihadist terrorism
  - Escalation of violence
  - Infiltration in Tunisia and Egypt – destabilisation
  - Libya imploding, Yemen too
  - Eritrea and Somalia no hope, ethno-religious violence in Nigeria



## External factors:

- Diversity of countries in the southern Mediterranean. No EuroMed approach is suitable, initiative of Mogherini with Barcelona ministerial conference in April 2015
- Tense connection between jihadist violence by IS and jihadist terrorism within the EU (see Charlie Hebdo)
- Change of EEAS policy after Mogherini. No longer reluctance. Migration ceasing to be a Home Affairs issue



## Internal factors re: ASYLUM

- Different interests of southern and northern countries: the South bears the brunt of arrivals, the North is interested to tame arrivals and more concerned with providing appropriate reception and processing. There seems to be a tradeoff – both cannot be achieved
- An important problem arising: Negative asylum decisions recognised at EU level. Positive decisions (refugee status) does not have immediate EU wide value.



## **Internal factors re: (Irregular) Migration**

- Opportunities for employment in informal economy have dried up in southern Europe and those that exist are taken by intra EU migrants
- In some countries (more GR, less IT and ES) the crisis has brought to the rise of the Far Right and of racist violence in past years
- Greece and Spain are experiencing important emigration (mostly of highly skilled youth) to some extent Italy too



## Policy and Political Challenges

- Whose responsibility is it? Cooperation of EEAS and FA ministers with Home Affairs and Interior Ministers – welcome initiatives. Political will and courage is required.
- Combining protection with management of flows:
- Extraterritorial processing-generous asylum quotas (see proposals by Francois Crepeau)
- More legal migration channels at all levels (but impact on preventing innovation and reform?)
- Fighting smuggling networks – organised crime