UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

UNU-MERIT

Maastricht University

At Europe's Frontline: Factors Determining Migrants Decision Making for Onwards Migration from Greece and Turkey

Dr Katie Kuschminder and Prof Khalid Koser

Migrants Decision Making Factors in Transit

- Perceived or actual conditions in the intended destination country
- Conditions in the current country of residence
- Access to information
- Social networks
- Economic resources of the migrant
- The role of migrant smugglers
- Policy interventions

Case Studies: Greece and Turkey

Turkey- Largest host to refugees in the World

- –New Migration Law in 2013- Offers Temporary Protection to Syrians and Iraqis
- –UNHCR manages Refugee Status Determination

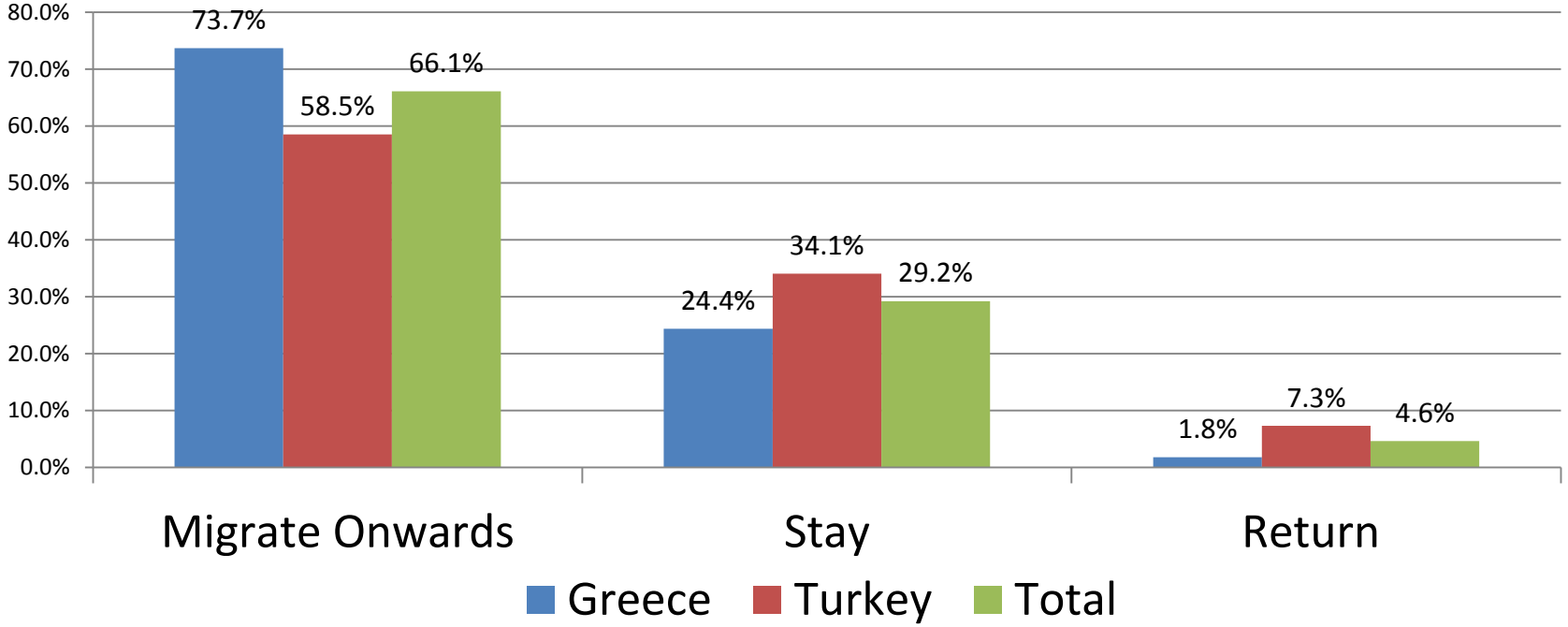
Greece- 853,650 sea arrivals in 2015

- –New Asylum process as of 2013
- –No reception facilities or benefits for asylum seekers and refugees

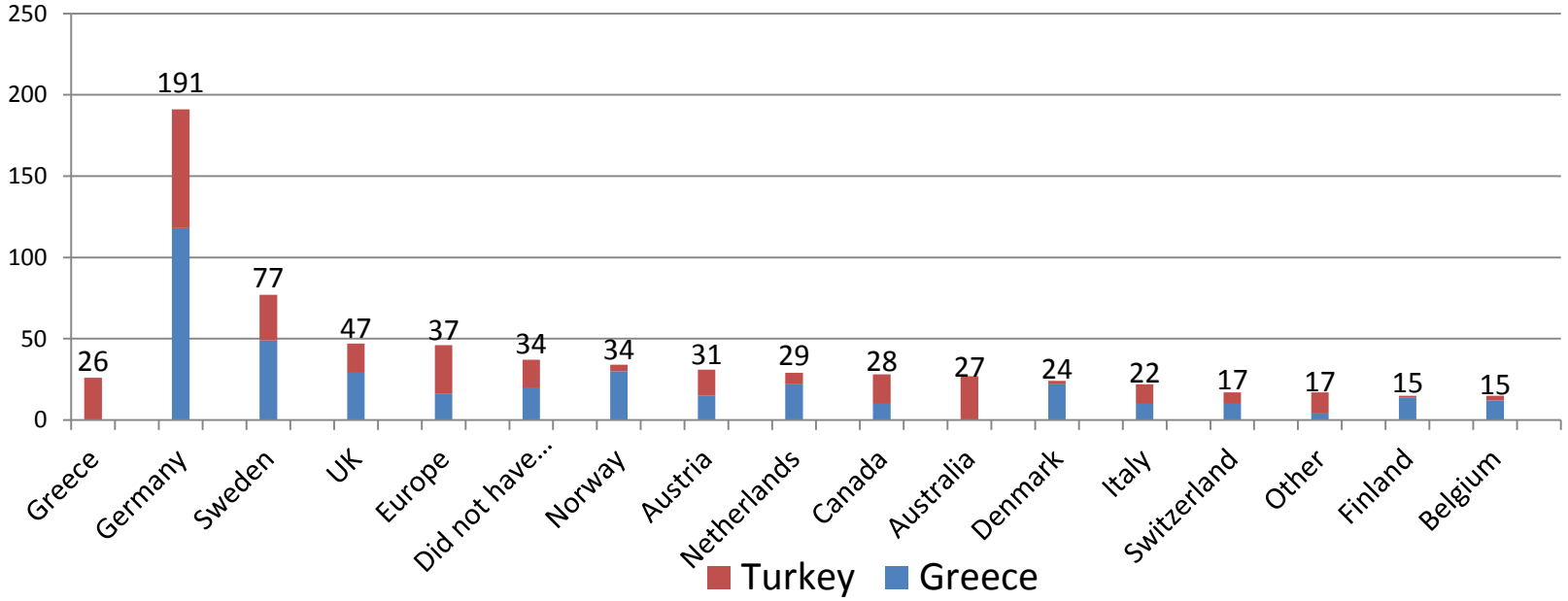
Data Collection

- 1056 Surveys in Athens and Istanbul with migrants from Afghanistan (375), Iran (138), Iraq (136), Pakistan (263), and Syria (144- Greece only)
- 60 Follow-up interviews
- Surveys conducted by migrants
- Multiple entry points
- May-July 2015

At this time, do you want to….



Intended Destination Country (n=699)



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
UNU-MERIT
Maastricht University

Most Frequently Cited Decision Making Factors for Migrating

	Greece	Turkey	Total
Better living conditions in destination country	93.33	94.50	93.85
Safe country	96.41	87.38	92.42
My intended destination has good opportunities to become a citizen/resident	92.05	84.14	88.56
My intended destination has good asylum seeker treatment	90.51	81.23	86.41
My intended destination has good social assistance/health policies	88.97	82.85	86.27

Most Frequently Cited Decision Making Factors for Stay (n=310)

	Greece	Turkey	Total
It is a peaceful country	87	54	68
I am well adjusted	78	47	60
Friendly locals	79	45	59
I have a job	57	50	53
Lack of money to continue my trip	32	48	41

Analysis

- Probit Regression
- DV: 1- Migrate Onwards, 0- Stay
- 4 Categories of independent variables:
  - Conditions in the origin country
  - Conditions in the current country of stay
  - Intended Destination
  - Policy Incentives/ Disincentives

Conditions in the Country of Origin

- Afghans less likely to seek to migrate onwards from Greece as compared to all other country of origin groups
- Iraqis and Pakistanis more likely to seek to migrate onwards from Turkey
- Reason for migration significant in Turkey

Conditions in the Current Country

- Migration status is insignificant
- Current Subjective Living Conditions highly significant
- Employment is significant in Turkey
- Speaking Greek and Experiences of Abuse are significant in Greece

Intended Destination and Policy Incentives/ Disincentives

- Those who intended to migrate to Greece and Turkey were significantly more likely to plan to stay
- Having a previous migration attempt did not deter onwards migration from Turkey

Conclusions

- Elicit understandings of migrants decision making factors in transit and conditions of migrants in Transit
- Results show that multiple factors across origin-transit-destination countries impact decision making in transit
- Factors most likely to contribute to the decision to stay are enabling factors that positively influence choice to stay
- Policy interventions have a limited role

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
UNU-MERIT
Maastricht University