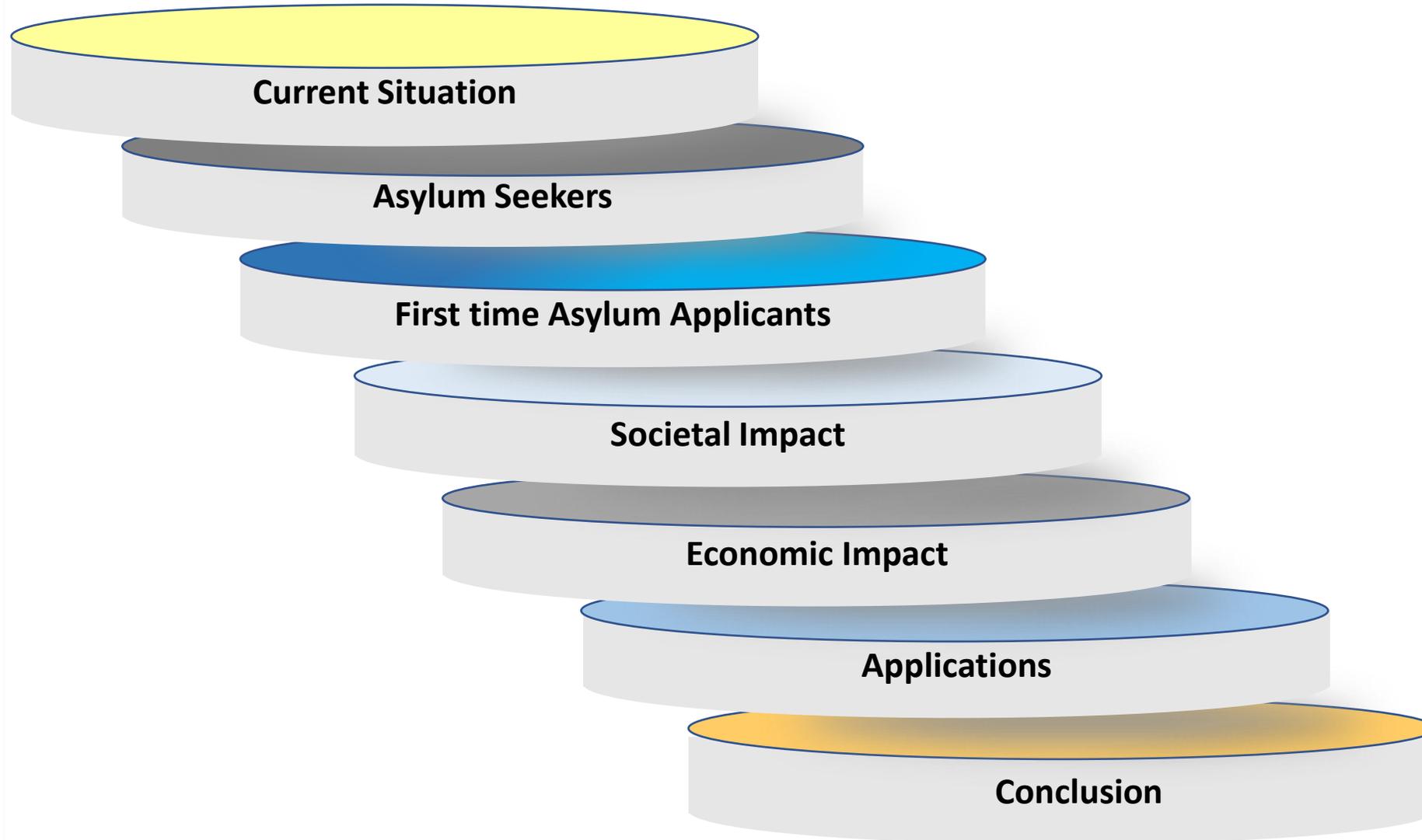


Refugees and asylum seekers in Cyprus

Socioeconomic impact in the Economy



Presentation



Current Situation

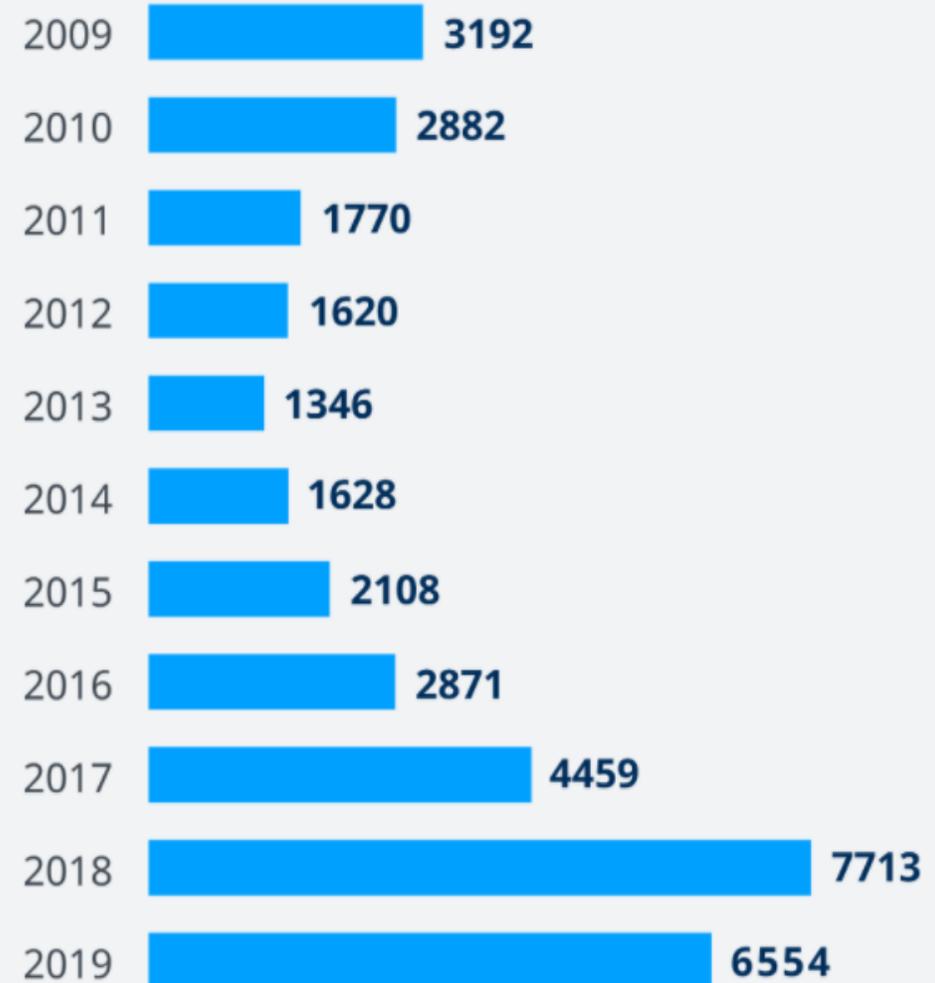
- **11,000** persons under International Protection.
- **13,000** asylum seekers currently residing in Cyprus.
- Cyprus now hosts the **most refugees** per capita in the European Union.
- Two big refugee **camp sites** in Kokkinotrimithia and Kofinou.
- Island has been a **vexing loophole** for the control of migration by EU.
- Inability to **deter the entry** for refugees from the occupied north side of the island.



Asylum Seekers

- Dramatic increase in **asylum applications** by refugees.
- Most applicants come from the **nongovernment-controlled part** of the island (occupied by Turkey), then asking for asylum.
- **Awaiting refugees** until the applications to be finished and get their asylum.
- An easy way for refugees to reach and **enter EU**, first island to meet, Cyprus.
- Most are coming from **Middle East countries**.
- Increasing trend since 2013, with Government of **Cyprus not expecting this increasing trend**. Unprepared circumstances led to inefficiency for the public sector to control the situation (i.e. transportation and control).
- Due to bureaucratic delay, many refugees from north side of the island prefer to stay there and **not seek** for an asylum from the Republic of Cyprus.

Asylum Application in Cyprus, 2009-2019



First-time asylum applicants in the EU Member States

- In 2017-2018, Cyprus had the **highest % change** in numbers of first-time applicants for asylum.
- In 2018, Cyprus had **1.3% of share** in EU total, ranking it **11th** from all EU countries.

	Number of first-time applicants			Share in EU total (%)	Number of first-time applicants per million population*
	2017	2018	Change (in %)	2018	2018
EU	654 610	580 845	-11%	100.0%	1 133
Belgium	14 035	18 130	+29%	3.1%	1 588
Bulgaria	3 470	2 465	-29%	0.4%	350
Czechia	1 140	1 350	+19%	0.2%	127
Denmark	3 125	3 465	+11%	0.6%	599
Germany	198 255	161 885	-18%	27.9%	1 954
Estonia	180	90	-51%	0.0%	68
Ireland	2 910	3 655	+26%	0.6%	756
Greece	56 940	64 975	+14%	11.2%	6 051
Spain	33 035	52 730	+60%	9.1%	1 130
France	91 965	110 485	+20%	19.0%	1 644
Croatia	880	675	-23%	0.1%	165
Italy	126 550	49 165	-61%	8.5%	813
Cyprus	4 475	7 610	+70%	1.3%	8 805
Latvia	355	175	-50%	0.0%	91
Lithuania	520	385	-26%	0.1%	137
Luxembourg	2 320	2 225	-4%	0.4%	3 694
Hungary	3 115	635	-80%	0.1%	65
Malta	1 610	2 035	+26%	0.4%	4 276
Netherlands	16 090	20 465	+27%	3.5%	1 191
Austria	22 455	11 390	-49%	2.0%	1 291
Poland	3 005	2 405	-20%	0.4%	63
Portugal	1 015	1 240	+22%	0.2%	120
Romania	4 700	1 945	-59%	0.3%	100
Slovenia	1 435	2 800	+95%	0.5%	1 355
Slovakia	150	155	+3%	0.0%	28
Finland	4 325	2 945	-32%	0.5%	535
Sweden	22 190	18 075	-19%	3.1%	1 786
United Kingdom	34 355	37 290	+9%	6.4%	563
Iceland	1 065	730	-31%	-	2 098
Liechtenstein	145	145	+2%	-	3 857
Norway	3 350	2 530	-24%	-	477
Switzerland	16 615	13 465	-19%	-	1 587

Rights for Asylum seekers in Cyprus

- **High costs** that should be maintained in a sustainable economically way by Cyprus.
- Get money back in the form of **taxes**.
- **Coupons** and local suppliers' collaborations is going to benefit everyone. Better idea and management for the money spent by the government.

Number of persons in the household	Food, clothing and footwear	Allowance for electricity, water and minor expenses (in cash or cheque)	Rental allowance	Total amount of assistance granted
1	€186	€75	Nicosia €100 Limassol €100 Famagusta €100 Larnaca €100 Pafos €100	Nicosia €361 Limassol €361 Famagusta €361 Larnaca €361 Pafos €361
2	€279	€100	Nicosia €200 Limassol €218 Famagusta €146 Larnaca €174 Pafos €146	Nicosia €579 Limassol €597 Famagusta €525 Larnaca €553 Pafos €525
3	€372	€140	Nicosia €290 Limassol €317 Famagusta €211 Larnaca €252 Pafos €211	Nicosia €802 Limassol €829 Famagusta €723 Larnaca €764 Pafos €723
4	€465	€170	Nicosia €290 Limassol €317 Famagusta €211 Larnaca €252 Pafos €211	Nicosia €925 Limassol €952 Famagusta €846 Larnaca €887 Pafos €846
5 and more	€558	€200	Nicosia €364 Limassol €397 Famagusta €265 Larnaca €315 Pafos €265	Nicosia €1122 Limassol €1155 Famagusta €1023 Larnaca €1073 Pafos €1023

EU law on Asylum



- EU member states have committed to have a **Common European Asylum System**.
- It is an international obligation, first recognised in the **1951 Geneva Convention** on the protection of refugees.
- Aim of EU is to offer a suitable condition to any 3rd country national worldwide which requires **international protection** in any of the EU member states.
- Asylum claim must occur in the **first country** they enter in the EU, even if they travel during time.
- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (Article 14), which states that **everyone has the right to seek** and enjoy **asylum** from persecution in other countries.

Societal Impacts

Pros:

- Contribution in the labour force.
 - Contribute in sectors which may lack labour force.
 - Help **reduce labour shortages**, increase of supply of labour.
- Bring of **new ideas** and **skills** from abroad.
- Refugees and asylum seekers locally, means country has a **good reputation**.
- Migrants are prepared to take **low and unskilled paid jobs**.

Societal Impacts

Cons:

- Cause of creation of a **ghetto**, may cause **relocation of local people**.
- Ghettos might increase **crime rates**.
- Lack of communication due to **language difference**.
- Loss of culture and ethics due to **increasing ethnics**.
- Asylum seekers end up **EU members** and seek for Cyprus rights that they may not need to.
- Illegal labor force in the short run, involves **shadow economy**.
- Local labor force is being substituted with cheap and **illegal labor force** from shadow economy.
- **Overcrowd** in many places, especially in Central Business District.

Economic Impact

Pros:

- Increase in **consumption** with positive multiplier effect result in positive economic outcome.
- **Tourism and investments** locally will increase in the long run.
- Engagement in **export of goods** and services like agriculture goods and delivering.
 - **Balance of Trade (BoT) can be improved.**
- **Improvement of jobs** for local population.
 - Refugees can take agriculture, construction and house keeping jobs help locals contribute even more. (i.e. house keepers create time for locals to work more).

Economic Impact

Cons:

- Country is struggling to cope up with the **living costs** and well being of refugees, as a result it needs **help from EU**.
- Many coming from Low Income Countries (LIC's) and less developed than Cyprus. This might **pull back** Cyprus economically and development wise.
- **Expenses** by the government that can not control
 - **Bureaucracy** results in expenses until they get their asylum.
 - **Pregnancy** beforehand.
- Involvement in the informal sector, black economy and **grey economy**.
 - Insufficient number of GDP
 - Tax problem
 - Unemployment is not specifically defined

Assumptions i

- All **macroeconomic goals** can be improved with focus and control of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Having the borders and green zone in a more **strict control**.
 - Army
 - Police
 - Better cooperation with UN regarding the green zone.
- **'Communities style'** can be built in a cheap way in each city and make all refugees stay in the same place even after they receive their asylum.
 - Cheaper rent with all the facilities needed inside to attract refugees and have a better control of them.
 - A new way of government revenues to compensate maintenance expenses for refugees.
 - Avoid higher taxes for locals.
- Make sure they do not get involved in an **informal sector**.
 - Create a **group of people** that is responsible for engaging them in the labour force.

Assumptions ii

- Having the opportunity to enter in a new economy, **living standard** is improved and as a Country is being heard worldwide.
 - Higher **GDP** and **GNI**.
- No need to give away cash. **Cooperate with locals** for food and services.
 - Multiplier effect and benefit for more people in the economy.
- **Empower labour force** and lower u/t rate, since they will be taking jobs that many locals might not do.
 - Primary / Secondary sectors
 - Agriculture / Construction
- Making a more sustainable manage of money given for rent and expenses. **Fix amount** for every child will be more maintainable for Government expenses.
- **Creation of schools** for an easier societal acceptance to get a job, educate and contribute in the economy.
 - **Reduce language barrier** through learning of local language in their schools as well.
- Rent for 1 person is different in each city in Cyprus. The fix amount of 100 euros may lead into a **clustering of single person** refugees in the least expensive area of Cyprus.

Conclusion

- Refugee and asylum seekers in Cyprus is **neither good or bad** for the society and economy.
- It depends on how those people are **being treated** and managed.
- Refugees can **give a lot** to economy. Just needs to make sure they are on track for contributing formally and **legally** in the society.
- **Maintain a healthier number** of refugees at any cost, that will be a good decision to welcome them and treat them as they deserve.

