The conflict in Syria continues to be by far the biggest driver of migration. But the ongoing violence in Afghanistan and Iraq, abuses in Eritrea, as well as poverty in Kosovo, are also leading people to look for new lives elsewhere. Although not all of those arriving in Europe choose to claim asylum, many do. Germany received the highest number of new asylum applications in 2015, with more than 476,000.

Hungary moved into second place for asylum applications, as more migrants made the journey overland through Greece and the Western Balkans. It had 177,130 applications by the end of December.

The international organization for migration (IOM) estimates that more than 1,011,700 migrants arrived by sea in 2015 and almost 34,900 by land. This compares with 280,000 arrivals by land and sea for the whole 2014. The figures do not include those who got in undetected. The EU’s external border force monitors the different routes migrants use and number arriving at Europe’s borders and put the figure crossing into Europe in 2015 at more than 1,800,000.

References:
