**Essential Figures**

Number using migrant routes in 2015: 340,000 as per EU border agency, Frontex (likely conservative figure)

* + GREECE - 235,000
  + ITALY - 115,000
  + WESTERN BALKANS – 140,000

*Note double counting arise as migrants cross countries. Hungary, for instance, will receive people who have passed through Greece as well as Macedonia and Serbia.*

Countries of origin (approx): Syria 34%; Afghanistan 12%, Eritera 12%, Somalia 5%, Nigeria 5%, Others 32%

**Current situation**

**Ireland**

Ireland has signed up to the European Agenda on Migration (the EU response to the crisis). Despite what some outlets are saying about taking in 600, we have committed to taking around a thousand. Minister Fitzgerald agreed to different tranches at different meetings. Ministers Howlin and O'Riordán (03.09) say that we will need to take more but as part of a whole-of-Europe solution.

**Hungary**

Hungary has become a locus of attention in recent days. It has constructed a 3.5 metre-high fence on its southern border with Serbia to keep out migrants, 140,000 of whom have been caught entering the country so far this year.

There have been incidents at Kelki train station in Budapest where migrants are being discriminated against by the authorities and the practice has continued in other forms (see link). We will likely see more of this sort of thing in urban areas as the crisis unfolds and it may only be a matter of time before radicals throughout Europe start protesting at arrival points for migrants such as train and bus stations.

**Media:** PROTEST IN ITALY (26.06) - <http://bit.ly/1DHbo5n>

CONFRONTATION IN HUNGARY (03.09) - <http://yhoo.it/1XkBMhu>

**Key messages from Federation**

The International Red Cross Movement calls for all countries throughout Europe to cooperate in caring for migrants irrespective of their legal status.

* The Red Cross internationally is scaling up our response across affected countries in Europe
* National societies are providing humanitarian assistance such as food, water, shelter, medical treatment, psychosocial support and other services
* Greater support is needed. Immediate action is required to ensure the dignity of migrants and refugees is upheld and protected, and to prevent the crisis from worsening.
  + Those fleeing conflict and insecurity have a human right to refuge and protection
* An integrated response through effective collaboration involving governments, humanitarian agencies, and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and other relevant actors is required.
  + Countries of arrival or transit cannot be expected to respond to this crisis alone
  + This is not only a Europe-wide crisis; it is a global crisis which requires a global response.
* The general public must be engaged to promote dialogue and prevent discrimination against those who have arrived in Europe in recent months.

**ENDS**