

TIMELINE

MIGRATION EVENTS IN EUROPE FROM THE 1950S ONWARDS

Post-war period

1

1956

The suppression of the political uprising in Hungary and the 'Prague Spring' of 1968–69, which saw many refugees fleeing to Western countries.

2

Recruitment agreement

1960/70

bilateral agreements with countries in Southern and South-Eastern Europe (Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, Germany, Austria and Switzerland), the era of the so-called "guest workers"

The 1973 oil crisis

3

1973

The first significant wave of immigration in Greece, which began with the return of emigrants.

4

The Yugoslav Wars

1991-2001

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of separate but interlinked ethnic conflicts in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. The country broke up into six independent states.

Greece

5

1980s–1990s

Following the collapse of the communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe and the USSR, Greece transformed from a country of emigration into a country of immigration that was ill-prepared for the influx.

6

Italy

1990s–2010s

Labour migration from post-Soviet / Eastern European countries. Agricultural workers from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa (2000s–2010s)

EU enlargement

7

2004

Opening up the Irish labour market to new EU Member States (such as Poland and Lithuania).

8

The Arab Spring

2015-16

A significant influx of asylum seekers and migrants fleeing conflict zones in the Middle East, Asia and Africa – the so-called 'refugee crisis'

War in Ukraine

9

2022-

Russian invasion of Ukraine; Refugees from Ukraine (2022–present)

10

War in Iran

2026-

newest geopolitical conflicts and wars that cause displacement