

Migration Narratives in Europe

A Social Media Intelligence Study

Country report for the Republic of Cyprus



A Bakamo Public  **Project for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**

- 2019 -



Context of the migration discourse in Cyprus

- **The Republic of Cyprus** is an island country located in the Eastern Mediterranean, situated east of Greece, south of Turkey, and west of Syria and Lebanon.
- As of 2015, Cyprus had a **population of 847,008**. At its peak, official **asylum seekers in the country made up 0.83% of the population**.*
- The public social media conversation in Cyprus around migration in one year consists of **~57,600 posts**. Compared to population size, **the conversation on migration in the country is the 11th largest in the EU**.
- The government in Cyprus consists of the liberal conservative Democratic Rally, the centrist Democratic Party, the communist AKEL, and the social-democratic EDEK. **The government has been criticized for insufficient social and labour integration programs, as well as extremely restrictive family unification policies.**



*Source: www.europarl.europa.eu



Introduction | CY

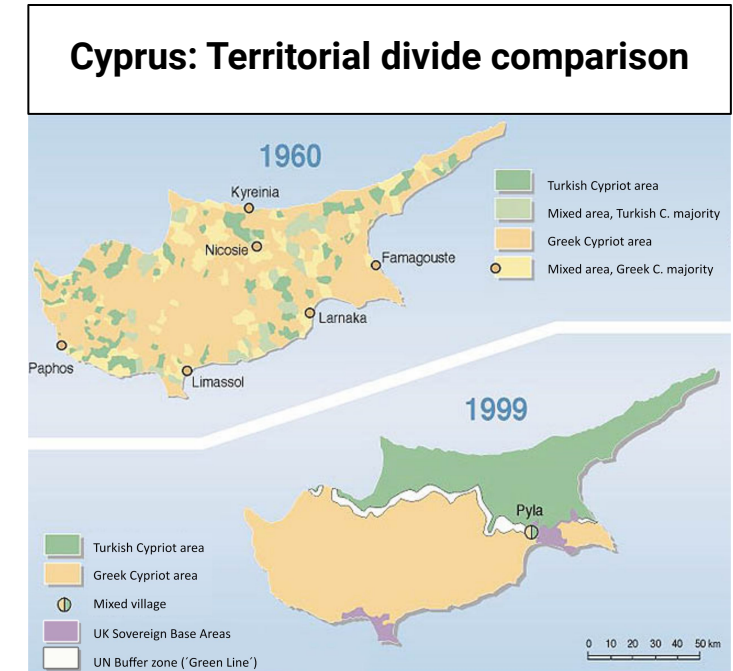
Historical Context: *The Cyprus Problem*

Cyprus has long been home to ethnic Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, and has also been the subject of dispute between Greece and Turkey for centuries. In order to understand the migration conversation taking place in Cyprus today, the **ongoing intercommunal and international conflicts between Greeks and Turks** must be understood.

Cyprus came under British control in the late 19th century, during the decline of the Ottoman Empire. A division and conflict emerged along ethnic lines, as Greek Cypriots supported political union with Greece, while many Turkish Cypriots opposed such a union as they believed union with Greece meant the assimilation of Turkish Cypriots inside the Greek nation. Fearing all-out war, Britain granted Cyprus independence in 1960 as an alternative to union with Greece under a power-sharing constitution between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

This power-sharing agreement dissolved after a series of political disputes between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, eventually resulting in the end of Turkish Cypriot political representation in the Republic. In 1974 hard line Greeks staged a coup, prompting Turkish forces to invade Northern Cyprus. Following ceasefire, **a political and physical partition occurred with thousands of people relocating based on their ethnicity (Turkish Cypriots fled North, while Greek Cypriots fled south)**. A buffer zone (the Green Line controlled by the UN) was also established between the north and south.

The Green Line extends approximately 180 kilometers across the island and continues to divide the island today, with the internationally recognized (Greek Cypriot controlled) Republic of Cyprus government in the south, and the unrecognized Turkish Cypriots Republic in the north. Consequently, **the overwhelming majority of the Cypriots residing in EU territory are Greek Cypriots who hold nurse a historical mistrust of Turkey, while also continuing to regard Greece as the motherland.**



How and Where Do Cypriots Discuss Migration On Social Media?



Size of Pan-European Narratives

More than 70% of the conversations in Cyprus are driven by aspects of **humanitarianism**. Issues related to **identity** are discussed relatively often, while the security, economy and demographics narratives barely appear.

Local Issues

The **history of Cyprus creates a grand narrative which understands Turkey an enemy and Greece as the motherland**. In this light, a specific narrative is constructed which complicates discussions regarding economy and identity, in particular.

EU & Domestic Politics

Migration is primarily seen as an international issue within the Cypriot community. This trend in large part reflects the view of many Cypriots that the responsibility of controlling migration lies at the feet of international entities, such as the EU and the UN.

Conversation Channels

In Cyprus, most of the public social media content on migration appears on online news sites, and these posts trigger the highest engagement too. Blogs and Twitter are used to a lesser extent to channel opinion on the issue.



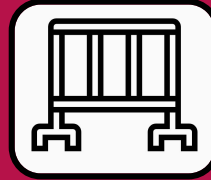
Pan-European Narratives: *The Cyprus Context*



Cypriots' understanding of humanitarian assistance is **strongly influenced by the way the EU approaches migration** (i.e. quotas), as well as the way **Greece and Turkey approaches the provision of humanitarian assistance**.



Due to Turkey's 1974 invasion and continued occupation in the northern part of the island, **the Greek Cypriot community has considered themselves refugees within their own homeland**. This identity **continues to shape both the pro- and anti-migrant discussions around migration today**.



The security narrative within Cyprus is divided into two categories: security threats which come from within Cyprus' borders (**internal/domestic security threat**) and security threats which stem primarily from maritime territory (**external/international security threat**).



Pro-migrant voices tend to **emphasize the need to allocate funds to social services which integrate and assist migrants upon their arrival to Cyprus**. Conversely, focusing on limited resources and space of the island member state, **anti-migrant voices stress the economic strain migrants have on Cyprus**.



Within the context of a burgeoning demographic crisis, many Cypriots insist that the **mass exodus of young Cypriots** is associated with the migrant influx, while **others claim migrants and refugees have boosted the economy by filling the spots left empty by Cypriot youth's migration**.

+ *Pan-European Narratives in the Republic of Cyprus*

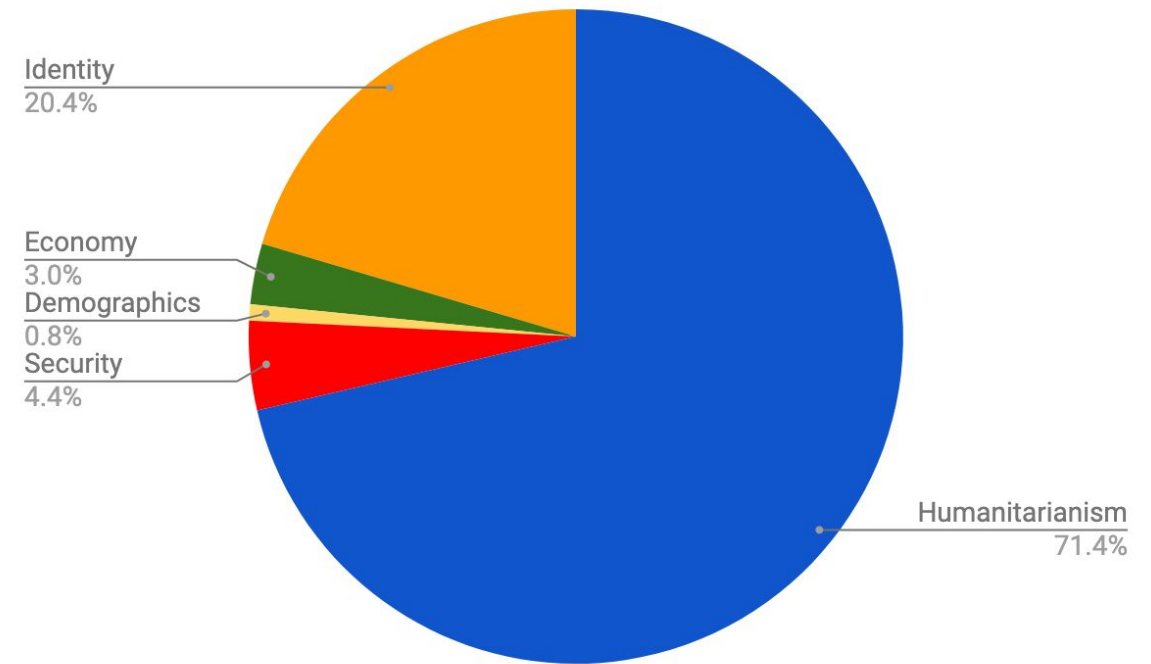


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Narrative Size in the Republic of Cyprus

Most conversations in Cyprus are driven by aspects of the **humanitarianism** and **identity and customs narratives** when discussing migration.





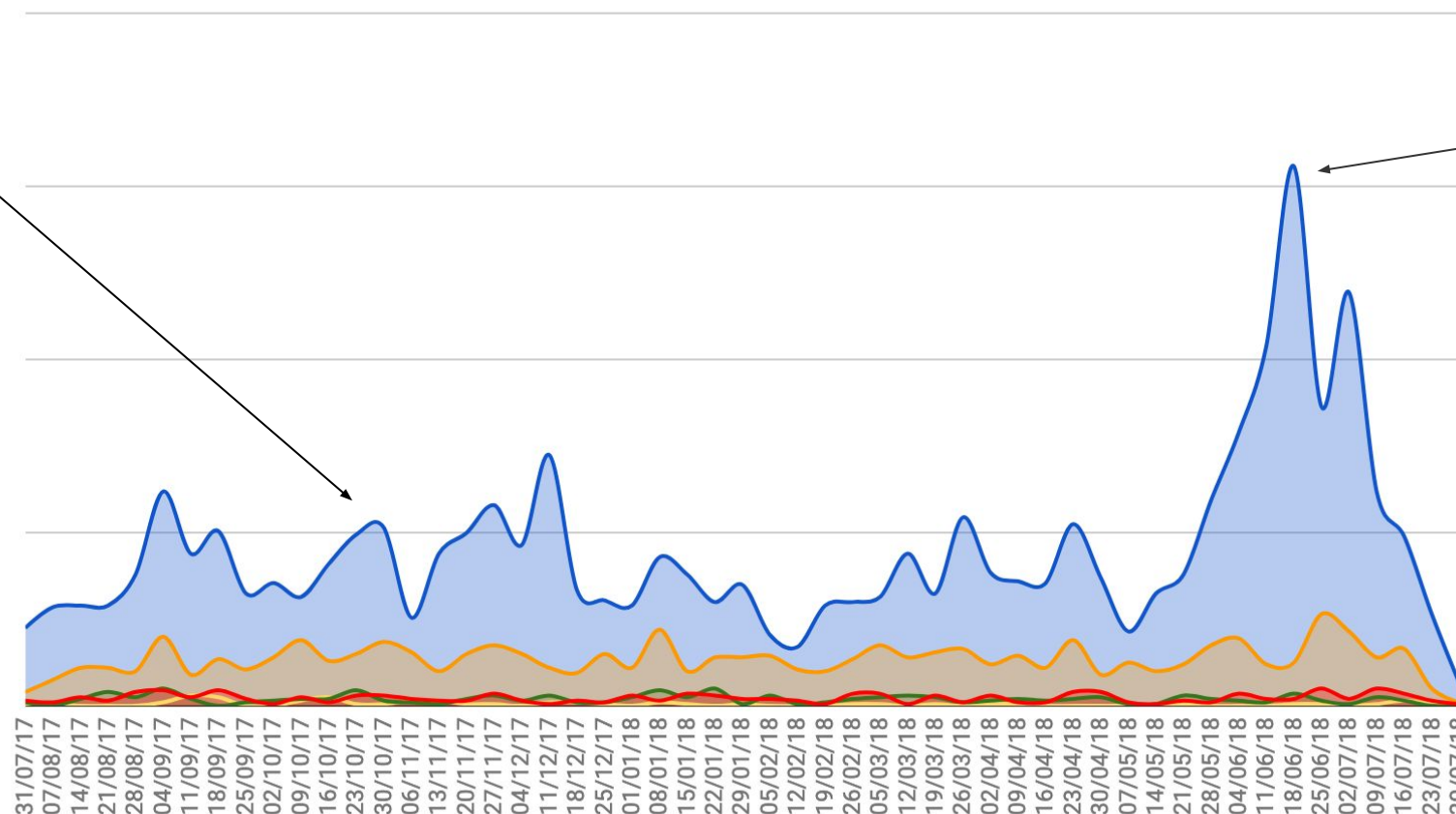
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The shape of the migration discourse

Discussion on **humanitarianism and security** tend to be sparked by the same events as both narratives focus **on Turkey and Greece** and their various policies regarding migration.

Results:
~57,600

■ Demographics ■ Economy ■ Humanitarianism ■ Identity ■ Security



For centuries we had the opportunity to peacefully live together. Third-party interventions have brought the problems that we are currently experiencing.

However, what still keeps our national problem unsolved is Turkey's persistence through Cyprus to pursue the migration policies that serve Turkey and not the Cypriot citizens.

June 24 2018 after presidential election in Turkey, Erdogan insisted that Turkey would continue to "liberate territories in Syria" so that our "guests" - the Syrian refugees - could safely return to their homeland, and also said that Turkey would act more decisively against the terrorist organizations.



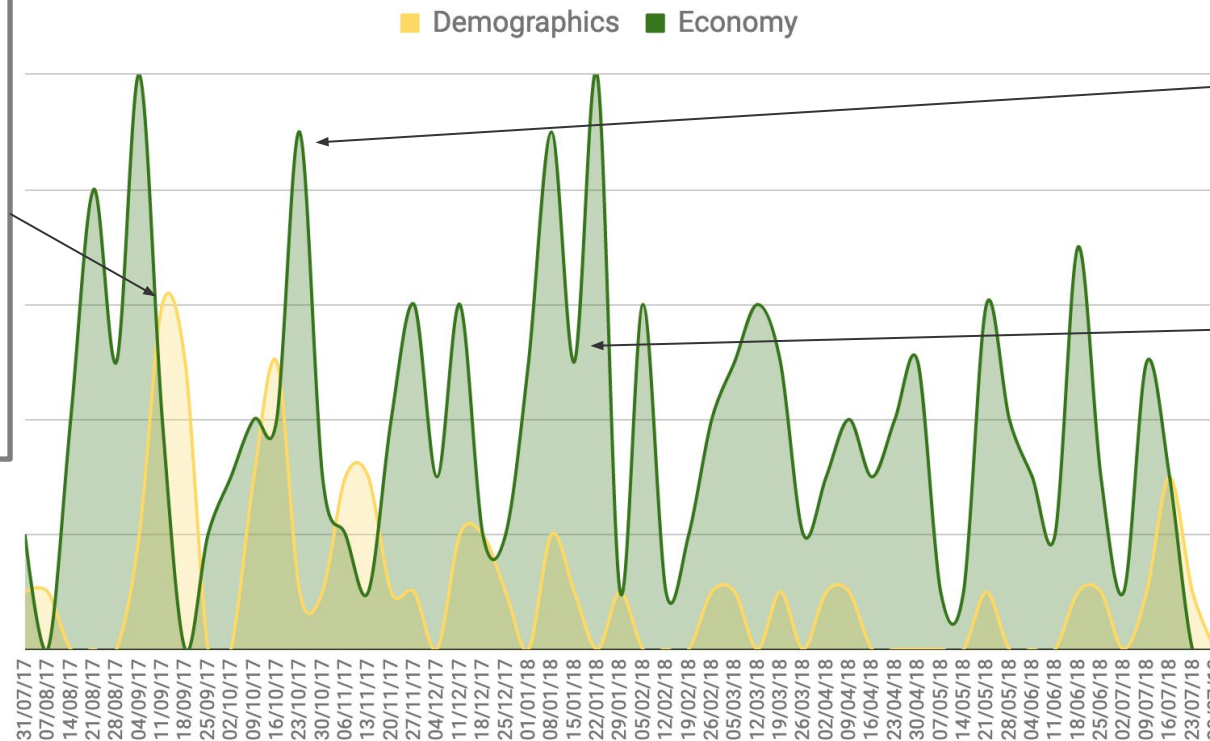
Peak Analysis: Correlation Between the Economy and Demography Narratives

Conversations within the demographics narrative spike along the same peaks as the economy narrative. This correlation is primarily due to big changes in the population being attributed to the **loss of Cypriot youth** as they emigrate abroad in search of better employment opportunities.

*It is due to the President and the DISY [Democratic Rally] that **the notorious success story for the economy and society became the nightmare of our people**, workers, retired people, with the **loss of two generations of young people who are disappointed and emigrated abroad**.*

Economy Results:
~1,800 (3%)

Demographics Results:
~500 (0.8%)



***Abroad, dozens of Cypriot scientists excel professionally and in Cyprus we are looking for foreign experts.** The state's responsibility is immense, especially the government's that has left the best scientific Cypriot "minds" migrate abroad.*

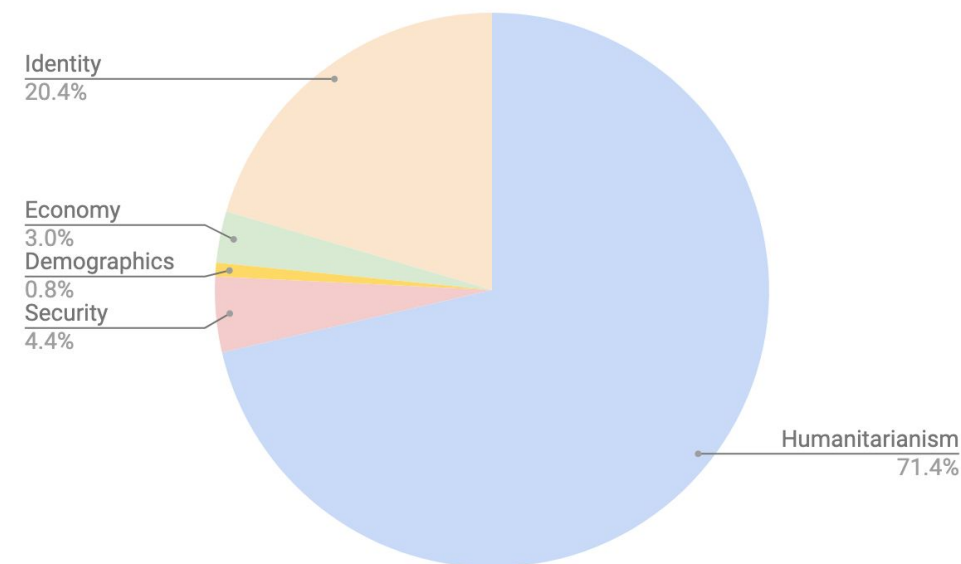
Priority should be given to the domestic workforce** so that we see our young people not migrating abroad for a better future. The state should intervene... **It is unacceptable to see jobs filled by migrants, at the same time as some of them could be covered directly by domestic personnel, by our own people.

Demographics (1): *Exodus of Cypriot Youth*

Within the demographics narrative, **concerns about the exodus of highly skilled Cypriot youth** abroad constantly appears. Cypriots often blame both the Cypriot financial crisis of 2012/2013*, as well as the 2017 migration crisis for the lack of employment opportunities causing the emigration of young Cypriot workers.

While many Cypriots insist that high level of unemployment is associated with the migrant influx, there are some voices claiming that migrants and refugees have boosted the economy by filling the spots left empty by Cypriot youth's migration.

Results:
~ 500
(0.8%)



* Between 2012 and 2013, the global financial crisis involved the exposure of Cypriot banks to the Greek debt crisis, the downgrading of the Cypriot economy to junk status by international rating agencies and the loss of access to international credit markets. The Cypriot state was unable to raise liquidity from the markets to support its huge financial sector. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 5.9% at the end of the second quarter of 2013, while unemployment increased to 16.9%. Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285950956_Financial_Crisis_in_the_Cyprus_Republic



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Demographics (2): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

We must deal with the burgeoning demographic crisis by developing local resources and people

*Both the migration and financial crises has brought major pressures on the local pension system...the only solution is to address the demographic problem of our country...In order to ensure pensions will not be a bomb on the foundations of our economy, ELAM [ultranationalist National People's Front] has submitted a specific proposal for **demographic development through the Hellenism of Cyprus.***

There is a huge amount of risk when projecting economic stability amid to the uncertainty of migration flow

*Forecasts about the population highly depend on assumptions regarding the percentage of fertility, life expectancy and migration flows. While all these elements contain an amount of uncertainty, **the uncertainty regarding migration flows is by far the highest.***

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

Migrants can help fill jobs that locals are unwilling to do

83% of Cypriots believe that migrants will help fill jobs that people do not want locally.

Migrants contribute to our country by supporting labour shortages in jobs that are not on high demand by locals.

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

How can Cyprus aid migrants while turning its back on young unemployed Cypriots?

*Good companions. The government plans to expel another 500,000 young people abroad in 2019 to find jobs. **For 2020, if 1,000,000 immigrants leave or die from hunger, unemployment will drop by 6%.***



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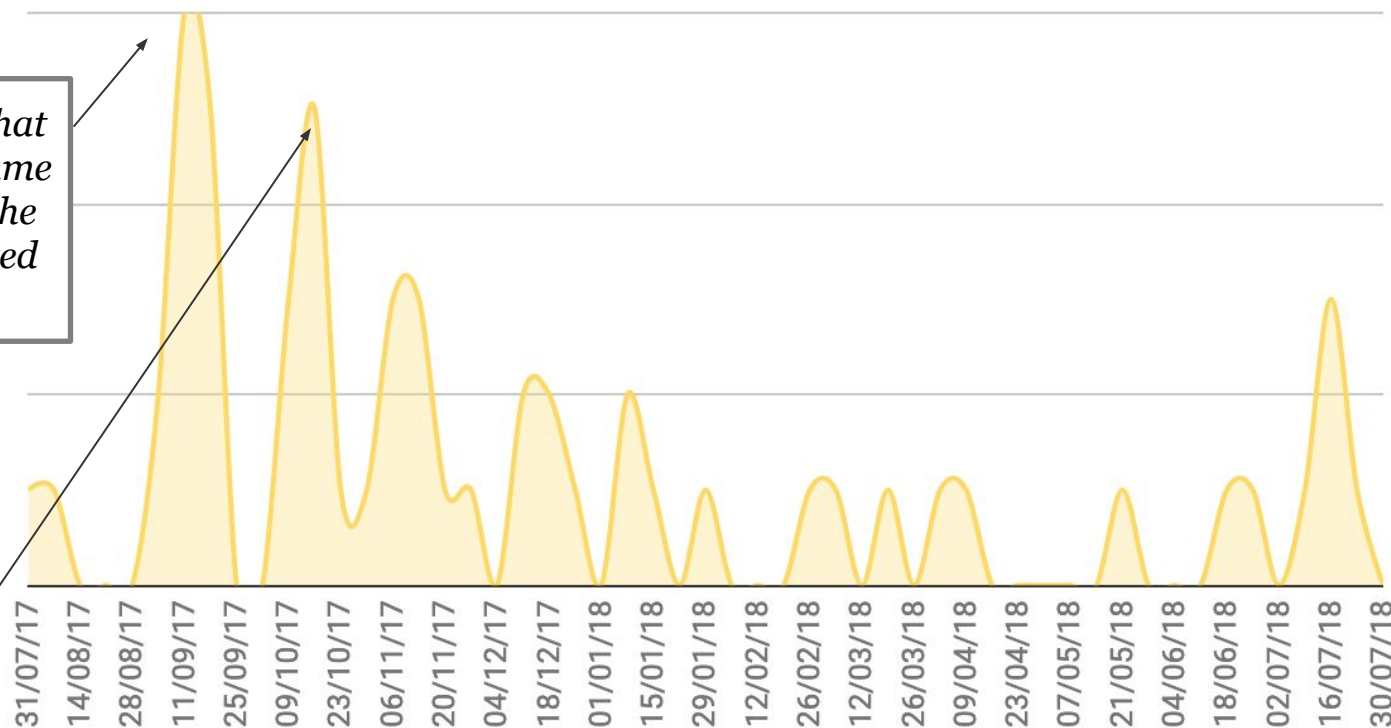
Demographics (3): Conversation Peaks

Conversations within the demographics narrative spike when people discuss the exodus of young, skilled Cypriots due to better employment opportunities abroad.

Results:
~500 (0.8%)

It is due to the President and the DISY [Democratic Rally] that the notorious success story for the economy and society became the nightmare of our people, workers, retired people, with the loss of two generations of young people who are disappointed and emigrated abroad.

Despite the government's announcements of its economic miracle, its success story is overturned daily through the real economy...How can one celebrate when, during the summer season, 30,000 unemployed people have been out of work for a period of more than six months?



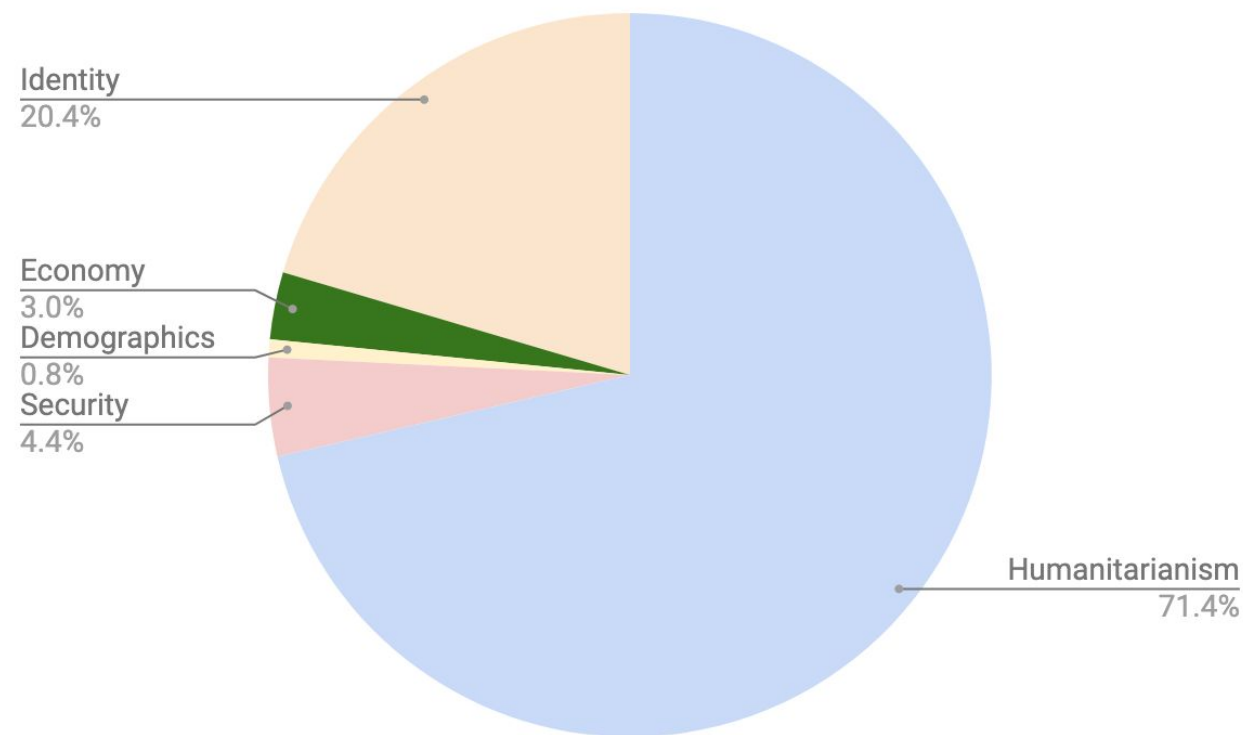
Demographics

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Economy (1): Refugees' *Financial Support: Necessity vs. Strain*

Pro-migrant voices tend to **emphasize the need to allocate funds to social services which integrate and assist migrants upon their arrival to Cyprus**. Conversely, focusing on limited resources and space of the island member state, **anti-migrant voices stress the economic strain migrants have on Cyprus**. Indeed, many anti-migrant voices target migrants as excessively benefiting from welfare allowances and health care services.

Results:
~1,800 (3%)





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Economy (2): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Zero-sum game: Migrants receive funding while locals' social benefits are cut

*An acquaintance of mine told me that **migrants were stopping him in the street asking him where they can get a social security number**. You see, **with the social security number they get a 400 euro benefit per person**. The daughter of a friend of mine, while being a student in the last year of highschool, lost her 100 euro orphan's pension because she turned 18. DO YOU GET IT?*

*Refugees **were found exploiting property that was worth millions of euros without being the legal beneficiaries or subletters of these properties...**, they did not declare this income in their taxes and **thus committing the criminal offence of tax evasion** and additionally violated the relevant legislation that forbids these people to sublet these properties."*

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

Cyprus must fund programs to support and provide social benefits to migrants

***We really need to develop a flexible social security system for migrants** in order to combat their black market and their exploitation which in addition harms the status of other workers.*

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Cyprus needs more help dealing with migrants due to its location and ongoing problems with Turkey

*The President [of Cyprus] asks its EU counterparts to **increase EU contribution** in order to reduce the pressure of the migration problem to the Republic of Cyprus, noting first that Cyprus is proportionately the second EU country to immigrant reception, **while facing the chronic problem of Turkish colonization and lesion of the population**.*

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Cyprus cannot afford to support an influx of migrants

*While international entities guard the sea, **migrants are going through Cyprus' northern border** which has created a huge backlog of applications that **Cyprus (being a small island) does not have the resources to handle.***

Foreigners hurt economy through performing illegal work and being undocumented

*According to the police, **four persons were arrested yesterday in Paphos for illegal employment and impersonation.***



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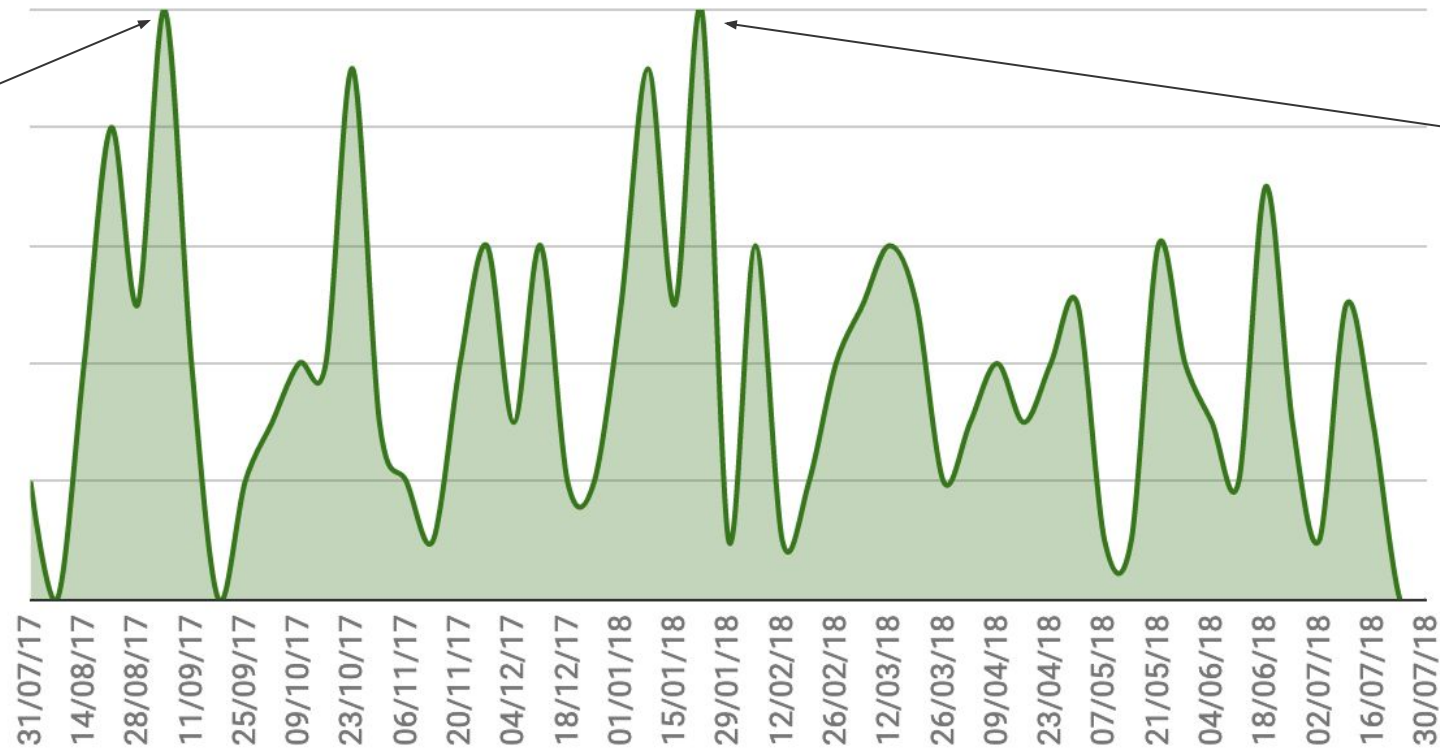
Economy (4): Conversation Peaks

Conversation peaks are driven by government missteps, especially as it relates **mismanagement of social services for migrants**. Media outlets' reporting on political parties' promising changes in government measures in order to reduce unemployment also spike high engagement.

Results:
~1,800 (3%)

Political officials commenting on mismanagement of government-run social services for migrants:

The aforementioned rentals were uninhabited by refugees for over 38 years...they are almost entirely barren, rocky and uncultivated.



One wonders: *what do we prefer at this point? Illegal migrants and asylum seekers?*

Without having anything against those people who are nevertheless supported by the taxpayer's pockets, let's recognize that that money is actually taken away from the taxpayers' families.

Economy



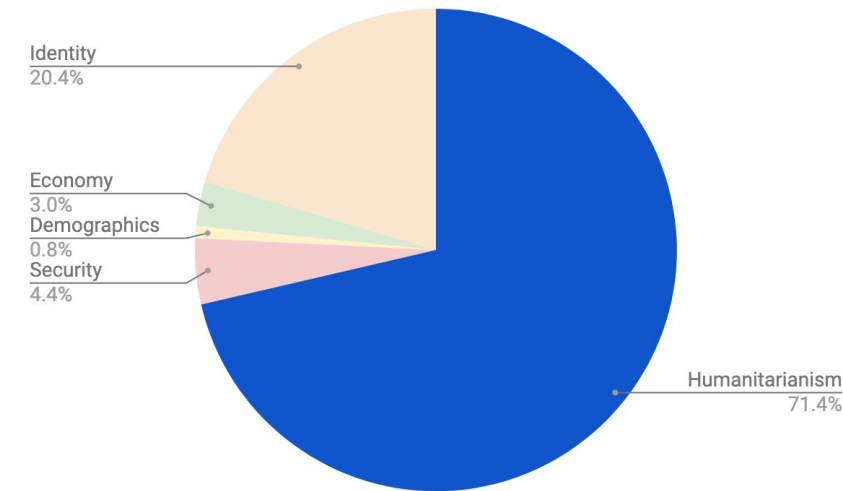
Humanitarianism (1): *Historical Experience Defines Current Approach To Refugees*

Cypriots' understanding of humanitarian assistance is **strongly influenced by the way the EU approaches migration** (i.e. quotas), as well as the way **Greece and Turkey approaches the provision of humanitarian assistance**. Indeed, conversations within this narrative often use **hospitality as a proxy for the ongoing Greek and Turkish Cypriot conflict**.

Of **those in favor of providing humanitarian assistance**, many point to how **Greece and Turkey's past interventions turned thousands of Cypriots into refugees**. Consequently, there is a feeling that migrants are **comrades that deserve assistance**. These voices often insist that, as a member of the EU family, Cyprus has an obligation to assist fleeing migrants and provide sufficient social services upon their arrival to the island. These voices are particularly **concerned about violations of migrants' rights and broader social inclusion of migrants in Cypriot society**.

Anti-migrant voices reference ongoing intercommunal conflict to justify rejecting migrants. Many Cypriots also point out the hypocrisy of holding in one hand EU values of openness and acceptance to refugees, while using the other to push back on possible resolutions to the intercommunal conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots which has persisted for decades.

Results:
~41,000 (71.3%)





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Humanitarianism (2): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

The EU should focus on relocating migrants, not integrating them

*The Commissioner encourages [the EU] to **continue and become even more ambitious in terms of resettlement**, as well as to focus more on countries along the Central Mediterranean Route, namely the Egypt, Libya, Niger, Ethiopia and Sudan.*

It's hypocritical to be open to refugees while refusing to address intercommunal conflict

*So, **for refugees coming from European or third-world countries you are “grande” Europeans**, but for the ones that have been **our compatriots** for 500 years, **you cringe whenever you hear of the slightest hope we will be reunited?***

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

Being part of the European community, Cyprus must provide the best support to migrants

*The Republic of Cyprus, as a modern European state, must **offer the best possible support to asylum seekers** and recognize appeals for their basic needs, such as housing and food.*

The only successful migration strategy involves an EU-wide approach

*Although we are still faced with many challenges, both short and long term, **we have already made significant progress (thanks to the efforts and coordination of the EU family, as a whole).***



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Humanitarianism (3): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

It's hypocritical to be open to refugees while refusing to address intercommunal conflict

*I think you have to speak with your #migration department regarding the **8,000 #applications of #cypriot families who needs to unite with their mothers and brothers**...It's not fair.*

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

Refugees forced to leave their homes deserve our assistance

***‘Cyprus will remain a safe haven for all those in need, especially for refugees who are forced to leave their homes and their families’** – the Minister of Defense Savvas Angelides said today, opening the annual multinational civil-military cooperation "Argonaut 2018 "Coordinating Center" Zenon" in Larnaca.*

Cyprus must improve social services to migrants

*The situation [in Cyprus] is almost unbearable for asylum seekers in terms of housing and food. **Many asylum seekers remain in the center for long periods of time, which creates discomfort and tension.***



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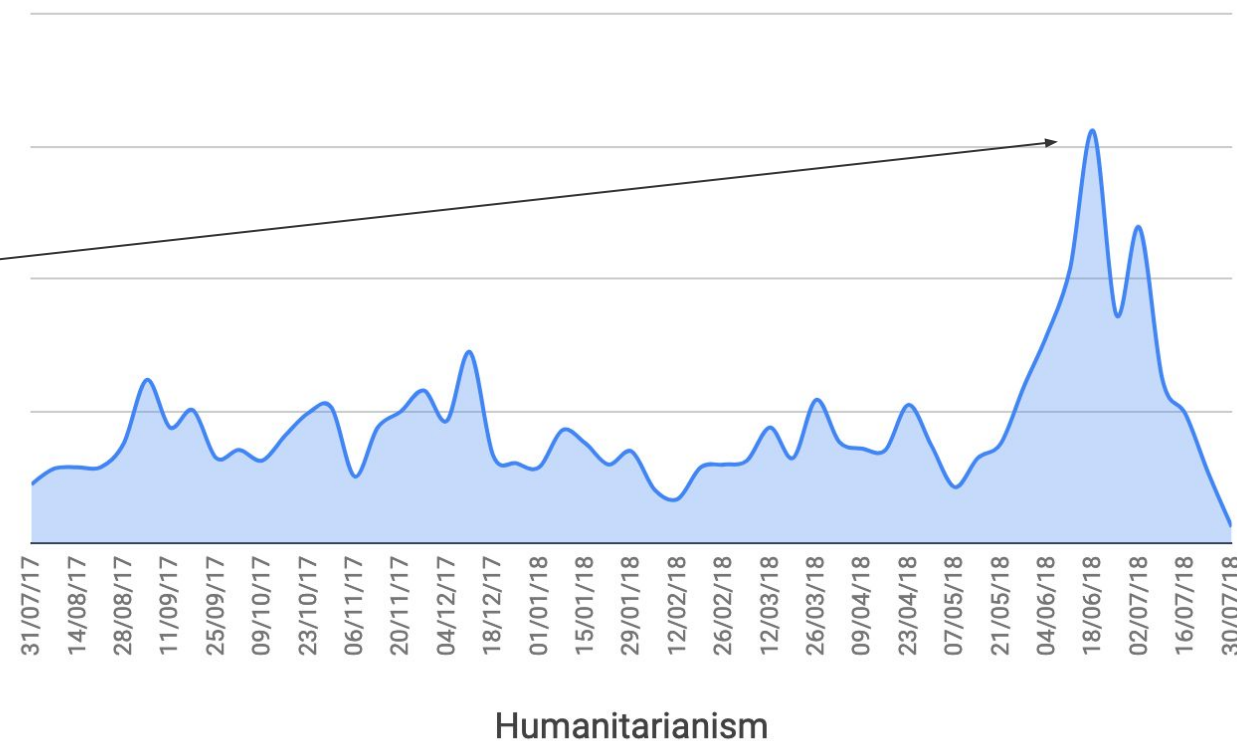
Humanitarianism (4): *Conversation Peaks*

Conversations tend to spike within the humanitarianism narrative when **Greek or Cypriot politicians discuss international agreements, recent summits, and EU-level negotiations**. This reliance on international assistance may be a reflection of how past meditations by international actors continue to influence and shape the domestic crisis approach to crisis management in Cyprus.*

Results:

~41,000 (71.3%)

Migration Summit: “At Foreign Affairs Councils agendas issues such as migration have featured prominently in the last years and have at times threatened the unity and cohesion of the Union. Where do the root causes of the humanitarian migration crisis the EU stem from? We cannot answer this question unless we also turn our attention to the Eastern Mediterranean.”



* The United Nations intervened in the increasingly violent conflict between Greek and Turkish cypriots by drawing a ceasefire line in 1963. To this day, this “Green Line” continues to be controlled by the UN, and also provides a buffer zone covering 2.67% of the island which separates the Government of Cyprus in the South and the Turkish Republic in the North.



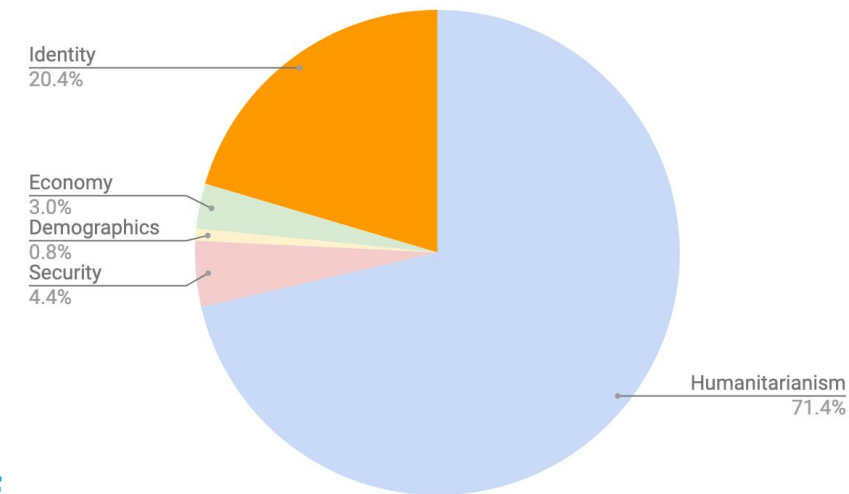
Identity and Customs (1): *Perceived Cypriot ‘Refugee-ness’ Determines Current Approach To Immigrants*

Cypriot national identity is a rather **complicated** issue, **given that it formulated through a turbulent historical context**. Due to Turkey’s 1974 invasion and continued occupation in the northern part of the island, the Greek Cypriot community has considered themselves refugees within their own homeland. This perception continues to be reflected in both pro and anti-migrant discussions around migration today.

Pro-migrant voices tend to **positively associate Cypriot “refugee-ness” to incoming migrants on the basis of a shared experience**. Those favorable to migration also tend to see themselves as part of a “larger European family,” whereby shared values provide the foundation to coordinate a human rights-based approach to migration with its fellow member states.

Anti-migrant voices see incoming migrants negatively, pointing out how **outsiders in the past have caused major problems**, and continue to cause issues in Cyprus today. These Cypriots emphasize past grievances by discussing Turkey’s role in exacerbating the current migrant crisis, as well as issues pertaining to land redistribution, religion, and citizenship. Moreover, Cypriot politicians with anti-migrant positions tend to express the **importance of ethnic nationalism by maintaining close ties to Greece, the “motherland”**.

Results:
~11,700 (20.4%)





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Identity and Customs (2): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Turkey is sending migrants to Cyprus to destroy Cypriot national identity

*“All **these migrants** [being sent to us by Turkey] do not only come here for the social benefits, which we so haphazardly offer them but are probably sent so as to **distort our national and cultural identity**.*

*Half of hellenism in Cyprus was eradicated by the invasion of Turkey. Today, **refugees take the place of Turkish invaders to eradicate what remains of our national identity**.*

Greek Cypriots have suffered the most, as seen by their loss of land and home

*..the **Greek Cypriot community** has been living for the last 43 years in a “**refugee**” status. It is the **Greek Cypriot community that has lost property and loved ones** in the field of battle [during the Turkish invasion].*

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

As a member of the EU family, Cyprus has an obligation to assist migrants

*This right attitude is to **claim our rights as a member state of the European Union**...[moreover,] **the foundation of a solution to the migration problem that is fair, sustainable and functional is rooted in... solidarity with the European Union**.*

Cyprus' migration strategy should improve in coordination with the EU and combat local issues like racism

*[Nicolas Papadopoulos, Cypriot Politician] An **integrated migration strategy, both at international and national level**, and the creation of a Coordinating Body for Immigration, Integration and Asylum, so that **all competent authorities operate in the same direction**, as well as **to deal with racist behavior**.*



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Identity and Customs (3): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Migrants bring violent cultural practices to Cyprus

In Cyprus, up to 17% of girls are at risk of suffering genital mutilation. This is coming from migrants who have moved from countries that apply this horrible practice such as Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Ethiopia.

Preference for Christian migrants over Muslim refugees

Question: If they're Muslims, why aren't they being placed in the [northern part of Cyprus]?...As today is Trinity Sunday, shouldn't Christians be given a chance to be safe too? Shouldn't we allow them to be safe with us [in southern Cyprus]?

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

All migrants should be helped, regardless of religion

Christian and Muslim religious leaders in Cyprus stand together #WithRefugees Give your support to refugees and asylum seekers in Cyprus and join us by sharing this post

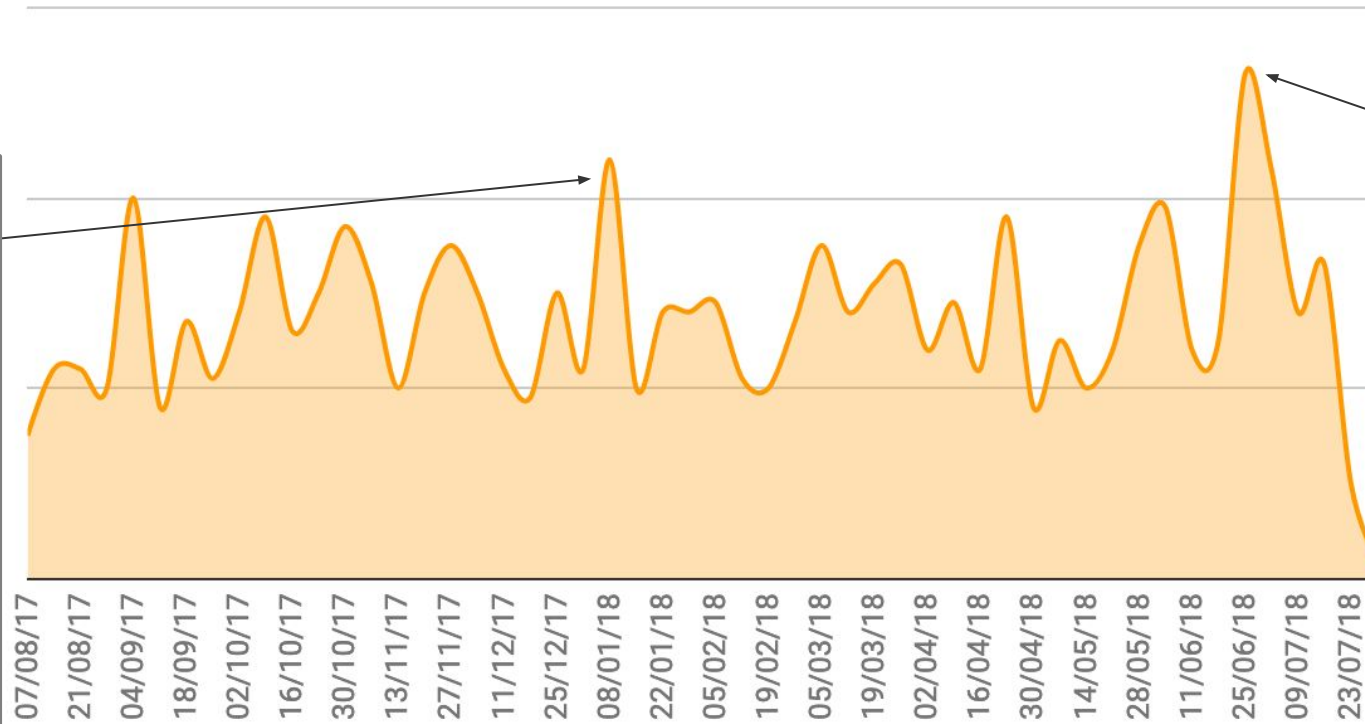


Identity and Customs (4): Conversation Peaks

Conversation spikes tend to reflect two levels of identity in Cyprus. The first is assumed by **politicians** who push the idea of **political unity within the European family for political gain**. The second level is taken up by Cypriot **citizens** who engage with calls to **remember the history of the “Cypriot Refugee”**.

Results:
~11,700 (20.4%)

*[Defence Minister]
Christoforos Fokaidis
mentioned that **ties have
been built on the basis
of common principles
and values** and are
enhanced by our
participation in the great
European family.*



*Day of Remembrance: And in particular, always taking into account the reasonable concerns and expectations of the Greek Cypriot community, because **it is the Greek Cypriot community that has been living refugee status for 43 years**. It is the Greek Cypriot community that lost fortunes and loved ones in battlefields or as missing.*

Identity



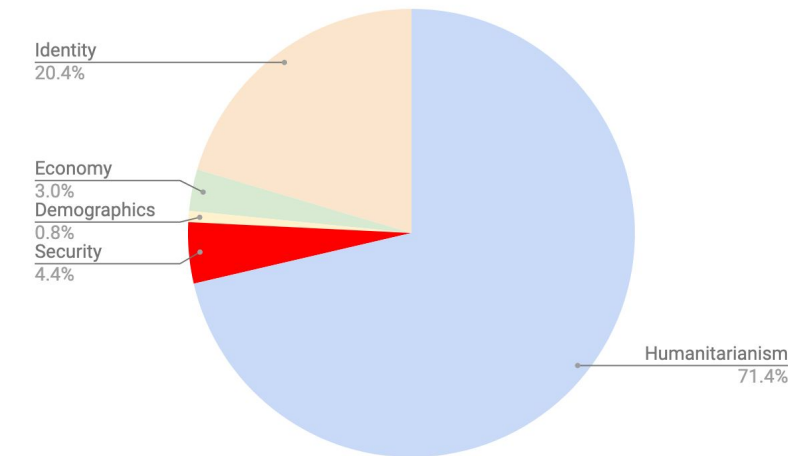
Security (1): *Border Crossing Through The Green Line*

The security narrative within Cyprus is divided into two categories: security threats which come from within Cyprus' borders (**internal/domestic security threat**) and security threats which stem primarily from maritime territory (**external/international security threat**).

Conversations discussing the **internal security threats** of migration in Cyprus tend to recount reports of migrants causing trouble in various locations along the north-south "Green Line" divide.* When pro-migrant voices engage in these conversations, they tend to express concern over the abuse migrants are subjected to at the hands of border security guards. In contrast, anti-migrant voices point to how weak points in the Green Line divide are being utilized by smugglers to traffic migrants into the Republic of Cyprus (southern Cyprus).

External security threats tend to be discussed in the context of maritime territory. Cypriots' engaging in these conversations insist that Cyprus needs better maritime security and deeper defense cooperation with the EU due to its strategic position between Greece and Turkey.

Results:
~2,600 (4.4%)



*The Buffer Zone - also called 'the Green Line' - extends approximately 180 km across the island. In some parts of old Nicosia it is only a few meters wide, while in other areas it is a few kilometers wide. Its northern and southern limits are the lines where the belligerents stood following the ceasefire of 16 August 1974, as recorded by UNFICYP. Source: <https://unficy.org/about-buffer-zone>

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Migration poses greater security threat to Cyprus due to its geographic position

*"Especially with regard to migration, the President stressed that **our country is in a particularly vulnerable position**, with a 180 kilometers of **confrontation line [between Greece and Turkey]** through which **uncontrolled illegal migrants enter the country.**"*

The north-south divide is not only a security threat for Cyprus, but for the entire EU

*"**Because of the illegal occupation in the north**, we've seen phenomena that wouldn't happen under legal conditions" said Petrides. **The occupation and weak points in the Green Line are an open wound, not just for Cyprus but for the entire EU.***

Cyprus is facing an increasing number of illegal border crossings from the Middle East

*The Famagusta District **Court today issued an eight-day detention order against three 24, 34 and 39-year-olds from Egypt and a 37-year-old from Syria** to facilitate police investigations into **cases of illegal entry and illegal stay in the territory of the Republic of Cyprus (...)***

***Seven illegal migrants (in Cyprus) have pleaded guilty to the charges they are facing while the court ordered their detention** anew so that they can hear their verdict the following day.*

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Security (3): Quotes

ANTI-MIGRANT VOICES

Cyprus is enforcing the rule of law when it detains those who illegal cross the Green Line

If any of us tried to cross a juggernaut [border] with a bicycle in any other country, and then tried to escape when the police followed, do you think we would have any different treatment?...no. The illegal migrant got what he deserved.

If a Turkish citizen has illegally entered Cyprus (occupied or free, it does not matter), the law procedures should be followed and he should be deported to his country immediately.

PRO-MIGRANT VOICES

The border security guards on the north-south divide are abusing and illegally detaining migrants

(...) A 60-year-old inhabitant of Famagusta [city in Northern Cyprus] crossed the Ledra Palace checkpoint [into southern Cyprus] on a bicycle without realizing that it was subject to control. At that time no one stopped him. After his passing, he was followed by a policeman (...) who descended from the patrol and (...) began to beat him. When the older man fell down, the police began to kick him. (...)

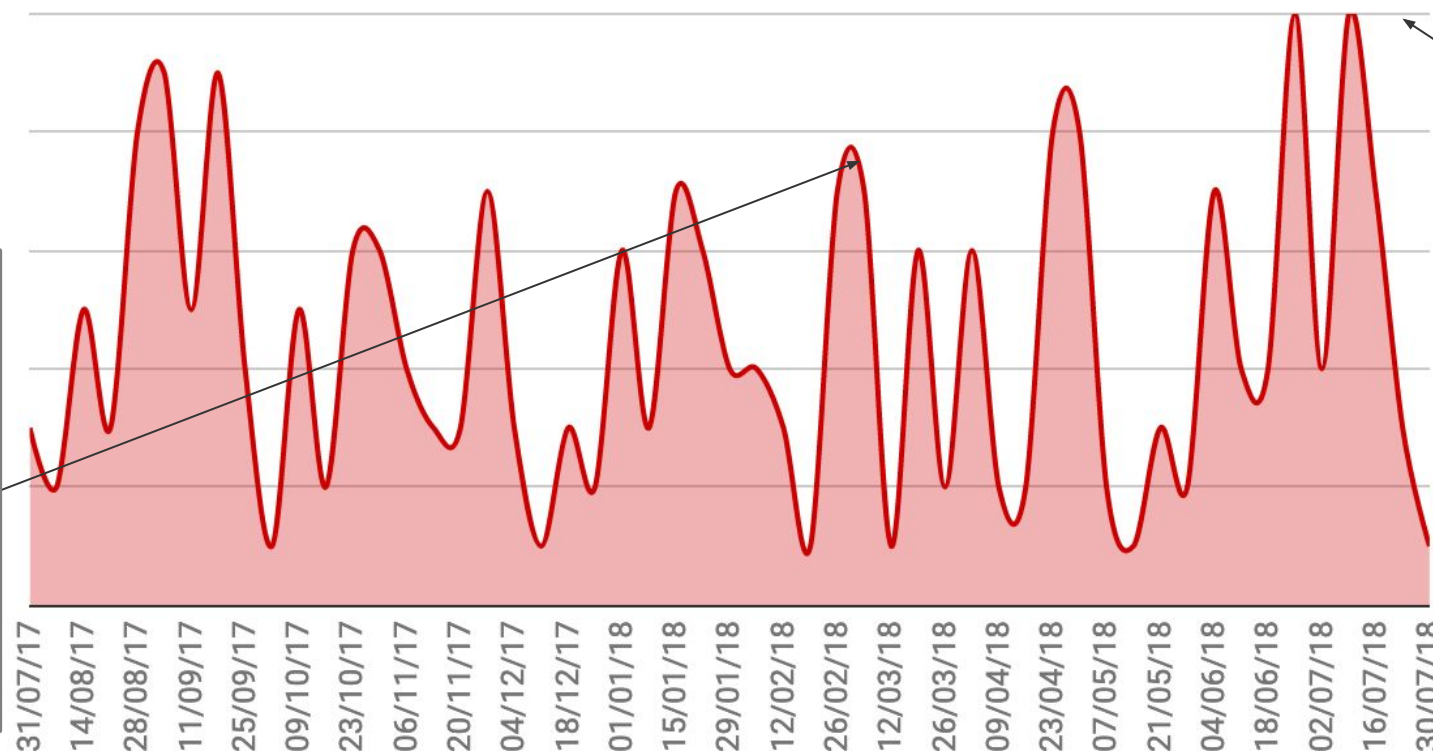
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Security (4): *Conversation Peaks*

The 180 km Green Line which separates the Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot territories is understood a constant point of pressure, thus in many cases **when migrants enter the Greek-Cypriot side through that front, their entry is read as another attempt from Turkey to destabilize the security of Cyprus.**

Results:
~2,600 (4.4%)

Turkey arrested two Greek soldiers on patrol who allegedly entered a Turkish military zone along the border between the two countries on Friday.



Especially regarding the migration crisis, the President of the Republic underlines that our country is in a particularly vulnerable position, with a 180-kilometer front - which is the problem and from which illegal immigrants are crossing into Cyprus. "

Security

+ *The Local Issues in the Republic of Cyprus Around Migration*



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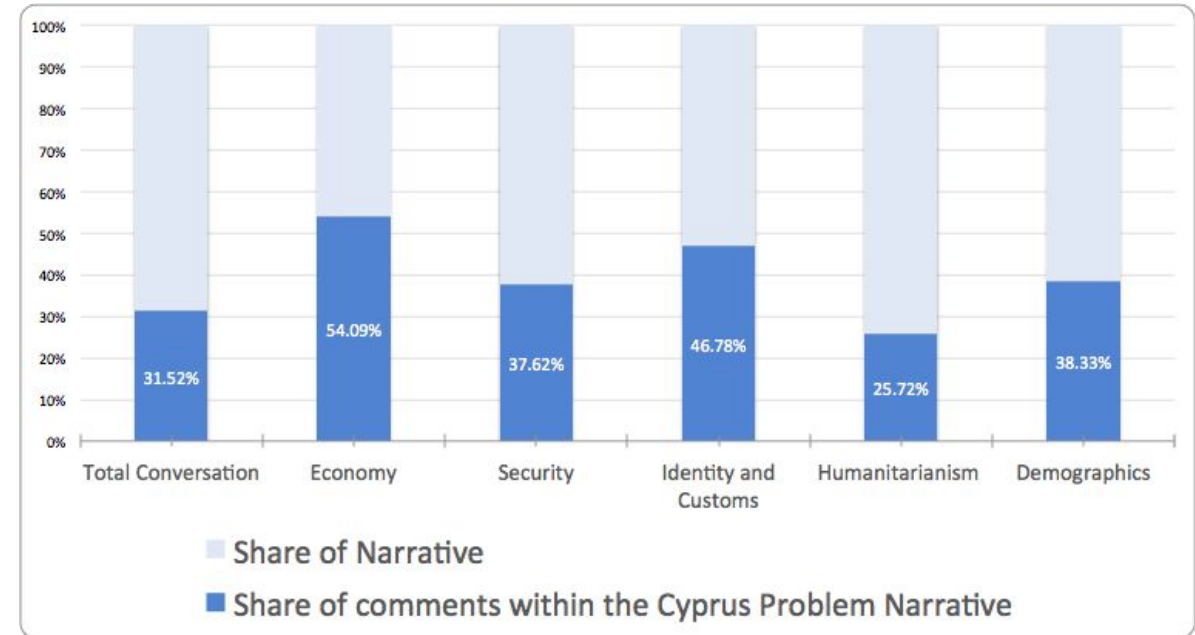
Local Issues | CY

The Cyprus Problem

The complicated history of Cyprus and the way Cypriot identity is constructed operates on the basis of a grand narrative that understands Turkey as the number one enemy and Greece as the motherland. In this light, a specific narrative is constructed that is referenced in about 32% of the conversation around migration: one that complicates discussions regarding economy (many Greek Cypriots blame loss of land during the partition for low income job prospects), and identity and customs in particular (Greek Cypriots see themselves as refugees).

*In his speech [President of AKEL, aka. Progressive Party of Working People] he stressed that **it is imperative, among other things, we need to reintroduce the plan of sorting out land for Cypriot refugees and displaced families with low income [who lost their land in the 1975 partition].***

*The word "refugees" came violently into our lives in Cyprus **in 1974 with the Turkish invasion**. Until you experience such a situation, all these things are distant and alien to you. In 1974, therefore, **a new word was imposed on our everyday life. Refugee. The Cypriot refugees**....The distance of time, 44 years, has not erased the memory...This does not only affect us domestically, but also internationally. Unfortunately. That is why, when talking internationally about refugees, **almost no one remembers the refugees of Cyprus.***



+ *Migration in the Context of European and Domestic Politics*

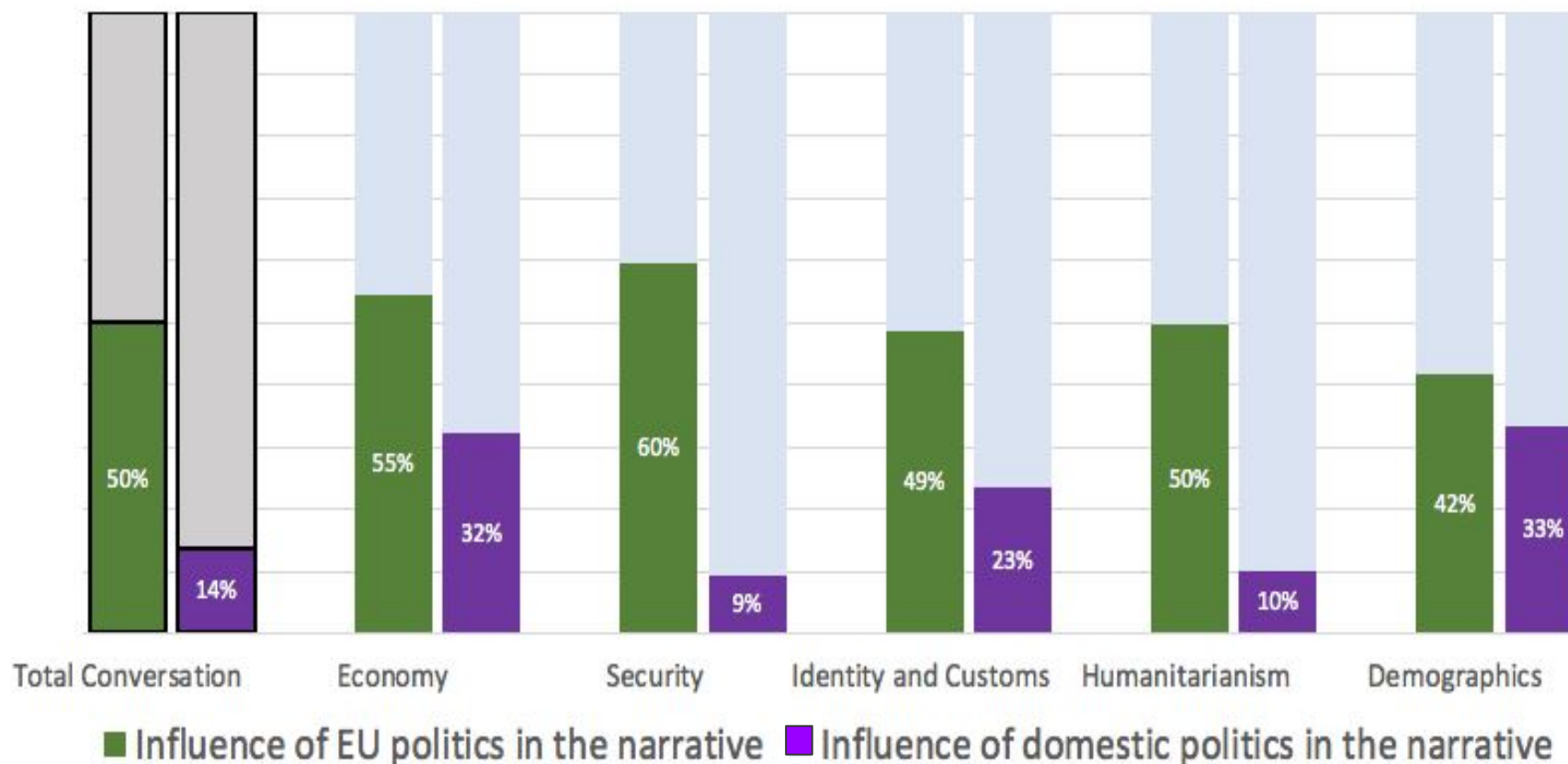


3.

European and Domestic Politics Context within Narratives | CY

Migration Seen as an International Issue

Migration is primarily seen as an international issue within the Cypriot community. This trend in large part reflects the view of many Cypriots that the responsibility of controlling migration lies at the feet of international entities, such as the EU and the UN.



+ *Conversation Channels*



4.



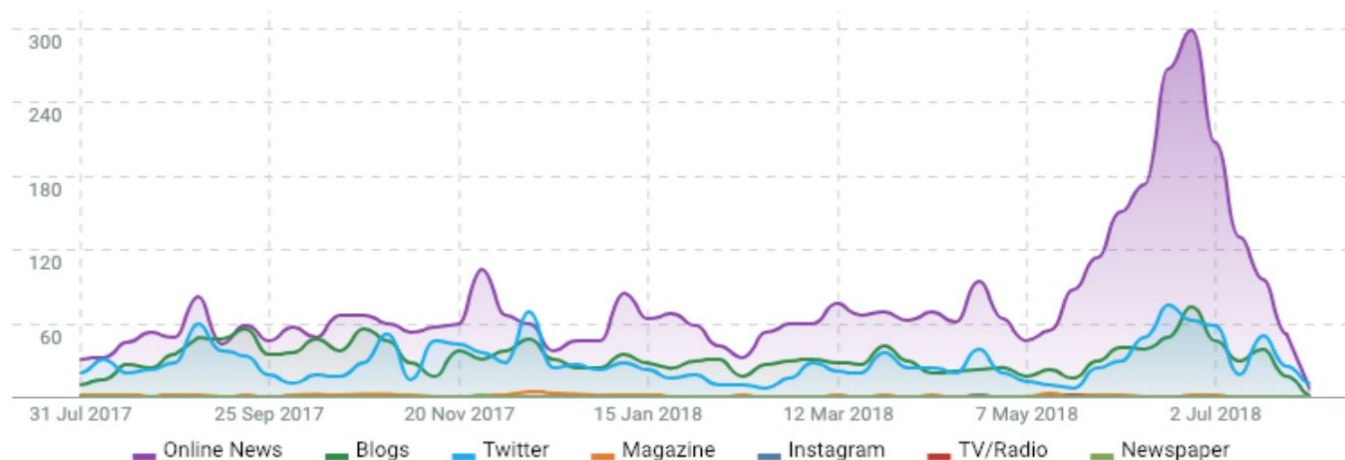
Channel Distribution | CY

Online News Drive the Conversation and Spark Engagement

Cypriots use online news to generate the most content about migration. Blogs and Twitter generate conversations on the topic as well.

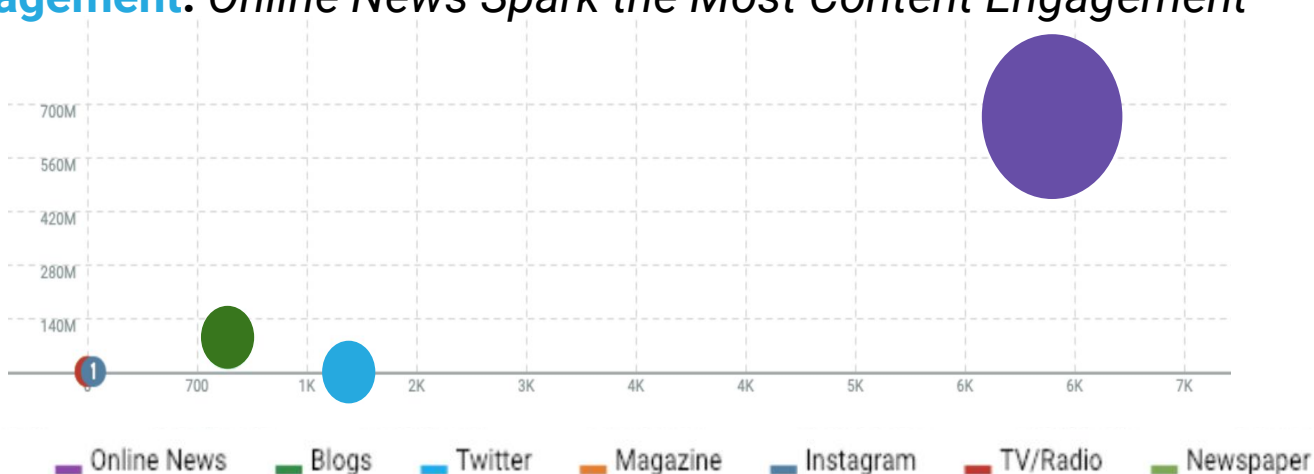
Content Generation: Online news Generates the Most Content

Results:
~57,600



Content Engagement: Online News Spark the Most Content Engagement

Results:
~57,600



Online news also generates the most content engagement. Twitter tends to spark larger engagement than newspapers.



Most Influential Authors | CY

Online News Constructs Narratives Around Migration

The “traditional media” played a large role in framing the discourse around migration. **Online news** platforms not only disseminated the policy messages of various political parties in Cyprus, but also **framed the topic of migration through constructing specific narratives.**

Top Influencers/ website	Publication Link	Description
Giorgos Arnikou, philenews.com	http://www.philenews.com/f-me-apopsi/ar-thra-apo-f/article/552710/aei-sas-oiktiro-ki-esas-kai-to-gossari-ektroma-tis-ntropis	Online News
Theodorou, sigmalive.com	http://www.sigmalive.com/news/local/509960/tourkokyprios-perigrafei-ti-sfagi-aoplo-n-ellinokypriou	Online News
offsite.com.cy	https://www.offsite.com.cy/articles/eidiseis/oikonomia/225050-ypaik-poly-psilos-o-katotatos-misthos-stin-kypro	Online News
alexia moutafidou, @alexapatata	https://twitter.com/alexapatata/status/1023500887971516416	Twitter
Cyprus Aware, @CyprusAware	https://twitter.com/CyprusAware/status/899964590712397828	Twitter