Closed borders – The Balkan route ( 2015-2016 )

The international refugee crisis of today is unique both by size and by complexity. It completely reshapes Europe and seems to be permanent. More than a million refugees crossed the borders of the European Union in 2015 fleeing from the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and other countries. The continent is struggling with a refugee crisis unheard-of since the end of World War II. In 2016, people have continued to cross the eastern Mediterranean into Europe, but in much smaller numbers. More than two-thirds of them came through Greece on their way to Western Europe. That changed in March, when an agreement between the EU and Turkey transformed Greece from an entry point to a dead end. Macedonia has closed its border on 9 March 2016 to all but a trickle of refugees and migrants, following the example of Hungary and other countries along the so-called West Balkans route to Germany. Suddenly more than 75 000 refugees and migrants are stranded in Greece and the Western Balkans.