



Refugee Movements from Turkey to the European Union after 2015 – the Assessment of Impact

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Abstract

Suddenly in 2015, huge number of people started to arrive in European Union applying for asylum from Middle East countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as Turkey. Turkey has become the main gateway for the people, who seek to reach European countries, originating migration crisis in the region. Indeed, the EU has been one of the main attractive destination in search of international protection, freedom, democracy and peace for them. They have forced to flee their home countries due to war, armed conflicts, political persecution and human rights violations. This dramatic level of refugee movements has brought about great challenges for European Union and its member states, which the EU had to give adequate response. Previous relevant policies hadn't been established to manage with rapid change and wasn't adequate in order to deal with such as great influx of refugees. While, EU started to cope with newcomers, by establishing or improving asylum policies and legal frameworks, the unprecedented level of refugee movements has brought comprehensive impact on particularly in three areas such as political, social and economic on EU since 2015. The main objective of this paper is to assess the impact of refugee movements to the EU as a whole since 2015 until the present time from three different areas such as political, economic and social, by using qualitative single case study analysis.

Keywords: *Refugee; Asylum Seeker; Migration Crisis; European Union; UNHCR*

1. Introduction

In the last two centuries forced migration has become one of the essential features of the world, where people have been forced to flee their native lands because of war, armed conflict, political persecution and natural disasters. Refugee is the main category of the individuals undertaking forced migration movements. Currently, out of 84 million forcibly displaced people worldwide the majority move because of armed conflicts and political persecution, among them 26.6 million are refugees and 4.4 million are asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2021).

Europe has been attractive destination for people who are in need of international protection from all over the world, especially in the last years. An unprecedented level of refugee movements to the European Union have originated from the refugee crisis, which started in 2013. According to the International Organization for Migration, in 2015 more than one million people applied for asylum in the EU, which is faced for the first time a great number of asylum applications since World War II. The majority of arrivals come from Middle East countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, fleeing their home country due to armed conflict, persecution and human rights violations. They have significant impact on the EU in the political, economic and social fields, which become one of the top issues of the Union. In the European refugee crisis, the majority of arrivals are from Middle countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq – states, which are considered as top countries of origin of asylum seekers in the EU. The preferred destination for them has been EU member states due to the fact that the continent is regarded as a place of peace and wealth than their home countries. In order to reach EU, migrants have used Mediterranean route, where they first arrive to Turkey and cross the Greece through the sea. According to International Organization for Migration, in 2015 and 2016 more than one million people have reached to EU by boat from Turkey to Greece (BBC News, 2016). Turkey is a largest host country in the world, where 3.6 million people have arrived and also it is considered as a transit country for refugees who are trying to reach EU (UNHCR, n.d.). Besides, Turkey has been also producing refugees by itself. The refugee crisis in European Union reached its peak in 2015. In order to give adequate response for such challenges EU has been making various frameworks, policies.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the impact of refugee movements to the EU as a whole since 2015 until the present time from three different areas such as political, economic and social. Following research questions will be asked: “what is the extent of refugee movements from Turkey to the EU since 2015?”, “What is the response of EU to the large-scale refugee movements?”, “How refugee movements from Turkey after 2015 have impacted on European Union?”

2. Research Objectives and Methodology

The main objective of this research is to assess the impact of refugee movements from Turkey to the European Union since 2015 until current time. The following are the main objectives:

- To analyze social, economic and political impact of the refugee movements from Turkey to the European Union since 2015.
- To establish precise and extensive picture of refugee movements from Turkey to EU since 2015.
- To examine response, reaction and current policy measures of EU taken towards refugees and migrations issues since the origination of refugee crisis in 2015.

This is a qualitative single case study analysis, assessing the impact of a variable which is refugee movements from Turkey in one case study the European Union. The time span is selected for this analysis from 2015 till present. It is purposed to include the phenomenon of refugee crisis that started in 2015 and its impact to the EU and the response of European Union to this crisis, also any significant events, negotiations, policies, amendments originating from the results to current time. In order to conduct this research various sources was used, which are comprised reports by several state and non-state institutions as well as organizations, books, journal and newspaper articles, policy papers and legislation documents. The most substantial and comprehensive reports will be made up by UNHCR, European Commission, Eurostat, BBC News, Human Rights Watch, The Guardian and Journal of Common Market Studies.

As qualitative study comprising one case, the essential method of analysis for this research is single case study analyzing the impact of refugee movements from Turkey to the European Union in three

different areas which are economic, political and social impact with the beginning of refugee crisis in 2015 and till present. This case is selected due to refugee crisis poses the most important challenge to the European Union which is experiencing since its foundation in 1993. Thus, the large scale refugee movements have a significant impact on the EU in the political, economic and social fields, which become one of the top issues of the Union.

3.Literature Review

The growing number of inflow of refugees from civil war regions in the Middle East lead to increasing challenges to the European Union and its member states in various fields such as their politics, societies and economies. The arrivals pose significant social and budgetary challenges, on the other hand, they may and have already offered economic and social opportunities for EU economies and society. According to (Gosse et al. 2016), the refugee crisis has a substantial impact on European solidarity, when the thousands of people have arrived from the war-torn countries, especially from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Therefore, the idea of solidarity has become one of the primary topics in the debates relevant to the migration crisis. According to public opinion, the advantages of living in a welfare state play a key role in arrivals of myriad flows of refugees in the case of the EU during the refugee crisis since 2015. In the meantime, Ashley Cowburn (2016) has described that the mass flow of migrants can have endangered the overall process of European integration. Furthermore, the inflow of migrants has led to a significant cost for several member states. The circumstance is becoming more terrible due to Germany are exposed to overwhelmed by the sudden measure of inflow and intended to deal with through the EU process, requesting from all member states to distribute the costs and burdens of the crisis. Nevertheless, Federica Bindi (2020) stated that the problem is because of not inflow of refugees, but rather the crisis is demonstrating the weaknesses, deficiencies and failures of EU. In addition, Ulrich Speck (2020) emphasized that refugee crisis is pushing the EU in order to establish new and adequate rules, which lead to several negotiations between member states and their integration will become even better.

According to Shubham Poddar (2016), the common economic anxieties among European populations are that a great number of refugees would lead to harm to the economies such as growing unemployment, overcharging the public budgets and making a tense for the capacity of infrastructure. The several political movements and native population have criticized the mentioned refugee flows as: “refugees do cost a lot as they out more than they bring in” and “they take our jobs away” are the general arguments of them. On the other side, Sebastian Dullen (2016) mentioned that despite the fact that debates on debt crisis are thrown out of focus because of giving great consideration on the migration crisis, the local population hasn’t completely retrieved from the debt crisis and holds anxiety that the arrivals will worsen the preceding economic challenges. Economic stability is one of the significant issues for the nations of the Union, especially whose economies are in worse conditions and are challenging with the debt crisis. So the anxiety among the European population comes from the European debt crisis in 2009 rather than significant inflow of refugees.

Scholars such as Shubham Poddar (2016) stated that the great amount of influx of refugees pose significant social and budgetary challenges. Providing the arrivals with the welfare benefits such as access to education, language, asylum procedure and accommodation increase the budgetary costs of receiving member states in the short run. On the other hand, within the integration process of refugees into labor markets of the EU bring about not only social but also budgetary and economic benefits in the long run. Moreover, refugees play a great role in the fields such as filling vacancies, being solutions to the important demographic challenges of the member states which is facing as well as increase jobs and development in the EU (d’Artis Kancs and Partizio Lecca, 2017). However, it is significant the existence of particular training programs for arrivals to adopt them into community relying on their former skills, otherwise giving a work such as cleaning to doctor from Syria will absurdly bring about underuse of

human resource that will influence negatively to his capability to pay taxes and conduce to the fiscal system. So, having training programs is anticipated to bring favorable advantages in the situation of the refugee's works in regard to their qualifications and begin to make contributions to the local welfare system (Shubham Poddar, 2016).

The attacks which were occurred in Paris and Brussels have enhanced the fear of natives related to terrorism. Considering the survey of Richard Stokes (2016), that there is a close relationship between the migration crisis and the threat of terrorism according to the perception of nationals. This can lead to problems related to social stability such as assimilation, diversity of distinctions in culture in respect of gender relations and also the majority of them are young who are not married as well as in the first years they will not have a job. Besides, it can't be considered that not every refugee commits a crime even the criminality has increased since the beginning of arrivals in the migration crisis (Sacha Dobler, 2018).

A number of member states of EU have rejected to receive refugees and the reason behind it is that they have a totally distinct culture, religion, idea and values compare to hosting community. So, the great number of arrivals has led to the rise of nationalism, hostility against refugees in the European society (Claudia Postelnicescu, 2016). On the hand, according to Holly Ellyat (2015), the continent has been exposed to longer life expectancies and low birthrates for decades. The aging is one of the greatest social and economic challenges of the 21st century for European societies. It will affect all EU countries and most policy areas. The continued refugee flows into continent especially from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries have produced dramatic demographic change, the majority of them are young people, trying to reach the continent, where the inhabitants are older than in any other place of the world. In addition, Christian Bodewig (2015) mentioned that it is argued that the influx of refugees might be a long term advantage to an aging society with a decreasing population.

4. General Information About Refugees from Turkey to the EU Since 2015

4.1 What is Refugee?

In 20th and 21st centuries the forced migration has become main characteristic of the world, where the people have been compelled to flee their home countries due to war, conflict, political oppression and persecution and natural catastrophe. Refugee is the major category of forced migration (Betts, 2009). Under the international law, In Article 1(A)(2) of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees defined the term of "refugee" as people who "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution, on the grounds of race, religion, nationality or membership of a social group, find themselves outside their country of origin, and are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country" (UNHCR, n.d.), which nowadays it is regarded as "centerpiece of international refugee protection" (UN General Assembly).

4.2 Identification of Refugees and Cause of Refuge

Syrian Arabic Republic has acquired its independence in 1946 from France, but throughout this time it has been experiencing political instability such a conflict. One of them is Arab Uprisings that initially started with revolution in Tunisia and extended to Syria in 2011, while people who are residents of Dara poured out into the streets protesting the torture of students who placed anti-government graffiti. In response, President Bashar al-Assad implemented forces which led to crackdowns, dispatching tanks into streets that commenced fire to demonstrators and killed people. First it was started with peaceful protests for reforms and rights then it turned to militarized confrontation (Scott, 2016). Around 250,000 people have died during the armed conflict from the beginning of anti-government protests till the civil war and 11 million people out of 23 million are forced displace from their homes (BBC News, 2016, March 11). So, the long-lasting conflict in Syria has a profound impact on the refugee movement. In the

last years, Syrian refugees remains in the top, becoming largest refugee population in the world. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Secretary General Antonio Guterres called these Syrian refugee crises is reaching a “dangerous turning point” (UNHCR, 2015).

Afghanistan has experienced nearly 40 years of a long-lasting armed conflict, with the beginning of Soviet Union invasion of a country with the mujahedeen resistance, which led to brutal war in 1979. After the withdrawal of Soviet Union in 1989, internal conflicts between mujahedeen factions ended up with the victory of Taliban in 1996. Taliban is the religious group and was emerged in 1994 (BBC News, 2016, May 26). Afterwards, war in 2001 occurred which led by US brought about escape of people from the bombing campaign. It also led to collapse of Taliban and several years remained calm, so millions of people who had fled their country returned. So, people have been suffering from violence, insecurity and human rights violence and the cost of conflict is significant. On the other hand, long-lasting armed conflicts have produced a massive displacement crisis. In the current time, around 2.6 million Afghan refugees have been registered all across the globe. Majority of them have fled to neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan, seeking international protection. Also, they reached to European Union through the path from Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and at last to Greece. Due to the protracted security situation in the last year, the number is expected to increase (UNHCR, n.d.).

Nowadays, more than 3.6 million refugees have arrived to Turkey making it largest host country in the world (UNHCR Turkey, n.d.). Also, it is regarded as transit country in this continuous refugee crisis. But, on the other hand, Turkey is also producing refugees by itself, which is less known. Since 2016 the number of Turkish citizens who applied for asylum has significantly increased. About 25.000 asylum applicants from Turkey applied in European countries in two years: 2016 and 2017 (Eurostat, 2019). These numbers are inconsiderable compare to the numbers of Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi asylum seekers, though the growing number of refugee movements bring about worry. Major cause for this movement is failed coup attempt which occurred in 2016 (Nicolas, 2018). According to President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, military faction intended to take over the government and Fethullah Gulen and his supporters was accused for this failed coup attempt, even he denied all of the accusations. After the incident, Erdogan started to persecute people who have links with the Fethullah Gulen, who is influential Islamic cleric (Phipps, 2016). More than 140.000 academics and civil servants have been fired, about 50.000 people have been arrested and around 130 of them are journalists (BBC News, 2017), more than 10.000 people was exposed to detention and was subjected to beatings and torture (Amnesty International UK, 2018). These factors have led to fears of persecution, unemployment and restrictions on travel among people motivated them to flee to the EU.

4.3 Current State of Refugees in Europe

Europe has a long historical background of refugee movement flows in particular in two World Wars and recent records of offering protection for those who escaping war, persecution or other violations, where the Council of Europe and European Union have developed norms and law related to the forced migration flows in Europe. European Union has been one of the main destinations for the refugees and asylum seekers since the beginning of 21st century. In 2011, mostly they come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Serbia and Pakistan (UNHCR, 2015). Despite the fact that, most of forcibly displaced people are internally displaced or have arrived to neighboring countries within the region, although myriad of refugees has reached to Europe (Lemmens et al. 2017). This led to refugee crisis in European Union, which started in 2013 reaching its peak in 2015, when the 1.3 million people applied for asylum in EU (Connor, 2017). Throughout the history, EU has never been faced a number of asylum applications as now. Majority of requests for international protection, who applied for asylum to EU are Syrians who comprise 29% of all applicants around 363000 people, Afghan citizens 14%, Iraqis for 10% who escaping native countries due to long-lasting conflicts (Lemmens et al. 2017). They are arriving to EU in order to seek asylum, who are in need of international protection. Where the protection is acquired by people

escaping and are not able to turn back their home countries because of a well-grounded fear of persecution. EU own legal obligation to provide a protection to these people. Also, member states of EU have responsibility to consider and analyze applications for asylum and determine who will gain protection (European Commission, 2017). Majority of people have reached to European Union are in need for humanitarian assistance, for example, clean water health care and so on and they have arrived from dangerous land and sea journeys. Moreover, according to International Organization for Migration, in 2015 and 2016 around one million people have arrived to EU by boat from Turkey to Greece and about 460 of them lost their lives BBC News. (2016, March 20). So, EU and Turkey made a deal in March 2016 in order to send back irregular migrants to Turkey from Greek islands (Morris, 2016). Consequently, number of refugees who reaching to Greece by sea have significantly decreased. From 2013 till 2017, majority of people have applied for asylum among the European countries are Germany, more than 1.2 million, then followed by Sweden 329.000 and also Italy, France, Hungary and Austria (Hübl et al. 2017). Currently, arrivals have been gradually decreased to 134000 to Europe in 2018 that it was in 2017 and back. Spain took huge number of migrants and refugees about 60000 and followed by Greece with 46000 in 2018. Moreover, at the same year, the number of refugees and migrants who lost their lives at sea also have declined than other previous years according to data from the European Commission (Goldberg, 2018).

5. Response of European Union to Refugees

According to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, overall number of forcibly displaced people have significantly grown since 2012, especially in 2015 (UNHCR, 2015), when the “migration crisis” or “refugee crisis” came to existence (Spindler, 2015). This term defines the forced movement of millions fleeing their native lands due to war, armed conflicts, political persecution, poverty and so on. Over 75 percent of them who reached to Europe were from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq had escaped conflict and political persecution in their home country (Spindler, 2015). The crisis has its roots in onset of the Arab Spring which occurred in 2011. This crisis is considered political crisis instead of refugee crisis by some scholars, for the reason that leaders couldn’t manage to cope with this issue. On the other hand, European migration crisis define a circumstance, which European Union experiencing substantial migrant and refugee arrivals. Initially, the migration issue wasn’t a priority of the EU agenda, but when the number of refugee movements have dramatically increased migration issue has become top priority of EU. Angela Merkel German Chancellor was the first leader who led to Europe-wide response to the refugee crisis in 2015 declaring “if Europe fails on the question of refugees, it won’t be the Europe we wished for” (BBC News, 2015, August 31), calling her European counterparts for a common European response. Conversely, the Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban has withstood almost every Merkel’s plan. Turkey is also joined in order to deal with this problem, signing an agreement. The issue has appeared not only humanitarian crisis but also evaluating the European integration since the economic crisis (Toygur and Benvenuti, 2016).

It couldn’t be founded excellent crisis management system. However, governments have to make significant choices in order to deal with crises such as political upheaval, natural disaster and mass migration. Sudden migration and refugee movements into Europe which has occurred in 2015 and 2016 led to transnational crisis in a policy area in European Union that hadn’t been established to manage this rapid alteration before. Profound political disagreements and complicated split of power among the European institutions and also its Member States prevented EU to show efficient response. European governments hope that such incidents will not happen again (Collet and Camille, 2018). Substantial political, diplomatic and financial investments was made for the preventive strategy, such as reforming asylum system in order to strengthen border security, establishing return policy more effective and fostering the integration of refugees (News European Parliament, 2017). Moreover, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union designated the Migration Policy Institute Europe (MPI

Europe) in order to analyze mechanisms of crisis-response which brought out in Europe since 2014. The main purpose was to assist EU policymakers maintain structures of promising response in order to guarantee resilience to future variability (Collet and Camille, 2018).

5.2 Public Opinion of European Society about Refugees

Due to the fact that the greatness of the migration crisis, European public opinion supported the idea of offering assistance with the improvement and stabilization of Mediterranean countries which located in southern part to provide a circumstance of keeping asylum seekers in place. This preference comes earlier on providing assistance and receiving programs for arrivals to European countries and also strengthening controls at borders. The degree of public support related to facilitating with the development differs by each country, however, the preference of reinforcing border checks and struggling with the irregular migration comes in precedence. Migration crisis and media coverage have a significant influence on opinion of European people who have found long-reaching solution which is to keep people where they are the most efficient, because they consider that migration movements as a not short-term incident and expect it that will keep going in the following years (News European Parliament, 2017). Moreover, there are great distinction of attitude towards principle of sharing asylum seekers between member states of EU and hereby receive a proportion of them into their own country. There is no relevance on division according to the country's wealth and geographic closeness between the group of countries. As another logic shows that Germany is regarded as a first arriving destination and Greece and Italy is a central gate and passage for migrants and asylum seekers, besides withstand to the having great support for receiving asylum seekers into their country and sharing them between the rest of countries. National political leaders have also significant impact on the distinction between attitudes among European countries. If a European agreement related to distribution of asylum seekers is challenged, it is because of national leaders who lay an obstacle, believing that public opinion of their own country would endorse them (News European Parliament, 2017). There is also great difference among the member states regarding the willingness to receive a proportion of the asylum seekers into their country. Several countries are exposed to an "Aylan effect" where this name come from a Syrian little boy that his dead body in the coast was seen in photos across the world. After the incident there was an increase in the support for accepting asylum seekers (Devichand, 2016).

On the other hand, majority of people in some countries agree with the idea of accepting a great number of asylum seekers into their country and Europe will be incentive for the many people who find themselves in the persecution and conflict on their native country especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria to arrive to Europe. this attitude is widespread in the countries where people are not willing to accept arrivals. Furthermore, many Europeans worry about the refugee and migration flows will produce the probability of terrorism and will threat the security of their community, especially in countries Hungary (76%), Poland (71%) and Germany (61%) (Poushter, 2016). Because most refugees arriving from Islam based countries such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, where the Islamic State emerged despite the fact that since the beginning of the migration crisis, there hasn't been occurred any such terrorist attacks in Europe by them. Even though this risk remains, the moral duty regarding the incident as a humanitarian tragedy is a great incentive for accepting and opening the doors for arrivals who fleeing war, persecution and poverty. The duty to welcome arrivals is widely seen among the people who practicing Christians. However, some people think that their country is already full with foreigners they do not have enough capacity to accept new arrivals. According to majority of European public opinion, the rate of arrivals in a very high number will remain in next several years and they will settle in European countries in a long term. If local people predominantly refuse new arrivals all around the Europe may lead to rising tensions related to this issue (Fourquet, n.d.).

6. The Impact of Refugees on European Union Since 2015

6.1 Political Impact

Since the origination of European integration project, the idea of solidarity is considered as a fundamental assumption of the political project, which aimed enhancing of cooperation between the countries and people that is located in Europe. However, in last years, the idea of solidarity has turned into significantly considered as just a rhetorical tool. The refugee crisis has substantial impact on European solidarity, when the thousands of people have arrived from the war-torn countries, especially from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Therefore, the idea of solidarity has become one of the primary topics in the debates relevant to the migration crisis. According to the public opinion, advantages of living in a welfare state plays a key role in arrivals of myriad flows of refugees in the case of EU during the refugee crisis since 2015 (Gosse et al. 2016). For example, unilateral decision of Angela Merkel in establishing “open door policy” have greatly influenced solidarity, by making unstable political situation, between member states of the EU. This policy aimed to provide assistance and allow refugees to arrive and enjoy international protection in the EU territory. However, some member states remained reluctant in accepting newcomers to their territory (Gosse et al. 2016). Moreover, some opinions have described that the mass flow of migrants can have endangered the overall process of European integration (Cowburn, 2016). Furthermore, the inflow of migrants have led to significant cost for several member states. The circumstance is becoming more terrible due to Germany are exposed to overwhelmed by the sudden measure of inflow and intended to deal with through EU process, requesting from all member states to distribute the costs and burdens of the crisis. Besides, European Commission made a proposal in order to establish relocation system depending upon refugee quotas for each country. Such a proposal was argued that it would significantly alter the cost of the crisis to poorer member states.

Up to the present, the European integration has been principally regarded that mobilized politicians and the public interoperate jointly for the general interest. However, the latest debate related to European solidarity as part of the migration crisis has provoked the disagreement and hostility among the countries of EU. Additionally, most of the member states breaching and disobeying the European law that including not only disobedience with the provisions of the law on sharing of refugees, but also violating several other principles of the EU migration policy as well as operating of the Schengen Area. The refugee crisis and the efforts to deal with it by the institutions of the EU led to several disintegration tendencies in the whole continent (Gosse et al. 2016).

Unprecedented level of refugee movements has become more politicized in most of the member states, with the matter growing to the top of the public and political agenda at the Union as well as at the national level. It produced fervent discussions between politicians and citizens relevant to quantity of refugees that should be hosted and also prerequisites under which the asylum should be provided for them. Numerous citizens and several political parties, not taking their ideology into account, appeared to accuse the EU for the migration crisis. Some of them argued that the Union didn't sufficiently perform to provide essential assistance for people who are indigent, to do redistribution of refugees as well as to accelerate the process of asylum application (Bauböck, 2017). On the other hand, others criticized EU that it failed to adequately protect its external borders and caused doubts about the Schengen Agreement (Niemann and Zaun, 2018). In addition, some of them accused their national authorities, especially in Germany (Zaun, 2017). Consequently, the influx of asylum seekers has enhanced Euroscepticism. Such an influence is only perceivable among citizens, who have already been negatively susceptible against immigrants. However, it is not simple work, as the migration crisis spread out in a situation of multilevel governance, where the both the EU and the national governments have certain duties, as well as shared liabilities for its administration for instance, while the Union takes step to regulate the inflow of refugees at the external borders, member countries host them who have arrived (Slominski and Trauner, 2017).

Consequently, after the emergence of the refugee crisis, notable measures of European population have experienced to meet great number of refugees from culturally different countries both in the cities and countryside. Meanwhile, far-right parties with have obtained significant support in several countries, which were exposed to great number of refugees, particularly with its anti-immigration agendas. For example, the Alternative for Deutschland (AfD), is a right-wing political party in Germany and founded in 2013, got 12.6% of the vote during the German federal election in 2017, when it has become the third largest party in the countries' parliament (Clarke, 2017). Politicians, political observers and the media have made a prediction that the influx of refugees have played significant role in the encouragement of support for the far-right. The refugee movements can have influenced voting for the far-right by means of macro-level exposure such as conspicuity of the refugee circumstance in social media and political rhetoric, and also by micro level exposure such as personal interplays with and examination of refugees. For instance, any news in the media about crimes which is committed by refugees or even anxieties over the whole fiscal effects of arrivals can enhance support for far-right parties. The far-right Freedom Party of Austria, in the elections in 2015, made its vote twice since 2009 and has scored over 30% of the vote from its anti-asylum agenda (Heinz-Peter, 2015). Polls shows that support for the party maintained more or less until 2014, though it has dramatically risen in 2015, during the peak of refugee inflow. In the meantime, Sweden Democrats gained 5.7% of votes during the 2010 elections in the country. But in the period of migration crisis, support for this party increased. One of the significant reasons of the remarkable support for far-right parties in several European countries, during the migration crisis, is that these parties appeal to anxiety and anti-immigrant tendencies in the local population. Consequently, immigrants and refugees may have both negative and positive influence on voting for far-right parties. In this case Sweden and Hungary can be best examples, where far-right parties have gained more votes during migration crisis compared to other time (Steinmayr, 2017).

6.2 Economic Impact

The mass refugee flows since 2015 to the EU has had significant economic impact on EU as a whole. Whereas the growing financial expenditure on refugees is examining the fiscal strength of the Union and its members, the phenomenon poses a long-term economic opportunity for them to cope with their challenges relevant to the aging labor force. However, the economies are arranged to take advantage of higher aggregate demand because of enlarged public spending and also higher tax revenue because of rise in the employment, there have numerous political challenges affiliated with refugee crisis originating in growth of xenophobia and anti-EU tendencies. The common economic anxieties among European populations are that great number of refugees will lead to harm to the economies such as growing unemployment, overcharging the public budgets and making a tense for the capacity of infrastructure (Poddar, 2016). The several political movements and native population have criticized the mentioned refugee flows as: "refugees do cost a lot as they out more than they bring in" and "they take our jobs away" are the general arguments of them (Cellai, 2016). Despite the fact that debates on debt crisis is thrown out of focus because of giving great consideration on the migration crisis, local population hasn't completely retrieved from the debt crisis and holds anxiety that the arrivals will worsen the preceding economic challenges. Economic stability is one of the significant issues for the nations of the Union, especially whose economies are in worse conditions and are challenging with the debt crisis (Dullen, 2016). For instance, Greece has a special position in the regard of refugee crisis due to it is one of the essential passages to Europe for the Middle East. These financial supports just appear to later postpone debt problems of Greece instead of resolving them, which bring about stagnation of economy and maintaining low of reform implementations (Poddar, 2016).

In the hosting and integration process of newly-arrived asylum seekers, receiving countries pay fiscal expenses before than gaining fiscal advantages. Governments are expected to spend great amount of costs to the hosting the arrivals. After that additional cost is necessary for support people, who gained refugee status, with entering them into labor market and community. Like these investments will

contribute favorable payback if they provide assistance for them with integration into the labor market and begin to benefit to the welfare system. The first influence of refugees on the European labor market will be contingent upon several elements such as gaining refugee status, duration of application process, qualification to entering labor market (Dullen, 2016). Such elements differ notably related to requirements of access into labor force in each country. Actually, in some situations the entry may be possible in short time, while in other circumstances the process may take long. Some countries such as Greece, Norway and Sweden are regarded as a fastest member states related to process of entry to labor force (OECD, 2011). In the long term, the hosting countries begin to gain fiscal advantages only afterwards of refugees' integration on labor market. According to Eurostat, majority of asylum seekers who have arrived to EU in 2015 are young whose age below of 35 years old that constitutes 83% of them and qualified in various fields (Eurostat, 2019). It means that most of the them in the working age and will pose influence and make contributions in the area of labor force, fiscal and budgetary of the member states (Kancs and Lecca, 2017). The significant investment is to recognize the skills which the refugees own, giving opportunities such as essential training in order to employ that skills in the arrived member state as well as entering into labor force. However, they are inclined to be unready related to the works which have to be fulfilled. Predominantly, they possess lower employment, participation rates and also decreased wages than the native population (Kerr and Kerr, 2011). This gap with regard to wages and unemployment rate is especially has bad reputation initially of the process of integration, though a time passed by, refugees gain job experience and with the acquiring of language lead to gradual reduction of the gap (OECD, 2014). Nevertheless, they have improved in the course of time such as improvements related to wages and more feasible contracted conditions. The main motive for these is that majority of refugees who get status of staying permanent do not travel back to their native lands, thus more encouragement to invest human capital is appeared (Dustmann and Joseph-Simon, 2015). Refugees may impact labor markets consequences of local workers essentially through three means such as aggregate demand effect, labor supply effect and allocation of resources and technology effects. In the regard of aggregate demand effect, while the population grows, there is increase for the need of goods and services with the influx of arrivals. In the situation of demand for production, the need for labor increase simultaneously. The negative wage influences are because of the growth in the available labor market are equalized by the growth in aggregate demand (Peri, 2010). With the respect to labor supply effect, great number of influx of refugees has an unfavorable impact on the wages and unemployment of the locals in the receiving countries, particularly in the situation of newcomers own similar skills to the labor force of nationals (Aiyar et al. 2016). On the other hand, there are advantage of them, who have effects on increasing local's wage. This is due to enhanced competition; locals are inclined to gain more qualifications in the intention to get more specialization especially in needed jobs. Consequently, nationals would possess higher positions as well as their wages would be higher (Stephane, 2017). As for the resource allocation and technology effects, the arriving of refugees into member states brings about alterations related to the production of goods and services and also in the regulation and construction of the labor force industry (Aiyar et al. 2016). Moreover, it is significant the existence of particular training programs for arrivals to adopt them into community relying on their former skills, otherwise giving a work such as cleaning to doctor from Syria will absurdly bring about underuse of human resource that will influence negatively to his capability to pay taxes and conduce to the fiscal system. So, having training programs is anticipated to bring favorable advantages in the situation of the refugees works in regard to their qualifications and begin to make contributions to the local welfare system (Poddar, 2016).

6.3 Social Impact

The social influence of refugees on receiving member states are hard to assess. According to UNHCR, "When large numbers of refugees arrive in a country – and especially when they are in a destitute situation and do not share ethnic or cultural linkages with the host community – there is always a risk that social tensions, conflicts and even violence might arise" (UNHCR, 2011). For different researches, when the refugees are capable to integrate by economic way with convenience, their

integration by social way would be more tough (Sofia, 1999). Ongoing flow of asylum seekers into EU has brought about the rise of anti-immigrant tendencies of right-wing parties and the rise in the support for them by nationals throughout the Europe. Considering the survey of Pew Research center that there is close relationship between migration crisis and the threat of terrorism according to perception of nationals (Wike et al. 2016). As it is stated that 1.2 million arrivals have applied for asylum in 2015 and among them 66.2% were male. This can lead to problems related to social stability such as assimilation, diversity of distinctions in culture in respect of gender relations and also majority of them are young who are not married as well as in first years they will not have job (NATO, 2017). Besides, it can't be considered that not every refugee commits crime, however, criminality have increased since the beginning of arrivals in the migration crisis.

A number of member states of EU have rejected to receive refugees and the reason behind it is that they have totally distinct culture, religion, idea and values compare to hosting community (Popescu, 2016). These conservative nations may hold hostile position against refugees and foreigners. For instance, in order to prevent refugee flows into Hungary, its prime minister Viktor Orban built a wall inclining to national identity and interest saying that "We do not want a large number of Muslims in our country" (Desilver, 2015). In the meanwhile, ex-prime minister of Slovenia Miro Cerar, who served from 2014 till 2018, stated that his nation would only welcome refugees in condition of if they are Christians. These come out due to people are demanding for solutions. So, great number of arrivals have led to the rise of nationalism, hostility against refugees in the European societies (Postelnicescu, 2016).

The continent has been exposed to longer life expectancies and low birthrates for decades. In 1996 considering the research of data from the Eurostat, 14.9 of the population of EU was 65 or older, it has gradually increased and in 2016 it became 19.2% (Eurostat, 2017). Indeed, 27 countries out of 30 is located in Europe according to largest 65 and older shares. In six member states of EU such as Italy, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Finland and Bulgaria, where the fifth of inhabitants are 65 or older (Eurostat, 2018). According European Commission, aging "is one of the greatest social and economic challenges of the 21st century for European societies. It will affect all EU countries and most policy areas" (Ellyatt, 2015). The continued refugee flows into continent especially from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries have produced dramatic demographic change, majority of them young people, trying to reach the continent, where the inhabitants are older than in any other place of the world. Finding a solution for increasing number of people and accompanying decrease in working age people already bring about significant social challenges in member states such as Germany and Italy. Former flows of migrants have already changed the culture and demographics of many countries in the continent. However, the recent forced migration flows might lead to the alteration in Europe's fundamental dynamics since World War II (Desilver, 2015). On the other hand, it is argued that influx of refugees might be a long-term advantage to an aging-societies with decreasing population. Baltic nations have been experiencing diminishment of population since 1990, which has decreased around 15% (Bodewig, 2015). So, the receiving refugees. In fact, recent inflow of asylum seekers who have arrived to the Union is not high, more than one million of them in 2015 constitute only 0.1% of the total population of EU. It is not even sufficient to have significant influence on EU societies (Debating Europe).

Conclusion

The objective of this paper was to assess the impact of refugee movements from Turkey to the European Union after 2015. Suddenly, massive refugee movements started to place from Middle East countries, mainly Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq through Turkey, playing gateway role for refugees, to the EU due to armed conflict, civil war and human rights violations in their home countries. This unexpected refugee influx has brought great challenges for the Union and its member states. Since the establishment of the EU it is exposed to migration challenge for the first time and it had to find immediate solution for

this crisis. On the one hand, EU has legal obligation to provide protection to these people, on the other hand though, side reaction of native population and member states unwilling to accept refugees have made this issue even more complicated. Despite this fact, the Union has made efforts in order to overcome the crisis, but there are still challenges across the Union related to refugees and asylum seekers. These mass refugee movements have a significant and comprehensive impact on the EU.

In reference to the research question about the impact of refugee movements from Turkey to the EU, it is obvious that refugees have become one of the important issues throughout the EU. The crisis has had a significant impact on the EU in various areas. It negatively influenced European integration and its solidarity and provoked disagreement and hostility among member states. If member states don't act jointly for the general interest and don't maintain its solidarity, the situations would get even worse. On the other hand, nationalism and Euroscepticism may increase, which has already increased due to refugees. Moreover, with the starting refugee crisis far-right political parties has gained significant support with its anti-immigrant programs from the people who are against towards accepting refugees in several in several EU countries. In the near future, these supports may increase and in the consequences these parties would gain more power and thus migration and refugee issues would become even more complicated. Besides, there is a possibility of increasing tensions between governments and its nations due to their governments have opened their door for newcomers and increased financial expenditure on refugees. The locals have fear that refugees would take their jobs away and it will increase unemployment in their countries as well as they significant pressure on local economy from their perspective. However, refugees can bring opportunities for the economic challenges of EU, which it has already faced. The hosting countries begin to gain fiscal advantages only after integration of refugees in the labor market. Therefore, each member state should make shorter the integration process of entry to labor market of arrivals and it would be even effective if they first recognize their skills which the refugees own. Moreover, majority of arrivals are coming from Muslim based countries. Therefore, there is significant anxiety in European societies that great amount refugees may possess threat to their society and increasing of terrorism. That's why, it can be considered that such concerns exist in majority of part of the European societies. Majority of arrivals are under 35 years old, who are young. The criminality has increased since the beginning of influx of refugees. However, as they are young and eligible to work, EU and its member states can turn it into opportunity, making faster process of integration of refugees into labor force and reunification of family members. Great number of refugees can be also advantage for the EU especially for the countries which has aging problems with decreasing population. It depends on EU and its member states to turn this crisis into opportunities especially for their economic and social challenges, where they would gain significant advantages.

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