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## Article

# Current challenges of the European security caused by the refugee crisis. The EU's fight against terrorism

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## Current challenges of the European security caused by the refugee crisis. The EU's fight against terrorism

Andreea Florentina NICOLESCU\*

### Abstract

*The primary objective of this research is to identify the evolution of the terrorist attacks that appeared in Europe lately. In the article are mentioned the main causes that led to the terrorist attacks from France and Germany, emphasizing their effects over the 2 countries. The article brings forward the main types of attacks used by terrorists but also the number of injured persons or deaths. An essential aspect that was highlighted in the article refers to the results obtained after applying the EU – Turkey Statement but also to those regarding the transfer and relocation of the migrants in different countries. In this way, the analysis implied the selection of EU member states which received Syrian refugees by relocation together with the highlighting of the numeric situation of the persons returned from Greece to Turkey. A last part of this study assumes the identification of the personal categories who have been brought by Frontex and EASO in Greece in order to handle efficiently the crisis, which provide the expertise in the migration field. The primary question of this research is: “Is EU capable to administer the changes regarding migration, assuring in the same time its safety?”. To answer this question, I identified first the costs of EU securitizing its states. I consider that the approach of this matter has a high importance since it shows the necessity of some changes meant to help European states to face the events linked to migration and, implicitly, security from the last years.*

**Keywords:** refugee crisis, terrorism, security challenges, migration

### Introduction

The importance of studying this subject is given by the challenges faced by EU member states in protecting themselves from the adverse effects of the refugee crisis, in particular from the terrorist attacks which have took place in different European countries.

Refugees crisis is a nowadays subject which brings forward a situation of no previous similarity in Europe, this is why the biggest question of the actual research is: “Is EU capable to administer the changes regarding migration, assuring in the same time its safety?”.

The methodology that has been used during the inquiry in a complex one, in this way, we used the analysis of the documents provided by EU institution, statistical analysis and the method of comparison. A detailed description of the methodological tools used it is elaborated in the following.

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Rappaport (2016) mentions in “The refugee crisis is being blamed for the terrorist attacks in Europe” that it is difficult to determine the degree in which the refugees crisis led to increasing terrorism in EU but it is clear that after receiving more than 1 million refugees in Europe in 2015, there was a raise in the number of deaths and injured persons as a result of jihadist terrorist attacks.

Ceu Pinto Arena (2017) claims in “Islamic Terrorism in the West and International Migrations: The “Far” or “Near” Enemy Within? What is the Evidence” that terrorism is strongly linked with international migration. The article mentions that the hypothesis in which among the refugees could be hiding ISIS attackers has been confirmed, one of the cases taking place in Germany in December 2016 when a requester of political asylum drove a truck through the Christmas market, attack that provoked deaths and injuries for some of the people present there.

Funk and Parkes (2016) state in “Refugees versus terrorists” that through refugees are also persons that will act violent in Europe for reasons that are not related to terrorism. These are young persons that run from war, don’t have faith in the host states and have to face a new culture, different from theirs.

Di Natala (2015) draws attention in his study “Migrant crisis triggers fears over increase of terrorism threat in Western Europe” about the possibility that in the future, some refugees could adhere to radical Islamism as a reply to the failure of social and cultural integration in the host countries as well as the lack of economic opportunities they experimented. Considering the big number of refugees that arrived in Europe and the number of illegal entries identified by Frontex, the presence of terrorists between refugees cannot be excluded. However, the biggest threat brought to the safety of societies who received refugees is the high risk that these will face regarding social disorders on a large scale.

This article is structured on several parts, in the first part of it we can find some progress made by the European states regarding the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration (European Commission, 2017). Also in the first part of the research I identified the main threats to the European borders, as well as the evolution of the attacks at the European level in the last period.

The second part of the article highlights the results of the EU-Turkey Statement, highlighting the progress made in resettlement and transfer in the countries that received most of the international protection applicants. Also, in order to understand the importance of this agreement and of the border security, I have identified the categories of staff from Frontex and from the European Asylum Support Office that are involved in managing this humanitarian crisis.

The third part of the research is marked by the determination of the costs granted by the European Union states in terms of their security, taking into account the intensification of the terrorist

attacks as the refugee crisis started. Considering the importance of European border security, the third part of this article also contains a presentation of how the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency is being implemented.

## **1. The methodological approach of the research**

In order to realize this study, I have used various research methods to complete a comprehensive study on the safety of EU member states in the context of the refugee crisis.

Thus, the main method of research used in this article was to analyse the official documents of the European Union institutions that have expertise in the field, such as the communication reports provided by the European Commission, the European Asylum Support Office, the European Council, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament.

The second research method used to materialize this article was the statistical analysis that was conducted using the databases of the think tank The Religion of Peace (TROP) to carry out the analysis of the latest terrorist attacks and of their devastating effects on the European countries security. The statistical analysis was also conducted using data from the Global Terrorism Database to identify the frequency of the attacks in France and Germany between 2010 and 2015, as well as the most common methods of attacks used by terrorists and the number of victims of these attacks that have died or been injured during the assaults.

Another method of research used was that of comparison, which was used to identify the progress made in implementing the EU-Turkey Statement as well as on the costs incurred by the European Union for a better management of the migration in 2017 compared to 2016 and 2015. This method has also been used to carry out the statistical analyses where I have focused on identifying existing developments in the analysed periods.

## **2. Progress and steps to be taken in the field of security based on the Migration Agenda**

Within the Migration Agenda that was realised in 2015, several pillars of the European migration policy have been established. One of these pillars concerns the protection of the EU's external borders, and how Union is trying to solve the existing problems for a better migration management. Protecting the external borders is necessary for an optimal functioning of the Schengen area.

At the beginning of 2017, more precisely between February 8 and 9, several decisions were initiated at the meeting of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency's Management Board. At this meeting a joint plenary session was held with the Management Board of the European Asylum Support Office where the two agencies had a role to play in collecting data and implementing hotspots. The two agencies signed a cooperation plan for 2017 and 2018, which is based on their common activities (European Commission, 2017).

Moreover, there are six priority areas identified and endorsed by the European Union Member States Council of Justice and Home Affairs in April 2016.

*1. Strengthen the rapid response capability of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and, moreover, share resources.*

In this respect, for the sharing of resources EU member states have mentioned that they have more than 1.500 border guards, as well as other officers within the Rapid Reaction Pool. Unfortunately, only 14 states have confirmed their presence in this group, among which we can find: Austria, Germany, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, and Slovenia. There are also shortcomings in equipment such as patrol and coastal vessels as well as helicopters.

*2. Performing preventive vulnerability assessments based on a common methodology.*

The main objective of vulnerability assessments is to identify possible consequences for external borders as well as long-term consequences on the functioning of the Schengen area. In this case, a series of simulation exercises will be carried out by the end of October 2017. It is also necessary to make recommendations that need to be considered in relation to the future challenges that may appear at the external borders.

*3. Providing the right support for the return of migrants to their home countries.*

Between January 12 and February 27, 2017, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency had a rising rate of return operations to third-country nationals, reaching 44 return operations, summing up by the end of February 2017 a total of 2,166 returned people. Since the beginning of 2017 there have been three return groups for operations, namely: forced return, forced return escorts and return specialists. In this case, starting in February 2017, there were 25 EU member states involved in training these groups, thus providing 518 experts out of the 690 needed. The experts' gap results from the non-involvement of four states, namely Cyprus, Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. One issue that should not be neglected in the future is the clarification of the practical modalities and rules on the detachment of the experts that constitute the working groups, their tasks and responsibilities. The member states of the European Union should provide monthly information on the planning of national return operations as well as the number of returnees.

#### *4. Creating the reclamation mechanism of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.*

As regards the changes that should be made to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency regarding the reclamation mechanism, a first step is to improve the information dissemination, the availability of materials in paper support and also a visibility of the objection forms on the Agency's website.

#### *5. Opening up better operational cooperation with third countries by establishing a model status agreement.*

Concerning this issue it was agreed in February 2017 to start the negotiations for an agreement with Niger. In January 2017 the European Commission made recommendations to the Council to start negotiations with Macedonia and Serbia, with the main goal of negotiating the state agreements with the ultimate goal of building teams at the European borders and on the coast within these states.

#### *6. Headquarters agreement.*

Regarding this priority area the progress has been made by the fact that Poland has reached an agreement with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency as regards the headquarters of the Polish Agency, an agreement setting up its staff, the immunities of the staff, the legal status of the agency, the privileges and the exemptions granted to it. In this respect, the provisions regarding the new building where the Agency of Poland is located are mentioned in the agreement.

### **3. The recent evolution of the attacks at the European level. The case of France and Germany between 2010 and 2015**

The reason for choosing these two countries to perform the study is represented by the numerous terrorist attacks from both of them, attacks that implied deaths or injuries. The necessity to make this analysis is given by the need to identify the negative effects of terrorism in the countries which received refugees, the two states leading the rankings the number of people they accepted, according to Eurostat statistics.

The first analysed year was 2010 since it was the first one which registered numerous attacks on the territory of those 2 countries previously mentioned, attacks that had repercussions on their population. Prior to this, the attacks were fewer; one example could be Germany in 2009, when there were only three terrorist attacks that did not result in wounded or deceased people, according to data provided by Global Terrorism Database. This is why 2010 is the first year of study for the analysis.

It is necessary to mention that the second part of the analysis of the cases of the two countries is carried out between 2010 and 2015. The reason I chose this period is that the analysed period

represents the time before the refugee crisis started, which gives us an overview of the situation prior to the crisis. One of the impediments to an analysis that includes a period that includes the onset and duration of the humanitarian crisis is that there are no data available after 2015.

The first part of this analysis is aimed at identify the recent terrorist attacks that have taken place in the European states since the onset of the refugee crisis and in the second part of this chapter we will find an analysis focused on the case of France and Germany on the types of attacks which took place in their territory, highlighting the adverse effects of terrorism through an analysis of deceased or injured persons.

### **3.1. Recent attacks in Europe and their effects on the safety of the European population**

As in the second part of this analysis I chose to present the main terrorist attacks that took place in France and Germany between 2010 and 2015 due to the lack of updating of the database used, I decided that it is very important to analyse the recent attacks that have taken place in Europe. Therefore, this subchapter summarizes the main attacks that took place in 2016 and in the beginning of 2017 and the adverse effects caused by them. Therefore, the choice of analysing the years mentioned above has been made to highlight the attacks that happened after accepting the refugees, mentioning the circumstances in which they took place. Moreover, it must be taken into account the fact that there have been many terrorist attacks during these years in France and Germany. In 2016 in Belgium there were two terrorist attacks in the same day and from the first attack have resulted 14 deceased people and 92 injured. The suicide attack was carried out by two people in Brussels at Zaventem International Airport when two people diverted their explosive belts.

The second attack that took place the same day in Brussels was carried out at the Maelbeek subway station by a person belonging to the Islamic State, which resulted in 21 deaths and 130 injured people.

The biggest attack in 2016 was in France at Nice, when a person with Tunisian origins entered with a truck in a crowd that was celebrating France's National Day. As a result of this attack, 86 people died and 202 people were injured, which classifies the attack as the most bloody terrorist attack in 2016. After identifying the attacker, he was shot by the authorities, and after the shooting, he died.

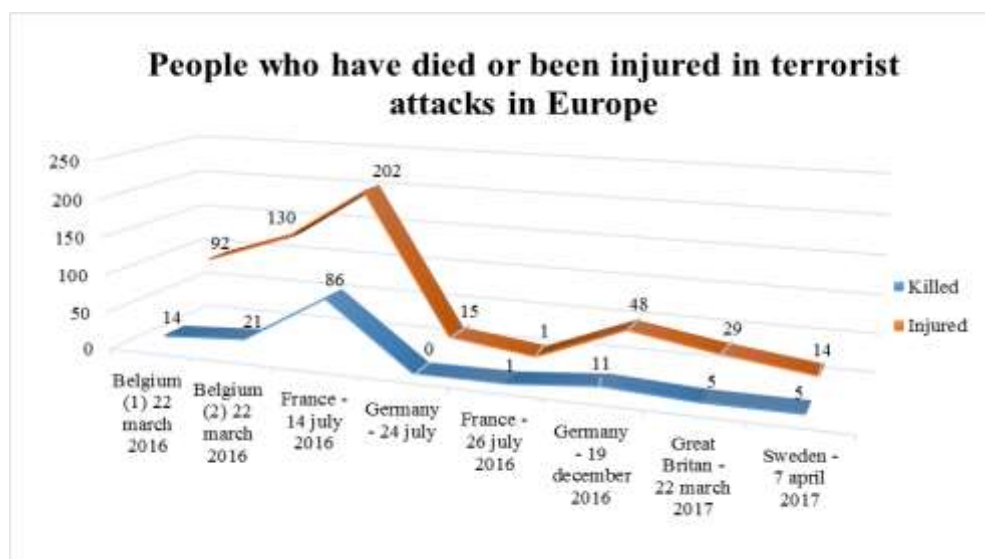
Another attack took place in July 2016 in Ansbach, Germany. After the attack, there were no deceased people, but 15 people needed medical care after a Syrian asylum seeker detonated a bomb at an outdoor music festival.



Less than two weeks after the Nice attack in France, another attack took place, this time in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray when some Muslim radicals killed the catholic priest. Also those who were assisting were taken hostage and one of them was injured by the attackers.

Just with a few days before Christmas 2016 there was an attack in Germany, in Berlin, when a truck entered in the crowd of people who were present at the fair organized with the occasion of the Christmas celebration. After the attack, 11 people died and 48 people were injured. The panic attack among European states increased the protection measures at the Christmas fairs. The attacker was an asylum seeker whose asylum application had been rejected, that fact led to a feeling of reluctance on the part of the population towards refugees, especially those who disagree with receiving refugees on German territory.

**Figure 1. People who have died or been injured in the latest terrorist attacks in Europe**



Source: own representation using The Religion of Peace (TROP) database

The second attack that took place in 2017 was the one in Sweden, which took place in Stockholm in April. Following the attack, 5 people died and 14 other citizens were injured after a truck was stolen by a terrorist who entered with it in a commercial street wounding the people who were in the area.

It has to be specified that this analysis of the main terrorist attacks from France and Germany in 2016-2017 are attacks that have been claimed by terrorist groups where the attackers were members.

These events were mentioned in the study because with the set of groups of refugees that entered in Europe, the number of attacks in European states increased, those being claimed by terrorist groups.



### **3.2. The reasons behind the terrorist attacks in France and Germany**

This research has the purpose to identify some of the possible main reasons which caused the terrorist attacks which took place in France and Germany, the necessity of including this part in the inquiry being the one of understanding what led to the attacks over the two European countries.

The analysis of the terrorist phenomenon in France and Germany is due to the high frequency of the terrorist attacks registered in the two states between 2010 and 2015 and beyond.

The main reasons for these attacks predominantly occurring in the two countries mentioned above are the following:

- Launching fear among the citizens of the two states, showing the power to create panic and tension.
- The recruitment of new followers even more that in France live the largest Muslim community in the European Union. Thus, by committing these attacks, terrorists aim to provoke tensions between the French and the Muslims, thereby increasing racism and destabilizing the state.
- The statements made by French officials highlighting the fight against Islam in France, as well as France's participation in Syrian air strikes on the Islamic State, which led to their revenge on France.
- Adopting a ridiculing attitude of Muslim religion and the freedom of expression led by the employees from Charlie Hebdo to the extremists has prompted an attack by the group named Al Qaeda in Yemen on the satirical magazine. The reason of the attack was the caricature of the Prophet Mohammed since 2011, which culminated in 2015 with the attack by several members of the terrorist group of the headquarters of the magazine with the intention of killing Stéphane Charbonnier, the director of the editorial.
- Having an attitude of acceptance towards refugees, Germany has attracted them on its territory, including ISIS terrorist group adherents who took advantage of their refugee status and planned to attack. An example of this case is the attack of a young afghan from the train that was circulate in southern Germany.

### **3.3. The terrorist attacks in France and their adverse effects on the safety of French citizens**

In 2010 – 2015 there were 143 terrorist attacks on the territory of France and the most common way of attacks were bombings. Thus, besides the main ways of attacks used by terrorists in France

that we can see in Figure 2, we can mention a Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident) and an Unarmed Assault.

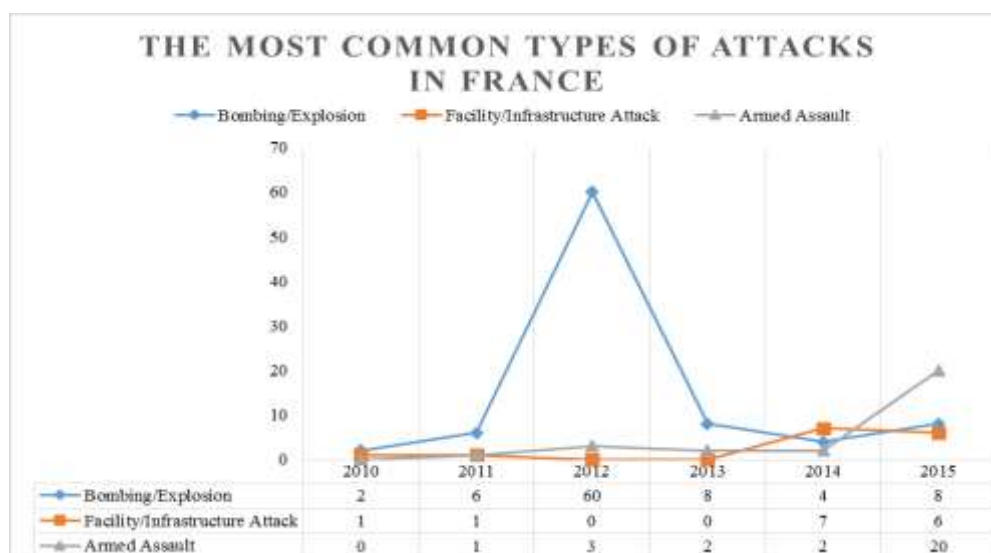
As a result of the attacks we can see in the Figure 2 there were cases of death and injured people in times of violent attacks.

In March 2012, the Islamic Algerian group Jund al Khilafah, which means Caliphate Soldiers of Algeria, caused the death of four people following the armed attack at a Jewish Educational Institution in Toulouse that is located in France. In the same month of 2012, individuals belonging to the same terrorist group attacked four Toulouse and Montauban soldiers using the same technique, following the attack the soldiers died.

Fortunately, following the 60 bomb attacks of 2012 caused by bombs/explosions, they did not cause any loss of human life.

In December 2014 another attack took place in France in Dijon, where 11 people were injured by a non-affiliated person of any terrorist group that injured people on pedestrian crossings. The attacks realized by the terrorist who acted individually in several areas of the French city, which had the same tactics, were followed by the exclamation "Allahu Akbar" which means "Allah is great" classifying this attack as being caused by religious fanaticism.

**Figure 2. The most common types of attack used in the assaults in France in 2010 – 2015**



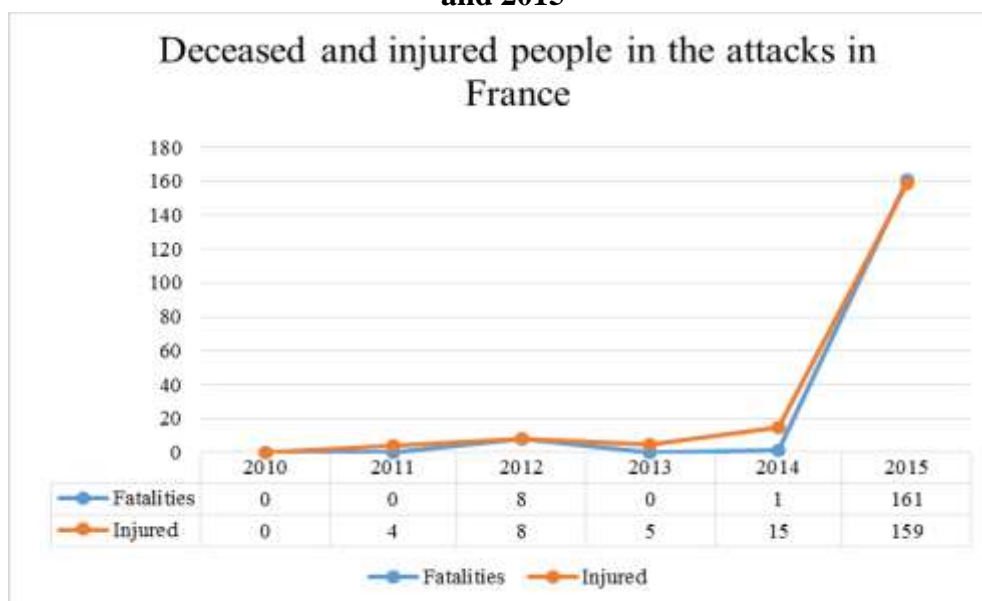
Source: own representation using Global Terrorism Database

The bloodiest year of the period under review is 2015, when 41 terrorist attacks have been made especially by armed attacks, being recorded 20 such attacks. In addition to this type of attack, eight more bombings and explosions were made, and six other attacks on the infrastructure were carried

out. The other 7 attacks in France were made using other attack methods, including: 3 attacks using Hostage Taking (Barricade Incident), 2 attacks using Hostage Taking (Kidnapping) and an Unarmed Assault.

We can see from the Figure 3 that the most casualties were reported in 2015. It's about the five attacks that were realized in Paris on November 13 by individuals belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist group.

**Figure 3. The number of deceased and injured people in the attacks in France between 2010 and 2015**



Source: own representation using Global Terrorism Database

Likewise, the most violent attack that resulted in 92 deaths and 101 injured people was the one in which three ISIL Islamists attacked a showroom where the American band Eagles of Death Metal was supporting the concert.

### 3.4. The terrorist attacks in Germany and their adverse effects on the safety of German citizens

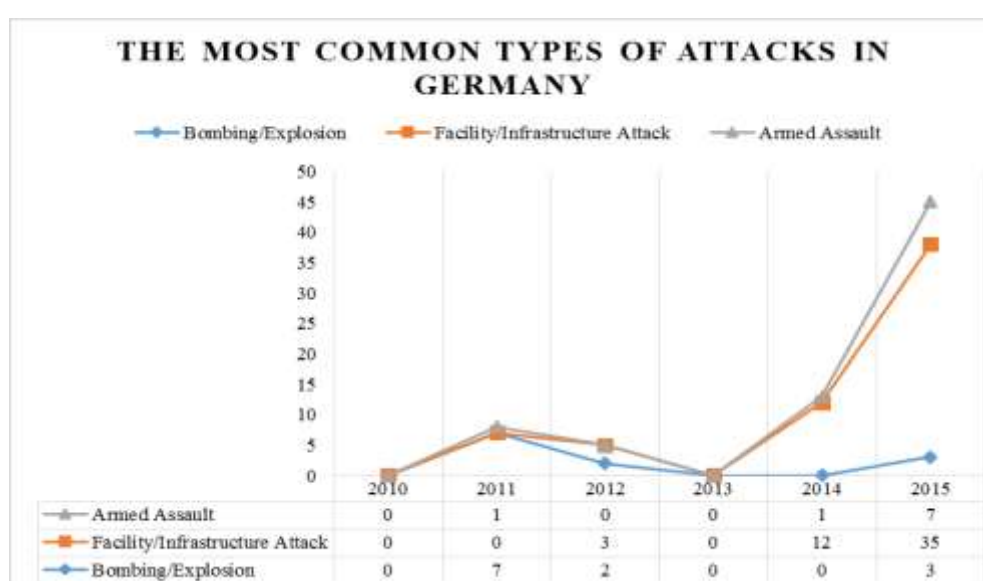
The German state was also struck by the fury of terrorists who committed 77 attacks on German territory between 2010 and 2015, almost half of the attacks in France. A similarity between France and Germany related to the attacks that took place in the two states is that in both countries 2015 was the year with the most recorded attacks.

The most common attack method used by terrorists in the attacks that were registered in Germany was Facility/Infrastructure Attack (50 such attacks in the reference period) involving

attacking commercial or government facilities and the transport systems sector, including airports and aircraft as well as maritime entities. The primary objective of this type of attack is to cause massive damage to properties.

Germany's quietly years on terrorism were 2010 and 2013 when there were no terrorist attacks on the Germans territory. Also, 2011 was characterized by few attacks against Germany with only 8 cases including 7 bomb attacks and one armed attack. No major terrorist attacks occurred in 2012 being recorded only 2 bomb attacks and 3 infrastructure attacks in Germany.

**Figure 4. The most common types of attack used in the assaults in Germany in 2010 – 2015**



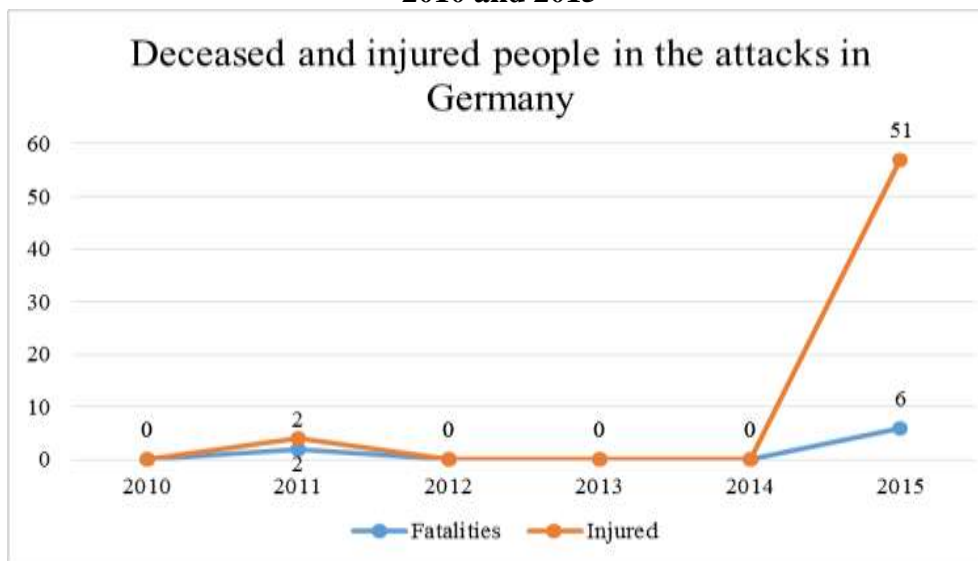
Source: own representation using Global Terrorism Database

At the opposite there is 2015 when have occurred 50 terrorist attacks, most of them having as method the Facility/Infrastructure attack, followed by 7 armed attacks and 3 bombings. Other types attacks used in 2015 include: 2 assassinations, 2 unarmed attacks, and 1 unknown attack.

In the figure below we can identify the number of deceased or injured people in the attacks that took place in Germany between 2010 and 2015. Thus, two deaths and two injured people were reported during the attacks in Frankfurt in March 2011 when several soldiers were attacked by terrorists who were not affiliated to any terrorist group but acted individually.

The 50 attacks in 2015 resulted in 51 injured people and six deceased people. The attacks were spread in several German cities, most injured people were recorded in the attack that took place in Altenburg in December 2015. The origin of the assailants and the terrorist affiliation are not known and fortunately there were no deceased persons in the time of the attack.

**Figure 5. The number of deceased and injured people in the attacks in Germany between 2010 and 2015**



Source: own representation using Global Terrorism Database

Another attack in Germany that killed 4 people and produced many injured people took place in Pforzheim in November 2015 and also in this case the attackers are unknown and we do not have any information about their terrorist affiliation.

#### 4. The main results of the implementation of the EU-Turkey Declaration recorded up to this point

The necessity of including this section in the current study, as well as its connection with the approached subject is justified through the fact that EU – Turkey Statement aims for a better handling of migration by limiting the illegal one but also securing the areas near Turkey borders. Moreover, this analysis presents also the types of experts provided by Frontex in Greece, among these being Security Officers but also some other type of staff that is taking care of border protection, refugees and locals. In this research it is highlighted the involvement of European states and Turkey in an efficient administration of migration in the strongly affected areas and their security.

The agreement between the European Union and Turkey has been implemented since 29 November 2015 as a result of the large influx of refugees. It is made up of several elements aimed to eliminate the illegal migration of refugees from Turkey to the European Union.

The main issues behind the agreement are (European Council, 2016):

- Refugees who have crossed the border between Turkey and Greece irregularly since 20 March 2016 will be returned to Turkey.

- Making an exchange of the fact that for every refugee with Syrian nationality which is returned to Turkey from Greece, another Syrian will be relocated from Turkey to a member state of the European Union.
- Turkey has committed itself to take all measures to prevent the opening of new illegal migration routes to the European Union cooperating for this purpose both with its neighbouring states and with the EU member states.
- Turkey will work both with the European Union states to improve the situation in Syria, especially in the areas near to the Turkish border this being done in order to ensure both the refugees and the local population to live in a more secure area.

One year after the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement progress has been made in reducing the number of illegal border crossings and deaths in the Aegean Sea. The implementation of the agreement requires continued efforts, although notable progress has been made on all the commitments made in the Statement.

Significant progress has been observed in the number of people arriving Greece from Turkey during the following period 8 December 2016 – 26 February 2017 with an average of 43 people per day which means approximately 3.500 people who arrived in Greece from Turkey compared to the same period of the previous year when about 200.000 refugees were registered during 8 December 2015 - 26 February 2016. We can identify a similar situation with a month before the implementation of the statement when the arrivals were about 1.700 refugees per day.

At the same time, we can state that great progress has been made in terms of the number of deceased or lost people in the Aegean Sea, given the fact that between December 2016 and February 2017 there were 70 people that were declared dead or lost while in the same period of the following year the number of deceased or lost refugees it was about 1.100 people.

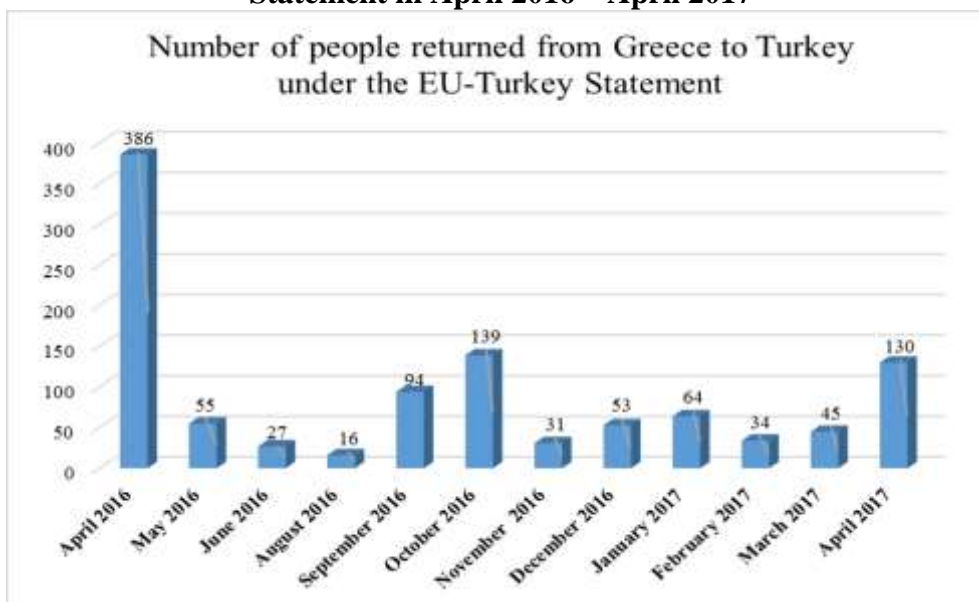
In the Figure 6 we can see the number of people returned to Turkey from Greece, given the agreement between the EU and Turkey, the analysis being realized for the period April 2016 - April 2017. During this period we can see that the most of the refugees returned to Turkey were recorded in the first month under review as well as in October 2016.

At the same time, although between November 2016 and March 2017 there was a small number of people returned to Turkey from the Greek islands and we can observe that in the last month of reference the number of those returned has increased over the previous months.

Another progress made following the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement is that from the beginning of 2016 to the beginning of 2017 approximately 7.000 refugees benefited from the Greek voluntary return and assisted reintegration program, which means that the refugees can benefit

from help that comes from the possibility of returning voluntarily to Turkey or to their countries of origin (European Commission, 2017).

**Figure 6. The number of returned people from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement in April 2016 – April 2017**



Source: own representation using europa.eu database

One of the elements that are part of the EU-Turkey Statement is that for every refugee coming from Syria that is returned to Turkey from Greece, another person with a Syrian nationality will be relocated from Turkey to a state that is part of the European Union (European Commission, 2017).

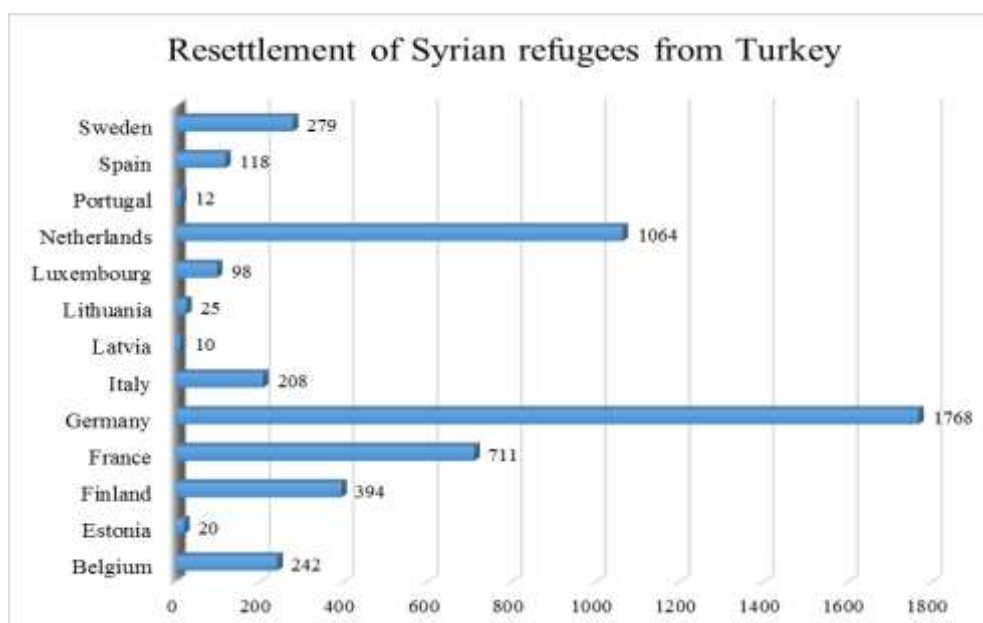
As a result, the chart below gives us an insight into the countries that received refugees from Turkey as a result of complying with the commitments made in the EU-Turkey Statement.

We can see from the Figure 7 that only 13 of the 28 countries that are part of the European Union received Syrian refugees from Turkey.

Thus, Germany is the state that received the most refugees, summing up 1768 refugees, following the Netherlands which received a total of 1064 refugees. In this ranking Latvia received the fewest refugees from Turkey, namely 10, followed by Estonia which received 20 Syrian refugees.



**Figure 7. The number of reinstated Syrians from Turkey in selected EU countries**



Source: own representation using europa.eu database

To understand the authorities' efforts to manage this crisis with the responsibility for such a situation, we can see in the table below the categories of staff involved in the operational operations in Greece. In this way, we can identify experts who were seconded by Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the number of those sent out being determined by the two above mentioned in collaboration with the European Commission and with the Greek authorities.

The European Asylum Support Office is an EU agency that acts as an independent centre for asylum expertise. The bureau has the role of coordinating EU member states to provide protection to refugees, to support states that have pressures on refugee reception and to strengthen cooperation between states (European Asylum Support Office, 2014).

**Table 1. Types of experts detached by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Greece**

Interpreters	Asylum Experts	Staff	Registration officers - seconded to Greek Asylum Service
150	124	26	18

Source: europa.eu

From the table above we can see that most EASO experts in the Greek islands were Interpreters and Asylum Experts. This is explained by the fact that Greece has been confronted with the problem of arriving refugees on its territory since the crisis, being the most affected state in this regard. A large number of Interpreters (150 people) are needed to enable communication between refugees and

authorities, while the 124 Asylum Experts contribute to the analysis and assessment of the refugee asylum situation in the area.

**Table 2. Types of experts detached by Frontex in Greece**

Escort officers and readmission experts	96
Fingerprinting and Registration Officers	64
Interpreters	27
Security Officers	280
Border Surveillance Officers and Crew Members	261
Team leaders, Coordination staff and Support Officers	75
Debriefing Experts	12
Screening Experts	20
Advanced Document Officers and First Line Officers	17
National Officers responsible for technical equipment	13
NATO vessel liaison officers	2

Source: europa.eu

It is the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) which together with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has been involved in effectively managing this crisis by deploying a large number of staff in Greece.

Frontex's role is to support the EU Member States and the Schengen area in managing external borders and to facilitate the collaboration between the border authorities of the EU member states, thus giving both technical support and Expertise in the field (Europa.eu, 2017).

From Table 2 we can see that most of those experts detached from Frontex in Greece are Security Officers (280 experts) and Border Surveillance Officers and Crew Members (261 experts). At the same time, there is also staff in the hotspot areas that they are dealing with and they are providing assistance in identifying refugees, fingerprinting, actually in the activities that are absolutely necessary for the acceptance of refugees and their further integration.

As Frontex and EASO work together with the common goal of protecting the external borders and managing the refugee crisis effectively in Greece, the total number experts that are providing their expertise is 1,185 people who are trying to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis that has spread in the Greek islands.

## **5. The costs covered by the European Union to ensure the security of the European states**

The European Union underlines the importance of increasing costs in terms of defending and enhancing external security, taking into account the existing geopolitical framework and the increase of the terrorist attacks in Europe since the start of the refugee crisis.

At the end of this chapter, I will try to answer the main question of this research, namely: "Is the European Union able to cope with the challenges regarding migration, while ensuring its safety?".

Since 2016 the EU budget has provided the financial possibility for member states to manage the refugee crisis and to combat terrorism. To this end in 2016 the European Union has given 4 billion Euros to support member states and third countries in managing this crisis. (European Council, 2016)

In 2016 the European Union considered it is necessary to increase funding for the protection of the member states against terrorist attacks. In this respect, comparing with 2015, the internal security fund increased by 64% on commitments and 46.7% on payments. This fund is intended to implement the Internal Security Strategy of the member states of the European Union, the management of the external borders and the cooperation of the states in the field of law enforcement. In fact, in 2016 the European Union provided 4.052 billion Euros in commitments on security and protection for citizens and 3.022 billion Euros in payments (European Council, 2016).

Given that the migration and the security situation continues to be on the list of priorities for the European Union, the budget for 2017 brings about 6 billion Euros of funding for an ideal approach to the refugee crisis and Europe's security which means that the EU grants 11.3% more funds in 2017 than in the previous year to manage the pressures on migration. These funds will be used to create reception centres for refugees, to combat terrorism and prevent it, to assist member states in resettling refugees and helping to protect borders (European Council, 2017).

In 2017 the European Union provides the member states with 4.284 billion Euros to be used to honour the commitments made in terms of security and protection of citizens and 3.787 billion Euros in payments (European Council, 2017).

The package provided by the Union's budget for actions related to migration is worth 728 million Euros, plus 28 million will be given to the refugees in Palestine, with a total amount of 310 million Euros. At the same time, the budget includes additional 3 million Euros to contribute to the peace treaties in Cyprus, with total funds in this case of 34.8 million Euros (European Parliament, 2016).

## **6. The necessity for a European Border and Coast Guard Agency and its implementing arrangements**

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency was set up in October 2016 to meet the new migration and internal security challenges that are absolutely necessary for the Schengen area that can work as long as external borders are protected (European Commission, 2017).

The need for a new agency came in the context in which the former border agency of the European Union, called Frontex did not meet the challenges posed by the refugee crisis. The fact that Frontex did not have its own operational staff, thus using staff made up of contributions from EU member states made it difficult to carry out actions to return refugees as well as to manage border guards without first requiring the aid from the member states (European Commission, 2017).

The new Agency is based on the set of elements that Frontex has built, but the innovation is given by the amplification of the role and activities of the European Border Agency and Coast Guard. Thus, the new agency identifies the vulnerabilities present at the external borders of the European Union that affect the optimum functioning of the Schengen area and the member states of the Union should in the shortest possible time to eliminate the identified precarious aspects (European Commission, 2017).

Another important aspect is that the new agency will have priority over cross-border crime prevention. In this respect, the Agency will be able to benefit from information provided by member states through competent authorities in this field, such as Europol, which will be useful in analysing and investigating the people suspected for smuggling, terrorism or trafficking people (European Commission, 2017).

The aforementioned issues as well as the security developments outlined in the first part of the article represent novelty aspects brought by the European Union in order to effectively manage this crisis.

## **Conclusions**

Considering the intensification of the external threats to which the European Union has been subjected since the humanitarian crisis of the refugees, I believe that it is necessary to involve all the member states and their authorities in the cooperation with the regard of improving the security of citizens and the security of the external borders of the European Union.

This article highlights the progress made in the field of security, which is based on the Migration Agenda, with the emphasis on protecting the external borders, which is absolutely necessary for the

good functioning of the Schengen area. One of the most significant advances in this direction is the strengthening of the rapid response capacity of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

The article identifies the European countries that have suffered recent terrorist attacks, more precisely through 2016 and early 2017, including the following countries: Belgium, France, Germany, the UK and Sweden. The most aggressive attack of those in the previous states is that in France which took place in Nice, on the French National Day, which resulted in 86 deaths and 202 injured people.

Among the European states that were heavily affected by terrorism before the refugee crisis but also after its debut are France and Germany. The reasons that led to the outbreak of these terrorist attacks are multiple, one of them is the exacerbation of the fear of European citizens, the revenge towards certain racist and ridiculing attitudes of Muslim religion, the possible recruitment of followers and the attraction of attention on stopping the struggle against the terrorist from the Islamic State group.

The present research shows an analysis of the main types of attack used by terrorist groups in the assaults made in France and Germany between 2010 and 2015. The analysis revealed that bombings and facility/infrastructure attacks are the most frequent when we refer to the type of attack they use.

In fact, most of the deceased and injured people during the 2010 - 2015 attacks were recorded in the last reference year. Thus, in 2015 there was 161 people that died in France and 51 in Germany. Even in the case of injured people things are not better in France where was registered 159 injured people, while in Germany in the same year fewer victims were reported to be injured, namely 6.

This research captures results achieved one year after the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, so we can see cuts in the illegal border crossing and implicitly in the number of deaths in the Aegean Sea. On the other hand, the number of people returned to Turkey from Greece was identified, taking into account the EU-Turkey Statement and the fact that Germany received most of the Syrian refugees from Turkey following the aforementioned statement. Other states that received a high number of Syrians from Turkey are: the Netherlands, France and Finland.

Also, this article presents the personal involved in managing the crisis in the most affected areas of Greece where the pressure of receiving refugees is still high. Among the experts seconded by Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office I was able to identify: interpreters, asylum experts, security officers, screening experts.

As regards the costs incurred by the European Union in facing the pressures of this humanitarian crisis and in keeping the safety of European citizens, we can notice that the amounts granted by the European Union increased in 2017 compared to previous years, thus underlining once again the

importance of this issue for the EU member states. In this respect, the package provided by the budget of the European Union for actions intended for migration in 2017 is worth 728 million Euros.

I consider that this subject is an actual one with a special importance due to the current state of security of the European states that have suffered in the past because of terrorism, a phenomenon that has intensified as a cause of the refugee crisis, which leads to the need for intensive cooperation between EU member states to combat the negative effects of the attacks that have hit Europe in recent years.

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