

Irregular Migration, Human Smuggling and Informal Economy in a European Perspective"

**Presentation at the conference of the National
Thematic Network for Asylum Seekers
25.October 2005, Gothenburg, Sweden**

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Return &
Readmission

THB & People
Smuggling

Asylum &
Protection

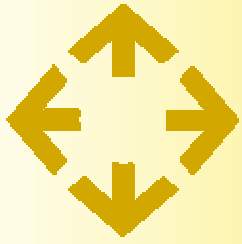
**It is ICMPD's aim to promote
comprehensive and sustainable
migration policies and function as
an information exchange
mechanism for governments and
organisations primarily on
European migration issues**

Visa

Border
Management

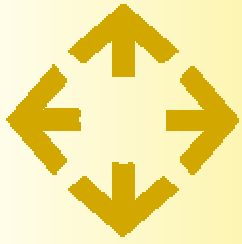
Labour
Migration

Integration



Outline of Presentation

1. Overview of Irregular Migration in Europe
2. Recent Trends in Irregular Migration
3. Research on Human Smuggling
 - ♦ Distinction Smuggling - Trafficking
4. Some implications for asylum, irregular labour markets and integration
5. Discussion



Irregular Migration as a subject of research?

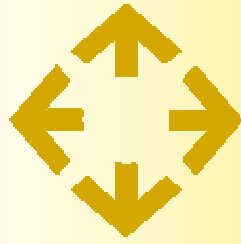
Irregular (illegal/undocumented) migration is

- „Clandestine“ and thus hidden from view

But it is also:

- Of high social and political relevance

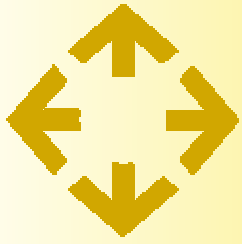
→ therefore, researchers need to find ways to learn more about the extent and nature of irregular migration



Irregular Migration: Definitions and Types

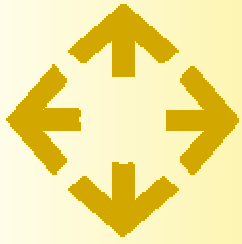
6 relevant types:

	Residence legal	Residence illegal
Entry legal	Work illegal	Work illegal No Work
Entry illegal	Work illegal	Work illegal No Work



Methods for estimating the size of irregular migration?

- **Differentiation:**
 - **Stock data (illegal residence, illegal work)**
 - **Flow data (illegal entry)**



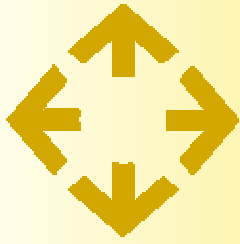
Forms of Irregular Migration I

Illegal Border Crossings

- Using border apprehension figures, an estimated 600 – 800,000 migrants annually crossed EU-25 borders illegally (data for 2001)

Visa over-stayers

- Difficult to quantify but according to figures from regularization programmes could be again several hundred thousands annually



Forms of Irregular Migration II

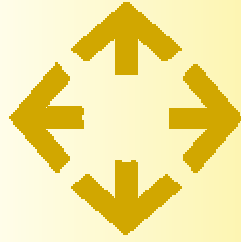
False, Falsified or Fraudulently Obtained

Documents

- False/falsified passports, visas or residence permits, False guarantees for obtaining visas
- „Sham marriages“, „Fake adoptions“, „bogus students“, Fraudulently „self-employed“, etc.

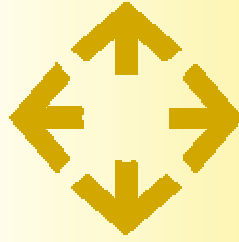
Total irregular Gross Migration to EU-25 could be much higher still

Total irregular Net Migration: ?



Trends and Structure of Irregular Migration

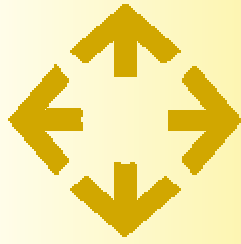
- ◆ More reliable conclusions can be drawn on trends and structure, rather than volume:
- ◆ Increases/decreases?
- ◆ Countries of origin?
- ◆ Routes of illegal migration?
- ◆ Social characteristics of irregular migrants?



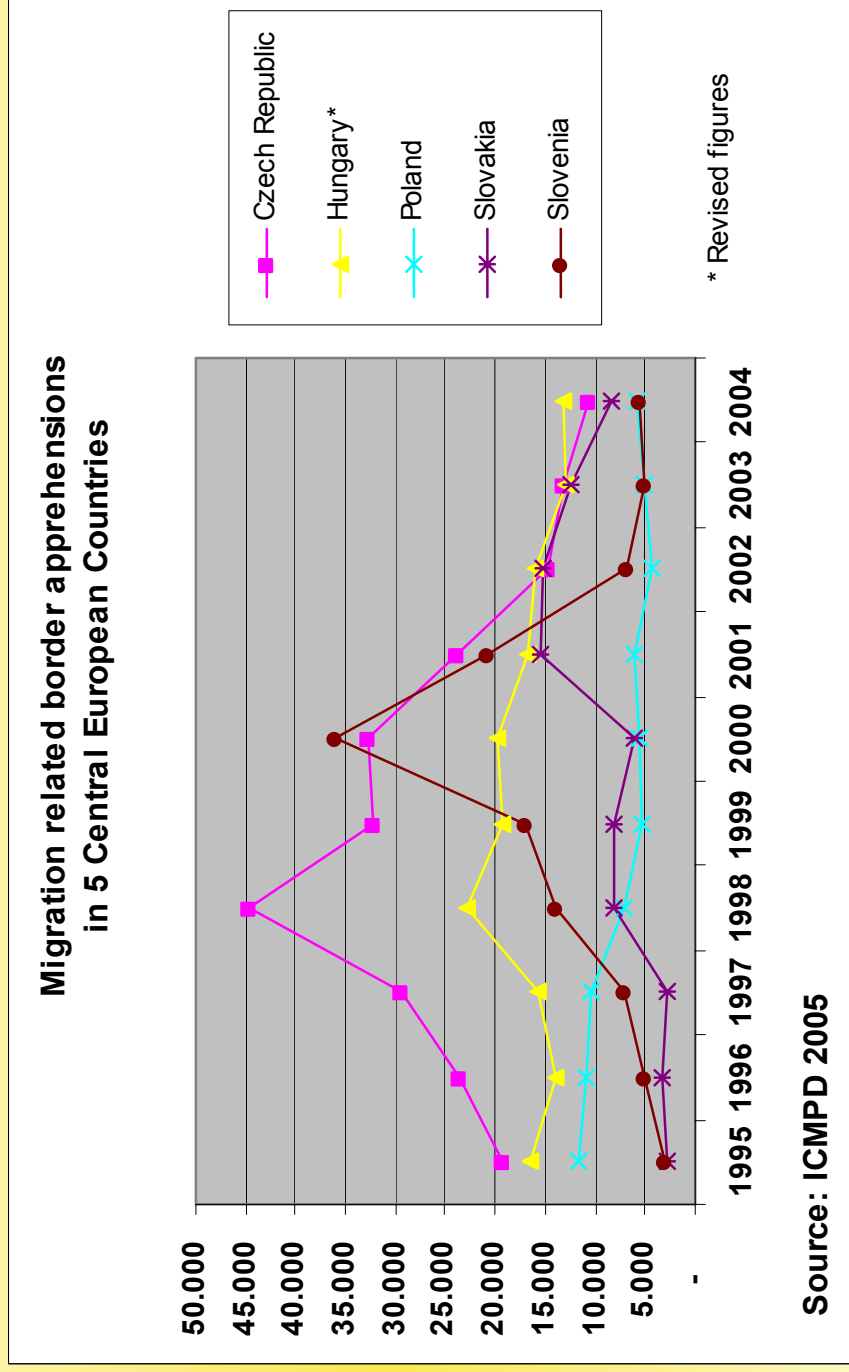
Trends in border apprehensions in Western/Southern Europe

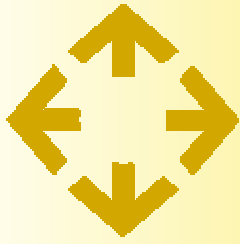
Country of apprehension	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Austria	22.999	28,059	26,362	19,114	13,584
Germany	31.485	28,560	22,638	19,974	n.a.
Italy (1)	26.817	20,143	23,719	14,331	13,635
Italy (2)	9.592	4,902	3,838	1,675*	n.a.
Spain (3)	15.195	18.517	16.670	19,176	15,675
Switzerland (4)	5.668	4,967	7,405	8,181	6,943
TOTAL 5	111.756	105.148	100.632	82,451	n.a.

- (1) Italy: includes only Apulia, Calabria and Sicily
- (2) Italy: includes only the Northeastern Border to Slovenia, * 2003: only 1 HJ
- (3) Spain: includes only migrants intercepted while arriving per boat
- (4) Switzerland: excluding international airports

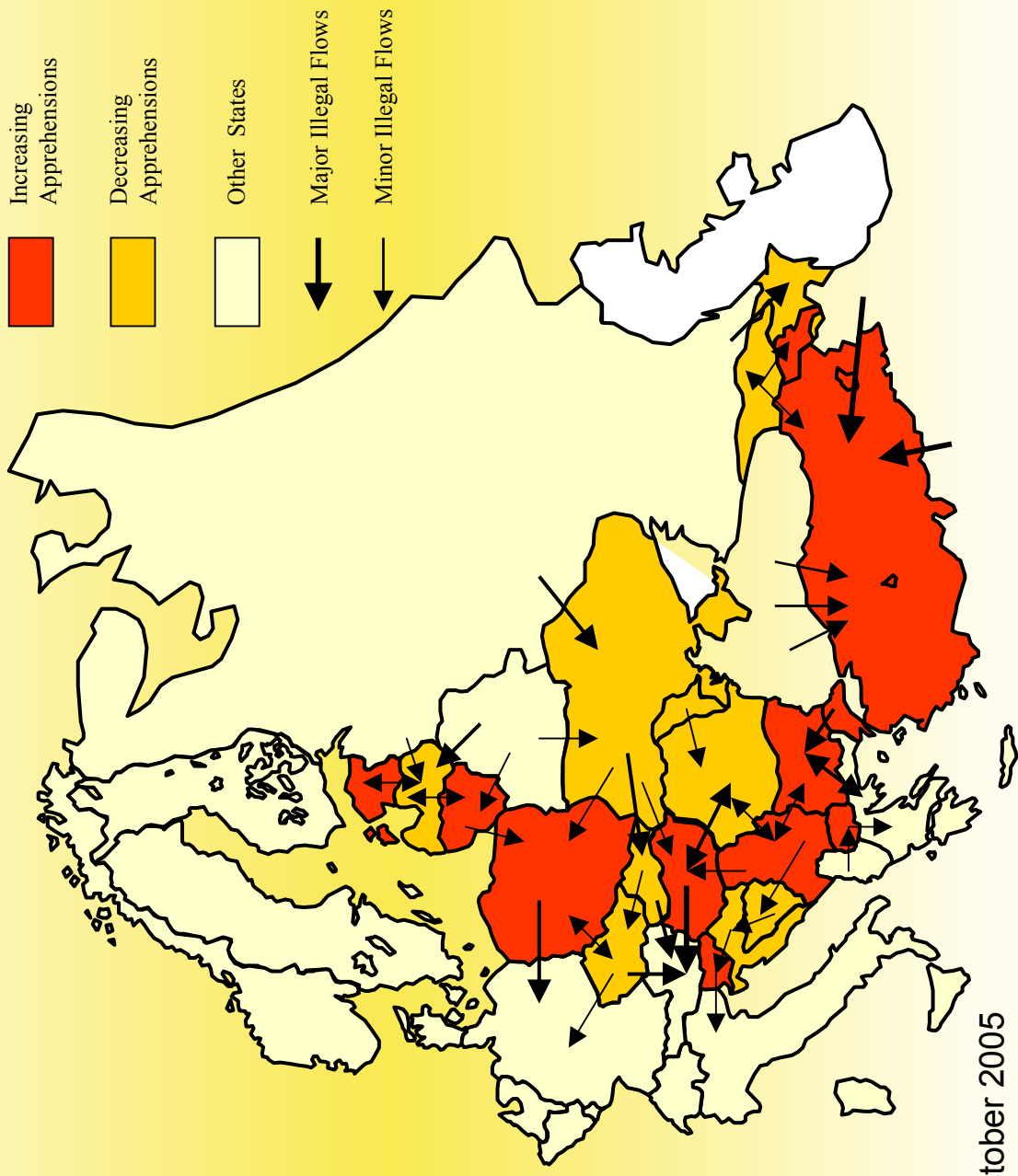


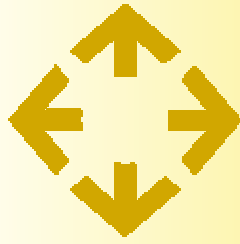
Trends in Border Apprehensions in Central Europe



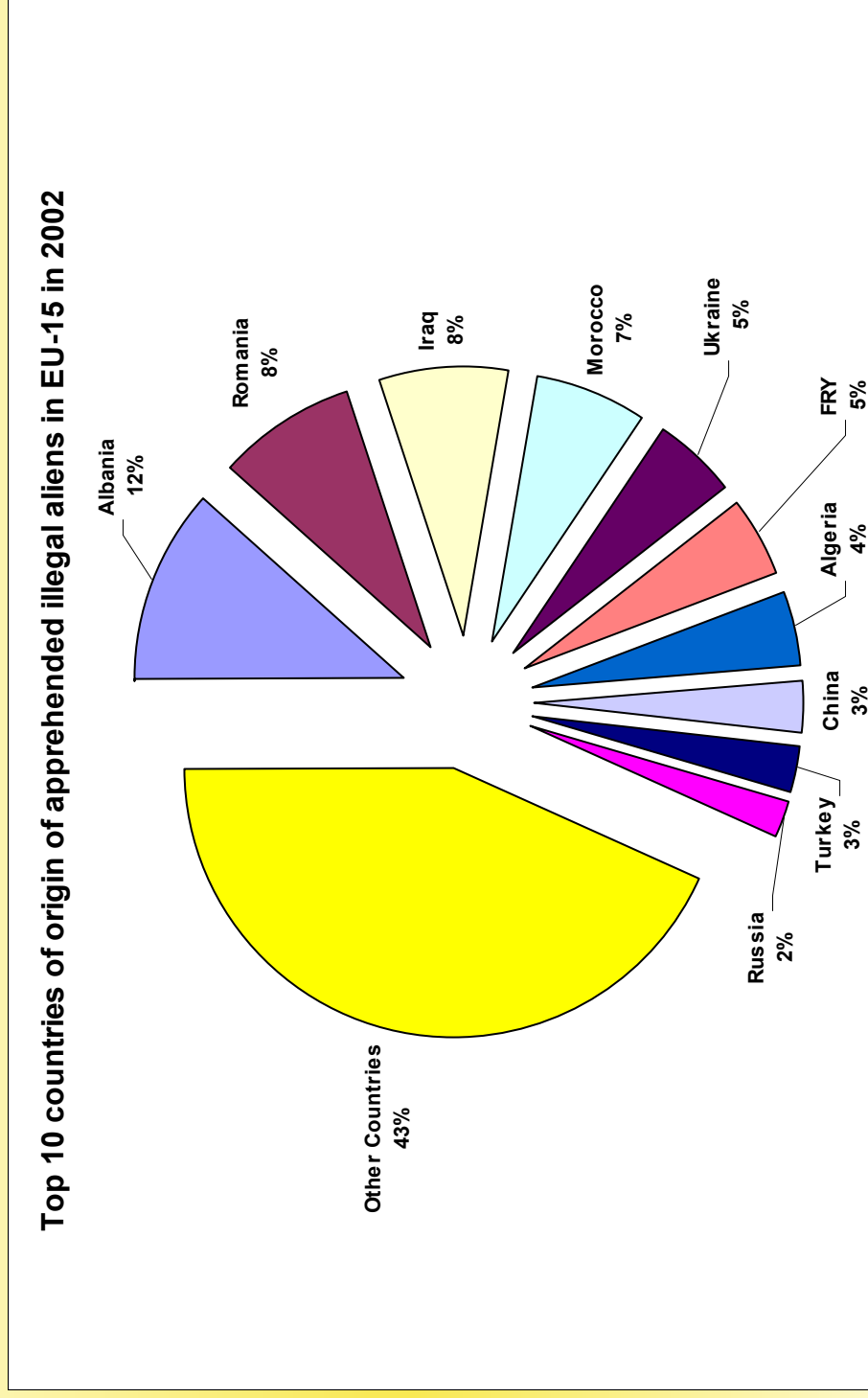


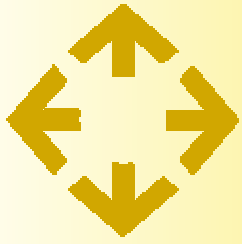
Trends in border apprehensions in Central/Eastern Europe in 2004



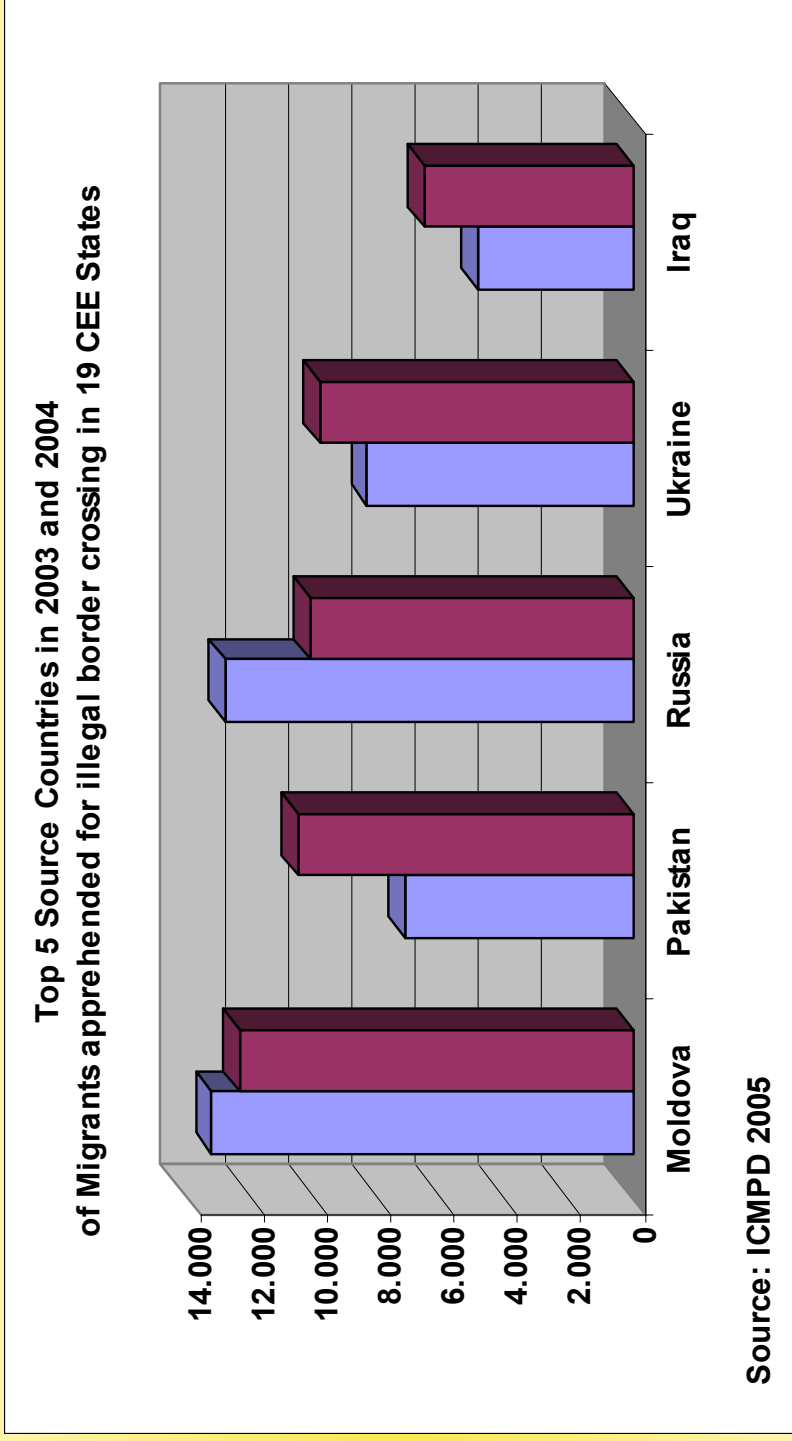


Countries of Origin of Illegal Migrants in EU-15

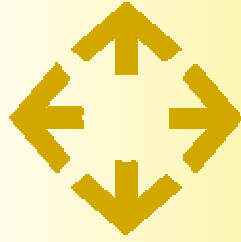




Top 5 Countries of Origin of Illegal Migrants in CEE-19*

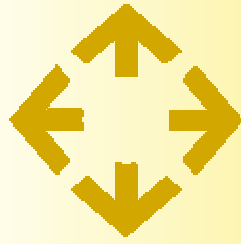


* Based on data from: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine



Possible factors in the long-term decline of apprehensions

- Fewer irregular migrants (?)
- Political/security developments in some major source countries (Afghanistan, Iraq,..)
- Changed definitions and travel requirements (visa obligations, EU enlargement,..)
- More involvement of human smuggling (lower success rates of border apprehensions)
- Changed modus operandi of human smugglers



Diversity of Irregular Migration in Europe

Italy's regularization 2002/2003:

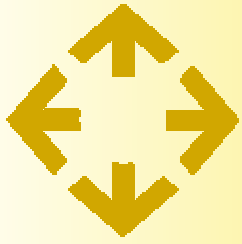
- 640,000 regularizations
 - *Top 3 countries were: Romania, Ukraine, Albania*
- ## Spain's 2005 regularization :
- 700,000 regularizations
 - *Top 3 countries were: Ecuador, Romania, Morocco*

EU-15 (2002 CIREFI data)

- *Top 3 countries were: Albania, Romania, Iraq*

CEE-19 (2004 ICMPD data)

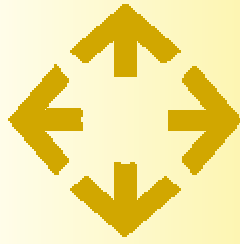
- *Top 3 countries were: Moldova, Pakistan, Russia*



Diversity of Determining Factors across Europe

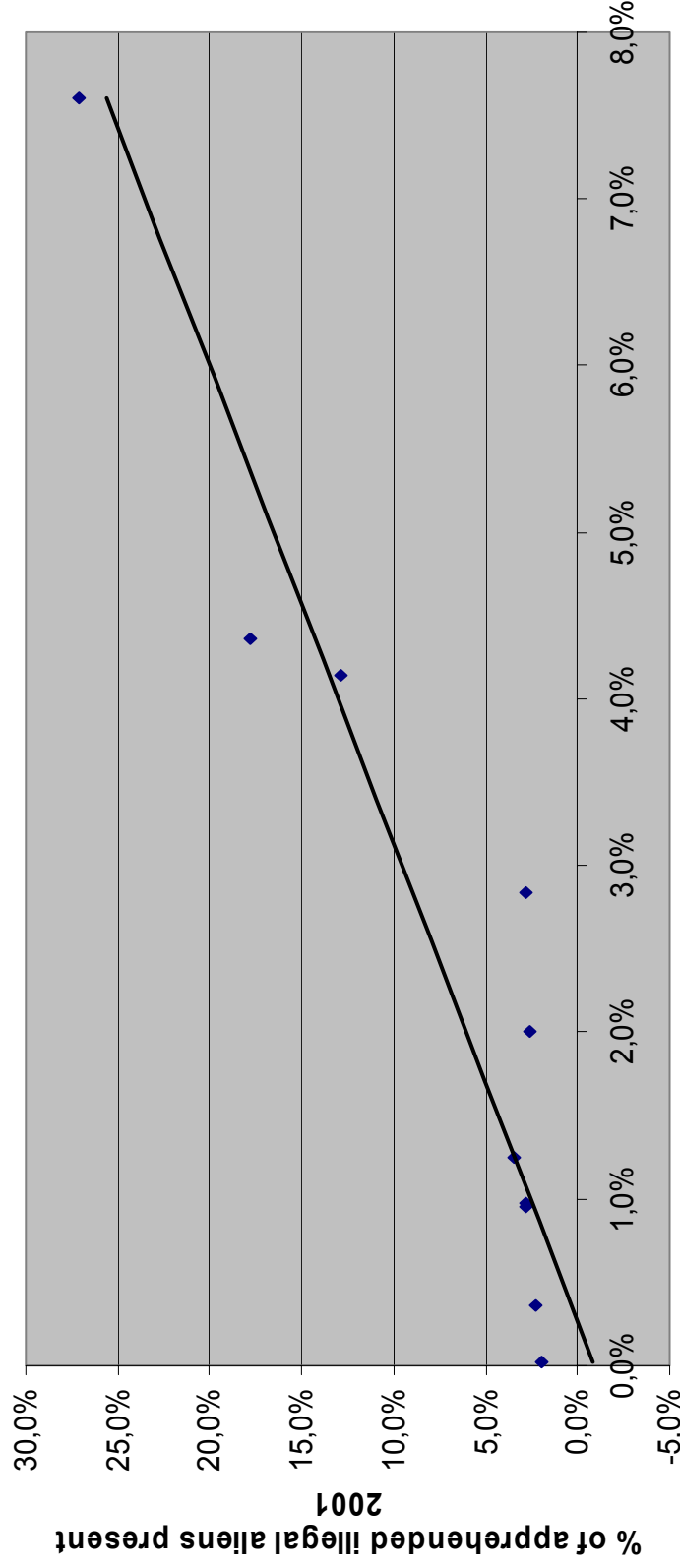
- Historic developments (colonial ties, guestworker recruitment,..)
- Cultural and language proximities
- Geographical distance and migration routes
- Labour markets
- Asylum systems (?)

- But above all existing communities and „migrant networks“



Irregular migration and migrant networks in Sweden

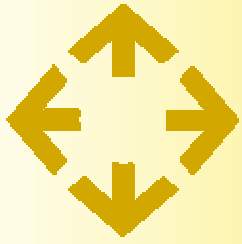
Relationship of stocks of legally present foreigners and shares of apprehended illegal aliens present (in % of total, Sweden, 2001)



% share of stock of foreign nationals 2001

$R^2 = 0,8886$

Sources: Eurostat, CIREFI



Diversity of Conditions for Irregular Migrants in Europe

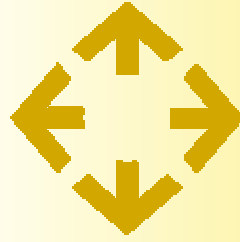
Southern European Countries

„Island Modell“

Western European „Welfare States“

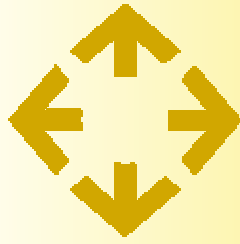
New EU Member States

The „Nordic Model“

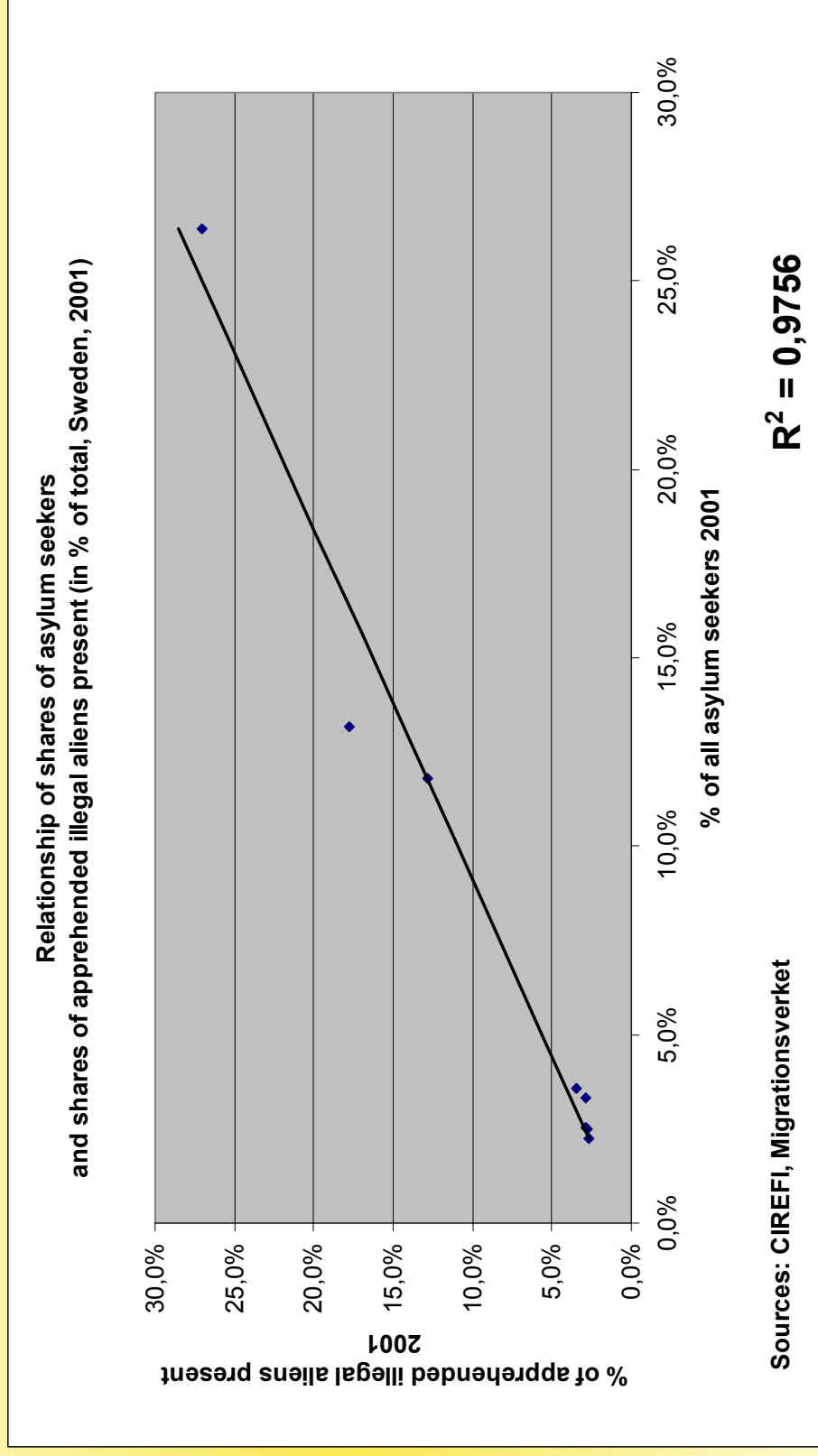


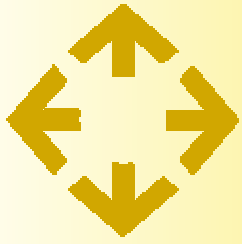
Irregular migration and asylum in Sweden

Irregular Migration and Asylum in Sweden 2001		
	Appreh. illegal aliens present	Asylum seekers
Total	15.288	23.515
Iraq	4.140	6.206
Yugoslavia	2.713	3.102
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.967	2.775
Russian Federation	526	841
Iran	436	780
Afghanistan	431	593
Stateless	426	588
Somalia	405	525
Macedonia	346	n.a.
Uzbekistan	303	n.a.
Others	3.595	8.105
Sources: CIREFI, Migrationsverket		



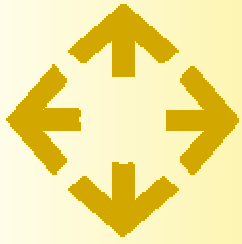
Irregular migration and asylum in Sweden





The Role of Human Smuggling in Illegal Migration Processes Today

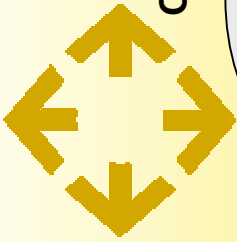
- ◆ Human Smuggling accounts for a large and growing share of illegal migration
- ◆ Police authorities estimate the share of „facilitated entries“ at 30%-80%



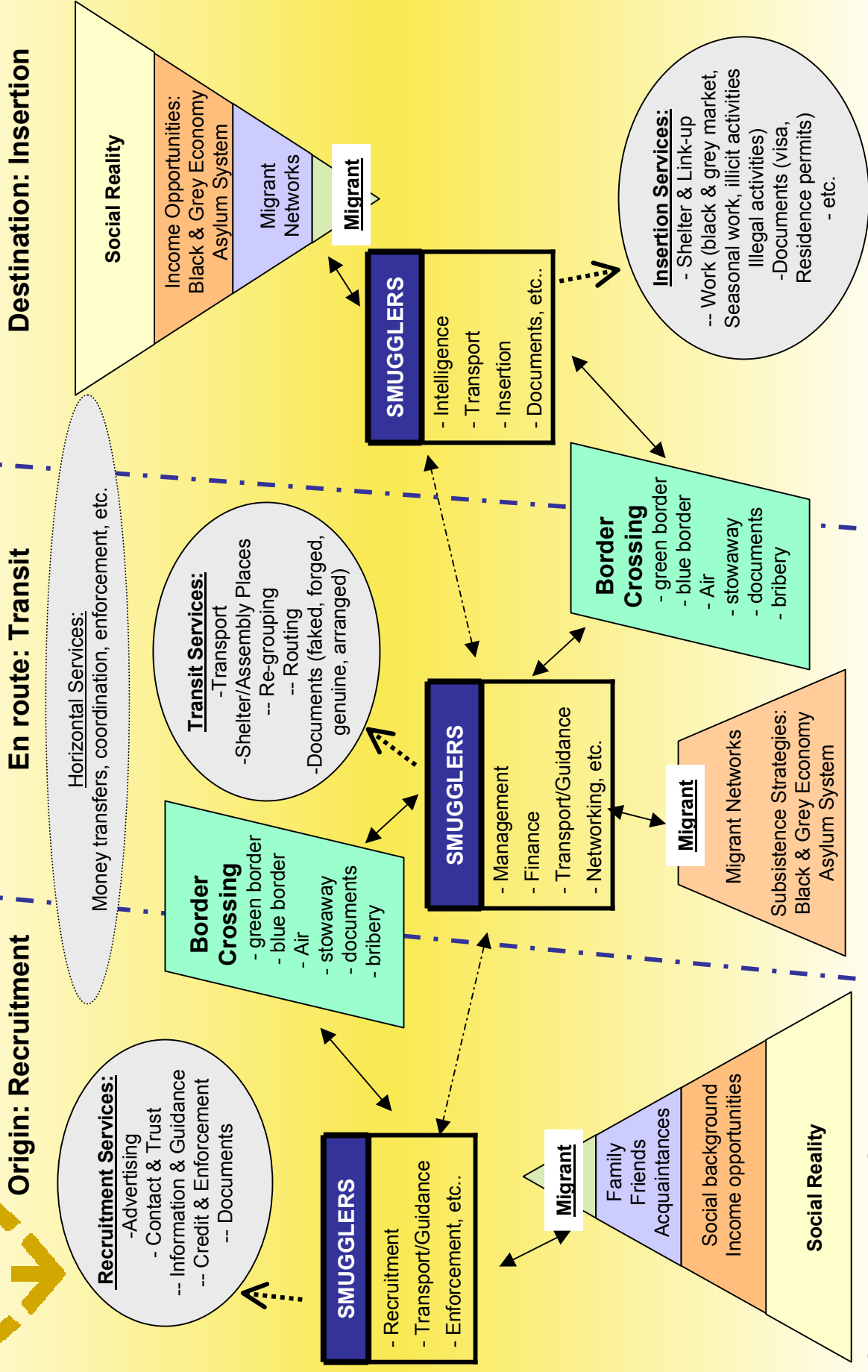
Human Smuggling Networks and Division of Tasks

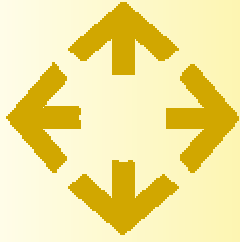
The division of work of smuggling organizations can be characterised as follows:

- *Recruiters*
- *Organisers*
- *Consigners*
- *Transporters*
- *Guides*
- *Falsifiers*
- *Hosts*



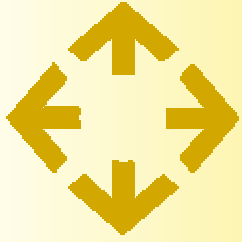
A Schematic Model of Human Smuggling





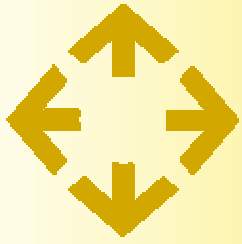
Smuggling fees

- ◆ **Typical smuggling fees from the country of origin to a Schengen country are:**
- ◆ **From China to Europe from 10,000 - to 15,000+ USD**
- ◆ **From Pakistan and India up to 8,000 €**
- ◆ **..**
- ◆ **From Ukraine, depending on the type, 5,000-10,000 €,**
- ◆ **From Moldova to West Europe 1,500-2,000 €,**
- ◆ **From Serbia and Montenegro up to 3,000 €,**
- ◆ **On the other hand, short distance crossings can be cheaper..**



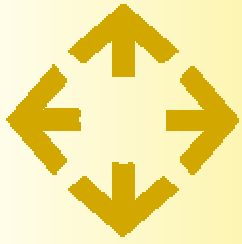
The problem with the Human Smuggling Industry

- **Undermines state sovereignty**
- **Criminal networks**
- **Public perceptions**
 - growth of xenophobic, populist parties
 - further restricts room for legal migration
- **Loss of time and money for smuggled migrants**
- **Disregard for human rights and high danger to live**
- **Risk of exploitation**



Human Smuggling: Counterstrategies

- **Penal law**
- **Readmission programs**
- **Technical improvements**
- **Cross-border cooperation against crime**
- **Cooperation with Source Countries**
- **„Economic strategy“: raising costs**

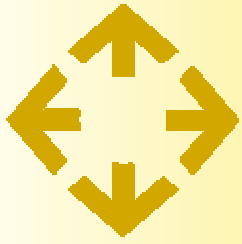


Economic Strategies for Migration Control

Demand Side Measures

Supply Side Measures

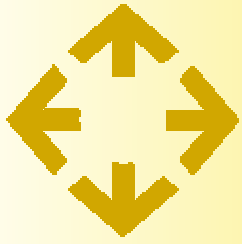
Intermediary Measures



Some implications for migration policies I

The structure of the human smuggling industry..

- **Gives flexibility**
- **Provides local know-how**
- **Prevents its defeat**

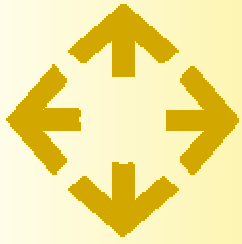


Some implications for migration policies II

State reactions to irregular migration can be:

- Preventive
- Accomodating
- Reversive

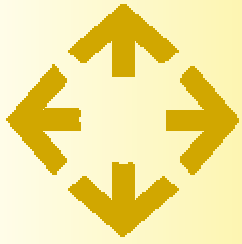
A „comprehensive policy“ needs all three types



Some implications for migration policies III

Human smugglers often explicitly target loopholes in the migration / asylum system

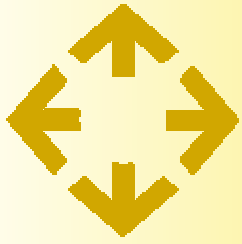
- **..by instructing irregular migrants**
- **..using the reception system**
- **..providing „realistic“ stories for sale**



Some implications for migration policies IV

Irregular migration today, is in many cases, extremely expensive for the migrants

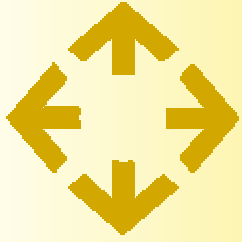
- **..and usually involves debt**
- **..which makes a positive outcome essential..**
- **..and creates vulnerabilities**



Some implications for migration policies V

The high investments needed to pay smugglers

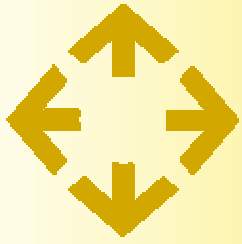
- **..creates multiple obligations..**
- **..creates financial obligations and burdens (high remittances can obstruct integration)**
- **.. makes (forced) return a „non-option“**



Some implications for migration policies VI

Human smugglers, in turn, face the problem of extracting high prices for their services in return for an uncertain outcome..

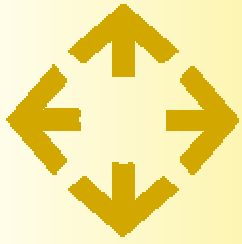
- **..need to create trust and reputation**
- **...“guaranteed smuggling” services**
- **..repeated entry attempts**



Some implications for migration policies VII

Irregular migration projects have become lengthier and more risky for many

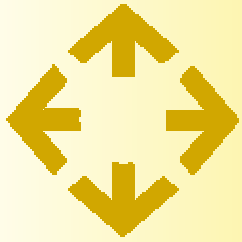
- **..journeys can take months, even years..**
- **..frequent stops in transit countries**
- **..smuggled migrants are younger than regular migrants (sometimes minors)..**



Some implications for migration policies VIII

Human smuggling can lead to unintended migration outcomes

- **When smugglers decide destination..**
- **Dublin Agreement may be counterproductive for integration efforts..**
- **..when migrants later decide/need to move on.**



The End..

Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

Michael Jandi

michael.jandi@icmpd.org