

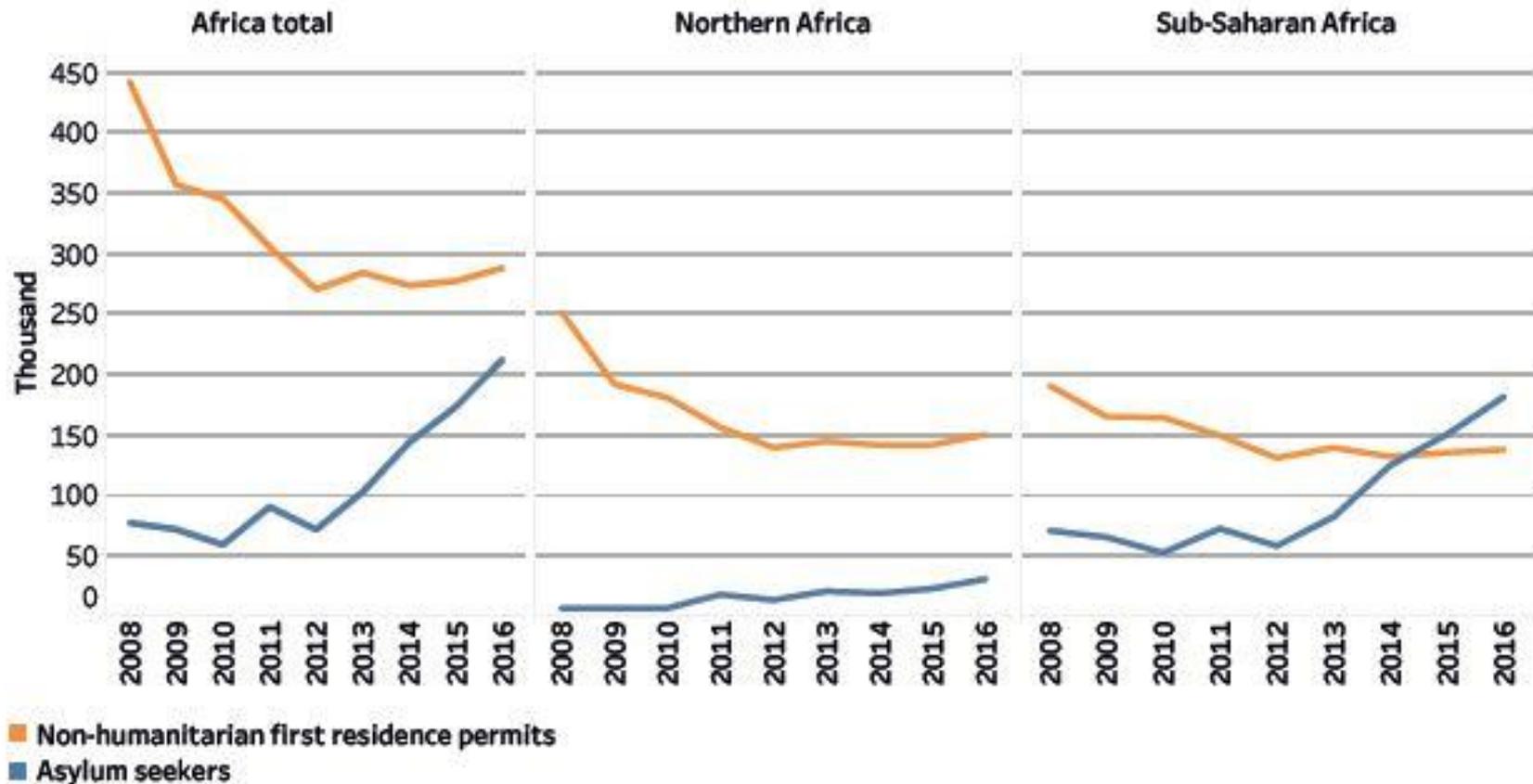


# **EU support for intra-African migration and remittance flows**

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# Africa-EU migration: legal vs irregular



Source: *Many more to come? Migration from and within Africa*, JRC, 2018

# Trends in African migration to the EU

- For all the talk about an invasion from Africa, African migration to the EU has remained stable, around 450,000 a year since the late 2000s.
- But its composition has shifted markedly from regular to irregular migration. Mostly because of an increase in irregular migration from SSA and a decrease in regular migration from Northern Africa.
- Most SSA migration remains intra-regional, accounting for 2/3 of outflows and 4/5 of inflows. (1)
- Outside Africa, EU is dominant destination and its share is increasing. Future SSA migration to EU expected to accelerate reflecting population trends, economic factors, geographical proximity and climate change.

# The EU's Policy towards African migration and remittances

- **The EU's policy on African migration:**
  - Supporting **intra-African** legal migration, remittances and regional economic integration (RECs, AU, ACFTA)...
  - ...while opening (in a limited manner) new legal pathways for migration to the EU: **“the pilot projects on legal migration”**.
- **The EU's policy on African remittances:** from Valleta to PRIME AFRICA and beyond. The intra-regional aspect.

## EU support for intra-regional legal migration

- It is part of its support for African economic integration at both subregional (RECs) and continental (AU, ACFTA) levels.
- Some RECs (notably ECOWAS) are taking measures to liberalise the movement of migrants, although with dissimilar impetus and results.
- And some empirical evidence suggests that these policies may be having a positive effect on intra-regional migration (Schneiderheinze, 2018).
- The EU supports these efforts, politically and through certain TA projects aimed at promoting legal regional migration, including those aimed at facilitating remittances (see next slide).

## EU support for intra-regional legal migration: some examples

- West Africa: A EUR 26 mn project financed by the EDF under the Rabat Process to support the implementations of ECOWAS' Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons.
- Horn of Africa: A EUR 10 mn project financed by the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa to help IGAD establish a free movement regime for people and transhumance in the region, thereby helping to regularise the high volume of informal movement.

## But two criticisms...

1. **By promoting stronger border management** by the African countries involved in the main irregular migration routes, the **EU might make it harder for Africans to move within the continent** (2016 Partnership Framework; Khartoum/Rabat processes).
2. By promoting intra-regional legal migration, **“the EU is just trying to keep African migrants away from Europe”**.

## ..and counter-criticisms

1. The EU is not trying to impede legal but irregular migration.
2. a) Most African migrants prefer to stay in their regions for cultural, historical and geographical proximity reasons.  
b) Intra-regional migration and economic integration could be one of the most successful roads to African development.

The problem is not in the EU's support for intra-African economic integration and legal migration but in the fact that it is seen as not offering sufficient legal pathways for African migration to the EU.

## **What is the EU doing to facilitate legal immigration from Africa? The “pilot projects initiative” (1)**

- Objectives: to rebalance mix towards legal migration; to encourage cooperation by third countries.
- Financial assistance for pilot training and employment schemes agreed between EU countries and selected African countries.
- For African partners demonstrating good cooperation in combatting irregular flows and the returns.
- National co-financing and involvement of private sector
- Pilot projects by five EU countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Spain and Lithuania) approved so far.
- A welcome initiative but scope remains limited.\*

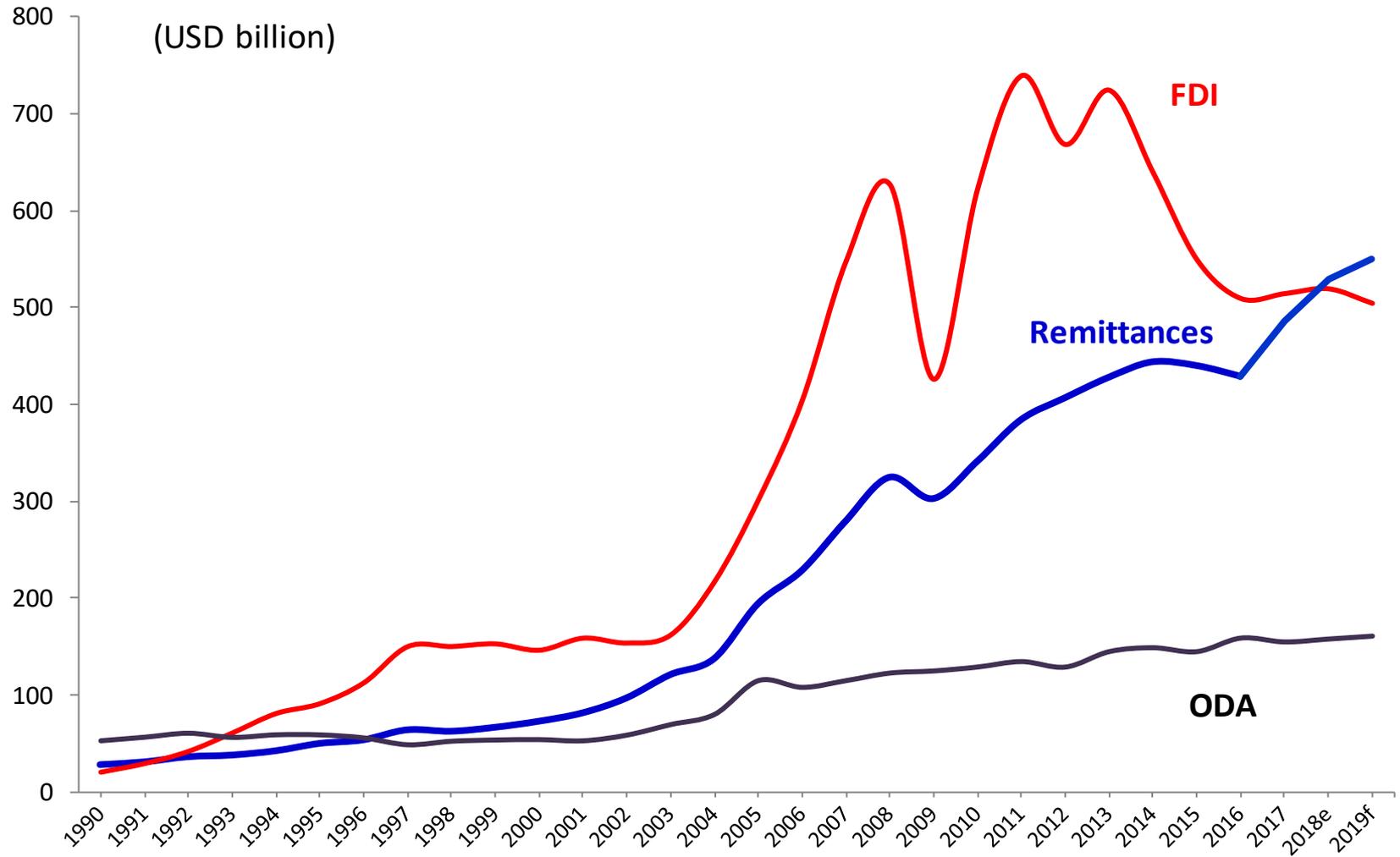
## Limitations of the “pilot projects initiative”

- Although the initiative is likely to be expanded (budget top-up; new countries), it **remains small** when compared to current and potential size of migration flows from Africa.(1)
- Its implementation crucially **depends on willingness of EU Member States**, which retain responsibility for legal migration.
- It has **so far focused on Northern Africa** (except Nigeria, targeted by the Lithuanian scheme), whereas it is in SSA that legal migration pathways are less developed and that irregular migration has surged. Hopefully this will change in the future.

## EU policy towards African remittances

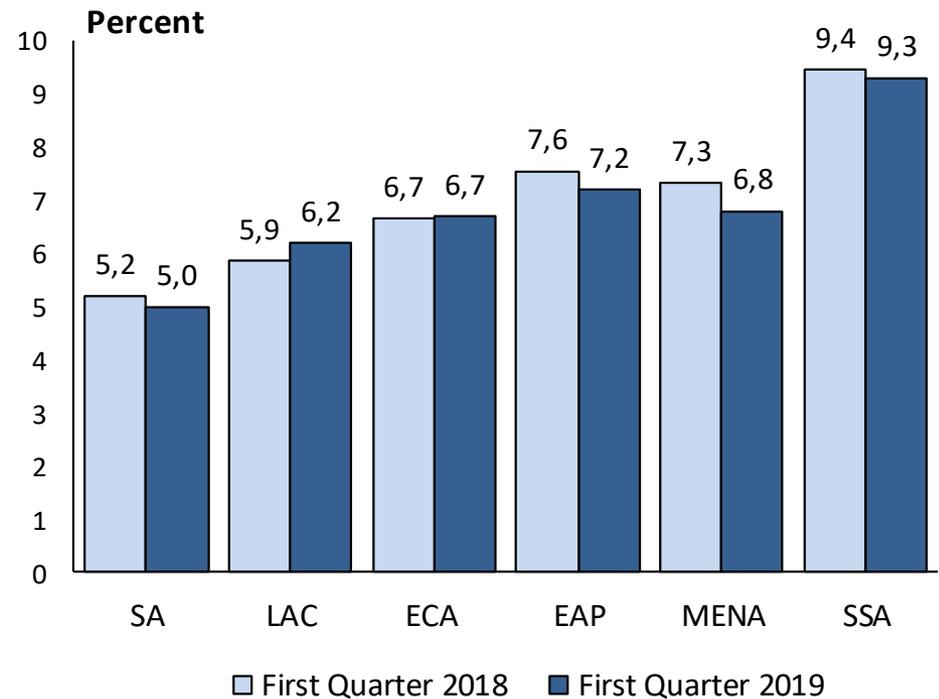
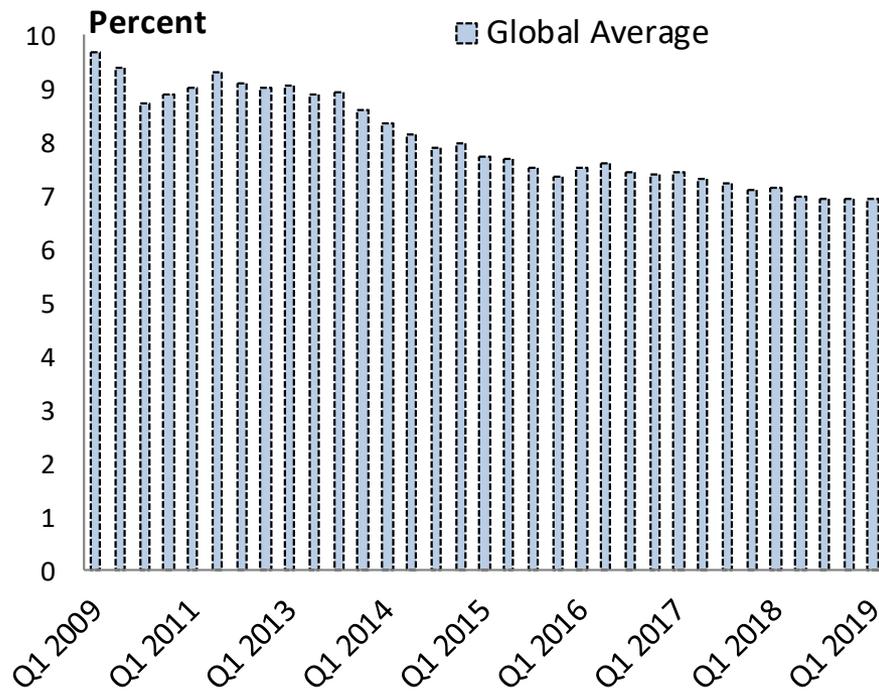
- **Remittances are key:** 3 x larger than ODA! Larger than FDI!
- **SSA has highest remittance costs in the world** (9.3% of every USD 200 transferred, compared to 6,9% for the world)! And the cost is particularly high in intra-SSA corridors (often > 10%).
- To address this challenge, **EU-Africa Summit of Valleta (2015) defined more ambitious targets** than SDG 10c.
- **Projects** managed by IFAD and funded by EU through the FFR (MIGRRA, African Financial Postal Services Initiative, **PRIME AFRICA**).
- An area with great potential: **sharing the EU experience in building efficient intra-regional payments systems.**

## Remittance flows to developing countries, 1990-2019



Sources: World Bank; World Development Indicators; and IMF.

## Trend in the cost of sending \$200 of remittances and situation by region



Source: Remittance Prices Worldwide, World Bank.

Note : EAP = East Asia and Pacific; SA = South Asia; LAC = Latin America and Caribbean; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; SSA = Sub-Saharan Africa; ECA = Europe and Central Asia.