

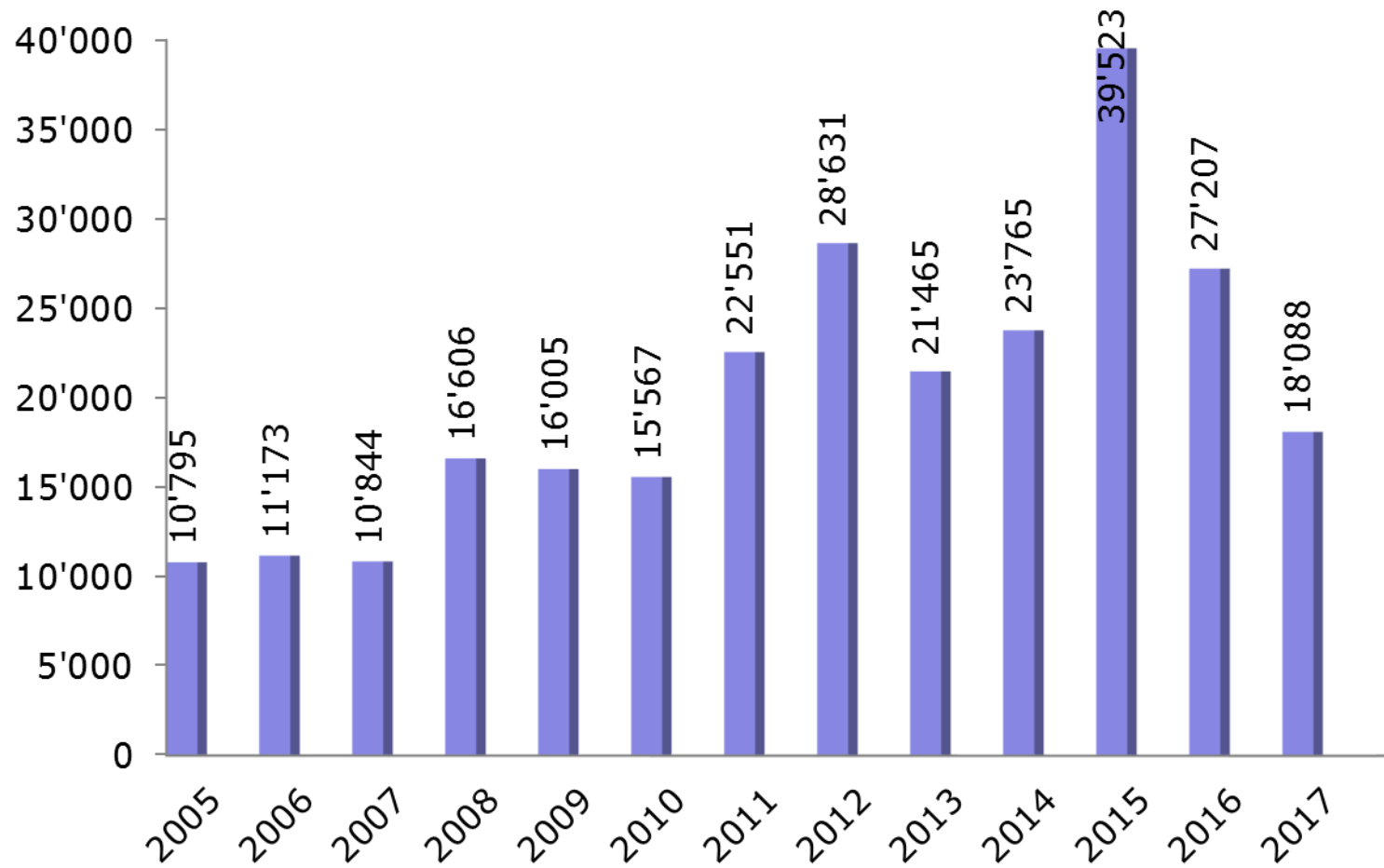
**II° INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK "FOREIGN  
IMMIGRATION IN THE ALPS – FORALPS"  
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Pettinengo**

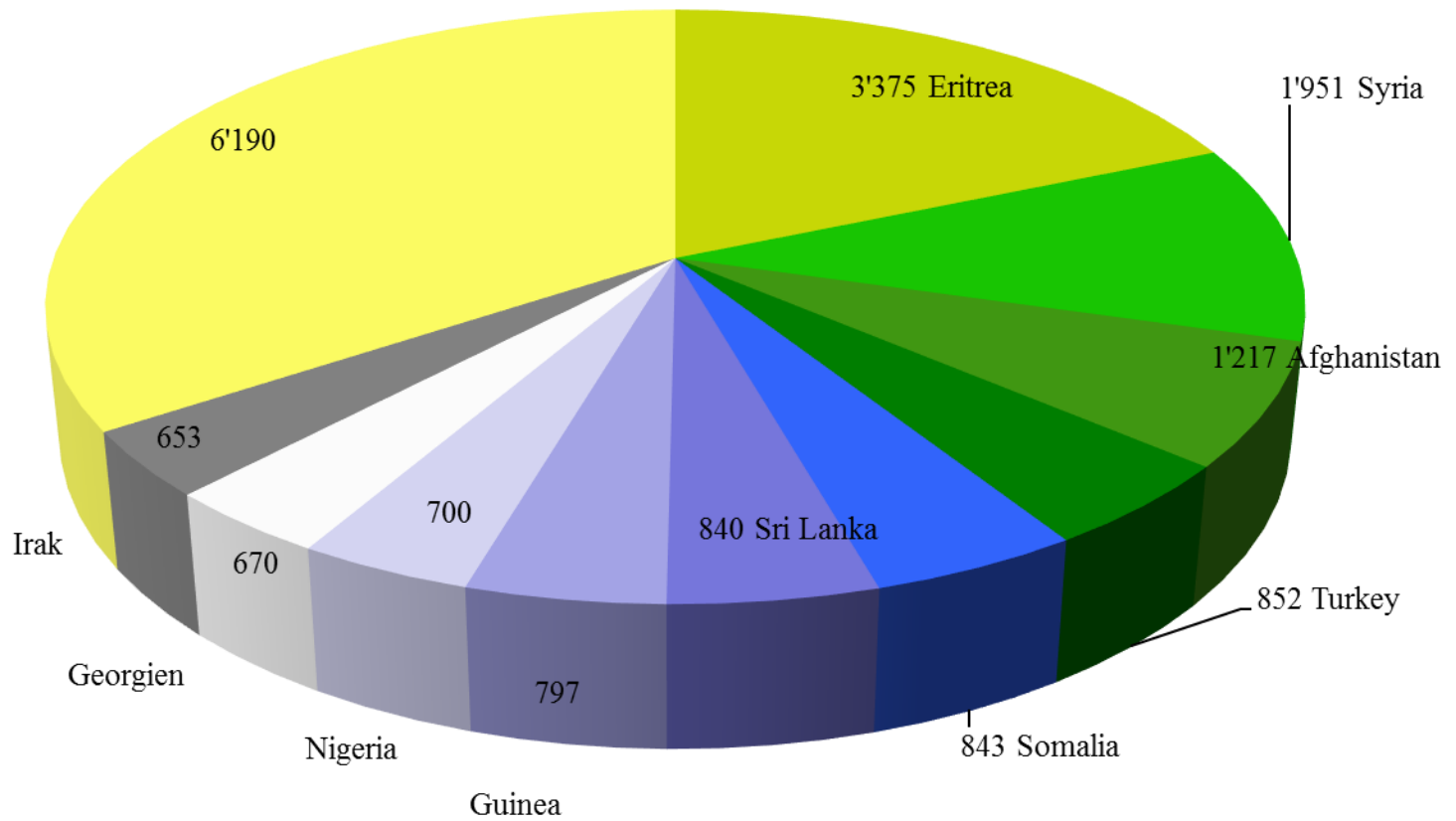
**Situation in Switzerland**

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## Background information regarding the Swiss Alpine area

- finding the Swiss Alpine area
- typology: differing models
- Official cantons belonging to the Alpine Region with figures added concerning population rate of "migrants": Uri (11,5%), Obwalden (14,5%), Nidwalden (14%), Glarus (23,3%), Graubünden (18,2%), Tessin (28%) und Wallis (23%)
- diversity is everywhere
- when is it immigration and when is it transmigration?



## Problems concerning work

- Guest worker period (set out the structuration by the law)
- Crisis and structural changes: export of unemployment
- 2002 Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP)
- Issue of qualification and social networks (Cristina Franchi)
- Immigrant communities and methodological nationalism
- Seasonal work and new inequities
- Asylum seekers and employment rights: with a provisional permit  
(F) asylum seekers are allowed to work (after how much time depends on the canton)

## Policy practices

- integration policy and the local level
- federal policy making
- local implementation (KIP)
- policy for rural and alpine areas:

“The rural and alpine areas are to actively organize their cultural diversity. (...) Cultural diversity is supposed to be developed as an important element that contributes to the attraction for living, leisure time and tourism. Cultural diversity also implies that the diverse actors of the area like all residents, tourists, schools, non-profit associations, volunteer organizations or tourist organizations participate in the process of managing the given cultural diversity. They are important pillars of a diverse and active society (...)” (Swiss federal council 2015)

## **Problems concerning accommodation (research interest)**

Any asylum seeker is first accommodated at one of five reception centers of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), for at the most 90 days. During this time, the administrative and legal procedures take place and the federal government provides all expenses. As soon as the asylum seekers are transferred to one of the Cantons according to a specific distribution key referring to the population size, the respective Canton is responsible for any financial support including finding a residence possibility. For the perspective of the asylum seeker the new location is selected. Cantonal authorities are desperately looking for big accommodation facilities:

- army building in the Alpine areas that are not used anymore
- rich farmers sublet their unused buildings to the Canton and accommodate asylum seekers



## **Problems concerning work (research interest)**

As said before depending on the Canton asylum seekers with a provision permit are allowed to work.

1. Once a working relationship with a farmer is officially established and contact details are available for subsequent times asylum seekers may be contacted informally and hired informally
  - most people are glad to find the opportunity in the grey/black labour market
  
2. For seasonal workers there are strict hierarchies: seasonal workers from EU-states (mostly Eastern European countries) have a higher status than seasonal workers with a provisional permit which is shown in behaviour towards them as in payments