

1,046,599 TOTAL ARRIVALS TO EUROPE 2015 **34,887** TOTAL ARRIVALS TO EUROPE by land in 2015 **1,011,712** TOTAL ARRIVALS TO EUROPE by sea in 2015

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Visit IOM's interactive map to view data on flows: migration.iom.int/europe/

About this report: DTM in the Mediterranean and beyond

While populations from the Middle East, South East Asia, and Africa have been crossing the Mediterranean to reach Europe in growing numbers since 2011, 2015 marked the sharpest increase arrivals to Europe and deaths in the Mediterranean. International organizations and EU policy makers recognized the urgent need to identify effective measures to tackle the resulting humanitarian issues, but at the start of the crisis, relatively little was known about migrants arriving to Europe beyond their nationality, sex, and age. Thus, IOM rolled out its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) across the affected region. DTM is a suite of tools and methodologies designed to track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts, in a continuous manner.

Through DTM's flow monitoring system, over the course of 2015 IOM identified key locations along the migratory route to collect data through direct observation, consultations with relevant national authorities, and surveys with migrants. The transit point assessments provide information on numbers of migrants, countries of origin, demographics, routes, and transport, using data provided by ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces, and other relevant national authorities. The flow monitoring surveys provide more in-depth information on specific vulnerabilities, socioeconomic circumstances, routes, reasons for movement, and country of intended destination. IOM field staff started conducting these interviews in October, starting in Croatia and also covering Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Slovenia. As of 31 December 2015 IOM had interviewed over 1,673 migrants and asylum seekers.

These activities allow IOM to systematically gather detailed information about migrants' backgrounds, motivations, and the migratory routes, and to share ongoing analyses of migratory trends and patterns with humanitarian actors and policy makers. Such information is key to devising appropriate and effective measures to manage migration, including protection for those who are entitled to it, possible integration for those who can stay in the EU and more sustainable return and reintegration to the countries of origin. This report is an overview of the year, based on IOM's weekly flows compilations.



Timeline 2015

14 September

Hungary completes construction of fence on its border with Serbia.

17 September

EU ministers approve disputed quota plan: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania are outvoted at the ministerial meeting when member states decide to relocate 66,000 refugees from Greece and Italy to other EU countries.

16 October

EU announces it will give Turkey 3 billion EUR in aid and will fast-track approval of visas to Europe for Turkish citizens in exchange for increased controls on the flow of migration from the Middle East to Europe, and taking back migrants whose asylum applications have not been granted.

08 October

IOM field staff start conducting DTM's flow monitoring survey interviews with migrants and asylum seekers in Croatia.

25 October

EU Leaders agree on 17-point plan of action on the Western Balkans Migration Route. This includes Point 14: "Reconfirming the principle of refusing entry to third country nationals who do not confirm a wish to apply for international protection (in line with international and EU refugee law and subject to prior non-refoulement and proportionality checks)," which is thought to have inspired FYROM to close its borders to any migrants not of Syrian, Afghan, or Iraqi nationality.

16 November

Hungary's parliament passes a law to challenge the EU decision on refugee relocation quotas in court.

18 November

FYROM closes borders to non Syrian, Afghans, Iraqis resulting in blockages and protests at Idomeni border crossing in Greece. Some migrants and asylum seekers sew up their mouths in protest.

03 December

Pakistan refuses to allow 30 deported Pakistanis to disembark plane from Athens. Voluntary returns and deportations to Pakistan are suspended.

10 December

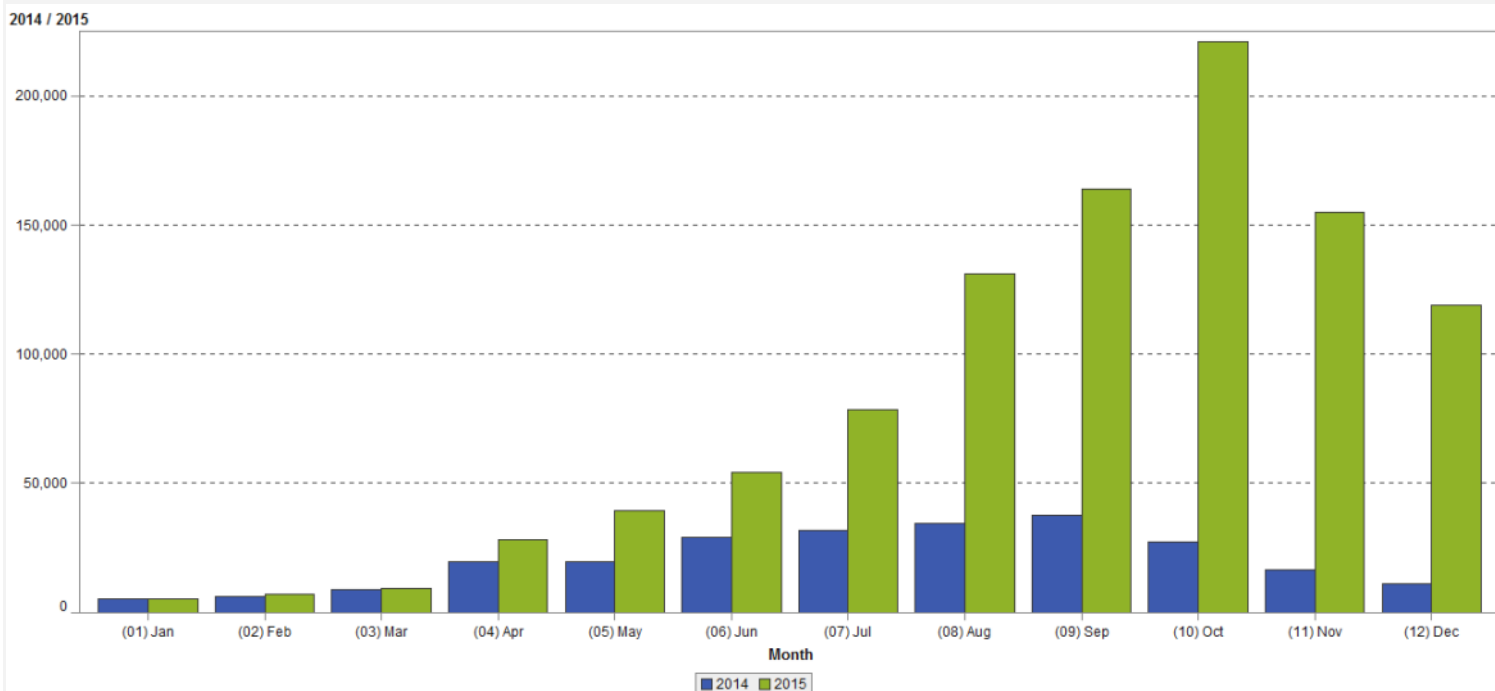
The European Commission begins legal action against Greece, Croatia and Italy for failing to correctly register migrants. It also launches an infringement case against Hungary over its asylum legislation. It says the three failed to implement the Eurodac Regulation, which involves fingerprinting asylum seekers and registering the data within 72 hours.

20 December

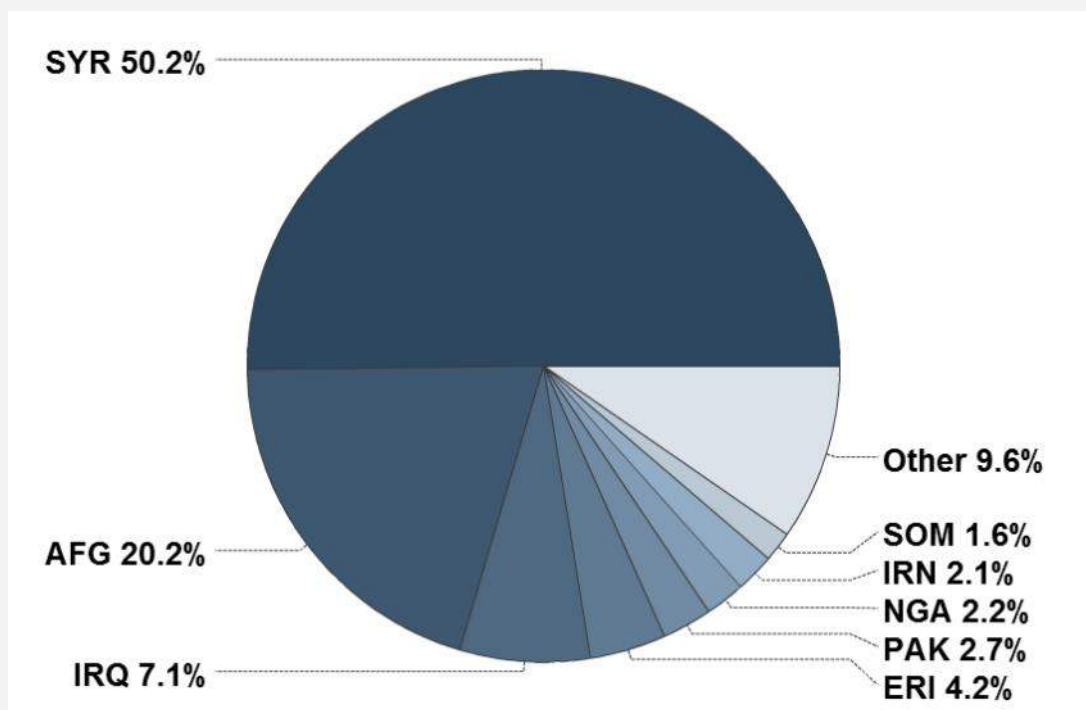
1,000,000 registered arrivals to Europe by land and sea reached for 2015

Monthly and cumulative arrivals

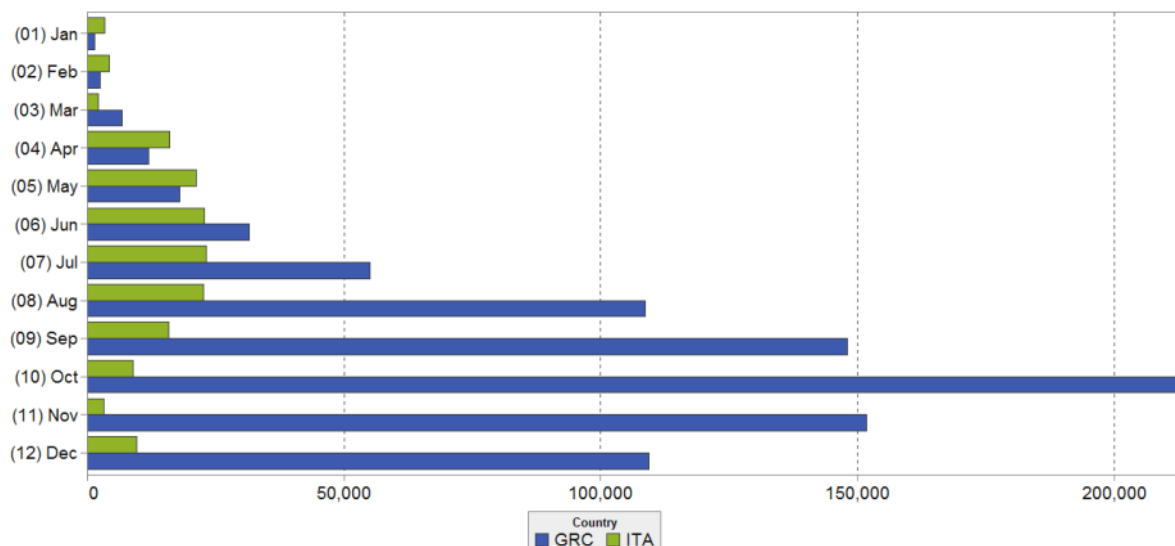
Arrivals to Europe by month in 2015 versus 2014



Nationalities of aggregate cumulative arrivals to Europe in 2015



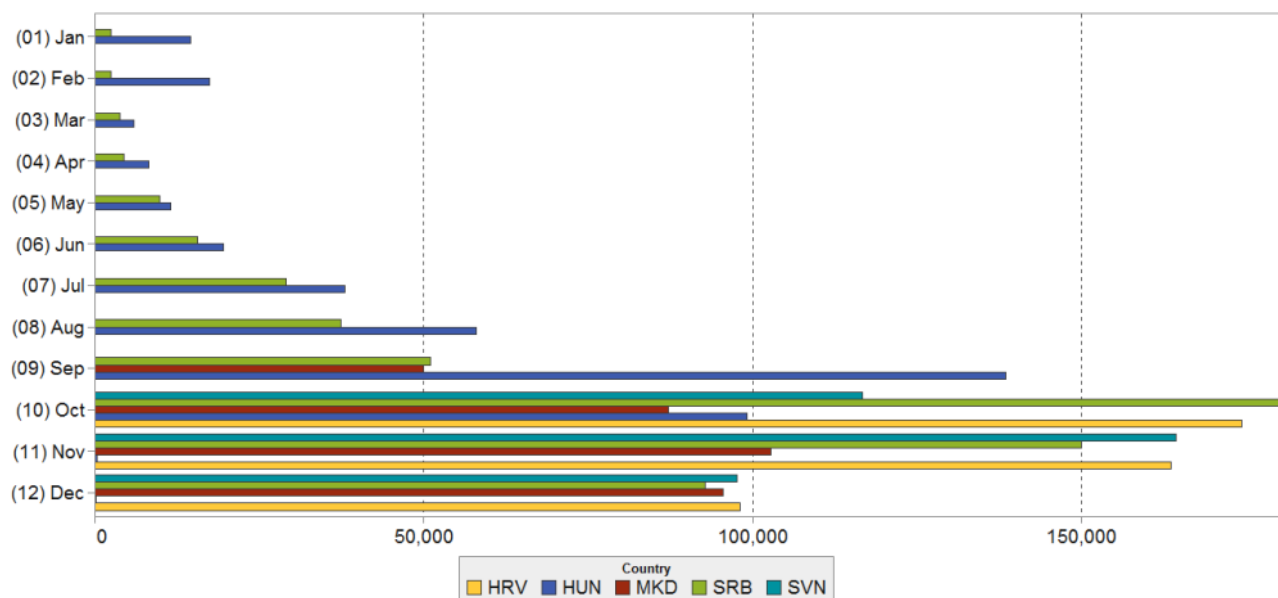
Monthly arrivals by reporting date grouped by country (countries of first arrival)



Total arrivals overview: countries of first arrival

	Sea	Land	Total
Greece	853,650	3,713	857,363
Bulgaria	-	31,174	31,174
Italy	153,842	-	153,842
Spain	3,845	-	3,845
Malta	106	-	106
Cyprus	269	-	269
TOTAL	1,011,712	34,887	1,046,599

Monthly arrivals by reporting date grouped by country (other countries)



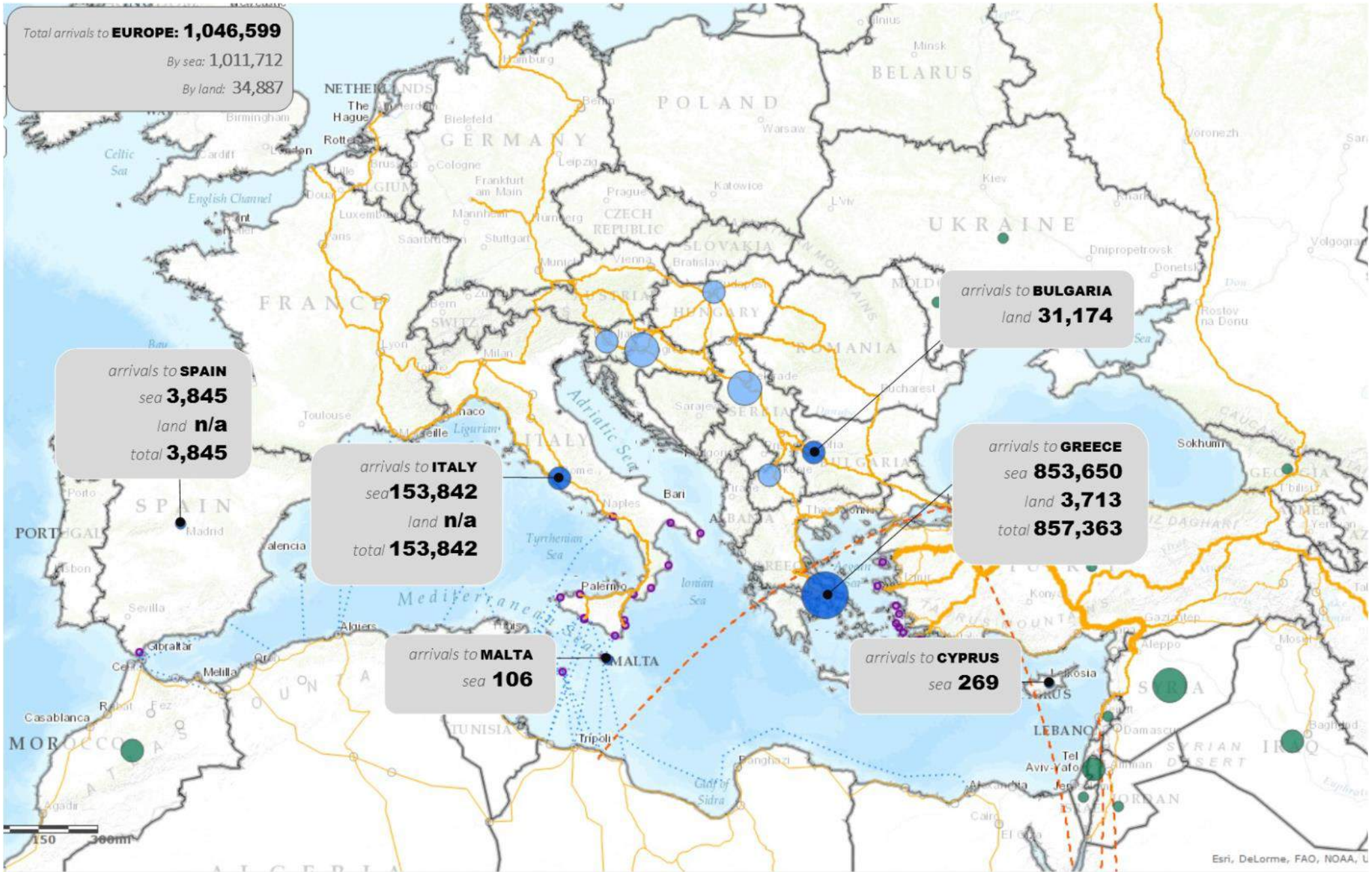
Total arrivals Overview: other countries

	Total
fYROM	388,233
Serbia	579,518
Hungary	411,515
Croatia	556,830
Slovenia	378,604

OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE

Registered and reported arrivals to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain 🌐 From 01 January to 31 December 2015

Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

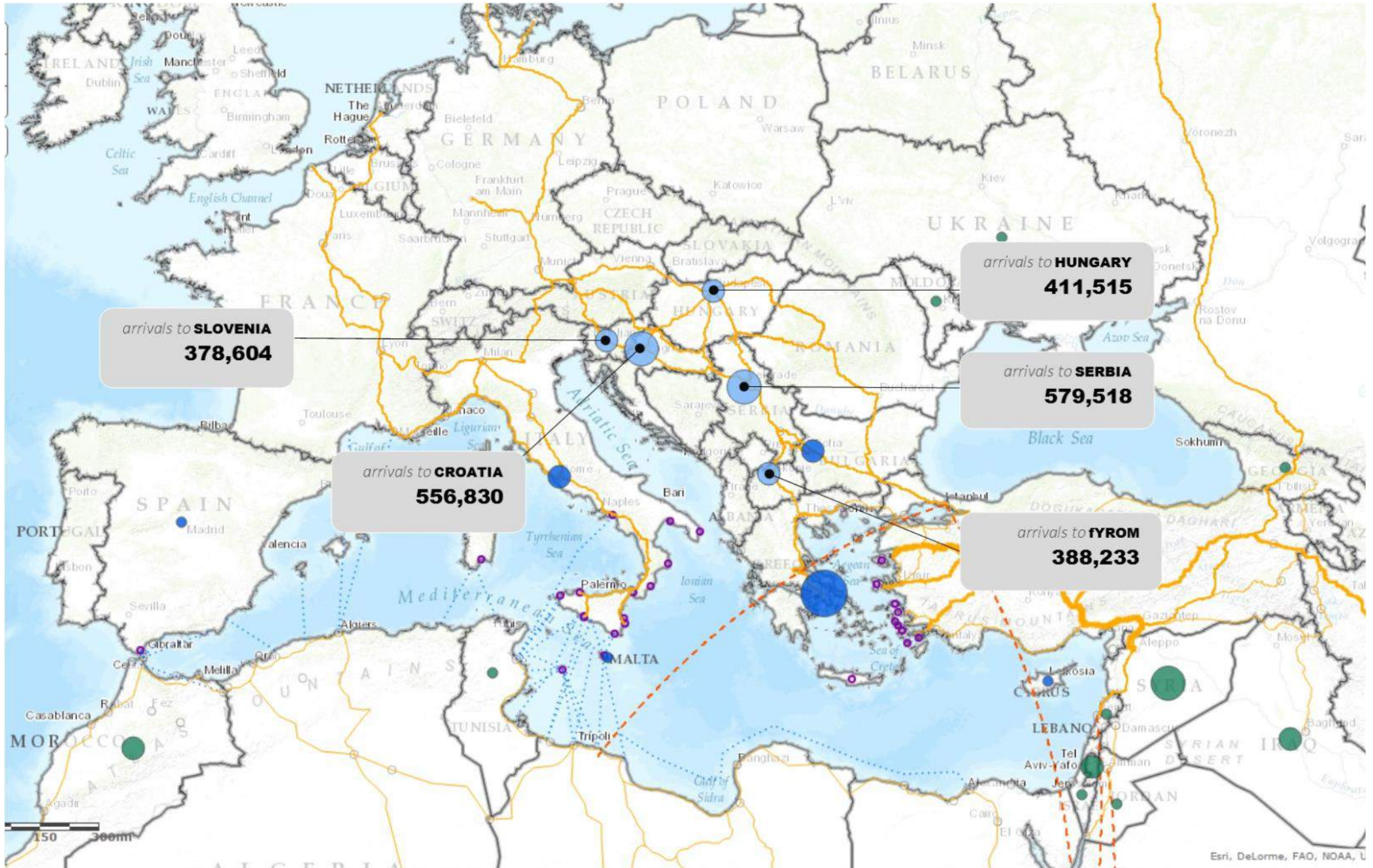


Esri, DeLorme, FAO, NOAA, U

OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE

Registered and reported arrivals to fYROM, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary 🌐 From 01 January to 31 December 2015

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Turkey



Overview

The Turkish Coast Guard detected a total of 91,611 migrants entering the country over 2015. This represents a 512% increase on 2014, during which 14,961 irregular migrants were apprehended. The number of fatalities also saw an increase of over 300% from 2014 to 2015, with 69 recorded deaths in 2014, and 279 in 2015. However, these figures only include those apprehended and rescued by the Coast Guard; actual numbers of migrants and asylum seekers departing Turkey by sea are in fact much higher than this.

Rescues and apprehensions in Turkey: 2014 and 2015

Mediterranean Developments-Rescues/Apprehensions by Turkish Coast Guard Statistics for 2014 and 2015				
Year	Number of Cases	Number of Irregular migrants	Number of deaths	Number of facilitators
2014	574	14,961	69	106
2015	2,430	91,611	279	190
Percentage increase				
2014 to 2015	323.34%	512.33%	304.35%	79.25%

15 October

16 October—EU announces it will give Turkey EUR 3 billion in aid and will fast-track approval of visas to Europe for Turkish citizens in exchange for increased controls on the flow of migration from the Middle East to Europe, and taking back migrants whose asylum applications have not been granted.

18 August

The Government declares a crisis situation on the country's south and north state borders.

29 November

EU-Turkey Action Plan is agreed.

Bulgaria



Overview

Over the course of 2015, Bulgarian authorities apprehended a total of 31,174 migrants and entering, exiting, and within the country. The most prominent nationalities in descending order were Iraqis, Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis and Iranians (data from January to November 2015).

Unlike other Balkan states, Bulgaria does not have a policy to facilitate the migration flow to Western Europe. Therefore, numbers from Bulgaria are not of registered arrivals but rather of apprehensions by the Bulgarian authorities of irregular migrants on entry, within the country, and on exit.

Cumulative arrivals by reporting date in Bulgaria

Date	Cumulative Arrivals
27 Nov 2015	29,308
3 Dec 2015	29,620
10 Dec 2015	29,959
17 Dec 2015	30,425
31 Dec 2015	31,174

Highlights from 2015

January

The governments approves a decision to build a fence along the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

February

The National Council for Migration and Integration is established.

May

Parliament amends Law of Public Procurement, for construction of the fence on the Bulgarian-Turkish border.

August

Units of the gendarmerie directorate are deployed to assist the border police in guarding the country's frontier with Turkey.

September

The number of detained irregular migrants since the start of the year reaches 17,000. The majority of these have requested refugee status.

Greece

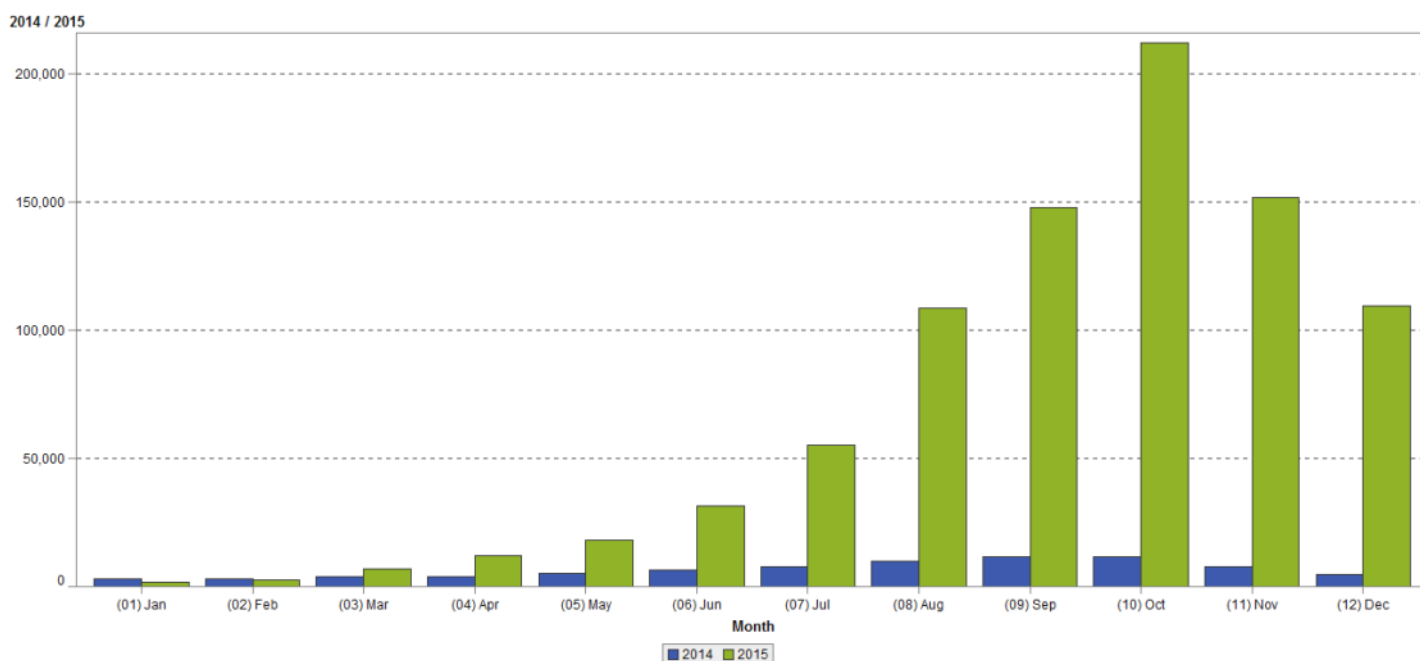


Overview

Over the course of 2015, 853,650 migrants and asylum seekers arrived Greece by sea, and 3,713 arrived by land. In all, 857,363

Flow Monitoring: Between 16 November 2015 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Greece collected surveys from interviews with 255 migrants and asylum seekers. (23%PAK, 20%SYR, 14%IRN, 12%IRQ, 11%MAR, 9% AFG, 11%other).

Arrivals by month in Greece



21 February

Authorities begin releasing undocumented migrants from the detention center in Amygdaleza, northwest of Athens.

11 April

The Migration Policy Ministry has asked municipalities and regions to propose covered spaces that could be used – with a minimum repair – to host newcomers.

03 July

547 police officers deployed to Eastern Macedonia and Thrace in order to manage borders and migration flows.

08 July

Citizenship law is passed. The new law allows children who attend primary school in Greece and with at least one migrant parent who has resided legally in Greece for five years prior to their birth to obtain citizenship.

25 September

Government Idomeni Exit Camp becomes operational. Migrants waiting to cross to FYROM are provided with shelter, food, water, NFIs, toilets and showers, wi-fi and phone chargers..

21 October

Official For two consecutive days arrivals of migrants at the blue borders exceed 10,000 per day.

04 November

IOM Greece implements the first pilot relocation movement to Luxembourg.

19 November

The FYROM authorities announce that only Syrians, Afghanis and Iraqis are allowed to cross borders, consequently, congestion and tension builds at Idomeni area, with excluded nationalities protesting and blocking the border

03 December

Greek authorities evacuate Idomeni Exit Camp. Train transportation blocked for several days by migrants protesting. During the protests a 22 year-old Moroccan man died from electrocution after climbing on a train.

15 December

The European Commission announces funding for the creation of 20,000 places for the provision of accommodation to asylum seekers in Greece.



Cumulative arrivals by nationality of origin (1 Jan to 31 Dec 2015)

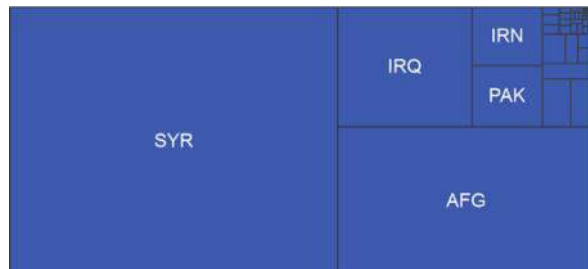
OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE

Cumulative arrivals to Greece by nationality of origin From 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



ARRIVALS BY SEA TO GREECE - MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN (JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015)			
Main Countries of Origin	Total	Main Countries of Origin	Total
Syria	56.1%	Palestine	0.7%
Afghanistan	24.3%	Somalia	0.5%
Iraq	10.3%	Bangladesh	0.4%
Pakistan	2.7%	Lebanon	0.2%
Iran	2.6%	Other (67 Countries)	1.2%
Morocco	0.9%	Total	100.0%



ARRIVALS BY SEA TO GREECE JANUARY - DECEMBER 2014/2015		
2014	2015	Differential
72,632	853,650	+ 1075.3 %

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM)

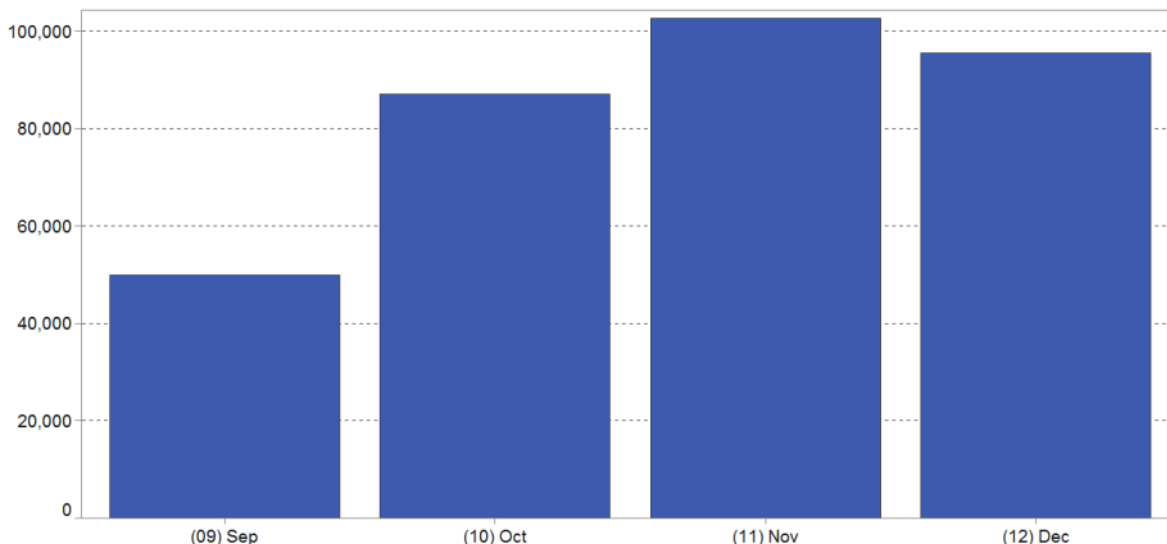


Overview

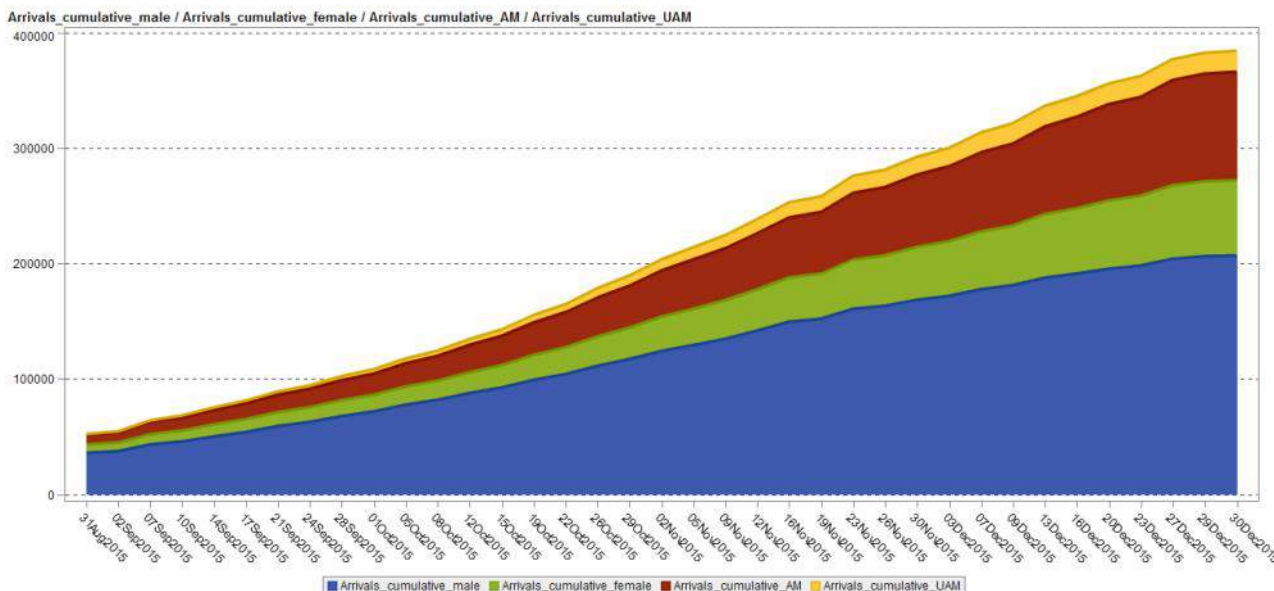
From the start of the crisis on 19 June to the end of 2015, 388,233 migrants and asylum seekers were registered entering fYROM. Data on monthly arrivals was not available for the months preceding September 2015.

Flow Monitoring: Between 21 December 2015 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in fYROM collected surveys from interviews with 82 migrants and asylum seekers. (43%SYR, 30%AFG, 26%IRQ, 1%IRN)

Arrivals by month in fYROM



Demographic information on arrivals: Overview 31 Aug 2015 – 31 Dec 2015 (Source: Mol)



Highlights from 2015

19 June

Government amends the Law on Asylum seekers, allowing persons who express intention to seek asylum a period of 72 hours to apply for asylum, or to leave the country.

15 August

Official activation of Vinojug Transit Camp, Gevgelija (GR/MK border) crossing procedures

18 August

The Government declares a crisis situation on the country's south and north state borders.

07 October

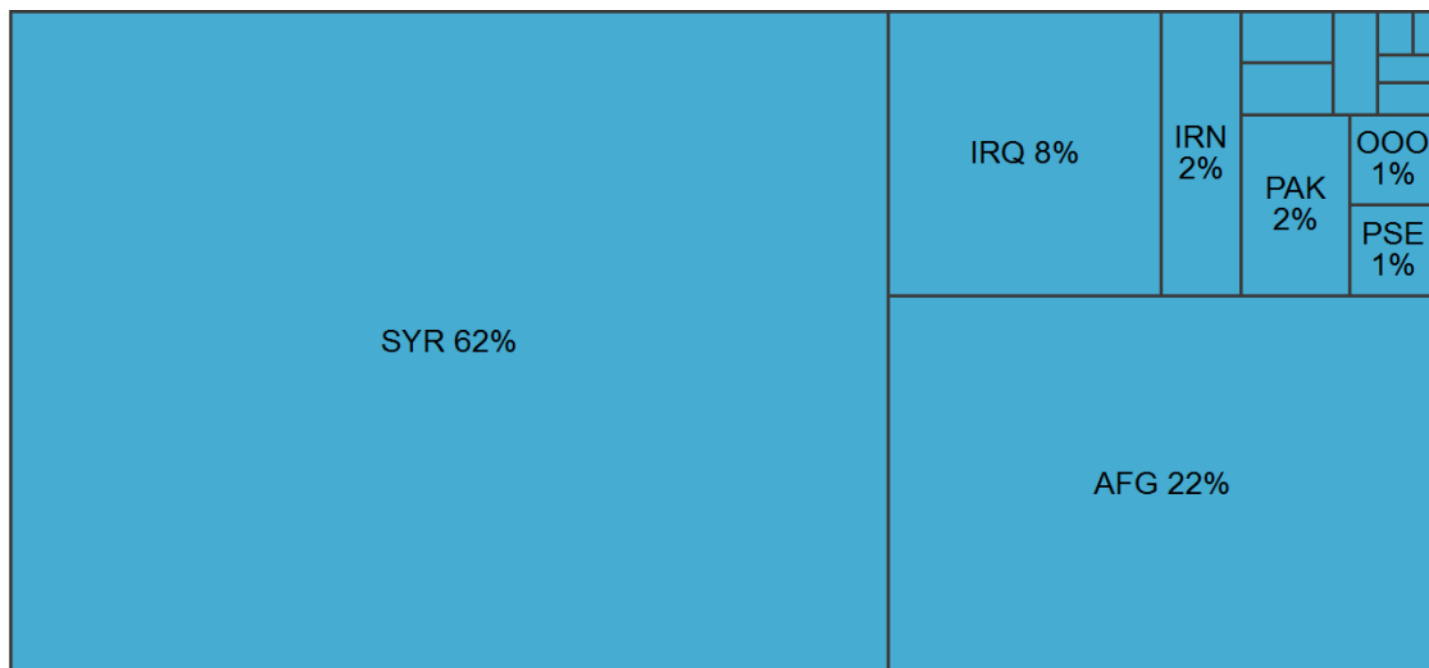
10,471 migrants entered the south border to Vinojug Transit Camp, Gevgelija (highest number of migrants to enter the TC over 24 hours)

18 November

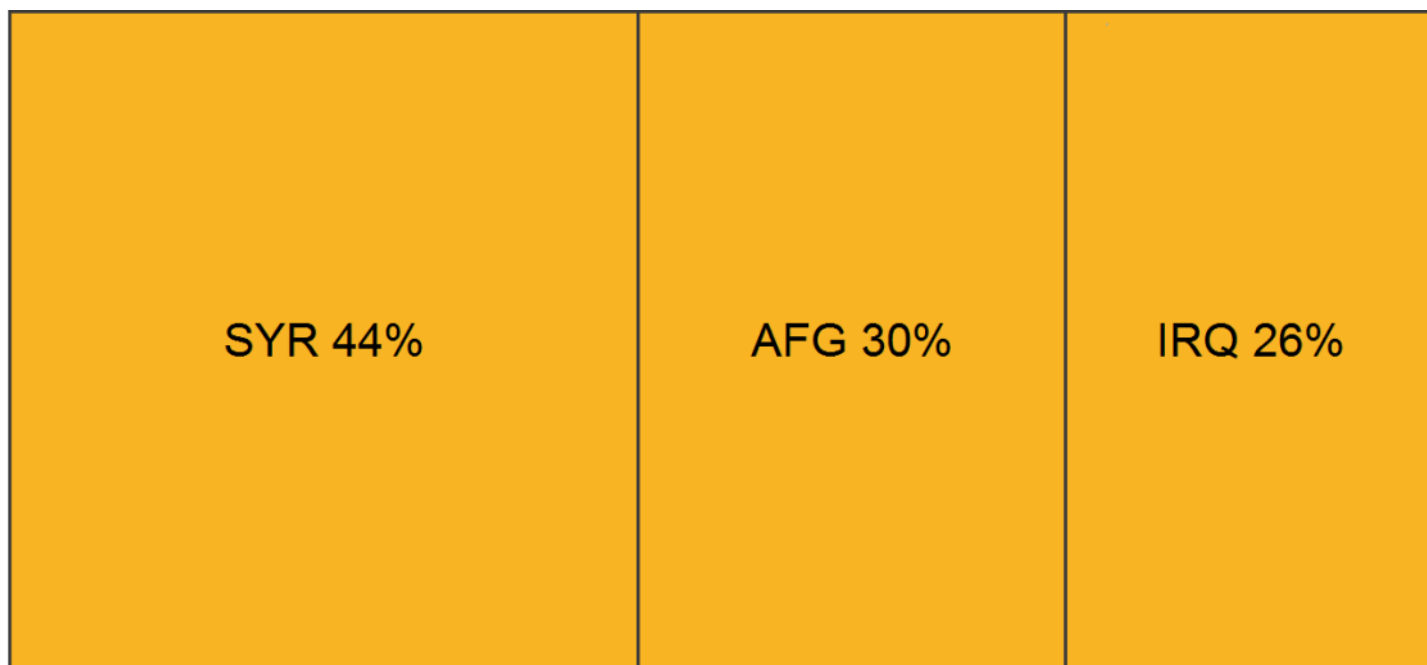
fYROM closes borders to so called "economic migrants". Only migrants of Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan nationalities are allowed to enter the country.



Cumulative arrivals to FYROM by nationality of origin (from 19 Jun 2015 to 19 Nov 2016)



Cumulative arrivals to FYROM by nationality of origin (from 19 Nov 2015 to 31 Dec 2016)



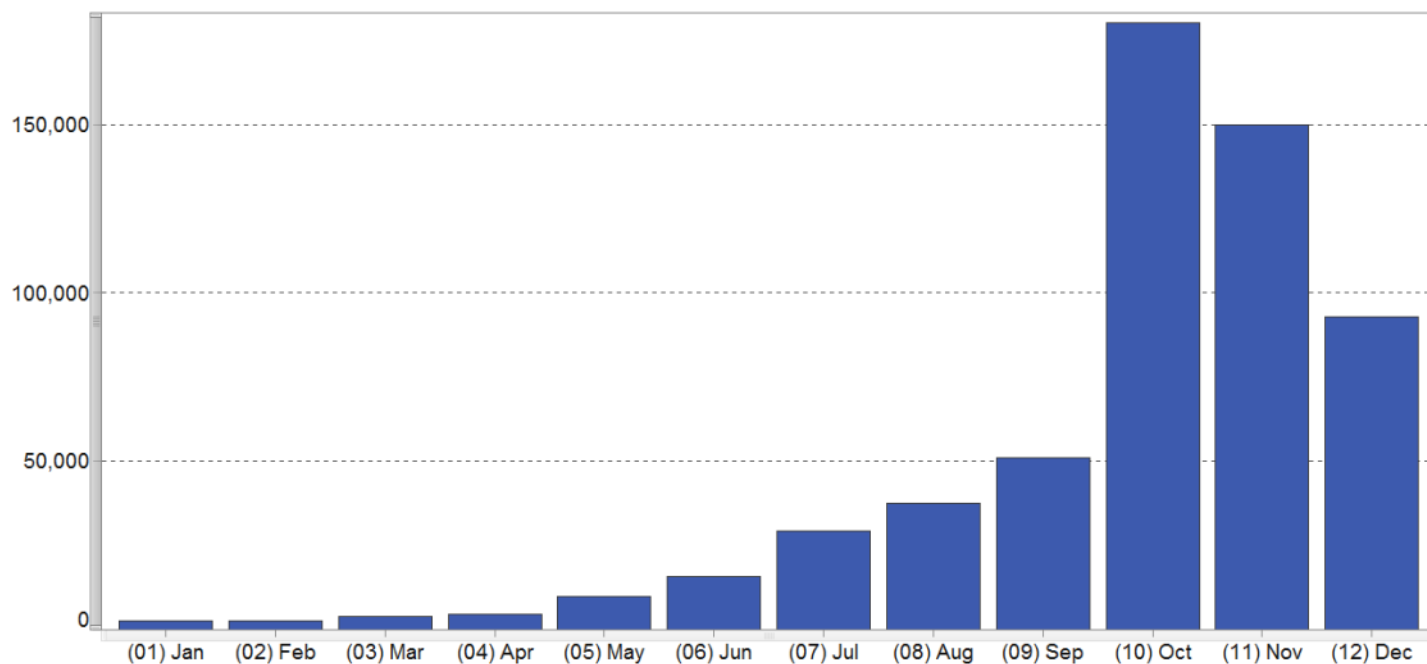


Serbia

Overview

Over 2015 a total of 579,518 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Presevo transit and registration centre, Serbia.

Arrivals by month in Serbia



18 June

Government establishes a Working Group for addressing issues related to mixed migration flows.

08 July

Reception centre in Presevo, on the border with FYROM, opens.

16 September

Hungary closes its borders with Serbia, causing the migratory flows to change route and enter Croatia instead.

October

Centre for registering migrants in Dimitrovgrad (near border with Bulgaria) begins to operate.

03 November

The governments of Serbia and Croatia agree to allow Croatian trains to enter Serbia before transporting migrants and asylum seekers back through Croatia to Slovenia.

Highlights from 2015

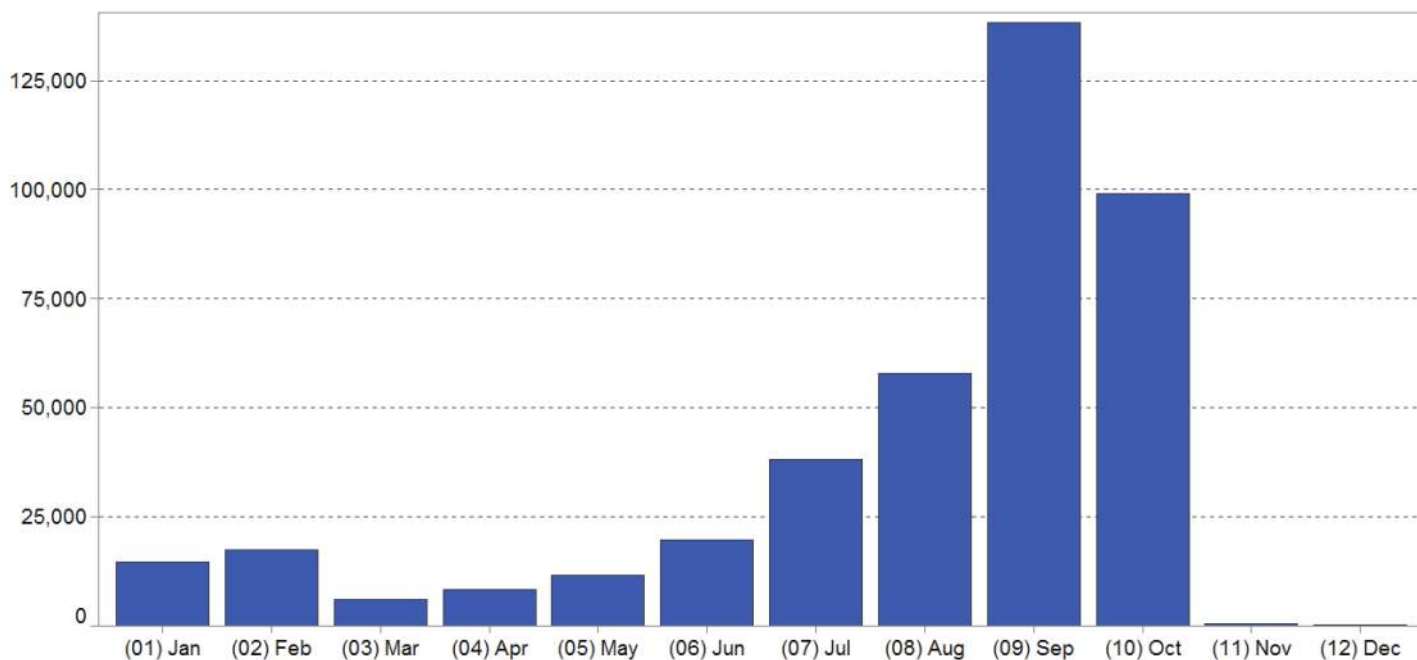
Hungary



Overview

Over the course of 2015, a total of 411,515 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Hungary.

Arrivals by month in Hungary



Highlights from 2015

09-14 September

A Hungarian TV camerawoman provokes international outcry after being caught kicking Syrians, including children, live on camera. She is fired on 09 September.

14 Sept: completion of the fence along the Serbian border

15 September

Widely-criticized amendments to the asylum law entered into force that designates Serbia as safe third country, allows expedited asylum determination and limits procedural safeguards. Additionally, climbing through the fence or damaging it becomes criminal offence punishable with imprisonment. The Government declares "emergency situation caused by mass immigration" and deployed military troops to the southern border.

07 October

The Government declares that if needed, it is ready to extend the fence towards Romanian border.

16-17 October

Hungary finishes the fence along the Croatian border and reinstated border control with regard to Slovenia.

16 November

Hungarian government passes a law to challenge the EU decision on mandatory refugee relocation quotas in court.

Croatia

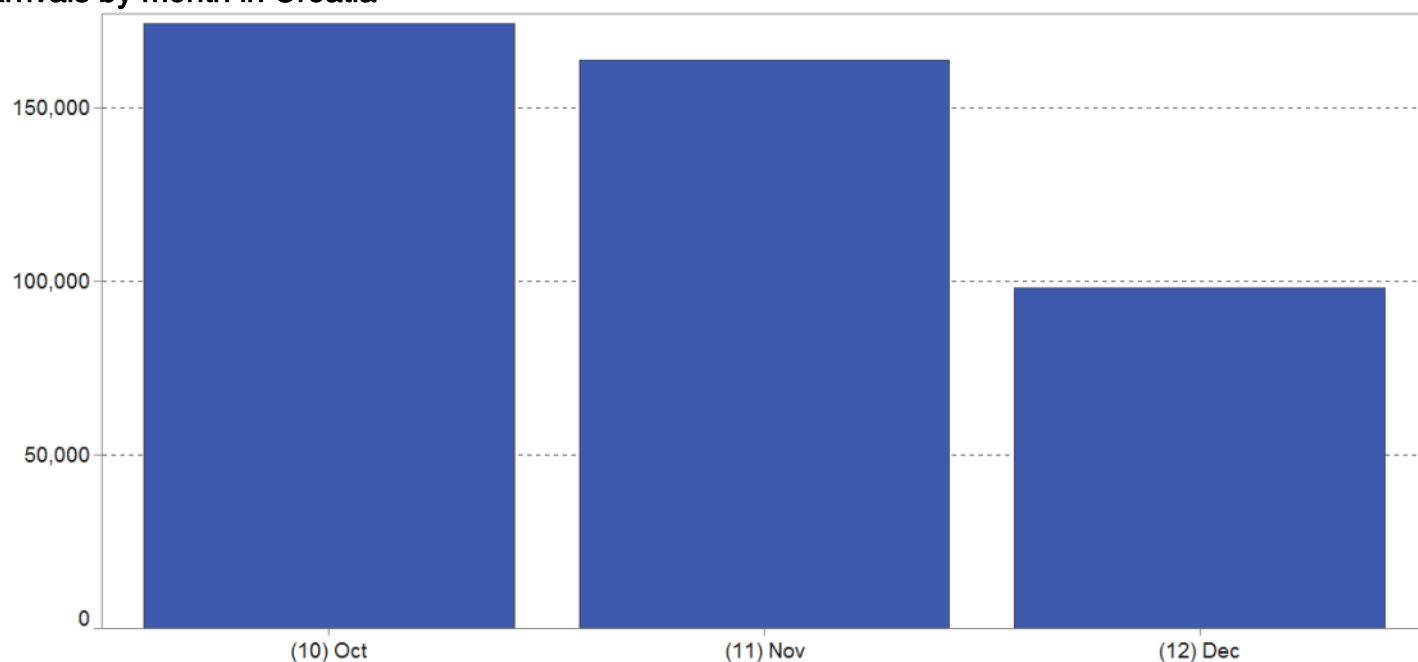


Overview

The number of migrants and asylum seekers registered arriving in Croatia from the start of the crisis on 16 September until the end of 2015 totaled 555,761. Data on monthly arrivals was not available for the months preceding October 2015.

Flow Monitoring: Between 8 October 2015 date and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Croatia collected surveys from interviews with 1283 migrants and asylum seekers. (50%SYR, 25%AFG, 14%IRQ, 3%PAK, 3%IRN, 2%PSE, 3%other)

Arrivals by month in Croatia



Highlights from 2015

17 September

Croatian Government establishes Activity Coordination Headquarters to deal with the influx of migrants.

21 September

Opatovac Transit Camp is opened.

08 October

IOM field staff start conducting DTM's flow monitoring survey interviews with migrants and asylum seekers in Opatovac Transit Center.

16 October

The Hungarian government closes the border with Croatia, causing the flow of migrants to be redirected towards Slovenia.

25 October

Croatian Ministry of Interior records the highest number of daily arrivals, totaling 11,500 in one day.

01 November

Croatian and Serbian interior ministers arrange for migrants to Croatian trains in Šid, Serbia and go directly to Slavonski Brod. The two sides agree on the daily movement of four trains or 6,000 migrants.

03 November

Winter Transit Centre in Slavonski Brod Ready for first migrants. All activities are relocated to new location.

07 November

Croatia holds first election since joining the EU. The migrant crisis is a major issue, and the conservative opposition wins three more seats than the ruling alliance.

Slovenia

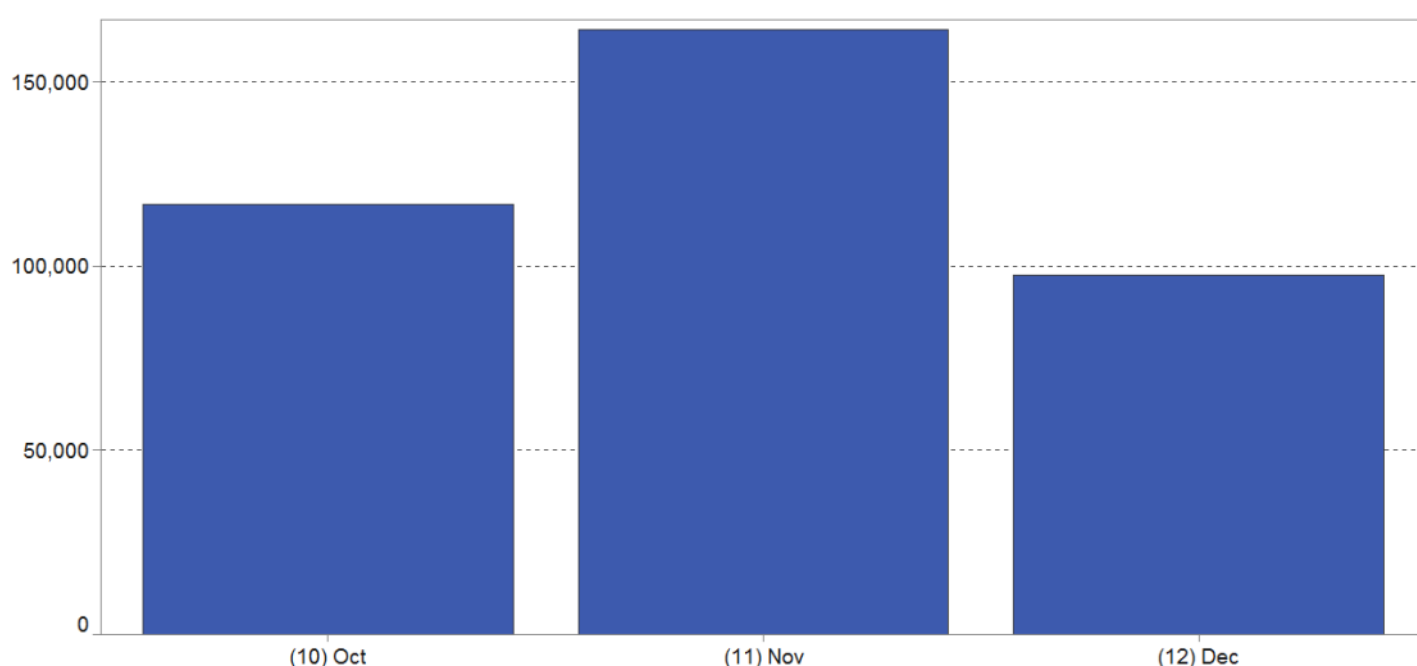


Overview

From the start of the crisis on 16 October 2015 to the end of the year, 378,604 migrants and asylum seekers were registered entering Slovenia.

Flow Monitoring: Between 6 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Slovenia collected surveys from interviews with 18 migrants and asylum seekers. (44%SYR, 28%AFG, 11%IRN, 11%IRQ, 6%PSE)

Arrivals by month in Slovenia



Highlights from 2015

17 September

Slovenia faces its first large influx of migrants between 17 and 22 September, when approximately 3,500 migrants enter Slovenia.

16 October

Hungary closes its border with Croatia with a razor-wire fence. Croatia begins directing migrants westward towards Slovenia.

20 October

Parliament amends the Defence Act granting the Armed Forces additional powers for border protection and security at reception and accommodation centres, to support to the Police.

21 October

The highest number of migrants entering Slovenia in one day reaches 12,616 persons.

11 November

Slovenia begins erecting a razor-wire fence on its border with Croatia to control the influx of migrants.

29 December

Language checks are introduced by Austrian authorities, increasing returns to Slovenia.

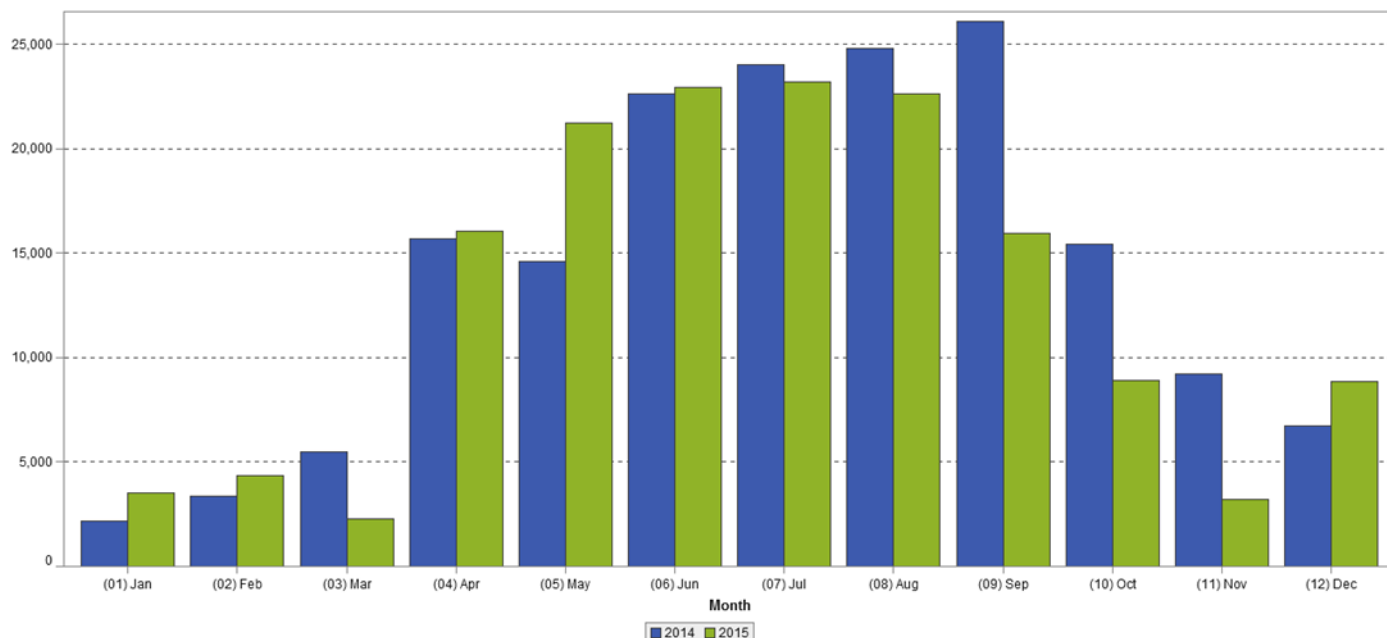
Italy



Overview

From 01 January to 31 December 2015, an estimated 153,842 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Italy by sea.

Arrivals by month in Italy



Highlights from 2015

22 September

EU ministers approve disputed quota plan: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania are outvoted when member states decide to relocate 66,000 refugees from Greece and Italy to other EU countries.

05 December

A popular accommodation center for migrants run by volunteers in Rome and known as "Baobab" is shut down due to a decision by the site's owner. Social media and the press criticize the closure, but the Ministry of Interior points out that a vast network of over 2,000 reception and accommodation centers is available throughout the country.

10 December

The European Commission begins legal action against Greece, Croatia and Italy for failing to correctly register migrants.

Table: Arrivals in Italy by country of origin 2015 (from 1 Jan to 31 Dec)

Arrivals by sea to Italy - Main Countries of Origin—All of 2015							
Main Countries of Origin	Arrivals	Main Countries of Origin	Arrivals	Main Countries of Origin	Arrivals	Main Countries of Origin	Arrivals
Eritrea	39,162	Ghana	4,431	Libya	563	Niger	154
Nigeria	22,237	Ivory Coast	3,772	Burkina Faso	470	Liberia	137
Somalia	12,433	Ethiopia	2,631	Guinea Bissau	456	Iran	119
Sudan	8,932	Guinea	2,629	Benin	396	Afghanistan	117
Gambia	8,454	Egypt	2,610	Togo	360	Other (26 countries)	393
Syria	7,448	Pakistan	1,982	Algeria	343	Unidentified	7,138
Senegal	5,981	Occ. Palestinian T.	1,673	Sierra Leone	250		
Mali	5,826	Iraq	996	Comoros	192		
Bangladesh	5,040	Tunisia	880	Chad	174		
Morocco	4,647	Cameroon	662	Congo	154	TOTAL	153,842

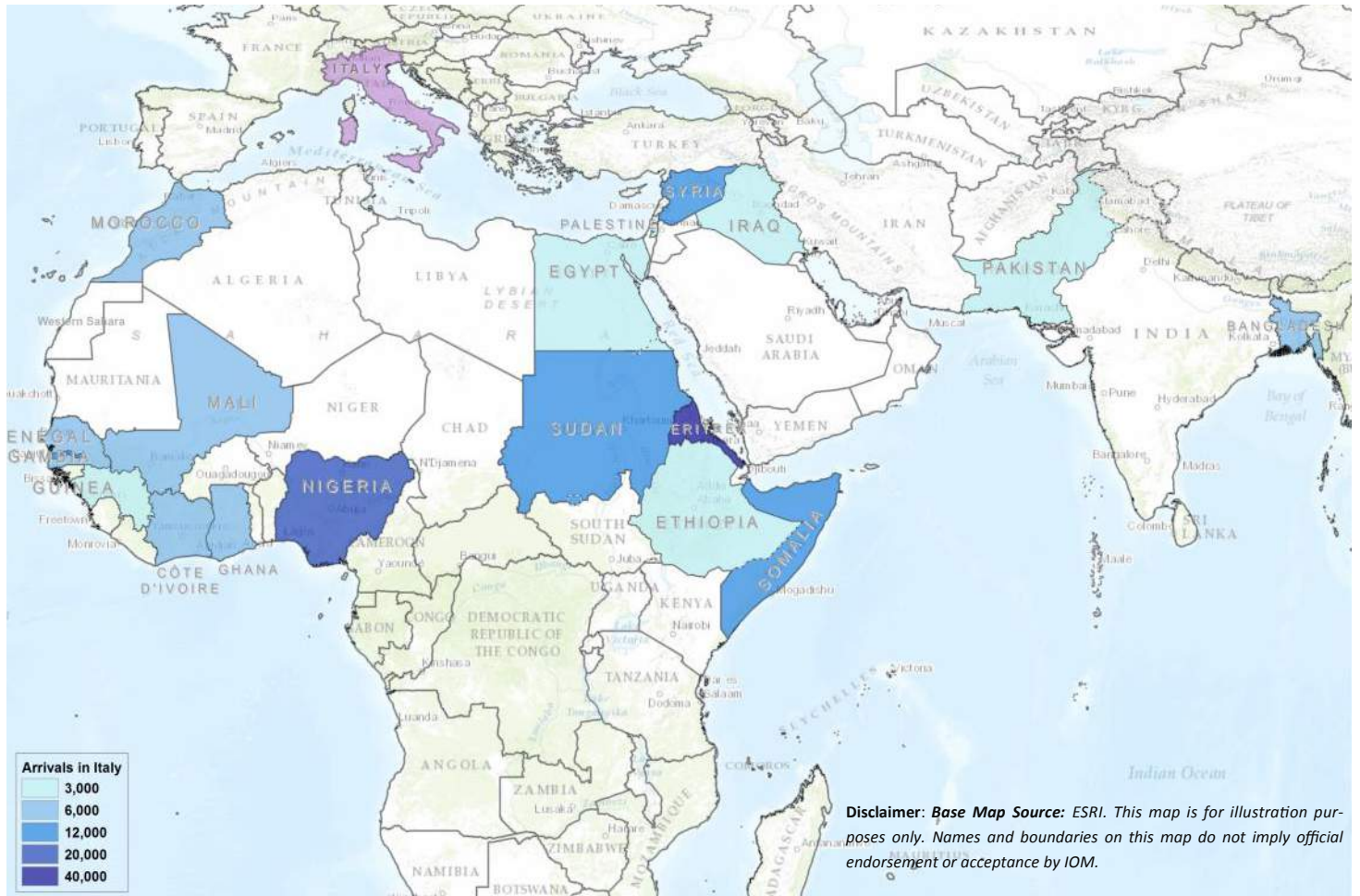


Map: Arrivals in Italy by country of origin 2015 (from 1 Jan to 31 Dec)

OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE



Cumulative arrivals to Italy by nationality of origin 🌐 From 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015



The Northern Route

Norway



According to IOM Russia, in 2015 Norway returned approximately 250 of the 5,440 migrants to Russia. A further 280 migrants had been scheduled to be returned to Russia in early 2016, but at the time of writing this plan was still on hold, pending discussions between the two countries. These 5,440 migrants came from 42 nationalities, of which Afghans represented the highest number (1,628), followed by Iraqis (403), Pakistanis (300), and Egyptians (285) made up the highest numbers (Source: Norwegian Embassy in Russia).

Numbers: About 31,000 migrants arrived in Norway in 2015 across all borders. Source [here](#).

Entry points: The Arctic Circle border crossing of Storskog, on the Russian-Norwegian border, has become a popular point of entry for would-be asylum-seekers who obtain Russian visas and then fly to Moscow where they make the journey by train near the Norwegian border, crossing by bicycle. Source [here](#).

Finland



Numbers: According to IOM Russia, in 2015 approximately 700 migrants and asylum seekers entered Finland from Russia. As of 03 February 2016, 500 migrants and asylum seekers had entered via the same route since the start of 2016. These groups comprised 26 nationalities including Afghans, Indians, Syrians, Iran, Lebanon. Exact numbers were not available at time of writing (Source: Finnish Embassy in Russia).

Entry points: The Russian border town of Alakurtti is a growing conduit into Lapland, Finland's northernmost region, where many asylum-seekers have entered by car.

Russia



Of the 5,440 migrants and asylum seekers who entered Norway from Russia in 2015, it remains unknown how many of these came to Russia from their countries of origin in the last year, and how many had previously entered Russia by plane with tourist, business, or transit visas. To date, establishing a mechanism to distinguish these groups has proved challenging. According to data IOM Moscow was able to collect from various experts and sources, in 2015 there were an estimated 12,000 Syrians in Russia. Of these, approximately 2,000 are considered members of the diaspora who have been legally residing in Russia for some time and have business interests in the country.

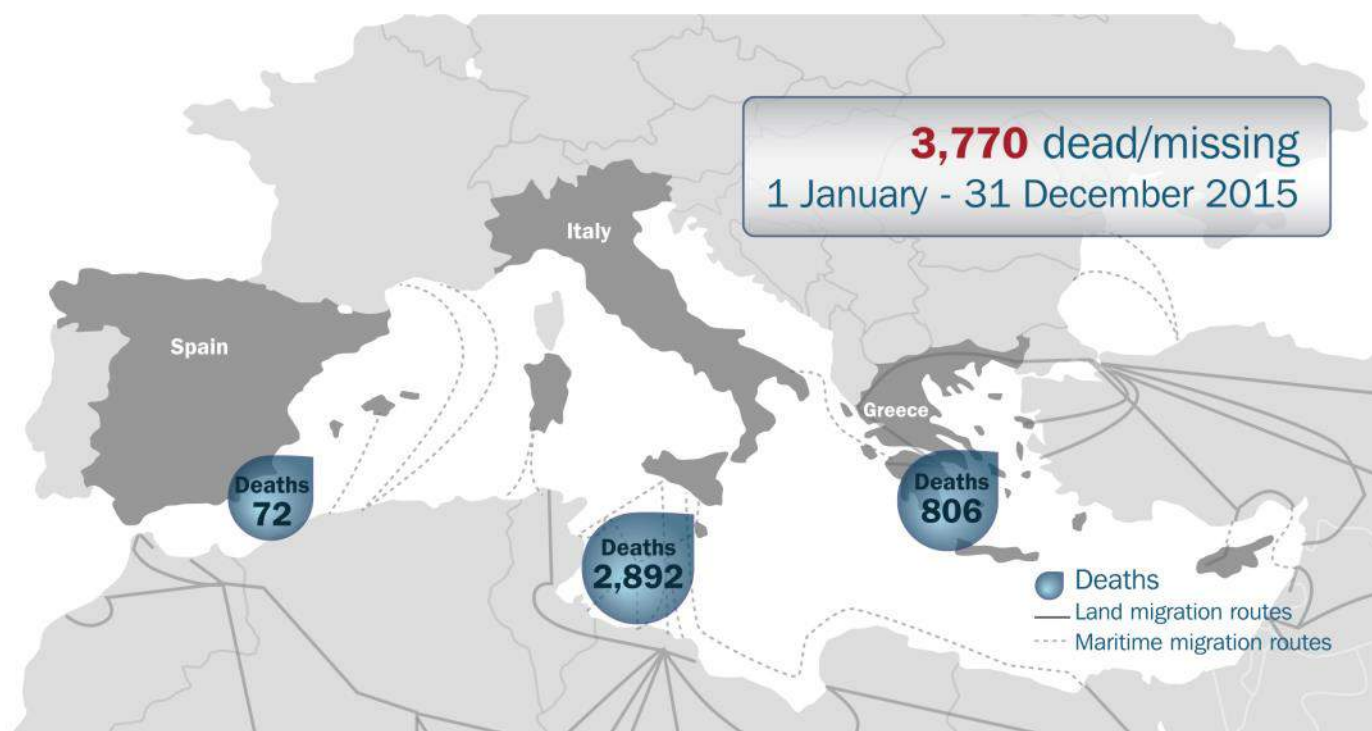
According to the Russian government entity responsible for migration, the Russian Federal Migration Service (RFMS), in 2015, 1,566 Syrians were registered with RFMS as temporary asylum seekers. This number may include people who entered Russia prior to 2015, as the temporary asylum permit is only valid for one year. Therefore, some of these applicants may have entered Russia and applied previously for temporary asylum, and re-applied in 2015.

Relocations from Italy and Greece

On 14 September, EU Home Affairs Ministers adopted the Decision to relocate 40,000 people in clear need of international protection from Italy and Greece. On 17 September, the European Parliament voted in support of the Commission's proposal to relocate a further 120,000 refugees, which was welcomed by the Commission. On 22 September, Home Affairs Ministers adopted the Decision to relocate 120,000 people in clear need of international protection from Italy and Greece and other Member States directly affected by the refugee crisis. 54,000 of these 120,000 individuals were supposed to be relocated from Hungary, but following that state's opposition to the scheme and challenge to the Council's decision, it remains to be decided where these 54,000 will be relocated from. A further 7,744 places from the 40,000 quota also have yet to be allocated. You can find the EU Commission's press release [here](#)

By 31 December 2015, **273 individuals** were relocated, of which **191 individuals** were relocated **from Italy** (87 to Finland, 18 to France, 41 to Sweden, 12 to Spain, 11 to Germany, 6 to Belgium, 10 to Portugal, 6 to Spain) and **82 from Greece** (30 to Luxembourg, 24 to Finland, 10 to Germany, 4 to Lithuania, 14 to Portugal). The European Commission has made available an overview of Member States' support to the EU relocation mechanism. As of the end of 2015, 18 out of the 31 participating countries have pledged to make places available, namely Belgium (30), Bulgaria (1,302), Cyprus (30), Finland (150), France (900), Germany (40), Ireland (20), Latvia (481), Lithuania (40), Luxembourg (90), Malta (131), the Netherlands (100), Poland (100), Portugal (130), Romania (300), Spain (50), Sweden (300) and Liechtenstein (43), with an overall number of only **4,207 places**. You can find the overview [here](#).

Missing Migrants: Fatalities and missing persons



Comparison of monthly Mediterranean fatalities



Child fatalities at sea, Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece



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