



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

DTM

MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Compilation of Available
Data and Information

April 2020





TRC Borići, Bihać; © IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/November 2018

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Photo/ cover page:
Migrants in front of a reception centre; © IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/February 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 1,658¹ migrants and refugees arrived in Europe through different land and sea routes in April 2020, which is 55 per cent less than the 3,686 registered in the previous month (March 2020), more than 3 times less than the 5,675 sea and land arrivals registered in April last year; almost 7.5 times less than the 12,254 arrivals registered in April 2018, and almost 10 times less than the 15,746 reported in April 2017.

Arrivals registered in Europe in the first four months of 2020 were 20,299, which is 14 per cent less than arrivals registered in the same period last year (23,564) and 36 per cent less than arrivals between January and April of 2018 (31,881).

There were 824 arrivals registered on the **Western Mediterranean route** (50%) leading to Spain² in April 2020. Another 737 were registered on the **Central Mediterranean route** (44%), arriving by sea to Italy and Malta in the same period and 97 were registered in Bulgaria and Greece through the **Eastern Mediterranean route** (only 6% of total registered arrivals in Europe). Hence, this is the first-time since February 2019 Eastern Mediterranean route is surpassed by both the Western and Central Mediterranean routes as the main route taken by migrants and refugees travelling to Europe by sea and land. In the same reporting period of the last year (April 2019), the Eastern Mediterranean route was recorded as the most active route with 3,877 arrivals (68% of the total), followed by the Western Mediterranean route with 1,479 registered arrivals (26%) and the Central Mediterranean route with 319 registered arrivals (6%). In April 2018, 60 per cent of all arrivals in Europe were registered on the Eastern Mediterranean route (7,377), while arrivals on the on Central Mediterranean were 3,171 (26%) and on Western Mediterranean route 1,706 (14%)

Hellenic Authorities reported 77 new arrivals in April 2020, which represents a significant decrease compared to previous months. Arrivals in **Greece** are about 30 times less than the 2,314 registered in the previous month (March 2020), about 40 times less than the 3,052 registered in April 2019, and 91 times less than the 7,009 reported in April 2018. Of all registered arrivals in Greece in April 2020, 39 were by sea and 38 by land. According to available data, the most frequently registered nationality of arrivals to Greece by sea in 2020 so far was Afghanistan (39%) followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (25%), Somalia (6%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (5%), and others. Authorities in **Bulgaria** registered 20 new arrivals in April 2020, which is more than half the arrivals registered in March (52), and one third of arrivals registered in April 2019 (65).

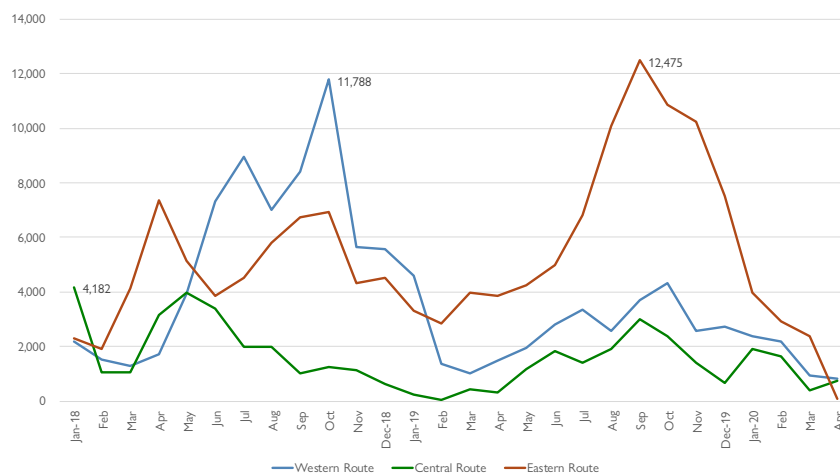
A total of 824 migrants and refugees were registered entering **Spain** in April 2020, 12 per cent less than the previous month (933 in March 2020), 44 per cent less the 1,479 registered in April 2019 and about the half of

to Spain in 2020, 81 per cent arrived by sea: this includes 31 per cent of total arrivals to the Canary Islands, 28 per cent to the peninsular coasts of the region of Murcia and of the Comunidad Valenciana and to the Balearic Islands and 1 per cent to the city of Ceuta. The remaining 19 per cent arrived by land to the Spanish autonomous cities of Melilla (17%) and Ceuta (2%) on the north coast of Africa.

Italian authorities reported 671 arrivals in April 2020. Arrivals in this period have significantly increased in comparison with March 2020 (241), were more than 2 times higher than the 255 arrivals registered in April 2019, but were almost half of the 3,171 reported arrivals to Italy in April 2018. The most frequently registered nationalities of migrants arriving to Italy in 2020 so far were Bangladesh (14%) and Côte d'Ivoire (14%), followed by Sudan (10%), Algeria (9%), Morocco (7%) and other African and Southern Asian countries. According to official data, about 65 per cent of all arrivals in Italy departed from Libya, 20 per cent departed from Tunisia and the rest departed from Algeria (9%), Greece (4%) and Albania (2%). In addition, there were 66 registered arrivals in **Malta** in April 2020, almost half of the 146 arrivals registered the previous month (March 2020). According to available data from national authorities, Sudan was the most frequently reported nationality at arrival in 2020 so far (33%), followed by Bangladesh (17%) and Somalia (15%). Arrivals to Malta are reported to have departed from Libya.

In addition to first-arrival countries, authorities in countries and areas in the **Western Balkans** region reported a significant decrease in monthly registrations of new migrants and refugees since mid-March 2020. Hence, reported apprehensions in April 2020 were 1,576, which is almost four times less than the 6,184 reported in March 2020, almost six times less as compared to the 9,199 reported in April last year and 60 per cent less than the 3,961 reported in April 2018. Serbia (5,424), North Macedonia (5,374) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (4,535) represent together about 60 per cent of all 25,767 arrivals registered in the region since the beginning of 2020. Afghanistan continues to be the most frequently reported nationality among migrants and refugees intercepted transiting the Western Balkans recorded in April 2020, which has been the case each month since October 2019, and particularly in Serbia (34%), and Croatia (27%). Nationals of Pakistan are also prominent among those recorded transiting the region, particularly in Slovenia (29%) and Croatia (21%) and. Morocco nationals are the third most frequently registered nationality in the Western Balkans by the end of April 2020, and the most common nationality of those registered are registered in Albania (36%) and Slovenia (22%).

Figure 1: Arrivals to Europe via the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes by month, 2018–2020



the 1,706 registered in the same period of 2018. Among the total arrivals

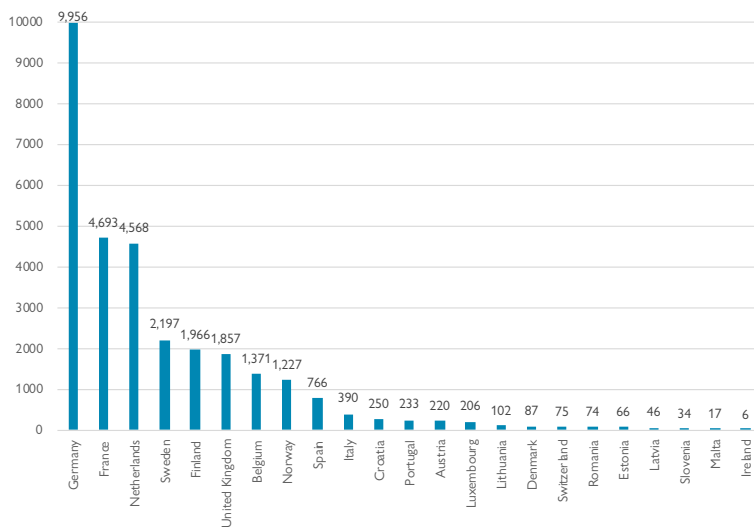
1 Data on arrivals to Cyprus in 2020 are not available at the time of closing this report.
2 Arrivals to Spain include arrivals to the Canary Islands.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU – Turkey Statement and the Eastern Mediterranean route

In response to the arrival of almost one million migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa through the Eastern Mediterranean route in the second half of 2015 and the first three months of 2016, the European Union (EU) and Turkey agreed on a plan to end irregular migration flows from Turkey to the EU on 18 March 2016. The document states that from 20 March 2016 all persons who do not have a right to international protection in Greece will be returned to Turkey, based on the Readmission Agreement from 2016 signed between the countries (the whole document is available [here](#)). At the same time, it was agreed to facilitate the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to many European countries (European Economic Area, EEA). The total number of Syrian refugees resettled so far, between April 2016 and April 2020 is 30,407. No movement took place during April 2020.

Figure 2: Number of Syrian refugees resettled from Turkey to Europe (EEA) between April 2016 and April 2020.³



A significant decrease in arrivals in Greece was observed starting from the second quarter (April–June) of 2016 until mid-2019. From the 152,617 arrivals in Greece registered in the first quarter of 2016, a drastic drop was registered in the second quarter of 2016 with 7,498 new entries by land and by sea. Arrivals in 2017 were around 8,800 each quarter on average, with the second quarter marking a record low of 6,272 new entries that year. A more sustained trend was observed over 2018, with quarterly arrivals at around 12,500 new entries on average. Arrivals registered in the first half of 2019 (18,448) were 19 per cent lower than in the first half of 2018 (22,899), but a new increase was observed during the third quarter of the year: arrivals between July and September 2019 (26,852) are higher than the totals of the first and second quarter this year (8,162 and 10,286, respectively), and the trend was confirmed in the fourth quarter (26,086). Hence, arrivals in Greece in 2019 (71,386) were higher than arrivals registered in Spain (32,513) and Italy (11,471) for the same year, and represented a 42 per cent increase for registered arrivals in the country when compared to those in 2018 (50,215).

3 The figure includes the number of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic assisted by IOM Turkey through the 1:1 resettlement scheme as well as other bilateral programs.

COVID-19 Outbreak

Since it was initially reported on 31 December 2019, the illness known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread rapidly across the globe, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 30 April, almost 3.1 million confirmed cases and about 220,000 deaths have been reported globally since the outbreak began. Confirmed cases have been reported in more than 200 countries/territories/areas, with new cases and countries reporting daily.

Global mobility remains at a temporary halt amidst the preponderance of travel restrictions worldwide. Per the UN World Travel Organization, of these travel restrictions, 83 per cent have already been imposed for four or more weeks. As of 30th of April, a total of 218 countries, territories and areas have adopted 54,379 restrictions. The adoption of new document requirements for entry, as well as medical measures such as mandatory quarantine and the possession of a medical certificate, continued to increase in the reporting period by 13 and 7 per cent respectively. While the closure of borders and suspension of air travel for passengers has been prolonged, internal restrictions continued at different paces depending on the context, with some countries beginning to ease restrictions even as others prolonged.⁴

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected global mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a global mobility restrictions database available at <https://migration.iom.int/> to map and gather data on the locations, status and different restrictions at Points of Entry (PoEs) and internal transit points, globally using a compilation of inputs from multiple sources, including from IOM staff in the field, DTM reports on flow monitoring and mobility tracking as well as from secondary sources.⁵

As reported, arrivals in Europe have registered changing trends between January and April 2020. During the last weeks of February 2020, groups of migrants have been reported to have moved from various locations in Turkey towards the country's borders with the European Union, trying to cross from Turkey to Greece especially through the north-western province of Edirne. IOM and its partners have mobilized resources to offer support and assistance to these thousands of migrants as early assessments indicate that many are very vulnerable, with the majority of them being women, children and families.

Policy and Mobility Impacts of COVID-19

Since mid-March, most countries in the Mediterranean region started to implement several measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic including but not limited to border closures and intensified controls at land and sea border points. On April 7, the Italian Ministries of Transportation, of Interior, of Health and of Foreign Affairs have signed a decree which declares that "Italian ports do not ensure the necessary requirements for the classification and definition of Place of Safety ("safe place"), pursuant to the provisions of the Convention of Hamburg (...), for the cases of casualties carried out by naval units flying a foreign flag outside the Italian SAR area" during the period of national health emergency due to COVID-19 which has been declared for 6 months on January 31.⁶ Similarly, as April 9 the Maltese Armed Forces declared⁷ the country could not allow new migrants to disembark due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

While trends on the Eastern Mediterranean route to Europe have decreased sensibly between March and April, arrivals through the Western and Central Mediterranean route have increased or kept a sustained level despite the newly imposed mobility restrictions by destination countries and due to other possible contextual factors more linked to improving weather conditions and new developments in countries of transit and departure. Overall, arrivals in Europe as of the end of April 2020 (20,299) are 14 per cent lower than those registered in the same period last year (31,881).

4 Please see the IOM's COVID-19 Response - Situation Report 13 (29 April - 1 May 2020) at: <https://migration.iom.int/reports/covid-19-response-situation-report-13-29-april-1-may-2020?close=true&covid-page=1>

5 Please see the IOM's Points Of Entry Weekly Analysis 29 April 2020 with information on restrictions to mobility at land, sea and air points of entry globally as of the end of April 2020: <https://migration.iom.int/reports/points-entry-weekly-analysis-29-april-2020?close=true&covid-page=1>

6 https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/08/news/coronavirus_sbarchi_a_lampedusa_allarme_quarantena_per_i_migranti-253444180/

7 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/malta-says-it-can-no-longer-rescue-accept-migrants/>

OVERVIEW OF ARRIVALS & REGISTERED IRREGULAR APPREHENSIONS

Figure 3: Arrivals in Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta and Bulgaria, January–April, 2017–2020

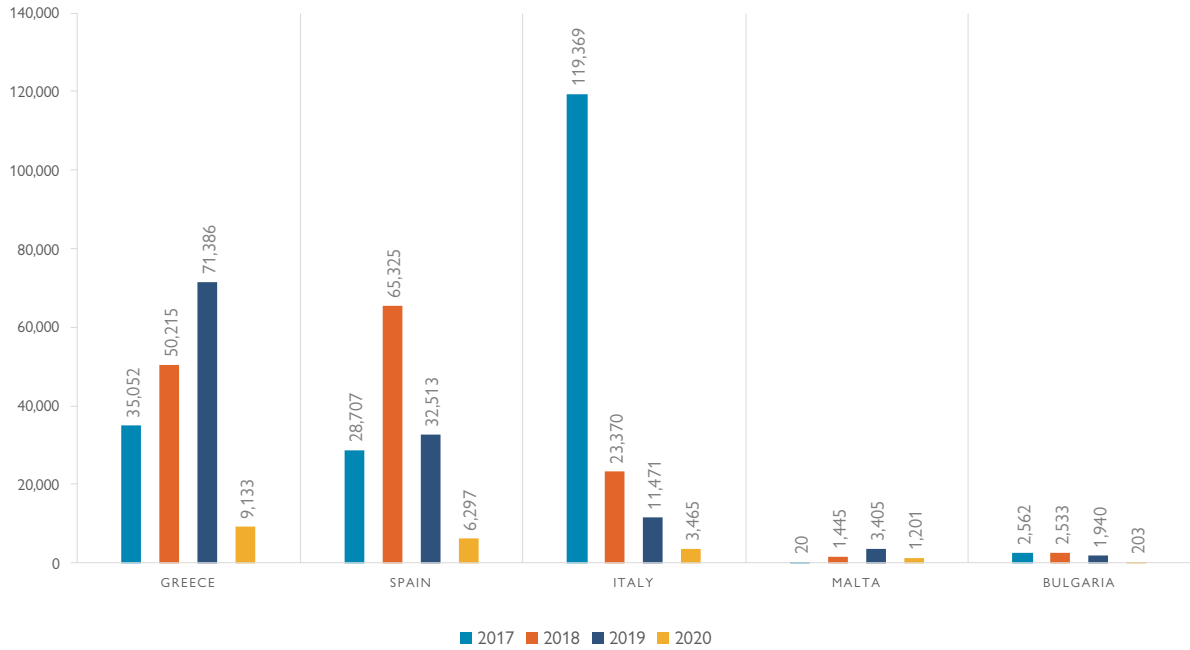
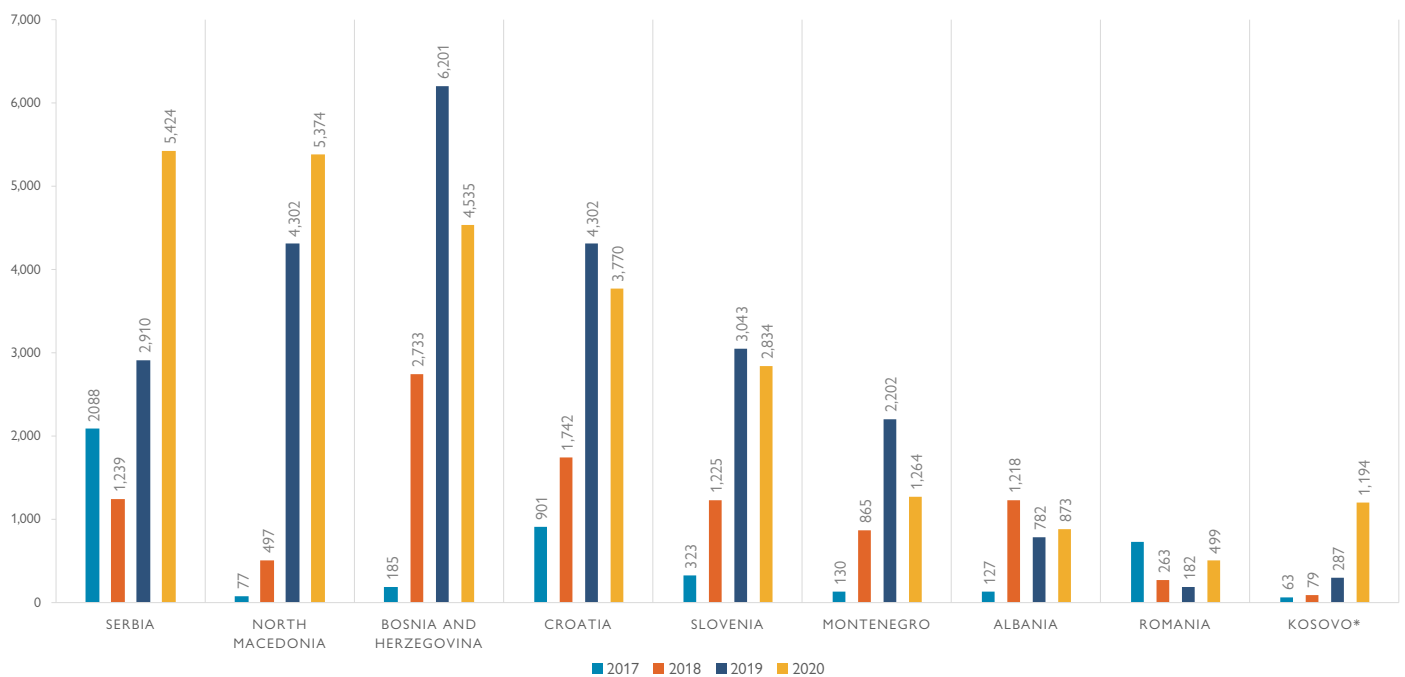


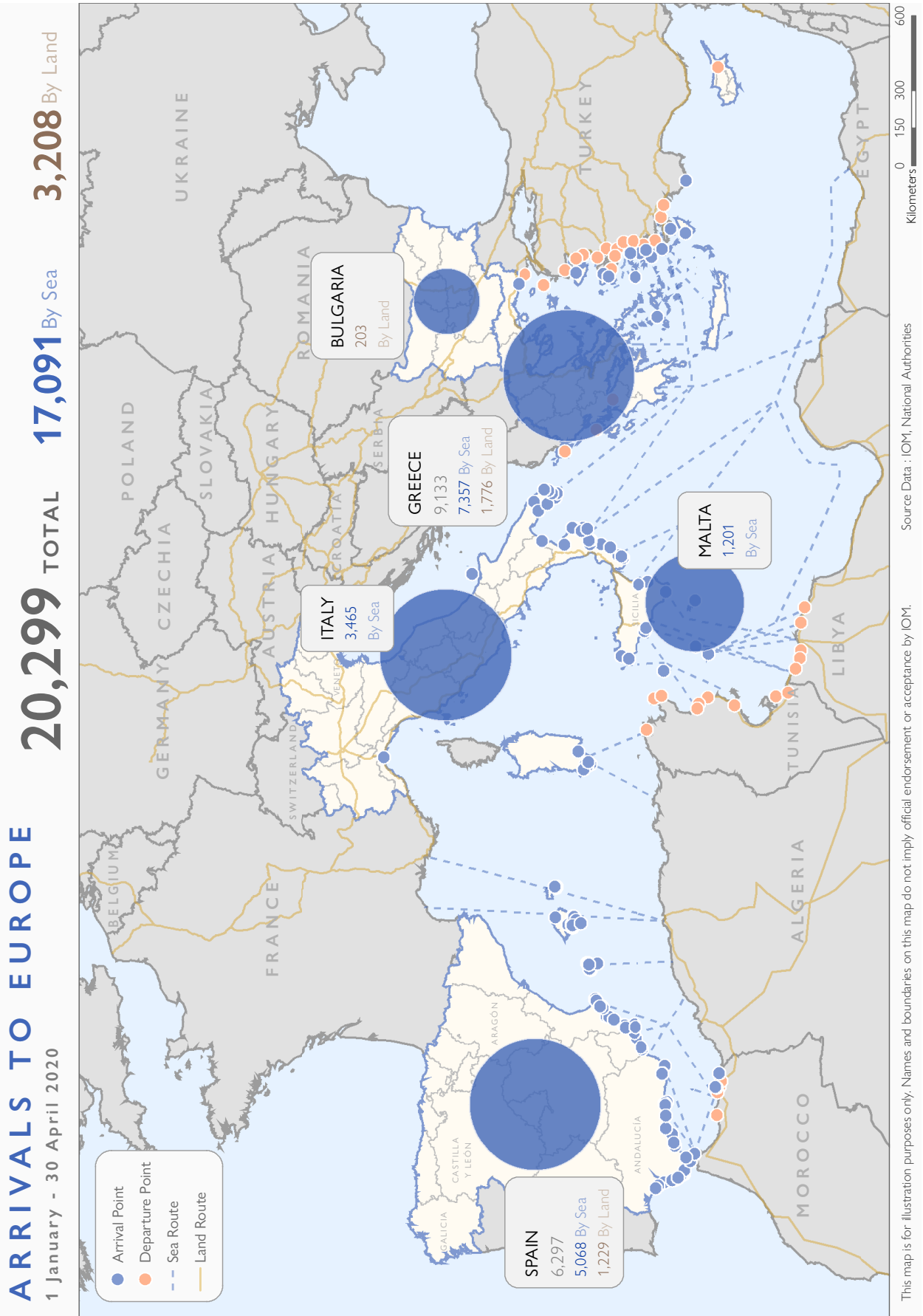
Figure 4: Registered irregular apprehensions in the Western Balkans and other transit countries/areas, January–April, 2017–2020



* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

OVERVIEW MAPS

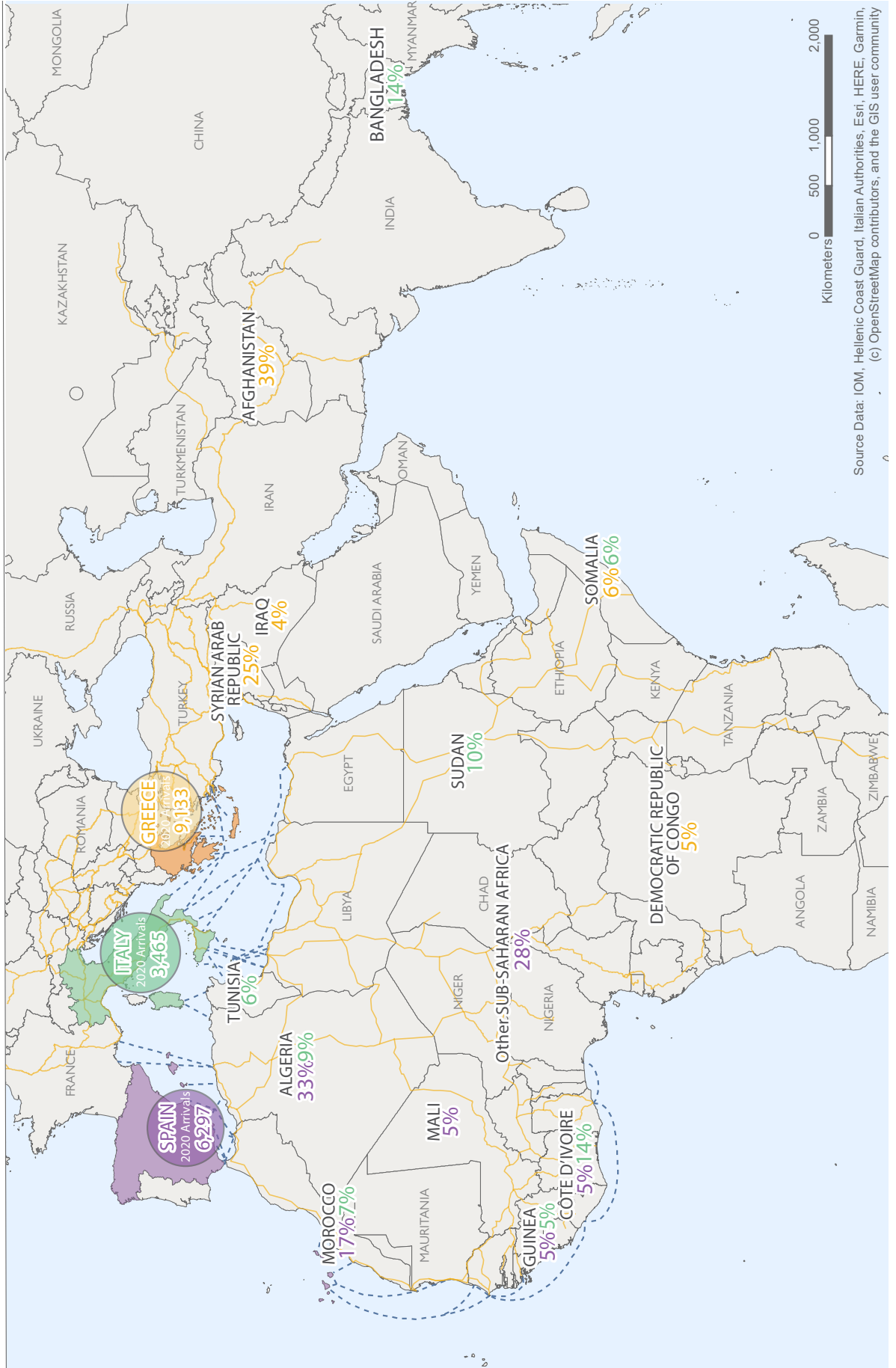
Map 1: Arrivals in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, January–April 2020



Map 2. Main countries of origin reported at arrival in Greece, Italy and Spain, January–April 2020

OVERVIEW: COUNTRIES OR AREAS OF ORIGIN

Arrivals to Greece, Italy and Spain according to available data from 01 January to 30 April 2020



* Note: Nationality data for Spain are available only for the period January–February 2020.

Map 3: Presence of migrants and asylum seekers in reception in the region as of the end of April 2020

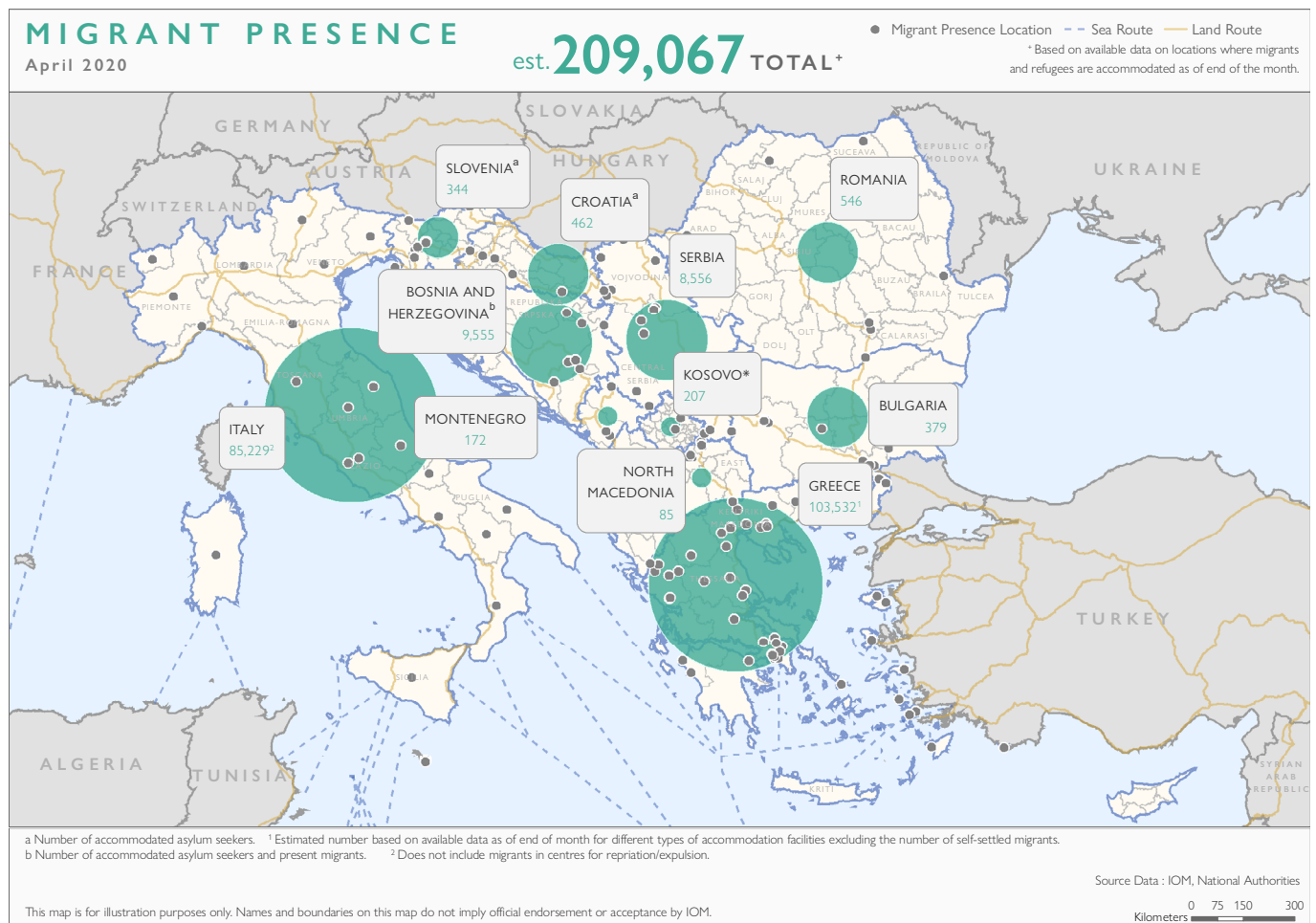


Table 1: Presence of migrants and asylum seekers in reception as of the end of April, comparison 2018–2020

Country	Apr-17	Apr-19	Apr-20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	N/A	5,974	9,555
Bulgaria	946	521	379
Croatia ^[2]	378	210	462
Cyprus	N/A	223	N/A
Greece ^[1]	56,549	67,409	103,532
Italy	171,379	118,533	85,229
Montenegro	N/A	370	172
North Macedonia	73	88	85
Romania	457	349	546
Serbia	3,408	3,587	8,556
Slovenia ^[2]	260	580	344
Kosovo*	N/A	101	207

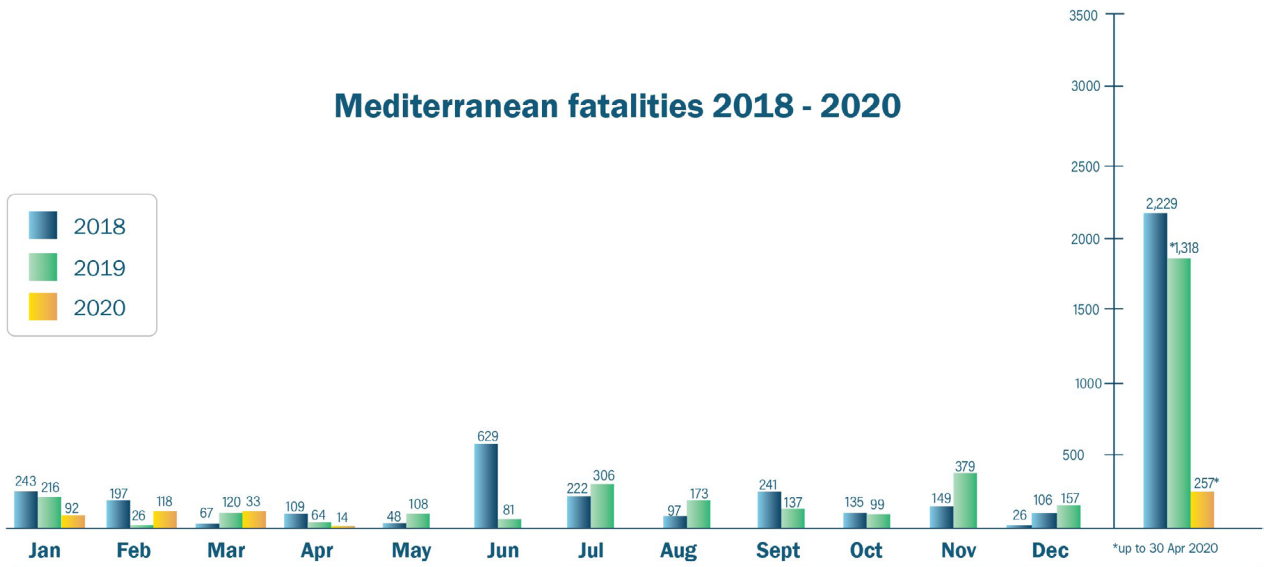
[1] Data for Greece excludes self-settled migrants and asylum seekers.

[2] Data for Slovenia and Croatia includes number of asylum seekers only.

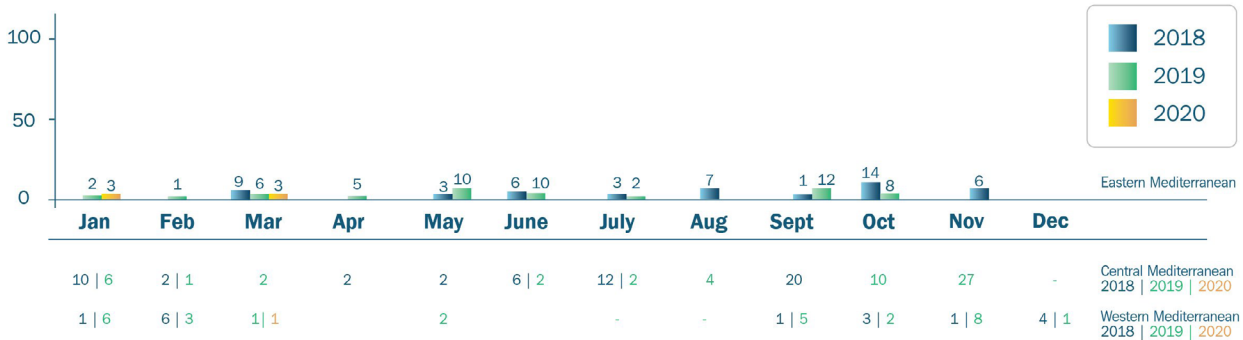
Map 4: Missing Migrants: Fatalities/Missing in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas.



Mediterranean fatalities 2018 - 2020



Child fatalities in the Mediterranean 2018 - 2020



*Data for child fatalities on the Central Mediterranean route is incomplete as most bodies are never recovered. The true number is not known. Map is for illustrative purpose. Boundaries and names used and designations shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

ABOUT

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a suite of tools and methodologies designed to track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts in a continuous manner; to provide critical information to decision-makers and responders during crises, and contribute to better understanding of population flows. Firstly conceptualized in 2004 to monitor internal displacement in Iraq, it has since been adapted for implementation in over 60 countries, including in contexts of conflict, natural disaster, complex emergencies and protracted crises. More information about the Methodological Framework in DTM operations can be found on the global.displacement.iom.int.

DTM Europe

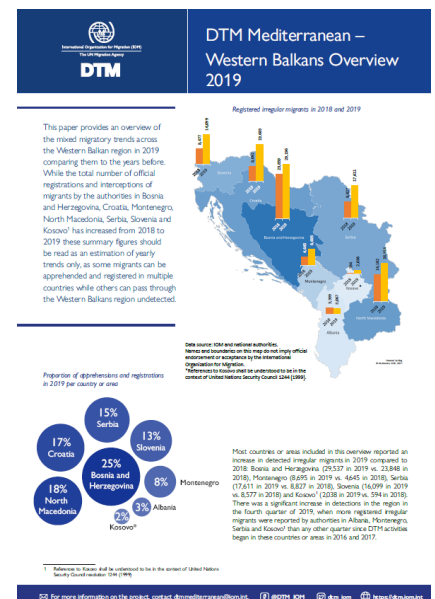
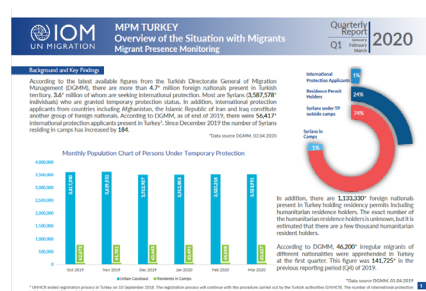
In 2015, DTM established a Flow Monitoring System to gather and disseminate information about the migrant populations moving through the Mediterranean, up the Western Balkan Route and through the Northern Route into Europe. This includes monthly flows compilation reports, quarterly regional overviews and datasets on migration flows in countries of first arrival and other countries along the route in Europe. All data is collated by IOM through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces and other relevant national authorities, and it is displayed and regularly updated on the IOM's Flow Monitoring Europe Geoportals.

The DTM system also includes flow monitoring surveys to capture additional and more in-depth data on the people on the move, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, key transit points on their route, motives and intentions. The questionnaire also has a module with a set of questions on human trafficking, exploitative practices and abuse, including two indicators on sexual and physical violence. The analyses of data collected since 2015 is also available on the Flow Monitoring Europe Geoportals.

[Europe — Mixed Migration Flows to Europe, Quarterly Overview \(January - March 2020\)](#)

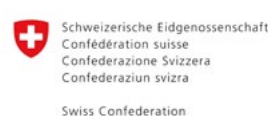
[Turkey — Quarterly Migration Report \(January-March 2020\)](#)

[DTM Mediterranean — Western Balkans Overview 2019](#)



Information contained in this document has been received from a variety of sources including: national authorities, national and international organizations as well as media reports. Specific sources are not named in the report. The information collected has been triangulated through various sources in efforts to ensure accuracy of the content, and where information has not been confirmed, this has been noted in the report.

Data collection activities in Turkey supported by:



Data collection activities supported by:



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