

Summary of key activities and findings

January – December 2021



Migrants stranded in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021 / IOM BiH

DTM Europe team operates out of Vienna and Geneva to oversee, coordinate and support DTM activities in several European Union (EU) and non-EU countries in the region: Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244).¹

In 2021, the DTM Europe team in cooperation with IOM missions and national authorities gathered, processed, and disseminated statistical data on new arrivals to Europe, the locations and occupancies of reception centres, and transit flows from approximately 401 entry, exit and transit flow monitoring points. Moreover, DTM Europe, in coordination with IOM Country Offices in the European Economic Area (EEA) and South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia (SEECA) regions, continued to be part of a global exercise rolled out by IOM, to track, map and gather data on restrictive measures imposed after the COVID-19 outbreak.

All analyses and datasets based on DTM Flow Monitoring data – including *Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean - Compilation of Available Data and Information* reports – were made available on a quarterly basis and can be downloaded on [DTM Europe Geoportals](#).

Additionally, to gain insight into the profile of arriving migrants and their experiences during the journey to Europe, DTM Mediterranean team carried out 862 Flow Monitoring Surveys with migrants and refugees through a network of 26 data collectors in 30 monitoring points located

on entry, transit and exit locations in Spain and Bosnia and Herzegovina.²

DTM data has been widely used including by the media, academia, UN agencies and other counterparts to raise awareness, inform public debate and policy, and feed into specialized publication on the topic. As in the previous years, the 2020 edition of the [Refugees and Migrant Children in Europe – Overview of Trends](#) was jointly published by IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF, presenting an insight into the profiles and situations of unaccompanied and separated children in the region.

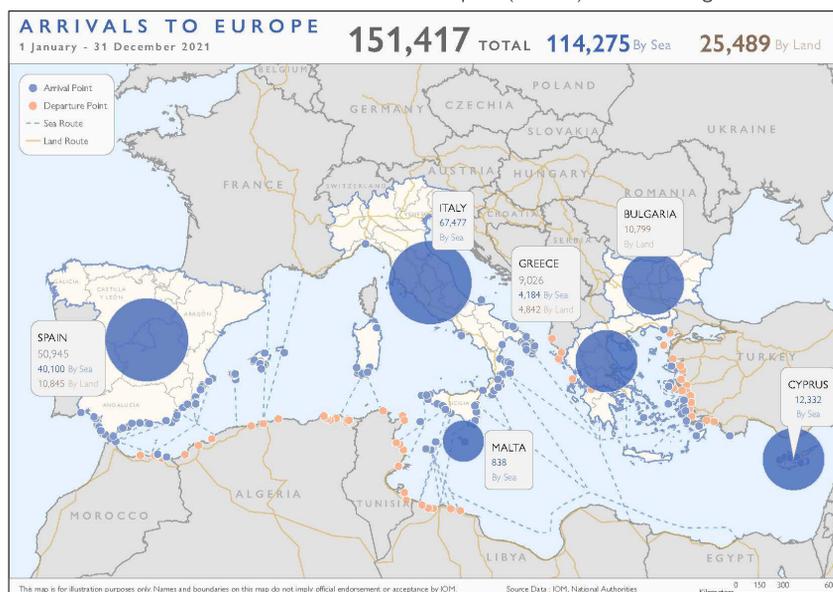
DTM Mediterranean – Overview on first arrival countries

In 2021, a total of 151,417 migrants and refugees arrived in Europe by sea and by land through the Eastern (EMR), Central

(CMR) and Western (WMR) Mediterranean routes and through the Western African Atlantic route (WAAR).

This is 55 per cent more than the 99,907 arrivals registered in 2020, and 18 per cent less than the 128,663 of 2019. Arrivals in Q4 of 2021 (47,405) are 26 per cent higher than those of Q4 of 2021 (37,514). The increase observed between 2020 and 2021 coincides with the ease of travel and mobility restrictions previously imposed by authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19, and with changing dynamics observed in of the main countries of origin and transit.

In 2021, the CMR registered the highest share (45%) of all arrivals to Europe by land and by sea, with 67,477 arrivals in Italy and 838 in Malta. Another 34 per cent of registered individuals arrived in Spain (50,945) either through the WMR




10,043 UASC⁶ arrived in Italy in 2021

12,284 UASC accommodated in Italy and 2,225 UASC accommodated by EKKA⁷ Greece as of 31 December 2021

More than 131,000 migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in Italy, Greece and the Western Balkans


2,048 deaths recorded in the Mediterranean and 1,176 in the Western African Atlantic in 2021 by IOM's Missing Migrant Project

(28,629) or through the WAAR (22,316). Finally, the EMR represented 21 per cent of all registered arrivals in 2021 with 12,332 persons reported in Cyprus, 10,799 in Bulgaria and 9,026 in Greece.

The CMR was the most frequently used in each quarter of 2021 and arrivals to Italy almost doubled compared to those registered in 2020 (34,154), while those to Malta decreased by 63 per cent compared to the 2,281 registered in 2020. Arrivals to Spain, which represented the largest share of arrivals to Europe in 2020, also increased by 22 per cent yearly compared to the 41,861 in 2020: this includes a sharp increase of land arrivals registered to the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla (6 times of those registered in 2020), a slight increase of sea arrivals to the peninsular coasts and Balearic Islands (+4%) and a small decrease of arrivals to the Canary Islands (-3%). Along the EMR, increasing trends have been observed in Cyprus, with tripled reported arrivals compared to 2020, and in Bulgaria, where registrations reported in 2021 were the highest of the past 5 years. On the contrary, arrivals to Greece decreased for the second year in a row, with 2021 arrivals being 39 per cent less than those reported in 2020 (14,785).

According to the available data from national authorities,³ Tunisia was the most frequent country of origin of migrants registered at arrival in Europe in 2021, representing 13 per cent of the total and being mostly registered in Italy (99%). Other main countries of were Morocco (84% of them being registered in Spain, and 14% of them in Italy), Algeria (87% in Spain, 13% in Italy), Afghanistan (69% in Bulgaria, 20% in Italy, 11% in Greece) and Egypt (97% in Italy).

At the end of 2021, an estimated 131,281 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different facilities in Italy, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.¹ Among countries covered by DTM Europe, no data is available on migrants' reception in Spain, Malta and Albania. The migrant presence estimated at the end of 2021 is 27 per cent lower than the 181,036 recorded at the end of 2020.

Overview DTM Western Balkans

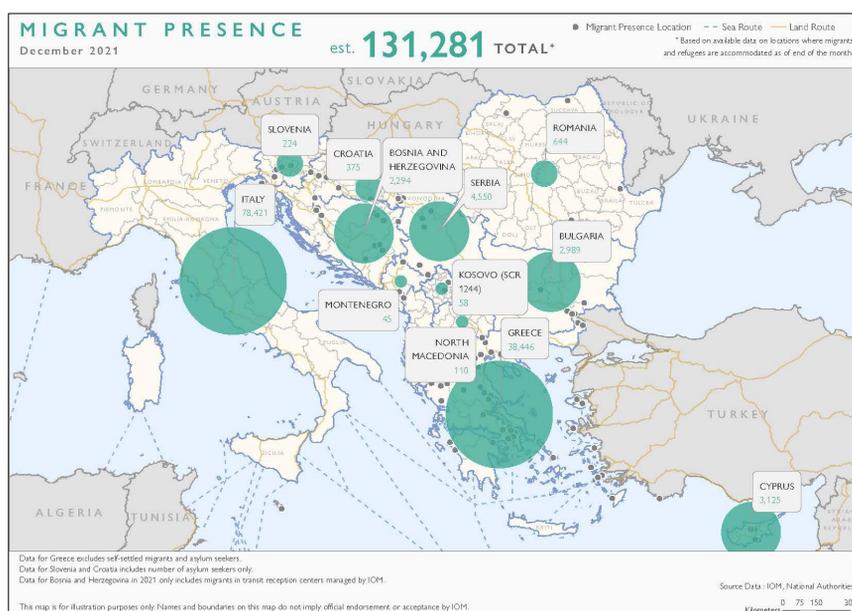
The number of migrants and refugees transiting through the Western Balkans⁴ decreased slightly in 2021 compared to 2020. In 2021, a total of 138,876 registrations of migrants and refugees were reported in the Western Balkan region, which is 7 per cent less than the 148,668 registrations of migrants in 2020. Trends vary across different countries in the region, pointing to a diversification of routes for migrants and refugees that travel by land towards central and northern Europe.

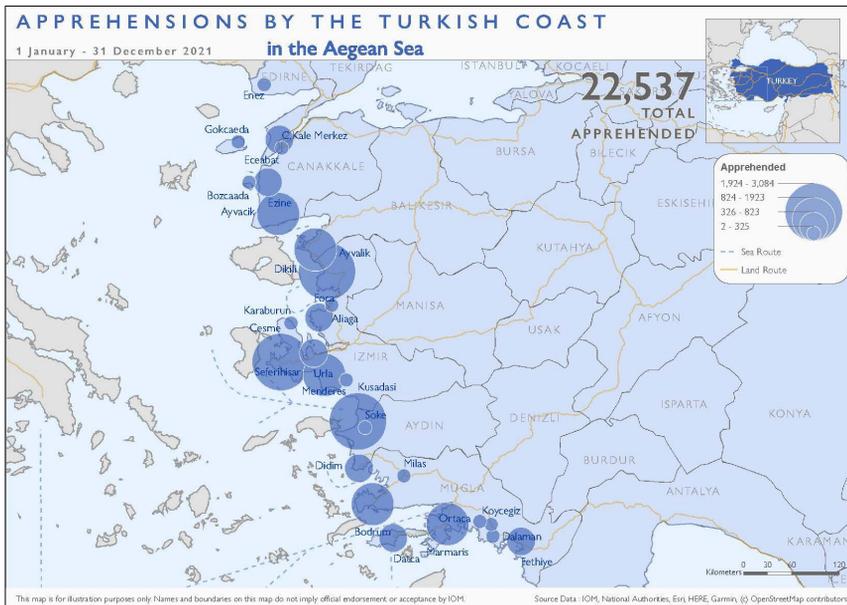
Registrations of new arrivals in Serbia increased by 60 per cent yearly, from 39,648 in 2020 to 63,535 in 2021. An increase in arrivals was also reported among registrations in Romania (+36%, 2,816 in 2021), Slovenia (+17%, up to 16,489 in 2021), Montenegro (+11%, 3,336 in 2021). On the other hand, authorities in North Macedonia, Croatia and Kosovo¹ registered substantial

decreases in registrations of migrants at entry in 2021 compared to 2020: North Macedonia (-53%), Croatia (-40%), Kosovo (-50%). Registrations were quite stable in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 15,740 new arrivals reported in 2021 (-3% compared to 2020).

Overall, Afghanistan was the most frequently reported nationality of migrants transiting through the Western Balkans in 2021,⁵ with most of them being registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia. The second most reported national group was that of Pakistan, followed by nationals from the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and India.

At the end of December of 2021 an estimated 7,925 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different reception facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo.¹ This is 61 per cent less than the 20,402 recorded at the end of December 2020. The largest share (57%) of registered migrants was accommodated in reception facilities in Serbia, followed by those in reception in Bosnia and Herzegovina (29%). Additionally, in 2021 DTM implemented several rounds of data collection in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo¹ to estimate the number of migrants residing outside formal reception facilities: during the last round in December 2021, 498 migrants were found to be residing in 85 different locations, informal settlements outside the formal reception system (81% of the observed migrants were in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)).





Turkey

According to the latest [available data](#) from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM),⁸ there were more than 5 million foreign nationals present in the Turkish territory at the end of 2021, 3.7 million of whom were seeking international protection. Most of them (3,737,369) were Syrian nationals, followed by nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq. In addition, there are 1,314,181 foreign nationals present in Turkey holding residency permits. This includes humanitarian residence holders, whose exact number is unknown, but it is estimated to be of a few thousand.

According to DGMM, 162,996 irregular migrants and 7,918 migrant smugglers were recorded in 2021, apprehended on various locations inside Turkey. In 2020, there were 122,302 for irregular migrants and 4,282 for migrant smugglers. Main nationalities of apprehended migrants in 2021 were Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Pakistan. According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG), 23,676 irregular migrants were apprehended at sea and 15 fatalities were registered in 2021. This represents an increase of 3,296 apprehended persons on sea by TCG compared to previous year (+16%). The top nationalities of apprehended persons at sea were Afghanistan, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Palestinian Territories, and Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the Turkish Armed Forces' (TAF), in 2021 74,146 persons were intercepted trying to enter Turkey irregularly, while 3,897 were intercepted trying to exit Turkey.

In 2021, 4,037 Syrians were resettled with the assistance of IOM from Turkey to the EU according to One-to-One mechanism established by the EU-Turkey agreement entered into force since March 2016.

Ukraine

According to the information from the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) of Ukraine, in July 2021 (latest available data) there were 1,473,650 internally displaced persons (IDPs), that is individuals who have left their homes and moved to a different area and/or region of Ukraine. This represents a slight increase compared to the 1,464,628 reported in the previous reporting period (April 2021) and to the same period last year (1,446,881 at the end of April 2020).

The IOM's National Monitoring System Report (NMS) conducted the 19th Round of data collection between December 2020 and March 2021.

Due to COVID-19 preventive measures in place, the fieldwork was carried out via phone: 2,403 IDPs were interviewed via telephone in 300 randomly selected territorial units in the country; 3,753 IDPs and NGCA returnees were surveyed using the telephone-based survey tool; five online focus group discussions were held with key informants, IDPs and NGCA returnees.

Afghans in Europe

In 2021, 1,082 arrivals by sea of Afghan nationals were recorded in Greece, 2,183 Afghans landed on southern Italian coasts and 7,435 Afghans were recorded at entry or exit by the Bulgarian authorities. Overall, this represents a 64 per cent increase compared to the number of migrants from Afghanistan registered by the three countries together in 2020. Additionally, increasing transits and apprehensions of migrants from Afghanistan were registered by Western Balkan countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5,364 Afghans were registered at entry in 2021, which is 18 per cent more than those registered in 2020 (4,533). In Serbia, nationality disaggregated data are not available for the period January-July 2021 and are partial for August and September. According to these data, 4,633 Afghan nationals were registered since the end of July. In North Macedonia, 3,882 Afghan national were registered at entry in 2021, which is 71 per cent more than those registered in 2020. Other transit countries which registered arrivals of Afghan nationals in 2021 were: Croatia (4,834), Slovenia (4,763), Montenegro (1,933), Romania (1,395), and Kosovo¹ (85).

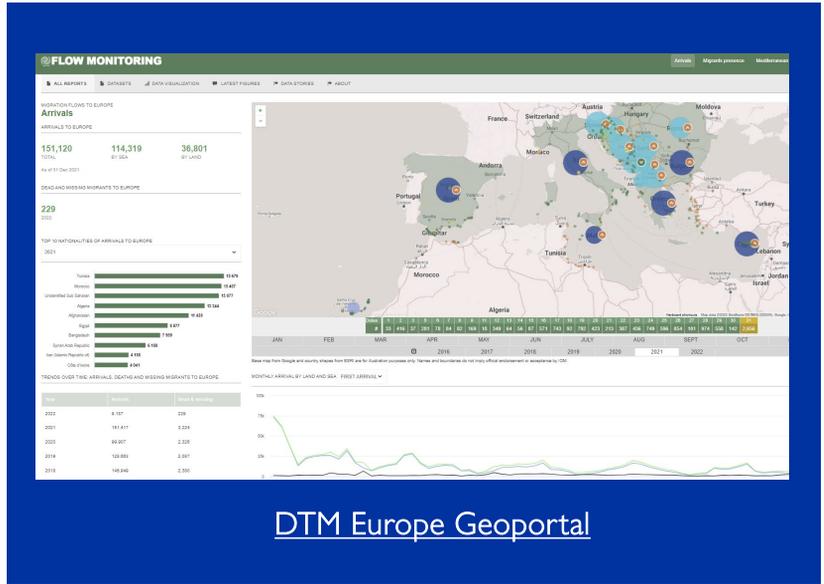
Trends in Transits of Afghan nationals in the Western Balkans, 2017-2021

Transit countries	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2021/2020*
Albania	na	59	301	544	na	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	85	2,764	4,119	4,533	5,364	18%
Croatia	905	1,633	3,298	8,455	4,834	-43%
Montenegro	43	50	371	883	1,933	119%
North Macedonia	na	327	585	2,276	3,882	71%
Romania	na	na	97	293	1,395	376%
Serbia	na	1,640	6,245	5,187	4,633	-11%
Slovenia	431	892	1,660	2,893	4,763	65%
Kosovo (SCR 1244) ¹	43	4	49	88	85	-3%

Points of Entry (PoE)

The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global and regional mobility in the form of various travel disruptions, restrictions, and blockages. To better understand how COVID-19 affects global mobility, IOM has developed a global mobility database to gather, map and track data on the imposed restrictive measures impacting human mobility, at global, regional and country level. Subsequently, IOM has initiated the following Mobility Restriction Mapping including the COVID-19 Country Points of Entry (PoE) Status Baseline Assessment. The PoE Baseline Assessment activities collect updates on mobility restrictions imposed at location level (airport, land border points, blue border points, and internal transit points). For each point of entry, data is collected on type of restriction, measures applied, and population category that might be affected from the imposed measures.

As of the end of 2021, a total of 1,010 PoEs were assessed in 19 countries/territories/areas in the SEECA region, and 942 additional PoEs were assessed in 30 countries/territories/areas in the EEA region. IOM Country Offices cross regions contributed regularly with inputs. Throughout 2021, DTM Europe in cooperation with IOM's Country Offices in the SEECA and the EEA regions disseminated statistical reports on operational status of the assessed PoEs including mobility restriction imposed at the country level. All published COVID-19 related reports and analysis on the global PoE Baseline Assessment are available for download on the [IOM Migration Portal – COVID-19 Mobility Impacts](#).



DTM Europe Geoportal

Sources and Disclaimer

All data are collated by IOM's DTM Europe from national authorities and IOM's Missions in SEECA and EEA countries. As such, they are subject to revision and consolidation. All reported data are updated as of 31 January 2022.

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- ¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
- ² Data collection was conducted only in 2 countries due both to available resources and to security and mobility restrictions related to COVID-19 implemented by various countries.
- ³ Data disaggregated by nationality are not available for Cyprus.
- ⁶ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244).
- ⁷ It is worth noting that nationality data were not available for 58 per cent of all registrations in Serbia, and hence for approximately 39 per cent of all migrants and refugees registered in the region.
- ⁸ Unaccompanied and Separated Children.
- ⁹ Greek National Centre for Social Solidarity – Unaccompanied Children.
- ¹⁰ All figures refer to DGMM data as of 31.12.2021.

Information products



Inter-Agency Children 2021: Europe – Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe



Europe – Mixed Migration Quarterly (Q3) 2021 Report



Turkey – Migrant Presence Monitoring Yearly Report (2021)



Europe – Women and Girls on the Move to Europe – Flow Monitoring Surveys (2018–2020)