

MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE THE MEDITERRANEAN DIGEST

381,307 Total Arrivals **357,249** Total by Sea **24,058** Total by Land **4,812** Dead/ Missing

EUROPE—COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVALⁱ

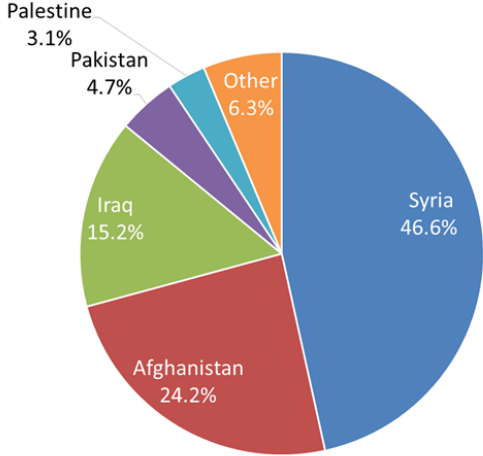
Looking across Europe, arrivals to Greece and Italy alone account for **93%** of the 381,307 arrivals in 2016 (as of 14 December 2016). Congruently, nearly all new arrivals in 2016 have come to Europe by sea (**93.6%**). Just 6.3% (24,058) of migrants in 2016 have entered Europe by land, through Bulgaria, Greece and Spain. **Importantly, arrivals to Italy outstripped arrivals to Greece this year.**

IN 2016, THE LANDSCAPE OF MIGRANTS CHANGED

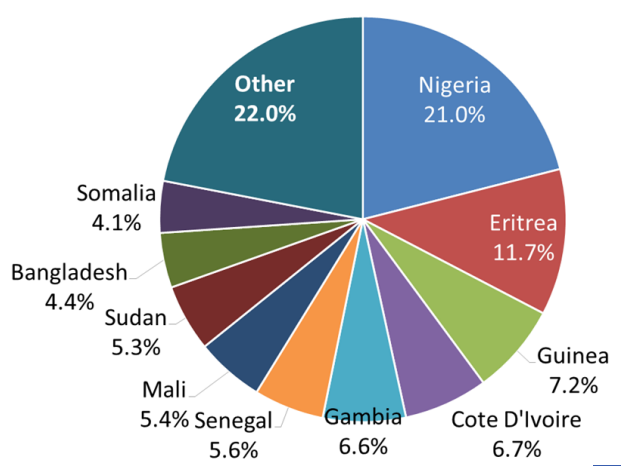
Looking at the cumulative the arrivals to Europe, the number of migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan is *decreased* and the number of migrants from Africa, particularly Nigeria and Eritrea, *increased*. At the end of May, migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan made up 68.5% of total arrivals, but by the end of November that fraction had dropped to just 42.8% , with an increasing share of arrivals being represented by Nigerians (10.6%) and Eritreans (5.9%). **The change in nationalities, reflects the changing port of arrival, as noted above—while Greece received more migrants from Syria (46.6%), Afghanistan (24.2%) and Iraq (15.2%), Italy received a much greater variety of nationalities, led by Nigerians (21.0%), Eritreans (11.7%), Guineans (7.2%) and other countries.**

These changes are closely linked with the closure of the Western Balkan route in March 2016 and to the EU-Turkey agreement (18 March) - which has resulted in an evident decrease in the arrivals to Greece.

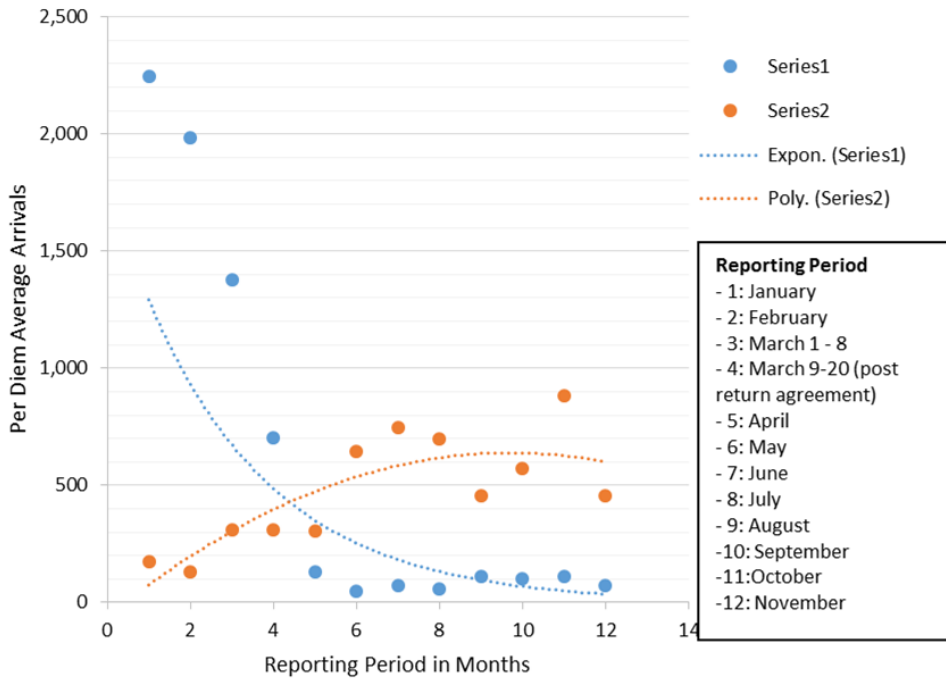
Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Greece
Jan - Nov 2016



Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Italy
Jan - Nov 2016



Per Diem Average Arrivals in Greece and Italy



SHIFTING FOCUS TO ITALY

In January (2016) and before the EU – Turkey agreement of March 18 – more migrants were arriving to Greece. Following that development, new arrivals to Greece have decreased dramatically, while there has been sustained pressure in new arrivals to Italy (see: Per diem Arrivals in Greece and Italy). As of 13 December more new migrants had arrived to Italy than Greece - there were 177,529 cumulative arrivals to Italy and 175,666 arrivals to Greece—a marked shift away from 2015 trends.

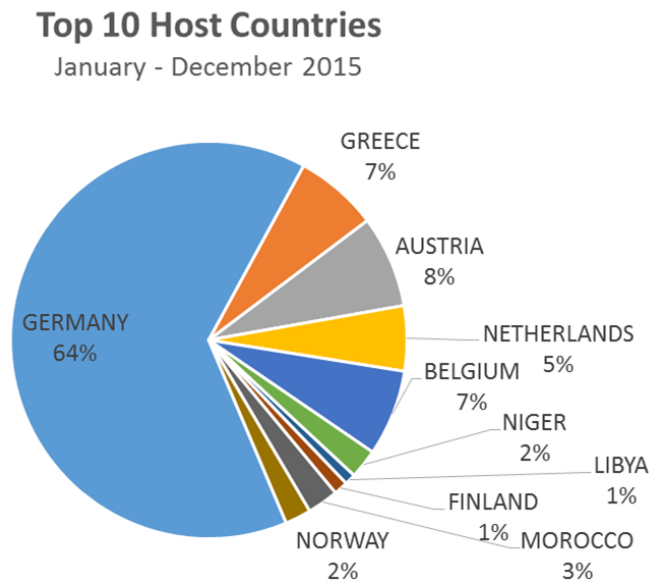
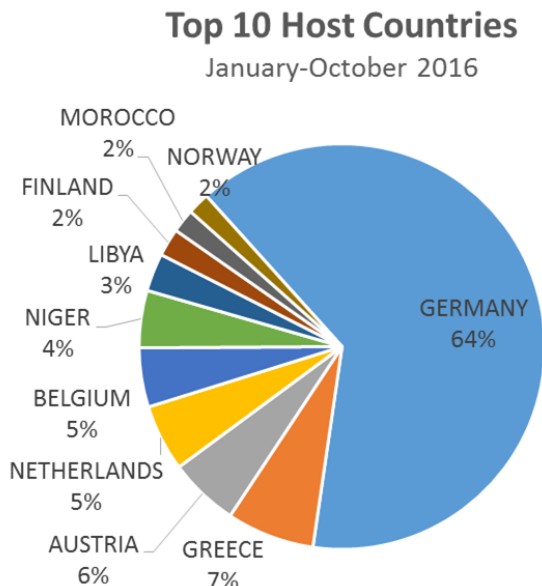
Indeed, Italy saw a 115% increase in cumulative arrivals from 2015 (177,729 in 2016 versus 153,842 in 2015), while Greece saw 83% decrease in cumulative arrivals from 2015 (175,666 arrivals in 2016 versus 1,033,029 in 2015).

Indeed, average daily arrivals to Greece have bottomed out dramatically, but there is significant number of stranded migrants in Greece (around 62,445), needs remain high and the situation could potentially deteriorate in light of approaching winter season.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: VOLUNTARY RETURNS IN 2016

From 1 January to 31 October 2016, IOM provided AVRR assistance for some 83,847 migrants choosing to leave their current host countries and return to their countries of origin. Herein, we consider only IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return operations, which exclude other return activities such as humanitarian evacuations as well as Dublin return movements conducted by states. Included below are countries of principal relevance to Mediterranean migration specifically European Economic area (EEA) and Balkan Countries as well as Libya, Turkey and Niger.

Across the before-mentioned EU and non-EU states, there is a clear trend of increased Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) (see: AVR by month – cumulative). Indeed, AVR for 2016 has outstripped returns for 2015 (55,851 voluntary returns in 2015 in the EEA alone and 69,540 in total). Trends for Host countries in 2016 closely mimic those seen in 2015, with Germany, Greece and Austria as leading nations.

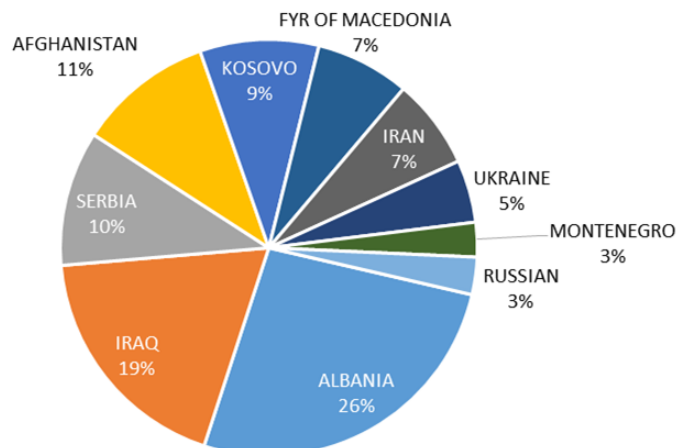


AVRR CONTINUED

In 2016, the majority of returnees departed from Germany—as was the case in 2015. When looking specifically at cumulative assisted voluntary returns, over the current period, in the EEA as well as Turkey, the FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Libya, we see returnees are mainly headed towards Albania (26%), Iraq (19%), Serbia (10%), and Afghanistan (11%) - as in the previous reporting period (See: Cumulative Assisted Voluntary Returns by Country of origin (2016)).

Top 10 Countries of Return

Jan - Oct 2016



MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: RELOCATIONS AND THE EU-TURKEY AGREEMENT— REDISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ACROSS EUROPE

777 migrants and refugees mainly from Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan, Algeria and Bangladesh have been **readmitted** to Turkey from Greece (as of 12 December). Moreover, **9,284** Syrian refugees have departed under resettlement and family reunification programs from Turkey since April 2016 and the start of the EU-Turkey agreement. This number includes **3,738** to the following European countries: 5 to Austria, 98 to Belgium, 71 to Denmark, 11 to Estonia, 143 to Finland, 423 to France, 1,060 to Germany, 81 to Italy, 6 to Latvia, 25 to Lithuania, 52 to Luxembourg, 429 to the Netherlands, 260 to Norway, 12 to Portugal, 57 to Spain, 369 to Sweden, 27 to Switzerland and 609 to the UK. These numbers include the caseload from the 1:1 resettlement scheme under the EU-Turkey agreement as well as other bilateral resettlement programmes.

Furthermore, **8,796** migrants (**6,467** from Greece and **2,329** from Italy) have been **relocated** (as of 14 December 2016). Accounting for 2,5% of new arrivals to Greece and Italy in 2016. These beneficiaries have been relocated to France (29%), Netherlands (14%), Finland (10%), and Germany (10%). According to the Decisions 2015/1601 and 2016/1754, European Council sought to relocate 106,000 asylum seekers out from Italy and Greece over two years (2015-17). After one year of implementation, relocation movements under the scheme have managed to move 8.2% of the total 106,000 proposed.

TENSIONS ON THE RISE - THREE DEATHS COUNTED IN GREECE AND SERBIA

Serbia - On 21 November, a fight between two groups of migrants started in Belgrade's city center, Kamenicka street. During the clash, migrants used knives which lead to a death of one migrant and two being seriously injured. The deceased, 26 years old Afghan national passed away after being transported to the local hospital. The police arrested five suspects, Afghan and Pakistani nationals in possession of knives. Arrested migrants are kept in custody and charged with murder. Reasons for the fight are still not known. Three days later, on 24 November, in the Adasevci reception center close to the border with Croatia, a young (23 years old) Afghan national committed suicide. His body was found behind the reception center in the nearby forest. Media informed that the migrant was travelling without family. Friends of the deceased reported that he was trying to cross the border to Hungary many times, without any success. Police is conducting an investigation and the corpse has been sent to autopsy. This caused a short protest by his friends who requested the body of deceased to be decently buried.

Greece - On the same day (24 November), a fire broke out in Moria hotspot, on the island of Lesbos causing the death of two more migrants - an old woman (60-66 years old) and her young grandchild (5 - 6 years old). Both victims were Iraqi Kurds, held for processing at Moria camp for the past four months. A young woman, aged 24, and her toddler son, possibly relatives to the two victims, were airlifted to Athens after suffering extensive burns in the blaze. Both are in critical condition. According to media reports, the fire began after a gas heater (migrants are using for cooking) exploded inside one of the tents. At the time of the accident, more than 6,000 migrants were accommodated in the camp with the capacity of 2,500. More migrants with respiratory problems and burns were transported to the hospital in island's capital, Mytilene.

RIOTS CONTINUE IN BULGARIA

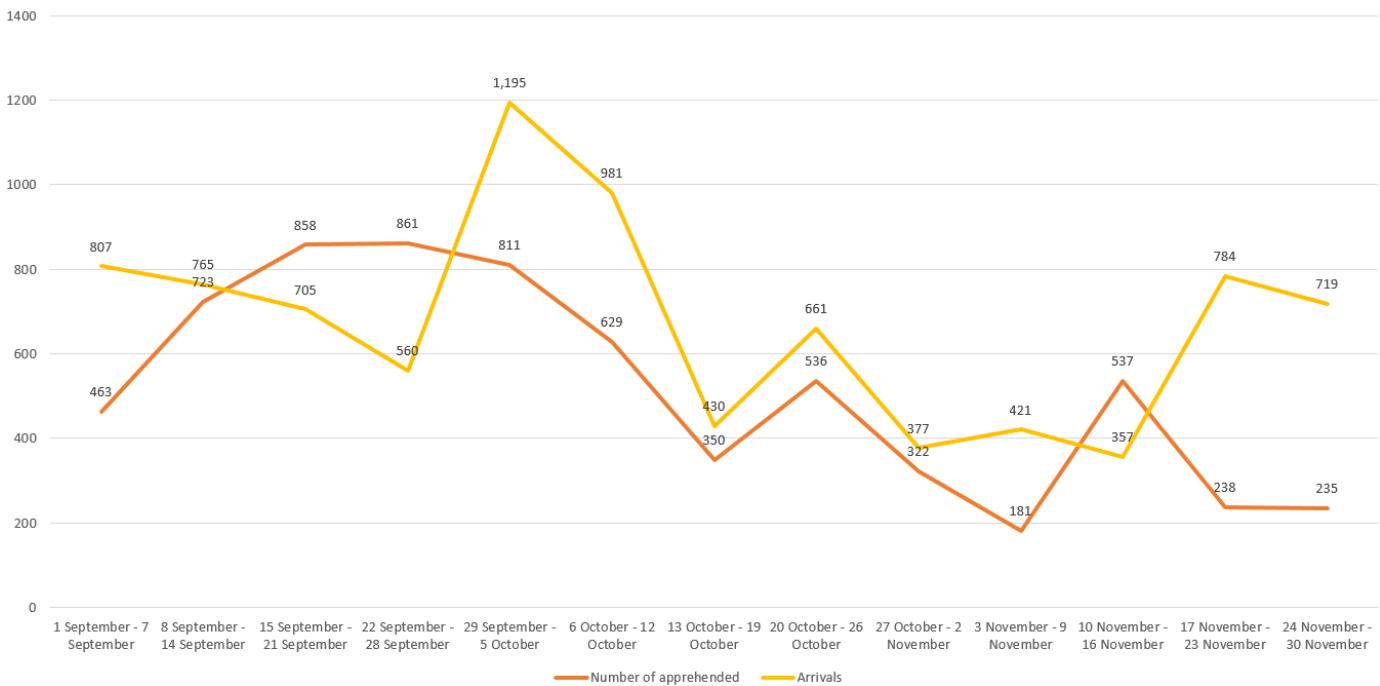
IOM Bulgaria - At noon, on 24 November, a mass riot started in Harmanli, the biggest reception center in Bulgaria. More than 1,000 migrants, mostly Afghan and Pakistani nationals, were reported to participate in the riot which started as a fight between different groups of migrants, and ended as a conflict with the police who has deployed water cannons and rubber bullets to control protesting group in the reception center. 29 police officers were injured during the incident and 400 Afghan migrants have been arrested and taken into custody. At that time, approximately 3,700 migrants were accommodated in the center that has official capacity for 2,710. Around 2,000 of all migrants in the center were reported to be Afghan nationals. Tensions inside the center are on rise for the long time due to bad conditions. Migrants are complaining about the insufficient and poor diet, lack of medical assistance and overcrowded rooms. Few days before the riot, center was closed because of the health inspection which was initiated after few cases of leishmaniasis (skin disease spread by the bite of certain types of sandflies) have been reported. Video and few photographs of the riot are available [here](#).

TURKEY

Turkey is hosting around 3.1 million people, the majority (90%) of which are Syrian. Most Syrians are living in urban settings (72%) in many locations across Turkey. Aside from Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans make up the next largest groups of asylum seekers (4% and 3.8%, respectively). Additionally, some **422,895** foreigners hold residence permits in Turkey of these, several thousand hold humanitarian residence permits, and are thought to be largely Iraqi. In addition to this, Turkey has received 285,770 asylum applications — an increase of 14,779 applications, for this year alone (as of 30 November 2016).

Since the beginning of the year, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) has apprehended and rescued some **36,649** irregular migrants— however, actual numbers of migrants/ refugees departing Turkey are probably much higher. Please see below the graph with weekly apprehensions compared to weekly arrivals to Greece for the previous three months. Since January, the TCG has recorded **187** fatalities.

Weekly Arrivals to Greece compared to Weekly Apprehensions by Turkish Coast Guard



BEYOND THE MEDITERRANEAN

NIGER, NIGERIA AND THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: A TREACHEROUS JOURNEY

The cities of Séguédine and Arlit, **Niger**, have recorded a net decrease in migrants, owing to more government controls to curb both smuggling and illegal migration. The government of Niger has introduced both more stringent document control as well as vehicle search/ seizure and punitive action for those caught smuggling. During the month of November, we have seen a **88%** decrease in NET outgoing migration - 12,654 compared to 1,525 previous month. Importantly, these measures are thought to push migrants to take alternative more dangerous routes, rather than to curb migration. More information can be found [here](#).

Last results from the [FMS survey](#) revealed that 76% of individuals interviewed along the Central Mediterranean route (in Italy) responded positively to at least one trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators included in the survey. Further, more around half (47%) of individuals responded positively to 2 of the 5 trafficking and exploitative practice indicators. Specifically, 59% of individuals report being held against their will, while 4% report having worked without pay. When compared to the Eastern Mediterranean Route, 16% of individuals answered “yes” to one of the trafficking or other exploitative practices indicators— an 10.5% increase from [April 2016](#), when just 5.5% of migrants answered “yes”. These figures indicated a concerning high level of vulnerabilities of migrants in transit towards Europe. More information can be found [here](#).

ENDNOTES

ⁱUnless otherwise indicated, data for this report comes from the IOM Mediterranean portal (<http://migration.iom.int/europe/>, latest updates as of 14 December) and the Flow Compilation Reports (available for download on the portal - under *Documents* tab).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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