

MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE THE MEDITERRANEAN DIGEST

335,807
Total Arrivals

317,210
Total by Sea

18,597
Total by Land

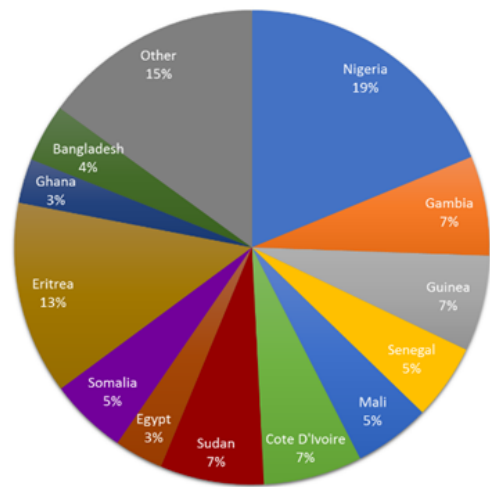
EUROPE—COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVAL¹

Looking across Europe, arrivals to Greece and Italy alone account for **94.0%** of the 335,807 arrivals in 2016 (as of 12 October 2016). Congruently, nearly all new arrivals in 2016 have come to Europe by sea (**93.3%**). Just 3.9% (13,224) of migrants in 2016 have entered Europe by land, through Bulgaria.

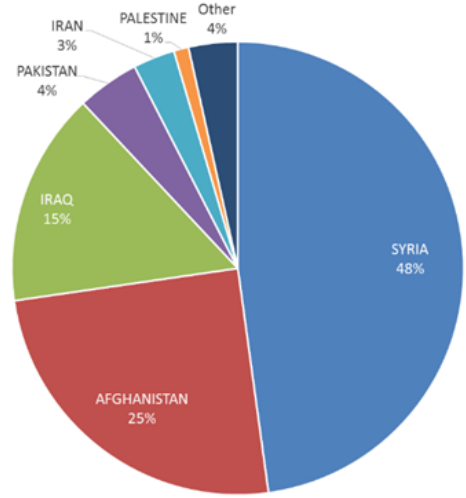
THE LANDSCAPE OF MIGRANTS IS CHANGING

Looking at cumulative arrivals, the number of migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan (SIA) is *decreasing* and the number from Africa, particularly Nigeria and Eritrea, are *increasing*. At the end of May, migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan made up 68.5% of arrivals, but by the end of August that number dropped to just half (51.6%), with an increasing share of arrivals being occupied by Nigerians (8.1%) and Eritreans (5.6%). Importantly, this breakdown varied by country of first arrival. While Greece received more migrants from Syria (48%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (16%), Italy received a much greater variety of nationalities, from Nigeria (17%), Eritrea (13%), the Gambia (8%) 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).

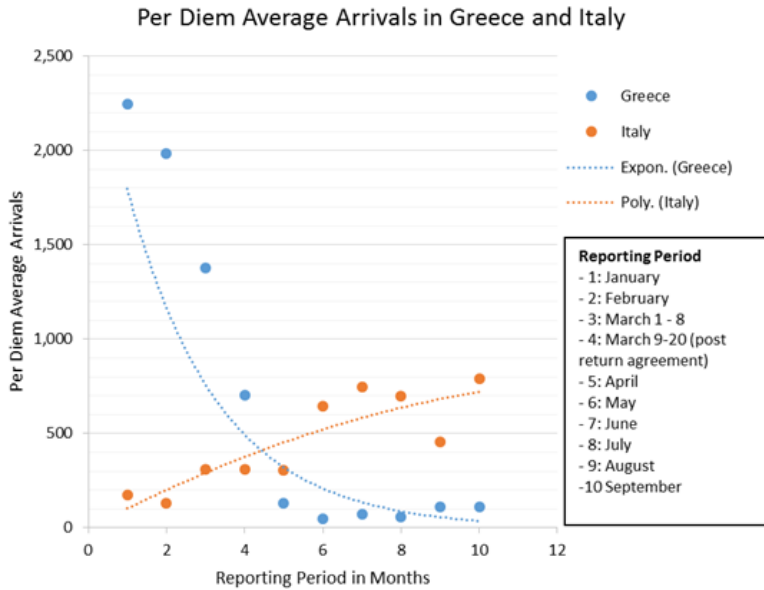
Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Italy (Jan-August 2016)



Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Greece (Jan- August 2016)



SHIFTING FOCUS TO ITALY



In January (2016) and before the agreement with Turkey –implemented on March 18 – more migrants were arriving to Greece. Now and over the course of 2016, 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 Italyⁱⁱ). As of 12 October, there were 144,950 cumulative arrivals to Italy and 170,755 arrivals to Greece.

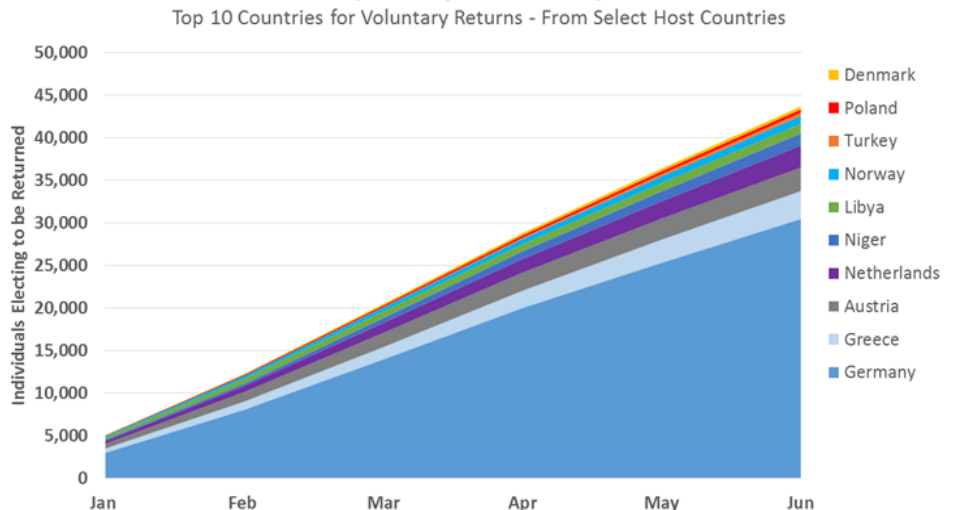
Importantly, when compared to new arrivals this time last year in Italy (12 October), we see a definite increase of 5.5% (or 7,550 more individuals). When examining average arrivals, we can clearly see the rate of arrival to Italy is not constant. Rather, the rates of arrival to Italy (as compared to Greece) have been significantly higher over 2016, meaning that Italy could like surpass Greece in cumulative arrivals before the end of 2016.

Conversely, average daily arrivals to Greece have bottomed out dramatically. Now, with the immense number of stranded migrants in Greece (around **60,478**), needs remain high and the situation could potentially deteriorate in light of approaching winter season.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: VOLUNTARY RETURNS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2016ⁱⁱⁱ

From January to June 2016, IOM provided assistance for some **47,563** migrants that chose 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 by Month - Cumulative (January - June 2016)



Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) (see: AVR by month – cumulative). Indeed, AVR for 2016 is set to soon outstrip returns for 2015 (**55,851 voluntary returns in 2015**, in the EEA alone). Looking at the top ten host countries, 2/3rd of returnees were male (66.6%) while the remaining 1/3rd (32.9%) were female. Together, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), represented less than 1% of returnees.

As in 2015, the majority of returnees (30,443) departed from Germany. When looking specifically at cumulative assisted voluntary returns in the EEA as well as Turkey, the fYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Libya, we see returnees are mainly headed towards Albania (22%), Iraq (15%), Serbia (9%), and Afghanistan (7%) (See: Cumulative Assisted Voluntary Returns by Country of origin (2016)).

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

63 Syrian nationals have been **readmitted** to Turkey from Greece (as of 13 October) under *1:1 scheme* set out in the EU-Turkey Agreement (read more [here](#)). Moreover, 1,995 Syrian refugees have been **resettled** from Turkey to the EU since 4 April 2016 (regular updates are available [here](#)).

Furthermore, **6,028** migrants (4,703 from Greece and 1,325 from Italy) have been **relocated** since March 2016. This accounts for 1.8% of **new** arrivals in 2016. These beneficiaries have been relocated to France (33.1%), Finland (12.5%), Netherlands (12.8%) and Portugal (10.0%).

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 5.7% of the total 106,000 proposed. However, **in September 2016 alone, IOM has relocated and booked relocations for more than 1,330 people from Greece and Italy to other Member States. This is over 25% of the total number of people relocated since the start of the scheme.**

IN GREECE AND SERBIA SHELTERS ARE OVERCAPACITY

In Greece, shelters in the Aegean are dramatically over capacity (113% overcapacity), while in the Attica Region accommodation facilities are also over capacity (accommodating 11,110 in 10,340 places). Only in the following regions *Macedonia & Thrace* and *Peloponnese, Central & Western Greece*, places still remain. In those locations, accommodation is at 70.0 and 57.6% capacity, respectively.

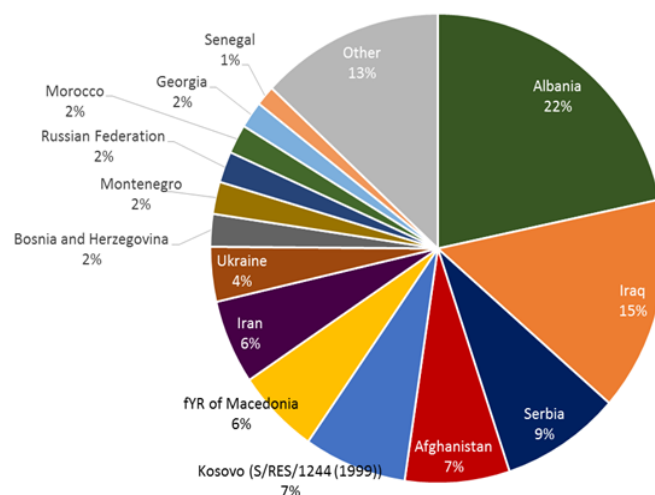
Outside Greece, Serbian reception centers are accommodating **4,218** some 39.0% over capacity (4,218 in 3,540 places). Similarly, reception centers in Bulgaria are over capacity 28.3% (7,070 in 5,510 places).

TENSIONS ARE MULTIPLYING AND ON THE RISE

The situation in both the Greek islands and the mainland remain problematic. There are growing tensions between migrants and Greek authorities as well as among migrant populations. On September 19, **in Moria, on the island of Lesbos, this culminated in protests and a fire which damaged 60% of the facilities. Likewise, a following a fight between migrants in camp Souda on the Greek island of Chios (8 October), 8 container homes were damaged. In spite of a prompt emergency response, firefighters were unable to enter immediately, as migrants were throwing rocks at vehicles.**

Tensions are also increasing in small towns along Italy's borders with France and Switzerland, where conditions worsen as migrants continue arriving and settling in makeshift encampments, after being refused passage. While Italy has endeavoured to manage the situation, migrants continue arriving. **These same tensions with respect to restricted movement are also being echoed in Sofia, Bulgaria, where a massive fight broke out in a large, closed reception centre (15 September). Further, nationalist parties protested outside a reception centre in Sofia (16 September). In Ljubljana, Slovenia, migrants began peaceful protest against "unbearable living conditions, poor access to information and long administrative procedures" (19 September).**

Cumulative Assisted Voluntary Returns by Country of Origin (2016)



THE MEDITERRANEAN'S PROTECTION CHALLENGE: DEALING WITH UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN (UASC)

In 2015, some 90,000 UASCs applied for asylum, slightly more than half of which were Afghans. 2016 has seen this trend of increased UASC asylum applications continue. **Importantly, as of July 2016, UASCs made up 15% of arrivals in Italy, whereas they represented just 7% in 2015.** Considerable protection gaps exist across the Mediterranean migration routes when it comes to this vulnerable group.

9 out of 10 children arriving in Italy are unaccompanied; and children represent **15-17% of the arrivals**. The main CoO are: Gambia (13.9%), Eritrea (13.2%), Egypt (13.1%) and Nigeria (10.5%). In 2016, some **13,705 UASC have arrived to Italy** and the GoI is facing problems in providing protection and assistance. In many cases, the children are obliged to remain in mixed (adult/minor), closed centres for long periods, exposing them to the risk of trafficking.

In Greece, UNHCR estimates some 30% of stranded migrants are minors—of which approximately 8% are unaccompanied. Additionally, a worker with the National Centre for Social Solidarity, which transfers UASCs to special accommodation centres, notes their caseload has nearly quadrupled in the first three months of 2016 – processing some 1,120 requests (as compared to 328 requests for the same period in 2015). Read more [here](#).

BALKANS—TRANSIT COUNTRIES

ARRIVALS ACROSS THE ROUTE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A TRICKLE

The closure of the Western Balkans Route has seen arrivals taper off drastically all across the route. While movements along the Western Balkan route are still present, they are not visible on the larger scale. Indeed, cumulative arrivals have seemingly plateaued in **Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** beginning of March 2016. **Slovenia** has reported no new arrivals since March 5th. **Bulgaria** is reporting few new arrivals from Greece, recording just **411** new arrivals since January.

TIGHTER CONTROLS—LESS MOBILITY

More border apprehensions both on entry and on exit, are occurring throughout the route – especially in Bulgaria (land), Turkey (land and sea) and Hungary. With increasing controls along the route, the use of riskier routes for undetected irregular arrivals is likely to increase. **Indeed, the beginning of September saw 6 migrants including 4 children, drown trying to cross the Danube from Bulgaria to Romania.**

Initiatives like **Hungary's** 5 July border legislation (where police can apprehend within 8 kilometers of border escorted persons out the nearest gate) as well as the razor wire fence and decision to exclude NGOs from providing services have severely restricted both flow and services. During the month of September, **152** arrivals were recorded. From 4 August to 25 September, IOM also reports **2,293 preventions (blocks)**, as well as **2,646 return escorts** through the fence to Serbia.

In **Bulgaria**, some **15,164** migrants have been apprehended (7 October) with approximately 27% being apprehended on entry (4,092), 27% on exit (4,145) and 46% inside the country (6,927). Just beyond the Balkans, Turkish Armed Forces apprehended some 30,090 individuals (93.6% Syrian nationals), trying to enter through land borders, between August 2015 and 21 September.

TURKEY

Turkey is hosting around 3.1 million people, the majority (80%) 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 (4.1% 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 285,025 asylum applications — an increase of 13,559 applications, for this year alone (as of 30 June 2016).

Since the beginning of the year, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) has apprehended and rescued some 32,596 irregular migrants— however, actual numbers of migrants/ refugees departing Turkey are probably much higher. Notably, the TCG has recorded 180 fatalities during this same time period.

BEYOND THE MEDITERRANEAN

FRANCE - LOOKING CLOSER AT CALAIS

French Authorities have reiterated their intention to close the camp and have been working hard to create some **7,000 places in new reception centers**, in addition to the 3,000 existing places. According to the latest official counts, estimates put **the population of the camp around 6,000 migrants**, including approximately **1,300 UASCs** of the camp's residents, most of which are young males. While no formal assessments have been done, 90% are estimated to be from Afghanistan and Sudan, followed by Eritrea, Ethiopia and Iran. In spite of proactive sensitization efforts, there remains a low level of awareness among migrants about legal asylum processes. Read more [here](#).

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

The cities of Séguédine and Arlit, **Niger**, have recorded a **NET of 191,746 outgoing** migrants, as of 30 September. Most outgoing migrants were male (94%) and came from Nigeria, Niger and the Gambia. Of these outgoing migrants, the majority left through Séguédine (13.5%). More information can be found [here](#).

In Libya, the majority of the 3,324 migrants detected at flow monitoring points between 14 August and 4 September, were male. However, typically they came from Egypt (1), Sudan (2) and Chad (3). Generally, migrants from Sudan and Chad intended staying in Libya (1), while Egyptians were transiting to reach either Germany (2) or Italy (3). More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Moreover, Libya coastguard has recorded 13,783 rescues, 352 fatalities and 430 missing individuals as of 6 October.

A [recent RMMS report](#) suggests that African migrants may be dying in greater numbers in the Sahara Desert than in the Mediterranean. Witness testimonies indicate that thousands may be perishing in the desert, never reaching North African shores. Sickness and lack of medicine, starvation, vehicle accidents, shootings, stabbings and sexual abuse were among the most commonly reported causes of death. **Indeed, exploitation and trafficking are common along the central Mediterranean route.**

Last results from the [FMS survey](#) revealed that 71% of individuals interviewed along the Central Mediterranean route responded positively to at least one trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators included in the survey, mostly in Libya. Also, 14% of individuals interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route answered “yes” to one of the trafficking or other exploitative practices indicators. Significantly, some 49% of respondents along the Central Mediterranean route and 6% along the Eastern Mediterranean route reported being held against their will during their journey. These figures indicated a concerning high level of vulnerabilities of migrants in transit towards Europe.

ENDNOTES

ⁱUnless otherwise indicated, data for this report comes from the IOM Mediterranean portal (<http://migration.iom.int/europe/>, latest updates as of 12 October) and the biweekly Flow Compilation Reports (available for download on the portal).

ⁱⁱAveraging the **per diem arrivals** since April, we see **Greece** accepting approximately **1,229** new arrivals every two weeks, while Italy accepts some 8 times that amount with **8,486** people, every two weeks. Assuming the rate of arrivals stays *constant* in Greece and continues to *increase (1) or plateaus (2)* in Italy, Italy will outstrip Greece as leading reception country for new arrivals by the end of November (1) or December (2).

ⁱⁱⁱData collection is ongoing – for EEA returnees data extends to the end of August, while for Turkey, fYR Macedonia, Serbia, Libya and Niger data extends to end June, 2016.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

CONTACTS

Displacement Tracking Matrix

migration.iom.int

+41.22.7179.271

✉ dtmsupport@iom.int

🐦 @IOM_News

IOM information gathering activities are supported by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

State Secretariat for Migration SEM

