



Photo: Migrants and refugees in Horgos, at the Serbian-Hungarian border - Francesco Malavolta / IOM 2015

# MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE -QUARTERLY OVERVIEW Q1 2018

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## DEVELOPMENTS

### COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVAL

According to the available data from DTM flow monitoring in the Mediterranean, there were 18,956 new arrivals to Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Greece and Bulgaria in the first quarter of 2018. This represents almost a 50% decrease compared to the same period last year when 34,531 arrivals were reported. The decrease is mainly related to the drop in arrivals in Italy. This year, there were 6,290 registered arrivals in Italy compared to 24,292 reported in the first quarter of 2017. Moreover, the number of arrivals in Italy in 2018 are the lowest reported since 2014 (see more [here](#)). Aside from Italy, a decrease is also observed in registered arrivals to Bulgaria (714 in 2017 and 286 in 2018), Spain (5,204 in 2017 and 4,984 in 2018), and Cyprus (250 in 2017 and 47 in 2018). Greece was the only country that reported an increase in arrivals in 2018 when compared with the available data for previous years. By

## ► DEVELOPMENTS

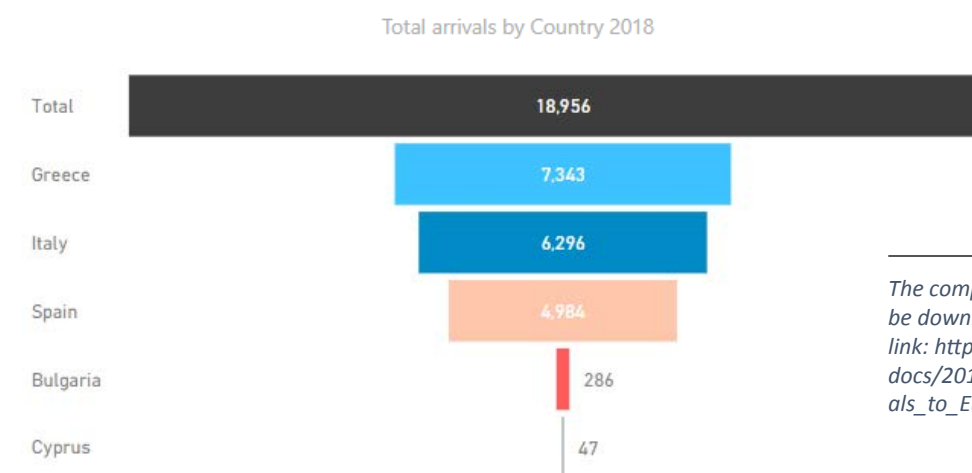
### WESTERN BALKANS

In the first quarter of 2018, there was an increase in the movement of irregular migrants in the Western Balkans, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania. Authorities in Albania registered 759 irregular migrants entering from Greece, a six times increase compared to the 126 apprehensions reported in the same period in 2017. Additionally, border police in Montenegro apprehended 396 irregular migrants, among which the majority (320) were intercepted during March 2018. Overall apprehensions increased

by three times compared to the 116 interceptions reported in the same period in 2017 and an increase of four times compared to the 99 reported in the first quarter of 2016. The most significant increase is noted in Bosnia and Herzegovina where authorities apprehended a total of 1,314 irregular migrants in the first three months of 2018, six times as many as reported in the same period in 2017 (219) and more than the overall number of 1,116 interceptions recorded in the whole of 2017 (see more [here](#)).

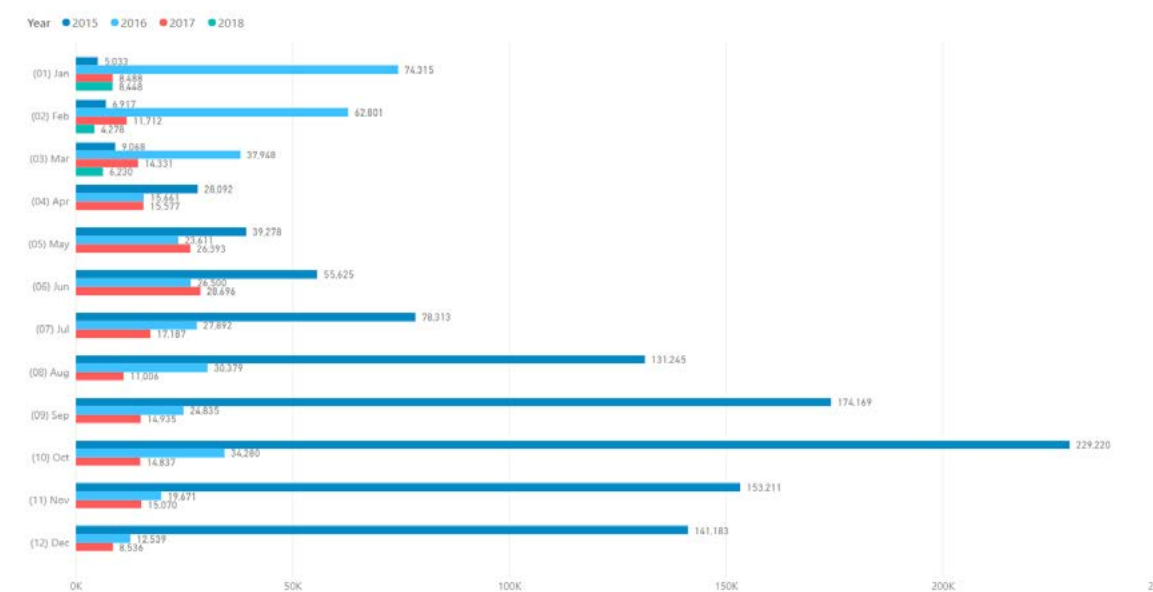
### ARRIVALS TO EUROPE – Q1 2018

Figure 1 Total arrivals to Europe between January and March 2018



The complete Q1 2018 dataset can be downloaded here: [http://migration.iom.int/docs/2018\\_Q1\\_Overview\\_Arrivals\\_to\\_Europe.pdf](http://migration.iom.int/docs/2018_Q1_Overview_Arrivals_to_Europe.pdf)

Figure 2 First arrival countries monthly comparison 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



► the end of March 2018, Hellenic authorities registered 7,343 new migrants and refugees which is a 67% increase compared to the 4,407 reported in the same period in 2017. When looking at the dynamic in arrivals by land and sea, the authorities in Greece registered 2,145 individuals who arrived to the country by land, which is the highest figure reported since 2016. Notably, the majority of migrants and refugees who arrived by land, did so during March – a total of 1,327. This represents a three times increase compared to the 425 land arrivals reported in February and the 393 reported in January 2018.

Available information on the nationalities of migrants and refugees who arrived in Italy and Greece this year, indicates a slight change in comparison to the profile registered in the same period last year. Eritrean nationals were the largest registered nationality this year in Italy comprising a quarter of all arrivals (25%) followed by those originating from Tunisia (19%), Nigeria (6%), Pakistan (5%), Côte d'Ivoire (4%), Libya (4%), Sudan (4%) and Guinea (4%). In contrast to that, the available nationality breakdown for the same period in 2017 shows that by the end of March migrants from Eritrea were placed last on the list of the top ten registered nationality groups comprising only 2% of the overall registered caseload while migrants and refugees from Guinea and Nigeria were the largest two nationality groups each comprising 13 per cent

of the overall population followed by those arriving from Bangladesh (12%), Côte d'Ivoire (10%), the Gambia (9%) and Senegal (8%) (Find more information [here](#)).

In the first quarter of 2018, Syrian nationals were the largest nationality group registered, comprising more than a third of the overall caseload (37%), followed by migrants and refugees from Iraq (28%), Afghanistan (12%), Cameroon (3%) and Iran (2%). The breakdown resembles the profile of nationalities registered in the previous year, except for the higher presence of Algerian (9%) and Pakistani (6%) nationals registered between January and March in 2017.

Despite the decrease in arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route, this route is still the deadliest maritime crossing in the direction of Europe. In the first quarter of 2018 there were 506 casualties reported in the Mediterranean, and 70% (359) of these incidents involved migrants and refugees bound for Italy from Northern Africa (Libya primarily). The remaining deaths were reported in the Western Mediterranean (128) and in the Eastern Mediterranean (19). Looking at the overall number of dead and missing migrants this year, there was a slight decrease from the 803 reported in the first three months of 2017 and the 749 reported in the first quarter of 2016 (found more information [here](#)).



Photo: Syrian refugees crossing the Serbian-Croatian border. Francesco Malavolta/IOM 2015



## RELOCATIONS

Between October 2015 and March 2018, a total of 34,456 individuals took part in the EU Relocation program. The majority, a total of 22,005 beneficiaries, were relocated from Greece and 12,558. During this reporting period (1 January – 31 March 2018) a total of 1,409 relocations took place, four times less than the 6,090 relocations reported in the first three months of 2017. Germany

(30%) and France (14%) received almost half of the beneficiaries in 2018. An additional 9 per cent were transferred to Sweden, 6 per cent to Finland, while almost a quarter of all relocations were equally distributed among Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Norway (see the full breakdown below).

Figure 3 Relocations in January, February and March, comparison 2017 - 2018

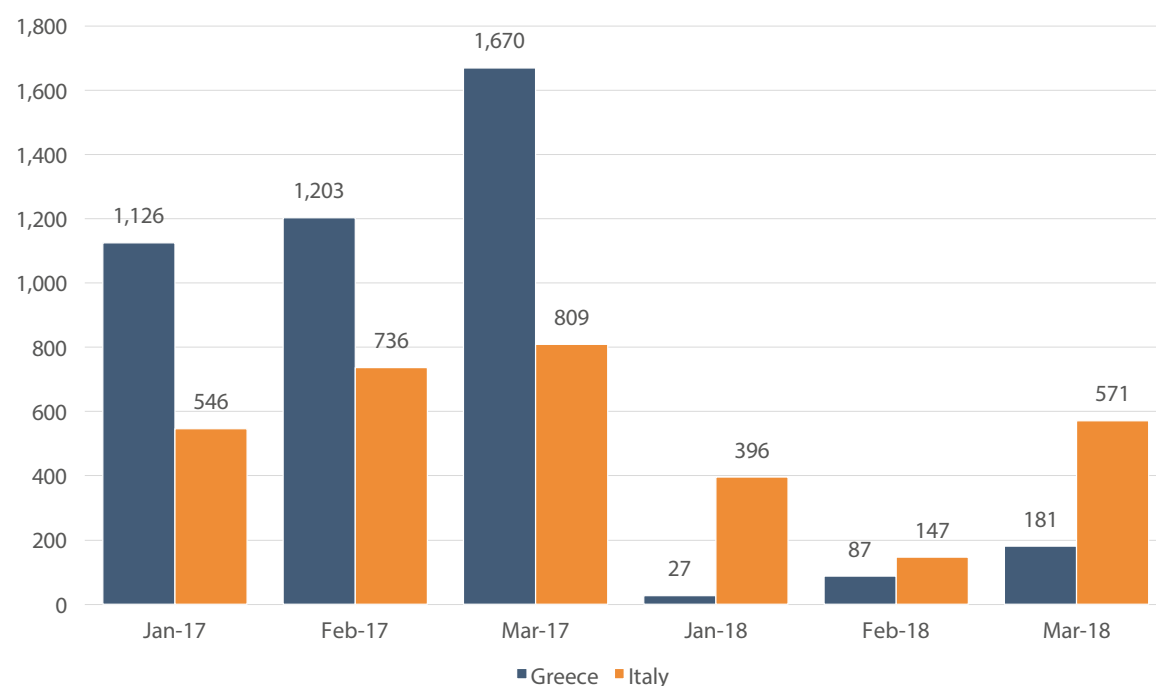


Table 1 Relocations - Overview

Member State	Relocations from Greece	Relocations from Italy	Total
Austria	0	41	41
Belgium	700	471	1,171
Bulgaria	50	10	60
Croatia	60	22	82
Cyprus	96	47	143
Czech Republic	12	0	12
Estonia	141	6	147
Finland	1,202	779	1,981
France	4,400	550	4,950
Germany	5,391	5,406	10,797
Hungary	0	0	0
Ireland	1,022	0	1,022
Latvia	294	34	328
Liechtenstein	10	0	10
Lithuania	355	29	384
Luxembourg	300	249	549
Malta	101	67	168
The Netherlands	1,755	1,008	2,763
Norway	693	815	1,508
Portugal	1,192	351	1,543
Romania	683	45	728
Slovakia	16	0	16
Slovenia	172	81	253
Spain	1,124	235	1,359
Sweden	1,656	1,392	3,048
Switzerland	580	920	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,005</b>	<b>12,558</b>	<b>34,563</b>

## ARRIVALS TO EUROPE IN Q1 – COMPARISON 2015, 2016, 2017 AND 2018

Figure 4 Total arrivals to Europe comparison 2015 - 2018

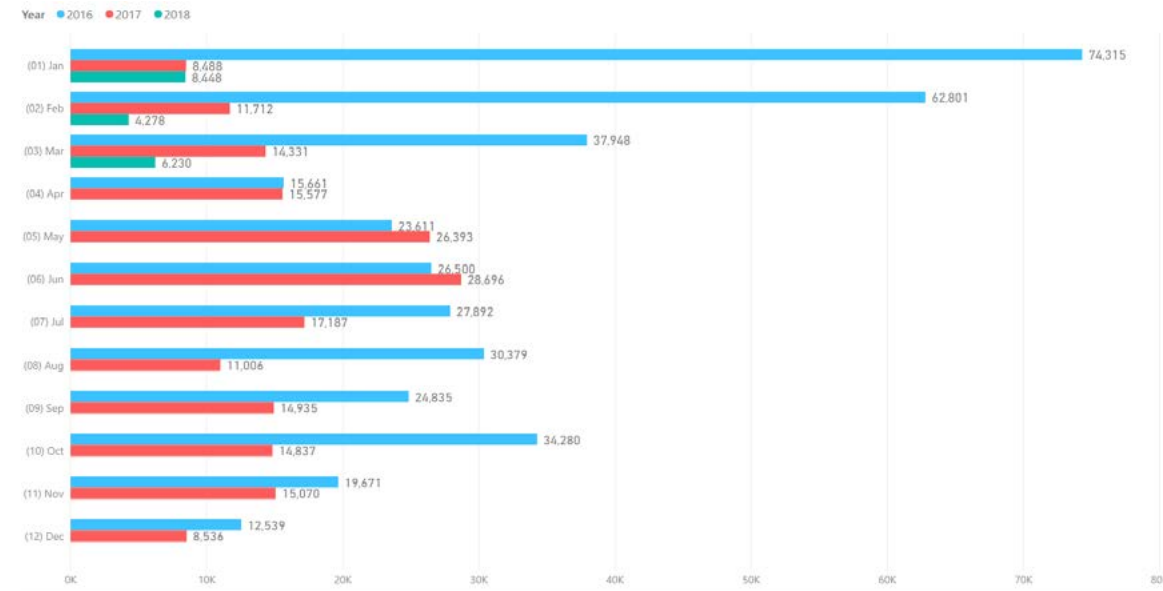


Figure 5 Arrivals to Italy between January and March comparison 2015 - 2018

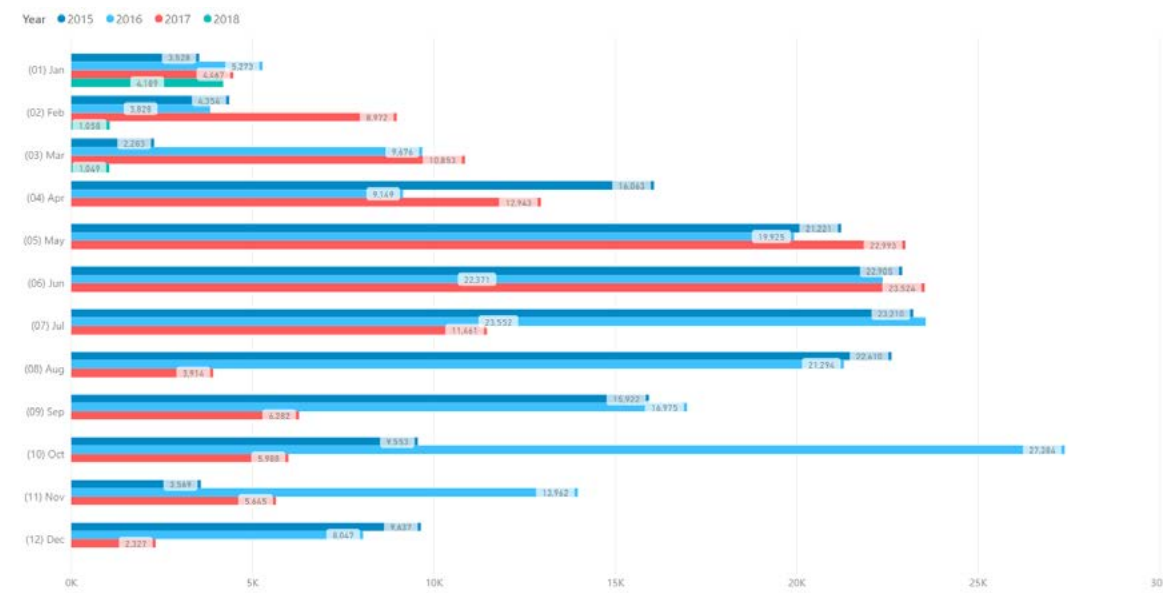


Figure 6 Arrivals to Greece between January and March comparison 2015 - 2018

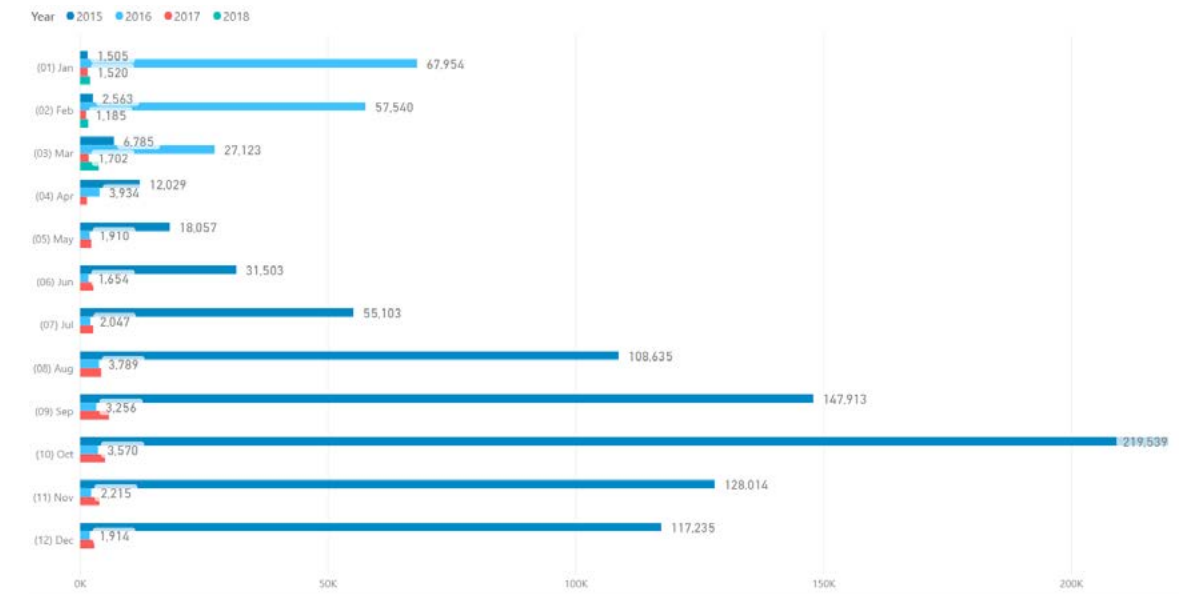


Figure 7 Arrivals to Cyprus between January and March comparison 2015 - 2018

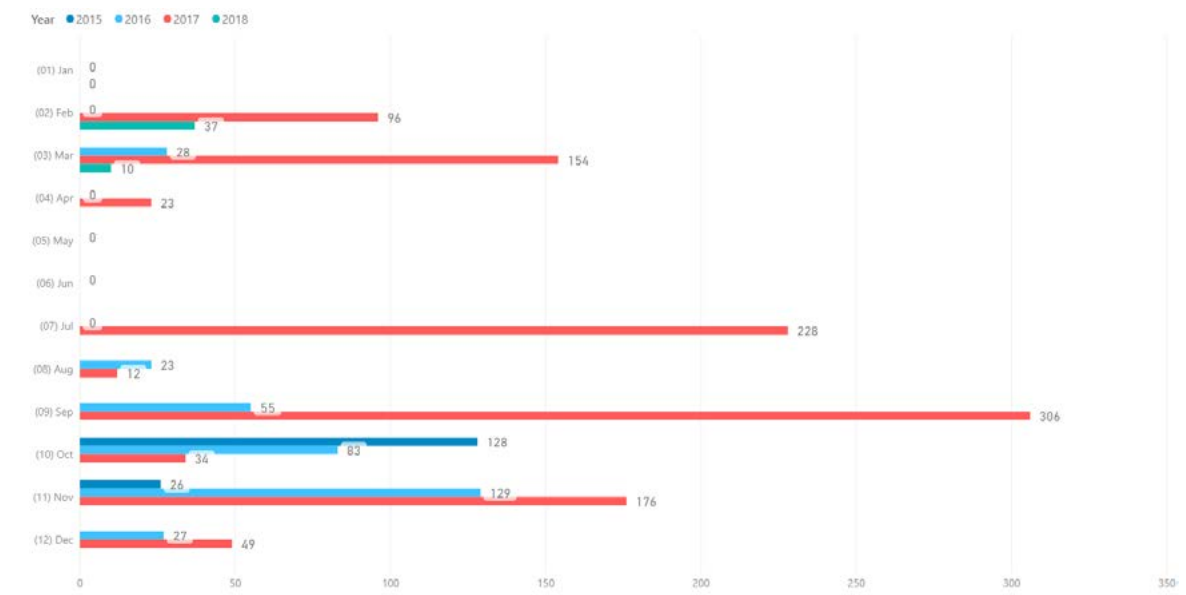


Figure 8 Arrivals to Bulgaria between January and March comparison 2015 - 2018

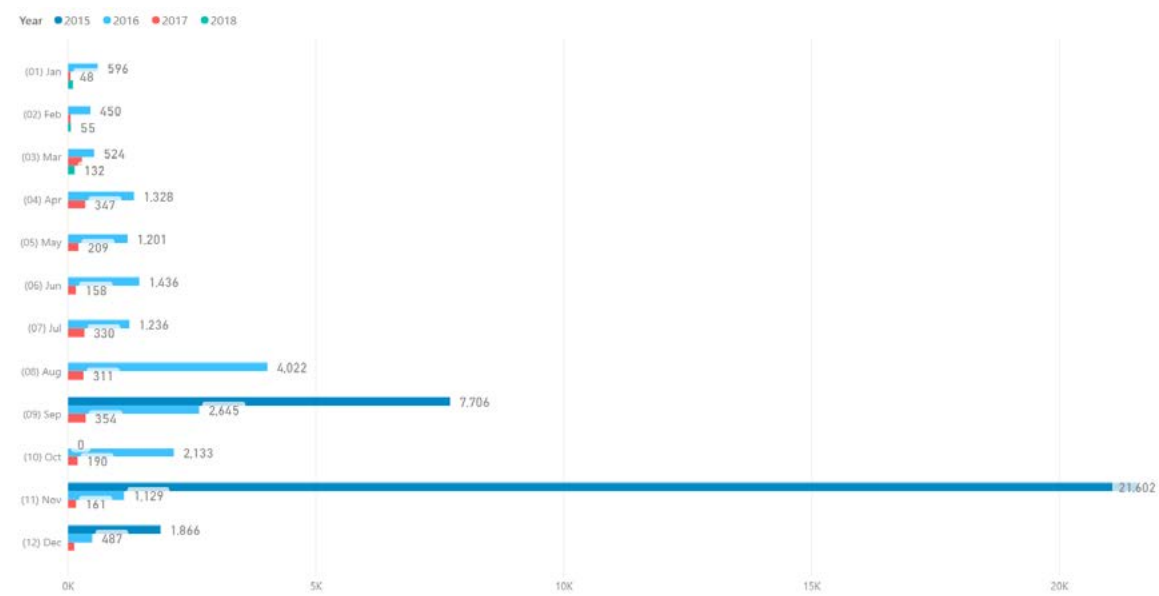


Photo: When a bomb destroyed their house and took the life of their mother, one brother and one sister, their father decided to flee Syria and look for safety elsewhere. The two sisters wait at a transition camp before crossing the border from Greece to FYROM. The girl on the left was wounded during the attack, but survived./IOM 2015

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN BY NATIONALITY

Figure 9 Top 10 Arrivals to Italy between January and March 2018

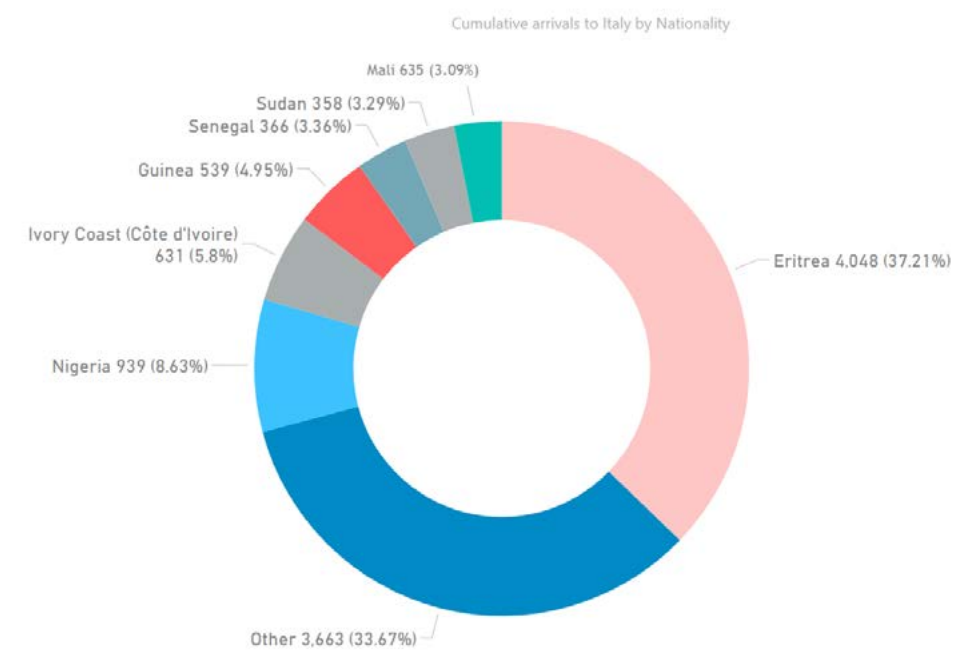
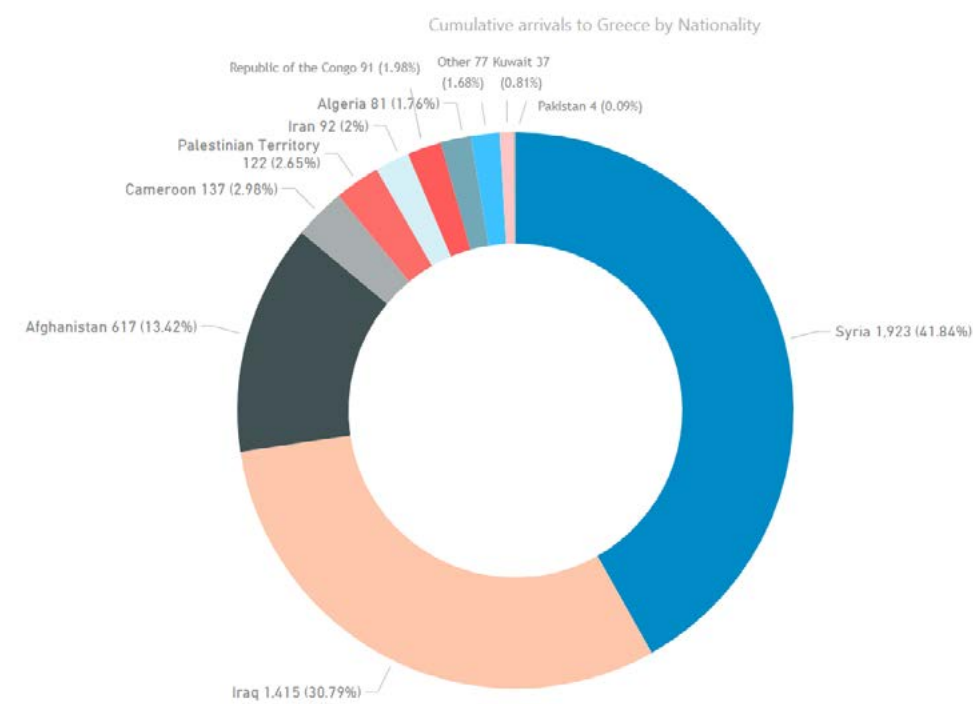


Figure 10 Total arrivals to Greece between January and March 2018



## MIGRANTS PRESENCE

An estimated 62,979 migrants and refugees were residing in different accommodation facilities in the Western Balkans and Greece at the end of March 2018. Almost 90% of all individuals were accommodated in reception centres in Greece – a total of 56, 549<sup>1</sup>. The remaining 6,427 migrants and asylum seekers were registered residing in Cyprus (237), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (58), Bulgaria (1,033), Serbia (3,800), Hungary (203), Slovenia (271) and Croatia (429).

PRESENCE OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE REGION - CHANGES OVER TIME			
Country	March <sup>1</sup> 2016	March 2017	March 2018
Greece <sup>2</sup>	42,688	62,215	56,549
the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,199	44	58
Serbia	1,706	7,740	3,800 <sup>3</sup>
Croatia*	231	553	429
Slovenia*	408	276	271
Hungary	/	512	203
Bulgaria	865	3,307	1,033
Cyprus*	/	/	237
Romania*	/	/	396

\*Number of Asylum Seekers

Figure 11 Average migrants presence calculated for the reporting period (January - March 2018)



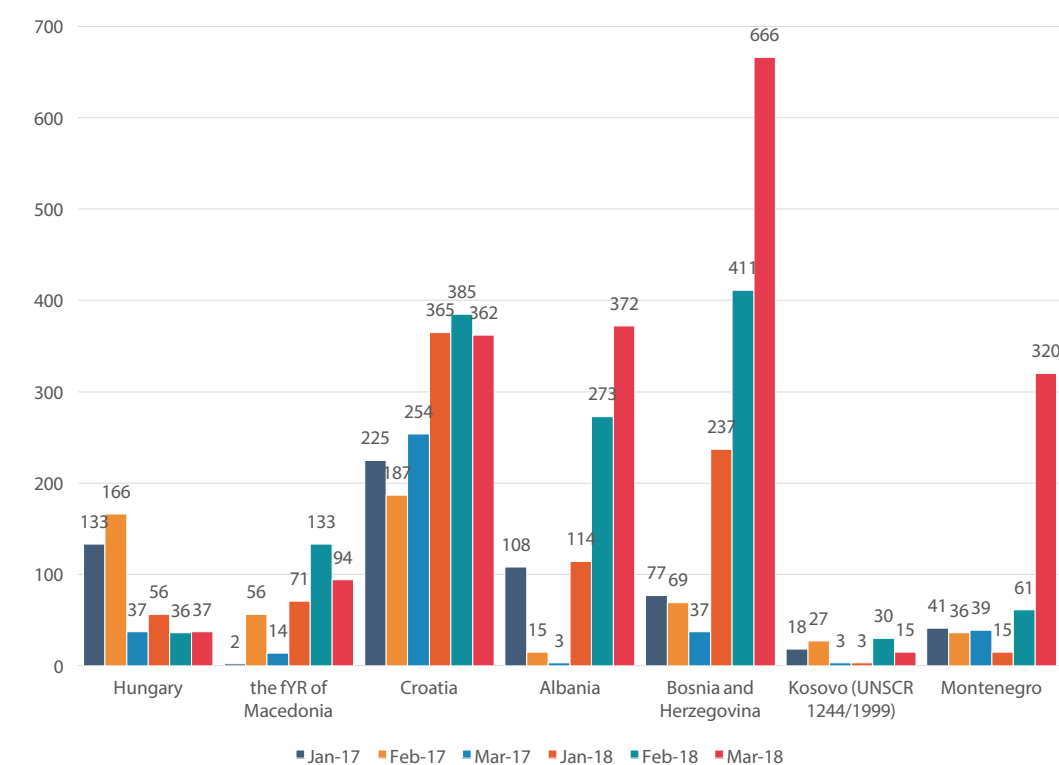
- 1 This figure excludes the number of self-settled.
- 2 Monitoring of data on migrants presence started in March 2016 upon the closure of the Western Balkans route following the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.
- 3 Sum of available information, excluding the figure on self-settled migrants and asylum seekers.
- 4 Estimates including numbers in State run reception facilities and public spaces in Belgrade area.

## TRANSIT COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

There were 129 irregular migrants apprehended in Hungary this year. This represents a 62% decrease compared to the 336 reported in the same period in 2017 and an almost fifty times decrease compared to the 6,353 reported between January and March 2016. Authorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia registered 298 irregular migrants during this reporting period (January – March 2018), which is four times less than the 72 registered in the first quarter of 2017 and an almost 200 per cent decrease compared to the 89,623 registered in the first three months of 2016 prior to the closure of the Western Balkans route in the aftermath of the implementation process of the EU-Turkey Statement (for more information about the Statement check [here](#)). A 67 per cent increase is also observed in apprehensions on entry and exit to Croatia, from 666 reported in the first three months of 2017 to 1,112 registered in the same period this year.

Additionally, aside from Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999) where no changes in apprehensions of irregular migrants were reported when comparing the first quarter of 2017 and 2018 (48 vs. 48), an increase in irregular entries has been noted for other countries in the region. Albania has seen a six times increase in the number of irregular migrants apprehended in the first quarter of the year, from a total of 126 registered in 2017 to 759 registered at the end of March 2018. A three times increase is also observed in Montenegro, where authorities registered a total of 396 irregular migrants between January and March 2018, compared to 116 in the same period in 2017. A six times increase is recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the first three months of 2018, authorities registered 1,314 irregular migrants, which is more than the 219 registered in the first quarter of 2017 and more than the 1,116 reported in all of 2017.

Figure 12 Registered irregular migrants in January, February and March, comparison 2017 - 2018



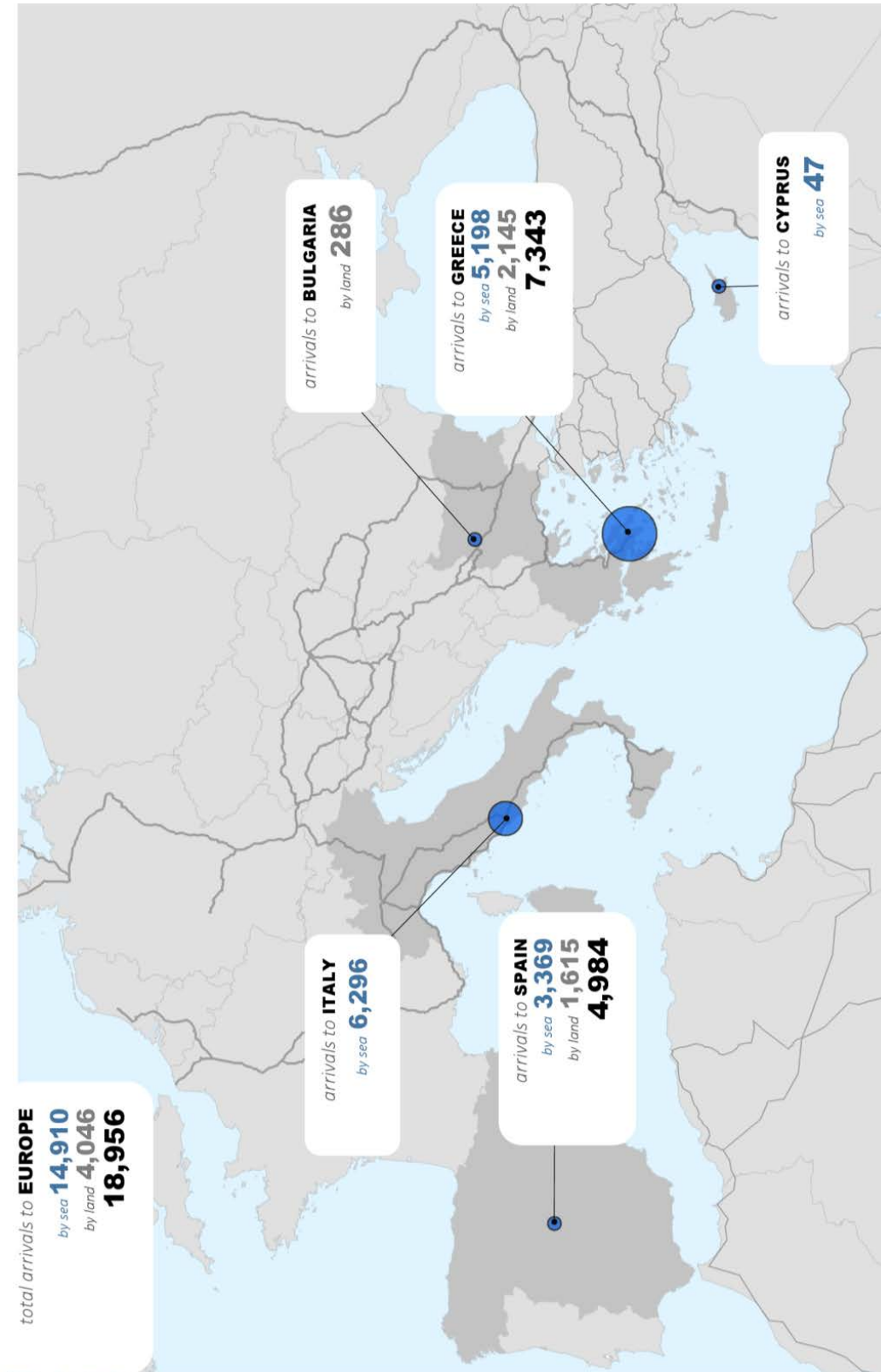


## ARRIVALS TO EUROPE – Q1 2018



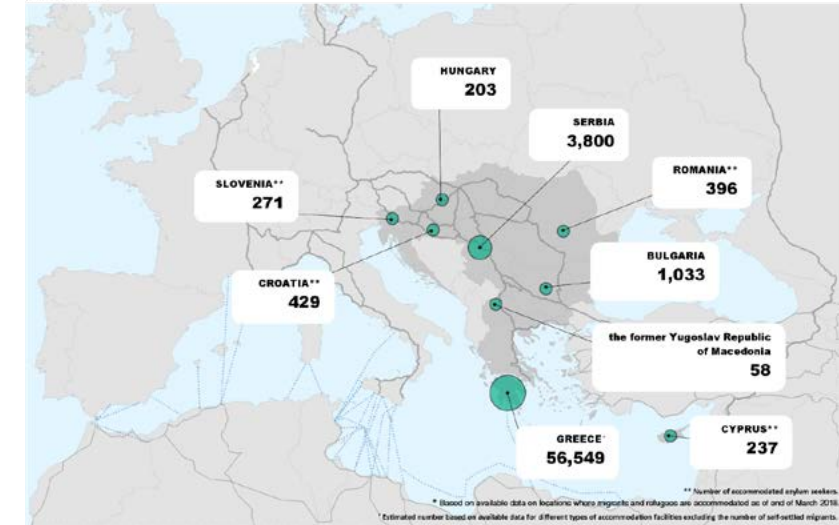
Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

**OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE**  
Registered and reported arrivals to Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Bulgaria ☞ From 01 January 2018 to 31 March 2018



## Overview Maps

**OVERVIEW: PRESENCE OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**  
Stranded migrants and asylum seekers in Cyprus, Greece, the FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria\*  
☞ 28 February 2018\*



**OVERVIEW: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN - ARRIVALS TO GREECE AND ITALY**  
☞ From 01 January to 31 March 2018



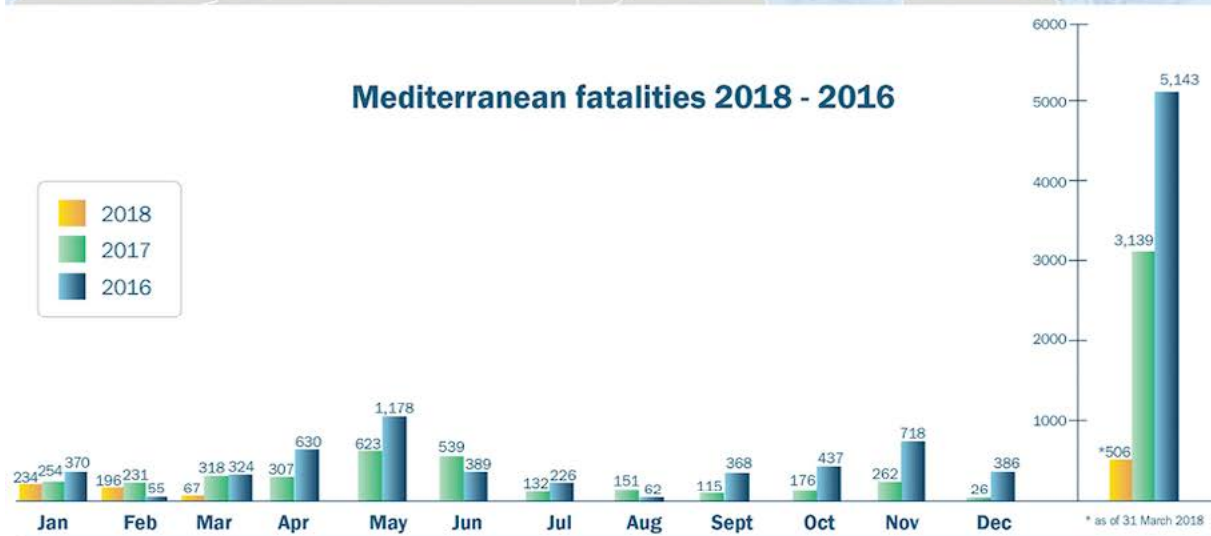
**MARITIME INCIDENTS OFF THE LIBYAN COAST Q1 2018**  
☞ 31 March 2018\*



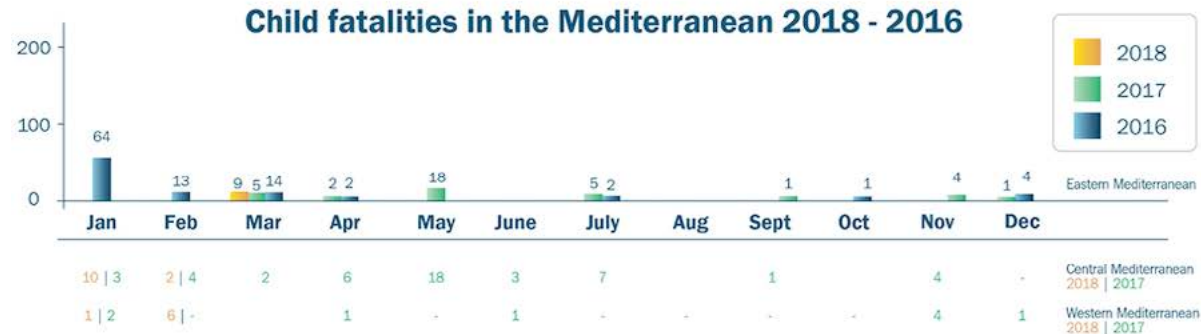
### Fatalities in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea



**Mediterranean fatalities 2018 - 2016**



**Child fatalities in the Mediterranean 2018 - 2016**



\*Data for child fatalities data 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 THIS REPORT

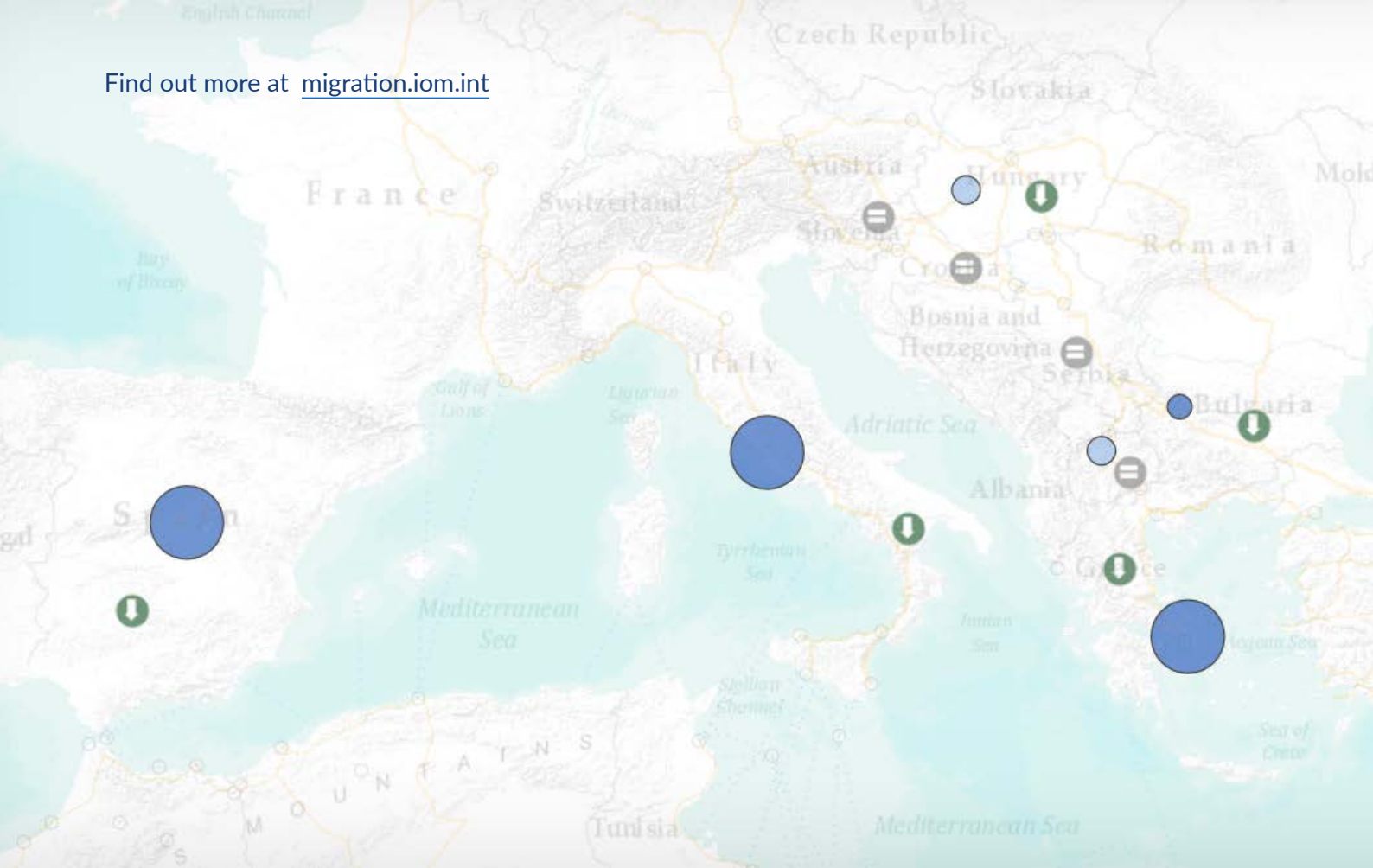
IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a suite of tools and methodologies designed to track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts, in a continuous manner. In order to gather and disseminate information about the migrant populations moving through the Mediterranean, up the Western Balkan Route and through the Northern Route into Europe, in September 2015 DTM established a Flow Monitoring System. The Flow Monitoring System includes monthly flows compilation reports, which provide an overview of migration flows in countries of first arrival and other countries along the route in Europe, and analyses of trends across the affected region. The data on registered arrivals is collated by IOM through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces and other relevant national authorities.

### FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS

The 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. This data has been captured by IOM field staff in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Bulgaria and Slovenia since October 2015. The analysis of data collected throughout 2016 is available on the IOM portal for the Mediterranean.



Find out more at [migration.iom.int](http://migration.iom.int)



## LATEST REPORTS



### Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean

Compilation of Available Data and Information

March 2018

[Download here](#)

Compilation of Available Data and Information

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 - 2018

Arrivals to Europe (from 01-Jan-2018 to 31-Mar-2018)

Country	By Sea	By Land	Total
Greece	5,338	2,421	7,759
Italy	6,276	0	6,276
Bulgaria	8,301	280	8,581
Spain	1,011	4,084	5,095
TOTAL	14,926	6,785	21,711

Latest attended migrants figures available

Country	Date	Total
Greece	28-Feb-18	45,303
Bulgaria	30-Mar-18	1,033
Romanian Republic of Moldova	29-Mar-18	140
Serbia	21-Mar-18	3,850
Croatia	03-Mar-18	423
Slovenia	11-Mar-18	271
Hungary	03-Mar-18	200
Spain	15-Mar-18	2,121
Romania	18-Mar-18	884

[Download here](#)

### Arrivals to Europe - Q1 2018 Dataset

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 supported by

