

— QUARTERLY REGIONAL REPORT

DTM Europe

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

— April – June 2023 —

<https://dtm.iom.int/europe/arrivals>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Migration routes from countries of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa regions through the Mediterranean Sea and to Europe have been active since the early 2010s. In the wake of the increase of mixed migration flows to Europe in 2015-2016, IOM rolled out a Flow Monitoring system to monitor Mixed Migration Flows by land and by sea to Europe, as part of its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools.

DTM Europe gathers, validates and disseminates information on migrants and refugees travelling through key routes to Europe, which include:

- **Eastern Mediterranean route (EMR):** Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece
- **Central Mediterranean route (CMR):** Italy and Malta

- **Western Mediterranean route (WMR):** Peninsular Coasts of Spain, Balearic Islands, Ceuta and Melilla
- **Western African Atlantic route (WAAR):** Canary Islands of Spain

DTM also monitors data on migrants in transit through the **Western Balkans (WB)** region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania, and Kosovo*). These are considered separately to prevent to the extent possible the double counting of the same persons that cross multiple borders along the WB.

This report presents the latest available data and trends, focusing on the first half of 2023 (Q1 and Q2), comparing them with the same periods in the previous year and other relevant time frames.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

According to available data on records, arrivals and transits during the second quarter usually show an increase compared to the previous one, continue to rise over the summer months and show a decrease again in the last quarter, each year.

In 2023 so far, a series of important developments in migration management and policies within the region.

In June 2023, the Council of the European Union (EU) reached an agreement which forms the basis of negotiations for a new asylum and migration management regulations, to replace the existing ones in the field of border procedures, of the asylum procedures, and solidarity mechanisms across EU Member States in the distribution of arrivals by sea and by land.¹

In June 2023, the EU and Tunisia finalized an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in terms of migration management, with EU increased support for increased border management and voluntary returns to their country of origin of migrants in Tunisia.²

In May 2023, Italy passed a new Law Decree with new migration provisions which restrict access to protection for migrants arriving by land and by sea and pose new limits to NGOs operating search and rescue operations in the CMR.³

In June 2023, WB partners accepted the action plan on Sustainable Migration Governance at the Third Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, committing to more cooperation and exchange key measures to improve migration management within the region.⁴

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

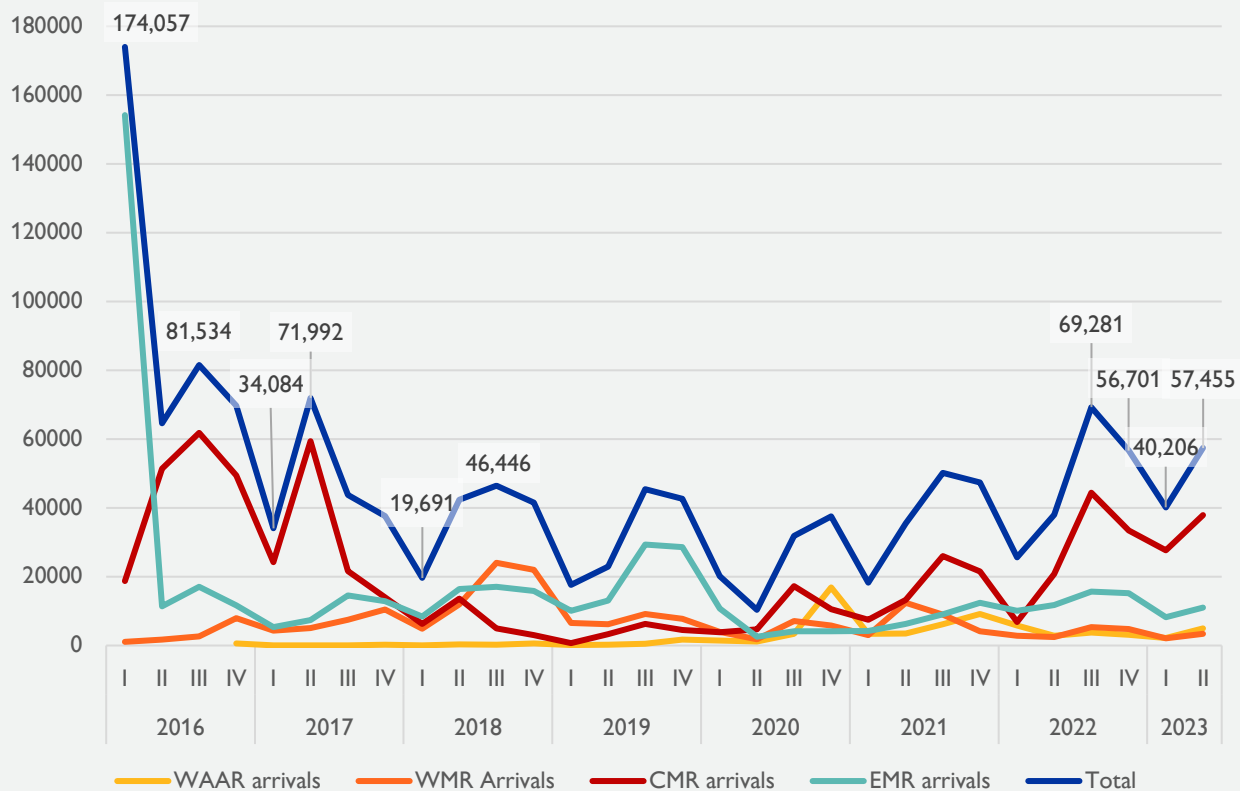
1. Council of the European Union, 'Justice and Home Affairs Council, 8-9 June 2023'. Available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2023/06/08-09/> [Accessed on 23 August 2023].

2. European Union, 'The European Commission and Tunisia have expressed the willingness to establish a stronger partnership on migration, anti-smuggling and the promotion of legal migration', 27 April 2023. Available at: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-and-tunisia-have-expressed-willingness-establish-stronger-partnership-migration-2023-04-27_en [Accessed on 23 August 2023].

3. Ministero del lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, 'Permesso di soggiorno per protezione speciale, come è cambiato dopo il "Decreto Cutro"?', 26 May 2023. Available at: <https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/3235/Permesso-di-soggiorno-per-protezione-speciale-come-e-cambiato-dopo-il-Decreto-Cutro> [Accessed on 29 August 2023].

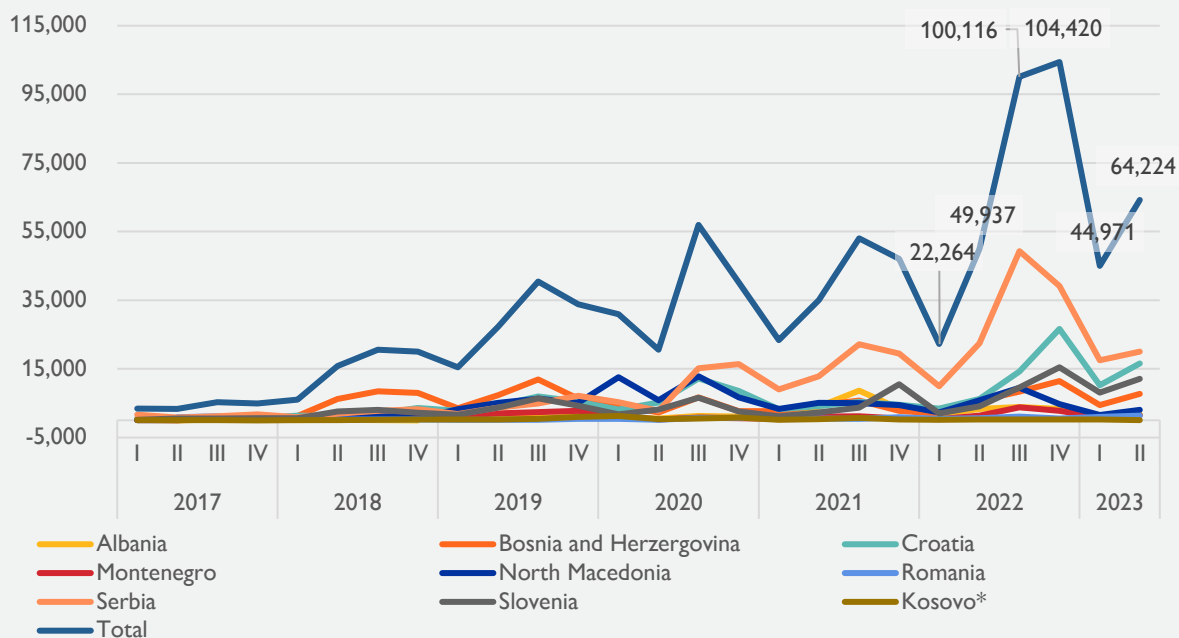
4. IOM, 'Western Balkans Partners Accept Action Plan on Sustainable Migration Governance at the Third Sarajevo Migration Dialogue', 9 June 2023. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/western-balkans-partners-accept-action-plan-sustainable-migration-governance-third-sarajevo-migration-dialogue> [Accessed 29 August 2023].

First arrivals to Europe, by route and by quarter, 2016-2023



Data source: National authorities, [DTM flow monitoring](#)

Registered migrants in transit countries, by country and by quarter, 2017-2023

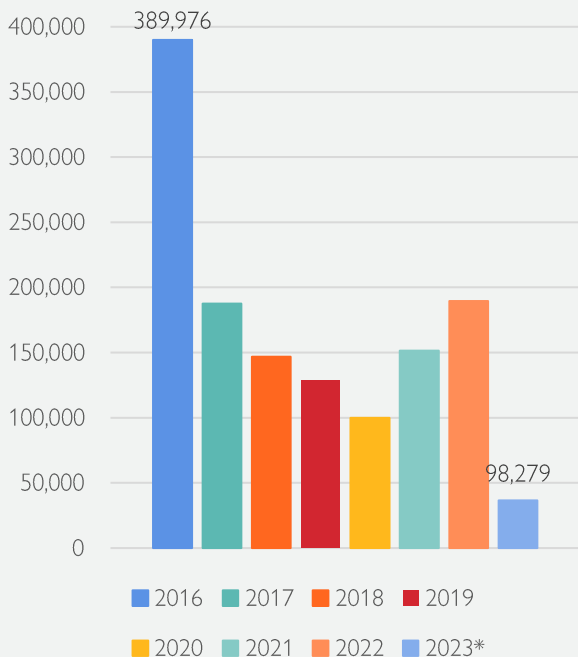


Data source: National authorities, [DTM flow monitoring](#)

2. MOBILITY OVERVIEW

MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE

Arrivals in Europe, by year, cumulative, 2016 – 2023



* Data for 2023 refers to the period from January to June 2023.

In the first half of 2023, a total of 98,279 migrants and refugees were registered arriving through the three Mediterranean routes and the WAAR route to Europe, which is 54 per cent higher than the 63,613 arrivals registered in the same period in 2022, and 83 per cent per cent higher than the 53,809 registered in the first six months of 2021.

In line with trends from previous years, arrivals in Q2 of 2023 are considerably higher than the previous reporting period, registering an increase of 40 per cent compared to Q1 2023 (which recorded 40,824 arrivals).

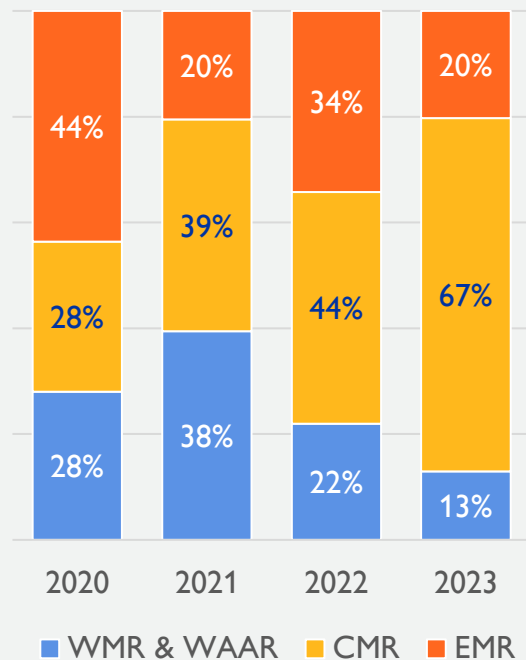
Over 67 per cent of all registered individuals in the first six months of 2023 arrived in Europe via the CMR to Italy and Malta (65,660 arrivals, with the vast majority registered in Italy). Around 20 per cent of arrivals travelled through the EMR to

Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria (19,915). The remaining 13 per cent were registered in Spain (12,704), through the WMR and WAAR.

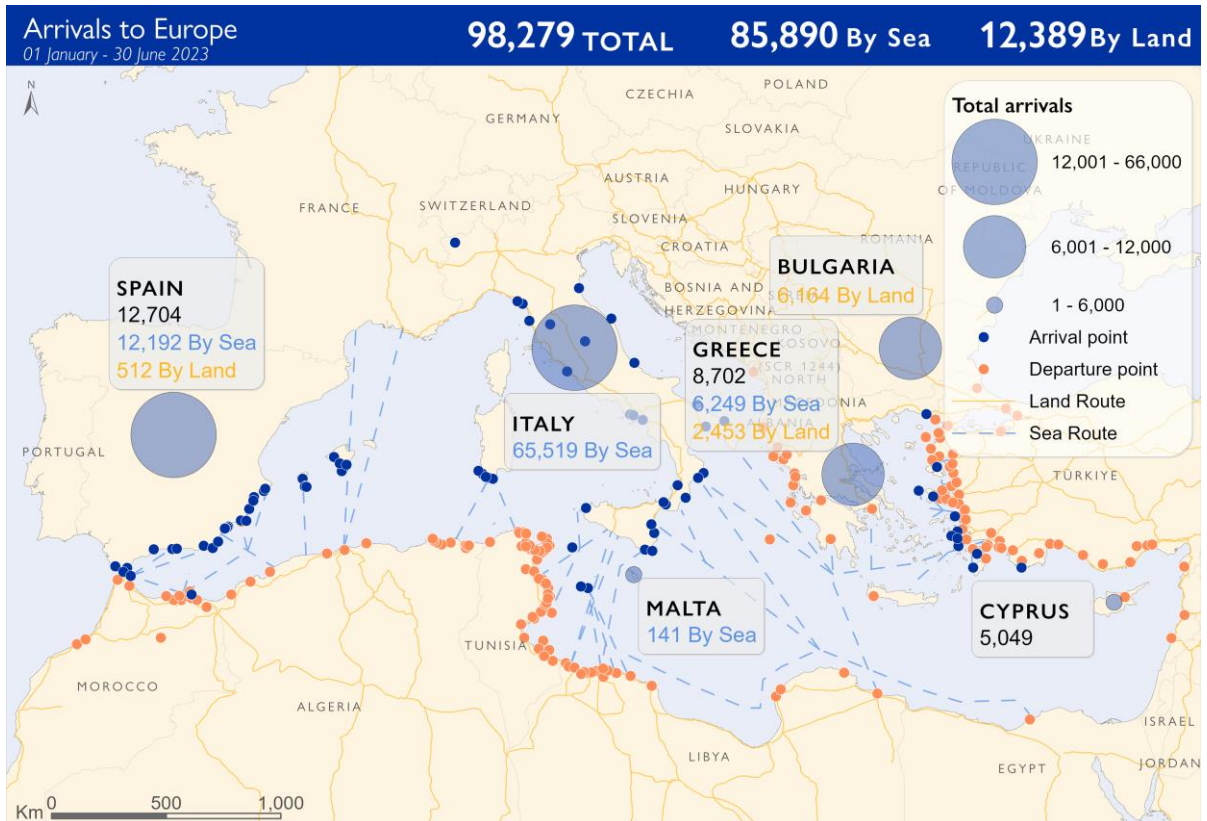
Compared to the first half of 2022, arrivals in 2023 have increased by 54 per cent overall. However, the only route to experience an increase was the CMR with an increase of 137 per cent compared to the same period in 2022, while arrivals decreased along both the EMR and the WMR and WAAR combined (-9 and -10%, respectively).

According to available data from national authorities, Syrian Arab Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Egypt and Bangladesh are the most frequently reported countries of origin among all registered arrivals to Europe in the period from January to June 2023.

Arrivals in Europe, by route, cumulative, 2020–2023

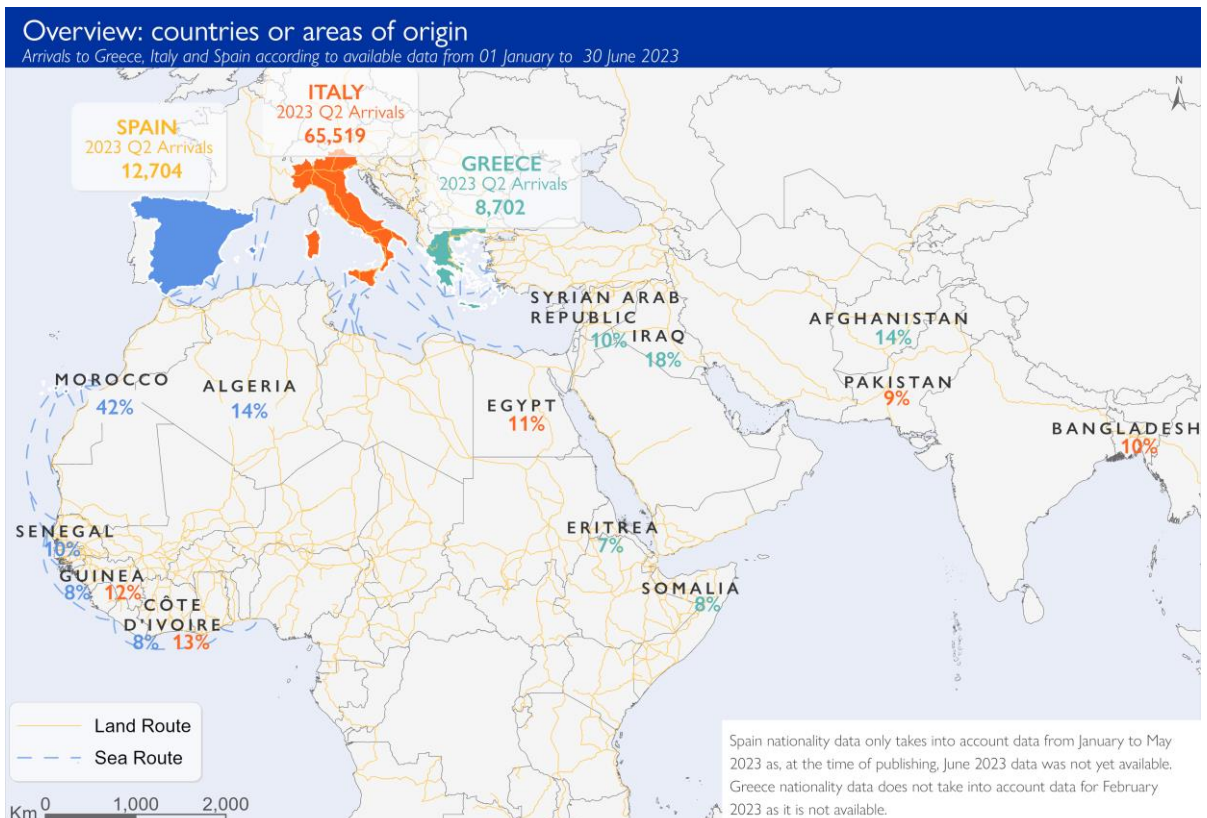


EMR: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece
 CMR: Italy, Malta
 WRM and WAAR: Spain



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Source Data : IOM, National Authorities



Spain nationality data only takes into account data from January to May 2023 as, at the time of publishing, June 2023 data was not yet available. Greece nationality data does not take into account data for February 2023 as it is not available.

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Source Data : IOM, National Authorities

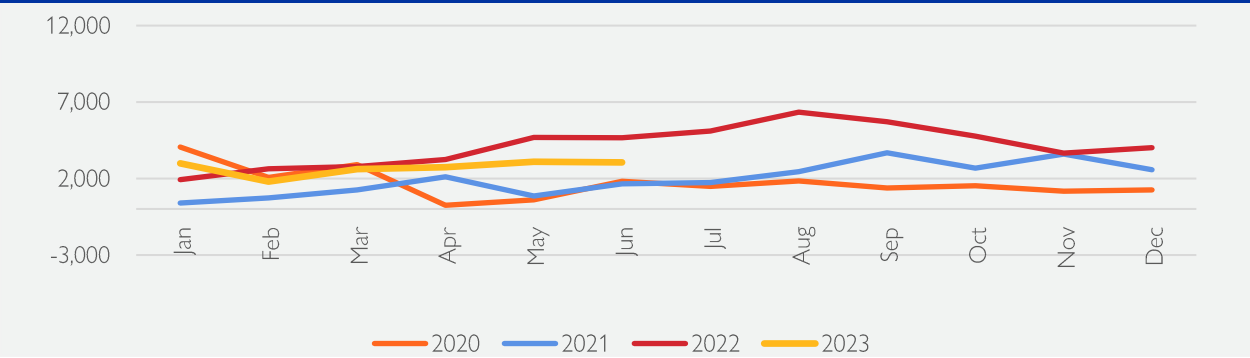
MIGRANT FLOWS MONITORING IN THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

In the first half of 2023, a total of 16,299 migrants were apprehended by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) at sea, while trying to reach the EU (mostly Greece). This is an 18 per cent decrease in comparison with the same period in 2022 (19,920). However, Q2 2023 represents an increase of 20 per cent in comparison with the first quarter of 2023 (7,417). The top nationalities of apprehended persons were Afghanistan, Palestinian Territories, Yemen, Congo, Liberia, and Syrian Arab Republic.

According to the TCG, 12 migrants died at sea in 2023 so far.

Additionally, according to the Turkish Presidency of Migration management (PMM), 71,780 migrants in irregular situation were apprehended on various locations inside Türkiye in the first half of 2023. The top three nationalities in 2023 were Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Palestinian Territories.

Apprehensions by the TCG, all maritime regions, 2018–2023



Apprehensions by the Turkish coast 01 January - 30 June 2023 **16,299** TOTAL Apprehended



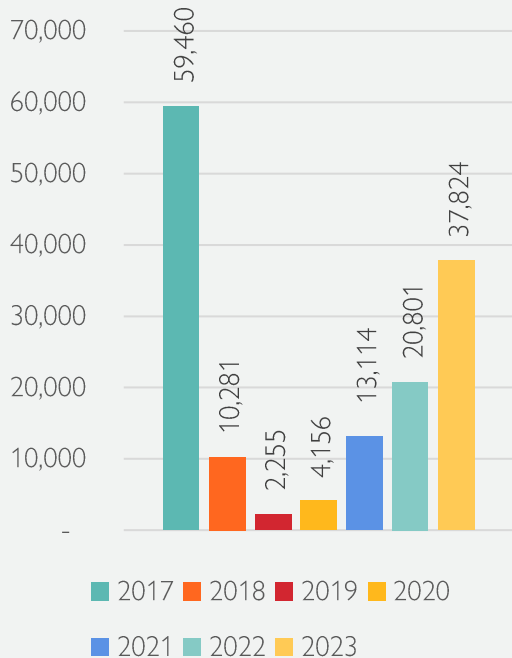
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Source Data : IOM, National Authorities

3. MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

MAIN FIRST ARRIVAL COUNTRIES

ITALY

Arrivals to Italy in Q2, 2017–2023

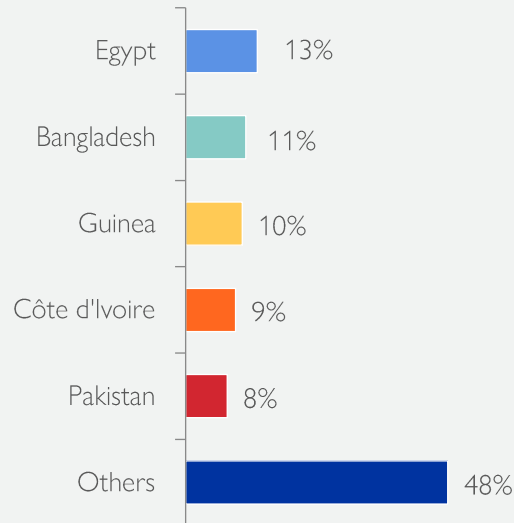


Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior, [DTM flow monitoring](#)

Italian authorities registered a total of 37,824 migrants and refugees arriving by sea in the country during the second quarter of 2023. This is 37 per cent higher than the registered arrivals in Q1 of 2023 (27,695), it is also over 80 per cent higher than the arrivals registered in Q2 of 2022 (20,801), making this the quarter with the highest registered arrival figures in Italy since 2017.

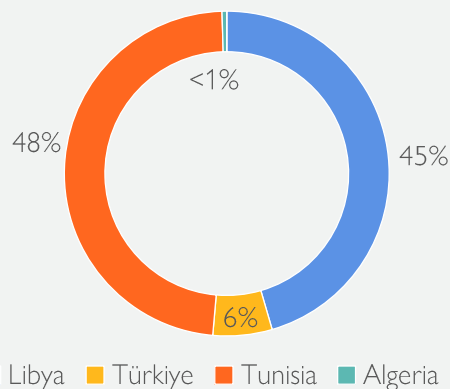
In Q2 of 2023, almost half (48%) of the arrivals were reported to have departed from Tunisia, followed by departures from Libya (45%), Republic of Türkiye (6%) and Algeria (<1%). While this mirrors trends reported in the previous period (Q1 2023), this shows an increasing trend of departures from the coasts of Tunisia (which represented 21% only of all departures in the first six months of 2022).

Arrivals to Italy – nationality breakdown in Q2 2023 (%)



Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior.

Arrivals to Italy – departure countries in Q2 2023



Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior.

Additionally, it is estimated that at least 1,295 migrants perished while crossing the CMR in the second quarter of 2023, which is 2.7 times as high as the 479 in the first quarter of 2023 and 2.8 times higher than the 460 registered in Q2 of 2022.⁵

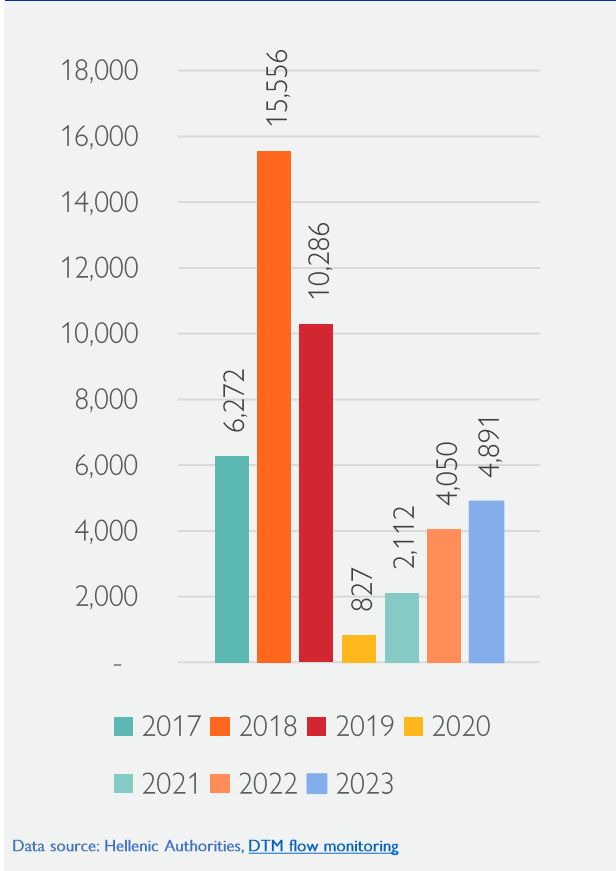
5. IOM's Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int

GREECE

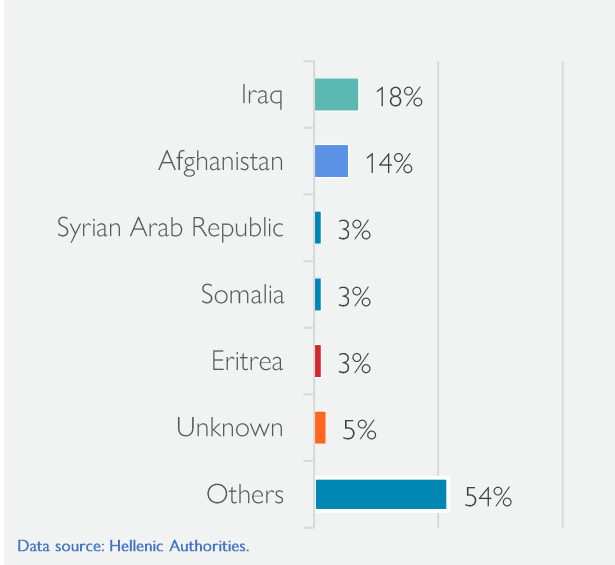
In Q2 of 2023, Hellenic authorities registered a total of 4,891 migrants and refugees arriving by land and by sea to the country, which represents an increase of 28 per cent compared to Q1 of 2023 (3,811). This mirrors seasonal trends, where second quarters are generally higher than first quarters of each year. However, arrivals in Q2 2023 are also 21 per cent higher than the 4,050 registered in the same quarter last year (Q2 2022).

According to the Hellenic Coast Guard and Police, in Q2 of 2023 over 37 per cent of arrivals were registered as land crossing from Türkiye in the region of Evros, as opposed to only 16 per cent in Q2 2023. The rest of migrants and refugees (62%) were reported to have landed on several Greek islands (Lesbos, Chios, Kos, Samos, among them).

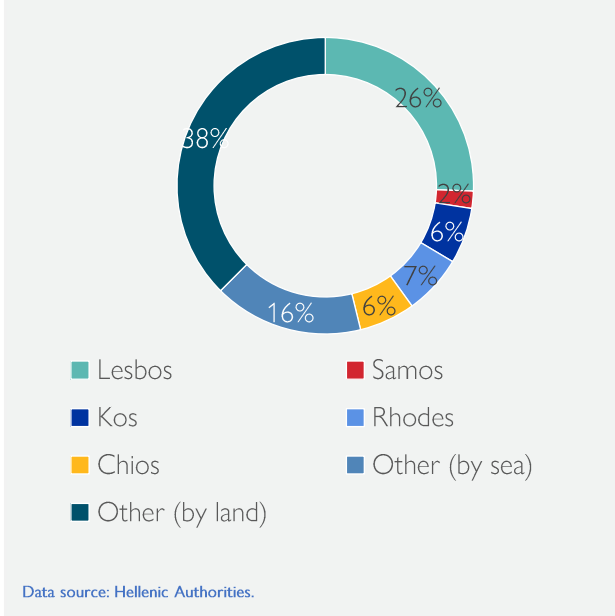
Arrivals to Greece by land and by sea in Q2, 2017–2023



Arrivals to Greece by sea– nationality breakdown in Q2 2023



Arrivals to Greece – main entry points in Q2 2023



Along the EMR, at least 12 migrants disappeared or died in Q2 of 2023, which represents a decrease compared to the 32 estimated to have died in the previous quarter, as well as a decreased of 77 per cent compared to the 53 people registered to have perished in Q2 2022.⁶

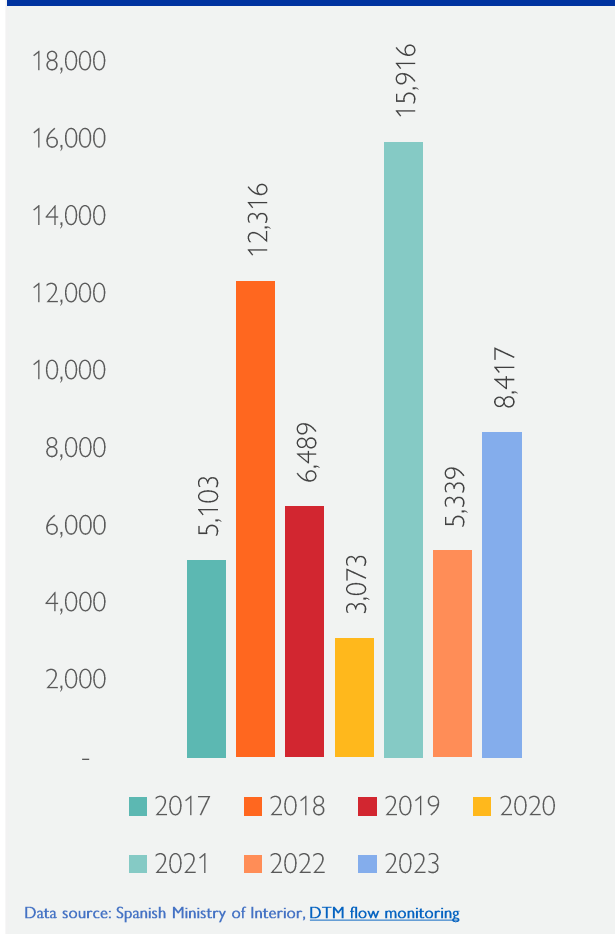
6. IOM’s Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int

SPAIN

In Q2 of 2023, authorities in Spain registered a total of 8,417 arrivals, of which 8,125 by sea and 292 by land. This is over 96 per cent more than the 4,287 registered in the previous quarter. Similarly to other first arrival countries, while Q2 2023 represents an increase compared to the previous quarter, it also represents a considerable increase if compared to Q2 of 2022 (+57%).

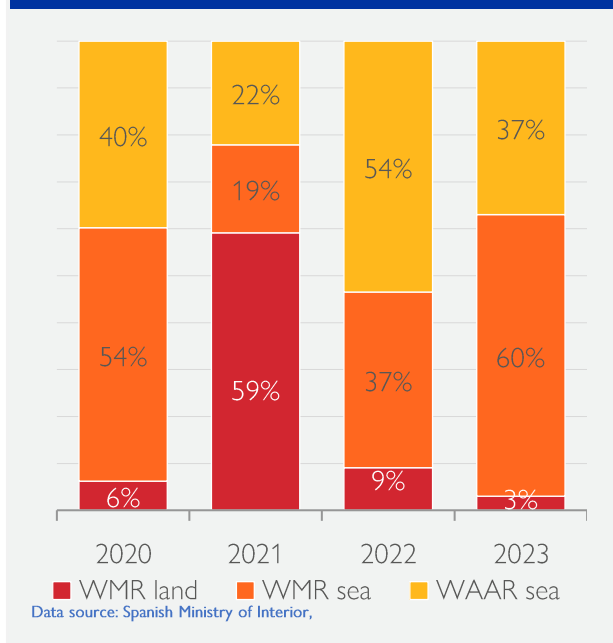
The number of dead and missing along the WMR in Q2 2023 (144) presented an increase of 260 per cent if compared to the 40 who died in Q1 2023, and it is 40 per cent lower than the 103 who died in Q2 of 2022.⁸

Arrivals to Spain in Q2 2017–2023

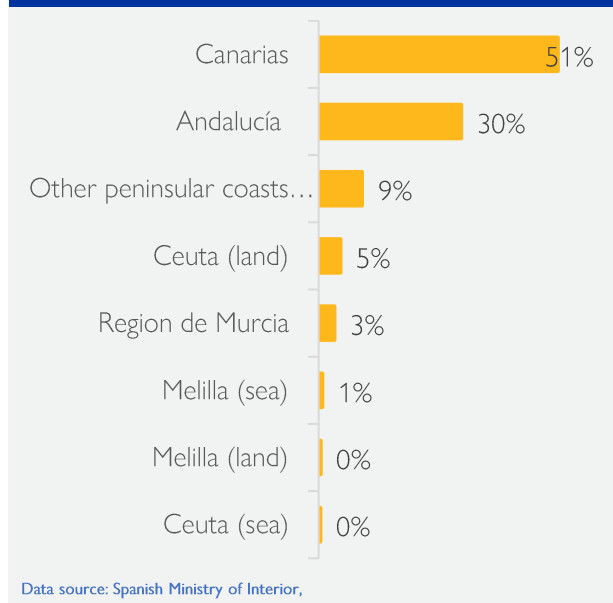


According to Frontex data, Morocco (42%) and Algeria (14%) are the two main countries of origin of arrivals to Spain in Q2, followed by Senegal and Guinea.⁷ These trends are in line with those observed in Q1 2023 and more broadly with 2022, where Morocco and Algeria also represented the two main nationalities of arrival.

Arrivals (%) in Spain in Q2 by route, 2020–2023



Arrivals in Spain Q2 2023 – Main entry points



7. Data on nationalities are sourced from Frontex for Spain, and are available for Jan-May 2023 period at the time of publishing.

8. IOM's Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int

OTHER COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVAL

BULGARIA, CYPRUS AND MALTA

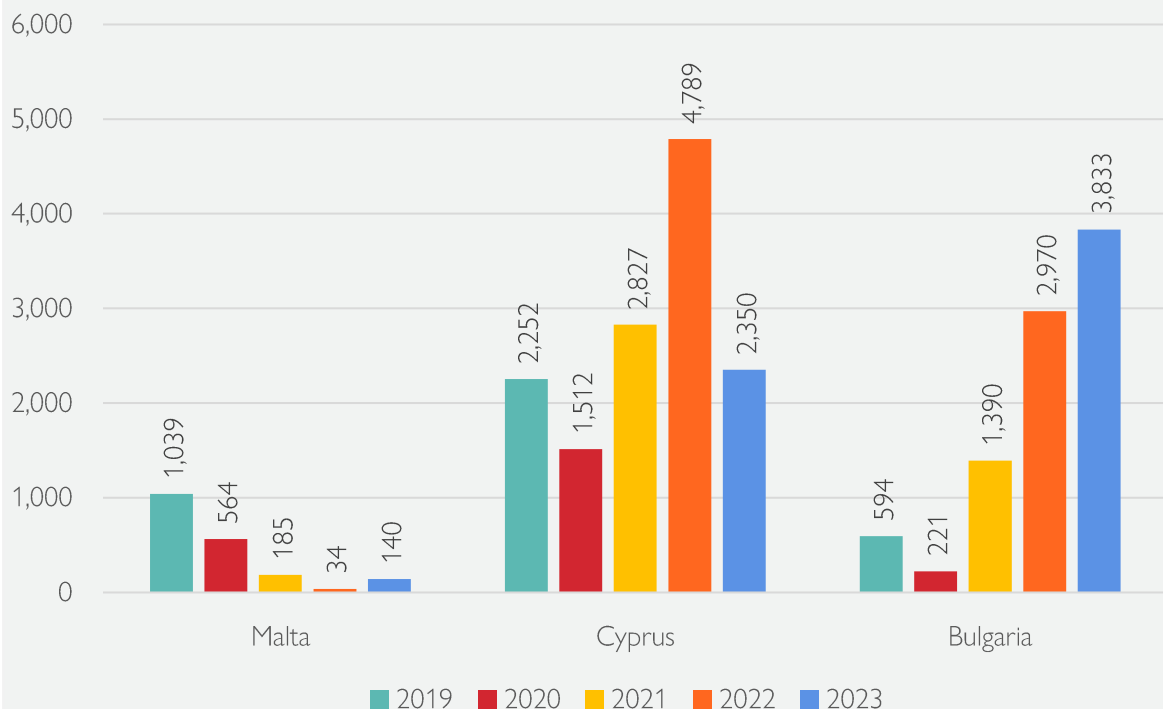
According to the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, 3,833 new migrants were apprehended on entry, inside and on exit from the country in Q2 of 2023, which represents an increase of 29 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2022, as well as an increase of 64 per cent compared to Q1 of 2023 (2,331). Main reported nationalities registered in Q2 2023 in Bulgaria were Syrian Arab Republic (45%), Afghanistan (40%), and Morocco (13%), in line with Q1 2023.⁹

According to the NGO CODECA, 2,350 new arrivals to Cyprus were reported in Q2 2023, either by sea or by crossing the green border with the northern part of the island. For the first time since 2018, the second quarter of the year registered a decrease compared to the same period in the previous year, with Q2 2023 registering over

50 per cent fewer arrivals than Q2 2022 (4,789). Additionally, for the first time since 2019, a second quarter registered lower figures than the previous one, with Q2 2023 recording a decrease of 13 per cent compared to Q1 2023 (2,699). Similarly to the previous quarter, main nationalities registered in Q2 2023 in Cyprus were Syrian Arab Republic (40%), Nigeria (14%), and Afghanistan (11%).

In Malta, 140 migrants or refugees arrived by sea in Q2 2023, an increase from Q1 of 2023 which registered only one arrival, and a decrease from the 34 arrivals registered in Q2 2022. According to available data, the most-reported nationality at arrival in Malta in Q2 2023 is Bangladesh (69%), followed by Guinea (15%) and Egypt (7%).

Arrivals to Malta, Cyprus and Bulgaria in Q2 2019–2023



Data source: National authorities, [DTM flow monitoring](#)

9. Data for Bulgaria include entries from Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, air and maritime borders with no previous registration in another EU country.

TRANSITS THROUGH THE WESTERN BALKAN REGION

Along the WB region, Serbia is the country with the highest number of transits in the first half of 2023, with 37,530 new migrants and refugees to have been registered in the reception centres across the country.¹⁰ This is a slight increase of 16 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. No data on nationalities of migrants registered is available for Serbia.

Croatia registered 26,871 transits in the first half of 2023, with an increase of over 178 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. Afghanistan is the most reported nationality (29%), followed by Republic of Türkiye (15%) and Pakistan (9%).

According to data from national authorities, 20,268 migrants and refugees were apprehended in Slovenia in the first half of 2023, registering the highest increase among WB countries (+233% compared to the first half of 2022). Main nationalities reported are Afghanistan (16%), Morocco (14%), and Bangladesh (10%).

In the other Western Balkans (WB) transit countries and territories (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo*), as well as Romania, a total of 24,526 migrants and refugees have been officially registered at entry or exit, representing an increase of only two per cent compared to the same period of January-June 2022.

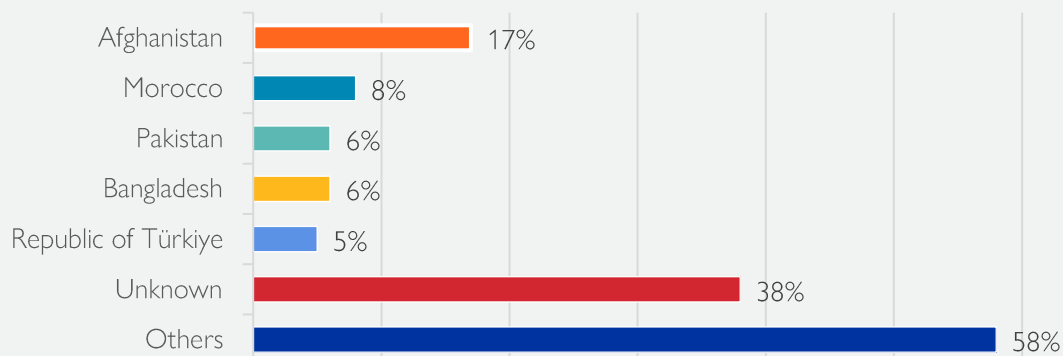
The main nationalities registered for these countries correspond to those shown above: Afghanistan (30%), Morocco (15%) and Bangladesh (10%).

While an increase in the second quarter of the year compared to the first is in line with seasonal trends, the first half of 2023 shows the highest increase in registrations of transits along the WB route compared to the same period in the previous year, since 2019 (+53% overall).

According to Flow Monitoring Surveys carried by IOM in the WB Region,¹¹ most migrants travel through the Republic of Türkiye before crossing into Greece (by land or sea) or Bulgaria. Migrants and refugees from Central and South Asia (Afghans, Bangladeshis, Iranians, Pakistanis) and the Middle East (Iraqis, Syrians) tend to conduct most of their journeys via the land route, often walking great distances in the process. In contrast, most migrants and refugees from the African continent start their journeys by plane either directly to the WB region or to the Republic of Türkiye before moving by land onwards.

Among the main reasons to leave their origin countries, respondents mentioned war and conflict (43.6%), followed by economic reasons (33.8%).

Transits in the WB region – nationality breakdown in Q2 2023



Data source: National authorities, DTM flow monitoring

10. This is used as a proxy indicator for the overall number of new registrations in Serbia.

11. IOM, 'Bosnia & Herzegovina — MIGRANT MOBILITY SITUATION REPORT (July 2023)', 28 August 2023. Available at: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/bosnia-herzegovina-migrant-mobility-situation-report-july-2023> [Accessed 28 August 2023].

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

4. MIGRANTS' PRESENCE

MIGRANTS' PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

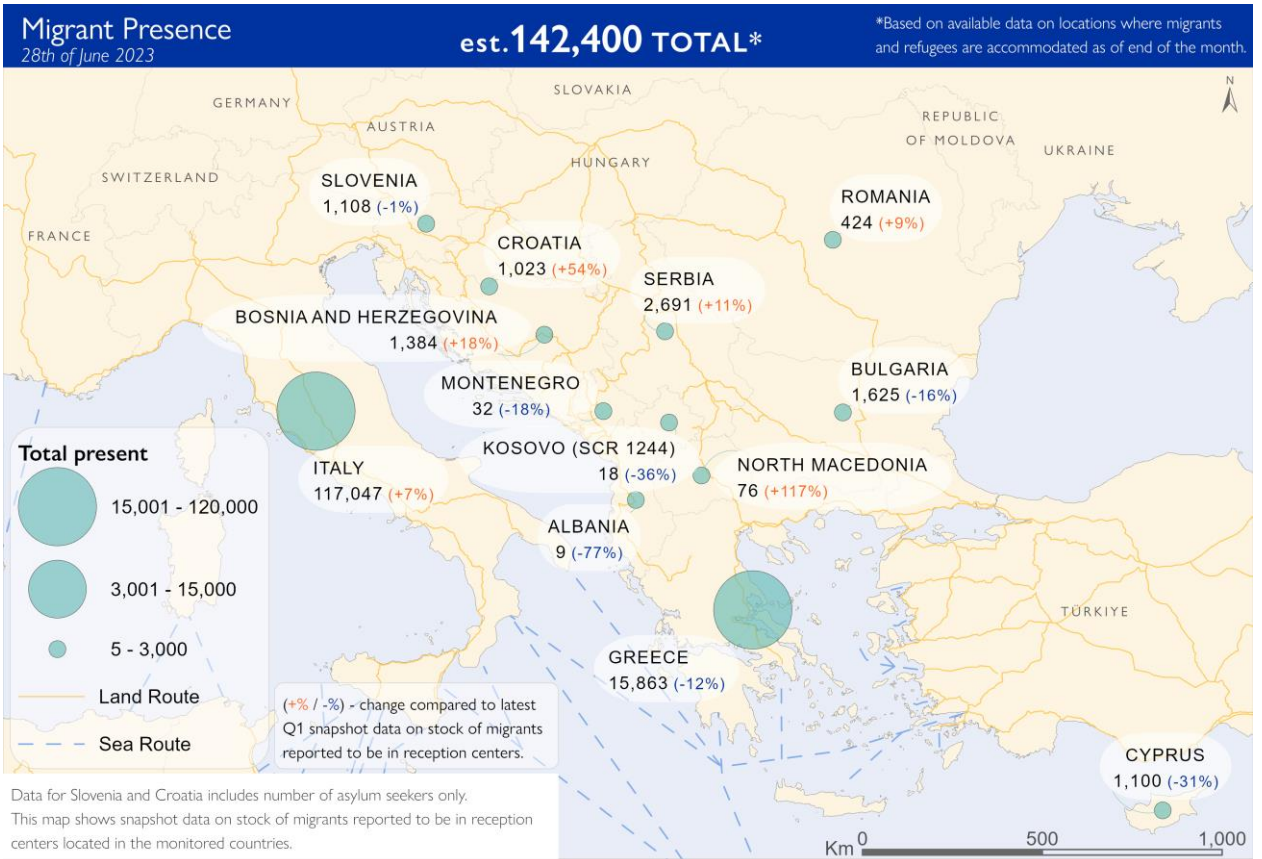
At the end of Q2 2023 an estimated 142,400 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different facilities in Italy, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo*. Among countries covered in this report, no data is available on migrants' reception in Spain and Malta. The migrant presence estimated at the end of Q2 2023 is 4 per cent lower than the 140,637 reported at the end of Q4 in 2022, and 8 per cent higher than the 136,806 recorded at the end of the first quarter of 2023.

For what concerns countries of first arrival, Italy and Greece report the largest shares of migrant presence overall (82% and 11% of the total,

respectively), similarly to the previous quarter. Migrant Presence in Italy increased the most in terms of absolute numbers in Q2 compared to Q1 2023 (7,783, +7%), while in Greece the same periods presented a decrease of 2,221 people, or 12 per cent less.

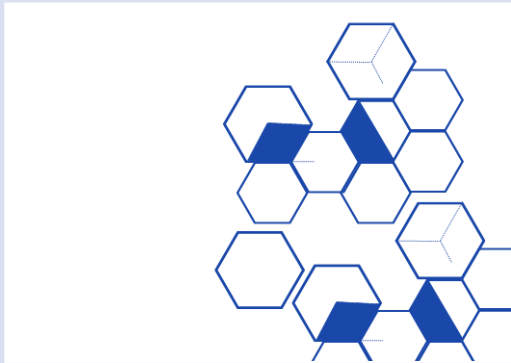
Migrant Presence in North Macedonia represented the greatest increase (117%) in the second quarter of 2023 if compared to the previous period, however, in absolute numbers, only represents and increase of 41 people compared to Q1 2023.

According to the latest available data from the Turkish PMM, there are more than 4.9 million foreign nationals present in Türkiye as of the end of Q2 2023, 3.7 millions of whom are seeking international protection.¹²

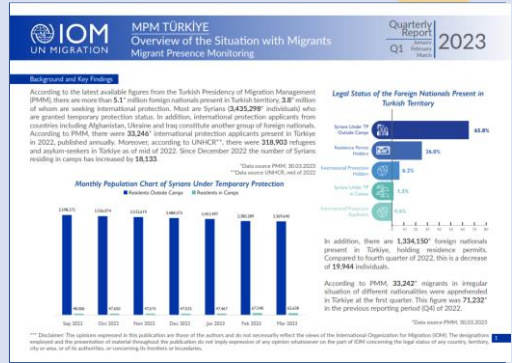


* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
 12. IOM, 'Türkiye — Migrant Presence Monitoring — Situation Report (June 2023)', 21 July 2023. Available at: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/turkiye-migrant-presence-monitoring-situation-report-june-2023?close=true> [Accessed 28 August 2023].

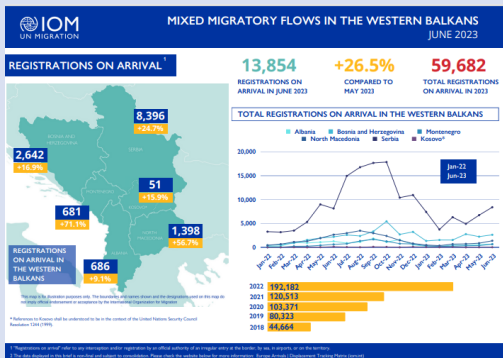
LATEST PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS



Europe — Mixed Migration Flows to Europe, Quarterly Overview Dataset (Apr-Jun 2023)



Türkiye — Migrant Presence Monitoring - Quarterly Migrant Presence Monitoring (Jan-Mar 2023)



Western Balkans — Mixed Migratory Flows Report (Jun 2023)



Europe — Mixed Migration Flows to Europe, Quarterly Overview (Jan-Mar 2023)

For more information, please refer to the DTM Europe Mixed Migration Flows to Europe [Methodological Note](#) and the page <https://dtm.iom.int/europe/arrivals>

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