

QUARTERLY REGIONAL REPORT

Mixed Migration Flows to Europe

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

January – March 2024



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

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1. INTRODUCTION

Migration routes from countries in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa regions through the Mediterranean Sea and to Europe have been used actively since the early 2010s. In the wake of the large 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 the Mediterranean, Western African Atlantic, and Western Balkan routes to Europe. Key routes include:

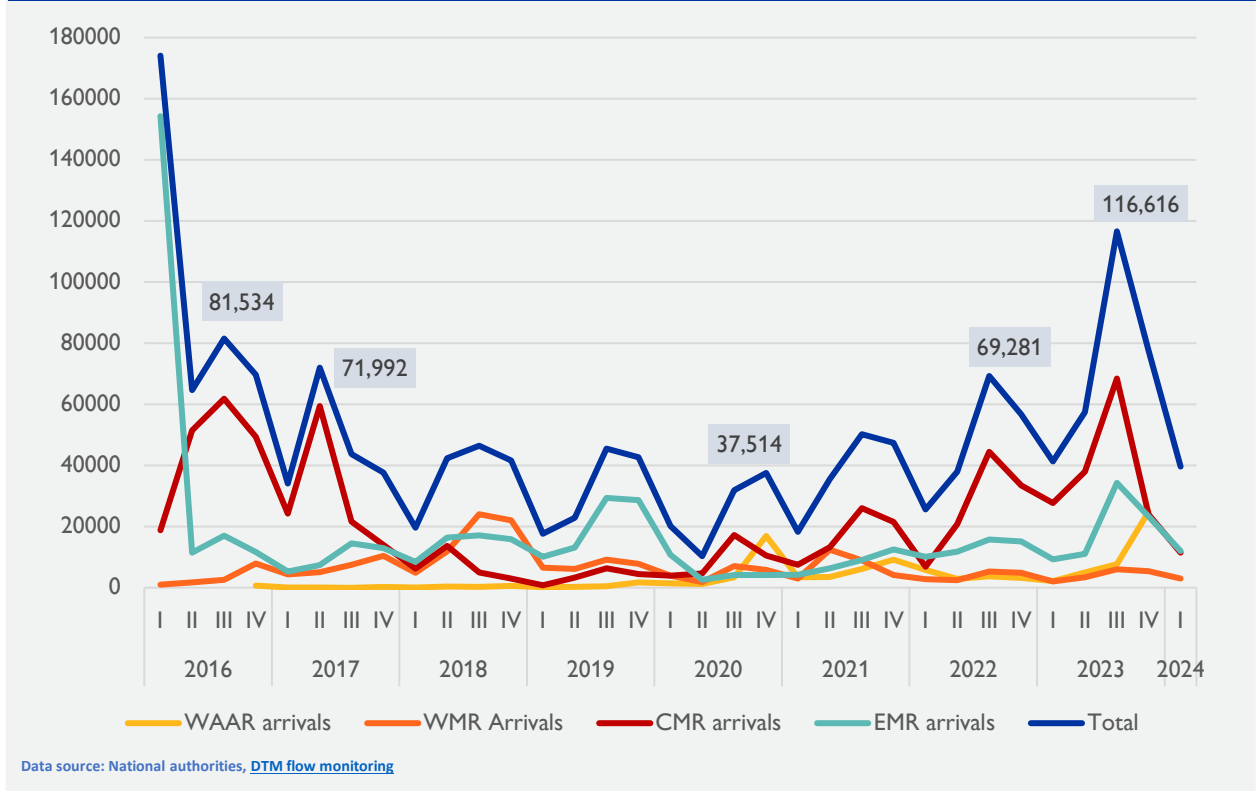
- **Eastern Mediterranean route (EMR):** Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece
- **Central Mediterranean route (CMR):** Italy and Malta

- **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 to reach Europe.

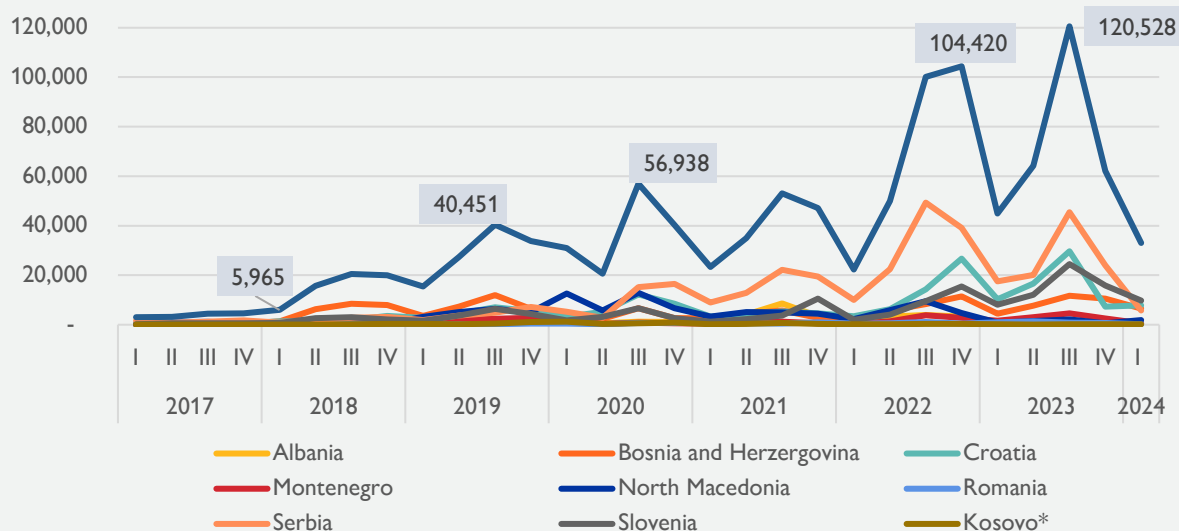
This report presents the latest available data and trends, focusing on the first quarter of 2024, comparing it with the same period in the previous year.

Figure 1: First arrivals to Europe, by route and by quarter, 2016-2024 (Q1)



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

Figure 2: Registered migrants in transit countries, by country and by quarter, 2017-2024 (Q1)



Data source: National authorities, DTM flow monitoring

Main developments in the region:

- In the first quarter of 2024 (Q1 2024), 39,650 migrants arrived in Europe. In comparison to the same period in 2023, the arrivals decreased by 4 per cent. Arrivals on all routes saw a rise, except for those registered along the CMR which fell by 59 per cent to 11,484. Most significantly, a five-fold increase compared to Q1 of 2023 was recorded on the WAAR, where 13,115 people arrived in Q1 2024.
- According to the [Eurostat](#), EU+ countries¹ reported over 179,595 new asylum applications in Q1 2024. Germany continues to receive the most applications in absolute terms (46,695), followed by Spain and Italy, while Cyprus has the highest number relative to its population size (0.2% of its population). Top nationalities of new asylum applications are Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Türkiye. An increase in applications by Palestinians was noted towards the end of 2023 (4,855 in Q4 2023), followed by a decrease to about 3,000 applications in Q1 2024.
- According to [IOM's MMP](#), 656 migrants died or went missing at sea while trying to reach Europe through the Mediterranean and Western African Atlantic routes in Q1 2024. Of these, 384 perished on the CMR, and 119 while

trying to cross the Atlantic to reach the Canary Islands. In 2023, the total of dead and missing was 4,114.

- In February 2024, [Albania](#) ratified a migration deal which was signed with Italy in November 2023. Albania will receive migrants rescued at sea by Italian ships in two closed processing centres.
- In March 2024, the EU signed a Joint Declaration with [Mauritania](#) to support the country in managing migration, including by increasing collaboration on returns and readmission of irregular migrants, combat human trafficking, and strengthening border management.
- Also, in March 2024, the EU has signed a Joint Declaration with Egypt, outlining a similar set of objectives, and re-affirmed its commitment and partnership with Tunisia on migration management.
- Since 31 March 2024, [Bulgaria and Romania](#) have partially joined the Schengen area. Border controls when entering via air or sea will be lifted. Talks on the discontinuation of controls at land borders are ongoing.

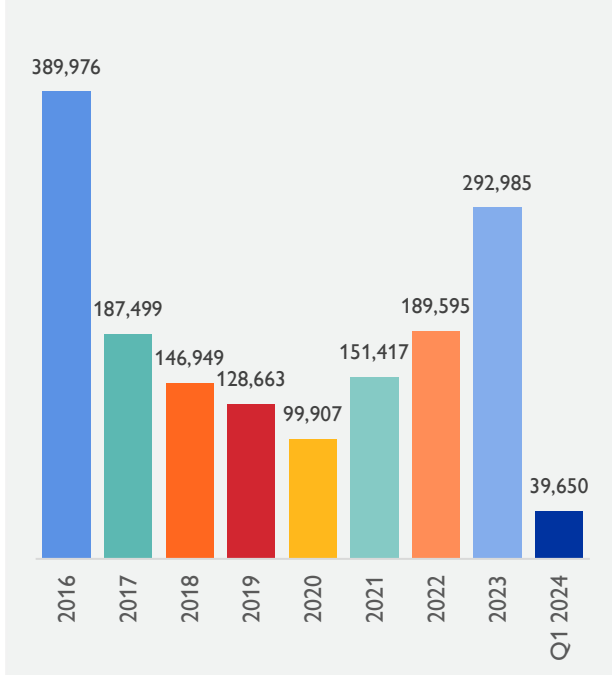
*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

¹ EU27+ countries include all 27 EU member states, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The dataset used is [migr_asyappctzm, Eurostat](#).

2. MOBILITY OVERVIEW

MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE

Figure 3: Arrivals in Europe through the Mediterranean and WAAR, total by year, 2016-2024 (Q1)



In the first quarter of 2024, a total of 39,650 migrants and refugees were registered arriving through the three Mediterranean routes and the WAAR to Europe, which is 4 per cent lower than the 41,310 arrivals registered in the first quarter of 2023, and 54 per cent higher than the 25,630 registered in the first quarter of 2022.

Following the trends of the previous years, Q1 is expected to remain the quarter with the smallest number of arrivals. In 2023, arrivals reached a peak in Q3 (116,616), and then decreased again in Q4 (77,569 in 2023).

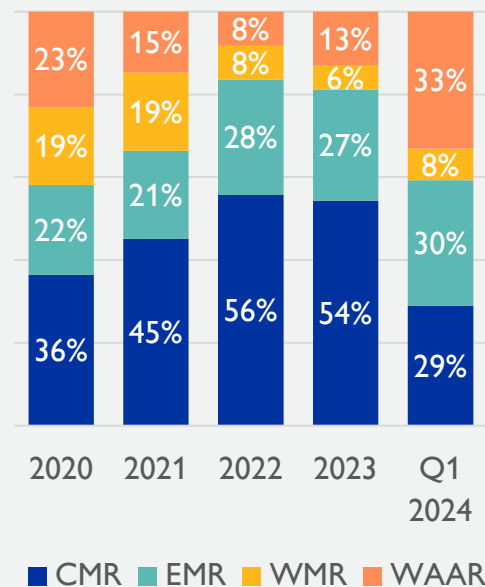
In the first quarter of 2024, 29 per cent of all registered individuals arrived in Europe via the CMR to Italy and Malta (11,484 arrivals, almost all registered in Italy). Around 30 per cent of arrivals travelled through the EMR to Greece, Cyprus and

Bulgaria (12,010). The remaining 41 per cent were registered in Spain, 13,115 of which travelling via the WAAR and 3,041 via the WMR.

Compared to Q1 2023, arrivals in Q1 2024 have increased on all routes except for the CMR has registered a significant decrease of 59 per cent. The biggest increase is registered along the WAAR, with 13,115 arrivals which is nearly five times as many arrivals as the 2,178 in Q1 2023. Arrivals through the EMR have increased by 29 per cent between the first quarter of 2023 and 2024.

According to available data from national authorities, Syrian Arab Republic, Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Bangladesh are the main countries of origin among all registered arrivals to Europe in the first quarter of 2024.

Figure 4: Arrivals in Europe through the Mediterranean and WAAR— total by route and by year, 2020-2024 (Q1)



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

MIGRANT FLOWS MONITORING IN THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

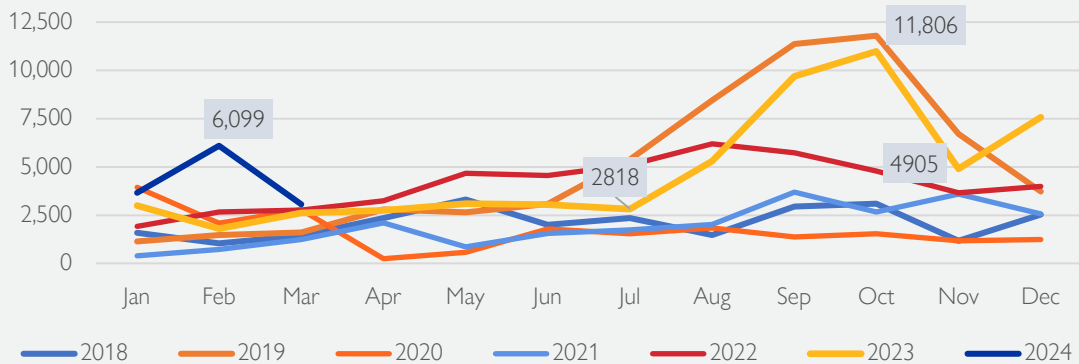
From January to the end of March of 2024, a total of 12,996 migrants were apprehended by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) at sea, while trying to reach the EU (mostly Greece). This is a 72 per cent increase in comparison to the same time frame in 2023 (7,417).

The leading nationalities that were apprehended were Afghanistan, Palestinian Territories, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Liberia, Sudan, and Egypt. According to the TCG, 28 migrants died at sea in the first quarter of 2024.

Additionally, according to the Turkish Presidency of Migration management (PMM), 58,760 migrants in irregular situation were apprehended in various locations inside Türkiye throughout the first quarter of 2024 (+77% compared to 2023).

Figure 5: Apprehensions by the TCG, all maritime regions, by month, 2018–2024



Apprehensions by the Turkish coast

01 January - 31 March 2024

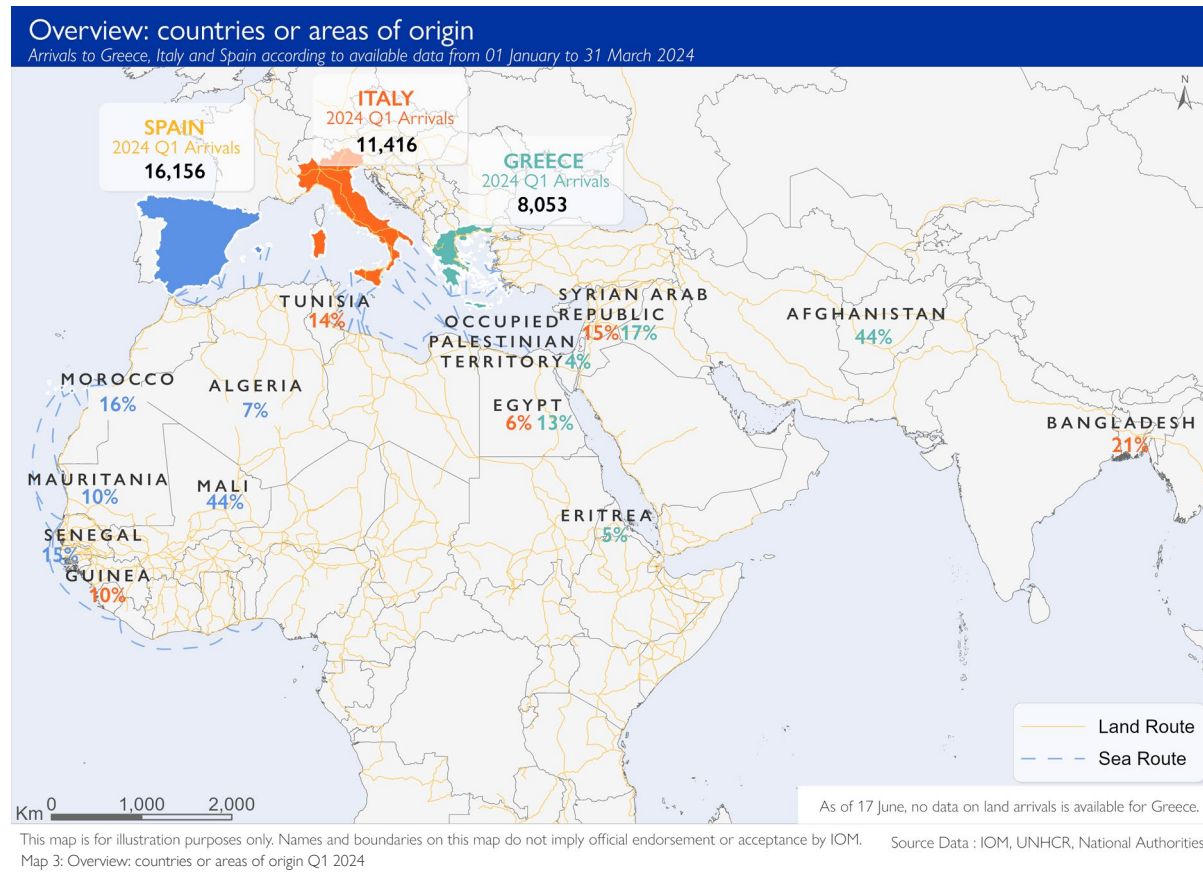
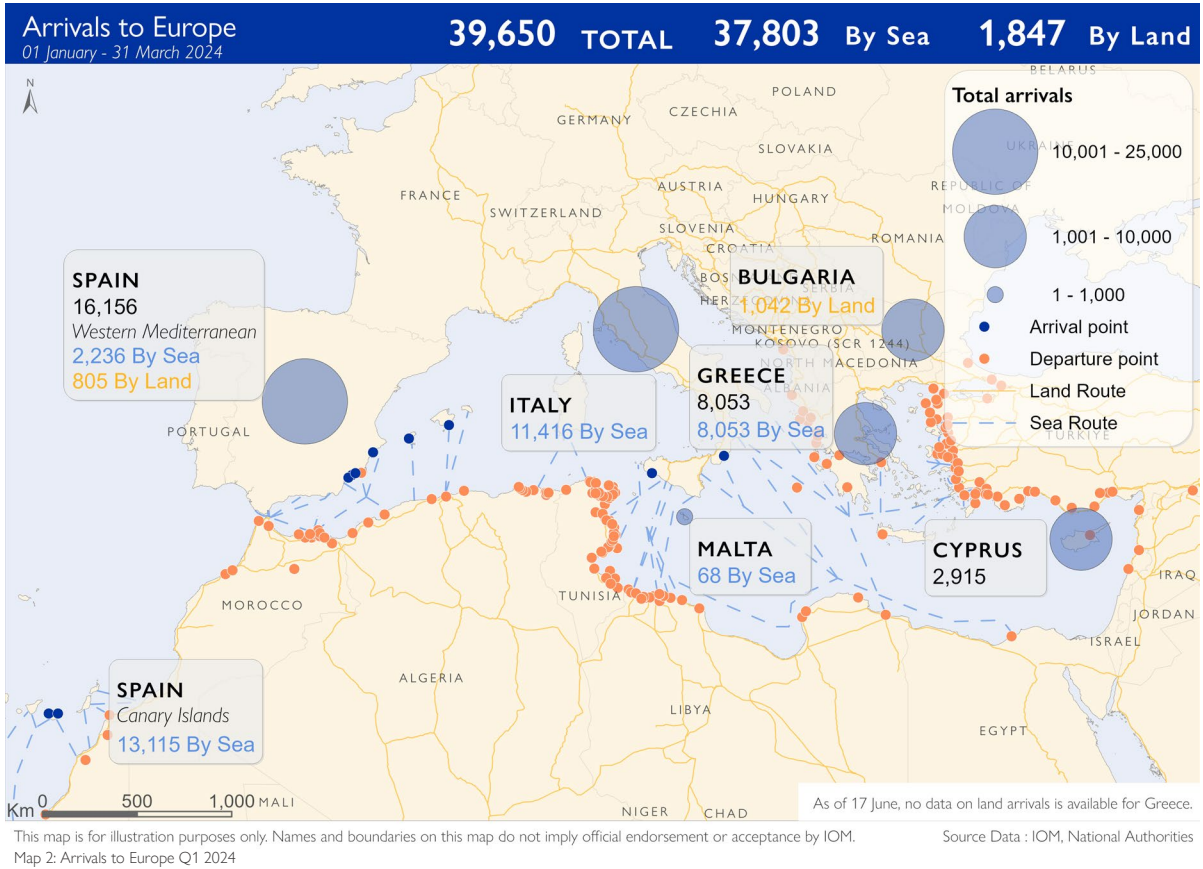
12,996 TOTAL Apprehended



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

Map 1: Apprehensions by the Turkish coast Q1 2024

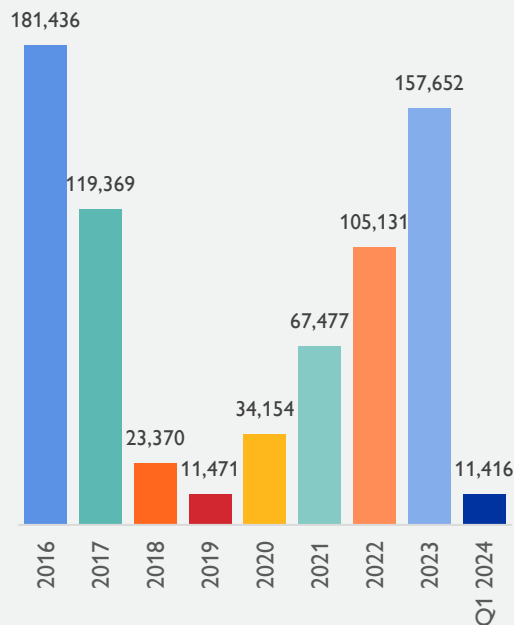


3. MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

FIRST ARRIVAL COUNTRIES

ITALY

Figure 6: Arrivals in Italy – total by year, 2016 – Q1 2024



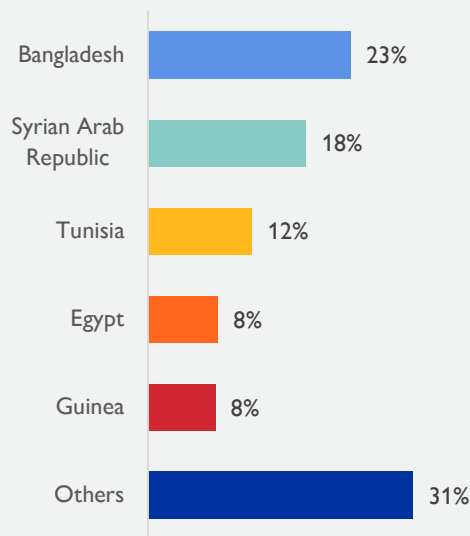
Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior, DTM flow monitoring
* Q1

Italian authorities registered a total of 11,416 migrants and refugees arriving by sea in the country during the first quarter of 2024. This is 59 per cent lower than the registered arrivals during the same time frame in 2023 (27,695). In comparison to the last quarter of 2023, the number decreased by 52 per cent with Italy registering 23,831 arrivals.

In Q1 of 2024, 66 per cent of the arrivals were reported to have departed from Libya, followed by departures from Tunisia (34%). Forty departures were registered to have embarked from Algeria.

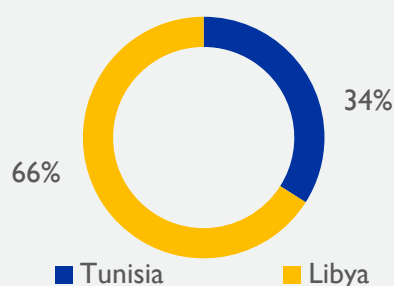
Main nationalities registered at arrival for the first quarter of 2024 were Bangladesh (23%), Syrian Arab Republic (18%), and Tunisia (12%), followed by Egypt (8%) and Guinea (8%).

Figure 7: Arrivals in Italy – total by nationality, Q1 2024 (%)



Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior.

Figure 8: Arrivals in Italy – departure countries in Q1 2024*



Data source: Italian Ministry of Interior.

*The share of Algeria was excluded from the chart due to its small size of departures

At least 384 migrants perished while crossing the CMR in the first quarter of 2024, compared to 477 in the same time frame of the previous year.² This is a 20 per cent decrease compared to Q1 2023, but an increase of 87 per cent compared to Q4 2024.

² IOM’s Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int [Accessed 13 June 2024].

GREECE

In the first quarter of 2024, the Hellenic authorities registered a total of 8,053 migrants and refugees arriving by sea to the country, which represents an increase of 152 per cent compared to the previous year’s Q1 (3,193).

Although there is no data on arrivals to Greece via land available at the time of writing,² the last years have shown that sea arrivals outnumber its land arrivals significantly. Arrivals by sea in 2023 were 41,768 (87%) while land crossings from Türkiye in the region of Evros only accounted for 6,162 (13%).

In Q1 2024, an increasing number of boats has been reported to have departed from North African coasts to reach the southern Islands of Crete and Gadvos of Greece. As migrants are then transferred and registered in the mainland, this is not necessarily reflected in data by registration point.

Figure 9: Arrivals by land and by sea in Greece – total by year, 2016–Q1 2024

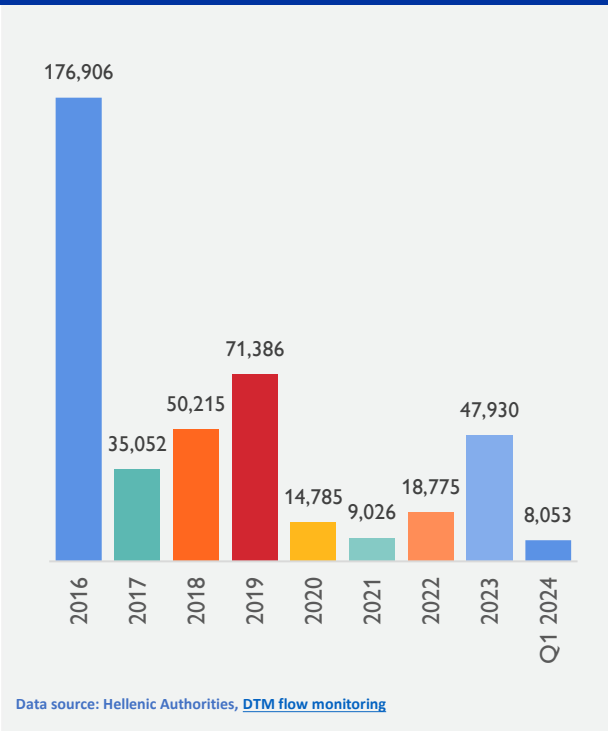


Figure 10: Arrivals in Greece – total by nationality, Q1 2024

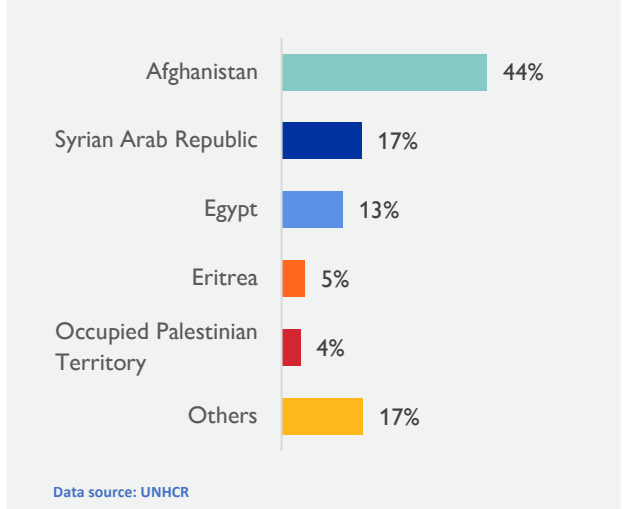
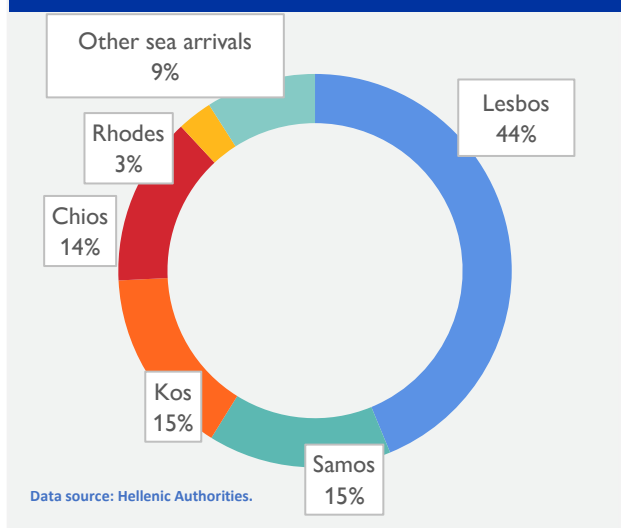


Figure 11: Arrivals to Greece – main entry points by sea in Q1 2024



The main nationalities reported in the first quarter of 2024 were Afghanistan (44%), Syrian Arab Republic (17%), Egypt (13%), Eritrea (5%) and Occupied Palestinian Territory (4%).

Along the EMR, at least 50 migrants disappeared or died in the first quarter of 2024, while in the same period in 2023, 48 people went missing or perished.³

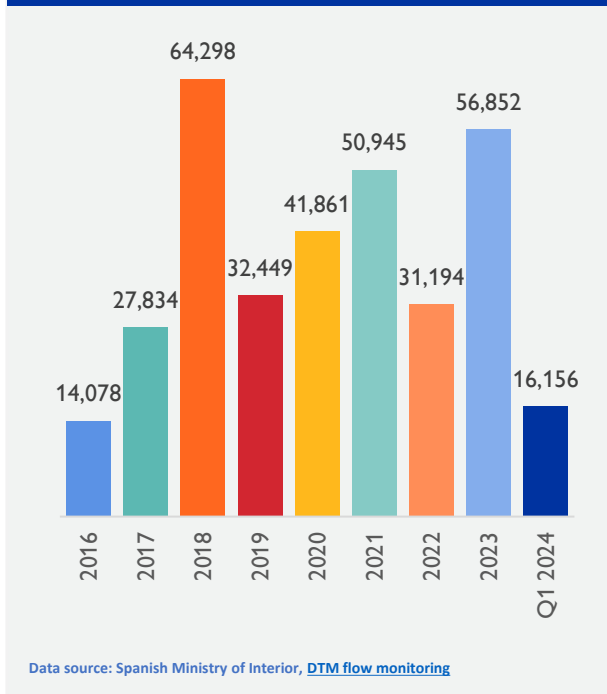
² During the drafting of the report, data on land arrivals and nationalities of those arrived are not available to IOM and will be made available in the subsequent releases of the report. The data source is for nationalities of arrivals to Greece in Q1 2024 is UNHCR.

³ IOM’s Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int [Accessed 17 June 2024].

SPAIN

In the first quarter of 2024, authorities in Spain registered a total of 16,156 arrivals, of which 15,351 by sea and 805 by land. This is 49 per cent fewer than the 29,978 registered in the previous quarter. Similarly, to other first arrival countries, Q1 2024 represents the quarter of fewest arrivals to EU countries, however, this trend is less applicable to the WAAR than to other routes.

Figure 12: Arrivals by land and by sea in Spain – total by year, 2016–2024



In the first quarter of 2024, arrivals to the Canary Islands represented 81 per cent of all arrivals in Spain, with most of the rest being represented by a variety of locations in Andalucía, the region of Murcia, the Comunidad Valenciana and the Balearic Islands (15%). Land arrivals only represented 5 per cent of the total.

According to Frontex, Mali (44%) is the main country of origin for arrivals in Spain in Q1 2024, which surpassed Morocco (16%), and Senegal (15%) compared to 2023.⁴ The increase of Senegalese migrants among arrivals is due to the increase in landings in the Canary Islands.

The total number of dead and missing migrants on their way to Spain was 104 along the WMR and 119 along the WAAR in Q1 of 2024. In the same time frame in 2023, 91 individuals perished or went missing on the WAAR while the number recorded at the WMR was 41.⁵

Figure 13: Arrivals in Spain – by route and by year, 2020–2024

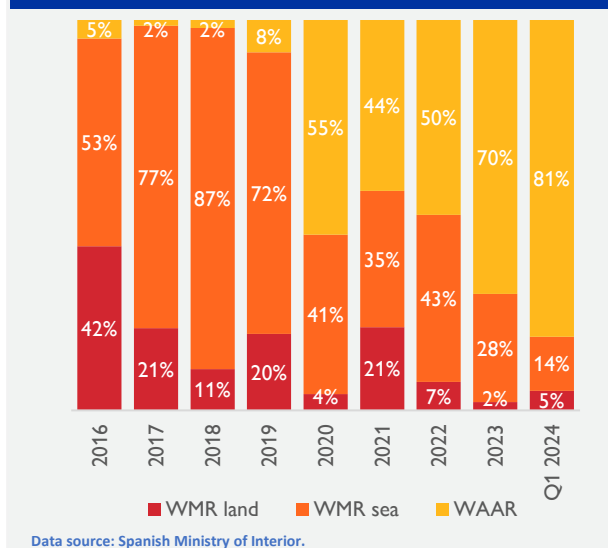
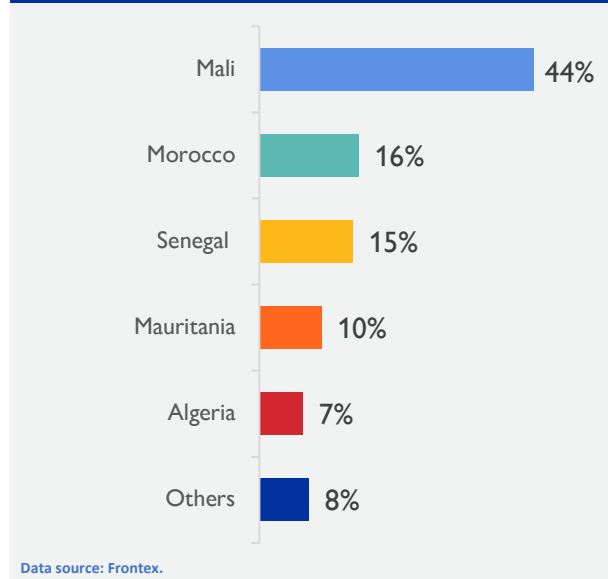


Figure 14: Arrivals in Spain – total by nationality, Q1 2024



⁴ The data source for the nationalities of arrivals in Spain in Q1 2024 is [Frontex](#).

⁵ IOM's Missing Migrant Project: missingmigrants.iom.int [Accessed 13 June 2024].

OTHER COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVAL

BULGARIA, CYPRUS, AND MALTA

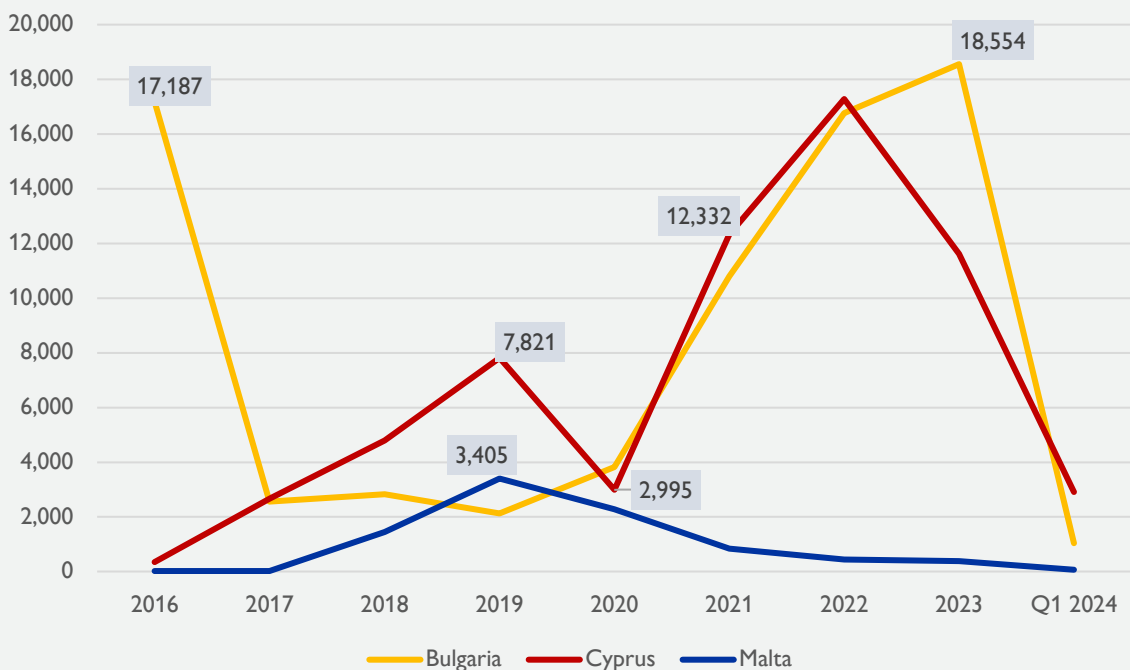
According to the **Bulgarian** Ministry of Interior, 1,042 migrants were apprehended on entry, inside and on exit from the country in the first quarter of 2024. This represents a decrease of 55 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year. Main reported nationalities registered in Bulgaria in Q1 2024 were Syrian Arab Republic (50%), Afghanistan (19%), and Morocco (4%).⁶

According to authorities in **Cyprus**, 2,915 first time asylum applications were registered in Q1 of 2024.⁷ No information is available to distinguish by sea or land crossings through the green border with the northern part of the island. The main nationalities reported in the first quarter of 2024 were Syrian Arab Republic (81%), Islamic Republic

of Iran (2%), Afghanistan (2%), and Democratic Republic of Congo (2%).

In **Malta**, 68 migrants arrived by sea in Q1 of 2024, while in the first quarter of 2023 the Maltese authorities registered only one individual. Malta recorded the highest number of arrivals in 2019 (3,405), which is 9 times more than the total number of arrivals in 2023. According to available data, the main nationality at arrival in Malta was Pakistan (32%), followed by Syrian Arab Republic (24%) and Bangladesh (21%). Migrants reportedly departed mostly from Libya.

Figure 15: Arrivals to Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Malta – total by year, 2016 – 2024



Data source: National authorities, DTM flow monitoring

⁶ Data for Bulgaria include entries from Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, air and maritime borders with no previous registration in another EU country.

⁷ Data for Cyprus are sources from the Asylum office. In previous reporting periods, data were sourced from the NGO CODECA which manages the main reception center where registrations are recorded soon upon arrivals. Comparisons with previous period shall be made with caution.

TRANSITS THROUGH THE WESTERN BALKAN REGION

Among the WB countries and territories,⁸ **Bosnia and Herzegovina** has registered 6,544 migrants in Q1 2024, which is 46 per cent more than the 4,485 registered in Q1 2023. Main nationalities were Syrian Arab Republic (44%), Afghanistan (15%), and Morocco (10%).

Serbia is the country with the second highest number of transits reported in Q1 2024, with 5,759 new migrants and refugees registered in reception centres in the country.⁹ This is a decrease of 67 per cent compared Q1 2023 (17,473). No data on nationalities is available for Serbia.

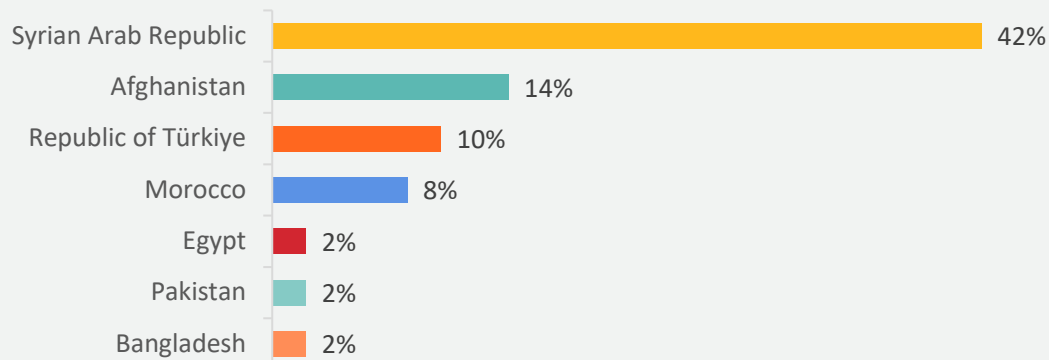
Additionally, **Croatia** registered 7,819 entries from its external borders in Q1 of 2024, with a decrease of 24 per cent compared to Q1 2023 (10,272). Syrian Arab Republic is the most reported nationality (38%), followed by Türkiye (26%) and Afghanistan (9%).

Slovenia registered 9,810 new migrants and refugees in Q1 2024, registering an increase of 21 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. The main nationalities were Syrian Arab Republic (39%), Afghanistan (13%), and Morocco (12%).

In the other countries and territories of Eastern Europe and the WB monitored (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, and Kosovo*), a total of 3,112 migrants and refugees have been registered at entry or exit in Q1 of 2024, a decrease of 32 per cent compared to the 4,603 of the first quarter of 2023. The main nationalities reported so far in 2024 were Syrian Arab Republic (56%), Morocco (7%), Afghanistan (6%) and Nepal (4%). In Q1 2024, at least three individuals went missing or died while transiting the WB.

IOM's DTM carried out several assessments at key flow monitoring points within the WB.¹⁰ In Q1 2024, 5,326 surveys were collected. According to the available evidence, most migrants travel through 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 travel mostly by land, walking and use several land transportation means during their journey. 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 on via land.¹¹

Figure 16: Transits in the WB region – nationality breakdown, total in Q1 2024



Data source: National authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Kosovo*, [DTM flow monitoring](#)

⁸ Transits through the WB region is considered separately to prevent to the extent possible the double counting of the same persons that cross multiple borders to reach Europe.

⁹ This is used as a proxy indicator for the overall number of new registrations by national authorities in Serbia.

¹⁰ IOM, Apr 29 2024. [DTM Western Balkans – Migrant Mobility Situation Report \(March 2024\)](#). IOM, South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

¹¹ IOM, Mar 14 2024. [DTM Serbia – Flow Monitoring Surveys with Migrants Travelling through Serbia](#) (June-August 2023). IOM, Serbia.

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

4. MIGRANTS' PRESENCE IN RECEPTION

EUROPE AND THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

At the end of Q1 2024 an estimated 181,712 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were present in different reception facilities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Kosovo*. No data is available on migrants in reception in Spain and Malta.

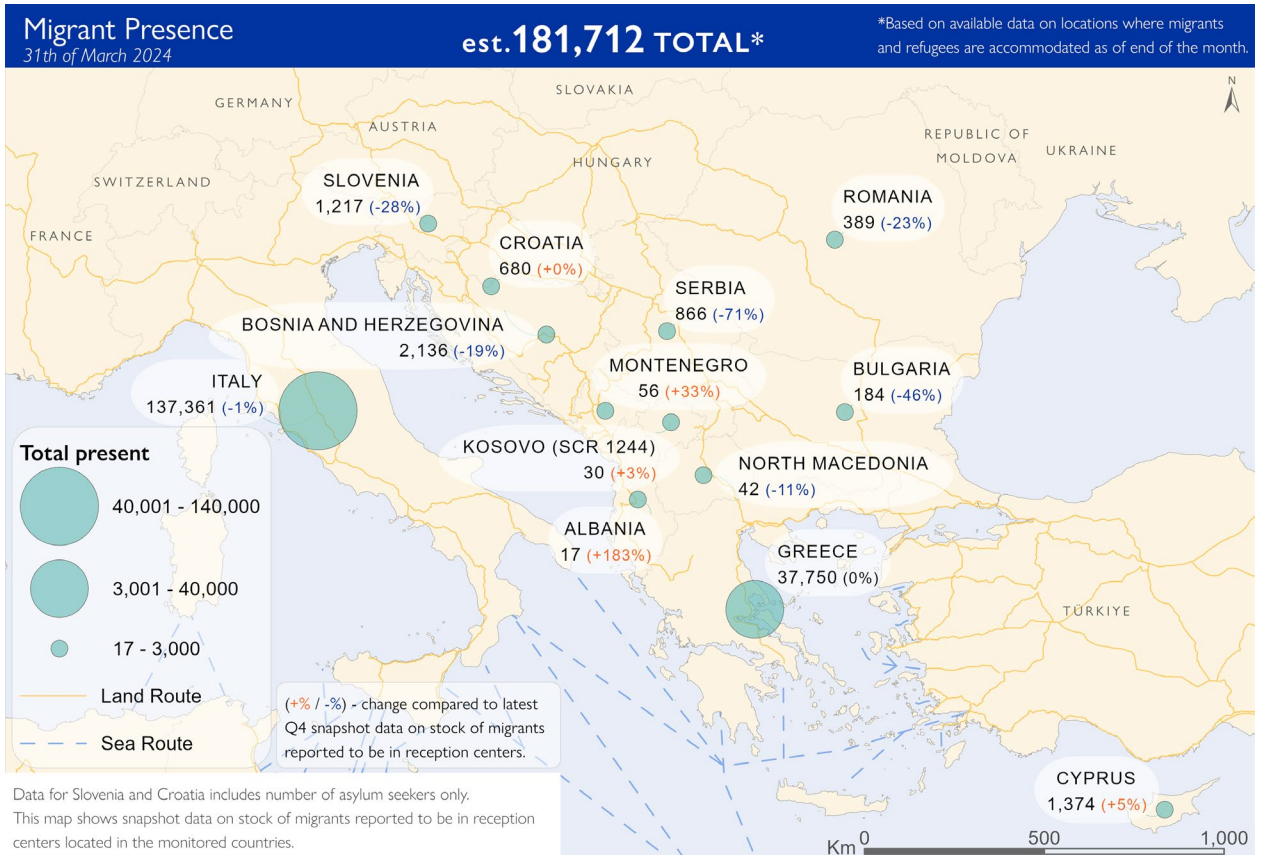
The estimated migrant presence at the end of Q1 2024 is 4 per cent lower than the 190,182 reported at the end of Q4 2023, and 30 per cent higher compared to the same quarter of 2023.

Italy and Greece report the largest shares of migrant presence overall (76% and 21% of the total, respectively), similarly to the previous

reporting periods. The number of migrants in reception in Italy remained stable between Q4 2023 and Q1 2024 (-1%) reaching 137,361. In the first quarter of 2024, Greek reception centres registered 37,750 migrants in reception.

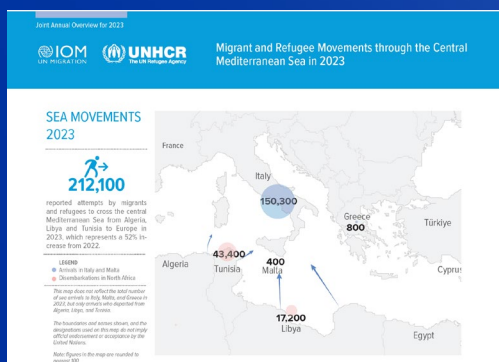
In the WB region, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the highest number of migrants in reception at the end of Q1 2024 (2,136) followed by Serbia (866).

Additionally, according to the latest available data released by the Turkish PMM, there are more than 4.5 million foreign nationals present in Türkiye as of the end of Q1 2024, 3.4 million 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 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Apr 22 2024. DTM Türkiye — [Migrant Presence Monitoring — Situation Report \(March 2024\)](#). IOM, Republic of Türkiye.

5. LATEST PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS



Migrant and refugee movements through the Central Mediterranean sea - UNHCR and IOM Joint Overview 2023



Türkiye — Overview of Migrant Situation - Annual Report (Jan-Dec 2023)



Albania — Flow Monitoring Surveys with Migrants Travelling through Albania in (Jun – Sep 2023)



Europe — Migrants Travelling to Europe by Land and by Sea: Flow Monitoring Surveys Report 2023

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



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