

# MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Compilation of Available  
Data and Information

January 2020



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

**DTM**





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 is provided to migrants; IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/  
 January 2019

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Photo/ cover page:  
 Migrants in a reception centre in Ventimiglia, close to the border with France. IOM Italy /2019

## HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 8,223<sup>1</sup> migrants and refugees arrived in Europe through different land and sea routes in January 2020, almost the same trend registered in January 2019, when 8,176 sea and land arrivals were reported, and 5 per cent less than the 8,680 arrivals registered both in January 2018 and January 2017.

There were 3,963 registered arrivals via the **Eastern Mediterranean route** (48% of total registered arrivals in Europe) in Bulgaria and Greece in January 2020. Another 2,365 arrivals were registered via the **Western Mediterranean route**<sup>2</sup> (29%) leading to Spain, and 1,895 were registered crossing the **Central Mediterranean route** (23%), arriving by sea to Italy and Malta in the same period. Hence, the Eastern Mediterranean route continues to surpass both the Western and Central Mediterranean routes as the main route taken by migrants and refugees travelling to Europe by sea and land, as it has done each month since February 2019. In January 2019, the Western Mediterranean route was recorded as the most active with 4,612 arrivals (56% of the total), followed by the Eastern Mediterranean route with 3,313 registered arrivals (41%) and the Central Mediterranean route with 251 registered arrivals (3%). In January 2018, 48 per cent of all arrivals in Europe were registered on the Central Mediterranean route (4,182), while arrivals on the Eastern Mediterranean route were 2,316 (27%) and on Western Mediterranean 2,182 (25%).

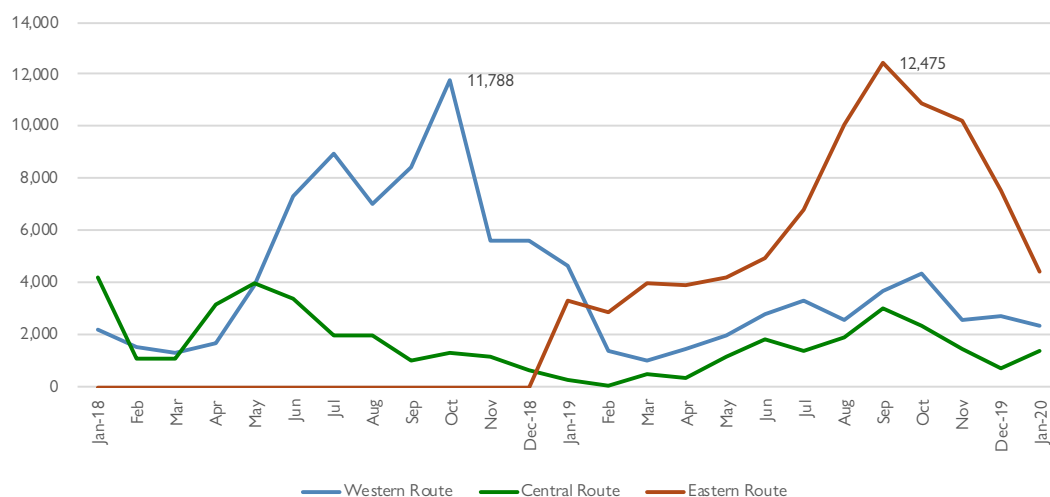
Hellenic Authorities reported 3,898 new arrivals in January 2020, which makes **Greece** the top arrival country in Europe so far in 2020. Arrivals in Greece are 43 per cent less than the previous month (December 2019), 52 per cent higher than the 2,568 registered in January 2019, and almost two times the 1,978 reported in January 2018. Of all registered arrivals in Greece in January 2020, 83 per cent arrived by sea and the remaining 17 per cent were by land. According to available data, the most frequently registered nationality of sea arrivals to Greece by sea in January 2020 was Afghanistan (52%) followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (20%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (3%), and others. Authorities in **Bulgaria** registered 65 new arrivals in 2020, slightly less than the previous month (82 in December 2019) and also similar to the same month of last year (60 in January 2019).

A total of 2,365 migrants and refugees were registered entering **Spain** in January 2020, which is 14 per cent less than the previous month (2,738 in December 2019), half of the 4,612 registered in the period of 2019 and 8 per cent more than the 2,182 registered in the same period of 2018. Among the total arrivals to Spain in 2019, 78 per cent arrived by sea (708, or 38% of arrivals by sea were registered in the Canary Islands) and the remaining 22 per cent arrived by land to the Spanish autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla on the north coast of Africa.

**Italian** authorities reported the 1,342 arrivals in January 2020. Arrivals in this period have increased more than two times in comparison with the previous month (598 in December 2019), are six times higher than the 202 registered in January 2019 and are just 32 per cent of the 4,182 registered arrivals to Italy in January 2018. The most frequently registered nationality of migrants arriving at Italy in January 2020 has been Algeria (19%), followed by Côte d'Ivoire (14%), Bangladesh (10%), and other African and Southern Asian countries. In addition, there were 553 registered arrivals in **Malta** in January 2020, a significant increase compared to the 97 of the previous month (December 2019) and of the 49 registered in January 2019. According to available data from national authorities, Sudan was the most frequently reported nationality at arrival in January 2020 (33%), followed by Bangladesh (11%) and Somalia (11%).

In addition to first-arrival countries, authorities in countries and areas in the **Western Balkans** region continue to report a decrease in monthly registrations of new migrants and refugees since October 2019. Reported registrations in January 2020 were 6,604, which is 8 per cent less than the 7,151 reported in December 2019 but more than twice as compared to the 2,746 reported in January last year and almost five times higher than the 1,383 reported in January 2018. Nationals of Afghanistan continue to be the most frequently reported among migrants and refugees intercepted transiting the Western Balkans in January 2020, as has been the case each month since October 2019, and particularly in Serbia (57%), North Macedonia (38%) and Croatia (25%). Nationals of Morocco are also prominent among those recorded transiting the region, particularly in Montenegro (73%), Albania (46%), Slovenia (31%), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (27%). Syrian nationals are the third most frequently registered in the Western Balkans in January 2020, and the most common nationality of those registered in Kosovo<sup>3</sup> (58%).

Figure 1: Arrivals to Europe via the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes by month, 2018-2020



1 Data on arrivals to Cyprus in January 2020 are not available at the time of closing this report.

2 Arrivals to Spain include arrivals to the Canary Islands.

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



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Photo: Migrants' reception centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019 / IOM BIH.

## OVERVIEW OF ARRIVALS & REGISTERED IRREGULAR APPREHENSIONS

Figure 2: Arrivals in Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta and Bulgaria, January 2017–2020

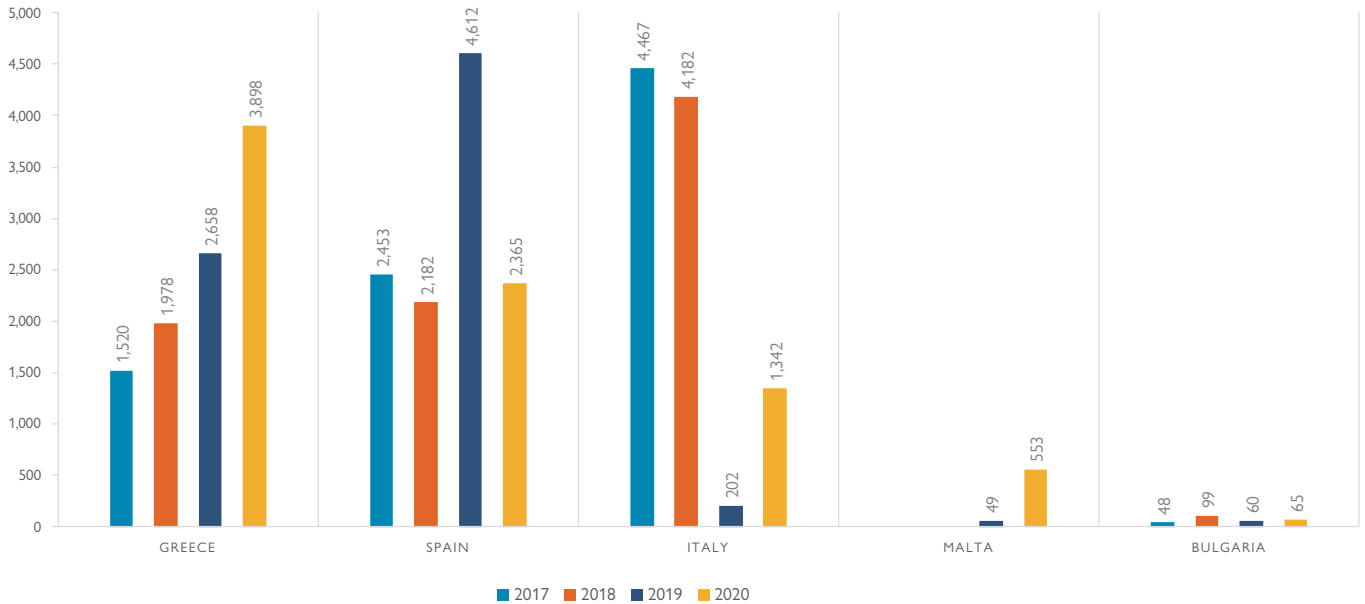
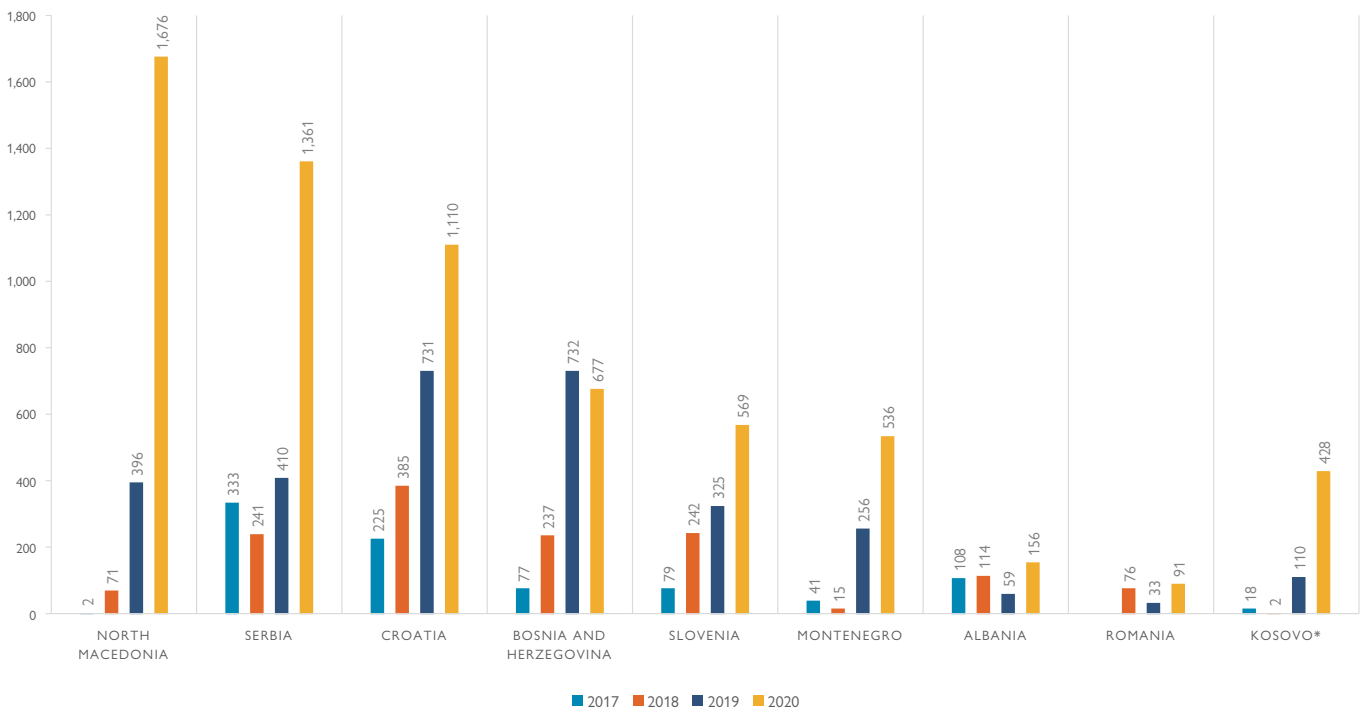


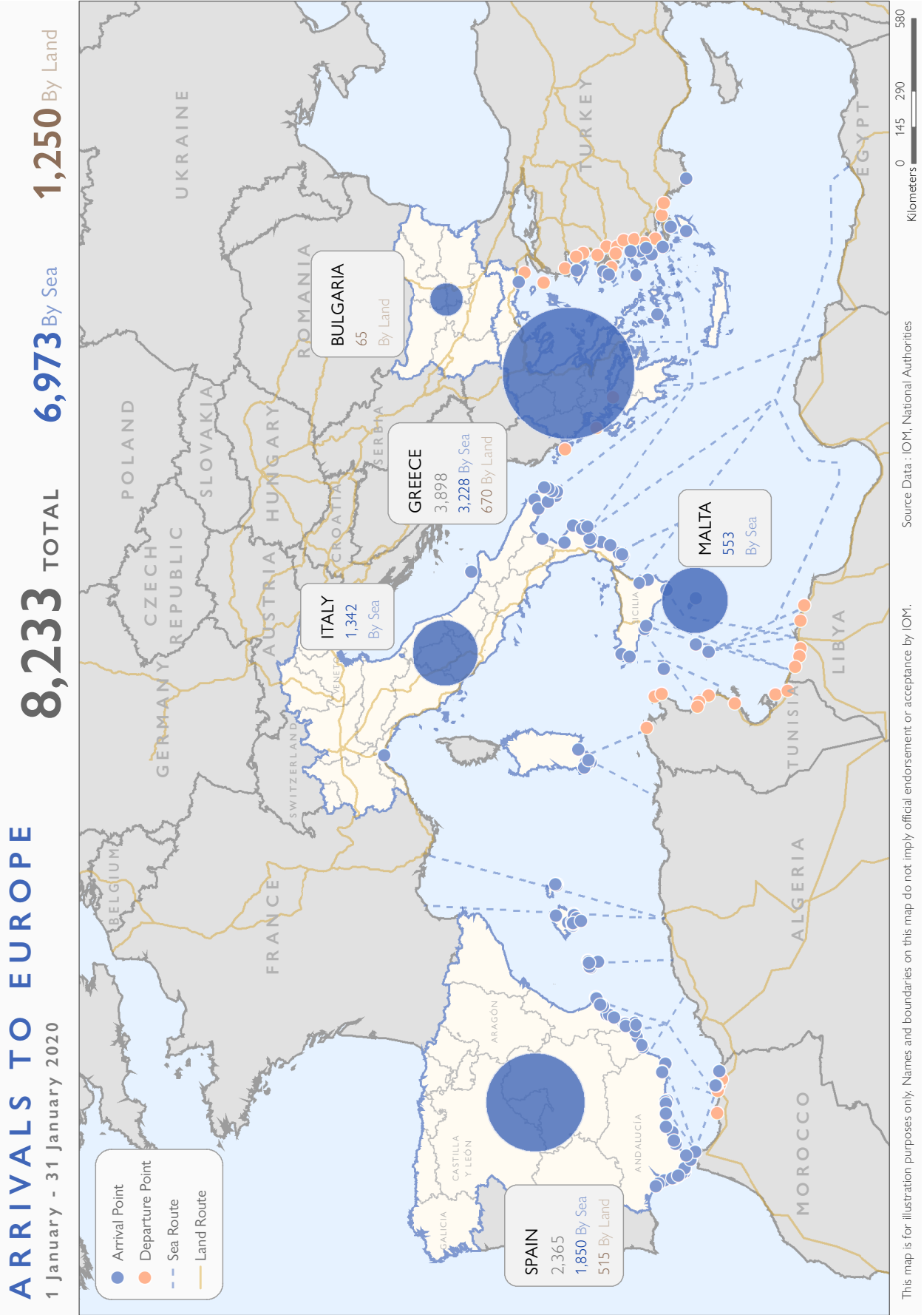
Figure 3: Registered irregular apprehensions in the Western Balkans and other transit countries/areas, January 2017–2020



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

## OVERVIEW MAPS

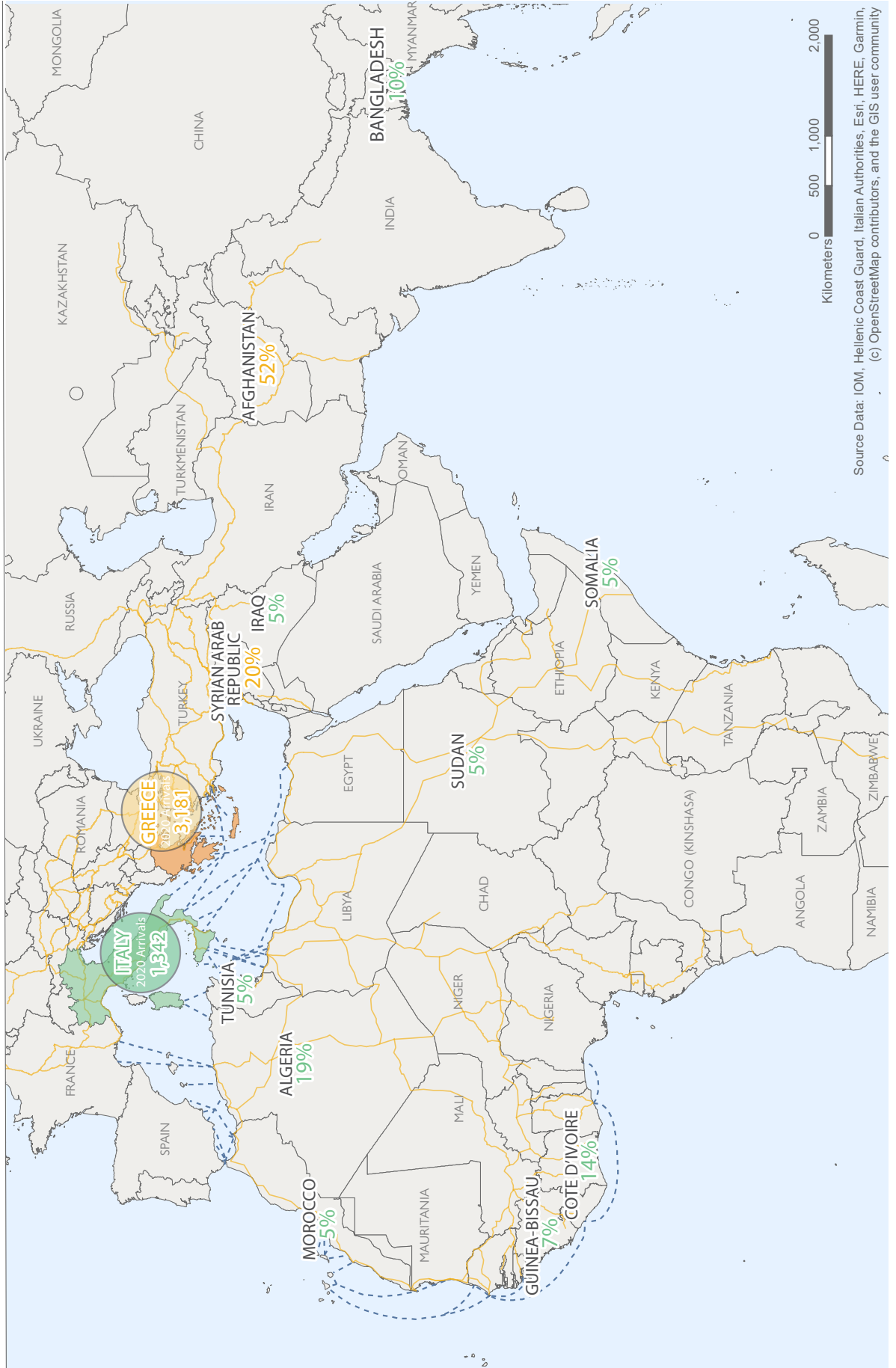
Map 1: Arrivals in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain in January 2020



Map 2. Main countries of origin reported at arrival in Greece and Italy in January 2020.

## OVERVIEW: COUNTRIES OR AREAS OF ORIGIN

Arrivals to Greece and Italy according to available data from 01 January to 31 January 2020



\* Excluding nationality data for arrivals to Spain in December 2019, which is not yet available.

Map 3: Presence of migrants and asylum seekers in reception in the region as of the end of January 2020.

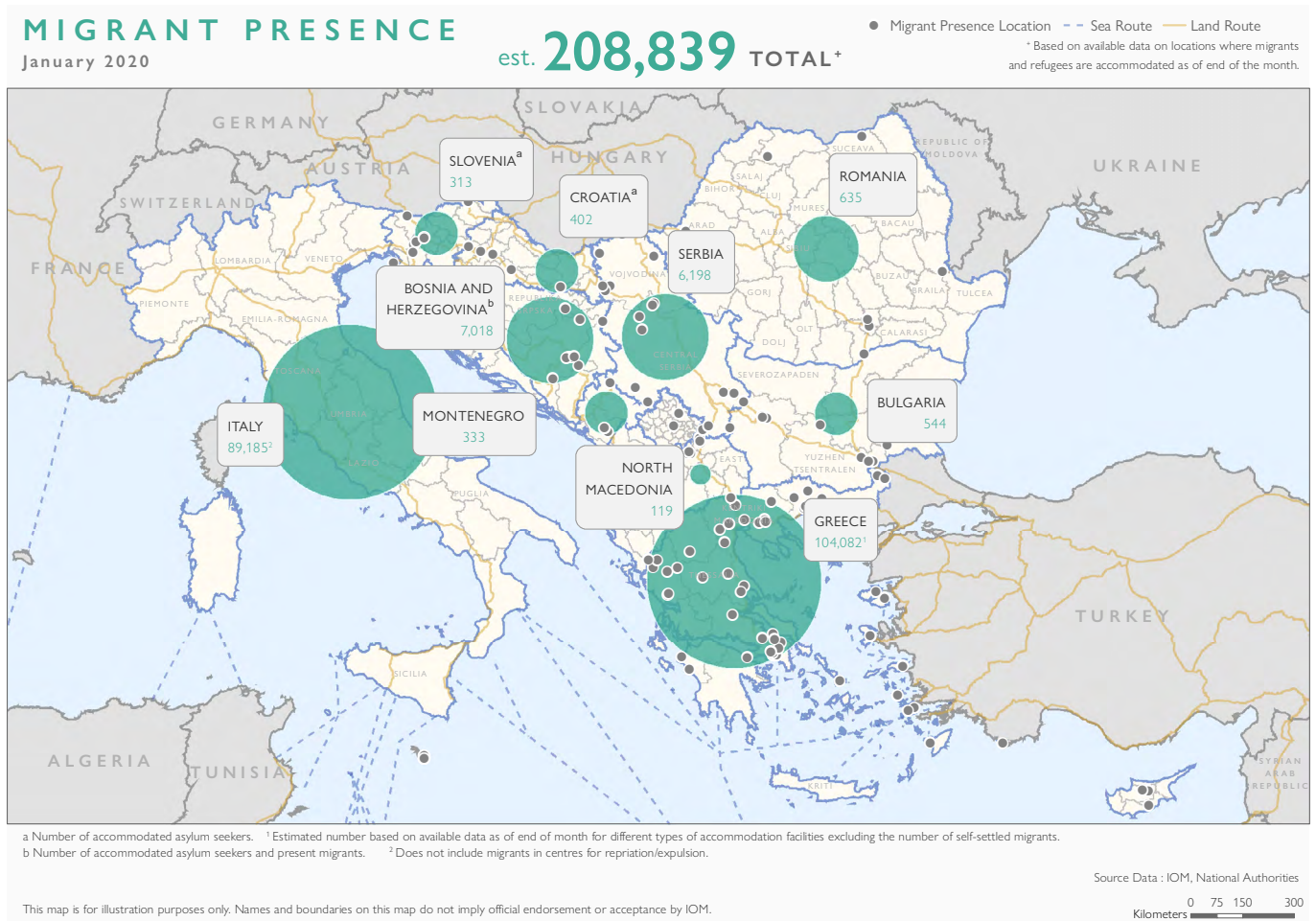


Table 1: Presence of migrants and asylum seekers in reception as of the end of January, comparison 2018–2020

Country	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20
Greece <sup>4</sup>	50,871	60,728	104,082
Bosnia and Herzegovina	/	4,503	7,018
Bulgaria	967	639	544
Croatia <sup>5</sup>	387	310	402
Cyprus	314	255	<sup>6</sup>
Montenegro	86	181	333
North Macedonia	56	41	119
Romania	599	331	635
Serbia	3,810	4,492	6,198
Slovenia <sup>4</sup>	208	321	313
Italy	182,537	131,067	89,195

4 Data for Greece excludes self-settled migrants and asylum seekers.

5 Data for Slovenia and Croatia includes number of asylum seekers only.

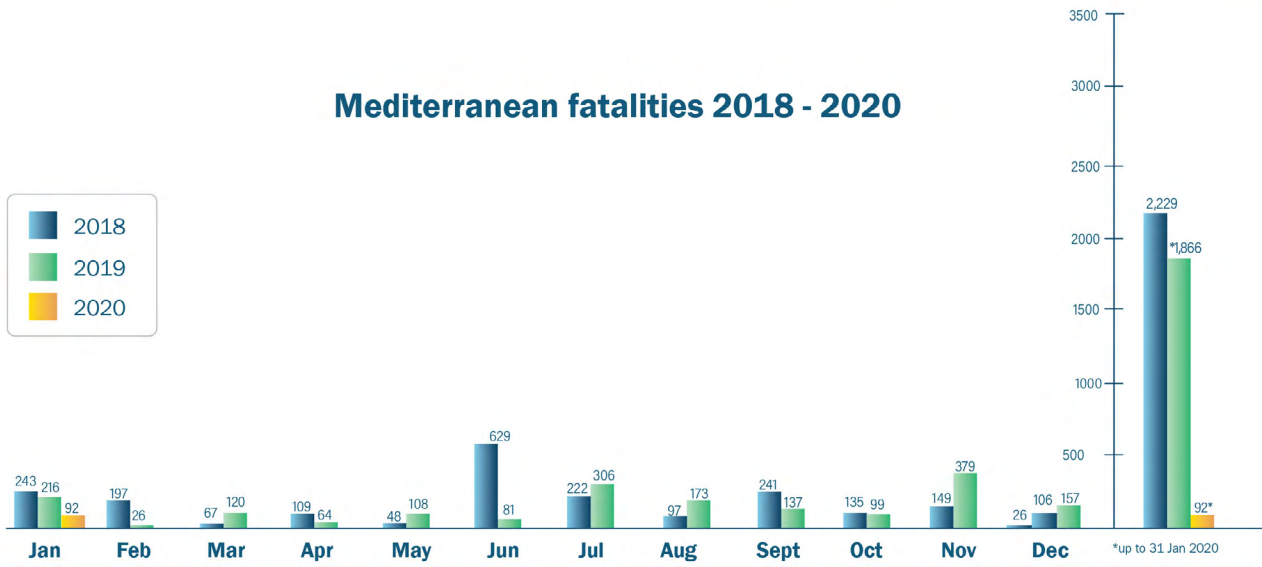
6 Data for migrants in reception in Cyprus in January 2020 is not available at the time of closing this report.



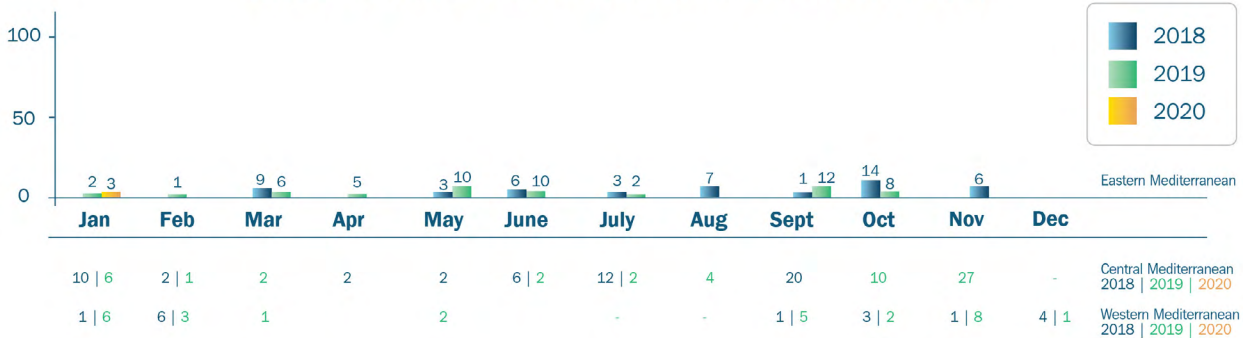
Map 4: Missing Migrants: Fatalities/Missing in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas.



### Mediterranean fatalities 2018 - 2020



### Child fatalities in the Mediterranean 2018 - 2020



\*Data for child fatalities 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

## Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

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; to provide critical information to decision-makers and responders during crises, and contribute to better understanding of population flows. Firstly conceptualized in 2004 to monitor internal displacement in Iraq, it has since been adapted for implementation in over 60 countries, including in contexts of conflict, natural disaster, complex emergencies and protracted crises. More information about the Methodological Framework in DTM operations can be found on the [global displacement.iom.int](https://global.displacement.iom.int).

## DTM Europe

In 2015, DTM established a Flow Monitoring System 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. This includes monthly flows compilation reports, quarterly regional overviews and datasets on migration flows in countries of first arrival and other countries along the route in Europe. All data is collated by IOM through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces and other relevant national authorities, and it is displayed and regularly updated on the IOM's [Flow Monitoring Europe Geportal](https://flow-monitoring.europe.geportal.org).

The DTM 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. The questionnaire also has a module with a set of questions on human trafficking, exploitative practices and abuse, including two indicators on sexual and physical violence. The analyses of data collected since 2015 is also available on the [Flow Monitoring Europe Geportal](https://flow-monitoring.europe.geportal.org).

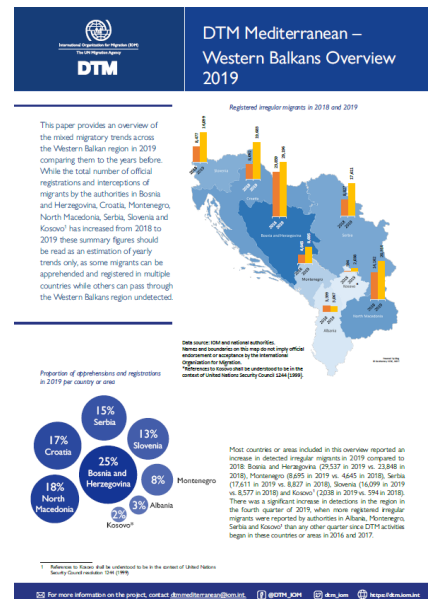
### [Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean – December 2019](#)



### [Europe – Mixed Migration Flows to Europe – Quarterly Overview \(October – December 2019\)](#)

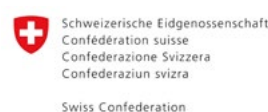


### [DTM Mediterranean – Western Balkans Overview 2019](#)



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 in Turkey supported by:



Data collection activities supported by:



The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be error free nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by the IOM.