

MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE THE MEDITERRANEAN DIGEST

366,350 Total Arrivals **343,589** Total by Sea **22,761** Total by Land

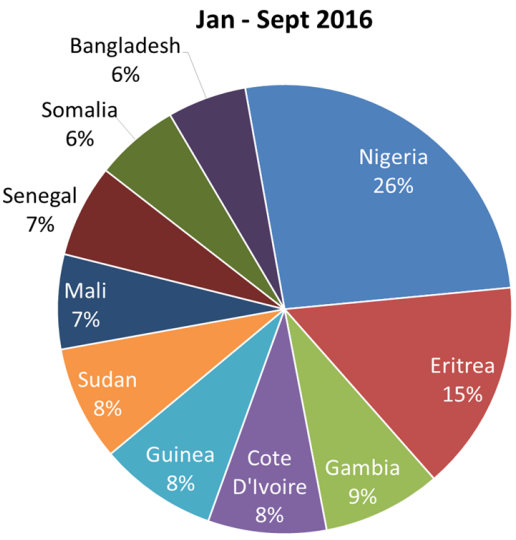
EUROPE—COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVALⁱ

Looking across Europe, arrivals to Greece and Italy alone account for **92.9%** of the 366,350 arrivals in 2016 (as of 16 November 2016). Congruently, nearly all new arrivals in 2016 have come to Europe by sea (**93.8%**). Just 6.2% (22,761) of migrants in 2016 have entered Europe by land, through Bulgaria, Greece and Spain.

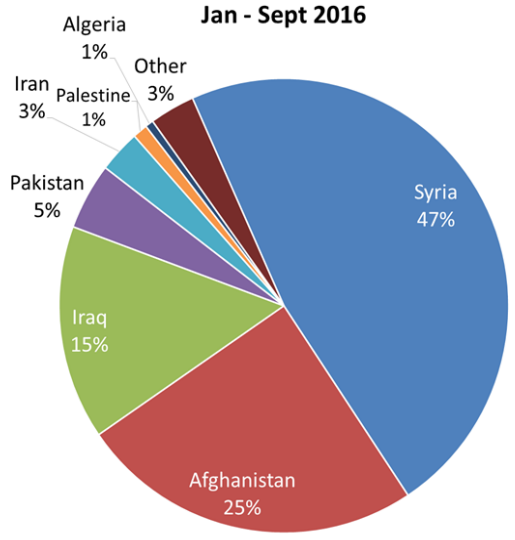
THE LANDSCAPE OF MIGRANTS IS CHANGING

Looking at the cumulative the arrivals to Europe, the number of migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan is **decreasing** and the number of migrants 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 September that number dropped to just half (54.6%), with an increasing share of arrivals being occupied by Nigerians (10.4%) and Eritreans (6.0%). Importantly, this breakdown varied by country of first arrival. While **Greece** received more migrants from Syria (47%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (15%), **Italy** received a much greater variety of nationalities, led by Nigerians (26%), Eritreans (15%), Gambians (9%) 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) following which there was an evident decrease in the arrivals to Greece.

Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Italy



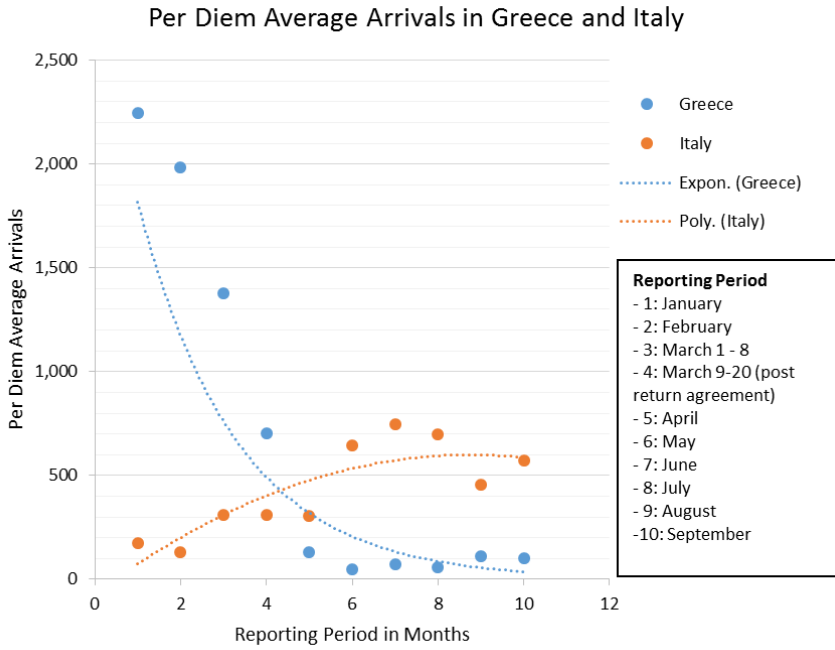
Cumulative Arrivals by Nationality - Greece



SHIFTING FOCUS TO ITALY

In January (2016) and before the EU – Turkey agreement of March 18 – more migrants were arriving to Greece. Following that development, 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 16 November, there were 167,276 cumulative arrivals to Italy and 173,211 arrivals to Greece.

Importantly, when compared to new arrivals this time last year in Italy (16 November), we see a definite increase of 16% (or 24,897 more individuals). When examining average arrivals, we can clearly see the rate of arrival to Italy is not constant. Still, the rates of arrival to Italy (as compared to Greece) have



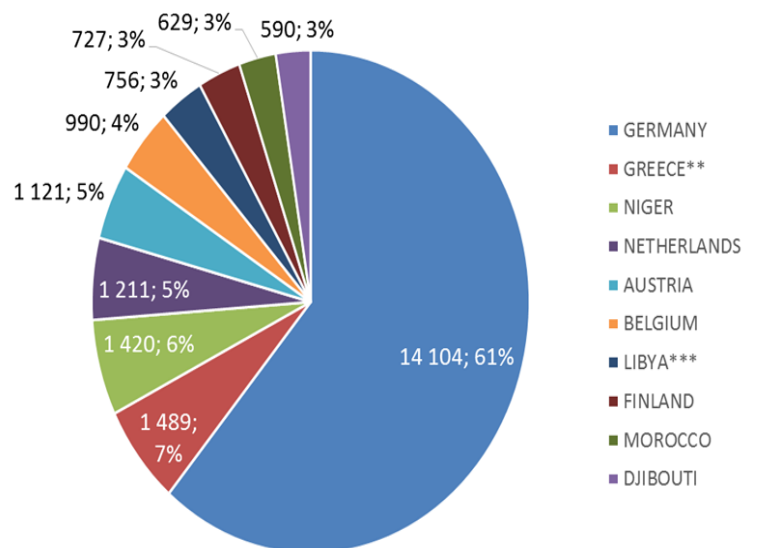
been significantly higher over 2016 – making Italy likely to surpass Greece in cumulative arrivals before the end of 2016. Correspondingly, Greece has seen a 80% decrease in new arrivals (having recorded 857,363 arrivals in 2015 compared to the 173,211 in 2016).

Conversely, average daily arrivals to Greece have bottomed out dramatically. Now, with the immense number of stranded migrants in Greece (around 61,855), needs remain high and the situation could potentially deteriorate in light of approaching winter season.

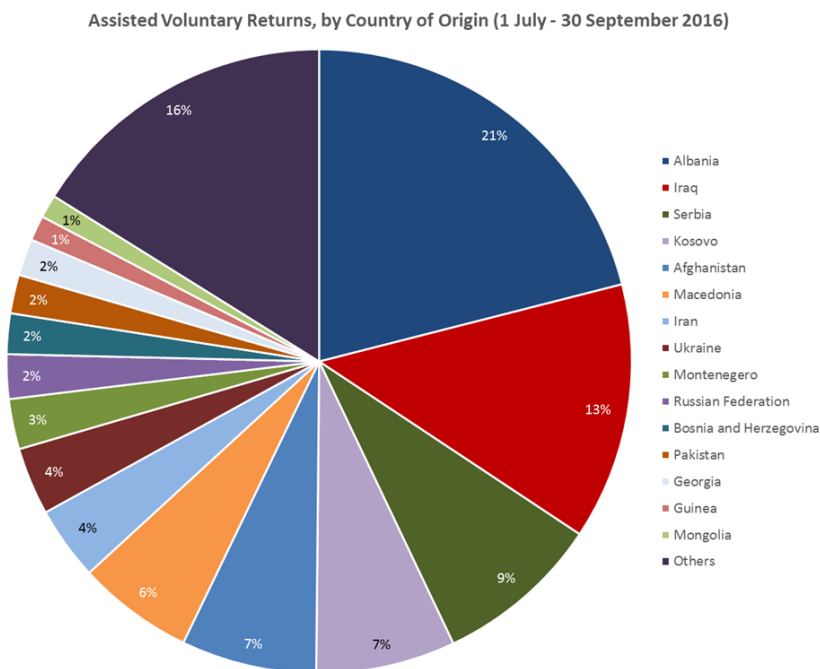
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: VOLUNTARY RETURNS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2016ⁱⁱⁱ

From 1 July to 30 September 2016, IOM provided AVRR assistance for some 25,590 migrants choosing to leave their current host countries and return to their countries of origin, bringing the total number of persons who have received AVRR in 2016 to 76,621. 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 (AVR) (see: AVR by month – cumulative). Indeed, AVR for 2016 has outstripped returns for 2015 (55,851 voluntary returns in 2015, in the EEA alone and 69,540 in total). Among returnees in the top 10 Host countries 2/3^{rds} (66%) of returnees were male, while the remaining 1/3rd (34%) were female; of these 31% were children. Victims of trafficking, represented less than 0.9% of returnees.

Assisted Voluntary Returns by Country of Departure (1 July - 30 September 2016)
Top 10 Countries for Voluntary Returns - From Select Host Countries



AVRR CONTINUED In 2016, the majority of returnees (45,547) departed from Germany—as was the case in 2015. When looking specifically at cumulative assisted voluntary returns, over the current period, in the EEA as well as Turkey, the FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Libya, we see returnees are mainly headed towards Albania (21%), Iraq (13%), Serbia (9%), and Afghanistan (7%) - as in the previous reporting period (See: Cumulative Assisted Voluntary Returns by Country of origin (2016)). Conversely, in [2015](#) 80.31% of returns were to the EEA, with just 8.24% to MENA and 5.38% to Asia and the Pacific.



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

720 migrants and refugees mainly from Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan, Algeria and Bangladesh have been **readmitted** to Turkey from Greece (as of 16 November). Moreover, 2,351 Syrian refugees have been **resettled** from Turkey to the EU since 4 April 2016 (As of 16 November) regular updates are available [here](#)).

Furthermore, **7,482** migrants (**5,725** from Greece and **1,757** from Italy) have been **relocated** (as of 16 November 2016). Accounting for 2.1% of **new** arrivals in 2016. These beneficiaries have been relocated to France (34%), Netherlands (13.0%), Finland (13%), and Portugal (10%).

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 7.1% of the total 106,000 proposed.

IN GREECE, BULGARIA AND SERBIA SHELTERS ARE OVERCAPACITY

In Greece, shelters in the Aegean are dramatically over capacity (133% overcapacity), while in the Attica Region accommodation facilities are also over capacity (accommodating 11,111 for capacity of 10,340 places). Only in *Macedonia & Thrace* and *Peloponnese, Central & Western Greece*—accommodation is at 63.8% and 57.6% capacity respectively.

Outside Greece, Serbian reception centers are approximately 28.2% over capacity accommodating **5,125** in just 3,990 places. Similarly, reception centers in Bulgaria are over capacity 9.2% (6,978 people in official capacity of 6,390 places).

TENSIONS ON THE RISE

The situation in both the Greek islands and the mainland, as well as in Italy remains problematic. Indeed, unrest has been recorded in VIAL camp on the island of Chios and a fire in Oraiakastro where three migrants were injured in a camp fire. Tensions surrounding both detention and the presence of migrants have been seen in Bulgaria, where protesters have been voicing their concerns over the deteriorating living conditions in the state-run SAR center (24 October). Adversely, Bulgarian nationals have been protesting the plans to establish a closed detention center in Noyanovo, which echoes complaints from the Black sea port city of Varna, where authorities also came under fire for plans to establish a reception center (29 October). In Serbia, a group of approximately 130 migrants, mainly from Afghanistan and Pakistan marched toward the Croatian border demanding they be allowed to continue on their journey. In protest, they then camped about 300m from the border (15 November).

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

In 2015, some 90,000 UASCs applied for asylum. 2016 has seen this trend of increased UASC asylum applications continue. In a report release in September 2016 exploring the previous year's trends we see that UASCs made up at least 7% of cumulative arrivals to Italy in 2015. Indeed, of the 16,500 minors that arrived to Italy in the previous year, approximately 72% were unaccompanied. Similarly, UNHCR estimates that UASCs made up approximately 10% of arrivals to Greece. Considerable protection gaps exist across the Mediterranean migration routes when it comes to this vulnerable group, including the lack of reliable, available data. For further information, 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 **Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** beginning of March 2016. **Slovenia and Croatia** have reported no new arrivals since March 5th and March 10th, respectively. **Bulgaria** is reporting few new arrivals—having reported just 14,868 arrivals in 2016 (as of 16 November).

TIGHTER CONTROLS—LESS MOBILITY

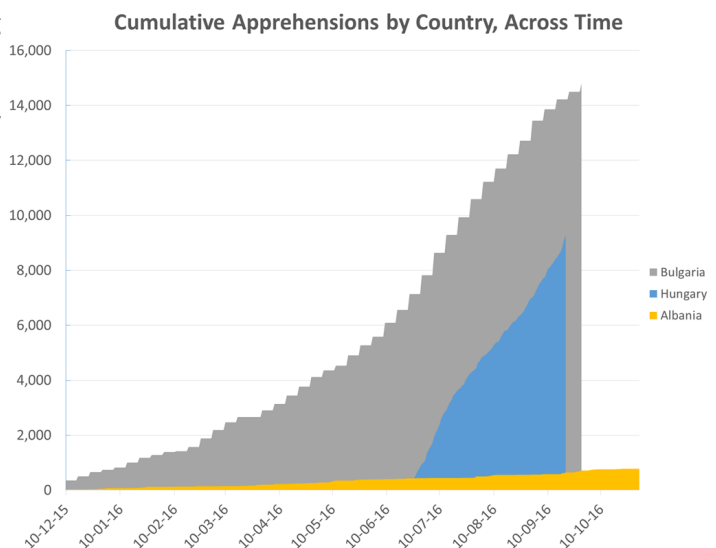
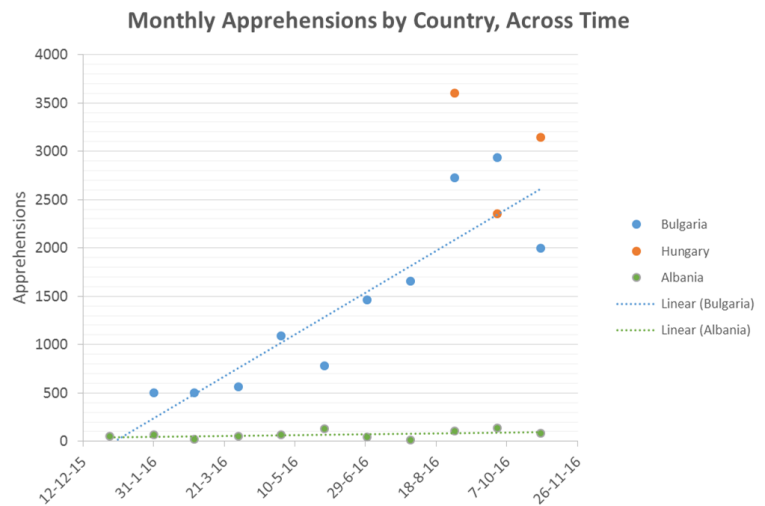
More border apprehensions both on entry and on exit, are occurring throughout the route – especially in Bulgaria (land), Turkey (land and sea) and Hungary. With increasing controls along the route, the use of riskier routes for undetected irregular arrivals is likely to increase.

Accordingly, we are also seeing trends toward increased apprehensions in Bulgaria and Hungary, as well as Albania (though this trend is noticeably smaller and less pronounced).

As seen left in the Monthly Apprehensions graph, we see a definite trend toward increase in apprehensions in Bulgaria. We see an almost 300% increase in cumulative apprehensions from January to October - going from 502 apprehensions to 1,999 apprehensions.

While data for apprehensions in Hungary is relatively new, we can see a similar trend to the one observed in Bulgaria, reflected in the Cumulative Apprehensions graph.

As above, we see a small, less pronounced but definite increase in apprehensions in Albania.



TURKEY

Turkey is hosting around 3.1 million people, the majority (90%) 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 14,304 applications, for this year alone (as of 16 November 2016).

Since the beginning of the year, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) has apprehended and rescued some 35,685 irregular migrants— however, actual numbers of migrants/ refugees departing Turkey are probably much higher. Notably, the TCG has recorded 181 fatalities during this same time period.

BEYOND THE MEDITERRANEAN

FRANCE - LOOKING CLOSER AT CALAIS

French Authorities evacuated the informal camp in Calais, between Monday 24 October and Wednesday 26 October. On 27 October and over the subsequent days, the rest of the camp was dismantled. During this process, approximately 6,000 migrants were relocated to locations across France. Specifically,

- 4,457 migrants (adult males) were transferred to 280 different reception and referral centres (CAO— Centres d’Accueil et d’Orientation), across France. A further 362 migrants, approximately 1/3rd of which were UASCs, were transported to CAOs on 27/10 and 28/10.
- 1,656 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)s from the Calais camp containers (CAP –Centre d’accueil Provisoire) bringing them to centres specifically for minors (Centres d’accueil et d’orientation pour mineurs), where they will stay while proceeding through the family reunification process (02/ 11).
- 274 youths have been reunited with their families under the family reunification scheme, as of **27 Oct 2016**

The above information, available also publicly has been verified by IOM /DTM colleagues in France.

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

The cities of Séguédine and Arlit, **Niger**, have recorded a net decrease in migrants, owing to more government controls to curb both smuggling and illegal migration. The government of Niger has introduced both more stringent document control as well as vehicle search/ seizure and punitive action for those caught smuggling. Since last month, we have seen a 48.6% decrease in NET outgoing migration - however migration remains high and outgoing (net 11,364 outgoing). Importantly, these measures are thought to push migrants to take alternative more dangerous routes, rather than to curb migration. More information can be found [here](#).

Last results from the [FMS survey](#) revealed that 73% of individuals interviewed along the Central Mediterranean route (in Italy) responded positively to at least one trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators included in the survey. Further, more around half (51%) of individuals responded positively to 2 of the 5 trafficking and exploitative practice indicators. Specifically, 51% of individuals report being held against their will, while 49% report having worked without pay. When compared to the Eastern Mediterranean Route, 14% of individuals answered “yes” to one of the trafficking or other exploitative practices indicators— an 8.5% increase from [April 2016](#), when just 5.5% of migrants answered “yes”. These figures indicated a concerning high level of vulnerabilities of migrants in transit towards Europe. More information can be found [here](#).

ENDNOTES

ⁱUnless otherwise indicated, data for this report comes from the IOM Mediterranean portal (<http://migration.iom.int/europe/>, latest updates as of 16 November) and the biweekly Flow Compilation Reports (available for download on the portal - under *Documents* tab).

ⁱⁱAveraging the **per diem arrivals** since April, we see **Greece** accepting approximately **1,210** new arrivals every two weeks, while Italy accepts nearly 8 times that amount with **7,978** people, every two weeks. Assuming the rate of arrivals stays *constant* in Greece and Italy continues outstrip Greece, Italy should become the leading reception country for new arrivals by the end of December.

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

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