

# EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



Refugee family reunited with orphaned nephews, 06 March 2017, Austria. © UNHCR/Gorden Welters

## Trends and key figures

Since 01 January 2017 until April 2017, 46,811 people have arrived by sea in the Mediterranean. Arrivals to the Mediterranean Sea are overall comprised of 16 per cent children, 11 per cent women and 73 per cent men. As of 30 April 2017, 5,166 refugees and migrants reached Greek shores, compared to 155,102 arriving in the same period last year (decrease by 97 per cent in 2017). According to the statistics of the Turkish Coast Guards, 1,551 persons were rescued/intercepted within April 2017 an almost a similar trend with March 2017 (1,501 persons). So far in 2017, 37,142 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores - compared to 27,926 arriving in the same period last year (increase by 33 per cent) - including over 5,500 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Persons arriving by sea mainly originate from Nigeria (14 per cent), Bangladesh (12 per cent), Guinea (11 per cent), Côte d'Ivoire (11 per cent), The Gambia (8 per cent), Senegal (7 per cent), Morocco (6 per cent), Mali (5 per cent), Pakistan (3 per cent) and Eritrea (2 per cent).

There has been an increase in arrivals in Spain and 5,499 persons arrived by sea and land since January 2017 (2,973 in the same period of last year which is 85 per cent increase). Arrivals this year mainly originate from Guinea (23 per cent), Côte d'Ivoire (17 per cent), The Gambia (11 per cent), Cameroon (10 per cent), Syria (9 per cent) and Algeria (7 per cent). Most 2017 arrivals (over 3,000) departed from Morocco (Tangier and Nador) and reached the Andalusian coast after being rescued by the Spanish Rescue Agency. Fewer persons also departed from Algeria. Furthermore, some 2,200 persons arrived via land in Ceuta and Melilla.

Since January 2017, 302 arrived to Cyprus compared to 43 during the same period last year.

In April 2017, 1,156 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece compared to 3,650 for the same period last year, while 12,887 arrived to the Italian shores compared to 10,071 in April 2016. In Spain in April 2017 there were 888 sea arrivals (451 in April 2016) and 40 in Cyprus (15 last year).

Mediterranean  
**46,811**  
arrivals in 2017 <sup>1</sup>

**1,092**  
estimated dead/missing in 2017 <sup>1</sup>

Greece  
**5,166**

1,393 1,089 1,526 1,158  
Jan Feb Mar Apr

Italy  
**37,142**

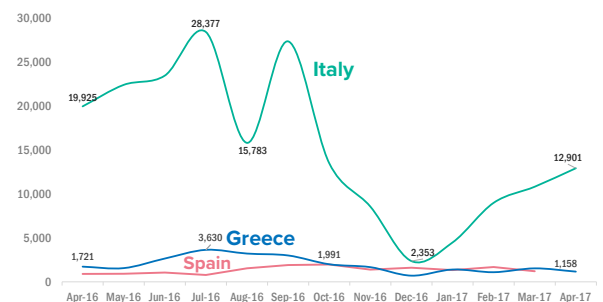
4,467 8,972 10,802 12,901  
Jan Feb Mar Apr

Spain <sup>2</sup>  
**5,499**

1,380 1,736 1,197 1,186  
Jan Feb Mar Apr

Cyprus  
**302**

0 105 157 40  
Jan Feb Mar Apr



New asylum applications in EU countries <sup>3</sup>

**124,605** applications in 2017  
**1,204,300** applications in 2016  
**1,322,825** applications in 2015

<sup>1</sup> [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 30 April 2017

<sup>2</sup> Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands

<sup>3</sup> Source: Eurostats. Partial data for Jan-Mar 2017. All data is provisional and last updated 10-May-2017

The overall number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia continued to stabilize, 7,138 were counted on 26 April, 83 per cent of whom were accommodated in 18 government-run facilities across the country, while the rest are squatting mainly in Belgrade city centre. In Romania, the number of irregular arrivals crossing from the Serbian-Romanian border has increased in April 2017 (613 persons in April alone), already exceeding the total number of arrivals at the same border for the whole of 2016. These are mainly people who had entered Serbia from Bulgaria or Greece, via the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), in 2016 and after spending several months in the country, due to increased border restrictions in Hungary and Croatia, are now attempting new routes to move onwards.

*Dead and missing:* as of 30 April 2017, an estimated 1,092 people have died or went missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, compared to 1,390 for the same period in 2016.

*Relocation:* according to the European Commission (EC), 18,119 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece and Italy as of 03 May 2017: 12,646 from Greece (out of 66,400 originally foreseen, 19 per cent of the total) and 5,473 from Italy (out of 39,600 originally foreseen, 14 per cent of the total) respectively.

*Returns:* [four returns under 18 March EU-Turkey Statement](#) involving 150 persons took place within April 2017 (06 April: 49 persons; 12 April: 21 persons; 20 April: 60 persons; 27 April: 20 persons). A total of 1,094 people have been returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement.

# 1,094

Returns EU-Turkey statement <sup>4</sup>

# 18,119

Relocated in total <sup>5</sup>

**Greece**  
**12,646**  
 (19% of 66,400)

**Italy**  
**5,473**  
 (14% of 39,600)

## Key developments

Asylum claims nearly tripled in 2016 in Greece following the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement compared to the prior year, according to data from the Greek Asylum Service. In 2015, the number of asylum claims reached 13,195, followed by 51,092 in 2016.

1 In April 2017, the first month of the implementation of UNHCR's cash assistance in Greece, UNHCR distributed 1,161 'one-card' cash cards, benefiting 1,985 people. UNHCR provided cash assistance directly to 3,314 people and indirectly to 17,433 people through its partners Catholic Relief Services and Samaritan's Purse which are funded by UNHCR but not yet using the UNHCR cards. Thus in April, 20,747 people in total benefitted from UNHCR-funded cash assistance in Greece.

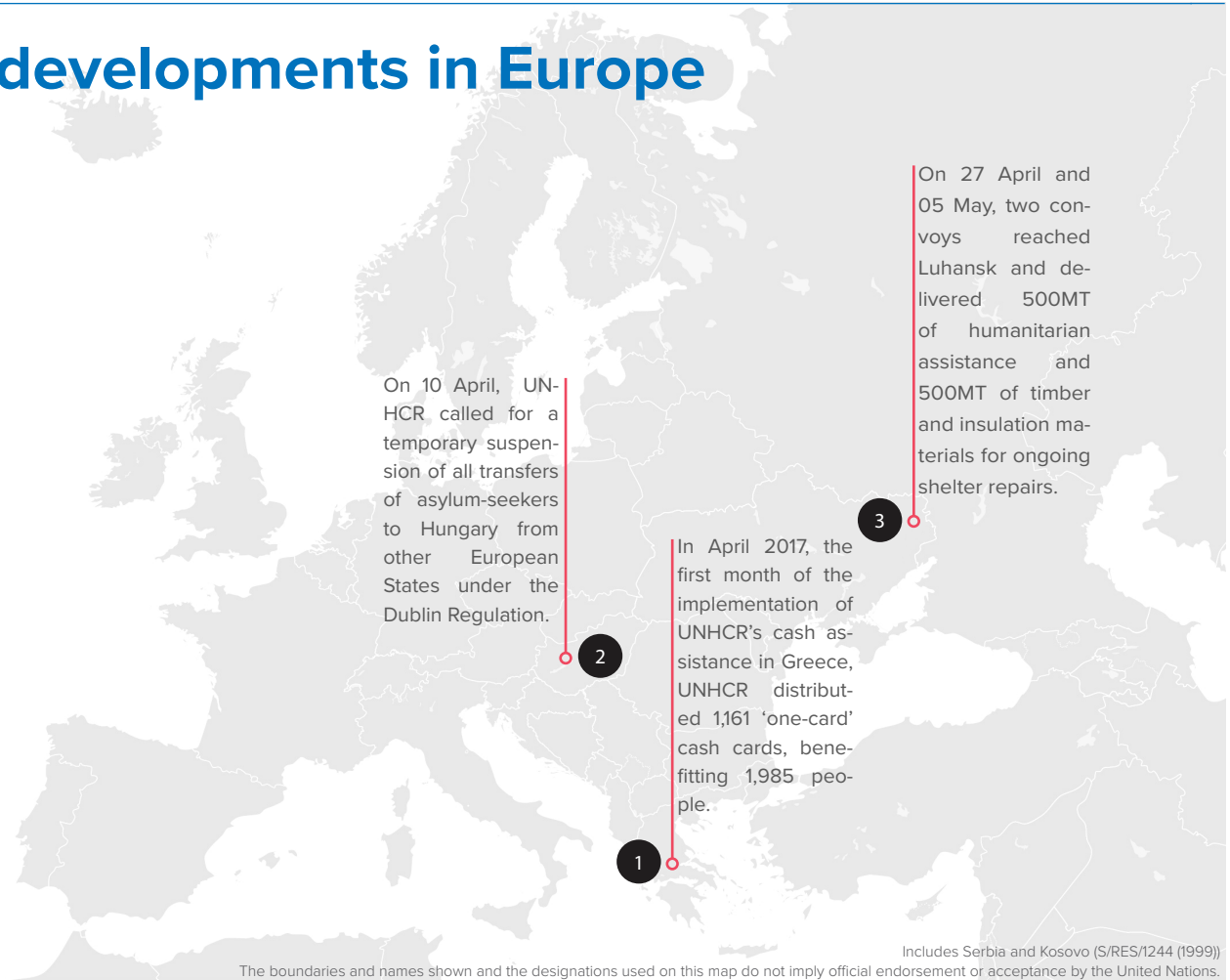
The UNHCR Representative in Greece, Mr. Philippe Leclerc, and the Minister of Migration Policy (MoMP), Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, are working closely with mayors to promote the Accommodation Scheme around Greece with local communities and municipalities. So far the participating municipalities include Athens, Thessaloniki, Livadia, and, on 25 April 2017, Crete joined the programme. By 25 April 2017, 17,919 places were available in apartments, buildings, host families and hotels and the cumulative number of beneficiaries was 27,720 since the beginning of the programme.

On the islands, tensions with the local communities have increased. In Chios, on 22 April 2017 a demonstration by Golden Dawn supporters, followed by attacks against asylum-seekers ended with the arrest and later conviction of two persons. UNHCR has noted a progressive deterioration of the public attitude towards refugees in Chios and

a negative environment. In addition, there is increasing tension as well as security incidents as a result of changes in service provision throughout the country. Tensions have increased in the mainland (Oinofyta, Ritsona, Malakasa) in sites that are remote and not served well by public transportation as well as in sites from individuals requesting alternative accommodation options in the mainland, and on the islands. The length of the asylum procedures has contributed to increasing despair amongst asylum-seekers. This culminated in a hunger strike in Lesbos by 12 Kurdish Syrian men. 'More attention is needed to the length and quality of the asylum procedures and reception conditions on the islands', said Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in March 2017. ['This will allow for more and faster transfers to the mainland and prevent sites on the islands from falling back into the dire conditions and the overcrowding we have witnessed in the past months.'](#) he added. In this context, UNHCR said that joint efforts and strengthened cooperation are crucial to improving the situation for asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece and issued [eight recommendations](#) to help ensure a sustainable refugee response in the country.

UNHCR has noted increased reverse movements from Serbia and the FYR Macedonia to Greece and will enhance monitoring of the concerned transit areas. According to UNHCR's preliminary analysis, while some do so in an attempt to find legal avenues to reach other countries in the EU from Greece, others are exploring new routes for their onward movement through the Western Balkans, including going back to Serbia through a different route.

# Key developments in Europe



In Italy, UNHCR staff are present in disembarkation areas in several locations in southern Italy, delivering information on asylum and relocation to new arrivals and supporting competent authorities in the identification of persons with specific needs. In April, UNHCR staff also carried out missions to northern Italy's border areas, conducting capacity building activities to assist the authorities in providing persons in transit with information on the asylum and relocation procedures. The reception capacity of transit centres in northern Italy's border areas appears limited. Inadequate reception adversely affect people with specific needs, including UASC.

In Hungary, following the introduction of mandatory detention of asylum-seekers in Hungarian "Transit Zones", the number of refugees and migrants attempting to irregularly enter Hungary has remained low, while those attempting to irregularly enter Croatia and Romania have grown. Only one family has been granted subsidiary protection and moved to an open reception centre in Hungary since the legislative amendments that prescribed detention in the transit zones entered into force on 28 March. The Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO) has completed the expansion of the transit zones, adding new sections and bringing accommodation capacity to 250 persons per transit zone.

2 On 10 April, [UNHCR called for a temporary suspension](#) of all transfers of asylum-seekers to Hungary from other European States under the Dublin Regulation. ["The situation for asylum-seekers in Hungary, which was already of deep concern to UNHCR, has only gotten worse since the new](#)

[law introducing mandatory detention for asylum-seekers came into effect,"](#) said the High Commissioner.

On 19 April in Belgium, the Aliens Office confirmed it has not returned any asylum-seekers to Hungary since mid-2016 under the Dublin III Regulation. However, the Aliens Office stated it will continue to issue these return decisions – without execution – causing at least a six-month wait for those awaiting a return decision, until their asylum claim is examined. Germany and Austria have also announced they would not carry out returns to Hungary under the Dublin Regulation.

In Poland, where there has been a significant decrease in the number of applicants for international protection in the first three months of 2017 (1,669) compared to the same period last year (2,634), the authorities presented draft amendments to detention regulations which introduce the possibility of using containers as detention facilities.

On 28 April, [UNHCR Germany released an 'election paper'](#) calling on democratic parties in Germany to support and contribute to refugee protection at home and abroad, and highlighting Germany's key contributions (financial and accepting refugees) and UNHCR key calls on responsibility sharing, legal pathways, integration and fair and efficient asylum procedures (among others).

In Norway, the Government has proposed to abolish the special benefit regulations for refugees under the national insurance scheme. In response to reports concerned with UASC residing in reception centres for longer periods be-

fore being accommodated in proper housing facilities, a decision to accelerate the process of accommodating UASC in municipalities has been issued. The decision will affect 400 UASC with protection needs, who have received restricted residence permits until they can provide evidence of 'documented identity'.

In Georgia on 22 April 2017, the State Constitutional Commission presented the Draft of Revision of the Constitution of Georgia. The draft includes articles on refugee protection and statelessness; UNHCR is currently reviewing it and intends to submit recommendations for further amendment to Parliament.

3 April saw an overall improvement in the security situation in eastern Ukraine following the deterioration and increase in

the number of ceasefire violations in March. New rules on the transfer of goods to and from certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions will influence the delivery of humanitarian aid and provide the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (MTOTIDPs) with additional functions. [A convoy of 23 trucks with 500 MT of humanitarian assistance](#) (mainly shelter materials and some medical equipment) reached Luhansk on 27 April. On 05 May, a fourth UNHCR's convoy has also arrived to the non-government controlled city of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine. Thirteen trucks delivered 500 metric tons of timber and insulation materials for ongoing shelter repairs in Luhansk region.

## EU related developments

On 04-05 April, a conference on "[Supporting the future of Syria and the region](#)" took place in Brussels. Participants [agreed to a holistic approach to handling the Syrian crisis](#). This includes significant financial assistance, political work towards a crisis resolution, and a long-term vision to support a peaceful and stable future for Syria and the wider region. Participants made pledges for USD 6 billion (EUR 5.6 billion) in 2017, including EUR 1.3 billion from the European Commission (EC). Participants also committed to USD 3.7 billion (EUR 3.5 billion) for 2018-2020. For [UNHCR's statement](#) on the occasion of the conference.

On 12 April, the EC adopted a [Communication on the protection of children in migration](#). The Communication presents a set of actions to reinforce the protection of all migrant children at all stages of the process, to ensure that they are swiftly identified when they arrive in the EU and receive child-adequate treatment, and to guarantee that all decisions are taken in the child's best interest. For the [joint UNHCR-UNICEF press release welcoming the Communication](#).

On 25 April, [statelessness was on the agenda](#) of the Council's Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA). [UNHCR participated in the session and issued a statement](#), focusing on the identification of

stateless persons in the EU.

On 25 April, Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ([LIBE](#)) [adopted their draft report](#) on the [EC's proposal for a recast Reception Conditions Directive](#). Among other issues, the draft report suggests that asylum-seekers can have access to the labour market within two months (compared to the six months proposed by the EC). The draft report also prohibits the detention of children, in line i.a. with [UNHCR's position on the matter](#).

On 25 April, the [European Court of Auditors released a special report](#) entitled "EU response to the refugee crisis: the "hotspot" approach". The [auditors found](#) that the approach had helped improve migration management in Italy and Greece despite challenging circumstances but noted a number of remaining gaps both in terms of accommodation and the implementation of relevant procedures and including for UASC. To address these gaps, the report provides recommendations for the Commission to assist the Member States in improving the hotspot approach. The [UNHCR's recent recommendations for Greece](#) are relevant in the context of the implementation of the hotspot approach.

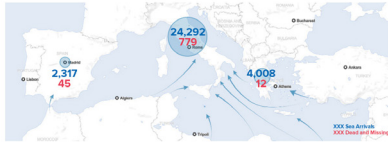
# Key documents from the web portal



KEYDATA - FIRST QUARTER (Q1) 2017

## EUROPE KEY DATA

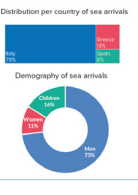
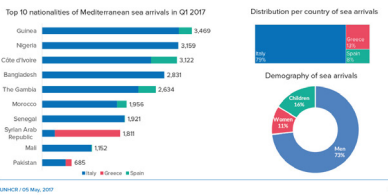
### Sea Arrivals in Europe



**Sea Arrivals**  
↓ 30,617 in Q1 2017  
171,132 in Q1 2016

**Dead and Missing**  
↑ 836 in Q1 2017  
732 in Q1 2016

361,709 in 2016  
1,015,078 in 2015



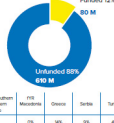
UNHCR 10 May 2017



## REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN (RMRP) FOR EUROPE

**FUNDING OF THE RMRP**  
USD 690 M

expedited for the RMRP requirement  
Funded 12%



PERIOD: January to March 2017  
POPULATION PLANNING FIGURES: Up to 342,000 people  
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS: USD 690,935,678  
NUMBER OF PARTNERS: 74

### Overview

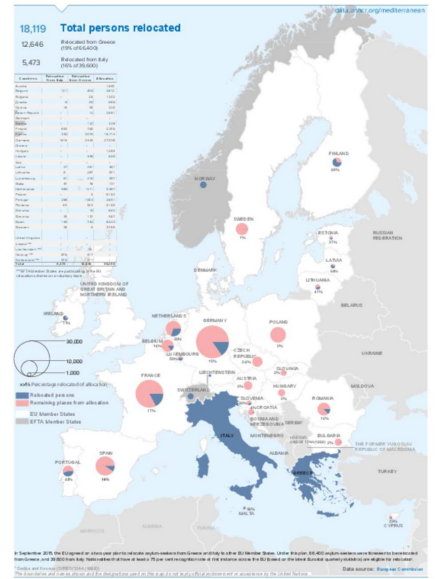
Sea arrivals in the Mediterranean from 01 January until 31 March 2017 total 30,617. This compares to 171,132 in the same period in 2016. In the first quarter of the year, 4,056 persons arrived in Greece, followed by 455 in Italy and 1,200 in Spain. From 01 January to 31 March 2017, 24,292 persons arrived by sea (29 per cent increase compared to the 18,777 sea arrivals during the same period in 2016). Most arrivals in Italy departed from Libya and mainly originated from sub-Saharan African countries but also from Bangladesh and Morocco. Between January and March 2017, some 4,500 persons arrived in Spain, 2,600 of them by sea (95 per cent increase compared to same period last year) and 2,000 (including 500 Syrians) arrived by land in Ceuta and Melilla. Most of them in January, heavily impacted and heavy snow affected several countries in Europe, creating a critical situation for refugees and migrants in several countries, particularly for those living in overcrowded or inadequate sites and those outside accommodation facilities.

### Key Achievements

- IOM in Turkey provided food kits and non-food items to 1002 refugees and migrants apprehended at sea and psychosocial support and interpretation services to 1,570 refugees and migrants apprehended on sea and land.
- UNHCR, through its Cash-Based Intervention programme in Greece, has disbursed 1533 cards from mid-February, when the programme began, until 01 April. So far there are 3,372 estimated beneficiaries.
- IOM supported the relocation from Greece of 4,000 asylum seekers to 20 different EU countries.
- UNICEF and partners identified 4,627 children at risk (including UNICEF) through screening by outreach teams and child protection support centres. 1,956 children aged 6-17 including adolescents participated in structured education activities and 750 routine activities were carried out on child protection standards/child protection in emergencies<sup>1</sup>.
- IOM reinforced the operational capacity of specialized service providers for unaccompanied migrant children and vulnerable migrant referring to single parent families. IOM has also supported 652 places for unaccompanied migrant children and vulnerable groups who were also entitled to physical and mental health support, social wellbeing, special protection assistance and counselling services.
- In Greece, the Shelter Working Group and the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Working Group developed a paper with practical measures to mitigate the risks of SGBV and to integrate SGBV prevention into shelter and site planning both in reception and identification centres and open accommodation facilities.
- In Greece, 1,314 children attended UNICEF-supported non-formal education.
- UNICEF in the Central Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth jointly co-lead the "National Initiative to protect women and children in refugee centres" (the initiative) which includes 10 key national stakeholders and the adoption and implementation of the Minimum Protection Standards for Children, Adolescents and Women in Refugee Centres. UNICEF has provided intense technical support and coaching to strengthen the overall capacity of 25 staff members to implement the Minimum Standards that are being closer to 5,000 children and women, and function as formalisation centres for other centres nationwide.



EU EMERGENCY RELOCATION MECHANISM



## Key data for Europe

Summary of the key information for Europe for the first quarter of 2017, including sea arrivals and asylum applications.

## RMRP Quarterly Update

The first quarterly update in 2017 of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe.

## Relocation in Europe

Snapshot of the number of refugees relocated within Europe, totalling 18,119<sup>5</sup> within the EU Emergency Relocation Mechanism.

**Refugee and Migrant Children - Including Unaccompanied and Separated Children - in the EU**  
Overview of Trends in 2016

100,000 children arrived in 2016, of whom 92,000 (92%) were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

25,846 children arrived in 2016 through the Central Mediterranean Route to the EU.

3,259 children arrived in 2016 through the Eastern Mediterranean Route to the EU.

Germany received the highest number of asylum applications in 2016, including 201,000 applications by children and 85,000 by UASC.

Among the 28,223 children who arrived to Italy, 22% (6,447) were unaccompanied or separated. This is double compared to the number of UASC, 3,268. Most children were from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. There is no comprehensive data on arrivals in Bulgaria since apprehensions take place upon irregular entry, and outside the country.

Among the arrivals to Spain in 2016, there were 4,844 unaccompanied or separated children. Data on unaccompanied children is not available from the Spanish Ministry of Interior.

Arrivals to Europe in 2016: Between 1 January and 31 December 2016, 100,264 children arrived in Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria, of whom 23,806 (24%) were unaccompanied or separated children (UASC).

Germany received the highest number of asylum applications in 2016, including 201,000 applications by children and 85,000 by UASC.

Among the 28,223 children who arrived to Italy, 22% (6,447) were unaccompanied or separated. This is double compared to the number of UASC, 3,268. Most children were from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. There is no comprehensive data on arrivals in Bulgaria since apprehensions take place upon irregular entry, and outside the country.

Among the arrivals to Spain in 2016, there were 4,844 unaccompanied or separated children. Data on unaccompanied children is not available from the Spanish Ministry of Interior.

**MEDITERRANEAN: Dead and Missing at sea**  
April 2017

Key Figures:  
1,092 Dead and Missing in 2017 (up from 1,290 in 2016)  
5,096 Dead and Missing in 2016

Central Mediterranean Route:  
2,913 Dead and Missing in 2016 (up from 153,046 in 2015)

Eastern Mediterranean Route:  
790 Dead and Missing in 2016 (up from 930,733 in 2015)

Dead and Missing in 2017:  
1,092 (up from 1,290 in 2016)

Dead and Missing in 2016:  
5,096 (up from 1,290 in 2015)

**Italy Sea Arrivals Dashboard**  
January - March 2017

24,292 Sea Arrivals - Jan-Mar 2017 (up from 18,777 in 2016)

Most common nationalities of sea arrivals by month (Jan-Mar 2017):  
Greece (12%), Bangladesh (12%), Côte d'Ivoire (10%), The Gambia (9%), Senegal (9%), Morocco (7%), Mali (7%), Somalia (7%), and Eritrea (7%).

## Refugee and Migrant Children in the EU

Interagency factsheet providing an overview of trends in 2016 of refugee and migrant children, including UASC, in the EU.

## Dead and missing at sea

In the first four months of 2017, 1,092 refugees and migrants have died or are missing at sea (21% less than the same period in 2016).

## Sea Arrivals to Italy

In the first three months of 2017, 24,292 people arrived in Italy during this period (29% more than the same period in 2016).



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# Timeline overview

