

EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



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Page 6



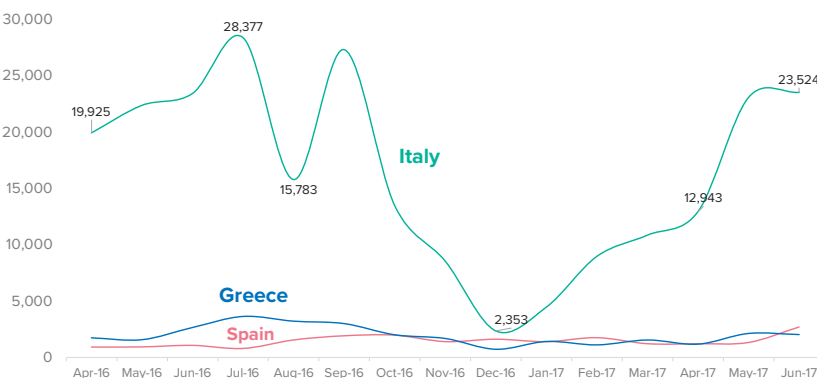
Rita, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, explains her dish to customers in Eataly Milan.

Trends and key figures

Since 01 January 2017 until 30 June 2017, 102,847 refugees and migrants have arrived in the Mediterranean (Greece, Italy, Spain and Cyprus, including arrivals to the Canary Islands and by land to Spain). Arrivals by sea in this period comprised of 17 per cent children, 12 per cent women and 71 per cent men.

As of 30 June 2017, 9,286 refugees and migrants reached Greek shores, compared to 158,377 arriving in the same period last year (a 94 per cent reduction). Persons mainly originate from the Syrian Arab Republic (37 per cent) and Iraq (13 per cent) and most of these two nationalities were arriving as family groups.

In June, arrivals have increased significantly in Lesbos, with 906 people arriving between 01 – 26 June, double the 431 arrivals in the same period the previous month. Recent arrivals on Lesbos reported that there are three main crossing routes from Turkey to Lesbos' northern shoreline: to the area of Korakas, to the coast between Eftalou and Skala Sykamnias and towards the west coast.



Mediterranean

102,578
arrivals in 2017¹

2,346
estimated dead/missing in 2017¹

Greece

9,461

1,156 2,110 2,012
Apr May June

Italy

84,879

12,943 23,074 23,524
Apr May June

Spain²

9,507

1,198 1,308 2,688
Apr May June

Cyprus

302

40 0 0
Apr May June

New asylum applications in EU countries³

238,505 applications in 2017

1,235,335 applications in 2016

1,325,565 applications in 2015

¹ data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 12 July 2017.

² Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands

³ Source: Eurostats. Partial data for Jan-May 2017. All data is provisional and last updated 04 June 2017.

The total number of rescues/interceptions by the Turkish Coast Guard of persons mostly headed to Greece by sea reached 7,654 persons as of 30 June 2017 since the beginning of the year. A rise in those apprehended at the western land borders was observed in the last two weeks of June. According to Turkish Land Forces data, from 12 to 25 June 1,754 persons were apprehended by the Turkish Land Forces at the land border with Greece and Bulgaria (2,725 for the whole of June). This is approximately double the period between 29 May and 11 June 2017. The majority of the apprehensions (1,669 persons) took place at the Greek land border.

So far in 2017, 83,752 refugees and migrants reached the Italian shores - compared to 70,222 arriving in the same period last year, a 19 per cent increase. The vast majority disembarked following search and rescue (SAR) operations, having departed from Libya: they most commonly originate from sub-Saharan African countries, as well as northern African countries and Bangladesh.

Arrivals peaked in the last week of June, when over 12,000 migrants and refugees were registered at landing points. Also during the last six months, almost 10,000 unaccompanied children reached Italian shores.

In Spain, 9,507 persons have arrived by sea and land between January and June 2017 compared to 4,936 in the same period last year, a 93 per cent increase. In the context of increasing sea arrivals to Spain in 2017, arrivals in June registered a significant peak. In June alone, 2,363 persons were registered at landing points in Spain, a 300 per cent increase compared to June 2016. While most sea arrivals are young men from sub-Saharan African countries (Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Cameroon), an increasing number of women was observed. UNHCR attends at some disembarkation sites and works with the Spanish authorities to promote the identification of new arrivals' protection needs and to ensure access to asylum. While most boats departed from the Moroccan coast (Al-Hoceimas, Assilah, Nador, and Tanger), some also departed from Algeria.

Between January and April 2017, 302 refugees and migrants arrived in Cyprus compared to 43 in the same period last year. There were no arrivals to Cyprus in May and June.

In June 2017, 2,012 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by sea compared to 1,554 in June 2016, while 23,524 arrived at the Italian shores compared to 22,339 in June 2016. In June so far, 1,820 persons arrived in Spain by sea, representing a 300 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

Death and missing: as of 30 June 2017, an estimated 2,257 people have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, compared to 2,896 for the same period in 2016.

Relocation: according to the European Commission (EC), 23,162 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece and Italy as of 29 June 2017: 15,808 from Greece (out of 66,400 originally foreseen, 23 per cent of the total) and 7,354 from Italy (out of 39,600 originally foreseen, 18 per cent of the total) respectively.

Returns: in June 48 people were returned from Greece to Turkey on the basis of the EU-TUR Statement, which included 14 Pakistanis, 10 Algerian, 3 Syrians and 21 other third country nationals (11 on 01 June; 11 on 08 June; 07 on 09 June; 07 on 15 June; 12 on 22 June).¹

¹ In 2016 and 2017, according to data from the Greek Police, 1,196 third country nationals have returned to Turkey on the basis of the GR-TR Bilateral Protocol (1,183 in 2016 and 13 in 2017); 64 Turkish nationals on the basis of EU-TR Readmission agreement (54 in 2016 and 10 in 2017); and 1,229 third country nationals on the basis of the EU-TUR Statement (801 in 2016 and 428 in 2017), among whom were 193 Syrians and 8 stateless whose former habitual residence was Syria.

1,217

Returns EU-Turkey statement ⁴

23,861

Relocated in total ⁵

from **Greece**

16,246

(24% of 66,400)

from **Italy**

7,615

(19% of 39,600)

⁴ Source: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Greece as of 19 June 2017.

⁵ Source: [European Commission](#) as of 13 July 2017.

Key developments in Europe

In Spain, on 13-14 June, [the High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, undertook his first mission to Spain.](#)

On 28 June, the Government of Italy announced that it was considering suspending the disembarkation of people rescued at sea from NGO vessels under flags of other countries

In Serbia, while the number stabilises (6,000 individuals, 90 per cent accommodated in government-run centres), the authorities plan to continue decongesting overcrowded centres and closing of temporary emergency shelter in tents or rub-halls.

On 12 June 2017, there was a 6.1 – 6.3 Richter scale earthquake on the island of Lesbos, Greece. In Vrissa, a village in the South severely damaged

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))

1 On 12 June 2017, there was a 6.1 – 6.3 Richter scale earthquake on the island of Lesbos, Greece. In Vrissa, a village in the South which was severely damaged, UNHCR provided food to some 300 affected people, two prefabricated containers to the Hellenic Army to be temporarily used for the registration of people affected and one to the Municipality of Lesbos to serve as a temporary health clinic.

On 30 June 2017, 17,852 places were available in UNHCR's Urban Accommodation Scheme through its implementing partners. This includes places in apartments (13,398 places), buildings (2,253), hotels (917 places), government-run shelter 'Agia Eleni' (508), facilities for unaccompanied children (718 places) and through host family programmes (58 places). In total, 31,805 people have benefited from UNHCR's Urban Accommodation Scheme by June 2017 since its inception. UNHCR continued the gradual distribution of the UNHCR Greece Cash Alliance (GCA) cash cards, which by the end of July will be the only card used in Greece. In June, UNHCR distributed a further 3,160 UNHCR GCA cash cards, benefitting 6,892 people. In June, 34,927 people received cash assistance in Greece directly from UNHCR and indirectly from UNHCR-funded partners.

2 On 28 June, the Government of Italy announced that it was considering suspending the disembarkation of people rescued at sea from NGO vessels under flags of other countries. This has not yet been

implemented by the Italian authorities. Furthermore the Government called for regional disembarkation, an extension of the intra-European relocation scheme and real 'EU investment' to limit migratory movements from West African countries. Incidents at sea continued to occur during the reporting period, with over 2,000 persons reported dead or missing in the Central Mediterranean as of end June, since the beginning of the year.

Increasing arrivals by sea generated pressure on the reception system, which is currently at maximum capacity, hosting some 200,000 asylum-seekers. UNHCR staff conducted missions to land border areas, where deteriorating conditions in transit facilities were reported, as well as increasing numbers of persons resorting to informal settlements, where they are exposed to serious protection risks. Other arrivals, including relocation candidates and persons with specific needs, autonomously travelled to larger cities, mainly Milan and Rome. In Milan, the local Prefecture instructed that asylum-seekers reaching the city after having left reception centres would no longer be given access to accommodation and that the so called Sammartini hub will no longer serve as a transit centre, but rather as a centre for first help and assistance (CPSA). In Rome, many resorted to sleeping rough, mainly near Tiburtina station, given that reception facilities in the capital were at full capacity. Authorities dismantled informal encampments, but delays occurred in transfers of persons to

other facilities in the area. On 19 June, [UNHCR called on authorities](#) in Rome to make urgent arrangements to ensure that individuals are provided with accommodation.

3 [The High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, undertook his first mission to Spain from 13-14 June.](#)

In the framework of the High Commissioner's visit to Spain, UNHCR and the Ministry of Employment and Social Security held a [High Level Conference on Reception and Integration](#) in Madrid that was opened by the HC together with the General Secretary for Migration. The Conference is part of the Consultative Process on Integration started at the end of 2015 aimed at identifying new approaches, alliances and support to reinforce existing governmental programmes, for the benefit of refugees. In his opening speech, the HC stressed the need for Spain to engage more meaningfully in responsibility sharing for refugees, highlighting the Spanish people's solidarity and the valuable engagement of local and regional authorities on reception and integration of refugees. Finally, in Barcelona, the HC, together with the President of Football Club Barcelona (FCB), launched on 13 June a High Level Forum on sports and young refugees: ["The transformative power of sport: Champions #WithRefugees"](#). The Forum kicked off a major joint campaign to rally support for refugee children - [#SignAndPass](#) - launched with the support of key players of the football club, marking an important step forward in the cooperation between FCB Foundation and UNHCR.



In **Albania**, the new Law on Child Protection entered into force on 09 June. The scope of the law includes asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless children. Together with the State Agency on Child Protection and NGOs with expertise in this field, UNICEF has started to develop the relevant by-laws. UNHCR will provide technical support in the development of the by-laws related to children on the move.

On 29 June, the Parliament of the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** extended the state of crisis in the southern and northern border regions until 31 December 2017 in order "to ensure continuity in the performance of the activities by the Army forces of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the security forces of the Ministry of Interior (Mol), in their

function to secure, protect and guard the state borders". The Minister of Interior, Oliver Spasovski, said that the state of crisis had been extended on the basis of assessments of responsible bodies and that the refugee and migrant crisis may escalate at any given moment. Earlier, on 23 June, on his visit to Vinojug transit centre, Mol Spasovski [spoke to the media and explained](#) that the country's authorities were not planning to build new refugee accommodation centres to deal with any potential refugee surge.

On 05 June 2017, the Czech Government instructed the Mol to stop its activities in the field of resettlement of refugees from third countries and relocation of asylum-seekers from Italy and Greece. The worsening security situation in the EU and the dysfunctionality of the relocation system were given as the official reasons.

4 In **Serbia**, while the number of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants continues to stabilise (6,000 individuals, 90 per cent accommodated in government-run centres), the authorities plan to continue decongesting overcrowded centres and closing of temporary emergency shelter in tents or rub-halls. Consistent with increased attempts to re-enter the EU through Croatia, the number of reported collective expulsions from Croatia remained high, with 195 recorded. The number of reported push-backs from Hungary also remained high with 163 recorded cases. On the other hand, people are reportedly refraining more from attempting to enter Romania irregularly, quoting fingerprinting among others as underlining reasons.

On 02 June 2017, **Hungary's** Immigration and Asylum Authority terminated its bilateral cooperation agreement with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), UNHCR's implementing partner since 1998, claiming that the NGO 'gravely violated' the principles of cooperation. As a result HHC staff will not be able to conduct monitoring visits or conduct general legal counselling for asylum-seekers in reception and asylum detention centres.

In **Slovenia**, the Constitutional Court rejected the Ombudsperson's proposal for a temporary suspension of Article 10.b of the Aliens Act which provides the opportunity to restrict access to territory and asylum procedures in case of an influx of refugees and migrants in cases where the public order and national security are threatened. The Court argued there is no need for a temporary suspension, as Article 10.b has not yet been activated. [UNHCR issued comments](#) on the law in December 2016 raising its concern that the revised legislation could result in the expulsion of people seeking international protection, or prevent their access to territory or asylum procedures.

Armed conflict in **Ukraine** continues to damage people's homes and critical civilian infrastructure. On 10-11 June, shelling in Donetsk region damaged water supply infrastructure, cutting water supplies to some 350,000 people in Velikoanadolska and Krasnoarmi-

iska districts, where there are no reservoirs providing back-up supplies. A further 650,000 people in the cities of Donetsk and Mariupol and other areas in the region are dependent on back-up water supply systems. UNHCR has responded by providing emergency shelter materials, construction tools and Core Relief Items.

On 09 June, UNHCR **Ukraine** and the Council of Europe (CoE) co-organized a 'Joint Seminar on the Prohibition of Discrimination in the context of Internal Displacement: Universal and European Standards'. The event provided a platform for discussion and assessment of the impact of the overall perception of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other minorities in Ukraine, including refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as at securing their rights and their protection from discrimination. As a follow-up, the CoE and UNHCR are planning to develop recommendations how to raise awareness of discrimination; these recommendations will shape UNHCR's operational response to discrimination over the next years.

EU related developments

On 02 June, Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria released the 18-month [programme](#) of their upcoming [trio-Presidency](#) (July 2017-December 2018). Migration is dealt with under the "A Union for Freedom, Security and Justice" and "The Union as a Strong Global Actor" headings.

On 07-08 June, the 11th edition of the [European Development Days](#), which took place in Brussels, focused on "investing in development". UNHCR was represented at the event through its participation in i) an exchange of views on "refugees' access to livelihood and job markets"; ii) a conference, together with the World Bank, on "new means and partnerships to address forced displacement", focusing on the [proposal to help refugees and their host communities](#), for example, through the provision of basic services, job training and creation, and bolstering of government finances that have been strained by the inflow of refugees; iii) a joint UN stand on the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the 08-09 June Justice and Home Affairs Council, among [other issues](#), EU Ministers of Home Affairs [discussed](#) the reform of the common European asylum system (CEAS) on the basis of a [progress report](#) drafted by the Maltese Presidency. In addition, Ministers adopted conclusions on [return](#), on [security checks](#) (to call for security checks in case of irregular migration) and on the [interoperability of EU information systems](#). In a joint session with EU Ministers of Justice, they also discussed the protection of children in migration, following up on the related European Commission's [Communication](#), and adopted related [conclusions](#). UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for [Protection](#) participated in the discussion.

On 13 June, the European Commission (EC) released

The **Norwegian** Ministry of Justice and Public Security has instructed the Norwegian Immigration Directorate (UDI) to resume the proceedings on Dublin transfers to Greece. The instruction implies that UDI shall make concrete assessments in each case based on the criteria in the Dublin III Regulation, and consider whether there is a need to obtain individual guarantees from the Greek authorities.

On 07 June, UNHCR and the Council of Europe organized in Sofia, Bulgaria a round table on "detention and alternatives to detention of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees". More than 40 participants, including government representatives, judges (including from the Supreme Administrative Court), lawyers, Ministry of Interior's legal advisers, NGOs and representatives from the State Agency for Refugees, the child protection agency, the Directorate of National Preventive Mechanism and the Ombudsperson took part in the event.

i) the 13th [Report](#) on Relocation and Resettlement; ii) the 6th [Report](#) on the EU-Turkey Statement; iii) the 4th [Report](#) on the Migration Partnership Framework and iv) the 4th [Report](#) on the European Border and Coast Guard.

On 15 June, the EC launched infringement procedures against Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic through letters of formal notice. The relocation Decisions require Member States to pledge available places for relocation every three months. Whereas Hungary has not taken any action at all since the relocation scheme started, Poland has not relocated anyone and not pledged since December 2015. The Czech Republic has not relocated anyone since August 2016 and not made any new pledges for over a year. The authorities of the three EU Member States now have one month to respond to the arguments put forward by the EC. If no reply to the letter of formal notice is received, or if the observations presented in reply to that notice cannot be considered satisfactory, the Commission may decide to move to the [next stage](#) of the infringement procedures.

On 15 June, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee of the European Parliament adopted the institution's position ("draft report") on the proposal for a [Qualification Regulation](#) and for a recast [EU Blue Card Directive](#).

On 20 June, on World Refugee Day, the EC released the "[EU Skills Profile Tool for Third-Country Nationals](#)". The tool is a web editor that will make it possible for non-EU nationals to present their skills, qualifications, and experiences in a way that is well understood by employers, education and training providers and organisations working with refugees and migrants across the EU. Commissioners working on

migration and asylum also adopted a joint [statement](#), calling for global action and responsibility-sharing.

On 22-23 June, at the European Council, EU Heads of State and Government discussed on migration and asylum, among [other issues](#). In that context, they touched upon the situation on the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes, the root causes of migration and the reform of the CEAS. In their [conclusions](#), they notably renewed commitments to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, referred to IOM and UNHCR as “important partners” regarding voluntary returns and the improvement of reception conditions in Libya, and called for progress on return and readmission. On the CEAS, they focused on the use of the safe third country concept (indirectly hinting at rendering its use more flexible, and at continuing

work to draw an EU list of safe third countries).

The European Parliament’s LIBE and Petitions Committees organized a [joint hearing on statelessness](#) on 29 June following the submission of two petitions on statelessness by the [European Network on Statelessness](#) (ENS) to the European Parliament and the [2015 Study on Practices and Approaches by EU Member States to Prevent and End Statelessness](#). The hearing gathered over 80 participants, including Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the [European Migration Network](#), UNHCR, UNICEF, ENS and others. UNHCR presented on the identification and protection of stateless persons in Europe. The LIBE Committee is now looking into a possible strategy on EU action to prevent and tackle statelessness in the EU.



The [Refugee Food Festival](#) is a civil society-led initiative born last year to showcase refugees’ cooking talents and facilitate their integration. After a successful run in Paris and Strasbourg, the festival expanded to 13 major European cities in six countries in 2017. Between 15 and 30 June, more than 84 restaurants opened their kitchens to 80 chefs of 25 nationalities, who served the more than 10,000 guests.

In Paris, Susanna Kilani, a refugee from Syria, gave a Middle Eastern twist to well-known iced treats. In Bordeaux, the festival finished with a big picnic marking the end of Ramadan. In Lille, customers were able to try cuisine from Suriname at the restaurant Le Cirque. The restaurant was fully booked days in advance. In Marseille, Chef Khanjee Tarakhil served traditional Afghan dishes at Les Grandes Tables de la Friche. The restaurant was fully booked by 1 pm on the first day.

In Amsterdam, the highlight of the festival was at the De Balie restaurant. There, Mohammed Haj Kasem, an architect taught to cook by his mother, served Syrian dishes. In Brussels, Syrian mixologist Elias Edlbi Bittar served cocktails using Syrian spices at Chez Richard. At restaurant Henri, guests including officials from the European Commission enjoyed Iraqi cuisine cooked by refugee chef Amer Mohsen.

In Athens, five participating restaurants were fully booked days in advance, by some 1,500 customers. Similarly, the nine restaurants in Madrid participating in the Festival were fully booked for the entire week.

In Italy, refugee chefs cooked and took part in culinary events over three days, including cooking shows in the upmarket Eataly food shops in Rome, Milan and Bari.



A video on the festival is available [here](#)

UNHCR Innovation supported a [guide/toolkit](#) designed to enable any citizen, association or restaurant to organise their very own Refugee Food Festival.

Desperate Journeys Report

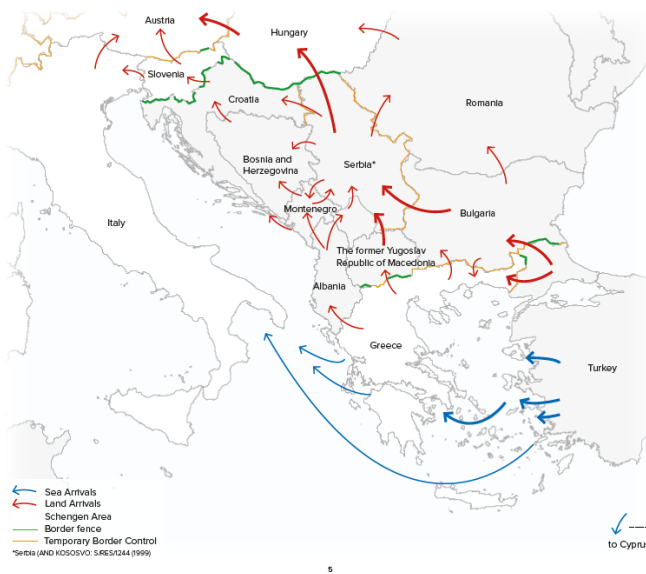
January - April 2017

Refugees and migrants entering and crossing Europe via the Mediterranean and Western Balkans routes

In June, UNHCR released a new report, Desperate Journeys, covering refugee and migrant movements to and through Europe via the Mediterranean and the West Balkans routes between January and April 2017. The report highlighted that refugees and migrants continue to face risks while attempting to cross European borders with several European states having introduced additional measures and practices to prevent irregular entries. These measures have resulted in a significant reduction in numbers crossing into Europe compared to last year, it has also meant that people are now using more diverse (and often more dangerous) routes to enter or cross through Europe. With limited opportunities for safe pathways, including resettlement, family reunification and other complementary pathways, many will continue to see little alternative but to try to enter Europe irregularly.

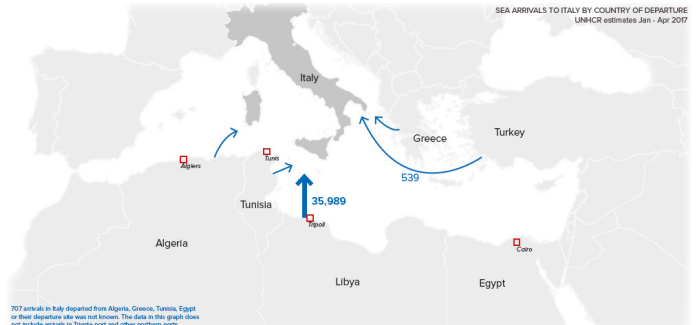
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

MOVEMENT OUT OF TURKEY AND ONWARD MOVEMENT FROM GREECE AND BULGARIA



A consequence of the dangerous routes we continue to see people dying along land and sea routes. In the first four months of 2017, 1,019 refugees and migrants are thought to have died while trying to cross the central Mediterranean to Italy and another 76 while trying to cross the sea to Greece or Spain. A further 26 refugees and migrants were known to have died along land routes since the start of the year. Most refugees and migrants entering Europe by sea did so via the Central Mediterranean route with almost all crossing from Libya to Italy. Almost all of those arriving in Italy had been rescued at sea and UNHCR's High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi, reiterated that saving lives must be the top priority for all and called for further efforts to rescue people.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



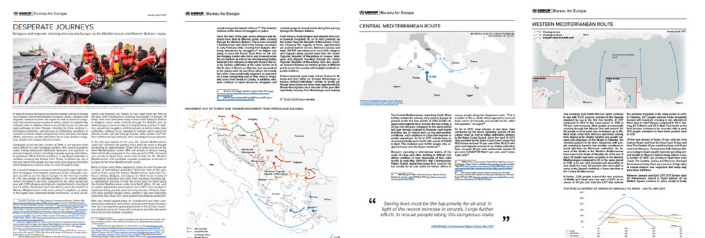
Sea crossings to Greece from Turkey had decreased significantly from early 2016 when over 155,000 refugees and migrants crossed in the first four months. In Spain, numbers crossing the sea from North Africa increased 179 per cent while those entering via the land borders with North Africa increased 36 per cent. At the same time, refugees and migrants also continue to try to move onwards from Greece and Bulgaria. Refugees and migrants travelling irregularly through the region continue to face severe risks with several deaths reported since the start of the year and many reporting push-backs.

The report highlights the need for European States to expand existing pathways as well as create credible complementary opportunities for safe and legal entry.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



Download the report @ <https://goo.gl/uQID4p>



World Refugee Day (WRD)

In addition to the Refugee Food Festival, there were many events and initiatives to commemorate World Refugee Day (WRD) across Europe.

In **Italy**, events focused on sports, food, music, and art. Rome hosted a celebrities versus refugees football match, an [art installation](#) and a photo exhibition. Also, UNHCR, in collaboration with SPRAR/ANCI, the institution running second-line reception facilities in Italy, arranged open days at reception centres, calling on people to meet with refugees and show solidarity. In **Spain** on 19 June, a [World Refugee Day event](#) was organized in Madrid.

In **Malta**, UNHCR and the President's Foundation, organized a dinner inviting refugees, migrants, NGOs, government officials and interfaith organizations.

In **Cyprus**, UNHCR and the University of Nicosia agreed to provide educational opportunities to refugees. [WRD celebrations activities](#) included a Film Festival, a concert, and a street festival.

World Refugee Day was commemorated around **Greece** through sports, cooking, singing, performing, [discussing](#) and sharing in joint efforts between UNHCR, local authorities, partners and volunteers.

UNHCR organized WRD activities in **Sweden, Denmark, Finland** and **Latvia**. UNHCR participated in a WRD event in Helsinki as part of a NGO campaign to raise the Finnish refugee quota.

In **Austria**, UNHCR's spokesperson Melissa Fleming read from her book "[A Hope More Powerful than the Sea](#)" with special guest Doaa Al Zamel, at the Viennese library. UNHCR **Germany** organized a symposium on refugee protection in Berlin with the Assistant High Commissioner-Protection. Ireland hosted a football tournament with teams of refugees, asylum-seekers and the public, a book reading campaign and a photo exhibition.

In **Croatia**, five Olympians filmed a Public Service Advertisement (PSA) promoting UNHCR's #WithRefugees campaign. In **Hungary**, an interfaith PSA called for standing up for refugees. In **Romania**, young refugees teamed up with local teenagers for a circus, painting and live music festival in Bucharest. In Prague, **Czech Republic**, refugee students received awards for academic achievement. In **Poland**, an exhibit of "[The Most Important Thing](#)" (that refugees took with them when they fled) opened at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk.

In **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, UNHCR marked World Refugee Day with an exhibition of photographs on large boards displayed on the popular public walkway "Ulica Makedonija" in the centre of Skopje. UNHCR distributed materials and organised a quiz about refugees for the visitors.

On 19 June evening, under the title "Help them thrive, not just survive", UNHCR Serbia organised in Belgrade an exhibition of refugees' photos, as well as posters, messages, and a cultural programme, as well as performances of various refugee groups in the country.

In **Azerbaijan**, UNHCR organized an event to showcase the cultural contribution of refugees. This was followed by a video on activities organized by the UNHCR Refugee Women and Youth Centre.

In **Georgia**, UNHCR and partners organized concerts; a public lecture; a football tournament for IDPs children; and a meeting of refugee youth with young rugby players.

In **Ukraine**, UNHCR hosted a concert, a travelling open-air photo exhibition, and illuminated a shopping mall with the UNHCR logo and #StandWithRefugees campaign information.

On 20 June, UNHCR marked the WRD in the **Russian Federation** with a lecture in Kazan Federal University.

 world
refugee
day #With
Refugees

Key documents from the web portal

UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM June 2017

Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe

Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated

Quarterly Overview of Trends January - March 2017

Over 5,000 children
94% unaccompanied children
A total of 3,491 unaccompanied children
A total of 1,928 children in Germany

Arrivals in Europe in First Quarter of 2017

In the first quarter of 2017, 5,384 children arrived in Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria, of those 3,719 (69%) were unaccompanied or separated children (UASC).

Greece
In the first quarter of 2017, 1,148 children arrived to Greece by sea, which is a 41% decrease compared to the first quarter of 2016. A total of 182 (16%) of all child arrivals in 2017 were UASC.

Italy
Among the 3,714 children who arrived to Italy, 94% (3,491) were unaccompanied or separated. Arrival of UASC increased by 29% compared to the first quarter of 2016 (1,248). Most of them originated from Guinea, the Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire and several Bangladesh.

Bulgaria
In the first quarter of 2017, 142 children were identified in detention following transportation at border crossing points and within the territory of the country. Of them, 37% were unaccompanied children (53). This is a nine-fold decrease compared to Q1 2016. More children were from Afghanistan and Syria.

Spain
In the first quarter of 2017, 382 children arrived by sea and land, almost half of whom were Syrian (181). Data on unaccompanied children is not available from the Spanish Ministry of Interior.

UNHCR UNICEF IOM

Call to Action for 2017:

Act and Protect

The significant number of unaccompanied children arriving to Europe in recent years has put enormous pressure on European states, despite strong standards.

Many of these children have experienced violence, sexual exploitation, rape, trafficking, forced marriage, and/or severe emotional and psychological pressure not only during their journey but also once in Europe.

Detection of children has increased, large scale institutional care is over-used, and family reunification opportunities have been limited. Actions are being implemented often without considering the best interests of the child and the impact on the child's wellbeing. Unaccompanied and migrant children are a long way off from being treated the same as national children awaiting to further legal and administrative processing.

Looking forward there are concrete actions which can be implemented to protect children from harm whilst at the same time managing their movements.

Europe can turn this challenging situation into an opportunity to move away from a fragmented and often harmful approach to the children's needs which will have severe long term effects on both the children and European societies overall. Alternatively, Europe can establish stronger systems that will better protect all children and set a positive example for other countries.

What needs to be done? A joint way forward

Through a series of wide ranging consultations with practitioners (psychologists, social workers, teachers, guardians, governments, European Union (EU) actors, and unaccompanied children in Europe, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the IOM have produced a roadmap which encompasses a number of key recommendations.

1 Children need to be found and registered through child-friendly procedures.

Unaccompanied children are often scared and under pressure from smugglers, traffickers and sometimes even their families who are counting on their future earnings in Europe. Many have also experienced harm at the hands of border authorities and the police. These experiences have taught them not to trust anyone along the route and avoid any formal processing before reaching their desired destination. However, registration and age assessments are often the only opportunity to access child-specific services and protection.

It is therefore of utmost importance that children are identified, fully registered, and their age determined by a panel of social, psychological, and medical experts with the child's consent, whenever there is doubt. In order for children to feel comfortable to come forward, they need to be provided with clear information materials in languages and formats that make it easy for them to understand their rights and the procedures they need the support of cultural mediators from their same cultural backgrounds; and special border authorities trained in child-friendly procedures should receive them. It is critical at this early stage that they are separated from adults and registered and handled by child-protection professionals, to assess their needs and initiate family tracing.

The Way Forward

To Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

UNHCR UNICEF IOM

Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

The Way Forward to Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe

Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated
Quarterly Overview of Trends

Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

Call to Action for 2017

SPAIN Arrivals dashboard

Overview

By 31 May, a total of 6,819 refugees and migrants entered Spain representing a 75% of increase compared to the same period last year. The majority of arrivals in 2017 have reached the country by sea (4,161 or 61%), double the arrivals by sea during the same period in 2016.

In 2017, as in 2016, most sea arrivals disembarked at the Spanish mainland, after being received in the Mediterranean or the Strait of Gibraltar. 3,709 disembarked on the Andalusian shores, 120% more than in the same period last year. Refugees and migrants have also arrived by sea in 2017 to the Eastern coast, Canary Islands and the regions of Ceuta and Melilla (115, 112, 52 and 122 respectively). While most boats departed from the Moroccan coast (Alhucemas, Nador, Melilla and Tangier), some also departed from Algeria.

All land arrivals entered either through Melilla (1,476) or Ceuta (1,142) and represent an increase of 50% compared to same period in 2016.

Arrivals by year - 2013 to 2017

Arrivals by location - Jan to May 2017

Monthly trend of sea and land arrivals - 2015 to 2017

The higher proportion of sea arrivals compared to land arrivals (61% versus 39%) during the first five months of 2017 is consistent with 2016, but represents a shift from previous years in which land arrivals exceeded arrivals by sea. Except for a surge in arrivals by land in February, the rate of land arrivals by month is consistent with the same period in 2016.

UNHCR 7 July 2017

Spain arrivals dashboard

By 31 May, a total of 6,819 refugees and migrants entered Spain representing a 75% of increase compared to the same period last year.

+ New!
Spain Country page

EUROPE Dead and missing at sea

Number of Dead and Missing by Route (Jan-Jun, 2016 and 2017)

Key Figures

2,253 Dead and Missing in 2017 (Jan-Jun 2017)
2,896 Dead and Missing in 2016 (Jan-Jun 2016)
5,096 Dead and Missing in 2016 (Jan-Jun 2016)

Central Mediterranean Route

Eastern Mediterranean Route

UNHCR

Dead and missing at sea

In the first half of 2017, 2,253 refugees and migrants have died or are missing at sea.

Relocation in Europe

EU EMERGENCY RELOCATION MECHANISM As of 7 July 2017

23,503 Total persons relocated

16,113 Relocated from Greece (67% of EU)

7,390 Relocated from Italy (31% of EU)

UNHCR

Relocation in Europe

Snapshot of the number of refugees and migrants have been relocated within Europe, totalling 23,503 within the EU Emergency Relocation Mechanism.

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Timeline overview

