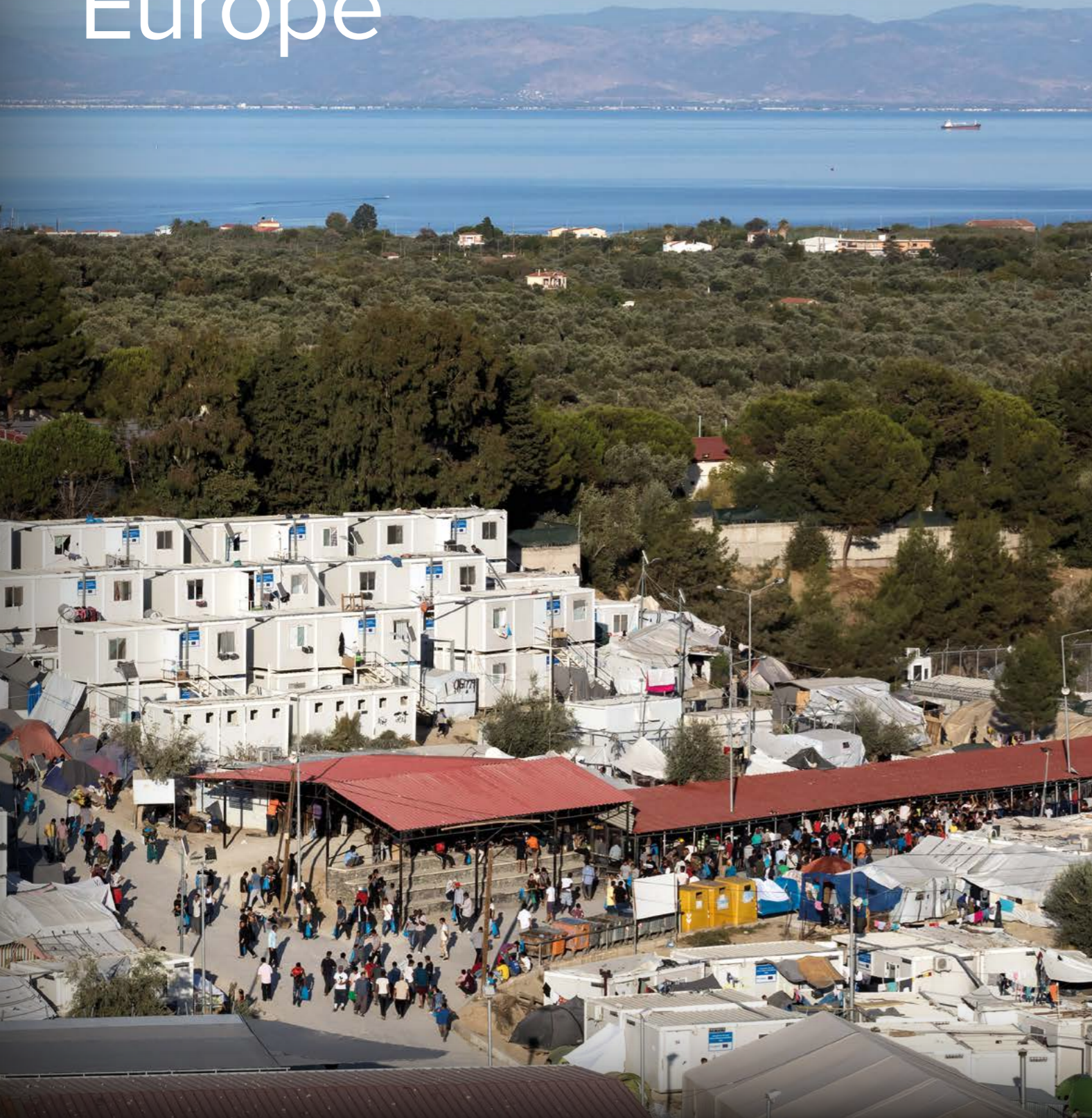# Europe

The Moria reception centre faces dangerously overcrowded conditions on Lesvos island, Greece.
© UNHCR/Gordon Welters

"The Global Compact on Refugees demands that we work more creatively and collaboratively, and with a greater sense of common purpose. The response within Europe—led by mayors and ministers, civil society and the private sector—is promising, however much remains to be done. UNHCR will continue working closely with Member States and other partners to promote solidarity and refugee inclusion throughout the continent. Refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities in every corner of Europe are counting on all of us."

Pascale Moreau
Director, Regional Bureau for Europe

KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Safeguarding asylum space and providing appropriate reception conditions

Ensuring access to territory and asylum procedures for people seeking international protection will remain central to UNHCR's work in Europe in 2020. The Office will continue monitoring asylum procedures and offer information and guidance on refugee status determination procedures to an estimated 108,000 asylum-seekers. More focus will be placed on establishing adequate reception conditions for persons at heightened risk, with an estimated 225,000 people of concern to be assessed for vulnerability across the region in the coming year.

Continued advocacy for the establishment of intra-European Union (EU) and global responsibility-sharing mechanisms, as well as expanding safe and legal pathways will also be prioritized. UNHCR will provide technical expertise and other capacity-building initiatives aimed at identifying people in need of international protection and those at heightened risk.

Particular attention will also be given to the implementation of accelerated and simplified procedures to address mixed movements. These efforts will be further amplified through the Asylum Capacity Support Group, established within the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Building and maintaining fair and efficient asylum and protection systems

In Europe, UNHCR will prioritize efforts to strengthen communication and engagement with concerned communities to ensure their voices are heard when decisions affecting their lives are made, particularly in the areas of child protection and the prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Outreach volunteer networks will encourage meaningful engagement between refugee and host communities, based on a toolkit developed through a joint 2018 UNV-UNHCR partnership.

These networks also provide an additional opportunity and platform for continued dialogue and advocacy. Capacity-building initiatives to strengthen community-based protection will target governments and partners. Access to national services, specifically for persons at heightened risk, will also receive increased attention. This is particularly important for education, as large numbers of children are reportedly out of school.

Securing durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people

UNHCR will strengthen linkages between refugees, asylum-seekers and key actors, working towards their economic, social, cultural, and legal integration. With the OECD, the Office will develop a joint action plan to expand employment opportunities for refugees, and plans to provide over 50,100 people of concern with guidance on employment opportunities.

While Europe is an important recipient of resettled refugees, there are also significant resettlement needs in Turkey. In the Russian Federation and Ukraine there are smaller numbers of people needing resettlement, partly because of challenges

The new Policy on "UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement"

accessing asylum procedures and the lack of international protection and options for integration. Some 420,000 people of concern, mostly in Turkey, are in need of resettlement in 2020. Because resettlement needs far outstrip available places, resettlement will continue to be used strategically and as a demonstration of international responsibility-sharing.

UNHCR will also encourage family reunification and the development of complementary pathways of admission by building on State-established initiatives set up in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. These include expanding community-based private sponsorship programmes, student scholarship schemes, flexible family reunification programmes, labour migration schemes and humanitarian visas. This will help discourage people from undertaking perilous journeys to reach Europe.

Guided by UNHCR's updated IDP Policy, the Office in Ukraine will participate in the High Commissioner's special Initiative on Internal Displacement which will support, monitor and ultimately showcase UNHCR's commitment to robust protection leadership and solutions. As such, UNHCR will prioritize IDPs' access to national services, and enhance the capacity of the authorities to coordinate and

deliver services to them, notably through coordination of the Protection Cluster and provision of legal assistance.

Preventing and ending statelessness

UNHCR will continue to advocate with all relevant stakeholders in the region to adopt measures to reduce statelessness, including the adoption, revision and implementation of laws that prevent statelessness at birth or later in life; procedures for access to civil registration and documentation; capacity-building for officials implementing these laws and procedures; and outreach to affected communities, including stateless refugees. UNHCR will share good practices and provide technical support to governments such as Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia to establish and strengthen procedures that adequately identify and protect stateless people.

UNHCR will continue to engage with regional actors such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, to end statelessness. Building on the EU's 2015 Council Conclusions on statelessness, UNHCR will advocate its involvement in addressing statelessness, including through the European Migration Network's Platform of Statelessness. The Office will support States and other stakeholders to follow up on the commitments they made during the October 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, including accession to one or both Statelessness Conventions (Belarus, Iceland, Malta and North Macedonia); withdrawal of reservations to these instruments (Bulgaria, Germany, Sweden); and facilitation of naturalization for stateless persons (Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova).

Strengthening external engagement

Migration and refugee issues will continue to dominate policy and political discourse across Europe. Amid negative political rhetoric aimed at refugees, UNHCR's voice will be critical in helping shape a positive narrative on refugees and migrants that can be amplified by other actors. While asserting the importance of protecting refugees in Europe and worldwide, UNHCR will also leverage non-traditional outlets, such as soft media, to engage new and broader audiences.

Forging and strengthening partnerships and coordination mechanisms to garner wide-ranging support from stakeholders including governments, cities and municipalities, international and national civil society organizations, UN agencies and private actors will be key to the Office's work in 2020. Partnerships will be strengthened to enhance joint advocacy efforts, mobilize resources, and counter negative discourse.

UNHCR will continue to advocate the inclusion of people of concern in policies and legislation, as well as the application of international protection standards by partners, including the EU and its agencies (EASO, FRONTEX), the Council of Europe, and OSCE. UNHCR will continue to participate in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) system and, with UNDP, co-chair the Issue-Based Coalition on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience to ensure inclusion of people of concern in the SDG nationalization processes.

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Next stop: solidarity, integration and innovative partnerships

In France, UNHCR has been innovating in reception and integration activities. Through a partnership with the French railway company, SNCF, and the French government's inter-ministerial delegation for the reception and integration of refugees, the provisionally titled 'Solidarity Train' project seeks to travel to numerous cities in France in order to promote promising practices in a variety of locations. This project is designed to encourage a movement of civil solidarity around the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

MAJOR SITUATIONS IN EUROPE IN 2020

UKRAINE

1.5 million
INTERNALLY DISPLACED

There are some 1.5 million IDPs and more than 1 million crossings of the line of contact each month by people seeking to maintain family ties, access services and receive vital social benefits, including pensions. Fighting along the line of contact exposes residents, including children, to danger from shelling and unexploded ordinance in particular. Securing protection and durable solutions for IDPs and other conflict-affected populations will remain challenging, particularly for persons with specific needs such as those related to mental health. In 2020, UNHCR will remain engaged in all sectors, including protecting IDPs, asylum-seekers and refugees; providing shelter to IDPs and conflict-affected people; and preventing statelessness.

MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES
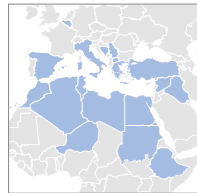
4.2 million
REFUGEES

44% CHILDREN

24% WOMEN

Between January and September 2019, some 80,800 refugees and migrants, 28% of whom were children, arrived via the three Mediterranean routes from North Africa and Turkey. Most crossed the Eastern Mediterranean from Turkey. Due to the high risks, it is estimated that some 952 refugees and migrants died crossing the Mediterranean Sea during the same period, with most deaths occurring between North Africa and Italy. UNHCR advocated the relocation of unaccompanied and separated children and was able to evacuate some 760 from Libya to Niger and Rwanda, and over 150 to Italy. UNHCR continues to advocate an end to child detention for immigration-related purposes, as detention is never in their best interest.

Most of the trends driving people to take such risks in migrating look set to continue in 2020, with the root causes driving displacement and mixed movements, such as human rights violations and conflict or poverty, unresolved. For many people, the sea crossing is just the final step in a journey that has involved travel through conflict zones or deserts, the danger of kidnapping and torture for ransom, SGBV and the threat of human traffickers. UNHCR will continue to support countries in enhancing and improving reception capacity and conditions, and advocate access to international protection and options for durable solutions.

TURKEY

3.9 million
REFUGEES

403,000
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

The countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) hosted 5.64 million refugees as of September 2019, of whom 3.7 million are under temporary protection in Turkey. Turkey also hosts some 370,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria. UNHCR will continue to support Turkey's refugee response on the basis of legal and institutional frameworks for international and temporary protection.

UNHCR will further support Turkey as it implements its asylum framework. It will advocate access and admission to national asylum procedures for people in need of international protection, and will support continuous registration and international protection procedures for people of concern in Turkey.

UNHCR will strengthen protection for refugees at heightened risk and their access to quality services, such as health and education; focus on child protection; SGBV prevention and response; and access to quality social services for people with specific needs.

11.4 million
2020 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN EUROPE

REFUGEES	**7 million**
ASYLUM-SEEKERS	**1.3 million**
RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPs)	11,700
IDPs	**2.5 million**
STATELESS PERSONS	490,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN	114,000

Europe needs to remain a safe destination for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution, as well as a contributor for solutions to crises within and outside Europe.

UKRAINE

ITALY

SPAIN

GREECE

CYPRUS

MALTA

AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS | January 2019

35%

70%

21%

7%

60+
18-59
12-17
5-11
0-4

UNDER 18
40%
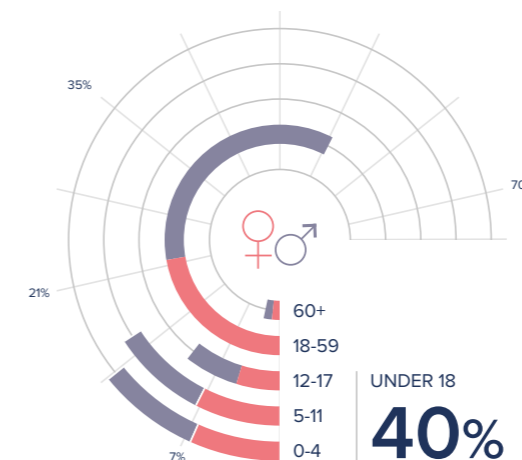
● Ukraine situation

■ IDP initiative

■ Mediterranean routes: main country of arrival

IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING

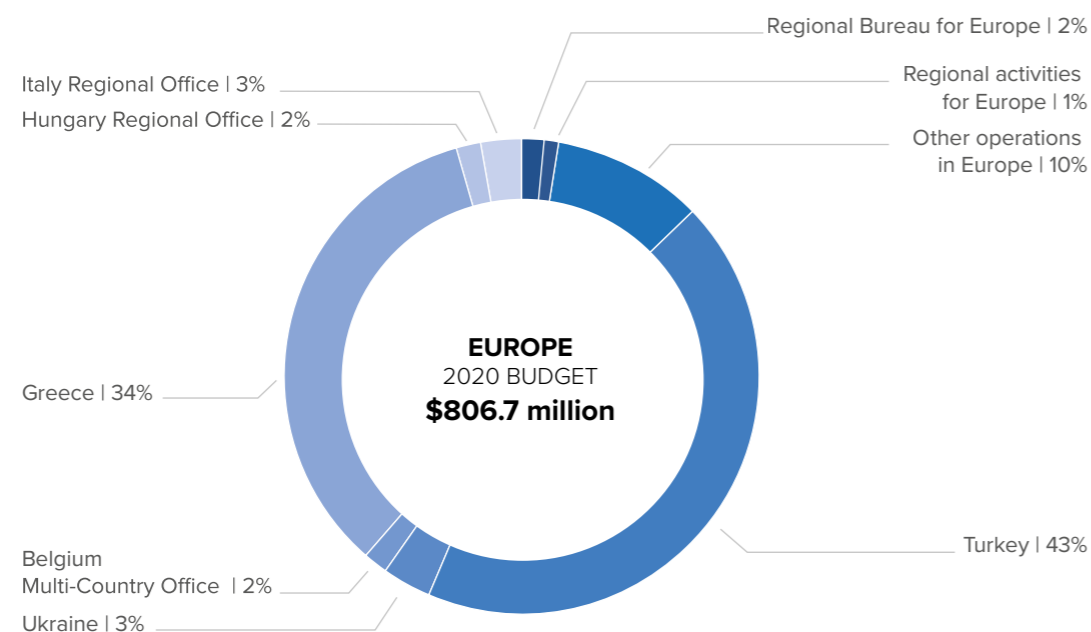With the situations in Greece, Turkey and Ukraine supported largely through tightly earmarked funding, Europe relies heavily on flexible funding for many of its activities elsewhere in the region. This severely limited UNHCR's ability to provide protection and solutions, particularly facilitating integration through the provision of support to concerned governments and other partners. With additional funding, UNHCR could have supported double the numbers of IDPs in Ukraine through cash assistance.

Lack of funding in refugee-receiving countries further constrained UNHCR's activities related to local integration and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen government asylum systems.

Regional Bureau for Europe | 2%
Regional activities for Europe | 1%
Other operations in Europe | 10%
Italy Regional Office | 3%
Hungary Regional Office | 2%
Greece | 34%
Belgium Multi-Country Office | 2%
Ukraine | 3%
Turkey | 43%

EUROPE
2020 BUDGET
$806.7 million

BUDGETS FOR EUROPE | USD

OPERATION	2019	2020					2021
		PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4		
	Current budget (as of 30 June 2019)	Refugee programmes	Stateless programmes	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	TOTAL	Proposed budget
EUROPE							
Regional Bureau for Europe[1]	3,663,937	13,109,746	-	-	-	**13,109,746**	13,049,253
Regional activities for Europe[1]	8,096,157	11,926,051	240,000	-	-	**12,166,051**	12,215,002
Other operations in Europe		4,518,394	72,392	-	-	**4,590,785**	4,590,785
SUBTOTAL	**11,760,094**	**29,554,191**	**312,392**	**-**	**-**	**29,866,583**	**29,855,041**
EASTERN EUROPE							
Armenia	-	3,535,917	123,443	-	-	**3,659,360**	3,634,242
Azerbaijan	-	2,999,281	95,715	-	970,321	**4,065,316**	3,682,976
Belarus	1,953,966	1,895,000	45,000	-	-	**1,940,000**	1,940,000
Georgia	15,931,864	3,106,713	371,413	-	2,611,250	**6,089,375**	6,132,232
Russian Federation	6,461,205	5,604,287	830,333	-	-	**6,434,620**	6,182,130
Turkey	399,579,258	350,437,804	5,000	-	-	**350,442,805**	315,826,143
Ukraine	28,325,447	5,158,391	908,838	-	22,136,948	**28,204,176**	28,365,173
SUBTOTAL	**452,251,741**	**372,737,393**	**2,379,742**	**-**	**25,718,518**	**400,835,653**	**365,762,896**
NORTHERN, WESTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EUROPE							
Belgium Multi-Country Office[2]	20,868,303	12,103,644	391,983	-	-	**12,495,627**	12,505,068
France	3,484,401	3,560,234	226,991	-	-	**3,787,225**	3,714,342
Germany	2,349,195	2,259,695	38,265	-	-	**2,297,959**	2,155,805
Greece	246,662,761	275,159,636	84,247	-	-	**275,243,883**	214,789,264
Hungary Regional Office[3]	14,470,245	12,261,004	420,247	236,860	-	**12,918,111**	13,045,000
Italy Regional Office[4]	31,011,527	22,184,306	198,316	-	-	**22,382,622**	22,382,624
Spain Multi-Country Office[5]	-	5,557,393	31,220	-	-	**5,588,613**	5,588,613
Sweden Multi-Country Office[6]	5,463,255	4,678,745	650,000	-	-	**5,328,745**	5,328,745
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2,678,929	2,460,626	403,002	-	-	**2,863,628**	2,792,775
SUBTOTAL	**326,988,615**	**340,225,283**	**2,444,270**	**236,860**	**-**	**342,906,413**	**282,302,235**
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE							
Albania	-	2,962,414	184,776	-	-	**3,147,190**	3,218,806
Bosnia and Herzegovina[7]	39,790,994	9,423,219	614,112	-	-	**10,037,331**	9,985,137
Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))		2,689,315	779,388	-	-	**3,468,704**	3,474,422
Montenegro	-	2,258,135	249,866	-	-	**2,508,001**	2,112,427
North Macedonia	-	4,230,020	321,248	-	-	**4,551,269**	4,271,677
Serbia	-	6,936,242	2,447,118	-	-	**9,383,360**	8,359,506
SUBTOTAL	**39,790,994**	**28,499,345**	**4,596,509**	**-**	**-**	**33,095,854**	**31,421,974**
TOTAL	**830,791,444**	**771,016,212**	**9,732,912**	**236,860**	**25,718,518**	**806,704,503**	**709,342,146**

1 Regional Bureau and regional activities covers the whole Europe region.
2 Coordinates activities in Belgium, Ireland, Malta (EASO), the Netherlands, Poland (FRONTEX) and covers also Luxembourg.
3 Coordinates activities in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and also covers the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, and Slovakia.
4 Coordinates activities in Cyprus, Italy and Malta and also covers the Holy See and San Marino.
5 Coordinates activities in Spain and also covers Andorra and Portugal.
6 Coordinates activities in Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden and also covers Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia and Norway.
7 Includes activities in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) in 2019.