

Eastern Partnership

Risk Analysis Network Quarterly

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Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4





Frontex official publications fall into four main categories: risk analysis, training, operations and research, each marked with a distinct graphic identifier. Risk analysis publications bear a triangular symbol formed by an arrow drawing a triangle, with a dot at the centre. Metaphorically, the arrow represents the cyclical nature of risk analysis processes and its orientation towards an appropriate operational response. The triangle is a symbol of ideal proportions and knowledge, reflecting the pursuit of factual exactness, truth and exhaustive analysis. The dot at the centre represents the intelligence factor and the focal point where information from diverse sources converges to be processed, systematised and shared as analytical products. Thus, Frontex risk analysis is meant to be at the centre and to form a reliable basis for its operational activities.



Plac Europejski 6
00-844 Warsaw, Poland
T +48 22 205 95 00
F +48 22 205 95 01
frontex@frontex.europa.eu
www.frontex.europa.eu

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Risk Analysis Unit
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List of abbreviations used

BCP	border-crossing point
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EaP-RAN	Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network
EB-RAN	Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network
EDF	European Union Document-Fraud
EU	European Union
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
RAU	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
SAC	Schengen Associated Countries

Introduction

In January 2016, three new countries joined the Eastern Borders Risk Analysis Network (EB-RAN) operating under the EU-funded Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Capacity Building Project: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Upon this extension, the network has been renamed as the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN).

Concept

The Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration trends. This information is compiled at the level of the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) and analysed in cooperation with the regional partners on a quarterly and annual basis. The annual reports offer a more in-depth analysis of the occurring developments and phenomena which impact the regional and common borders while the quarterly reports are meant to provide regular updates and identify emerging trends in order to maintain situational awareness. Both types of reports

are aimed at offering support for strategic and operational decision making.

Methodology

The Eastern Partnership Quarterly statistical overview is focused on quarterly developments of the seven key indicators of irregular migration: (1) detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs; (2) detections of illegal border-crossing at BCPs; (3) refusals of entry; (4) detections of illegal stay; (5) asylum applications; (6) detections of facilitators; and (7) detections of fraudulent documents.¹

The backbone of this overview are monthly statistics provided within the framework of the EaP-RAN (Armenia², Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and reference period statistics from common border sections of the neighbouring EU

Member States and Schengen Associated Countries (Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). The data are processed, checked for errors and merged into an Excel database for further analysis.

Structure

This Quarterly contains a general **Situational overview** broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration.

¹ Please note that the analysis of this indicator is now limited to EaP countries only given that EU Member States have transitioned to the European Union Document-Fraud (EDF) reporting scheme.

² Data for Armenia not included in Q4 2016.

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. **Geographical scope of the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network**

Note on definitions: 'common borders' refers both to borders between EU Member States and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (covered by both sides) and borders of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries with the Russian Federation (covered only by the EU/Schengen Associated Country side of the border)



Summary of EaP-RAN indicators

Table 1. Overview of indicators

Indicator	EU TOTALS	EU MS (eastern land borders only)**	% of EU total	only EaP countries*
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	68 650	317	0.5%	627
Clandestine entries	389	4	1.0%	9 008
Facilitators	3 299	20	0.6%	22
Illegal stay	119 203	6 411	5%	8 393
Refusals of entry	53 967	27 102	50%	11 264
Applications for asylum	194 159	7 163	4%	218
False travel documents	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	180
Return decision issued	85 827	22 460***	26%	n.a.
Effective returns	42 780	10 107***	24%	n.a.

* Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

** Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

*** Total numbers reported in FRAN by Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

Source: FRAN and EP-RAN data as of 6 February 2017

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossing

In the fourth quarter of 2016, 944 persons were detected for illegal border-crossing between BCPs by the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN) member countries.¹ The number of detections was 25% lower than in the third quarter of 2016. Ukraine reported the highest number of detections (42%), followed by Belarus and Hungary.

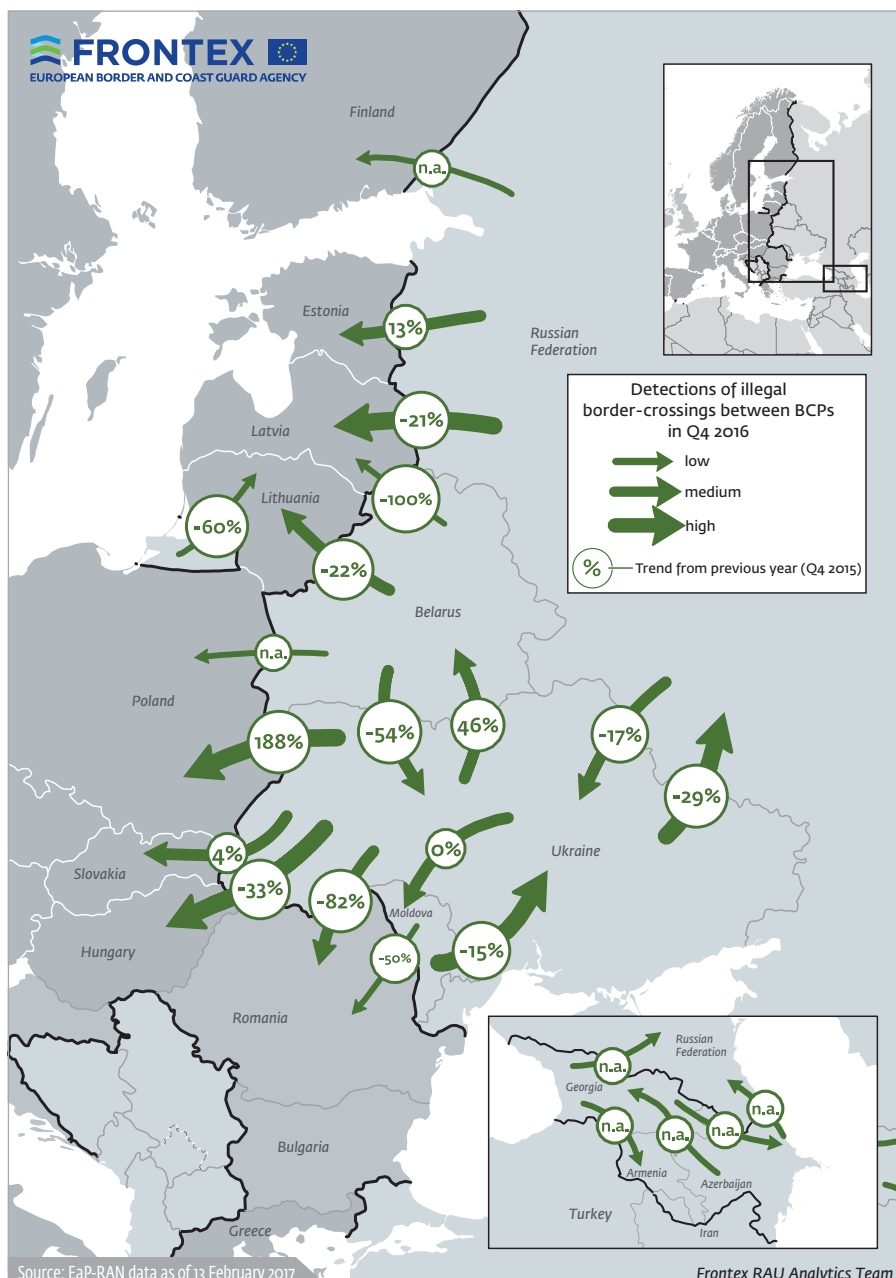
Almost 50% of detections involved regional nationals (citizens of EaP and CIS countries), mostly Ukrainians, Russians and Moldovans. The vast majority of the reported cases (72%) was linked either to smuggling or other reasons not related to migration.

Non-regional migrants constituted over 50% of detections, with the majority reported to be Vietnamese. Irregular migration was the main reason for non-regional migrants to cross the border illegally. At the common borders, detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs (reported by both sides) decreased by 21% compared with the third quarter of 2016 and by 22% in relation to the same quarter of 2015. The most significant drop in the absolute number of detections was reported by Latvia.

At the Eastern Partnership and external borders, 300 cases of illegal border-crossing were detected, representing a 33% drop compared with Q3 2016. Almost 80% of detections took place at the Ukrainian borders involving mostly regional migrants, predominantly Ukrainians. Non-regional migrants from a variety of countries were detected in low numbers.

Figure 2. Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs reported by EaP-RAN members at all borders show that the highest pressure in Q4 2016 was recorded at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border section, even though the numbers dropped compared with Q4 2015

Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs at all borders covered by the EaP-RAN in Q4 2016



¹ Data for Armenia not included as statistical data provided is not consistent with the definitions and format of EaP-RAN

Border checks

Facilitators

The number of facilitators detected at the common borders (reported by both sides) decreased by 21% in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared with the third quarter of that year and was 13% lower than in Q4 2015. Most apprehended facilitators were reported by Belarus and Latvia. As regards nationalities, the facilitators were mostly citizens of the Russian Federation (from the region of Caucasus), Estonia and Slovakia.

Tragic accident – four Vietnamese died on the way to the Russian-Latvian border

On 17 December 2016, at midnight, four Vietnamese nationals and one Russian citizen of Chechen origin died in a car accident in the Russian Federation, near the village of Mavrino in the Pskov region (around 40 km from the Russian-Latvian border). Mazda MPV, which was driven by a Russian national and carried a total of 11 Vietnamese, collided with a Renault lorry at 433 km of the St. Petersburg-Nevel highway.



Source: polit.ru; topnews.ru 17 December 2016

Clandestine entries

In the fourth quarter of 2016, there were 17 cases of clandestine entry attempts reported by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Poland and Romania. As regards nationalities, the citizens of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Iran, Turkey and Belarus were reported.

Refusals of entry

There were 38 366 refusals of entry reported in the fourth quarter of 2016 within the EaP-RAN at the common, EaP and external regional borders. The vast majority of refusals (92%) was reported at the land borders.

At the common borders, refusals of entry issued by EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries decreased by 51% in relation to Q3 2016, and increased by 41% in relation to the same period of 2015. Similarly to the previous quarter, the vast majority was reported by Poland (88%) with Russian citizens representing the top ranking nationality.

The most significant drop in the number of refusals of entry was related to citizens of

the Russian Federation. There was a 65% decrease reported at the common borders compared with the third quarter of 2016. The decreased number of refusals was also associated with a reduced flow of citizens of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

Eastern Partnership countries reported over 11 260 refusals; 72% and 21% were issued at the land and air borders, respectively. The majority of refusals (over 50%) was issued by Belarus, followed by Ukraine and Georgia.

Document fraud

In the fourth quarter of 2016, there was an increase of 30% in detections of fraudulent document users reported by the five Eastern Partnership countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) compared with the third quarter of 2016. The increase was recorded in all EaP countries. Most detections were made by Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The most detected fraudulent documents were passports (56%). Stamps accounted for 15% of the reported cases, while registration of stay and visas together constituted 15%.

Situation in the Eastern Partnership region

Illegal stay

A drop of 5% in detections of illegal stay was reported by Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in the fourth quarter of 2016. The top five detected nationalities included Russians, Moldovans, Ukrainians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis. Citizens of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan were mostly detected by Ukraine, while Ukrainians by Belarus. Moldovans and Georgians tended to be reported most by both Belarus and Ukraine.

98% of detections of illegal stay were reported on exit. The Ukrainian borders with the Russian Federation and Belarus were mostly affected, followed by Ukrainian and Belarusian airports.

Operation 'Frontier-2016' in Ukraine

Following the operation 'Frontier-2015', during which over 1 970 illegal immigrants were apprehended, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine launched the operation 'Frontier-2016' on 20 April 2016. This nationwide operation requires close cooperation of the majority of Ukrainian ministries and departments, as well as representatives of law-enforcement authorities of the neighbouring countries.

The operation aims at combating irregular migration, human trafficking, as well as fighting illegal movement of excise goods and smuggling of drugs and weapons across the state border of Ukraine.

The main objectives of the operation are to perform regular checks of places where irregular migrants most frequently stay as well as comprehensive surveillance of roads, airports, sea and river harbours and vessels to identify routes and channels of irregular migration flows across the territory of Ukraine. Moreover, the operation involves strengthened controls in border



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areas and cooperation with neighbouring EU Member States.

According to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, from the beginning of the operation 'Frontier-2016' till mid-December 2016, 1 700 violators of the state border were detected, over 4 000 violators of border regime detained and more than 320 illegal immigrants apprehended. In addition, around 400 tonnes of contraband alcohol, nearly 2.5 million packs of cigarettes, 315 kg of amber, 70 kg of drugs and 280 weapons were seized.

Source: State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

II. STATISTICAL ANNEX

LEGEND

Symbols and abbreviations: n.a. not applicable
: data not available

Source: EaP-RAN and FRAN data as of 13 February 2017,
unless otherwise indicated

Annex Table 1. **Illegal border-crossing between BCPs**

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal-border crossing and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	944	607	377	400	618	536	-12	-13	61
Other	560	239	274	289	436	270	13	-38	31
Smuggling of goods	133	93	97	139	144	69	-26	-52	7.9
Not specified	250	166	55	80	0	0	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	483	236	246	277	419	221	-6.4	-47	25
Vietnam	254	122	66	158	187	172	41	-8.0	20
Moldova	107	70	93	92	87	62	-11	-29	7.1
Russian Federation	111	61	65	82	76	61	0.0	-20	7.0
Afghanistan	277	241	99	59	66	55	-77	-17	6.3
Bangladesh	13	7	4	18	34	27	286	-21	3.1
Turkey	18	17	45	10	13	26	53	100	3.0
India	11	2	16	21	51	25	<i>n.a.</i>	-51	2.9
Syria	116	36	4	8	11	23	-36	109	2.6
Georgia	145	25	23	30	32	23	-8.0	-28	2.6
Others	352	288	142	153	222	180	-38	-19	21
Total	1 887	1 105	803	908	1 198	875	-21	-27	100

Annex Table 2. **Illegal border-crossing at BCPs**

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal border-crossing and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	per cent of total
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Other	4 574	4 001	3 101	3 800	8 893	8 841	121	-0.6	98
Smuggling of goods	93	96	118	128	128	129	34	0.8	1.4
Irregular migration	32	26	26	20	16	25	-3.8	56	0.3
Not specified	0	1	14	10	3	4	300	33	0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	4 423	3 832	2 992	3 706	8 814	8 714	127	-1.1	97
Moldova	129	141	181	181	161	194	38	20	2.2
Romania	28	26	18	33	24	44	69	83	0.5
Belarus	6	18	3	3	4	8	-56	100	0.1
Not specified	5	2	5	2	3	8	300	167	0.1
Turkey	2	5	1	0	2	5	0.0	150	0.1
Russian Federation	47	37	23	14	13	5	-86	-62	0.1
Bulgaria	3	7	2	2	3	3	-57	0.0	0
Armenia	7	11	3	2	1	3	-73	200	0
Ghana	2	0	2	1	0	2	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	0
Others	47	45	29	14	15	13	-71	-13	0.1
Total	4 699	4 124	3 259	3 958	9 040	8 999	118	-0.5	100

Annex Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		per cent of total
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	59	47	205	49	36	40	-15	11	100
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Air	0	0	1	4	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Russian Federation	24	12	11	22	14	23	92	64	58
Slovakia	1	2	0	2	2	6	200	200	15
Estonia	0	2	0	6	0	6	200	n.a.	15
Belarus	0	7	5	11	7	4	-43	-43	10
Ukraine	11	6	5	3	5	1	-83	-80	2.5
Cameroon	0	0	12	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Poland	0	1	2	2	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Comoros	0	0	1	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Austria	0	0	2	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Others	23	17	167	7	8	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Total	59	47	206	53	36	40	-15	11	100

Annex Table 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	9 904	9 890	7 160	8 439	11 417	11 454	16	0.3	81
Air	1 703	1 341	1 267	1 492	2 032	2 382	78	17	17
Between BCPs	155	57	22	41	77	108	89	40	0.8
Sea	101	60	46	76	108	100	67	-7.4	0.7
Inland	24	30	12	25	49	41	37	-16	0.3
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	4 625	4 981	3 019	4 137	5 470	6 053	22	11	43
Russian Federation	2 202	1 748	1 505	1 349	2 219	1 907	9.1	-14	14
Moldova	852	1 019	840	1 098	1 349	1 531	50	13	11
Georgia	743	448	381	498	735	882	97	20	6.3
Azerbaijan	402	466	338	303	441	519	11	18	3.7
Belarus	455	346	315	342	457	468	35	2.4	3.3
Turkey	169	189	281	236	277	278	47	0.4	2.0
Armenia	225	201	96	142	242	240	19	-0.8	1.7
Uzbekistan	125	165	131	111	133	227	38	71	1.6
United States	119	102	89	105	145	166	63	14	1.2
Others	1 970	1 713	1 512	1 752	2 215	1 814	5.9	-18	13
Total	11 887	11 378	8 507	10 073	13 683	14 085	24	2.9	100

Annex Table 5. Refusals of entry

Refusals reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, border type and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	per cent of total
Border Type									
Land	30 643	28 602	21 885	28 760	65 193	34 653	21	-47	94
Air	1 198	1 405	1 017	1 276	1 323	1 620	15	22	4.4
Sea	817	1 222	692	729	730	707	-42	-3.2	1.9
Top Ten Nationalities									
Russian Federation	8 147	7 655	6 174	11 219	43 830	16 080	110	-63	43
Ukraine	6 499	7 186	7 804	8 991	10 402	8 759	22	-16	24
Belarus	2 170	2 035	1 399	1 229	1 506	1 856	-8.8	23	5.0
Tajikistan	2 112	1 512	1 751	1 585	2 739	1 677	11	-39	4.5
Moldova	1 869	1 777	1 433	1 763	1 633	1 589	-11	-2.7	4.3
Armenia	1 774	1 870	742	853	962	1 516	-19	58	4.1
Georgia	1 362	1 748	531	446	709	784	-55	11	2.1
Lithuania	657	707	496	594	642	731	3.4	14	2.0
Azerbaijan	1 108	1 275	541	542	507	567	-56	12	1.5
Poland	265	145	178	223	307	302	108	-1.6	0.8
Others	6 695	5 319	2 545	3 320	4 009	3 119	-41	-22	8.4
Total	32 658	31 229	23 594	30 765	67 246	36 980	18	-45	100

Annex Table 6. **Applications for asylum**

Applications for international protection reported by EAP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by top ten nationalities

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Syria	57 870	7 056	912	3 166	1 749	1 248	-82	-29	17
Afghanistan	30 239	9 690	2 090	7 184	1 903	1 170	-88	-39	16
Russian Federation	2 971	2 887	1 764	3 501	2 084	1 150	-60	-45	16
Iraq	18 241	10 834	1 543	1 886	1 010	1 022	-91	1.2	14
Eritrea	1 560	785	163	128	261	410	-48	57	5.7
Ukraine	658	481	370	435	319	252	-48	-21	3.5
Pakistan	11 881	557	1 566	1 972	415	196	-65	-53	2.7
Tajikistan	209	256	358	314	139	160	-38	15	2.2
Iran	1 420	1 619	692	563	236	128	-92	-46	1.8
Algeria	210	89	374	197	110	123	38	12	1.7
Others	12 689	4 100	3 528	2 530	1 714	1 322	-68	-23	18
Total	137 948	38 354	13 360	21 876	9 940	7 181	-81	-28	100

Annex Table 7. Persons using false documents

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries, by border type, document type, fraud type, top ten nationalities and top ten countries of issuance

	2015		2016				2016 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	37	31	25	58	40	45	45	13	51
Air	54	50	45	33	35	32	-36	-8.6	36
Sea	10	11	9	12	7	10	-9.1	43	11
Not specified	6	4	0	0	1	2	-50	100	2.2
Document Type									
Passport	95	81	66	99	79	84	3.7	6.3	94
Visas	8	2	6	0	3	4	100	33	4.5
ID cards	1	6	3	3	0	1	-83	n.a.	1.1
Not specified	2	5	1	0	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Stamp	0	2	3	1	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Residence permit	1	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Moldova	25	20	19	24	20	32	60	60	36
Ukraine	12	13	28	39	25	15	15	-40	17
Afghanistan	6	0	0	0	0	6	n.a.	n.a.	6.7
Iran	4	2	1	1	0	6	200	n.a.	6.7
Georgia	6	7	0	2	4	4	-43	0.0	4.5
India	4	5	2	4	5	4	-20	-20	4.5
Egypt	2	3	2	1	1	3	0.0	200	3.4
Turkey	4	5	3	5	1	3	-40	200	3.4
Vietnam	0	1	1	0	0	2	100	n.a.	2.2
Russian Federation	6	5	4	1	4	2	-60	-50	2.2
Others	38	35	19	26	23	12	-66	-48	13
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Moldova	23	12	12	23	20	30	150	50	34
Ukraine	16	10	11	30	17	15	50	-12	17
Germany	0	0	0	0	1	6	n.a.	n.a.	6.7
India	4	5	2	4	4	4	-20	0.0	4.5
Georgia	5	5	0	1	0	3	-40	n.a.	3.4
Greece	2	1	0	0	0	3	200	n.a.	3.4
Israel	9	1	4	0	2	3	200	50	3.4
Egypt	1	3	2	1	1	3	0.0	200	3.4
Pakistan	0	0	1	0	0	2	n.a.	n.a.	2.2
Tajikistan	2	4	1	2	6	2	-50	-67	2.2
Others	45	55	46	42	32	18	-67	-44	20
Total	107	96	79	103	83	89	-7.3	7.2	100



Plac Europejski 6
00-844 Warsaw, Poland

T +48 22 205 95 00
F +48 22 205 95 01

frontex@frontex.europa.eu
www.frontex.europa.eu



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