

Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 1 • JANUARY–MARCH 2017

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4





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Throughout the report, references to Kosovo* are marked with an asterisk to indicate that this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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List of abbreviations used

BCP	border-crossing point
CIA	Central Investigation Agency
EDF	European Union Document-Fraud
EDF-RAN	European Union Document-Risk Analysis Network
EU	European Union
EUR	euro
FRAN	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ID	identification document
JORA	Joint Operations Reporting Application
n.a.	not available
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
RAU	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
UK	United Kingdom
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WB-RAN	Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network

Introduction

Concept

The Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration developments affecting the region. This information is compiled at Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) level 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 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 Western Balkans Quarterly is focused on quarterly developments as reflected by 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 documents¹.

The data presented in the overview are derived from monthly statistics provided

within the framework of the WB-RAN and reference-period statistics from common border sections of neighbouring EU Member States (Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Romania). In addition, the Western Balkans Quarterly is drawing from FRAN Quarterly reports and also from data analysed in the framework of other risk analysis networks (FRAN, EDF).

Structure

The first part offers a general situational overview broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration and cross-border criminality (firearms smuggling). The second part presents more in-depth featured risk analyses of particular phenomena. As the current issue of the Western Balkans Quarterly is the seventh following a new approach adopted for risk analysis quarterlies, the structure of the report may still be subject to some readjustments.

Changes in data scope after Croatia's entry to the EU

Important changes in the collection and use of data for Western Balkans Quarterlies were introduced upon Croatia's joining the EU in July 2013. Firstly, data for Slovenia, which now has no external borders with non-EU Western Balkan countries, have not been included in the report since

the third quarter of 2013. Slovenian historical data were also excluded from the tables in order to make the comparison with previous quarters analytically meaningful.

Secondly, as the Croatian-Hungarian and Croatian-Slovenian border sections are now internal EU-borders and so they are no longer covered by this report.

Thirdly, after joining the EU, Croatian data on illegal stay data are limited to detections at the border. More precisely, Croatia's illegal stay data only include cases detected on exit, while inland detections are not included. The analysis of the illegal stay indicator takes this fact into consideration.

Changes in data scope after Kosovo's entry to the WB-RAN

Starting from the first quarter of 2014, data from Kosovo* on key indicators of irregular migration have been included in the reporting, making it possible to get a more comprehensive picture of the irregular movements in the region. However, as there are no historical data available for Kosovo*, the new data have some impact on the comparison of the examined period with previous quarters. When necessary for analytical purposes, some comparison can be made also excluding data from Kosovo*, which is noted in the text.

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

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. General map of the Western Balkans region



Summary of WB-RAN indicators

Table 1. Overview of indicators as reported by WB-RAN members

WB-RAN Indicator	Q1 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	% change on same quarter last year	% change on previous quarter
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	201 019	8 979	7 051	-97 %	-21 %
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	416	358	897	116 %	151 %
Facilitators	261	266	188	-28 %	-29 %
Illegal stay	2 131	1 514	1 327	-38 %	-12 %
Refusals of entry	8 850	13 733	10 301	16 %	-25 %
Asylum applications ^o	18 296	30 469	20 709	13 %	-32 %
False travel document users	251	237	264	5.2%	11 %

^o Applications for asylum in EU Member States include all applications received in the territory of the countries, not limited to those made at the Western Balkan borders.

Source: WB-RAN and EDF-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

Key findings

- The number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants dropped to levels normal for the season
- There was a slight increase in detected illegal border-crossings at BCPs and refusals of entry issued to non-regional migrants as they search for transit alternatives
- Increase in migratory pressure at the Croatian-Serbian (BCPs) and Romanian-Serbian (green border) borders; the pressure is likely linked to migrants already present in Serbia
- While the absolute number of facilitators decreased, their number in relation to the number of illegal border-crossings remained stable
- The irregular flow of citizens of Western Balkan countries rose slightly following seasonal patterns but remained mostly contained to the southern common borders with Greece

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossings

In the first quarter of 2017, WB-RAN data show 4 628 illegal border-crossings by **non-regional migrants**² en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria reported at the common and regional borders (see Fig. 2). This makes Q1 2017 the fourth quarter in a row showing a significant decrease (i.e., 31% drop from Q4 2016). Moreover, the total number of detections reported in Q1 was comparable to that reported in the corresponding periods of past years, before the period of 2015–2016 when the migration crisis was at its peak.

This low number of detections registered in Q1 2017 resulted from a steady month-on-month decline from roughly 2 000 in January to 1 700 in February and just over 900 in March.

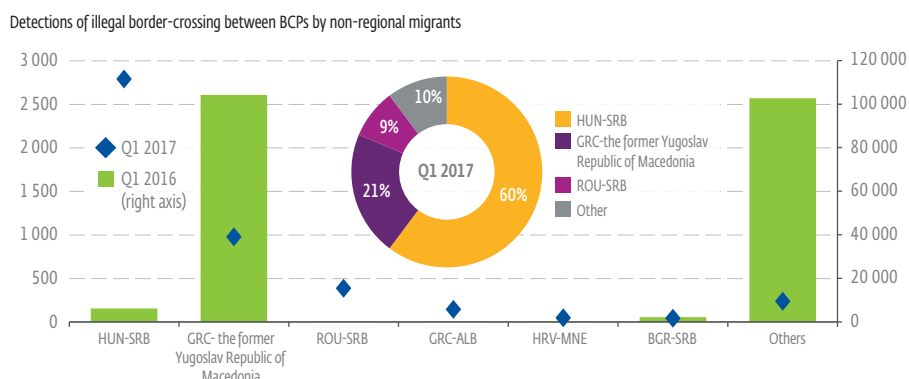
Additional information³ indicates that Bulgaria also prevented a significantly lower number of migrants than that reported in the last three months of 2016 from crossing into Serbia. This decrease is indicative of an easing pressure on this area, likely resulting from the imposed border controls, which made irregular travel via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans routes more challenging.

The continued decline in detected illegal border-crossings in Q1 appears to have been largely consistent with the overall downward migration trend in the region. Similar to the previous quarter, the decrease in the size of the flow may be even

² Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

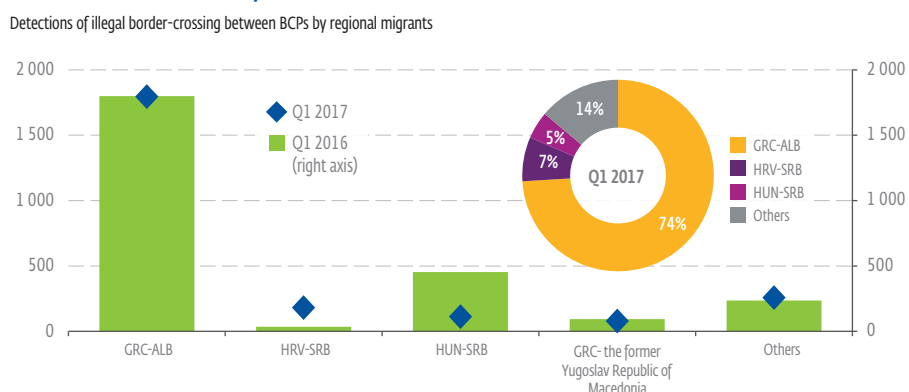
³ WB Daily information exchange DB as of 5 May 2017

Figure 2. Lower number of attempts to enter the Western Balkans region through the southern common borders by non-regional migrants; overall, the Hungarian-Serbian border took the most pressure in the north but the number of detections at the Romanian-Serbian section also rose starting from March



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

Figure 3. Detections of regional migrants were mostly reported from the southern common borders (Albanian circular migration); detections at the northern common borders involved mainly Kosovo* nationals and, to a lesser extent, Albanians



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

more pronounced than the reporting indicates, given that the same migrant may be detected on multiple transit attempts at the same border (i.e. preventions of crossing) but also at multiple border sections on the way through the region.

Afghans remained the top reported nationality in Q1 2017, accounting for 33% of the total non-regional migration flow. Pakistanis, Syrians, Iraqis and Algerians were the second, third, fourth and fifth top detected nationalities, respectively in the first quarter of 2017.

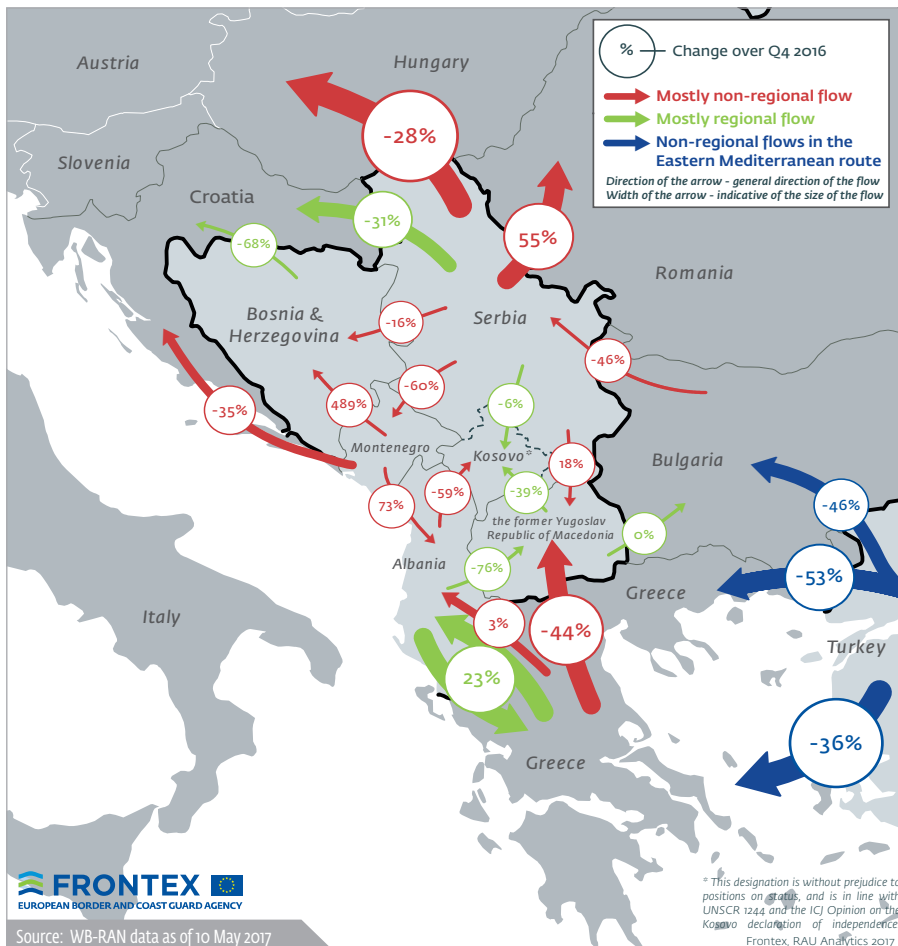


Figure 4. Eastern Mediterranean Sea and land routes registered fewer arrivals in Q1. Similarly, the southern common borders of the Western Balkans with Greece and Bulgaria also registered fewer crossing attempts during the analysed period.

Following the continuation and further enhancement of border controls by Hungary, the Hungarian-Serbian border section registered a lower number of crossing attempts. In search of other travel alternatives and encouraged by improved weather, migrants present in Serbia began exerting more pressure on the Romanian-Serbian (between BCPs) and Serbian-Croatian border sections (at BCPs).

The regional flow experienced slight seasonal increases but was largely contained at the Greek-Albanian border.

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q4 2016 and Q1 2017 at particular border sections; main directions and compositions of the flow

The nationality of some non-regional migrants was still reported as 'unknown'⁴ but the share of this group dropped to below 2% of the non-regional flow in Q1. The shrinking share of persons reporting as 'unknown' indicates that the flow is gradually returning to levels manageable by the authorities' capacities of screening and identification.

Most of the top nationalities registered significant drops in the number of detections compared with the previous quarter, ranging from -10% for Syrians to -45% for Afghans. Out of the five most detected nationalities, only Algerians registered an increase over the previous quarter (+46%).

The number of detected **Western Balkan regional migrants**⁵ registered an overall 4% rise over Q4 2016 with a more pronounced increase reported in February and March 2017, a development in line with usual seasonal patterns. Compared to Q1 2016, however the flow dropped 7%.

As the numbers of non-regional migrants decreased, the regional flow gained greater importance as regards the overall pressure affecting the region. Specifically, it accounted for 34% of the overall number of illegal border-crossings at regional level in Q1.

The majority of Western Balkan countries' nationals detected for illegal border-crossing were still reported at Greece's borders with Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (by and large, Albanians). The number at this section even rose by 23% over the previous quarter, which is, to a great extent, a season-related development. The detections at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region accounted for 17% of the regional flow, mainly involving Kosovo* nationals and, to a lesser extent, Albanians.

4 The number of persons reported as 'unknown' is analysed as part of the non-regional migration flow.

5 Migrants who are nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Facilitators

A total of 188 facilitators were detected at the regional level in the first quarter of 2017, a number 29% lower than that of the previous three-month period.

This continued decrease in Q1 appears to have been in line with the overall decreasing migratory pressure observed in the region. Nevertheless, as would-be migrants need to bypass additional prevention measures, the demand for facilitation services could in fact be high. Moreover, as facilitation appears increasingly necessary to transit the region via irregular routes, more people are likely to be attracted by

the prospects of profits and thus engage in such activities.

Despite the 29% decrease in the number of detections in Q1, the ratio between the number of facilitators and that of illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants remained relatively stable in relation to Q4 2016 (i.e., one facilitator to 25 detected illegal border-crossings).

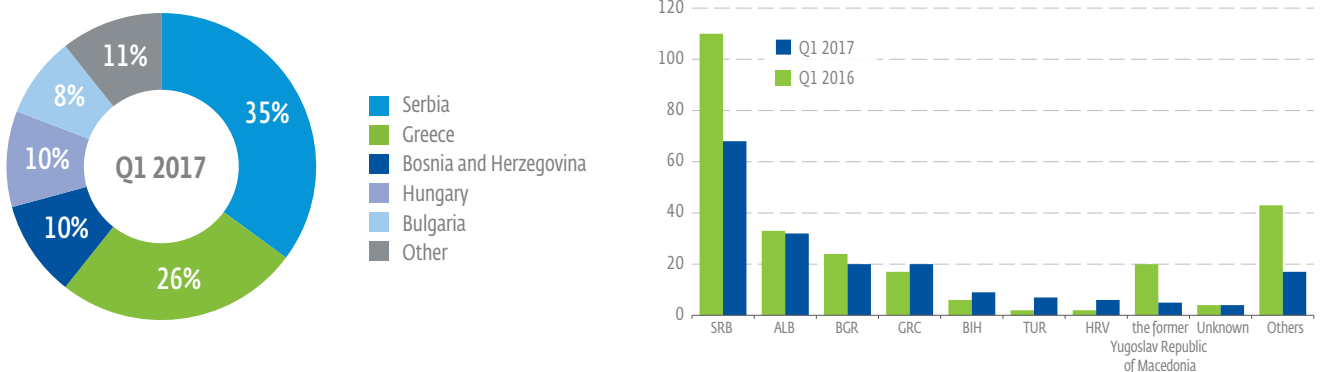
Nevertheless, the fact that only 188 facilitators were detected in Q1 2017 (compared with over 4 600 illegal border-crossings by non-regional nationals) may lead to a conclusion that many migrants are able to organise their own journey, even though

regularly organised transit options are no longer available.

Roughly 62% of all facilitators detected in the analysed period were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 27% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 11% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown nationality'. The highest share of detected facilitators was still reported by Serbia, most of whom were Serbian nationals, followed by Greece, which reported mostly Albanians and Greeks.

Figure 5. **The number of people smugglers remained relatively low, even decreasing compared with the previous periods**

Detections of facilitators (at BCPs, between BCPs and inland) by top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In Q1 2017, a total of 847 **non-regional migrants** were detected while attempting to illegally cross the border hiding in vehicles. This represents a 175% increase compared with the previous three-month period, making Q1 2017 the highest reporting quarter since data collection began in 2009. This development is not really surprising, as increased difficulty of crossing the green borders was expected to push more migrants to attempt clandestine travels. Most clandestine non-regional migrants were reported by Serbia, followed by Croatia and were detected, by and large, at their common border. Additionally, 50 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported for clandestine travels at BCPs, with Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania's sea borders registering most detections.

Document fraud

In the first quarter, there were 264 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan countries, a number 11%

and 5% higher compared with the previous three-month period and Q1 2016, respectively.

The top three detecting countries remained unchanged with Serbia ranking first, followed by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. Meanwhile, Albanian and Kosovo* citizens remained the top ranking false document users, accounting for 34% and 28% of all detections, respectively, followed by Serbs (10%). Turks ranked fifth in detections and were the most common non-regional nationality reported for document fraud (24 cases) in the Western Balkans. A low number of Cuban document fraudsters continued being reported in the analysed period (four cases). Cubans enjoy visa-free travel to Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia based on an agreement between former Yugoslavia and Cuba.

Passports, ID cards and residence permits remained the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 20 forged visas were detected. The large majority of ID cards, residence permits and visas were EU

Member States documents, as their holders are able to move freely within the EU/Schengen area.

As far as detections of false passports are concerned, the majority were reportedly issued by countries from the region. Most of them were Albanian documents used, by and large, by Albanian nationals, most likely in an attempt to avoid entry bans imposed for prior misuse of visa liberalisation.

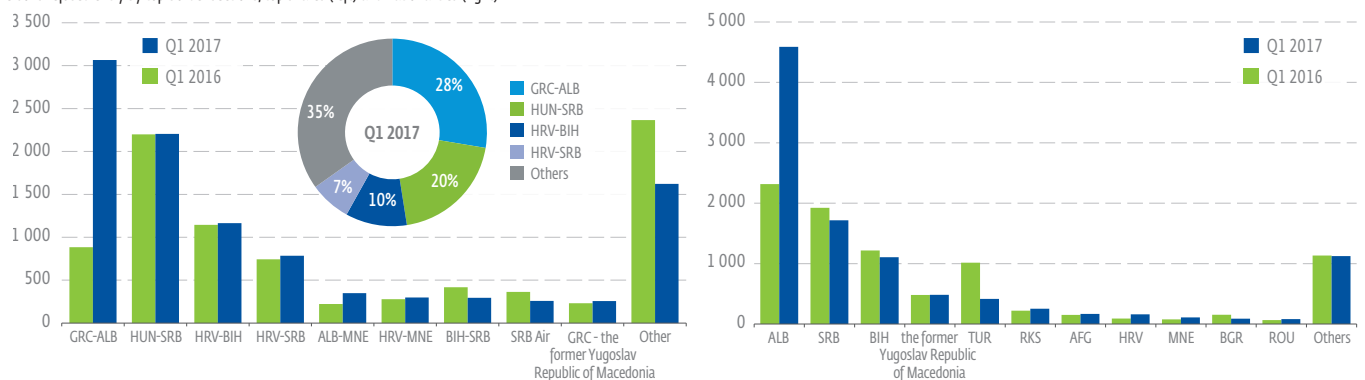
Refusals of entry

In the analysed period, the number of refusals of entry dropped by 25% compared with the previous quarter: from roughly 13 700 to 10 300, mostly due to fewer decisions issued by Greece at its common border with Albania. Nevertheless, the number of decisions to refuse entry in Q1 2017 was 16% higher compared with the same period of 2016.

Turkish nationals continued to rank high among refused persons, occupying the fifth place, despite registering a 22% drop in relation to Q4 2016.

Figure 6. Turkish nationals still ranked high among the top refused nationalities; more Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis were refused entry, mainly by Croatia

Persons refused entry by top border sections, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

As usual, the vast majority of refusals of entry was issued at land borders, while most of the remaining were reported at air borders.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries. In turn, among those refused entry by the six countries of the region, 44% were nationals of Western Balkan states, 26% were nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, and 12% were Turkish nationals.

The rise in the number of Cuban nationals refused entry by the six regional countries observed in Q4 2016 did not continue into the analysed period (i.e., their total dropped from 112 to 30).

Although, for the most part, non-regional transiting migrants continue to prefer crossing the region via the green borders, the first quarter of 2017 saw significant increases in the number of entry refusals issued to Afghans (+153%), Syrians (fourfold increase) and Iraqis (eightfold rise) compared with Q4 2016. These were also among the top nationalities re-

ported for illegal border-crossing between BCPs during the analysed period.

Even though the 300 refusals of entry received by the mentioned nationalities continued to represent a small share of all refusals issued at the regional level (3%), the increases observed in relation to the previous quarter do indicate that enhanced border surveillance activities may push migrants to use various modus operandi for illegally transiting the region (including transit via BCPs without fulfilling the conditions of entry in the hope that border guards will not notice it).

Situation in the Western Balkans

Illegal stay in Western Balkan countries

There were 751 detections of illegal stay reported by the six Western Balkan countries in Q1 2017, a similar number compared with the previous quarter and 13% lower compared with the corresponding three-month period of 2016.

As regards the top nationalities of illegal stayers detected in the analysed quarter, Serbs ranked first, ahead of Albanians and the nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After the number of illegal stayers associated with the non-regional transiting flow rose in Q3 2016 (likely due to enhanced transit restrictions forcing migrants to spend more time in transit via the Western Balkans), the situation reversed in Q4 2016 and Q1 2017. Specifically, in Q4 2016 and Q1 2017 lower numbers of non-

regional migrants were detected for illegal stay in the six regional countries.

In this respect, the total number of detected Afghans, Syrians, Pakistanis, and Iraqis staying illegally in the six Western Balkan countries remained similar to Q4 2016 (i.e., 51 vs. 49). This appears to be in line with the overall decreasing migration pressure on the region in the analysed period and with the fact that migrants likely tried to legalise their stay by registering in reception facilities (to take shelter from harsh winter conditions and obtain support during their longer-than-expected stay).

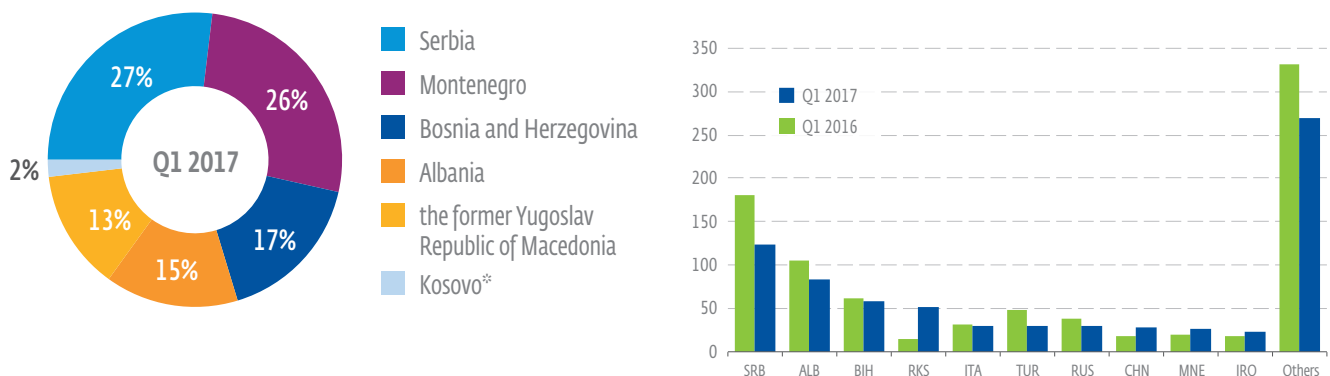
Over the past two years, there has been a large discrepancy between the number of illegal border-crossings by non-

migrants originating from Greece/Turkey and the detected illegal stayers of corresponding nationalities reported by the six Western Balkan countries.

Even though some discrepancy between the two indicators could also be observed in Q1 2017, its magnitude appears to have decreased. Specifically, a higher number of Syrian, Afghan, Pakistani, Algerian and Iraqi illegal stayers was observed in the analysed period when compared to the number of illegal border-crossings by the same nationalities (i.e., one illegal stayer to every 20 detected illegal border-crossings by these nationalities in Q1 2017 compared with, for example, one illegal stayer to every 142 illegal border-crossings in Q2 2016). This indicates that the transit time is getting longer.

Figure 7. **The gap between non-regional nationalities reported for illegal border-crossing and detected as illegal stayers slightly narrowed; Iraqis made the top ten detections**

Illegal stayers, by reporting Western Balkan country, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

II. FEATURED RISK ANALYSIS

Overall migration pressure in the region continues to decrease, approaching what can be seen as normal levels for the season

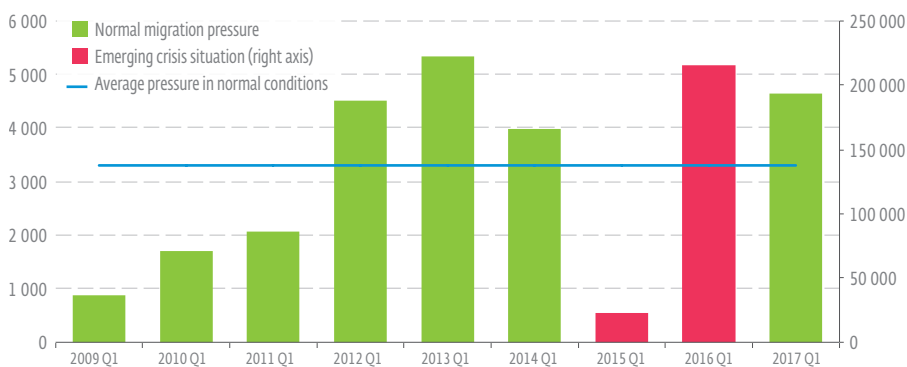
The volume of the non-regional migratory flow transiting the Western Balkans continued decreasing in the analysed period as a result of the continued coordinated border-control measures in the Western Balkans as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean area.

Specifically, the number of detected illegal border-crossings at the regional level decreased almost each month from 128 000 in January 2016 to just above 900 in March 2017. This brought the total number of detections reported in Q1 2017 to what can be considered a relatively normal level for

the first quarter of the year. Specifically, the migratory pressure registered in the analysed period (i.e., 4 600) dropped to a level similar to that usually registered in the first quarters of previous years, before the onset of the migratory crisis in 2015 and its continuation into Q1 2016 (Fig. 9).

Figure 8. The migratory pressure reported in the first quarter of 2017 approaching levels close to those of corresponding periods before the onset of the migration crisis in the Western Balkans

Illegal border-crossings between BCPs by non-regional migrants



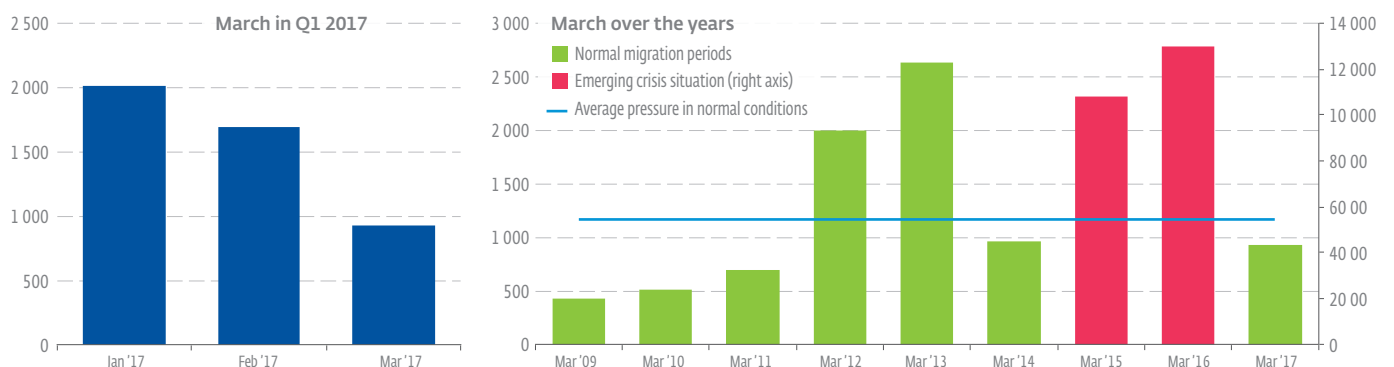
Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

Moreover, the total number of detections reported at the regional level throughout the first quarter of this year even appeared to go against the expected seasonal trend, with lower values registered in March than in December, January and February. Meanwhile, the number of illegal border-crossings reported in March appears even lower than the average for this month in the previous years, which were not affected by the crisis, further indicating a return to normality so far in 2017 (Fig. 10).

Almost all the relevant regional and common borders of the Western Balkans reported less pressure in the first quarter of 2017, with the exception of the Romanian-Serbian and Croatian-Serbian sections.

Figure 9. Monthly decrease of pressure in Q1 2017; values registered in March also indicate a return to normal migration pressure

Illegal border-crossing between BCPs by non-regional migrants



Source: WB-RAN data as of 10 May 2017

Importantly, enhanced operational activities at the southern common borders of the Western Balkans with Greece and Bulgaria, as well as at the EU external borders with Turkey (traditional transit points for non-regional migrants on the way to Western Europe via the Western Balkans) continued throughout the analysed period, which kept the irregular transit under control. As a result, both the number of arrivals reported on the Eastern Mediterranean land and sea routes as well as that of detected migrants at the Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgarian – Serbian borders decreased in Q1 2017 compared with the last quarter of 2016.

Moreover, as detections on the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria-Serbia sections mostly result in preventions of crossing, it is likely that the size of the migration flow in these areas was actually lower than the observed pressure (multiple attempts by the same persons).

Enhanced control activities also continued in the northern part of the region, with Hungary introducing additional measures⁶ at its common border with Serbia and even modifying its migration legislation in order to process migrants detected within its territory in specially designed centres at the border with Serbia starting in March. Migrants processed in these centres are to remain in the transit zones with no access to inland Hungary.

As a result of these measures, the migration pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian border decreased sharply between February and March, leaving migrants present on Serbia's territory (estimated at 7 500 – 8 000 persons) to search for other alternatives to leave the region. This led to an observed increase in pressure on the Romanian-Serbian (mainly at the green borders) and Serbian-Croatian (mainly at BCPs) border sections starting from March,

Available information indicates that Romania also reinforced border control activities

at the common border with Serbia by deploying personnel from other national and territorial structures to the area.

Outlook

Considering the overall development, the border-control efforts in the region and the Eastern Mediterranean are proving efficient in reducing the migration pressure on the Western Balkans route.

Nevertheless, the preconditions for a re-escalation of a migration crisis continue to exist (i.e., large pool of would-be migrants in Turkey, continued conflicts in Syria and Iraq, growing instability in Afghanistan, continued efforts by Pakistan to remove Afghan residents from its territory, etc.), drawing attention to the necessity of maintaining enhanced efforts for securing the borders.

⁶ A second layer of the physical obstacle, additional personnel for border-control activities

Legal entry into Turkey and subsequent illegal border-crossing via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans

In 2016, the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism⁷ reported almost 31 million entries of foreigners into Turkey. Despite a 30% decrease in these numbers compared with 2015 (the consequence of deteriorated security situation), the foreign travellers who visited Turkey came from more than 190 countries in the world.

Reaching Turkey by air has become increasingly convenient over the years given the introduction of the e-Visa system in 2013 and the continuous expansion of Turkish Airlines, whose route network currently covers 219 international destinations in 117 countries. These factors contributed to the fact that Istanbul Atatürk (IST) is one of the top three busiest airports in Europe, with over 61 million passengers reported in 2015.

According to the same data of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, there

⁷ <http://yigm.kulturtureizm.gov.tr/Eklenti/50424,20170cakbultenxls.xls?o>

were more than 660 000 legal entries into Turkey from African countries in 2016. The numbers for Asia and the Middle East were 2.8 and 2.5 million, respectively.

While the vast majority of these persons were bona fide travellers, many also abused the legal provisions to later continue their journey towards the EU, using irregular routes. In fact, according to the Turkish data, there were 125 different nationalities reported for illegal border-crossing between Turkey and its neighbours in 2016.

This *modus operandi* is by no means new and many Pakistanis, Moroccans, Algerians and various sub-Saharan nationals, among others, were associated with it. Most of these individuals first entered Turkey using legal travel channels. Some, for example many Bangladeshis, used Turkey only as a transit point to further travel to Libya and subsequently enter the EU in Italy through maritime illegal border-crossing.

Modus operandi explained through voluntary interviews with migrants in Greece and Italy

Given the availability of a relatively wide range of legal travel channels, it is unsurprising that a sizeable share of irregular migrants who arrive in Greece, Bulgaria and Italy, first legally travel to Turkey. Voluntary interviews with arriving migrants offer concrete information as to how Turkish e-Visas are used.

Importantly, regardless of their country of origin, migrants tend to use the same method to legally reach Turkey. At first, they buy a round-trip ticket to Istanbul Atatürk (IST) which they use to obtain an e-Visa (round-trip ticket is a precondition of obtaining the visa) before starting their journey.

Once the migrants reach Istanbul, they enter the country legally, which is confirmed by original entry stamps in the

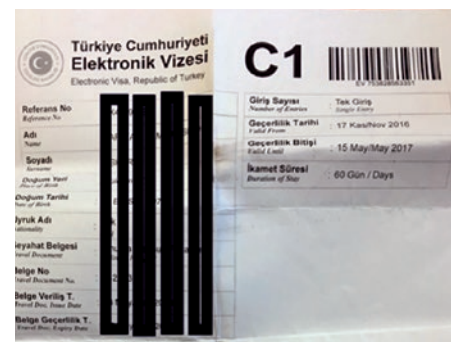


Figure 10. A round-trip ticket purchased by an Algerian national to fly from Algiers Houari Boumediene Airport (ALG) to Istanbul Atatürk International Airport (IST) – left; e-visa obtained by an Iraqi migrant before travelling from Sulaymaniyah International Airport (ISU) to Istanbul Atatürk International Airport (IST) – right

migrants' passports shown to debriefers during interviews.

Migrants generally get in touch with smugglers if they did not make the contact even before their departure. At this point, they either move by public transportation or they use the services of smugglers who transport them to safe houses located in the proximity of key depar-

ture points. Many of them then travel irregularly via Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes towards Western European destinations.

Outlook

As neither Turkey's tourist-oriented visa policy nor the wide reach of Turkish Airlines are likely to change in the immediate

future, the threat of would-be migrants exploiting these factors to legally approach the external borders of the EU will persist.

Nevertheless, the magnitude of this threat will highly depend on how migrants perceive the efficiency of border control measures on the Eastern Mediterranean land and sea routes.



Figure 11. Example of stamps that demonstrate a migrant's legal entry into Turkey through Istanbul Atatürk International Airport (IST) coming from the Iranian airport of Ahwaz (AWZ)

III. Statistical annex

LEGEND

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

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 10 May 2017,
unless otherwise indicated

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

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by purpose of illegal border-crossing, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016			2017	2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	1 334 731	211 659	17 560	13 999	8 779	6 909	-97	-21	98
Smuggling of goods	53	363	450	416	72	88	-76	22	1.2
Other	57	67	92	112	128	51	-24	-60	0.7
Not specified	1 169	5 930	10 947	17	0	3	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	0
Top Five Sections									
Hungary - Serbia	1 267	6 629	11 194	5 006	4 002	2 900	-56	-28	41
Albania - Greece	2 960	1 914	2 209	1 407	1 603	1 939	1.3	21	27
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Greece	437 741	104 279	14 587	6 078	1 891	1 056	-99	-44	15
Romania - Serbia	15	91	37	247	273	423	365	55	6.0
Croatia - Serbia	465 506	102 596	81	731	308	214	<i>n.a.</i>	-31	3.0
Others	428 521	2 510	941	1 075	902	519	-79	-42	7.4
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	3 301	2 073	2 224	1 422	1 875	1 994	-3.8	6.3	28
Afghanistan	214 699	30 433	9 662	5 103	2 793	1 529	-95	-45	22
Pakistan	8 004	3 351	3 204	1 941	1 443	1 157	-65	-20	16
Syria	431 847	46 036	4 290	1 990	790	708	-98	-10	10
Iraq	112 462	20 645	1 710	886	490	421	-98	-14	6.0
Kosovo*	298	435	211	357	246	335	-23	36	4.8
Algeria	962	384	150	214	208	303	-21	46	4.3
Not specified	530 893	109 974	5 376	1 502	300	94	<i>n.a.</i>	-69	1.3
Iran	16 985	1 215	659	167	94	58	-95	-38	0.8
Morocco	5 034	1 115	206	155	52	58	-95	12	0.8
Others	11 525	2 358	1 357	807	688	394	-83	-43	5.6
Total	1 336 010	218 019	29 049	14 544	8 979	7 051	-97	-21	100

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

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

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by type of entry, purpose of illegal border-crossing, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2015	2016				2017	2017 Q1		per cent of total
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		Q4	Q1	
Clandestine/Other									
Clandestine	101	390	146	404	299	876	125	193	98
Others	47	15	153	71	38	12	-20	-68	1.3
Not specified	4	11	6	0	21	9	-18	-57	1.0
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	127	170	228	306	225	635	274	182	71
Not specified	14	234	52	120	106	241	3.0	127	27
Other	9	12	22	46	27	21	75	-22	2.3
Smuggling of goods	2	0	3	3	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Five Sections									
Croatia - Serbia	14	78	17	337	211	746	n.a.	254	83
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Serbia	0	0	3	0	0	45	n.a.	n.a.	5.0
Hungary - Serbia	0	209	22	20	78	21	-90	-73	2.3
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Greece	0	0	1	4	0	18	n.a.	n.a.	2.0
Bulgaria - Serbia	30	0	0	2	3	10	n.a.	233	1.1
Others	108	129	262	112	66	57	-56	-14	6.4
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	14	51	68	263	198	674	n.a.	240	75
Pakistan	0	13	25	20	50	112	n.a.	124	12
Albania	91	22	43	45	28	22	0	-21	2.5
Kosovo*	18	1	7	10	13	19	n.a.	46	2.1
Syria	4	9	112	48	16	11	22	-31	1.2
Iran	0	44	10	2	5	8	-82	60	0.9
Iraq	14	22	11	1	10	7	-68	-30	0.8
Algeria	0	81	6	7	7	7	-91	0	0.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	2	4	1	6	n.a.	n.a.	0.7
Cuba	0	0	0	0	2	6	n.a.	200	0.7
Others	10	172	21	75	28	25	-85	-11	2.8
Total	152	416	305	475	358	897	116	151	100

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016			2017		2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr		
Place of Detection										
Land	240	219	291	265	226	149	-32	-34	79	
Inland	25	42	16	55	40	39	-7.1	-2.5	21	
Air	6	0	0	1	0	0	n.a.	n.a.		
Sea	0	0	2	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.		
Top Ten Nationalities										
Serbia	119	110	162	167	108	68	-38	-37	36	
Albania	44	33	22	30	34	32	-3.0	-5.9	17	
Greece	18	17	14	20	23	20	18	-13	11	
Bulgaria	61	24	32	36	39	20	-17	-49	11	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	6	10	2	3	9	50	200	4.8	
Turkey	5	2	0	5	5	7	250	40	3.7	
Croatia	1	2	2	0	1	6	200	n.a.	3.2	
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	20	28	10	11	5	-75	-55	2.7	
Not specified	9	4	12	17	16	4	0	-75	2.1	
Kosovo ^o	5	5	2	2	0	2	-60	n.a.	1.1	
Others	4	38	23	32	26	15	-61	-42	8.0	
Total	273	261	307	321	266	188	-28	-29	100	

^o This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independenceTable 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016			2017		2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr		
Place of Detection										
Inland	645	690	660	576	566	721	4.5	27	54	
Land	1 115	1 265	924	896	765	576	-54	-25	43	
Not specified	141	176	202	202	183	30	-83	-84	2.3	
Top Ten Nationalities										
Serbia	842	858	750	617	589	514	-40	-13	39	
Albania	188	154	186	209	240	114	-26	-53	8.6	
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	147	137	88	83	89	88	-36	-1.1	6.6	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	79	83	69	56	45	69	-17	53	5.2	
Kosovo ^o	51	42	21	38	41	65	55	59	4.9	
Montenegro	44	50	23	26	18	32	-36	78	2.4	
Russia	29	43	40	22	29	32	-26	10	2.4	
Turkey	42	56	93	69	45	31	-45	-31	2.3	
Italy	21	31	18	25	30	29	-6.5	-3.3	2.2	
China	17	18	18	7	24	28	56	17	2.1	
Others	441	659	480	522	364	325	-51	-11	24	
Total	1 901	2 131	1 786	1 674	1 514	1 327	-38	-12	100	

^o This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 5. **Refusals of entry**

Refusals reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by border type and top ten nationalities

	2015		2016			2017	2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	7 835	7 837	9 365	12 026	12 939	9 749	24	-25	95
Air	1 775	1 009	618	794	772	548	-46	-29	5.3
Sea	16	4	14	37	22	4	0	-82	0.0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	2 980	2 317	3 451	3 653	3 507	4 589	98	31	45
Serbia	1 621	1 924	1 635	1 738	1 460	1 717	-11	18	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 042	1 217	1 610	1 019	1 126	1 107	-9.0	-1.7	11
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	331	481	330	507	381	483	0.4	27	4.7
Turkey	1 434	1 015	586	938	534	417	-59	-22	4.0
Kosovo*	271	221	225	617	326	254	15	-22	2.5
Afghanistan	18	152	4	68	66	167	9.9	153	1.6
Croatia	119	92	118	223	233	161	75	-31	1.6
Montenegro	94	78	125	134	126	110	41	-13	1.1
Not specified	158	94	133	424	4 365	94	0	-98	0.9
Others	1 558	1 259	1 780	3 536	1 609	1 202	-4.5	-25	1.2
Total	9 626	8 850	9 997	12 857	13 733	10 301	16	-25	100

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 6. **Applications for asylum**

Applications for international protection reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by top ten nationalities

	2015		2016			2017	2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Syria	2 160	3 061	11 608	9 648	11 573	6 126	100	-47	30
Afghanistan	3 581	3 172	9 918	6 093	6 520	3 781	19	-42	18
Iraq	4 150	3 839	3 244	2 931	4 683	2 876	-25	-39	14
Pakistan	826	2 395	3 007	2 779	2 701	2 549	6.4	-5.6	1.2
Palestine	26	134	364	283	359	660	393	84	3.2
Iran	121	998	922	571	692	538	-46	-22	2.6
Congo (D.R.)	23	42	66	47	117	442	n.a.	278	2.1
Algeria	56	428	264	542	591	410	-4.2	-31	2.0
Bangladesh	267	373	306	469	417	343	-8.0	-18	1.7
Albania	499	357	292	321	499	336	-5.9	-33	1.6
Others	1 539	3 497	2 180	1 852	2 317	2 648	-24	14	1.3
Total	13 248	18 296	32 171	25 536	30 469	20 709	13	-32	100

Table 7. Document fraud

Detections reported by Western Balkan countries, by border type, document type, top ten nationalities and top countries of issuance of documents

Border Type	2015					2016					2017					2017 Q1			Highest share	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	per cent of previous Qtr	per cent of total	Persons	Documents		
Border Type																Persons		Documents		
Land	139	136	120	176	123	131								-3.7	6.5	7.6	Albania (47%)	Albania (40%)		
Air	88	60	83	48	47	33								-45	-30	19	Albania (45%)	Italy (27%)		
Sea	8	15	17	12	4	8								-47	100	4.7	Kosovo* (63%)	Serbia (38%)		
Document Type																Persons		Documents		
Passports	132	160	110	118	121	135								-16	12	51	Albania (36%)	Albania (33%)		
ID cards	37	52	28	40	69	65								25	-5.8	25	Albania (38%)	Italy (34%)		
Residence permits	10	15	8	14	21	25								67	19	9.5	Kosovo* (44%)	Switzerland (40%)		
Visas	11	13	4	4	16	20								54	25	7.6	Kosovo* (65%)	Italy (40%)		
Stamps	28	7	10	9	3	10								43	233	3.8	Albania (100%)	Greece (90%)		
Unknown	2	4	14	8	7	9								125	29	3.4	Albania (44%)	Italy (33%)		
Top Ten Nationalities																				
Albania	109	92	97	83	87	91								-1.1	4.6	34				
Kosovo*	26	67	28	47	58	75								12	29	28				
Serbia	19	20	15	15	12	27								35	125	10				
Turkey	18	19	5	6	10	24								26	140	9.1				
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	9	4	3	4	8								-11	100	3.0				
Cuba	0	1	0	3	7	4								300	-43	1.5				
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	4								n.a.	n.a.	1.5				
Ghana	1	2	0	1	1	4								100	300	1.5				
Syria	5	0	4	2	3	3								n.a.	0	1.1				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	4	2	3	3	3								-25	0	1.1				
Others	36	37	19	30	52	21								-43	-60	8.0				
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents																				
Albania	75	80	70	65	51	47								-41	-7.8	18				
Italy	19	22	13	14	32	42								91	31	16				
Serbia	16	18	15	21	14	27								50	93	10				
Greece	19	8	13	10	13	24								200	85	9.1				
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9	16	8	10	13	16								0	23	6.1				
Bulgaria	8	18	12	4	23	13								-28	-43	4.9				
Switzerland	1	7	3	3	6	13								86	117	4.9				
Croatia	2	1	0	8	1	11								n.a.	n.a.	4.2				
Germany	2	6	5	5	9	8								33	-11	3.0				
France	3	6	1	3	7	8								33	14	3.0				
Others	66	69	34	50	68	55								-20	-19	21				
Total	220	251	174	193	237	264								5.2	11	100				

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Explanatory note

Detections reported for EU Member States for indicators Illegal border-crossing between BCPs, Illegal border-crossing at BCPs, Refusals of entry and Document fraud are detections at the common land borders on entry only. For Facilitators, detections at the common land borders on entry and exit are included.

For Illegal stay, only detections at the common land borders on exit are included. For Asylum, all applications (land, sea, air and inland) are included.

For Western Balkan countries, all indicators – save for Refusals of entry – include detections (applications) on exit and entry at the land, sea and air borders.

Each section in the table (Border type, Place of detection, Top five border section and Top ten nationalities) refers to total detections reported by WB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by EU Member States.



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