

Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 2 • APRIL-JUNE 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
EU	European Union
FRAN	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ID	identification document
IOM	International Organization for Migration
n.a.	not available
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
RAU	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
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 report 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 border-crossing points (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.

Monthly reporting by the six regional partners (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia)

related to the detections of firearms in the general area of responsibility of their respective border police forces was efficiently exploited for the creation of this report.

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 (Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Hungary and Romania). In addition, the *Western Balkans Quarterly* is drawing from Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) quarterly reports and also from data analysed in the framework of other risk analysis networks (FRAN, European Union Document-Fraud).

Structure

The first part of the report offers a general situational overview broken down by the main areas of work of border-control authorities and the 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. The current issue of the *Western Balkans Quarterly* is the tenth following a new approach adopted for risk analysis quarterlies. Nonetheless, 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, they are no longer covered by this report.

Thirdly, after joining the EU, Croatian data on illegal stays are limited to detections at the border. More precisely, Croatia's data on illegal stay 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 Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (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 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 also be made 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 regional partners 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	Q2 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	% change on same quarter last year	% change on previous quarter
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	29 049	7 051	5 384	-81	-24
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	305	897	863	183	-3.8
Facilitators	307	188	173	-44	-8
Illegal stay	1 786	1 327	2 255	26	70
Refusals of entry	9 997	10 301	12 523	25	22
Asylum applications ²	32 171	20 709	14 393	-55	-30
False travel document users	174	264	293	68	11

² 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 3 August 2017

Key findings

- **The number of illegal border-crossings at green borders by non-regional² migrants reached the lowest quarterly level since Q1 2011.**
- **On the other hand, illegal border-crossings at BCPs by non-regional migrants remained high, as these persons search for transit alternatives.**
- **More non-regional migrants were observed travelling south after apparently giving up on their migration plans via the Western Balkans.**
- **A relative increase in the number of non-regional migrants detected for illegal stay within the region tends to indicate that enhanced border controls are efficient in preventing easy transit across the Western Balkans.**
- **The irregular flow of regional migrants³ remains stable and largely contained at the southern common borders with Greece.**

² Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo², the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

³ Migrants who are nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo², the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

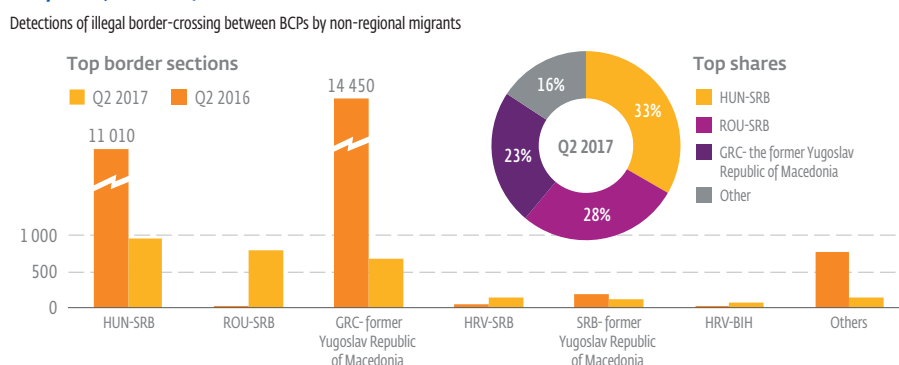
Illegal border-crossings

In the second quarter of 2017, WB-RAN data shows 2 893 illegal border-crossings by **non-regional migrants**⁴ en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria reported at the common and regional borders (see Fig. 2). This makes for the fifth quarter in a row showing a significant decrease (i.e. 37% drop from Q1 2017). Moreover, the number of detections of illegal border-crossing in Q2 2017 was lower than in any other second quarter since 2011, i.e. even before the migration crisis began manifesting in 2015 and 2016.

Additional information⁵ indicates that Bulgaria also prevented a significantly lower number of migrants from crossing into Serbia than in was the case in two previous quarters. This development indicates a continued easing of the pressure on this area, likely resulting from reinforced border controls which make irregular travel via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans routes much more difficult.

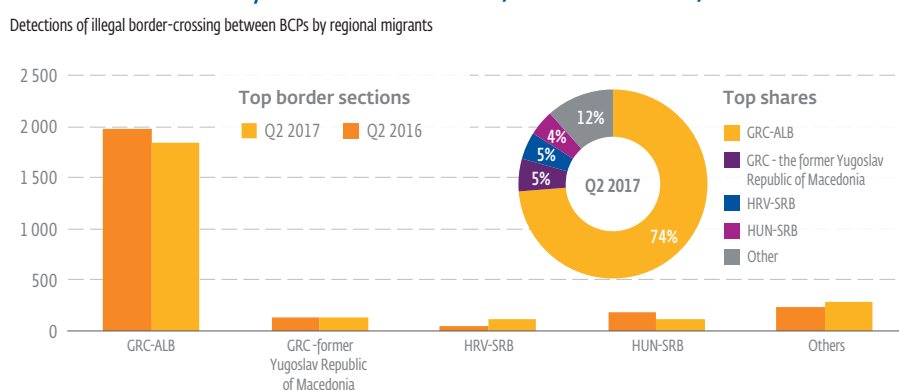
The continued decline in detections of illegal border-crossing in Q2 appears largely consistent with the previously observed downward migration trend in the region. As in the last few quarters, the actual decrease in the size of the flow may be even more pronounced than the reporting indicates. This is because, while transiting the region, one migrant may be detected multiple times at the same border (i.e.

Figure 2. Lower numbers of attempts to enter the Western Balkans region through the southern common borders with the EU by non-regional migrants; more migrants attempt travelling from north to south to reach Greece; The Hungarian-Serbian border takes the most pressure in the north followed by the Romanian-Serbian section, where the numbers rose between March and April but dropped sharply in May and June 2017



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

Figure 3. The overall pressure exerted by the regional migrants remained similar to the same quarter of 2016; most detections were 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 or Serbs



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

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

5 WB Daily information exchange database as of 4 August 2017

preventions of crossing) but also at several border sections.

As regards the top five nationalities detected in Q2 2017, Pakistanis ranked first

(accounting for 32% of the total non-regional migration flow), followed by Afghans, Iraqis, Syrians and Algerians.

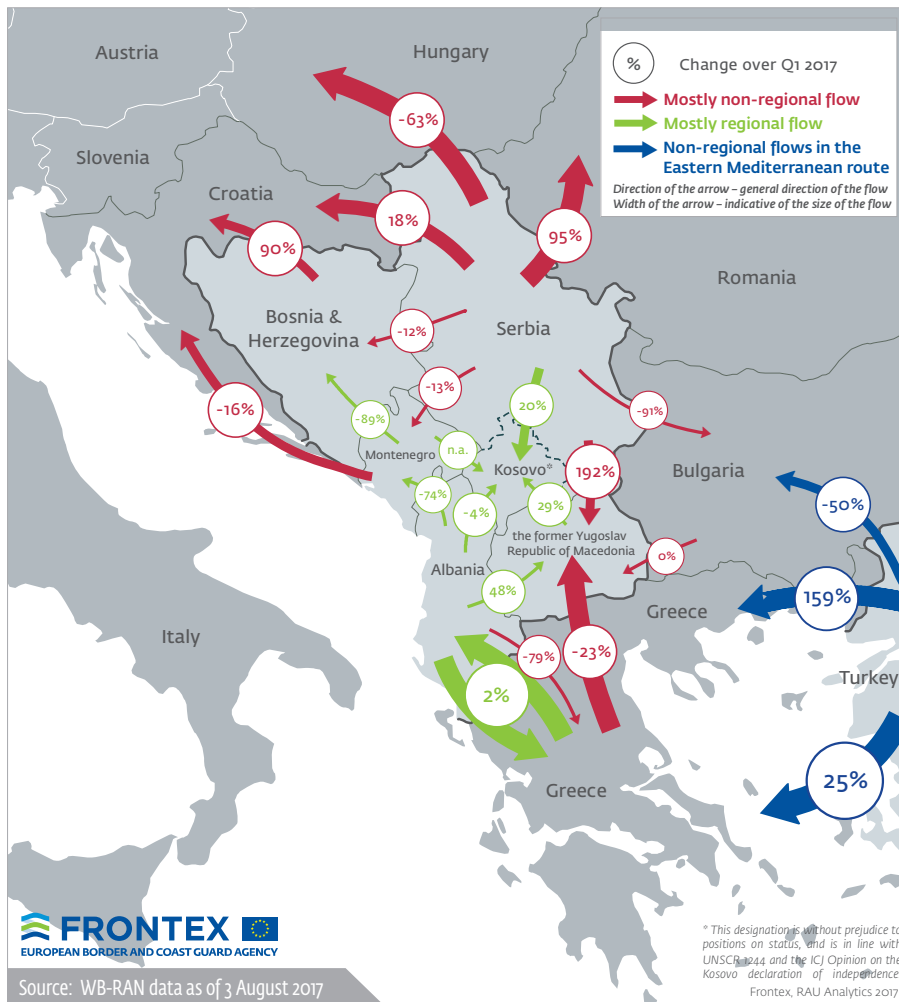


Figure 4. In Q2 2017, an increase in the number of arrivals was registered on the Eastern Mediterranean sea and land routes. However, fewer non-regional migrants attempted to enter the Western Balkans across the southern common borders with Greece and Bulgaria. Also, an increasing number of non-regional migrants appear to be moving south after their plans to move to western Europe were thwarted by the enhanced controls in the north of the region. In turn, the regional flow slightly increased, but was mostly concentrated at the Greek-Albanian border

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q1 and Q2 2017 at particular border sections; arrows show main directions of the flow and their colour represents its general composition

Only four migrants of 'unknown nationality'⁶ were reported in Q2 (less than 0.2% of the non-regional flow). This represents a significant decrease compared with the crisis period when, at times, 40% to 50% of the non-regional flow was reported as 'unknown nationality'. The reduces share of this category indicates that migration through the region has largely returned to manageable levels.

Most of the top nationalities registered a significant drop compared with the previous quarter, ranging from -20% for Pakistanis to -65% for Syrians. Iraqis were

the only top five nationality which registered an increase over the previous quarter (+16%).

Overall, the number of detected **Western Balkan regional migrants**⁷ remained similar to that of the previous quarter. However, in month-on-month terms this flow registered a slight decrease in June 2017, which is consistent with seasonal patterns (i.e. stabilisation in the summer months). Compared with Q2 2016, the number of detections was 3% lower.

As non-regional migrants were detected in lower numbers, the share of the regional flow in the overall pressure affecting the Western Balkans rose to 46%.

The majority of Western Balkan 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). Detections made at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region mainly involved Kosovo* nationals and, to a lesser extent, Albanians and Serbs.

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

7 Migrants who are nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Facilitators

A total of 173 facilitators were detected at regional level in the second quarter of 2017, a number 8% lower than that in the previous three-month period.

This slight decrease in Q2 appears to be in line with the overall decreasing migratory pressure observed in the region. Nonetheless, given that migrants can no longer rely on the transportation services provided by the authorities⁸ and need to bypass reinforced border-control measures, the demand for facilitation services could in fact be quite high. Hence, more people are also likely to engage in the provision

of facilitation services in the hope of gaining financial profits.

The hypothesis that the demand for facilitation services would be growing appears to be supported by the fact that the ratio between the number of facilitators and that of illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants in Q2 increased compared with two previous quarters (i.e. one facilitator for each 17 detected illegal border-crossings in Q2 versus one for 25 in Q1 2017 and Q4 2016).

Nevertheless, the fact that only 173 facilitators were detected in the analysed period (compared with almost 2 900 illegal border-crossings by non-regional

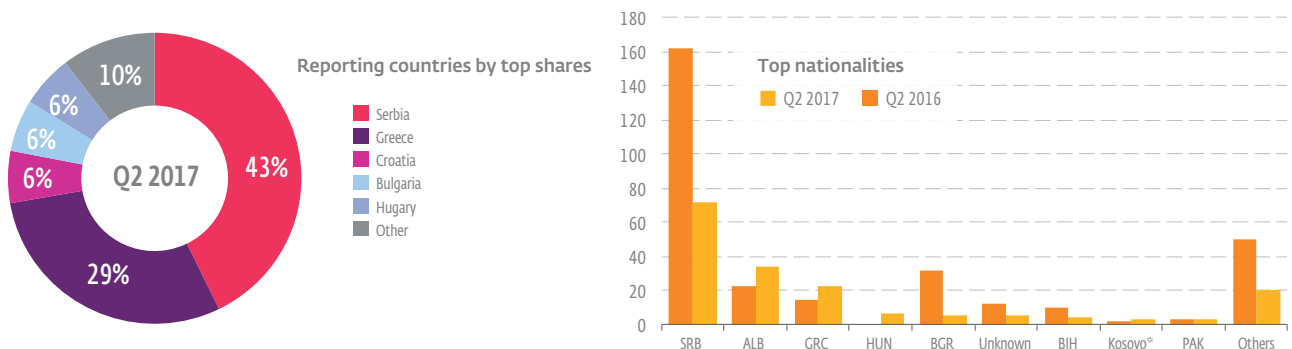
nationals) points to the fact that many migrants still attempt to organise their own transportation through the region, even if regularly organised transit options are no longer available.

Roughly 67% of all facilitators detected in the analysed period were nationals of the WB-RAN regional partners, 23% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 10% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown nationality'. The biggest share of detected facilitators, most of whom were Serbian nationals, was still reported by Serbia, followed by Greece, which reported mostly Albanians and Greeks.

⁸ Organised transportation offered by the authorities through the region during the crisis period (WB transit corridor).

Figure 5. **The number of people smugglers remained relatively low, even decreasing compared with the previous quarters; nonetheless the decrease in the number of facilitators was less accentuated than that of the non-regional migration flow**

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In Q2 2017, a total of 828 **non-regional migrants** were detected while attempting to illegally cross the border hiding in vehicles; this number is only slightly lower (by 2%) than that reported in the previous quarter and significantly higher (by 237%) than in Q2 2016. Q2 2017 saw the second highest number of non-regional migrants detected for illegal border-crossing at BCPs since data collection began in 2009, closely behind Q1 2017.

The high number of detections made in the first two quarters of 2017 is hardly surprising, as it was expected that the increased difficulty in travelling across the green borders would push more migrants to opt for clandestine travel. Most clandestine non-regional migrants were still reported by Serbia, followed by Croatia, by and large, at their respective common border. Additionally, 35 nationals of WB-RAN regional partners were reported for clandestine travel at BCPs, with the

Croatia-Montenegro and Albanian sea borders registering most detections.

Document fraud

In the second quarter of 2017, there were 293 cases of false-document use reported by the authorities of the six regional WB-RAN partners the Western Balkan countries, a number 11% and 68% higher compared with the previous three-month period and Q2 2016, respectively.

Serbia remained the top reporting country, followed by Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, Albanian and Kosovo* citizens remained the top ranking false-document users, accounting for 35% and 23% of all detections, respectively, followed by Serbs (12%). Chinese were the fourth most detected nationality of fraudulent document users, and the most common non-regional nationals reported for this offence in the Western Balkans in Q2 (20 cases), closely followed by Turkish citizens (17 cases).

Passports, ID cards and visas were the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 18 forged residence permits were detected. A large majority of ID cards, residence permits and visas were EU Member State documents, as they allow the holder free movement within the EU/Schengen area.

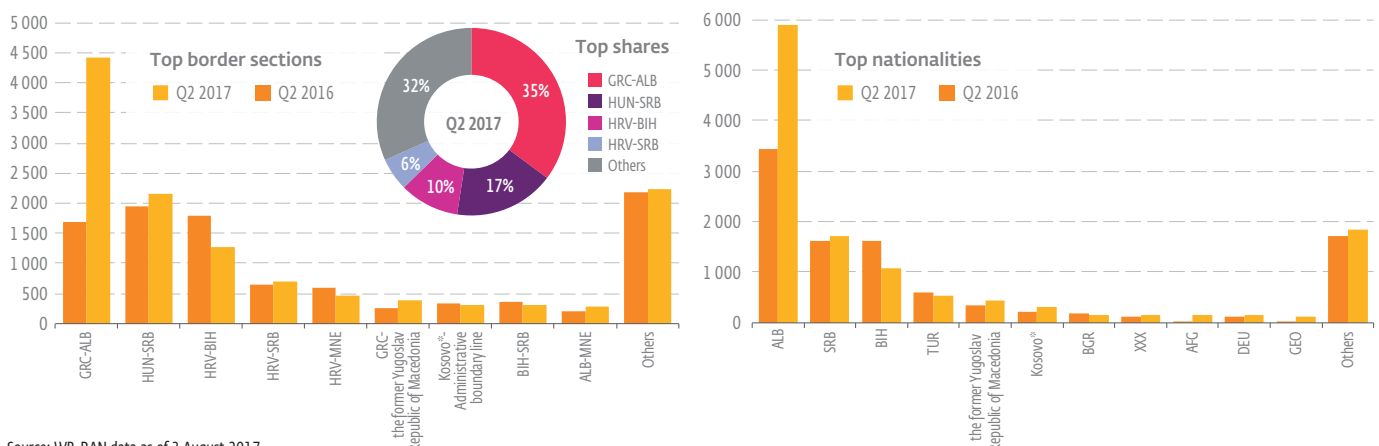
As far as detections of false passports are concerned, the majority were reportedly issued by countries from the region. Most of these documents were Albanian, mainly used by Albanian nationals, most likely in an attempt to avoid entry bans imposed for prior misuse of visa liberalisation.

Refusals of entry

In the analysed period, the number of refusals of entry rose by 22% compared with the previous quarter: from roughly 10 300 to 12 500, largely as a result of an increase in the number of decisions issued by Greece at its common border with Albania, and by Serbia at its borders with Hungary and

Figure 6. **Turkish nationals still ranked high among the top refused nationalities; Afghans were still refused entry, mainly by Croatia; starting from April more Georgians were refused entry by Serbia at the borders its with Hungary, Croatia and Bulgaria**

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Croatia. The number of decisions to refuse entry in Q2 2017 was also 25% higher than in the same period of 2016, mostly because Greece refused more Albanians at its border with Albania.

Turkish nationals continued to rank high among refused persons, occupying the fourth position, having registered a 26% increase in relation to Q1.

As usual, the vast majority of refusals of entry were issued at land borders (94%), while most of the remaining 6% were reported at air borders.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries (94%). In turn, among those refused

entry by the six authorities of the regional WB-RAN partners, 36% were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 29% nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, and 10% Turkish nationals.

The rise in the number of Cuban nationals refused entry by the authorities of the six regional WB-RAN partners observed in Q4 2016, did not continue in the reviewed period (i.e. their total dropped from 112 to 30 in Q1 and then to just 12 in Q2 2017).

Interestingly, the number of refusals of entry issued to Georgian nationals rose significantly during the analysed period (reaching 125), mostly issued by WB-RAN regional partners. This may be linked to the increased mobility of Georgian nationals following the recently adopted visa-free

regime for the EU.⁹ Specifically, a number of Georgians who reached the EU visa-free in Q2 did not realise that the visa liberalisation for EU Member States does not also apply in the Western Balkan countries. Consequently, they tried to enter Serbia from Hungary and Croatia and were refused. This situation continued beyond the second quarter and was observed in July and August 2017.

For the most part, non-regional transiting migrants continue to prefer crossing the region via the green borders.

Nevertheless, the enhanced border-surveillance activities in the region may still be pushing migrants to seek different travel alternatives, including the transit via BCPs without fulfilling the conditions of entry.

⁹ Georgians can travel visa free to the EU starting from 28 March 2017.

Situation in the Western Balkans region

Illegal stay in the Western Balkans

There were 776 detections of illegal stay reported by the authorities of the six WB-RAN regional partners in Q2 2017, a similar number compared with the previous quarter and 10% lower than reported in the corresponding three-month period of 2016.

As regards the top nationalities of illegal stayers, citizens of the six partners in the region continued to account for the largest share of detections in the analysed quarter (roughly 41%), with Serbs ranking first, ahead of Albanians and nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Citizens of EU Member States, especially of those neighbouring the region, were also reported for illegally staying in the Western Balkans. These persons accounted for roughly 21% of all detections made in the second quarter.

The remaining 38% of detections were linked to citizens of third countries from outside the region. Nonetheless, not all of these persons were of nationalities which can be directly associated with the non-regional migration flow transiting the Western Balkans.

However, Afghans, Pakistanis, Algerians, Syrians and Iraqis are nationalities directly linked to the non-regional transiting flow. They generally do not regard the region as a destination but more as a transit area on the way to western Europe. Thus, a closer analysis of these nationalities with regard to illegal stay on the territory of the six regional WB-RAN partners could offer some indication as to the direction of their movement beyond the region.

A total of 97 of the abovementioned nationals were reported for illegal stay by the authorities of the six WB-RAN regional partners in Q2 2017 (13% of the regional total), which represents an increase compared with the number detected during the previous quarter (i.e. 58). This increase was largely related to the detections reported by Serbia¹⁰ and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite being marginal, the increase appears to be going against the overall easing of migratory pressure observed in the region

¹⁰ Dismantling of Sid reception centre could have led to more migrants refusing to be transferred to other facilities and opting for irregular stay in the open, hoping to continue their journey.

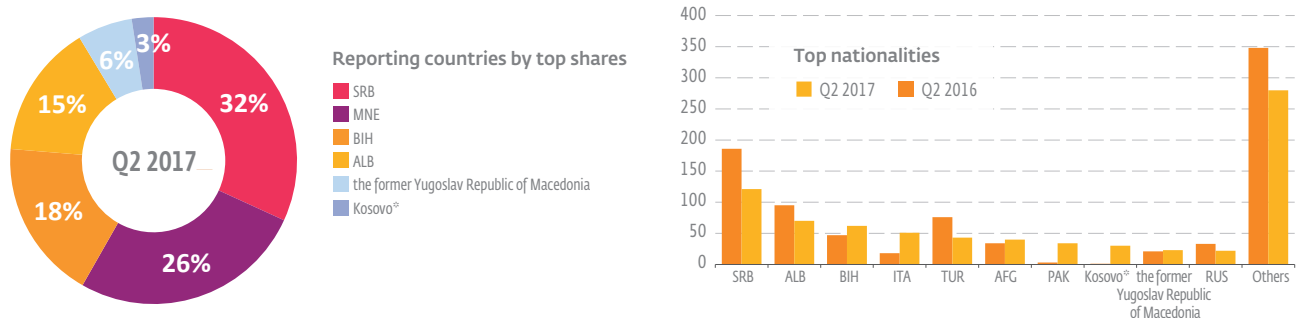
over the past few quarters. Nonetheless, it can also indicate that the enhanced border controls make the region more difficult to transit, which in turn forces migrants to spend more time en route.

Over the past two years, there has been a large discrepancy between the number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants originating from Greece/Turkey reported by the six Western Balkan regional partners and the number of detected illegal stayers of corresponding nationalities.

Although a discrepancy between the two indicators was observed in Q2 2017, its magnitude appears to have decreased. Specifically, in the period under review, the ratio of detections of illegal border-crossing by the top non-regional nationalities (Afghans, Pakistanis, Algerians, Syrians and Iraqis) to the number of illegal stayers of the same nationality was the highest in the past nine quarters (i.e. one illegal stayer for every seven detected illegal border-crossings in Q2 2017). By contrast, the ratio was one illegal stayer for every 22 illegal border-crossings in the previous quarter and one illegal stayer for 183 illegal border-crossings in Q2 2016.

Figure 7. **The gap between non-regional nationalities reported for illegal border-crossing and detected as illegal stayers slightly narrowed. Afghans and Pakistanis were among the top ten nationalities of illegal stayers**

Illegal stayers, by reporting regional WB-RAN partners, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



The overall non-regional migration pressure falls to the lowest level since Q1 2011

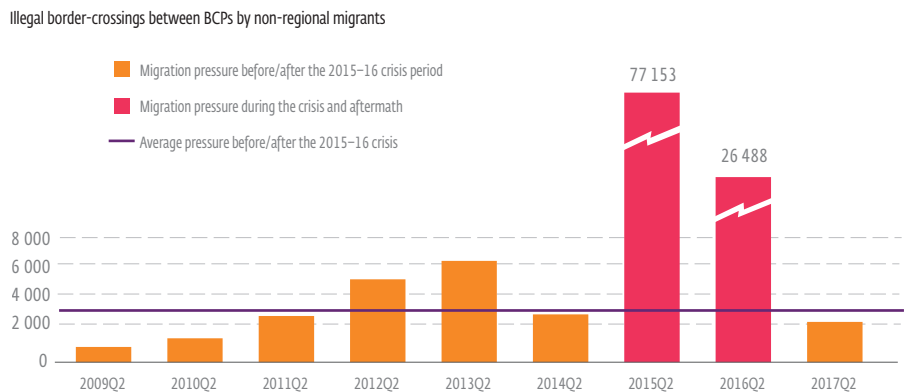
The volume of the **non-regional migratory flow** transiting the Western Balkans continued to decrease during the analysed period (37% lower than Q1), most likely as a result of the continued coordinated border-control measures in the region.

The number of detected illegal border-crossings at the regional level levelled off between March and June, with monthly totals generally not reaching 1 000. This brought the total number of detections reported in Q2 2017 (i.e. 2 893) to the lowest level since Q1 2011. Also, the number of detections made in Q2 2017 was still lower than the average of second quarters before and after the crisis (see Fig. 8).

In the north of the region, the common borders of Serbia with EU Member States reported month-on-month decreases of pressure throughout the second quarter of 2017, with the exception of the Hungarian-Serbian section (see Fig. 9).

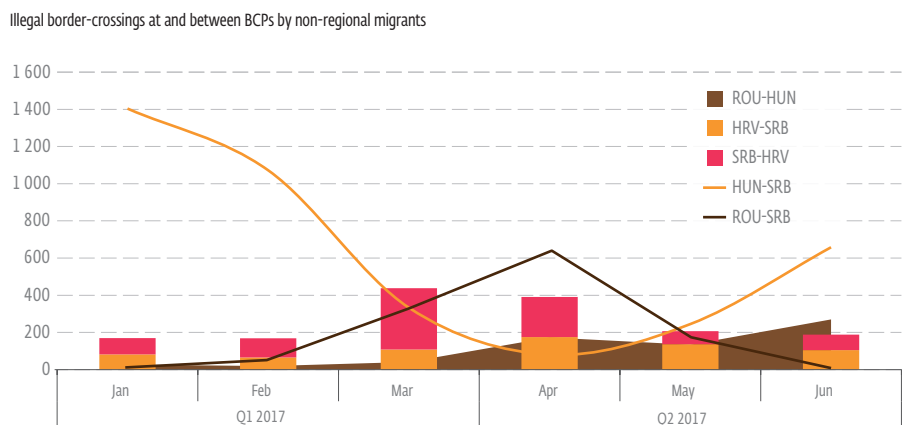
There was a rise in increase in the pressure on the Serbian borders with Romania and Croatia between February and April, likely as a result of both environmental (i.e. increased migrant mobility following the onset of good weather) and institutional developments in the region (i.e. change in Hungary's migration policy¹¹ announced in February and adopted at the end of March). By contrast, in the same period the pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian border decreased. In other words, as weather improved migrants stranded in Serbia began searching for alternative

Figure 8. The migratory pressure reported in Q2 2017 reached a level similar to that recorded in second quarters before and after the migration crisis in the Western Balkans



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

Figure 9. The migratory pressure at the Romanian-Serbian and Croatian-Serbian borders decreased towards the end of the quarter; migrants were increasingly targeting the Hungarian-Serbian border section



Source: WB-RAN and WB Daily information exchange database as of 3 and 4 August 2017

travel options to bypass the Hungarian-Serbian border section.

Moving into the second quarter, however, the pressure on the Romanian and Croatian borders with Serbia seemed to decrease as migrants once more targeted Hungary (albeit not to the same extent

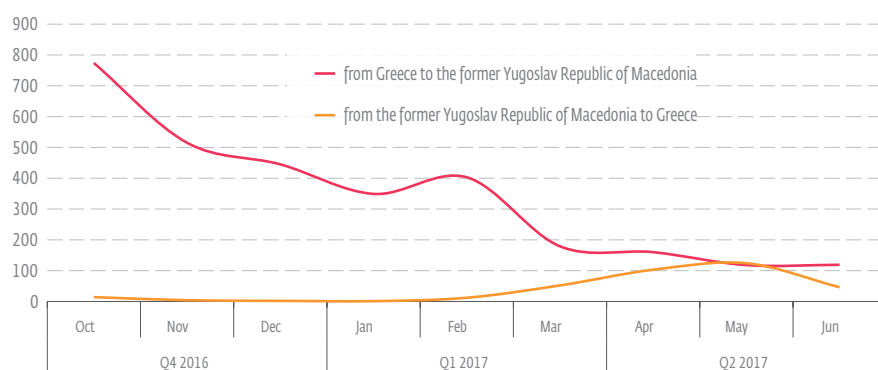
as in previous quarters). The increase of pressure observed by Hungary is most likely linked to migrants who have been staying in Serbia for some time and, to a lesser extent, to new arrivals.

Enhanced control activities at all of the mentioned northern sections have likely

¹¹ Return of migrants from all territory to be processed in the transit areas at the borders; no inland access.

Figure 10. **The number of non-regional migrants exiting the Western Balkans towards Greece slightly surpassed that of the same migrants travelling from Greece towards the region in May**

Illegal border-crossing at and between BCPs by non-regional migrants by direction of travel



Source: WB-RAN data as of 3 August 2017

discouraged migrants from taking a different route to leave the region. Specifically, it became clear that none of the alternative routings through Romania or Croatia is an easy travel option and that they, most likely, come with higher costs of facilitation and require more effort. Having reconsidered their situation, some migrants attempt to cross directly into Hungary again, even though the chances of continuing the journey successfully remain low.¹²

Overall, the continued efforts and cooperation at all the northern common borders with Serbia appear to be efficient in keeping the migration pressure under control. The total number of detected migrants attempting to cross Serbia's borders with Romania, Hungary and Croatia (both at and between BCPs) dropped by 35% in Q2 compared with the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, the fact that it is difficult for migrants to leave the region and travel towards western Europe also produced an interesting effect, most visible in May **in the south of the region** (at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia). Specifically, for the first time since the migration crisis began more non-regional migrants were detected travelling from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Greece than the other way around (see Fig. 10).

This development, coupled with the overall decreasing migration pressure exerted on the region, indicates that the enhanced border-control activities and cooperation have been successful in reducing the appeal of the Western Balkan route for transiting irregular migrants.

Moreover, a survey by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted along the Western Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean routes shows significant increase in facilitation costs migrants had to incur between 2016 and 2017, which also suggests an increased difficulty in transiting these areas (see box).

IOM findings

In the period January–June 2016, the IOM conducted 6 402 surveys in Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In January–June 2017, the sample consisted of 2 140 surveys. Based on these interviews, the following observations can be made.

Increase in migration costs:

- 57% of Syrians reported having paid more than USD 5 000 for the trip (7% in 2016).
- 38% of Syrians reported having paid between USD 1 000 and 5 000 (85% in 2016).
- 44% of Afghans reported having paid more than USD 5 000 (26% in 2016).

Increase in secondary migration (starting EU-bound journeys after at least one year in a country other than their own); decrease in time spent in departure countries:

- 14% of surveyed migrants engaged in secondary migration in 2017 (9% in 2016).
- 50% of those who engaged in secondary migration in 2017 had spent one-two years in departure countries.
- 23% of those who engaged in secondary migration in 2017 had spent over three years in departure countries.
- 27% of those who engaged in secondary migration in 2017 had spent two-three years in departure countries.
- For comparison, 60% of those engaging in secondary migration in 2016 had spent more than three years in departure countries.

Countries of departure for those engaging in secondary migration:

- Iran – 19% in 2017 (29% in 2016).
- Turkey – 35% in 2017 (27% in 2016).
- Greece – 24% in 2017 (n.a. 2016).

Source: IOM http://migration.iom.int/docs/Flow_Monitoring_Surveys_Analysis_June_2017.pdf

¹² Migrants detected by Hungary are processed in reception centres at the border with no access to the territory/possibility of moving onwards before the procedures are finalised.

Migrant presence in Serbia slowly decreases and so does the number of new arrivals

Interestingly, both the overall estimated migrant presence in Serbia and the occupancy of reception shelters is decreasing. Moreover, the gap between the two numbers appears to have decreased in June based on UNHCR data, indicating that most of the remaining migrants are in fact in reception facilities (see Fig. 13). Operational information suggests that the number of migrants present in Serbia also continued to decrease into August.

Based on available data, migrants appeared keener to register in reception centres after the closure of the WB corridor and especially towards the end of 2016. This is most likely due to the fact that it became clear that the enhanced border controls would remain in place and also because the weather deteriorated. Still, a number of migrants refused to stay in official accommodation centres even in winter, hoping they could find a way to continue their journey out of the region.

A decrease in the number of migrants outside reception centres to just a few hundred was reported between April and June 2017.

The decrease in the number of migrants outside facilities could be linked to several reasons.

- These persons are more prone to attempting illegal border-crossing and they ultimately succeed in leaving the territory.
- Some of them may have given up or at least postponed their travels and registered in facilities.
- Difficulty of counting and keeping track of persons residing in the open.

Meanwhile, the larger presence in reception facilities (than outside of them) would suggest that these persons are less prone to exerting pressure on the borders. In this sense, most of the persons who were still staying in reception facilities on 20 July had reportedly been there for a long period of time.

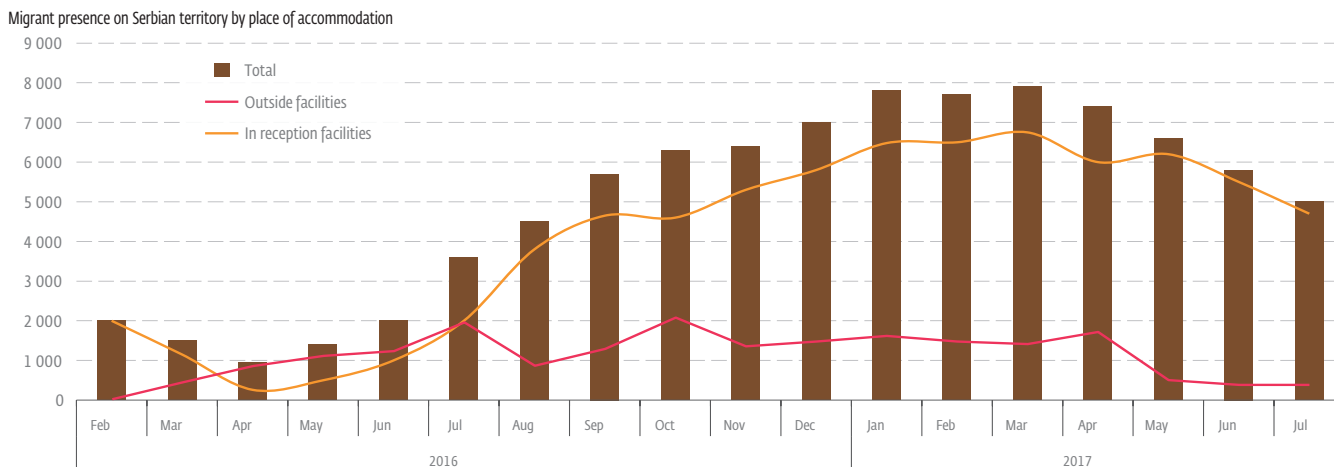
On the other hand, reception facilities in the region are frequently targeted by facilitators recruiting potential clients. Moreover, the number of migrants present in Serbian reception facilities is also decreasing (from 6 500 February, 6 750 March, 6 000 in April, 6 200 May, 5 500 June to approximately 5 000 at the end of July). The following observations can be made about these developments.

- The presence in the centres between February and March was stable due to winter weather discouraging travels (low mobility).
- The decrease in the number of persons accommodated in centres after March appears to be linked to better weather and increased mobility (also seen in the peaks of pressure on Croatia and Romania in March and April).
- The presence of facilitators around reception centres could ultimately convince even those migrants who are more likely to settle down in Serbia to try and continue their journey instead.
- The migrants who leave the reception facilities and fail to move out of Serbia could at a later stage appear as 'migrants outside reception facilities'.

Meanwhile, the number of illegal border-crossings in the south of the region is still decreasing and so is the number of new migrants reaching Serbia.

The continuation of enhanced border controls will likely keep the situation stable as the lower the success rate of onward travel is, the fewer migrants will be attracted to come to Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and the Balkans in the first place.

Figure 11. The number of non-regional migrants present in Serbia appears to be decreasing; most of those remaining are reportedly staying in reception facilities



Source: UNHCR Serbia update 24–30 July

III. Statistical annex

LEGEND

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

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 3 August 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

	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of illegal border-crossing									
Irregular migration	211 659	17 560	13 999	8 779	6 909	5 246	-70	-24	97
Others	67	92	112	128	54	88	-4.3	63	1.6
Smuggling of goods	363	450	416	72	88	50	-89	-43	0.9
Not available	5 930	10 947	17	0	0	0	-100	n.a.	0
Top Five Sections									
Albania-Greece	1 914	2 209	1 407	1 603	1 939	1 867	-15	-3.7	35
Hungary-Serbia	6 629	11 194	5 006	4 002	2 900	1 074	-90	-63	20
Romania-Serbia	91	37	247	273	423	823	2124	95	15
Greece-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	104 279	14 587	6 078	1 891	1 056	809	-94	-23	15
Croatia-Serbia	102 596	81	731	308	214	253	212	18	4.7
Others	2 510	941	1 075	902	519	558	-41	7.5	10
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	2 073	2 224	1 422	1 875	1 994	2 138	-3.9	7.2	40
Pakistan	3 351	3 204	1 941	1 443	1 157	921	-71	-20	17
Afghanistan	30 433	9 662	5 103	2 793	1 529	594	-94	-61	11
Iraq	20 645	1 710	886	490	421	487	-72	16	9
Syria	46 036	4 290	1 990	790	708	246	-94	-65	4.6
Kosovo*	435	211	357	246	335	224	6.2	-33	4.2
Algeria	384	150	214	208	303	125	-17	-59	2.3
Iran	1 215	659	167	94	58	93	-86	60	1.7
Turkey	178	329	161	90	50	85	-74	70	1.6
Serbia	59	83	62	92	50	78	-6	56	1.4
Others	113 210	6 527	2 241	858	446	393	-94	-12	7.3
Total	218 019	29 049	14 544	8 979	7 051	5 384	-81	-24	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

	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Clandestine/Other									
Clandestine	390	146	404	299	876	863	<i>n.a.</i>	-1.5	100
Others	15	153	71	38	12	0	-100	-100	0
Not specified	11	6	0	21	9	0	-100	-100	0
Purpose of illegal border-crossing									
Irregular migration	170	228	306	225	635	522	129	-1.8	<i>n.a.</i>
Not available	234	52	120	102	241	287	<i>n.a.</i>	19	<i>n.a.</i>
Others	12	22	46	31	21	54	145	157	<i>n.a.</i>
Smuggling of goods	0	3	3	0	0	0	-100	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Top Five Sections									
Croatia-Serbia	78	17	337	211	746	653	<i>n.a.</i>	-1.2	76
Serbia-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	92	66	6			44	-33	<i>n.a.</i>	5.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia		3			45	32	<i>n.a.</i>	-29	3.7
Kosovo [*] -the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					1	25	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	2.9
Croatia-Montenegro	2	5	8	7	8	23	<i>n.a.</i>	188	2.7
Others	244	214	124	140	97	86	-60	-11	10
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	51	68	263	198	674	667	<i>n.a.</i>	-1	77
Pakistan	13	25	20	50	112	45	80	-60	5.2
Syria	9	112	48	16	11	27	-76	145	3.1
Albania	22	43	45	28	22	21	-51	-4.5	2.4
Iraq	22	11	1	10	7	14	27	100	1.6
Libya	9		8	2	2	10	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	1.2
Algeria	81	6	7	7	7	9	50	29	1.0
Germany			6	1	1	7	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	0.8
Palestine ^{**}	16	2	7	1	4	7	<i>n.a.</i>	75	0.8
France			2	1	2	7	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	0.8
Others	193	38	68	44	55	49	29	-11	5.7
Total	416	305	475	358	897	863	183	-3.8	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.

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of EU Member States on this issue.

Table 3. **Facilitators**

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

Place of Detection	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	219	291	265	226	149	122	-58	-18	71
Inland	42	16	55	40	39	49	n.a.	26	28
Sea	0	0	0	0	0	2	n.a.	n.a.	1.2
Air	0	0	1	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	0
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	110	162	167	108	68	71	-56	4.4	41
Albania	33	22	30	34	32	34	55	6.3	20
Greece	17	14	20	23	20	22	57	10	13
Hungary	0	0	1	0	0	6	n.a.	n.a.	3.5
Bulgaria	24	32	36	39	20	5	-84	-75	2.9
Not specified	4	12	17	16	4	5	-58	25	2.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	10	2	3	9	4	-60	-56	2.3
Turkey	2	0	5	5	7	3	n.a.	-57	1.7
Pakistan	2	3	5	3	1	3	0	200	1.7
Montenegro	0	1		1	1	3	200	200	1.7
Others	63	51	38	34	26	17	-67	-35	9.8
Total	261	307	321	266	188	173	-44	-8	100

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

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

Place of Detection	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	1 265	924	896	765	576	1 479	60	157	66
Inland	690	660	576	566	721	776	18	7.6	34
Not specified	176	202	202	183	30	0	-100	-100	0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	858	750	617	589	514	1 061	41	106	47
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	137	88	83	89	88	289	228	228	13
Albania	154	186	209	240	114	173	-7	52	7.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	83	69	56	45	69	103	49	49	4.6
Montenegro	50	23	26	18	32	62	170	94	2.7
Turkey	56	93	69	45	31	55	-41	77	2.4
Kosovo*	42	21	38	41	65	53	152	-18	2.4
Italy	31	18	25	30	29	51	183	76	2.3
Pakistan	45	22	36	26	18	43	95	139	1.9
Afghanistan	46	53	115	20	21	40	-25	90	1.8
Others	629	463	400	371	346	325	-30	-6.1	14
Total	2 131	1 786	1 674	1 514	1 327	2 255	26	70	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 5. Refusals of entry

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

	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	7 837	9 365	12 026	12 939	9 749	11 797	26	21	94
Air	1 009	618	794	772	548	694	12	27	5.5
Sea	4	14	37	22	4	32	129	n.a.	0.3
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0		n.a.	n.a.	0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	2 317	3 451	3 653	3 507	4 589	5 909	71	29	47
Serbia	1 924	1 635	1 738	1 460	1 717	1 715	4.9	-0.1	14
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 217	1 610	1 019	1 126	1 107	1 068	-34	-3.5	8.5
Turkey	1 015	586	938	534	417	524	-11	26	4.2
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	481	330	507	381	483	436	32	-9.7	3.5
Kosovo ^a	221	225	617	326	254	303	35	19	2.4
Not specified	94	133	424	4 365	94	204	53	117	1.6
Bulgaria	153	179	307	176	89	152	-15	71	1.2
Afghanistan	152	4	68	66	167	148	n.a.	-11	1.2
Germany	70	136	427	82	74	146	7.4	97	1.2
Others	1 206	1 708	3 159	1 710	1 310	1 918	12	46	15
Total	8 850	9 997	12 857	13 733	10 301	12 523	25	22	100

^a 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

	2016				2017		2017 Q2		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Syria	3 061	11 608	9 648	11 573	6 126	3 093	-73	-50	21
Pakistan	2 395	3 007	2 779	2 701	2 549	2 355	-22	-7.6	16
Afghanistan	3 172	9 918	6 093	6 520	3 781	2 193	-78	-42	15
Iraq	3 839	3 244	2 931	4 683	2 876	2 089	-36	-27	15
Albania	357	292	321	499	336	688	136	105	4.8
Iran	998	922	571	692	538	432	-53	-20	3
Congo (D.R.)	42	66	47	117	442	407	n.a.	-7.9	2.8
Bangladesh	373	306	469	417	343	359	17	4.7	2.5
Turkey	116	352	115	197	236	350	-0.6	48	2.4
Not specified	140	133	71	136	196	287	116	46	2
Others	3 803	2 323	2 491	2 934	3 286	2 140	-7.9	-35	15
Total	18 296	32 171	25 536	30 469	20 709	14 393	-55	-30	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

	2016				2017		2017 Q1		per cent of total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	186	123	149	179	212	184	50	-13	63
Air	51	47	36	53	40	88	87	120	30
Sea	14	4	8	5	12	21	n.a.	75	7.2
Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	0
Document Type									
Passports	160	110	118	121	135	159	45	18	54
ID cards	52	28	40	69	65	82	193	26	28
Visas	13	4	4	16	20	19	375	-5	6.5
Unknown	4	14	8	7	9	15	7.1	67	5.1
Residence permits	15	8	14	21	25	18	125	-28	6.1
Stamps	7	10	9	3	10	0	-100	-100	0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	92	97	83	87	91	104	7.2	14	35
Kosovo ^o	67	28	47	58	75	68	143	-9.3	23
Serbia	20	15	15	12	27	36	140	33	12
China					1	20	n.a.	n.a.	6.8
Turkey	19	5	6	10	24	17	n.a.	-29	5.8
Iran	2	1	4	5	2	7	n.a.	n.a.	2.4
Afghanistan				1	1	6	n.a.	n.a.	2
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9	4	3	4	8	4	0	-50	1.4
Not specified	1		1			3	n.a.	n.a.	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	2	3	3	3	3	50	0	1
Others	37	22	31	57	32	25	14	-22	8.5
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Italy	22	13	14	32	42	63	n.a.	50	22
Albania	80	70	65	51	47	56	-20	19	19
Serbia	18	15	21	14	27	29	93	7.4	9.9
Greece	8	13	10	13	24	18	38	-25	6.1
France	6	1	3	7	8	12	n.a.	50	4.1
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16	8	10	13	16	11	38	-31	3.8
Germany	6	5	5	9	8	11	120	38	3.8
Slovenia	8	3	2	3	4	9	200	125	3.1
China					1	8	n.a.	n.a.	2.7
Croatia	1		8	1	11	7	n.a.	-36	2.4
Others	86	46	55	94	76	69	50	-9.2	24
Total	251	174	193	237	264	293	68	11	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

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 (Reporting country, 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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