

# Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 3 • JULY–SEPTEMBER 2016

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4





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Warsaw, March 2017  
Risk Analysis Unit  
Frontex reference number: 25639/2016

OPOCE Catalogue number TT-AI-16-003-EN-N  
ISSN 2443-8367

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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.

Throughout the report, references to the acronym FYROM\*\* (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are marked with two asterisks to indicate that the definitive nomenclature for this country will be agreed following current negotiations at UN level.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Western Balkans Quarterly* has been prepared by the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit. During the course of developing this product, many colleagues at Frontex and from the WB-RAN contributed to it and their assistance is hereby acknowledged with gratitude.

# Table of contents

Introduction	#3
I. Situational overview	#4
Summary of WB-RAN indicators	#5
Key findings	#5
<i>Situation at the border</i>	#6
Border surveillance	#6
Border checks	#9
<i>Situation in the Western Balkans</i>	#10
Illegal stay in Western Balkan countries	#10
II. Featured risk analysis	#11
Enhanced controls continue to reduce the non-regional migration flow	#12
III. Statistical annex	#15

## List of abbreviations used

<b>BCP</b>	border-crossing point
<b>CIA</b>	Central Investigation Agency
<b>EDF</b>	European Union Document-Fraud
<b>EDF-RAN</b>	European Union Document-Fraud Risk Analysis Network
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FRAN</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
<b>Frontex</b>	European Border and Coast Guard Agency (formerly European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union)
<b>FYROM</b>	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the definitive nomenclature for this country will be agreed following current negotiations at UN level
<b>ICJ</b>	International Court of Justice
<b>ID</b>	identification document
<b>n.a.</b>	not available
<b>Q/Qtr</b>	quarter of the year
<b>RAU</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>WB-RAN</b>	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 documents.<sup>1</sup>

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-RAN).

## 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. The second part presents more in-depth featured risk analyses of particular phenomena.

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

Important changes in the collection and use of data for *Western Balkans Quarterly* 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 stay 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 also be made excluding data from Kosovo\*, which is noted in the text.

<sup>1</sup> 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	Q3 2015	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	% change on same quarter last year	% change on previous quarter
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	614 697	28 789	10 014	-98	-65
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	249	305	475	91	56
Facilitators	618	307	321	-48	5
Illegal stay	1 615	1 786	1 674	4	-6
Refusals of entry	13 956	9 997	12 857	-8	29
Asylum applications*	119 038	32 171	25 536	-79	-21
False travel-document users	216	174	172	-20	-1

\* 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 data as of 7 November 2016

## Key findings

- **Detections of non-regional transiting migrants continue to decrease following the closure of the transit corridor in March 2016**
- **Despite the enhanced border-control measures, some pressure on the borders persists; some migrants still manage to make their way through the Western Balkans albeit in lower numbers and with more difficulty**
- **Slight increase can be observed in detected illegal stayers as it becomes more difficult to leave the region**
- **The irregular flow of citizens of Western Balkan countries remains low and mostly contained to the southern regional borders with Greece**

# Situation at the border

## Border surveillance

### Illegal border-crossings

In the third quarter of 2016, there were 8 252 illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria reported at the common and regional borders (see Fig. 2). This represents a second consecutive significant quarterly decrease (i.e. 69% drop from the previous quarter) and a return to a level even 64% below that of Q1 2015 (before the amplification of the migration crisis).

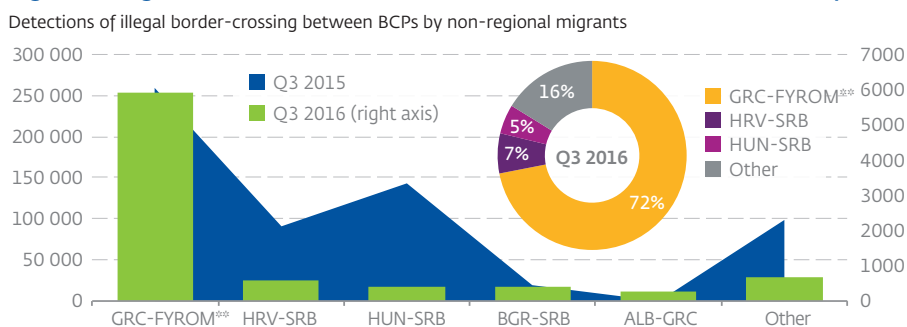
The decrease in detections registered in the third quarter resulted from a steady month-on-month decline from 4 257 in July to 2 444 in August and just over 1 550 in September. This continuous shrinking of the flow was mostly linked to the drop in reported detections at the border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece and at the Hungarian-Serbian border.

The reported decrease at both border sections seems to correspond to enhanced

border-control measures (i.e. implementation of the Project special measure<sup>2</sup> in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the hardening of the border legislation<sup>3</sup> in Hungary).

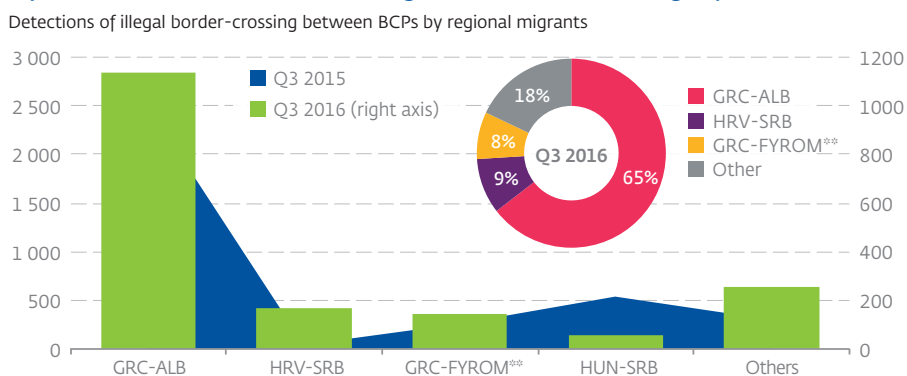
However, the actual pressure acting on the respective borders could in fact be quite pronounced. Specifically, given the restriction measures, a number of migrants may have attempted to cross the respective borders (unsuccessfully) several times, thus maintaining a pressure on the two areas. Moreover, this exerted pressure (i.e. repeated attempts) is likely higher than the actual size of the flow.

Figure 2. **Non-regional migrants continued trying to enter the Western Balkans region through the southern common borders and then to exit in its northern part**



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 November 2016

Figure 3. **The regional flow continued to concentrate at the southern common borders despite a continued decrease of the Albanian circular migration; as a result the shares reported at Croatian-Serbian and Hungarian-Serbian borders slightly increased**



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 November 2016

In Q3 2016, Afghans and Syrians remained the top reported nationalities, accounting for 39% and 18% of the total non-regional migration flow, respectively. Some migrants were still reported as 'unknown'<sup>4</sup> but their overall share of the non-regional total dropped from 51% in Q1 to 20% in Q2 and 17% in Q3. This decreasing ratio of illegal border-crossings made by people of 'unknown' nationality indicates that the flow is slowly returning to levels manageable by authorities' capacities of screening and identification.

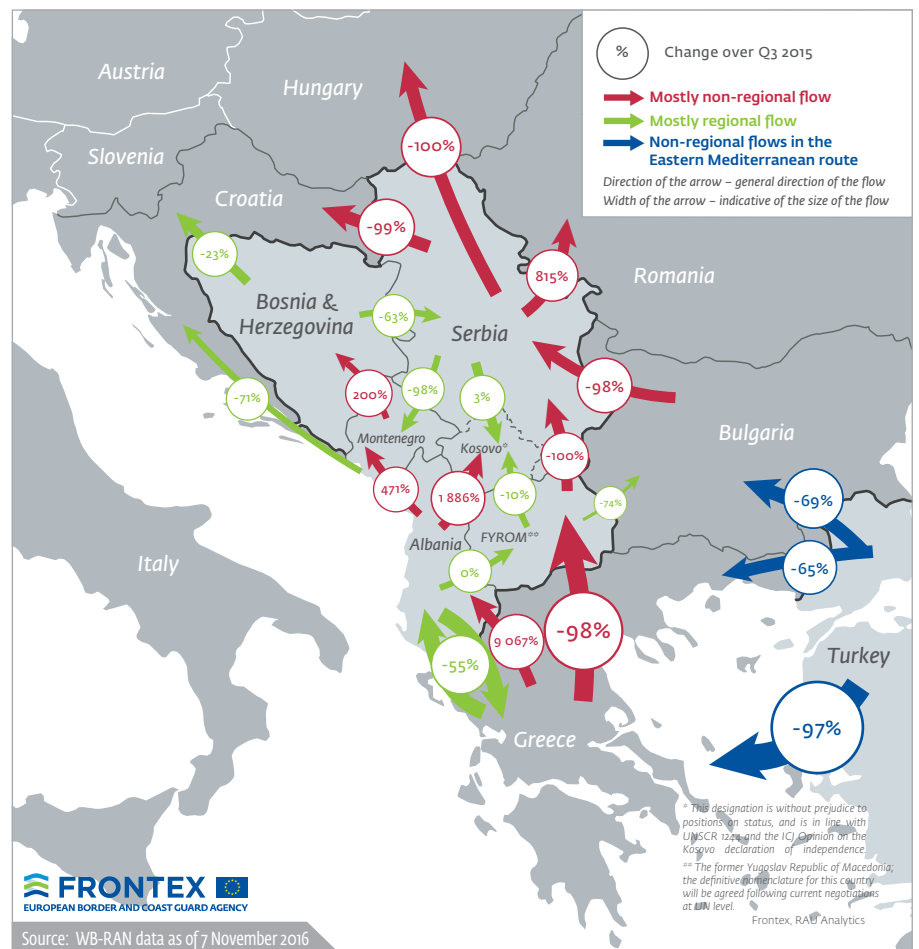
Pakistanis were the third most reported nationality, followed by Iraqis, Algerians and Moroccans. With the exception of

- 2 Project Special Measure - EU Assistance to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the context of the European migration/refugee crisis
- 3 Starting from 4 July, Hungarian legislation permits the return of all migrants detected within 8 km from the border to special transit zones set up on the border.
- 4 The number of persons reported as 'unknown' is analysed as part of the non-regional migration flow.



Figure 4. The border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece followed by the Bulgarian-Serbian one registered the highest pressure from the non-regional migrants trying to enter the Western Balkans. The regional flow remained mainly localised at the Greek-Albanian border.

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q3 2015 and Q3 2016 at particular border sections and main directions of the flow



Algerians, all of these top six nationalities registered significant drops from the previous quarter, ranging from -48% for Moroccans to -75% for Iraqis.

The number of detected Western Balkan regional migrants was 23% lower compared with the previous quarter but, in

the context of the decreasing numbers of non-regional migrants, their share of the overall flow affecting the region was greater (reaching 18%).

Interestingly, following this new decrease, Q3 2016 was the quarter with the lowest number of regional migrants detected for

illegal border-crossing between BCPs since data collection began.

The majority of Western Balkan country nationals detected for illegal border-crossing were still reported at the Greek-Albanian border. The second busiest border was the Croatian-Serbian section.

# I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

## Facilitators

During the third quarter of 2016, the number of detected facilitators was 321, which represents a 5% increase over the previous three-month period.

As mentioned in previous *Western Balkans Quarterly*s, the steadily increasing number of detected facilitators is not surprising and can be expected to continue, especially after the closure of the transit corridor in March and the implementation of additional border-control measures. Specifically, as migrants can no longer rely on

the transportation services provided by the authorities and need to bypass additional prevention measures, their demand for facilitation services will likely increase. With the rising demand, the migrant smuggling will become more profitable, which will probably attract more people to engage in this type of illegal activity.

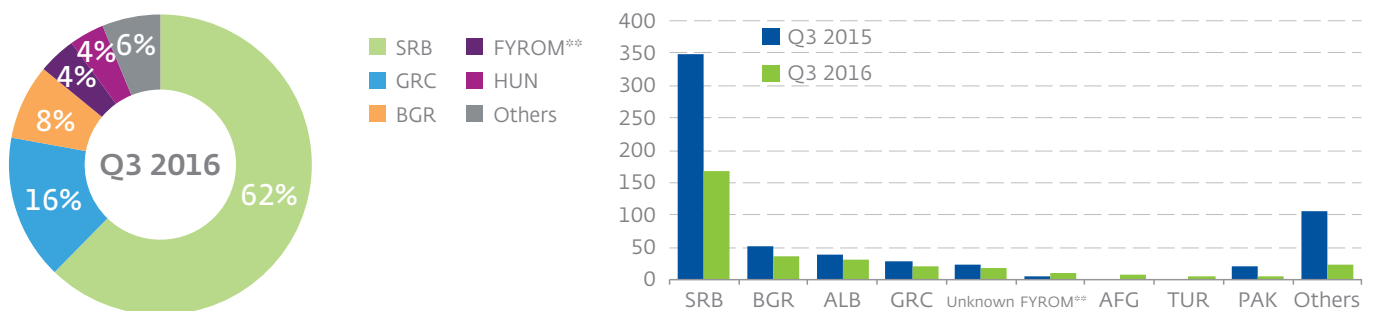
The fact that only 321 facilitators were detected in Q3 2016, considering that the number of illegal border-crossings of non-regional nationals remained above 8 000, indicates that migrants still possess a certain ability to self-organise, even after the

transportation measures under the transit corridor became unavailable.

As regards nationalities, 67% of all facilitators detected in the analysed quarter were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 19% were citizens of the EU Member States (especially those neighbouring the region) while the remaining 14% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown' nationality. The highest share of detections was still reported by Serbia, followed by Greece.

Figure 5. **Despite a slight increase, the number of facilitators remained relatively low compared with the overall flow of transiting migrants**

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 November 2016

# Border checks

## Clandestine entries

In Q3 2016, a total of 405 non-regional migrants were detected while attempting to illegally cross the border hiding in vehicles. This represents a 65% increase compared with the previous quarter and an 83% rise in relation to Q3 2015, which is hardly surprising given the increased difficulty of transiting via the green borders. Most clandestine non-regional migrants were reported by Serbia, followed by Croatia and Montenegro. Additionally, 70 nationals of Western Balkan countries were detected attempting clandestine entry at BCPs, especially at the Greek-Albanian border.

## Document fraud

In the third quarter, there were 172 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan countries, a number similar to that of the previous quarter.

Serbia ranked first in detections, followed by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. As regards nationalities, in Q3 2016 Albanian and Kosovo\* citizens continued to rank top amongst false document users, accounting for 46% and 26% of all detections, respectively.

Passports, ID cards and residence permits remained the most commonly used fraudulent documents. As in previous quarters, the large majority of ID cards were EU Member States' documents, as they offer the holder free-movement within the Schengen area and the EU.

As far as detections of false passports are concerned, the majority was reportedly issued by countries from the region. Most of these documents were Albanian, by and large 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 increased by 29% compared with the previous quarter: roughly from 10 000 to 13 000. This increase appears to be largely consistent with seasonal trends related to higher tourist mobility during the summer. Thus, the total of refusals of entry in Q3 was comparable to that in the corresponding quarter of 2015. Also, the distribution of refusal decisions issued was similar in particular months of the quarter, with only a marginal dip in September. Turkish nationals registered a 60% increase in relation to the second

quarter and continued to rank in the top four of the most refused nationalities for the fifth consecutive quarter.

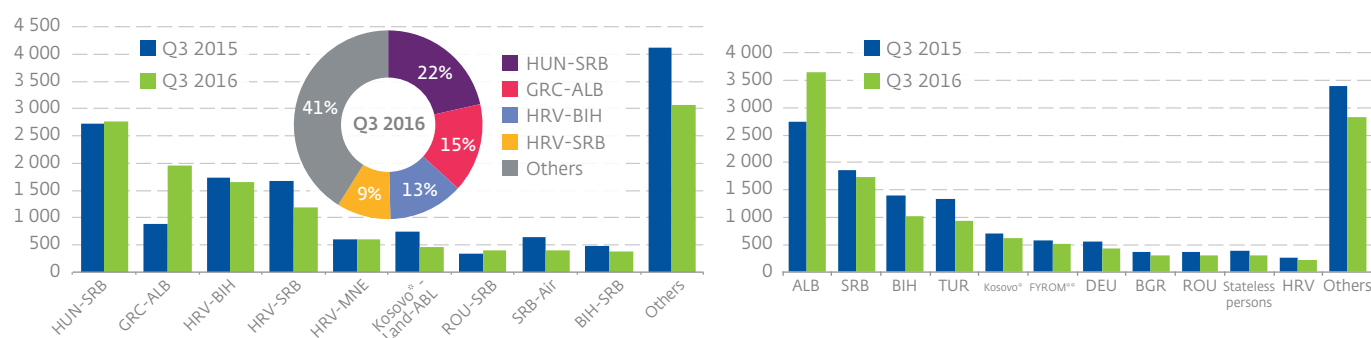
As usual, a large majority of refusals of entry were issued at the land borders (94%), while most of the remaining 6% was reported at the air borders.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries (88%). In turn, among those refused entry by the six countries of the region 39% were nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, 27% – local residents and 11% – Turkish nationals.

The overall number of refusals issued to the non-regional nationalities associated with the migratory flow from Turkey/Greece continued to account for only a small share of the total.

Figure 6. Turkish nationals continued to rank high among the top refused nationalities, indicating that many of them still attempt to reach the EU joining the transiting migration flow

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 November 2016

## Situation in the Western Balkans

# Illegal stay in Western Balkan countries

There were 778 detections of illegal stay reported by the six Western Balkan countries during the period under review, a number 10% lower than that of the previous quarter. This is a low figure considering the overall size of the flow transiting the region in the recent period. In relation to the corresponding quarter of 2015, the detections of illegally staying persons registered a 20% rise.

As regards the top six nationalities of detected illegal stayers in the analysed quarter, Serbian nationals still ranked first, ahead of Afghans and Albanians. Syrians ranked fourth, with a number comparable to that of the nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Turkey.

As expected and mentioned in the previous issue of the *Western Balkan Quarterly*, following the restriction measures which made the transit of the region more difficult (i.e. amendment to Hungarian leg-

islation allowing the returns of migrants detected within 8 km from the borders, enhanced controls at Serbia's southern and eastern borders) the number of illegal stayers associated with the non-regional transiting flow edged up during the third quarter. While the overall increase in the number of non-regional illegal stayers was marginal (roughly 50 detections more than in Q2), the rise was quite pronounced with regards to Afghans and Syrians. These two nationalities registered considerable increases (182% and 238%, respectively) over Q2 and ranked second and fourth among the top detected illegal stayers.

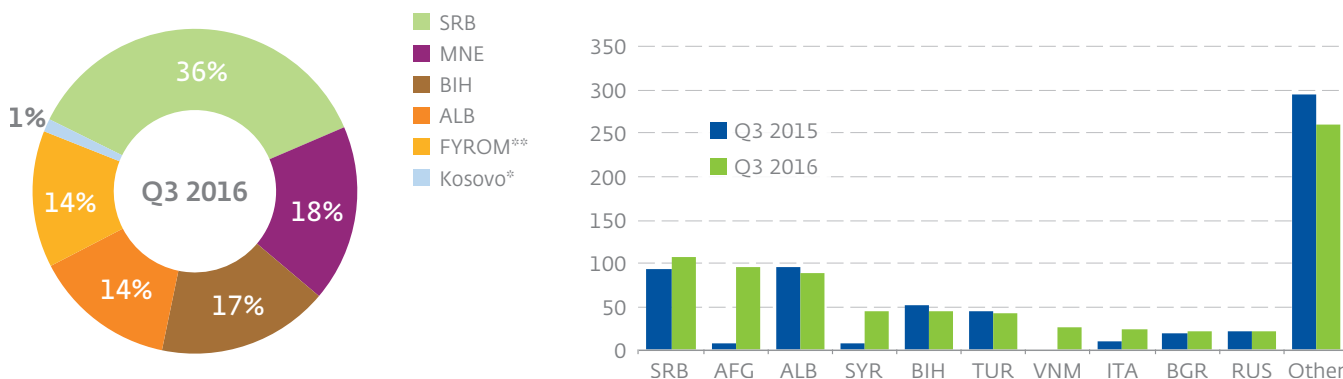
Given the continuation of enhanced border-control measures in the region, it can be expected that the number of illegal stayers and/or applicants for international protection associated with the transiting flow will continue to grow in the future.

Over the past one and a half years, there has been a large discrepancy between the number of detected illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants originating from Greece/Turkey reported by the six Western Balkan countries and the discovered illegal stayers of corresponding nationalities. This was also true for Q3 2016, despite the fact that the number of non-regional illegal stayers was slightly higher.

Moreover, it can be assumed that the rise in the number of non-regional illegal stayers in the Western Balkans was mostly due to enhanced border-control measures which made it more difficult to transit the region, rather than to its increased attractiveness. This assumption can be supported by the fact that the non-regional migrants have traditionally regarded the Western Balkans region mainly as a transit area.

Figure 7. Slight increase in the number of detected Afghan and Syrian illegal stayers, mostly related to stricter border controls making the region more difficult to transit. Still, only a small share of non-regional nationalities reported for illegal border-crossing are detected as illegal stayers

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 November 2016

## **II. Featured risk analysis**

# Enhanced controls continue to reduce the non-regional migration flow

The volume of the migratory flow transiting the region in the second and third quarters was reduced by the continued coordinated restriction measures and the resumption of the normal application of border legislation in the Western Balkans and in neighbouring EU Member States starting from March.

Specifically, the number of detected illegal border-crossings at the regional level decreased almost each month from 128 000 in January to just above 1 500 in September 2016. This drop brought the total number of detections reported in Q3 2016 (i.e. 8 252) to a level similar to that registered back in Q3 2014 (i.e. 8 068) before the onset of the migratory crisis affected the region.

### General developments at the region's southern borders

During the third quarter, the number of detected illegal border-crossings at the border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece registered a 59% drop compared with the previous three-month period.

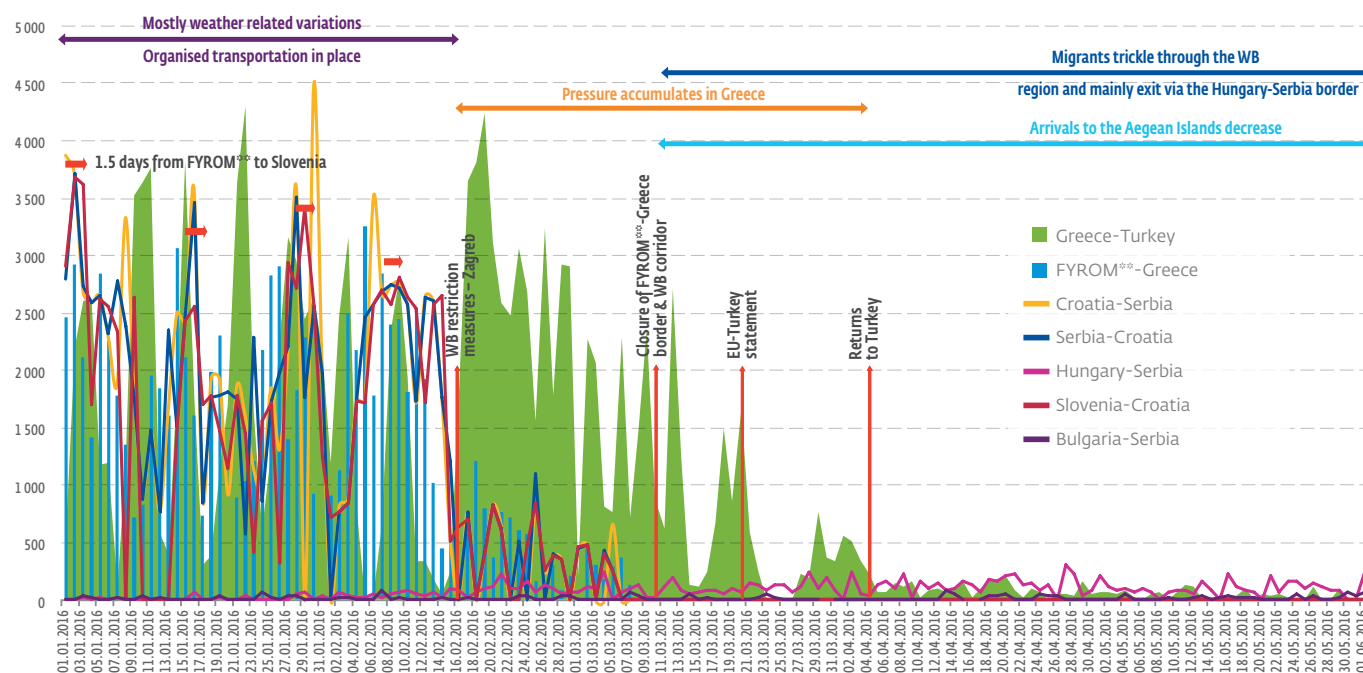
Despite the decrease, this border section continues to be exposed to a relatively high migratory pressure, with migrants attempting to enter every day (roughly 6 000 detections in Q3). Nevertheless, as the majority of crossing attempts appear to be prevented with the help of enhanced police presence, it is likely that some migrants attempt to transit several times

hoping to avoid being detected. Similarly, the actual flow targeting the section may in fact be lower than the reported pressure, as the latter likely includes repeated attempts by the same persons.

The border between Bulgaria and Serbia remained one of the main sections targeted by migrants trying to transit the Western Balkans and reach their destinations in Western Europe. Roughly 390 non-regional migrants (22% reduction over the previous quarter) were detected after having illegally crossed the border, generally towards Serbia. It should be mentioned that as Bulgaria prevents detected migrants from moving towards Serbia (several thousand attempts in Q3), the size of the flow targeting this section may also

Figure 8. Impact of implemented measures on the flow transiting the Eastern Aegean Sea and the Western Balkans

Illegal border-crossings between BCPs in the period 1 January 2016–8 November 2016



Source: WB Daily info exchange as of 10 November 2016

be smaller than the reported pressure (i.e. previously prevented migrants can attempt the crossing several times, maintaining the pressure on the border despite a lower number of new arrivals).

In light of the above, although a number of migrants may be allowed to cross on humanitarian grounds and others may still manage to pass undetected, the enhanced control measures implemented on the two regional southern borders appear to have greatly reduced the non-regional flow transiting the Western Balkans. Nevertheless, as these border sections become more difficult to cross, a certain accumulation of migrants in Greece and Bulgaria can be regarded a natural development. Once it becomes clear that it is impossible to move onwards, more people will be discouraged from transiting the region.

Similarly, in the south of the region the Greek-Albanian border showed a slight increase in the number of non-regional migrants in the second and third quarters of 2016, which is only natural given the large number of migrants in mainland Greece and the fact that transit through the for-

mer Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became more difficult.

### General developments at the region's northern borders

Despite the enhanced police presence at the region's southern borders, a number of migrants still managed to enter the Western Balkans and afterwards tried to re-enter the EU, especially via Hungary.

Reacting to this situation, Hungary passed a new legislation aimed at further curbing the irregular migratory flow. Starting from 4 July, migrants detected up to 8 km into Hungarian territory can be placed in specially designated transit zones on the country's external borders. Once in the transit areas, migrants are supposed to wait for registration and legal admission into Hungary or freely return to Serbia.

This change in legislation made the Hungarian-Serbian green border very difficult to cross, leading to an accumulation of migrants inside Serbia.

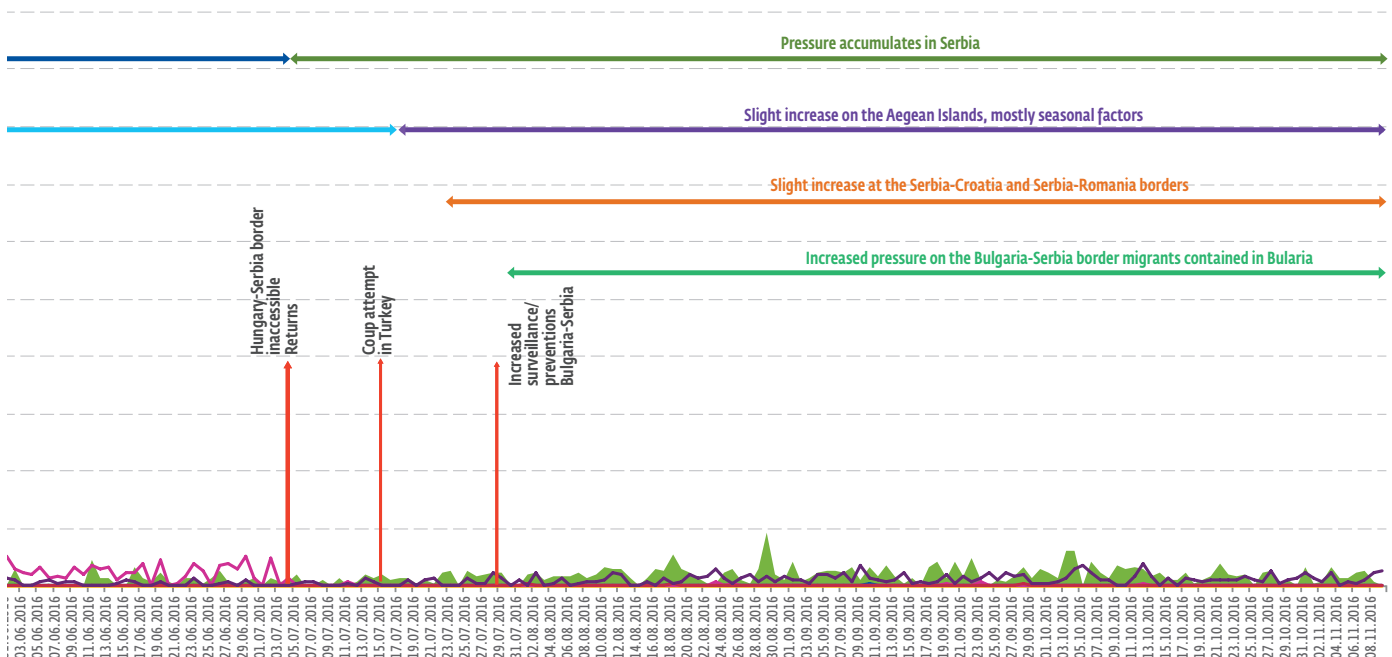
Operational information indicates that a de facto pressure is still exerted on the

Hungarian-Serbian border, as a number of migrants continue to attempt irregular crossings despite not being allowed to move onwards after detection.

Nevertheless, it is likely that the migratory flow targeting (or transiting) the Hungarian-Serbian section is actually lower than the pressure indicated through operational data (as previously stopped migrants can attempt the crossing several times).

The Croatian-Serbian border section registered a slight increase in detections of non-regional migrants during the third quarter, albeit the overall numbers remained relatively low. The situation was similar at the Romanian-Serbian section, where the number of illegal border-crossings associated with non-regional migrants rose in Q3.

The mentioned increases in detections at the two northern sections appear natural developments, in line with the described difficulty of transiting Hungary and the related accumulation of pressure inside Serbia.



## II. FEATURED RISK ANALYSIS

### General developments on the Eastern Mediterranean sea and land routes

Migrant arrivals on the Greek Aegean islands continued in the third quarter, even registering a 24% rise over the previous three-month period. Despite this rise, the overall level of arrivals can be regarded as low, compared with the situation existing before the closure of the Western Balkan

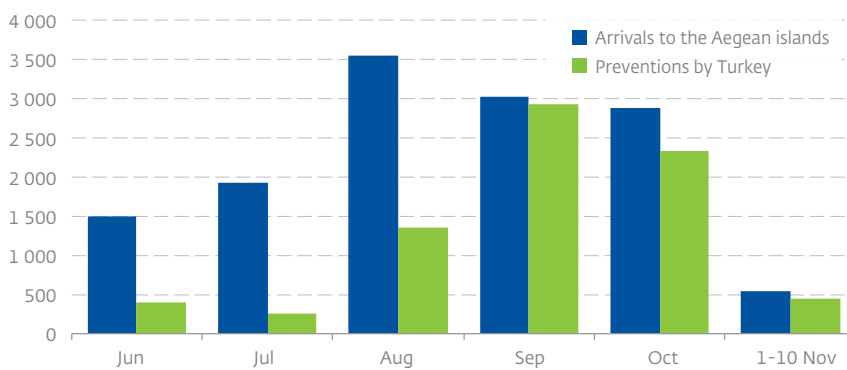
transit corridor and the entry into force of the EU-Turkey statement in March.

Available information indicates that Turkey continues to patrol both its sea and land borders preventing many departures, largely in line with the common EU-Turkey statement. Hence, the observed increase on the Aegean Islands in Q3 can be considered as a largely seasonal development resulting from improving weather conditions.

The number of crossings at Turkey's land borders with Greece and Bulgaria continued at relatively low levels, even slightly decreasing compared with the second quarter.

Figure 9. **Prevention activities by Turkey play an important role in mitigating arrivals on the Aegean Islands**

Detections of illegal border-crossing in the Aegean Sea versus prevented departures by Turkey mostly across the sea towards Greece (graph); A ship carrying 363 migrants intercepted by the Turkish Coast Guard vessel near Canakkale on 10 November (pictures)



Source: FRAN & JORA and Turkish data as of 10 and 9 November 2016



© Turkish Coast Guard



## III. Statistical annex

### LEGEND

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

**Source:** WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 7 November 2016,  
unless otherwise indicated

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

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
<b>Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing</b>									
Irregular migration	46 797	476 179	1 334 731	211 455	17 300	<b>9 460</b>	-98	-45	94
Smuggling of goods	328	84	53	363	450	<b>352</b>	319	-22	3.5
Other	92	88	57	67	92	<b>112</b>	27	22	1.1
Smuggling	0	0	0	0	0	<b>64</b>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	0.6
<b>Top Five Sections</b>									
FYROM** - Greece	6 547	259 986	437 741	104 279	14 587	<b>6 078</b>	-98	-58	61
Albania - Greece	3 959	2 506	2 960	1 713	1 949	<b>1 412</b>	-44	-28	14
Croatia - Serbia	173	91 698	465 506	102 596	81	<b>731</b>	-99	802	7.3
Hungary - Serbia	39 459	142 918	1 267	6 629	11 194	<b>471</b>	-100	-96	4.7
Bulgaria - Serbia	7 828	18 673	20 108	2 182	495	<b>388</b>	-98	-22	3.9
Others	23 690	99 166	408 428	416	483	<b>934</b>	-99	93	9.3
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Afghanistan	24 293	67 428	214 699	30 433	9 662	<b>3 212</b>	-95	-67	32
Syria	33 182	236 445	431 847	46 033	4 290	<b>1 470</b>	-99	-66	15
Not specified	214	247 991	530 893	109 974	5 376	<b>1 404</b>	-99	-74	14
Albania	3 749	2 972	3 301	1 926	1 964	<b>1 392</b>	-53	-29	14
Pakistan	3 891	19 757	8 004	3 351	3 204	<b>942</b>	-95	-71	9.4
Iraq	6 258	21 198	112 462	20 644	1 710	<b>422</b>	-98	-75	4.2
Kosovo*	551	409	298	435	211	<b>262</b>	-36	24	2.6
Algeria	306	204	962	384	150	<b>170</b>	-17	13	1.7
Morocco	133	125	5 034	1 080	206	<b>108</b>	-14	-48	1.1
Iran	643	2 332	16 985	1 213	659	<b>107</b>	-95	-84	1.1
Others	8 436	16 086	11 525	2 342	1 357	<b>525</b>	-97	-61	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 656</b>	<b>614 947</b>	<b>1336 010</b>	<b>217 815</b>	<b>28 789</b>	<b>10 014</b>	<b>-98</b>	<b>-65</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Clandestine/Other</b>									
Clandestine	178	78	101	384	146	404	418	177	85
Others	133	170	47	15	153	71	-58	-54	15
Not determined	36	1	4	11	6	0	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
<b>Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing</b>									
Irregular migration	268	212	127	164	228	306	44	34	64
Not specified	31	25	14	234	52	120	380	131	25
Other	12	12	9	12	22	46	283	109	9.7
Smuggling of goods	36	0	2	0	3	3	<i>n.a.</i>	0	0.6
<b>Top Five Sections</b>									
Croatia - Serbia	19	6	14	78	17	337	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	71
Albania - Greece	0	0	81	0	24	26	<i>n.a.</i>	8.3	5.5
Albania - Montenegro	3	0	0	1	5	25	<i>n.a.</i>	400	5.3
Hungary - Serbia	63	72	0	209	22	20	-72	-9.1	4.2
Montenegro - Serbia	0	0	1	6	3	13	<i>n.a.</i>	333	2.7
Others	262	171	56	116	234	54	-68	-77	11
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Afghanistan	142	72	14	51	68	263	265	287	55
Syria	115	126	4	9	112	48	<i>n.a.</i>	-57	10
Albania	18	9	91	16	43	45	400	4.7	9.5
Pakistan	4	2	0	13	25	20	900	-20	4.2
Morocco	1	0	0	126	1	13	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	2.7
Kosovo <sup>a</sup>	1	7	18	1	7	10	43	43	2.1
Turkey	0	1	1	5	0	9	800	<i>n.a.</i>	1.9
Serbia	2	10	2	6	5	8	-20	60	1.7
Libya	0	0	0	9	0	8	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	1.7
Palestine	2	0	0	16	2	7	<i>n.a.</i>	250	1.5
Others	62	22	22	158	42	44	100	4.8	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> 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, place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Place of Detection</b>									
Land	551	542	240	219	291	265	-51	-8.9	83
Not specified	21	76	25	42	16	34	-55	113	11
Inland	0	0	0	0	0	21	n.a.	n.a.	6.5
Air	0	0	6	0	0	1	n.a.	n.a.	0.3
Sea	0	0	2	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Serbia	338	348	119	110	162	167	-52	3.1	52
Bulgaria	32	51	61	24	32	36	-29	13	11
Albania	48	38	44	33	22	30	-21	36	9.3
Greece	31	28	18	17	14	20	-29	43	6.2
Not specified	13	22	9	4	12	17	-23	42	5.3
FYROM**	49	6	4	20	28	10	67	-64	3.1
Afghanistan	3	0	1	20	5	8	n.a.	60	2.5
Turkey	4	0	5	2	0	5	n.a.	n.a.	1.6
Pakistan	4	20	1	2	3	5	-75	67	1.6
Syria	6	8	1	0	2	4	-50	100	1.2
Others	44	97	10	29	27	19	-80	-30	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>100</b>

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Table 4. **Illegal stay**

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Place of Detection</b>									
Land	1 595	966	1 115	1 265	924	896	-7.2	-3.0	54
Inland	778	562	645	668	660	576	2.5	-13	34
Not specified	110	87	141	166	202	202	132	0.0	12
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Serbia	791	599	842	858	750	617	3.0	-18	37
Albania	149	127	188	154	186	209	65	12	12
Afghanistan	127	42	15	46	53	115	174	117	6.9
FYROM**	100	107	147	137	88	83	-22	-5.7	5.0
Syria	547	125	46	63	36	72	-42	100	4.3
Turkey	63	92	42	54	93	69	-25	-26	4.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	74	79	83	69	56	-24	-19	3.3
Kosovo*	28	37	51	42	21	38	2.7	81	2.3
Pakistan	47	20	16	45	22	36	80	64	2.2
Vietnam	0	1	0	0	0	27	n.a.	n.a.	1.6
Others	575	391	475	617	468	352	-10	-25	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 483</b>	<b>1 615</b>	<b>1 901</b>	<b>2 099</b>	<b>1 786</b>	<b>1 674</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>100</b>

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Table 5. Refusals of entry

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Border Type</b>									
Land	9 046	12 581	7 835	7 830	9 365	<b>12 026</b>	-4.4	28	94
Air	757	1 335	1 775	973	618	<b>794</b>	-41	28	6.2
Sea	24	40	16	4	14	<b>37</b>	-7.5	164	0.3
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Albania	2 763	2 736	2 980	2 317	3 451	<b>3 653</b>	34	5.9	28
Serbia	1 715	1 852	1 621	1 924	1 635	<b>1 738</b>	-6.2	6.3	14
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 379	1 391	1 042	1 217	1 610	<b>1 019</b>	-27	-37	7.9
Turkey	578	1 332	1 434	982	586	<b>938</b>	-30	60	7.3
Kosovo*	291	708	271	221	225	<b>617</b>	-13	174	4.8
FYROM**	463	578	331	480	330	<b>507</b>	-12	54	3.9
Germany	197	567	119	70	136	<b>427</b>	-25	214	3.3
Not specified	157	587	158	94	133	<b>424</b>	-28	219	3.3
Bulgaria	265	372	231	153	179	<b>307</b>	-17	72	2.4
Romania	150	372	67	65	138	<b>298</b>	-20	116	2.3
Others	1 869	3 461	1 372	1 284	1 574	<b>2 929</b>	-15	86	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 827</b>	<b>13 956</b>	<b>9 626</b>	<b>8 807</b>	<b>9 997</b>	<b>12 857</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>

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Table 6. Applications for asylum

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Syria	13 018	56 443	2 160	3 061	11 608	<b>9 648</b>	-83	-17	38
Afghanistan	15 262	30 111	3 581	3 172	9 918	<b>6 093</b>	-80	-39	24
Iraq	3 856	7 929	4 150	3 838	3 244	<b>2 931</b>	-63	-9.6	11
Pakistan	3 329	12 418	826	2 395	3 007	<b>2 779</b>	-78	-7.6	11
Iran	563	1 288	121	998	922	<b>571</b>	-56	-38	2.2
Algeria	377	194	56	428	264	<b>542</b>	179	105	2.1
Bangladesh	918	3 209	267	373	306	<b>469</b>	-85	53	1.8
Albania	217	382	499	357	292	<b>321</b>	-16	9.9	1.3
Morocco	189	104	84	952	289	<b>315</b>	203	9.0	1.2
Palestine	501	316	26	134	364	<b>283</b>	-10	-22	1.1
Others	5 203	6 644	1 478	2 586	1 957	<b>1 584</b>	-76	-19	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43 433</b>	<b>119 038</b>	<b>13 248</b>	<b>18 294</b>	<b>32 171</b>	<b>25 536</b>	<b>-79</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7. Document fraud

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

	2015			2016			2016 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Border Type</b>									
Land	139	136	120	176	123	131	-3.7	6.5	76
Air	88	60	83	48	47	33	-45	-30	19
Sea	8	15	17	12	4	8	-47	100	4.7
Not specified	0	5	0	0	0	0	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
<b>Document Type</b>									
Passports	119	133	132	154	110	103	-23	-6.4	60
IDs	49	43	37	49	28	36	-16	29	21
Residence permits	13	11	10	15	8	12	9.1	50	7.0
Stamps	49	17	28	3	10	9	-47	-10	5.2
Unknown	0	5	2	4	14	8	60	-43	4.7
Visas	5	7	11	11	4	4	-43	0.0	2.3
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Albania	85	74	109	77	97	79	6.8	-19	46
Kosovo*	34	41	26	67	28	44	7.3	57	26
Serbia	34	30	19	20	15	11	-63	-27	6.4
Bulgaria		1	4	4	6	5	400	-17	2.9
Turkey	21	11	18	19	5	5	-55	0.0	2.9
FYROM**	4	1	3	9	4	3	200	-25	1.7
Cuba	0	0	0	1	0	3	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	1.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	1	3	4	2	2	100	0.0	1.2
Pakistan	7	8	1	1	5	2	-75	-60	1.2
Syria	25	18	5	0	4	2	-89	-50	1.2
Others	18	31	32	34	8	16	-48	100	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>100</b>

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## 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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**For Public Release**

Risk Analysis Unit

Reference number: 25639/2016

TT-AI-16-003-EN-N  
ISSN 2443-8367

Warsaw, March 2017