

Western Balkans Quarterly

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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
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	Western Balkans
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. 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, have not been included in the datasets used for 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 they are no longer covered by the regular datasets used for this report.

Thirdly, after joining the EU, Croatian data on illegal stay are limited to detections at its border. More precisely, Croatia's illegal stay data only include cases detected on exit at its external borders, 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*, prior to 2014 the new data have some impact on the comparison of the examined period with quarters of years prior to 2014. 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

Reporting Country	Q3 2017	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	% change on	
				same quarter last year	previous quarter
Asylum applications	19 590	21 702	22 262	14	2.6
Facilitators	161	200	171	6.2	-15
False travel document users	390	373	495	27	33
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	515	558	836	62	50
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	7 371	10 096	12 628	71	25
Illegal stay	3 286	8 853	10 584	222	20
Refusals of entry	16 190	12 485	13 669	-16	9.5

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

Key findings

Overall, the number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional² migrants at the green borders rose 39% compared with Q2 2018;

Iranians were the top detected non-regional migrants crossing the borders illegally, largely after misusing their visa-free status in Serbia. They projected pressure north and south;

The reintroduction of visa requirements for Iranians in Serbia will likely decrease migratory pressure exerted by these nationals in the Western Balkans;

Indian nationals (also visa-free in Serbia) appeared to increasingly use the same modus operandi as Iranians;

The Serbia-centred route remained attractive, as migrants continued trying to enter the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and move towards Serbia;

After reaching Serbia, migrants still preferred moving towards Bosnia and Herzegovina–Croatia and further north; the pressure at Hungary's border with Serbia also showed some signs of increase;

The migratory pressure along the route stemming from the Greek–Albanian border section continued at relatively stable levels compared to Q2; a slight increase in movements between Albania and Kosovo* was also observed;

Migrants travelling both via the Serbia-centred route and along the route stemming from the Greek–Albanian border continued to accumulate on Bosnia and Herzegovina's territory and project pressure further north towards Slovenia;

The irregular flow of citizens of Western Balkan countries slightly decreased and remained largely contained at the southern common borders with Greece;

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

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossings between BCPs

In the third quarter of 2018, WB-RAN data shows 10 805 illegal border-crossings between BCPs by **non-regional migrants**³ reported at the common and regional borders (Figure 2). Migrants continued to be largely detected while en-route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria through the Western Balkans, although some nationalities continued to reach the region legally by airplane before engaging in illegal border-crossing (e.g. Iranian or Turkish). Overall, the 10 805 reported detections represent a 39% increase compared with the previous quarter. The largest part of this increase was linked to the detections reported at the Greece – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Serbia borders which registered significant ups over Q2 (+56% and +152% respectively).

The pressure reported at Serbia's borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Croatia and Romania showed signs of increase during Q3 as migrants tried to move out of Serbia. Among these sections, the most significant numbers continued to be reported at Serbia's borders with Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The slight up in pressure at Serbia's common borders with Hungary, Romania and Croatia was a likely consequence of the continued arrivals to Serbia coupled with a re-enforcement of the regional border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

Importantly Iranians played a key role in the increases observed at most of the above-mentioned border sections, likely

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

Figure 2. Increased pressure recorded along the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia–Serbia–Bosnia and Herzegovina route; continued detections along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route

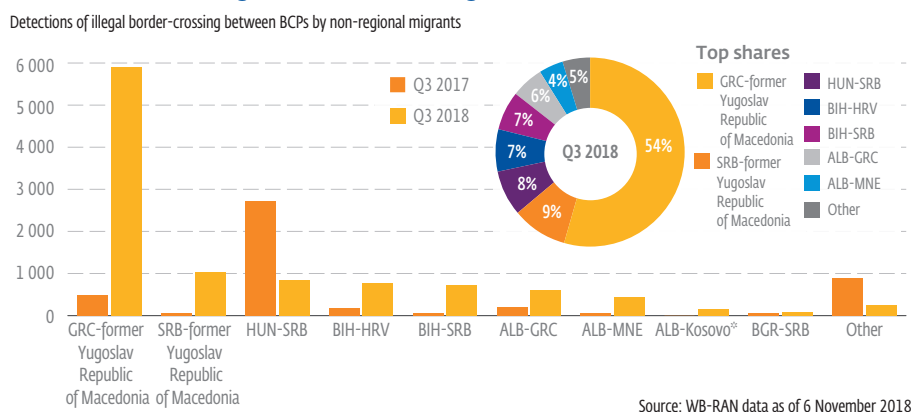
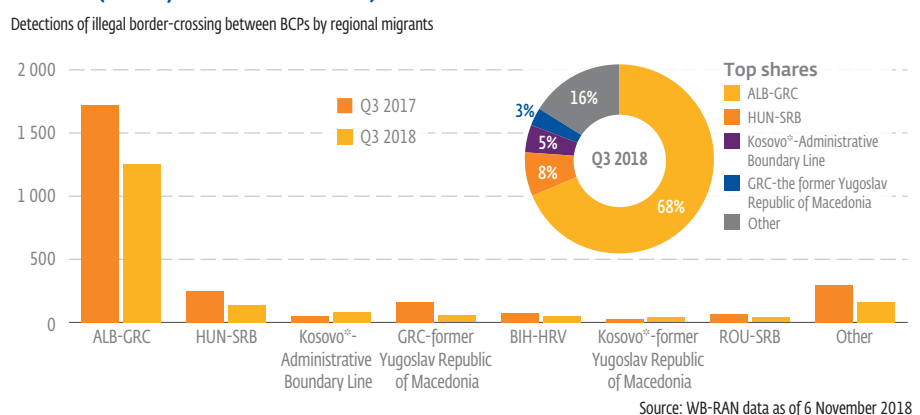


Figure 3. The overall pressure exerted by regional migrants was slightly lower than in the same quarter of 2017; detections were still reported at the southern common borders (Albanian circular migration) and to a lesser extent at the northern common borders (mainly Kosovo* nationals) with EU MS



as they were trying to move out of Serbia in all directions after misusing their visa-free access to this country. Other nationalities nonetheless contributed to the observed pressure as they were trying to travel north through the region.

The number of detections at the Bulgarian-Serbian border also increased in Q3. As previously mentioned, constant vigilance is required, given the fact that routing via Serbia appears to be again popular.

Sections along or adjacent to the route via Albania also continued to observe migration pressure, with Greece-Albania and Albania-Montenegro remaining the top reporting sections. Interestingly, the Albania-Kosovo* border registered an increase in detections during Q3, especially through August and September, a likely effect of the reinforcement of the Montenegrin-Albanian section.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's territory continued to be a junction point for migrants

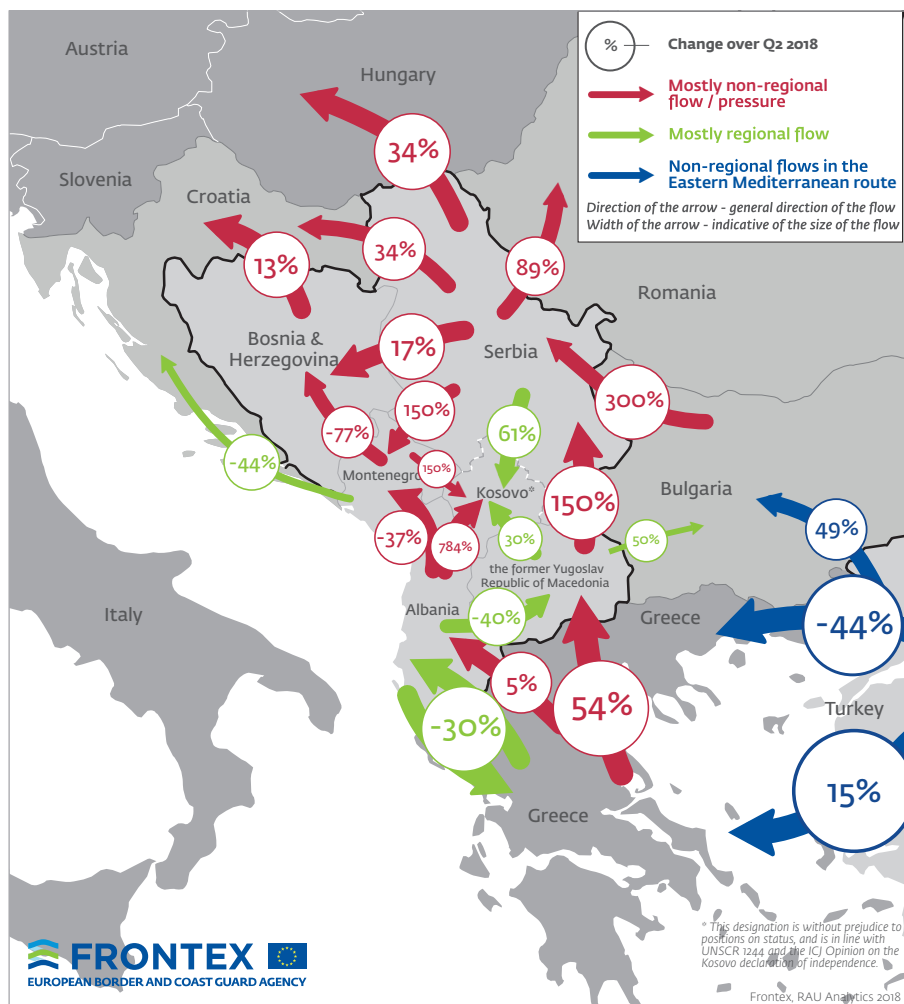


Figure 4. Continued pressure exerted by non-regional migrants along the Greece – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina route during Q3 2018. Signs of rise in pressure at Serbia's northern common borders with Hungary, Croatia and Romania (traditional exit points). Detections along the Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and Herzegovina route continued in Q3 with indications of a continued search for alternatives by migrants.

The regional flow continued to mainly affect the Greek-Albanian border

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q2 and Q3 2018 at particular border sections; main directions and composition of the flow

With a total of roughly 460 detections (-32% over Q2) Iraqis were the fifth most detected nationality in Q3 and moved both along the route via Albania and the one via Serbia.

It is worth noticing that Indians (271 – almost six-fold rise over Q2) were the seventh most detected non-regional migrants in Q3. The main detection areas and general movement directions may indicate that Indians misuse their visa-free access to Serbia (granted in September 2017) in order to move illegally to the EU, in a similar fashion to Iranians.

Overall, the number of detected **Western Balkan regional migrants**⁴ (1 823) registered a 22% decrease compared with the previous quarter. The decrease in detections was largely related to the number of reported Albanians (1 461 or a 29% decrease over Q2, largely due to fewer crossings at the Albanian-Greek border section). Detections of Kosovo* citizens (225) rose

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

travelling along the route via Albania and those moving via the Serbia-centred route.

Similar to previous quarters, the number of detections reported may not exactly correspond to the number of migrants. Specifically the same migrant may be detected at the same border multiple times (i.e. preventions of crossings but also at several different border sections while transiting the region).

Iranians (3 746 – 264% rise over Q2), Pakistanis (2 461 – 7% rise over Q2), Afghans (1 547 – 25% rise over Q2) and Syrians (914 – 29% decrease over Q2) were the top detected nationalities in Q3. The observed rise in detections of Iranians was largely linked to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's borders with Greece and Serbia and to a lesser extent Serbia's borders with Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Pakistanis and Afghans were largely associated with attempts to cross the border from Greece towards the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Subsequent detections were then observed at the Serbia-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia – Hungary border sections as they transited north through the region. They were also observed along the route stemming from the Greece-Albania border section but in lower numbers compared with the situation along the route via the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Meanwhile, Syrians continued to be largely reported along the Greece-Albania – Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina route albeit their overall numbers decreased.

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

33%, over Q2. The three remaining nationalities also registered slight increases but their overall numbers remained modest.

The majority (72%) 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). Migrants detected at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region accounted for 15% of the regional total and involved mainly Kosovo* citizens and, to a lesser extent, Albanians and Serbs.

Facilitators

A total of 171 facilitators were detected at the regional level in the third quarter

of 2018, a number 15% below that of the previous three-month period.

The number of detections reported at Serbia's northern common border with Hungary slightly increased in Q3, coinciding with a slight up in the migration pressure exerted by non-regional migrants at the same section.

The Greek-Albanian border section reported the second-largest number of facilitators in Q3 while detections also continued being reported either at the borders or within the territories of the countries along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and-Herzegovina-Croatia route.

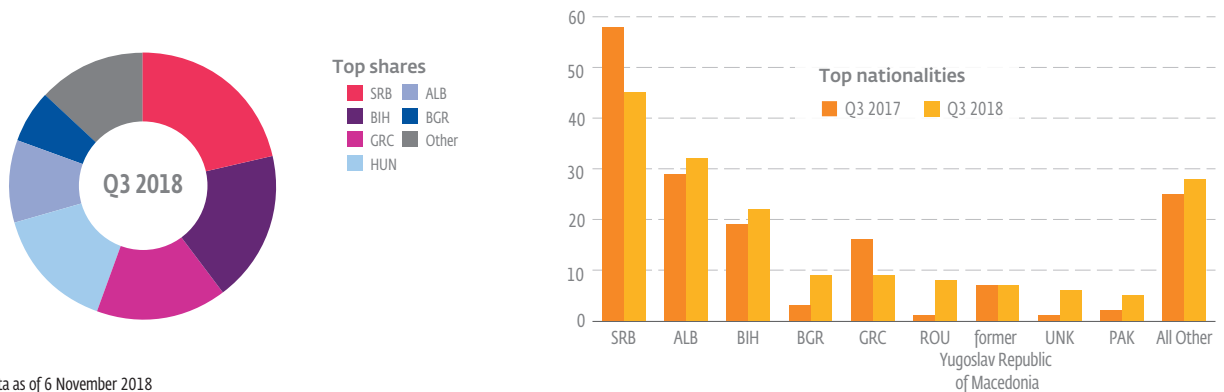
It is worth observing that the number of facilitators reported at the Bulgarian-Serbian

border also increased in Q3 coinciding with an observed rise in migration pressure at the same section.

Roughly 64% of all facilitators detected in the period under review were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 22% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 14% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown nationality'. Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece and Hungary reported the highest shares of facilitators detected in Q3.

Figure 5. **The number of people smugglers rose 6% compared to the same quarter of 2017 and the main locations of detections slightly changed between different parts of the region**

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 6 November 2018

Border checks

In Q3 2018, a total of 795 **non-regional migrants** were detected while attempting to illegally cross the borders via BCPs, largely by hiding in vehicles, a number roughly 51% and 149% above that of Q2 2018 and Q3 2017 respectively. The largest part of the increase over Q2 was due to more detections reported at Croatia's borders with Serbia and with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Additionally, 41 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported for clandestine travels at BCPs.

Document fraud

In the third quarter of 2018, there were 495 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan partners, a 33% rise compared to the previous three-month period. This is the third highest quarterly number of document fraud detections since data collection began back in 2009 (after Q4 2017 and Q1 2018 respectively).

The largest part of the overall 33% increase in detections over Q2 is due to more cases recorded by Serbia, especially at its airports and to lesser extents its land borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Hungary. Albania also reported more detections of document fraud cases compared with Q2, especially at its sea border.

At regional level, Albanians were the most detected document fraudsters, ahead of Kosovo*, Iranian and Turkish citizens. The number of Turkish nationals decreased by 31% while, Albanian, Kosovo* and Iranian document fraudsters recorded 26%, 24% and 165% ups over Q2 respectively.

Serbia remained the top reporting country in the region, followed by Albania, Bosnia

and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively.

Passports and ID cards were the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 43 forged residence permits, 46 visas and 6 border stamps were detected. The large majority of ID cards, residence permits and visas continued to be EU Member States' documents.

As regards false passports, 89 out of the detected 257 were reportedly issued by countries from the region, with Albania ranking first (largely used by Albanians). A total of 50 EU MSs false passports were detected, most of which Greek, French, German, Spanish and Swedish.

Refusals of entry

In the period under review, the number of refusals of entry increased by 9% compared with the previous quarter: reaching roughly 13 700.

Albanians remained the most refused nationality, receiving roughly 33% of all issued decisions in spite of an 18% decrease compared with Q2. Serbs were the second most numerous recipients of refusals of entry, with a 13% share of the total and relatively stable number compared with Q2. The nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to rank third, accounting for a 7% share of the total decisions at regional level after their numbers dropped by 24% compared with Q2.

The citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia fourth most refused nationality at regional level, closely followed by Turkish nationals.

Iranian nationals received two times more refusals of entry compared with Q2 and

ranked eighth among the most refused nationalities. This increase in refusals was by and large linked to Serbia's air borders. Their numbers will likely decrease in the future considering that Serbia cancelled their visa-free access in October in a move which will significantly reduce the overall Iranian passenger traffic to Belgrade.

Indian and Chinese citizens who also enjoy a visa-free regime in Serbia were the tenth and eleventh most refused nationalities in Q3 respectively, both being targeted by significantly more decisions compared with Q2 (+135% for Indians and +37% for Chinese).

Overall in Q3 the vast majority of refusals of entry continued being issued at land borders (91%), while almost all of the remaining 9% were recorded at air borders, which reported 30% more such decisions when compared with Q2.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries (86%), Turkish (4%) and Afghan (3%) nationals. In turn, among those refused entry by the authorities of the six regional partners, 27% were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 28% nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, 7% Iranian, 5% Turkish, 5% Indian and 3% Chinese nationals.

Only 31 Georgians were refused entry by the six Western Balkans partners during Q3, the second lowest number since these nationals became visa-free travellers to the EU. This decrease appears related to the fact that Serbia granted visa-free access to Georgians after March and Montenegro after June 2018. Previously, Serbia was refusing high numbers of Georgians as these nationals were unaware that a visa-free regime to the EU did not automatically

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

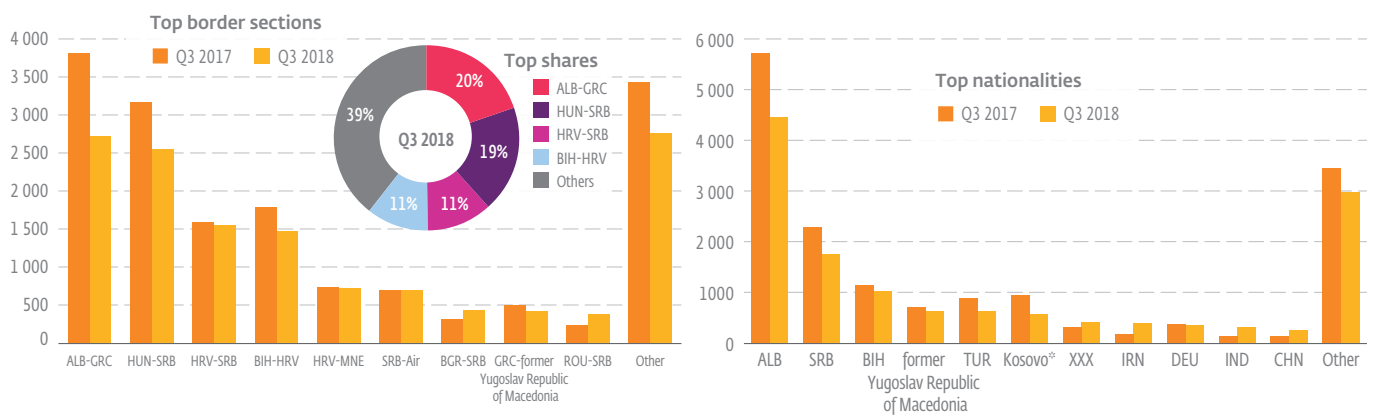
give them access to the Western Balkans. Overall, the top nationalities associated with the non-regional flow transiting by land (Pakistanis, Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis) received less than 3 % of all refusals of entry

issued at regional level. Nonetheless, all of these nationalities did receive significantly higher numbers of refusal of entry compared with Q2 (+51 % for Pakistanis, + 100 % for Syrians, + 64 % for Afghans and +175 %

for Iraqis) a development indicating that transiting migrants continue looking for alternative travel options, even by transiting through BCPs without fulfilling the conditions of travel.

Figure 6. Turkish nationals continued to rank high among the top refused nationalities; Chinese, Iranians and Indians all ranked among the top eleven recipients of refusal decisions.

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 6 November 2018

Situation in the Western Balkans

Illegal stay on the territories of the six Western Balkan partners

In Q3 2018, roughly 9 600 detections of illegal stay were reported by the six Western Balkan partners, a number 31% higher compared with the previous quarter and almost thirteen times that of the corresponding three-month period of 2017. This increase was largely due to a continued rise in detections of non-regional migrants reported by Bosnia and Herzegovina and to a lesser extent by Albania.

Similar to the last two quarters and opposite to previous periods, when they accounted for the largest share of detections at regional level, during Q3 2018 the citizens from the six regional partners were outranked by non-regional nationalities associated with the migration flow transiting the region. Specifically only 4% of the total illegal stayers reported in Q3 2018 were represented by citizens from the region, less than 1% were nationals of EU MSs while the remaining 95% were third country nationals from outside the region.

Pakistanis, Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Libyans or Palestinians, generally do not regard the region as a destination but rather an area to cross on the way towards Western Europe, and are nationalities directly linked to the non-regional transiting flow. Similarly, Iranians generally reach the Balkans legally by air before trying to move towards the EU illegally. Thus a look at these nationalities' performance against the illegal stay indicator on the territories of the six Western Balkan partners could give some indication as to the general situation in the region.

A total of around 8 000 of the abovementioned nationals were detected staying illegally by the six regional partners in Q3, a number 31% higher than the one registered by the same nationalities during the previous three-month period (i.e. 6 100).

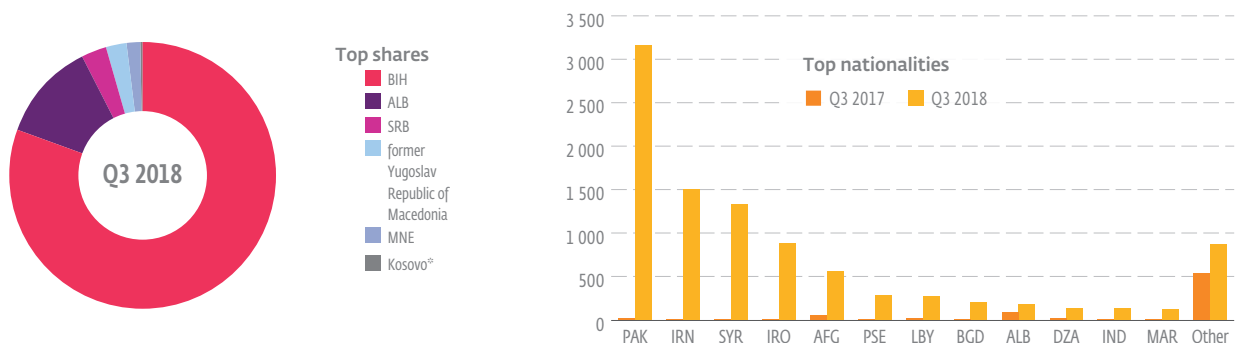
Bosnia and Herzegovina registered a 30% rise over Q2, reporting the largest part of the around 8 000 detections of the

mentioned nationals in the region. Albania also registered a 38% increase reaching a total of around 1 000. Meanwhile the numbers reported by the other regional partners remained largely on a par with those in Q2 2018.

A high number of illegal stayers of same nationalities as migrants associated with the non-regional transiting flow might indicate that the region is more difficult to transit. Also, the discrepancy between the reported illegal stayers and the illegal border-crossings at certain borders can also indicate undetected crossings.

Meanwhile, a high number of detected illegal stayers in Albania also indicates difficulties the migrants encounter in leaving the country. This situation can be corroborated through the enhanced prevention measures implemented by Montenegro and also through an increased pressure on the Albania-Kosovo* section in Q3.

Figure 7. **More non-regional persons detected as illegal stayers, especially by Bosnia and Herzegovina and to a lesser extent by Albania. Bosnia and Herzegovina receives pressure from both the Serbia-centred route and the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border section.**



Source: WB-RAN data as of 6 November 2018

II. Statistical annex

LEGEND

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

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 10 November 2018,
unless otherwise indicated

Note: 'Member States' in the tables refer to FRAN Member
States, including both 28 EU Member states
and three Schengen Associated Countries

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

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Five Sections									
Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	809	656	1 265	1 249	3 874	5 949	807	54	47
Albania-Land-Greece	1 867	1 924	2 424	2 404	2 371	1 852	-3,7	-22	15
Serbia-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	117	76	70	101	414	1 034	1 261	150	8,2
Hungary-Land-Serbia	1 074	2 971	1 883	851	736	987	-67	34	7,8
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	127	259	394	382	726	819	216	13	6,5
All Other	1 390	1 485	1 141	1 681	1 975	1 987	34	0,6	16
Top Ten Nationalities									
Iran	93	79	243	262	1 029	3 746	4 642	264	30
Pakistan	921	1 991	1 459	966	2 304	2 461	24	6,8	19
Afghanistan	594	1 478	993	842	1 233	1 547	4,7	25	12
Albania	2 138	1 997	2 423	1 853	2 056	1 461	-27	-29	12
Syria	246	197	322	1 127	1 285	914	364	-29	7,2
Iraq	487	94	279	262	679	460	389	-32	3,6
Libya	48	98	179	266	527	335	242	-36	2,7
India	28	51	41	27	49	271	431	453	2,1
Kosovo ^o	224	432	283	211	169	225	-48	33	1,8
Palestine	8	29	21	116	97	209	621	115	1,7
All Other	597	925	934	736	668	999	8	50	7,9
Total	5 384	7 371	7 177	6 668	10 096	12 628	71	25	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 2. **Illegal border-crossing at BCPs**

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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Clandestine/Other									
Clandestine	791	424	447	649	443	669	58	51	80
Other	72	91	54	100	115	167	84	45	20
Top Five Sections									
Croatia-Land-Serbia	653	71	104	506	301	404	469	34	48
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	1	10	12	22	95	150	1 400	58	18
Montenegro - Air	20	21	5	5	27	81	286	200	9.7
Hungary-Land-Serbia	21	7	16	76	33	51	629	55	6.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia	32	21	20	66	56	44	110	-21	5.3
All Other	136	385	344	74	46	106	-72	130	13
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	667	73	122	365	224	339	364	51	41
Pakistan	45	12	6	140	100	117	875	17	14
Iran	1	:	9	49	55	78	n.a.	42	9.3
Bangladesh	:	:	:	15	24	49	n.a.	104	5.9
Iraq	14	23	24	18	38	41	78	7.9	4.9
France	7	9	1	1	12	34	278	183	4.1
Syria	27	37	50	9	24	23	-38	-4.2	2.8
Libya	10	13	17	8	4	17	31	325	2
Germany	7	15	6	2	6	16	6.7	167	1.9
Kosovo ^o	5	14	19	53	8	12	-14	50	1.4
All Other	80	319	247	89	63	110	-66	75	13
Total	863	515	501	749	558	836	62	50	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 3. **Facilitators**

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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	122	132	184	161	145	133	0.8	-8.3	78
Inland	49	24	51	35	54	36	50	-33	21
Air	:	:	4	:	:	2	n.a.	n.a.	1.2
Sea	2	5	5	3	1	:	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	71	58	81	51	46	45	-22	-2.2	26
Albania	34	29	43	57	57	32	10	-44	19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	19	10	10	30	22	16	-27	13
Greece	22	16	18	9	13	9	-44	-31	5.3
Bulgaria	5	3	10	10	1	9	200	800	5.3
Romania	:	1	12	2	2	8	700	300	4.7
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	7	6	12	8	7	0	-13	4.1
Unknown	5	1	9	4	3	6	500	100	3.5
Pakistan	3	2	5	5	5	5	150	0	2.9
Turkey	3	4	7	4	4	4	0	0	2.3
All Other	25	21	43	35	31	24	14	-23	14
Total	173	161	244	199	200	171	6.2	-15	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 4. **Illegal stay**

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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Inland	776	752	1 177	1 506	7 369	9 638	1 182	31	91
Land	1 479	2 534	2 484	1 713	1 484	946	-63	-36	8.9
Sea	:	:	:	1	:	:	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Top Ten Nationalities									
Pakistan	43	17	49	115	2 258	3 166	18 524	40	30
Iran	8	7	47	63	792	1 508	21 443	90	14
Syria	12	19	26	286	1 140	1 332	6 911	17	13
Iraq	24	4	22	49	630	879	21 875	40	8.3
Serbia	1 061	1 612	1 682	1 148	1 098	608	-62	-45	5.7
Afghanistan	40	56	13	61	854	564	907	-34	5.3
Albania	173	287	450	269	305	310	8	1.6	2.9
Palestine	1	2	6	64	107	286	14 200	167	2.7
Libya	1	13	25	112	324	276	2 023	-15	2.6
Bangladesh	:	2	2	1	34	202	10 000	494	1.9
All Other	892	1 267	1 339	1 052	1 311	1 453	15	11	14
Total	2 255	3 286	3 661	3 220	8 853	10 584	222	20	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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	11 797	14 808	12 662	10 268	11 544	12 464	-16	8	91
Air	694	1 347	1 447	944	915	1 192	-12	30	8.7
Sea	32	35	16	:	26	13	-63	-50	0.1
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	5 909	5 715	7 224	4 328	5 431	4 456	-22	-18	33
Serbia	1 715	2 271	1 787	2 016	1 722	1 746	-23	1.4	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 068	1 135	1 036	1 200	1 334	1 008	-11	-24	7.4
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	436	691	476	598	507	615	-11	21	4.5
Turkey	524	873	831	746	643	612	-30	-4.8	4.5
Kosovo*	303	941	268	307	286	555	-41	94	4.1
Other and stateless	150	299	113	93	99	414	38	318	3
Iran	20	167	319	159	181	388	132	114	2.8
Germany	146	374	84	71	180	354	-5	97	2.6
India	46	138	281	151	130	305	121	135	2.2
All Other	2 206	3 586	1 706	1 543	1 972	3 216	-10	63	24
Total	12 523	16 190	14 125	11 212	12 485	13 669	-16	9.5	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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Syria	3 093	5 053	5 155	4 626	6 856	3 958	-22	-42	18
Afghanistan	2 193	2 657	2 492	1 723	2 712	3 755	41	38	17
Iraq	2 089	3 781	3 869	3 236	3 100	3 046	-19	-1.7	14
Pakistan	2 355	2 674	2 384	2 063	2 692	2 998	12	11	13
Turkey	350	786	760	443	878	2 003	155	128	9
Albania	688	741	696	751	861	878	18	2	3.9
Palestine	161	337	247	242	418	684	103	64	3.1
Iran	432	441	444	436	603	634	44	5.1	2.8
Bangladesh	359	437	356	365	342	479	9.6	40	2.2
Congo (D.R.)	407	91	162	280	272	458	403	68	2.1
All Other	2 266	2 592	2 799	2 271	2 968	3 369	30	14	15
Total	14 393	19 590	19 364	16 436	21 702	22 262	14	2.6	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 7. Persons using false documents

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

	2017			2018			2018 Q3		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	184	199	387	325	214	261	31	22	53
Air	88	152	255	168	135	173	14	28	35
Sea	21	37	34	40	24	61	65	154	12
Not specified	.	2	13	.	.	.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Document Type									
Passports	159	228	426	304	203	257	13	27	52
ID cards	82	93	134	103	69	91	-2,2	32	18
Not specified	15	2	14	3	14	52	2 500	271	11
Visas	19	34	48	30	28	46	35	64	9,3
Residence permit	18	25	56	48	22	43	72	95	8,7
Stamps	.	8	11	45	37	6	-25	-84	1,2
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	104	126	169	100	97	122	-3	26	25
Kosovo*	68	90	118	129	68	84	-6,7	24	17
Iran	7	24	190	68	31	82	242	165	17
Turkey	17	35	74	86	85	59	69	-31	12
Afghanistan	6	17	13	9	3	25	47	733	5,1
Serbia	36	19	40	27	23	18	-5,3	-22	3,6
Pakistan	3	11	13	13	2	13	18	550	2,6
India	3	13	5	9	.	13	0	n.a.	2,6
China	20	3	15	13	10	11	267	10	2,2
Timor-Leste	9	n.a.	n.a.	1,8
All Other	29	52	52	79	54	59	13	9,3	12
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Albania	56	69	81	73	65	81	17	25	16
Turkey	3	13	32	47	53	64	392	21	13
Italy	63	47	85	50	27	48	2,1	78	9,7
Greece	18	35	36	26	18	36	2,9	100	7,3
Serbia	29	31	55	43	33	27	-13	-18	5,5
Germany	11	13	41	16	26	26	100	0	5,3
Iran	.	1	21	15	7	24	2 300	243	4,8
France	12	19	64	21	23	23	21	0	4,6
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11	13	33	43	12	14	7,7	17	2,8
United Kingdom	1	3	21	14	8	14	367	75	2,8
All Other	89	146	220	185	101	138	-5,5	37	28
Total	293	390	689	533	373	495	27	33	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 refers to total detections reported by WB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by EU Member States.



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