

Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 4 • OCTOBER–DECEMBER 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
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).

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 and so 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 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

WB-RAN Indicator	Q4 2016	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	% change on same quarter last year	% change on previous quarter
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	8 983	7 371	7 176	-20	-2.6
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	358	515	500	40	-2.9
Facilitators	266	161	241	-9.4	50
Illegal stay	1 514	3 286	3 645	141	11
Refusals of entry	13 733	16 190	14 074	2.5	-13
Asylum applications ²	30 469	19	950	-37	-2.1
False travel-document users	237	390	689	191	76.6

² Applications for asylum for EU Member States include all applications received in the territory of the countries and are not limited to those made at Western Balkan borders

Key findings

The number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional² migrants recorded at the green borders decreased in Q4 2017 compared with Q3 2017; it was also lower than that reported in the corresponding quarters over the previous five years.

Further indication that migrants are searching for alternative routing to bypass the enhanced controls on the main Serbia-centred corridor was observed in Q4:

- In November and December 2017, more non-regional migrants were observed travelling south (across the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Greece) than in the opposite direction;
- The previously observed increase in migration pressure along the Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia

sub-route continued into Q4; migratory pressure could further increase.

A slightly higher number of non-regional migrants detected for illegal stay within the region tends to indicate that the enhanced border controls are efficient in preventing easy transit through the Western Balkans.

A rise in the number of facilitators may indicate increased demand for such services, which are used in order to bypass enhanced border control measures.

The irregular flow of citizens of Western Balkan countries remained largely contained at the southern common borders with Greece.

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

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossings

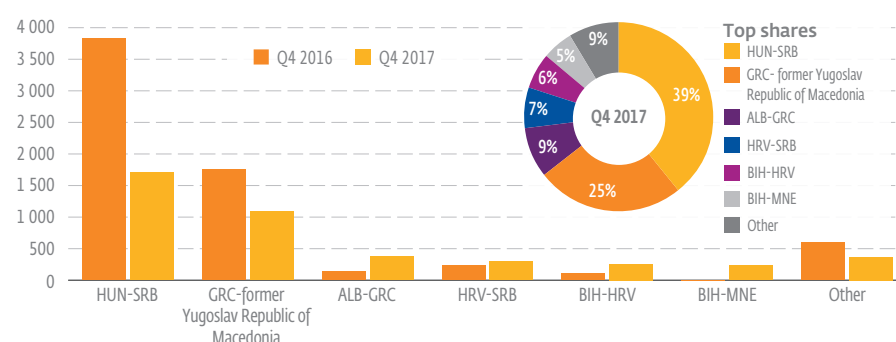
In the fourth quarter of 2017, WB-RAN data show 4 328 illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants³ en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria reported at the common and regional borders (see Fig. 2). This represents an 8% decrease compared with Q3 2017. The total reported number remained at a level similar to that of Q1 2017. Moreover, in comparison to the corresponding three-month period of previous years, Q4 2017 registered the lowest number of detections since Q4 2010.

Additional information⁴ indicates that Bulgaria also prevented 114 crossing attempts on exit towards Serbia during the last quarter of 2017. The number was below that reported in the previous three-month period and even lower when compared with the first quarter of 2017 (i.e. roughly 234 and 1 090, respectively). The low number of detections indicates that the pressure on this area is continuing to ease off, which is a likely result of the reinforced border-controls that disrupt irregular travel via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkan routes.

The number of detected illegal border-crossings registered in Q4 2017 was largely linked to the sustained pressure exerted on the Hungarian-Serbian border and, to a lesser extent, on other sections, (e.g. those along the Greece-Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route) from where increases over the previous period

Figure 2. A low number of attempts to enter the Western Balkans region through the southern common borders with the EU; an increase recorded along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route; sustained pressure exerted on the Hungary-Serbia section, likely linked to multiple attempts to cross made by migrants staying in Serbia

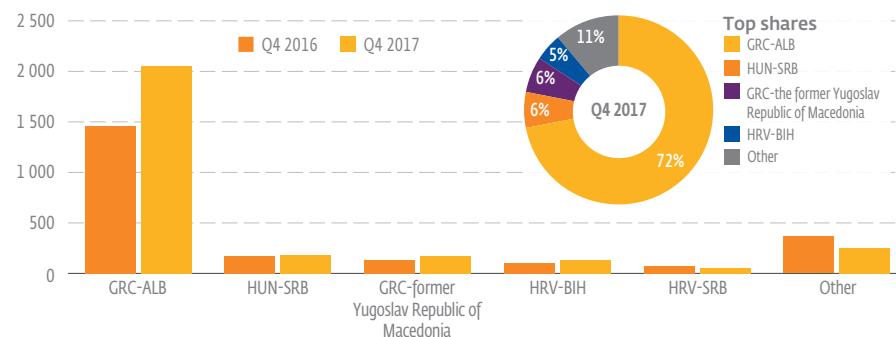
Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs by non-regional migrants



Source: WB-RAN data as of 22 January 2018

Figure 3. The overall pressure exerted by regional migrants was 23% higher than in the same quarter of 2016. It was largely linked to the rise in the number of detections reported at the southern common borders (Albanian circular migration); the number of detections made at the northern common borders was largely on a par with that of Q4 2016 involving mostly Kosovo* and, to a lesser extent, Albanian citizens

Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs by regional migrants



Source: WB-RAN data as of 22 January 2018

were reported. The sustained high pressure exerted on the Hungarian-Serbian border section was probably connected with migrants who had been stranded in Serbia trying to exit the region several times and, to a lesser extent, by new

arrivals from Turkey, Bulgaria or Greece. On the other hand, the continued pressure along the Greece-Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route has indicated that migrants are still trying to bypass existing security measures

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

4 WB Daily information exchange data as of 4 August 2017

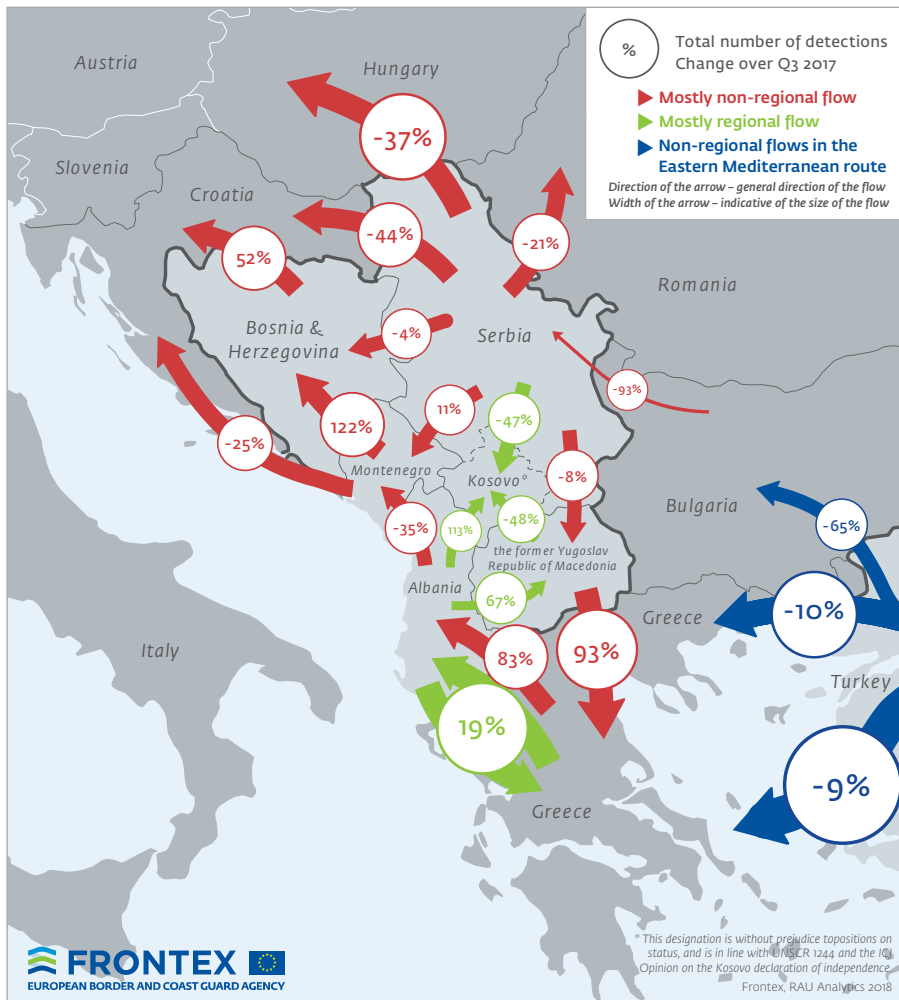


Figure 4. New arrivals were registered on the Eastern Mediterranean sea and land routes in Q4, despite the expected seasonal decrease. However, a low number of non-regional migrants attempted to enter the Western Balkans across the southern common borders with Greece and Bulgaria; migration flows moving towards Greece were observed. An increase in pressure along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia corridor was registered

The size of the regional flow increased slightly but was largely limited to the Greek-Albanian border

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q3 and Q4 2017 at particular border sections; main directions and composition of the flow

with the fact that they travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina legally and subsequently, attempt to exit towards Croatia illegally. For Syrians, the increase was largely linked to higher numbers of detections at the Albanian-Greek border. Iraqis were reported in higher numbers at the northern common border between Hungary and Serbia. Meanwhile, Iranians were largely detected travelling south from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia towards Greece, and, to a lesser extent, north towards Hungary, Croatia or Romania from Serbia.

Overall, the number of detected **Western Balkan regional migrants**⁵ (2 848) registered an 8% rise over the previous quarter. Their number reached a peak in October when it registered the highest value of 2017 before significantly declining in size throughout November and December. The increase in the number of Kosovo* migrants observed in September (possibly exacerbated by the media alleging a new

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

along the main route via Serbia. This is supported by the fact that the size of the flow of non-regional migrants reported travelling south from the Western Balkans to Greece surpassed that of migrants moving in the traditional northern direction in both November and December 2017.

As in previous quarters, the size of the flow detected en route throughout the region may actually be smaller than the reporting indicates, given that the same migrant may have been detected at the same border many times but also at several different border sections while transiting the region.

Pakistanis and Afghans remained the top two detected nationalities in Q4 2017. Overall, the number of both these nationalities

decreased significantly compared with the previous quarter (27% and 33%, respectively), largely due to fewer detections made at the Hungarian-Serbian border section. Nonetheless, more of the above mentioned nationals were reported at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, mainly travelling south towards Greece (especially in the case of Afghans).

In the period under review, Syrians ranked third, Iraqis fourth, Algerians fifth, Iranians sixth and Turks seventh as regards the most often detected nationalities. While the number of Algerians remained stable compared with Q3, the detections involving the remaining nationalities increased significantly, ranging from 42% for Turks, 63% for Syrians to 197% for Iraqis and 208% for Iranians. The rise in the number of Turks is associated

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

large outflows from this area) largely subsided during Q4.

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). Migrants detected at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region continued to involve Kosovo* citizens (trying to reach Hungary and Croatia) and, to a lesser extent, Albanians and Serbs.

Facilitators

A total of 241 facilitators were detected at the regional level in the last quarter of

2017, a number 50% above that of the previous three-month period.

Given that migrants can no longer rely on the transportation services provided by the authorities⁶ and need to bypass reinforced border-control measures, the demand for facilitation services could in fact be high.

The rise in the number of facilitators observed in Q4, despite the slight decrease in the reported illegal border-crossings by non-regional nationals, is largely in line with this hypothesis.

Significant increases in detected facilitators were reported at the northern common borders of Serbia with Romania

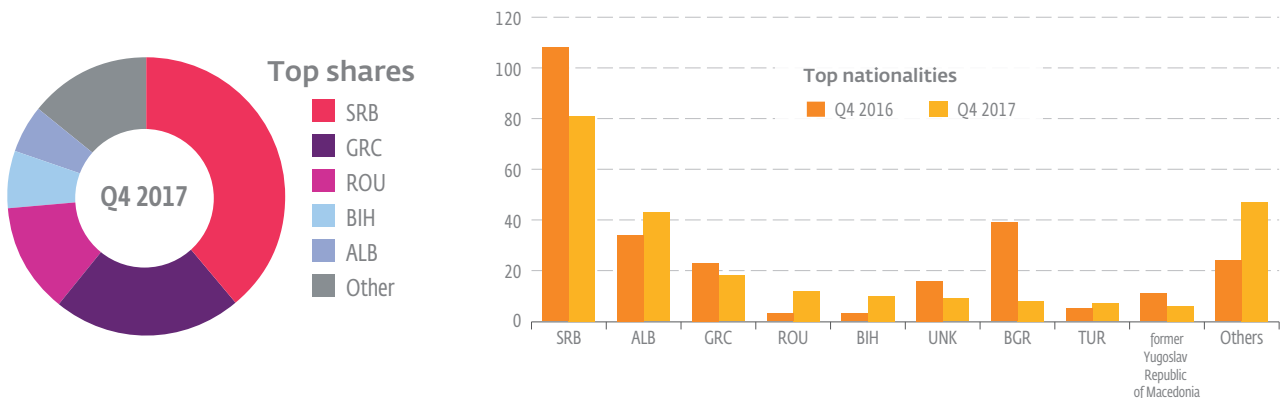
and Croatia and, to a lesser extent, with Hungary.

Roughly 59% of all facilitators detected in the period under review were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 23% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 8% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown' nationality. The highest share of detected facilitators was still reported by Serbia, most of whom were Serbian nationals, followed by Greece, which reported mostly Albanians and Greeks.

⁶ i.e. organised transportation offered by the authorities through the region during the crisis period (WB transit corridor)

Figure 5. The number of people smugglers detected in Q4 2017 was lower than that of the corresponding quarter of 2016 but rose in relation to Q3 2017

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 22 January 2018

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In Q4 2017, a total of 219 **non-regional migrants** were detected while attempting to illegally cross the borders via BCPs, largely by hiding in vehicles, a number roughly 7% and 4% below those of the previous three-month period and Q4 2016, respectively. A sharp drop in the number of detections reported at the Albanian-Greek border section led to a decrease in the overall number recorded in Q4 2017, despite a rise reported once more by Serbia at its common border with Croatia.

Additionally, 204 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported for clandestine travel at BCPs, with the Albanian-Greek border registering most detections, by and large of Albanians.

Document fraud

In the last quarter of 2017, 689 cases of false document use were reported by the six Western Balkan countries, a number 76% and 191% higher compared with the previous three-month period and Q4 2016, respectively. This increase was mainly linked to detections reported by Serbia at its land borders with Hungary and Croatia and at its airports. The abovementioned increases reported by Serbia were also largely related to more detections of Iranian and, to a lesser extent, Turkish fraudsters.

Iranians were the most detected document fraudsters, ahead of Albanian, Kosovo* and Turkish citizens, who tend to top that list. Together these four nationalities accounted for 80% of all detections at the regional level.

The number of Iranians increased significantly in the period under review. This development might be linked to Belgrade's decision to grant Iranian nationals visa-free travel for 30 days in one year.

A total of 15 Chinese nationals were also reported for document fraud in Q4, making them the sixth most detected nationality of document fraudsters.

The number of Indian nationals detected while trying to cross the borders using document fraud, decreased compared with the third quarter (from 13 to 5).

Serbia remained the top reporting country, followed by Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively.

Passports, ID cards and residence permits were the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 48 forged visas and 11 stamps were detected. The large majority of ID cards (130 out of 134), residence permits (55 out of 56) and visas (42 out of 48) were EU Member States' documents, as they allow the holder free-movement within the EU/Schengen area.

As regards false passports, 180 out of the detected 426 were reportedly issued by countries from the region, with Albania ranking first (largely used by Albanians in an attempt to circumvent entry bans imposed due to previous visa liberalisation misuse).

Refusals of entry

In the period under review, the number of refusals of entry decreased by 13% compared with the previous quarter: from approximately 16 200 to 14 100 and was roughly on a par with the corresponding

quarter of 2016 (+2%). All the other reporting countries, with the exception of Greece and Romania (which issued a higher number of refusals of entry, largely to Albanians), registered significant decreases over the previous three-month reporting period.

Albanians remained the most refused nationality, receiving roughly 51% of all issued decisions; their number rose by 26% compared with Q3. Among the rest of the top ten nationalities refused entry, only the number of Iranians and Indians increased compared with Q3 (by 91% and 104%, respectively), which might be the consequence of the visa exemption decisions taken by Serbia.

Turkish nationals continued to rank high among refused persons, occupying the fourth place despite registering a 5% decrease in relation to Q3.

As usual, the vast majority of refusals of entry was issued at land borders (90%), while most of the remaining 10% was recorded at air borders.

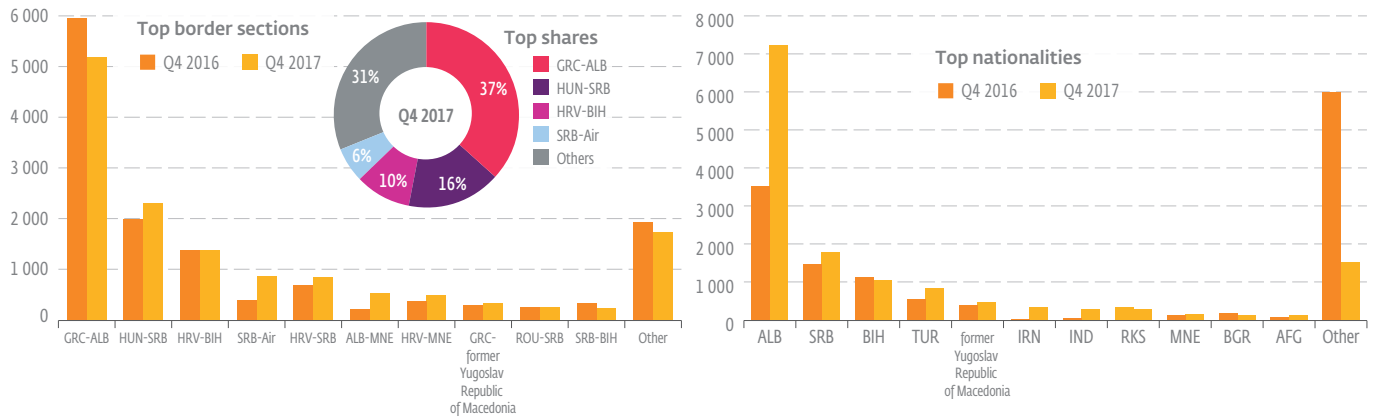
Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries (91%). In turn, among those refused entry by the authorities of the six regional partners, 32% were nationals of Western Balkans, 31% nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, and 9% Turkish nationals.

While the total number of Georgian nationals refused entry by the six regional countries rose in Q2 and Q3, it decreased in the reporting period (i.e. from 125 and 182 in Q2 and Q3, respectively, to 96 in Q4). Nevertheless, the number of refusal decisions

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 6. Turkish nationals still ranked high among the top refused nationalities; Iranians and Indians ranked among the top ten recipients of refusal decisions

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 22 January 2018

issued to Georgians in Q4 is considerably higher than that reported in previous quarters, before they became visa-free travellers to the EU⁷. The higher number of refusals of entry received by Georgians indicates increased mobility of these citizens coupled with their lack of knowledge

regarding the fact that the visa liberalisation for the EU does not grant them visa-free access also to the Western Balkan countries.

The number of refusals of entry issued to Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis, Algerians or

Pakistanis (nationalities generally associated with the non-regional transiting flow) remained relatively low in Q4. Nonetheless, all these nationalities, especially Afghans, continued to be refused entry mostly at the Croatian-Serbian border.

⁷ Georgians became visa-free travelers to the EU starting from 28 March 2017

Situation in the Western Balkans

Illegal stay in the Western Balkan countries

In Q4 2017, 1 177 detections of illegal stay were reported by the six Western Balkan countries, a number 57% higher compared with both the previous quarter and the corresponding three-month period of 2016.

As regards the top nationalities of illegal stayers, citizens from the six regional partners continued to account for the largest share of detections made in the quarter under review (roughly 41%), with Serbs ranking first, followed by Albanian and Kosovo* citizens.

Citizens of EU Member States were also reported for illegally staying in the six Western Balkan countries. These persons accounted for approximately 16% of all detections reported during the fourth quarter.

The remaining 43% share of detections was linked to citizens of third countries from outside the region and persons of 'unknown' nationality. 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, who generally do not regard the region as their final destination but rather an area to cross on the way towards Western Europe, are nationalities directly linked to the non-regional transiting flow.

A total of 134 of the abovementioned illegally staying nationals were detected by the six regional partners in Q4 (11% of the regional total), a number 33% above that of the previous three-month period (i.e. 101). Afghans were detected in lower numbers, while the number of the other four nationalities increased.

The increased number of illegal stayers from these countries might also indicate that enhanced border controls are making the region more difficult to transit, which means that migrants have 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

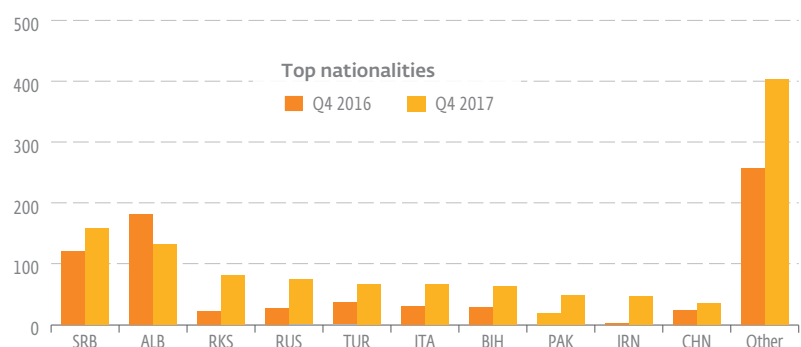
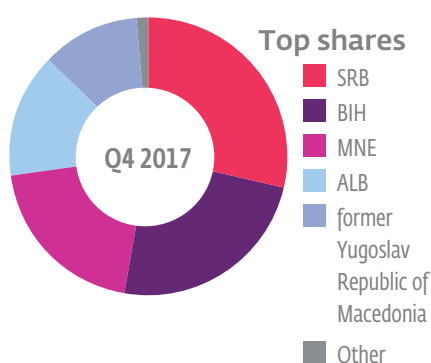
partners and the detected illegal stayers of the corresponding nationalities.

Although this discrepancy between the two indicators continued into Q4 2017, its magnitude decreased. Specifically, in the reporting period, the ratio between illegal border-crossings between BCPs by some of the top non-regional nationalities detected by the six Western Balkan partners (Afghans, Pakistanis, Algerians, Syrians and Iraqis) and illegal stayers of the same citizenships was of one illegal stayer to every ten crossings in Q4 2017 (1 to 9 in Q3). By contrast, this ratio was of one illegal stayer to every 22 illegal border-crossings in Q1 2017 and one illegal stayer to 33 illegal border-crossings in Q3 2016.

The numbers of Iranian and Chinese nationals detected for illegally staying in the Western Balkan countries also rose in Q4 2017. They were largely detected by Serbia, which may suggest that it is linked to the visa-free travel they began to enjoy in this country.

Figure 7. Iranian and Chinese citizens were among the top ten nationalities of the detected illegal stayers, largely reported by Serbia

Illegal stayers, by top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 22 January 2018

II. Statistical annex

LEGEND

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

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 22 January 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, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Five Sections									
Albania-Land-Greece	1 407	1 603	1 939	1 867	1 924	2 424	51	26	34
Hungary-Land-Serbia	5 006	4 002	2 900	1 074	2 971	1 883	-53	-37	26
Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6 078	1 891	1 056	809	656	1 265	-33	93	18
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	59	212	67	127	259	394	86	52	5.5
Croatia-Land-Serbia	731	308	214	253	631	354	15	-44	4.9
All Other	1 263	967	872	1 254	930	856	-11	-8.0	12
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	1 422	1 875	1 994	2 138	1 997	2 423	29	21	34
Pakistan	1 941	1 443	1 157	921	1 991	1 459	1.1	-27	20
Afghanistan	5 103	2 793	1 529	594	1 478	993	-64	-33	14
Syria	1 990	794	705	246	197	322	-59	63	4.5
Kosovo ^o	357	246	335	224	432	283	15	-34	3.9
Iraq	886	490	421	487	94	279	-43	197	3.9
Algeria	214	208	303	125	245	248	19	1.2	3.5
Iran	167	94	58	93	79	243	159	208	3.4
Turkey	161	90	50	85	154	219	143	42	3.1
Libya	42	22	54	48	98	179	n.a.	83	2.5
All Other	2 261	928	442	423	606	528	-43	-13	7.4
Total	14 544	8 983	7 048	5 384	7 371	7 176	-20	-2.6	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, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Five Sections									
Albania-Land-Greece	26	22	9	20	271	198	n.a.	-27	40
Croatia-Land-Serbia	337	211	746	653	71	104	-51	46	21
Albania-Land-Montenegro	25	2	0	3	37	49	n.a.	32	9.8
Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	4	18	0	2	31	n.a.	n.a.	6.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia	0	0	45	32	21	20	n.a.	-4.8	4.0
All Other	83	119	79	155	113	98	-18	-13	20
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	45	28	22	21	176	182	550	3.4	36
Afghanistan	263	198	674	667	73	121	-39	66	24
Syria	48	16	11	27	37	50	213	35	10
Iraq	1	10	7	14	23	24	140	4.3	4.8
Kosovo ^o	10	13	19	5	14	19	46	36	3.8
Libya	8	2	2	10	13	17	n.a.	31	3.4
Suriname	0	0	0	0	0	14	n.a.	n.a.	2.8
Algeria	7	7	7	9	83	13	86	-84	2.6
Turkey	9	5	2	5	9	9	80	0.0	1.8
Iran	2	5	8	1	0	9	80	n.a.	1.8
All Other	82	74	145	104	87	42	-43	-52	8.4
Total	475	358	897	863	515	500	40	-2.9	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, place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	265	226	149	122	132	181	-20	37	75
Inland	55	40	39	49	24	51	28	113	21
Sea	0	0	0	2	5	5	n.a.	0.0	2.1
Air	1	0	0	0	0	4	n.a.	n.a.	1.7
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	167	108	68	71	58	81	-25	40	34
Albania	30	34	32	34	29	43	26	48	18
Greece	20	23	20	22	16	18	-22	13	7.5
Romania	2	3	0	0	1	12	300	n.a.	5.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	3	9	4	19	10	233	-47	4.1
Not specified	17	16	4	5	1	9	-44	n.a.	3.7
Bulgaria	36	39	20	5	3	8	-79	167	3.3
Turkey	5	5	7	3	4	7	40	75	2.9
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10	11	5	1	7	6	-45	-14	2.5
Pakistan	5	3	1	3	2	5	67	150	2.1
All Other	27	21	22	25	21	42	100	100	17
Total	321	266	188	173	161	241	-9.4	50	100

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

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

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	896	765	576	1 479	2 534	2 468	223	-2.6	68
Inland	576	566	721	776	752	1 177	108	57	32
Not specified	202	183	30	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	617	589	514	1 061	1 612	1 675	184	3.9	46
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	83	89	88	289	654	480	439	-27	13
Albania	209	240	114	173	287	450	88	57	12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	45	69	103	104	127	182	22	3.5
Kosovo ^o	38	41	65	53	48	113	176	135	3.1
Russia	22	29	32	25	20	76	162	280	2.1
Montenegro	26	18	32	62	75	75	317	0.0	2.1
Turkey	69	45	31	55	47	71	58	51	1.9
Italy	25	30	29	51	28	66	120	136	1.8
Pakistan	36	26	18	43	17	49	88	188	1.3
All Other	493	362	335	340	394	463	28	18	13
Total	1 674	1 514	1 327	2 255	3 286	3 645	141	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.

Table 5. **Refusals of entry**

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

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Reporting Country									
Border Type									
Land	12 026	12 939	9 749	11 797	14 808	12 611	-2.5	-15	90
Air	794	772	548	694	1 347	1 447	87	7.4	10
Sea	37	22	4	32	35	16	-27	-54	0.1
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	3 653	3 507	4 589	5 909	5 715	7 210	106	26	51
Serbia	1 738	1 460	1 717	1 715	2 271	1 776	22	-22	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 019	1 126	1 107	1 068	1 135	1 036	-8.0	-8.7	7.4
Turkey	938	534	417	524	873	826	55	-5.4	5.9
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	507	381	483	436	691	459	20	-34	3.3
Iran	12	10	6	20	167	319	n.a.	91	2.3
India	26	28	34	46	138	281	n.a.	104	2.0
Kosovo ^o	617	326	254	303	941	268	-18	-72	1.9
Not specified	424	4 365	94	204	432	181	-96	-58	1.3
Montenegro	134	126	110	125	155	141	12	-9.0	1.0
All Other	3 789	1 870	1 490	2 173	3 672	1 577	-16	-57	11
Total	12 857	13 733	10 301	12 523	16 190	14 074	2.5	-13	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 6. **Applications for asylum**

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

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Syria	9 648	11 573	6 126	3 093	5 053	5 096	-56	0.9	27
Iraq	2 931	4 683	2 876	2 089	3 781	3 799	-19	0.5	20
Afghanistan	6 093	6 520	3 781	2 193	2 657	2 458	-62	-7.5	13
Pakistan	2 779	2 701	2 549	2 355	2 674	2 380	-12	-11	12
Turkey	115	197	236	350	786	760	286	-3.3	4.0
Albania	321	499	336	688	741	696	39	-6.1	3.6
Algeria	542	591	410	230	381	475	-20	25	2.5
Iran	571	692	538	432	441	438	-37	-0.7	2.3
Bangladesh	469	417	343	359	437	356	-15	-19	1.9
Georgia	165	233	227	278	304	306	31	0.7	1.6
All Other	1 902	2 363	3 287	2 326	2 335	2 421	2.5	3.7	13
Total	25 536	30 469	20 709	14 393	19 590	19 185	-37	-2.1	100

^{oo}Applications for asylum for EU Member States include all applications received in the territory of the countries and are not limited to those made at Western Balkan borders.

Table 7. Persons using false documents

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

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	149	179	212	184	199	387	116	94	56
Air	36	53	40	88	152	255	381	68	37
Sea	8	5	12	21	37	34	n.a.	-8.1	4.9
Not specified	0	0	0	0	2	13	n.a.	n.a.	1.9
Document Type									
Passports	118	121	135	159	228	426	252	87	62
ID cards	40	69	65	82	93	134	94	44	19
Residence permit	14	21	25	18	25	56	167	124	8.1
Visas	4	16	20	19	34	48	200	41	7.0
Not specified	8	7	9	15	2	14	100	n.a.	2.0
Stamps	9	3	10	0	8	11	267	38	1.6
Top Ten Nationalities									
Iran	4	5	2	7	24	190	n.a.	n.a.	28
Albania	83	87	91	104	126	169	94	34	25
Kosovo ^o	47	58	75	68	90	118	103	31	17
Turkey	6	10	24	17	35	74	n.a.	111	11
Serbia	15	12	27	36	19	40	233	111	5.8
China	0	0	1	20	3	15	n.a.	n.a.	2.2
Pakistan	2	12	2	3	11	13	8.3	18	1.9
Afghanistan	0	1	1	6	17	13	n.a.	-24	1.9
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	4	8	4	3	7	75	133	1.0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	4	5	n.a.	25	0.7
All Other	33	48	33	28	58	45	-6.3	-22	6.5
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Italy	14	32	42	63	47	85	166	81	12
Albania	65	51	47	56	69	81	59	17	12
France	3	7	8	12	19	64	n.a.	237	9.3
Serbia	21	14	27	29	31	55	293	77	8.0
Germany	5	9	8	11	13	41	356	215	6.0
Greece	10	13	24	18	35	36	177	2.9	5.2
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10	13	16	11	13	33	154	154	4.8
Turkey	1	2	3	3	13	32	n.a.	146	4.6
Bulgaria	4	23	13	7	21	29	26	38	4.2
United Kingdom	0	3	0	1	3	21	n.a.	n.a.	3.0
All Other	60	70	76	82	126	212	203	68	31
Total	193	237	264	293	390	689	191	76.6	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 refers to total detections reported by WB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by EU Member States.





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