

Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 4 • OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2018

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Plac Europejski 6
00-844 Warsaw, Poland
T +48 22 205 95 00
F +48 22 205 95 01
frontex@frontex.europa.eu
www.frontex.europa.eu

Risk Analysis Unit
Frontex reference number: 5752/2019

PDF
TT-AI-18-004-EN-N
ISSN 2443-8367

Warsaw, June 2019

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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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The WB-RAN 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.

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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
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.

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.

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 a more in-depth featured risk analysis 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.

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	Q4 2017	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	% change on year ago	% change on prev. Qtr
Asylum applications	19 364	22 279	23 991	24	7.7
Facilitators	244	171	236	-3.3	38
False travel document users	689	495	599	-13	21
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	501	836	1 034	106	24
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	7 177	12 628	9 785	36	-23
Illegal stay	3 661	10 587	12 504	242	18
Refusals of entry	14 125	13 669	11 339	-20	-17

* 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

Key findings

Overall, the number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional² migrants at the green borders decreased by 28 % compared with Q3 2018;

Pressure exerted by Iranians dropped after Serbia reinstated visa-requirements for them in October. They projected pressure north from Serbia towards Hungary and Croatia (via Bosnia and Herzegovina) and south towards Greece (via North Macedonia);

Indian nationals increasingly used the same modus operandi and movement directions as Iranians;

The Serbia-centred route remained attractive; migrants continued trying to reach Serbia via North Macedonia and increasingly also via Bulgaria;

From Serbia, migrants exerted higher pressure towards Hungary and Croatia (at and between BCPs); a slight decrease in detections was observed towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. Harsh winter conditions and increased border-controls / readmissions

along the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia-Slovenia corridor likely contributed to these developments;

The migratory pressure along the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border section slightly decreased; reinforcements of the Montenegrin-Albanian border continue to hinder movements in that direction;

Migrants travelling both via the Serbia-centred route and along the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border continued to project pressure further north;

Serbia joins Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in reporting large numbers of illegal stayers on the territory; difficulties migrants encounter in leaving these countries coupled with winter weather can explain the detections;

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

² Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossings between BCPs

In the last quarter of 2018, WB-RAN data recorded roughly 7 800 illegal border-crossings between BCPs by **non-regional migrants**³ at the common and regional borders (Figure 2). Detections continued to be largely related to migrants transiting the region illegally on their way from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria towards Western Europe. A part of detections also involved nationalities who reached the region illegally by airplane before engaging in illegal border-crossing (e.g. Iranian, Indian or Turkish).

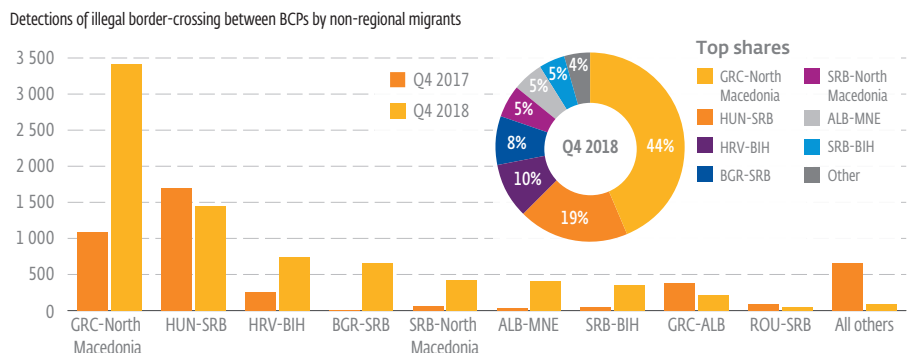
Overall, the 7 800 reported detections represent a 28 % decrease compared with the previous quarter. The largest part of this decrease was due to fewer detections at the Greece – North Macedonia and North Macedonia – Serbia borders. Other sections also contributed to the overall decrease with the most significant differences registered by Bosnia and Herzegovina – Serbia, Albania – Greece and Albania-Kosovo*.

Meanwhile, the pressure at the Serbian-Hungarian border rose by significantly compared with Q3 continuing the increasing trend observed since mid-2018. The tendency of migrants to target Hungary in higher numbers may have been further exacerbated in Q4 by harsh winter conditions and increased border-controls discouraging transit along the Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia corridor.

The rise in pressure at the Bulgarian-Serbian border observed since Q3 also continued during the analysed period. With

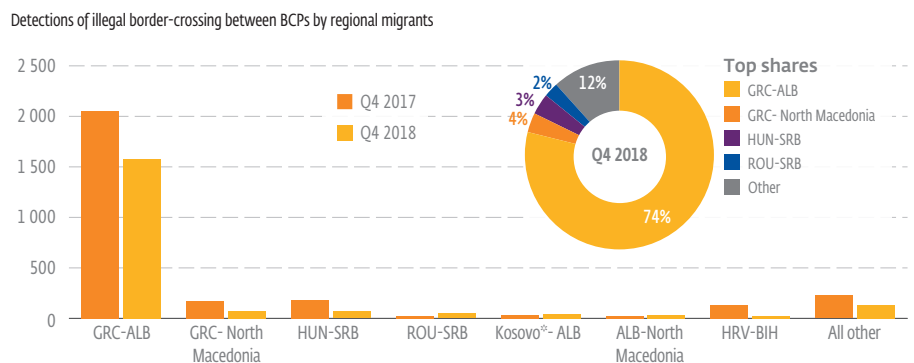
³ Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

Figure 2. Increased pressure recorded along Serbia-centred route; continued detections along the route stemming from the Greece-Albania border



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2019

Figure 3. The overall pressure exerted by regional migrants was 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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2019

Afghans as the most reported nationality. This development deserves close attention, especially in a context of renewed attractiveness of the Serbia-centred route and continued reinforcements hindering movements via Greece-North-Macedonia-Serbia. It may hint at a possible re-routing of migrants via Bulgaria.

Sections along or adjacent to the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border also continued to report migration pressure, albeit on a decrease compared with Q3. Detections at the Albanian-Greek border section dropped by two thirds while

at the Montenegrin-Albanian pressure decreased by 8 %.

At the Albania-Kosovo* border, the rising pressure reported in August and September appears to have rescinded in Q4. In spite of low detections at this border into Q4, Kosovo* continued to experience a rise in asylum applications lodged by non-regional migrants inside the territory, continuing a trend started in August. The situation at the Albania-Kosovo* border needs close monitoring, given the reinforcement of the Montenegrin-Albanian border since August.

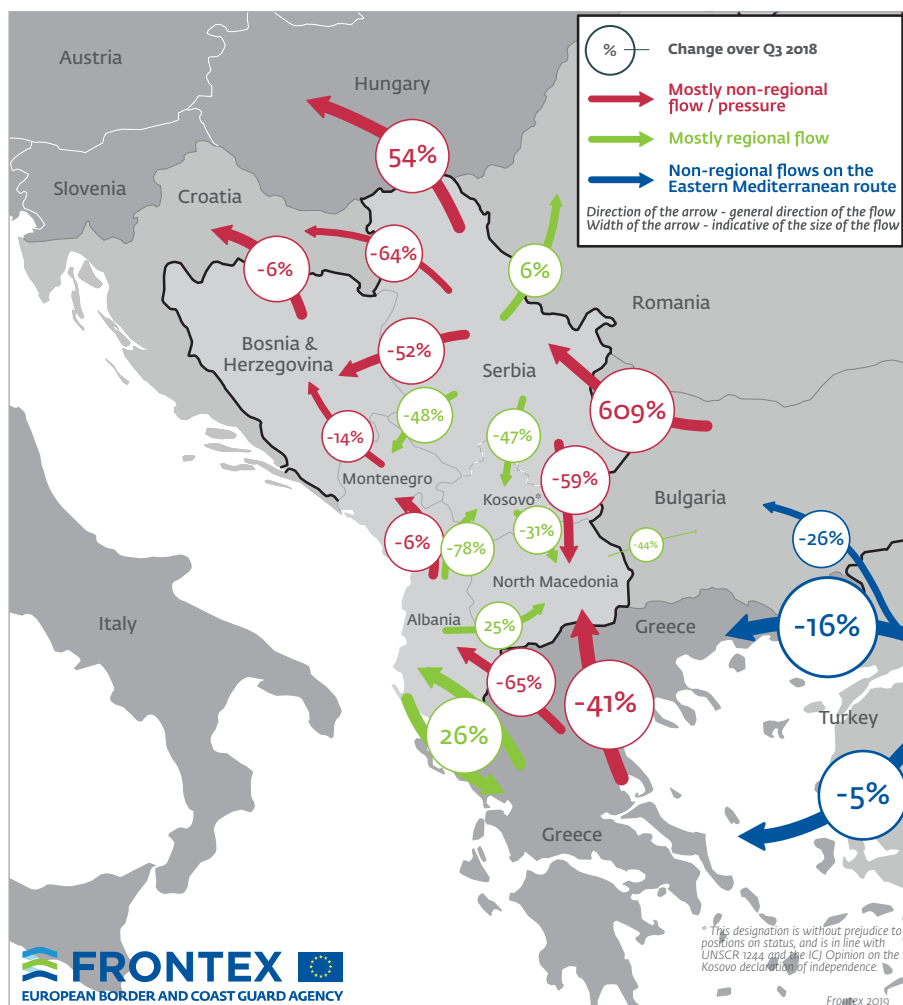


Figure 4. Continued pressure exerted by non-regional migrants along the Greece – North Macedonia – Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina route during Q4 2018. Signs of rise in pressure at Serbia's southern border with Bulgaria and northern common borders with Hungary, and Croatia (traditional exit points). Detections along the Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and Herzegovina route continued in Q4 in spite of an apparent stabilisation.

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

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q3 and Q4 2018 at particular border sections;

Afghans, Pakistanis and Iraqis were largely observed moving towards Serbia either from Greece (via North Macedonia) or from Bulgaria and to a lesser extent travelling along the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border. Interestingly, detections of Afghans and Pakistanis showed signs of a decrease at the Greece – North Macedonia border while rising at the Bulgarian – Serbian section. Once in Serbia, Afghans were largely reported moving towards Hungary and in much lower numbers in the direction of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia. Meanwhile, Pakistanis and Iraqis appeared to largely prefer travelling from Serbia towards Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia and to a lesser extent towards Hungary.

Syrians continued to prefer moving along the route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border, albeit their numbers on the central route through Serbia did show signs of increase throughout the year.

It is worth noticing that Indians were the sixth most detected non-regional migrants in the last quarter of 2018. They continued to be largely reported moving via North Macedonia towards Greece but also moving out of Serbia to Hungary and Croatia (via Bosnia and Herzegovina). Discussions of possible direct flights between New Delhi and Belgrade were featured in the

Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to host a large number of migrants who reached its territory either via Albania-Montenegro or along the Serbia-centred route. Even with harsh winter conditions hindering migrants' mobility in Q4 the pressure reported at Bosnia and Herzegovina's border with Croatia remained on a par with that seen in Q3. The fact that the main accommodation areas for migrants are in the border areas of the Una Sana Canton likely contributed to this.

Irregular movements towards Croatia – Slovenia can still be expected as the mobility of migrants stuck in Bosnia and Herzegovina will increase as the weather improves. Nonetheless, enhanced prevention activities at the Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia border coupled with increased readmissions between Slovenia and Croatia

are elements that can ultimately reduce the attractiveness of this migration corridor.

Similar to previous quarters, the overall 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.

Afghans, Iranians, Pakistanis, Iraqis and Syrians were the top detected nationalities in the last quarter of 2018. Iranians continued to be observed moving out of Serbia towards Greece (via North Macedonia), Hungary and Croatia (directly or via Bosnia and Herzegovina). Their number decreased following Belgrade's decision to reinstate visa-requirements in October.

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media, although no concrete decisions were yet highlighted. A direct air connection to New Delhi is likely to increase the size of Indian passenger-flow to Serbia and consequently the number of irregular onward movements to the EU.

Overall, the number of detected **Western Balkan regional migrants**⁴ (2001) registered a 10% increase compared with the previous quarter. The rise in detections was largely related to the number of reported Albanians largely seen at the Albanian-Greek border section. Detections of the remaining regional nationalities either decreased or remained relatively stable.

The majority of Western Balkan countries' nationals detected for illegal border-crossing were still reported at Greece's borders with Albania and North Macedonia (by and large, Albanians). Migrants detected at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region accounted for 8% of the regional total and

involved mainly Kosovo* citizens (trying to reach Hungary, Romania or Croatia) and, to a lesser extent, Albanians and Serbs.

Facilitators

A total of 236 facilitators were detected at the regional level in the last quarter of 2018, a number 38% higher compared with the previous three-month period.

Given that migrants many times need to bypass reinforced borders throughout the region and that adverse weather conditions make irregular movements on foot difficult (especially across difficult terrain), the demand for facilitation services may be on the rise.

The number of detections reported at Serbia's northern common border with Hungary increased in Q4, coinciding with a continued rise in the migration pressure exerted by non-regional migrants (both at and between BCPs).

The second largest number of detections was reported by Bosnia and Herzegovina

inside its territory, possibly in relation to facilitators trying to capitalise on the presence of migrants in this country in a context where winter weather and enhanced border-controls likely made self-organised movements more difficult.

The Greek-Albanian border section reported the third-largest number of facilitators in Q4 largely on the Greek side.

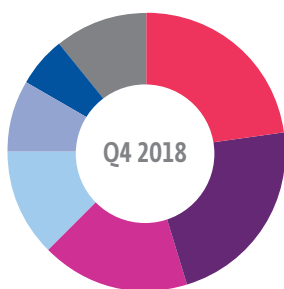
The number of facilitators reported at the Bulgarian-Serbian border decreased compared with Q3, in spite of an observed rise in migration pressure in this area. Meanwhile, the number of detections at the Greece-North Macedonia border slightly increased, largely due to more detections reported by Greece.

Roughly 67% of all facilitators detected in the period under review were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 18% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 15% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown nationality'.

4 Migrants who are nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

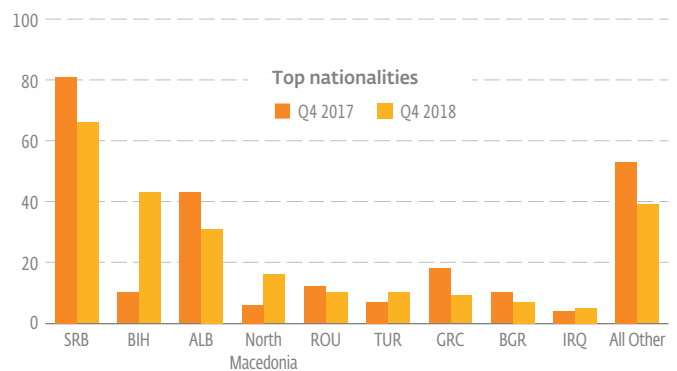
Figure 5. The number of people smugglers decreased 3% compared with the same quarter of 2017 and the main locations of detections slightly changed between different parts of the region

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



Top shares

- BIH
- SRB
- HUN
- GRC
- HRV
- ALB
- All Other



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2019

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In Q4 2018, a total of 1 016 **non-regional migrants** were detected while attempting to illegally cross the borders via BCPs, largely by hiding in means of transport. This represents a 27% increase compared with the previous quarter and the highest quarterly number since data collection began in 2009. The Croatian-Serbian and Hungarian-Serbian borders reported the highest increases in detections and together accounted for roughly 84% of all detections in the region in Q4. Afghans were by far the most detected nationality at both these sections. These developments are largely in line with the observed pressure on the Serbia-centred route and continued search for travel alternatives by migrants.

Additionally, 28 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported for clandestine travels at BCPs. Albanians and the nationals of Kosovo* were the most detected nationalities (12 and 8), followed by citizens of Serbia (5).

Document fraud

In the fourth quarter of 2018, there were 599 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan partners, a 21% rise compared to the previous three-month period. This is the second highest quarterly number of document fraud detections since data collection began back in 2009 (second to Q4 2017).

Higher numbers of detections reported by Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina led to the overall increase observed in Q4.

Serbia reported the largest numbers of document fraud cases at its land borders, especially with Hungary and Croatia, while the number of detections at the air borders also increased over Q3. Overall, Iranian and Turkish nationals were the top non-regional migrants detected at these sections while other nationalities such as Afghanistan, India or Iraq also featured in detections. Nationals of Kosovo*, Serbia and Albania were also reported trying to move out of Serbia via the mentioned sections by using fraudulent documents.

Albania reported most of its detections at its air, sea and also at the land border with Greece. Albanians were the top detected nationality, increasing their numbers at all these sections with the exception of the sea border where they were outranked by Kosovo* nationals.

Multiple non-regional migrants were reported using fraudulent documents for traveling via the BCPs at the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia border, a situation possibly linked to winter weather pushing migrants to search for more comfortable travel options.

At regional level, Albanians (+20% over Q3) were the most detected document fraudsters, ahead of Iranian (stable), Kosovo* (stable), and Turkish (+31%) citizens. Other nationalities also registered higher numbers of detections, with the most significant pertaining to Serbs, Afghans, Iraqis and Indians.

Serbia remained the top reporting country followed by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia respectively.

Passports and ID cards were the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 46 forged residence permits, 23 visas, 31 border stamps were detected. The large majority of ID cards, residence permits and visas continued to be EU Member States' documents. For 19 of the detected documents the type was not reported.

As regards false passports, 117 out of the detected 293 were reportedly issued by countries from the region. A total of 96 EU MSs false passports were detected, with German, Bulgarian, Spanish, Dutch and UK documents as top-ranking. A total of 43 forged Turkish passports were detected, largely used by Turkish nationals and to a lesser extent also by Afghans and Iranians.

Refusals of entry

In the period under review, the number of refusals of entry decreased by 17% compared with the previous quarter: from roughly 13 700 to 11 300 and was also 20% lower compared with the corresponding quarter of 2017.

Greece continued to issue the highest number of refusals of entry, by and large to Albanians at its common border with this country. Croatia issued the second highest number of refusals of entry with most decisions taken at its borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina (largely nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and to a lesser extent Turkey) and with Serbia (largely nationals of Afghanistan and to a lesser extent Serbia and Albania).

Hungary issued the third highest number of refusals of entry mostly to Serbs and Albanians at its common border with Serbia.

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Meanwhile Serbia ranked fourth in the top of refusals of entry issued many of them at the airports, addressing Indian and Iranian nationals.

Albanians remained the most refused nationality, receiving roughly 41% of all issued decisions in the region with a total 10% higher compared with Q3. Serbs were the second most numerous recipients of refusals of entry, with a 13% share of the regional total in spite of their numbers decreasing 17% over Q3. The nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to rank third, accounting for an 8% share of all decisions at regional level with a total number similar with that they registered in Q3.

Turkish citizens were refused entry in similar numbers to Q3 and came in fourth in

the top of most refused nationalities at regional level, followed by the nationals of North Macedonia whose numbers decreased by 26%.

Afghan nationals received two times more refusals of entry compared with Q3 and ranked sixth among the most refused nationalities, ahead of Indians who also received 40% more refusals in Q4. Afghans were by and large refused entry by Croatia at its border with Serbia while Indians received most decisions at Serbia's airports.

Chinese citizens who enjoy a visa-free regime in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were the ninth most refused nationals in Q4 in spite of being targeted by 29% less decisions compared with Q3. The largest part of the refusals Chinese received in Q4

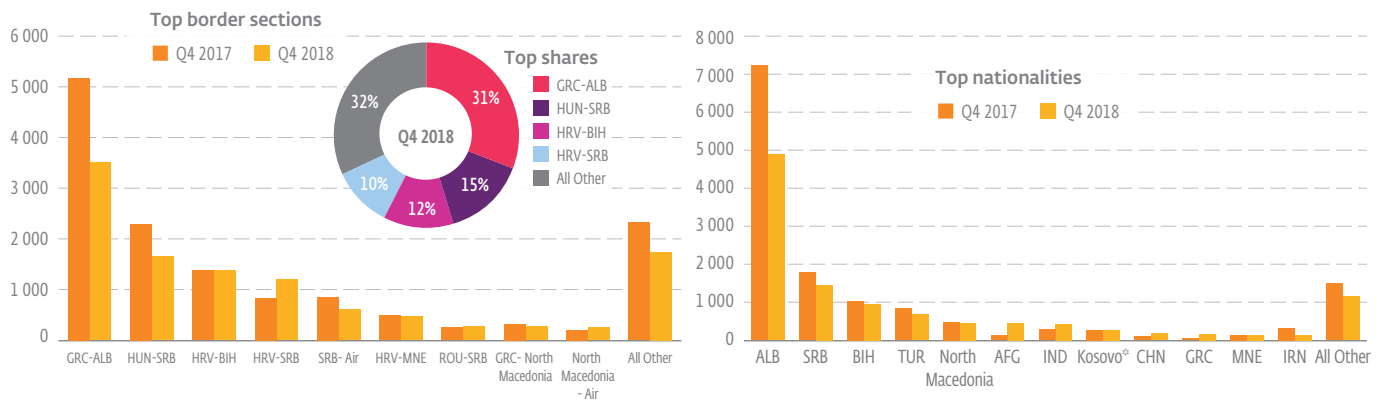
were issued by Croatia at its borders with Serbia and with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Overall in Q3 the vast majority of refusals of entry continued being issued at land borders (90%), while almost all of the remaining 10% were recorded at air borders, which reported a stable number compared with Q3.

Together, the top nationalities associated with the non-regional flow transiting by land (Afghans, Pakistanis, Iraqis and Syrians) received just over 5% of all refusals of entry issued at regional level.

Figure 6. Turkish nationals continued to rank high among the top refused nationalities; Chinese, Iranians and Indians all ranked among the top 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 2019

Situation in the Western Balkans

Illegal stay on the territories of the six Western Balkan partners

In Q4 2018, roughly 10 500 detections of illegal stay were reported by the six Western Balkan partners, a number 8% higher compared with the previous quarter and almost nine times that of the corresponding three-month period of 2017. This increase was largely due to maintained high values (similar to those of Q3) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania and an almost six-fold up reported by Serbia.

Similar to the last three quarters, during Q4 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 Q4 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, Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis, 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 migration flow transiting the region by land. Similarly, Iranians (up to October 2018) and Indians 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 8 500 of the abovementioned nationals were detected staying illegally by the six regional partners in Q4, a number 8% higher than the one registered by the same nationalities during the previous three-month period (i.e. 7 850).

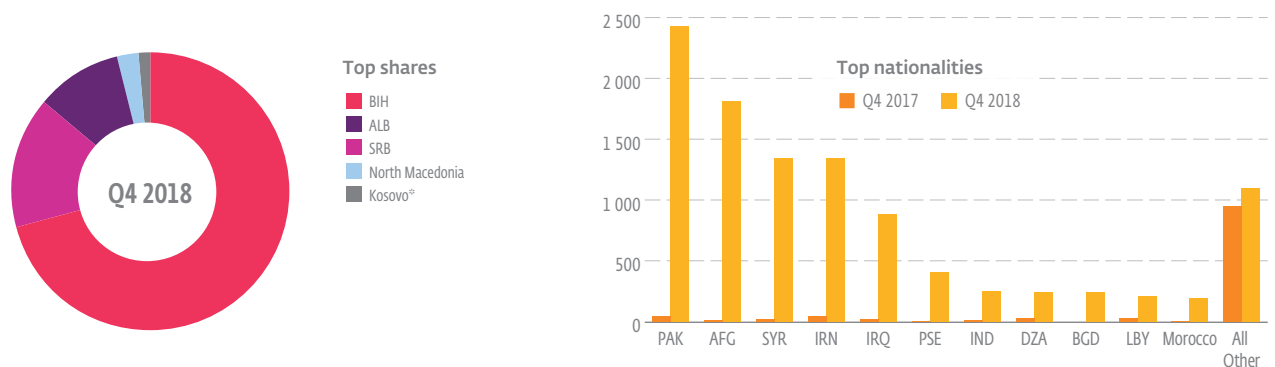
Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the highest share of the mentioned 8 500 detections, followed by Serbia and Albania.

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. The continued high numbers of illegal stayers reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania in Q4 can thus point that migrants encounter difficulties in leaving these countries and thus accumulate on their territories.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of illegal stayers in Serbia appears consistent with the regained attractiveness of the Serbia-centred route throughout the second half of 2018 and with increased difficulties migrants encounter in leaving this country. Winter weather may have also played a role in slowing down the movements via Serbia, possibly contributing to the increase in detected illegal stayers throughout its territory.

Figure 7. **More non-regional persons detected as illegal stayers. Difficulties in moving through the region are likely the cause of the increased presence, exacerbated by winter weather.**

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



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2019

II. Statistical annex

LEGEND

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

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 29 January 2019,
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, purpose of illegal border-crossing, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Five Sections									
Greece-Land-North Macedonia	656	1 265	1 249	3 874	5 949	3 483	175	-41	36
Albania-Land-Greece	1 924	2 424	2 404	2 371	1 852	1 786	-26	-3.6	18
Hungary-Land-Serbia	2 971	1 883	851	736	987	1 522	-19	54	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	259	394	382	726	819	772	96	-5.7	7.9
Bulgaria-Land-Serbia	54	5	10	23	92	652	n.a.	609	6.7
All Other	1 507	1 206	1 769	2 366	2 929	1 570	30	-46	16
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	1 478	993	842	1 233	1 547	1 920	93	24	20
Iran	79	243	262	1 029	3 746	1 841	658	-51	19
Albania	1 997	2 423	1 853	2 056	1 461	1 764	-27	21	18
Pakistan	1 991	1 459	966	2 304	2 461	1 350	-7.5	-45	14
Iraq	94	279	259	679	460	740	165	61	7.6
Syria	197	322	1 127	1 285	914	656	104	-28	6.7
India	51	41	27	49	271	510	n.a.	88	5.2
Palestine	29	21	116	97	209	144	586	-31	1.5
Kosovo*	432	283	211	169	225	136	-52	-40	1.4
Bangladesh	51	53	19	43	177	135	155	-24	1.4
All Other	972	1 060	983	1 152	1 157	589	-44	-49	6
Total	7 371	7 177	6 665	10 096	12 628	9 785	36	-23	100

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

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

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Clandestine/Other									
Clandestine	424	447	649	443	669	970	117	45	94
Other	91	54	100	115	167	64	19	-62	6.2
Top Five Sections									
Croatia-Land-Serbia	71	104	506	301	404	650	525	61	63
Hungary-Land-Serbia	7	16	76	33	51	212	n.a.	316	21
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	10	12	22	95	150	84	600	-44	8.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia	21	20	66	56	44	32	60	-27	3.1
Romania-Land-Serbia	.	.	14	.	4	10	n.a.	150	1
All Other	406	349	65	73	183	46	-87	-75	4.4
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	73	122	365	224	339	726	495	114	70
Pakistan	12	6	140	100	117	77	n.a.	-34	7.4
Iran	.	9	49	55	78	68	656	-13	6.6
Bangladesh	.	.	15	24	49	42	n.a.	-14	4.1
Iraq	23	24	18	38	41	37	54	-9.8	3.6
Syria	37	50	9	24	23	19	-62	-17	1.8
Germany	15	6	2	6	16	12	100	-25	1.2
Albania	176	182	19	15	12	12	-93	0	1.2
Kosovo*	14	19	53	8	12	8	-58	-33	0.8
Morocco	11	8	3	1	7	6	-25	-14	0.6
All Other	154	75	76	63	142	27	-64	-81	2.6
Total	515	501	749	558	836	1 034	106	24	100

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

Table 3. **Facilitators**

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	132	184	161	145	133	176	-4.3	32	75
Inland	24	51	35	54	36	53	3.9	47	22
Sea	5	5	3	1	.	5	0	n.a.	2.1
Air	.	4	.	.	2	2	-50	0	0.8
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	58	81	51	46	45	66	-19	47	28
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19	10	10	30	22	43	330	95	18
Albania	29	43	57	57	32	31	-28	-3.1	13
North Macedonia	7	6	12	8	7	16	167	129	6.8
Turkey	4	7	4	4	4	10	43	150	4.2
Romania	1	12	2	2	8	10	-17	25	4.2
Greece	16	18	9	13	9	9	-50	0	3.8
Bulgaria	3	10	10	1	9	7	-30	-22	3
Iraq	.	4	4	1	2	5	25	150	2.1
Unknown	1	9	4	3	6	4	-56	-33	1.7
All Other	23	44	36	35	27	35	-20	30	15
Total	161	244	199	200	171	236	-3.3	38	100

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Inland	752	1 177	1 506	7 369	9 638	10 463	789	8.6	84
Land	2 534	2 484	1 713	1 484	949	2 041	-18	115	16
Sea	.	.	1	.	.	.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Top Ten Nationalities									
Pakistan	17	49	115	2 258	3 166	2 432	n.a.	-23	19
Afghanistan	56	13	61	854	564	1 816	n.a.	222	15
Syria	19	26	286	1 140	1 332	1 350	n.a.	1.4	11
Iran	7	47	63	792	1 508	1 343	n.a.	-11	11
Serbia	1 612	1 682	1 148	1 098	608	1 129	-33	86	9
Iraq	4	22	49	630	879	884	n.a.	0.6	7.1
Albania	287	450	269	305	313	588	31	88	4.7
North Macedonia	654	486	328	221	190	429	-12	126	3.4
Palestine	2	6	64	107	286	407	n.a.	42	3.3
India	2	11	29	86	128	256	n.a.	100	2
All Other	626	869	808	1 362	1 613	1 870	115	16	15
Total	3 286	3 661	3 220	8 853	10 587	12 504	242	18	100

Table 5. **Refusals of entry**

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	14 808	12 662	10 269	11 544	12 464	10 168	-20	-18	90
Air	1 347	1 447	944	915	1 192	1 163	-20	-2.4	10
Sea	35	16	.	26	13	8	-50	-38	0.1
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	5 715	7 224	4 328	5 431	4 456	4 894	-32	9.8	43
Serbia	2 271	1 787	2 017	1 722	1 746	1 454	-19	-17	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 135	1 036	1 200	1 334	1 008	954	-7.9	-5.4	8.4
Turkey	873	831	746	643	612	670	-19	9.5	5.9
North Macedonia	691	476	598	507	615	457	-4	-26	4
Afghanistan	173	125	228	140	229	454	263	98	4
India	138	281	151	130	305	426	52	40	3.8
Kosovo ^a	941	268	307	286	555	272	1.5	-51	2.4
China	137	99	69	183	251	178	80	-29	1.6
Greece	89	47	70	53	65	164	249	152	1.4
All Other	4 027	1 951	1 499	2 056	3 827	1 416	-27	-63	12
Total	16 190	14 125	11 213	12 485	13 669	11 339	-20	-17	100

^a This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.Table 6. **Applications for asylum**

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Afghanistan	2 657	2 492	1 723	2 712	3 756	5 950	139	58	25
Iraq	3 781	3 869	3 236	3 100	3 047	3 366	-13	10	14
Syria	5 053	5 155	4 626	6 856	3 959	3 274	-36	-17	14
Pakistan	2 674	2 384	2 063	2 692	2 998	2 335	-2.1	-22	9.7
Turkey	786	760	443	878	2 003	1 783	135	-11	7.4
Iran	441	444	436	603	646	1 160	161	80	4.8
Albania	741	696	751	861	878	835	20	-4.9	3.5
Palestine	337	247	242	418	684	828	235	21	3.5
Egypt	322	212	127	128	341	515	143	51	2.1
Bangladesh	437	356	365	342	479	464	30	-3.1	1.9
All Other	2 361	2 749	2 424	3 112	3 488	3 481	27	-0.2	15
Total	19 590	19 364	16 436	21 702	22 279	23 991	24	7.7	100

Table 7. Persons using false documents

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

	2017		2018				2018 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	199	387	325	214	261	336	-13	29	56
Air	152	255	168	135	173	235	-7.8	36	39
Sea	37	34	40	24	61	28	-18	-54	4.7
Not specified	2	13	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Document Type									
Passports	228	426	304	203	257	293	-31	14	49
ID cards	93	134	103	69	91	187	40	105	31
Residence permit	25	56	48	22	43	46	-18	7	7.7
Stamps	8	11	45	37	6	31	182	417	5.2
Visas	34	48	30	28	46	23	-52	-50	3.8
Not specified	2	14	3	14	52	19	36	-63	3.2
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	126	169	100	97	122	147	-13	20	25
Iran	24	190	68	31	82	85	-55	3.7	14
Kosovo ^o	90	118	129	68	84	81	-31	-3.6	14
Turkey	35	74	86	85	59	77	4.1	31	13
Serbia	19	40	27	23	18	41	2.5	128	6.8
Afghanistan	17	13	9	3	25	31	138	24	5.2
Iraq	2	4	5	2	8	23	475	188	3.8
India	13	5	9	.	13	22	340	69	3.7
China	3	15	13	10	11	15	0	36	2.5
Syria	3	2	10	4	3	10	400	233	1.7
All Other	58	59	77	50	70	67	14	-4.3	11
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Italy	47	85	50	27	48	82	-3.5	71	14
Serbia	31	55	43	33	27	67	22	148	11
Turkey	13	32	47	53	64	49	53	-23	8.2
Greece	35	36	26	18	36	46	28	28	7.7
Albania	69	81	73	65	81	43	-47	-47	7.2
Germany	13	41	16	26	26	32	-22	23	5.3
Bulgaria	21	29	23	14	11	30	3.4	173	5
Spain	11	19	11	6	13	25	32	92	4.2
France	19	64	21	23	23	25	-61	8.7	4.2
Romania	5	17	6	3	4	20	18	400	3.3
All Other	126	230	217	105	162	180	-22	11	30
Total	390	689	533	373	495	599	-13	21	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.



Plac Europejski 6
00-844 Warsaw, Poland

T +48 22 205 95 00
F +48 22 205 95 01

frontex@frontex.europa.eu
www.frontex.europa.eu

Risk Analysis Unit

Reference number: 5752/2019

PDF
TT-AI-18-004-EN-N
ISSN 2443-8367

Warsaw, June 2019