



Daily Report

Planning and Preparation:

The Council of the EU [adopted](#) regulations setting up an emergency support mechanism to support Greece and other member states overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. This translates a previous commitment by the European Council into practice. It enables the EU to provide a timely and effective response to the strenuous situation developing rapidly on the ground. Budgetary amendments would be required as the next step of this process.

Arrivals and Departures:

More than 8,000 people are present on Greek islands. Reception and temporary accommodation facilities are filled beyond capacity, particularly on Lesbos and Chios, despite the number of arrivals having decreased on Tuesday, 15 March, due to adverse weather.



Critical Developments

UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie will visit Lesbos today.

Brussels is already struggling to secure unanimous support at an [EU summit this week](#) for the agreement of proposals made on 7 March, which is backed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel but has met objections from at least six member countries, with stiff opposition from Cyprus and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Regarding the detailing of [proposals made on 7 March](#) at the EU summit with Turkey, to be agreed upon on Thursday 17 March, a significant detail vehiculated in Brussels is that the European Commission would advise Greece to drastically speed up processing of asylum requests to a week, rather than months, in order to avoid scuppering a potential deal with Turkey to slow down the inflow of refugees. Greece may be recommended to set up one-stop shops that would accept or reject asylum requests and go through the requisite legal appeals process, from the first instance to the final court appeal in a swift manner.

Response

The Government's Coordination Centre for the Management of the Refugee Crisis continued to move people from Piraeus to the new sites of Ritsona and Malakasa. A total of 8 buses (approx. 400 people) were organized on Monday.

As reception capacity is overstretched on the Greek Islands,



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

29 February - 6 March
1,551
-39% from previous week



7-13 March
1,420
-8% from previous week



Condition of People:

EU Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos, accompanied by European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas, visited Eidomeni.

The [statement](#) made highlighted that relocation should immediately take the dimension of a humanitarian evacuation: "we have already increased the pledges from Member States and now it is urgently time to deliver. In parallel, the European Asylum Support Office is supporting the enormous efforts made by the Greek authorities to directly accept and act on these pledges. We need to reach 6000 relocations per month. Until then, I fully support the Greek Government's efforts to inform and persuade these people to be transferred to reception centers, with decent living and sanitary conditions, until their legal transfer is organised. The urgent needs of these people must be met immediately, whether they are in reception centers or here in Eidomeni."

UNHCR is working with authorities and partners to address urgent needs. On Lesbos, UNHCR, authorities and partners are continuously reassessing accommodation capacities and contingencies. An emergency planning meeting was convened by the Lesbos representative of the Alternate Ministry for Migration Policy, attended by Army, Police, UNHCR, IRC, and MSF. On Samos, UNHCR's partner Samaritan Purse moved 5 Refugee Housing Units from Malagari Port to Vathy Hotspot and 3 are already in use for accommodation. Around 200 tents provided by MSF and volunteers are accommodating people at Vathy Hotspot.

All food distributions at Vathy Hotspot and Malagari Port are carried out by volunteers. On Thursday, in both sites, Apostoli/ IOCC will deliver 3 meals a day via catering services.

Weather Headlines

With only very light rain around Eidomeni on Thursday and with drier days and some sunshine on Friday and Saturday surface water will start to dry up.

Northerly winds in the Aegean have moderated but waves are still around 0.5m around Lesbos and close to 1m near Kos and Rhodes.

It will still feel cooler across the region but particularly around Southern Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and northern Greece, temperatures will recover at the weekend.

14 - 15 March
215
-79% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
March (as of 15 March)
1,277
-33% from previous month





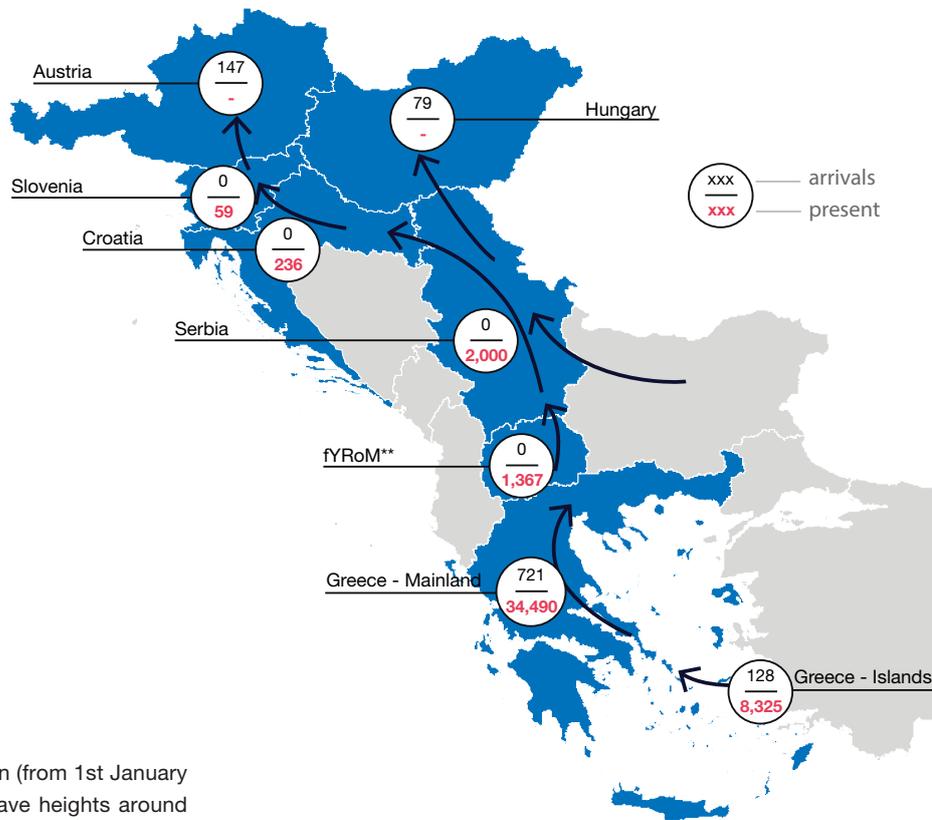
Past and Upcoming Meetings/Events



Estimated Arrivals and People Present* per Country Yesterday

* estimated people present currently not applying for asylum
** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used for design purposes)

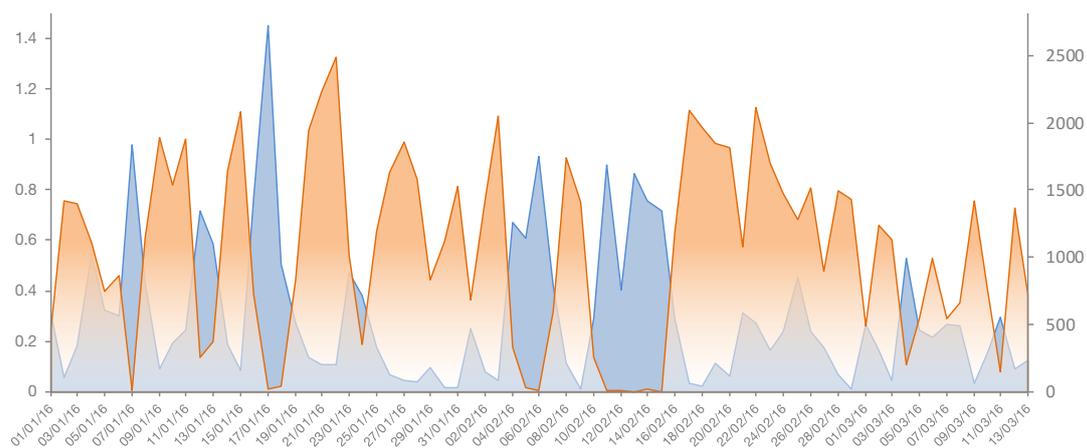
	Arrivals	Present*
Greece - Islands	128	8,325
Greece - Mainland	721	34,490
fYRoM**	0	1,367
Serbia	0	2,000
Croatia	0	236
Hungary	79	-
Slovenia	0	59
Austria	147	-



Wave Height vs Arrivals to Lesbos

The graph highlights the historical correlation (from 1st January 2016 until present) between the average wave heights around Lesbos and number of registered arrivals to the island. The data shows a clear negative correlation: as the sea states become rougher, with increasing wave heights, the number of people travelling to Lesbos decreases. As sea states and wave heights reduce, the number of people travelling to Lesbos increases.

Applying this same negative correlation to forecast wave data allows us to make a forecast prediction on the number of people moving from Turkey to the Greek islands, giving a trend on whether these numbers will increase or decrease.





Social Media

Twitter Activity:

- 'Geneva' trended on Twitter, accruing over 7,000 tweets as UN officials meet with Syrian government delegates to continue peace talks.
- As questions continue to surround reasons as to why Russia took the decision to withdraw warplanes from Syria, the topic of 'Syria' trended with 178,000 tweets. Some tweets also focused on the visit of UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie Pitt to a Syrian refugee camp in Zahle, Lebanon.

Current statistics for: #refugeecrisis

83 tweets, 109 retweets per hour
Over 40,650 impressions per hour

Over the last 30 days, social media activity surrounding the refugee and migrant crisis has been relatively high, however

statistics show that on 4 March, although the number of individual tweets (1,100) and retweets (2,500) was lower in comparison to previous days, the number of impressions made (37,066) was the highest to date. This came at a time when limitations on the number of ferries transporting refugees and migrants were implemented by request of the Greek government.

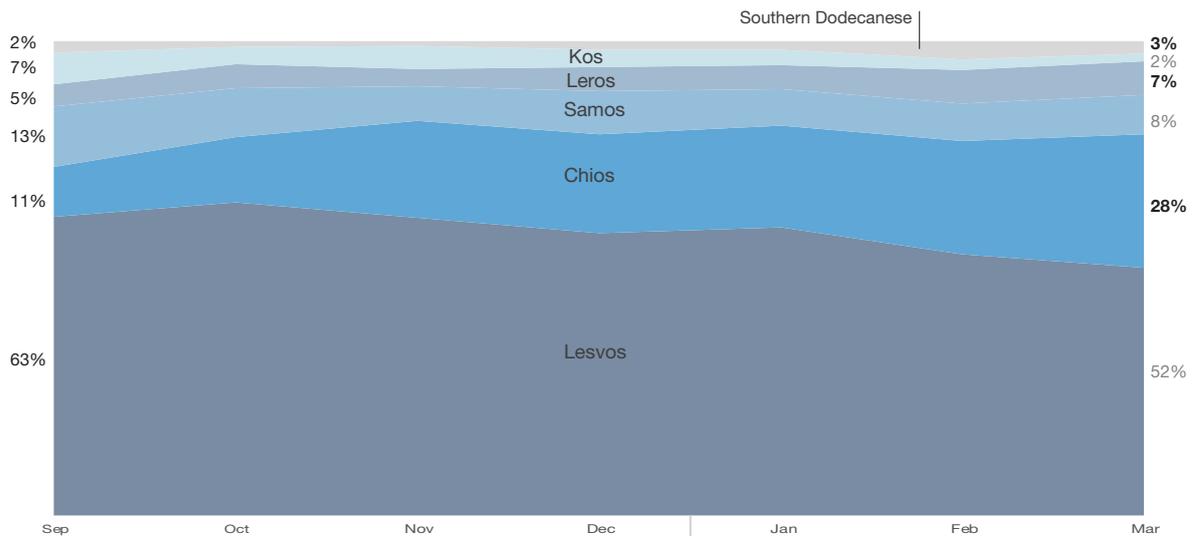
Current statistics for: #Syria5years

112 tweets, 326 retweets per hour
Over 621,000 impressions per hour

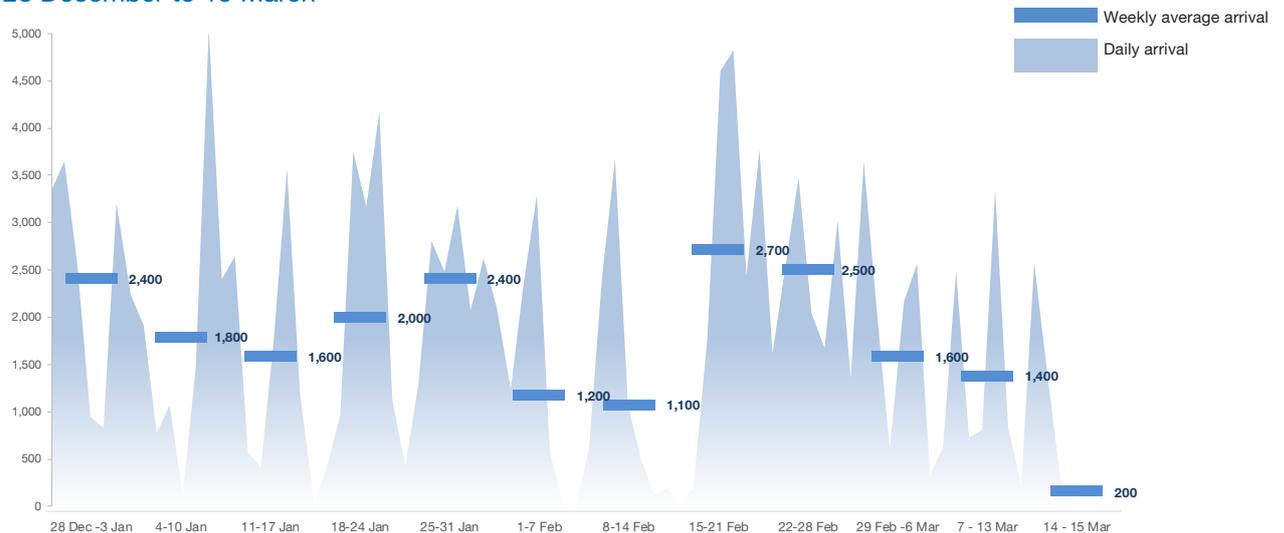
As was to be expected, the hashtag grew in popularity over the course of the day on 15 March, accumulating 2,800 individual tweets, 5,700 retweets and made 1,908 impressions on Twitter alone. Origin of activity using #syria5years was split equally between the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [@UN_News_Centre](#) remains the most popular account using #syria5years.



Distribution of monthly arrivals to each Greek island September to 14 March



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 15 March





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees



Weather Assessment

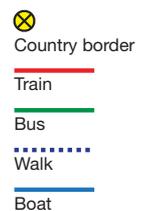
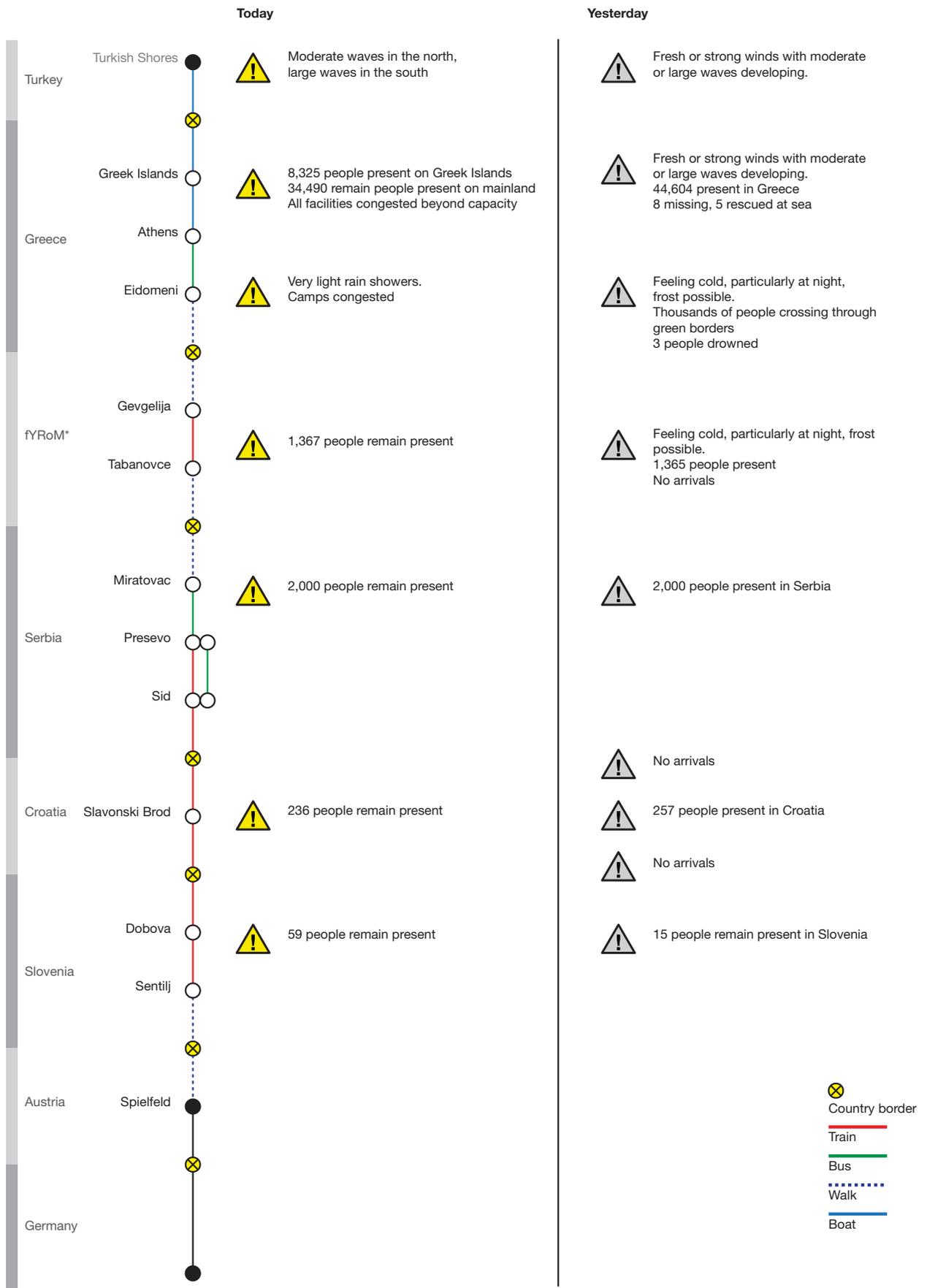
- The rainfall in the border area between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the middle of March has been over three times the average for the whole of March. Around Eidomeni there will be some very light rain showers but with some sunshine breaking through and good dry spells the surface water should dry up over the next few days.
- Past events have shown a reduction in arrivals to the Greek Islands when waves are large. Although the winds have

eased in the Aegean, waves are still moderate around the north Islands like Lesvos and large around the southern Islands like Kos. Waves are expected to decrease on Friday.

- It will feel cooler across SE Europe and the change in temperatures will be very noticeable after the wet and cloudy conditions, those sleeping outdoors may feel very chilled and suffer cold-related illnesses. Temperatures are expected to rise by a few degrees by the weekend.



Situation Overview



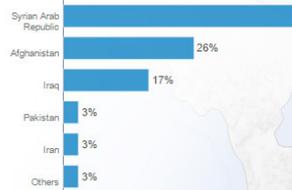


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

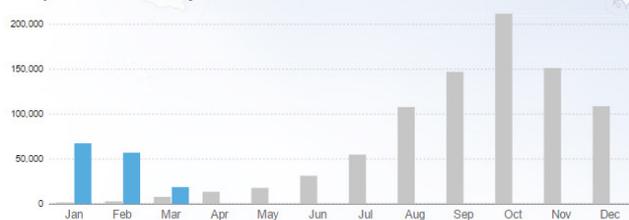
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent 100% of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



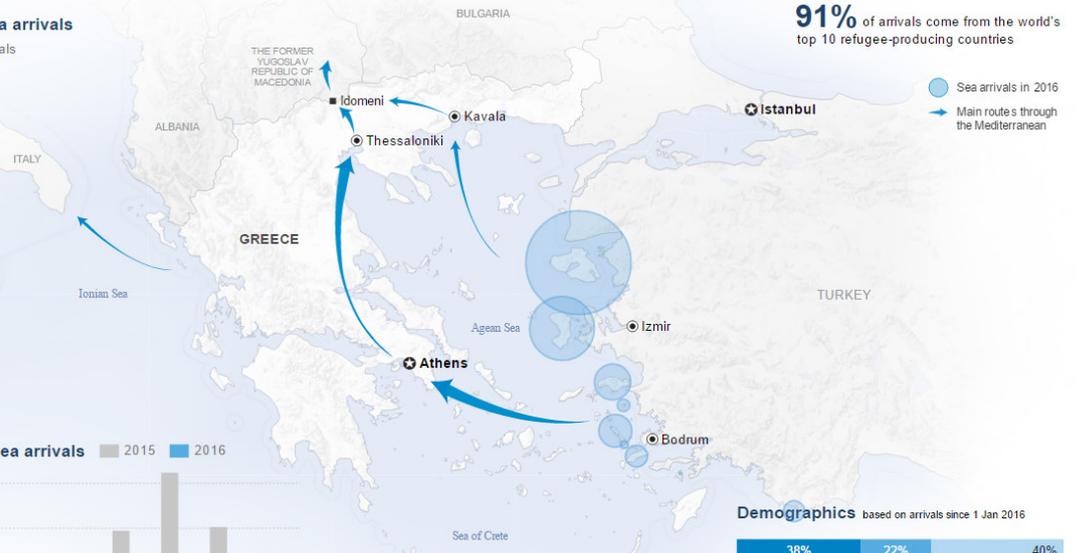
Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



© Last updated 13 Mar 2016
143,205 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



*Serbia (AND KOSOVO: S/RES/1244 (1999))
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

[Click here to view sources and disclaimer](#)



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

