

# EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



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Mivtar Rustemov and his daughter Lirije pose for a portrait while attending a UNHCR stateless workshop in Skopje, Macedonia.

## TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES

Between 1 January 2017 and 30 November 2017, 171,300 refugees and migrants arrived by sea and land to Europe (Greece, Italy, Spain and Cyprus only, including arrivals to the Canary Islands and by land to Spain). While sea arrivals to Europe in November were 51% lower than last year, largely due to fewer people crossing from Libya, higher numbers crossed from Libya in November than in October while Spain recorded the highest number of land and sea arrivals this year.

As of 30 November, over 117,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea in 2017 with just over 21,800 crossing in the past four months compared to over 95,200 in the first seven months of the year. As of the end of November, sea arrivals to Italy were 32% lower than during the first 11 months of 2016. Arrivals to Italy this year have included 15,540 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who comprised 13% of sea arrivals, similar to the same period last year when 14% of arrivals were UASC. While there was a 6% decrease in the number of sea arrivals in November compared to those of October, this was largely due to a significant decrease in crossings of Tunisians from Tunisia. In contrast, arrivals from Libya increased by approximately 84% in November compared to October. Eritreans were the largest group arriving in Italy in November, with more than 1,100 arrivals, over 700 of whom had arrived on just two boats. A group of Eritreans reported to UNHCR during disembarkation that they had been travelling for between six months and three years and experiencing various forms of violence and abuse during their journeys. As of the end of November, the primary nationalities that had arrived by sea in Italy in 2017 were Nigerians, Guineans, Ivorians, Bangladeshis, and Malians.

Over 25,900 refugees and migrants arrived to Spain by the end of November, by land and sea, an increase of 106% compared to the same period last year.

Mediterranean

**173,800**  
arrivals in 2017 <sup>1</sup>

**3,100**  
estimated dead/missing in 2017 <sup>1</sup>

<b>Greece</b>			<b>Italy</b>		
<b>27,300</b>			<b>117,000</b>		
4,886	4,134	3,215	6,291	5,979	5,645
Sep	Oct	Nov	Sep	Oct	Nov

<b>Spain<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>Cyprus</b>		
<b>25,900</b>			<b>1,100</b>		
2,039	4,072	4,679	318	72	191
Sep	Oct	Nov	Sep	Oct	Nov

**New asylum applications in EU+ countries <sup>3</sup>**

**542,400** applications in 2017  
**1,236,360** applications in 2016  
**1,325,565** applications in 2015

<sup>1</sup> [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 30 November 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands

<sup>3</sup> Source: Eurostats. Partial data for January to September 2017. All data is provisional and last updated 18 December 2017.

# 32,000

**Relocated in total** <sup>4</sup>
<sup>4</sup>Source: [European Commission](#) as of 28 November 2017.

Although the number of sea arrivals (20,195) have tripled in 2017, they are still a manageable figure for a country like Spain and far from the numbers experienced in other countries in recent years. While arrivals by sea, mainly to the Andalusian coast, represent almost 80% of the total, the number of arrivals via the land borders has also increased by 13% compared to the same period last year. The majority of arrivals by sea in November continued to be Moroccans, Algerians, Ivoiriens and Guineans while the largest group entering via the land borders was Syrians (300 in November alone).

As of 30 November 2017, over 27,300 refugees and migrants had reached Greek shores in 2017, compared to over 171,700 arriving in the same period last year (an 84% reduction). Arrivals so far this year mainly originate from the Syrian Arab Republic (42%) and Iraq (19%). In November, 49% of sea arrivals were from Syria, 18% from Iraq and 11% from Afghanistan cumulatively amounting to 78%. More than 40% of each of these nationalities in November were children. Most arrivals in November have been to Lesbos (62%), followed by Chios (25%), Samos (9%), Kos (1%) and Rhodes (2%). In addition to the sea arrivals, an estimated 5,100 people have arrived this year at the Evros Greek-Turkish land border, based on provisional data as of 30 November 2017 with some 700 crossing via this route in November, including a number of Syrian families.

 from **Greece**  
**21,323**  
 (32% of 66,400)

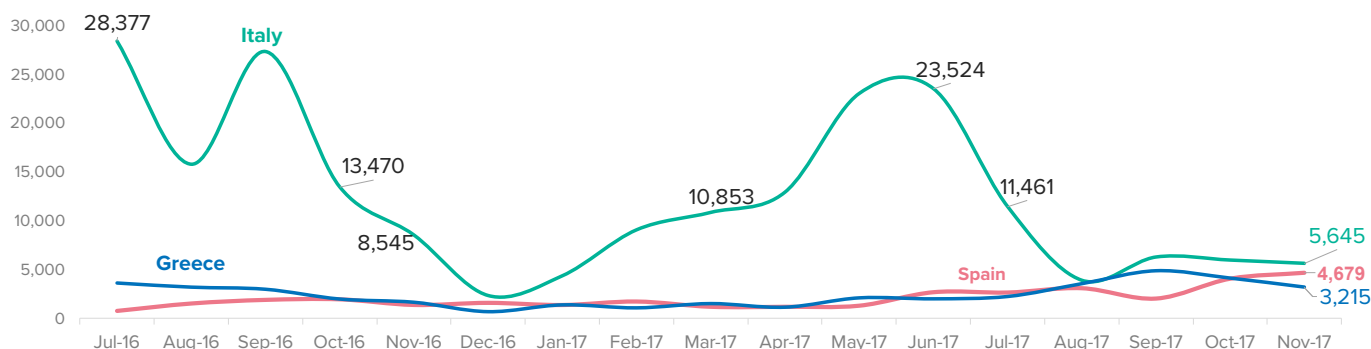
 from **Italy**  
**10,720**  
 (27% of 39,600)

These figures are similar to the 800 who arrived in October 2017 but nearly double when compared with recorded arrivals in November 2016 (370). Arrivals via the Turkey-Greece land border are not subject to the provisions of the EU-Turkey Statement.

According to Turkish authorities, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) intercepted or rescued 2,052 people during November, contributing to a total of 20,452 in 2017 of persons mostly headed to Greece. The largest group intercepted or rescued at sea in 2017 continues to be Syrians. Since the beginning of the year, some 27,258 persons were intercepted by Land Forces at the Greek and Bulgarian land borders, with over 25,162 (or 92%) intercepted at the Greek land border since the beginning of 2017. Apprehensions at Bulgaria-Turkey and Greece-Turkey borders in November were a total of 3,127.

In the Balkans, over 4,400 refugees and migrants were recorded as present in Serbia as of the end of November with around 91% accommodated in government shelters with 34% comprising of children and 15% women. Amongst those recorded in the country, 52% are from Afghanistan, 14% from Iraq and 2% from Syria. Nearly 550 people registered their intention to seek asylum in Serbia in November. Since the start of the year, 13 people have been granted asylum in the country during first instance procedures. Push-backs continue to be reported from several neighbouring countries.

## MEDITERRANEAN ARRIVALS - JANUARY to NOVEMBER 2017



## OTHER SITUATIONS IN EUROPE

 Turkey **3.6 million**

 Refugees and asylum seekers <sup>5</sup>

 Syrian Arab Republic **3,359,915**

 Afghanistan **157,205**

 Iraq **151,914**

 Iran **33,469**
<sup>5</sup> Source: UNHCR as of 30 November 2017

 Ukraine **1.8 million**

 Internally Displaced Persons <sup>6</sup> and Conflict Affected Persons <sup>7</sup>

 Refugees: <sup>8</sup> **3,253**

 Asylum seekers: <sup>9</sup> **5,503**

 Stateless persons: <sup>10</sup> **35,463**
<sup>6</sup> Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).  
<sup>7</sup> Estimated number of conflict-affected people living along the line of contact in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 30/06/2017

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR as of 07/12/2017

<sup>10</sup> State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 30/06/2017

**Dead and missing:** As of 30 November, an estimated 3,080 people have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe by sea via the three Mediterranean routes in 2017, compared to 4,699 in the same period in 2016, a 34% decrease. Over 94% of deaths this year have been as refugees and migrants have tried to cross from North Africa to Italy. A number of tragic incidents were reported in November including the death of a 10-year old Afghan boy was found dead amongst 66 new arrivals on the south shoreline of Lesbos on 25 November and the recovery of the bodies of 26 Nigerian young women and girls (aged 14-18) that were disembarked in Salerno, Italy on 05 November. In November 2017 41 persons, in at least 11 incidents, were found dead or declared missing while trying to reach Spanish Coast crossing the Strait of Gibraltar. In the current context of increased sea arrivals to the Andalusian coast that almost tripled this year, the number of casualties has also risen from around 50 between January and November 2016 to 177 in 2017.

Along land routes, at least eight people died including an eight-year-old Afghan girl struck by a train on 21 November as she and her family walked in darkness after being reportedly sent back to Sid, Serbia from the Croatian border. Six of the deaths took place

near the Greece-Turkey land border.

**Relocation:** According to the [European Commission](#) (EC), 32,043 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece and Italy as of 28 November 2017, including 21,323 from Greece (out of 66,400 originally foreseen, 32% of the total) and 10,720 from Italy (out of 39,600 originally foreseen, 27% of the total). In Greece, no person who has arrived after 20 March 2016 has been referred and submitted for relocation.

**Resettlement:** To date in 2017, 21,976<sup>11</sup> persons have been resettled to Europe.

**Returns:** In November, 75 people (nationality breakdown if available) were returned from Greece to Turkey on the basis of the [EU-Turkey Statement](#). The total number of people returned in accordance with the EU-Turkey Statement is 1,468 as of 30 November 2017.

# 1,468

Returns EU-Turkey statement <sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Source: [Ministry of Citizen Protection](#), Greece as of 30 November 2017.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The onset of heavy rain throughout **Greece**, particularly on the islands, further aggravated living conditions at Reception and Identification Centres (RICs), fueling the tension which has been mounting over the last months. In November, tensions led to protests and riots on Lesbos amongst asylum-seekers but also the local community who demand an end to the restriction of refugees and migrants on the island. Those accommodated in Moria (RIC) are frustrated over the poor living conditions, caused by overcrowding, insufficient services, lack of national staff, and delays in asylum procedures. There are currently more than 7,800 people on Lesbos, based on UNHCR estimates, which has an official capacity of 3,500 while the number of arrivals outpaces the rate of transfers to the mainland.

In Chios, there were 2,500 at the RIC, with the estimated capacity for 1,000 people. As of 20 November, UNHCR's partner Medecins du Monde, previously funded to operate in Souda operates in Vial RIC, supporting KEELPNO (Hellenic Centre For Disease Control and Prevention) provide services until the end of 2017. In Samos, as a result of the limited arrivals in the last two months and the increased transfers to the mainland, there are currently 1,400 people at Vathy RIC which has a capacity of 700. Nevertheless, the unhygienic conditions persist while some 700 people are in unheated shelter leaving them exposed to harsh weather conditions. In Leros, additional RIS staff were deployed in the reporting period, while in both Leros and Kos UNHCR partner Greek Council for Refugees deployed a lawyer and an interpreter to provide legal assistance to asylum-seekers. The prioritization of transfers from other islands to sites in the mainland has led to no asylum-seekers departing from Kos since May, and from Leros since September leading to extreme frustration for asylum-seekers with no geographical restriction.

The UNHCR Representative in Greece, Philippe Leclerc addressed the press in Athens on 16 November, and expressed the need for a revision of the geographical restriction on the islands in view of the current situation, and to transfer to the mainland all those

assessed as vulnerable without waiting for their first interview with the Asylum Service on the islands, as well as those who cannot be returned to Turkey in the foreseeable future. The Representative noted the urgency of improving hygiene at the RICs, noting however the challenge of improving conditions at the centres when these are accommodating three times the number of people for which they are designed. The current situation is 'critical', he noted, and 'demands immediate transfers'.

In response to the conditions on the islands, UNHCR intensified its support to the authorities in transferring those eligible to continue their asylum applications in the mainland and Crete. In November UNHCR supported the transfer of 2,128 asylum-seekers, with a total of 17,764 people supported since June 2016. In addition, UNHCR has handed over some 180,000 core relief items out of stocks to authorities to improve the current situation at reception centres, including winter kits, blankets, and sleeping bags, and will continue until stocks are depleted. In Lesbos, UNHCR installed 18 prefabricated containers in the Kara Tepe site, managed by the Municipality of Lesbos, in addition to 344 installed earlier this year. Unfortunately, UNHCR assistance to infrastructure work in Vial, Chios and installation of containers to replace tents in muddy fields before winter have been blocked by court order, holding up urgently needed improvements for the benefit of those in the site, including children. In addition to Chios, UNHCR supports health services in Kara Tepe, Lesbos. UNHCR with UNFPA further provided training for the newly recruited KEELPNO staff who will be providing primary healthcare and conducting vulnerability assessments in the RICs of Lesbos, Chios, Samos and Kos.

Twenty organizations wrote [an open letter](#) to Prime Minister Tsipras on 22 November 2017 requesting the Greek Government with the support of EU Member States to end the containment policy, increase transfers to the mainland and improve conditions on the islands. In the end of November, Minister Mouzalas indicated the Ministry of Migration Policy (MoMP's) intention to transfer an additional 5,000 people to the mainland.

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE




Across mainland Greece, the worsening weather conditions are highlighting the challenges faced with the increasing homeless asylum-seeking population, many of whom are families, who are unregistered and/or undocumented in Greece, thus having no access to sites or services. According to estimates, there are currently some 150 homeless asylum-seekers sleeping on the street and another 500 taking up informal shelter in squats. UNHCR has noted that the issue of spontaneous arrivals whom are unregistered also brings about protection concerns for those with specific needs such as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In Thessaloniki, there are an estimated 50 homeless unaccompanied asylum-seeking children facing serious challenges accessing accommodation. Staff from various humanitarian organizations refer the children to child protection actors who, in turn, search for proper shelters and add them to the respective waiting lists until accommodation is available. UNHCR held an emergency meeting with the Municipality of Thessaloniki on the increasing homeless situation in Thessaloniki and also delivered a training on Best Interests procedures on 14, 15 November for 26 staff of partners and other agencies involved in child protection programming. Several organizations active in the Thessaloniki areas and the Refugee Community Centres also referred homeless asylum-seekers to European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) funded accommodation schemes run by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). However, those who are not registered are not eligible to receive assistance through the accommodation schemes. Therefore, homeless asylum-seekers continue to be referred to the MoMP by UNHCR in order to be registered. Taking into account the dire situation for these individuals, the Municipality is identifying a heated space for the homeless asylum-seekers, while UNHCR provides core relief items.

UNHCR continues to provide nearly 20,000 places for accommodation in rented housing across Greece, along with cash based

assistance coupled with protection interventions, thus offering asylum-seekers decent living conditions and a return to normalcy. As of 30 November, UNHCR had provided 18,927 places as part of the Accommodation Scheme, accommodating 15,144 people. So far, 38,534 people have benefited from the programme since November 2015. In addition, during November, 36,135 eligible refugees and asylum-seekers (16,410 households) received cash assistance in Greece, in 111 locations.


UNHCR's exhibition with the Museum of Contemporary Art of Athens (EMST) '[Face Forward... into my Home](#)' opened on 22 November 2017. [The exhibition](#) is an interactive art project focusing on stories of people forced to leave their homelands rebuilding their life in Greece. It includes storytelling workshops inspired by a selection of contemporary artworks from the collection of the Na-

 **UNHCR Greece** @UNHCRGreece · Nov 23  
 #FaceForward ...into my home, the interactive art project focused on the stories of refugees, is waiting to introduce you to 20 remarkable people. Visit the exhibition @EMSTAthens. #ESTIA with the support of @eu\_echo. [faceforward.gr/en/](#)



tional Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens (EMST) and a photography exhibition about and with refugees and asylum-seekers now living in the greater Athens area, benefiting from the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation ([ESTIA](#)) programme implemented by UNHCR and funded by the European Commission.

The Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk co-chaired with the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Migration Policy on 29 November a High Level Protection Dialogue for the first time in Greece titled ‘From irregular and unsafe movements to legal and safe pathways: lessons learnt from the experience in Greece – noting the positive and continuing work on the challenges’. High level participants of national authorities from different Ministries reflected on past experience and exchanged views on current issues including asylum procedures and reception conditions, legal safeguards, on improving protection systems for both refugees and host communities, as well as solidarity mechanisms for Greece. Delegates further agreed on follow-up actions. In addition, the Assistant High Commissioner delivered the [keynote address](#) at the [11th World Conference](#) of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges Conference in Athens, Greece. Other speakers included High and Supreme Courts judges and members of asylum courts and tribunals while amongst the participants were judges of courts and tribunals from Greece and across the world working on asylum cases. UNHCR was further represented by the Director for Europe Bureau Pascale Moreau, the Representative for UNHCR Greece Philippe Leclerc, and four key senior staff.

 **vincent cochetel** @cochetel · Nov 13  
 #UNHCR Grandi reiterating call for 40000 resettlement places for CM situation, only 10500 pledges received & budget funded at 14% in Africa



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**1** In **Italy**, November period was marked by the tragic discovery of corpses of 26 Nigerian girls and young women (aged 14-18) which were disembarked in Salerno, Italy on 05 November. The corpses were recovered during search and rescue operations for two separate shipwrecks in the Central Mediterranean, following which more than 60 other persons are still believed to be missing. Italian authorities launched an investigation to clarify the circumstances in which the women lost their lives. With respect to Italy’s support to maritime operations in Libyan territorial waters, the Italian Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ASGI) lodged an application on 14 November before the Lazio Administrative Tribunal, challenging Decree 4110/47 through which the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocated 2.5 million Euros to the Ministry of Interior in order to provide equipment and training to the Libyan Coast Guard.

NGOs in Bolzano, **Italy** continue to report the presence of UASC on the move near the Austrian border. On 13 November, a 5-year-old Sierra Leonean unaccompanied child was found under a freight train in Brenner at the Italy-Austria border. He was hospitalized due to hypothermia and later accommodated with a foster family, while authorities mobilized to trace his family. UNHCR staff in northern Italy provide support to the authorities in providing persons in transit with information on the asylum procedure. They also monitor border procedures, access to the international protection procedure and reception conditions, focusing in particular on the impact on persons with specific needs, such as UASC.

On 18 November 2017, Venezuelan opposition leader and former mayor of Caracas, Mr. Antonio Ledezma, arrived in **Spain** and appealed to the Spanish Government to open its borders to individuals fleeing Venezuela, and to regularize their stay. As of 31 October 2017, 8,527 Venezuelans claimed asylum in Spain since the beginning of the year, representing the top nationality of asylum applications in the country. According to Eurostat as of end October 2017, 11,430 Venezuelan asylum-seekers were waiting for a decision on their applications.

The Croatian government adopted the Integration Action Plan for refugees for 2017-2019 on 23 November 2017. This is a positive development for refugees in **Croatia** as new measures include enhanced access to housing; improved access to health through adjustment of the health care database, and better access to employment through vocational training. The Action Plan supports the integration of all people granted international protection in Croatia, a total of 382 individuals since 2004.

On 21 November, the Parliament in **Romania** adopted a law establishing the Child’s Ombudsman within the Ombudsman Office. The new position is expected to strengthen the promotion and protection of children’s rights, including children of concern to UNHCR.

The annual “Asylum Day” was held on 21 November in Vienna, **Austria**. The event was organized by UNHCR as part of the AMIF “Bridge” project,” in cooperation with the first instance and the three higher courts, more than 130 officials, decision-makers and judges participated.

At the third ministerial meeting of the Central Mediterranean Contact Group in **Bern, Switzerland** on 13 November, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [reiterated his call](#) for 40,000 additional resettlement places for the countries of asylum and transit linked to the Central Mediterranean routes. In his statement, Grandi stressed the importance of strengthening and sustaining rescue at sea in order to avoid further deaths. He also mentioned that “this will be insufficient and inadequate if no effort is made to also strengthen protection, including through support to a broader range of government entities, including those responsible for reception and asylum.”

**2** On 14 November, **Ireland** announced it will increase its resettlement numbers to 600 in both 2018 (which includes 254 from 2017’s quota) and 2019. It also said that it will establish a new family reunification scheme which will see up to 530 family members of refugees come to Ireland as part of the overall Refugee Protection Programme. [UNHCR expects](#) to provide support and assistance to officials in its creation, and to share the findings of its participatory assessment of Syrian refugees in Ireland. It was also announced that Ireland will opt in to the recast Reception Conditions Directive on 21 November. This opens the opportunity for asylum-seekers to have the right to work for the first time in the country. The decision follows over a decade of lobbying by civil society and UNHCR. UNHCR [welcomed](#) the decision as an opportunity to reform the wider reception system for asylum-seekers in Ireland and ensure better integration prospects for refugees.

3 On 15 November 2017, **Denmark** assumed the Presidency of the Council of Europe (CoE). In a [statement](#) issued on the 13 November, the Danish chairmanship announced that it will focus particularly on five themes: 1) The European human rights system in a future Europe, 2) Equal opportunities, 3) Involvement of children and young people in democracy, 4) Changing attitudes and prejudices about persons with disabilities and 5) Combating torture.

Increased support to stop returns of UASC to Afghanistan also gained traction in **Sweden** during November, due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and several alarming reports of increased mental illness, including suicides and attempted suicides amongst UASC. On 27 November, the Government announced a proposed amendment to the temporary asylum law that will provide an opportunity for UASCs who applied for asylum before 24 November 2015, and who have waited more than 15 months to have their asylum application processed and during this time have turned 18, to have the right to apply for a temporary residence permit in Sweden to finish upper-secondary school. If the Parliament agrees, the amendment is expected to come into force before the summer 2018.

Another key development in Sweden, was the presentation of a Government commissioned report (1 November 2017) which scrutinizes the grounds of issuing residence permits to individuals who cannot be removed from the country due to practical impediments to enforcement or statutory limitations. The report analyses among other things the impediments to enforcement faced by stateless persons, calling for the appointment of a specific inquiry on incorporation of the definition of stateless person as per the 1954 Convention in Swedish law, and on how a statelessness determination procedure, and consequently residence permits on the grounds of statelessness, could be introduced in Sweden.

4 In **Norway**, the Parliament decided that the immigration authorities must re-assess the asylum applications of unaccompanied and separated Afghan nationals who have received a temporary permit and temporarily stop their return, impacting the asylum procedure for unaccompanied and separated asylum-seekers from Afghanistan. The so-called 'October children' (approx. 130 Afghan UASC) who arrived in Norway in 2015 were due to be forcibly removed from Norway as they turned 18 in October 2017. Several Norwegian political parties called for an immediate stop of the returns. Following this, a public hearing held on the security situation in Afghanistan with the Foreign Minister and Minister of Migration and Integration was held on 8 November where the Government maintained its position and practice of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) that only the Helmand and Nangarhar provinces are to be considered unsafe. On 14 November, the Parliament voted in favor to cease the removal of young Afghans. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) then issued a new instruction where it requires UDI and the Norwegian Board of Appeals (UNE) to stop the removal of young Afghans, who have received a temporary permit in Norway and whose cases were decided after 01 October 2016. The Ministry has also instructed the UDI and UNE to carry out a new assessment of the applicants' protection needs. UNHCR views the Parliamentary proposal as a breakthrough result of intense UNHCR advocacy. To illustrate, the main arguments used by the parliamentarians to temporarily stop the returns to Afghanistan were based on UNHCR's guidance and Observations on the [proposed amendments to the Norwegian Immigration Act](#) in March 2017 and previous [Amendments to the Norwegian Immigration Act and Regulation](#) in February 2016.

On 14 November, the Committee of States Parties to the UNES-CO/Council of Europe Lisbon Recognition Convention adopted a Recommendation on the Recognition of Refugees' Qualifications. This Recommendation will help States implement Article VII of the [Council of Europe Lisbon Recognition Convention](#), by which parties commit to facilitating the recognition of such qualifications even when they cannot be fully documented. The Recommendation is available in [French](#), [English](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#). In this framework, the Council of Europe launched the pilot project of the "[European Qualifications Passport for Refugees](#)" which designs a process to assess higher education qualifications of asylum-seekers based on available documentation and structured interviews. In addition, the Council of Europe launched, on 22 November 2017, a Toolkit on Language support for adult refugees, as part of its [Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants \(LIAM\) project](#). The toolkit is designed to assist organisations, and especially volunteers, providing language support for adult refugees and asylum-seekers. The website and the toolkit is available in 7 languages: [English](#) - [French](#) - [Dutch](#) - [German](#) - [Greek](#) - [Italian](#) - [Turkish](#). There are plans to also adapt the toolkit for children.

On 23 November, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger updated the Permanent Council on the migration-related engagement of OSCE and presented a compilation of activities implemented by its Executive Structures since the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the [OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees](#). In his address, he particularly underlined the "increasingly close exchanges with UNHCR on the Mediterranean dimension and our work together on the UNHCR-OSCE Protection Checklist". He laid particular emphasis on integration as an important priority as well as smuggling and trafficking in human beings, underscoring the need for comprehensive regional approaches.

The security situation in the Eastern Conflict Area (ECA) of **Ukraine** remained unstable. On 3 and 4 November, Donetsk Filter Station was again targeted by shelling. The incidents are in violation of the agreement brokered by the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) on 19 July to protect critical water infrastructure in Donetsk region. The shelling came close to an area used to store chlorine gas used to treat the water supply. Rupture of the canisters could have led to widespread contamination of the environment and have fatal consequences. Damage to water infrastructure could also affect centralized heating systems in urban areas. Following the shelling, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator issued a [statement](#) on the humanitarian impact of hostilities in eastern Ukraine noting that damage to critical infrastructure could lead to further displacement. Similarly, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the TCG, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, and the coordinators of the TCG sub-groups on security, humanitarian and economic issues published a [statement](#) strongly condemning the shelling. Nonetheless, on 5 November, Verkhniokalmiyska Filter Station, which supplies 800,000 people with water, was shelled. Large quantities of chlorine gas are also stored at the filter station. The increased number of incidents during the weekend of 4 and 5 November also affected the area of Avdiivka in the government-controlled area (GCA) and led to the cancellation of a Canadian donor mission to that town on 6 November. Despite the shelling, no new displacement from the area was recorded. UNHCR's access to the area remains restricted due to ongoing security concerns.

## TOWARDS INTEGRATION

5 UNHCR [released](#) a report on integration of Syrian refugees in the **United Kingdom** on 9 November. UNHCR and its partners released the [Towards Integration](#) report, revealing that Syrian refugees in the UK benefit from integration efforts, but need extra support for language and employment. The report interviewed local authorities and refugees who arrived under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The study found that refugees interviewed were grateful to the UK and the genuine welcome from civic groups and local authorities. Among key recommendations were the establishment of a national integration strategy to better inform and guide those supporting refugees, for the benefit of this population.

 **UNHCR United Kingdom** @UNHCRUK · Nov 26  
 Although progress towards integration has been made, more can be done to help resettled Syrian refugees in the UK. Find out more:



**UK resettlement offers Syrians fleeing war a chance to rebuild lives**  
 UNHCR study finds progress being made on integration and Syrians appreciate their welcome. More can be done to help refugees find work, ...  
[unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org)

1 7 4



### TOWARDS INTEGRATION

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in the United Kingdom




## EU-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

On 15 November, the European Commission released a Progress Report on the European Agenda on Migration. The [report](#) and its [annexes](#) cover all aspects of the [Agenda](#).

On 15 November, the Council [adopted its position](#) on the European Commission proposal for a Union Resettlement Framework. In the context of ongoing inter-institutional trilogue negotiations, UNHCR [recalls its position](#) that it is key that the Framework reflects resettlement as a tool for protection, responsibility-sharing and a durable solution, aligns with the existing international resettlement architecture, and is responsive to global resettlement needs

On 29 November, the Council adopted its position on the EC proposal for a recast Reception Conditions Directive. In the context of ongoing inter-institutional trilogue negotiations, UNHCR [reiterates its position](#) that children should not be detained for immigration-related purposes, irrespective of their legal/migratory status or that of their parents, as detention is not in their best interests. UNHCR cautions against the cumulative effect of punitive measures, as this may result in more irregular onward movement and destitution of asylum-seekers.

On 29-30 November, the Fifth African Union-EU Summit took place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Among other outcomes, the Summit led to the issuance of a [Joint Statement](#) on the migrant situation in Libya, as well as the creation of a joint African Union-European Union-United Nations [Task Force](#). The Task Force's objectives are to "save and protect lives of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular inside Libya, accelerating the assisted voluntary returns to countries of origin, and the resettlement of those in need of international protection".

 Filippo Grandi Retweeted  
 **Dimitris Avramopoulos** @Avramopoulos · Dec 1  
 We cannot accept that the dire situation for migrants in #Libya continues. Welcome engagement of #AfricanUnion and @UN to work with us to improve conditions on the ground, speed up assisted voluntary returns and enhance legal pathways. We can only do this together #euausummit

**EU Council Press** @EUCouncilPress  
 African Union-European Union summit - Joint statement on the migrant situation in #Libya: [europa.eu/IWr44QX](http://europa.eu/IWr44QX) #AUEUSummit #migration

4 33 55

## #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness

November 4, 2017 marked the [third anniversary of UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign](#) to End Statelessness. In 2014, UNHCR launched its #IBelong campaign to bring awareness for the difficulties millions of stateless people around the world face in their everyday lives. Access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement are harsh realities for stateless individuals across the world, including in Europe. "Stateless people are just seeking the same basic rights that all citizens enjoy. But stateless minorities, like the Rohingya, often suffer from entrenched discrimination and a systematic denial of their rights," said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.



"In recent years, important steps have been taken to address statelessness worldwide. However new challenges, like growing forced displacement and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, threaten this progress. States must act now and they must act decisively to end statelessness," added Grandi.

Among the millions of stateless people worldwide, UNHCR estimates that over 570,000 live in Europe. The causes vary: in Eastern Europe one leading factor was the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Many people with expired Soviet passports have not been able to acquire the nationality of the state in which they reside. In the former Yugoslavia, groups of people fell between the cracks created by new nationality laws and became stateless. Though many have managed to establish or confirm their nationality, members of minority groups in south-eastern Europe, especially the Roma, still struggle to access the documents needed to confirm their nationality. Throughout Europe, gaps in nationality legislation continue to create situations of statelessness.

Statelessness can also be passed on from generation to generation. In some cases, stateless parents in Europe give birth to stateless children. In others cases, refugee or migrant mothers give birth in Europe and are unable to transfer their nationality to their child. Women from Syria, Iraq and 25 other nations globally are not allowed – under the

nationality laws of their countries – to pass on their nationality to their child as men do.

With the necessary political will and public support, millions of people around the world could acquire a nationality and prevent their children from being born stateless. By acquiring a nationality, millions of stateless people around the world could gain full access to their human rights and enjoy a sense of belonging in their communities.

euobserver

SECTION / OPINION

OPINION

### Roma statelessness in Europe is not an accident



The new UNHCR report [“This is our home”: Stateless minorities and their search for citizenship](#) reveals that statelessness still severely impacts the lives of thousands of Roma in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Many lack birth certificates or any other state recognition putting them at risk of statelessness. Trapped in a cycle where parents’ lack of documentation obstructs the registration of their children, they have no means of proving their entitlement to citizenship.

During November, UNHCR hosted and participated in a number of events across Europe, bringing together NGOs, international organizations, artists, civil society groups and political institutions to call further attention to the impact of statelessness. Events varied from photo exhibitions, expert meetings, the local launch of the “This is our home” report in Skopje and an international event at the [86th International Session of the European Youth Parliament](#) in Tbilisi.

On 3 November, UNHCR organized the commemoration of the third anniversary of UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. This was made possible by UNHCR the Netherlands. Also on 3 November, the [European Association of former Members of](#)



Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe, organized a seminar in Valetta, Malta and adopted a [Declaration on statelessness in light of mass migration](#).



From 27 November to 3 December, UNHCR presented the Nowhere People exhibition, a photographic study of stateless people by Greg Constantine, at London's Saatchi Gallery. A similar [photo exhibition](#) by Greg Constantine showing photos of stateless persons from Iraq, Nepal, Ukraine, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands and Serbia was hosted by UNHCR Italy in the Auditorium della Musica in Rome from 10 to 23 November 2017.



UNHCR United Kingdom @UNICRUK · Nov 30

'It is like a spider web. I am trapped and any move I make, I get stuck even more...there is no way out.'

This man describes being a stateless person in the UK #iBelong trib.al/rxaq5CH



In Strasbourg, UNHCR participated in a hearing on statelessness in Europe, with the Director of the European Network on Statelessness Chris Nash, organized by the European Committee on legal co-operation during its 92nd plenary meeting between 22 and 24 November. The main topic of discussion was the implementation in practice of the principle of avoiding statelessness in relation to children. This initiative comes under the [Action Plan on protecting refugee and migrant children \(2017-2019\)](#).

In addition, the 'Stateless Roma in Europe' event was held in the European Parliament on 29 November. At the meeting co-organized by UNHCR and European Network on Statelessness in the European Parliament a cross-party group of parliamentarians called on Member States and the European Commission to focus attention on the stateless Roma and discussed next steps to address the issue in countries which are part of the enlargement process, as well as within the EU.



Anna Maria Corazza B @AnnaMariaCB · Nov 29

It is unacceptable that still nowadays **people are born stateless** in Europe! Roma children are European children like everybody else. We need to change the rhetoric around Roma people & put an end to their stigmatization! #childrightIG #ForEveryChild



Throughout the month, various European and international media outlets also brought awareness to the issue of statelessness within Europe and beyond.

### View: Five reasons why you should care about statelessness

By Euronews Follow @euronews last updated: 29/11/2017

If we don't work to ensure that everyone in Europe and the world has a nationality, this purely man-made problem will continue to be passed from one generation to the next, writes UNHCR's Aikaterini Kiti



© Copyright: UNHCR/Hans Lahn

# REFUGEE STORIES

Here are two lives impacted by statelessness in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

By Ljubinka Brashnarska in Skopje.



© UNHCR/Roger Arnold

Twenty-nine year old Sutki Sokolovski has been stateless since birth. Sutki was born in Skopje to a stateless mother who left him to be raised by his grandmother first and then in an orphanage. As a teenager, he was homeless and earned his living by washing and repairing cars. Long-term employment without citizenship has been impossible. Now, Sutki is a father, and his wife, a FYR Macedonian citizen, is expecting their second child. According to national laws, after three years of marriage to a citizen, Sutki will be granted citizenship. Optimistic about the future, Sutki looks forward to the moment when he is recognized as a citizen: "I will be able to officially recognize and register my children. I will be able to be employed and have social security. I will be able to get a passport and travel. [...] All roads will be open to me."

Lirije Muslijjevska was born at home, just like five of her seven siblings. Their births were not officially registered and as a result, for the whole thirteen years of her life, Lirije has never been in possession of a birth certificate. This has deprived her of access to regular education and of living an ordinary childhood. About six years ago her parents tried to register their children for the first time, but at that point, an expensive DNA matching procedure was required. The joint support of UNHCR, its partner organization Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has been successful and all previously unregistered children in the family will be added to the birth registry. Lirije still dreams of going to school and becoming a lawyer or a police-woman one day. With a birth certificate in her hand, that dream is closer to becoming a reality. Asked what she would be able to do when she finally goes to school, Lirije says: "Well I would read, I would get A's, I would study. I'll study to be a lawyer because I really want to be a lawyer."



© UNHCR/Roger Arnold

## REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN (RMRP) FOR EUROPE



### January to September 2017 Update of Key Activities under RMRP

UNHCR and inter-agency partners have published the third quarterly report covering updates on the implementation of activities between January and September 2017. This report, written in collaboration with inter-agency partners, provides a summary of key interventions applied across various sectors throughout the region by humanitarian responders during the third quarter. It also reviews the shifts in arrival trends that have occurred throughout the first nine months of 2017. The RMRP was initiated following the large-scale population movements throughout Europe in 2015. Since then, the inter-agency response strategy to the crisis in Europe was revised to take into account the significant changes in the Europe refugee situation.

# KEY DOCUMENTS FROM THE WEB PORTAL

**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

## Ukraine

01-30 November 2017

**Situational overview:** The security situation in eastern Ukraine deteriorated in the latter half of November, with more than 14,000 ceasefire violations recorded.

**Protection concerns:** Winter conditions are exacerbating the protection situation. UNHCR provided nonfood items (NFI) and emergency shelter assistance to more than 3,100 people of the most vulnerable IDPs.

**Assistance provided:** In November, UNHCR provided nonfood items (NFI) and emergency shelter assistance to more than 3,100 people.

**KEY INDICATORS**

51,840 people reached through NFI assistance from UNHCR and partners in 2017.

31,080 IDPs and people at risk of displacement received legal assistance from UNHCR partners since January 2017.

2,650 households in eastern Ukraine received UNHCR shelter assistance in 2017.

**FUNDING (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)**

USD 37.6 M requested for the Ukraine situation

24.3 M UNHCR 65%  
13.3 M Partners 35%

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS\*\***

1.8 million

ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE\*\*\*

UK: 21,146  
Germany: 21,146  
Spain: 1,430  
France: 1,430

\*\* Including those permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA), temporary shelter in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA). \*\* Including those permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA), temporary shelter in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA). \*\* Including those permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA), temporary shelter in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA).

\*\*\* Including those permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA), temporary shelter in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA). \*\* Including those permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA), temporary shelter in government-controlled areas (GCA) and those in government-controlled areas (GCA).

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The UN Refugee Agency

ITALY OPERATIONAL UPDATE - November 2017

## ITALY

November 2017

**Key Figures**

117,042 New Arrivals  
51,540 UNHCR Sea Arrivals  
124,871 Asylum applications  
10,433 Resolutions

**Overview and developments**

Between 1 January and 30 November 2017, 117,042 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 20 per cent decrease compared to the same period last year, when 173,029 persons reached Italian shores. In 2017 so far, the highest numbers of registered sea arrivals originated from Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mali, Eritrea, Sudan, Tunisia, Senegal and The Gambia. Most and women constitute 75 per cent and 11 per cent of persons disembarked, respectively, while 13 per cent are unaccompanied and separated children (UNSC). Accompanied children account for 1 per cent of sea arrivals.

Consistently with decreasing numbers of monthly arrivals from mid-July 2017 onwards, fewer persons reached Italian shores in November 2017 (51,540), compared to November 2016 (113,811).

In the first eleven months of 2017, 91 per cent of sea arrivals departed from Libya. Departures from Tunisia account for 6 per cent of sea arrivals in the January-November 2017 period, followed by Turkey (2 per cent) and Algeria (2 per cent). While in the recent months the reduction of departures from Libya was mirrored by a proportional increase in departures from other countries, such increase was more modest in November when 9 per cent of sea arrivals departed from Tunisia, 5 per cent from Turkey and 2 per cent from Algeria.

In November, at least nine incidents at sea were reported along the central Mediterranean route, resulting in over 70 deaths and over 120 survivors going missing at sea. Alongside Italian and other European authorities, three NGOs (Proactiva Open Arms, Sea Watch, and SOS-Mediterranean) continue to carry out SAR operations in the Central Mediterranean.

Between 1 January and 30 November 2017, some 125,000 persons lodged an asylum claim in Italy\*\*. As of 30 November 2017, 84,894 adult asylum-seekers were accommodated in reception facilities\*\*.

**Operational update - UNHCR Response\***

**416** Access to territory and procedures. UNHCR teams at disembarkation sites delivered information to new arrivals and sought to ensure access to asylum and other procedures, as well as prompt identification and referral of persons with specific needs. During visits to reception facilities and initial settlements in various Italian regions, including in land border areas in northern Italy, UNHCR teams gathered information on the registration of disembarkation facilities.

**1,746** Reception. In November, UNHCR Monitoring Associates carried out one visit to a detention facility and 27 initial monitoring visits to temporary reception facilities, together with Ministry of Interior representatives and external auditors. UNHCR provided continuous support in developing the monitoring methodology and shared with the authorities the findings of the recent monitoring visits. UNHCR staff in southern Italy (Access team) also regularly visited first-aid facilities and hotspots.

**Child protection.** UNHCR Child Protection experts carried out regular visits to AMF-funded USAC reception facilities in various Italian regions. On 7 November 2017, UNHCR met with representatives from UNICEF, NGOs and institutional stakeholders to discuss current challenges in the implementation of Law 47/2017, focusing on guardianship, age assessment, reception and access to services.

**1,075** Capacity building. In November, UNHCR Child Protection experts continued to training events aimed at UNHCR reception centre staff and voluntary guardians. From 20 to 22 November 2017, UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of Interior staff delivered training on international protection to over 50 judges of the recently established judicial divisions focusing on asylum and foreign citizenship.

**Community-based protection.** From 8 to 9 November, UNHCR, implementing partner DILIA, a voluntary network of some 80 civil-society centres, held a workshop to discuss good practices in relation to the reception and protection of refugee women and girls, with a view to expanding 'sister' networks' access to specialised services.

\* For more information on UNHCR's response in Italy, see the November 2017 Operational Update. \*\* For more information on UNHCR's response in Italy, see the November 2017 Operational Update.

www.unhcr.org

**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET - Greece / 1-30 November 2017

## Greece

3,668 people arrived by sea and land this month, the majority of whom from Syria and Iraq. On the islands, the heavy rain worsened further the living conditions for asylum-seekers.

Protection risks increased in the overcrowded RCEs as hygiene and security deteriorated, putting children and the vulnerable in particular danger. The Government decided to increase transfers of those eligible to accommodation in Government-run sites and UNHCR apartments in the mainland and Crete with UNHCR's support.

**FUNDING (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)**

USD 245.9 M requested for the Greece operation

34,076 In the mainland and 14,586 on the islands

48,662 refugees and migrants in Greece\*\*

36,135 UNHCR provided emergency shelter assistance from UNHCR's emergency fund

38,534 people have not yet benefited from UNHCR accommodation\*

17,764 people resettled from the islands to the mainland (UNHCR supported)

76% of asylum seekers in Greece are from Syria and Iraq

193.3 M UNHCR 78%  
52.6 M Govt 22%

**UNHCR PRESENCE**

Staff:

- 403 International Staff
- 67 International Staff

Offices:

- 1 Country Office in Athens
- 2 Mainland Offices in Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina
- 3 Island Offices in Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Lesbos, Kos, and Rhodes

\* For more information on UNHCR's response in Greece, see the November 2017 Operational Update. \*\* For more information on UNHCR's response in Greece, see the November 2017 Operational Update.

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## Ukraine Operational Updates - November 2017

Ukraine operational updates highlighting UNHCR activities in November 2017

## Italy Operational Updates November 2017

A monthly operational update including highlighting major developments and UNHCR response in Italy

## Greece Factsheet November 2017

Greece factsheet covering November 2017 with key figures on arrivals and operational updates

**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

January - November 2017

## ITALY Sea arrivals dashboard

Overview

Between 1 January and 30 November 2017, 117,042 persons arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 20% decrease compared to the same period last year, when 173,029 persons reached Italian shores. In 2017 so far, the highest numbers of registered sea arrivals originated from Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mali, Eritrea, Sudan, Tunisia, Senegal and The Gambia. Most and women constitute 75 per cent and 11 per cent of persons disembarked, respectively, while 13 per cent are unaccompanied and separated children (UNSC). Accompanied children account for 1 per cent of sea arrivals.

**117,042** New Arrivals  
**173,029** Jan - Nov 2016\*\*

**Monthly sea arrivals**

2014 2015 2016 2017

2014 2015 2016 2017

**Nationality of arrivals**

Between 1 January and 30 November 2017, 71% of all arrivals originated from Nigeria, followed by Guinea (9%), Côte d'Ivoire (9%), Bangladesh (9%), Mali (9%), Eritrea (9%), Sudan (9%), Tunisia (9%), Senegal (9%) and The Gambia (9%). Nigeria remains the most common country of origin of sea arrivals in Italy, but numbers have fallen compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, while Eritrea remained the second most common nationality of sea arrivals in 2016, this number decreased by over two thirds if compared to the same period last year (January to November). Also Guinea and Somalia have decreased by 47% and 41%, respectively.

**Most common nationalities of arrivals - January 2016 to November 2017**

2014 2015 2016 2017

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The UN Refugee Agency

04-10 DEC 2017

## UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

- On 10 December, 4,684 new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia, with 4,210 housed in 18 governmental centres.
- The **100+ Arrivals of Government Centre** on the website of the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migrants, UNHCR Global and UNHCR Serbia were updated for November.
- Continuing activities for the **16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**, UNHCR Serbia conducted two more trainings on cultural knowledge of Afghanistan, Syria and Pakistan for partners and authorities in Subotica and SIK, as well as an SGIEV training for UNHCR and partner staff.
- Following security allegations amongst migrant men around SIK and inside the Obrenovac Transit Centre, activities transferred 292 men (including 74 unaccompanied and separated boys) to Reception Reception Centres. Most are from North Africa, Pakistan or Afghanistan. On arrival in Presovo, all were registered, medically checked and referred to authorities, UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR and partners assisted 89 new arrivals, 24% originate in Pakistan, 58% in Iran, 17% Syria and 14% in Afghanistan. 40% arrived via FYR Macedonia, 23% via Bulgaria and 17% by air.
- UNHCR and partners received requests of 127 collective expulsions from Croatia (compared to 91 last month), 34 from Romania (18 last month) and 18 from Hungary.
- UNHCR Geneva issued the third quarterly Update of the 2017 **Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe**.

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**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

January 2015 - November 2017  
16 November 2017 (last updated on 14 December 2017)

## EUROPE Dead and missing at sea

Number of Dead and Missing by Route (Jan-Nov, 2016 and 2017)

**Key Figures**

3,080 Dead and Missing in 2017  
4,699 Dead and Missing in 2016  
5,096 Dead and Missing in 2015

**Central Mediterranean Route**

2,913 Dead and Missing in 2017  
4,578 Dead and Missing in 2016  
2,846 Dead and Missing in 2015

**Eastern Mediterranean Route**

790 Dead and Missing in 2017  
441 Dead and Missing in 2016  
45 Dead and Missing in 2015

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## Italy Sea arrivals dashboard - November 2017

Monthly dashboard covering arrivals to Italy for November 2017

## Serbia Updates 4 to 10 December 2017

Serbia country updates for the period of 4 to 6 December 2017

## Dead and Missing at sea November 2017

Monthly dashboard on dead and missing people as of November 2017

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# TIMELINE OVERVIEW

