



Arrivals and Departures: People continue to arrive to the Greek islands (2,470 daily arrivals on average last week) whilst the number of people crossing into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remains limited (247 daily arrivals on average last week). On average over the past week, only 10% of those arriving to the Greek shores were allowed entry into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

So far this year, according to UNHCR, over 9,000 people arrived in Italy as of 28 February, a slight increase in comparison to the same period in 2015, when over 7,800 people had reached the Italian shores by sea.

Situation at Border Crossings: 25 people were returned to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Serbia. In Serbia, no train transport to Croatia was available for refugees and migrants. In Croatia, 23 people were returned from Slovenia.

Condition of People: The Greek police were able to restore calm following violent clashes with refugees and migrants which emerged as a result of the border crossing with FYR Macedonia being closed.

According to media sources, in Calais, France, clashes between police and refugees and migrants took place after authorities began to dismantle parts of the refugee camp¹.

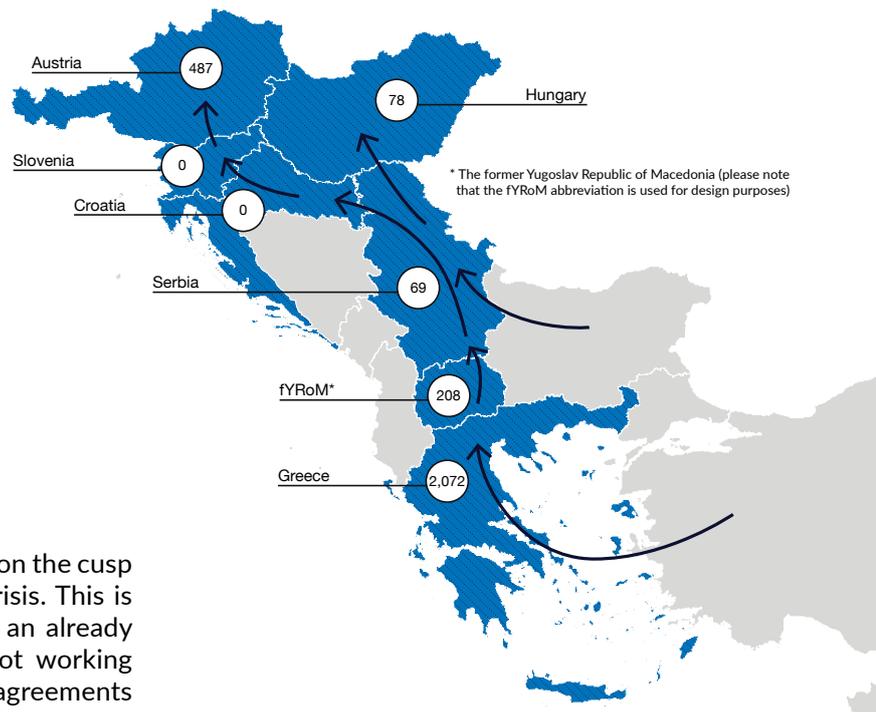
37 people were stopped at the border crossing between Italy and Austria for attempting to transit irregularly as a result of five border management operations over the past week.

Greek Education Minister, Nikos Filis, presented to his EU counterparts a plan to provide education to refugee children in Greece. Immersion classes will first be organized in hotspots, after which refugee children will then attend state schools.



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	2,072
FYRoM*	208
Serbia	69
Croatia	0
Hungary	78
Slovenia	0
Austria	487



Critical Developments



UNHCR has warned today that Europe is on the cusp of a largely self-induced humanitarian crisis. This is in light of a rapid build-up of people in an already struggling Greece, with governments not working together despite having already reached agreements in a number of areas, and country after country imposing new border restrictions. Inconsistent practices are causing unnecessary suffering and risk being at variance with EU and international law standards.

The President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, President Gjorge Ivanov, said in a press release that, when Austria reaches the set limit of 37,500 asylum applications this year, the Balkan refugee route will have to close. Regarding the border restrictions along the Western Balkan route, he further mentioned that "in times of crisis, every country must find its own solutions".

According to [media sources](#), on 29 February and 1 March, Turkey is to readmit a total of 308 people from Greece. They will be transferred to the border crossing of Kipoi in Evros, where they will be handed to the Turkish authorities.

Response

In Greece, a new hotspot with a capacity for 800 refugees is under construction in Park Tritsis, in the suburb of Athens.

Challenges

On 27 and 28 February, fire broke out at two former military camps in Giannitsa, northern Greece. One of the sites was intended to become a refugee centre. According to media reports, there is strong opposition to the creation of a refugee centre in the area. Police are investigating whether the fires were intentionally started, and if they were connected.

Weather Headlines

- Strong winds and rough seas easing across the Aegean on Tuesday night, but sea conditions are expected to deteriorate again through Thursday.
- It will remain rather unsettled across the region through the remainder of the week with most places seeing rain, which may turn locally heavy at times.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

15-21 February
2,747
140% from previous week



22-28 February
2,538
-8% from previous week



29 February
2,072
-18% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
February (as of 29 Feb)
1,904
-1% from previous month



Social Media

Twitter Activity: [Frontex](#) posted that a Norwegian vessel deployed by [#Frontex](#) rescued 197 people, including 87 children off the coast of Lesbos in 3 rescue [operations] [#Poseidon](#). Frontex also announced that 'another Swedish boat [is set] to join the [#Frontex](#) operation off [the coast of] Lesbos starting in April'.

migrants attempting to forcibly break through the barrier in order to gain access to Macedonia. In another scope, still at the border, Scheuerman managed to capture the refugees and migrants chanting "open the border", while others explained that they had been waiting for 20 days.

The European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ([@EP_Justice](#)) met to discuss the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration; a new border and coast guard package was also debated.

Current statistics for: #Greece

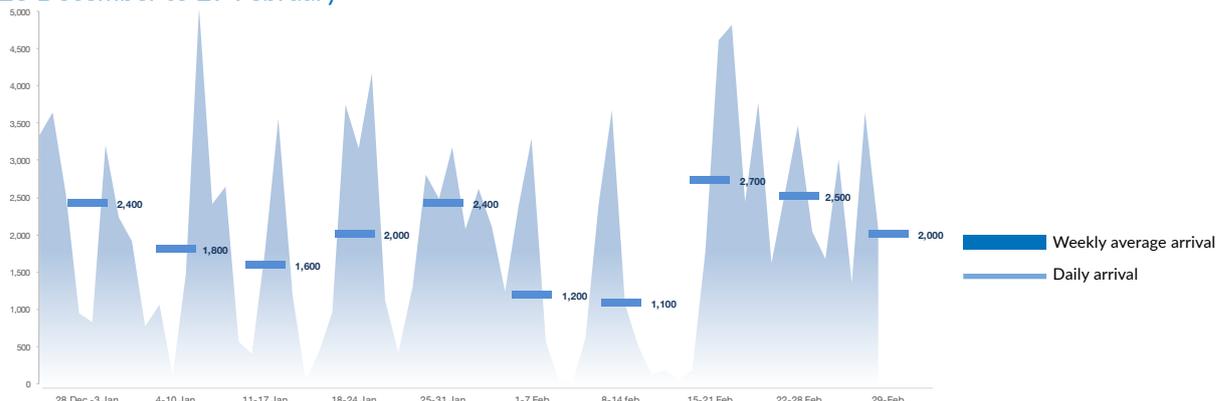
- 154 tweets, 342 retweets per hour
- Over 1.36 million impressions per hour
- Social media activity for #Greece has been steadily increasing since 27 February, reaching a peak average of 3,000 tweets, 6,900 retweets and 5,616 impressions yesterday.

Periscope: [Christoph Scheuerman](#), UK correspondent for Der Spiegel, livestreamed from the Greece-Macedonia border. The stream showed a first-hand account of some of the refugees and

With the demolition of some of the Calais 'Jungle', social media activity using [#calais](#) steadily rose since 28 February with an average of 475 retweets an hour and making over 13 million impressions.



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 29 February





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia
Key locations crossed by refugees

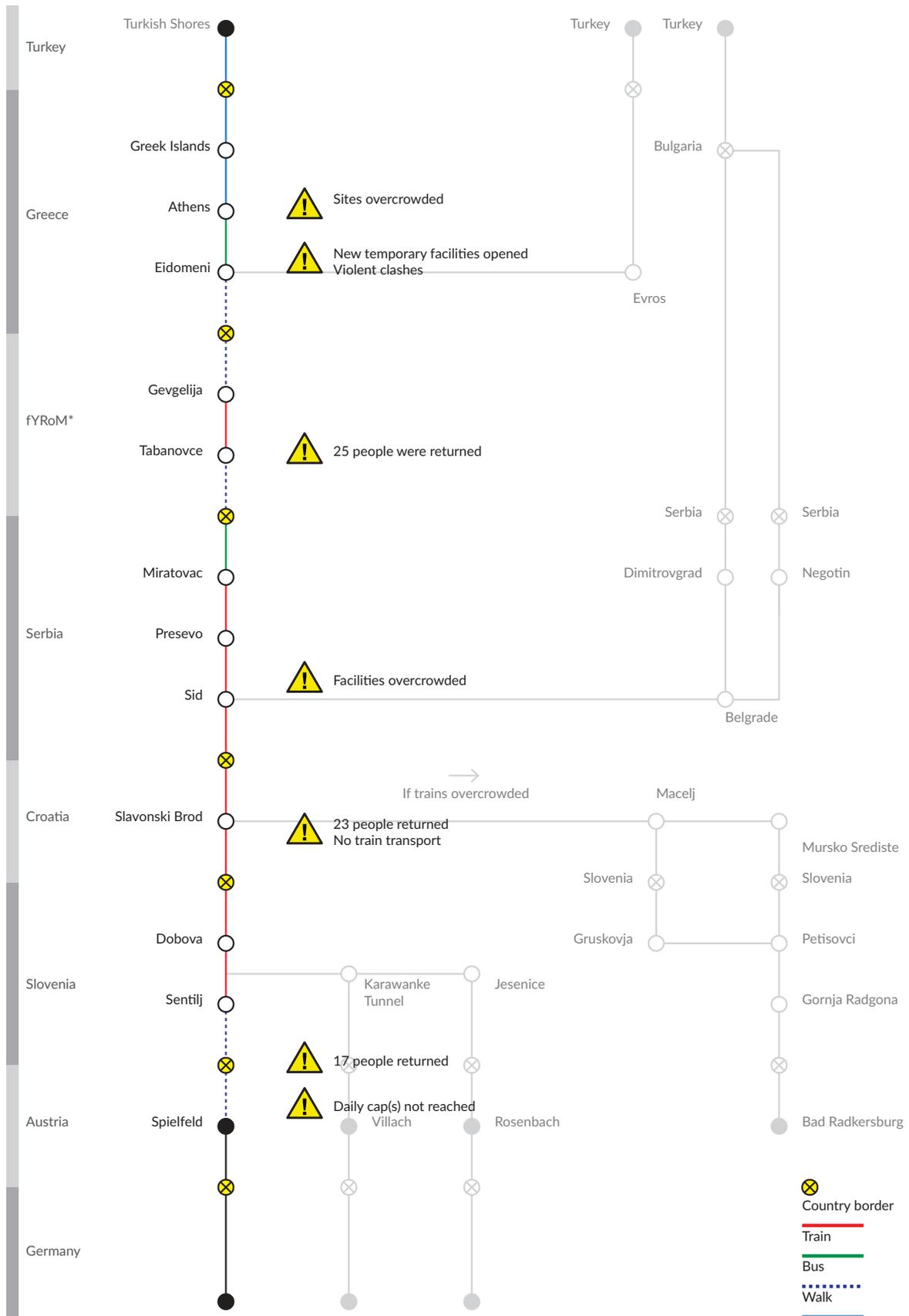


Weather Assessment

- Strong to gale force southerly winds will ease across the Aegean on Tuesday night. With wave heights reducing, past event analysis would suggest an arrival rate similar to that seen over the previous weekend on Wednesday. Sea conditions are expected to deteriorate through Thursday though with strong southerly winds persisting into Friday. Past event analysis would suggest a reduction in arrivals as sea conditions become increasingly dangerous for small boats.
- Some slow-moving heavy showers are likely to affect parts of northern Greece and the Aegean Islands on Wednesday. A band of locally heavy rain is expected to sweep across the region through Thursday, which may lead to increasingly muddy ground conditions. The rather unsettled theme is expected to continue through the weekend as another further band of rain moves across SE Europe, although no significant cold weather is expected.



Situation Overview



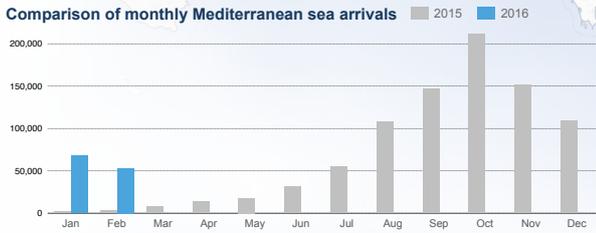
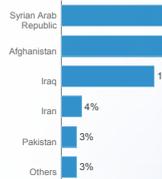


**Annex 1
Key Figures from the Portal**

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

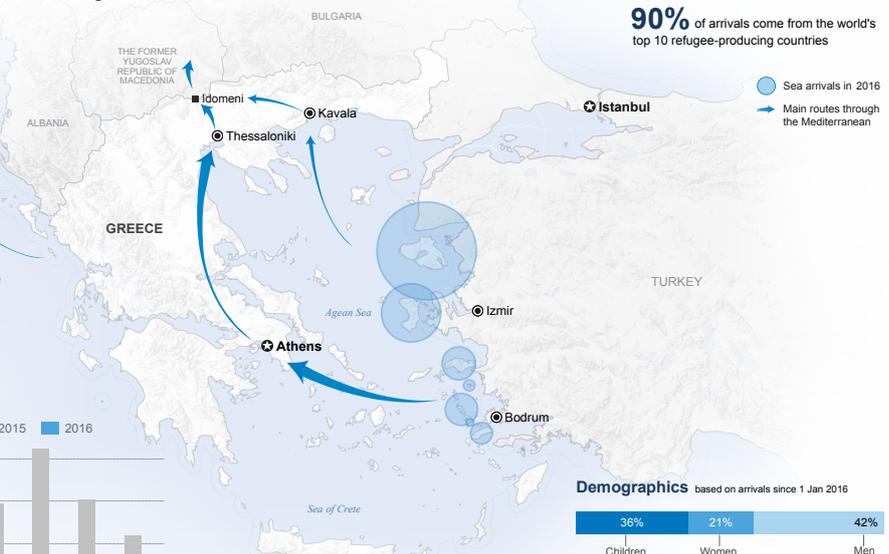


120,565 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

90% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

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*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

Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

