

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean  
**28,378**

arrivals by sea in 2017\*

**905**

dead/missing in 2017\*

Trends of Arrivals in the Mediterranean

From 20 to 26 March, 414 persons arrived by sea to Greece. Chios recorded the majority of sea arrivals (224), followed by Lesbos (72) and Leros (72). A total of 3,783 persons reached the Greek shores from 01 January until 26 March 2017.

Between 01 January and 26 March 2017, 21,894 persons arrived in Italy by sea (plus 45 per cent compared to the sea arrivals in the same period last year). During the week, 5,665 persons (including over 500 unaccompanied and separated children/UASC) disembarked in various ports of southern Italy. New arrivals departed from Libya and mainly originate from sub-Saharan African countries, but also from Morocco and Bangladesh. Furthermore, on 21 March, 10 Tunisian nationals spontaneously reached shore in western Sicily and were subsequently transferred to the hotspot in Taranto, while on 26 March 28 persons originating from Pakistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Somalia spontaneously reached Porto Badisco, Lecce and were subsequently transferred to the Centro di Primo Soccorso e Accoglienza (CPSA) Don Tonino Bello for identification.

On 23 March, at least two shipwrecks were reported off the Libyan coast. NGOs reported that five corpses of young men were recovered some 14 miles off the Libyan coast near two empty and partially submerged rubber dinghies. A third boat also called the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Rome asking for help, [with NGOs consequently patrolling the area, for the time being there are no reports about this boat](#). Vincent Cochetel, Director of UNHCR's Europe Bureau, claimed that defeating the business model of traffickers requires the existence of credible legal pathways for those in need of international protection, including through resettlement, family reunification programmes and private sponsorship.

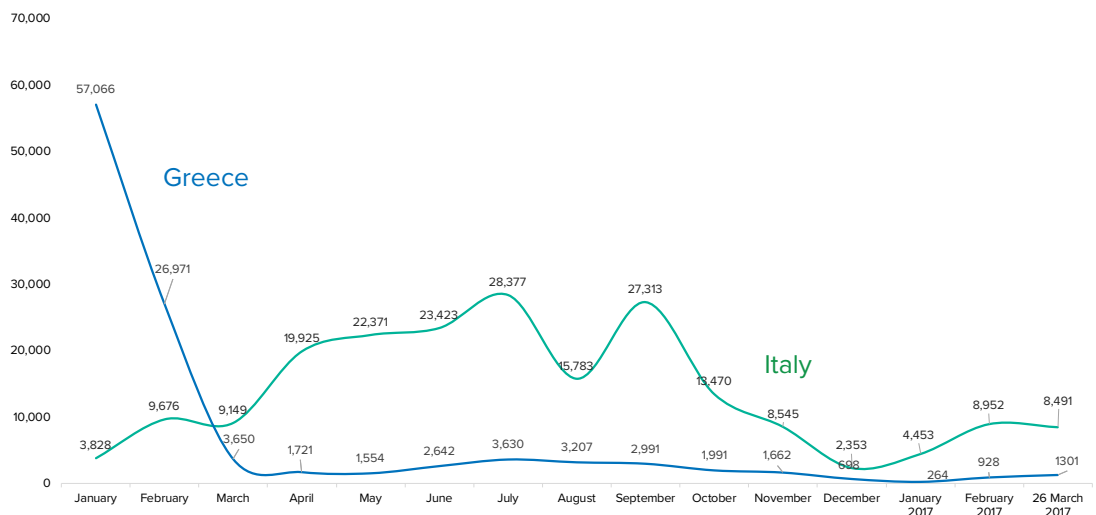
It is estimated that at least 205 are dead or missing bringing the total number of 811 from January to 26 March 2017. As of 28 March, 959 people have died or went missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, compared to 5,022 in the whole of 2016.

In Spain, arrivals have increased and as of 26 March some 4,200 persons arrived since January 2017 (110 per cent of increase compared to same period of last year), 55 per cent by sea (2,300) and 45 per cent by land to Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla (1,900). In the reporting period 240 persons arrived by sea. While the majority were rescued by the Spanish Rescue Agency in the high seas and transferred to different points of the Andalusian coast, a significant number of spontaneous arrivals were registered in Cádiz and Melilla. Most sea arrivals originated from western African countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia and Guinea. On 24 March a small inflatable boat, reportedly carrying seven persons (all males from Sub-Saharan countries) capsized, trying to reach the Spanish shores through the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco. The Spanish Rescue Agency rescued three survivors and recovered three dead bodies in the Mediterranean (one is still missing). UNHCR, present at the landing of two other boats rescued that day and carrying 24 persons (4 women, 19 men and 1 little child), remains in contact with Spanish authorities in charge of providing humanitarian aid to survivors and will follow up with them.

In terms of land arrivals to the Spanish enclaves (Ceuta and Melilla), despite ongoing and serious restrictions, Syrians and Palestinians (mainly families) continue to enter through Melilla claiming asylum at the border crossing point (some 500 applications in 2017). Other land arrivals originated from Guinea, Algeria and Cameroon. Recep-

Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month

January 2016 to 26 March 2017



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 31 March 2017

Key Figures

Greece

**414**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands**  
20 - 26 March 2017

**59**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands**  
20 - 26 March 2017

Italy

**5,702**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy**  
20 - 26 March 2017

**815**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Italy**  
20 - 26 March 2017

tion conditions in the enclaves continue to be of concern. In Ceuta, in the reception centre (510 maximum capacity), over 1,000 persons are waiting to be transferred to the mainland and in Melilla's reception centre, with a maximum capacity of 490, there are 900 persons (including 300 asylum-seekers and 200 women and children).

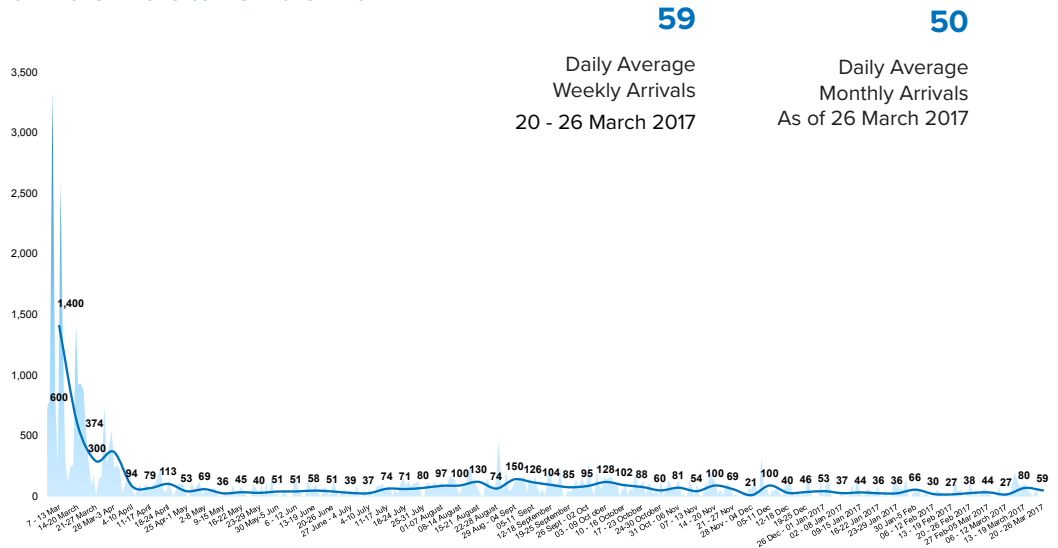
Key Developments

Situation in Greece

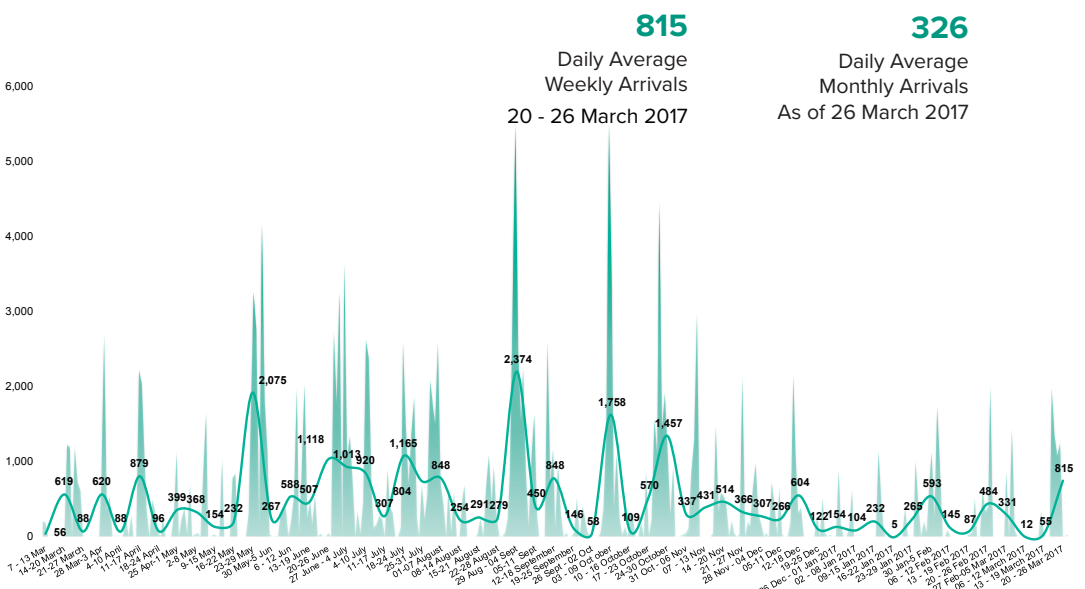
UNHCR continues to provide assistance in Greece through its cash distribution programme. Last week, UNHCR's distribution benefited 1,486 individuals, as 580 cards were distributed for the first time in Ioannina, Attika, Rovies, as well as in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece,

and on the Aegean islands of Lesbos, Tilos and Chios. The Shelter Working Group and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Working Group developed practical measures to mitigate the risks of SGBV and to integrate SGBV prevention into shelter and site planning in the sites in Greece both in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) and open accommodation facilities. These include specific measures in the areas of population control to avoid overcrowding; adequate shelter privacy; adequate lighting in the site; appropriate communal WASH facilities; site layout; assessments, analysis and strategic planning. The recommendations seek to promote the well-being of groups at risk, and to contribute increase security. It also recommends that shelter

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece  
07 March 2016 to 26 March 2017



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy  
07 March 2016 to 26 March 2017



and site planning staff design all response services to be inclusive and accessible, including to persons with disabilities.

By 27 March, 27,708 people had benefited from UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme since the beginning of the programme (123 people in the past week) and 18,916 places were available in apartments (11,394), hotels (4,216), buildings (1,982), facilities for unaccompanied children (732), sites (360) and host family programme (232).

### Situation in Serbia

As of 26 March, 7,892 asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants were counted in Serbia, of which 6,738 (85 per cent) were accommodated in 17 government shelters.

The impending implementation of the Hungarian Law passed on 06 March and prospects of spending prolonged period of time in detention before being rejected and sent back to Serbia is a major concern among refugees and migrants in all sites. While psycho-social and other health partners report increasing mental health issues at all sites, a first peaceful demonstration against the new law took place on 22 March in front of Adasevci Transit Centre. UNHCR continues offering authorities increased support to maintain mental health and security in the centres.

Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) continued arriving daily, mainly from Bulgaria.

Some 30 new, mostly Afghan, boys were referred by UNHCR and partners to the Centre for Social Work in Belgrade alone. By now, over 900 UASCs are in Serbia, with 758 accommodated in government centres, including 350 in Obrenovac, 118 in Presevo, 32 in Bujanovac, and 258 in all other governmental shelters, as well as close to 200 in Belgrade city centre.

Five cases of collective expulsions from Hungary were

encountered this week, the lowest number reported since last summer. Consistent with increased attempts to irregularly enter Croatia instead, the number of reported collective expulsions from Croatia rose to 60 from last week's 57. In support to the government's efforts to improve and expand emergency shelter UNHCR donated another 250 bunk beds to the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) and delivered them to the Transit Centres of Obrenovac, Subotica, Sombor and Sid.

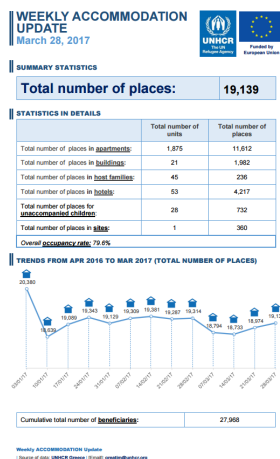
On 20 March, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights presented its annual report "Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2016", which documents and analyses small improvements but also systemic problems in accessing fair and efficient asylum procedures and refugee protection in Serbia. [The full report is available here](#).

On 24 March, UNHCR and partners surveyed refugees/migrants in Belgrade city centre. Amongst 1,395 counted - all male - 368 agreed to be interviewed. Most were from Afghanistan (85 per cent), followed by Pakistan. 11 per cent confirmed to be sheltered in Obrenovac centre but come to the city regularly and 125 were UASCs, mostly Afghan. Over 50 per cent of those profiled reached Serbia in the past four months. 64 per cent stated they are waiting for smugglers to try to reach France or Italy.

### Situation in Hungary

From 20 to 26 March, 55 asylum-seekers (compared to 43 from 13 to 19 March) entered Hungary through the two transit zones: 28 into Röszke and 27 into Tompa (10 men, 10 women, 30 children, 1 single man, 1 single woman and 3 UACs); breakdown by nationality: 27 Afghans, 20 Syrians, seven Iraqis, and one Nepali). The daily admissions remained at around five people per day per transit zone with no admissions over the weekends and public holidays. The Hungarian police reported seven apprehen-

## Key Documents from the Web portal



**WEEKLY ACCOMMODATION UPDATE**  
March 28, 2017

**SUMMARY STATISTICS**

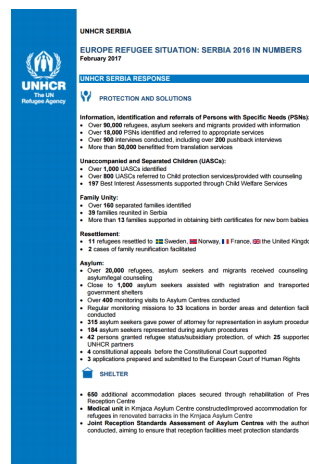
**Total number of places:** 19,139

**STATISTICS IN DETAILS**

	Total number of units	Total number of places
Total number of places in <b>apartments</b>	1,875	11,612
Total number of places in <b>hotels</b>	21	1,982
Total number of places in <b>host families</b>	45	236
Total number of places in <b>buildings</b>	53	4,217
Total number of places for <b>unaccompanied children</b>	28	732
Total number of places in <b>sites</b>	1	360
<b>Overall occupancy rate:</b> 79.6%		

**TRENDS FROM APR 2016 TO MAR 2017 (TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES)**

Cumulative total number of beneficiaries: 27,368



**UNHCR SERBIA**  
EUROPE REFUGEE SITUATION: SERBIA 2016 IN NUMBERS  
February 2017

**UNHCR SERBIA RESPONSE**  
PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS

**Information, identification and referrals of Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):**

- Over 80,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants provided with information
- Over 18,000 PSNs identified and referred to appropriate services
- Over 800 interviews conducted, including over 200 passport interviews
- More than 50,000 benefited from translation services

**Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC):**

- Over 1,000 UASCs identified
- Over 800 UASCs referred to Child protection services accompanied with counselling
- 197 Best Interest Assessments supported through Child Welfare Services

**Family Unity:**

- Over 160 separated families identified
- 39 families reunited in Serbia
- More than 13 families supported in obtaining birth certificates for new born babies

**Resettlement:**

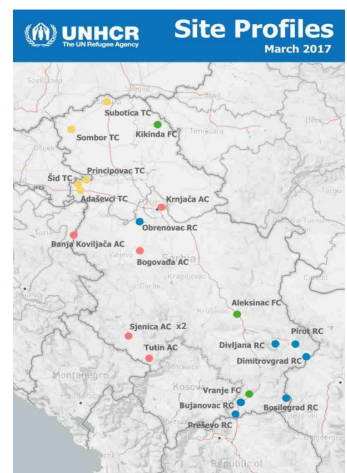
- 11 refugees resettled to: 22 Sweden, 88 Norway, 8 France, 20 the United Kingdom
- 2 cases of family reunification facilitated

**Asylum:**

- Over 20,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants received counselling on asylum/legal counselling
- Close to 5,000 asylum seekers assisted with registration and transported to government shelters
- Over 400 monitoring visits to Asylum Centres conducted
- Regular monitoring missions to 33 locations in border areas and detention facilities conducted
- 218 asylum seekers given general advice for representation in asylum procedures
- 184 asylum seekers represented during asylum procedures
- 42 asylum seekers granted individualized protection, of which 25 supported by UNHCR partners
- 4 constitutional appeals before the Constitutional Court supported
- 3 applications prepared and submitted to the European Court of Human Rights

**SHELTER**

- 600 additional accommodation places secured through rehabilitation of Presevo Reception Centre
- Medical unit in Kragujevac Asylum Centre constructed/improved accommodation for 116 refugees in involved territory of the Transit Asylum Centre
- Joint Reception Standards Assessment of Asylum Centres with the authorities conducted, aiming to ensure that reception facilities meet protection standards



**UNHCR Site Profiles**  
March 2017

Map showing various sites in Serbia: Subotica TC, Sombor TC, Kikinda FC, Sid TC, Principovci TC, Adasevci TC, Kmita AC, Obrenovac RC, Benja Koviljača AC, Bogovađa AC, Aleksinac FC, Sjenica AC x2, Tutin AC, Diviljana RC, Dimitrovgrad RC, Vranje FC, Bujanovac RC, Preševac RC, Kragujevac RC, and Belgrade RC.

sion for irregular entry, 33 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 41 people were intercepted inside Hungary and collectively expelled to the Serbia side of the fence. UNHCR, NGOs, government authorities and local aid groups from both Serbia and Hungary continued to provide assistance and support to people waiting in makeshift tents in the areas outside the transit zones.

UNHCR conducted monitoring visits to asylum detention and aliens police facilities. On 20 March Nyírbátor asylum detention centre accommodated 57 asylum-seekers (maximum capacity of 98), mainly Afghans, Pakistanis and Iraqis. The facility is expected to receive additional 30 asylum-seekers from Kiskunhalas asylum detention centre before the closure of the latter by the end of March. The average length of detention is currently 3-4 months. Asylum-seekers raised concerns about the humiliating treatment of being handcuffed and put on leash when escorted by police to the doctor. UNHCR discussed the issue with the head of the police and will follow up with the concerned authorities.

On 21 March, UNHCR visited the aliens police detention in Nyírbátor where 130 men were detained (maximum capacity of 160), 60 of them were transferred recently from Kiskunhalas. Detainees were mainly coming from Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco and India but there were also nationals of Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Syria. The management of the facility is supportive of the initiatives of the Menedék social care team (UNHCR's partner), which set up community rooms in all wings to organise regular social and leisure activities. Case work and psychosocial support is provided. Some of the newly arrived detainees gave account about ill-treatment upon reception, in particular that armed security guards slapped and pushed them to the wall in rooms where no cameras were installed. UNHCR raised these concerns with the head of the police who asked UNHCR's support in encouraging alleged victims to lodge official complaints. On 22 March, UNHCR observed adequate detention conditions during the monitoring visit to the aliens detention centre at Budapest airport and the detainees reported on excellent treatment by the staff. 14 men were detained in the facility pending expulsion to their countries of origin. The average length of stay in the facility is of 10-12 days as detainees are usually transferred to this facility when their deportation is approaching.

#### Situation in Bulgaria

While the number of irregular entries has drastically decreased as compared to the same period in 2016, the number of asylum-seekers accommodated in State Agency for Refugees (SAR) centres is increasing: 2,872 persons were registered at SAR centres as of 24 March 2017, compared to only 758 on 14 March 2016. The main reasons include Bulgaria and Serbia's tightened measures to control cross-border movement along their borders.

Deplorable living conditions in most of the reception facilities have not been improved. The chronic issues include physical/hygiene conditions in the centres, difficulties in finding doctors willing to register asylum-seekers, local municipalities unwilling to provide address registration to asylum-seekers, overloaded case workers, and presence of unregistered individuals residing in a centre. On the other hand, some reception centres continue to implement good practices such as regular local-level coordination meeting (NGOs, UNHCR and SAR officials) and improved communication between reception officials and asylum-seekers on day-to-day issues.

#### Update on Relocation

As of 27 March, the European Commission (EC) states that 15,055 persons have been relocated within the EU, with 10,575 persons relocated from Greece (14 per cent of the initial 66,400 target) and 4,480 from Italy (10 per cent of the initial 39,600 target). ([EC Figures](#))

From 20 to 26 March, 572 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece, to Finland (148), France (178), Ireland (38), Latvia (30), Luxembourg (57), Netherlands (104) and Slovenia (17), including 3 Dublin cases (to France). There were 135 new pledges from Norway (115) and Croatia (20). A total of 10,853 asylum-seekers have left or will leave Greece until the end of March 2017. The number of monthly departures in 2017 is finally growing in comparison to 2016, when the average of monthly departure was 607 persons. In January and February, 1,132 and 1,204 asylum-seekers have departed and in March 1,237 asylum-seekers have left or are expected to depart to another EU Member State.

During the week, 45 asylum-seekers were relocated from Italy to France.

#### European Union Developments

On 20 March, the EC awarded EUR 12.2 million in emergency funding under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) to Italy. The funding is aimed at helping the Italian Coast Guard strengthen border surveillance as well as to support its search and rescue capacity.

On 25 March, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Rome treaties, the Leaders of 27 EU Member States, the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission adopted the [Rome Declaration](#). In the Declaration, they reaffirm their commitment to the European Union, and outline strategic directions. In particular, they single out "a safe and secure Europe" as one of their four overarching areas of work. In that context, they aim at fostering "a Union where all citizens feel safe and can move freely, where [...] external borders are secured, with an efficient, responsible and sustainable migration policy, respecting international norms".

**Timeline Overview**

● Highlights

