

EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



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Manaal is 14 years old. She is from Somalia and lives in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She dreams of being an air stewardess to "be able to travel, see Paris and have butterflies" in her stomach.

TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES

Between 1 and 31 January 2018, over 8,000 people arrived via the Mediterranean to Europe, an 11% increase compared to the same month in 2017 during which over 7,200 arrived. Arrivals during January comprised of 19% children, 13% women and 68% men.

In Italy, the number of refugees and migrants arriving by sea in January (4,200) dropped 6% compared to last January (4,500), but the number crossing from Libya dropped approximately 25% with increased arrivals from Tunisia, Turkey and Algeria. Those crossing from Tunisia are almost all Tunisian nationals while only Algerians arrived from Algeria. While arrival numbers had dropped compared to last January, they had increased compared to December, including due to the rescue of three large vessels carrying around 300 persons each, mostly from Eritrea. Eritreans were the primary nationality of sea arrivals in January with nearly 1,200 persons (28% of all arrivals), with Tunisians (15%) and Pakistanis (7%, many of whom had crossed from Turkey), second and third. Some 200 Libyans had crossed the sea to Italy in January compared to just 1,200 in all of 2017.

In Greece, sea arrivals continued along the same patterns as in the second half of 2017 with Syrian and Iraqi families comprising most of those crossing the sea from Turkey. In January, Syrians (30%), Iraqis (29%) and Afghans (13%) were the primary nationalities arriving by sea. The number of people arriving on the islands dropped compared to December, including due to many days with no arrivals, potentially as a result of rough weather. Nevertheless, arrivals this year increased 17% compared to last January. At the land border, 565 refugees and migrants crossed the Evros River from Turkey, (compared to 353 in January last year). The body of one

Mediterranean
8,010
arrivals in 2018¹

227
estimated dead/missing in 2018¹

Greece			Italy		
1,630			4,190		
3,215	2,364	1,633	5,645	2,327	4,189
Nov	Dec	Jan	Nov	Dec	Jan
Spain²			Cyprus		
2,180			0		
4,679	2,373	2,182	154	27	0
Nov	Dec	Jan	Nov	Dec	Jan

New asylum applications in EU+ countries³

645,050 applications in 2017
1,236,370 applications in 2016
1,325,565 applications in 2015

¹ data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 31 January 2018.

² Includes land and sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands

³ Source: Eurostats. For 2017, data for November and December is partial. All data is provisional and last updated 14 February 2018.

33,470

Relocated in total ⁴
⁴Source: [European Commission](#) as of 25 January 2018.

 from **Greece**
21,730
 (33% of 66,400)

 from **Italy**
11,740
 (30% of 39,600)

person believed to have been a refugee or migrant was also recovered contributing to a total of nine deaths since November along the route through the land border.

In Spain, nearly 2,200 people crossed the land and sea borders from North Africa in January, an increase of 58% compared to January 2017. As in 2017, most people crossed the sea although over 750 persons, mostly from Syria arrived via the land border. Arrivals in January were most commonly Guinean, Syrian and Moroccan.

According to official statistics of the Turkish Coast Guard, 1,640 individuals were rescued/intercepted at the sea borders of Turkey in January while official statistics of Turkish Land Forces state that over 2,400 individuals were intercepted at the western land borders of which 99% of the interceptions took place at Turkey's land border with Greece.

Dead and missing: In January, an estimated 227 persons died or were presumed dead while trying to cross the

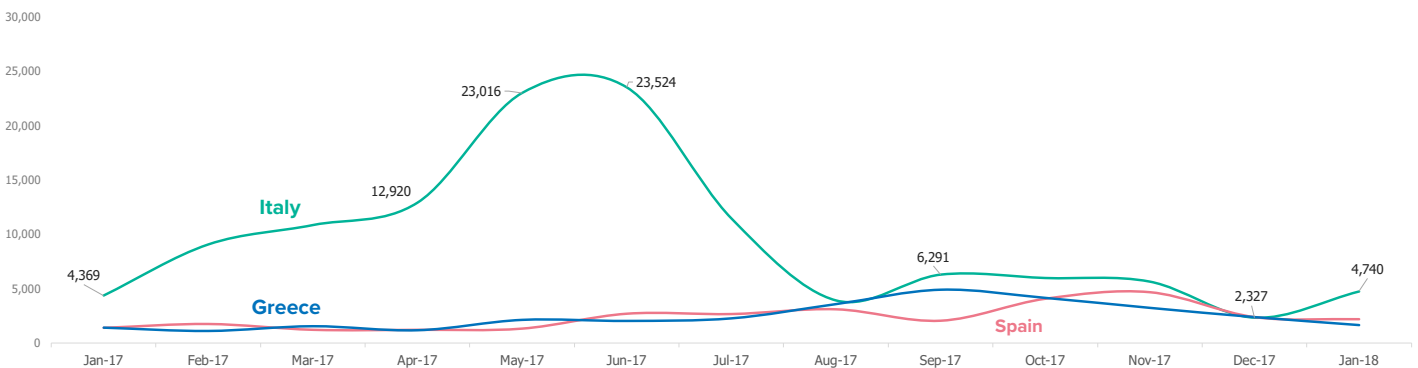
Mediterranean to Europe. Of these 192 were believed to have died while crossing from Libya to Italy, including one [incident](#) in which 100 people were believed to have died and another in which 64 were believed dead, along with 35 while crossing to Spain. The rate of deaths amongst those crossing to Italy was one death for every 22 persons that reached Italy, and roughly one death for every 17 persons who crossed to Italy from Libya.

Relocation: According to the [European Commission \(EC\)](#), over 33,500 asylum-seekers had been relocated from Greece and Italy as of the end of January 2018, including 21,729 from Greece (out of 66,400 originally foreseen, 33% of the total) and 11,853 from Italy (out of 39,600 originally foreseen, 30% of the total).

1,531

Returns EU-Turkey statement ¹²
¹²Source: [Ministry of Citizen Protection](#), Greece as of 31 January 2018.

MEDITERRANEAN ARRIVALS - JANUARY 2017 to JANUARY 2018



OTHER SITUATIONS IN EUROPE

 Turkey **3.8 million**

 Refugees and asylum seekers ⁵

Syrian Arab Republic	3,466,000
Afghanistan	164,000
Iraq	154,000
Iran	34,000

⁵Source: UNHCR as of 31 January 2017

 Ukraine **1.8 million**

 Internally Displaced Persons ⁶ and Conflict Affected Persons⁷

Refugees: ⁸	3,253
Asylum seekers: ⁹	5,528
Stateless persons: ¹⁰	35,463

⁶ Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).
⁷ Estimated number of conflict-affected people living along the line of contact in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).
⁸ UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 30/06/2017
⁹ UNHCR as of 18/01/2018
¹⁰ State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 30/06/2017

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

FRANCE: A roundtable organized by France Terre d'Asile⁹ (FTDA) on France's and the EU's role in Libya and the Sahel was held on 9 January, with the participation of UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, Vincent Cochetel. The conference served as an opportunity to share information on UNHCR's role in Libya, the constraints and the needs as well as to present its views on the current situation. The roundtable was attended by some 50 participants from the French government, NGOs and UNHCR.

France terre d'asile @Franceterdasile · Jan 9
 V.Cochetel du HCR : rien ne permet de penser que les mouvements vers la Libye aujourd'hui vont cesser; encore des conflits, persécutions, et espoir que cela cesse en rejoignant l'Europe



On 18 January, President Macron visited Calais and met with UNHCR and NGOs. The need to have rapid and appropriate orientation towards durable solutions upon arrival in France for asylum-seekers was discussed, including access to family reunion, particularly for unaccompanied children, to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are placed in specific centres for appropriate support; and to strengthen voluntary return programmes of persons who have been denied asylum, in safety and dignity. President Macron also visited a reception centre (CAES) in Croisilles (some 120 kilometers from Calais) where he met with asylum-seekers and migrants and the staff working in the centre.

GEORGIA: On 30 January, the State Legal Aid Service (LAS) presented the main achievements since its establishment in 2007. The LAS runs 12 legal aid bureaus and seven consultation centres in Georgia; it also includes services of 72 private practice lawyers who provide free legal aid. In total, over 100,000 persons, including internally-displaced persons (IDPs), have received free legal aid. The asylum-seekers have had access to free legal aid since 2016.

GERMANY: On 30 January, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc and the Social Democrats (SPD) came to an agreement on family reunions for people under a subsidiary protection status, overcoming a key hurdle on the way to forming a coalition government. According to the coalition agreement, which, however, still needs to be endorsed by a SPD party convention, family reunification for this particular group of people will be suspended until 31 July, after which the number is to be capped at 1,000 peo-

ple per month while the Social Democrats were able to negotiate that hardship cases be added to this quota. Further details such as the selection of people will be regulated by a law.

UNHCR Germany @UNHCR_de · Jan 30
 "Aussetzung von #Familiennachzug zu subsidiär Geschützten beenden." Leiter unserer Rechtsabteilung, Dr. Bank, gestern in Ausschusssitzung. dbtg.tv/cvid/7195672 [ab 10:00]



GREECE: The reduction of arrivals in January, combined with continuous transfers to the mainland have reduced the population in the Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the islands. However, despite the welcomed government efforts to accelerate transfers and improve conditions on the islands, overcrowding and inadequate conditions continues. The situation in Moria RIC and Vathy RIC on Samos are of particular concern, resulting in heightened SGBV risks.



UNHCR continues to support government efforts to accelerate transfers to the mainland, with 2,131 transferred in January. Since 27 November, UNHCR has facilitated the transfer of 5,881 people from the islands to the mainland and Crete. Of those, 2,396 were to State-run sites, 1,558 to UNHCR urban accommodation and 1,494 to IOM-run hotels on the mainland. By the end of January, UNHCR had created 22,039 places in the accommodation scheme.¹⁰ These were in 3,622 separate buildings in 20 cities across Greece. As of 31 January, UNHCR had 187 places in Lesbos and 117 places in Chios in hotels, fully occupied, as a temporary emergency measure during the winter. UNHCR also provided cash

¹⁰ UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) of the E.U. Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO). The Accommodation Scheme provides rented housing to vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece. Urban accommodation helps restore a sense of normalcy and provides better access to services, including education and health. People are additionally supported by social workers and interpreters who help them access medical services, employment, language courses and recreational activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE



assistance to 39,200 people this month to cover their basic needs. UNHCR through its partner METAdrasi supported the transfer of 237 unaccompanied children from the islands to the mainland.



The Asylum Service in Greece and IOM held a [press conference](#) on the conclusion of the EU Relocation Scheme on 8 January. Following the remaining departures, a total of 22,000 people will have been relocated from Greece to other EU Member States under the scheme, 30% of the originally foreseen total of 66,400. Minister Mouzalas requested the continuation and expansion of the relocation programme. The UNHCR Representative, Philippe Leclerc, participated in the conference and recommended that vulnerable Afghan asylum-seekers, as well as unaccompanied children should be included in the scheme. “Solidarity has to continue in the areas for vulnerable categories,” Leclerc noted. Only asylum-seekers of nationalities with an average recognition rate of 75% or higher, and who arrived before the EU-Turkey Statement, have been eligible for relocation

in the EU thus far, which excluded Afghan asylum-seekers.

A number of media articles reported [allegations](#) of [push-backs](#) in Evros. In response, the Ministry of Citizens’ Protection issued a statement noting that Greece does not conduct forced returns, adding that a total of 7,544 third country nationals entered through Evros in 2017, all were taken to the RIC and the majority applied for asylum. In June last year, UNHCR issued a [statement](#) calling for a thorough investigation by Greek authorities into the allegations of push-backs. In a [report](#) released in November, UNHCR noted that it “continues to receive reports of push-backs from Greece to Turkey via the land border.”

On 23 January, Education Minister Kostas Gavroglou and Migration Minister Mouzalas announced the launch of a proposal for a ‘Greek language project’ funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The project aims to support refugee and migrant children between the ages of 15 and 18. The project will run for a year and include Greek and English language courses, Greek and European Civilization classes, and professional orientation, amongst others.

HUNGARY: On 17 January, the Minister of Interior presented a draft legislative package under the label “Stop Soros”. The proposed bill consists of three acts that introduces further restrictive measures on organizations deemed to be ‘supporting illegal migration’ in any manner whatsoever and using foreign funding, including if the support is offered ‘in the interest of providing international protection’. In addition, as of 23 January, the number of asylum-seekers allowed to enter the two ‘transit zones’ was further reduced. UNHCR is following up with the authorities to clarify the purpose and

potential impact of these latest measures. On 24 January, the Ministry of Interior withdrew the calls for proposals for a range of activities to be implemented from July 2018 under the national AMIF, which will affect the quality of refugee status determination, housing programmes, legal assistance and support for unaccompanied children, and will result in NGOs and some state institutions no longer having access to AMIF funds. On 31 January, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó reiterated that the Government is considering withdrawing from the UN Global Compact on Migration if it concludes that the draft of the migration package runs counter to the Hungarian Government's position, remarks that were echoed by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on 2 February.

ITALY: On 10 January, the leaders of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, and Spain met in Rome to discuss, inter alia, refugee and migrant arrivals in southern Europe. In a [joint declaration](#) the leaders committed to prevent irregular migration flows, and to address the root causes of mass migration in dialogue and cooperation with countries of origin and transit. They also called for the full implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and for stepped up funding with regard to the external dimension of migration. In this context, on 17 January, the Italian Parliament backed measures to send 470 troops to Niger as part of a campaign to stem migrant arrivals and trafficking. Italian Prime Minister, Paolo Gentiloni, said the measures were needed to guarantee stability in the area and fight illegal trafficking of migrants. Another 60 troops will be deployed to Tunisia.

On 30 January, 31 Syrian refugees travelled from Lebanon to Italy in the context of the Humanitarian Corridors Programme, sponsored by religious groups in partnership with the Italian government. Since the launch of the programme in 2016, 1,067 refugees have arrived in Italy (1,042 from Lebanon and 25 from Ethiopia).

In January, a 26-year-old Nigerian woman was stabbed to death at the first-line reception facility in Mineo (Sicily), and a Tunisian man committed suicide outside the Lampedusa hotspot. Furthermore, at the end of the month, a 30-year-old Nigerian woman died following a fire at the San Ferdinando informal settlement, in Calabria, where some 1,000 persons live. UNHCR [expressed](#) concerns about the living conditions and difficult integration prospects for some refugees and called upon the authorities to promptly implement measures planned months ago, which include the provision of health, social and housing services for asylum-seekers and refugees in the Piana di Gioia Tauro area.

KOSOVO (S/RES/1244 (1999)):¹¹ On 4 January, a Regulation on the Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions was adopted. The Regulation will establish a normative framework for durable solutions for displaced persons in the region. The Regulation defines the responsibilities of competent and decision-making bodies, as well as the procedures and criteria for assistance.

¹¹ All designations of Kosovo in this document are without prejudice to positions on status, and are in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

MALTA: On 9 January, Jobplus - the government employment agency - led a meeting focused on employment, which was attended by various NGOs and UNHCR. The discussion focused on employment support in Gozo, and on reinforced refugee employment support services in Malta, including for vulnerable refugees.



UNHCR Malta @UNHCRMalta · Jan 19

This week #UNHCR #Malta organised a Refugee Consultation Group about #sports. A local coach and a MFA representative spoke to #refugee and migrant communities about some very exciting upcoming projects and opportunities in #athletics and #football.



On 18 January, UNHCR organized a refugee consultation group meeting to explore how sports can bring people together. A Sport Performance Specialist who offers free training to refugees attended to present his services. A representative of the Football Social Responsibility Unit of the Malta Football Association presented their project called *Include Me & I Will Understand*, focusing on the inclusion of refugees and migrants in local football.

MOLDOVA: On 17 January, the government approved a national action plan on integration of foreigners which also covers refugees and stateless people. Improvements are foreseen in the inter-institutional mechanism in the areas of social assistance, medical care, employment, Romanian language and recreational and cultural activities.

NORWAY: As of 30 December, the immigration police stopped sending families with children to the detention centre Trandum outside Oslo, as the centre is deemed inappropriate for the detention of children. Instead, a family centre will be established in Dal, Eidsvoll for families in return procedures. In the meantime, a new temporary centre has already been established and taken into use on 30 December 2017.

On 10 January, in a positive decision the Parliament decided that the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) must follow the Convention of the Rights of the Child when processing asylum applications from unaccompanied and separated children. UDI must follow the convention's requirements for a thorough, comprehensive and individual assessment of the best interest of the child in each individual case.

SERBIA: Serbian authorities transferred to the Presevo Reception Centre some 137 men and boys and one woman sleeping rough in abandoned buildings in Belgrade. On arrival in Presevo, all were registered, medically checked and assisted by authorities, UNHCR and partners. UNHCR profiling of these arrivals showed that most had arrived in Serbia only over the past few weeks, mostly from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or by air. Two thirds were

from Syria or Pakistan. While these transfers reduced the number of those sleeping rough in Belgrade city to around 100, an additional 120 were observed camping in the border areas near Croatia and Hungary.

UNHCR and the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) updated the online [Assessment](#) of conditions in all sheltered sites against applicable reception standards. The site assessment is also available as an interactive app and has been translated into Serbian language.



© UNHCR Serbia

Upon request of the SCRM, UNHCR conducted a comprehensive distribution of over 4,300 different non-food items such as clothing, footwear, hygiene parcels, etc. in 18 government centres, as well as hundreds of various sports and art items, like balls and drawing kits, to refugee children and youth in the centres.

SPAIN: On 16 January, the Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR) launched a [report](#) describing the Spanish response to increasing sea arrivals as 'arbitrary' and 'improvised'. The report includes information on the situation of asylum-seekers in Morocco and denounces automatic detention upon disembarkation in Spain, as well as limited access to legal assistance and to asylum procedures. UNHCR was interviewed by CEAR and supported CEAR during its missions to the main entry points.

The case of N.D. and N.T. v. Spain was referred to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights on 29 Jan 2018 following a request by Spain. The case concerns collective expulsions to Morocco by Spain from the enclave of Melilla. UNHCR is third party intervener in the case that was unanimously decided by the ECtHR in a Chamber judgment on 03 October 2017 finding violations by Spain of Article 4, Protocol 4 (prohibition of collective expulsions of aliens) ECHR, in combination with Article 13 (right to an effective remedy). Other third parties are the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR, Spanish Commission for Refugees CEAR, as well as jointly: Aire Centre, Amnesty International, ECRE & International Commission of Jurists.

UK-France Summit: On 18 January, the UK-France Summit ³ took place. A treaty on the Reinforcement of Cooperation for the Coordinated Management of their Shared Border, mainly addressing the situation in northern France, Calais and Dunkirk was agreed on. It aims at strengthening

cooperation around asylum and migration – including the transfer of asylum-seekers, and particularly unaccompanied children - improving access to asylum procedures and accommodation, enhancing returns for those with no legal basis to stay, and improving cross-border security cooperation and actions to counter smuggling and trafficking. The Treaty highlights the relevance of family reunification possibilities for children based on the 'best interests' principle.

UKRAINE: The working groups of the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine have gathered in Minsk for talks on 31 January. At the previous meeting on 18 January, the OSCE's special representative in the trilateral contact group, Martin Sajdik, noted that the group remains the only permanent forum for resolving the conflict in the east of Ukraine. The diplomat expressed hope that the year 2018 will be decisive for the implementation of the Minsk agreements.



Pablo Mateu @MateuPablo · Jan 24

Great to meet again with @SpecRepUkraine and be able to discuss the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. His efforts to find a lasting peace in #Ukraine are highly appreciated. @UNHCRUkraine stands ready to increase its #peacebuilding activities in coordination with @mtot_gov_ua



Kurt Volker @SpecRepUkraine

Met with humanitarian agencies in 🇺🇦 to discuss crisis in eastern Ukraine. More than 4 million people need assistance and protection, especially in the harsh winter. Lasting peace is the only solution. #UkraineNotForgotten

On 21 January, in the daytime, small arms fire hit a bus at a crossing point on the line of contact at Olenivka (NGCA) leading to civilian casualties, including one fatality. Although there are no indications that the attack represents a trend, there is nonetheless an increased risk to civilians and humanitarian staff travelling across the line of contact during daylight hours.



© UNHCR Ukraine

Water supplies from the government-controlled area (GCA) of Luhansk region to the non-government controlled area (NGCA) remain cut despite initially successful negotiations during 2017 by the Trilateral Contact Group to resume cross-line-of-contact supplies. Water supplies were suspended on 5 December 2017 as electricity powering the pumping station was again cut due to non-payment of debts, affecting several villages in the area with a pre-conflict population of around 2,000 people.

UNHCR Ukraine continued implementation of its winterization assistance plan. In the NGCA of Donetsk region, ⁴ from 11-31 January, 2,943 tons of coal were delivered to 978 households, each household receiving 3 tons of coal.



In January, 2,337 of the 3,000 planned households have received coal assistance since the start of the winterization programme. As of 31 January, UNHCR completed medium shelter repairs to 20 houses in the NGCA of Donetsk region through a private building contractor. The works are part of the Shelter Project in the NGCA to repair 200 homes in the NGCA of Donetsk region and 300 homes in the NGCA of Luhansk region.

On 30 January, the law no. 2168-VIII 'on State Financial Guaranties on the Provision of Medical Assistance to Population' came into force, inter alia, excluding asylum-seekers from the list of beneficiaries of free emergency medical assistance. On 16 January, the UNHCR partner NGO Desyate Kvityna sent a request to the Parliament Commissioner

for Human Rights for an appeal to the Constitutional Court against the provision.

Visegrad Four (V4): On 26 January, the Prime Ministers of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia met in Budapest and issued a [statement](#) on the 'Future of Europe'. Among other topics, they emphasized that a comprehensive approach to migration policy should be adopted at the EU level, consisting of solutions based on consensus, protection of external borders and cooperation with countries of origin and transit. The V4 Prime Ministers rejected any form of mandatory EU quotas.

OSCE: On 1 January, Italy took over the OSCE Chairmanship for a period of one year. In his [press statement](#), Italian Foreign Minister and new OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Angelino Alfano, stated that, "Strengthening multilateralism as an instrument to relaunch the "spirit of Helsinki" and to further promote peace, security, stability and co-operation is Italy's key priority for its 2018 OSCE Chairmanship." A new aspect of the Italian Chairmanship will be its focus on challenges and opportunities coming from the Mediterranean region, as Foreign Minister Alfano underlined. "The Mediterranean dimension is complementary, and not an alternative, to the OSCE's Euro-Asian dimension, in particular regarding the migration crisis. We intend to address this challenge not only from a security point of view but also through the fight against intolerance and discrimination, promoting pluralism, inclusion and inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, which are the foundations of peace and security."

EU-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

5 On 1 January, Bulgaria took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. As part of a series of events linked to the start of Bulgaria's mandate, on 17 January, Bulgaria's Prime Minister of Bulgaria also presented the [priorities](#) of the Bulgarian Presidency before the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg, France. Efficient migration management was presented as one of the Bulgarian Presidency's priority, and a particular emphasis was put on the need to make significant progress on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). UNHCR continues to advocate on the basis of its [recommendations](#) to the Presidency, which notably promote a protection-oriented reform.

On 25-26 January, an informal Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council took place in Sofia, Bulgaria. Among [other issues](#), Ministers of Home Affairs discussed the CEAS reform and border management. Over a working luncheon, Ministers of Home Affairs discussed the global aspects of migration and refugee issues in the context of the negotiations on the UN Global Compacts. UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Volker Türk, participated in the



luncheon, together with IOM's Deputy Director-General Laura Thompson and ICMPD's Director-General Michael Spindelegger. UNHCR's AHC-P highlighted the opportunity and route ahead for the Global Compact on Refugees, and the leading role played by Europe in this process. The press conference of AHC-P Türk in Sofia can be accessed [here](#). An op-ed by UNHCR's AHC-P, titled "2018: a crucial year for refugees" was also published on the occasion of the informal JHA Council in the [EU Observer](#). In the op-ed, the AHC-P expressed that, "It is crucial that the policy choices that European leaders make at home reflect their commitments on the international stage."

Frontex [announced](#) that, on 31 January, Operation Triton came to an end with Operation Themis starting as of 1 February. The most relevant change in the Operation is the absence of a provision for all persons rescued at sea to be disembarked in Italy. As of 1 February, disembarkations will be undertaken according to the applicable search and rescue rules. As per the rest, Frontex will continue to be present in Italian hotspots and supporting Italian authorities with surveillance, intelligence gathering, identification and registration of new arrivals.

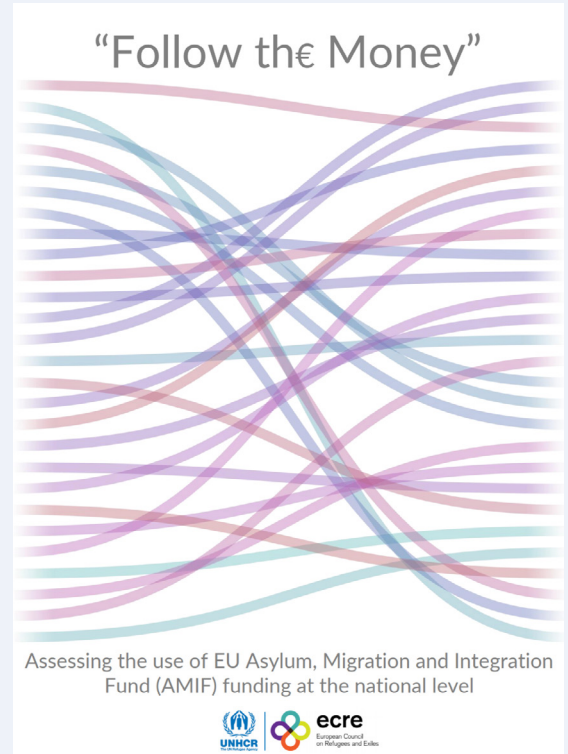
On 25 January, the Court of Justice of the European Union [determined](#) that an asylum-seeker may not be subjected to a psychological test in order to determine the person's sexual orientation, noting that "recourse to a psychologist's expert report in order to determine the sexual orientation of the asylum-seeker constitutes an interference with that person's right to respect for his private life." The case concerned a Nigerian man who applied for asylum in Hungary in April 2015 as he feared persecution in Nigeria on account of his homosexuality.

UNHCR-ECRE REPORT: FOLLOW THE MONEY

On 23 January, UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) launched the report, '[Follow the Money: A critical analysis of the implementation of the EU Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund \(AMIF\)](#)' at the Press Club in Brussels. This joint report gives a critical analysis of the design, programming and to some extent implementation of the AMIF through National EU Member State AMIF Programmes, with the objective to support the evaluation of AMIF national programming due to be undertaken in the 2018 mid-term review.

Key recommendations from the research include:

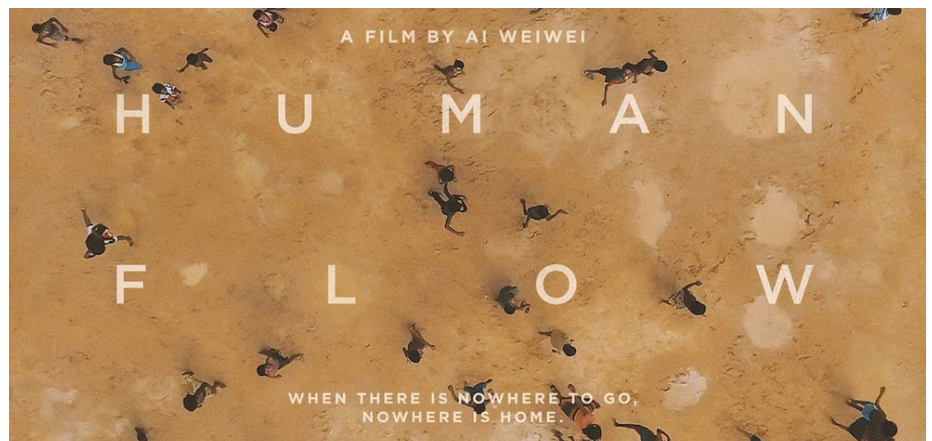
- Fairer distribution keys, based on a broad assessment of the latest developments (both quantitative and qualitative).
- Faster implementation of AMIF programmes.
- Standardization of the National Programme needs assessments and inclusion of information from independent sources.
- A minimum requirement for National Programmes of 30% funding for integration and 20% for asylum actions.
- Increased transparency, communication and information sharing about AMIF funded actions and their impact by EU MS and the EC



HUMAN FLOW SCREENINGS

On 10 January, UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe, in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC), Belga Film Productions and the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels organized the Belgian avant-première of the film 'Human Flow' by the artist Ai Weiwei. The screening of Human Flow was preceded by the UNHCR RBE New Year's Reception. UNHCR RBE key EU-counterparts from the EC Directorates Home, ECHO and Justice, the European Parliament, NATO, think tanks and NGOs were present at the reception, as well as the artist Ai Weiwei himself. The Director of the Europe Bureau, Ms. Pascale Moreau, delivered a speech to the invited guests of UNHCR. Over 2000 guests attended the avant-première.

UNHCR in France participated in the premiere of the documentary at the UGC Les Halles cinema in Paris on 9 January 9. Representatives from Amnesty International (a partner in the film), Human Rights Watch, as well as UNHCR made opening statements before the start of the film. A debate with Ai Weiwei took place after the projection. A further screening was held in Strasbourg on 31 January with the participation of Roland-François Weil, UNHCR's Representative to the European institutions in Strasbourg.



Learning language key to integration, say young refugees

By Kitty McKinsey in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic | 30 January 2018

Teenager Michel Barakat mixes Arabic, Czech and English in his eagerness to tell his story. He is asked which language he would prefer to speak. “All of them,” the 14-year-old Syrian refugee replies, grinning with a mixture of frustration and enthusiasm. He has made a good start. Besides those three, he has started to study German. “If you speak Czech well and you move among Czechs, they will help you,” says Michel. “But if you are from an Arab country and spend all your time among Arabs, they can’t help you because they don’t know how things work in the Czech Republic. It’s better to really study Czech.”



Learning the language is a cornerstone of the Czech government’s integration programme for refugees, which tailors plans to each refugee’s needs. Michel was among 11 refugee students honoured by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in June 2017 for their excellent academic results, at a ceremony held at the Education Ministry in Prague. Looking to the future, Michel has received news that a volunteer wants to work with him under a UNHCR-sponsored scheme that pairs Czech citizens with refugees in need of a boost. The volunteer will help tutor Michel for exams that will determine whether he can enter a prestigious secondary school.

UK family helps Syrian teenager forget horrors of the ‘Jungle’

By Nadine Alfa in Epsom, England | 16 January 2018



Nineteen-year-old Syrian refugee Abdul left a lasting impression on charity volunteer Ingrid Van Loo Plowman when she met him at a hotel for asylum-seekers in the English city of Birmingham. They stayed in contact and Ingrid, a former doctor, invited him to visit her and her 14-year-old son Ross in the market town of Epsom, just outside London. The teenagers got on so well that she invited Abdul to move in with them after he was given asylum.

“I was overjoyed,” Abdul said. “Ingrid is a super mum. She helps me with everything. I missed my family so much but when I came here even my mum said ‘are you forgetting about me?’” he laughed. “I really hope one day I can work and repay her somehow. My life has changed 180 degrees, all thanks to her.” Abdul fled Syria in 2014 and found his way to the United Kingdom

after spending four weeks living in the horrific conditions of the notorious “Jungle” outside Calais on the French coast. He now studies English full time and wants to do civil engineering at university. Ingrid said: “He is like my son. I’m really proud of him and so impressed with his resilience and good character. He is a wonderful example for my young son.” Ingrid is hosting two other refugees: Isak, 18, from Ethiopia, who moved in last October and speaks little English, and a 31-year-old engineer from the Middle East who did not want to be identified for security reasons. “I always tell them one day you pay me back by having a good job and speaking good English,” Ingrid said. “Hosting refugees is the most rewarding experience. I strongly encourage people to look into it.”

This story is part of a series entitled [No Stranger Place](#), which was developed and photographed by Aubrey Wade in partnership with UNHCR, profiling refugees and their hosts across Europe.

Roussel is 10 years old. She is from Syria and lives in Geneva, Switzerland. Since arriving, she has studied hard, learning French, and was just elected class president. Outside of school, she loves dancing with her sisters and friends as "when we are grumpy or sad we dance. It lifts our spirits."



Shoab is 11 years old. He is from Afghanistan and lives in Berlin, Germany. He dreams all the time of football which is the one thing that has stayed the same in his life. When playing it doesn't matter to him who scores – "if someone scores the goal, the whole team scores and wins."

The Dream Diaries

Over 16 days, [Humans of Amsterdam](#) photographer and social influencer Debra Barraud and her colleague Benjamin Heertje, graphic designer and social influencer [Annegien Schilling \(Fetching Tigers\)](#), and filmmaker Kris Pouw journeyed through five European countries with UNHCR's Regional Representation for Western Europe, to capture the dreams of children who have fled war and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and beyond. The result is 'The Dream Diaries,' an online project consisting of stories, photos, images, and [video](#) that visualizes the dreams of children who have fled their homes and found safety in Europe. Through the project, audiences are being encouraged to stand #WithRefugees by signing UNHCR's global [petition](#), which asks decision-makers to grant refugees safety, education and opportunities – helping turn their dreams into reality.

You can follow The Dream Diaries series via [Humans of Amsterdam](#), [Fetching Tigers](#) and UNHCR's social media accounts, and images can be downloaded from Refugees Media for use on your channels. For more information, please contact Maeve Patterson patterso@unhcr.org. A few stories are shown (extracts from @humansofamsterdam).

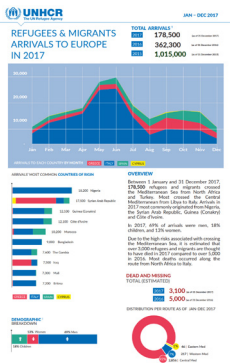
Ayham is 8 years old. He is from Syria and lives in Vienna, Austria. He dreams of becoming a superhero to end the fighting in Syria where he would go back to and "kiss everything, really everything, also the bananas and the watermelons."



Madina is 16 years old. She is from Afghanistan and lives in Brussels, Belgium. Her biggest dream is to "set up a school for girls in Afghanistan, so they can learn to read and write." (Extract from story by Humans of Amsterdam.)



Key Documents from the Web Portal



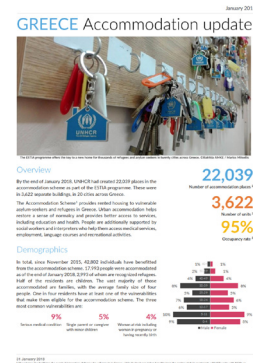
[Refugee and migrant arrivals to Europe - 2017](#)

Quarterly dashboard summarising arrivals to Europe in 2017



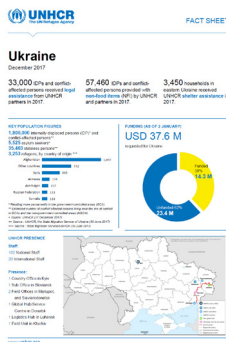
[Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe - September 2017](#)

Accompanied, unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children in Europe.



[Greece accommodation scheme January 2018 update](#)

Rented housing scheme for vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece.



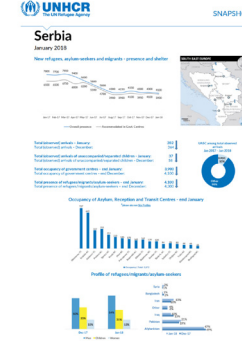
[Ukraine factsheet - December 2017](#)

Country summary with key figures on IDPs, refugees and stateless persons.



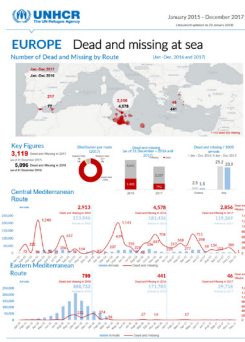
[Greece factsheet - December 2017](#)

The Greece factsheet includes key figures on arrivals and a summary of the operational updates.



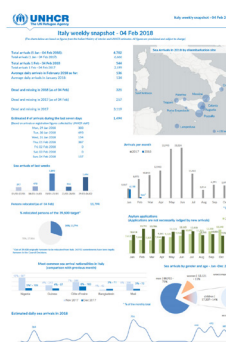
[Serbia snapshot January 2018](#)

Summary of population statistics including asylum applications and observed pushbacks.



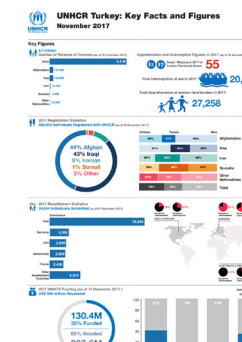
[Dead and missing at sea in the Mediterranean - December 2017](#)

Number of dead and missing in the Mediterranean by route.



[Italy weekly snapshot - 4 February 2018](#)

Summary of key statistics of recent arrivals to Italy as well as asylum applications and relocation.



[Key data for Turkey November 2017](#)

Summary of data on persons of concern, registration, resettlement and funding.

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TIMELINE OVERVIEW

