EUROPE SITUATIONS: DATA AND TRENDS

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Regional Bureau for Europe | May 2025

ARRIVALS AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS: KEY FIGURES AND TRENDS

May 2025

54,700 estimated arrivals via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes

517 estimated dead or missing at sea

(Cumulative figures[1] from 01 January to 31 May 2025)

UKRAINE

5.1 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe, at the end of May 2025, while **3.8 million** people were internally displaced at the end of April 2025[7]

TÜRKIYE

Syrians under temporary protection **2.7 million**

For more information, see Syria Regional Refugee Response

Refugees and asylum-seekers under international protection **228,800**

For more information, see UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTE[2]

11,132 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
237 dead or missing

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[3]

5,132 arrivals, of which 250 by land
132 dead or missing

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[4]

23,019 sea arrivals, no arrivals by land
114 dead or missing

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE[5]

15,407 arrivals, of which 1,417 by land
34 dead or missing

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[6]

4,500 people arrived in or transited through the subregion

Includes 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.

UKRAINE SITUATION

The war in Ukraine triggered a major increase in humanitarian needs due the mass internal displacement within Ukraine as well as refugee outflows. By the end of May, 5,082,800 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe. As of end-April 2025, 3.8 million people were displaced internally within Ukraine. [7]

According to data published by EUROSTAT, between January - May 2025, 223,000 positive decisions for Temporary Protection (TP) were granted to Ukrainians in EU+ countries. This is 26 per cent lower compared to the same period in 2024, when 301,700 decisions were issued. While the overall trend of issuance of positive decisions has decreased as compared to same period in 2023, the trend in the first five months of 2025 remained stable. In the first five months in 2025, most of the positive decisions were issued in Germany (24 per cent, 54,400 decisions), followed by Poland (21 per cent or 45,840 decisions) and Czech Republic (nine per cent, or 19,200 decisions).

Ukraine situation key figures as of 31 May 2025

5,082,800
Refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe

560,560
Refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe

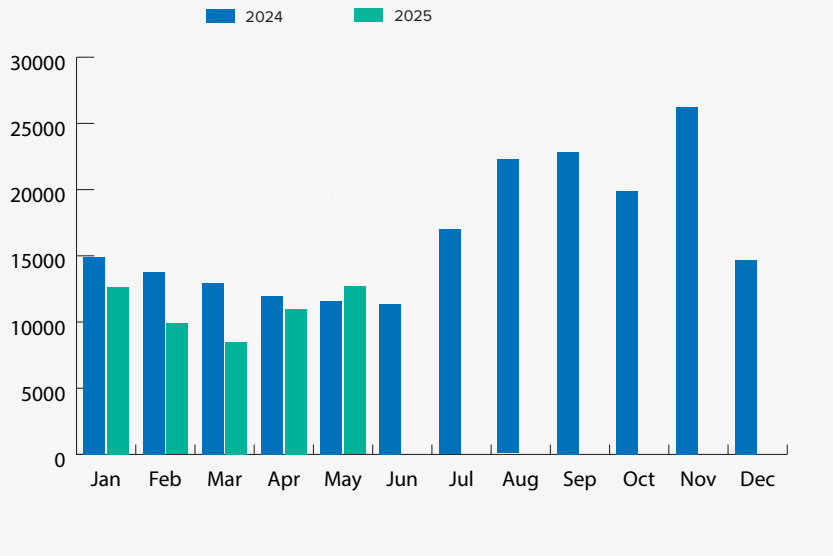
5,643,360
Refugees from Ukraine recorded globally

- For more information, please visit the Operation Data Porrtal for the Ukraine Refugee situation

ARRIVALS IN EUROPE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN MARITIME ROUTES

In May 2025, 12,700 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes through mixed-movements. The arrivals were 16 per cent higher than previous month and nine per cent higher when compared to the same month in 2024.

Total monthly arrivals through the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes



In May 2025, arrivals to Italy increased by nine per cent compared to previous month and 44 per cent increase compared to May 2024. Of the 7,200 refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy over May, 91 per cent departed from Libya, and five per cent from Tunisia. In addition, 179 refugees and migrants departed from Algeria and 65 from Türkiye. Most refugees and migrants who arrived in May originated from Bangladesh, Egypt and Eritrea.

In May 2025 2,900 refugees and migrants departing Libya were intercepted or rescued by Libyan authorities and disembarked in Libya, 94% per cent higher than previous month. The nationality of most of those rescued at sea after departing from Libya in May is unknown, although a few are known to have originated from Egypt, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In Spain, 2,100 refugees and migrants arrived in May, representing a three per cent increase compared to the previous month and a two per cent increase compared to May 2024. Of all arrivals in May, 29 per cent landed on the Canary Islands. When compared to last month, arrivals to Spain through the Northwest African maritime route experienced a 47 per cent decrease, whereas arrivals via Western Mediterranean route increased by 65 per cent.

In May 2025, 3,200 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece by land and sea. This amounted to a 47 per cent increase compared to last month, but a 27 per cent decrease from May 2024. Turkish authorities reported rescuing or intercepting 1,259 refugees and migrants at sea in May, equivalent to the previous month. In Cyprus, 212 refugees and migrants arrived in May, similar to the previous month but three per cent less when compared to May 2024.

For more information, please visit Operation Data Portal for Europe Sea Arrivals Situation

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE[9]

In May 2025, 1,027 people arrived in, or transited through, the subregion as part of mixed refugee and migrant movements. This represented a 12 per cent increase when compared to the previous month (921) and a 36 per cent increase compared to May 2024. Of the overall arrivals in 2025 so far, the majority were from Afghanistan (21 per cent), Egypt (17per cent) and Syrian Arab Republic (11 per cent).

Throughout May, 62 people submitted asylum applications, 28 per cent lower than in April (86). Meanwhile, 73 first-instance decisions were issued along with five subsidiary protection status and two refugee status decisions were issued. Meanwhile, 30 applicants were rejected, and 36 applications were closed. As of the end of May, 643 asylum applications were still pending a decision across the subregion.

As of end of May 2025, 2,235 refugees and migrants were present in the Western Balkans, including 118 unaccompanied and separated children.

For more information, please visit Operation Data Portal for the South Eastern Europe Situation

1. Dead and missing figures refer to the Mediterranean and Northwest African maritime routes. Information is compiled from a variety of sources, the quality and reliability of which can vary. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures on some arrivals, as well as dead and missing at sea, represent an estimate.Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments in figures may occur, including retroactively.
2. Includes sea arrivals in the Canary Islands (Spain) via the Atlantic Ocean.
3. Includes sea and land arrivals in Spain via the Western Mediterranean route.
4. Includes sea arrivals in Italy and Malta.
5. Includes sea and land arrivals in Greece and Cyprus.
6. Majority of the persons arriving in the Western Balkan region are part of the secondary movement, those who have already arrived in Greece or Bulgaria and then transited through the region with the intention to move onward to other EU countries.
7. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Apr 17 2025. DTM Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 20 (April 2025). IOM, Ukraine.
8. Countries participating in the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia
9. Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).