



Planning and Preparation: In Thessaloniki, the municipal council announced that a funding proposal will be submitted to UNHCR for a total of 1,500 accommodation places for refugees.

Arrivals and Departures: On 23 February, the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reopened with a limited number of people allowed to cross after two days of closure. The border was again closed as of 05h30 on 24 February.

At the border crossing between Serbia and Croatia, some 250 refugees and migrants were not permitted entry to Croatia following a lengthy screening process, despite possessing the new registration document and valid identification documents.

In Austria, the daily limit of 80 asylum applications to be processed at the border has not yet been reached. The Provincial Governor of Tyrol announced that border controls at the Brenner border with Italy

are still under discussion, and may take place as of April 2016.

Condition of People: [UNHCR shared concerns](#) over recent restrictive practices adopted in a number of European countries, that are placing additional undue hardship on refugees and asylum-seekers across Europe. The measures have created difficulties at several border points, and have put particular pressure on Greece as it struggles to deal with larger numbers of people in need of accommodation and services.

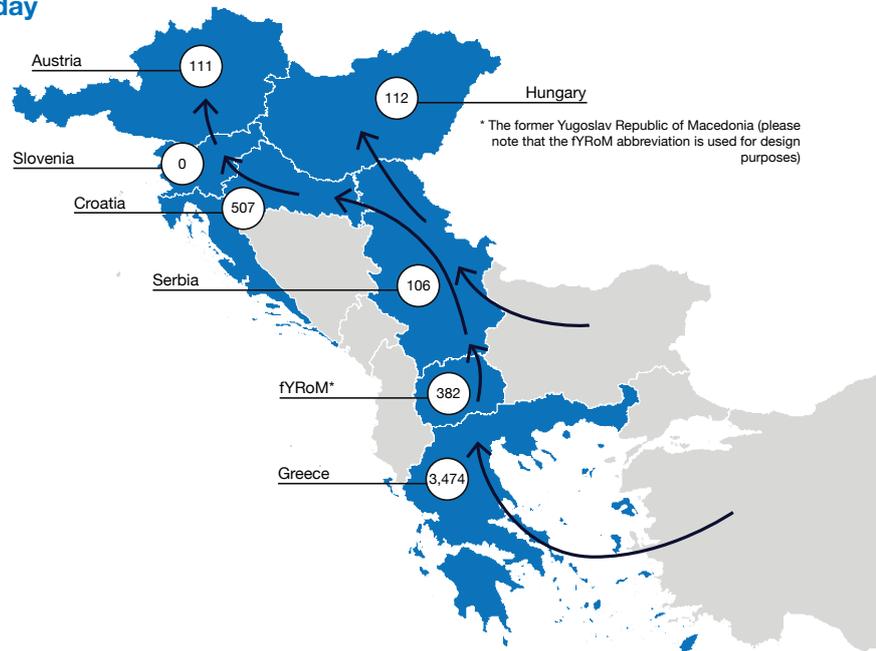
At the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the facilities in Eidomeni remained overcrowded with some 3,000 persons present. Those present were mainly Syrians and Iraqis, but also some Afghans, Sudanese, Iranians and Moroccans.

The first 11 refugees to be relocated to Romania will reach the eastern town of Galati on 3 March, [Euractiv Romania](#) reported. The nationality of the relocation candidates is currently not available.



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	3,474
fYRoM*	382
Serbia	106
Croatia	507
Hungary	112
Slovenia	0
Austria	111



Critical Developments

Following the sudden and dramatic rise in refugee arrivals on the small island of Kastelorizo, in the southeastern Aegean, which received over 800 arrivals in February 2016, the Greek Government announced that the island was decongested. People were transferred to Rhodes, in collaboration with Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) and UNHCR.

Greek police returned Afghan nationals present at the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited the Greek island of Lesbos, accompanied by the Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe and Regional Refugee Coordinator, Vincent Cochetel, and Alternate Migration Policy Minister, Yannis Mouzalas. Grandi expressed his gratitude to Lesbos' residents and volunteers, while confirming the constant support of UNHCR. He will meet the Greek Premier on 24 February.

On 24 February, in Vienna, the Conference on “Managing Migration Together”, hosted by the Austrian Minister of Interior and Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, will take place. Ministers for Interior and Foreign Ministers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia were invited. The Greek authorities, which were not invited, sent an official complaint.

Portugal offered support to Austria, through the allocation of additional relocation places than the agreed quota (5,800 persons). While Austrian Federal Chancellor thanked Portugal for the

offer and mentioned his readiness to discuss the proposal further, he highlighted that such support could be of use in relocating persons from Greece.

Weather Headlines

- Strong southerly winds in the Aegean will ease on Thursday morning and any rain and showers will move away. The waves around the Greek Islands will decrease on Thursday morning.
- Southerly winds around the Greek Islands will strengthen again on Friday for a time with waves building to moderate or rough in the afternoon.
- Rain and snow will be heavy at times over the next few days in Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

8-14 February
1,147
-1% from previous week



22-23 February
3,010
10% from previous week



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



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
February (as of 23 Feb)
1,800
-7% from previous month



Social Media

Twitter Activity: The topic of Greece has started to trend, accumulating almost 37,000 tweets, with most posts related to the decision taken by Balkan states to limit the number of refugees and migrants transiting through the region.

Current statistics for: #refugeecrisis

- 25 tweets, 13 retweets per hour
- 20.18% of posts using #refugeecrisis originated from the UK with UNICEF being the most popular account using #refugeecrisis

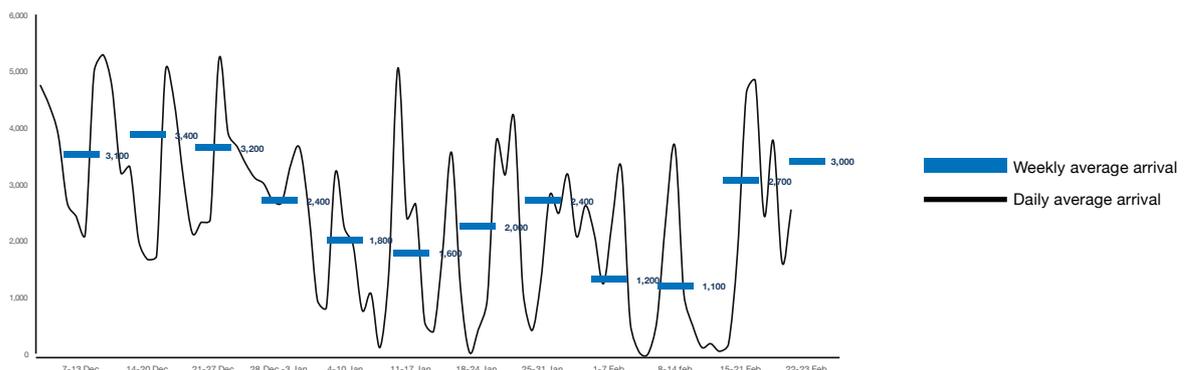
[Deutsche Welle News](#) provided live and up-to-date posts concerning the first day of trial for suspects of the New Year’s Eve events in Cologne, Germany.

Current statistics for: #migrantcrisis

- 17 tweets, 37 retweets per hour
- 6,920 impressions per hour
- 29.73% of posts using #migrantcrisis originated from the US

[Bangladesh News](#) posted a video of the aftermath of “#Terrorist #Russian airstrikes on #Altareb resulting [in] 4 martyrs, dozens wounded #Aleppo #Syria”

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 23 February





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees



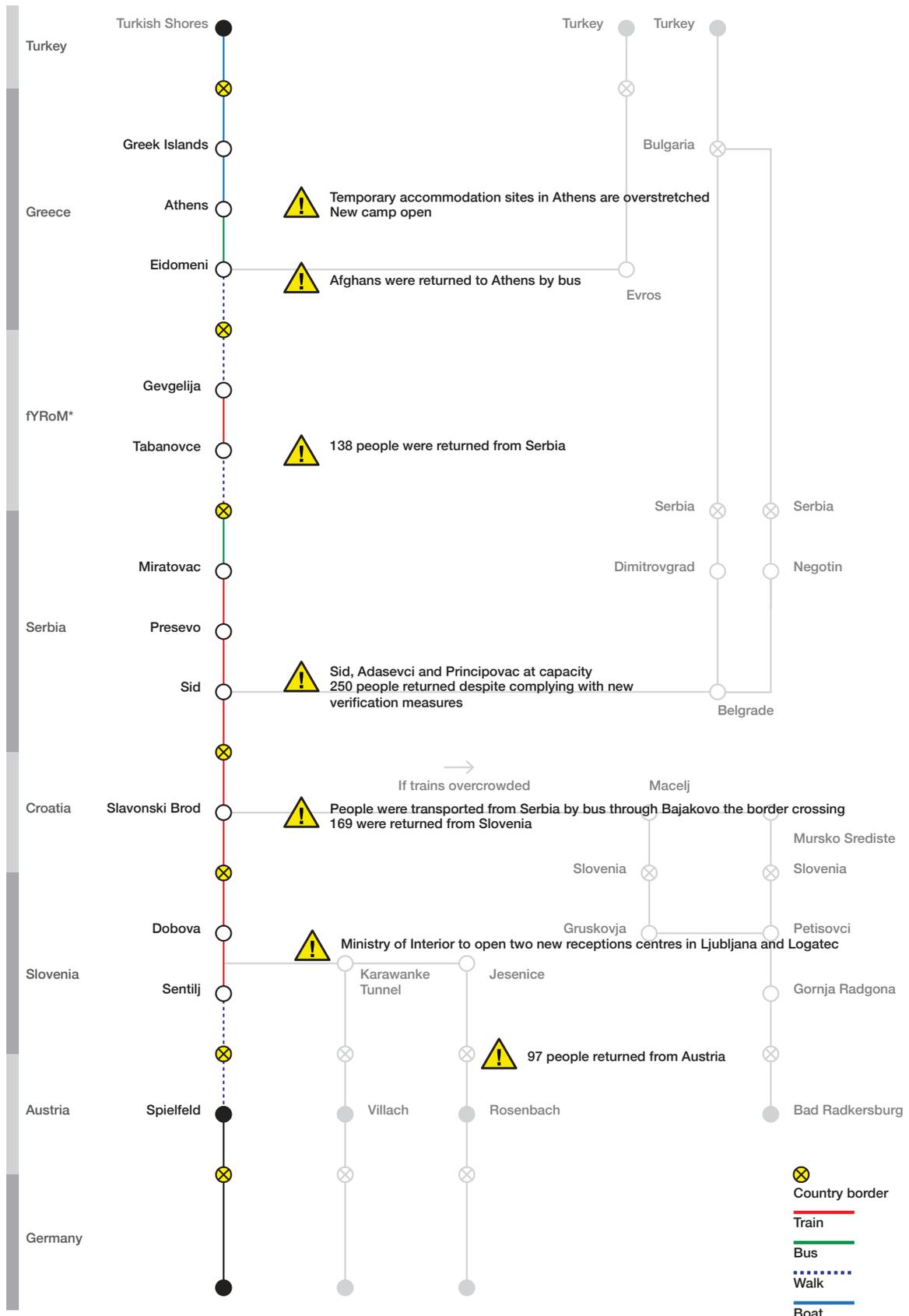
Weather Assessment

- It is becoming quite unsettled over SE Europe with periods of strong winds and rain affecting many areas.
- Thursday will see a reduction in wind speeds and sea states in comparison to Wednesday. Another band of strong southerly winds will affect the area on Friday, with waves building again in the afternoon. Previous analysis has shown that the number of arrivals to the Greek Islands reduced in these circumstances, posing dangerous conditions to those traveling in small boats.
- The northern part of the region will experience a colder spell, particularly in Croatia, Slovenia and northern Serbia. An area of rain, sleet, and snow is expected to fall over the course of Thursday night and Friday. The change will be a sharp contrast to temperatures at the beginning of the week despite temperatures remaining around the average for the time of year. Some may be unprepared for this change in temperature.

Source: UK Met Office, WMO and Local National Met Services



Situation Overview



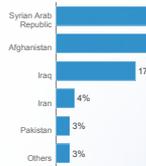


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

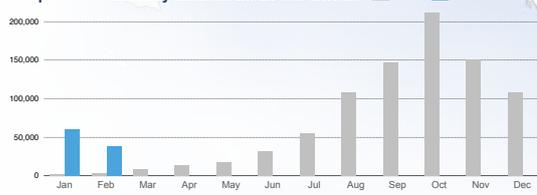
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. 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



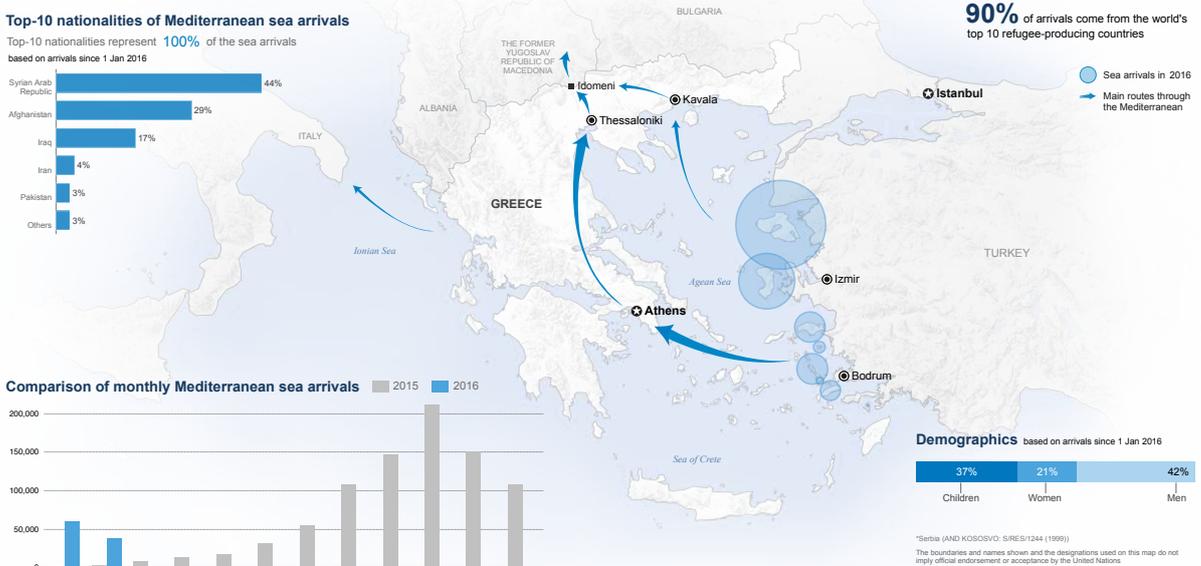
Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



© Last updated: 22 Feb 2016
98,432 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



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

