



**Planning and Preparedness:** On 2 March, the European Commission will propose plans for the use of humanitarian aid within the European Union. This will include emergency plans for Greece and countries in the Western Balkans. The Greek Alternate Migration Minister, Yiannis Mouzalas, noted that 450 million euros are needed to support refugees who temporarily require accommodation in Greece.

**Arrivals and Departures:** The Eidomeni border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was closed for almost 24 hours. The border crossing finally reopened late in the evening of 1 March. Hundreds of tents were set up in the fields around the Greek side of the border. According to UNHCR, there are over 9,000 people currently present in Eidomeni. According to [media](#), authorities from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reinforced security at the border with Greece with 700 additional police officers.

The number of people present on the Greek islands remains high (5,749). Authorities took measures to reduce the number of ferries transporting refugees and migrants from the islands to the mainland with the aim of reducing pressure on already congested temporary accommodation facilities.

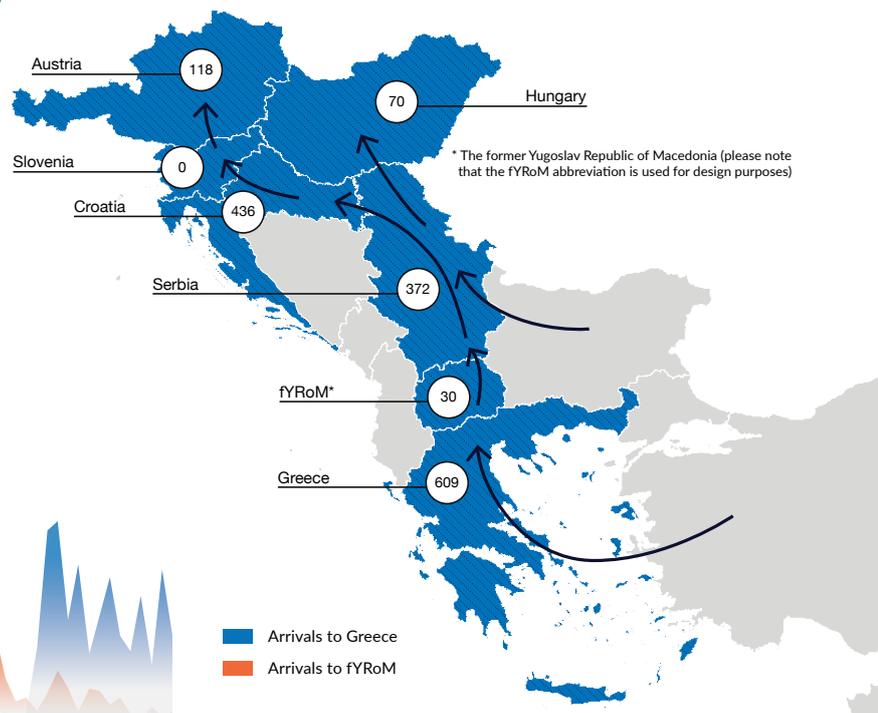
**Condition of People:** In Greece, a passenger ferry docked at Piraeus port will be used as temporary accommodation for refugees and migrants reaching Athens. The Ministry of Shipping has contacted other companies to make additional ferries available for this purpose.

During an interview with Greek media, UNHCR spokesperson, Melissa Fleming, stated that the border restrictions along the Western Balkans route are “not consistent with the spirit of unity and European values” and that “what Greece is faced with is not fair”.

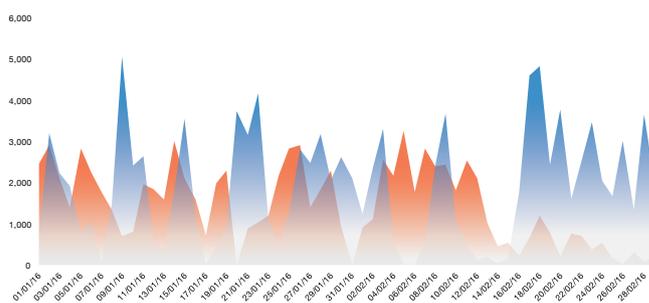


### Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	609
fYRoM*	30
Serbia	372
Croatia	436
Hungary	70
Slovenia	0
Austria	118



### Arrivals to Greece vs Arrivals to fYRoM\*



### Situation at Border Crossings

Along the Balkans route, several countries are imposing both border restrictions and/or closures alongside returns. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 25 people were returned to the Greek border whilst 98 people were returned from Serbia. 611 Afghan nationals are present in Tabanovce, whilst 117 people also remained at the Vinojug reception centre. In Serbia, 62 people were not permitted to board trains to Croatia. In Croatia, 270 people were returned from Slovenia.

### Critical Developments

EU Council President, Donald Tusk, met with Austrian Federal Chancellor, Werner Faymann to discuss methods of ensuring the functionality of the Schengen area and the efficient protection of the EU external borders.

The Austrian Ministry of Interior is carrying out an information campaign in Afghanistan about recent changes in the Austrian asylum system. Similar initiatives shall be undertaken in Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria in the coming weeks.

Ships of the German federal police are providing support to the Greek Coast Guard to help monitor the border and rescue refugees in the Aegean Sea.

### Response

In Greece, Government authorities asked local authorities to help manage the refugee crisis by drafting a list of locations to be used as temporary accommodation for refugees. A committee composed of representatives from police, coast guard, army, health and civil protection, will ensure the management of the crisis.

### Challenges

In Greece, the Mayor of Ilion, Nikos Zenetos, announced that works for the construction of an accommodation site at the Antonis Tritsis Park have been suspended. Reasons remain unclear.

### Weather Headlines

Remaining rather unsettled across much of the region through the remainder of the week with most places seeing rain, which may turn locally heavy at times, especially on Thursday and Friday. Strong winds are also expected to develop across the Aegean on Thursday afternoon and persist throughout Friday.



### Social Media

#### Facebook Activity

Facebook group [Forgotten in Idomeni](#) offered information for refugees at the Cherso Camp, Greece: "Don't walk to Idomeni. Stay at Cherso for now. 10,000 people at Idomeni, not enough shelter or food".

#### Twitter Activity

Migrant Offshore Aid Station ([@moas\\_eu](#)) retweeted an infographic shared by Chris Harris, a Euronews web journalist, highlighting the number of children who have lost their lives at sea since the death of Alan Kurdi in September 2015. The figure, from 3 September 2015 to 25 February 2016, surpassed the 300 mark. The full story can be read [here](#).

#### Current statistics for: #macedonia

- 25 tweets, 108 retweets per hour
- Over 1.41 million impressions per hour
- 43.86% of posts using #macedonia originated from the US

#### 28 Feb - 01 Mar average statistics for: #idomeni

- 4,400 tweets, 21,300 retweets per hour
- 2,138 impressions per hour
- 60% of posts using #idomeni originated from Greece
- 13.56%, 12.71%, 12.71% of posts using #idomeni were in Greek, Spanish & German respectively



### Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

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



29 February - 1 March  
**1,341**  
-47% from previous week



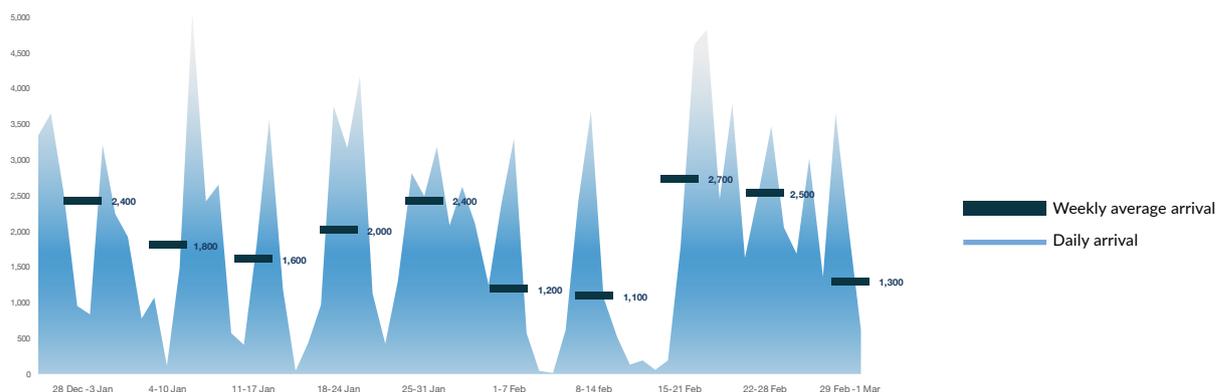
22-28 February  
**2,538**  
-8% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival  
March (as of 1 March)  
**609**  
New Month



### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 1 March





**Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia**  
Key locations crossed by refugees



**Weather Assessment**

- Across the Aegean Islands, southerly winds are expected to increase through Thursday afternoon with showers becoming heavy and thundery through Thursday night. Winds will remain strong on Friday with further heavy showers or thunderstorms. Past event analysis would suggest a significant reduction in arrivals as sea conditions become increasingly dangerous for small boats. It should become more settled over the weekend with winds easing.
- Across mainland southeast Europe, a band of rain is expected to move east through Thursday and Friday. This will largely fall as rain, but higher ground in Slovenia and northwest Croatia may see some heavy snow on Thursday. With the exception of southeast Greece, rain is likely to lead to increasingly muddy ground conditions especially where there are large numbers of people on unpaved surfaces. It will remain rather unsettled into early next week across Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia in particular, although no significant cold weather is expected.



Situation Overview



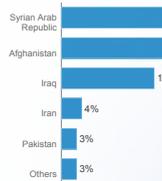


## Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

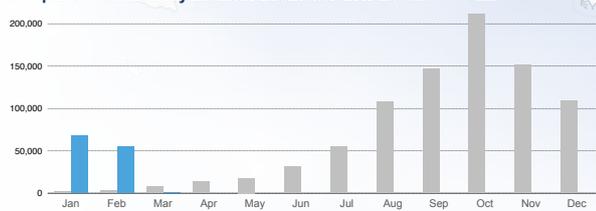
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin.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



### Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals

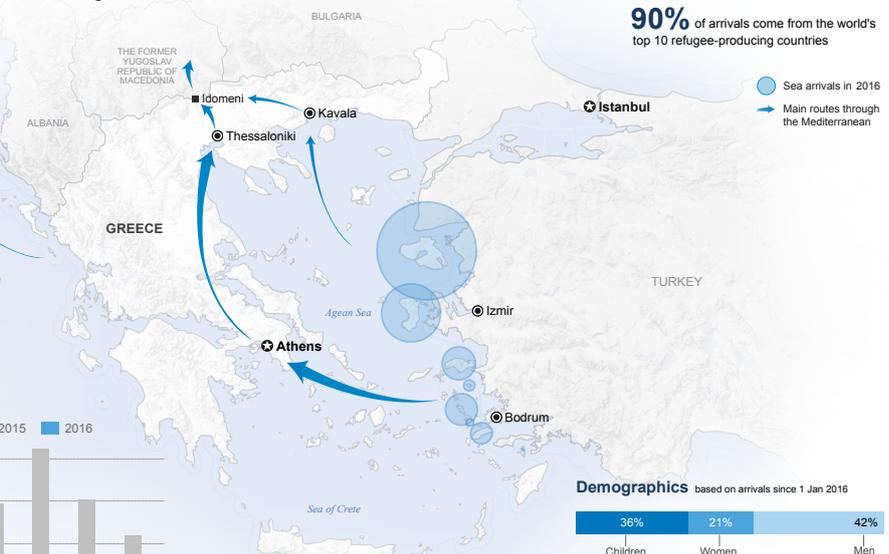


**123,246** arrivals by sea in 2016

© Last updated 1 Mar 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

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



\*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

