



Daily Report

Arrivals and Departures

The Government of Slovenia informed UNHCR and all humanitarian partners that, as of 8 March at midnight, authorities will fully implement the provisions of the [Schengen Borders Code](#), no longer allowing irregular transit. Authorities confirmed that people who intend to seek asylum in Slovenia will be allowed to do so by following the regular procedures. Regarding the EU-Turkey plan, the State Secretary announced that authorities will admit 572 refugees in the first phase of redistribution and 863 in total. Prime Minister, Miro Cerar, underlined that the Balkan route will no longer be utilised; regardless of the summit conclusions being re-worded. The Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior stated that irregular travel will 'slow down' and that authorities will focus on relocation as per agreement with other EU Member States. Slovenia would accept on average 40-50 asylum seekers every two month. As Croatia is not part of the Schengen area, in line with these developments, Croatian Minister of Interior, Vlaho Orepic, stated that Croatia would apply new regulation at borders and only people with valid passports would be allowed across its borders.



Situation at border crossings

While media reports that refugees and migrants were not permitted entry to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since 7 March, UNHCR teams in Gevgelija provided assistance to 127 people arriving from Greece this week. It is estimated that 11,000 to 13,000 refugees and migrants are currently present in Eidomeni, Greece.

Critical Developments

In the Aegean Sea, NATO naval forces began patrols along the Turkish coast aimed at deterring human smuggling to Europe.

In reaction to the EU summit with Turkey, Donald Tusk highlighted that a "breakthrough (was made by) sending a very clear message that the days of irregular migration to Europe are over". Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, welcomed the proposals resulting from the EU-Turkey Summit and noted that the discussions provided solutions to reduce the numbers of refugees and migrants arriving from Turkey. A subsequent summit of EU leaders with Turkey will take place on 17-18 March to formally agree on the proposals made during the European Council meeting with Turkey held on 7



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

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



7-8 March (new week)
770
-50% from previous week



29 February - 6 March
1,551
-39% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival
March (as of 8 March)
1,290
-32% from previous month



Condition of People

In Germany, 67,797 asylum applications were filed to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in February 2016. This represents an increase of 160% compared to February 2015, and an increase of 23% compared to January 2016.

The Greek Asylum Service announced that EU member states have approved 766 relocation requests and offered a total of 2,000 relocation places. More than half of the people who lodged a relocation request are Syrian nationals.

According to the Greek authorities, more than 37,000 refugees and migrants are currently present in country.

March. While addressing the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, UNHCR Chief, Filippo Grandi reiterated the agency's [position](#) regarding the need to respect refugee protection safeguards under international law.

In Izmir, Turkey, Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras chaired the fourth Greek-Turkish High-Level Cooperation Council with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoğlu. Transport, trade, tourism and the refugee issue were exceptionally added to the agenda. Tsipras and Davutoğlu signed the previously announced readmission agreement, according to which people who do not qualify for international protection in Greece will be returned to Turkey.

Weather Headlines: A very unsettled spell of weather is expected to continue across much of the region through the next week. Waterlogged and muddy ground conditions in northern Greece are expected to persist or deteriorate further as more rain is forecast over the next few days. Spells of strong winds in the Aegean are likely to limit the number of arrivals to Greek Islands too.



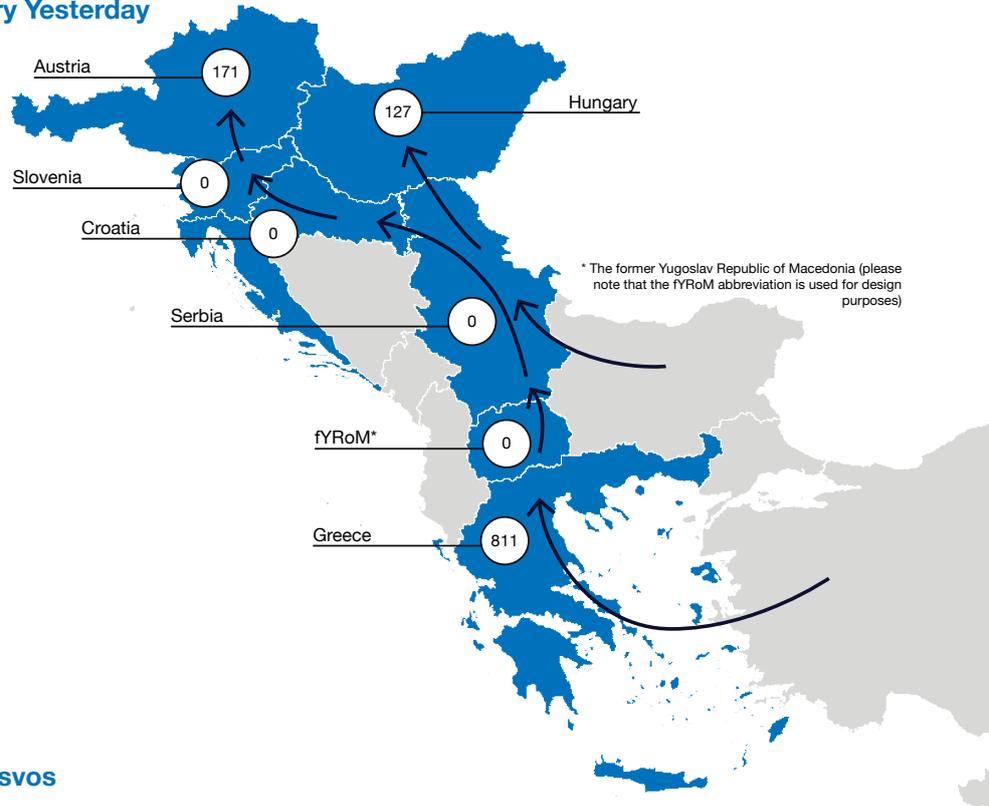
Upcoming meetings/events

- Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels, 10-11 March
- EU-Turkey Summit, Brussels, 17-18 March
- High-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, Geneva, 30 March



Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

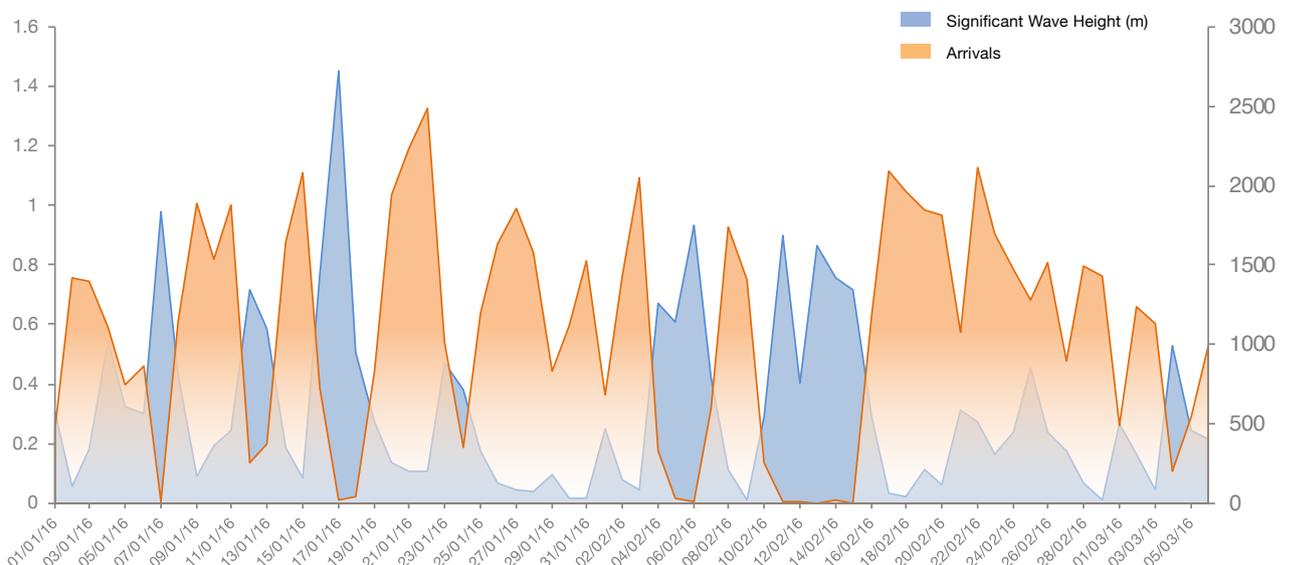
Greece	811
fYRoM*	0
Serbia	0
Croatia	0
Hungary	127
Slovenia	0
Austria	171



Wave Height vs Arrivals to Lesbos

The graph highlights the historical correlation (from 1st January 2016 until present) between the average wave heights around Lesbos and number of registered arrivals to the island. The data shows a clear negative correlation: as the sea states become rougher, with increasing wave heights, the number of people travelling to Lesbos decreases. As sea states and wave heights reduce, the number of people travelling to Lesbos increases.

Applying this same negative correlation to forecast wave data allows us to make a forecast prediction on the number of people moving from Turkey to the Greek islands, giving a trend on whether these numbers will increase or decrease.





Social Media

Facebook Activity:

Facebook group [Are You Syrious?](#) are to participate in a press conference in Zagreb, Croatia at noon on 9 March to discuss the closure of the Balkan routes. The group's dissatisfaction comes after Monday's EU declaration of implementing Schengen border control in member states. Finalisation of the declaration is expected on 17 March.

Twitter Activity:

Brendan McDonald (@7pillars on Twitter) posted about an initiative by US humanitarian aid company CARE: "WWII #refugees become heartening pen-pals with young Syrian refugees". The topic, originally posted by Mashable, can be watched [here](#) (video).

[Frontex](#) "introduces the Schengen Borders Code eLearning Tool: simulation-based online training tool [for] border guards".

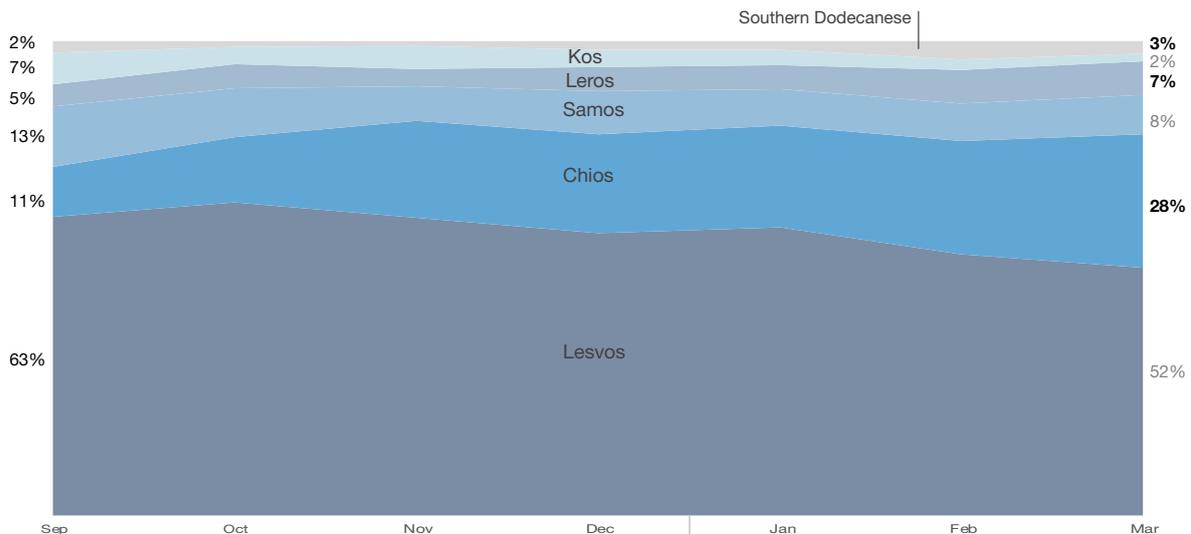
Also, according to Frontex, there have been 82 arrests of people smugglers near the Greek islands in the Aegean so far this year, including an arrest yesterday which was assisted by Portuguese crew. The YouTube video can be viewed [here](#).

Current statistics for: #refugeecrisis

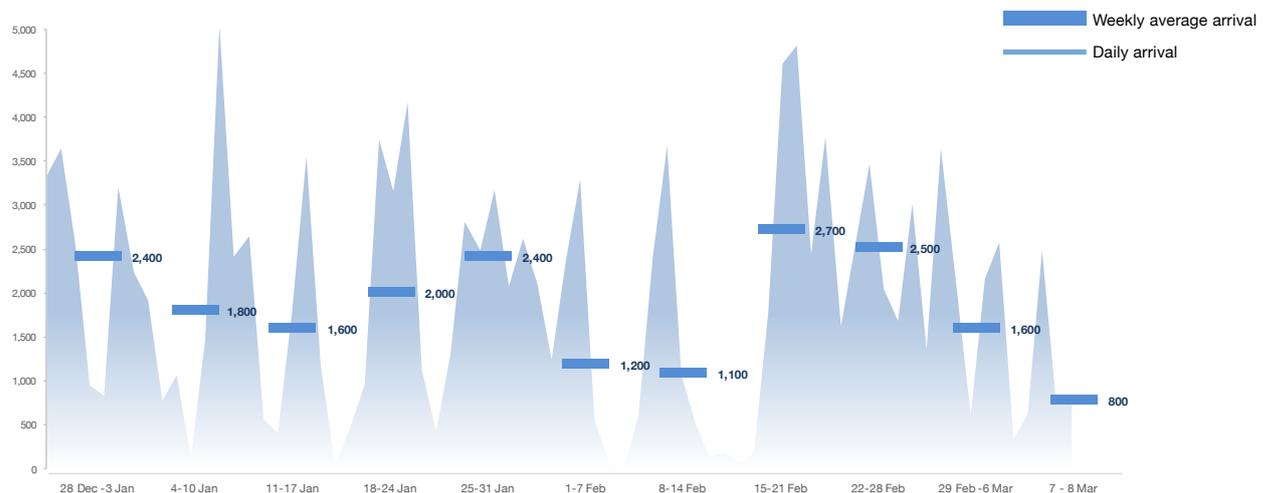
- 83 tweets, 171 retweets per hour
- Over 496,000 impressions per hour
- In the last week, exposure of #refugeecrisis reached an unprecedented peak on 4 March, the day after French President, Francois Hollande, warned that should the UK exit the EU, there would be 'consequences'.



Distribution of monthly arrivals to each Greek island September to 6 March



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 8 March





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees

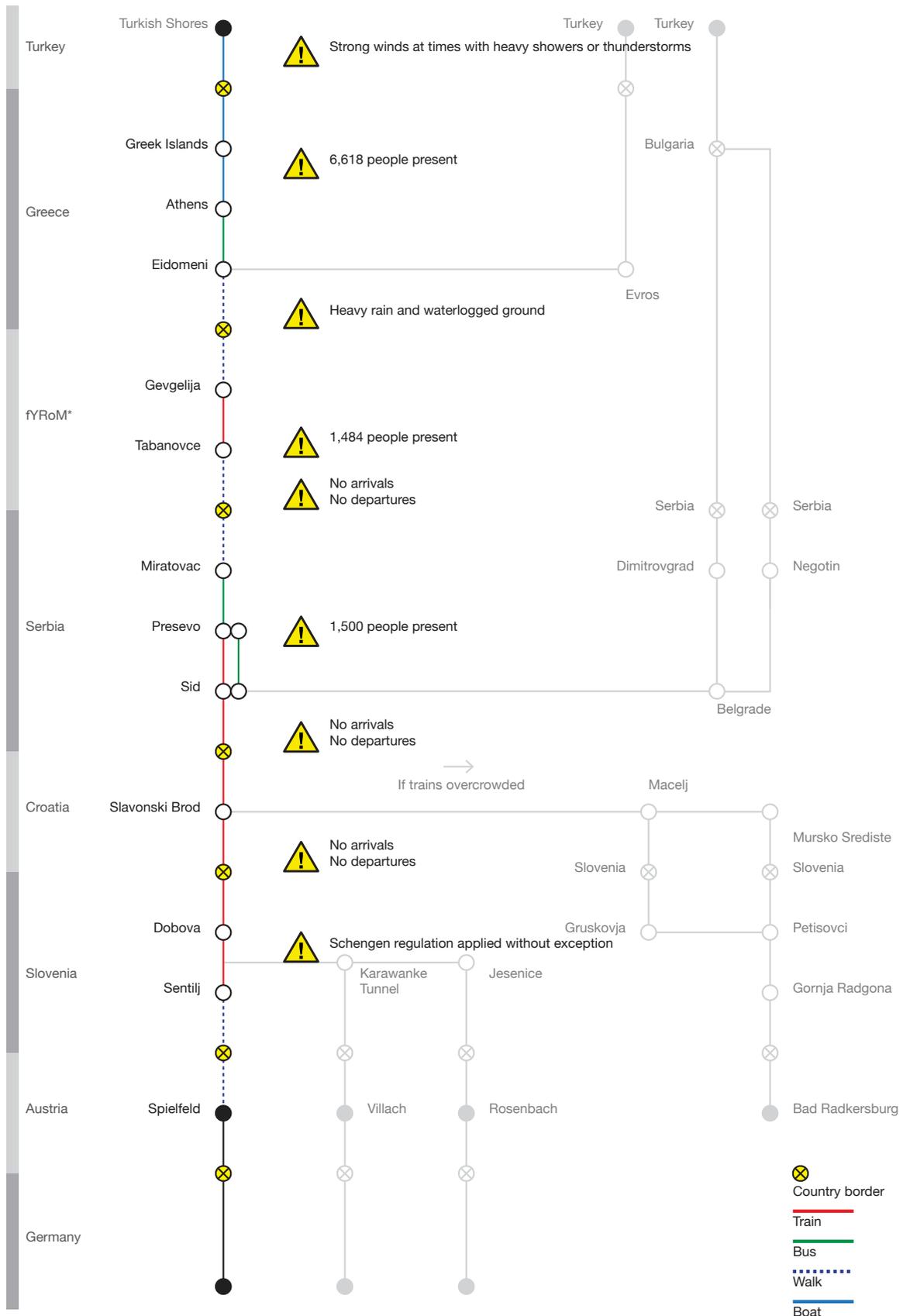


Weather Assessment

- Heavy showers or longer spells of rain are expected to develop across eastern Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia on Wednesday, persisting through much of Thursday. With already near-saturated soil from previous rain in parts of northern Greece, this additional rainfall will maintain these poor ground conditions with a risk of localised flooding. Further heavy rain is expected to affect much of the region this weekend. Across the Aegean Sea, spells of stronger winds are expected and, based on past event analysis, is likely to moderate the number of arrivals to the Greek Islands.
- Next week, unsettled conditions are expected to persist, maintaining the threat of rain for many parts of the region. This will be accompanied by a gradual drop in temperatures with overnight temperatures falling close to freezing in places inland. Across the Aegean Sea, strong to gale force northerly winds are likely to develop, leading to poor sea conditions during early next week.



Situation Overview



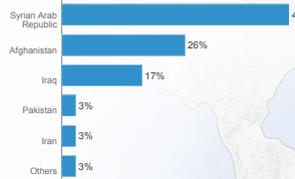


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

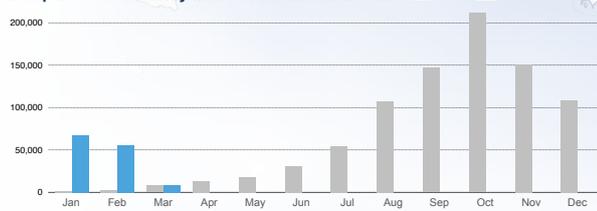
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin.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



132,177 arrivals by sea in 2016

© Last updated 6 Mar 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

91% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries

Sea arrivals in 2016
Main routes through the Mediterranean



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

