

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean
347,709

arrivals by sea in 2016*

4,690

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 14 and 20 November, 698 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece – an increase from the 375 who arrived the previous week. Since April, 19,832 refugees and migrants have arrived to Greece, in comparison to 735,540 in the same period in 2015. As of 20 November 171,284 people have arrived by sea to Greece this year. The main nationalities include 47% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan, and 15% from Iraq and children have comprised 37% of arrivals with men making up 42% and women 21%.

During the same period in Italy, 3,597 persons (including approximately 399 unaccompanied and separated children, i.e. 11%*) arrived to Italy by sea – a slight increase from the 3,023 that arrived the previous week. Thus far, the total number of arrivals in 2016 (168,291) have shown a 16% increase in comparison to arrival figures of 2015 where 144,205 persons disembarked at the end of November. Of those crossing to Italy, main nationalities presented are from Nigeria, Eritrea and Gambia, with 14% of all arrivals being unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) – mostly from Gambia, Egypt and Eritrea, compared to 7% in 2015.

The loss of life faced by refugees and migrants on Mediterranean smuggling routes continues to result in 4,655 deaths or missing cases at sea in the Mediterranean thus far in 2016, compared to 3,771 for the whole of 2015.

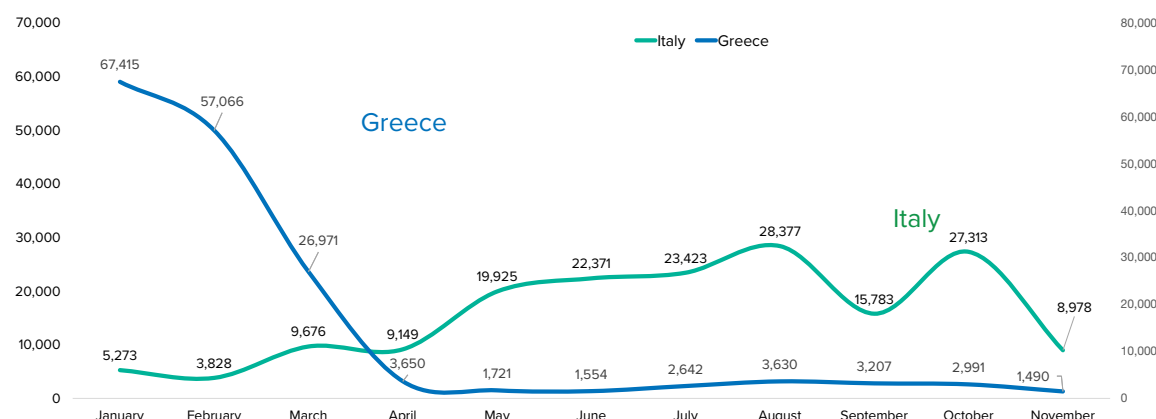
Key Developments

Situation in Greece

Chios was in the news on 17 and 18 November due to two different incidents happening at Souda: a clash between a group of single men (mainly Algerian nationals), who had stolen drinks from a store, and a group of locals

together with members of Golden Dawn. Then the same group of single men set off fireworks which burned down the tents of 100 people. On the evening of 16 November, a riot broke out in Souda between a group of single men after they burglarized a store nearby the site and set off fireworks in the streets which burnt down tents of some 100 residents of the site leading to further unrest. A large group of locals residing near the camp reacted by throwing objects against a group of refugees and migrants, whereby tensions immediately escalated between the two groups. Although riot police and the fire brigade responded on the scene they were not able to intervene immediately due to the clashes and throwing of stones between the two groups. Consequently, damages at the site included 3 tents and Rub halls which were completely destroyed during the incidents. Those injured were taken to the hospital including a man who suffered serious head injuries as a result of large rocks being thrown from the wall above Souda onto shelters in the site. The situation remained tense until it finally stabilized on 19 November following regular patrols of law enforcement and arrests of those involved in the incidents. In the following days UNHCR alongside partners such as Samaritans' Purse swiftly responded by providing protection and logistical assistance including, identifying those with specific needs and referring them to appropriate services, setting up tents and a rub hall with flooring and providing blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and hygiene kits. About 2,120 refugees and migrants are on the islands of Chios of which 750 people were accommodated at Souda at the time of the event, residents mainly originate from Syria, followed by Iraq, and others from various North African countries. UNHCR conducted protection interviews with 2 victims: one Syrian man who was severely beaten and one pregnant woman, who miscarried due to the injuries reported

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 20 November 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 27 November 2016

Key Figures

Greece

698

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

14 November - 20 November

100

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

14 November - 20 November

Italy

3,597

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

14 November - 20 November

514

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

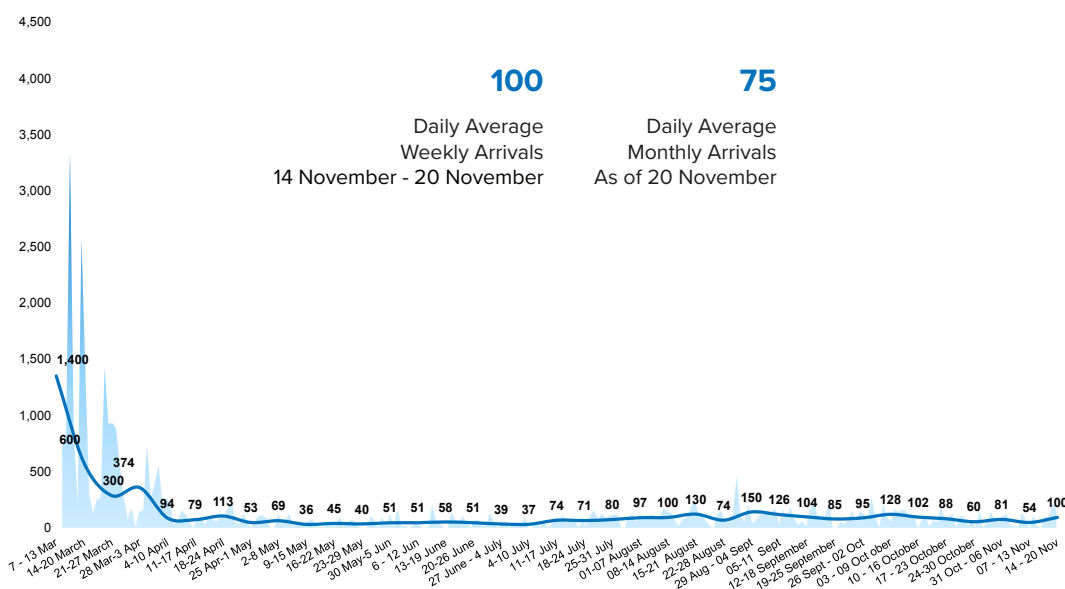
14 November - 20 November

during the incident. UNHCR met with the Police and the local authorities and gave a short training to staff in the field on reporting crisis violence. UNHCR issued a local press release [expressing](#) its deep concern of the recent incidents occurred against refugees and migrants at Souda managed by the municipality of Chios and calling on the authorities to prevent any future acts of violence by reinforcing security in and around the site.

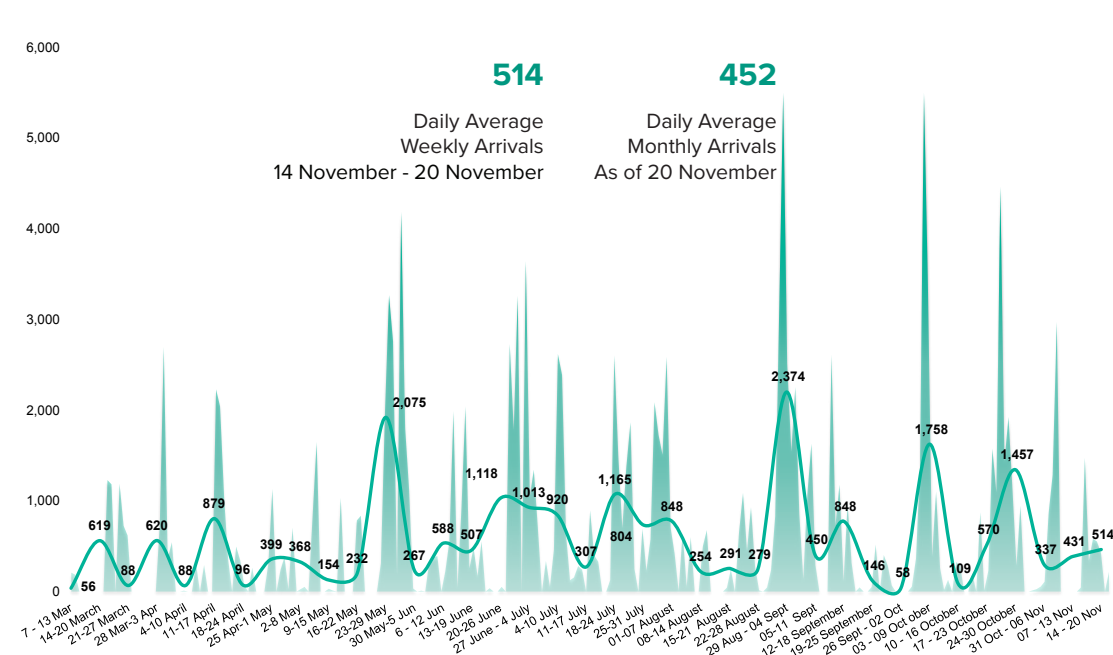
The slow pace of registration and processing of asylum claims, in particularly of some nationalities on the islands, overcrowding and safety risks incurred by ref-

ugees and migrants in Greece continues to contribute to the deteriorating situation within sites. This not being the first incident on Chios, confirms the critical security situation there, as well as at other reception sites. Such violent incidences also pose serious protection risks for persons with specific needs. In regards to the situation on Chios, UNHCR has proposed a three point intervention plan to Migration Minister Yannis Mouzalas which involves: funding of alternative accommodation sites for vulnerable asylum-seekers, the facilitation in locating and transferring asylum-seekers to the mainland (2,000 asylum-seekers have already been moved since the begin-

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 20 November 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 20 November 2016



ning of October) and the cooperation in the creation of an alternative hosting site in the suggested HADA. Such interventions would ameliorate the situation in Chios for the population of concern and the local community alike.

Similarly in Northern Greece, UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations faced challenges with regards to the security of personnel and ongoing tensions within various sites and among local communities in Diavata, Lagkadikia, Derveni, Softex, Oreokastro and Kavala. With winter approaching and temperatures reaching zero, especially at sites where prefab units have not been planned yet, residents regularly protest and strongly voice the need for improved accommodation, food quality, accelerated relocation procedures/decisions and heating for the shelters they are currently in. As a result, the atmosphere at these sites continues to be tense and insecure for both humanitarian aid workers and residents. UNHCR has repeatedly been calling upon the authorities to strengthen security to protect refugees, migrants, aid workers and civil servants working in these sites in order to prevent such violence in the future. In addition, poor living conditions, combined with a prevailing feeling of uncertainty, regularly fuel despair and frustration among asylum-seekers in Greece. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the government in areas such as information dissemination, asylum counselling and site management coordination.

With winter weather quickly approaching, UNHCR continues to offer support to the Greek government in implementing its winterization plans. During the week, UNHCR delivered 400 prefab units ensuring shelter for 2,200 people throughout various sites. However, there are sites which remain without adequate shelter and

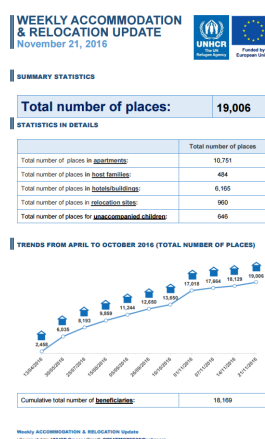
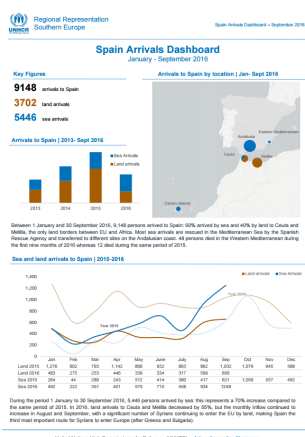
heating. In view of this, there is not only an urgent need for finding emergency heating solutions, but also relocation of as many persons as possible is also needed.

Petra Olympou will be closed and 1,100 Yazidis will be moved to alternative shelter accommodation. 131 fully registered asylum seekers will be accommodated in Athens hotels and apartments; 600 under the accommodation project in Volvi; 33 in apartments in Thessaloniki. The transfer is organized in coordination with UNHCR, the Army, the Police, PoC community leaders, GBGE and ADRA.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

Available government data indicates that an estimated 6,300 people remain in Serbia, of which over 55% are women and children, and 80 % include those from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. Around 80% were accommodated in governmental facilities, throughout the transit or asylum centres while the remainder were counted sleeping rough, mainly in Belgrade city centre. With all governmental asylum or transit centres fully occupied, authorities requested newly registered asylum-seekers to be accommodated in Presevo or Bujanovac reception centres only. The situation in Belgrade city centre remained unchanged, with an estimated 1,000 refugees and migrants, including a significant number of UASC, sleeping rough in derelict and inadequate buildings and sites. With colder winter weather settling in and temperatures dropping below zero degrees Celsius, the wellbeing and safety of those not accommodated in adequate facilities are affected. During the week, UNHCR and partners distributed over 700 UNHCR blankets, 430 winter jackets, 400 boots and over 4,000 pieces of various clothing items for children and adults in the sites in the South, West, North and Belgrade. The authorities,

Key Documents from the Portal



UNHCR and partners continue to provide support such as protection assistance, legal counselling on asylum in Serbia and support for coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country. During the reporting period, 98 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones, with the continued daily cap on weekdays of an estimated 10 individuals per transit zone admitted entry.

Update on Relocation

As of 20 November, 7,562 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU Member States ([Latest EC data](#)). The number of those relocated remains low with only 4.7% of the targeted 160,000 to be relocated from Greece and Italy to other EU Member States and participating countries such as Norway and Switzerland, by September 2017.

A total of 340 asylum-seekers were relocated from Greece during the week, to France (167), Finland (2), Netherlands (96), Romania (77). Thus far, a total of 5,805 (8.7%) asylum-seekers against the targeted 66,400, have been relocated from Greece since the beginning of the relocation programme in November 2015. During the reporting period there were 90 new pledges for Greece, 80 from Norway and 10 from Slovakia, bringing the overall number of pledges to Greece to 11,795.

On 15 November, 187 persons were relocated to Germany, bringing the total relocated from Italy since the adoption of the relocation scheme to 1,717 persons (4.4% of the 39,600 target).

EU Related Developments

At the 14-15 November [Foreign Affairs Council](#), Ministers of Defence notably [discussed](#) EU-NATO cooperation. High Representative/Vice President Mogherini and the NATO Secretary General [informed](#) Ministers of Defence that concrete proposals are being developed in the areas identified for increased EU-NATO cooperation, which include operational cooperation at sea and on mi-

gration. The proposals are to be presented and adopted by the Council and NATO in early December. Ministers also discussed recent developments in Turkey. In that context, they emphasized that the country is a key partner on migration, recalled that Turkey, as candidate for EU enlargement, is expected to “uphold the standards of democracy”, and agreed on the importance to continue political dialogue with Turkey “at all levels”. The Council also notably adopted [conclusions](#) on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence.

At the 18 November [Justice and Home Affairs Council](#), Ministers of the Interior [notably](#) discussed information management, information systems and interoperability in the Justice and Home Affairs area. They [underlined](#) the need to continue implementing the related [Roadmap](#) and achieve the interoperability of EU information systems as soon as possible, while ensuring that data contained in those systems is protected.

On 17 November, the European Parliament (EP) and Council found a consensus on the EU budget for 2017. Negotiations were based on the EC’s [initial proposal](#). The EP and Council [agreed upon](#) a total budget of EUR 292.4 billion. Of these, EUR 6 billion will be used for border management and to address migration and refugee challenges, with respectively EUR 3 billion for actions within the EU and EUR 3 billion for actions outside of the EU.

On 16 November, EASO released Country of Origin Information [reports](#) covering [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Kosovo](#) (SCR 1244), [the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#), [Montenegro](#), [Serbia](#) and [Turkey](#). The reports were initially requested by the EP and the Council, notably in the context of the discussions on the September 2015 EC [proposal](#) for an EU list of safe countries of origin.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

20 March

- Start of the EU-Turkey Statement.

3 April

- Greece implemented a new [law](#) highlighting the creation of the Reception and Identification Service, restructuring of the Asylum Service, the creation of an Appeals' Authority, and the creation of new Regional Asylum Offices.

4 April

- First returns take place under the EU-Turkey Statement: 202 people returned to Turkey from Greece.

27 April

- Turkey amended labour legislation to grant those holding subsidiary protection work permits.

7 April

- Turkish government amended the Temporary Protection Regulation regarding access to temporary protection for Syrian nationals who irregularly travel to Europe and who are returned to Turkey from Greek islands

6 April

- The European Commission (EC) [published Communication](#) on reforms to Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

4 May

- The European Commission released:
 - [Proposals](#) to reform the Common European Asylum System, with proposals to reform the Dublin Regulation, the EURODAC system and to turn the European Asylum Support Office into an European Union Agency for Asylum.
 - [Third Progress Report](#) by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalization roadmap
 - [Proposal](#) to grant visa liberalization to Turkish citizens

18 May

- The EC adopted its [third progress report](#) on the EU's emergency relocation and resettlement schemes.
- The Turkish President approved the legislative framework regarding the EU-Turkey Statement with regards to the readmission of people from Greece

20 June

- UNHCR offices across the region celebrated [World Refugee Day](#) with a variety of events and awareness-raising activities during the week.

17 June

- The European Commission:
- Released [Fourth Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#).
 - Released [Second Report on the Progress](#) Made in the Implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.
 - Adopted a recommendation on the specific [urgent measures](#) to be taken by Greece in the view of the resumption of transfers to the country under the Dublin III Regulation.

8 June

- The Greek Asylum Service started pre-registration for applications for international protection, supported by UNHCR and EASO

13 July

- The European Commission released:
- Its Proposals to [recast](#) the Asylum Procedures Directive, [recast](#) the Qualification Directive and [amend](#) the Reception Conditions Directive.
 - Its proposal on an EU [Resettlement Framework](#)
 - Its [Fifth Report](#) on relocation and resettlement.

23 August

- The Greek Asylum Service announced [results](#) of the pre-registration exercise, following its completion on 25 July.

14 September

- European Border and Coast Guard [Regulation](#) formally adopted.

16 September

- Informal [Bratislava Summit](#), whereby Leaders set out the [priorities](#) at EU-level for the next few months. On migration, they include further bringing down the number of irregular migrants arriving to the EU, controlling external borders effectively, cooperate with non-EU countries and "apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity".

20 September

- [Leader's Summit on Refugees](#) was held in New York bringing together countries and international organisations, and announced pledges to increase efforts in support of refugees.

19 September

- United Nations General Assembly Summit in New York. Adopts [the New York Declaration](#) outlining key commitments to protect refugee and migrant rights.

28 September

- The European Commission released:
- Sixth [Report](#) on relocation and resettlement
 - Third [Recommendation](#) in view of the resumption of Dublin transfers to Greece
 - Third [Report](#) on the progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

06 October

- The European Commission officially **launched** the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) **Agency**.

09 November

- The European Commission (EC) released their [Seventh Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#)