



## Arrivals and Departures

102,500 people arrived by sea in Greece and about 7,500 in Italy since 1 January 2016, compared with a combined total of 11,834 sea arrivals in January and February 2015.

The Winter Operations Cell statistical analysis forecast between 600-700 people to arrive by sea to Lesvos yesterday (taking into account sea conditions with around 1 metre high waves). However, 1,476 people made the journey indicating the risk level people are willing to accept to enter Europe considering the announced border restrictions in the Western Balkans.



## Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday

Greece	2,044
fYRoM*	551
Serbia	1
Croatia	0
Hungary	166
Slovenia	0
Austria	75



## Critical Developments

In Greece, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, continued his visit to Athens where he met several Greek authorities. At the press conference, Grandi primarily addressed the following issues: the war in Syria being the reason people are leaving their country, the EU management of refugee response, the relocation programme, and the closing of borders. He also addressed the lack of solidarity across Europe in addressing the refugee crisis.

## Condition of People

Up to 12,000 refugees and migrants remain in Greece as a result of recently introduced border restrictions. In addition, 138 people were returned from Serbia to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Regional officials in Greece reached an agreement with the eastern Spanish region of Valencia for the relocation of 1,000 refugees. This would not be part of the EU relocation scheme.

German Parliament approved stricter asylum regulations regarding establishing reception centres for asylum seekers from safe countries of origin, quicker return procedures and a de facto suspension of family reunification for people with subsidiary protection status.

German Minister of Interior, Thomas de Maiziere, confirmed that 125 rejected asylum-seekers were returned voluntarily by IOM under an agreement between the German and Afghan governments.

According to media sources, in an attempt to stem the flow of refugees, the Norwegian Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, is proposing a law that would allow authorities to prevent asylum seekers from non-conflict areas to enter the country.

## Deaths at Sea

So far this year, more than 400 people, including many children, are reported to have died or gone missing at sea.



Ministers of Austria and of Western Balkans countries adopted a joint declaration at the conference "Managing Migration Together", held in Vienna yesterday. The declaration aims to reduce the number of people transiting through the Western Balkans. This has drawn criticism from Greek authorities, who are faced with thousands of people staying on their territory following the border restrictions imposed on Afghan nationals. Meanwhile, Hungary announced a referendum on

whether to accept mandatory quotas for the resettlement of refugees.

According to media sources, at a meeting in Brussels, NATO envoys set out how ships sent to the Aegean Sea in early February can collaborate with the Turkish and Greek coastguards and Frontex to rescue refugees at sea and return them to Turkey.

Slovenia Interior Minister, Vesna Györköš Žnidar, indicated that Slovenia stands ready to step up measures to control arrivals to the country in the absence of an EU-wide solution. She stressed that, if the agreement reached jointly by Heads of Police in Zagreb, is not respected, Slovenia will be forced to take more decisive action at its borders.

### Response

In Thessaloniki, Diavata camp opened and currently hosts approximately 2,200 people, largely Syrians. In the Attica region, the other temporary accommodation sites and Schisto camp are overstretched.

### Challenges

In Greece, tensions are on the rise, with hosting communities protesting against government efforts to host thousands of refugees by opening new camp like facilities.

### Weather Headlines

- Southerly winds around the Greek Islands will strengthen on Friday for a time with waves building to moderate in the afternoon.
- It will be cloudy across most of SE Europe with rain showers affecting most areas on Friday. Croatia and Slovenia will see some brighter weather by the afternoon.



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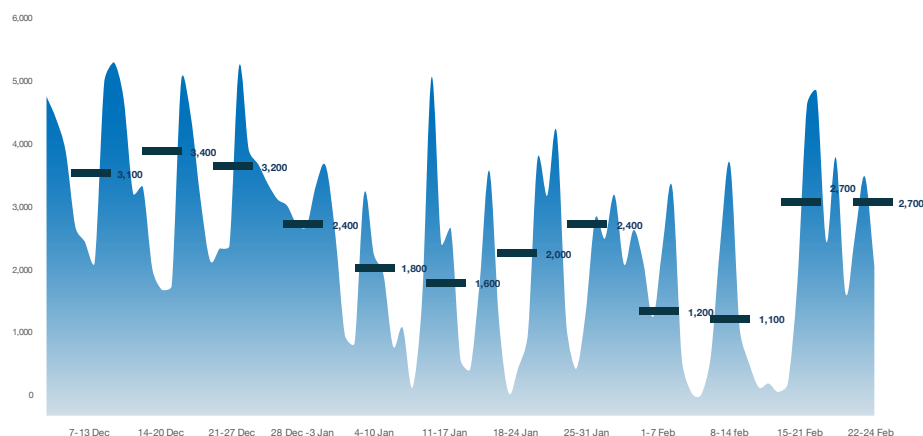
### Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

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

**↓ DOWN** 22-24 February  
**2,688**  
-2% from previous week

**↓ DOWN** Monthly Average Daily Arrival February (as of 24 Feb)  
**1,810**  
-6% from previous month

### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 7 December to 24 February



### Social Media

#### Twitter Activity:

Professor Sutay Yavuz, from the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East (PAITME), held a plenary session concerning the general situation of Syrian refugees in Ankara, Turkey, at the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries ([SESRIQ](#)). Topics of discussion included the economic effects of [refugee flows](#) and war economic effects of refugee flows and war

#### Periscope:

Anita Wing Lee, an international broadcaster and award-winning speaker, spent the day in Berlin at a refugee registration centre; she managed to interview an 18-year-old Syrian refugee who had managed to escape Aleppo with his neighbour but left his sisters and parents behind. When asked why he always had a smile on his face, he answered: "I've seen many bad things".

Russia Today [RT](#) live-streamed from Salamaniah in Aleppo, Syria showing images of ongoing fighting between government forces and rebels.

#### Current statistics for: #Aleppo

- 29 tweets per hour
- Over 535,000 impressions per hour
- 36% of posts using #Aleppo originated from the Syrian Arab Republic
- 26% of posts using #Aleppo originated from the UK



## Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees



## Weather Assessment

- The unsettled weather continues over SE Europe as a low pressure system moves east across the Aegean Sea. The weather will be drier and brighter in the north of the region by Friday afternoon however, it will be colder with frost overnight in northern Serbia, Slovenia, and Croatia.
- A short spell of strong, southerly winds will affect the Aegean Sea on Friday, increasing the waves for a time to a moderate level of around 0.5m between Turkey and the Greek islands of Lesvos; waves will be higher in other more exposed areas. This may pose difficulties to those traveling in small boats.
- Saturday is expected to be more settled with lighter winds and some good sunshine in most areas however an area of rain begins to affect Slovenia and Croatia later in the day. On Sunday, a deep low pressure west of Italy will start to affect the region with some strong winds and rain moving across SE Europe. This weather system is likely to bring very strong winds into the Aegean Sea early next week.



## Situation Overview



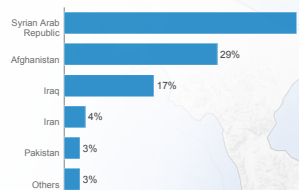


## Annex 1: Portal Key Figures

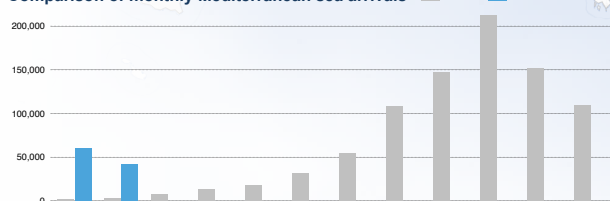
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin.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



**101,906** arrivals by sea in 2016

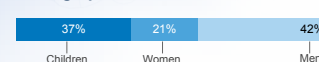
856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

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

© Last updated 23 Feb 2016

● Sea arrivals in 2016  
→ Main routes through the Mediterranean

### Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2016



\*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

