



Daily Report

Planning and Preparation:

As the EU summit expected to set the parameters for the future of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe commences today, UNHCR is preparing to ensure refugee protection is upheld by looking at all possible angles of potential outcomes. Contingency plans have been formulated to support governments to this end.

Arrivals and Departures:

In the context of the EU summit with Turkey held on 7 March, governments of states affected by the crisis have taken immediate action in implementing the points discussed. Irregular transit was swiftly reduced through the Western Balkans and border

management enforced with additional forces and technical equipment. Similar speed of implementation of agreements reached at the EU summit to be held today and tomorrow is expected.

More than one [million](#) refugees travel to Greece since 2015.

Condition of People:

As previous experience indicates, the initial days following the adoption of restrictive measures at borders are marked by a level of confusion until refugees and migrants, and implementing authorities are accustomed to the new systems. UNHCR is assessing all scenarios so that people are treated fairly and in a dignified manner.



Critical Developments

The President of the European Council was tasked with working out implementation details of the proposals made at the EU summit on 7 March with Turkey prior to the following EU summit to be held today and tomorrow. The outcome was communicated by outlining [six principles](#) for further developing EU-Turkey cooperation in tackling the refugee and migrant crisis are:

1. Legal safeguards for the return of all new irregular migrants and asylum seekers crossing from Turkey into the Greek islands (including readmission of people not in need of international protection and Returning persons in need of international protection);
2. A 1:1 resettlement scheme;
3. Accelerating the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap;
4. Speed up the disbursement of funds under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey;
5. Accelerating Accession Negotiations;
6. Improving the humanitarian conditions inside Syria.

Frans Timmermans, European Commission vice-president, acknowledged that the next steps will be challenging, especially referring to Greece. Apart from legislative changes required, Greek authorities are faced with having to clear

a backlog of some 8,000 people currently present on the Greek islands. Officials say they ideally need to be provided with accommodation prior to any policy on returns being implemented. However at the moment, most facilities are strained beyond capacity.

Timmermans further explained that the latest draft agreement requires that Turkey meets the same 72 benchmarks for visa liberalization it has always had to meet, and that the opening of new areas of EU membership negotiations with Turkey, so-called chapters, will take place "soon." No specific commitments are made, falling short of Turkish expectations.

Weather Headlines

Generally settled conditions over SE Europe apart from the far south of Greece where some rain and thunderstorms will develop on Friday.

Temperatures will recover to around the average for the middle of March.

Early morning mist and fog forming in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and southern Serbia.



Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

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



14 - 16 March
227
-79% from previous week



7-13 March
1,420
-8% from previous week

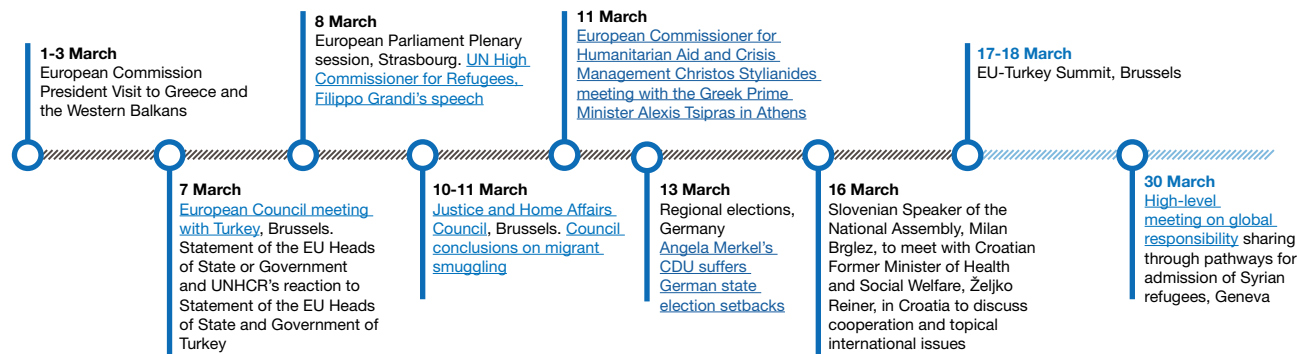


Monthly Average Daily Arrival
March (as of 16 March)
1,213
-36% from previous month





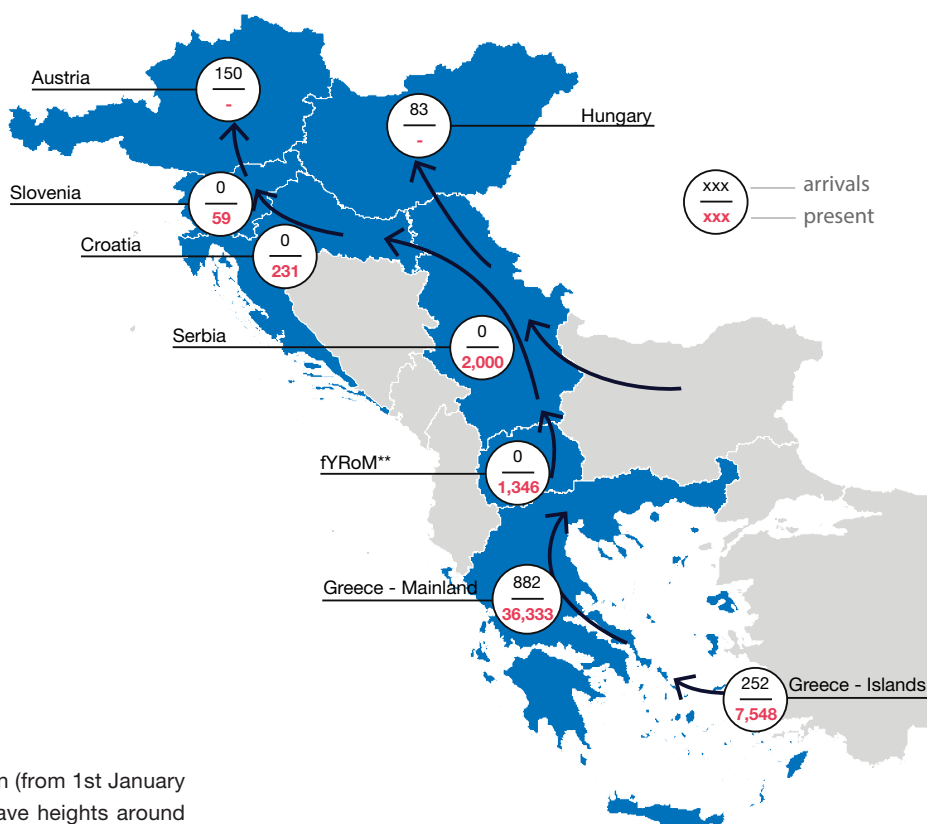
Past and Upcoming Meetings/Events



Estimated Arrivals and People Present* per Country Yesterday

* estimated people present currently not applying for asylum
** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used for design purposes)

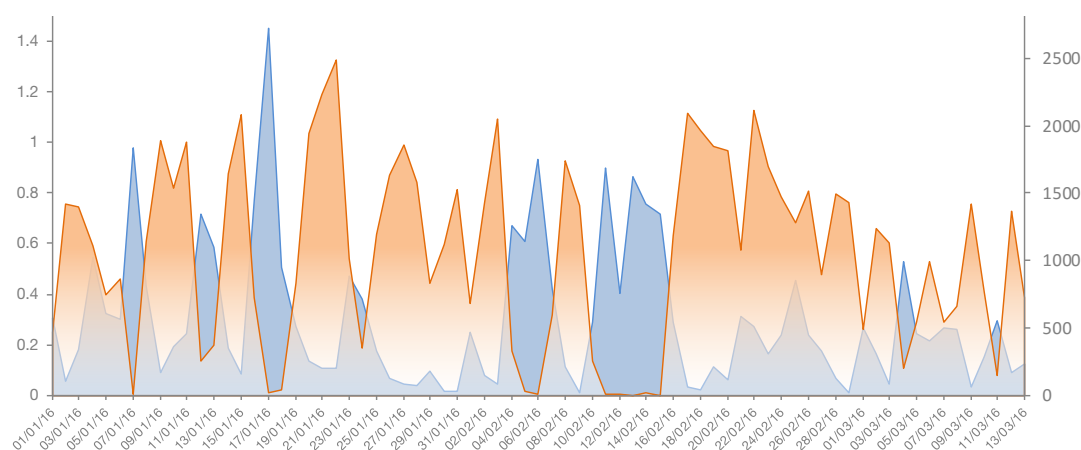
	Arrivals	Present*
Greece - Islands	252	7,548
Greece - Mainland	882	36,333
fYRoM**	0	1,346
Serbia	0	2,000
Croatia	0	231
Hungary	83	-
Slovenia	0	59
Austria	150	-



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

#marchofhope

Although the hashtag has not been very active in terms of exposure and individual tweets, on the day a reported 2,000 refugees decided to cross the Suva Reka river from Eidomeni camp, Greece, into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (March 14th), there were 800 tweets and 7,900 retweets. This illustrates that whilst a relatively small group of people were actively using the hashtag to mobilise those stranded, many thousands more saw the rise of the movement on their social media feeds.

At the same time, it has now been claimed that [activists are being blamed for the drowning of three refugees](#) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, one of whom was a pregnant woman. Sunday Times journalist Bojan Pancevski ([@bopanc](#) on Twitter) offered a rough translation of a map which prompted the mass #marchofhope. The origin of the hashtag is split equally between Austria and Germany.

Current statistics for: #Syria5years

- 21 tweets, 133 retweets per hour
- Over 514,000 impressions per hour

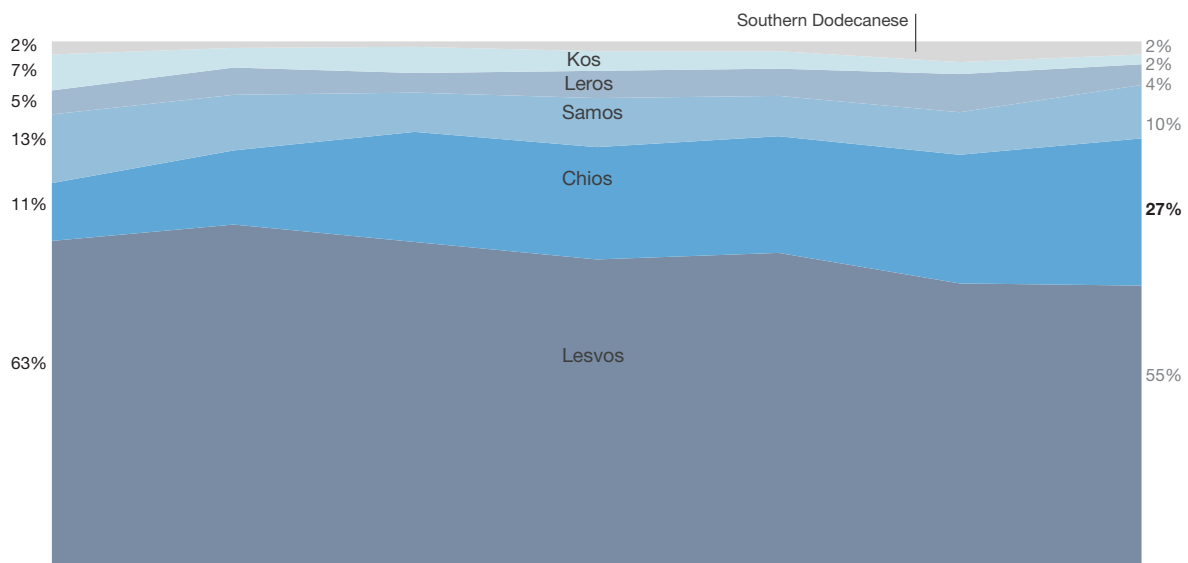
On 15 March, the fifth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, social media activity of #syria5years garnered 2,800 individual tweets, 5,700 retweets and 1,908 impressions. Related to this, UNHCR MENA Director Amin Awad published [10 Insights About the Syrian Refugee Crisis Five Years On](#).

Snapchat:

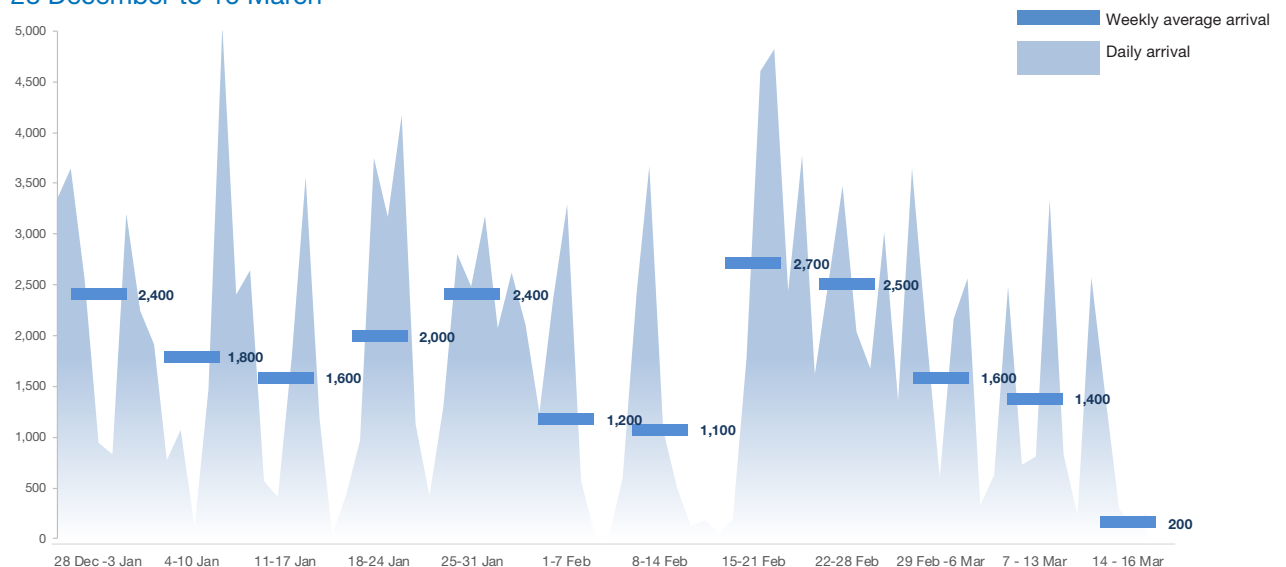
The Daily Mail on Snapchat reported on actor George Clooney's call to Americans to recognise the growing Syrian refugee crisis; he referred to his own Irish descent and stated that Americans need to "remember who they are".



Distribution of monthly arrivals to each Greek island September to 16 March



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 28 December to 16 March





Weather Forecast Greece - Slovenia

Key locations crossed by refugees

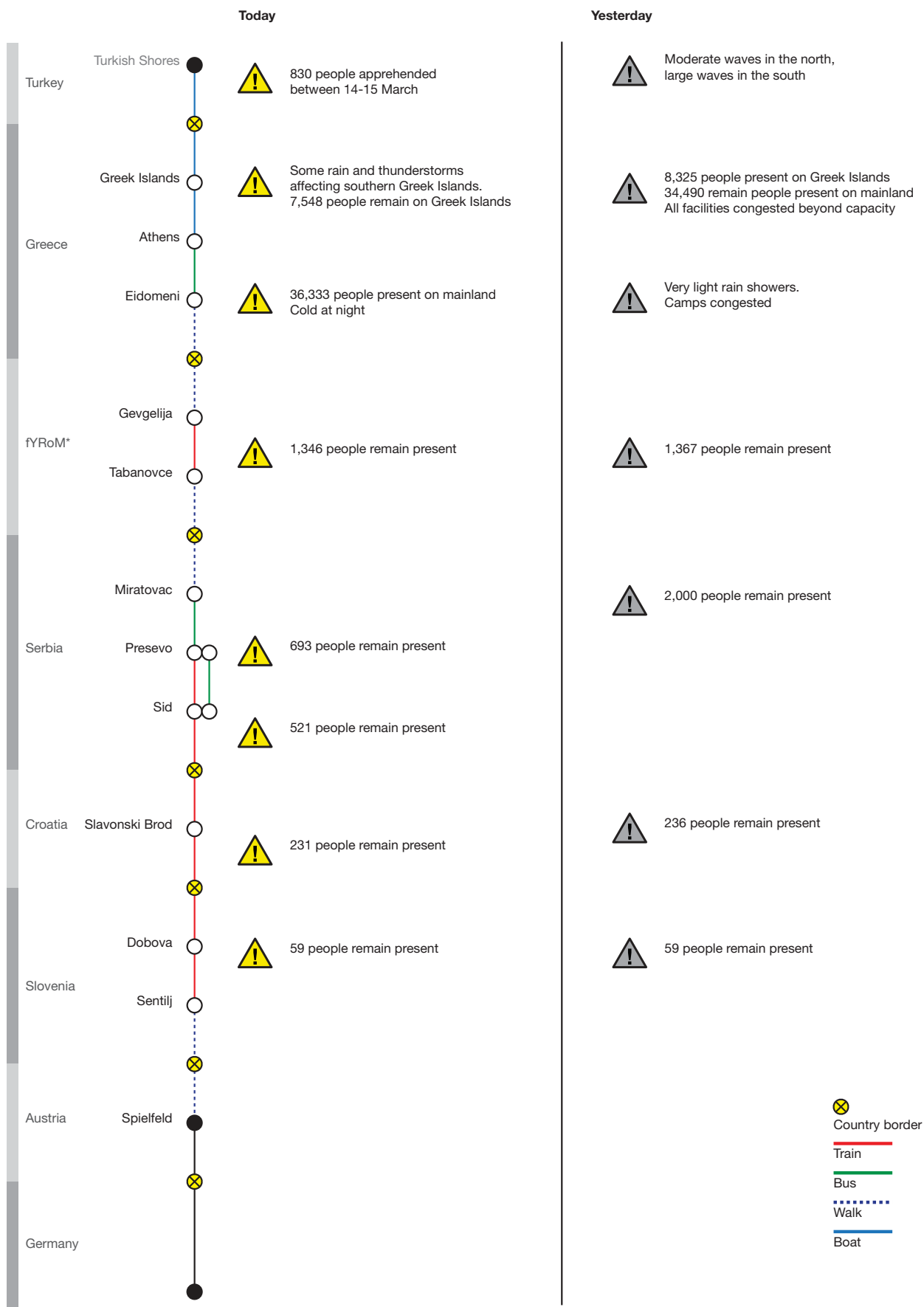







Weather Assessment

- A low pressure system will move across the eastern Mediterranean on Friday with some rain and thunderstorms affecting southern Greece. Further north, there will be broken cloud from the weather system but it will remain dry. Many parts of Serbia, Slovenia, and Croatia will see some long spells of sunshine but with clear skies overnight on Thursday and Friday, there will be some mist and fog forming in the mornings.
- Seas will be slight or calm in the Aegean on Friday and in the past this has resulted in an increase in arrivals to the Greek Islands.
- Temperatures will increase to around average for March in northern Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It will feel warm in any sunshine which will help dry any standing water where it has rained a lot in the last week.



Situation Overview



 Country border
 Train
 Bus
 Walk
 Boat

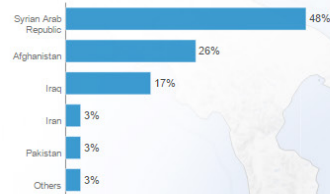


Annex 1 Key Figures from the Portal

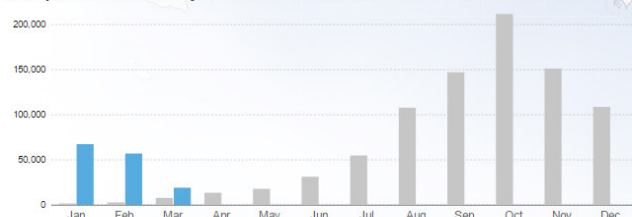
Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin.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

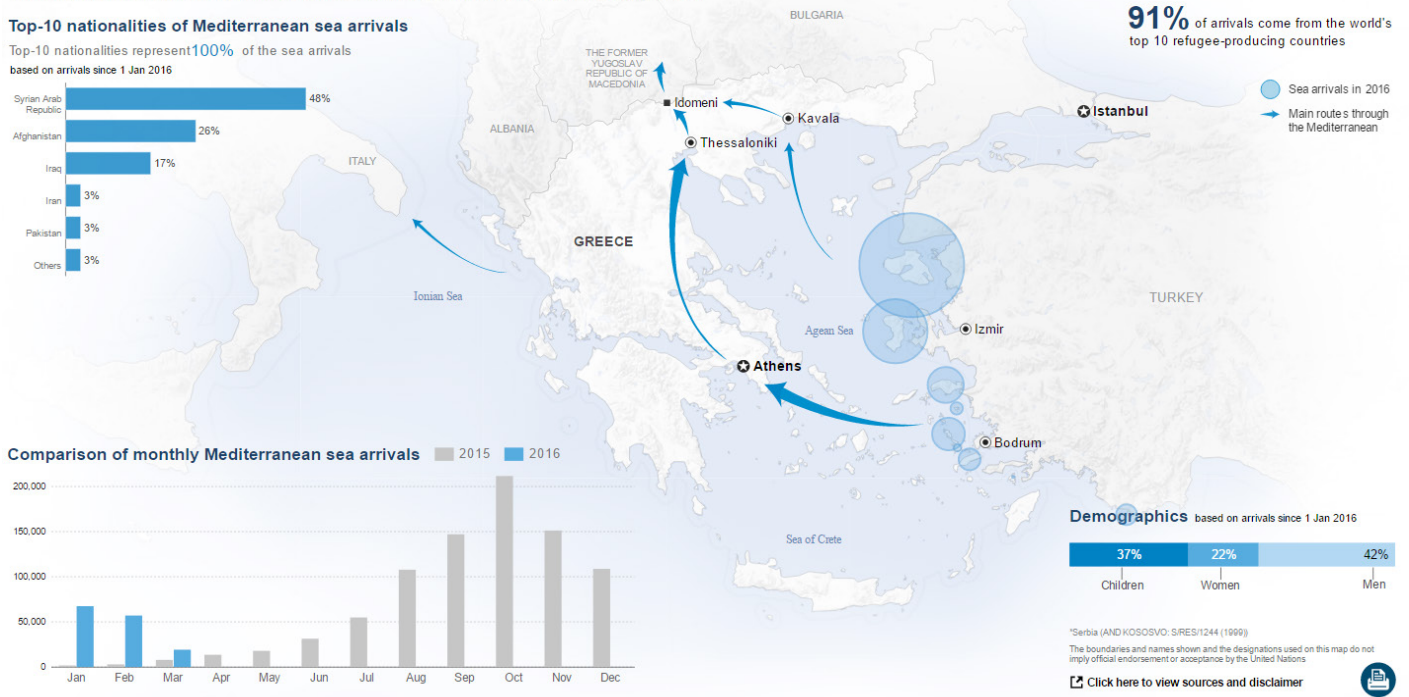


143,634 arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

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

© Last updated 15 Mar 2016



Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals

