

**Weekly Report**



**Key Figures**

**Mediterranean**  
**10,991**

arrivals by sea in 2017\*

**256**

dead/missing in 2017\*

**Trends of Sea Arrivals**

The number of arrivals to the Aegean islands during the week of 30 January was 460. Daily sea arrivals fluctuated between 0 arrivals (04-05 February) and 142 (03 February). Lesbos recorded the majority of estimated sea arrivals (135), followed by Samos (125). Comparing with the previous week the average number of daily arrivals increased from 36 to 66. In January there have been a total of 1,399 sea arrivals to Greece during the month, noting a decreasing trend from previous months in 2016 (Sept: 3,080, Oct: 2,970, Nov: 1,991 and Dec: 1,665).

Meanwhile in Italy, 4,162 persons (including some 400 unaccompanied and separated children [UASC], i.e. 10%) arrived to Italy after having been rescued in search and rescue operations. New arrivals departed from Libya (Zawiya and Sabratha) and mainly originate from sub-Saharan African countries, but include also persons from northern African countries, as well as Bangladesh and Pakistan. During the week, 74 people autonomously reached Italian shores in two separate groups, the first group comprised of 10 Tunisian nationals (including one UASC) and the second was made up of 64 Iraqi nationals of Kurdish origin. However, the overall most common countries of origin among 2017 arrivals to Italy include Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Nigeria.

**Key Developments**

**Situation in Greece**

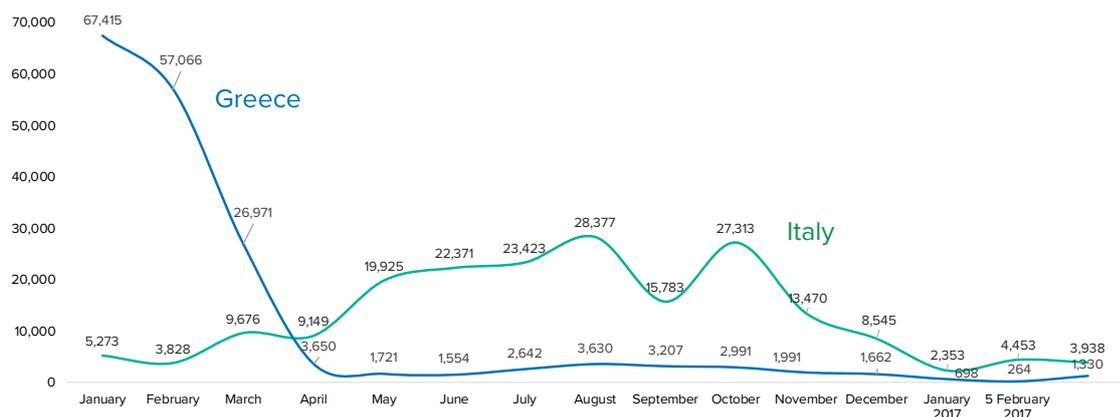
Severe winter weather conditions in Greece have subsided during the week. However, efforts to improve living conditions at sites, particularly at the islands, and transfers to improved accommodation remain a priority for authorities, UNHCR, and partners. During the reporting period, 343 people were transferred from the islands to the mainland (169 Lesbos, 87 Chios, 62 Samos, 22 Leros, and 3 Rhodes), including 278 transported by UNHCR. By

31 January, a total of 25,112 people have benefited from UNHCR's Relocation and Accommodation Scheme since the beginning of the programme, and 19,129 places were available for those with specific needs and relocation candidates. On Lesbos, UNHCR has supported the transfer of 796 people from Registration and Identification Centre (RIC) Moria to alternative shelter and the mainland to date. In support of infrastructure improvements, UNHCR has prepared shelter for up-to 150 people by installing one Rubb Hall with flooring and heating and twelve family tents at the Olive Grove site, outside of RIC Moria, per an agreement with the Ministry of Migration Policy (MoMP). On 04 February, UNHCR also assisted in facilitating the move of 104 single men from Moria to the newly erected Rubb Hall at the Olive Grove. Rubber mats and sleeping bags were also distributed through partner Samaritans' Purse.

Despite infrastructure efforts, there are still a number of areas for concern to UNHCR which continue to raise health, security and protection risks. On 30 January, an 18 year-old Pakistani man died at RIC Moria on Lesbos - making it the third death at Moria in the past two weeks. Autopsies of the deceased have been inconclusive and further medical examinations are underway. The same day, a 20 year-old Pakistani man, from the same tent as the deceased, was also hospitalized in intensive care, the medical examination confirmed that he was intoxicated with carbon monoxide. These incidents, occurred following the recent cold spell. As a matter of priority, UNHCR is supporting the Greek authorities to decrease the population of Moria and ensure adequate shelter for all. As part of UNHCR's efforts to reduce the population in Moria, infrastructure works and installation of prefabricated containers are ongoing at Kara Tepe in order to improve accommodation to benefit the maximum capacity of the site.

On Samos, continued overcrowding and poor weather at

**Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month**  
January 2016 to 5 February 2017



\* [data.unhcr.org/mediterranean](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean) as of 10 February 2017

**Key Figures**

**Greece**

**460**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Greek Islands**

30 Jan - 5 Feb 2017

**66**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Greek Islands**

30 Jan - 5 Feb 2017

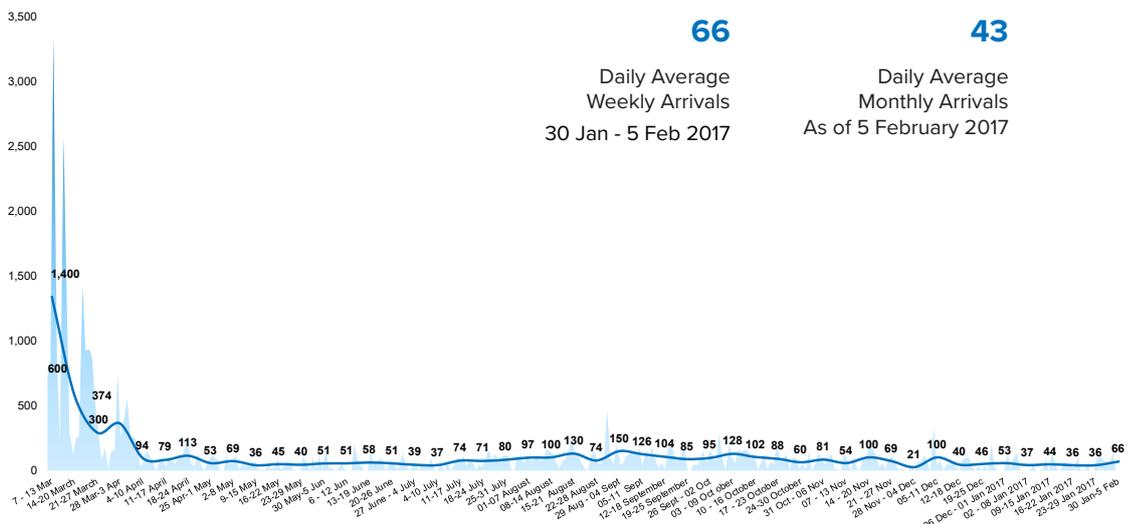
RIC Vathy are contributing to a high number of incidents of self-harm, suicide attempts, panic attacks, and aggressive behaviour. People continued to heat themselves by any means inside tents, as weather (although milder) continued to be inclement, causing serious threat of fire and other hazards. Despite a significant reduction of people in camping tents and improvements to hygiene conditions, about 700 continue to live in unheated accommodation. UNHCR is assisting the MoMP to transfer people to appropriate shelter and to the mainland .

On the mainland in Northern Greece, at a number of sites where few people remain, anxiety and anger is rising as future plans on their evacuation is unclear with insufficient information from the MoMP. This is adding to tensions and raises security concerns. Further difficulties and protection risks arise from volunteers and indi-

viduals, who are taking residents from the sites without informing the MoMP or UNHCR and thus creating protection risks. In the Attica region, at Elliniko II on 05 February, a group of about 30 people held a peaceful sit-in, protesting poor conditions there, especially the quality of food, lack of washing machines, poor maintenance of the site, and lack of interpreters. Approximately 1,600 people remain in the three Elliniko sites. In Eleonas I and II, residents have been installing electrical heaters and washing machines, overloading the electrical installation and leading to frequent power outages which can last several hours each.

Another point of concern is difficulties to identify and track people, and appointments for collection of decisions from the Asylum Service. The lack of a unified database hinder communication and access to appropriate

**Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece<sup>1</sup>**  
7 March 2016 to 5 February 2017



**Italy**

**4,148**

**Total Weekly Arrivals to Italy**

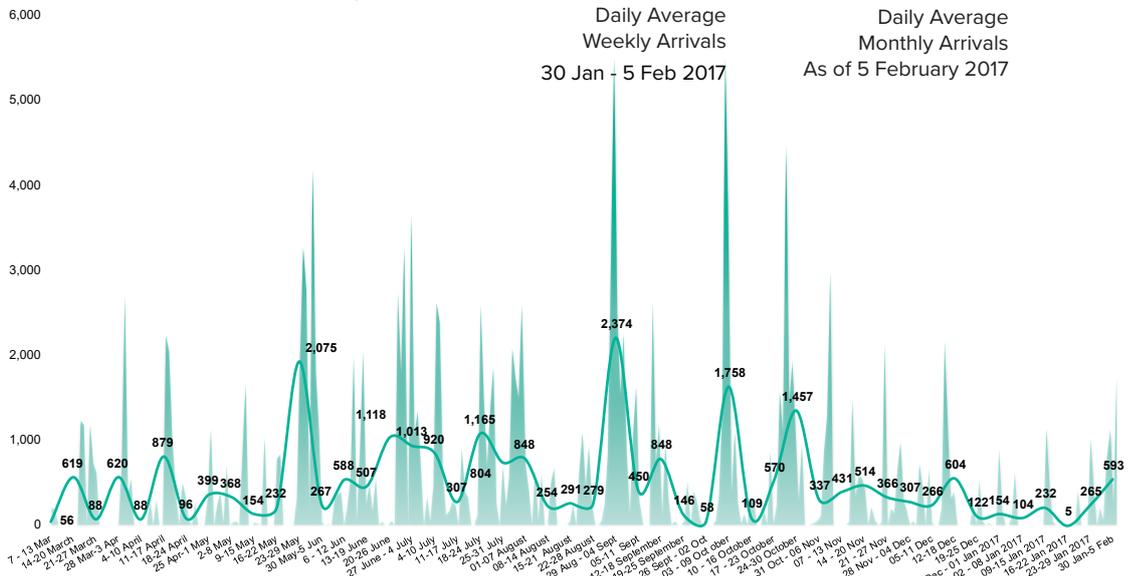
30 Jan - 5 Feb 2017

**593**

**Daily Average Arrivals to Italy**

30 Jan - 5 Feb 2017

**Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy**  
7 March 2016 to 5 February 2017



<sup>1</sup> Lagadikia, Nea Kavala, Alexandria, Vasilika/Redestos and Pieria (Petra Olympou) in northern Greece; Katsikas, Filipiada and Agia Eleni (new site) in western Greece; Kipselochori and Stylida (new site) in central Greece; Schisto, Eleonas, Elefsina, Rafina and Andravidas in Attica and Peloponnesus. <sup>2</sup> Thermopiles, Trikala, Tsepelovo, Diavata, Kara Tepe and Moria.

and timely procedures, particularly for those staying in sites with limited mobile phone network coverage. Skype lines of the Asylum Service in Farsi and Urdu continue to be practically inoperative. In Elliniko for instance, asylum-seekers complain that although they attend their full registration appointments, instead of being registered, their appointments are rescheduled and they are often not provided the proper supporting documentation. UNHCR reviewed a cash and communal needs assessment for the mainland, which analysed WASH and electricity capacities of sites. UNHCR has concluded that capacities may allow a full discontinuation of catering in March 2017 to be replaced with full roll out of cash assistance. UNHCR, IRC, IFRC, and Mercy Corps held discussions about terms and scope of a “Cash Alliance” and geographical coverage. The proposal to The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) for the “one cash provider” will be submitted on 16 February .

**Update on Returns from Greece to Turkey**

One return operation was carried out from Greece to Turkey within the scope of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 during the reporting period. According to Greek authorities, five Syrians were returned from Lesvos to Duzici on 02 February. All five withdrew their applications for asylum in Greece. Overall, 870 persons were returned from Greece to Turkey as of 02 February 2017 under the 18 March EU-Turkey Statement.

**Situation in Serbia**

The overall number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in Serbia stood at around 7,700. Close to 6,500 (85% of those in Serbia), were sheltered in 17 government facilities. The others were in Belgrade city centre or at the two sites near the Hungarian border. The authorities, UNHCR and partners maintain presence and provide support, such as protection assistance and monitoring, legal counselling on asylum in Serbia and support

for coordination amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country.

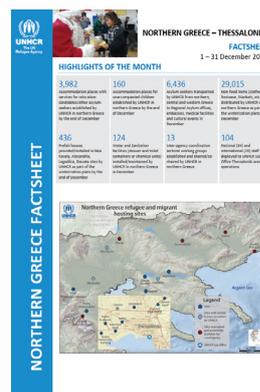
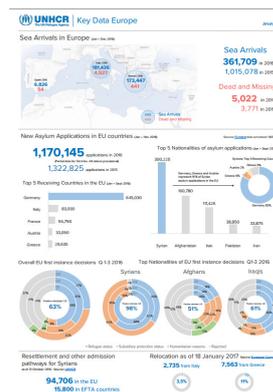
Efforts to improve the situation of refugee and migrant men and boys sleeping rough in Belgrade city centre remained a priority for the authorities, UNHCR and partners. UNHCR and partners supported authorities in a rapid refurbishment to expand the capacity of the new centre in Obrenovac. While no further official transfers to Obrenovac took place, lower numbers of men and boys sleeping rough were observed in Belgrade city centre, estimated at 1,000. UNHCR and partners also managed to transport 46 more newly registered asylum-seekers from Belgrade to other government centres.

In the north, Subotica Transit Centre (TC) sheltered 151 asylum-seekers, Sombor TC some 110, while due to the cold weather, only six asylum-seekers camped at Horgos and seven at Kelebija border sites, awaiting admission into Hungarian transit zones. Many refugees and migrants across Serbia grow increasingly restless about decreasing admission numbers and rising waiting periods, indicating that more may try to cross borders irregularly instead.

Two horrible accidents once again illustrated the risks refugees and migrants face when trying to cross borders irregularly: on 02 February, up to 12 men in Sid tried to enter a cargo train headed for Croatia but accidentally triggered an electric wire which caused a massive explosion, seriously injuring at least four men from Algeria. The men were hospitalized with internal and external burns, two remain in critical condition. The second accident took place on 03 February, when a group of 15 to 20 Afghan men and boys, led by Pakistani smugglers were trying to cross into Hungary over the frozen Tisza River. Reportedly, the ice broke and they fell into the water. One man remains missing, feared to have drowned.

UNHCR and partners continued receiving reports of push-backs from Hungary and Croatia. During the week,

**Key Documents from the Web portal**



some 180 asylum-seekers reported to have been denied access to asylum procedures in Hungary (150) or Croatia (30) and pushed back into Serbia. Many alleged serious mistreatment by the authorities of these EU countries.

#### Hungary

During the week, Hungarian officials continued to admit up to 10 persons per day via the two transit zones (5 in each transit zone), resulting in 54 people being granted access during the week to seek asylum in Hungary. In addition, the Hungarian police reported 60 apprehensions for irregular entry, while 408 people were prevented from crossing the green border and another 176 people were intercepted inside Hungary and escorted back to the other side of the border control fence. The community leaders in the waiting area of Röszke transit zone reported on two incidents of collective expulsion where groups of asylum-seekers were subjected to police violence and torture.

The border police, the military, Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO), the Constitution Protection Office (CPO), and the Government's Office which provides legal information maintains presence inside the transit zones. UNHCR has been conducting daily visits to the transit zones and providing asylum-seekers with information and counselling on their rights and obligations, Dublin procedures and on the implications of the safe third country notion.

UNHCR conducts regular monitoring visits to reception

centres throughout the country in order to survey living conditions and ensure access to asylum and psycho-social counselling for residents is available through other NGOs and partners.

#### Update on Relocation

During the week, 288 persons were relocated to Germany (245) and The Netherlands (43), bringing total relocations from Italy since the beginning of the relocation scheme to 3,205 persons (8% of the initial 39,600 target). No UASC have been relocated from Italy yet. ([Latest EC Figures](#))

In January 1,201 people had departed from Greece to other European countries. There were 335 new pledges from Norway (120), Netherland (100), Finland (100) and Malta (15) during the reporting period. According to the latest figures provided by the European Commission, 8,733 persons have been relocated from Greece to other European countries since the beginning of the relocation scheme (13% of the initial 66,400 target).

#### EU Related Developments

On 03 February, EU Heads of State and Government met in Valletta, Malta, for an [informal meeting](#). They discussed the external dimension of migration policies and prepared their 25 March [informal meeting](#). Regarding the former, EU Leaders focused on the Central Mediterranean and in particular cooperation with Libya. They adopted the so-called [Malta Declaration](#), whereby they set out measures to increase collaboration with Libya on migration management.

## Timeline Overview

### Highlights

