

Q1 2021



QUARTERLY REGIONAL REPORT

# DTM

# Europe

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)  
January – March 2021

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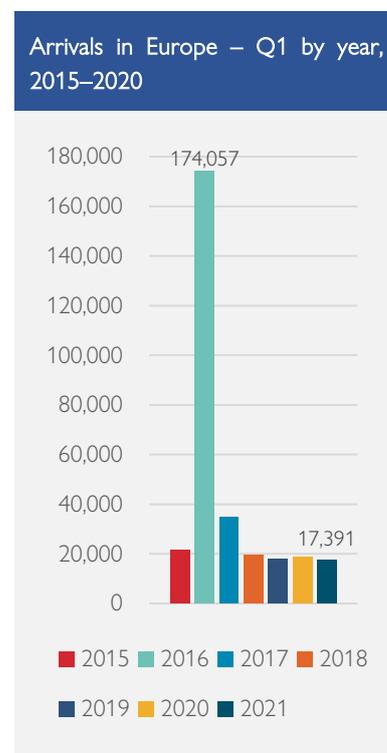
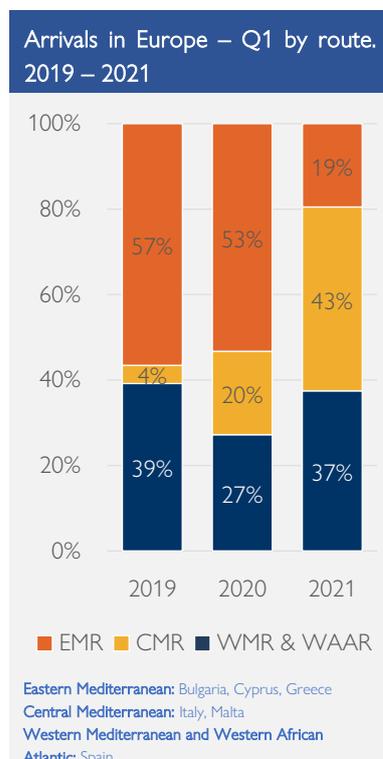


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Cover Photo: IOM staff and migrants in a reception center on the Canary Islands, Spain. © IOM November 2021.

## MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS TO EUROPE

through the Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria.



In the first quarter of 2021, a total of 17,391 of migrants and refugees were registered arriving through the three Mediterranean routes and the Western African Atlantic route to Europe, which is 7 per cent less than the 18,641 arrivals registered in the same period in 2020, and 3 per cent less than the 17,889 registered in Q1 of 2019. Arrivals in Q1 of 2021 decreased by 53 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (37,454 in Q4 2020). This significant decrease somewhat coincides with a deterioration of weather conditions during the first months of the year.

Around (43%) of all registered individuals in Q1 of 2021 arrived in Europe through the Central Mediterranean route to Italy and Malta (7,484). Another 37 per cent reached Spain through Western Mediterranean and Western African Atlantic routes (6,518) and the remaining 19 per cent travelled

Compared to the same quarter of 2020, the share of arrivals through the Central Mediterranean route (CMR) and the Western Mediterranean (WMR) and Western African Atlantic route (WAAR) to Spain have increased, while the share of the arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean route (EMR) have significantly decreased. As a comparison, the share of arrivals through the Eastern Mediterranean Route represented 53 per cent of all arrivals to Europe in Q1 2020.

According to available data from national authorities so far and without considering arrivals to Spain, Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire are the most frequently reported country of origin among all registered arrivals to Europe (14 and 13% respectively), followed by many others from sub-

Saharan Africa, North Africa and Asia.<sup>1</sup>

Arrivals registered on the **Central Mediterranean route** (CMR) in the first quarter of 2021 by sea were 7,484, which is 29 per cent less than the 10,547 arrivals in Q4 2020, but twice the number of those registered in Q1 of 2020 (3,929), and almost 10 times more the arrivals registered in Q1 of 2019 (761). Main nationalities at arrival were Tunisia, Cote d'Ivoire, Bangladesh. During the first quarter of 2021, 5,904 migrants disembarked back to Libya,<sup>2</sup> and at least 237 perished while crossing the Central Mediterranean.

Arrivals to **Spain** – which was the leading country for arrivals registered by land and by sea in 2020 (41,861) – were 6,518 in Q1 2021. This is 20 per cent more than the arrivals registered in Q1 of 2020 (5,473). Arrivals in the first quarter of 2021 are nevertheless less than one third than those in fourth quarter of 2020 (22,816). More than half (53%) of the arrivals registered in Spain so far in 2021 were through

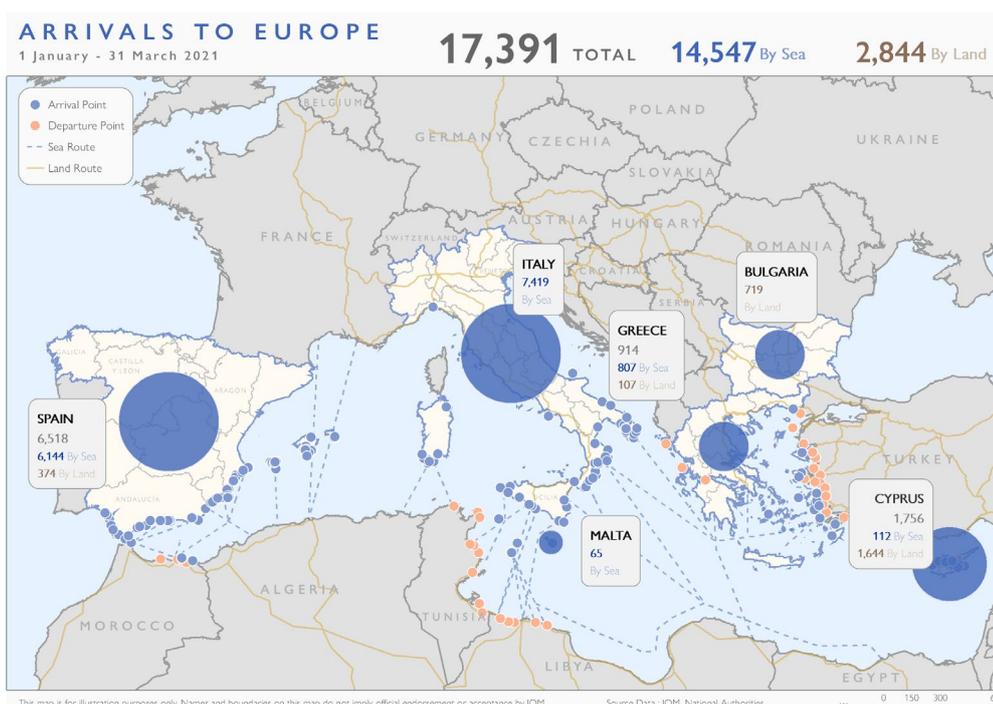
the **Western African Atlantic Route** (WAAR) to the Canary Islands, and the rest were through the Western Mediterranean route (WMR) to mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands. In Q1 2021, 3,458 migrants and refugees crossed the WAAR, which is more than the double than arrivals at the Canaries in the same reporting period in 2020 (1,477). During Q1, at least 115 persons perished or disappeared at sea while on their way to Spain (of which 33 died in the Atlantic Ocean).<sup>3</sup>

Arrivals through the **Eastern Mediterranean route** (EMR) continue to be the lowest in the region in the first quarter of 2021, when 3,389 migrants and refugees were registered at arrival in Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria. This is three times less than the 10,722 arrivals registered in the same period of 2020, and 17 per cent less than the arrivals in Q4 of 2020 (4,091). Somalia, Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo are the top three

nationalities reported on the EMR. On the same route, the **Turkish Coast guard** (TCG) reported to have apprehended 2,365 persons in the first quarter of the year, while trying to cross the sea between Turkey and Greece irregularly. Interceptions by the TCG were 37 per cent lower than those in Q4 2020 (3,775).

Registrations of migrants intercepted by national authorities in the **Western Balkans**, in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Kosovo\* were 21,038 in Q1 of 2020, representing a decrease of 37 per cent when compared with the previous quarter (33,514 in Q4 2020) and 11 per cent less than the transits and apprehensions registered in the first quarter of 2020 (23,718).

Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were the most frequently reported countries of origin through the Western Balkans between January and March 2021.

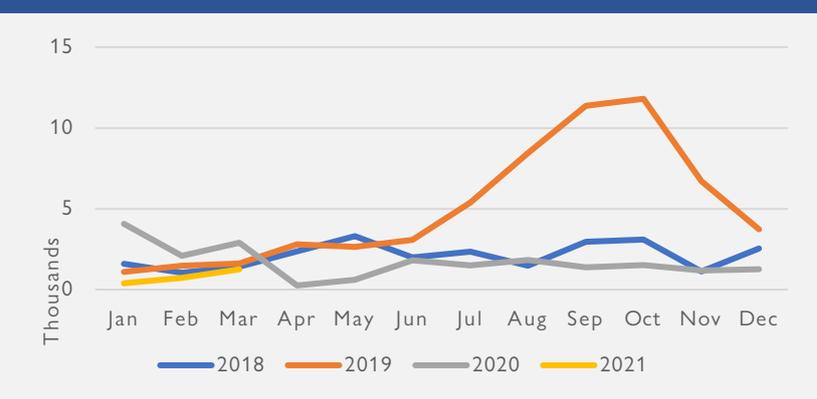


<sup>1</sup> Data on nationalities at arrival are not available for Spain, Bulgaria and Cyprus and are not definitive for Greece.

<sup>2</sup> Source: IOM Libya.

<sup>3</sup> Source: IOM's Missing Migrant Project, [missingmigrants.iom.int](https://missingmigrants.iom.int)

Apprehensions by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG), 2017–2020



### MIGRANT FLOWS AND MONITORING IN TURKEY

In the first quarter of 2021, a total of 2,365 irregular migrants were apprehended and four fatalities were registered by the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG). This is a decrease of 40 per cent in comparison with the previous period (Q4 2020) and almost four times less than the apprehensions registered in the first quarter of 2020. A total of 19,376 irregular migrants were rescued by the TCG on the Aegean Sea in between January and December 2020, which is about one quarter of

the 60,404 rescued in the whole of 2019 and 27 per cent less than those rescued in 2018 (26,423). The top ten countries of origin of apprehended/rescued persons are Afghanistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Central African Republic, Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Iraq, Eritrea<sup>4</sup> and Sierra Leone.

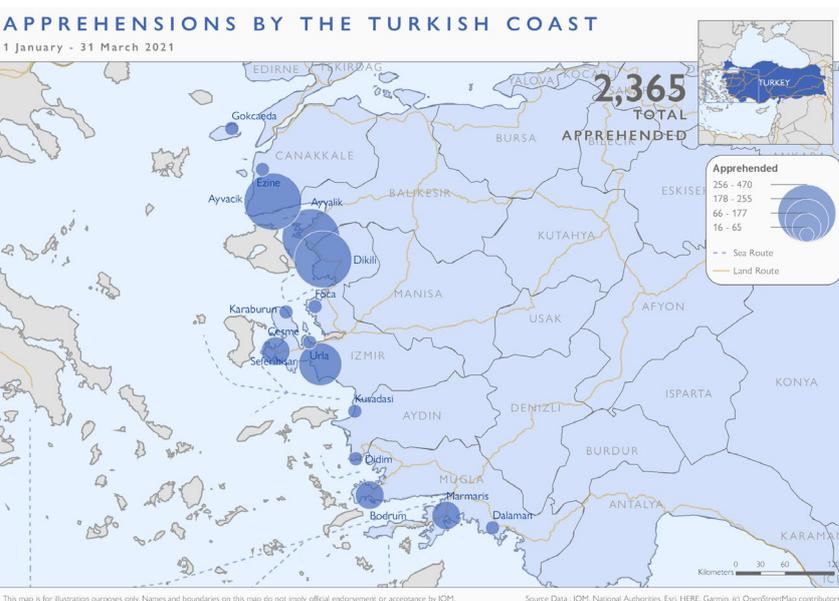
According to the data from Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), a total of 19,897 irregular migrants were intercepted on entry by land to Turkey in the first quarter of 2021, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic (99%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (132 individuals), Greece (62

individuals), Iraq (28 individuals). This is 7 per cent less than the number of apprehensions registered in Q4 of 2020 (21,353), and more than 2 times less than the 46,325 reported in Q1 2020.

According to the latest available data from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) there are currently over 4.7 million foreign nationals present in Turkey, and 3.6 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most of them are Syrian nationals, followed by nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq.

### INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN UKRAINE

According to the information from the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) of Ukraine, in June 2020 (last available data) there were 1,448,615 internally displaced persons (IDPs), that is individuals who have left their homes and moved to a different area and/or region of Ukraine. The total at the end of this reporting period shows a slight increase compared to the 1,446,881 reported in the previous reporting period, at the end of April 2020. Data from the authorities includes returnees and commuters, as the entitlement to a pension for those residing in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) is linked to the IDP status. Areas with the highest shares of IDPs located further away from the mentioned oblasts included the city of Kyiv (160,036) and Kyiv Oblast (63,267), Kharkiv Oblast (134,335), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (71,277) and Zaporizhia Oblast (56,107).



<sup>4</sup> Data on nationalities are as self-reported by migrants and refugees to national authorities.

# MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

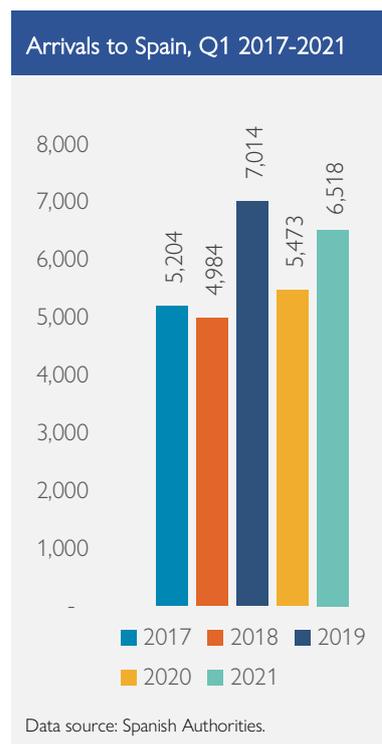
## FIRST ARRIVAL COUNTRIES

Arrivals in Europe, January – March 2021		
	Sea	Land
Greece*	807	107
Bulgaria		719
Cyprus	112	1644
Italy*	7,419	
Malta	65	
Spain	6,144	374

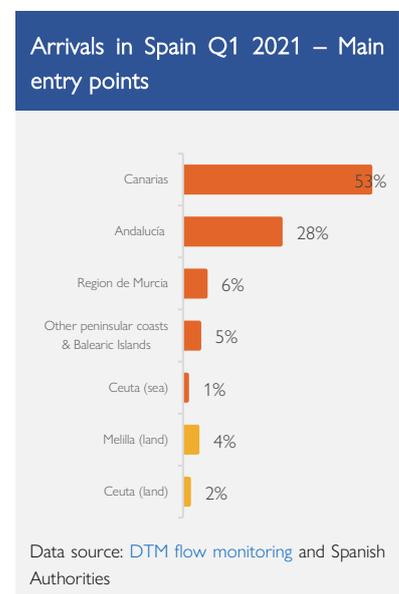
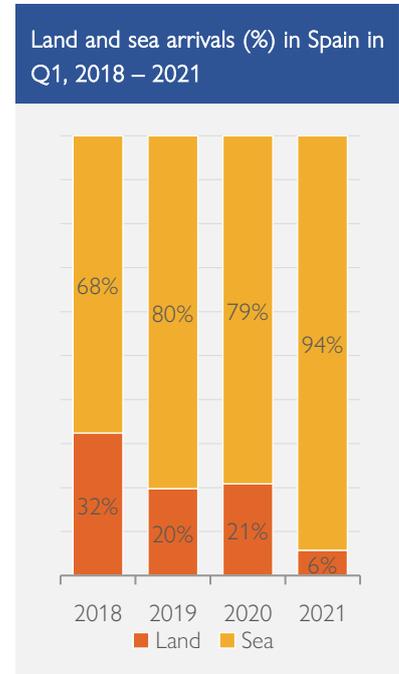
\* Data on land arrivals to Greece are not final. Data on land arrivals to Italy are not available.

Most (94%) arrivals registered during the reporting period arrived by sea, while only 6 per cent of arrivals was registered to have arrived by land in the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. Overall, most of the arrivals (53%) were registered along the Western African Atlantic route to the Canary Islands, followed by arrivals to Andalusia (28%), the Mediterranean regions of Murcia and Valencia and the Balearic Islands (11%), and arrivals to Ceuta and Melilla by sea (1%). The remaining 6 per cent of arrivals were registered by land (4% to Melilla, 2% to Ceuta)

## SPAIN



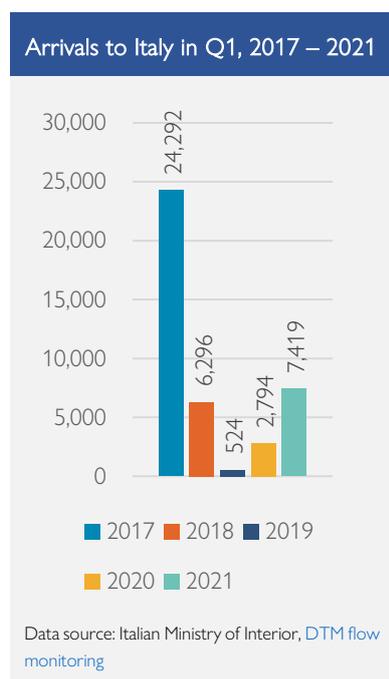
In Q1 of 2021, authorities in Spain registered a total of 6,518, sea and land arrivals, which is three and half times less than the 22,816 registered in the previous quarter (Q4 2020). At the same time, arrivals in the first quarter of 2021 are 20 per cent more than the 5,473 arrivals reported in the same period in 2020, and 7 per cent less than the 7,014 registered in Q1 of 2019.



Land arrivals during this reporting period (374) have increased when compared to the Q4 (286) however, they are significantly lower, compared to Q1 2020 (1,140).

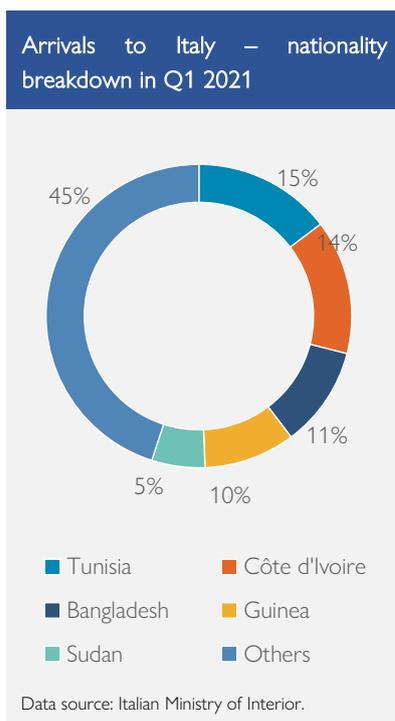
Although official data are not yet available, Morocco, Algeria and Sub-Saharan countries are the most represented countries of origin of arrivals by sea to Spain.

## ITALY

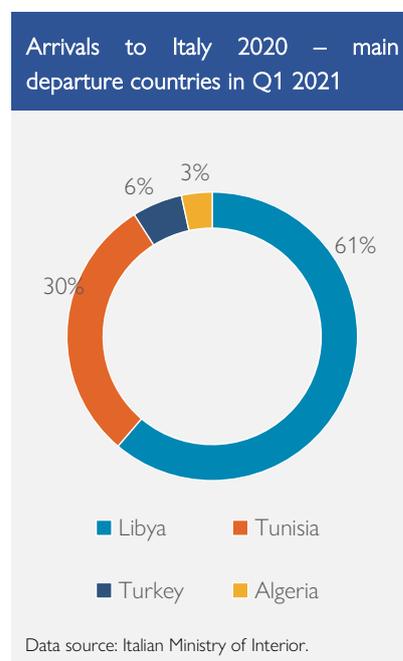


Italian authorities registered a total of 7,419 migrants and refugees arriving by sea in the country during the first quarter of 2021. This is 29 per cent less than the 10,428 registered in Q4 2020, but almost 3 times more than the 2,794 registered in Q1 2020, and 14 times more than the 524 registered in Q1 2019.

According to available data from the Italian Ministry of Interior, Tunisia is the most reported country of origin in Q1, declared by 15 per cent of the registered migrants and refugees, followed by Côte d'Ivoire (14%), Bangladesh (11%), Guinea (10%), Sudan (5%) and Others (45%).



In the first quarter of 2021 instead, the majority of arrivals were reported to have departed from Libya (61%), followed by departures from Tunisia (30%) and small shares of departures from Turkey and Algeria (6 and 3% respectively).



This shows an increase in the relative importance of Libya as a departure

country in comparison with the third quarter of the year, when Tunisia was the most frequently reported country of departure by migrants landing to Italy.

## GREECE

In the first quarter of 2021, Hellenic Authorities registered a total of 914<sup>5</sup> migrants and refugees arriving to the country, with a decrease of 63 per cent compared to the 2,457 arrivals registered in Q4 2020. Arrivals in Q1 2021 are 10 times less than the 9,056 registered in Q1 2020, and 9 times less than the 8,162 reported in the same period of 2019.

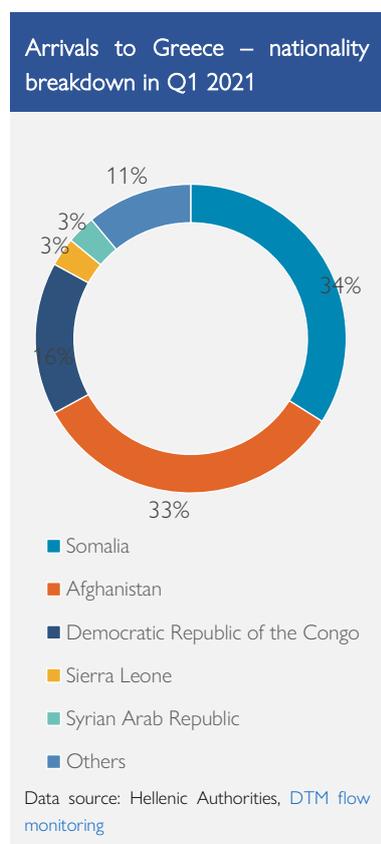
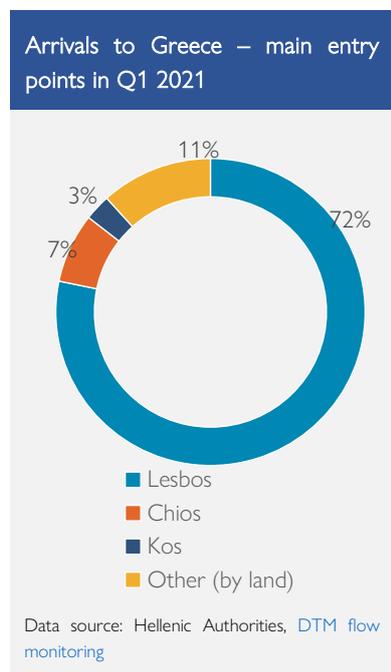


According to the Hellenic Coast Guard and Police, in Q1 of 2020, 89 per cent of arrivals were registered on the Aegean Sea, with migrants crossing from the Turkish coasts.

The remaining 11 per cent of migrants and refugees crossed the

<sup>5</sup> Data on land arrivals to Greece in Q1 2021 are not definitive and subject to consolidation.

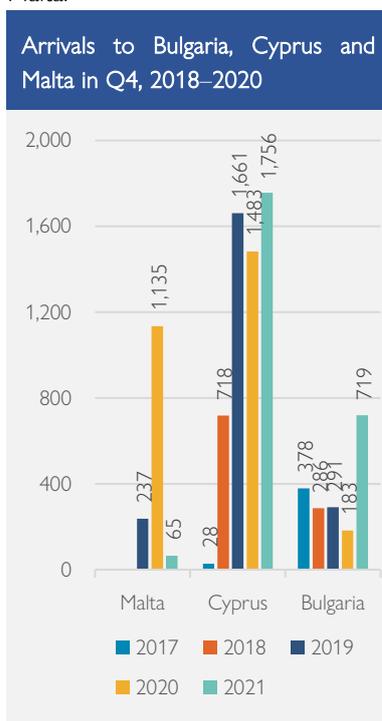
land border between Turkey and Greece. Arrivals by land to Greece were 16 times less than those reported in Q1 last year (1,738).



## OTHER COUNTRIES OF FIRST ARRIVAL

### Malta, Bulgaria and Cyprus

A total of 2,540 migrants and refugees have been registered in other countries of first arrival in the Mediterranean region during the first quarter of 2021. Most of these arrivals were recorded in Cyprus and Bulgaria, and about 3 per cent in Malta.



According to the data from the **Bulgarian** Ministry of Interior, 719 new migrants were apprehended on entry, inside and on exit from the country in the first quarter of 2021,<sup>6</sup> which represents a decrease of 56 per cent when compared with Q4 of 2020 (1,634), but is four times more than the 183 apprehended in Q1 2020.

In Q1 2021, 65 migrants and refugees were rescued in the Central Mediterranean Sea and brought to **Malta**. This is 45 per cent less than

the 119 arrivals registered in the fourth quarter of 2020, and 17 times less than the 1,135 arrivals registered in Q1 of 2020. According to available data, Sudan Eritrea<sup>7</sup> and the Syrian Arab Republic are the three most frequently reported nationalities at arrival in Malta so far this year.

## WESTERN BALKANS

In **Serbia**, 9,034 new migrants and refugees have been registered in the reception centres across the country<sup>8</sup> during the first quarter of 2021. This is slightly more than half of the 16,438 arrivals registered in Q4 2020, and 78 per cent more than the 5,279 in Q1 2020. In 2020, 39,648 migrants and refugees have been registered by the authorities in total, which is more than double the 17,611 reported in total in 2019, and almost 5 times more than the 8,727 reported in the same period of 2018. To date, no information on nationalities of those registered in Q1 2021 is available.

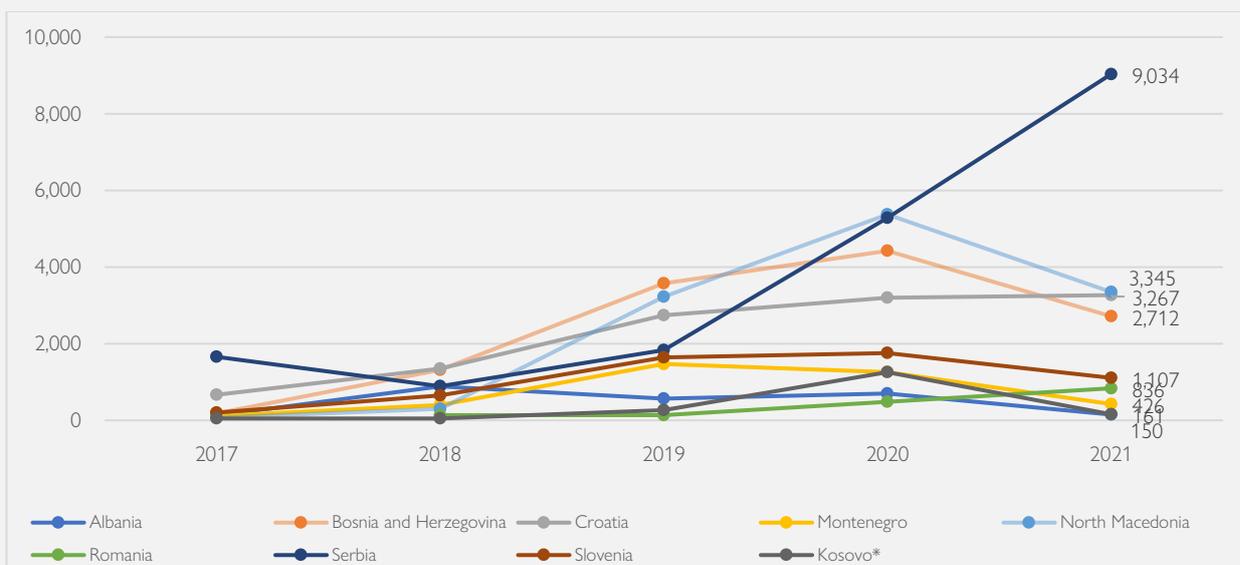
In the first quarter of 2021, 3,345 migrants and refugees have been officially registered in total in **North Macedonia**. This is 38 per cent less than the 5,372 arrivals registered in the country in the first quarter of 2020. No official registrations of migrants took place during in the third and fourth quarters of 2020 in North Macedonia. Pakistan and Afghanistan were the two most frequently reported nationalities registered for migrants and refugees in 2021 so far (41% and 31% respectively), followed by India (6%),

<sup>6</sup> Excluding arrivals on the border with Greece to avoid double counting arrivals to Europe.

<sup>7</sup> Data on nationalities are as self-reported by migrants and refugees to national authorities

<sup>8</sup> This used as a proxy indicator for the overall number of new arrivals in the country.

Registered migrants in transit countries between January and March, 2017–2021



Data source: National authorities, IOM. \*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Eritrea<sup>9</sup> (5%), Somalia (4%) and others. Also, based on the available data from the Red Cross mobile teams operating in the areas close to the borders with Serbia and Greece, in Q1 2021 an estimated 3,594 migrants and refugees were detected and provided with assistance.

Reported arrivals in **Croatia** in the first quarter of 2021 were 3,267, which is 62 per cent less than the 8,533 in Q4 2020, and 2 per cent less than the reported 3,196 in Q1 2020. In 2020, 29,110 migrants and refugees have been apprehended in total, which is 48 per cent more than the 19,683 reported in 2019, and almost 4 times more than the 8,695 reported in 2018.

The most frequently reported nationalities of origin for arriving migrants and refugees in Croatia in Q1 2021 were Afghanistan (29%), Pakistan (16%), Bangladesh (11%) and others, which were also the most frequently reported nationalities in Q4 2020.

Authorities in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** registered a total of 2,712 irregular migrants, which is 1 per cent more than the 2,680 reported in Q4 of 2020, and 39 per cent less than the 4,423 recorded in the first quarter of 2020. In 2020, a total of 16,150 irregular arrivals were registered, 45 per cent less than the 29,196 registered in 2019, and 33 per cent less than the 24,067 recorded in 2018. In Q1 2021, Afghanistan was the most frequently reported nationality at arrival (36%), followed by Pakistan (32%), Morocco (5%), Bangladesh (4%), and others.

According to national authorities, 1,107 migrants and refugees were apprehended in **Slovenia** during the first quarter of 2021, which is 57 per cent less than the 2,593 apprehensions registered in Q4 2020, and 37 per cent less than the apprehensions registered in Q1 2020 (1,755). In 2020, a total of 14,117 apprehensions have been reported in

Slovenia, 12 per cent less than the 16,099 reported in 2019, and almost double the 8,477 reported in 2018. In Q1 2021, Afghanistan was the most frequently reported nationality (22%) of those apprehended, followed by Bangladesh (15%), Turkey (12%), however the nationality is unknown for 19 per cent of all arrivals in the quarter.

In Q1 2021, 235 irregular migrants were registered in **Montenegro**, which is 60 per cent less than the 593 migrants registered in Q4 of 2020, and 5 times less than the 1,254 migrants registered in Q1 of 2020. In 2020, a total of 2,898 arrivals have been recorded, which is 67 per cent less than the 8,695 reported in 2019, and 38 per cent less than those registered in 2018 (4,645). In Q1 2020, the most frequently reported nationalities of arrivals were Afghanistan (52%), Morocco (27%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (6%) and Algeria (3%), and others.

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 7.

In **Albania**, 150 migrants and refugees were registered on entry to the country in the Gjirokastra region or on exit in the Shkodra region in January 2021,<sup>10</sup> which is more than four times less than the 702 registered in Q1 2020. There were 1,086 migrants and refugees registered on entry to Albania and 2,542 on exit from Albania in total in 2020.

The most frequently reported countries of origin in Albania in Q1 2021 were the Syrian Arab Republic (46%), Morocco (19%), Algeria (11%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (6%), and others.

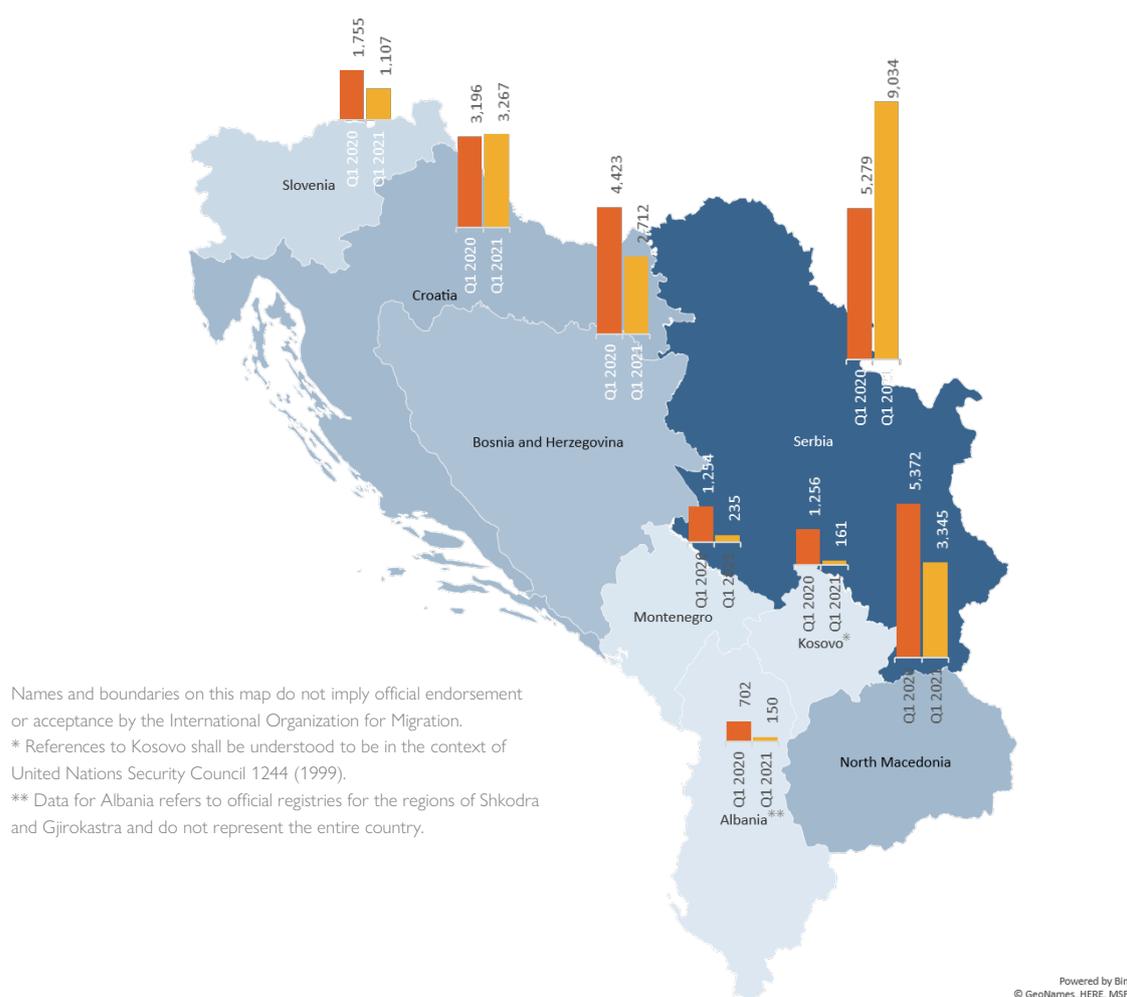
According to data provided by authorities in **Romania**, 917 migrants and refugees were apprehended on entry to, and exit from, the country in Q1 of 2021, which is 23 per cent more when compared with the fourth quarter of 2020 (704), and twice as the 481 reported in Q1 2020.

According to the available data for Q4 2020, Afghanistan is the most frequently reported nationality (51%), followed by Syrian Arab Republic (16%), Iraq (10%), Turkey (7%) and others.

Authorities in **Kosovo**<sup>\*</sup> registered a total of 161 migrants in the first quarter of 2021, five times less than the reported arrivals in Q4 2020 (863) and almost eight times less than reported arrivals in Q1 2020 (1,256). In 2020, a total of 3,001 migrants and refugees were registered, which is an increase of 47 per cent when compared with 2019 (2,038), and 5 times more than the 594 registered in 2018.

The Syrian Arab Republic is the most frequently reported nationality of arrivals in 2021 so far (23%), followed by Afghanistan (21%), Morocco (16%), Libya (9%), and others.

### Registered arrivals/transits in the Western Balkans in 2020 and 2021



<sup>10</sup> Since January 2021 included, IOM collected data from two major Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Albania, one in the Gjirokastra region

and one in the Shkodra region. Information on entries after January 2021 is not available.

\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

# MIGRANTS PRESENCE IN EUROPE

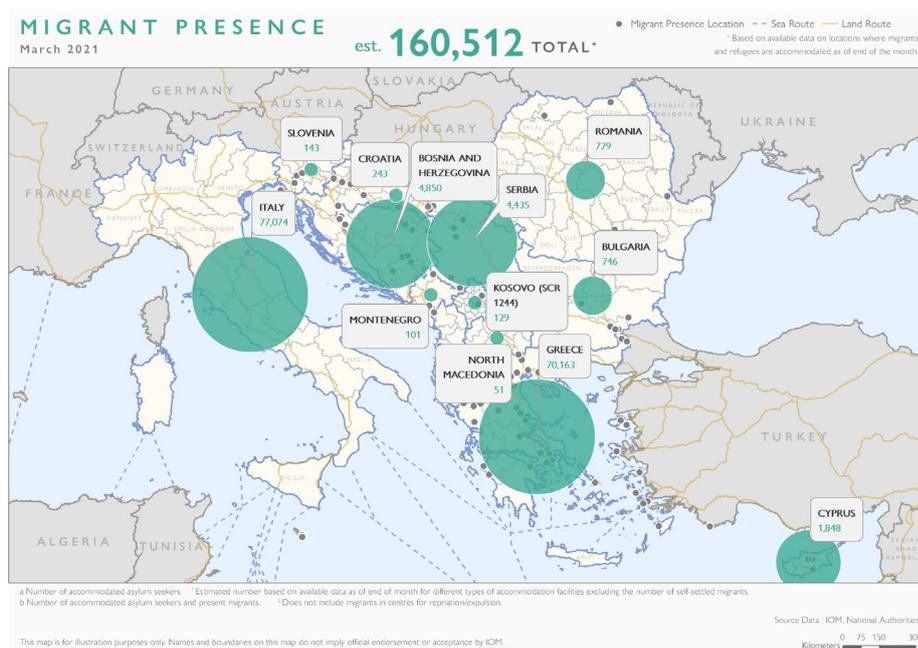
## MIGRANTS PRESENCE IN EUROPE

At the end of Q1 2021 an estimated **160,512** migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were residing in different reception facilities in **Italy, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.**\* No data is available on migrants' reception in Spain. The migrant presence estimated at the end of Q1 2021 is 11 per cent less than the **181,036** reported at the end of Q4 2020, and 23 per cent less than the 209,452 recorded at the end of Q1 2020. Italy and Greece, although they both have decreasing numbers of accommodated migrants and refugees, report the largest shares of migrant presence overall (48% and 44% of the total, respectively). The number of accommodated migrants and refugees in **Greece** decreased from an estimated 77,432 in Q4 of 2020 to an estimated 70,163 in Q1 of 2021 (-31%). Some

22 per cent were accommodated on the islands, while the rest on the mainland. At the same time, in **Italy** the number of accommodated migrants and refugees has decreased by 4 per cent between Q4 of 2020 and Q1 of 2021 (from 79,938 to 77,074).

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 4,850 migrants were reported to be accommodated in 6 provisional and temporary reception centers at the end of Q1 2021, while another 1,754 were **estimated by IOM to be outside**<sup>11</sup> reception in the country in mid-March. Main nationalities reported were Afghanistan and Pakistan. In **Serbia**, 4,438 migrants were staying in reception centres and unofficial sites. The remaining migrant presence is scattered among many other locations of arrival and transit, ranging from the 1,848 in Cyprus to 51 in North Macedonia.

Figures on occupancy of reception centers of any kind fluctuate daily, especially in countries considered by migrants as transit stops on their way to Western and Northern Europe.



\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

<sup>11</sup> IOM BIH, Migrant presence outside temporary reception centers, R 01 (March 2021): <https://migration.iom.int/reports/bosnia-and-herzegovina-%E2%80%94-migrant-presence-outside-temporary-reception-centres-%E2%80%94-round-01-17?close=true>

[presence-outside-temporary-reception-centres-%E2%80%94-round-01-17?close=true](https://migration.iom.int/reports/bosnia-and-herzegovina-%E2%80%94-migrant-presence-outside-temporary-reception-centres-%E2%80%94-round-01-17?close=true)

# MIGRANTS PRESENCE MONITORING IN TURKEY

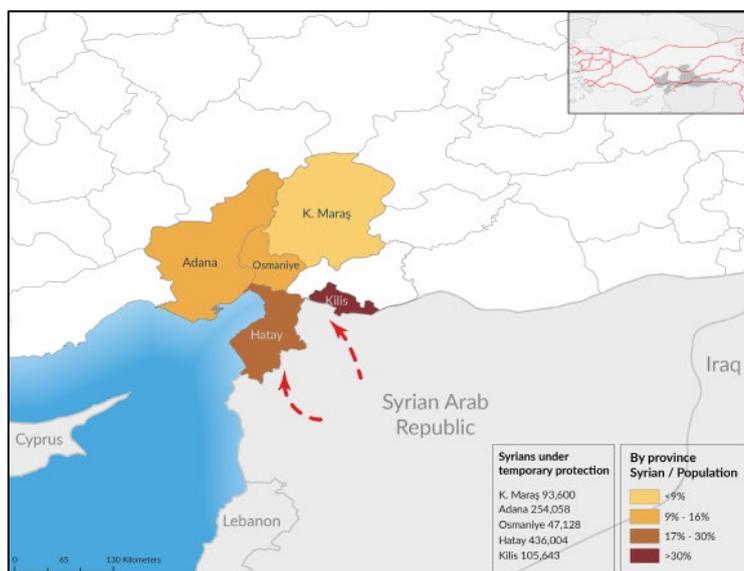
## MIGRANTS PRESENCE IN TURKEY

According to the latest available data from the **Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM)** there are more than 4,7 million foreign nationals present in Turkish territory, 3,6 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most are Syrians (3,665,946 individuals) who are granted temporary protection status. In addition, international protection applicants from countries including Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq constitute another group of foreign nationals. Since December 2020 the number of Syrians residing in camps has decreased by 1,250.

The vast majority of individuals live outside camps, mainly spread across cities at the Turkish border provinces of Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Hatay and Kilis as well as other major cities in Turkey. 57,502 Syrians live in seven Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs) that are also located in the provinces close to the Syrian border, as well as in other major cities such as Hatay, Kilis, Osmaniye, Adana and Kahramanmaraş.

According to the data from Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), a total of 19,897 irregular migrants were intercepted on entry by land to Turkey in the first quarter of 2021, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic (99%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (132 individuals), Greece (62 individuals), Iraq (28 individuals). This is 7 per cent less than the number of apprehensions registered in Q4 of 2020 (21,353), and more than 2 times less than the 46,325 reported in Q1 2020.

According to the latest available data from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) there are currently over 4.7 million foreign nationals present in Turkey, and 3.6 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most of them are Syrian nationals, followed by nationals of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq





IOM's DTM staff  
conducting a data  
collection exercise to  
estimate migrant presence  
outside reception centers.  
Una Sana Cantor © IOM  
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The UN Migration Agency